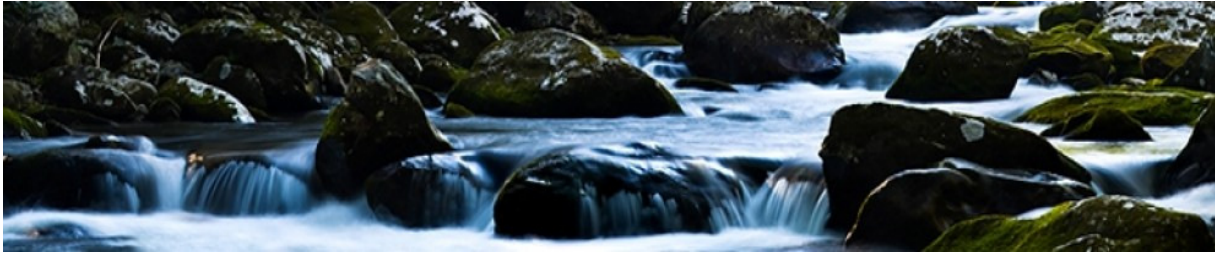


# Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited

September 2014 Newsletter



## President's Corner

Mike Bryant ([mjbryant1954@hotmail.com](mailto:mjbryant1954@hotmail.com))

Mike & Jan are in Alaska, so the usual President's corner is missing for this month, however, they look like they're having a great trip... and catching fish too, I hear.



## Roger Lowe Presents Smokies Patterns at Sept. Meeting

Our presenter for our Thursday, September 25, 2014, meeting at Calhoun's in Maryville will be Roger Lowe. Please join us from 6-7pm for dinner and fellowship (dinner not required) followed by a short business meeting then Roger's presentation.

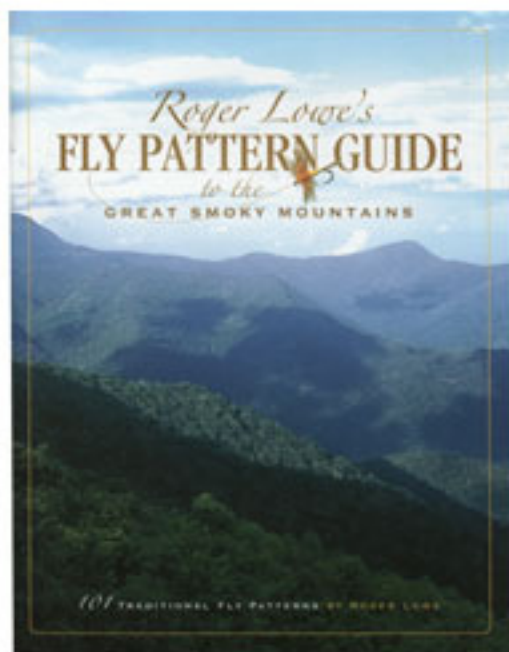


Roger Lowe may not look old enough, but he has been at the forefront of our region's fly fishing heritage pretty much from its inception with over forty years of fly-tying experience and over twenty-six years of guiding. He has preserved and recreated the fly patterns of the Smoky Mountain flies, has developed his own flies specifically for Western North Carolina, and has even written the definitive Roger Lowe's Fly Pattern Guide to the Great Smoky Mountains.

Before there were fly shops, Roger was tying flies for local hardware stores and fishing stores to meet the demand for his successful patterns.

Roger's program will consist of fly patterns of the Smokies, stream info, fishing techniques, question and answer from people at the meeting and changes he has seen in the sport and business over the years.

See you at Calhoun's!!!



## Colorado Break Down

David Knapp gave a great overview of fishing Colorado at our August 28 meeting. Whether it's lakes, small meadow streams or free flowing rivers, Colorado has it all. The abundance of insect life makes for some fat fish and great fishing. David is available for guiding on local streams as well. Visit his web page at <http://www.troutzoneanglers.com/>



## Smokemont Fishing Trip

Hurry and make your reservations for the September fishing trip to Smokemont camp grounds. It takes place the 19<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup> of September. **Let Ernie Frey know that you in by Sept. 16, that's next Tuesday, so that arrangements can be made for dinner!** The chapter has reserved group site #2. This is a tent only, nonelectric site and has space for 20 campers. Check-in time is scheduled for 1:00 pm Friday September 19 and check-out is required by 12:00 pm Sunday





September 21. If you don't wish to tent camp, then you will need to make arrangement for a camp site through Recreation.gov.

There is a firewood quarantine in the park so fire wood should not be brought into the park unless it is approved by the park.

If you fish outside the park, you will need a NC fishing license or a Cherokee Nation permit if you are on the reservation. There is some interesting fishing on the reservation.

There will be a Saturday night dinner so plan on bringing your favorite camping covered dish, other meals you will need to provide for yourself.

- Ernie Frey

[ernest.frey@comcast.net](mailto:ernest.frey@comcast.net)

## **Project Healing Waters Growing Locally**

Almost two years ago the Clinch River Chapter of Trout Unlimited partnered with Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing (PHWFF). PHWFF is a national non-profit dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled active military personnel and disabled veterans through fly fishing, fly tying and associated activities including education and outings. We will host a fund-raising fly fishing tournament on the Clinch River October 18th, 2014.

