



**NOTES FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT**

The Little River Chapter logged 3,457 volunteer hours during the past year which is a 90% increase in volunteer hours from the previous year. Maybe more impressive than the overall total is 53 members participated in one or more volunteer activities including GSMNP Fisheries Projects, Trout in the Classroom, and Stream Clean-Ups. LRCTU members provided 71% (1,469 hours) of the total volunteer effort contributed to the Fisheries Department of GSMNP which supports our charter to conserve, protect and restore the coldwater fisheries and their watersheds in and around the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Thank you for your commitment to our volunteer efforts which are at the very heart of the Little River Chapter.

Bob Bishop

**MAY 25 @ BLUETICK TAVERN IN MARYVILLE**

Social hour starts at 6:00, program starts at 7:00, business meeting following

Ordering from the menu will be in the meeting room from 6:15 to 6:30. After 6:30 you will need to order any food at the bar. Adult beverages must be ordered and paid at the bar.

Bill Stiver, Supervisory Wildlife Biologist at Great Smoky Mountains National Park will be speaking about the Smoky Mountains BearWise® Community Task Force. BearWise® is an education program that provides sound information and smart solutions that help homeowners, businesses and communities coexist with black bears ([bearwise.org](http://bearwise.org)).



**UPCOMING MEETING - JUNE 22**

University of Tennessee Ph.D. Candidate Rebecca Smith, will be speaking about the genetic work they are doing for Brook Trout restoration. According to the article Trout Genes, written by Caleb Moses in Vol 6 of The Stream Guardian, she is one of the researchers helping with genetics in Brook Trout restoration.

**UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

Matt Kulp, NPS Fisheries, has emphasized that we stay within the limit of volunteers requested. Too many people causes confusion and there's not enough work for everyone. Richard Barnes will fill in volunteer names as he is contacted. It's first come, first serve. Because it's possible to have cancellations as conditions may change between now and June/July he will schedule two more than requested to cover contingencies.

Richard Barnes, TN Coordinator, can be reached at [canceler1@gmail.com](mailto:canceler1@gmail.com) or 949-212-8480. TN opportunity will be designated (RB).  
Mike Kesselring, NC Coordinator, can be reached at [mikessel59@gmail.com](mailto:mikessel59@gmail.com) or 828-736-6929. NC opportunity will be designated (MK).

- Jun 13 - Rivercourse at Lake Logan on Big East Fork Pigeon River. (RB)
- Jun 22 - Trout Camp electrofishing demo. #Vol. 2 - 3 (RB)  
Meet at Tremont Education Center rear parking lot @ 9:00 am
- Jun 26 -27 - Anthony Creek brook trout restoration evaluation. #Vol. 4 - 6 (RB)  
Meet at Anthony Creek Trailhead at Abrams Creek picnic area for transport at 8:30 am.
- July 10 - Large stream IBI sampling at Cataloochee. #Vol. 3 - 5 (MK)  
Meet at USGS Gauge at Asbury Trail Bridge parking lot at 9:30 am.
- Jul 11 - Large stream IBI sampling at Abrams Creek. #Vol. 3 - 5  
Meet at Abrams Creek Campground Ranger Station at 9:00 am.
- Jul 12 - Large stream IBI sampling at West Prong Little River and West Prong Little Pigeon (2 separate groups). #Vol. 5 - 7 (RB)  
WP Little River meet at junction of Tremont Rd. and Laurel Creek Rd. at 8:30 am.  
WP Little Pigeon River meet at NPS Headquarters 8:30 am.
- Jul13 - Large stream IBI sampling at Nolan Creek. #Vol. 3 - 4 (MK)  
Meet at Nolan Creek Trailhead parking lot along Lakeview Dr. at 9:30 am.
- Jul15 - Bi-monthly acid deposition sample (NC and TN) #Vol. 10 - 12 (RB) and (MK)
- Jul 18 - 19 - Population sampling at Cataloochee Creek tributaries. Strenuous all day sampling efforts with long hikes possible. #Vol. 5 - 7 (MK)  
Meet at Cataloochee Group Campsite at 10:00 am.
- Aug 28 - 31 - Hazel Creek 3-pass depletion. Strenuous field work. #Vol. 2 (MK)

**ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY IN THE GREAT SMOKY NATIONAL PARK  
BEAR AWARENESS TRAINING**

You are invited and encouraged to participate in the upcoming Bear Awareness Training. No RSVP Required!

- May 30th 9a-12p Sugarlands Training Room
- June 1st 9a-12p Cades Cove Maintenance Break Room



- Volunteers who attend this session will learn:
- How to tell the differences between wild, defensive, offensive, habituated, food-conditioned and predatory bear behaviors
  - How to maintain bear safety for yourself at work and visitors
  - How to manage impromptu bear situations (roadside jams, campgrounds, picnic areas, property damage, high density food sources...etc.)
  - How to report bear conflicts to dispatch and the wildlife division
  - How to advise visitors of appropriate behavior in bear country
  - Results of recent research studies and up to date facts about our bears and their biology

**THERE WILL BE NO TIE AND LIE FOR MAY DUE TO MEMORIAL DAY**

Next meeting June 26 @ Casual Pint, Maryville

**GSMNP STREAM CROSSING BARRIER SURVEY UPDATE by Bernie Maloy**



Trout Unlimited's Community Science Program has developed a protocol for conducting stream crossing surveys consistent with the Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership (SARP) Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) Stream Crossing Survey Protocol. This tool has been specifically developed for use on U.S. Forest Service land and has been widely used throughout the U.S. to assess the severity of AOP barriers presented by culverts, bridges and fords. These barriers are related to the interruption of natural stream characteristics (width, depth, velocity, substrate, etc) which make it difficult or impossible for some organisms (fish, salamanders, turtles, etc.) to move upstream. Examples of AOP barriers include outlet cascades/waterfalls, inlet constrictions that result in high velocities, and long crossings with little or no substrate.

