

THE CLINCH RIVER ANGLER

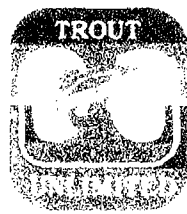
CHAPTER MEETING

When: February 12, 7 pm

What: Presentation of Discover Life in America, a non-profit group's efforts to identify and document every species that exists in the Great Smokey Mountains.

Who: Todd Witcher, Executive Director of DLIA

Where: St. Francis Episcopal Church in Norris



The Clinch River Chapter -
dedicated to conserving,
protecting and restoring the
natural environment of the
Clinch River Watershed

MEMBERS IN ACTION

Buzz Buffington reports that a few spaces remain for our chapter's **class on beginning fly tying**. Meetings will be Thursday evenings, from January 19-March 1 (no class on February 9). Buzz and other chapter members will provide individual instruction in teaching 9 patterns ranging from midges to a sulfur parachute and a comparadun—all useful on mountain streams and the Clinch River. Students will receive the new *Introduction To Fly Tying* plus all materials and for newcomers, a one year TU membership, all are included in the fee of \$125. Kudos to Buzz and Dick Geiger who worked hours putting the manual together. Bring your own tools or receive a free loaner. Contact Buzz to sign up (see page 2 for contact info, "Officers...").

Applications are open for the 2012 **Great Smoky Mountains Aquatic Biology and Trout Fishing Adventure** for middle school boys and girls, ages 12-15. The popular one week excursion at the GSM Institute at Tremont is being sponsored by the TN Council of TU for the second year. See the new Summer Adventure website at www.tntroutadventure.org for detailed information and for the Application Form which must be

submitted to John Thurman by March

1. (865.494.7771 or jrthur727@bellsouth.net)

Extra help is needed for the Trout in the Classroom programs at Norris and at Lake City middle schools. Students and teachers do day to day feeding, water testing and adjusting and the maintenance involved in raising eggs to release size. Help is needed occasionally with the equipment. To volunteer contact Dick Geiger (see page 2, for contact info, "Officers").

The chapter **Communications Committee needs a backup broadcaster** of chapter messages for times when Frances is not available. Contact Frances for more information and to volunteer (see page 2 for contact info, "Officers...").

A remedial effort to help **clean up the Peach Orchard Access area**, started with Buzz Buffington contacting TWRA about installing a trash barrel and ended with TWRA using a contractor to provide an ongoing, twice a month cleanup. Their efforts started in July after TU's river cleanup. Thus CRCTU will not need to provide a barrel and county resources will not be expended to service it. Buzz concludes with,

"Resolved: hope it works so we will never have to clean it again"!

WINTER STOCKING OF TROUT UNDERWAY

December 1, TWRA began releasing more than 88,000 rainbow trout into TN waters. Trout will average 10" in length. Daily creel limit is 7; there is no size limit. The releases conclude March 1.

TACKLE TIPS-Float Tubes

(by member, Buzz Buffington)

Float tubes, sometimes called "belly boats", were designed for use in lakes and ponds and propelled with swim fins. With attention to safety they can be used very effectively in slow moving rivers and tail waters like the Clinch **BUT NOT WHEN THE GENERATORS ARE RUNNING**. They come in several shapes. I prefer the round, donut shape as it allows me to lean my elbows on the front of the tube without tipping forward. They are equipped with a seat and a strap. I leave the strap unattached so I can sit on the seat or slide down in the tube and wade deeper water. When I cross water too deep to touch bottom, I drop down and support myself with my arms on the tube and "bicycle" my way across. Some advantages: your profile above the water is low and fish can't see you as easily. You can be very quiet and stealthy and are less likely to spook fish. I generally float downstream and when I come to a ledge on one side of the river to the other side, I concentrate on slowly, quietly fishing the across the ledge. I concentrate on openings and other spots that

(see page 2, column 2)

CHAPTER COMMITTEES, PROGRAMS and CONTACTS

Committees

Advocacy and Oversight	Steve Brown
Adopt-A-Highway	John Thurman
Conservation	Buzz Buffington
Membership	Tom Whitson
Communications	Frances Oates
Education	John Thurman 865.494.7771

Programs

Kids Fish Free Day	
Bio-monitoring	Dick Geiger
Coal Creek Conservation Partner	Barry Thacker
Newsletter Co-Editors	Bob and Mary Jo Jenkins 423.566.6734 jrdjenk@aol.com

BOOK OF THE MONTH

This recommended book and review was extracted from TU's recent magazine, *Trout Bum* (1988) by John Gierlach)

People getting into fly fishing often look for suggestions on books to help them become better anglers. Proposing an author known more for humor than "how to" may seem odd but many people feel the most important thing about fly fishing is not taking it too seriously. Gierach subtly makes this point while deftly providing intimate details of the culture and quirks of the sport. Seasoned anglers readily relate to the experiences while "newbies" soak up an amazing amount of information, accidentally gleaning vital tips that seem to crawl from the text like a caddis hatch.

that might hold a fish. A float tube can help you wade-if you fall the tube will catch you unless you're in very shallow water.

Some cautions: don't float tube in fast moving water. Float tubes are hard to control in swift current and you can get in trouble in a hurry. Don't try to float tube across rapids or big ledges. Always float tube with a buddy; if you get in trouble, someone is there to help. Round tubes are hard to get into and out of.—exit in water that's ankle deep. Sources of round float tubes are: Creek Company in Steam Boat Springs, CO, and Buck's Bag in Boise, ID.
Happy Fishing!

FLOOD CONTROLS NOT PERFECT BUT BENEFITS ARE NOTEWORTHY

TVA flood controls are not perfect but have proven benefits-saving "what could have been" disasters and costs. TN Valley reservoirs provide 10 million acre-feet of flood control storage during the "flood season", December-March. This equals 1 ft. of water covering 10 million acres of land. Of all locations throughout the Valley, Chattanooga is most at risk from flooding due to being situated at a narrow gorge.

Areas around dams can be very dangerous (the closer to the dam the more hazardous): If you fish, swim, or boat on TVA reservoirs be vigilant of hazards inherent around dams, locks and powerhouses. Various warnings used are horns, strobe lights, electronic spillway signs with strobe lights and horns, and warning signs. The number and type of warning signals vary among reservoirs. Don't go into the water expecting audible and/or visible warnings. Norris, for example, has horns, lights and signs but Hiwassee only has warning signs. Never anchor below a dam- leave the motor running (to facilitate "getting out of Dodge").

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