

Little River Chapter

Newsletter

MAY 2004

Chapter President / Editor Joe Hatton

<http://www.lrectu.org>



Next Meeting

Fishing Picks

The next meeting is on the Fourth Thursday May the 27, at 7:00P.M. at Monte Vista Baptist Church at 1735 Old Niles Ferry Rd. in Maryville. The church has an entrance on the opposite side of Hwy 129 between the Bi-Lo and the Co-op Gas station.

Program

Our speaker will be Keith Bean. Keith is a member of Team USA Fly Fishing and won last years Jackson Hole One Fly Invitational contest. He will present his experiences in the One Fly Tournament as well as his pre-tournament fishing experiences this year in Slovakia.

Board Meeting

There will be a board meeting at 6:00 p.m. before our regular meeting. The main topics will be a Financial Report and the Trout Festival.

Stream Work

June 14-17th Sams Creek Evaluation, Re-Sample Monitoring Sites & Evaluate

July 17-18th Bi-Monthly Acid Deposition Hikes

**First Annual Townsend
TROUT FEST
June 5-6, 2004**

By: Ian Rutter

If you haven't been out on the water yet, what have you been doing? Fishing is great. Things are in full swing on all the streams and tailwaters. Fishing in the mountains has been excellent and is at peak on several of the tailwaters.

Nymphs have been consistent throughout the day on the mountain streams. Tellico Nymphs, Prince Nymphs, and a variety of beadheads are all effective. Standard dries also catch plenty of fish, particularly on the smaller streams. Parachute Adams, Yellow Stimulators, Royal Wulffs, and Thunderheads are classic Smoky Mountain dry flies. They may not be the most effective flies on larger streams like Little River and Tellico River but will do well on higher elevation creeks. Little Yellow Stoneflies, often called Yellow Sallies, are hatching and laying eggs late in the evening just before dark. This creates a feeding frenzy as the bugs bounce on the surface. Light Cahills and Sulphurs are also hatching at the same time. Day time temperatures are warming to the point where you might start thinking about wet wading. This will certainly lighten your load if you plan on walking in a little way before getting in the water. It's also rare for you to get in over your knees on streams where you would hike in.

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Fishing Picks [FROM PAGE 1] Be sure to bring a light rain jacket. Pop up showers are the norm through the late spring and summer. This might be anything from a sprinkle to a down-pour. These showers rarely last more than an hour and fishing is usually great afterwards. Try some larger nymphs or streamers, especially in streams with brown trout.

Tailwater fishing has been far better this year than last since generation schedules have been more accommodating. This year's sulphur hatch on the Clinch has been one of the better ones in recent years and dry fly fishing has been superb. This is essentially an afternoon event but fish will take sow bugs, midges, and pheasant tail nymphs through the morning. Sulphurs have also begun to show up on the South Holston. Generation schedules are currently favoring waders in the morning and floaters in afternoon. This still allows waders to fish the lower part of the river through the mid-afternoon. So far the sulphurs have been hatching better when the water is still off. Fish are eating well and several large fish have already been caught on pheasant tails and dries this season. The Holston below Cherokee dam also seems to be on the road to recovery. Last year's high flows hurt trout populations but recent reports seem to indicate the trout are on the way back.

Pond Pleasures

By M. Gary Verholek

Flyfishing a farm pond is one of the simplest yet most pleasurable uses of a warm summer's afternoon that I can imagine. If you haven't had such an opportunity, you really don't know what you're missing. Let me try to take you along for a few minutes.

My wife, Donna, and I drove to southern Ohio for the Mother's Day weekend to visit her mother, our only remaining parent.

Donna's sister and three sons also live north of Cincinnati, so it was a bit of a family reunion. Her eldest son, Chris, with whom I often flyfish, told me of family friends who have a small pond on their property. He had never fish there, but was assured there were ample bluegill and a few bass. That was enough to raise our interest level, so he arranged access.

A small Cabela's rod/reel case containing my 7-ft, 4-wt Cortland fly rod, equipped with a Lamson LP-1.5 reel and small fly box always rides in the trunk of my car, ready for eventualities like this. It's small enough for delicate dry flies on tight mountain streams and heavy enough to throw small Clousers and Woolly Buggers on larger water. I never know when or where flyfishing opportunities arise, but I'm ready. I guess that's why I buy so many out-of state fishing licenses each year.

