

### **Next Meeting:**

**Where:** Monte Vista Baptist Church  
1735 Old Niles Ferry Rd  
Maryville, TN 37803-5505  
(enter the bldg. from the parking lot)

**When:** 7:00 p.m., Thurs., Dec. 3

**Program:** Liars' Contest



Be sure to be there at LRCTU's December meeting and hear some of the TALLEST Tales in these parts. December's meeting will feature a Liar's Contest. There are certain invariable rights that all fisherman have sworn to protect and the Right to Embellish is one of the most important. We'll be doing our best to uphold that privilege.

A panel of esteemed (well....) judges will award prizes for First (I'd swear it was the truth); Second (You know, it coulda happened) and Third (That's what I'm talk'n about) places in the contest. Be sure to contact Rufus King to get your story heard and make us all true believers.

### **Fishing in Argentina Featured at October Meeting**

Chip Drozenski of Andes Drifters, Charlotte, NC, gave an account of fishing adventures to be had in the Andes mountains of South America. Together with Kevin Howell, who owns Davidson River Outfitters in Brevard, NC, they offer fully outfitted fishing trips. Howell's contacts in Argentina are long time family friends and partners in the venture. Chip spends several weeks every year in Argentina, fishing working with the managing partners. His job is to take care of booking and marketing.

Andes Drifters is a service company made up of the family, 5 guides, chefs and people who take care of their customers. They do not own a lodge. Instead, they have contacts with several accommodation properties and offer overnight camping on the rivers. You can stay in a very upscale small city of 25,000 people in a resort area, spend your time in a lodge in the wilderness or sleep in tents. Or you can do a combination of both. For the non-fishing spouse other tours can be arranged and there seems to be plenty to see and do in Patagonia. They cover a large area. If the fishing is not good in one location for some reason you might be taken to another river where the fishing is better.

Not owning a lodge means less overhead and lower prices. Another advantage is the US dollar's strength against the Argentine peso. The cost per person is about \$450 per day. Round trip airfare from Atlanta is currently \$1,200. For more info, contact Chip by email at [chipdro@windstream.net](mailto:chipdro@windstream.net) or by phone at 704 847 8562.





## **LRCTU Donates \$40,000 to Scholarship Endowment and Park's Fishery Department**

Thanks to Troutfest 2009 and a grant from Trout Unlimited's Embrace a Stream, two organizations in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park received donations totaling \$40,000 to help conserve and protect trout and aquatic resources and to continue educational efforts related to Brook Trout and water quality issues in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park Fisheries Department received \$25,000, while the Friends of the Smokies Scholarship Endowment received \$15,000 to continue to help pay for the fisheries' biology students to work in the park as seasonal employees. The scholarship fund is a joint venture between the Friends of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited and other interested parties. The endowment creates involved learning for the next generation of career conservationists, provides understudy of a scientific approach to environmental studies and application, enhances programs for volunteer groups, underwrites public awareness of necessary air and water quality issues, assists in the recovery of the native Southern Appalachian Brook Trout and their habitat, increases fisheries resources in workforce and specific aquatic life research, and joins with other like-minded groups for large scale impact of lasting results.

"The Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited was created for the sole purpose of supporting the Great Smoky Mountains National Park Fisheries Department, and Troutfest

has been our most successful fundraiser," said Byron Begley, owner of Little River Outfitters and chairman of Troutfest. "This festival allows us to showcase environmental projects going on in the area and raise money to help protect the mountains we all love."

Embrace-A-Stream is the flagship grant program for funding Trout Unlimited's grassroots conservation efforts that advance Trout Unlimited's mission of conserving, protecting, and restoring coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.

To date, with continued support from Troutfest, the Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited and numerous corporate and individual contributions, as well as volunteer efforts, the scholarship fund has received more than \$2.2 million over the past 15 years, and 19 miles of Brook Trout Streams have been restored.

"The national park has more than 800 miles of fishable trout streams with wild rainbow and brown trout, as well as Brook Trout in the higher elevations—a fisherman's dream," said Herb Handy, executive vice president of tourism for the Smoky Mountain Convention and Visitors Bureau. "Troutfest is not only a great event that draws people who are passionate about the area into our community, it raises money to preserve the streams that make our area unique and beautiful, which is essential to our continued success, both as a community and as a tourism destination."

