

Little River Chapter

Newsletter

OCTOBER 2003

Editor Joe Hatton

<http://mywebpages.comcast.net/Littlerivertu/index.html>



Next Meeting

The next meeting is on the Fourth Thursday October, 23 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 BiLo and the Co-op Gas station.

Program

Writer, Sam Venable will be speaking at the Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited. He has a collection of his all-time favorite East Tennessee (true-by-gosh) fish stories, gleaned from 15 years of covering the outdoors. Anyone who enjoys fishing ought to get a kick out of them. He calls this program, "Buddy, This Ain't No....." which is the way 99.9 percent of tales always start out! Come join us for some fishing talk as well as the opportunity to listen to one of the region's funniest outdoor comedian/writer.

Stream work

November 15 - 16 Quarterly Acid Deposition Sample



Fishing Picks

By Ian Rutter

Cool weather has arrived. Fall color is at its peak in the highest elevations and is sliding down the slopes. Leaves are making their way into the river, but don't let them aggravate you too much because the fishing is just too good. Start the morning off with a beadhead fished under an indicator. About 11 o'clock or noon switch to a dry fly. Something in a #16 is good to blind fish riffles or pockets. You might drop to a #18 or #20 if you notice fish rising in a run. Brookies and browns have taken on the bright coloration of spawning fish but have yet to actually spawn. That should be around the end of the month or as late as early November. Brook trout water in the Smokies will fish great, but the only problem is the traffic associated with those areas along Newfound Gap Road. A better alternative might be to fish in the Cherokee National Forest. The Tellico area has some great brook trout water: Sycamore Creek, Meadow Branch, Rough Ridge Creek, and upper Bald River. The northern district also has some good waters. Perhaps the best is Rocky Fork near Erwin. You'll need your Tennessee atlas to find that one. Delayed harvest season has also arrived on selected mountain streams. Tellico River downstream of Turkey Creek and Paint Creek are both under these regulations. [CONTINUED ON PAGE 2]

Fishing Picks [FROM PAGE 1] North Carolina's delayed harvest waters are usually more productive. Favorites are the Nantahala, Tuckaseegee, and Big Laurel Creek. Most of the fish in these streams are relatively new stockers but will get smarter as the months wear on. You may find them eating any number of fly patterns right now but they will get fussier by the end of the winter. Don't worry though, it's far easier to catch a number of good trout on these streams at any time than it is in wild waters. The tailwaters are finally running consistent schedules for wade fishermen. The Clinch has been a little slow and the Hiwassee usually fishes the slowest in the fall. The best bet for some good tailwater fishing will be the South Holston. Look for excellent hatches of Blue Wing Olives peppered with few Sulphurs. Fish in between with small Pheasant Tail Nymphs or midge pupa patterns.

Anticipation

By Gary Verholek

Battling Saturday morning crowds on the Clinch River, the famous tailwaters below TVA's Norris Reservoir, doesn't rank high on my "Fun List" but fishing there does. Therein lies the dilemma. Friday evening, I found myself checking gear and stringing my rod for the morning to come. It was anticipation I hadn't felt in a long time, but it was tempered by the knowledge that I wouldn't have the river to myself, as I could during the week.

The near-record summer rains have kept Norris Lake full thru the summer months, and TVA's increased discharge schedule had limited my flyfishing since spring. TVA runs a minimum flow of 800 cfs for the fish and other aquatic life, which is when wading is best. When generation begins, typically around 10am, flows can reach about 9,000 cfs. That amount of flow is difficult for drift boats to

handle, and impossible for wading fly fishermen.

During the summer, I had managed to get in brief fishing sessions before the generation flow made it dangerous. Wade fishing was possible until about 11am during the week. But as of August 1st, TVA began the winter flood control draw-down on Norris, which means they run two generators at full flow virtually all day except for a few hours each night. On Saturday and Sunday, they run minimum flow until 9 or 10 or even 11 AM, which allows for a comfortable period of fishing before you have to start watching for the water to envelop the rock you are standing on. According to the generation schedule on the TVA web site, today would be one of those days.

