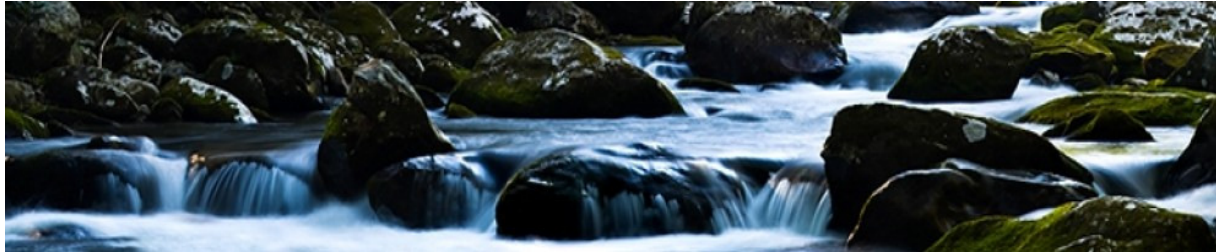


# Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited

May 2015 Newsletter



## President's Corner

Mike Bryant ([mjbryant1954@hotmail.com](mailto:mjbryant1954@hotmail.com))

**WOW!!!** By all accounts, the Troutfest Banquet & Auction was another huge success! It was a night of fun, socializing, great food and a time of giving. Matt Kulp talked about the successes and upcoming opportunities in the Park. Steve Young was awarded our highest honor – the Eddy George Award. And we highlighted the great successes we have had with the past year's Trout-in-the-Classroom programs. The TIC presentation was punctuated by a compassionate talk from Julia Ross (one of our TIC teachers from Townsend Elementary). But the star of the event was Fourth Grader Willow Rutter who provided a kid's perspective on raising and releasing trout. There were many great items that were auctioned off. Many thanks to the Donation Committee, the Troutfest Committee, the Little River Chapter BOD for all their time and efforts. Many thanks to all the individuals, organizations and companies whose donations made this year's Troutfest possible. Oh, I almost forgot to mention that we raised over \$20,000 for the GSMNP Fisheries Department and the Steve Moore Youth Education Fund (See Troutfest photos by Joe Rentz at the end of the newsletter).

With Troutfest only a week gone, we focused on our annual Little River Clean-up. Over forty volunteers came to pick up litter around the river and road. Most everyone reported less trash than in years past – Good news! Many thanks to Mike McKinsey and Stan Smartt for yet another great lunch!

Towards the end of May, all four Trout-in-the-Classroom classrooms will have field trips where the kids have the opportunity to release their baby trout into the wild. This is a fun and emotional event for the kids (and some adults).

Trout Camp will be held in June. John Thurman has done a great job of organizing this event. We have more volunteers and camper applications than ever before. I will be

managing the fly tying during the evenings and helping the kids during their fishing trips. I can't wait!

#### Ok, but what about fishing?

Like the weather I've had my good days and my bad days. In early April I fished the South Holston and Watagua with friends. The South Holston fished fairly well during the first afternoon with several nice browns in hand. That evening it started to rain and proceeded to rain most of the next day. We were crazy enough to float the Watagua despite the 2-3" of rain that fell. We caught fish, but I think everyone was glad when we reached the takeout.



In the Park, John and I fished Thunderhead. In just a couple of hours I saw a higher variety of bugs than I had ever seen in the last ten years that I've fished the Park. We saw yellow sallies, brown stones, tan caddis, black caddis, sulfurs, light cahills, even a huge golden stonefly. And only thing the rainbows would eat was a yellow sally fly, they ignored everything else. Go figure!

I've had the opportunity to fish Lynn Camp and am happy to report it is in good shape and fishing well. But a word to the wise – you will need to hike a considerable way to find the fish. Lynn Camp is a beautiful stream. We have a lot to be proud of with all the efforts our TU volunteers put in with the Park Service supporting the restoration.

#### Monthly Meeting


Our May meeting is Thursday, May 28 at Calhoun's Restaurant (751 Watkins Rd., Maryville, TN).

Susan Thrasher, a FFF Certified Casting Instructor and owner of Southern Brookies Fly Fishing will provide a presentation covering the trout waters of the Caney Fork River. If you are interested in fishing the Caney Fork this is the presentation to see.

