

# LITTLE RIVER CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Editor  
Mark Sebby



May 2008  
[www.lrctu.org](http://www.lrctu.org)

## Next Meeting

Due to TROUTFEST there will be no regular chapter meeting in May. See you at TROUTFEST! The next meeting in June is at River John's... cookout, casting, fish stories... lots of fun.

## Last Meeting

Rick Robins will give an excellent presentation on "How to Rig Kayaks". He brought a few rigs and explained in great detail advantages and disadvantages of each style. You can have a lot of fun fishing from a boat - kayaks are a great way to get you on the water to those out of the way places, and get you there quietly.



## TU Tennessee License Plate

We are in the last few weeks of our final push towards 1,000 plates. At present, we have presold 650 plates for 65% of our goal. For those waiting to order the plate, we need to have 1,000 presold plates by June 30, 2008. [www.tuplate.org](http://www.tuplate.org)



## Upcoming Events



A crew works to stabilize Indian Head Rock on Wednesday in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Work on the well-known geological feature on Little River Road will last a couple of weeks and shut off traffic entirely May 12-19.

Keep this in mind as you head into the park to fish and play.

## Fishing in the Smokies

This has been a wonderful Spring. We have had plenty of rain. Though rainfall amounts are 2" below normal, we have not seen normal for an extended period in a long time. The rivers look great.

Trout fishing in the Smokies has been very good. Anglers have noticed less large rainbows in the lower elevation streams as expected. Many of the adults died last year due to the low warm water. But there are plenty of small bows down low and

## Fishing in the Smokies (continued)

larger rainbows higher up. Fishing for brown trout and brookies has been good.

May is a reliable month for catching a lot of trout in the Park. This May is no exception. Today the conditions are perfect though the water is a little lower than the 42 year average. The temperature is fine and the trout are active.

Nymphs are working well in the mornings and the dry fly action is picking up in the afternoon. But we are getting into a time when dry flies should work most of the day. Walter just walked in. He was with a student on the Middle Prong. He said trout were rising everywhere and the fishing was good for a while. Then they stopped feeding. Why do they do that?

I can't remember when the Park looked this good. The forest is a lush green and the wildflowers are beautiful. And I can't remember seeing more happy anglers. Fishing participation was low throughout the United States in 2007 just like the water. Judging from early numbers fishing license sales should be good in Tennessee this year.

People are ready to get out and go fishing and they are.

We'll see you at Troutfest.

*Byron Begley @ Little River Outfitters, Townsend*

## On-Stream Report

Spring is officially here and I've caught my yearly cold. I've been down and out for the last week. Prior to being sick, we have been having luck on the tail-waters and have been taking advantage of the dry fly fishing in the Smokies.

After the last meeting I made it out on the Holston, below Cherokee Dam. We put the drift boat in at the launch and floated down to the first set of riffles. The fish were rising consistently to small cream midges. We tried some dries, but had no success. However the dry and droppers did the trick. The dropper of choice seemed to be a size 20 zebra midge in black or grey.

## On-Stream Report (continued)

Look for the dry fly fishing to continue to pick up on the tail-waters; Caddis on the Holston, Sulphurs on the South Holston and my favorite, the Watauga Caddis hatch.

Smallmouth fishing on both the Little Pigeon and Little River should start to pick up. I think the Little Pigeon starts sooner than Little River. My favorite early season smallmouth fly is the Beck's Super Bugger. You know you're fishing it right when the lead eyes no longer have paint on them.

We've got a bunch of store activities coming up in May. Our annual Spring Orvis Days are going to be held May 1<sup>st</sup> thru May 11<sup>th</sup>. May 3<sup>rd</sup> will be the big day as we are once again doing our trout stocking. We are also planning an on stream Kayak and Pontoon boat demo, as well as having live Bluegrass from 1pm to 3pm. There will also be plenty of seminars from myself and local guides. Please feel free to call the store (865) 774-4162 or check it out online at [www.orvis.com/sevierville](http://www.orvis.com/sevierville).

Volunteers Wanted! We are also looking for 3 volunteers for Saturday May 3<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday May 4<sup>th</sup> to work as on-stream fishing staff. Each volunteer will receive a loaded Montana Morning Lanyard! Please call the store and ask for Kris.

*Kris Maurer @ Orvis, Sevierville, TN*

## Volunteer Spotlight

I want to thank the seventeen Chapter members who participated in the 15th annual Little River clean-up on 12 April. It was a nice Saturday morning for fishing. However, these volunteers picked up trash along Little River Road instead. One spouse showed up as well, and I appreciate Donna Gregory for lending her support. A special thank you also goes to Gary Verholek for getting good publicity for the event in the [Knoxville News-Sentinel](#), and to Mike Stiehl for coordinating the food support. Mike not only coordinated getting the food, but did the actual cooking, too, and that included hauling his grill to Metcalf Bottoms.

