

Little River Chapter Newsletter

Editor
Joe Hattton



March 2007
www.lrctu.org

Next Meeting

The next meeting is on the fourth Thursday March. the 22nd, 7:00 P.M. This meeting will be upstairs in the seminar room of the **Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World Hwy 66 Kodak Tn.**

Program

David Sexton, Sevier County TWRA Wildlife Officer, will be giving a program on fishing regulations and land owners rights. If you are like me and have questions about fishing, now is the time to ask. One I've been thinking about is "What is a navigable stream?". So think of some questions and be at our next meeting.

Stream work

March 17-18 - Bi-Monthly Acid Deposition Sample

March 26 - Project FISH - Pi Beta Phi, Gatlinburg, TN meet at Metcalf Bottoms at 9am

Little River Clean-Up

March 24 We will be Meeting at the Metcalf Bottoms picnic area at 9:00AM. Matt will break everyone into groups and assign areas to clean-up. We will meet back for hamburgers, hot dogs and soft drinks etc. around noon to eat and maybe have some time to go fishing. See you there!

Fishing Report

It's Spring. Well, maybe not right now but by the time you get this report it should be Spring from a fly fishing point of view. Winter has held on into early March with cold water and slow fishing. But I bet by now, the trout in the Smokies are feeding well and fishing is good. We should have some nice hatches of the early mayflies. Most are gray such as the Quill Gordon and Blue Quill. You can use specific patterns to match these flies but an Adams or Parachute Adams will work. Then as Spring progresses and Summer arrives the Mayflies become lighter, the March Brown and Light Cahill for instance. We'll have stoneflies and caddis hatching too. Trout may become selective during large hatches of Quill Gordons and Blue Quills, but most of the time they'll eat about anything that looks like food.

Water temperature drives the feeding habits of trout and it influences the aquatic insect hatches. And, the higher elevation streams see Spring later than those near the valleys. We got a break from the U.S Government this year. Daylight Savings time changed so we did spring forward a few weeks earlier than we used to. That's great for us who like to fish after work.

Hopefully, we've had some rain. Right now in early March we are 5" behind normal. And, we've had almost no snow this winter. That's not a good way to start the year. During

January and February the streams were lower than usual and with a few exceptions when warmups occurred, the fishing was slow in the mountains. But, that's all behind us now, it's time for some excellent fishing.

The tailwaters all seemed to fish well this winter and by now they should be improving too. The South Holston has been hot lately. The Caney Fork has produced some big browns. The Clinch is fishing better and so far the anglers in East Tennessee are having a good year. And, that reminds me, where else could you live and have so many trout fishing choices that we have here in East Tennessee. We are fortunate to live here and that's the reason I do.

I'm going to fish Lynn Camp Prong a lot this year. It's one of my favorite streams in the world and beginning around August of 2008 it will close for brook trout restoration. By the time it re-opens I'll be in my early 60's so I'm going to take advantage of the time left and fish there often. I'm probably not the only angler with that idea so I may see a lot of friends up there. But, that's OK. I'm really looking forward to the day that Lynn Camp Prong is a pure brook trout stream.

Have a great March and early April enjoying your favorite stream or lake.

Byron Begley

Embrace a Stream Grant

Mark Spangler deserves a big thanks for the great job he did this year writing our grant proposal for the Embrace a Stream grant. Mark's proposal was rated in the top five in the nation. Mark's hard work helped us secure full funding for 10,000 dollars, which is the highest amount that T.U. National awards. Along with the money raised for Troutfest the

Lynn Camp Prong Brooktrout Restoration Project will be getting off to a good start. Mark represents our chapter on the State Council and has been one of our chapters strongest supporters. Please be sure to give Mark a big thanks the next time you see him.

My Perfect Meal

The first thing we need to talk about is where. I say, near a trout stream. Why? Because we need fresh fish and the freshest trout are in the stream. Yes, it means you have to spend some time catching them. But think you are going to be sitting down and eating trout that had just been caught a few minutes earlier. I know we normally put everything we catch back. But 33% are going to die anyway, so why not every once in a while sit down and enjoy some fresh fish by a trout stream. This could take some planning. First we need a cook stove. My preference is a two burner that uses bottled gas, they just easier than the old Colemans. We'll need two frying pans, one for the fish and a second one for the home fries. Next we'll need a table. One of the fold out types will work but make sure to bring a table cloth and a least two chairs. Real plates, spoons and forks are a nice touch. Now for the meal. I think trout less then 10 inches long make for a better meal and are easier to cook. Rainbows and brook trout taste best to me.



Ingredients for cooking trout:

Good fish

Peanut oil

Fine stone ground white cornmeal.

Salt

Pour 7/8-inch of the peanut oil into your pan turn the heat on high. Take your freshly cleaned trout and dress with salt and shake them in a small paper bag with the cornmeal. When the oil is hot, almost smoking reduce the heat down to medium. Carefully place some fish in the skillet, do not overcrowd. Fry the fish until they brown on one side. Then turn with cooking tongs and fry them until they are brown on the other side. Making sure not to over cook. Small fish are usually done when the outside is brown and will flake easy with a fork. Place the cooked trout on a paper bag to soak up excess grease. A paper bag works better than paper towels. The trout need to be served while they are still hot.

Ingredients for cooking the Home fries:

Potatoes

a yellow onion diced

olive oil

Slice each potato lengthwise into 6 wedges. Dice onion.

