

Trout Unlimited

Little River Chapter



Next Meeting
Tuesday
May 22nd, 2018

Barley's
Maryville, TN

President's Thoughts

When you hear some master fly fisher say "You have to fish on the bottom with a nymph" we all hear them. It has taken me a while to actually figure it out. Thanks to some nymphing classes at the fly show in Atlanta, I tied some HEAVY bead-head pheasant tails on jig hooks and they have caught fish. I think I was being fooled by the strong currents in our mountain streams. The nymph is never as deep as you think. Until you can feel or see the nymph hitting the bottom, you are not deep enough. That is where the jig hook is helpful because it travels in the water with the hook point up. Snagging is an unfortunate consequence of bouncing the nymph on the bottom but having the hook point up is helpful. I still lose flies but catching makes it worth it.

May's meeting will be on Tuesday the 22nd at Barley's in Maryville.

As usual, social hour starts at 6pm with the business meeting at 7pm. Our speaker will be Bill Stiver - Supervisory Wildlife Biologist for the Great Smoky Mountain National Park. He will be speaking on the black bears in the park.

There will not be a meeting of Tie and Lie this month because of the holiday.

Please mark your calendars for Thursday, July 26 for the chapter outing at River Johns.

[DIY] Guide to the Best Fly Fishing in Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Written by diyflyfishing.com

<https://diyflyfishing.com/great-smoky-mountains-national-park/#15/28.3048/-89.5982>

Fly Fishing in the Smokies

Among all the other outdoor activities and adventures, [fly fishing](#) is one of the top sports to enjoy in the park. There are remote headwater streams that require a hike to reach and those that are a bit "easier" to fish with ample road-side access. The opportunities are as diverse as the landscape itself.

Great Smoky Mountains Trout Streams

Most Smoky Mountains trout streams average 10 to 30 feet in width, running clear and swift. In the higher elevations the streams are steep and strewn with boulders. Down slope as the gradient lessens they are characterized by large pools and deep runs.

Probably the hardest part about visiting the Great Smoky Mountains National Park is narrowing it down to just a few top places for fly fishing. The sheer number of trout streams in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park is a bit overwhelming. Remember that you've got some streams on the Tennessee side and some on the North Carolina side. **New Cleaning Station in the Smokies - Little River Outfitters, Townsend!!**

Here's a look at some of the best trout streams on both sides of the park, so no matter which side you happen to be visiting, you'll be off to a great start with some suggestions.

Hazel Creek Watershed, North Carolina

This is a very popular creek on the North Carolina side of the park despite its' remote location. It is located near Fontana Lake, and the creek offers both brown and rainbow trout. Sometimes you'll get really lucky and find smallmouth bass, but these tend to be near the lower end. It's not unusual to find brook trout in the headwaters either. What anglers like

about this location is that as far as skill level goes, this creek is relatively easy to fish. Not only that, but the creek tends to produce fish that are above average in size.

Twentymile Creek Watershed, North Carolina

This particular creek isn't as popular, but that doesn't mean it's not a great spot for fly fishing. You'll find this creek extremely easy to access, making it great for a day trip.

Typically you'll find rainbow trout in the creek, but from time to time you'll be able to catch brown trout since they are stocked. What anglers like about this location is how quiet it is and the fact you won't be dealing with crowds, even during peak fishing season. If you're looking for more of a challenge, there are areas of the creek that will definitely require advance angling skills and techniques.

Abrams Creek Watershed, Tennessee

If you ask anglers what their favorite spot in the park is, time and time again the name Abrams Creek will come up. Not only is the water excellent for fishing in, the quality of the fish is also extremely high.

Another feature to note is that this stream is [much larger](#) than some of the other ones in the park. Typically the waters are challenging, but in all the right ways. And when you do catch a fish, which tends to be rainbow trout, you'll find the size is quite impressive.

Middle Prong of the Little River, Tennessee

If you like the idea of a [smaller stream](#) that still offers challenges and beautiful scenery, then Middle Prong of the Little River may be exactly what you are looking for. It's made up of two tributary streams and is usually pretty accessible.

