

Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited

September, 2015 Newsletter



President's Corner

Mike Bryant (mjbryant1954@hotmail.com)

After sitting in my truck for about an hour waiting out the downpour, Buzz and I put on our waders, grabbed our gear and headed towards the Clinch River. I am anxious to learn to fish the Clinch as well as other regional tailwaters. Buzz uses float tubes on this stretch of water that allowed us to reach sections that otherwise were too deep even when TVA wasn't generating. I was surprised to still see some small sulfurs coming off the water and fish rising to them. But we nymphed fished most of the time in the remaining three hours we had available before the surge of water from the generator reached us and forced us off the water.

Buzz was a great guide. He put me onto some nice strong and feisty rainbows. I learned a lot from Buzz regarding where the fish lie in the shoals, what they eat and when, and some great accounts of really big fish in the river. Several 12-14" rainbows were brought to hand, with twice that number in hook-ups, including one really nice fish that I lost on the third jump. I was surprised at the strength and fight these fish have. All-in-all, a great day to be out. About a week later I had the opportunity to return the favor by taking Buzz up to Lynn Camp Prong.

After the customary hike up, we finally put in the water. Though the water was cool enough, it was very low. Some of the typical runs and pools where I have caught brookies in the past were either too shallow or didn't hold any water at all, causing us to cover a lot of water looking for fish. The morning started out okay with dry flies, though the fish we caught were on the smaller size. I tried nymphs throughout the day without much luck. I think we both caught the majority of our fish on dry flies. At the end of the day the surface of the water had a solid glare, so I decided to try a fly that I thought I

would be able to see in the glare. The MkFrumpy is a modification I made from a fly originally designed by a guide out west for cutthroats. This thing has every trigger known to man, woman and fish – trailing shuck, red floss, yellow and tan foam, a hackled collar and of course rubber legs. I'm thinking about adding some fuzzy dice to the next version. But that fly drove the brookies crazy. If they missed it on the first attempt they would chase it down. I caught my big fish of the day on that MkFrumpy. You have to keep it interesting and fun! Another great day to be out!

In case you haven't heard, we are sad to report that Ken Henderson passed away in August after dealing with health issues. Ken was one of the founding members of the Little River Chapter and volunteered countless hours to support the chapter, Park and youth education. Please read the attached article for more information on Ken.

We had a full house at the August meeting! Many thanks to Alex Bell for his excellent presentation on the Western North Carolina Fly Fishing Trail. Alex and folks have done a great job of communicating fishing opportunities in western North Carolina, highlighting fifteen different streams. Maybe we could arrange a chapter fishing trip to NC in the near future?

At the August meeting, we also awarded Steve Young with a beautiful Sage rod custom built by Steve Moore. Steve Young won the Eddy George award for 2014. He has been an outstanding volunteer and leader and we're fortunate to have Steve as a member of our Chapter. Congratulations Steve!

One final note of business. The Little River Chapter Board of Directors has decided not to sponsor the Troutfest Banquet & Auction next year (2016). Key reasons that factored into our decision were the heavy resource demands needed to pull off the event and a belief that maintaining the same Troutfest format will become stale over time. The BOD is committed to continue fundraising efforts to support the GSMNP Fisheries Department and our education efforts (Steve Moore Youth Education Fund). We'll share details on new fundraising opportunities in the near future, but I wanted to share with our membership our decision regarding future Troutfests.

Be safe. I hope to see you at the September meeting.

-Mike

Tie & Lie Coming UP

Learn to tie the most difficult fly:



Mark your calendars for THIS MONDAY SEPT. 14. It's another infamous Tie and Lie night. At the Casual Pint in Maryville. We will be tying the Secret Weapon nymph. I saw this nymph tied by Roger Lowe and it has worked great for me.

Hope to see you from 6 to 8 PM at the Casual Pint.

If dinner is a problem, there is usually a food truck with great food.

-Ernie Frey

Sept. Meet Features Foothills Land Conservancy

The Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited works closely with the Fishery Department of the Great Smoky Mountains providing volunteer hours and money for programs to improve the streams / rivers in the Great Smoky Mountains. We are also involved in youth education through a school based program called Trout In The Classroom as well as Trout Camp at Tremont Institute. We have monthly meetings and a banquet once a year to raise funds for our programs.

Last year we started partnering with other local conservation groups with a presentation by Dr. Jen Jones from Great Smoky Institute at Tremont. This year we are pleased to continue this tradition by hearing about the **Foothills Land Conservancy**. Former State Senator, and now Foothills Land Conservancy Executive Director Bill Clabough will update us on the organization's mission and goals.