In a nonstick skillet over medium, heat in 2 Tbsp. olive oil, sauté potatoes, onions and 1/2 tsp. salt until potatoes and onions are golden brown and tender, turning occasionally, about 20 minutes.

Throw in a bottle of wine and a loaf of bread and you have a feast. A special meal like this needs to be shared with some who is important to you and will enjoy the meal and your surroundings as much as you.

A Good Read

One of my favorite books has just been reprinted in paperback form. [The Spine of Time](#) by Harry Middleton is now available on Amazon.com. In 1990 I was lucky enough to meet Harry at the fly-fishing conclave in Gatlinburg. We talked about his favorite fishing areas in the mountains. He had a great love for the quieter side of the Smokies, Deep Creek, Hazel Creek and the Slickrock and Snowbird areas of the mountains. So when his book came out that fall I picked one up. I don't think a year has gone by that I haven't reread it since. I'm going to place a link for it on the newsletter webpage.

Fly of the month

Klinkhammer

Sizes: 10, 12, 14, 16, 18

Colors: Gray, brown, olive, tan

Hook: Caddis Emerger

Thread: Gray, brown, olive, tan 6/0

Wing: White or Dun Antron

Hackle: Brown or match body color, tied parachute style

Abdomen; Dubbed fur

Thorax: Peacock herl

Notes

The body should be started on the bend of the hook.



Date	Sample Type	Priority	# TU Volunteers	Cooperators
January 20-21 #	Bi-Monthly Acid Deposition Sample	High	8 - 10	TU, NPS, UT
February 24	Acid Deposition Training Session - training at Park HQ, Gatlinburg (9:00AM)	High	All Group Leaders / Need Volunteers!	TU, NPS
March 13	UT Grad Project - Collection of brook trout for research study - meet at Ramsay Prong trailhead at 8:30am	Medium	2 - 4	TU, NPS
March 17-18 #	Bi-Monthly Acid Deposition Sample	High	8 - 10	TU, NPS, UT
March 24	TN Little River Clean-Up Day - meet at Metcalf Bottoms picnic area (9:00AM)	Medium	All Volunteers	NPS, TU, Others
March 26	Project FISH - Pi Beta Phi, Gatlinburg, TN - meet at Metcalf Bottoms at 9am	Medium	8 - 10	NPS, TU
April 14	NC Oconaluftee River Clean-Up Day - meet at Collins Creek picnic area (9:00AM)	Medium	All Volunteers	NPS, TU, Others
May 18 - 20	TROUTFEST ¹ - Little River Trout Festival (Townsend, TN)	High	FYI	TU, NPS, TWRA
May 19 - 20 #	Bi-Monthly Acid Deposition Sample	High	8 - 10	TU, NPS, UT
June 11 - 13	Sams Creek Evaluation - re-sample monitoring sites & evaluate brook trout (12-14)	High	3 - 4	TU, NPS
June 25 - 27	Bear Creek Evaluation & Brook Trout Transplant - re-sample monitoring sites & evaluate brook trout	Medium	Any	NPS, TU, NCWRC
July 9 - 12	Indian Flats Prong Evaluation & Brook trout Transplant - re-sample monitoring sites & evaluate brook trout (10-12?)	Medium	Any	NPS, TU
July 21 - 22 #	Bi-Monthly Acid Deposition Sample	High	8 - 10	TU, NPS, UT
August 13 - 15	Bunches & Flat Creek Evaluation - High elevation brook trout electrofishing	High	2 - 3	NPS, TU
August 21 - 23	Slickrock Creek Evaluation - Coop. sampling project with TN and NC	Medium	4 - 6	NPS, TWRA, NCWRC, TU
September 15-16 #	Bi-Monthly Acid Deposition Sample	High	8 - 10	TU, NPS, UT
September 20	Large Stream Sample - Abrams Creek (Site 3 @ loop road) - meet at turnoff to Abrams Falls parking lot at 9am	Medium	4 - 6	TU, NPS, TWRA
September 22	Large Stream Sample - Abrams Creek (Site 2 @ Falls parking) - meet at Abrams Falls parking lot at 9am	High	12 - 15	TU, NPS, TWRA
November 17-18 #	Bi-Monthly Acid Deposition Sample	High	8 - 10	TU, NPS, UT

The list is designed to make individuals and volunteer groups, who would like to assist fisheries activities in the Park, aware of upcoming project dates and meeting locations. If you need further information, please contact Matt Kulp (865-426-1254) or Steve Moore (865-436-1250) Steve_E_Moore@nps.gov

Cooperators

TU - Trout Unlimited, TWRA- Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, NPS- National Park Service, NCWRC - North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, UT - The University of Tennessee, FFF - Federation of Fly Fisherman



Its time for us to start finalizing our plans.

We still need sponsors, arts and craft vendors and musicians.

But what we really need is

YOU!

Volunteer today your help is needed in all aspects of the festival.

The Auction committee needs someone to help solicit and retrieve auction items.

The Festival committee needs helpers to hand out vendor forms.

Next meeting March 15th at the Blount County library starting at 6:30 p.m. or Contact Joe Hatton phone 558-8782

The Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited is a nonprofit volunteer organization that is committed to Protecting & Restoring Cold Water Resources and Watersheds in and around the Great Smoky Mountains National Park

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