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NOTES FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT

The annual LRCTU On-Line Auction Fundraiser begins on November 20th. Please keep in mind the auction is more than just an opportunity to get a great deal. More importantly, it is a chance to make a significant contribution to the Fisheries Department while showing appreciation for the hard work involved by individuals donating their time and creating these one of a kind items. You can contribute by bidding on auction items or by making a direct donation through the auction website. At least 80% of the auction proceeds will be donated to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GSMNP) Fisheries Department.

Stream Barrier Surveys resumed on November 9th in the Greenbrier section of GSMNP. Several National Park visitors noticed the new LRCTU logo safety vests and stopped to talk with us about volunteer work in the National Park and the mission of the Little River Chapter. These safety vests will also be used during the Pistol Creek Clean-Up on December 9th. Pistol Creek Clean-Up is a great opportunity for us to promote our Chapter while participating in a local conservation project.

The last Chapter meeting of the year will be held on November 30th at the Chilhowee Club on the Maryville College Campus. Focus of the meeting will be on viewing auction items and socializing with our TU friends.

Additional information on the above events is provided in the Newsletter.

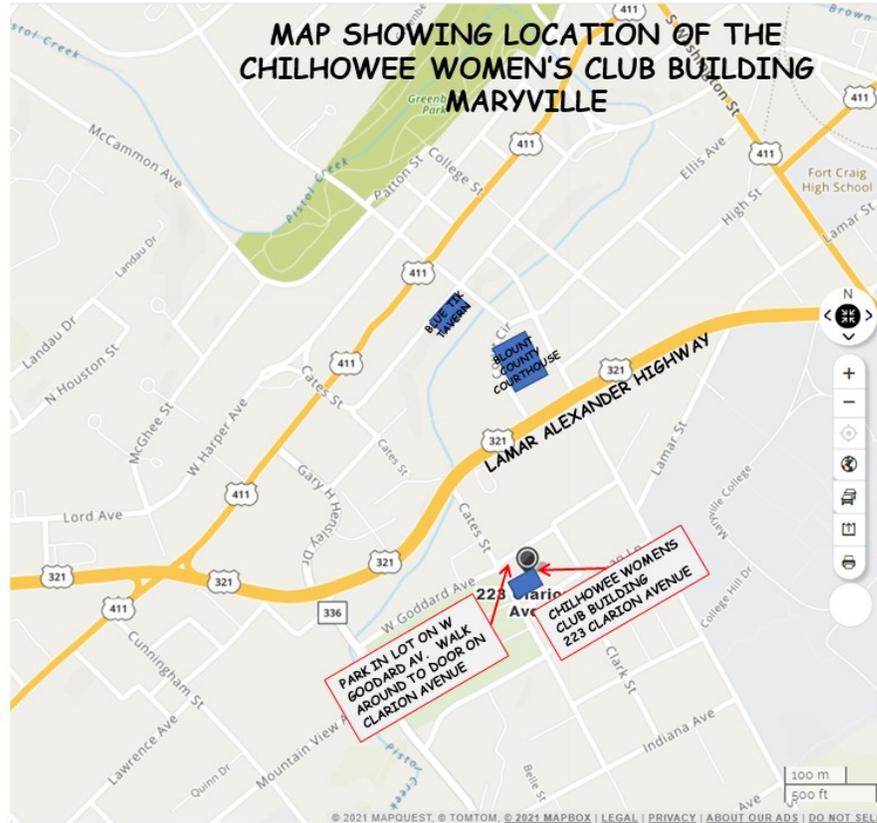
Bob Bishop
President

NOVEMBER MEETING - THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30 AT THE CHILHOWEE WOMEN'S CLUB IN MARYVILLE

The November meeting will be our holiday party, as well as a chance to view some of our online auction items. You will not be able to bid on any of the items at the meeting, but will have the chance to touch and feel the items.

