

Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited

MAY, 2016 Newsletter



Monthly Meeting

**Thursday, MAY 26th at
Calhoun's Maryville**

President's Corner

Mike Bryant (mjbryant1954@hotmail.com)

I hope most of you had the opportunity to read the Spring edition of TROUT, TU's quarterly magazine. The issue focused on mentoring. The timing was perfect for me. I had just given my grandson his first fly rod for his ninth birthday. It's a great age to expose a kid to the joys of the outdoors and respect for nature. He caught a handful of blue gills with a small popper before heading back to the house for a snack with Nana. My grandson will be spending a week with us this summer, so I'll have plenty of opportunities to spend time with him in the Park chasing trout, skipping rocks and going for hikes.

Mentoring is a critical element of our mission to preserve the cold watersheds in and around the Park. And mentoring isn't just for kids. Everyone from young children to teenagers to adults need encouragement and support on the journey to becoming our future conservation leaders. There are many ways you can help. Trout-in-the-Classroom, Trout Camp, 5 Rivers Program (college students) and our veterans (Project Healing Waters) are just some of our activities that you might consider volunteering your time.



Last month, the Little River Chapter Board of Directors unanimously voted to support a Project Healing Waters program for Maryville / Blount County. This new program is a natural growth out of the very successful Knoxville area PHW program. Success breeds success, so there will be new opportunities for our local vet's to participate. I'm pleased that our Chapter will be supporting PHW.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped make our annual Little River Cleanup a success. We had 35 volunteers from our chapter, the Great Smoky Mountain Chapter, as well as students from UT. Thanks for everyone who helped and a special thanks to John Reinhardt for all his culinary skills in preparing lunch. The rain held off for the cleanup and lunch, though some of us got soaked afterwards in a downpour while fishing on the Little River. Of course, my rain jacket was in the truck!

Congratulations to Steve Moore for being named to the inaugural "100 Most Influential People in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park History". This honor is well deserved.

Dr. Michael Freake of Lee University will be this month's speaker at the May 26 meeting. The topic will be on hellbenders and the environmental challenges they face in here east Tennessee. We will again meet at Calhoun's in Maryville.

I love this time of the year. It's a great time to get out into the Park. I hope to see you at the May meeting and out on a stream.

-Mike

May Meeting Topic: Dinosaurs in the River?

Hellbenders: Life of a Lonely Lizard

If you've talked to old timers hereabouts, you've heard mention of a sure-fire trout bait found in Appalachian streams. Described as "that large brown underwater lizard", it was hailed by seasoned anglers as delicious to a brown trout as a 25 cent corn dog at the county fair. Despite another common name, "snot otters", this salamander is a bellwether for the health of our streams. The speaker for May will be Dr. Michael Freake from Lee University. Dr. Freake is a leading researcher for hellbenders in Appalachia.



Eastern hellbenders are a spectacular giant salamander that relies on cool, well oxygenated rocky streams. They used to be widespread across the Tennessee, Ohio, Susquehanna and Ozark watersheds, but have declined precipitously since the 1980's and are now a candidate for listing on the Endangered Species Act.



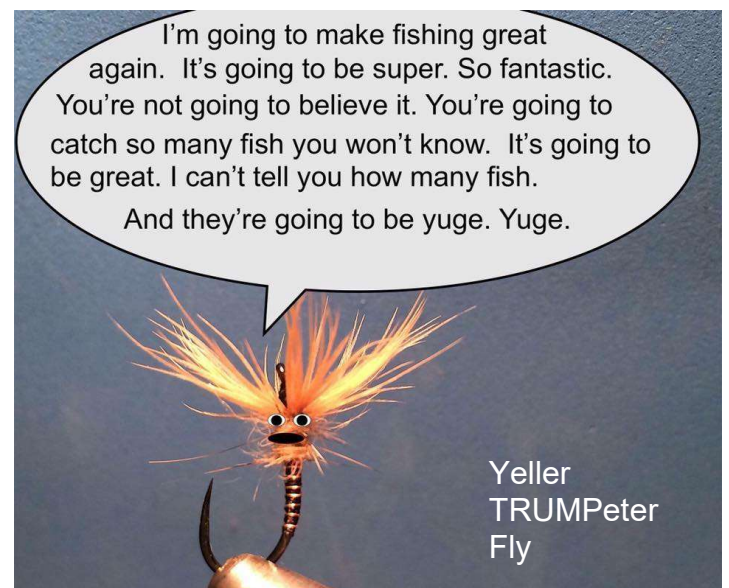
"My students and I have been doing surveys in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and Cherokee National Forest since 2004 to help state and federal agencies assess their status in the southern Appalachians. We still have some healthy populations in our area thanks to high water quality and protected watersheds, but even here hellbenders are threatened by stream disturbance and habitat fragmentation," Freake said.

