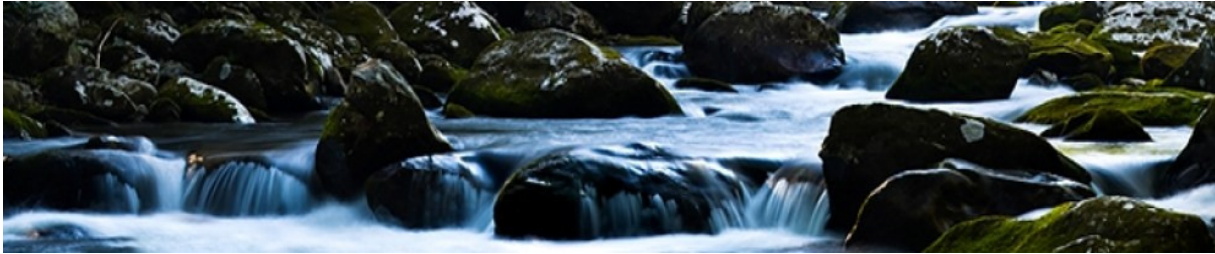


Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited

March 2015 Newsletter



President's Corner

Mike Bryant (mjbryant1954@hotmail.com)

Well, I guess spoke a little too soon in last month's President's Corner when I mentioned we were fortunate to have missed most of the bad weather that battered the east coast. Little did I know! By pure luck, Jan and I headed to Florida a day before the first winter storm hit home in east Tennessee. We spent a month in southern Florida / 10,000 Islands region. The weather was much kinder, though more variable (lots of wind) than in the past few years. Overall fishing was slower, even for the folks using live bait. But I did manage to catch some nice redfish and snook on a fly. My fish of the trip was a 24" snook who attacked a small top surface popper. What a rush to see, feel and hear that fish annihilate the fly from below. I lost an even bigger snook using that same popper. The tarpon showed up during the last week of our stay, so I didn't have a lot of opportunities to cast to them. Fly fishing in saltwater is a different game, where wind, tides and water clarity play a big part in catching these gamefish. But it does get in your blood!

Anyway, we're back home and gearing up for a lot of Chapter activities (including Troutfest) and looking for happy trout in the Park.



Troutfest

Our 2015 Troutfest Banquet and Auction is right around the corner. I hope you have marked your calendars for Friday night, April 24 and have purchased your tickets. The Donations Committee led by Chuck James have been soliciting some great items for the auction. We have new trips, great gear and many non-fishing items, so there will be something for everyone at the auction. Recently we were informed that our Chapter was not awarded an Embrace-A-Stream grant this year, so the funds raised at this year's Troutfest will be more important than ever. So remember this is your opportunity to help our Chapter mission to support the Park with our time, talents and funds. You can find more information and buy tickets on www.troutfest.org

Lynn Camp Opening

I'm sure by now just about everyone knows that Lynn Camp Prong is now open to fishing. There is going to be a tremendous amount of fishing pressure on this stream, so take extra care in handling these small brookies. Consider barbless hooks and try to remove the hook while the fish is in the water. Eliminate or minimize the amount of time the fish is out of the water and make sure to resuscitate it before a release. Great work by the Park Service and our local TU Chapter volunteers!!

Monthly Meeting

I hope you will join us at the March 26 Chapter Meeting. Steve Thompson will be our guest speaker sharing with his experiences with the Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing Program and Trout Camp. Both programs are incredible outreach / educational programs that need our support. I've had the privilege of fishing with Steve, pulling old tires out of the Clinch into his boat and working together on this year's Trout Camp. Steve is a great guy with a strong passion for helping others. Oh yea, he's a great fly fisherman as well. So make plans to come the March 26 meeting at Calhoun's in Maryville.

Spring is coming, time to get out and go fishing.

-Mike

Announcing First Two LRCTU Education Programs

In response to many requests for help in fishing for wild trout in our region, the Chapter will be rolling out a new educational program – **LRCTU Smoky Mountain Fly Fishing Education Program.**

Knot Tying Class

Learn to knot from a pro at a short beginner knot tying class before the March meeting. You will learn two knot concepts that are very useful to fly fishing. First, will be a simple way to attach a dropper to a dry fly. This is a lot of people's "go to" setup in the park, and just one of many methods. The other "staple" knot is a Perfection Loop. This knot has multiple applications, like adding a loop to the butt end of your leader, and has an advantage over the other loop knots. We would like to have a general idea of how many will be attending, so please, if you are interested, send an email to Dan Munger at dmunger@littleriveroutfitters.com. The class will start between 5:15 and 5:30 and will last 30-45 minutes in the meeting room at Calhoun's in Maryville. After the class, you should have plenty of time to eat and catch up with everyone before the monthly meeting.

