

[View this email in your browser](#)



FISHING QUOTE OF THE MONTH

'SOMETIMES WHEN THE WATER IS QUIET, YOU CAN ALMOST HEAR THE FISH LAUGHING AT YOU'

STREAMS OF THOUGHT—NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

BIG CREEK DRIVES ME BATTY, HAS IT BEEN COLD?, TECHNICAL FOUL UP & PATIENCE

If you follow sports at all you have heard or seen the phenomenon that some teams just have it over others no matter their relative standings or skill levels. Well, that is me and Big Creek at the north end of the Park. Some of the most beautiful and fishy-looking water I have seen—but Big Creek wins out most every time despite my best efforts. I have done OK on occasion but my Batting

Average and RBI totals aren't the greatest. But having said that, will I be going back? You betch'um Red Ryder!!—laughing fish or not. Also, a day on the stream doesn't have to be about catching fish, but rather the beauty of nature around you and the wildlife you see. My Big Creek day was highlighted by this little fellow I found on a stream-side rock sitting in the sun. I thought it was dead but a little nudge and it came to life. I think he/she was too cold to fly which didn't portend well for the coming evening, but feisty enough to let me know to keep my distance!

Some folks have told me that this winter hasn't seemed too different than previous. But my heating bill and 'fish-o-meter' say different. Our kwhs for January and February are the highest of our 9-year run here. My lack of fishing time because of low water temps also fuels my prejudice! But the immediate forecast looks more 'spring-like'. Time for me to hit the water—hope you can too.

Big thanks to Charity and Ian and all the Little River members for having the patience to preserver through my technical goof-up. For the first night I somehow made 2 Zoom meeting notices, kept one for me and sent the other to everyone else. Well patience paid off as we had a great turnout on the next Tuesday (over 30 participants) and were treated to a very informative talk on winter fishing by Charity and Ian. Although spring appears to be coming along there is bound to be a cold snap or two before spring comes to stay and those coaching tips will be useful.

Best wishes and tight lines! -- Steve Young

KIM POUNCEY TAKES ON ROLE OF PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Kim Pouncey has volunteered to fill the position of Program Coordinator for the Little River Chapter—yeah! Kim is bringing a great deal of enthusiasm to the position and already is working on a number of ideas for speakers and presentations for the chapter. Thanks, Kim, for taking this on! If you have program ideas please contact Kim directly at kpouncey@topshelfedu.com.

UPCOMING CHAPTER MEETING PROGRAMS

(All Online via Zoom—announcements and invites will precede each one)



March 30th 7pm—Spey-Rod Fishing by Tim Flagler.

Most of us are familiar with Tim through the many videos where he is the magician who effortlessly ties so many different flies, much to the envy of clutz-fingered amateurs like me. However, this presentation is a little different; Spey Rod fly casting. In the Smokies you ask? Well maybe not there but on tail waters for sure. I have got a spot picked on the Clinch above the Weir where this technique holds real promise when they are running 1 or 2 generators (way too often lately!). Plus, this technique can be used for many other game fish on large waters. I have watched many videos of Tim tying a particular fly in which I am interested and envy his smooth style. I have heard him speak to larger groups and his smooth presentation style carries over to these talks also.

Come join us and please remember this is the **5th Tuesday in March**—the only time we could book Tim.

April 27th 7pm—The Great Smoky Mountain Institute at Tremont (GSMIT) by Catey McClarey.

Catey is the President and CEO of GSMIT and will be updating us on how they are weathering the COVID Storm, plans for the latest land acquisition, and programs for the coming summer.

Projects / Chapter Activities

MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUTDOOR VOLUNTEERING IN THE GSMNP

Richard Barnes has been sending out much information on the goings on in the Park. One of the most interesting was the announcement about the veritable cornucopia of volunteer opportunities there. Certainly, there are the opportunities associated with the Little River Chapter; water sampling, Brook Trout restoration, and IBI studies. Beyond that, there are a vast number of opportunities that while not associated with fishing are still ways to serve the Park. I myself am assisting with the Phenology project (we track the progression of blooming, flowering, turning colors, and leaf shedding of trees in selected areas through the course of the year). All these volunteer positions

are a great way to get outdoors and aid that National Resource that is on our front doorstep; and if you happen to tuck in some fishing equipment to use after your volunteer stint is over, who's to say... Richard has been sending these out to all of our Newsletter readers; if you haven't seen them contact Richard at canceleer1@gmail.com. You can also go the VIP page on the GSMNP website (nps.gov/grsm/index/siteindex.htm volunteer section at the bottom of the index). Try it, you'll like it!

