

## Next Meeting

**When:** Sept. 23, 2010 (4th Thursday of the month). Dinner served around 7:00 p.m. Come earlier if you like.

**Where:** River John's Island – located on the Little River, just northeast of Maryville on Cave Mill Rd.

**Directions:** From last Pellissippi Pkwy exit, go left on Hwy 33, right on Sam Houston, left on Wildwood, right on Cave Mill.

**Program:** No set program, just good food and the opportunity to bring your gear and chuck some flies in the river. This is a chance to pick up tips on casting and fishing tips from some of our more learned members.

## Flotsam

**We need help!** Any viable organization is only as good as its leadership and like any other organization we need good leaders. Stan Smartt has agreed to serve as chair of the LRCTU nominating committee. Please contact him if you're interested in a position or if you have a recommendation for one of the open positions.-board members or officers. – Thanks

**Caleb Abramson**, the recipient of a Friends of the Smokies apprenticeship for work with the GSMNP came by our last meeting to personally thank members of the LRCTU for their support of this program and his involvement. Abramson has been working with the Park's fisheries department for a year, despite being hobbled by a broken leg, and going to school for his degree in this field at the same time. LRCTU supports this program through earmarked proceeds from the annual Troutfest. This year LRCTU will be giving the Friends of the Smokies \$12,000 to help support the apprenticeship program.

## Trout Numbers Increasing

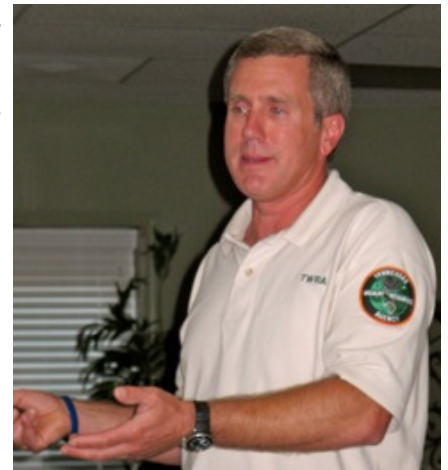
LRCTU's August meeting featured Jim Habera, an aquatic biologist with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency over wild trout and tailwaters streams in Region 4 (East Tennessee), who provided an informative assessment of the health of trout waters in our region.

Regarding wild trout, Habera said that conditions this year have provided a much better habitat for reproduction and that with a couple more years of good stream flows, populations should increase strongly. The most recent 2009 survey showed a reduction in biomass for wild trout streams by an average 48% when compared to the 2005 survey. Past years' drought conditions were the likely culprit. "This is usually a three to four year recovery, but I think we're seeing some rebound," he said.

Surveys in Region 4 cover more than 20 wild trout streams and five reservoir tailwater areas.

In general, tailwaters management programs are accomplishing goals of making better habitat that includes more numbers of rainbow, brook and brown trout in larger sizes.

The 2008 – 2013 Norris tailwaters management plan (Clinch River) aims to increase opportunities to catch quality size fish in the 14 inch or greater category. "We want to be able to get (electroshock) up to 28 fish per hour in that 14-20 inch slot range by 2013," Habera explained.



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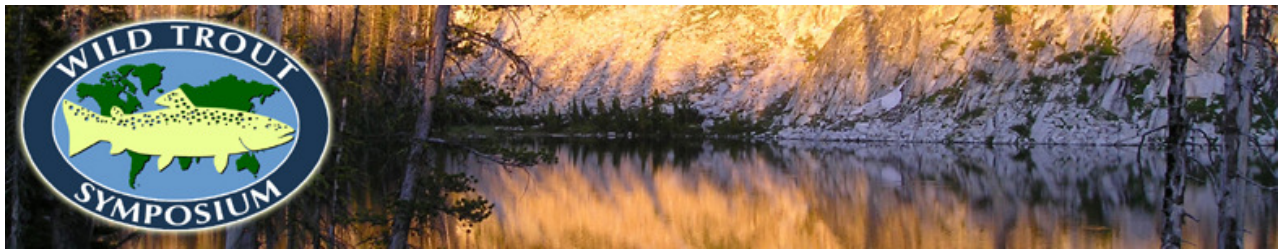
## Moore Receives National Award

Stephen Moore, Supervisory Fishery Biologist with the GSMNP, has been selected by National Trout Unlimited as the 2010 winner of its annual award in the professional category. Moore was nominated for this highly competitive award by LRCTU.

