

Little River Chapter

Newsletter

Oct 2001

Editor Joe Hatton

<http://members.home.net/littlerivertu/Oct2001>



Next Meeting

The next meeting is on the **Fourth** Thursday October 25 at 7:00 pm. We are meeting at Monte Vista Baptist Church at 1735 Old Niles Ferry Rd. in Maryville. The church has an entrance on the opposite side of Hwy 129 between the Bi-Lo and the Co-op Gas station.

Program

Ian & Charity Rutter, presentation on Western fly fishing in the Grand Tetons, Yellowstone National Park and Paradise Valley area. If you have any plans on going out west next year this meeting would be a great start on planning your trip.

Door prize

First Aid kit, this a handy item to keep close for them rough days on the trout streams

Stream Work

November 17 - 18 Quarterly Acid Deposition Sample

Membership renewal

When it is time for your membership to Trout Unlimited to be renewed bring the form to the next meeting with your check wrote to Trout Unlimited. I will mail it for you and this way the chapter can receive money from T.U. National. This is one easy way to help our chapter out.

Fishing Picks

By: Ian Rutter

Leaves are changing color while brown trout and brookies are coming out of their hidey holes to look for a mate and spawn. Autumn is definitely upon us with some of the most magical fly fishing of the year. Cooler temperatures have brought the water to a temperature that is about as close to perfect for trout activity as can be found. Add to that prolific hatches of midges, small mayflies, and caddis and you need to mark some time off of your calendar and go fishing.

As I have mentioned before, the delayed harvest streams in North Carolina are worth checking out. Laurel Creek near Hot Springs, Nantahala between Bryson City and Andrews, and the Tuckaseegee River near Sylva are all great spots to get some "hero shots". Rainbows, browns, and brookies are all common 12"-14" with a few of each going substantially larger. Closer to home, the Tellico River is on this program this year. Rainbows have been stocked from Turkey Creek downstream to the Oosterneck canoe and kayak access.

Dry flies in smaller sizes like #16-#18 are working very well right now. However, I fished yesterday with Pigeon Forge fisherman Ray Ball and he was doing well with a #10 Orange Palmer. Pheasant tail nymphs work great. (continue on the page two)

Fishing picks (continued from page one)
My all time favorite nymph for fall, the Prince Nymph, will also fool its share of trout.

Look for the best hatches to happen from just before lunch time until dark. Nymphs and attractor dry flies will work well until then. Don't forget streamer fishing, either. This highly under utilized tactic might account for your best trout of the year. Make space in your fly box for Muddler Minnows, Spruce Fly Streamers, and Woolly Buggers. The weather will only get colder from here, so get out while you can!

Ian Rutter, is now guiding for Little River Outfitter. Give him a call the next time you want to spend a day in the park.

Tighten It Up!

By: Jim Parks

It seems that every year I am reminded of a few lessons learned from years past, that come in handy when fishing doesn't make sense. Several years ago, I was fishing with my father on Deep Creek. He is purely a recreational fisherman who can go years without wetting a line and not think anything about it. I can never understand that. We had been fishing for an hour or so high-sticking some fast pocket water using some long-forgotten nymph pattern. He was catching three trout to my one. I knew we were using the same pattern, so it did not make any sense. In my frustration, I sat down and reeled in my line. I had been getting a lot of strikes, some fairly hard, but I was missing probably four out of five. He too was getting strikes, but connecting on a lot more. The first thing I noticed, as he yanked in another twelve inch brown, was that he was pulling his line. Doesn't he know that he's not supposed to do that because it causes drag? Not only that, but the trout were not following the rules either! While I had

worked at producing the perfect drag-free drift, he had been slightly pulling his line and nailing one trout after another with ease! Using the advice of Yosemite Sam, "If you can't beat em, join em!" I started slightly pulling my fly, not enough to strip it out of the water, but just enough to keep my line tight. BANG, first strike, I caught a trout. As the day wore on, I not only caught more, but I missed very few. My dad had taught me a few lessons. First of all, you don't have to always follow the rules. Second, by placing extra emphasis on keeping all of the slack out of my line, it was much easier to set the hook. It seemed that due to the structure of the stream, with it's boulders, pockets, the speed of the runs, the trout either were unable to notice the drag or did not think it to be unusual. Often, strikes would come as the fly neared the surface and the end of the drift. I assumed the trout saw this as an emerging nymph. The major focus and greatest difficulty in high-stick nymphing is strike detection. I was not having trouble detecting strikes, just setting the hook. However, by removing any extra slack out of the line, strike detection and setting the hook is quicker.

