

# Little River Chapter

Newsletter

Sept 2002

Editor Joe Hatton



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

## Next Meeting

This month's meeting will be held the 4th Thursday **Sept 26 at 6:00 pm** We are moving the location for this month to an island at River John's, the address is 4134 Cave Mill Rd which comes off of Wildwood Rd. Wildwood Rd runs off of East Broadway on the south end. There will be some signs at the various intersections. There is also a map with direction on page four. Joe Teffettetter will be arranging for hamburgers and hot-dogs and such stuff. **MEMBERS ARE TO BRING THEIR OWN REFRESHMENTS !!!** There will be a casting demonstration, a mini casting clinic while it is light and also there will be a talk about rigging, leaders, etc with a few of the old timers doing a round table discussion. So bring your fly fishing rod and reel.

P. S. Everybody that work works on the stream project that day are invited and our members need to make sure they know to show up.

## Stream Work

**September 20 - 22** Abrams Creek Large Stream Monitoring

**September 26 - 28** Little River Large Stream Monitoring

**October 9 - 12** Cataloochee Creek Large Stream Monitoring

Go to our Website: <http://user.icx.net/~royh/littlerivertu/> more detail time and places.

## Fishing Picks

By: Ian Rutter, We're past the unofficial end of summer marked by Labor Day and many of the crowds and swimmers that were so common on the river have begun to diminish. Since daytime temperatures are still pretty hot you'll do well to move upstream. However, night time temperatures are dropping and that keeps the water from getting too warm. This is a good time of year to do any backcountry fishing that you've been meaning to do all summer. It's still warm enough that you won't need to pack waders along. Some good suggestions are Fish Camp Prong, Deep Creek, and Bradley Fork. Crowds are also down over on Hazel Creek. You can arrange a ferry from the Fontana boat dock and stay at the Proctor campsite which is not far from where you'll be dropped off. This is a convenient way to get away. However, you'll have better fishing if you walk at least as far as the next campsite, Sawdust Pile. Tailwater fishing really begins to drop off at this time of year. TVA has already started to drop lake levels and that means a lot of generation. Keep an eye on the schedules, though. You can still get a few hours in on the Clinch or Holston before the water begins to rise. Midge patterns are your best bet. This month also provides a rare opportunity to gauge your skills. (Continued on page two )

(Fishing pick continued from page one ) If you have never volunteered to help the park fisheries crew do stream monitoring this is a great time to start. Before you shock you should take the time to fish that stretch of stream a few days before. Then come back with the "truth machine" and see exactly how many fish were in the water you fished. This is a great way to learn some trout biology and see just how blessed we are to have these streams in our backyard.

**Ian Rutter** has a new book coming out in October "Great Smoky Mountains National Park Angler's Companion" He will be specking about his new book and his new projects at our November meeting.

## **The Whole Package**

By: Jim Parks

From time to time, all fly-fishermen experience frustration. Whether it's due to a slow day of fishing or not having met the goal set for the day. The epitome of frustration seems to appear on days when you do not catch many, if any fish, while your fishing buddy "wears 'em out". As with everything, you will have good days and bad days. Sometimes, it is helpful for me to remember the expression, "A bad day fishin is better than a good day workin". In my early days, it seems there was less frustraton on the bad days than what I see in anglers today. If you caught your limit, you had a good day. If you didn't, the fish just weren't bitin. Back then, we just enjoyed being in the mountains among the trees, listening to the waterfalls, and feeling the cool rapids against our legs. I remember going with my teenage buddies or my dad. None of us could fish that well, but we sure enjoyed the times we went. We enjoyed the time spent together and even now I often reminisce on days spent with my fishing buddies. We realized that we didn't know everything and we held

trout in awe. We considered the bigguns to be ghostly figures with I.Q.'s of 300 plus that could never fall to any of us except with the luck needed to win the Powerball. From time to time we would hear about one of the "masters" catching a big trout, elevating them to near sainthood. We also knew deep down that by paying our dues and going the extra mile, we would eventually get a shot at Jaws. Undoubtedly when we did, we would be taught a lesson by the Smoky Mountain Einstein on how not to catch a big trout. We were simply kids enjoying the blessings of growing up in East Tennessee, but as they say, "the only thing constant is change".

With the release of "A River Runs Through It", aka The Movie, fly-fishing turned from a simple pastime to an international big business. Suddenly, white-collar professionals wanted in on the action. Gone were the times of enjoying a day of just being in a mountain stream with your fishing pals. Now, with limited time and seemingly unlimited cash the expectations of catching fish, and a lot of fish, became the norm. Fly-fishermen entered the age of instant gratification. Often, hundreds of dollars were spent without even wetting a line. Suddenly, the yuppies wanted to know what the good ole boys knew and catch trout as they did. Often a trip or two into the river resulted in being blindsided by a dose of Mr. Reality. With little time and a lot of money, these newcomers hired guides and attended fly-fishing schools expecting this to answer all their questions. While improvements are noticed, there is still often a huge void in their knowledge as compared to the old-timers. How is it that the old-timers could catch more trout on equipment costing hundreds of dollars less and having never taken fishing lessons!