LRCTU has partnered with GSMNP Fisheries to conduct stream crossing barrier surveys in the Tennessee portion of GSMNP. We believe this is the first such partnership between TU and the National Park Service. Phase 1 of the project targeted public road crossings of streams that contain trout. Initial training (one day) was conducted in May 2022 and follow-up training was conducted over two days in October 2022. Training exercises led to the conclusions that cool weather, low stream flows, minimal foliage and low traffic present ideal conditions for conducting surveys; thus fall through early spring present optimal conditions.

A total of 7 LRCTU members received sufficient training to become Team Leaders (Bob and Sara Bishop, Ron and Connie Miller, Bernie Maloy, Tom Fell and Richard Barnes). In addition, 6 other LRCTU members completed some of the training, and/or participated in conducting surveys. Typically, a team included 3 or 4 people with at least 2 people with Team Leader credentials. Several other people have expressed interest in participating, however scheduling, lack of more team leaders, or other factors resulted in several folks not having an opportunity to participate in surveys.

We are proud to announce that all Phase 1 crossing surveys were completed by the end of April 2023 as promised to GSMNP Fisheries staff. Surveys were completed on 105 sites. QA/QC data reviews and a final Phase 1 Report are currently being completed. A total of approximately 578 volunteer hours were reported to GSMNP Fisheries for these efforts to date. Matt Culp and Caleb Abramson are very pleased with our efforts and results and we received specific recognition at the recent GSMNP Volunteer Recognition Banquet.

Future phases of the program are anticipated and TULRCTU expect to coordinate with GSMNP Fisheries in the near future to define the next phase(s). Anyone who has not previously expressed interest in participating (or if you are not sure) should contact Bernie Maloy at [52bazzman@gmail.com](mailto:52bazzman@gmail.com). Stream crossing surveys are expected to start again in Fall 2023. The work can be physically demanding, but it has been very enjoyable, great camaraderie was achieved, the data obtained is important (it may lead to grants or other funding for improvements) and our efforts are greatly appreciated by Matt and Caleb, as well as other GSMNP management staff. In addition we have found promising new places to fish!



**NEW MEMBERS**

**Brian Davin Jeffrey Miller Charles Donohue Robert Bauer Dan Spradlin**  
Welcome to the Little River Chapter of TU (LRCTU). Our Chapter was established years ago as a nonprofit volunteer organization committed to protecting and restoring cold water resources and watersheds in and around the Great Smoky Mountain National Park. We hope to be able to offer you plenty of activities to join us in our mission. As a member, you will receive our monthly newsletter issued around the 15th of each month, as well as email notifications of any activities that may be happening during the month. Our meeting is the 4th Thursday of the month (with the exception of July, November, and December) held at the Bluetick Tavern in Maryville. Social hour starts at 6:00 with month's program starting at 7:00 and the Chapter's business meeting immediately following. Feel free to visit our website at [lrctu.org](http://lrctu.org), contact me at [jmfrey@comcast.net](mailto:jmfrey@comcast.net) or any of the Board Members listed on the website for information.

**MEMBERS OUT THERE**



Ernie Frey's stocked rainbow from the Little River in Townsend.

From our previous President, Steve Young  
A hearty greeting from Hillsboro, Oregon. As I write this it is hard to believe that 6 months have passed since we said goodbye to ya'll and East Tennessee. Those months have gone by both quickly and slowly. Quickly because it seems like that's what happens when you get older, time moves along so fast. Slowly though because fishing opportunities are more difficult to come by. There is a real winter here and water temps stay in the low 40s pretty much the entire season (low hills, part of the coast range west of us, have had snow cover since December with elevations only in the +/- 2500 foot range). Also, there is a trout season (normally June through October with exceptions). Winter fishing is concentrated around steelhead and salmon which requires different gear and flies. So, I have taken the plunge and invested in an 8-weight 2 hander; I have included a picture from a typical early spring/late winter day working on my thousand casts (the 'entry fee' for these anadromous guys). I am also learning to tie intruder- and spey-style flies without breaking the bank buying the more expensive materials that these patterns are based on.

Thanks comes from the special fly box presented to me by the Chapter. This will be my box when the thaw comes and the upper parts of rivers open up for the kind of smaller water trout fishing I really enjoy (and miss!). I have included a picture of same—while I will remember East Tennessee always, opening this to get a palmer dry will also bring back many fond memories of the Chapter and the many activities I joined fellow members in supporting the Park and surrounding areas.

Finally, I have to throw in a little humor. While taking a course with a local guide to find out where to access the Clackamas (most land in the lower elevations is private limiting access to small areas by foot or a boat) we came across this interesting fishing rod. It proves that 'hill-billy engineering' is not confined to East Tennessee!

So best wishes to all. I see that Richard is starting the hunt for volunteers for the summer fisheries projects, the TIC program releases are in full swing, as well as other Park-based ongoing programs that made my time there (and I hope yours also) so special.

**Steve Young**



Joyce Frey  
Newsletter Editor

