

Trout Unlimited

Little River Chapter



NEXT MEETING

Tuesday
December 4th

Barley's
Maryville

President's Corner

I'm writing this while listening to the rainfall on the roof. As of this morning, we have had over 50 inches of rain this year. From a fishing and conservation standpoint this is a good thing. The groundwater reserves are being rebuilt after those years of drought. My only concern is that we don't have huge amounts of rain at one time that may disrupt the redds of breeding fish. I personally am using the rain days to clean and check over my fishing gear.

One of the first articles I wrote when I became president of the chapter talked about finishing a bamboo blank that I had purchased at Troutfest. Well, it is finished and so is my term as president. The board will nominate, for member's approval, a slate of candidates for the board and officers of the chapter for 2019. If any member wishes to be an officer or on the board, nominations will be taken from the floor at the December 4 meeting.

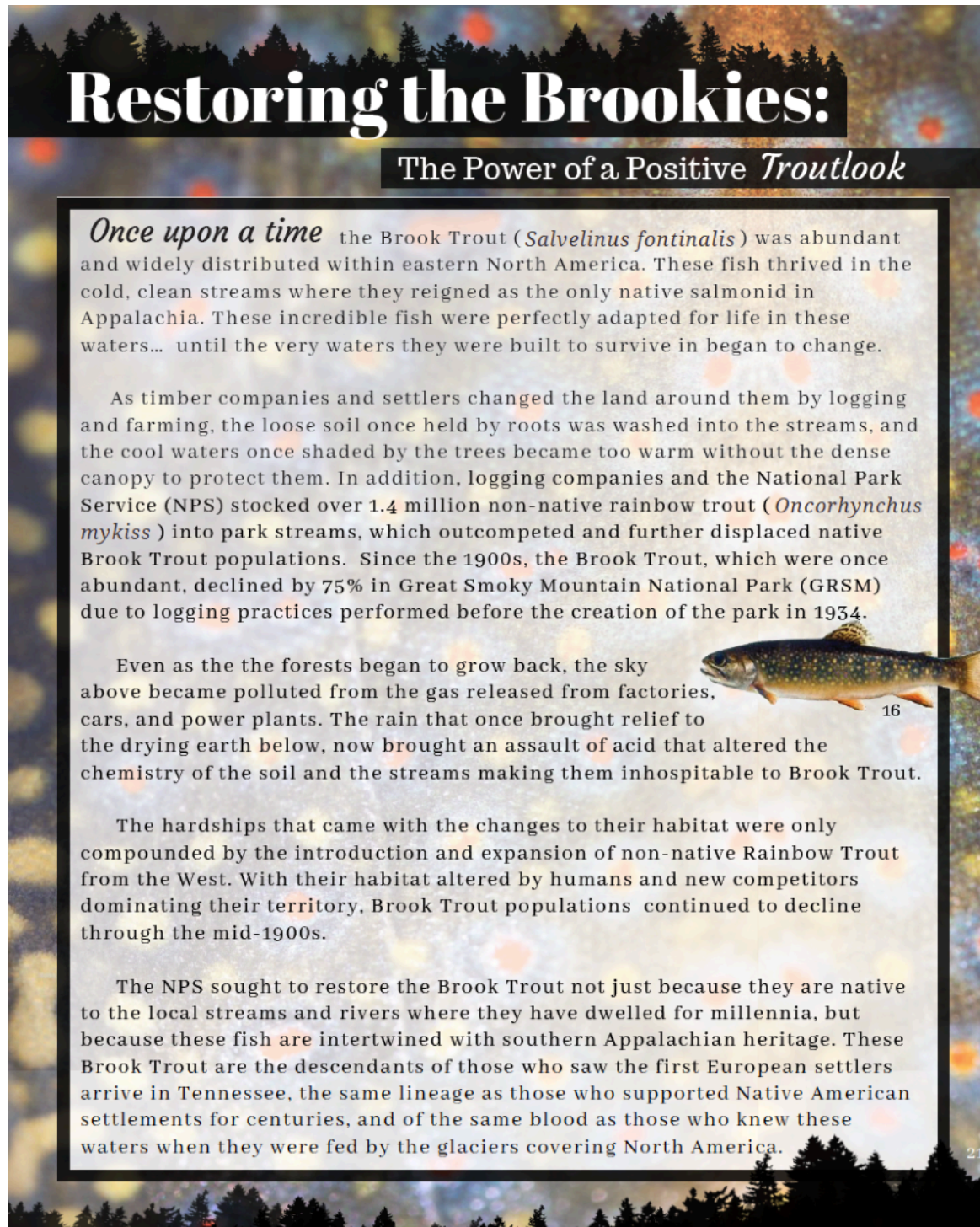
The Tuesday, December 4 meeting will be the last meeting of the year. We make this deviation because of the holiday schedule. This meeting will be



the silent auction to benefit the chapter so if you have something you wish to donate please bring it to the December 4 meeting.

