

# Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited

November, 2015 Newsletter



**Next Meeting December 3rd  
Happy Thanksgiving**

## President's Corner

Mike Bryant ([mjbryant1954@hotmail.com](mailto:mjbryant1954@hotmail.com))

Seems like every year the holiday season sneaks up on us. With the demands of the holidays and cooler weather settling in, my fishing time tends to drop. This year is no exception. It's mid-November and I have been on a stream only a handful of times in the past six weeks. In October, we did manage to camp at Smokemont and fish for four days. We really never did figure out what the fish were up to. Bill, a couple of his good friends and I fished hard every day. We caught fish, but the number of fish and the size were definitely down from previous fall trips. The water was great. Cool, clear and good flow. Yet the fish just weren't interested. But it was great to be out, even with 29 degree mornings!



But overall, I have no complaints about the fishing this year. I've had the opportunity to fish in the Everglades, small mountain streams in Colorado, spring fed creeks in Pennsylvania, as well as our local Park streams and tailwaters. And I had the opportunity to return to Lynn Camp Prong! Great memories.

As the weather cools down, I will be ramping up my fly tying. The Fly Tyer's Weekend held in early November was a success. Nearly fifty tyers demonstrated their skills and knowledge. I had the opportunity to tie, but also met some incredibly talented tyers as well.

Last month, we delivered a \$15,000 check to the Fisheries Dept. of the Great Smoky Mountain Park. Earlier in the year we donated \$4,000 to the Friends of the Smokies Fisheries Scholarship Fund (supporting the hiring of interns in the Park Fisheries Department), bringing our total donation to \$19,000 for the year. Not bad!! We had the opportunity to meet the new Park Superintendent Cassius Cash at the check donation ceremony. He was well aware of the Chapter's on-going support and showed his appreciation. You can read the press release further down in the newsletter.

Looking ahead, we will be voting on next year's Board of Directors at the December 3 meeting. The slate of candidates is listed further down in this newsletter. We've accomplished a lot in the past year, none of which would have happened without the leadership each officer and board member. And I am looking forward to keeping our momentum going forward with next year's Board.

#### Membership Meeting (Thursday, December 3)

At the December 3 meeting, Justin Murdock will be presenting his learnings on didymo (invasive algae). Justin is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biology at Tennessee Tech University. His work on didymo included assessing the distribution and impact that didymo has on our local waters as well as best practices for gear disinfection. A \$10,000 grant from the Tennessee license plate conservation fund (managed by the Tennessee Council of Trout Unlimited) helped support Justin's research. This will be an educational and enlightening presentation; one you don't want to miss. We meet again at Calhoun's in Maryville. Social hour and dinner starts at 6:00pm and the business meeting followed by the presentation at 7:00pm. As always, you do not have to buy dinner to attend. Everyone is welcome!

Be safe and I'll see you at the December 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

-Mike

## LRCTU Board of Directors Election

Listed below is the proposed slate of officers and board members for 2016. I'm proud of what this year's Board has accomplished and I believe next year's Board has the skills and capability to continue on with our great progress! Many thanks to those served on the Board last year as well as those who have agreed to serve in 2016!

### Rotating off the Board this year:

Sheila Bolinger  
Wayne Everbach  
Chuck James  
James Locke

### New board members:

Jake Comstock  
Steve Darnell  
Stan Starkey  
Pat Tully

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*Come Cast Your Vote at  
the December Meeting!*

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### Here's the full slate for 2016:

Mike Bryant – President  
Ernie Frey – VP  
Hannah Tully – Treasurer  
Bill Bolinger – Secretary

### Board Members:

Dave Anderson  
Charlie Chmielewski  
Jake Comstock  
Steve Darnell  
Dave Ezell  
Joe Hatton  
Dan Munger  
Stan Starkey  
Pat Tully  
Steve Young

# NEEDED: Gifted Volunteers!

Our chapter has been offered the opportunity to help with donations provided by Orvis customers in exchange for giftwrapping at their Sevierville location Sunday December 6 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Practice your knot tying and double ended fold flap casting technique and earn \$\$ for our club at the same time. Ideally, four or more volunteers would be needed in order to pull this off in two shifts and avoid carpal tunnel surgery for any one participant. Oh, and for your effort, Orvis Region Manager, Kris Maurer will provide you with a one-time 40% discount.

Call or email me, Dave Ezell @ 865-567-1479 [ezop@charter.net](mailto:ezop@charter.net) if you're interested!

## The Gift That Keeps On Giving

Still trying to figure out that perfect Christmas gift or stocking stuffer? You might want to consider giving a membership to Trout Unlimited! TU is offering a New Introductory Membership for the low introductory price of \$17.50 for the first year (half off the annual single membership rate).

