

# Little River Chapter Newsletter

Editor  
Joe Hatton



Nov-Dec 2007  
[www.lrcu.org](http://www.lrcu.org)

## Next Meeting

The next meeting is on the First Thursday in December, the 6th, 7:00 P.M. at Monte Vista Baptist Church at 1735 Old Niles Ferry Rd in Maryville. The church has an entrance on the opposite side of Hwy 129 between the red light and the Co-op Gas station.

### Program

Yearly Elections - will feature a slide presentation given by Gary Verholek looking back over the accomplishments and good times we shared during the events of 2007!

## Stream work

**January 19-20 # Bi-Monthly Acid Deposition Sample**

## Newsletter Advertiser

Support our newsletter advertisers this holiday season The Creel in Knoxville, Little River Outfitters in Townsend and the Orvis Store in Sevierville. Scott Roger, Byron and Paula Begley and Kris Maurer are big supporters of our chapter and this Newsletter. Please return their kindness by giving their stores your business this Holiday Season. Make sure to stop by soon in case they are out of the must have item you are looking for this season so they will have time to get it in for you. It is always fun just stopping by shooting the bull while you are shopping. Be safe and have a happy holiday season.

## Fishing Report

This has been an interesting year. From my perspective here in the Smokies it has been like pulling teeth watching these streams shrink to their lowest levels in the past eighty years. The trout populations have changed in many streams. We lost a lot of the adult rainbow trout but the young fish did well. The brown trout held on and the brookies made it. Little River suffered most from the lack of rainfall. The rain gauge at Elkmont through October reported rainfall at 38% below normal. But at Mount Leconte precipitation was only down 20%. Abrams Creek fared well. The brown trout disappeared years ago but the rainbow population is healthy.

I spoke to Jack Gregory last night. He fished on Little River yesterday. He said he counted sixteen brown trout redds so they are spawning where they can. Jack said the trout he caught looked like they could use some food, they were fairly slim.

This has been an interesting year for the Clinch River. Last month the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission approved a slot limit on the Clinch. I attended the meeting and even spoke which is something I hate to do. I think TWRA should manage the fishery and not go back to the 1940's when the County told the State Legislature how they wanted their fish and game laws to be written. We hired professional managers ►

when TWRA was formed and they should do what we pay them to do. This was a big pat on their back. The protected size slot is 14" to 20". Those you catch in that range have to be released if you catch them between the dam and the Highway 61 bridge. You can keep one trout over 20". To fill your limit the trout have to be under 14" except for that one big one. Joe will tell you some other news about the Clinch.

The Caney Fork River below Center Hill Dam, the Cumberland River below Wolf Creek Dam in Kentucky and the South Holston have all been excellent fisheries this year. The Hiwassee had a great summer but warmed up late. Now it is fishing better.

According to the National Weather Service drought models we may see some improvement in the drought in East Tennessee except for the mountains. There they say the drought will persist. Let's hope not. We are expecting rain for the next two days.

Thanks to all you TU volunteers who helped the Park Service sample the Little River and Abrams Creek this Fall. Also thanks to all of you who worked so hard at Troutfest and to everyone who cleaned up the River. I guess we won't have a newsletter next month since there won't be a meeting so until next year, Happy Holidays.

Byron Begley

## Trout Unlimited Tennessee License Plate



Time to show your support and send in your application for the Tennessee Trout Unlimited

license plate. Our Chapter is second behind the Cumberland chapter in plates ordered. I will be sending in my application this week. Like myself make sure you check the #644 box so our chapter will receive credit. This a good cause, the money will be used for trout projects through out the state. It will also enable some of our smaller chapters to do projects they did not have funds to do before. This will be a great resource to improve trout habitat thought out our great state. Show your support and send in your's today.

## Grand Slam

TWRA started socking brook trout in the Watauga River a few years ago. If you fish the quality zone there is a good chance that you could catch a Brown, Brook and a Rainbow Trout though that section, making a Grand Slam. With the success of the Brook Trout stocking program on the Watauga River Tailwater TWRA started this fall stocking Brook Trout on the Clinch River. The initial stocking was done at the Peach Orchard Access Area. I have heard from a reliable source that you will be able to catch brook trout as far up as the weir pool. But your best bet is from Peach Orchard up to the I-75 bridge. Peach Orchard Access Area is best accessed by boat because there is a deep pool in that area even when TVA is not generating power. This is also where TWRA normally stock Brown trout. Brown and Brook stocking at Peach Orchard and Rainbow trout that are usually stocked at Miller Island should make this area your best bet for catching a Grand Slam. I have also heard that the big Browns are moving upstream trying to spawn. They should be stacking up in the weir pool over the next few weeks.



## Vote With Your Fork

Part of TU's new campaign Make the Switch for Salmon. **The vote with your fork** is a wild salmon campaign to turn salmon fishermen, both commercial and recreational, into wild salmon advocates. "The more consumers choose wild salmon in stores and restaurants, the more we're ensuring a strong future for wild Pacific salmon, both in nature and on our menus. The ideal is to encourage consumers to demand wild salmon as our fish of choice or they will soon be replaced in the marketplace by inferior, chemically laden farm-raised salmon. By choosing wild salmon over farmed we are investing in our wild salmon fisheries; we're adding **economic incentive** to government and industry to protect and restore the habitat and other key ingredients that Nature needs to supply us with fresh, 100% wild salmon year after year. We must also ensure that we manage our salmon fisheries **sustainably and with the best available science** so that we harvest only robust and productive stocks while still allowing for the recovery of endangered stocks in the lower 48."

For more information go to Pacific salmon link on the Newsletter webpage.

## New Newsletter Editor

Mark Sebby will be taking over as Newsletter Editor starting with the January 2008 Newsletter. I will be helping Mark get settled in over the next few months. You can also help by submitting articles. Mark will be looking for members to sign on as contributors on a ongoing basis. It will make his job a lot easier if several members jump in and write a article every couple of months. I would like to thank everyone who has helped me over the past nine years. It has been a great experience.

Joe

## Fly of the Month

BWO Nymph

**Hook:** 1XL #16

**Thread:** Bennechi 12/0 Tan

**Tail:** Pine squirrel back guard hair, tied short

**Ribbing:** 6/0 light brown tying thread

**Abdomen:** Pine squirrel mix, dyed medium olive (or substitute)

**Wing case:** Peacock herl

**Legs:** Pine squirrel back guard hair, tied in on top of hook shank and split by the wing case

**Thorax:** Pine squirrel mix, dyed medium olive (or substitute)





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