

# Trout Unlimited

## Little River Chapter



### NEXT MEETING

Thursday

September 28th

**Calhoun's**

Maryville

This month we want to highlight **Trout in the Classroom**, which has made an impact on hundreds of children since its inception, including my own son. Its creative use of the natural curiosity of our local children, coupled with science, group initiative, and field trips into the outdoors, has proven to be an excellent influence on our little sponges. Thank you to those who have dedicated time to kids.

## Trout in the Classroom

by Joyce Frey

Eleven tanks are up, running and waiting for eggs which are scheduled to arrive September 20. Several of our coordinators are going to be away so Ernie and I will be delivering eggs to several schools. If anyone would like to help or just be a part of the experience (we'll show you how it's done so you can assist next time) you're more than welcome. Being in on the students' experiences when the eggs arrive is a real treat.



This month's speaker will be Walter Babb, discussing nymphing and wet flies in the southern Appalachians. Q&A to follow.

## President's Corner

As I am writing this it is September 10, Hurricane Irma is going up the west coast of Florida and we are expecting rain in the Smokies for a few days. The Park is expecting to close the camp grounds and maybe some of the roads. We are off to an exciting Fall. This could be a good time to get some of those chores done that have been hanging around all summer and preparing for some great fall fishing.

Charlie C. says we have had a good year in volunteer projects so far this year. I want to add my thanks to his to our members who are willing to help with the Parks projects. A new brook trout stream in the park may soon be available.



Speaking of volunteering, we have another opportunity. The Park offers a fly fishing 101 to park volunteers and we have supported this effort by providing instructors to help with the class. The class will take place on Sept.23 at Sugarland park headquarters at 9:00. We need seven more people to help with this class. If it is like last year's class, it will be a very enjoyable day. In the morning we will show the class how to cast and in the afternoon we will take them down to the West Prong of the Pigeon for some on the water experience. You don't have to be a Master caster to help with this class. You just need to be willing to share some knowledge of your sport. Please consider volunteering let me know if you want to help.

September's meeting will be at Calhoun's in Maryville on September 28. Social hour starts at 6:00, business meeting starts at 7:00. Walter Babb will be our guest speaker.

## Story of a Big Brown in the Smokies as told by Pat Tully

A few days ago I wanted to look for big Browns in GSMNP with the low water I thought I might be able to see a fish that I could cast too. I drove up Little River Rd to a spot that I know holds some big browns. I got out of my truck walking upstream scanning the river bottom for a monster. I didn't see anything so I nymphed the head of the pool. After not getting a strike I decided to walk to my truck to look somewhere else. As I was walking I was still looking at the river, when at



the back of the run I saw what I was looking for. There sitting on the bottom in about one foot of water was a really big brown trout.

I sat down and started shaking when I was trying to tie on my beetle and nymph set up. I finally calmed down enough to walk when I slipped into the river behind the fish. I started watching the fish and made a cast or two with no results. I watched and watched and watched for over two hours finally the fish started to eat every few minutes. After a couple good drifts with no results I put on a fly that I tied with enough split shot to get it down quickly.



At this point it was getting darker by the second, when I made a perfect cast and drift. I could see my fly coming right at the fish when I saw that huge mouth open. I set and couldn't believe that I didn't miss him. Now I'm hooked up to my biggest brown it's dark and I'm by myself with a net the size of a king size candy bar. After a few long minutes I had my prize in my net. After a few pictures and a quick tape I held my 22" wild smoky mountain brown trout in my hand. It's a day I won't soon forget.

## **Project Healing Waters Event October 6 and 7**

The program for healing of Disabled Veterans through fly fishing is seeking support for the **Smoky Mountain Grand Slam Challenge**.

- This is the major fund raising banquet and fishing tournament by the Knoxville Program of Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing (PHWFF) which will be held October 6 and 7.
- The Clinch River Chapter of TU (CRCTU) sponsors the Knoxville Program that supports veterans throughout the our area.
- This is a national destination event and veterans will be coming in from around the country. The Knoxville Program can be followed on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ProjectHealingWatersKnoxville/> or by searching Facebook for @ProjectHealingWatersKnoxville.

### **How We Can Help Attend the Banquet**

- One particular way we could show support is to purchase tickets and attend the **Banquet on Friday evening, October 6<sup>th</sup> in Knoxville**. John Becker, news anchor for WBIR TV Knoxville will be the master of ceremonies.



- Nationally known fishing guide Kelly Galloup out of Montana will be the guest speaker.
- There will be a number of great silent auction items including three custom fly rods, among them a bamboo rod made by Walter Babb of Little River Outfitters in Townsend.
- The best way to purchase tickets is on line at [www.SmokyMountainSlam.Eventbrite.com](http://www.SmokyMountainSlam.Eventbrite.com).

### **Guide a Veteran on the Clinch River**

- The veterans (14) are coming in and one of our events is to take them fishing Miller's Island Friday morning Oct. 6th. We have the boats lined up for those that need boats, but guides are needed for wading with the other participants.
- They will only be fishing in the morning. Around 1:00 we will have a riverside lunch. and then they will head back to the hotel to get ready for the banquet. So, guiding will only be in the morning.
- If anyone can lend a hand with guiding the SLAM veterans and enjoy a good lunch. please let Steve Burman ([steveburmano6@comcast.net](mailto:steveburmano6@comcast.net), 865-805-1018) know as soon as possible.