PISTOL CREEK by Ernie Frey



Fourteen volunteers showed up this past Saturday for the Pistol Creek Cleanup. Approximately 150 pounds of trash was collected. Thanks to everyone for their help!

TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM

The fry have been released into their tanks and according to both teachers, doing well.

BUGS AND FLIES



This month's fly is the George Nymph developed by Eddie George in the 50's specifically for catching Smoky Mountain rainbows.

Before we get to the fly though, how many of you know who Eddie George was and what he meant to our Chapter? Thanks to Joe Hatton for the majority of information for this article.

Eddie was a founding member of both the Great Smokey Mountain and Little River Chapters. In 2001, Ken Henderson a local fly rod builder and Chapter member, came up with the idea of an award and went to the LRCTU board with the idea of giving an award to the person who volunteered the most for the Great Smokey National Park Fisheries Department that year in honor of Eddie. He suggested that the winner receive a custom built rod. Ken supplied those rods for many years. Joe Hatton was the first recipient in 2001, presented to him by Eddie's wife Mona.

Recipients of the award over the years:

2001 - Joe Hatton

2002 - ?

2003 - ?

2004 - Tom Eustis

2005 - Roy Hawk

2006 - John Skinner

2007 - Jack Gregory

2008 - Mark Spangler

2009 - Bill Bollinger

2010 - Charlie Chmielewski

2011 - ?

2012 - Rich Ashmore

2013 - James Locke

2014 - Steve Young

2015 - Doug Sander

2016 - Steve Van Fleet

2017 - Rich Eitel

2018 - ?

2019 - ?

If anyone has the names of the missing years, please let me know so we can update our history.

Below is an article written by Eddie George on the George Nymph. You can find a print of the original article in a frame, along with a couple other articles framed and hanging in the corner of the Fly Shop at the Sevierville Bass Pro / Cabelas shop. Unfortunately I couldn't get a good picture so am inserting it below.

The George Nymph written by Eddie George

Back in the early thirties, when the George Nymph originated, trout fishermen lived in another world. There were no tailwaters, no mainstream dams, no nylon. All lines and leaders were made of silk and it was unheard of to release a trout. Most trout flies at that time were standard English patterns and not very effective on our rainbows. All the best fishermen tied their own flies or had them tied by a friend. The anglers carried the basic materials - herl, hackle, wool, thread, and hooks 0 in a pocket and would either make repairs or tie a new fly on the stream (without a vise) when needed.

On the Little River, where I fished nearly every day all summer, basic dark brown flies with peacock herl bodies were consistently effective. I cut lead strips and weighted the fly before tying and found this is be more effective than split shot on my leader. The white hump made the fly more visible and the folded turkey quill back gave the fly a buggy, stonefly look.

The George nymph is the most consistent fly I have found in sixty years of searching. I have sent them all over the world and they work in places I didn't know trout existed.

The best local trout I know of taken on this fly was an 11 pound 4 ounce brown taken by Bob LeSeur in the Little River during a heavy caddis hatch. It was tied on a size 12 hook.

To tie the fly, you'll need a Mustad 94840 or equivalent dry fly hook, lead wire, peacock herl, mottled turkey quill, white rabbit fur, brown hackle, and black thread.

1. Weight the hook with lead wire, leaving room near the eye to wrap the hackle.
2. Start the black, pre-waxed thread and tie in stripped hackle fibers for the tail at an angle of 8 or 9 degrees down from the horizontal (hook shank) plane.
3. Take a 1/4 inch segment of mottled turkey tail and tie it on the top of the hook bend for the back of the fly.
4. Take two strands of peacock herl and tie in just in front of the turkey quill.
5. Wet the exposed lead with head cement before winding herl 3/4 the way up the hook shank.
6. Tie off the herl and fold the turkey quill over the herl forming the back. Tie the quill off and clip it close.
7. Tie in the white rabbit fur for the hump.
8. Tie in hackle and make 3 or 4 turns before tying it off. Clip the hackle feathers on the top of the hook.
9. Fold the white rabbit fur over the clipped hackle and tie it off.
10. Clip the rabbit fur close and whip finish.