Each year, Trout Unlimited (TU) bestows awards to publicly recognize the outstanding achievements of its members, chapters and councils that have embodied the spirit of TU and fulfilled its mission to conserve, protect and restore North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds. TU also recognizes the contributions and accomplishments of individuals and groups outside the organization that have demonstrated significant leadership and success in the world of coldwater conservation.

Moore, an author of several research articles, has served with the NPS since 1985 and is heavily involved with brook trout restoration in the GSMNP. In addition to this responsibility, he has helped numerous parks and organizations around the country with similar conservation efforts.

Moore has been the primary contact with LRCTU since its inception in 1992. Our chapter is the only TU chapter chartered for the specific purpose of supporting the GSMNP fishing program. The LRCTU has consistently supported the Park with countless volunteer hours and contributions in excess of \$100,000. Under Moore's leadership these resources have been leveraged to attract additional grants and financial commitments in excess of \$2.5 million.



## LRCTU Wins TUFF Award

LRCTU has been awarded the "TUFF Wild Trout Stewardship Award" by the Wild Trout Symposium. Holding its 10th annual meeting this year, the organization's mission is to provide a forum for professional wild trout biologists and conservationists to interact, get to know each other, and learn the latest wild trout science, technology and philosophy.

The TUFF award is conferred annually by the International Wild Trout Symposium for the implementation of an outstanding fishery project or plan that makes a significant contribution to the conservation, protection, restoration, or enhancement of a cold water fishery.

This award is made to a club, group, or other organization. The Symposium Awards

Committee reviews all nominations and selects recipients. This award is reviewed every three years in conjunction with the symposia and may be given to a single, more than a single recipient, or at times, may not be awarded, dependent on nominations received.

The award includes a certificate of achievement and an honorarium of \$1,000.

LRCTU president Rufus King said, "This is great news and a terrific honor for our chapter. Congratulations to all who have been a part of the dedicated efforts to support the activities of the Park. The teamwork has been recognized with this award."

King, will be present at the awards luncheon on Sept. 29 in West Yellowstone to accept the honor on behalf of the chapter.

## Habera (Cont'd from Pg 1)

TWRA stocked 237,000 trout during 2009, including 197,000 rainbow (mostly fingerling size), 20,000 brown trout and 20,000 brook trout. The February 2009 sampling on the Clinch showed a considerably higher catch rate compared to a year earlier. This included 267 rainbows, 201 browns and 17 brook. This was a 134% increase in total trout captured. Brook trout were retrieved from 7 of the 12 sites sampled on the Clinch in 2009. The catch rate for large trout, greater than 14 inches, also doubled from 2008.

Thanks to the 14-20 inch protected slot limit in place on the Clinch, browns are doing well and numbers of rainbows should be moving into that slot limit in the not-to-distant future, Habera said. Looking at the size of brown trout collected during the survey shows brown trout should be plentiful in the larger sizes in 2012, he added.

On the Wilbur tailwaters (Watauga River) browns are doing well. A 14 inch or larger is considered a "quality" fish and the 2009 survey yielded 20 fish per hour in this category. "This is about as high as it's been," Habera said. The success of the protected slot limit on the Clinch has TWRA thinking of installing similar regulations on the Watauga.

On the South Holston, brown trout is king. Even though TWRA stopped stocking the Holston in 2003, the numbers continue to grow. The most recent survey yielded 788 fish per hour, 339 of which were over 7 inches. "There are three times the number of fish there than when we quit stocking in 2003," Habera said. Looking at the numbers and size of fish surveyed, Habera said that 2012 might stack up to be a good year for higher numbers of larger fish. On the down side, Habera mentioned that the larger populations of fish on the Clinch could be having an effect on the growth range.

