

Little River Chapter Newsletter

Editor
Joe Hatton



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www.lrcctu.org

Next Meeting

The next meeting is on the fourth Thursday March the 23th, 7:00 P.M. The meeting will be upstairs in the seminar room at the **Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World** Hwy 66 Kodak Tn.

Program

Kris Maurer and Tim Doyle will have a presentation on fishing the White and Norfolk Tailwaters. They have some great photos and Kris grew up near these tailwaters. Kris Maurer is the Fishing Manager of the Orvis-Sevierville store. Please check out Kris' website at <http://www.canoeflyguy.blogspot.com>. Tim Doyle is the proprietor of Smokey Mountain Flywerks & Guide service. www.smokymountainfly.com

Board / Troutfest Meeting

Tuesday March 28 at Blount County library 6.30 pm, all Board members and Troutfest coordinators need to attend.

Stream Work

March 18-19 Bi-Monthly Acid Deposition Sample

April 15 TN Little River Clean-Up Day

Meet at the Metcalf Bottoms picnic area at 9:00AM. There will be a free lunch after the clean-up. There will also be "member fishing with member" fishing that afternoon.

May 20 - 21 Bi-Monthly Acid Deposition Sample

Fishing Picks

By: Ian Rutter, Spring Fishing is just around the corner! While those of us who live in east Tennessee are used to the idea of getting out and fishing mayfly hatches in March, those who live in northern states like Michigan are still in winter's cold embrace. The Quill Gordon hatch is among our earliest and favorite hatches of the year. The mayflies are big, about a #12, and the fish are greedy. We typically fish a big dun colored parachute or a Haystack, the Smoky Mountain ancestor of the popular and more modern Comparadun. Blue Quills are another mayfly that hatches here in the early season, but not so large as the Gordons. Blue Quills are about a #18 and dark like a Blue Wing Olive. In fact, it's common to find both hatching simultaneously. It's possible that the trout discern between the two, but they seem to be consistently fooled by patterns that imitate either. We often have our anglers fish a parachute with a high visibility parachute to aid in spotting the small fly. Dry fly fishing is at its peak in the mid-afternoon, but we often fish nymphs in the morning. Prince Nymphs and Beadhead Pheasant Tails are our favorites in the spring. If the fish refuse to rise we might fish a heavily weighted Tellico Nymph. This is one of the best nymph patterns I know of to fish in the Smokies when the water is a bit high in the spring.

Good fishing isn't just limited to the mountain streams. The tailwaters have some ►

great fishing and March can be a great month for a float. The Clinch and Holston Rivers in Tennessee and the Tuckasegee in North Carolina all fish good in March. There are several factors we take into account when deciding which river to float. The primary consideration is water level. However, since we have three prime rivers it's exceedingly rare for all three to have a bad water level. Most fishing on these rivers is done with nymphs and streamers can also be productive. Dry fly fishing starts to pick up steam on the Holston River in April as caddis start to hatch in profusion. A few Sulphurs may hatch on the Clinch, but that hatch has become progressively less consistent over the years. Hopefully it will rebound to what we experienced in previous seasons.

Why be an LRCTU Volunteer?

By: Gary Verholek

The other day I accompanied several LRCTU members to the Park-wide Volunteer Appreciation Banquet hosted by the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Prepared for "rubber chicken" and platitudes, I was surprised to learn more about the value of volunteer efforts in the GSMNP, and about our efforts with the Fisheries Department, in particular.

In 2005, over 2,400 volunteers provided more than 114,000 hours on behalf of the Park. By a Park Service formula, that equates to about two million dollars (\$2M) in value that can be used to garner non-federal grants for work in the Park. The biggest volunteer organization, Friends of the Smokys, donated over \$1.6M cash and labor. In addition to volunteer hours, donations and endowments, they raise money through everything from license plate sales to penny jars in stores. Any way you count it, that's over \$3M for our Park.

