

LRCTU Flyfisher Profile Questionnaire

Name: Mike McKinsey

City / County Residence: Lived in Blount County my whole life.

General Family Info: Married to Linda for 33 years. One daughter 31 years old and married, Shannon Gamble.

Years Fly Fishing: 7

Years Fly Tying / Rod Building / etc: 5 years making hand planed split bamboo fly rods in the tradition of the masters from the 1800's. I am currently working on my fifth rod and do it all by hand. Making a rod is very relaxing and at times almost spiritual.

History of Fly Fishing:

- Mentors? Stan Smartt
- Key Memories? Fished the North Fork of the Blackfoot River in Montana this year. Was fishing an ant pattern in gin clear water. I saw the cutthroat come from the bottom slowly, slowly, slowly, and came up and took the fly very gingerly. It was a 16" cutthroat and after a great fight and pictures he was released. The clear water, the beautiful fish, and the beautiful surroundings have left a clear memory imprinted on my brain.

Favorite Places to Fly Fish:

• Locally: Smoky Mountains on Little River from Metcalf Bottoms to Elkmont. I also enjoy the Holston at Nances Ferry.

• Outside The Local Area: The Big Blackfoot in Montana and specifically the Muchmore Hole on that river

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Favorite Fly to Tie: I don't really tie, but enjoy watching others tie. Especially Jack Gregory and Ray Ball.

Best Fly Fishing / Tying Story: Stan Smartt and I went to the South Holston a couple of years ago in the fall. When we walked down to the waters edge, fish were rising everywhere to sulphurs. The fishing was crazy good and we both caught many fish and most were large browns. The fall colors, the beautiful fish, and the fellowship with a great friend are the reasons I enjoy this sport so much.