



## July 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](http://www.bluegrasstu.org)

### Next Meeting

Meetings take place at 6:30 at Columbia Steakhouse, downtown Lexington, 201 North Limestone. **July 5th**, Shirley Loftin will join us to talk about fishing on the South Holston and Wataga rivers in Tennessee.

### Former President Speaks to BGTU at June Meeting

By Robert Go

Matt Braughler, previously a BGTU president and currently the Development Director of National TU, returned to the bluegrass to give our chapter a talk about TU's Coldwater Conservation Fund (CCF). He explained the mission, the membership, and the benefits available to the members of the CCF.

He called the CCF TU's premiere major donor giving program. It brings together people to form a like minded community. The members are mostly philanthropists. At this level of giving, there is an emphasis not to get into gear premiums. The annual gift to be a member is \$1000. The actual average gift is way higher, \$2500.

The members tend not to be individuals. CCF is funded at the 85% to 90% level by foundations. In the past six years, the membership ranks have increased by over 100%. There are now 1100 members compared to 400 in 2004. Most of the recent growth in membership rolls has come from the east coast.

Members can specify that their money go directly to a specific CCF project. Some TU chapters as well as some TU state councils are members. In fact, Bluegrass TU and Louisville TU got together to be a member two years ago.

The CCF provides revenue streams for TU projects to protect and restore coldwater fisheries. Any project with TU's thumbprint is supported in part by the CCF. Braughler gave two examples of the CCF's projects. The first was the agreement reached regarding the Klamath River. In February 2010 TU signed an agreement with other public and private parties to remove the 4 main stem dams on the Klamath. He said it was a "huge victory" involving decades of work and that it was TU who brought the warring sides together. Though not a perfect agreement, he felt it was the best chance to restore salmon and steelhead historical breeding grounds in 100 years. The agreement has \$1,000,000,000 earmarked to fund the restoration work through 2020.

For those wanting more details, I checked and found that there are actually two agreements. They are the Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement and the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement. Both are designed to work together. One is for removing the dams and the other is for restoring the river.

The second project Matt described was the effort to discontinue the manufacture of felt wading shoe soles. Scientific evidence demonstrated felt soles are transmitting New Zealand Mud Snails, didymo, and whirling trout disease

# Trout in Kentucky for 2010

By Robet Go

The following is a summary of information provided by Ron Brooks, Director of Fisheries at the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR), when he spoke at our chapter's general meeting in April. Details from the trout plan being developed, prospects and conditions of some waters and facilities, as well as the status of some programs were revealed. These are exciting times for Kentucky trout fisheries. Since he spoke, the state has received a great deal of rain; therefore, the current status of various projects may not be as projected.

The first draft of the KDFWR plan for trout, which has been pushed back over the years, is near completion. It is expected to be done by this summer. When it is completed, it will be released to fishing groups for review and input. The feedback given will be taken into account for revisions.

According to Mr. Brooks, the KDFWR will be running a reassessment on some waters. Some of these places have not been sampled in 10 years. He also said there isn't as much available for stocking at this time because it got too cold at the hatcheries and that shut down the fish. Even so, fishermen won't see changes on streams except on the marginal put and take waters.

Public access to streams was discussed. Ron said that most streams do have public access, and others have landowners that do not mind. He reminded us that he had discussed with us last October, the Kentucky stream access plan. It is funded by farm bill money. The money is to be used to pay landowners \$1500 for allowing public access. The department has not yet received these funds. Public access points will be listed on the KDFWR website and linked to Google maps. He cautioned that the program has not worked in places that get trashed by visitors.