We will be meeting at the Chilhowee Women's Club, located at 223 Clarion Avenue

in Maryville. The meeting will begin at 6:00, pizza and non-alcoholic drinks will be provided. Feel free to bring a dish to share.



There will not be a meeting in December. See the December newsletter for information on the January meeting.

LRCTU ON-LINE AUCTION FUNDRAISER

The Little River Chapter On-Line Auction Fundraiser opens for bids on November 20th. At least 80% of the proceeds from the auction will be donated to the GSMNP Fisheries Department. You can contribute by bidding on auction items or by making a direct donation thru the auction website. Unlike past years proxy bidding, this year's auction will be a traditional English style auction requiring you to manually enter a higher bid than the previous bidder to participate.

Most of the auction items will be available for viewing at the November 30th Chapter Meeting at the Chilhowee Club on the Maryville College Campus. Bidding will close on December 3rd.

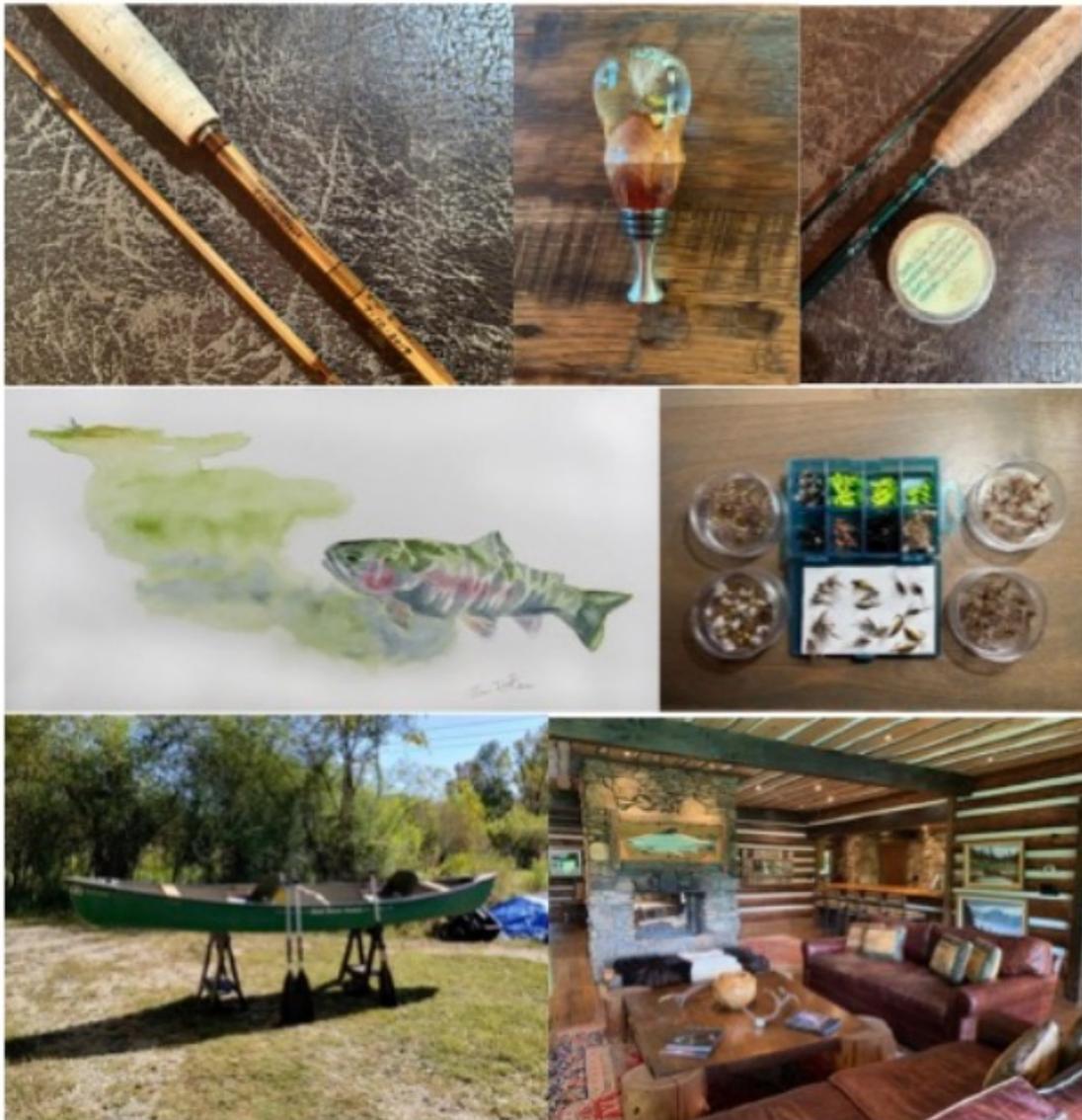
Ninety-two (92) items have been donated to the auction with a total value of over \$10,000. Auctions items include, but are not limited to, the following.

