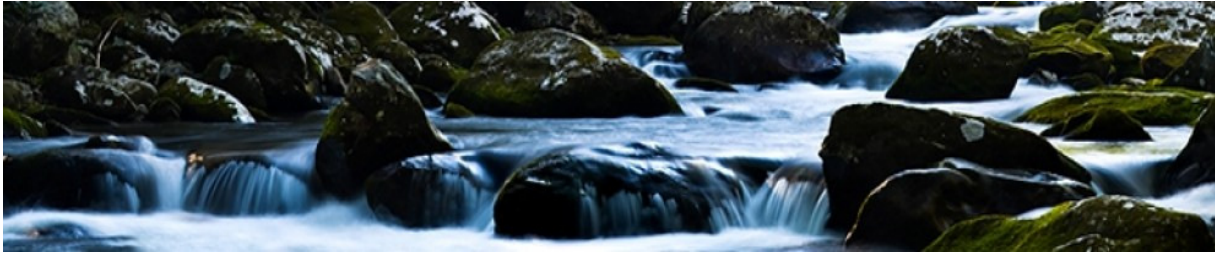


Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited

NOVEMBER 2014 Newsletter



President's Corner

By most, if not all accounts, the Little River Chapter had a very good year. Our volunteer base of support for the Park was strong. We brought back the Troutfest Banquet and Auction that surpassed everyone's expectations. A total of \$25,000 was donated to the GSMNP (see further details in this month's newsletter below). As a tribute and recognition to Steve Moore's long and storied career with the Park Service, we established the Steve Moore Youth Education Fund. With your generosity, the fund was seeded with \$5,000 that is being used to start three Trout-in-the-Classroom programs and provide assistance for kids to attend Trout Camp.

I want to thank the Board of Directors and other key leaders for all their behind the scenes effort. They deserve a lot of credit. And I want thank all of you for your continued efforts and belief in our mission to support the GSMNP. I am truly looking forward to 2015!!

Personally, 2014 was a good year for me in regards to fishing. I had a goal of strapping on my wading boots at least one hundred times this year. I came close to that goal. I failed miserably to start learning to fish our great tailwaters. I'm renewing my resolve to do a better job of hitting the tailwaters next year. Anyone who wants to take this tailwater notice under his / her wing, please give me a call. My fishing experience in the Park was good overall despite the usual weather / nature challenges. I fished the horseshoe in Abrams Creek for the first time, made my annual trip to Greenbrier to catch brookies, and caught more browns than I ever have in the past. Our month long trip of a lifetime to Alaska last fall was phenomenal. The place is stunning and huge, and I was able to catch some really nice coho's, Dolly Verdens and rainbows.

At our meeting Thursday, after a short business meeting to elect the 2015 Board of Directors, we will again have fly tying demonstrations and a swap meet. I have a pair of Orvis Clearwater size XXL waders that I will be selling. I bought the waders several years ago for a Casting For Recovery retreat. The waders were worn for less than two hours. I will donate any proceeds from the waders to our Chapter. It's a great time to clean out your closets, garages and basements for fishing stuff you no longer want or need.

The slate of Little River Chapter Officers / Board members is listed below. I'm thankful to those who are continuing to serve and lead our Chapter. Equally, I am thrilled to add James Locke and Steve Young to the slate. We will have a great Board in 2015. And I want to personally thank Joe McGroom. Joe will be stepping down as Vice President to spend time with a growing family and busy career. Joe was our 2014 Troutfest Chairman and did a fantastic job. We will miss his leadership, but we won't let him get too far away.

Thanks again to everyone for a great year. At this time of year when we stop to give thanks, remember all the great natural resources we are blessed with so close to home.

Thanks,
Mike

Fly Tying Demo & Swap Meet on for December 4 Meeting

Our Next Little River Chapter Trout Unlimited meeting will be held Thursday, December 4, 2014, 7PM at the **MONTE VISTA BAPTIST CHURCH** located at 1735 Old Niles Ferry Road, Maryville, TN 37803-5505. **PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN LOCATION.** We will meet in the Fellowship Hall. As you are facing the Church the entrance is on the right side of the building.

Two big events: Fly Tying Demo's and Swap / Sell Program

This will be one fun meeting that everyone should attend. We are going to have three of the regions best fly tyer's: Walter Babb, Rob Fightmaster and Josh Pfeiffer. Walter has been fishing and tying flies for more then 50 years and teaches fly tying at Little River Outfitters. He has tied flies professionally for more then 40 years. Rob Fightmaster has been fishing and guiding in the Great Smoky Mountains for many years. Rob was the Fly Fishing Program Director for Blackberry Farms for six years. Rob currently operates Fightmaster Fly Fishing Guide Service. Josh Pfeiffer started fishing with his dad at the age of 10. Every since he has been consumed by the sport and operates Frontier Anglers.

Swap / Sell Program: It's time to look in your closet pull out those Fly Fishing items you no longer need and would like to sell or trade. Also, if you are a fly tyer bring some of your flies to trade or sell.

We hope to see you on December 4, 2014.

-Chuck James -Program Chair

2014 Donations

Following a long tradition of supporting the Park with our time, talents and money, LRCTU was pleased to donate a total of \$25,000 in 2014. Last month we gave \$20,000 to the Park fisheries department that included a \$10,000 donation from the Little River Chapter raised at the 2014 Troutfest Banquet and Auction. Another \$10,000 was given by the Tennessee Council of Trout Unlimited raised through the conservation plate fund. Earlier in the year, a \$5,000 grant was given the Park from TU National's Embrace-A-Stream program. So TU was able to invest in the future of our Park at the local, state and national level. A good year, indeed.

