

# Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited

September, 2016 Newsletter



## MONTHLY MEETING THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 AT CALHOUN'S MARYVILLE

### President's Corner

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

I think I've fished our tailwaters more this summer than I have collectively over the past decade. I've always wanted to fish tailwaters in the past, but for a variety of reasons it just didn't happen all that often. Last spring, Bill and I hit the caddis hatch on the Holston. This summer, I have fished the South Holston and the Caney Fork, mostly the Caney. The Caney seems to be loaded with fish, and some big fish. While I haven't caught any of the huge fish yet, I've seen them. I watched one very large brown open his mouth and eat my #22 midge pattern. I waited a split second, lifted the rod tip to set the hook and immediately felt.... nothing. Somehow that small hook didn't find its mark. I'm sure it wasn't



operator error!! But despite missing that large fish, it was a good day of fishing. I learned a new stretch of the Caney and caught a bunch of browns, rainbows and even a brookie. On another earlier trip to the Caney, John and I had the opportunity to wade fish in the middle section. There was a nice long riffle. A #16 soft hackle pattern was the ticket to fooling a lot of 12"-14" rainbows that fought hard. Upstream of the riffle, a small pod of 14"-16" fish were schooled up in a small slick less than a foot deep actively feeding. I switched a small #18 pheasant tail. After catching and releasing 4-5 fish, the pod of fish decided they weren't hungry anymore. All in all, a good day of fishing.

I'm currently gearing up for a trip out west to fish the Smith and Missouri Rivers. Fishing out west is always a fun experience. The scenery is so different and beautiful. The possibility of big trout and fishing with friends is always one of life's good moments.

Last month, we awarded the 2015 Eddy George Award to Steve Van Vleet for his outstanding volunteer contributions. With the award comes a custom made fly rod to be built by Steve Moore. Congratulations and thank you to Steve for all his efforts to help the Park.

Also, many thanks to Charity Rutter for a great program last month on fishing and enjoying the great outdoors in Yellowstone and the Rockies.

I am hoping for cooler temperatures and some rain so you'll have the opportunity to get back into the Park this fall. Be safe.

-Mi

## Consider Salt on the Fly At Your September Meeting

"September Tales and Ties - Saltwater Edition"

**J**oin us at our meeting on Thursday September 22 for a relaxed evening of saltwater fishing tales and fly tying. We will be meeting at Calhoun's in Maryville at 7 PM like usual, you can arrive at 6 if you'd like to get some food. We will start with a short business meeting, followed by a few minutes of saltwater fishing stories told by our panel of victims. Our panel includes Charlie Chmielewski, Pat Tully, Bill Bolinger, and Daniel Munger. Each panelist will share a bit about their saltwater experience, ranging from Louisiana Redfish, to Bahamas Bonefish and Snook, and on up the coast to the marsh's of South Carolina. And of course, some good pictures will be on display. After the story telling is over, some of the panelists will sit down and do a tying demo of their favorite saltwater fly. Come on down and get your saltwater fix.

## Smokemont Camping Trip Approaching Quickly!

The Smokemont Trip will be September 23 - 25. You can arrive for tent setup any time after 1:00 on Friday at Group Site 1. Smoky Mountain Chapter will have Group Site 2 making 10 tent pads available. Bring a dish for the group dinner Saturday evening, the rest of the meals are on your own. Firewood must be approved for the Park and is available at the Townsend IGA and other sites near the Park. The Smokemont Camp Store also carries firewood. For those fishing in the Park, a Tennessee license is accepted. For those planning to fish outside the Park, make sure you have the appropriate State or Nation license. Hope to see you there. Contact Joyce or Ernie Frey for more information at [jmfrey@comcast.net](mailto:jmfrey@comcast.net).

## Steve Van Vleet is the 2015 Eddy George Award Winner

Each year, the Eddy George Award honors a Chapter member for exceptional support of National Park Fisheries. As many of our members know, Eddy George was a founding member of the Great Smoky Mountains Chapter (1<sup>st</sup> one in Knoxville area) and also a founding member of the Little River Chapter. He was a great fisherman and fly tyer with a strong commitment to protecting and preserving the rivers and streams where trout live.

We are happy to report the 2015 recipient is Steve Van Vleet. Steve started help in the Park with Acid Deposition sampling in 2014 by taking on a new and particularly challenging route requiring about 15 miles of hiking. Although he was more of a hiker than a trout fisherman, Steve signed up for all of the sample dates. That included samples that start at Clingman's Dome in November, January and March when there is snow on the ground. In 2015 Steve again signed up for all the 15 mile long Upper Little River route samples. Since joining us, he has also signed up to help on back country genetic studies that involved overnight camping and the Bunches and Flat Creeks evaluation. It seemed that the more difficult the hike or remote the location, the more Steve was interested in helping.





The award includes a custom built Sage Fly rod which used to be built by Ken Henderson. We certainly miss Ken but feel very lucky that Steve Moore has again this year volunteered to build the rod.