Our meeting site has been confirmed for next year. Barley's has been a great meeting venue and working with Jim Williams and his staff has been a great pleasure.

Next meeting will be December 4 at Barley's Maryville, social hour starts at 6 and business meeting at 7. The silent auction will go on from 6 till 8.



Restoring the Brookies:

The Power of a Positive Troutlook

Once upon a time the Brook Trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*) was abundant and widely distributed within eastern North America. These fish thrived in the cold, clean streams where they reigned as the only native salmonid in Appalachia. These incredible fish were perfectly adapted for life in these waters... until the very waters they were built to survive in began to change.

As timber companies and settlers changed the land around them by logging and farming, the loose soil once held by roots was washed into the streams, and the cool waters once shaded by the trees became too warm without the dense canopy to protect them. In addition, logging companies and the National Park Service (NPS) stocked over 1.4 million non-native rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) into park streams, which outcompeted and further displaced native Brook Trout populations. Since the 1900s, the Brook Trout, which were once abundant, declined by 75% in Great Smoky Mountain National Park (GRSM) due to logging practices performed before the creation of the park in 1934.

Even as the the forests began to grow back, the sky above became polluted from the gas released from factories, cars, and power plants. The rain that once brought relief to the drying earth below, now brought an assault of acid that altered the chemistry of the soil and the streams making them inhospitable to Brook Trout.

The hardships that came with the changes to their habitat were only compounded by the introduction and expansion of non-native Rainbow Trout from the West. With their habitat altered by humans and new competitors dominating their territory, Brook Trout populations continued to decline through the mid-1900s.

The NPS sought to restore the Brook Trout not just because they are native to the local streams and rivers where they have dwelled for millennia, but because these fish are intertwined with southern Appalachian heritage. These Brook Trout are the descendants of those who saw the first European settlers arrive in Tennessee, the same lineage as those who supported Native American settlements for centuries, and of the same blood as those who knew these waters when they were fed by the glaciers covering North America.

In case you
missed it!!
from

The
Stream
Guardian

Fall 2018

TIE 'N LIE: CHRISTMAS TREE FLY

Rarely used but always effective, the Santa Fly is most effective from Thanksgiving to New Years Day. And it works even better when snow is falling. Be sure to talk with Steve Young at dinner; he has experience trying these. First come, first serve!



Trout in the Classroom

by Joyce Frey

OUR FALL SEASON HAS FLOWN BY. FISH WILL START BEING RELEASED IN ANOTHER COUPLE OF WEEKS. MOST OF THE SCHOOLS CULLED THEIR FISH BY EITHER PUTTING THEM IN NORTON CREEK, LITTLE RIVER, OR GIVING THEM TO ANOTHER SCHOOL THAT HAD LOST QUITE A FEW DUE TO NOT BEING FED ENOUGH. IT'S A DELICATE BALANCE BETWEEN FEEDING THEM ENOUGH AND TAKING CARE OF THE WATER QUALITY THROUGH WATER CHANGES OR CHEMICALS

THE CHIPPERFIELDS FROM THE TOWNSEND KOA WILL AGAIN LET US USE THEIR FACILITY FOR OUR RELEASE PROGRAM. ONCE AGAIN, NPS OR TWRA WILL PROVIDE A SHOW AND TELL OF SHOCKED FISH, DISCUSSIONS OF STREAM HABITATS AND WATER RESOURCES. FOR EACH RELEASE DATE, WE WILL NEED 3 TO 4 VOLUNTEERS AN HOUR PRIOR TO THE SCHOOLS ARRIVAL TO HELP NPS OR TWRA WITH THE SHOCKING AND OUR WATER QUALITY AND BUG STATIONS.

The schedule for the schools to release is as follows:

December 4 - 10:00 to 12:00

St. Johns Newman 6th graders and Tates' School 5th graders.

December 5 – 10:00 to 12:00

Clayton Bradley Academy kindergartners.

December 7 – 10:00 to 12:00

Lonsdale Elementary 5th graders.

December 12 – 10:00 to 12:00

John Sevier Elementary 1st graders.

December 14 – 10:00 to 12:00

Porter Elementary 4th graders

The Episcopal School has decided to release half of their fish sometime during the Christmas break and then hold the remaining over for a May release. Looking forward to some big fish! The coordinators from the rest of the schools will release the fish because those schools don't have the budget for a field trip.

Come out and help us with this very worthwhile program. It's only a couple of hours and the entertainment is priceless!

The Tennessee River Basin Network is a partnership of states, cities, counties, federal agencies, academic organizations, business, and other non-governmental organizations.