Casting Class

For LRCTU members there will be a casting 101 class for beginners on Saturday April 18th, starting at 2:00 pm and lasting around 2 hours. The class will be at Little River Outfitters in Townsend, and we will start in their classroom learning a few basics about a fly rod, reel, and line. After that, we will head out onto the casting lawn to let you put it into action. If you have a rod, bring it along with you. If you don't have a rod or want to try a different one, we can provide one for you. This easy class will be a great FREE way to learn how to cast a fly rod, with some experienced eyes close by to steer you in the right direction. This will also be a great way to meet some fishing buddies and learn some good tidbits about fishing in the mountains.

If you are new to fly fishing, or know someone that is, please come out on April 18th and let us get you ready for the season. There is a maximum number of students for this class, so call Little River Outfitters at (865) 448-9459 to sign up.

March Meeting: Trout Camp and Healing Waters

Please join us for our meeting on Thursday, March 26, 2015 at Calhoun's in Maryville (751 Watkins Rd). As usual we will begin with dinner and fellowship from 6 -7PM, at 7PM our President, Mike Bryant, will have a short business meeting at 7PM (Probably show photo's from his vacation in Florida) then our speaker, this month Steve Thompson. Steve will be sharing with us his experiences with Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing Program (www.projecthealingwaters.org). He will also talk to us about Trout Camp at Tremont and how our chapter can become more involved.

Steve is a small business owner living in Maynardville TN. He is married to Zan, who will be with him at the presentation. They have lots of grandkids and just celebrated 25 years of marriage last October.

Steve joined TU to start Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing program in Knoxville TN. Steve is a lifetime member of TU and a sponsor of the Cold Water Conservation Fund. He has been fly fishing for about 20 years and has fly fished in the Amazon, Italy,



Mexico, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Canada, Alaska and many other states in the USA. The Knoxville PHWFF program started because he just wanted to make a donation to the organization and look what happened. They have helped over 35 veterans to date with more than 4200 volunteer hours. They have had many veterans participate in national trips, there have been two fundraising tournament winners from their group and raised over \$50,000 before expenses at their first

regional fundraising tournament the "Smoky Mountain Slam". PHWFF has held many fly tying classes and several rod building classes. They are looking forward to an exciting year in 2015. They are going to fish the Little Red River in Arkansas and the South Holston this year.

Please join us to learn more about this wonderful organization and more about Trout Camp at Tremont Institute. **See you on March 26, 2015**

-Chuck James

-Program Chair

Chuck3185@gmail.com

Kudos To Our Volunteers!

Great Smoky Mountains National Park officials issued a news release that "announced the reopening of Lynn Camp Prong to fishing effective March 6, 2015 following a seven-year native, brook trout restoration project. The reopening of the 8.5 mile-stream sections marks the first time, since the park's establishment in 1934, that all streams in the park are open to fishing."

"The opening of all streams in the park to recreational fishing marks an incredible milestone for the park and speaks to the commitment and dedication of our biologists and partners in restoring fish populations in the Smokies," said Park Superintendent Cassius Cash. The news release further



indicated that "These restoration efforts were made possible with support from hundreds of local volunteers and including volunteer groups such as Trout Unlimited, Federation of Fly Fishers, Friends of the Smokies, and local universities."



Our entire Little River Chapter should take pride in helping to make this happen. So many of our members were big contributors by volunteering on stream, organizing or attending Troutfest events to raise money and also preparing applications for grants from TU National and Tennessee Council. Well done y'all!!

-Charlie Chmielewski charlieflyfish@gmail.com

Little River Clean-Up – Saturday, May 2

Plan to be a part of our annual Little River Clean-up on **Saturday, May 2**. This is an important part of our mission to preserve and protect watersheds in the Park. You can support this mission by donating several hours of your time. All are invited. We will meet at the Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area. Plan to be there by 9:00 am. Matt Kulp will lead the cleanup efforts. After the clean-up, we'll provide a great lunch prepared by Outdoor Chef Extraordinaire Mike McKinsey around 12:00. There will be plenty of fishing opportunities and fellowship in the afternoon.

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.

Note: Anyone with news, such as an event or account of a fishing trip, etc., please send it along to newsletter editor, Dave Ezell ezop@charter.net

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