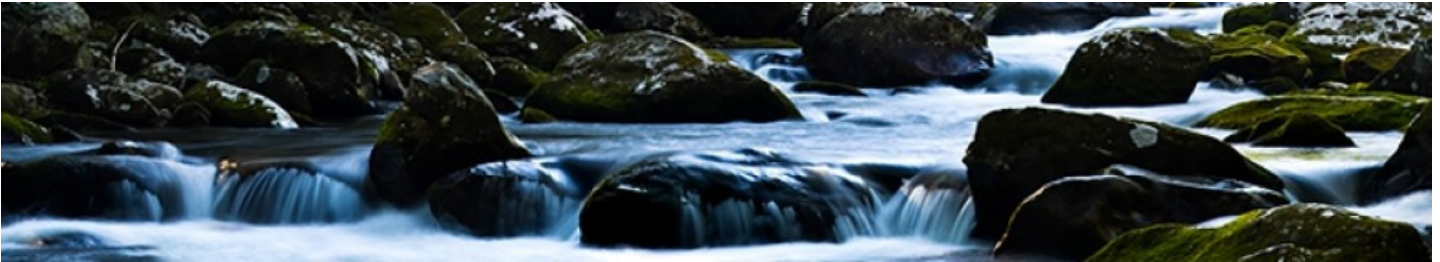


Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited

March 2013 Newsletter



President's Corner

Mike Bryant (mjbryant1954@hotmail.com)

Jan and I spent a week in southern Florida in February. The weather for the most part was good. Even on the couple of days it rained, the high temperatures were still in the mid-60's. It's all relative I guess. Mid-60's in Tennessee I'll have a T-shirt on. Mid-60's in Florida (after three days in the 80's and sun) I'm wearing fleece.

Go figure. Anyway we had a great time. We fished a bit, but without a boat or kayak our options were limited. But the good news is I struck a friendship with Rich who fly fishes and owns a flats boat. I'm already looking forward to next year. We met when he saw that I was tying flies on the picnic bench by our camper. He stopped his truck in the middle of the road to see what I was tying! I'm seriously thinking about buying kayaks for Jan and I. I could haul a couple of kayaks in my truck while towing the camper, and we could use them just about anywhere. So I'm in the research mode. Anyway, I would definitely appreciate any experiences and comments on types / makes.



Meanwhile, back in east Tennessee, Josh Pfeiffer and I managed to chase some of the big browns in the Park. Well, actually it was more like me spooking big browns. I have a lot to learn when comes to stalking, hooking and landing big browns. Many thanks to Ian and Charity Rutter (R&R Flyfishing) for a great program on Hazel Creek! The more I learn and the more I'm fascinated by the history, culture and opportunities in our area.

We'll see you at the March meeting at Orvis in Sevierville. As always, if you have a question or comment, please email or call me. Be safe and it's time to fish.

Thanks,
Mike

SIGN UP TODAY for Our First Chapter Fishing Trip

Chapter Fishing Trip Opportunity - Mike McKinsey is organizing our first Chapter fishing trip of the year. Currently scheduled for Saturday, March 23, Mike is designing a day of fishing in the Park where folks can buddy up with someone new. This is a great opportunity for folks new to fishing in the Park to pair up with more experienced members of the Chapter. Take advantage of the opportunity to either learn or teach someone.

Little River Chapter of TU will have its first fishing trip of the year on Saturday March 23rd.

We will meet at Little River Outfitters at 9:00 AM and pair up to fish the Smokys.

The chapter will provide you a biscuit and coffee.

If you are new to fly fishing or inexperienced fishing the park, we will try to pair you up with a seasoned veteran.

We encourage all to attend our first event this year. The park is traditionally exceptional with Quill Gordons, Blue Quills, and other bugs appearing on the water this time of the year and don't forget the other ingredient, HUNGRY TROUT.

Please contact Mike McKinsey at missionflyrod@charter.net or mobile 865-806-0761 to sign up or if you have any questions.

We would like to have an accurate count so don't forget to sign up.

Southeastern Fly Fishing Festival

For those who were able to attend the February Membership meeting heard Marvin Cash (SEC – FFF President) discuss the upcoming Fly Fishing Festival being held on Friday & Saturday, May 17-18. The event will be held at the Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, NC. The Festival promises to be a great time and a great opportunity to learn as well. More information will be posted at www.southeastfff.org

Our Chapter will have a booth attempting to raise funds for future brook trout restoration in the GSMNP.

This will be a shared fundraiser with the Southeastern Council of the FFF. I believe Marvin and his leadership are still looking for regional fly tiers to tie at the event, so if you are interested, please let me know.



SOUTHEASTERN FLY FISHING FESTIVAL

Little River Clean-Up

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, April 20**. We will hold our annual Little River Clean-up. More details to come, but given our Chapter's mission is to preserve and protect watersheds in the Park, this is a great way to give and contribute. Consider bring a kid – this is a great opportunity to get kids out into the Park and expose them to the concept of service.



