

Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited

November-December, 2013



President's Corner

Mike Bryant (mjbryant1954@hotmail.com)

Lately I have been reminded on how we can and do impact the lives of others. It's been fascinating to watch my three year old granddaughter gain awareness of the world around her. As we've turned over rocks looking for bugs in the yard, walked in the woods or chased ducks around the pond, she is becoming aware of nature. I hope that I can instill the love of nature and the outdoors in her that my grandfather gave to me. We all have the opportunity to influence lives on a very personal level. I would hope each and every one of us makes the investment to share our love of nature with at least one other person, especially our youth. It's our future.

As we close out 2013, I am excited about our expanded plans for 2014. We will be holding a major fundraiser, supporting youth education via the Trout Camp, building on our membership education programs and expanding our Chapter trips.

I hope you all have a great Thanksgiving. Be safe and I will see you at the December meeting.

Be safe,
Mike



HOLD THE DATE Troutfest is back!



2014 Troutfest Banquet – April 25, 2014

The Board of Directors is excited to announce plans for a Troutfest Banquet on Friday, April 25, 2014. The Banquet will be our major fundraiser of the year to provide continuing support to the Park and generate resources needed to support our Chapter programs. Joe McGroom will be leading effort as Chairman. More details are included in Joe's article below.

While the format will differ from previous years, the Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited will hold a Troutfest event in 2014. A fundraising banquet and auction will be held at the Airport Hilton in Alcoa on the evening of Friday, April 25th. Although there won't be a festival held in Townsend on Saturday and Sunday as in years past, it will be a great time of the year to come fish in the Smokies.

There will be plenty more information to come on the Troutfest event, but we wanted to go ahead and relay the good news to everyone. If you are interested in helping with the planning aspect of the event, please contact Joe McGroom (joe.mcgroom@hotmail.com or 865-310-7299). We will need help in the following areas:

- Promotion/Advertising
- Finances
- Donations
- Tickets
- Auction Coordinator

We are all excited about the return of Troutfest and look forward to a great event in 2014! Mark your calendar for Friday, April 25th, and help us spread the word.



December 5th Meeting (November / December Meeting)

Back by popular demand, both Walter Babb and Jack Gregory will be tying their favorite flies at the December 5th meeting. Walter and Jack are fly fishing legends in the east Tennessee. Both have made huge contributions to our Chapter and to the sport of fly fishing over the years. Come to the December meeting to learn about their favorite flies and hear a story or two.

Before the tying demo, we will have a short business meeting that will include the election of the 2014 Officers / Board of Directors. Below is a ballot for the 2014 Officers / Board of Directors. Mike McKinsey will be stepping down from the BOD at the end of this term. Mike has been a great leader, leading our very successful Chapter trips as well as serving as our Outdoor Chef Extraordinaire. Note Mike's member profile in this newsletter.



We will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall at the Monte Vista Baptist Church. The meeting will start at 7:00pm.

Address: 1735 Old Niles Ferry Rd, Maryville, TN 37803

2014 LRCTU Officers / BOD Ballot

Officers

- President – Mike Bryant
- VP – Joe McGroom
- Secretary – Bill Bolinger
- Treasurer – Sheila Bolinger

Board of Directors

- Wayne Everbach
- Dave Ezell

- Joe Hatton
- Chuck James
- Earnie Frey
- Dave Anderson

Chairs (Non-Elected Positions)

- Membership – Wayne Everbach
- Volunteers - Charlie Chmielewski
- Communications (Newsletter) – Dave Ezell
- Communications (Website) – Joe Hatton
- Communications (Email) – Dave Ezell
- Trips – Earnie Frey
- Programs – Chuck James
- Education (Youth)
- Education (Membership)
- Large Events (Troutfest) – Joe McGroom

Successful Book Signing

Many thanks to John Ross for the successful booking on November 16. John has donated profits from sale of his third edition “America’s 100 Best Trout Streams” at the book signing to our Little River Chapter . The latest edition is great. If you weren’t able attend the book signing, we will have four signed copies for sale at the December 5th LRCTU Membership meeting.

Trout Camp (2014 Great Smoky Mountains Aquatic Biology and Trout Adventure Camp)

Applications are now being received for the 2014 Trout Camp to be held on June 16-21. Trout Camp is for middle-school aged boys and girls. The Camp is limited to twelve kids. Our Chapter is guaranteed one of the twelve slots for a child if an application is received by March 1. The cost per child is \$495 for the event. The Little River Chapter will provide \$400 tuition assistance for a child living in our Chapter, reducing the cost to \$195. So if you know of a child who would be a good candidate, please make sure the application is submitted by March 1, 2014. More details about Trout Camp are included below.

Trout Unlimited 2014 Great Smoky Mountains Aquatic Biology and Trout Adventure Camp

Applications are now being received for the fourth annual Trout Unlimited Great Smoky Mountains Trout Adventure Camp for middle school-age girls and boys. The Tennessee Council of Trout Unlimited sponsors the event. This year's camp will be June 16–21 at Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont (GSMIT) in Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Trout Camp 2014 is designed to give kids an awareness, appreciation and understanding of the importance of our nation's aquatic resources with an emphasis on conservation, protection and restoration of coldwater ecosystems. Participants will learn about stream ecology, brook trout restoration, stream physics and water chemistry, fishing etiquette and aquatic entomology. They will experience fly tying and fly fishing along with hiking and swimming and other activities.

GSMIT is in Walker Valley on the banks of Little River's Middle Prong, a coldwater stream containing brook, brown and rainbow trout. Facilities include dormitories, dining hall, classrooms, outdoor meeting shelters, bookstore/gift shop and full-time professional staff.

More information can be found on <http://tntroutadventure.org>.

Steve Moore Retirement

Steve Moore, Supervisory Fishery Biologist of the GSMNP, has announced his plans to retire effective January 11, 2014. Needless to say Steve has had a tremendous impact on preserving and restoring our great natural resources in the Park. Steve's efforts on the brook trout restoration is a great example of his leadership and his efforts will be felt by generations to come.



A celebration dinner is being planned in February. I will be part of celebration committee led by Matt Kulp to help coordinate our TU support. Many of you have known Steve for a long time and undoubtedly have stories and pictures that we hope you will share. More to come as the plans evolve. While we wish Steve and his family nothing but the best in this next phase of his life, we will truly miss him!

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're profiling **Mike Mckinsey**, who is the outgoing LRCTU trips chairman.)*

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.

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.

October Meeting

Thanks to Kirk Harris, Director of Continuing Healthcare & Safety Education at Roane State Community College, for his program on safety in the outdoors. Kirk, a paramedic for thirty-two years stressed that preparation is the best preventative. One takeaway: Know any medical conditions of your fishing partner(s), it could save a life should an occasion come up where time is of the essence.

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 ezop@charter.net

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