This summer on Little River, I was fishing some fast pocket water and missing four out of five strikes. After assuring my hook was sharp I pondered my failure to connect on more strikes. I remembered my dad on Deep Creek. I pulled a little extra slack out of my line, concentrated less on the drag free drift and BANG! Fish on. The next time you are high-sticking and unable to connect on strikes that seem obvious, remember my dad on Deep Creek. It works for me.

Message from our President

By: Tom Eustis

We had our first Board meeting and it is good to know that there are so many individuals interested in seeing our chapter grow and helping to get me started in this new position. I have got a lot to learn, but one thing is quite clear. This is a very good TU Chapter. Little River one a very few that was identified by National to participate in an exciting new program of chapter development. Two meetings have been planned as part of this new program. Our Board of directors will hold a planning session in late November or very early in December. Kim Ryals, the southeast Coordinator from National, will facilitate this strategic planning session. The next planned event will be a statewide workshop for TU chapters with the focus of improving our knowledge and skills in chapter development. This statewide workshop is scheduled on February 8-10 and will be held in Townsend. The workshop is designed for new leaders, incoming leaders and potential leaders who will be at front of our chapter's operation for the next 2-3 years and we need to have three people attending.

I got a call and email from Steve Fry announcing a TN Council on November 3rd in Knoxville. The meeting will begin at noon and should be over about 2. A site has not yet been determined and if anyone has a suggestion please let me know. The agenda will include: how TU might help resolve the inaction of the State on the NAC fire/Watauga fish kill, an update on the proposed purchase of Miller's Island in the Clinch River. We should also bring agenda items from our watershed for the TU/TVA Cooperative Meeting for Enhancement of Coldwater Fisheries to be held 1/26/02.

One thing I have learned so far is that the National mailing list for our chapter has a

large number of people who just get the T.U. Magazine. It would seem that we have a good list of prospects to get involved in our projects like clean up and sampling. Any ideas on how we should go about getting these people involved in the our projects? Please let me hear from you. Tom Eustis 681-2688 or tqtom@icx.net.

Fly of the Month

Hare ear prince nymph

Hook: Nymph, 1X to 2X long, size 10 to 18

Thread: Brown

Wing: Two white goose biots

Abdomen: Hare's ear and mask fur with guard hairs left in

Rib: Oval gold French tinsel

Legs: Brown hackle

Tail: Two black goose biots

Egg Sack: green silk thread or green floss





Joseph T Hatton
 4809 Ridgedale Rd
 Knoxville, Tn 37921

President - Tom Eustis

Vice President - Jim Parks

Secretary/Treasurer - Roy Hawk

Newsletter Editor - Joe Hatton

Resource Director -

Web Page Editor - Roy Hawk

Board Members

Lynn Hayes	Mike Stiehl	Byron Begley	Dave Maxey
Jack Gregory	Joe Hatton	Wayne Everback	Ken Henderson
Gary Ramsey	David Ray	Walter Babb	Randall Barnes

FLY TYING • GUIDE TRIPS

588-6159

6907 Kingston Pike
 Knoxville, TN 37919

Over 700 patterns

Fly Fishing Classes

Fly Tying Instruction

THE CREEK

East Tennessee's Fly Fishing Community

SCOTT • ABEL • THOR • ARI • UMPAUA • OUTCAST • SIMMS • GIFTS • SAGE • WINSTON • ORVIS

Little River Outfitters

PO Box 505 Townsend, Tennessee 37882
 Toll Free 877-448-3474 Local 865-448-9459

- Fly Shop
- Fly Fishing School
- Guide Service