As I said, the anticipation was consuming. It almost felt like Opening Day, but Tennessee has no closed season, so there is no Opening Day. Having been shut out by the rains and the TVA flood control schedule for so long, I was willing to take on the crowds on a Saturday morning, but it would be an early start if I wanted to get to my favorite "rock". Even if I made it first, it wouldn't be as delightful as a weekday virtually alone on the river. But I was desperate; I was having Clinch withdrawal. The anticipation was almost overwhelming.

As I set the alarm for 5am, I agonized over giving up the one blissful morning when I could lounge in bed after a week of 6am workdays. I hadn't done a 5am fishing wake-up since my high school days, when my Uncle John would pick me up each and every Saturday morning to go Crappie fishing on Pymatuning Reservoir in Western Pennsylvania. The memories stirred as I lay back on the pillows. [CONTINUED ON PAGE 3]

Anticipation [FROM PAGE 2] So much so that I awoke several times during the night to be sure I hadn't missed the alarm.

The anticipation almost made me laugh aloud.

Sure enough, a couple of minutes before five, I awoke to look at the clock once again. Two minutes to five. Not wanting to risk falling back to sleep and missing my slot on the river, I got up, and hit the floor for my daily stretch exercises (at my age you don't dare miss these). I then grabbed for the Dappled Leaf fishing camouflage shirt by Aqua Design and some matching zip-off pants. I wanted every advantage I could muster.

I skipped the coffee and headed out figuring I'd stop at the first open gas station or fast-food stop. The gas station was a mistake. All I found was stale coffee and a cold egg biscuit. I should have held out for a more reliable, high cholesterol, fast-food breakfast. All I could think of was my last outing on the Clinch, so I whipped back onto Interstate 75 and headed for the Norris exit. I had to hurry, lest someone get "my rock".

I tried to eat the biscuit on the road, but the patchy morning fog made anything less than full attention dangerous. After two bites, it was obvious that the stale food would not be a distraction. I re-wrapped it and tossed it on the floor of the passenger's side. Now, the objective was clear, even if the road wasn't.

I arrived at the river shortly after 6am, a full 30 minutes before first light, only to find 16 vehicles lined up in the parking lot and only three fly fishermen still in the process of saddling up. My goodness! Clinch Fever is rampant. The river would be crowded today.

Having done the Saturday morning mamba before, I knew time was of the essence. Last night, anticipating this scene, I added a Lamson SP 1.5 with SA Mastery floating line (WF-3-F) on my 8-ft, 3-wt Fly Logic

rod and strung on a Bead Head Pheasant Tail nymph. That early in the morning, the BHPT would be standard fare for trout. Within ten minutes I had donned my Simms breathable waders and my chest pack, took one last pull on the coffee cup and headed for the water.

Water!? Were it not for the sound of ripples, I wouldn't be able to find the water. The 55-degree water created a low, thick layer of fog and visibility wasn't 50 feet. Argh! I was right behind the three laggards, and we were all making our way to the north side of Miller's Island. As we cleared the upper tip of the island and began making our way down stream, fishermen appeared in the mist, one after another - ethereal figures with a stick in their hands - three, four, five... And there, standing on "my rock" was a fisherman with his rod bent, catching "my fish". My heart sank; my anticipation ebbed.

I wondered how far downstream I would have to trudge to find an open run or pool. Almost miraculously, my three uninvited companions walked past the run below my pool. I quickly slipped into deeper water to take up my station. As I released my fly, I notice that they stopped just below me, because below them were more fishermen, one after another, each claiming a rock of his own.

Wanting to stake my claim to the run, I quickly unstrung the rod and casted. Zing! Fish on. It was a stout rainbow. I didn't quit get him to hand, but close enough to see he would have been bragging length. My anticipation rose to new heights. That was only the beginning, I thought, as I cast with more intensity.

By now you are probably thinking that would be my only fish. No. [CONTINUED ON PAGE 4]

Anticipation [FROM PAGE 3] I caught several fish in my 3- hour outing - Rainbows and Browns in the 14"- 17" range. And I caught them on a variety of flies – the BHPT and a BH midge, then a black Elk Hair Caddis when the few of them hatched.