"There are a lot of fish in the 10 to 15-inch range and these should be harvested, he said. As far as overall harvest of fish, Habera said that it appeared not as many trout are being taken to the

dinner table. "There aren't as many people out for meat," he said.

Habera took time at the end of the presentation to give some highlights from a recent fishing trip to Alaska taken with another TWRA workmate and friend Roy Hawk. In August, these three enthusiasts rented a camper van and fished for salmon on the Kenai Peninsula in and around the Russian River. Needless to say, they were successful and brought in some great fish.

## Orvis Days On Tap

I hope everyone is gearing up to get back on the water. I know I'm about ready to go insane! Fall is one of my favorite times of the year to fish. The heat is over, water levels are usually good and there is less traffic. Let's not forget the pre-spawn brown trout that get all worked up before spawning time, either.

**Orvis Days** - Our bi-annual Orvis Days will be October 7<sup>th</sup> thru the 17<sup>th</sup>. We should have some great deals in the fishing department during Orvis Days. Call us as time gets closer and we can let you know. (865) 774-4162

Below is a list of events that we will have going on throughout Orvis Days

**Thursday, October 7, 6pm to 8pm; Customer Night with Woodford Reserve!** We will be hosting a special bourbon sampling provided by Woodford Reserve along with some great presentations by Steve Sylvius of Xtreme Trout.

### Saturday, Sunday October 9-10

- 9am to 11am, **Fly Fishing 101** – Come and learn to fly cast in a special early morning session away from the crowds. Space is limited so please call the store to sign up. 865-774-4162
- 11am to noon, **Top Five Places to fish in the Smokies** - Our staff will share some of their favorite places to fish in Great Smoky Mountain National Park, along with their favorite fly patterns and techniques.

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## Orvis Days (Cont'd)

- 10am to 4pm, **Casting Course Scramble** - We have set up a great 9 hole casting course to test your skills. The better you score the better Discount you will receive in the store. Call the store for more details.
- 1pm to 2pm, **Casting Course Tips and Tricks** - Our staff will share some of their personal tips and tricks for conquering the Casting Course.

### Saturday, Sunday October 16-17

- 9am to 11am, **Fly Fishing 101** – Come and learn to fly cast in a special early morning session away from the crowds. Space is limited so please call the store to sign up. 865-774-4162
- 11am to noon, **Top Five Places to fish the Holston and Clinch** - Our staff will share some of their favorite places to fish on the Clinch and Holston Tailwaters, along with their favorite flies.
- 10am to 4pm, **Casting Course Scramble** - We have set up a great 9 hole casting course to test your skills. The better you score the better Discount you will receive in the store. Call the store for more details.
- 1pm to 2pm, **Casting Course Tips and Tricks** - Our staff will share some of their personal tips and tricks for conquering the Casting Course.

Come join us for a great time at Orvis Days. The casting course will be a ton of fun and you get a chance to earn an extra discount. You are only competing against yourself, so don't worry everyone's a winner. Thanks again for all your support and we look forward to seeing you soon!

Tightlines, Kris Maurer, Orvis Fly Fishing Manager, Orvis - Sevierville

The Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited is a Non-Profit Volunteer Organization that is Committed to Protecting and Restoring Cold Water Resources and Watersheds in and Around the Great Smoky Mountains National Park



**Thanks to all of you who worked on Troutfest. Great Job!**

And thanks for attending, supporting and donating to Troutfest. Together we have made a difference that we can all be proud of forever.

**Little River Outfitters**

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Toll Free 877-448-3474

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136 Apple Valley Road  
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865-774-4162  
(Located next to the Apple Barn)

Mon. thru Sat. 10:00am to 8:00pm  
Sun. 10:00am to 6:00pm

Stop by or call about our monthly fishing seminars, schools and tying classes

Free casting lessons Saturday mornings from 9am to 10am.  
Fall Orvis Days this year will be October 1<sup>st</sup> through the 12<sup>th</sup>.