The Fishing in Neighborhoods program was expanded this year. Last year there were 6 lakes in the program. This year there are 29. Brooks had seen the success of such a program in Illinois. He pushed hard to expand Kentucky's program. Last fall, a survey of Kentuckians was done. The fraction of those surveyed who are interested in such a program is equivalent to 1.2 million of all Kentuckians. The program he stated is for people who would like to go fishing but don't have easy access to waters or just want to give fishing a try. The program has been getting lots of good feedback and is working real well. Since these bodies of water warm up substantially in the summer, the stocked trout will not survive when the water gets warm. Therefore, these places are put and take waters. They get fished out before a fishkill from heat can occur. It is hoped the program will help turn the trend of declining fishing license sales.

Mr. Brooks is enthusiastic about the Trout in the Classroom program. A change has been implemented to make starting new sites and restarting current sites easier. The requirement for a biologist to check that the fish eggs do go to the classrooms has been removed. He also said he is interested in making fishing a part of the program. It will require finding funding and solving logistics issues.

A mixture of positive and negative news came out of the Cumberland River area. It is hoped the trout in the river have bounced back from their state of health last fall. A dire note concerning the Wolf Creek Dam was mentioned. Repairs to the dam required first lowering the lake's water level to ease pressure on the dam, and then filling the caverns under the dam with grout. According to Ron, 2 months ago, seepage was still being detected, indicating that the grout isn't working. Work was halted on the critical area and the water level is not allowed to rise even 5 feet over the level set for repairs. With the lower water level in the lake, if the lake heats up in a drought, stripers and walleyes will be in danger. If there is a lot of rain, then the dam gates will have to be opened more and the increased flow into the river will put the trout in danger. The river will lose most of the larger trout. During droughts and warmer water periods the fish will move upstream and crowd the dam. This sounds great for fishermen but it isn't good for the fish. There just isn't enough food at the dam.

Mr. Brooks gave news about another KDFWR plan. The department is continuing to move ahead with their plan to introduce brook trout in the Cumberland River. There is an ongoing study regarding the survivability of these trout to possible predation by other fish such as large brown trout. If stocking is permitted, 10,000 brook trout in the 8 to 10 inch range will be released into the river. These fish will be raised from eggs provided by North Carolina. The eggs will be hatched at the Wolf Creek Hatchery and the first release of the fish is slated to be in 2011.

There is another new stocking project in the works for the Cumberland River. It will be the introduction of 80,000 sterile rainbow trout into the river. These fish will be in the 8 to 10 inch range at release. They will be expected to grow as large as 20 pounds because they will not be expending energy for reproduction.

Ron told us there is a big change coming to the Wolf Creek Hatchery. The water used by the hatchery exits into the hatchery creek and from the creek into the Cumberland River. Satellite photos show a brown plume of effluent flowing from the hatchery creek into the river. To solve the problem, the department plans to fill in the existing stream and build a new stream that will clean the water before it reaches the river. The old stream will be filled in so a stagnant pond won't form. To clean the hatchery discharge water, the new stream will be 6500 feet long. It will meander like a real stream with riffles, runs, and pools.

*Continued next page*

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The existing creek is a successful put and take fishery with access for the handicapped. The new creek will retain these features at the upstream end. There will be a drop below the put and take area to prevent fish from the river from going into the put and take section. Below the drop all the way to the river will be catch and release only. Fish will be expected to come up the creek from the river to spawn. A walking path along the stream will protect streamside vegetation. The project will be paid for by mitigation money. The new stream is currently in the design phase. The existing creek will be re-routed in January 2011. Construction will take awhile. The new stream is expected to be open for fishing in 2012.

We were also updated on the status of the KDFWR project to expand access on the Cumberland River. KDFWR bought land along the river in 2009. Construction is continuing on the parcel. Access will include expanded parking, and a footbridge to the island. It is currently open and construction is expected to be completed this summer.

## President's Message

With the election results official, I would like to welcome our two new Board members and thank the two departing Board members for their service to the Chapter. First I thank David Cummings for his three years as Chapter Treasurer and his stellar work as cashier of the past three Conservation Banquet/Auctions. His quiet dedication to the job will be missed. I also thank Cash Olszowy the Fundraising Chairman for the great job of directing the fundraising of the Chapter these past two years.

