

Next Meeting

When: Sept. 22, 2011 (4th Thursday of the month). Dinner served around 7:00 p.m. Come earlier for casting and fishing.

Where: River John's Island – located on the Little River, just northeast of Maryville on Cave Mill Rd.

Directions: From last Pellissippi Pkwy exit, go left on Hwy 33, right on Sam Houston, left on Wildwood, right on Cave Mill.

Program: No set program, just good food and the opportunity to bring your gear and chuck some flies in the river. This is a chance to pick up tips on casting and fishing tips from some of our more learned members.

This is an excellent opportunity to bring a water craft and fish up or down Little River from River John's. John has canoes/kayaks available to rent also. The flow is excellent and water is clear at present. Smallmouth and redeye have been feeding near the banks and from under structure. Suggestion: try drifting a crawfish imitation through seams in the ripples.

Help Wanted

We need help! Any viable organization is only as good as its leadership and like any other organization we need good leaders. Bill Bolinger, billmountainman@charter.net, Dave Ezell, ezop@charter.net, and Jeffrey Hall, j.d.hall@charter.net, are serving as the nominating committee to fill the slate of needed volunteers for our chapter. If you would like to serve in some capacity or know a good candidate please contact one of the above committee members and let them know.

Fly fishing the GSMNP

Thanks to Ian & Charity Rutter, of R&R Fly Fishing, who provided an excellent comparison and contrast between fishing Great Smoky Mountain National Park streams and fishing other well know trout habitats in the United states. The program took place at our August meeting and was arranged by Sidney Abramson.

Ian explained how he regularly has to "educate" experienced fly fishing clients visiting here from out of the region when they first come to fish the GSMNP.

"There is no other place like the Park anywhere else in the country. There are more than 600,000 acres in the park and 300 miles of trout streams," he said. Snow in the higher elevations will create snow pools and feed streams for weeks, he added.

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Willow Rutter, daughter of Ian & Charity, with catch she landed this month on R&R's annual western trip. This was from the banks of the Gibbon River not far upstream of its confluence with the Firehole at the source of the Madison River.

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"The Smokies have very steep gradient streams. There is no mud and no silt and very little dissolved sediment. As a group, they are the steepest streams in North America, he said. Streams here can fall as much as 300 to 500 feet per mile, with the popular Little River dropping an average of 100 feet per mile.

Abundant rainfall feeds the Park streams. Areas between Knoxville, TN, and Asheville, NC, can receive 48 inches of rainfall a year. By comparison, Seattle, WA, receives around 39 inches per year.

One of his biggest challenges in educating visiting anglers is changing their mindset to one of stealth and, maybe, lowered expectations. "People who come from fishing stocked waters have an adjustment to make," he said. Stocking in the GSMNP stopped in the mid-70's. "Although there are plenty of trout in our streams here, the average size will be a lot smaller in comparison."

Stealth also is the key to catching fish in the Park. "It's like the difference between going elk hunting and going out in a field to shoot steer," he said of fishing natural streams versus fishing stocked streams.

Successful anglers in the Smokies always fish upstream, they wade in only as necessary and if they do wade in they pick a noisy spot in the stream to do so. Also critical to success is the ability to side-arm, backhand and roll cast, given the small size of the streams and overhanging foliage.

"You learn to work from the tail of a run to the head of the run in two foot increments," the guide explained.

And forget coming to fish with that one "killer" fly pattern. The smorgasbord of aquatic food available to fish in the park gives way to use of a great number of fly patterns. Some of the most used, Charity said, are, among others, parachute Adams, Wulff styles, stimulator, elk caddis and a variety of beadhead nymphs.

R&R Flyfishing is located in Townsend TN and offers trips on a variety of natural streams and tailwaters. Learn about their upcoming Fall Hazel Creek trip at their website: <http://www.randrflyfishing.com/>

Changes ahead for Troutfest 2012

By Byron Begley

There is no doubt that Troutfest 2012 was the most organized and successful event we have held. The reason for that is, we have an excellent committee and plenty of eager and hard working volunteers. You all did a great job.

