

www.bluegrasstu.org



February 2010 Newsletter

Bluegrass Chapter **Trout Unlimited** #478

"...conserving, protecting and restoring North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds."

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**for more contact information,
please visit our **New Website***

www.bluegrasstu.org

Next Meeting is February 2nd

Our next meeting is February 2nd. We will be joined by Byron Begley of Little River Outfitters. www.littleriveroutfitters.com Nestled in the foothills of Great Smoky Mountains National Park in Townsend, Tennessee is a family owned fly shop and school that has become a landmark in the fly fishing world. Little River Outfitters was founded to serve anglers who visit the National Park to fly fish in it's 800 miles of wild trout streams.

Troutfest 2010 will feature Lefty Kreh and Joe Humphreys. This event will be held at the Townsend Visitors Center in Townsend, Tennessee. The Banquet is on May 14th and the Exposition on the 15th and 16th. See their website for more information. troutfest.org

Annual BGTU Conservation Banquet

Where — Tates Creek Country Club

When — March 6, 2010

Cost—\$40 for one ticket

\$75 for two tickets

Highlights—Door Prizes, Bucket and Silent Raffles, Featuring a Live Auction

Contact—Cash Olszowy, Fundraising Chair
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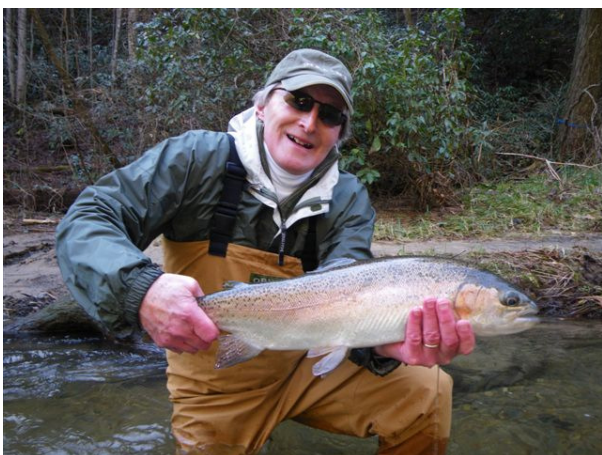
Outings

Due to an out-of-service ramp on the Dix River and high water conditions on the Cumberland River, the BGTU February outing is currently on hold. Should one of these places become more accessible prior to February 6th, the outing will still take place as scheduled. If you have an interest in attending this outing, please contact Gene Slusher at geneslusher@yahoo.com for more information or updated conditions. See page 4 for a list of this year's outings.

A New Years Trout or Two

A recent trip to the North Georgia Mountains for a New Years Eve escape to the Lake Rabun Hotel Lakerabunhotel.com, which is a comfortable and attractive 8 room lodge on Lake Rabun near Lakemont, GA. The hotel has a nationally known gourmet chef, Louis Osteen, as the resident culinary master. During my stay I was provided an unexpected opportunity to fish a small piece of the relatively unknown Soque River pronounced (So Quee) near Clarks-ville, GA. On Hwy 197. Close by is the Brigadoon Lodge on the Soque www.brigadoonlodge.com which I have known about the for many years. It is a very upscale fishing lodge with excellent large trout fishing, also off Hwy 197. It has a good website with videos.

I was able to book a half day on the Soque with BlackHawk Fly Fishing (www.blackhawkflyfishing.com) on New Years Day with the hope of starting 2010 off on a high note, at least with respect to landing a nice sized rainbow. BlackHawk has a beautiful two mile stretch of private Soque access just upstream from Brigadoon Lodge. A guide is required, and for good reason, if you hope to land a few of these fish in the 20 to 25 inch class, with the real potential for fish at 30 inches and 10 pounds.



It was a 45 degree windy day with a 42 degree water temperature, so having Andy Brackett, age 59, a well experienced, very personable guide to help me catch and retrieve these large trout, was a real benefit. The BlackHawk private water truly looked like an amazing trout aquarium with “small fish” in the 12” – 14” range and many fish above 20 inches. I hooked at least 5 fish above 20 inches and was able to get 2 24”-25” rainbows to the net and one fat rainbow in the 18” inch range also to net, plus several more “smaller” fish, any one of which would have been a “fish of the day” for me, all thanks to the expert assistance of Andy and all in just a 4 hour time span on a cold January afternoon.

The last fish of the afternoon was a beautiful 25” rainbow that jumped out of the water 3 times and then took off downstream like a freight train, taking me into a least half of my backing until my line got hung up in a tree branch around a bend in the stream. Andy was able to scramble down river with his big rubber net and net the fish, on the opposite side of the river from where we started. The 3x tippet and Andy’s heroic retrieval efforts certainly saved the day for me as I too was scrambling down river as fast as I could with numb toes and very cold hands, trying to reel in the line.

The BlackHawk owners, Abby and John Jackson are great people, they have an historic lodge that will accommodate a group of 8 with food service, but I expect most fisherman come for the day (\$200.00 plus a guide fee of \$100.00). This was a tremendous experience for a cold January day, just 2 hours north of Atlanta, and one I would recommend if you crave a real shot at landing rainbows and browns in excess of 20 inches, up to 30 inches. North Georgia has some excellent trout angling on many streams and several rivers, plus a large amount of private water. Also, check out Unicoi Outfitters with shops in Helen and Blue Ridge, Georgia www.unicoioutfitters.com. According to Andy, March and April are great times to be there.