- Hemlock House on Norton Creek (2 Night Stay with Private Fishing)
- Walter Babb Custom Bamboo Fly Rod

- Ian Rutter Original Watercolor
- Four (4) Guided Fishing Trips
- Mad River Canoe
- Five (5) Fly Rods
- Five (5) Fly Reels
- Fly Fishing Accessories
- Fly Tying Supplies
- Custom Woodworking Items
- Handcrafted Items

We appreciate the local businesses listed below that have contributed either gift cards or merchandise to the auction.

- The Abbey
- Aubrey's
- Foothills Milling Company
- Headwaters Outfitters
- Leslie Ballard Art
- Little River Outfitters
- R & R Fly Fishing – Ian & Charity Rutter
- Richard Witt Fly Fishing
- Tellico Outfitters
- Tellico River Rods & Flies – Walter Babb
- Tellico Village Golf
- Trout Zone Anglers – Pat Tully



UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Matt Kulp, NPS Fisheries, has emphasized that we stay within the limit of volunteers requested. Too many people causes confusion and there's not enough work for everyone. Richard Barnes will fill in volunteer names as he is contacted. It's first come, first serve. Because it's possible to have cancellations as conditions may change between now and June/July he will schedule two more than requested to cover contingencies.

Richard Barnes, TN Coordinator, can be reached at canceleer1@gmail.com or 949-212-8480. TN opportunity will be designated (RB).

Mike Kesselring, NC Coordinator, can be reached at mikessel59@gmail.com or 828-736-6929. NC opportunity will be designated (MK).

Nov 18 - Bi-monthly acid deposition sample (NC and TN) #Vol. 10 - 12 (RB) and (MK)

Dec 9 - Pistol Creek Cleanup - see more information below.

PISTOL CREEK CLEANUP - SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

Our semi-annual commitment to the City of Maryville to do a cleanup of "our" mile of Pistol Creek from the US321 bridge to the library ponds prior to the winter trout stocking project by TWRA will be held Saturday, December 9.

The cleanup starts at 9:00 am when we will meet at the Old Blount County Courthouse parking lot in Maryville. We will provide bags, gloves and grabbers. Wear clothes and shoes you are willing to get dirty. You can also choose to wear waders and boots to get a closer stream experience.

AQUATIC ORGANISM PASSAGE (AOP) BARRIER SURVEYS

by Bernie Maloy

Jeff Wright (TU staff and Program Manager) has worked with Matt Kulp to finalize the Phase 2 survey site list which has 169 sites on the TN side of the GSMNP. Of these, 31 are on Rich Mountain Rd and Parson Branch Rd which are closed until early April. We may be able to get access to these using Park Service vehicles, but for now we will focus on the other 138 sites. We have not yet committed to a schedule, but our goal is to complete all sites by the end of April 2024. Two teams (4 people each) were able to get out on 11/9/23 and completed surveys (12 total sites) in the Greenbrier area, and more workdays are being scheduled. Trained team leaders include Bob and Sara Bishop, Ron and Connie Miller, Tom Feil, Joe Wood, Richard Barnes and Bernie Maloy. Team Leaders reach out to other volunteers in the pool to form teams. If you are interested in participating and not sure if you are in the pool, contact Bernie Maloy at 52bazzman@gmail.com or (865)-324-9341. Or, contact one of the Team Leaders and they will make sure you get added.