LRCTU Embrace-a-Stream Application Successful Once Again

Last fall, I (Gary Verholek) collaborated with Steve Moore and Matt Kulp to generate an Embrace-a-Stream (EAS) application entitled *"Identification of Meta-Populations of Brook Trout in the Little River Watershed"*. So...what is a meta-population and why do we care? I'm so glad you asked. Before starting this application, I had no idea either; and it took some patience from Matt and Steve to educate me enough to complete the application. The gist of the application is as follows:

Recent genetic studies and observational evidence suggests that brook trout, transplanted with the intent of strengthening genetically diverse populations, have exhibited some selective (assortative) mating, or selectively mating with mostly their own stocked population in the upper tributaries. At the same time, some down-stream populations were found to be more genetically diverse due to connection between mainstem and tributary populations devoid of barriers, in contradiction to the assortative mating found in the upper tributaries. These genetically diverse, spatially separated populations, called "meta-populations" or "population of populations", can be expected to have a greater potential for long-term survival of the species. Meta-populations, or a larger watershed with a robust population, should have the greatest amount of genetic diversity and have the best chance to adapt to future stressors (such as climatic change) and persist over the long term.

Shortly, thanks to their patience with this author, GSMNP Fisheries will be receiving a **\$4800 grant** from TU to help them perform the study. By incorporating the results of this study into the GSMNP on-going restoration efforts, Steve and Matt expect to bolster the chances of long-term survival of the Brook Trout that LRCTU helps to transplant.

This is just one more way LRCTU supports GSMNP Fisheries. See you on the stream.

March Meeting to be Held at Sevierville Orvis

We're lucky to have three great outfitters in our area. This month we are invited to be the guests of one of those.

Kris Maurer, the manager of the Orvis store in Sevierville, will host our

chapter's monthly meeting Thursday, March 28. Kris has been active with our LRCTU for years and welcomes the opportunity to see everyone on his turf.



Orvis Retail Store
Sevierville, Tennessee

The meeting will be held at the Orvis Store in Sevierville located just off US 441 Scenic Parkway in the The Apple Barn Complex, 136 Apple Valley Road, Sevierville, TN US, 37862, Phone: 865-774-4162. Our Chapter covers a fairly wide geographical area, and this is an opportunity to hold one of our meetings to the eastern end of our range.

This will be a fun event. First, the folks at Orvis are going to be grilling dinner outside - burgers, hot dogs, and chips, and soda. Then we'll have the opportunity to cast new rods down on the Pigeon River, (including the new, latest and great Orvis fly rods), check on other new gear and ask questions.

- 5:00 – Casting rods start time
- 6:00 – Dinner served
- 7:00 – Short Membership Meeting

Never a Dull Moment on Hazel Creek

Ian & Charity Rutter of R&R Fly Fishing, provided a wealth of information on fishing Hazel Creek, one of the premiere rural free stone trout streams in the Eastern United States. The Rutters provided a history of the area from the time Ritter Lumber Company logged the area, giving life to the thriving logging community of Proctor to when TVA contributed to the remoteness of the area by building Fontana Dam.

Although there are a number of great trails that follow Hazel Creek as far up as Clingman's dome, and six miles of stream to fish, much of the best fishing lies at the lower



elevations, close to where R&R pitches its tents for its annual Hazel Creek excursion, Charity said.

The best gear for Hazel, according to Ian, is a 8-9 foot, 3-5 weight rod with standard variety of size 12-14 nymphs. "Spring is the best season. There are not too many people on the water, and excellent hatches," Ian explained. And even when there are several folks fishing, it's easy to spread out, he said. For more information on Ian & Charity's annual trip, go to <http://randrflyfishing.com/>.



Acid Deposition Schedules for 2013 Posted

Charlie Chmielewski [charlieflyfish@gmail.com] reports a successful recruitment for the 2013 season of Acid Deposition sampling in the GSMNP. Leaders and participants should have received a schedule of upcoming dates, sites and team leaders. Those schedules, in PDF format, will be posted soon on the chapter's website at www.lrctu.org

Free Map available from St. Clair Mapping

Fred Turner, with St. Clair Mapping, has a neat, new FREE layered map of the GSMNP available on line. It is a downloadable PDF format. To obtain your copy go to this link:

http://www.smokystreams.com/downloads/layered_park_map_rev1.pdf

How-To Notes:

Using Adobe® Reader® on a PC or Mac, turn on or off layers showing fish species color coded streams, facilities, waterfalls, etc. For example, you can hide all layers except for the waters holding only brook trout. Instructions are shown in lower left corner of the map. (Although the file can be viewed on an iPad, iPod or Android device, the all important "Layers" feature may not be available at the present time.)

For more information, contact Fred at fredturner@saintclairmapping.com

The Little River Chapter Trout Unlimited Newsletter is produced for current members. Please ensure that you have a viable email address on file with your membership information at Trout Unlimited. You can add an email address or update your current email at www.tu.org or call 1-800-834-2419.

Also, keep up with current events and find valuable information sources at our website www.lrctu.org