As for the fish you'll find, it's mainly rainbow trout but you can find the occasional brook and/or brown trout. As far as the size goes for the fish, they are usually above average which makes anglers quite happy.

Overall this stream is quite easy to fish and because of that you'll find it gets pretty busy during peak season. For some anglers the crowds are too heavy. As well, the river is sometimes used by tubers during the summer months, which can certainly interfere with your fishing.

Best Time for Fly Fishing in Smoky Mountains

Fly fishing in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park occurs year-round, which means you can't pick a wrong time to visit. Granted, there are times of the year where the fishing will be a bit better and easier. Also keep in mind that you will need to make adjustments to your technique, strategy, and possibly equipment based on the time of year.

The weather in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park will change throughout the year, so depending on the conditions you like best, it may help to determine when you want to fish. Some find the winter months a bit too damp and chilly, while others find the summer months too muggy and hot. It's really about personal preference.

The Smokies are known for a rather large amount of aquatic insects and the fact that hatches are happening year-round. This is what helps to keep the fishing so great no matter what time of year you visit.

In cooperation with TWRA and Little River Outfitters, LRCTU has established a boot and wader cleaning station. It's located next to the right hand side of their building, just under the stairwell. The structure was supplied by TWRA and Little River Outfitters has agreed to the weekly maintenance of it.

If you've been to an area outside of the GSMNP and have concerns about the potential of bringing aquatic invasive species into the Park, please stop by and use the station to clean your boots and waders. Any feedback is appreciated.

Photos from the recent release

Trout in the Classroom



May Notes

Date: April 24, 2018

Location: Barley's Maryville

Meeting Type: General Membership

Presiding Officer: Ernie Frey, President

Attendees: General Membership

Agenda: Membership Health, Visitors and New Members,
Fishing Stories, Newsletter Articles

Field Trips:

A special thanks to Pat Tully for organizing a great spring camping trip to Deep Creek campgrounds. We had a chance to fish both Deep Creek and Nolan Creek. The next field trip will be in early October to Catallochee.

Little River Cleanup:

The Little River cleanup was cancelled due to new park regulations related to safety issues. Those regulations will be in effect through August. Another cleanup opportunity may be possible after those August regulations expire.

River Johns Cookout: Our July meeting will be on July 26th at River Johns and in addition to a great meal will also include casting contests and even some fishing. More details to follow.

Tie and Lie: There will not be a Tie and Lie event in May. The next event will be on June 25th.

Water Sampling: The next water sampling event will be May 19th. If you would like more information on our water sampling efforts in the park please contact Richard Barnes at rbarnes@coopershawke.com.

NPS Award: Charlie Chmielewski was recognized with a special SE Region NPS award for his many years of outstanding work in coordinating the volunteer programs that support the park. Congratulations Charlie !!

Guest Speaker: The guest speaker for the April meeting was our own Mike Bryant. Mike's presentation was titled Southern Paradise, Fishing the Everglades. He gave us a great overview of fishing the 10,000 lake region of the Everglades and now all of us want to go catch a snook, tarpon or redfish.

Mike focused on the Chackalawski Island area and discussed some of the things to consider if you have an interest in fishing this area.

Challenges: The area is a maze on islands, creeks and bays. A GPS is a must. You will have to deal with the tides, wind, millions of miles of shoreline, seasonal patterns, water temperature changes, and the fact that the fish are very spooky and could be anywhere. Their location changes day to day.

Boats, Equipment, Techniques: Canoes, kayaks and flats boat are the normal way to fish the area. Rods in the 8 to 12 Wt range are used with floating, weight forward and sinking tip lines depending on the targeted fish. Flies would include baitfish, crab, shrimp and attractors. The clouser minnow fly works very well. All in about a 3 inch pattern. Black and purple is the color of choice.

If you have any interest in making a trip to the Southern Paradise area a guide is a must here are a few guides that Mike has used in the past and recommends.

Capt. John Hand
Redfish Landing Guide Service
redfishlanding.com
239-298-7778

Capt. Buddy Ferber
Spirit of the Fly
evergladesflyfishingcharters.com
239-298-3863