TIE AND LIE

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27 @ CASUAL PINT, MARYVILLE - 6:30



Ernie Frey will be demonstrating the dry October Caddis with orange dyed elk hair for the wing, instead of the white as shown in the video. Jimmy Jones will be demonstrating the wet October Caddis.





Hook: #8-12 Dry fly (straight or curved)
Thread: Orange or rusty brown
Body: Rusty orange rabbit
Underwing: Natural or tan Z-lon
Wing: Orange Elk hair (or deer hair)
Hackle: Brown dry fly



Hook: #6-8 2x long wet
Thread: Rusty brown or orange
Rib: Pearl flash **Body:** Orange or amber fur
Hackle: Partridge
Head: Pheasant after shaft feather

TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM RELEASES

It seems we just put rainbow trout eggs in the classroom tanks, but here it is almost time to release them as small fry. There are 5 schools planning to hold their release event in December at the KOA Campground in Townsend, rain or shine.

This doesn't happen without a lot of volunteer help. For each release event, there will be stations for aquatic insects, water quality and show and tell by a couple of the fisheries agencies. For each school, we will need 3 volunteers to find aquatic insects in the COLD water. One of these volunteers can then discuss the insects with the students. The other 2 volunteers can help with the actual release by keeping the smallmouth at bay. We will also need someone that could discuss water quality and conservation with the students at the water quality station. Depending on the fisheries agency program, there may be volunteers needed to assist with shocking some fish before the students arrive. Volunteers will need to arrive 1 hour prior to the students.

The schedule for releases is as follows:

Dec 5 - John Sevier Elementary kindergartners. 60 students to arrive at 9 am

Dec 6 - Tates School 4th graders. 26 students to arrive at xx

Dec 7 - Clayton Bradley Academy 2nd graders. 20 students to arrive 10

Dec 11 - Lonsdale Elementary 5th graders. 35 students to arrive at xx

Dec 13 - Episcopal Of Knoxville 4th graders. 37 students to arrive at 10 am

Porter Elementary will release their fish on December 12 and will only be releasing. Volunteers have already been scheduled.

Jennifer Childers, Jama and Tim Hurst have been the team supporting the TIC program at Porter Elementary for more than 6 years. Jana and Tim wish to move on and let someone else enjoy this experience. Jennifer has been involved long enough that she can take care of most activities associated with the tank, but still needs some help with release and setup preparations. If you'd like to step in as the Porter School Coordinator, let me know at jmfrey@comcast.net.

NEW MEMBERS

Steve Merritt

Welcome to the Little River Chapter of TU (LRCTU). Our Chapter was established years ago as a nonprofit volunteer organization committed to protecting and restoring cold water resources and watersheds in and around the Great Smoky Mountain National Park. We hope to be able to offer you plenty of activities to join us in our mission. As a member, you will receive our monthly newsletter issued around

the 15th of each month. as well as email notifications of any activities that may be happening during the month. Our meeting is the 4th Thursday of the month (with the exception of July, November, and December) held at the Bluetick Tavern in Maryville. Social hour starts at 6:00 with month's program starting at 7:00 and the Chapter's business meeting immediately following. Feel free to visit our website at lrctu.org, contact me at lrctu.newsletter@gmail.com or any of the Board Members listed on the website for information.

MEMBERS OUT THERE

"They" say there are 5 levels of fly fishing. One - just to catch a fish. Two - to catch more fish. Three - to catch a big fish. Four - to catch the hardest fish. Five - just to fish. I generally consider myself at the fifth level, but gosh, those big fish sure are fun. These 2 were caught by Ernie and I at the Raven Fork Trophy section in Cherokee, NC.