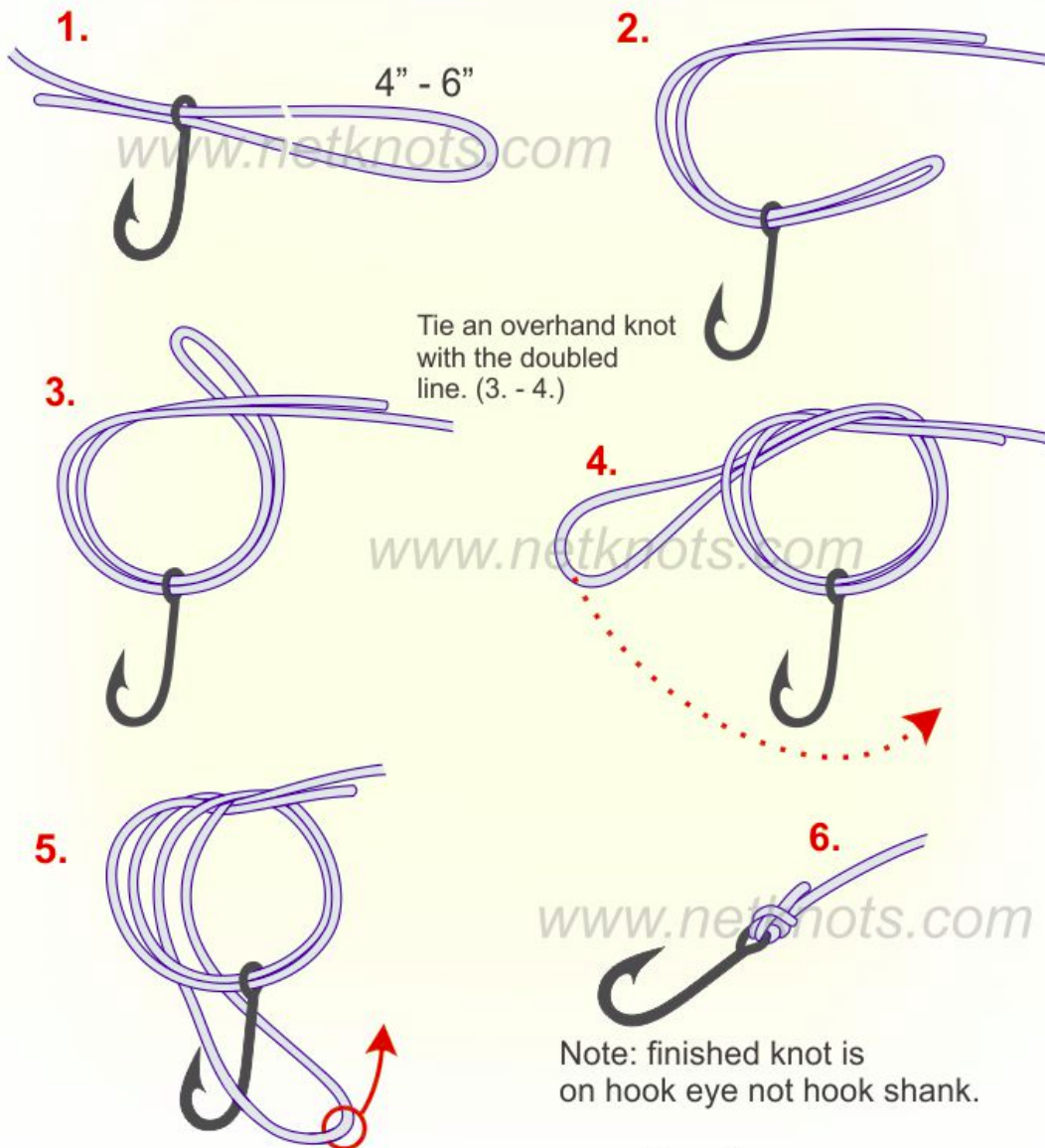


KNOTS

The Palomar Knot

From NetKnots.com - The single best fishing knot? Many fishermen believe that the **Palomar Knot** holds that title. The Palomar Knot comes close to being a 100% knot when tied properly. Be sure that when the hook or lure is passed through the loop that all parts of the knot cinch up together. Many depictions of this knot elsewhere make it look like the loop part of the knot goes up against the bottom of the eye of the hook or lure. The knot can fail if tied in that manner. This is also the best knot to use with braided fishing line.

PALOMAR KNOT



© Copyright 2019 John E. Sherry

www.netknots.com



Copyright © 2021 Little River Chapter, Trout Unlimited, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