Same as usual, the meeting will be held at Calhoun's Maryville, located in the Target complex. Social hour starts at 6:00 p.m. with the business/program beginning at 7:00 p.m. You do not have to eat dinner to attend.

TIE & LIE Scheduled for April 25th at the Casual Pint

May Tie and Lie will be on the Monday, May 23rd at The Casual Pint in Maryville from 6 to 8 pm. The fly of the night will be Mike Bryant's Backwards Beetle.

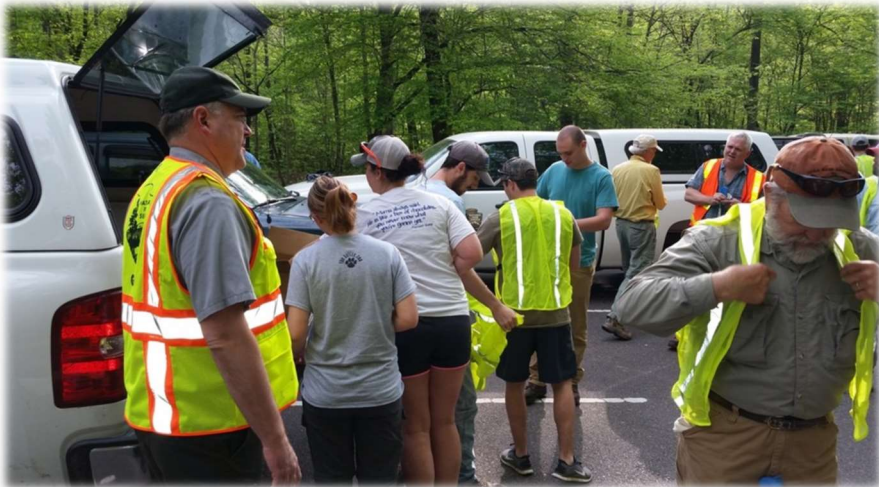
Mike has put a lot of time in refining this pattern and a beetle pattern is always good for the summer. Hope to see you there!



Annual Park Cleanup Sweeps Clean

Note: No one has come forward to claim the I-phone or the pair of pink women's underwear found on the side of the road in the Park Saturday April 30, during the annual LRCTU roadside pickup. There's no indication that loss of the two items was associated.

One of the largest, if not the largest, gatherings of volunteers joined to pick up litter along Little River Road in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park last month. LRCTU was aided in this effort by folks from Great Smoky Mountains TU chapter, UT students and Friends of the Smokies and others. The clean-up started at Metcalf Bottoms and focused on the heavily traveled Little River Road area. Coffee donated by Mayfly Coffee of Chattanooga, TN and Smoky Mountain Anglers of Gatlinburg jumpstarted the event. GSNP fisheries biologists Matt Kulp and Caleb Abramson gave safety instructions and handed out vests, gloves, and trash bags. Crews of four and five volunteers then jumped in park service trucks where they were dropped off to start the trash pickup detail.



In addition to cell phones and various clothing items, car mirrors, aluminum cans and about 5000 cigarette butts were among the items collected over a three-hour period. LRCTU president Mike Bryant, and GSMTU board member, John Reinhardt, prepared an excellent meal from the grill (franks & fixuns) for all to enjoy after the work was done.



It was a great day of volunteer service and fellowship with folks representing TU, Little River Outfitters of Townsend, "VOLS on the FLY" from UT-KNOX campus, Project Healing Waters member, Dan Moneymaker and other groups. Hats off to all the volunteers, the Park Service staff and those with other conservation groups who gave their time. The best part was that the rain held off until everything was packed up. Join us next year for this great event in the Park.

LRCTU Receives Grants



FIRST TENNESSEE FOUNDATION

Two grants recently were received by the LRCTU to help with its mission of helping to maintain and improve aquatic habitat in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Locally, a big thanks to First Tennessee Foundation for their generous grant of \$1000 to further leadership in Non Profit organizations and the mission of LRCTU. Our board member and First Tennessee Bank employee Hannah Tully facilitated this donation.

Also, as this publication was being finished, word of a \$1,500 grant from Exxon Mobile Foundation was received.

How can you help?

Check with your company or employer to see they provide grants or matching fund programs. Also, let us know of other companies, corporations and/or government agencies that provide grants to non-profit organizations.

Let us know of any local business that may be interested in advertising in our newsletter.