**The Whole Package** (Continued from page three) One simple answer...experience. While I am not downplaying the benefits of schools and guides, I am saying that these alone will not suffice for the serious angler. Just as the business school graduate or the bicyclist on training wheels has some knowledge in their areas, the best teacher is always experience.

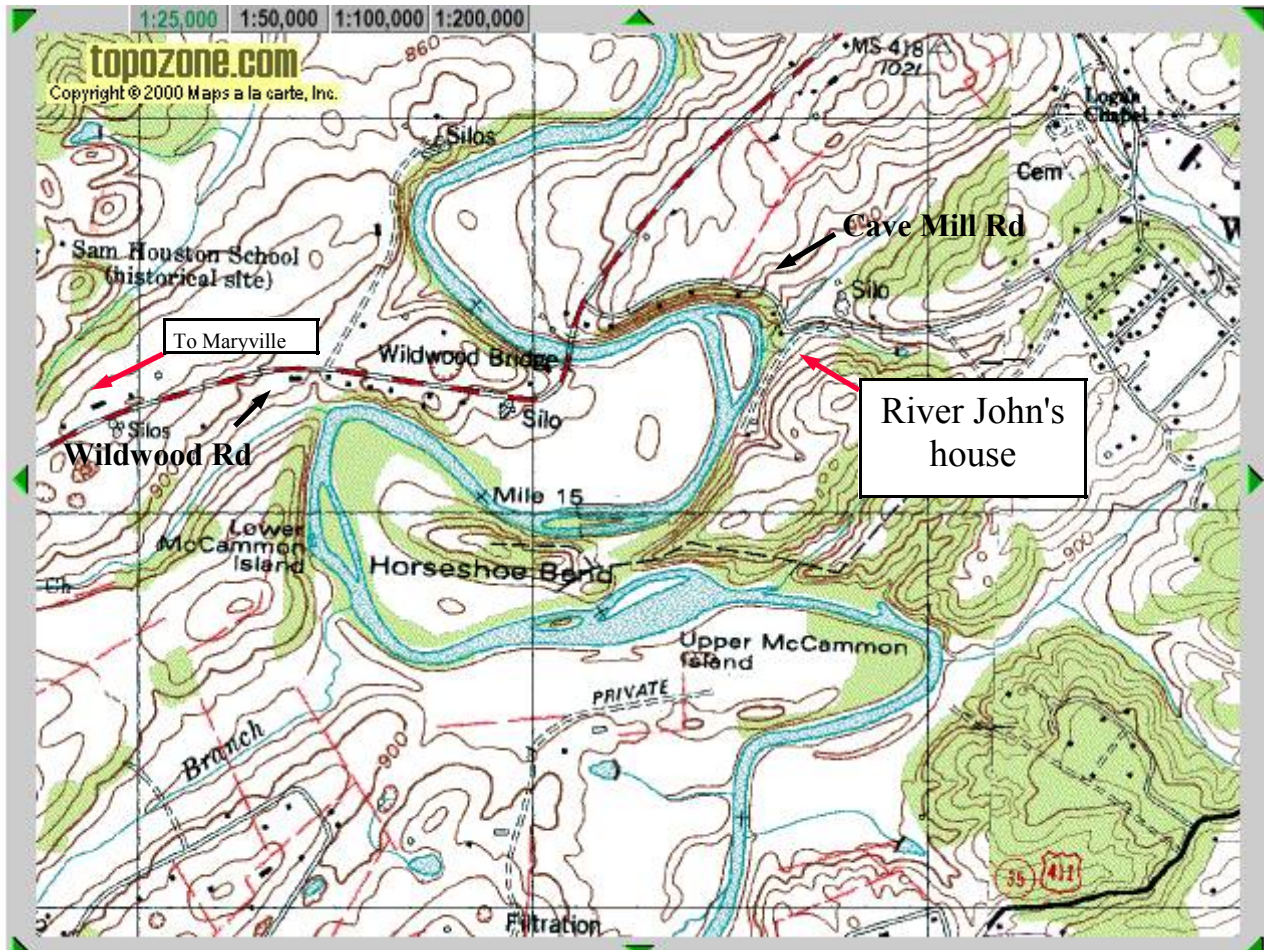
Sometimes, the best lessons are learned on slow days. I have discovered some of the most interesting aquatic creatures on slow days by turning over rocks just to see what was there. I have experienced some of my most memorable outdoor moments sitting on a log in the middle of the mountains. With fly-fishing, patience is a virtue, and that goes for patience through experience. Experience does not happen overnight, it takes time. Learning to fly-fish is like life, it is a journey not a destination. To become an accomplished angler, experience, and if resources permit, guides and schools can go a long way in helping you reach your goal. With experience, you can learn why sometimes it is better to fish downstream than upstream, or where trout feed at different times, or when to fish dry flies versus nymphs or streamers. By realizing that each day is an opportunity to learn something new about casting, wading, fly selection, or trout behavior you will soon find yourself doing things for no conscious reason other than "it felt right".