Chris called shortly after noon, just after returning from church on Mother's Day. He had contacted the owners and they gave us a warm welcome to use their pond, with the caution that we weren't to disturb the goose tending her nest under the second willow tree. The description that I was provided indicated the pond was quite small, only a good cast wide. A setting goose could take up quite a lot of our casting space. But no matter; any opportunity to cast a fly line in Ohio was a welcome attraction. Ohio doesn't abound with trout fishing opportunities, but warm water fisheries are everywhere, if you can get permission.

We arrived to find a well-manicured lawn surrounding a shallow pond of greater proportion than I was led to expect.

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Pond Pleasure: Summer Fly Fishing

Pond Pleasures [FROM PAGE 1] The size was good; the depth was good; there were scattered lily pads, weeds, branches and cattails, and the fish were definitely there. The Bluegill were evident at the shoreline as we walked up. A dozen or more large Koi cruised the waters, and I could see a few small bass among the scattered branches, weeds and lily pads. Not even a mammoth double haul by Scientific Angler's casting ace, Bruce Richards, would cross that pond, but there was no need for long casts. The fish were cruising the windward shore. Even with the wind blowing, as it usually does in the softly rolling hills of southern Ohio, we wouldn't need more than 25 feet of line to reach the fish. My anticipation grew.

We tied on foam beetles and spiders, standard attractors for Bluegills. It didn't take long for the action to begin. We were into small, hand-sized fish within a few casts. The only difficulty was to select, attract and hook the larger fish before the small ones hit with complete abandon. The barbless hooks (mashed barbs, actually) were ideal for releasing the fish with just a twitch of the fly, eliminating unnecessary handling.

After catching numerous Bluegill, the challenge changed to tricking the larger

bass, which were a bit more selective (but not much). I switched to Woolly Buggers in black and brown, casting parallel to the shore. Almost immediately, a nice 10-inch bass hit a black Bugger with a ferocity that belied his size. This is delightful, I thought, as my little 4-wt thumped to the rhythm of the agile bass. Now if I can find the larger fish, the challenge will increase. My 6x tippet will shift some of the advantage in the favor of the fish.

I fished the streamer slow and deep, picking up several more bass in the 10-12 inch range. We both caught numerous bass in that range, and many smaller, but never any larger. It appeared that either the high population of equally sized fish was limiting their size, or perhaps it was that they hadn't had time to grow. We didn't know how long ago the fish had been stocked, but the size of the Koi seemed to indicate that there had been ample opportunity. The excess competition seemed the limiting factor.

There were several bass that stationed themselves along the windward shore, facing the bank. Numerous dirt mounds were evidence of resident crayfish. This may account for the constant attention to the shoreline. I was able to entice the bass from their stations with a Bugger stripped within three feet of the shore. It was especially enlightening to watch the reaction of the fish as the streamer darted past. Sometimes the bass would make a casual follow, and other times there would be a fierce slash, as the streamer was about to escape. The action let up briefly as the fish became accustomed to one type or color of fly, but a quick change renewed their interest almost without fail.

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Pond Pleasures [FROM PAGE 3]

We fished for several hours before I noticed that my feet were acquiring a different sunburn pattern between the straps on my newly purchased sandals. Small twinges in my stomach indicated that we were probably overdue at the family get-together. That, and the lowering sun, made us realize that we had cast our way through a perfectly delightful afternoon, so we gathered our rods and hit the road.

This was not a day for counting coup. There were too many. It was just a pleasurable day on a farm pond, not unlike any one of many in your area. Give it a try; it won't disappoint.

Gary



The Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited is hosting the **1st Annual Trout Festival** in Townsend, Tennessee June 5th & 6th, 2004 at the Townsend Visitors Center.

A Festival Banquet & Live Auction will be held on Saturday Night June 5th at Maple Leaf Lodge in Townsend.

Banquet Tickets are available now for purchase. Contact Mike Steihl via

e-mail at m333stiehl@earthlink.net or by phone 681-1605 for tickets. Tickets are \$20 per person or \$35 per couple. *Make checks payable to:* Little River Chapter Trout Unlimited.