Your friend or family member will receive all the benefits of being a TU member. And a cool benefit is that \$15 (of the \$17.50) will be rebated back to our local Little River Chapter to support our on-going conservation efforts!

It's easy to give a New Introductory Membership:

- Going Online:
  - [tu.org/intro](http://tu.org/intro)
  - [LRCTU.org](http://LRCTU.org) {"Join Our Chapter" link on the right hand side of the screen}
- By Mail (print out the form found on the same page as the [LRCTU.org](http://LRCTU.org) on-line information)
- **Remember #644 for the Little River Chapter**

# Determining Didymo Distribution and Stream Susceptibility

By Justin Murdock

Didymo is an invasive algae that can cover the bottom of high quality streams with thick mats. Our goal was to determine the current distribution and abundance of Didymo in the region (Tennessee and western North Carolina) and assess what environmental factors favor colonization and mat formation. Sampling sites were focused on streams in and around Great Smoky Mountains National Park and in dam tailwaters where Didymo is known to occur. We sampled 24 sites three times per year in Spring, Summer and Fall in 2014 and 2015. In the upper Tennessee River watershed Didymo is limited to streams below large dams. No Didymo was found in Great Smoky Mountains National Park streams. Stream that favored Didymo presence and mat formation had lower temperatures, higher pH, high light availability, low phosphorous, and low sulfate concentrations. These conditions occurred together most often below dams. Several streams in the Park appear to have favorable water quality to support Didymo, but no Didymo was observed in these streams. During our study Didymo was most abundant below South Holston and Watauga dams, with noticeable mats in the Clinch River below Norris dams, and small amounts below Cherokee dam. Recently, we found Didymo cells in the Tuckasegee River in North Carolina, but have not yet found mats in this river.

We are also developing a gear disinfection protocol to determine the effectiveness of several easily accessible disinfection solutions. We found that bleach with a concentration of 1% for a 2 minute exposure was the most efficient disinfectant at killing Didymo cells. The commercial disinfectant, Virkon was also effective with slight longer exposure times, and dish soap, acidity, and salt all less effective at killing cells.

Through additional funding from the US Fish and Wildlife Service we are conducting two related Didymo studies. We are assessing how Didymo mats impact stream food webs, with a focus on changes to bottom dwelling insects and invertebrates, and conducting a regional assessment of Didymo distribution with a one-time sampling of 30 streams across Tennessee, North Carolina, Kentucky, and Virginia collecting cells in drift nets, and looking for Didymo DNA in stream water samples. Our regional assessment found Didymo mats in the Obey River below Dale Hollow dam, and this site represents the western edge of Didymo distribution in Tennessee.

## 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 Ernie Frey, a LRCTU board member and now slated vice president, who, along with others, has dedicated uncounted hours to making an unprecedented success out of our Trout in the Classroom Program. Ernie also leads and organizes our group outings and shares his knowledge of fly tying at our Tie & Lie meetings.)*

Name: Ernest Frey (fry)

Nickname: Ernie

City / County Residence: Maryville

General Family Info: Joyce (wife)  
a great fisherperson and partner

Years Fly Fishing: I started fly fishing in saltwater probably 25 years ago.

Years Fly Tying / Rod Building / etc: About the same time, I began tying right after I started fly fishing. I was saltwater fishing at that time and tying flies on those big hooks didn't seem so difficult. I started rod building after I bought my second saltwater rod and thought I could build a rod just as good. I haven't bought a finished rod since.



History of Fly Fishing:

- Mentors? Lefty Kreh but he doesn't know it.
- Key Memories? A Thanksgiving holiday with Tim Doyle  
Tying Clouser minnows with Bob Clouser  
A trip 6 years ago to western New York to visit in-laws

and finding Steelhead trout

Fly Fish Educational Activities: A lot of guided trips with really good guides and LISTENING to them

Favorite Places to Fly Fish:

- Locally: Middle prong of Little River but really anywhere in the Park

- Outside the Local Area: Lake Erie feeder streams for Steelhead

Favorite Fly to Tie: I like most flies but I don't like tying Stimulators. It is hard to keep a clear hook eye.

Best Fly Fishing / Tying Story: I guess going to Yellowstone with my brother-in-law and his family sightseeing and getting him hooked on fly fishing. He is the biggest I have ever caught!

## Porter Elementary School to Hold its First Trout in the Classroom Release

A date has been set for Porter Elementary 's very first Trout in the Classroom release. **December 17th.**

Volunteers who can wade and assist are in much needed demand. Contact Ernie Frey or Bill Bolinger for all the details and get this on your calendar!

It's a great way to support our youth and educate them about our streams.

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](http://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](mailto:ezop@charter.net)**  
Also, keep up with current events and find valuable information sources at our website [www.lrctu.org](http://www.lrctu.org)