

Little River Chapter Newsletter

Chapter President / Editor
Joe Hatton



Nov 2004
www.lrctu.org

Next Meeting

The next meeting is on the First Thursday Dec. 2, 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 Bi-Lo and the Co-op Gas station.

Program

Elections

Annual Business Meeting

With the upcoming Chapter elections I would like to take the time to thank the outgoing officers. Jim Parks has been Vice President for the past three years. He also has been in charge of the meeting programs and keeping up with volunteer man hours for our chapter. In addition He is also the Team Leader for the Little River / Abrams Creek Bi-Monthly Acid Deposition Hike. We could not have asked for more from a member. Jim is and has been a great leader in our Chapter. He will be missed in the roles he has been serving, but his ongoing dedication is always appreciated and the chapter owes him our thanks.

John Skinner has been on the Board of Directors for past three years and is the Coordinator of the Educational tent at the Trout Festival. He was a big part in the success of last year's Festival and I am

grateful for his help with the upcoming Festival. I have found John's insight and advice to be great help to the Board and myself. John's dedication and hard work to our chapter has been a big help with meeting our ongoing goals to support the Park's Fishery work in the park.

Byron Begley has been on the Board of Directors also for past three years. Byron is one of our Charter Members and was the first Chapter President. He was responsible for doing the leg work in the Chapter creation. He and Paula own and operate Little River Outfitters. Besides giving most of their lives to the pursuit of Fly Fishing, they have been a big supporter of our chapter and the Park Fishery department with their time and money. If it was not for the work that Byron did we would not have a Little River Chapter or our great working relationship with the park.

Please take time to thank all of them for their hard work and support of our chapter. One of the best rewards about working in T.U. is the friends you make. I feel honored to consider Jim, John and Byron my friends.

Thanks
Joe Hatton

Annual Business Meeting

We will talk about projects for next year. Troutfest, Brook trout restoration and Bi-Monthly Acid Deposition Hikes. Budgets and ways to make the Chapter better.

Fishing Pick

By: Ian Rutter

Most of the leaves have fallen off the trees and been replaced by heavy frost early in the morning high in the Smokies.

Overnight temperatures are now routinely in the 20's and 30's and water temperatures are now solidly in the 40's so fishing has slowed somewhat. Dry flies still raise a few fish to the surface but nymphs are a safer bet if you're just out prospecting. Fishing starts to pick up around 10 AM and gets better through the afternoon. It can stay good until dark on warm days, but you'll do best by trying to focus your attention on sunny spots.

Most of the browns have wrapped up spawning and this is really a prime time to be on the water. We typically see more good fish out feeding in the open now more than at any other time. The best brown trout streams to focus on are Little River, Tellico River, North River, Deep Creek, and the Oconaluftee River.

North Carolina's delayed harvest streams are also now in full effect. The closest ones are the Nantahala River upstream of the powerhouse, the Tuckaseegee River near Webster, and Big Laurel Creek near Hot Springs.

These streams are marginal for trout in the summer so the state stocks them full in the fall and imposes catch and release regulations until early June. The trout are mostly hatchery fish but they are generally far easier to fool than wild trout.

I Not only are these streams a lot of fun, but they're a great place to introduce someone to fly fishing and get them hooked up with a minimum of frustration.

Generation schedules on the tailwaters are still sketchy, but there are still some days when you can find conditions fit for wading. The Watauga currently has the most consistent opportunities followed by the South Holston. Try to pick an overcast or rainy day to catch good olive hatches on the South Holston. The Clinch has a few spotty days without generation. The upper reaches of the Clinch are typically best this time of year. Focus your efforts on midge and sowbug patterns. Woolly Buggers can also pull some good ones out of the weir pool.

[The INSIDER is the Resource Management and Science Newsletter for the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Here is a few articles that I thought would be of interest.](#)

BROOK TROUT RESTORATION MONITORING AND REINTRODUCTION:
The 3.2 miles of Bear Creek treated with Antimycin in 2003 was surveyed to determine if all rainbow trout had been removed from the stream. One rainbow trout was collected and immediately removed from the stream. One month later with assistance from North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission personnel, 200 brook trout from the headwaters of Forney Creek, Steeltrap Creek and Huggins Creek were collected and released into Bear Creek. Sams Creek was also surveyed to evaluate the success of brook trout reintroductions in [CONTINUED ON PAGE 3]

Insider [FROM PAGE 2] 2002 and to evaluate the downstream movement of brook trout from headwater refuge areas. The survey revealed limited downstream movement of brook trout from the headwater refuges and that a flood in May 2003 had hampered the survival and reproductive success of brook trout reintroduced in 2002. Based on this information, 50 brook trout were collected from there fuge areas and transported downstream and released. Additionally, 155 brook trout were collected from Cosby Creek and Little Greenbrier Creek and released in the first mile of Sams Creek upstream of the barrier.

EXPERIMENTAL BROOK TROUT FISHERY: The park's brook trout fishery was closed to fishing for 27 years because of concern that the park harbored a southern Appalachian endemic that was being impacted by a number of factors, including fishing pressure. However, comparisons of population data from streams open to fishing and those closed to fishing revealed no differences in population parameters. Population monitoring and creel data from the eight streams open to fishing and the eight control streams indicate that angling has had no impact on the populations. In fact, in most of the streams open to fishing, the numbers of brook trout greater than seven inches actually increased after the streams were opened to fishing. Creel survey data indicate most anglers are not keeping brook trout, they simply want the opportunity to fish for this native fish and that they believe acid deposition is the greatest threat to their continued survival.

WATER QUALITY MONITORING: In conjunction with the University of Tennessee and Trout Unlimited volunteers, park-wide water quality samples were collected bi-monthly from 46 sites. Water samples are collected from 34 sites by Trout Unlimited volunteers. These samples are analyzed by the University and become part of the park's long-term water quality database as part of its long-term monitoring program. Data from the first 10 years of the program were analyzed for redundancy, frequency, whether geographic gaps in data collection are apparent, and the need to collect storm event samples. The results allowed the park to decrease the number of samples collected from 86 to 46 and to increase sampling frequency.

Fly of the Month

Bead Head Swimming Hares Ear

Sizes: 12-20

Hook Type: Heavy Wet/Nymph Hook

Thread: 8/0 Brown or Black

Tail: Pheasant tail fibers

Body: Hares Ear Dubbing

Ribbing: Fine gold wire or tinsel

Hackle Collar: 1-2 turns Partridge soft hackle.

Legs: 7 strands (3 on each side) Living Rubber tied in 1/4 shank length behind the hook eye.

Head: Brass or Tunsten bead





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