The TRB 2018 Science & Management Winner

Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Trout Unlimited is well known for their effort to protect and improve cold water fisheries and the **Little River Chapter (LRTU)** in Tennessee has been doing exceptional work at delivering this mission at the local level. LRTU members have been assisting with fisheries management activities and collecting water quality data in the Great Smokey Mountains National Park since 1993 accumulating over 14,000 hours of service. The Chapter created a great volunteer program that focuses on water quality monitoring, fundraising, project implementation, and educational events.



LRTU volunteers have helped:

- Restore Southern Appalachian Brook Trout (25.8 miles)
- Collect over 6,500 water samples - data is used to inform air and water policy to protect the Park ecosystem. This effort has led to 12 streams being listed by the state as impaired.
- Collect 254 fish tissue samples from 17 Park sites to evaluate mercury levels in fish
- Pick up 800 bags of trash during annual litter pickups

TVA to Continue Trout Stocking Program

November 12, 2018

<http://www.southerntrout.com/blog/2018/11/12/tva-usfws-to-continue-trout-stocking-program>

The Tennessee Valley Authority and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have reached a multi-agency agreement to provide continued funding for three federal fish hatcheries that have stocked waters in Georgia and

Tennessee with millions of trout. The partnership, which began in 2013, includes the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Since 2013, TVA has been funding trout production by the Service at three national fish hatcheries: Dale Hollow and Erwin in Tennessee, and Chattahoochee Forest in Georgia. The trout are then provided to the following tailwaters: Appalachia (Hiwassee River), Blue Ridge, Boone, Cherokee, Fort Patrick Henry, Normandy, Norris, South Holston, Tims Ford, and Wilbur. Trout-stocked reservoirs in the plan include Fort Patrick Henry, South Holston, Parksville, Watauga, and Wilbur reservoirs.

The four partner agencies announced the new agreement today at a press conference beside the Clinch River below Norris Dam outside Knoxville, Tennessee. The agreement provides partnership funding through the fiscal year 2021.

“Anglers come from all over the country to fish on TVA-managed lakes and rivers, and now TVA will continue its role in making sure they will continue to enjoy some of the best trout fishing in the country,” said David Bowling, TVA vice president of Land, River Management & Environmental Compliance.

“This fits into our mission of environmental stewardship, economic development and the enhancement of quality of life in the Tennessee Valley. An important way we accomplish these goals is by working with our valued partner agencies on projects such as this.”



Last year, the partnership provided more than 1.1 million brook, brown, lake and rainbow trout to TVA waters. More than 256,000 anglers are estimated to fish for trout in Tennessee and Georgia waters each year, spending about \$73 for every \$1 invested in the hatchery program, and producing an economic impact of about \$45 million.

“Tennessee fishermen already enjoy fishing on TVA lakes, and today’s announcement means that federal fish hatcheries in Erwin, Dale Hollow, and Georgia will stay open and continue to provide Tennessee rivers and lakes with millions of fish that make our trout fishing some of the best in the country,” U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander said. “This is good news for the 900,00 Tennesseans and visitors who have fishing and hunting licenses and for the businesses that create jobs and depend on fishing in Tennessee.”

“This ongoing partnership is a great example of how agencies are working together to strengthen economic benefits and enhance recreational opportunities in healthy river systems for our citizens who enjoy the Tennessee valley’s rivers,” said Mike Oetker, acting regional director for the Fish and Wildlife Service’s Southeast Region. “As an avid trout fisherman, I know personally that Tennessee and Georgia already boast great places for anglers. The continued commitments from this renewed partnership ensure that well into the future.”

“This partnership is critical to TWRA’s management of trout fisheries - each year up to 80% of the trout stocked at TVA projects come from federal hatcheries,” said Frank Fiss, chief of fisheries for TWRA. “These fisheries include some of the best in the Southeast.”

“In Georgia, we are proud of the trout fishery and recognize that it provides not only exceptional outdoor recreation opportunities but that it also is an important economic driver in many of our mountain communities,” said Rusty Garrison, director of Georgia Wildlife Resources Division. “This continuing partnership will help us maintain high-quality trout fishing on waters such as the Toccoa River below Blue Ridge Lake.”



The Tennessee Valley Authority is a corporate agency of the United States that provides electricity for business customers and local power companies serving nearly 10 million people in parts of seven southeastern states. TVA receives no taxpayer funding, deriving virtually all of its revenues from sales of electricity. In addition to operating and investing its revenues in its electric system, TVA provides flood control, navigation, and land management for the Tennessee River system and assists local power companies and state and local governments with economic development and job creation.



In our Man Makes Fire guide to the best fly fishing gifts 2018, we choose some of the core gear most every fly fisherman needs, could use, or would appreciate. Some fly fishers already have some of this gear, but gear wears out, breaks down, and gets lost. Plus, some of these best gift ideas for fly fishing fanatics are for fly fishing gear that's been improved with new features.