Congratulations to Steve Van Vleet on a very well deserved Eddy George Award!

## Fishing the Wigwam in BC

If you saw the 2015 International Flyfishing Film Festival segment entitled "Secrets", then you know what my recent trip to British Columbia was all about. Working with the Elk River Guiding Company in Fernie, B.C., myself and three fishing buddies found our way to that same "secret" section of the Wigwam River seen in the film, and fishing the "secret" fly, we managed to net several of those big ol' Bull trout. We caught fish up to 30 inches and saw bulls much bigger we helicoptered the forty down on a gravel bar in the river bed, walked a 100 yards and found fish. It's one of those wild places where your guide carries bear spray in the form of a 12 gauge. Truly the trip of a lifetime for me in that one day. Icing on the cake was the other four days we fished the Elk River, catching 15-18 inch west slope cutthroats on hoppers and mayflies.



than that. And just like in the film, miles in to that remote section, sat

Bill Bollinger



## TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM

*By Joyce Frey*

Our fall season has started with the addition of 3 new schools – Heritage Middle School (6<sup>th</sup> grade science), Lonsdale Elementary (2<sup>nd</sup> grade) and Tate's School (5<sup>th</sup> grade science). This brings the number of tanks up to 11.

Teachers and coordinators have been busy the last couple of weeks cleaning up their tanks and getting them ready for eggs. Eggs will be picked up at the Buffalo Springs Hatchery on September 14 and installed in their schools on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

The Townsend KOA has again agreed to let us release our rainbows at their facility during the first two weeks of December. A couple of schools have already made plans for their big day.

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](mailto:jmfrey@comcast.net).

## Essential Tellico Nymph

Tie & Lie on Tap for September 26th

Tie and Lie for September will be Monday, September 26 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the Casual Pint in Maryville. The fly for this month will be the orange body Tellico nymph. The fall fishing season is almost here, start stocking up your fly box. Come out and join us.

Joyce and Ernie

## Desgrosseilliers Named PHWFF Chief Executive Officer



Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing is delighted to announce Todd Desgrosseilliers as its new Chief Executive Officer. Todd is a Marine Corps veteran and infantry officer with 31 years of service to our Nation. A native of Auburn, Maine, he enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1985 and attained the rank of Sergeant before becoming an officer. He commanded at each rank and most recently served as the Commanding Officer, The Basic School from 2012 to 2014. He also served as the Commanding Officer, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marines from 2005 to 2007 – deploying the Battalion to Iraq in 2006-2007, where they conducted counter-insurgency operations in Ramadi and Fallujah. Previously, he served as the Executive Officer for 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines – deploying in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2004-2005. During this deployment he fought in Operation Al FAJR in Fallujah, Iraq where he was wounded several times in close quarters combat with the enemy. He is also a veteran of numerous other operations and deployments.

He is a graduate of the Marine Corps Scout-Sniper Instructor Course; the Marine Corps Summer Mountain Leaders' Course; Amphibious Warfare School; and the Marine Corps Command and Staff College. He also completed the National Security Fellowship at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government in 2008. He holds a Bachelors degree in history from Boston University and a Masters degree in military science from the Marine Corps Command and Staff College.

Todd is married to the former Christiana Drake. They have a daughter Katherine, and two sons, Todd and Michael. His personal awards include the Silver Star Medal, the Bronze Star Medal (With Combat Distinguishing Device and Gold Star in Lieu of Second Award), Purple Heart Medal (Gold Star in Lieu of Second Award), Meritorious Service Medal (Gold Star in Lieu of Second Award), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (Gold Star in Lieu of 3rd Award), the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, and the Combat Action Ribbon.

Todd developed a love for fly fishing growing up in Maine chasing its abundant native brook trout and landlocked salmon in its numerous lakes and streams. Todd reconnected with fly fishing after joining the Quantico and Fort Belvoir Programs upon the recommendation of his physical therapist in March 2015. As a participant, Todd recognized the remarkable physical and emotional transformation that Project Healing Waters Programs initiated for him and his fellow participants and decided that he wanted to join its exceptional team after his retirement from the military.

## Project Healing Waters Wants You

A new PHWFF program has been established in Maryville, when the Little River Chapter TU board voted unanimously to support it this past April. "This is a great opportunity to continue our outreach and help mentor those who have served us!" says Mike Bryant, our chapter president.

To ensure effective communication between the veteran program and our TU chapter, we are looking for one or more volunteers to help. Our Chapter point person(s) would communicate with the PHWFF Maryville leaders and our Chapter board so we can organize our support of this very worthwhile program.

PHWFF is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to the emotional and physical rehabilitation of wounded and disabled military veterans and active military members through fly fishing.



If you want to help, please contact Mike Bryant our Chapter president ([mjbryant1954@hotmail.com](mailto:mjbryant1954@hotmail.com), 513-697-9576).

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)