

Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited

March, 2016 Newsletter



Monthly Meeting **Thursday, March. 24** **at Calhoun's** **Maryville**

President's Corner

Mike Bryant (mjbryant1954@hotmail.com)

"How'd you do?" "Any luck?"

"Caught one decent sea trout and a couple of snappers."

"See any red's?"

"Nope, and I haven't a clue where the snook are"

This was a fairly typical conversation on the docks at Chokoloskee Island this year. In a word, the fishing down in the Everglades / 10,000 Island region has been awful the past few months. Even the bait fishermen who have fished these waters for most of their lives say the fishing has been some of the worst they have seen in years. So I don't have much of a chance trying to catch snook and redfish with my fly rod. But I love fly fishing in saltwater. Red's, snook and tarpon are all great gamefish that will test your skills and patience. I'm still a novice when comes to fishing down in this area. Learning to fish here is like learning to catch wild trout in the Park. There's definitely a learning curve.

To make it even more interesting, I bought a small flats boat to increase my range and comfort. So on top of trying to find fish in endless miles of mangrove islands, oyster beds and flats, I now had the challenge of handling a boat, thinking about tides, changing winds and a constantly worry about running onto an oyster bar. All that while attempting to make pinpoint accurate casts underneath mangroves can drive one over the edge. But I love it. All the frustrations and worries disappear when that snook jumps completely out of the water while trying to annihilate your fly. I get that same great feeling when I'm up in the Park chasing trout. What's not to like!

Now that we're back home, I'm ready to start chasing trout up in the Park. This time of the year brings warmer water, active bugs and happy trout. I hope you'll find the time to get outdoors and fish. Our natural resources are a gift that we need to protect and take every opportunity to enjoy.

Our next Chapter meeting is Thursday, March 24. Guide David Perry will be talking about his experiences and observations on tailwaters. This will be your chance to learn more about tailwaters. I don't know about you, but this is one area I need all the help I can get.

I hope you can make the meeting and I'll see you out on the water!



-Mike

March Meeting Features Tennessee Guide David Perry



LRCTU member Dan Munger has rounded up Middle Tennessee guide David Perry to give us a tailwaters tutorial at our March 24th meeting.

David is presenting on March 24, and he calls this presentation "Observations from the Tailwaters".

Observations from the Tailwaters is a comprehensive look at real life experiences. The content of this program is not theory or guesswork, but the observations of a guide who is right at home on the tailwaters of Middle Tennessee. We will discuss structure, runs and riffles, gravel bars, ledges and shoals. And of course there are photos and stories of big fish.

Says Dan, "I have fished with David and he is an awesome fisherman and also a lot of fun to be around."

The meeting will be held at Calhoun's Maryville, in the same complex as Target. Social hour starts at 6:00 p.m. with the business/program beginning at 7:00 p.m. You do not have to eat dinner to attend.

Member Profile

(In an effort to help us get to know each other better, we will occasionally include Member Profiles in our newsletters and on the website. This month it's a two-for-one as we profile Pat and Hannah Tully. They are a young couple with lots of energy. "Young" doesn't translate into inexperience as Pat has traveled and fished a variety of waters. Both currently serve on LRCTU's board.)



Name: Patrick and Hannah Tully

Nickname: Pat

City / County Residence: Maryville, Tn

General Family Info: Hannah and I have been married for almost 4 years. We moved to Maryville from Tifton Georgia about 3 years ago.

Years Fly Fishing: Pat has been fly fishing for 15 years, Hannah enjoys fly fishing from time to time.

Years Fly Tying / Rod Building / etc: Pat has tied for 2 years and can tie a killer greenie weenie!

History of Fly Fishing:

- Mentors: Pat's grandfather and father.
- Key Memories: When pat was 8 years old he hooked his dad in the eye the first time he fished in a creek. It was dad's fault but don't tell mom she still doesn't know!

Fly Fish Educational Activities: Fishing with guides and friends who know more than I and getting out walking around.

Favorite Places to Fly Fish:

- Locally: Little River, Abrams Creek, really anywhere in the park.
- Outside The Local Area: I love fishing the Elk River in Sparwood BC Canada.

Favorite Fly to Tie: Pheasant Tail

Best Fly Fishing / Tying Story: Getting on a western green drake hatch and having large cutthroat trout rising everywhere with my dad in British Columbia.



TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM

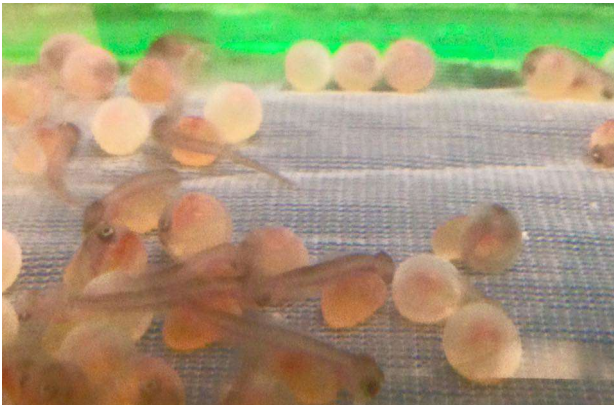
By Joyce Frey



Fry getting released from the egg basket at the Episcopal School tank

All of our 8 schools have released their fry into the tanks and are now able to take the front insulation off the tank in order to see their fish during the day. Since the eggs and alevins are sensitive to light, the only way they could see into the tank was through a small window cut in the insulation that they opened occasionally to view the progress. For our younger students, that meant a stool and a lot of stretching to see in.

Alevins in the Townsend tank



Some of the schools have broken up their students into teams for the daily monitoring of their tanks. They have forms to record their daily reporting of physical characteristics of the tank (water levels, is the filter working, is the temperature holding steady at 55 degrees), water quality for ammonia, pH, nitrate and nitrite, as well as feeding. At the Porter school, the kids got their first taste of getting their sleeves wet and reporting.

They are reporting lots of excitement, from the kids too. As we start to plan for the release into Little River in May, the schools will spend the next month monitoring, feeding, and hopefully keeping as many fish alive for release. Next month I'll provide a schedule of releases, you should come out to watch, it really is something to see!

Next Tie & Lie March 28th

Tie and Lie night has been changed to the fourth Monday of the month, so March 28 we will be tying Quill Gordon's. This is a classic Catskill fly that is a good early season fly. We will be at The Casual Pint in Maryville from 6 till 8 pm.

-Ernie Frey



Save These Dates!

Annual Little River Cleanup

Don't miss out on a fun time and the chance to help out the Park. Our annual Little River Cleanup is scheduled for **Saturday, April 30**. This is a great opportunity to give back by spending a couple of hours in the Park we love. And we provide lunch as well, a win-win situation! So mark your calendar for Saturday, April 30 starting at 9:00am. We'll provide more information as we get closer to the date.

TU Southeast Regional Meetings – May 20-22, Roanoke, Virginia

This year's southeast regional meetings will be held in Roanoke, Virginia. Come spend the weekend with fellow TU members listening to presentations and sharing ideas on conservation, youth education and angler science. It's a great opportunity to learn, participate in evening social events, network with other like-minded conservationists and explore nearby watersheds for some great fishing opportunities.

LRCTU Annual Spring Camping Trip

The Spring camping trip is set for Cataloochee valley at the group camp site 1 from April 8 at 1:00pm till April 10 at 12:00am. It is always fun with great fishing and tall stories around the campfire. Start planning to camp with us! More information will be in the next newsletter and on the Facebook page.

-Ernie Frey

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.lrctu.org