STEELHEAD ALLEY - FISHING THE LAKE ERIE TRIBUTARIES

Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York stock hundreds of thousands steelhead smolts in the Lake Erie tributaries ("tribs") each year. The smolt are 6 to 8 inches and spend time in the tribs in order to imprint "home" waters. In the spring, they will migrate into the Lake where they typically spend 2 years growing. At around 3 years, they will migrate for spawning back into the tribs as 5 to 12 pound steelheads.

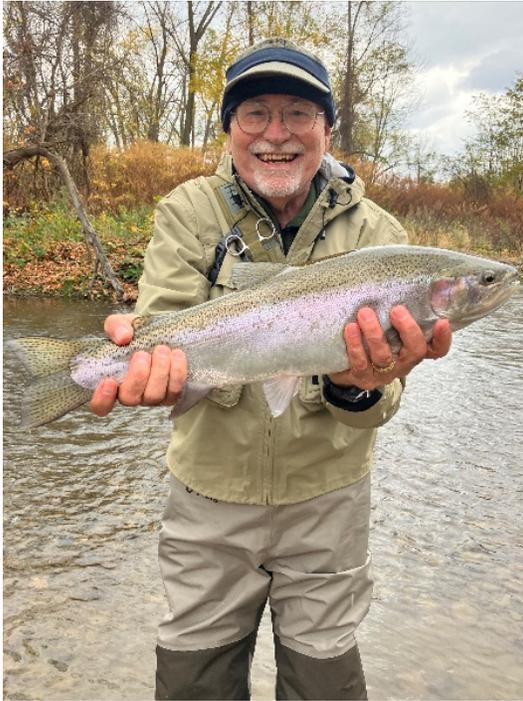
Migration out of the lake depends on the temperature of the water falling into the mid 50's and enough water in the smaller streams for them to actually move into the streams. Depending on the weather and rainfall, by the second week in November, any stream that's going to have steelhead does. Fly equipment for fishing these steelhead is a 7 - 8 weight rod, 3X leaders and 4X tippet. Flies are anything from egg patterns, nymphs, and any type of streamer.

Ernie and I have been making this trip north for the last 25+ years, partly to see my family in the Buffalo area, and to fish. Ernie starts watching the rainfall and stream

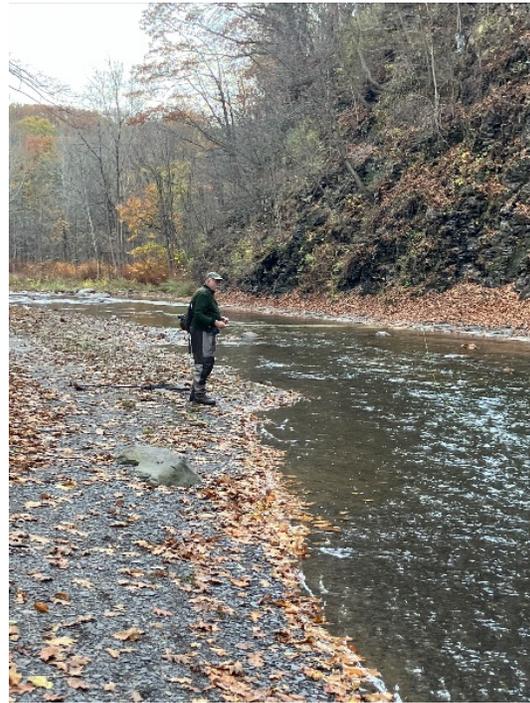
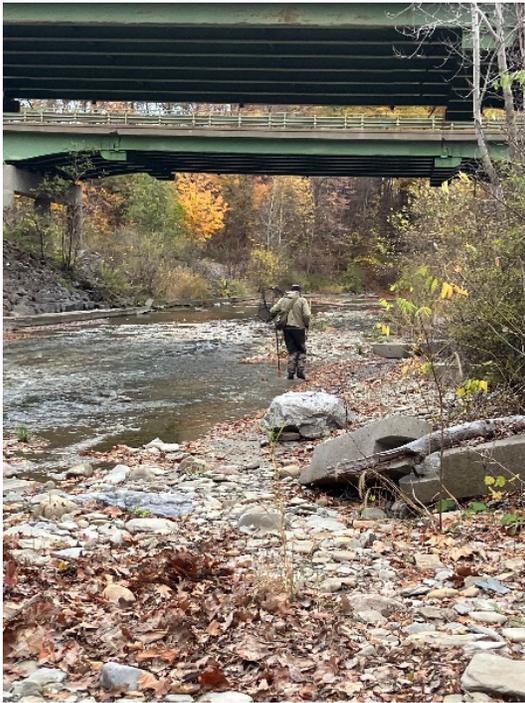
levels the beginning of October. When the time is right, its usually a couple days notice to get accommodations and all the other things that go along with traveling.