The very next weekend (19 April) the Little River Watershed Association held its annual "Little River

## Volunteer Spotlight (continued)

Round-Up", and headquartered the event at Maryville College. The "round-up" is a trash pick-up along Little River outside of the Park boundary. The Chapter participated in the event by setting up the Chapter booth at the college, and picking up some trash as well. Tom Eustis, Steve Best, and Dudley Shumate represented the Chapter in the all day activities.

Thanks to All!  
Jeff Hall

## Bringing Back the Brookies

**Exciting news** – TU is teaming with the Park Service to bring back brook trout to Lynn Camp Branch. Most of you are probably familiar with Lynn Camp Branch, but for those who are not, it is a sizable stream that feeds Middle Prong of Little River above Tremont. It is very accessible and if the restoration effort all goes as well as expected will be open to fishing for the brook trout.

**Volunteers are needed** - and are expected to come from Little River, Great Smoky Mountains, and possibly other Chapters in Tennessee. Since the rainbows have to be removed, the first part of the project will be catch and keep all the rainbow trout, regardless of size. Park fisheries staff, with TU assistance, will monitor the rainbow trout removal at Lynn Camp Branch for 13 days.

**Schedule of Activities** – the rainbow catch and remove phase will be from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM starting June 2 and ending June 14. One volunteer is needed for each of the two weekday shifts; 7:00 AM to 1:00 PM and 1:00 PM to 7 PM. Two volunteers each shift are needed for Saturday and Sunday monitoring. To complete the planning, we need to have the **volunteers identified by May 25**.

**How to Sign Up** – Charlie Chmielewski will produce a master schedule. He can be reached by phone at 865-661-7325 and by e-mail at [cchm@charter.net](mailto:cchm@charter.net). Please provide your name, phone number and e-mail address. If your Chapter has an assigned contact, that contact can work with Charlie to update the schedule.

## Leaders & Tippets *by Joe Hatton*

Over the winter I read a book by Dave Hughes, Trout from Small Streams. Being from East Tennessee, books with Small Streams in the title usually catch my interest. I have a couple of other books of Dave's that I have enjoyed. When I came to the chapter on Gearing Down, Dave talks about leaders and tippets.

First he carries spare tippets spools in sizes 3X, 4X, 5X and 6X. But what made me stop and think was he only carries leaders in size 7½' 3X or 10' 3X for medium and large streams. He said 3X gives him the option to fish the largest flies he carries which is size 8 and 10. Then, if needed, he could add tippet to his leader to taper down for smaller flies.

Let us say that you were using flies in size 12 or 14, you would add two feet of 4X tippet. If you wanted to drop down to a size 16 fly you could add one foot of 4X tippet then tie on two feet 5X tippet. If you needed to fish a size 18 or 20 fly you would then tie on one foot of 4X then one foot of 5X and two feet of 6X tippet.

I would also plan on adding two more spools of tippet to my tippet holder, Fluorocarbon in 4X and 5X. That way I can tie a foot and half of 4X or 5X tippet on to the hook of large dry fly tied to the 3X leader to use as a dropper. If I am tight-line nymphing, I can cut back two feet of the 3X leader then add three feet of tippet taper to the size fly I was using.

To me, this makes a lot of sense by keeping me from changing leaders while I am fishing on the stream. When changing to smaller flies, I will also be making my leader longer which normally helps in most situations. I would highly recommend this book to anyone.





*The Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited is a nonprofit volunteer organization that is committed to Protecting & Restoring Cold Water Resources and Watersheds in and around the Great Smoky Mountains National Park*

**President** – Jeff Hall

**Vice President** – Rufus King

**Secretary** – Tom Eustis

**Treasurer** – Roy Roberts

**Newsletter Editor** – Mark Sebby

**Resource Director** – Charlie Chmielewski

**Web Page Editor** – Roy Hawk

**Board Members**

Dan Holloway

John Olsen

Joe Teffeteller

Tim Doyle

Dudley Shumate

Steve Head

Jack Gregory

Dan Calhoun

Chad McFall

Mike McKenzie



**April Fishing in the Smokies  
It's great!**

We are ready for you. Are you Ready?  
The shop is stocked with lots of flies  
and everything else you can think of.  
This is what we have been waiting all  
winter for.

**Little River  
Outfitters**

[www.littleriveroutfitters.com](http://www.littleriveroutfitters.com)

Toll Free 877-448-3474



**ORVIS**  
SPORTING TRADITIONS  
Since 1856

**SEVIERVILLE**

136 Apple Valley Road  
Sevierville, TN 37862  
865-774-4162

(Located next to the Apple Barn)

Mon. thru Sat.. 10:00am to 8:00pm  
Sun. 10:00am to 6:00pm

Stop by or call about our monthly  
fishing seminars, schools and tying classes