Next I welcome Steve Slade our new Treasurer and Kyle Adamson our new Fundraising Chairman to the Board of Directors. They are both enthused to serve the Chapter and the Board looks forward to their contributions.

At the past Board meeting your Board of Directors started a discussion concerning our Newsletter and the current method of distribution. The two main areas of concern are the cost of publishing and mailing the newsletter, about \$4,200.00 per year, and the timely receipt of the newsletter by our membership. It was voted by the Board to study and evaluate the current methods until the August Board meeting at which time the Board will act to adopt a cost efficient and effective newsletter policy. Your Board is open to any suggestions from the membership regarding our newsletter and its' distribution. You can share your thoughts with any Officer, Board Member or contact me at any time as we would like to have your input.

Now it's time to enjoy the Summer, Let's go Fishing!!!

Gary Rose  
President

## Former President Con't

TU and the Whirling Disease Foundation have been working together on this effort. Most top wader manufacturers he states have now eliminated or will eliminate felt soled wading shoes.

Last year was a good year for the CCF. These 2 and many other accomplishments happened despite the poor economy. Belts were tightened and costs were cut yet on the ground conservation work was expanded. It was a year with record revenue as well as volunteer work at the grass roots level.

Benefits for members include getting to go on the 10 to 15 trips each year the CCF arranges to great fishing waters. They get to tour project sites and see how their money is used and how it impacts on the ground work. Members get to know TU staff, projects, and other like minded members. They get regular conservation updates, can be in on conservation conference calls, and are invited to the annual CCF dinner in New York City.

Before he departed Matt left for the chapter, an Orvis ZG rod and an Abel reel to raffle off in a chapter fundraiser.

## Places to Fish in Kentucky—Rock Creek

By Tom Schrodt Rock Creek. This is the best and longest free flowing trout stream in Kentucky. I'm told it holds fish up to 3 pounds, but I've never caught one that big. It is an artificial lure only during the delayed harvest up to May 31<sup>st</sup> (not March 31<sup>st</sup>), and receives very heavy stocking of Browns and Rainbows year round. Take US 27 South and exit towards the town of Stearns. In Stearns take US 92 West. Near the town of Yamacraw over the South Fork of the Cumberland, turn Left onto #1363. At the Bell Farms, turn Right onto FR 564 and after 1/2 mile; turn Left onto FR 137 (Bell Farm Road). Follow FR 137 to the Hemlock Grove Campground. This stream is about 125 miles and is a full 2-1/4 hours. The creek is to your Left. Fish everywhere down to the TN border. Fish with dries and nymphs. The campground is very nice and the facilities are usually clean.

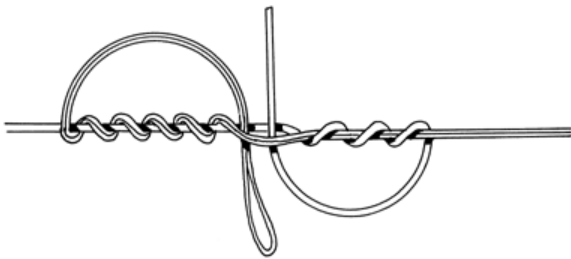


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 Doug Gradek - Editor  
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## Stu Apt Improved Blood Knot



When joining two lines of unequal diameter

1. Double the smaller line and wrap it around the larger line to the left and
2. Place it between the crossover point
3. Pinch the crossover point with left thumb
4. Wrap the larger line over the double line with fewer number of turns to the right
5. Thread it through the crossover point so that ends exit in opposite directions
6. Moisten and tighten in one motion by pulling both lines apart and trim ends

## Outings

Month	Location	Tentative Dates
June	Elkhorn Creek	Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup>
July	Holston River	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> – Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>
August	Clinch River	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> – Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>
September	Paint Creek	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> – Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup>
October	Cumberland River	Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> – Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>

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