

Little River Chapter Newsletter

Editor
Joe Hatton



May, 2006
www.lrctu.org

Next Meeting

The next meeting is on the fourth Thursday April the 25th, 7:00 P.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

Joe Bogle and Linda Good will be sharing their experiences with a presentation on their recent fly fishing trip to Mendoza, San Carlos Bariloche area of Patagonia Argentina. Joe and Linda are long time LRCTU members. They are professional instructors and fly fishing guides with The Fly Shop of Tennessee in Johnson City. Please check out their Website. www.flyfishingclasses.net/index.html

Stream Work

May 20 - 21 Bi-Monthly Acid Deposition Sample

June 12 – 15 Sams Creek Evaluation re-sample monitoring sites & evaluate brook trout (12-14th) - Collect brook trout and transport to Sams Creek (15th)

June 26-29 Bear Creek Evaluation & Brook Trout Transplant - re-sample monitoring sites & evaluate brook trout (26-28th) - Collect brook trout and transport to Bear Creek (29th)

July 10-13 Indian Flats Prong Evaluation & Brook trout Transplant - re-sample monitoring sites & evaluate brook trout (10-12th) restocking (13th)

Fishing Reports

Little River Outfitter fishing report.
By Byron Begley

Fishing continues to be excellent, especially in the evenings. There are a lot of insects hatching in the streams. You should see Blue Wing Olives, Caddis, Yellow Drakes, Sulphurs, Large Golden Stones and the most numbers will be the Yellow Sally Stonefly especially in the evenings. Evenings are still the best time to fish but fishing is really good all day in the lower elevations. Way up high it's probably a little chilly in the mornings so wait until later to fish. Water levels are perfect. That can change of course. Well, I just heard some thunder. Today we have a 100% chance of a thunderstorm in Townsend.

Clinch River

By Joe Hatton

Gary Verholek and I fished the Clinch on Tuesday May 16. I worked that day and met Gary at Miller Island around 4:30 pm. It was overcast that day and even rained a little on the way up from work. The dam stopped generating at noon and was schedule to start one generator at 6 pm. There was some sulfurs coming off and we where fishing for rainbows midway down the right side of the island. I landed a couple 12 inch fish and quite a few rainbows in the 7 to 9inch range. Then we moved up to the flat water across from the boat ramp and landed some small →

browns. We fished until the water started rising. The fish was not as picky as I remember from the last time that I fished the sulfur hatch. For me it was a nice break in a long dry spell between fishing trips. You need to watch the dam release schedule, we have a link to TVA site on the chapter web page, an afternoon of fishing may end up being the perfect evening.

Hello Fellow Members

Lots of excitement is going on now, from great fishing, to a TU sponsored field trip, and an upcoming Troutfest. We really need everyone's help in making our third Troutfest a success.

Dan Holloway and I need your help in acquiring auction items. This newsletter contains a donation form and an introduction letter. Please ask around your daily contacts and I am sure you can come up with a good auction item.

When you get a donation, please call or e-mail either Dan or me. Please turn in your forms at our May meeting or mail them to:

Little River Chapter of TU
PO Box 6440
Maryville, TN 37802

Dan Holloway 777-2199 dhjhtn@aol.com
Steve Best 983-6494 stoneflytn@yahoo.com

Field Trip:

Fifty-five excited students arrived on a soggy morning at Metcalf Bottoms May 11. These science club members from Carpenter's Middle School were treated to a day that the teachers and principal expressed praise constantly. Some said this was the best field trip, they had experienced in 14 years.

I expressed thanks to Steve Moore and Matt Culp for their electro-shocking and fisheries

presentation. They did an excellent job in coordinating the following programs in which the students rotated in 5 groups of eleven.

Carey Jones, GSMNP-salamanders

Becky Nichols, GSMNP-stream insects

Bart Carter, TWRA-crayfish

Angela, Amanda and Keil, UT-water quality

After the program, the kids fished even as it rained. They boarded the bus all soaked, but ecstatic. Ian and Charity Rutter, Dan Holloway, Tom Eustis, David Jazwiecki, Jeff Hall and myself sighed with relief and a sense of purpose...this is what TU is all about.

Thanks,
Steve Best

Farm Pond on a Fly

By Gary Verholek

An afternoon on a farm pond will do wonders for your ego, especially if you are a fly tyer. Even though we get access to lakes and streams all winter in East Tennessee, when a farm pond begins stirrings, so do my childish instincts. While I now prefer a 3-wt to a cane pole, the results are no less giddy as eager fish attack your latest efforts to imitate crayfish, minnow or emerger.

Recently my wife and I drove to southern Ohio near Cincinnati to visit her elderly mother. It was still mid-Spring in Ohio, and not all the trees were in full leaf, as we have here. Going north is like getting another chance at spring fever.

My wife's nephew, Chris, who is my frequent fly-fishing companion, also lives nearby, and has negotiated access to a few well-stocked farm ponds. On this trip he took me to an Indiana farm that has been in his wife's family since the mid-1800s. His wife's aunt lives in the restored barn and keeps the old homestead for visiting family. →

Being on the historic registry, the house remains much as it was with mostly original furniture – and no running water!

Several years ago, she put in a small pond for visiting family and installed a short dock for the kids swimming activities. She also stocked it with bass and bluegill, and a few catfish. While the kids love to swim in the pond, some even fish occasionally.

Well, we figured the fish needed some exercise to wake them from their winter doldrums, so we loaded the fly rods and headed west. We arrive around noon and were treated to a tour of the homestead, then eagerly lined the rods and began testing the water.

Noting fresh dirt mounds on the bank, I tied on a crayfish imitation, while Chris went for a popper. By the second cast I was fast into a fish that put a deep bend in the 3-wt, only to lose it when the line parted, probably at an old “wind knot”. In my eagerness to put my fly in the water I had overlooked a simple rule of spring fishing – *replace old leaders*. Before I could replace the leader, Chris had a small bass on. This was the scenario all afternoon...10”-12” bass a variety of flies, including foam spiders, damsel nymphs and poppers.

The afternoon was punctuated by two fish of note– a huge Bluegill that I could barely fit on my hand took a crayfish Gillbuster variant, and a 14” Bass that was lounging in the shallow end, fell for my chartreuse and white Gillbuster.

Because this was a family trip, we had to abandon the pond well before twilight to return for dinner with the family. It would be left to our imagination how much better it could get as evening settled. I plan to find out, as we did manage to secure an invitation for a return trip and seal the pact with a Jack Daniels.

Your Help Needed

We are needing several members to help with Troutfest. We have some new rides for young kids that will require full time monitoring by our members. Our chapter table inside the Educational tent will need two members informing our guest on our chapters mission and help sale our new line of T-sheets, hats and vests including our new Troutfest hats. We will all so need members to help with parking. We need Fly triers and fly rod builders for the tying and rod building demonstration. Without our members participating the Troutfest will not be a success. Please let me know at the May meeting when you can help. You can also e-mail jthatton@knology.net or call me at 558-8782.

Thanks
Joe Hatton

Fly of the month

Copper Prince

Hook: Nymph hook 12-18

Weight: Gold bead

Thread: Unithread 8/0, black

Tail: Brown goose biots

Abdomen: Copper wire

Thorax: Peacock herl

Wings: White goose biots



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