Tennessee Council and Little River Chapter Provide \$20,000 for Brook Trout Restoration in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Tennessee Trout Unlimited members and friends who display the Trout Unlimited license plate on their vehicles can be proud to proclaim that they're supporting the restoration of Southern Appalachian brook trout to Smoky Mountains streams.

The article below, prepared by the National Park Service, discusses the most recent dollars and the strenuous volunteer efforts donated by TU members from Little River Chapter and other Tennessee chapters that have championed the restoration for years.



Pictured from left, front row: Acting Superintendent Clay Jordan, Little River Chapter President Mike Bryant, Sheila Bolinger and Fisheries Biologist Matt Kulp. Back row: Chuck James, Gary Verholek, Bill Bolinger, Davy Ezell and retired Fisheries Biologist Steve Moore. (NPS photo)

Great Smoky Mountains National Park Acting Superintendent Clay Jordan was presented with a \$20,000 gift recently as part of TU's continuing efforts to support the park's fisheries program. The donation includes \$10,000 raised by the Little River Chapter at the 2014 Troutfest Banquet

and \$10,000 given by the Tennessee Council of Trout Unlimited through the conservation license plate fund.

The donated funds will support brook trout restoration efforts and brook trout genetic studies. Since 1987, the park has actively worked to restore native brook trout populations to their native range. Brook trout, the only trout species native to the Smokies, lost up to 75 percent of their historic range in the early 1900s due to destructive logging practices and competition from non-native rainbow and brown trout. Working with cooperators and volunteers, the park has restored over 14 miles of streams to brook trout habitat.

“Trout Unlimited continues to be a champion of brook trout restoration in the Smokies,” said Acting Superintendent Jordan. “We are grateful not only for this generous donation, but also for the countless hours of hands-on volunteer labor served in the park.”

The Little River Chapter is also supporting an additional brook trout genetic study through a \$5,000 ‘Embrace-a-Stream’ trout program grant and a \$5,000 youth education program through the Steve Moore Youth Education Fund. This education fund was established in 2014 to recognize retired National Park Service Fisheries Biologist Steve Moore for his efforts in creating future conservation leaders. The funds are being used this year to establish the Trout-in-the-Classroom program in three east Tennessee schools.

“The Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited is pleased to make these donations in our continual efforts to support our national treasure – the Great Smoky Mountain National Park,” said Mike Bryant, president of the Little River Chapter. “We believe these donations will make a difference protecting and preserving the park for generations to come. The Little River Chapter has had a special relationship with the Park Service for over twenty years. As a nonprofit organization, our mission is to protect and restore coldwater resources and watersheds in and around the GSMNP. We continue to do this through our monetary donations as well as with our volunteer efforts.

2015 Board of Director Elections

As stated earlier, Joe McGroom will be rotating off the Board, and both James Locke and Steve Young have agreed to serve. While the 2015 BOD is an energetic and committed group of leaders, there are some areas that we can improve. First, we still do not have a Vice President candidate for 2015 and we are continuing to seek more women and youth representation.

Having said that, we have a very capable slate of candidates for next year’s Board that I look forward to working with.

Officers

- President – Mike Bryant
- VP – open

- Secretary – Bill Bolinger
- Treasurer – Sheila Bolinger

Board of Directors

- Dave Anderson
- Charlie Chmielewski
- Wayne Everbach
- Dave Ezell
- Ernie Frey
- Joe Hatton
- Chuck James
- James Locke
- Steve Young

PHoTo Files

Note: A bunch of photos to share this month. Forward yours to me for future editions: Dave Ezell ezop@charter.net

Trout In The Classroom Clayton-Bradley Academy





**North Carolina Tag Team Match: Terry & Chuck
on Davidson River; Ernie & Joyce on Strait Fork**



Charlie having some bit of success in Montanna:



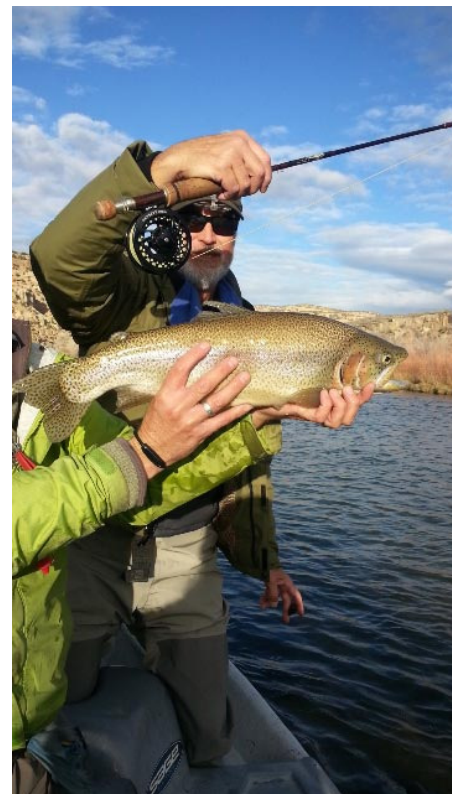
Rufus on the Mataura River, New Zealand





Eustis & Sons off the Carolina Coast

Road Trip: A chilly day on the White for me, November 17th, but warmer on the San Juan, November 20th



Fly Tyers Weekend, November 8 & 9, at the Tremont Lodge in Townsend



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