I hope you are enjoying spring. It's a great time to be outside!

**-Mike**

## **Fishing The Caney Fork River Speaker Susan Thrasher**

A photograph of a woman, Susan Thrasher, standing in a river, fly fishing. She is wearing a light-colored shirt and waders, and is holding a fishing rod. The background shows a riverbank with trees and a rocky shore.

Our meeting on Thursday, May 28, 2015 will be special. Susan Thrasher will be presenting Fishing the Caney Fork River. If you have ever wanted your wife or girl friend to get interested in fly-fishing, this is the meeting she should attend. We're sure Susan's presentation will motivate those women in attendance that have thought about fly fishing but haven't tried and open the eyes for our regular anglers on other areas in the Tennessee where there is great fly-fishing. Join us at 6PM for dinner with our meeting starting at 7PM. We meet at Calhoun's Restaurant, located at 751 Watkins Rd., Maryville, TN. (Near Target and Krogers)

Susan Thrasher, an FFF Certified Casting Instructor, is the owner and operator of Southern Brookies Fly Fishing in Lancaster, Tennessee located along the banks of the Caney Fork River. She started fishing at a young age with her dad in East Tennessee and has been passionate about the outdoors all her life. As an avid fly angler, fly tier and oarsman, her enthusiasm for the sport is contagious. For over a decade her teaching passion has extended into leading Casting for Recovery in Middle Tennessee and as a staff instructor at the Joan Wulff School of Fly Fishing in the New York Catskills. She continues to lead the Music City Fly Girls in Nashville, an all women's fishing group she co-founded in 2007.

### **Fishing the Caney Fork River**

Susan's presentation will cover the trout water of the Caney Fork River located below Center Hill Dam in Smith County, Tennessee. The river is stocked annually by TWRA with rainbows, browns and brookies. If you are interested in fishing the Caney Fork this year, this presentation will give you all the needed facts including access points, equipment, must have flies and contacts for lodging, guides, shuttles and rentals.

See you on Thursday, May 28, 2015.

**Chuck James**  
LRCTU  
Program Chair





This year's Cataloochee trip managed to be the best so far in the valley even with the occasional rain showers. Most of us had our canopies and tents up before the brunt of the rain set in and even managed some fishing time before rain came. Mike McKinsey as usual had time to make a hot meal even as we had to cook under one of the three canopies we set up.

Friday night was the first time we have not had a campfire due to rain, but not to worry we did fine under cover as we sat at the picnic tables planning the next day. We also knew the giant pile of certified wood we all brought in would lead to a Viking size fire the next night!



Saturday everyone paired up or went separate ways to hit that favorite stretch of water in the valley. No matter what type of stream you like Cataloochee has it, from classic mountain water like Pretty Hollow, to the

openness of Palmer Creek and everything in between. Everyone agreed the fishing was better probably due to going a few weeks later this year than last, where we actually had sleet on the final day. Three different people if not more got the Smoky grand slam this year, hard to argue with those numbers!

That night Mike as usual outdid himself as master chef with steaming bowls of homemade beef stew from the his Dutch oven and peach cobbler. As I told Matt, a Little River chapter first timer, when we camp-out; we put on weight not lose it! Later as night fell we sat around the fire recounting the day, laughing and already planning the next adventure to Smokemont this summer!

**-John Reinhardt**

## Steve Young Garners Eddy George Award

The Eddy George Award honors a Chapter member for exceptional support of National Park Fisheries during the past year. As many of our Chapter members know, Eddy George was a founding member of the Great Smoky Mountains Chapter, the first in the Knoxville area and also of the Little River Chapter.

The recipient of the award for 2014 is Steve Young. The award is very well deserved. Steve came to us to help with on-stream fish population monitoring in 2013 then also signed up to help with Acid Deposition water sampling. By 2014 Steve was helping with almost every type of we scheduled including the water sampling and the fish population electro-shock fish sampling on Lynn Camp Prong and overnight camp work on Bunches and Flat Creeks. Steve is now team leader for one of our new Acid Deposition Program water sample routes and a new Chapter Board member.