Finally, please consider helping on any of our fundraising programs. We support the Park with our time and talents as well as our donations. Every bit is needed and appreciated.

Please contact Mike Bryant (mjbryant1954@hotmail.com) if you can help or have information that might be useful in the above fundraising programs.

Former Head Fisheries Biologist Steve More Named “Most Influential”



Congratulations to Steve Moore, who has been named to the inaugural “100 Most Influential People in Great Smoky Mountains National Park History” as published by Great Smoky Mountains Association in its special Centennial Issue of Smokies Life Magazine.

GSMA will honor those named to the list at a ceremony in Cherokee, NC, on Friday, Sept. 16, as part of our annual Membership Weekend and Centennial celebration. Those named in the article, or their direct descendants, are encouraged to attend and receive well-earned recognition. For more information, please contact Lisa Duff at (865) 436-7318, ext. 325.

Smokies Life Magazine is published as a membership premium and sales item by Great Smoky Mountains Association. To order a copy or find out more about membership opportunities, visit www.SmokiesInformation.org or call 1-888-898-9102 x226

Project Healing Waters Comes to Maryville

The first meeting for Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing Maryville will be this **Tuesday, May 17th, 2016 from 6:00 to 8:00pm.** at **Alcoa Maryville Church of God**, Maryville Tennessee. Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc. is dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled active military service personnel and disabled veterans through fly fishing and associated activities including education and outings. In short, the program is designed to **“put the fun into the healing process.”**

The program will service the Blount County area and will work closely with the Project Healing Waters Knoxville. In addition to volunteers, active and retired area veterans are invited to attend the meeting.

At this first gathering *you do not to bring anything*. The meeting will talk about the program and interaction with other support groups and introduce current active volunteers and members.

If you plan to attend, please contact Dave Yoder at daveyoderphwff@gmail.com or [\(251\) 753-7662](tel:2517537662).

ADDRESS ALCOA MARYVILLE CHURCH OF GOD: 2615 Lamar Alexander Pkwy, Maryville, TN 37804

Lots of Volunteers Needed for Stream Work in June

Anthony Creek Brook Trout Restoration

This is the first brook trout restoration project to be done since we completed Lynn Camp Prong. The stream is one of the few remaining where restoration is possible. Anthony Creek is the stream that runs through the Cades Cove Picnic Area that is accessed on the left before entering the Cades Cove Loop road.

The stream is small enough to make it feasible to remove the rainbow trout by electro-shocking rather than stream treatment. However, the stream will have to be shocked multiple times.

The first shocking is coming up June 6 – 9. Thanks to a great response to my request for help from my Park Volunteer email distribution, we already have a good number of volunteers for each of those days, but could use a few more.

The second shocking is scheduled for June 27 – 30. Several volunteers have signed up already before an email call for volunteers has been sent out, but we will need up to 7 – 8 more each day.

A third shocking will be done in August 1 – 4. A request for volunteers for this work will be done later in the summer.

Lynn Camp Prong Evaluation

June 20 – 23 is scheduled for an electro-shock evaluation. The evaluation will monitor the numbers and sizes of the brook trout and also verify that no rainbow trout are present. This is an important sample to make sure everything on Lynn Camp Prong is continuing as planned. Several people have already signed up to help. We can use 3 – 4 more volunteers each day for this evaluation.

How to sign up

If you want to help with any of this work or if you want to be added to the email list for announcements of upcoming stream work, please contact **Charlie Chmielewski (charlieflyfish@gmail.com, 865-661-7325)**

Some Thoughts on Fly Tying

Mike Bryant

Colors – Locating Your Fly on the Water

My eyesight has never been particularly good. As I've grown older, spotting small objects like a #16 fly has become more difficult. And varying light and water conditions make it an even greater challenge. Light conditions can vary between bright sunlight, heavy shade, gray skies, or very low light (dusk, dawn, heavy overcast). Water can vary from surface foam to clear to dark / stained.



For me, no one single fly or color is visible in all conditions. Over the last couple of years I've honed in on several colors that have helped me sight a fly on the water.

A short review of fluorescent colors. As you remember from your school days, an object will look (to you) a particular color (say red) because all the other wavelengths are absorbed by the object and only the red wavelength is reflected to your eyes. We all have heard of and seen different fluorescent colors in our lives. Fluorescent colors are unique. A fluorescent red object will look red even when struck with longer wavelength light such as ultraviolet, blue or green light. So this can be helpful when trying to locate an object (your fly) less than ideal light conditions.

