

Little River Chapter Newsletter

Editor
Joe Hatton



May 2007
www.lrctu.org

Volunteers needed at Troutfest.

All members. We need you to volunteer to work at Troutfest. On Friday we need people to help set up the festival grounds. Saturday and Sunday we need people to work at the TU booth selling merchandise and speaking with the public about the Little River Chapter. People are also needed to help park cars, watch the children's rides, do casting instruction, and ground maintenance. We will need at least ten members at all times throughout the day. This is a big job but if we can all chip in it will make the burden light for everyone. Troutfest is a fun event where you can meet the public and tell about TU's mission and what our chapter is doing to help out. The hours of the Festival are 9 to 6 on Saturday and 10 to 6 on Sunday. If you can work a couple of hours or more one or both days call or e-mail with the day's and hours you are available and with the best way to contact you. With your help this can be the best Troutfest yet.

Thanks for your help,
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Stream work

May 19 - 20: Bi-Monthly Acid Deposition Sample

Fishing Report

It's Spring! Really, this time it's Spring. Trout fishing in the Great Smoky Mountains is great right now. The aquatic insects are active and so are the trout. The water levels and temperature are ideal. We had a dry winter. Then we got some rain. It was cold, then hot, then we had freezing temperatures. The trout had a hard time deciding what to do. The mayflies, caddis and stoneflies were hatching but the trout didn't seem interested in the dry flies. Now we're back to normal temperatures, the rainfall during March through May so far has been close to normal so the fish and the anglers are happy. Right now we are seeing a lot of Yellow Sally Stoneflies hatching. That's when I start using a #16 Yellow Stimulator or any other Yellow Sally pattern. Of course I wouldn't be without a Parachute Adams in sizes #12 through #16 or even smaller. I would also have some Light Cahills in my box. It's a good idea to drop a bead head fly sixteen to eighteen inches behind your dry fly.

For some reason we were seeing more larger than average rainbow trout and more people catching brown trout during April than I can remember in the past. I wonder if there is an age class missing or with less numbers than usual in the East Prong of the Little River.

I've been hearing some good fishing reports from the tailwaters. ►

The Caney Fork is having a fabulous year. The shad kill in Center Hill Lake sent food through the generators to the trout downstream. I've seen some photos of huge fat trout up to ten pounds that were caught during that time. I've heard excellent reports from the Cumberland River, Watauga and the South Holston also. If you are a trout angler, this is your time of year.

The smallmouth bass fishing is turning on in the rivers and lakes. Don't forget about these hard fighting fish. Smallmouth bass should be released in my opinion. It takes them a long time to grow into spawning adults and a real long time to reach lunker status.

I am hoping that all of you can get out and fish this month. Also, I hope many of you attend Troutfest. The volunteers who are putting this event on have worked hard to make it a fun weekend while raising money to fund our partners in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Have a great May 2007.

Byron

Brook Trout Restoration in Lynn Camp Prong to Begin

By M. Gary Verholek

Efforts by the Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited are integral to the success of the restoration of native Brook Trout in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park by the Fisheries Department of the National Park Service. Since the inception of the Chapter our stated mission has been to support the Fisheries Department. Our efforts, whether in the form of fund raising (such as TroutFest) or in-stream work by chapter members, have been vital to the restoration of 17 miles of

streams. No program has done better; no chapter has done more. Now comes our biggest challenge – to restore 8 miles of Lynn Camp Prong – a 50% increase in native Brook Trout habitat.

Lynn Camp Prong was targeted for restoration of the native Southern Appalachian Brook Trout back in 2000 following an extensive Environmental Assessment. Periodic monitoring has kept it on the list of target streams. Based on past restoration success and experience with the reliability of TU volunteer fieldwork, the priority of Lynn Camp Prong has been raised and work is about to begin. This project is significant for the size alone – 8 miles are targeted for restoration, whereas it took 15 years to restore almost 15 miles now open to fishing for native Brook Trout.

Steve Moore, Supervisor of the Fisheries Department in the GSMNP, has pressed for the restoration in Lynn Camp Prong to coincide with the 75th anniversary of the GSMNP in 2009. For that to be accomplished, significant funds will be needed to set aside each year from 2007-2009. Currently, the Fisheries Department has 75% of the \$112k needed for 2007, but less than 50% of the \$165k needed in both 2008 and 2009.

Significantly, the project has been designated for Challenge Cost Sharing in 2008 and 2009, which means that there is a commitment by NPS to match private contributions. Additional private contributions of \$40k-\$50k each year will help ensure the success of the project. This is why the success of the LRCTU TroutFest fundraiser is so important over the next three years.

In addition to funding, the project will need enormous amounts of volunteer labor. The Fisheries Department is counting on volunteers in the field, and again, they are looking to Little River Chapter Trout ►

Unlimited members to participate actively on in-stream work.

The stated mission of our Chapter has always been support of the Fisheries Department and this will be the signature project for our chapter and for Steve Moore, the Supervisor of the Fisheries Department. Our membership has always risen to the challenge, and now that effort is even more vital to the Brook Trout Restoration program of the Fisheries Department. The success of TroutFest is vital to the project over the next three years, and as important as the in-stream work.

Now is the time for all good members to come to the aid of their chapter, and their sole mission. Support TroutFest; help restore the Brookies.

Project Timeline

2000

Environmental Assessment
Budget proposed
Schedule proposed

2001-2006

Continuous study of Lynn Camp Prong insects and environment.

2007

Summer - Begin Insect Monitoring (100 meter increments over the entire 8 miles) to determine current populations.
Fall - Inert dye flow studies to determine quantities of Antimycin needed.

2008

Early Spring - Fisheries monitoring to determine carrying capacity.
Continue insect monitoring throughout the year.
Late Spring – Fishing Free-for-All to remove as many fish as possible.
Early Fall (Sept) – Remove Rainbow Trout

using Antimycin.

2009

Early Spring - Verify removal
Late Spring – Collect Brook Trout from previously restored streams and stock Lynn Camp Prong.
Celebrate 75th Anniversary of GSMNP



Fly of the Month

Isonychia Nymph

Hook: Daiichi 1560 D #10

Thread: Danville pre-waxed black

Tail: Tuft of ostrich- reddish brown color

Abdomen: Dubbing brush made w/ fine copper wire & reddish brown fur mix. I prefer mink/rabbit/australian opossum.

Wingpad/case: Dark speckled hen feather w/ a distinct white stripe - treated w/ Dave's flexament

Thorax: Dubbed fur slightly lighter than abdomen

Legs: Darkest brown Hungarian partridge



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