The award includes a custom made Sage rod. This year the rod is being built by Steve Moore. The rod has special meaning being built by the retired National Park Supervising Fisheries.

- Charlie Chmielewski

## Ken Henderson Update

Long time Chapter member Ken Henderson suffered a series of strokes over the past few years that has left his memory impaired. Ken is in residence at the Summitview Health Service facility in Lake City ([865 630 1648](tel:8656301648)). If you want to visit Ken the address is 830 Grace Ave.

Over the years Ken has been a very active supporter of TU and our Chapter. His contributions include:

- Building and donating the Eddy George Award Sage rod outfit up to last year
- Demonstrating fly tying at many of LRCTU events
- Serving as a key person in getting the fly tying and casting class started for the Pi Beta Phi School in Gatlinburg
- Helping a number of members build our own fly rods
- Making a rod building CD available to the chapter to sell & raise money



- Helping on-stream help like fish monitoring, and the acid deposition water sampling including serving as team leader
- Getting the Smoky Mountains Heritage Center in Townsend and Mrs. Mona George together to create the Eddie George display (on rotating basis)
- Being on call for you in the middle of a snow storm when your heater quits

## **We Like Our Saturdays A Little On The Trashy Side**

A record 40+ volunteers showed up Saturday, May 2, to pick up trash along Little River Gorge Road in the GSNP. It could have been the beautiful weather or maybe the promise of brats, hot dogs, burgers, peach cobbler and ice cream for lunch that motivated this crowd of orange clad litter collectors. The large number of volunteers allowed for a thorough roadside cleanup of more miles than previous years, but kept coordinators, park fisheries biologists Matt Kulp and Caleb Abramson busy ferrying volunteers to and from their assigned posts. After lunch, many volunteers took to the streams forcing several wild trout to pay the price for such a large gathering of anglers.



## **Tennessee's Trout Unlimited**

### **Honored By Fisheries Professionals**

The Tennessee Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) has presented the 2015 Friends of Fisheries Award to the Tennessee Council of Trout Unlimited. The award recognizes the council and all eight Tennessee TU chapters for their work to conserve, restore and enhance trout and trout habitat in the state.

Projects supported by TU dollars and volunteers have included:

- \* Re-establishment and expansion of native strains of Southern Appalachian Brook Trout in streams of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park
- \* More than 20 years of stream water quality sampling in the Smokies to study acid deposition
- \* Partnership with government and conservation agencies in supporting the Tellico Brook Trout Hatchery and the associated Southern Appalachian Brook Trout Foundation

The AFS, founded in 1870, is the oldest and largest professional society representing fisheries scientists. The society promotes scientific research and enlightened management of resources for optimum use and enjoyment by the public. The Tennessee Chapter is composed of professionals, students and others with an interest in all areas of fishery science.

In announcing the award, Travis Scott, president of the Tennessee Chapter of AFS, said the society recognizes and appreciates the efforts of Tennessee Trout Unlimited. When he surveyed AFS members for nominees for the award, Scott said he received endorsements from several agencies who partner with TU in the state, including TWRA, the U.S. Forest Service, the National Park Service and TVA.

The award was presented during the 2015 meeting of the Tennessee Chapter of AFS, held Feb. 19-20 at the Tennessee Aquarium in Chattanooga. Invited to the Feb. 19 banquet were representatives of not only the Tennessee Council but also the Great Smoky Mountain, Little River, Hiwassee and Appalachian chapters of TU, especially honoring their contributions to Southern Appalachian Brook Trout restoration in

cooperation with Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Cherokee National Forest, TWRA's Tellico Hatchery and the Tennessee Aquarium.



## Troutfest 2015











The Little River Chapter Trout Unlimited Newsletter is produced for current members. Please ensure that you have a viable email address on file with your membership information at Trout Unlimited. You can add an email address or update your current email at [www.tu.org](http://www.tu.org) or call 1-800-834-2419.

Note: Anyone with news, such as an event or account of a fishing trip, etc., please send it along to newsletter editor, Dave Ezell [ezop@charter.net](mailto:ezop@charter.net)

Also, keep up with current events and find valuable information sources at our website [www.lrctu.org](http://www.lrctu.org)