Headquartered here in Blount County, Foothills Land Conservancy is dedicated to promoting, protecting and enhancing the lands and environments of the Southern

Appalachian region and promoting the character of the land for the general public, now and in the future.

In 2014, Foothills Land Conservancy celebrated another 'best ever' conservation year with the completion of 13 conservation easements totaling 11,711 acres – projects that span 4 states and cover 8 counties! To date, FLC's cumulative land preservation projects now cover 58,700 acres. FLC is a 501(c)(3) and does not receive any financial assistance from local, state or federal governments. The Conservancy relies on individual and corporate contributions solely to sustain organization, land acquisition and stewardship funds.

Bill Clabough is a graduate of the Blount County School system and UT Knoxville. He spent 30 plus years in the retail grocery business in Blount County. In 1994 he was elected to the Tennessee General Assembly, serving 4 years in the Tennessee House and 6 years in the Tennessee Senate. He joined Foothills Land Conservancy in the spring of 2006 as the Executive Director with the charge to take the organization to the next level. Clabough has put together a strong team that is moving Foothills Land Conservancy forward on land protection partnerships, land stewardship and community outreach.

September Meeting will be at Calhoun's in Maryville (in the same complex as Target). Come early and enjoy food and conversation. The meeting starts around 7:00 p.m.

Comfort Clothes

I couldn't ignore the hole in the shoulder. John and I were fly fishing in Colorado when I first spotted the missing cloth the size of a nickel. I guess I just didn't want to admit that this old fishing shirt of mine was nearing the end of its useful life. I have worn this shirt for many years. There's nothing fancy about it, no new space age materials that guarantee to keep you warm in a blizzard and cool as a cucumber in the dead of summer. I've bought several of these hi-tech shirts with the fancy marketing names, but I always keep coming back to my favorite fishing shirt. Nothing fancy about it, just a plain old cotton fishing shirt made by Columbia. I suspect most of you have owned one of these shirts at one point in time.

I don't remember where or when I obtained it. Maybe a gift, maybe I picked it up at one of the fly shops, I haven't a clue. I do know that without a doubt I've worn that shirt more than all of the other fishing shirts that I own combined. I've caught a lot of fish wearing that shirt - bass, trout, panfish, steelhead, salmon, snook, tarpon, redfish and

countless others. It's traveled out west to Montana and Alaska, north to Michigan, and south to the Everglades and Florida Keys.

The shirt has been showing its age for some time. The left pocket flap is totally frayed where I habitually clamped my forceps, the collar is permanently stained from sweat and suntan lotion, and the front is spotted with floatant stains where I tried to squeeze the water out of untold number of dry flies. Add to numerous snags and pulls from bushwhacking through rhododendrons and sliding down a river banks a few too many times and you get the sense that maybe it was time to retire this shirt. Yet, I just can't seem to do it. I'm not one who keeps things forever or am I overly sentimental about possessions. But it is just plain comfortable. I feel great when I'm fishing with this old classic. And honestly, isn't that what it's all about – enjoying the moments that God has given us, being out in nature, and catching an occasional fish or two with my favorite four weight rod and trusty old shirt.

And hey, this beat up old comfortable shirt matches my old, sweat stained (and equally comfortable) TU hat.

–Mike Bryant

Ken Henderson Remembered

We mourn the loss of long time chapter member Ken Henderson who passed away on August 26. Ken was a charter member of the chapter who was a very active supporter until suffering a series of strokes over the past few years that left his memory impaired.

He helped set up the Eddy George Award to recognize chapter members for outstanding support of the Park Service work. Then Ken generously built and donated the Sage rod outfit presented with the award every year except this past year when he was no longer able.

Over the years Ken has given much more to TU and our Chapter. His other contributions include:

- Being one of the founding members of the Little River Chapter nearly twenty-five years ago.
- Demonstrating fly tying at many of LRCTU events
- Serving as a key person in getting the fly tying and casting class started for the Pi Beta Phi School in Gatlinburg

- Helping a number of members build our own fly rods
- Making a rod building CD available to the chapter to sell & raise money
- Participating in many on-stream work events like fish monitoring, and the acid deposition water sampling where he served as team leader for a number of years
- Getting the Smoky Mountains Heritage Center in Townsend and Mrs. Mona George together to create the Eddie George display (on rotating basis)
- Being the one you could call in the middle of a snow storm when your heat went out because he worked as a heat and air technician and would help anyone who called.

Ken we miss you. We accomplished much more and are a better chapter because you were among us!

- Charlie Chmielewski

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