Dale White, January 10, 2010.

President's Message

As you read this message the planning for our Chapter Annual Conservation Banquet and Auction has been completed. Now is the time for action so we can make it happen with Great Success. To do this we need members to volunteer for the following:

- Tying Flies and Nymphs to donate for Bucket raffle and Silent auction items.
- Donations of goods or services to be sold at auction or for bucket raffle items.
- Help with solicitation of local businesses for merchandise or gift certificates.
- Helping with room set-up at Tates Creek Country Club the afternoon of the Banquet.
- Members reserving the Date (March 6th) for a great night of fun, food and fundraising—Tickets are now available! Check the website; [www. bluegrasstu.org](http://www.bluegrasstu.org) for details.

Call me or any board member to volunteer to help with any of the above needs. To all members and fly fisherman this is your opportunity to support our Mission of Coldwater Conservation and Trout in the Classroom, attend the Banquet March 6th, mingle with fellow anglers and spend as we raise the necessary funds to support our Chapter's work.

In a previous Message I had written about a joint meeting of the State Council and the Boards of the Louisville Chapter and our Chapter with the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Department (KYFW). A goal that came from this meeting was for a Trout Unlimited action committee to be established by Ron Remaks, State Council President, to give input to KYFW regarding all matters Trout in our State. The committee has been formed, Gene Slusher is our Chapter Board representative and Sandy Broughman is the State Council representative, they will work with John Spence of the Louisville Chapter Board. The action committee will work with KYFW on the following initial agenda items;

- Reclassification of Coldwater streams in Kentucky.
- Identify needed restoration projects and update existing projects.
- Cumberland River issues and updates.
- Stocking programs and policies including law enforcement issues.

The objective of the Action Committee will be to connect resources of Trout Unlimited with private, local, state, and federal resources and particularly with KYFW to improve, restore and preserve coldwater fisheries in Kentucky. If you have input on any of these action items seek out Gene or Sandy, I'm positive they would like to hear your ideas or input! This is a great opportunity for our Trout Unlimited membership to engage with KYFW to improve and preserve the coldwater fisheries of our State!

Looking forward to seeing you on March 6th for a Great night of Fun and Fundraising!!!

Gary Rose

President

Trout in the Classroom KY HATCH AND RELEASE

We are planning for a Rock and Roll Release Picnic so the students can roll rocks to get a biological sampling of the invertebrates they find. The parents will bring potluck dishes to the stream and we're inviting experts from the Tracy Farmer Center at UK to show the students how aquatic insects are scored to indicate water quality for trout release.

The following article is about a pollutant that has been shown to endanger trout, especially in the US. Dr. Oz recently mentioned 10 things we should get out of our house and one of them was detergents that contain non-biodegradable surfactants. Nonylphenol ethoxylates, when discharged after waste treatment, do not degrade biologically, but cause biological enzymes in streams and rivers that cause estrogen production in male fish resulting in their loss of ability to produce milt so they cannot fertilize eggs. Worse than that, many male fish even become female fish. This has been tested with results that reveal a decrease in the male population of fish. Because fish are our 'canary in the coal mines', this is an alert that our drinking water is unsafe because downstream from urban discharges, another water treatment plant is treating this same water for use by another town. The Sierra Club's paper on this non-biodegradable surfactant can be accessed by clicking on the following link pasted into your browser: [http://www.jcaa.org/news/references/Sierra%20Club%20a%20safer%20alternative%20nonylphenol_ethoxylates3\[1\].pdf](http://www.jcaa.org/news/references/Sierra%20Club%20a%20safer%20alternative%20nonylphenol_ethoxylates3[1].pdf) In this paper, Sierra Club mentions alternative surfactants for detergents and many manufacturers have begun to make the change where they list this on their package as biodegradable surfactants. Aquatic life and our water depend on our choices so we should spread the word about pollutants that harm our environment because anyone of us can make a difference.



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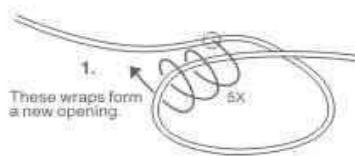
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Knot of the Month

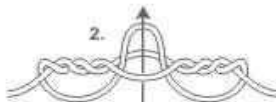
Outings Calendar

DROPPER LOOP

This knot forms a loop anywhere on a line. Hooks or other tackle can then be attached to the loop.



1. Form a loop in the line at the desired location. Pull line from one side of loop down and pass it through and around that side of loop. Make 5+ wraps around the loop, keeping a thumb or forefinger in the new opening which is formed.



2. Push bottom of original loop up through new opening and hold with teeth. Wet knot with saliva and pull both ends in opposite directions.



3. Pull ends of line firmly until coils tighten and loop stands out from line.

Month	Location	Tentative Dates
February	Cumberland or Dix River	February 6th
March	GSMNP	Friday 12 th – Sunday 14 th
April	Rock Creek	Friday 16 th – Sunday 18 th
May	Driftless Area	Friday 14 th – Sunday 16 th
June	Elkhorn Creek	Saturday 12 th
July	Holston River	Friday 23 rd – Sunday 25 th
August	Clinch River	Friday 20 th – Sunday 22 nd
September	Paint Creek	Friday 10 th – Saturday 11 th
October	Cumberland River	Friday 9 th – Sunday 11 th

Contact: Gene Slusher geneslusher@yahoo.com /859-221-3287