As a result, we donated \$26,000 to the Park. Last year we had a TU Embrace-A-Stream Grant that was included in the total of \$45,000 we donated to the fisheries department at the Park. That grant amounted to \$7,800.

Revenue and attendance at the Banquet/ Auction was down from last year. We think there were several reasons for that. First, there were two competing fundraisers that weekend. We have moved next year's Troutfest to the 3rd weekend of May, the 19th through the 21st to avoid Mothers Day and hopefully avoid any conflicts with non-profits fundraisers.

We also believe attendance from other states might have been lower than a year ago based on data from our fly shop. We track our sales at the shop by the customer name. We have their addresses in our database. We looked at our customer transactions during the three days of Troutfest and found a light showing from other states. I think that had to do with higher gasoline prices. Our marketing in other states was done exactly the same as last year.

We had two profit centers that excelled. One was the Troutfest Journal. We made almost \$4,000 our first year from the Journal. Second, the Troutfest Store's revenue increased dramatically and it was also very profitable. We can thank Neil and Joe for that.

Vendors seemed happier than ever. Our attendance at the Expo was down a little from last year. Designated volunteers who counted people that entered the parking lot reported about 1,500 people on Saturday and I think there were around 500 on Sunday. I believe our counts were more accurate this year but those totals indicate attendance was down. Parking donations amounted to about \$2,000.

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Some organization changes for next year include:

- First, we have added four new members to the Troutfest Committee. Three will work with Rufus, Mike, David and the other people who run the auction. These three folks are the type of people who will do well for this very important component of Troutfest.
- Second, Sarah Weeks will handle the fly tying demonstrations. She actually took this over from me a couple of months before the Expo to save my backside. She did a great job in a short



amount of time. Thanks Sarah.

- Third, Michael Bryant will be in charge of vendors. Michael has 10 years experience running a fly fishing show in Ohio. He moved to Laurel Valley and wants to get involved. Jack and I will work closely with Michael.
- Finally, I asked Bill Gwinn to be Chairman of Troutfest. Bill is very familiar with managing volunteer groups and a large group of people. He is a retired Colonel from the United States Army. His last mission before retirement was running the ROTC department at the University of Tennessee.

So now, we have the best leader I can think of for Troutfest. You will see a significant positive difference and since many of you don't know him that well you will have to take my word for it for now. You will see what's going to happen

I will spend my time on the marketing committee. The marketing committee is staffed with some great talent and I like working with these people very much. We will take on the job of getting people here from other states as well as Tennessee and help Neil Smith sell ads for the Troutfest Journal, which from all indications has the potential to be a large profit center.

I have enjoyed and I am honored to serve you and I am committed to support our new management. I think we are poised to improve Troutfest by leaps and bounds in the coming years. All of the changes we have made will prove to be positive for all of us including Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Lynn Camp Prong Brook Trout Restoration Proceeds

Charlie Chmielewski reports that progress in eliminating invasive rainbow trout and restoring native brook trout on Lynn Camp Prong of Little River is proceeding as scheduled.

With help from TWRA, UT students, Haywood Community College students, TU members, and non-TU volunteers the Park Service has accomplished a great deal of work moving fish and treating Lynn Camp Prong to remove rainbow trout. In the past few weeks volunteers also worked around two bad weather days that resulted in weekend work and accompanying short notice changes.

This week was scheduled to collect and move brook trout back into Lynn Camp Prong. Obviously a very important step in the restoration and probably the most rewarding for those helping. Most of the fish were collected and kept in refuge areas but some fish may be collected from the Cosby area and re-located.

The Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited is a Non-Profit Volunteer Organization that is Committed to Protecting and Restoring Cold Water Resources and Watersheds in and Around the Great Smoky Mountains National Park



**Thanks to all of you who
worked on Troutfest.
Great Job!**

And thanks for attending, supporting and donating to Troutfest. Together we have made a difference that we can all be proud of forever.

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Stop by or call about our monthly
fishing seminars, schools and tying classes

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