Fly fishing brings insane joy. And frustration. Hence the fanatical nature of fly fishermen and women. Fortunately, you have lots of fly fishing gift idea options.

Case in point?

The Measure Net. Even long-time fishers who already have a landing net might very much appreciate a net that lets them quickly note the length of their fish — and this is why the Measure Net leads our best gift ideas for fly fishing list.

For some, learning to fly fish is a long-term process where you acquire new gear, try it out, and settle into the systems that work for your favorite streams, rivers, and lakes. For instance, for fishing close to a campground, a fly fisherman might go light with just a lanyard of core accessories and a fly box. But for an all-day outing on favorite river far from the road, waders with a cool new sling pack might be the smartest way to chase after the fish of a lifetime.

Either way, these 15 best gift ideas for fly fishing fanatics will get you pointed in the right direction!

Go to <https://manmakesfire.com/best-gift-ideas-fly-fishing-fisher-fanatics/> for the details.

OCTOBER MEETING NOTES

Date: October 23, 2018

Location: Barley's Maryville

Meeting Type: General Meeting

Presiding Officer: Ernie Frey, President

Attendees: General Membership

Agenda: Membership Health,

Newsletter Articles: All articles are welcome. The newsletter could really use articles from our members. Please consider pulling together a small article for inclusion in future newsletters. Send your articles to lrctu.newsletter@gmail.com.

Nominations of Officers/Positions for 2019. The following positions are open. The Board will present a slate of candidates and nominations from the floor will be accepted at our December 4th meeting. . This is an excellent opportunity for those of you who are unable to participate in other volunteer activities to support your Chapter.

- The positions needed for next year are:
President
Vice President

Steve Young has agreed to serve as the club's Treasurer. Thank you Steve for taking on this much needed position.

Tie & Lie: The next Tie & Lie Tie and Lie will be held on January 28th from 6 to 8 pm at the Casula Pint in Maryville.

Trout in the Classroom: All tanks are doing well and the trout are on the move. The hatch baskets have been removed and the trout are free swimming and looking for food.

Joyce is finalizing the release schedule for December. Right now the tentative dates are December 11, 12, 13, and 18. Joyce will be sending out an email for volunteer sign ups.

Guest Speakers: This months guest speakers were Charity and Ian Rutter. Their presentation titled ... "Fly Fish Like A Predator" was an excellent overview of how we all should approach our time on the water.

Here is a summary of their presentation.

We head for our favorite stream for a day of fishing. We have fly rods, fly reels, leaders, tippets, boxes of our favorite flies, and every accessory that we can fit into our fly vest. The animals have nothing. Do they catch more fish than we do?

Remember that every fish has one thing in common - They don't want to get caught. So what can we do to start fishing like a predator?

1. Be Stealthy Like a Predator: Next time you have the opportunity, spend a few minutes watching a Blue Heron. How do they fish? Wade quietly or not at all. If you don't have to get in the water then don't get in the water. If you do have to get in - barely get in. If you are wading, keep your weight on your back foot. Use the terrain around you to conceal your presence. boulders, rocks, shoreline cover. Stay in the shadows if you can. Use the water features to your advantage - ledges, riffles. Cast softly, softly, softly. Mode of dress - match the environment.
2. See Like a Predator: Can you see the fish? Accurate casting is critical. Can you see and follow your fly? Polarizer glasses are a must. Look for an area with the least amount of glare. Try to keep the sun at your back and your shadow off the water. Fish the sunny side of the river.
3. Listen Like a Predator: Listen to the sounds around you. What are you being told by those sounds. Everything that is not happening or that you are not hearing is telling you something. Are you hearing wind, are you hearing bugs, are you hearing fish rising?
4. Strike Like a Predator: Be ready at all times for a strike. Always expect the fish to eat. If you didn't expect a fish to strike why did you put your fly there. Don't allow yourself to be lulled into not paying attention. If necessary, take a break and just watch what is going on around you.
5. Strike too Fast: It's almost impossible to strike too fast. The first drift is critical. Watch, watch, watch. Watch the strike indicator. Is it a snag on the bottom - strike. Did the second drift in the same area hang up? If not, it was a fish not a snag. Did I hit some grass on the bottom - strike. Pay attention to the little things like setting the hook. Fish will be facing into the current. Go to the downstream side with the hook set. What's overhead? What's behind you? Setting the hook up will find whatever is above or behind you.

Are you doing it the hard way? Be efficient. Do it the easy way. It's so easy even a child can do it (pictures of the Rutter kids showing us how it's done). Close water first, work up and out, move up stream and do it again. Look for the prime water ... and always fly fish like a predator.