You can print out the Trout Fest Banquet tickets and T-Shirt Order forms from our web site. Send them in to Roy Hawk or bring them to this month's meeting. We will have a **Live Auction and Bucket raffles** at the Banquet,

with lots of different items. It will be FUN for everyone. Remember that all the proceeds will go to help our Chapter and the Park fishery department in meeting our goals for a better fish habitat in and around the park.

Trout Fest Casting Contest

sponsored by Little River Outfitters

Entry Fee is \$20

Contestants will be asked to complete casts in each of the three categories: Distance, Accuracy and Free Style

Prizes with a retail value of over \$50 will be rewarded to the winner of each category.

The Grand Prize will go the Caster with the highest total score from all three categories combined.

Members can sign up the day of the festival or at the meeting.

Tell all your friends that may be interested to go to our web site.

TROUT FEST Casting Contest Entry Form

Can be print from our web site

www.lrcu.org

Festival Activities

The Educational Exhibit Tent will house booths from:

GSMNP Fisheries department

TWRA Fisheries department with the FishTank

U.T Bees and Pollination exhibit

Blount County 4H Water Conservation children's activities

Tremont Institute

Blount County Soil Conservation District

The U.T. Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Project Heritage Museum

Little River Watershed Association

Keep Blount Beautiful

Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Back the Brookies Trout Unlimited State

Council Campaign

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Troutfest [FROM PAGE 4] Many of the Educational Exhibitors will be performing a presentation or slideshow in the visitor center Conference room thru out the day.

Children's Activity Booth

Wooden Trout painting
Trout picture drawing
Clowns face painting

Demonstrations are at select times

Bamboo Rod Building
By Charley Downs
Mountain Trout Flies fly tying demo
By Tim Doyle
Graphite Rod building
By Ken Henderson
River, Lake and Stream fly tying demo
By Dean Campbell

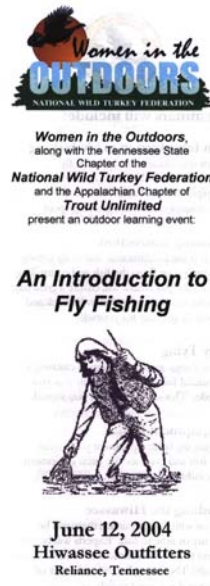
Live Music

Story Telling

We will have two Alternative fuel cars on display.

There will also be Arts and Crafts, Fishing and Outdoor Outfitters and Guide booths. There is something for the whole family .

If you have not already signed up to help with the Festival or Banquet there are still lots of opportunities to get involved. It will take every members involvement to make this a successful fundraising event. We still need presenters for the live auction, ticket sellers for bucket raffles, workers for the Coke booths, and members to man our Chapter's booth in the Educational tent. Now is the time to make a commitment.



The Appalachian Chapter of T.U. will be presenting an outdoor learning event. **Introduction to Fly Fishing.** The seminar is part of the Women in the Outdoor week sponsored by the National Wild Turkey Federation. Registration fee is \$65. I have some brochures to give out at this month's meeting.

Location: Hiwassee Outfitters
Reliance, TN
Contact: Trish Patterson
Phone: 423/238-3889
Email: trish@riverplanet.com

Fly of the month

Western CDC Sulphur

Sizes 16, 18

Hook Type Extra-fine dry

Thread Yellow 8/0

Tail Lt. Dun or Sulphur Microfibbets

Body Presoaked quill dyed sulphur orange

Wing Yellow CDC plumes

Thorax Antron dubbing in cream or sulphur

Note; This fly is effective tied with either a traditional sulphur orange body color, that works well on the Clinch River or mixed with cream to lighten the color for fishing in the Park or on other mountain streams.





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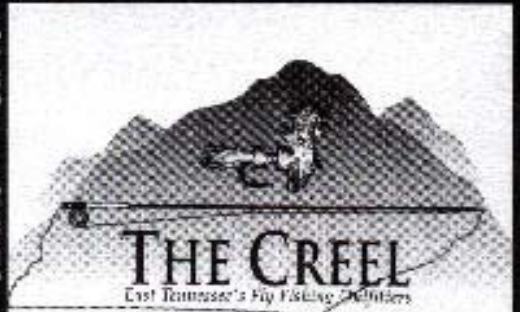


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