

Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited

October, 2016 Newsletter



Monthly Meeting
Thursday, October 27 - at Calhoun's Maryville

President's Corner

(Mike Bryant, who's column usually appears here, is on hiatus this month with trips to Europe and Montana)

October Program to Feature Tennessee Valley Anglers



On October 27, Jon Oody, Owner of Tennessee Valley Anglers, will present his collection of photos and stories that chronicle his journey as fishing guide in search of trout, striper, and muskie in the waters of East Tennessee and Southwest Colorado. He will discuss his past fishing experiences, as well as what he is currently doing and the plans he has for the future of Tennessee Valley Anglers.

The meeting will be held at Calhoun's Maryville, located in the same complex as Target. Social hour starts at 6:00 p.m. with the business/program beginning at 7:00 p.m. You do not have to eat dinner to attend.



TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM

By Joyce Frey

All of our schools have reported successful hatches and have released the fry into their tanks. The only problem reported so far was from Tate's School. Matt kept finding the fry swimming around in the filter. That was remedied by putting some fiberglass screen around the filter intake tube.



Several of the schools will be releasing their rainbows at the Townsend KOA campground early December. I'll provide dates next month for anyone that wants to come out to watch or be a part of the fun.

Check out the video of an alevin under the microscope on a video posted to the LRCTU web site.

Wendy, the 7th grade science teacher and her students from the Episcopal School of Knoxville, were completing a lab looking at pond water under the microscopes. She attached a video camera and the kids asked, wonder what

the trout would look like under magnification? They pulled one alevin out and let him "swim" in a drop of water under 400x magnification. The kids were so excited, so was I!

If you'd like to join us in any part of this program, let me know. I'll be glad to get you matched up with a school and coordinator. You can email me at jmfrey@comcast.net.



Big Sky Yields Big Fish

By Dave Ezell

So, Montana can be a little tricky weather-wise in October and it did nothing to spoil that reputation for a recent trip. During the second week of October, this group of five anglers saw snow, sustained 30-40 mile winds with gusts to 60 mph and then sunshine, calm and 60 degrees, all of which we fished in over 8 days – six on the Missouri, near Craig, MT, and two on the Smith River, near... nowhere.

The two days on the Smith were added to the front end of this trip due to an impending mine operation nearby that threatens the future quality of the river. After arrival to Great Falls, MT, two of us were chauffeured by the proprietor of Heaven On Earth Ranch, Vic Anderson, 40 miles from Great Falls to his spread. Twenty miles of this jaunt was on gravel roads, some of them with potholes big enough to swallow an economy sized rental car. The rest of the crew, arriving later that afternoon, had to make their own way to HOER, getting lost only a couple of times.



Heaven on Earth Ranch – Smith River

HOER is an anomaly. Several cabins, stables, a comfortable little bar, a communal lodge/mess hall and a nine-hole, 3-par, cow pasture golf course, yes, a golf course, sit in a canyon cut by the Smith River and are



HOER – Lunch Delivered By Horseback

the center of activity for the 4000 acres that encompass the ranch. Approximately 3.5 miles of the river cuts through this “small” ranch and contain some of the orneriest trout that I’ve experienced. This stay provided one and a half days of fishing some of the most remote and beautiful western waters that this angler has laid eyes on.

The second day of fishing included all five of us, two of which were dropped off at the halfway point of these pristine, clear waters with the rest of us entering at the top of the property and fishing our way back the 3.5 miles to the ranch. Lunch, by the way, was served by horse and rider, who somehow found us around mid-day. Wade

fishing miles of long pools, canyon cuts and ripples in this moderately sized river can create an appetite, so at the end of the day, we were served Montana sized steaks and fixuns by Bev the cook. The beef, of course, was sourced through Sam’s Club. Where else would it be from in this land where cattle outnumber humans about 800 to one? HOER is also an active cattle ranch and an elk hunting destination in winter.

After two nights, we departed the ranch (only getting lost once) heading to Craig and the Missouri River with a stopover in Great Falls for provisions. The next day, two of us, Mike Bryant and myself, experienced the Missouri River, for the first time, with a guide, while veterans of this annual trip, Jim Meador, Pat Mason and Charlie Chmielewski, hit the river with their one-man inflatable boats. The Montana “MO” is known to a lot of anglers/boaters. It receives an estimated 300,000 day uses per year. Some rivers would be choked by this hoard, but the MO’s breadth and length allow it to ably handle this without too much disgruntle.

Ben Hardy, one of the sought-after guides who works through Head Hunters fly shop in Craig, provided Bryant and myself with one of the most productive and exhilarating days of fishing experienced. Hardy, an excellent oarsman, has enjoyed 11 years



Typical Bow from the “MO

on the Missouri and his knowledge allowed us to be on fish continuously. For more than eight hours, both Bryant and I fished the same two flies, a scud imitation below a Rainbow czech nymph, at pretty much the same depth below a strike indicator, and boated more than 50 fish. On 10 occasions, we boated doubles (two fish at the same time).

Trout on the Missouri, compared to the norm, are like UFC fighters compared to WWF wrestlers. Their steroid of choice is the insect population coming from the rich plant life that permeates the bed of the Missouri tailwater below Holter Lake. The water flow, or generation, through Holter Dam varies little, thus promoting a rich

underwater flora. Trout in this river environment are known to grow as much as five inches a year. Yep, FIVE inches, and they’re not stockers, they’re native. Thanks to Hardy, we ended that day with glad hearts and weary arms.

For the next five days, we wade fished or floated sections of the river known by the veterans on this trip, some of this in sub-freezing temps, snow and feisty winds. However, one perfect day of floating about four miles of the river from Stickney Creek to Mid-Canon in our inflatables, provided excellent weather and great fishing. It was one of those days that keeps you coming back. A promise any sane angler would make.



Spooky Tie & Lie on Tap for October 31

The Casual Pint in Maryville is scheduled for 6-8 pm on the 31 of October. I understand that is Halloween but what better day to sit around and talk about how to fool fish with feathers and tinsel. Most of us will be

disguised as fishermen but if you want to wear a different costume feel free. At this time I will not be there but will be chasing Steelhead up in the northland.

Smokemont Camping Trip

IT DID NOT RAIN!! For the first time in my association with the camping trips, it did not rain. A great time was had by all and fish were caught in fact a discussion about who caught the largest fish went on most of Saturday night. The



Saturday dinner was amazing barbeque beef brisket, pork stew with couscous, fresh caught rainbow trout and excellent sides and desserts. Attendees fished Bradley fork, Oconaluftee river, Deep creek and Straight fork. Two large rainbow trout were taken from the Oconaluftee and one ended on the dinner table because it could not be revived.



Plan to come on one or both of the chapters' camping trips, it is a lot of fun!

The Little River Chapter Trout Unlimited Newsletter is produced for current members. Please ensure that you have a viable email address on file with your membership information at Trout Unlimited. You can add an email address or update your current email at www.tu.org or call 1-800-834-2419.

Note: Anyone with news, such as an event or account of a fishing trip, etc., please send it along to newsletter editor, Dave Ezell ezop@charter.net

Also, keep up with current events and find valuable information sources at our website www.lrctu.org