To improve the success rate, an angler must also be adaptable. Inexperienced anglers often use the same techniques regardless of the conditions. I have seen well-seasoned veterans commit the same mistake. For example, if you can't fish with nymphs in fast water, go fishing with someone who can and learn from them. Adaptability in techniques can also be brought about by fishing in different areas.

By fishing in different areas in the country, you can learn different techniques that can be added to your personal arsenal and used effectively on local streams. Some years ago while fishing the Little Red River in Arkansas, I learned to effectively use tandem nymphs and strike indicators to help me catch more fish. I brought this "new idea" home and have used it effectively on numerous occasions. By observing and learning different styles, you can have additional solutions to future fishing challenges. Aside from experience developed by fishing in different areas, techniques can be learned by fishing with different people regardless of their comparative fishing experience. A ten year veteran can often learn from a newcomer, even if it's how not to do something. Sometimes more experienced individuals overlook simple aspects that a fresh mind can easily see.

When I am helping a younger angler, I often catch myself doing something different that what I have told them, sometimes the exact opposite. Not long ago, I was fishing a tailwater using sulfur patterns with a second-year angler. I had discussed the importance of a drag-free drift to the point of exhaustion. Not long after we were on the water, I kept getting refusals from trout. From experience, I know that trout sometimes have to be coerced into biting a fly. I also know that sometimes mayflies skitter across the surface when they take flight. On my next cast, I skated the fly and BANG!!! As the commercials go, a fishing guide \$250, fly-casting school \$400, experience PRICELESS!!





From Maryville you can turn left on Wildwood Rd at the intersection of East Broadway and Lincoln Rd go about 3 1/2 miles until you get to Wildwood bridge. After crossing wildwood bridge take the first right on to Cave Mill Rd, which is almost immediately after the bridge. River John's is the 7th house on the right. There is a small cabin and then John's house is on the right in a sharp bend in the road. The street address is 4134 Cave Mill Rd. You can also take 411 / Sevierville Rd, until you get to Peppermint Rd. Turn right on Peppermint Rd go about a mile and a half and you will dead-end into Wildwood Rd turn right, the bridge is a little over a mile. If someone gets lost and needs directions you can call Tom Eustis on his cell phone (607-6960) the day of the meeting and we will make sure you find your way. **If it rains will meet in the pavilion on the Island!** See you there.

## TUTV in October

Make sure you check out Trout Unlimited Television. Roy Hawk one of our hardest working members will be in the limelight. He will be fishing with the show hosts Tim Linehan in the Great Smokey Mountain National Park. The show will be focusing on our ongoing stream work in the park. The area that they fish will make this a great show.

## Cancer patients Find healing On the river

Looking thru the October issue of Blue Ridge Country I came across a article about a Casting for Recovery origination (CFR) is a national not - for - profit organization that provides free three - day fly fishing retreat for women who have or have had breast cancer. According to the article Fly –Casting is good for the muscles in the chest, shoulder and arm - those parts adversely affected by surgery, treatment and convalescence. The women learned and practiced fly - casting, studied stream ecology and were introduced to the habit of the wild trout. This sound like it would be a great thing to pass on to someone you may know who has faced breast cancer. Casting for recovery retreats will take place September 13-15 in Frostburg, MD. And October 16-18 in Orkney Springs Va. phone 1-888-553-3500

Website: [www.castingforrecovery.org](http://www.castingforrecovery.org)

## Trout “D” Mushroom

Lately I've I been finding myself ordering Salmon when we go out to eat, so I decided over the next few months to put in a few Trout and Salmon recipes.

### *Ingredients:*

*Small trout, salt and pepper, mayonnaise, mushrooms, lemon*

Brush inside of the trout with mayonnaise and lemon juice; salt and pepper to taste. Stuff with mushrooms and wrap tightly in aluminum foil. Put in freezer until you want it barbecue until done. This will also made a great stream side recipe.

## Fly of the Month

### A.K. BEST **Trico Duns**

**Hook:** Your favorite loop-eye or up-eye hook, size 18 to 22

**Thread:** White 6/0 or 8/0 for tying in tail and body; black 6/0 or 8/0 for tying in thorax, wings and hackle

**Tail:** Stiff white spade hackle fibers, splayed

**Body:** Stripped and dyed, pale-green rooster neck-hackle quill

**Thorax:** Two turns of lightly dubbed fine black dry fly dubbing

**Wings:** Pair of white hen hackle tips, one size larger than normal

**Hackle:** Basic black is traditional; try cream and take only three or four turns of hackle





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
John Skinner			

## Little River Outfitters



P.O. Box 505 Townsend, Tennessee 37882  
Toll Free 877-448-3474 Local 865-448-9459

- Fly Shop
- Fly Fishing School
- Guide Service

• SAGE • WINSTON • ORVIS •

SCOTT • ABEL • TIBOR • ART

**THE CREEL**  
East Tennessee's Fly Fishing Outfitters

● Fly Tying Instruction  
● Fly Fishing Classes  
● Over 700 patterns

6907 Kingston Pike  
Knoxville, TN 37919  
**588-6159**

• UMPAUA • OUTCAST • SIMMS • GIFTS •

• FLY TYING • GUIDE TRIPS •