Troutfest is a yearly fly fishing exposition and fundraiser held at the Townsend Visitors Center, and it will be held on May 14-16, 2010. Fly tyers will demonstrate their skills for many types fly tying, such as trout, bass, panfish and saltwater. The event also features southern food and live bluegrass music. Fly fisherman will offer free seminars and share their expertise, and National Fly Tackle Manufacturers will have gear on site. Fly shops, artists, non-profit organizations and government fish and game agencies will also exhibit. Proceeds from this event are donated to Great Smoky Mountains National Park Fisheries Department, Friends of the Smokies Fisheries Scholarship Endowment or other youth educational conservation projects.

Trout Fest is sponsored by the Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited, a nonprofit volunteer organization that is committed to protecting and restoring cold-water resources and watersheds in and around the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.



## Troutfest 2010 Planning Underway

LRCTU Troutfest Committee members held their first meeting Sunday Nov. 8 to begin planning for next year's event.

Committee Chair Byron Begley reported that the parking crew volunteers counted over 4000 attendees to the event and that almost 300 people attended the banquet. "Our total revenue from both the Expo and the Banquet was \$59,360. Our net profit on both was \$34,634. On top of that we received a Trout Unlimited Embrace-a-Stream Grant for \$10,000. We did well," Begley said.

The Board of Directors of the Little River Chapter voted to withhold \$4,634 from the net profit of Troutfest to be used as seed money for next year's event. They also voted to donate \$25,000 which includes the EAS grant to the Park Fisheries Department directly and \$15,000 to the Friends of the Smokies Scholarship Endowment to support the Fisheries Department by providing funding for fisheries biology students working as seasonal employees in the Park.

Jim Mauries, who owns Fly South in Nashville and Kevin Howell, owner of Davidson River Outfitters in Brevard, N.C. will serve as advisor to the committee this year. The hope is to attract more fly shop involvement as vendors and supporters. Other fly shop owners or managers may be asked to serve as advisors.

Next year the banquet will be held on Friday May 14th. The Exposition will be on Saturday and Sunday the 15th and 16th. Trout Unlimited will be holding a regional meeting on Friday in Townsend. This meeting was arranged so their group can attend Troutfest. This will increase the size of our banquet so we are planning on serving 400 that night.

## Fall Colors on the Watauga

The colors were incredible and the fishing great on a mid-October first drift boat trip down the Watauga River with guide Adam Vurnakes and friend Gunny Mike. The ground frost made for a slippery entry into Adam's boat on our launch a stone's throw from downtown Elizabethton, TN. As temps increased so did the action. We took some nice fish with nymphs from holes accessible only with a boat, which, in itself, justified the trip (of course, dear). Then, after a streamside gourmet meal of salmon and homemade cookies, provided by chef Adam, an afternoon hatch made top water action the next course. Gunny and I caught and released probably 20 midsize (12-18 inch) rainbows from one spot where perfect water and abundance of insect activity combined to make the surface boil. The Watauga has some nice water and is fishable almost any time. We had originally planned to fish the Upper Holston, but TVA release schedules did not cooperate. We exited the river eight hours later, not far from where we met Adam that morning. Its close proximity to Elizabethton and abundance of fish make the Watauga worth the effort.

- Ed



Adam Vurnakes (Silverbow Anglers) displays a catch from a recent trip down the Watauga River

The Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited is a Non-Profit Volunteer Organization that is Committed to Protecting and Restoring Cold Water Resources and Watersheds in and Around the Great Smoky Mountains National Park



**Thanks to all of you who  
worked on Troutfest.  
Great Job!**

And thanks for attending, supporting and donating to Troutfest. Together we have made a difference that we can all be proud of forever.

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Stop by or call about our monthly  
fishing seminars, schools and tying classes

When customers donate 3 or more food items they will receive a \$25.00 off \$50.00 coupon, good on regular priced items. The food is going to the Smoky Mountains Children's Home. Donations are accepted through December 13th

## **Park Service Volunteers Needed:**

November 21-22 for Bi-Monthly Acid Deposition Sampling - Contact Charlie Chmielewski for details @ 865-661-7325 or [charlieflyfish@gmail.com](mailto:charlieflyfish@gmail.com)