This year on Halloween, before meeting my brother and his wife Peg in Dunkirk, NY we checked out a couple of the streams. The rain from the weekend had pretty much blown them out. The Cattaraugus (Catt for locals) looked like chocolate milk and wouldn't clear for 3 or 4 days. The Canadaway was a bit colored, but looked like it might be possible the next day.

We headed out to fish Canadaway Tuesday. It was in the low 40's, some rain and snow falling, perfect steelhead catching weather. To our surprise, there wasn't anyone on the stream and we had our choice of several nice holes. Despite the weather, we had a good day, Ernie and I catching some nice sized fish. All three of us caught several small smolt in the 5 to 8 inch range.



Wednesday we headed up to the Chautauqua Creek. There were lots of fishermen. Unfortunately, no one was catching or even seeing anything. It appeared that the steelhead hadn't made it this far in the stream yet. After several hours fishing several sections of stream, with very cold fingers, we headed home.



Thursday we headed back to Canadaway for a great day. Jeff hooked 3 and landed the third one, in addition to 20 smolt. I hooked and landed 2. Ernie hooked a very nice one, but lost it because I had tied the fly on and my knot didn't hold. Needless to say there were some words after that and promises to not touch his line or fly rod again.



Friday we headed up to 18 Mile Creek in Hamburg, NY. This is a beautiful conservation park that is catch and release only. The water was low and very clear with only a couple areas that were actually holding fish. Unfortunately, none of them

would bite on anything. We talked with several fishermen and all said the same thing - "I threw everything I had at them and nothing would bite." We fished for several hours enjoying the warmer weather and the scenery. (We still haven't been able to figure out what type of fossil this is in the second picture.)



After resting the weekend, we headed back to Canadaway Monday morning, on the stream by 9:00 (which is a chore for me). The water was down and very clear. We found fish at the first hole; unfortunately they weren't biting on anything. The same with the second and third holes. We kept trying, moving from one hole to the next. Around 3:00 the weather changed, clouds moved in, wind started blowing a gale, and rain was not too far away. Sure enough, the bite was on! Ernie hooked 3 in our favorite hole and landed one. I hooked 1 and lost it after playing it for several minutes. Ernie says I play them too hard. The rain was moving in so we headed out, stopping to fish one last hole. We both managed to hook several more but didn't land any of them. It was sure fun to play them though, seeing them jump and aggressively attempt to get to cover.

Last day of fishing was on the Chautauqua again. We saw a couple, but with the water so low and clear they were really spooky. I found a nice deep hole further upstream with several huge fish. Unfortunately, they weren't biting. On our way back to the truck around dusk, it was fun to watch the steelhead try to make their way upstream, pushing each other around for the best run. Ernie managed to hook one on a very small egg pattern, but never landed it. I'd say we had a very successful steelhead season.

Happy Thanksgiving

Joyce Frey
Newsletter Editor



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