We need your help. Call me at 865-304-4623 if you have questions. Buzz Buffington

**Vietnam veteran Dan Moneymaker of Knoxville used to spend a lot of time sitting in his wheelchair, staring at his walls—until his life was transformed by Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing. "Without PHWFF," he says, "I wouldn't be alive today."**

**Instead, his participation in the Knoxville chapter of PHWFF sparked an enthusiasm for helping others—tying trout flies for Casting for Recovery, helping host a fishing trip for veterans from the Wounded Warrior Project, teaching children to tie flies at Kids Fish Free Day. Because of his devoted giving to others, Moneymaker was selected for a PHWFF fishing trip to Montana this year, all expenses paid. And when he went to Montana, he left his wheelchair and walker at home.**

**Now, Moneymaker and the other veterans of the Knoxville chapter of PHWFF are hosting the inaugural Smoky Mountain Grand Slam Challenge, a fundraising fly fishing tournament and banquet. Money raised by the Slam will help pay for the work of Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing—a national nonprofit dedicated to the**

emotional and physical rehabilitation of wounded and disabled veterans and active military members through fly fishing.

The tournament on Saturday, Oct. 18, will feature 10 disabled veterans from around the nation, each fishing the Clinch River in a driftboat with a donating sponsor and a professional guide. Each veteran-and-sponsor team will vie for awards for largest fish, most total inches, smallest fish and the Grand Slam award for catching a brook trout, brown trout and rainbow trout all in the same day.

The evening before, on Friday, Oct. 17, a fundraising banquet will be held at the Museum of Appalachia from 6 to 9 p.m., featuring Calhoun's award-winning baby back ribs with all the fixin's and live bluegrass music. Beer and wine will be available. PHWFF CEO Ellen Killough and several distinguished military personnel will speak, and the crowd will hear from the veterans how Project Healing Waters Fly fishing has changed their lives.

A live auction will feature a bamboo fly rod built by famed fly angler Walter Babb, a bamboo rod built by Blackberry Farm fishing manager Alex Quick with the help of veterans from the Knoxville program, and artwork by veteran Jessica Callihan.

Additional special items will be available in a silent auction.

Ticket purchasers will have access to the museum grounds starting at noon to enjoy all the Museum of Appalachia has to offer—and they'll be present to give a hero's welcome to the veterans, who will be escorted to the museum by a Patriot Guard motorcycle motorcade.

Banquet tickets cost \$100 each. Sponsorships are also available, ranging from \$500 to \$15,000, with benefits to sponsors including banquet tickets, recognition in tournament materials and, at sponsorship levels from \$2,500 up, reserved banquet tables and fishing with a veteran during the tournament.

For details or to purchase, visit [www.smokymountainslam.com](http://www.smokymountainslam.com) or contact Steve Thompson, [Stevethefishingguy@gmail.com](mailto:Stevethefishingguy@gmail.com) or (865) 773-3343; Wayne Nobles, [waynenobles@bellsouth.net](mailto:waynenobles@bellsouth.net) or (865) 335-2485; or Buzz Buffington, [buzz.buffington@gmail.com](mailto:buzz.buffington@gmail.com) or (865) 463-7167.

Thompson says, "Please help us, one veteran at a time!"

## **Congratulations to Clinch River's John Thurman**

John Thurman of Norris, longtime member and volunteer for the Clinch River Chapter, has been named winner of the national Youth Education Leadership Award by Trout Unlimited, recognizing his contributions to creating a new generation of conservationists.

The annual award honors a TU volunteer who demonstrates exemplary leadership and a deep passion for inspiring young people to become thoughtful, responsible stewards of North America's coldwater fisheries. It will be presented to Thurman on Sept. 5 during the TU annual meeting in Santa Fe, N.M., and will be noted in the winter issue of TROUT magazine.

Thurman first joined TU in 1970 and helped found the Clinch River Chapter in 1996. He has been chapter president and a board member—but current president Dick Geiger says Thurman's focus for more than a decade has been on developing youngsters' interest in natural aquatic systems. He has served as the chapter's Youth Education Committee chair since TU first increased its emphasis on youth programs in 2001.

Thurman holds a bachelor of science in forestry from Iowa State University and a master's in wildlife ecology from Purdue University. He worked in environmental quality and compliance for the Tennessee Valley Authority, but found his true vocation after retiring from TVA in 1994. In retirement he became an aquatic entomologist—and in that role, greatly expanded his involvement with youth.

Thurman's biggest contribution to Tennessee youth has been development, with Jack Betchick of TU's Delta Chapter in Memphis, of the Great Smoky Mountains Trout Adventure Camp sponsored by the Tennessee Council of TU. Thurman developed a dual approach for the camp in which staff of the Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont provide instruction in stream ecology, limnology and physics while TU volunteers teach casting, fishing and fly tying. The camp in Great Smoky Mountains National Park, which has just completed its fourth year, also incorporates technical skills of staff from the National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service.

In his other work with youth, Thurman has:

- \* Developed his own Kids in the Creek program involving area children with nature, both during the school year and during summer vacation.
- \* Planned and overseen construction of a natural pond system at Norris Elementary School.
- \* Made presentations to middle school and high school students that include field trips to streams.
- \* Helped develop the chapter's program with the Boys and Girls Club of Oak Ridge.
- \* Mentored Boy Scouts as they earn fishing and fly fishing merit badges.
- \* Helped Coal Creek Watershed Foundation develop Coal Creek Health Day at Briceville Elementary School, an annual event at which pupils study Coal Creek as it runs beside the school and compare what they must do to maintain healthy bodies with what we all need to do to maintain healthy stream ecosystems.
- \* Individually encouraged youngsters to continue pursuing interests sparked by chapter and camp activities. For example, a former trout camper, still in high school, has been elected to the chapter's board.

"When it comes to youth education and conservation, John Thurman is a role model we are proud to have as a resource," Geiger says.

**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](http://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](mailto:ezop@charter.net)  
Also, keep up with current events and find valuable information sources at our website [www.lrctu.org](http://www.lrctu.org)**