Most satisfyingly, I was able to cast to rising fish and entice them to hit. That alone makes a day memorable. No, it wasn't my best day on the Clinch, but I've never had a bad day on the Clinch. Come to think of it, I have never had a bad day standing in stream with a fly rod in hand, feeling the flow of the water buoy my spirit. That's the main reason I fly fish.

Gary

TUTV

The new season of TUTV begins Sunday October 5th at 12:30 pm EST on OLN. The first episode features Tim Linehan fishing on the Animas River in Colorado and will highlight (or low-light) how the Animus has suffered from historical mining damage and how the local Trout Unlimited chapter, in partnership with the Southern Ute tribe, are working hard to protect and enhance the river. The rest of the TUTV season is shown Below.

Watauga River, Tennessee.
Sunday October 12th

Mountain Streams, North Carolina.
Sunday October 19th.

Stonycreek, Pennsylvania.
Sunday October 26th.

Carmans River, Long Island, New York.
Sunday November 2nd.

Wood River, Idaho.
Sunday November 9th.

Lamar River, Yellowstone Park.
Sunday November 16th.

Lower Clark Fork River, Montana.
Sunday November 23d.

Rio Grande, Colorado.
Sunday November 30th.

North Platte River, Wyoming.
Sunday December 7th.

Verdigre Creek, Nebraska.
Sunday December 14th.

California Steelhead. Sunday December 21st.
Best of TUTV, Sunday December 28th,
For more information, visit tutv.org.

BBQ Trout

Yield: 2 servings

2 Trout

Lemon juice

-----MARINADE FOR FISH:-----

1/2 c Soy sauce

1/2 c Cooking sherry

1 tb Lemon juice

1 Clove crushed garlic

1/4 c Salad oil

Brush trout with lemon juice inside and out to preserve freshness

before refrigeration. Place 2 trout, 10 to 12 inch or legal fish, in shallow baking dish; pour marinade (recipe follows) over fish. Let stand for

one hour. Place on grill and cook until done, approx. 15 minutes. The drained marinade should be used for basting during cooking.

Hatch Schedule

October–November

Insect	Time of Month	Time of day	Fly Patterns
Fly-Mottled Tan / Yellow Caddis	early to middle of Oct	P.M.	14-16 Elk Hr. or Cinnamon Trukey Cda : 14-16 Brn & Yel.Cda. Pupa
Larger Ginger Caddis	early to middle of Oct	Dawn to Dusk	6-8 Elk Hr. Cds (all Ginger) or Red Fox Squirrel Tail Cda 6-8 Ginger Cda. Pupa
Blue –winged Olive	Oct to M Nov.	M-day to M pm	18 BWO (emerg. Wet dry para) 18 Adama Parachute; 16-18 BWO Nymph or Pheasant Tail Nymph
Midges	Both Months	M am to M pm	18-20 Grey or Black Midge; 18-20 Gnats (Griffith's Gray); 18-20 Modge pupa

- This replaces all current rebate systems, except the end-of-year \$2.50/ member rebate which will remain unchanged

Every Chapter president and Council chair will soon receive a mailing with a detailed explanation of the new system and a quantity of new TU membership applications and other materials.

This does not get us back to days prior to the regional vice president position when the end of year rebate was \$10 instead of \$2.50 pre-member. But its better then what we had. We need to wait and see what is in the details and how or if we can make it work for our chapter .

Joe

Fly of the Month

Zug Bug

Hook: 5262 or 3761, sizes 10-14; weighted

Thread: Black

Tail: 5-8 fibers of peacock sword

Rib: Silver tinsel

Abdomen: Peacock herl

Legs: brown or furnace hackle, beard-style

Wingcase: Mallard dyed woodduck

Rebate System Changes...

The new rebate system will go into effect this month. Here is the basic system:

- Chapters and councils can offer a one-time first-year membership at a special introductory rate of **\$17.50**
- Members can join by mail, by phone or on the web
- Chapter or council will be rebated the entire amount (or a larger rebate if the member joins at a higher level)





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