I tie most of my parachute flies with a post incorporating one of the following fluorescent colors:

- Fluorescent White – Under those bright sunlit days trout tend to be more wary and can be turned off by unnatural colors. A white post is more natural color but is still easy for my eyes to pick up on the water.
- Fluorescent White & Pink Combo – When fishing on bright sunny days, but in heavy shade, a combo white / pink post shines like a light bulb. It doesn't seem to bother the fish.

Member Profile

(In an effort to help us get to know each other better, we will occasionally include Member Profiles in our newsletters and on the website. This month we profile Charlie Chmielewski. Charlie is a LRCTU board member and manages the considerable task of volunteer recruitment and management for fisheries and stream projects in the GSMNP. He splits his TU duties between the Clinch River Chapter TU and us. He is a valuable asset to our local chapters and through them, the Park. Charlie's efforts result in thousands of volunteer hours a year in the Park aimed at stream restoration and, through his work on acid deposition sampling, the long term wellbeing of these streams. His hours spent harnessing enough helpers, ensured successful brook trout restoration on Lynn Camp Prong and now on Anthony Creek. Outside the Park, Charlie also volunteers with other organizations. With his ubiquitous duties, you'd think we would have learned how to spell and pronounce his last name... but he graciously always answers to just "Charlie".)

Name: Charlie Chmielewski

City/County Residence: Lenoir City mailing address but in the boondocks of Loudon County on the north side of Fort Loudon Lake.

General Family Info: My wife Lori and I have been happily married for 48 years and she has never cast a fly rod. A son and daughter grown and both living in Atlanta with their spouses. None are fishermen but I love them anyway.

Years Fly Fishing: Started fly fishing in 1982 after joining Trout Unlimited in Chattanooga and taking all the classes (fly fishing, rod building, and tying) that they offered.

Years Fly Tying/Rod Building / etc.: I still tie flies since learning how 34 years ago, but I am still learning new things. I gave up rod building after making enough rods to have 4 or 5 that I never use any more.

History of Fly Fishing: After catching my first trout on a fly with a rod I made myself and a fly I tied myself, I became an addict. Looking back, it wasn't much of a fish and it wasn't much of a fly and it was caught on a fiber glass rod, but it was enough to change my life.



Fly Fish Educational Activities: I was lucky to have great early teachers like Brad Weeks (Sarah's brother for those of you involved with Friends of the Smokies) and Les Kirk who owned Choo Choo Fly and Tackle. Bill Smith, my friend in Florida got me into some salt water fishing and helped with my casting distance which always seems to need work.

It was really great to spend some time with Lefty Kreh and get some pointers from him when he was at the various TroutFests. He helped me cast with my left hand when I had problems with my right elbow (which is thankfully better now). Which is kind of funny since he is a lefty who taught himself to cast with his right hand to help teach right handed people.

Favorite Places to Fly Fish: I like to fish locally in the GSMNP and the Clinch River and keep telling myself I need to learn more about the Holston, get back up to the South Holston more and get back to what used to be my "home" water when I lived in Chattanooga – the Hiwassee.

Away from home, I mostly enjoy fishing trips with friends where we just have nothing to think or worry about but fishing all day. I now have regular trips to Arkansas and Montana and would like to get back to the Bahamas more often to see bonefish charge my fly.

Favorite Fly to Tie: My favorite fly to tie is the V-rib, weave body scud my buddy Ronnie Whaley taught us to tie. It looks great and works great. It reminds me what an exceptional fly tyer, fisherman, and story teller he was. He died doing what he loved to do, coming back with us from one of our many annual trips to Arkansas. But he taught us a lot and entertained us even more!

Best Fly Fishing/Tying Story: Ronnie Whaley's story about tying a "conjun" fly and trying to tell people about it without revealing it was tied out of a condom. We never wanted to pick any up even if he offered to give us some.



TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM

By Joyce Frey



Students from Lenior City Middle School talking with Matt about critters in the river.

As I write today, four schools have released their fish at the Townsend KOA. By the time you read this, all the schools will have released their fish. In addition to releasing their fish, the students participated in water quality testing of the river, seeing actual bugs that the trout eat, and casting instructions. A few of the schools then moved on to the pavilion at Metcalf Bottoms where Matt and Caleb with the National Park Service came out and talked with the students about the Park, their part in protecting our resources, students responsibilities and seeing several different fish that had been shocked up for them.



The TIC school coordinators are now busying cleaning up the tanks and chillers to get ready for the next season in October. There are still some open positions to help with the schools, come on and volunteer.

Note: Little River Montessori School wins the prize for the largest fish. They had such a successful season that they were able to provide their extras to John Sevier who lost all theirs earlier in the season.

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 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 dezell225@gmail.com

Also, keep up with current events and find valuable information sources at our website www.lrctu.org