Steve Moore, head of the Fisheries Department, had some nice words to say about

our Chapter's efforts and presented a citation to the Chapter, which was received by Jack Gregory on our behalf. Steve cited LRCTU with the Special Certificate for over 40,000 volunteer hours since our creation in 1992, which is valued at over \$1.8M. He also praised the Chapter for collecting over 10 tons of litter along Little River Road. The crowd of more than 350 volunteers, including GSMNP Superintendent Dale Ditmanson, recognized our contribution with zealous applause.

On the other hand, we need to be more diligent in reporting and recording our service hours, including drive time, because of the value they represent to the Fisheries Department, our primary client. No, we're not seeking accolades, individually or collectively; but when we fail to report our hours, we're short-changing the Fisheries Department and de-valuing our efforts. This exposure left me with a much better understanding of the impact of our efforts and the high value placed on our volunteer hours by the Fisheries Department.

Representing LRCTU at the Park-wide Volunteer Appreciation Banquet were Bill & Bolinger and his wife, Jack & Donna Gregory, Roy Hawk, Debbi Tefteller (she left Joe cooking dogs and Brats at BPS), John & Kathy Skinner, and yours truly, Gary Verholek.

Carpenters Middle School

Project Fellow members, we have a youth education project planned for Wed. May 10th! Carpenters Middle School science club will be visiting the Park for an all day field trip. Steve Moore and Matt Kulp (our Park fisheries biologist) are organizing a hands on experience for these bright enthusiastic young people. Their club leader is Ms. Victoria Headrick. The students will assist biologist in collecting fish that have been electrofished. They will learn how insects are collected and how they play a key role as a food source for the ►

aquatic habitat. There will be a section related to salamanders and crayfish. A discussion about water quality will focus on how Park resources are affected by acid rain.

There are around 75 science club members from the 6th, 7th & 8th grades. They will be divided into manageable groups so as to maximize attention given them for an enriching experience. Flyfishing is an interest to many of them so we are going to give them an introduction and on-stream chance. We need as MANY volunteers as possible for the fieldtrip. Also we need some volunteers to go to Ms. Headrick's science club meetings a couple of weeks before it in order to teach basic flyfishing skills. The club meets for one hour around noon on Fridays but we may be able to set some other day. This is a great chance for YOU to influence some person's life. Who knows, one of them might be Secretary of the Interior or even another Steve Moore! Please, Contact me so we can get a handle on our people power and resources. Thanks, your Pres. and servant

Steve Best
Work; 982-4841
Home; 983-6494
E-mail stoneflytn@yahoo.com

Hot Dogs Sale at Bass Pro Shop

I would like to thank every one who came out and helped at our Bass Pro Shop hot dog sale. It was a big success. The chapter net from the two day event was **\$2,229.72**. Events like this will go a long way to help support chapter education and brook trout projects. It is also a great forum to talk to other fisherman about our chapter and upcoming events. Thanks to Joe Tefteller and Ron Becker for cooking hotdogs and brats and also thanks to Jack & Donna Gregory, Roy Hawk, Debbi Tefteller, Dan Hadley, Steve Head, Ken Henderson, Randy Jackson, Randy Mathis, Ross Shaver,

Tim Doyle, Tom Eustis and Gary Verholek, for selling cokes, fixing the dogs and brats, handling the money and letting everybody know just how great our chapter is.

Thanks again

Joe Hatton

Tickets

The Bamboo For Brookies 2006 Fly rod and case can be seen at Little River outfitter. You can purchase tickets there for this beautiful rod and case. The tickets for the TROUTFEST banquet are on sale now and some will be available at our next meeting.

Fly of the Month

Blue Quill

Sizes: 14, 16, 18

Hook: Extra-fine dry

Thread: Gray 6/0

Tail: Blue dun hackle fibers

Body: Dark Grayish mahogany dubbing.

Wing: Matched pair of gray mallard primary wing quill sections, upright and divided.

Hackle: Blue dun





LRCTU
P.O. Box 6440
Maryville, Tn 37802-6440

President - Steve Best
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106 Town Square Drive

P.O. Box 505

Townsend, Tennessee 37882

Phone: (865) 448-9459

Fax: (865) 448-3407

Email: info@littleriveroutfitters.com



6907 Kingston Pike -- Knoxville, TN 37919

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