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FISHING THOUGHT OF THE MONTH

DILIGENCE IS THE MOTHER OF GOOD FORTUNE.” -- Miguel de Cervantes

Persistence and Walter Babb, Year-End Chapter Activities

I was inspired after our zoom chapter meeting last spring with our guest presenter Tim Flagler; his talk was about trout spey fishing. I remember comments like “easy

on the shoulders” and “great for larger streams and rivers” among other things. Some of his talk I forgot about—until later. So, I shelled out the shekels for an 11’4” 4 weight trout spey rod along with the skagit heads and it has become my object of persistence. After purchasing the ‘millstone’, other demands on my time kept me from trying out my new toy and I forgot some of the elements of the technique. Hence, upon my first go, I was a little disappointed; my casts were anything but graceful or effective—gr-r-r. On the way home I was mulling over my failure when a thought came to me from a presentation Walter Babb gave to the chapter a number of years ago on the early days of his fly-fishing experience. He would go out fishing, maybe have some luck among his mistakes, come back and read or reread some of the books he had gotten, and then go out and try again usually with some improvement (he didn’t know any local fly fisherman at the time and guides were very few and far between). So, I tried the same thing; now of course books are at least partly replaced by the internet and Youtube. I delved into spey rod instruction videos on YouTube and the internet, found a few ‘aha’ moments and went out and tried again (including how to correctly rig a skagit head which was pretty fundamental). I repeated this cycle a couple of times with only marginal improvement; another thing came to me was that Tim Flagler said it took him a couple of years to get the hang of the casting motion (!!!) – yipes! But inspired by Tim and Walter I tried again this past week. And the day started out pretty the same, casts collapsing only a moderate distance out and no fish. Then right at the end, something clicked and the line sailed out much farther than any before and landed as it should; a couple more casts of a similar result followed—EUREKA!! The rain started falling pretty hard and I had to quit but was encouraged. Persistence had paid off; now if I could only catch a fish

Year-end and the holiday season are rapidly approaching. Our chapter has a couple of few activities I hope you can put on your holiday calendar. First is our online Auction. Larry Davis and Bob Bishop have done an awesome job putting together this event. At last count we have some 40 items for you to fill out your personal holiday wish list or that of someone else. When you read this the Auction will have started. Eighty Percent of the net proceeds will be going to the Fisheries Department of Great Smoky Mountain National Park, a cause we can all agree on, I think. Then our year-end chapter meeting will be on Thursday, December 2nd. It will be held at the Chilhowee Women’s Club building because the Bluetick Tavern space is already taken. The highlight of the evening will be a display of all the items that are in the auction. It is an opportunity for those attending to get a last look at the items and alter their bids before the Auction closes on December 5th. Finally, the Pistol Creek Cleanup on December 4th; we are being joined by members of the Keep Blount Beautiful organization so there should be a good group there. More information on

all these activities will be forthcoming.

Hope to see you at one of these events.

Tight Lines!

Steve Young

MEETING - THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2 @ CHILHOWEE WOMEN'S CLUBHOUSE

Our last 2021 LRCTU meeting will take place on **December 2 at 6:00 PM**. Because of a conflict with BlueTick on this date, the meeting has moved to the Chilhowee Clubhouse, located at 223 Clarion Ave. There will be pizza, soft drinks, and tea.

If you haven't checked out the online auction yet, items will be on display at the meeting. Please join us!

Just a note, we will be at BlueTick regularly in 2023.

TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM

All schools and LRO have released their trout into the main tank. They are doing very well and growing fast. The students are very interested in following the trout life cycle and helping to take care of them. They are also assisting with water testing and feeding. LRO reports they have folks stop in almost every day to check them out.

We are planning for a December release at the KOA Campground in Townsend. The release schedule is

- December 1 Eagleton Academy - 6th grade
- December 2 Episcopal Elementary - 4th grade
- December 8 Porter Elementary - 4th grade
- December 14 Clayton Bradley Academy - 2nd grade
- December 15 John Sevier Elementary - 3rd grade

With the exception of Porter Elementary which will only be releasing the fish, the other schools will participate in several activities. Matt Kulp or Caleb Abramson from the GSMNP Fisheries Department will be on hand with a show and tell; there will be a bug station for the students to examine what the fish will actually be eating once released; a water quality station for discussions about conservation and differences

between the river and the tank, and if weather and time allows, a casting station.

We still need some volunteers for the releases. On Wednesday, December 1, Eagleton Middle School will be bringing 140 students/parents/teachers (OMG!) to the KOA at 9:00 am. We could use some more help to find bugs (bring waders) and for crowd control. Plan on arriving around 8:00. All activities will be finished by noon.

On Thursday, December 2, the Episcopal School will be arriving at the KOA at 10:00 am with only 28 students (thank goodness). Plan on arriving around 9:00 this time with all activities finishing by noon.

This is a great opportunity to participate in the program. If you would like to help with one of these TIC releases or learn more about our Trout in the Classroom please contact me at jmjes711@gmail.com or 724-612-2166.

Jim Jeswald

TIE AND LIE - MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29



I haven't heard what the fly is for this month's get together, but I'm sure it will be a good time. Come join us at the Maryville Casual Pint from 6:30 till... If I find out before the 29th, the reminder email will be updated.

BUGS AND FLIES

Per Trout Zone Anglers, the flies for December are: Blue-winged olives (small) all month, October caddis (#10 - #14) for the 1st half of the month, and Midges all month.

It was really hard to find an interesting fly to tie this month. I was thinking about midges, but they're so easy to tie. Then I found this BWO emerger in a size 22 on Tim Flagler's channel. Of course, it can be tied in any size. Personally, I can't see a size 22 to tie it on my tippet! This looks like it might be a good one for any time or season. Have fun with it.

Barr's Emerger BWO

Hook: Size 22 Emerger 2x short

Thread: Fine Dark Brown

Tail: Ginger Hackle

Body: Fine Olive Dubbing

Flashabou

Wing Case: Wood Duck with black & white tips

Thorax: Fine Brown Dubbing



PISTOL CREEK STOCKING UPDATE

TWRA is planning to stock Pistol Creek in Maryville on Thursday, December 16, Thursday, January 20, and Thursday, February 10. Buffalo Springs Hatchery is raising some big fish to stock this season. They weigh about a pound now and may be a pound and a half by the time they are stocked. Remember, this is a put and take stream, you are allowed to keep 7 a day.

NEED WEBSITE COORDINATOR! IMPORTANT COMMUNICATION TOOL!

We are still in need of a website guru to replace Joe Hatton. This important

communication tool needs someone. Many folks go to websites to learn about an organization like ours, not Facebook, Twitter, or other social platforms. If this seems like a broken record—it is!! We need someone to step up! Contact Steve Young, Bob Bishop, or Joe Hatton if interested.

MEMBERS OUT THERE FISHING

Don't forget, or hesitate to share your catches with the Club. We all love seeing the big smiles, and fish!

Ann Strange with a nice rainbow from the White River in Arkansas; Ernie Frey with a big brown that was following salmon up Mill Creek in Webster, NY; Joyce Frey with one of her steelheads from the 18 Mile Creek in Hamburg, NY.





Have a happy and safe Thanksgiving.

Joyce Frey
Newsletter Editor



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