### **More Information**

If you want more information about how you can help with the event including the tournament, contact Sam Hodnett

Clinch River Chapter Trout Unlimited, Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Knoxville Home:  
865-671-1634, Mobile: 865-805-1507  
Email: [shodnett@msn.com](mailto:shodnett@msn.com), Facebook: [sam.hodnett.96](https://www.facebook.com/sam.hodnett.96)

## **TIE 'N LIE: TELLICO NYMPH**

We will be tying the Tellico Nymph in orange at The Casual Pint, September 25 at 6:00pm. Orange is a good fall color. I think that is because of the October caddis hatch. The recipe is:

Hook: nymph hook, 1X long, size 14

Underbody: lead wire or substitute same diameter as the hook wire

Thread: black 6/0 or 8/0

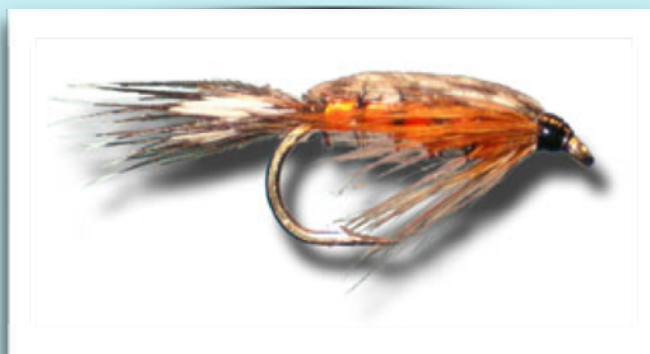
Tail: Guinea hackle fiber

Back: turkey quill

Rib: peacock herl

Body: orange yarn

Hackle: Brown rooster hackle



## PI BETA PHI FISHING DAY

Pi Beta Phi Middle School in Gatlinburg hosts a fishing outing for its eighth graders at Metcalf bottoms every fall. The teacher heading this event is Melissa Crisp. This year the event is on Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup> starting at 9am. In many years past this was a multiday event with fly fishing instruction, fly tying, along with the fishing. The last few years in has been limited to fly fishing and fish shocking. This year they are trying to expand the event with etymology along with fly fishing instruction, fishing, and perhaps fly tying. Along with the students hey supply the rods, reels, line, and some leader although usually all of these

pieces of equipment need work before use. What they really will need are volunteers. I have helped the last few years and it is always rewarding (I have included some pictures—usually a few students catch a fish, many for the first time (c.f. the young lass). If you are interested in helping contact Melissa Crisp at [melissacrisp@sevier.org](mailto:melissacrisp@sevier.org), I know she will appreciate your help.



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**WHO MADE THIS STATEMENT?** ““There’s a fine line between fishing and standing on the shore like an idiot.”

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## Notes from August...

Club president Ernie Frey opened the meeting with a review of the agenda and reminded all of us of the volunteer opportunities that are available for club members. They are all listed on the Little River TU web site [www.lrctu.org](http://www.lrctu.org)

Pat Jenkins of Townsend Tennessee gave the club an update on a concern he has related to excessive tubing and rafting on the Little River, specifically from the Y to the Phillips 66 Gas Station. Pat is concerned about the negative impact this activity is having on fish and other wildlife in that watershed. Pat's letter is attached.

As you know the club has been looking for a replacement for Charlie Chmielewski, the LRCTU Volunteer Coordinator. Ernie Frey announced at the meeting that Richard Barnes will be filling that role. The transition will take place over the next six months with the official transfer happening in February of 2018.

A Fly Fishing 101 seminar will be conducted on September 23 at the Sugarlands Visitor Center. Five or six volunteers from the club are needed to help with the seminar. If interested please contact Charlie Chmielewski at 865-661-7325.

Trout the Classroom. The fall Trout in the Classroom program is off and running. Tanks are being setup and filled in preparation of receiving eggs from the hatchery on September 20th. If you would like more information or to become involved in this fantastic program please contact Joyce at [jmfrey@comcast.net](mailto:jmfrey@comcast.net).

Upcoming Trips: The fall trip will be to Cataloochee on October 6, 7 and 8. at Group Site 1

Tonights Program: Road trip of a Lifetime: A Native Odyssey.

Matt Crockett and Brett Winchel presented tonights program. They are both members of the TU 5 Rivers Program at the University of Tennessee. This past summer they went on a TU sponsored 58 day cross country road trip with the goal of catching as many native species trout as possible. Their other major focus was to raise awareness for the conservation of native trout. They covered 15,306 miles across 11 southern and western states and managed to catch 18 native trout species.

The adventure started in Backbone Cherokee National Forest in Bristol Tennessee and rapidly proceeded west. Here is a summary of the trip.

- Arizona, Apache National Forest, Mount Baldy Wilderness Area • Native species: Apache Trout
  - New Mexico, Gila National Forest, Willow Creek • Native species: Gila Trout
  - Colorado, Rio Grande National Forest, Public Lands
- Rio Grande Cutthroats
- Rocky Mountain National Park • Colorado River Cutthroats
- Utah, Bear River National Wildlife Refuge • Bear River Cutthroats
- Wyoming, Yellowstone National Park,
  - Slew Creek, Yellowstone Cutthroats
  - Yellowstone River
  - Bridger Teton National Forest
- Snake River Fine Spotted Cutthroats
- Idaho, Bull Trout Stream, Henry's Fork area • Bull Trout



- Oregon, Bend area, Red Bend Trout
- PMD hatch and browns on dry flies all day
- California, Sierra National Forest, McCloud River

- Golden Trout
- Paiute Cutthroat trout - the most endangered species encountered on the trip

In conclusion, can you fish out west? Absolutely !! Be creative. East Tennessee fishing is great preparation for a trip to the west.

**DID YOU GUESS RIGHT?** *-Steven Wright*