



September 2008 Newsletter

Bluegrass Chapter **Trout Unlimited #479**

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

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www.bluegrasstu.org

Next Meeting is Sept. 9th - Jacobson Park!

The September Chapter Meeting will be a Family Outing/Picnic with Fun and Fellowship for Everyone! The program we will include; Casting Instruction and Demo., Instruction on Leaders, Tippet's and Knots, and A Seminar on Matching Insect and Fly. There will also be a Picnic Meal for everyone after the Program is concluded! When: Tuesday, September 9th, 2008 Time: 6:00 p. m. Where: Jacobson Park Shelter # 1 Richmond Road Lexington, Ky. Picnic Meal: 7:00 p. m. A Target Casting Contest will also be set up so you can test your Casting Accuracy and Skill!! Prizes will be awarded to top Three Winners The Chapter will furnish: Brats, Burgers, Hot Dogs, Buns and all the Condiments!! Everyone should try to bring a Dish to pass (for the Picnic Meal), your own Beverages and Table Service, Lawn Chairs and your Fly Rod. Mark you calendars now so you don't forget, Plan to attend a great evening of Fun, Education and Fellowship for everyone in the Family!! - Gary Rose

OUTING ALERT: CHECK INSIDE FOR MORE INFO!

Red River Gorge Stream Improvement by Sandy Broughman

After more than 50 years of having Rough Trail go through the stream at Parched Corn Creek, the Forest Service moved the trail to a bridge crossing the creek. The bridge was made on site by splitting a downed hemlock and hewing the face flat then spanning the creek with the resulting dressed timber.

Enter TU and the Red River Gorge Trail Maintenance crew. On Saturday August 9th, the two groups met at the Gladie Cultural center in the Gorge and participated in a training session led by Charlie Rowe of the Forest Service and Sandy Broughman of Trout Unlimited. After being instructed in the finer points of stream habitat improvements, the crew of 38 proceeded to the trailhead at Parched Corn Creek for a safety talk and distribution of tools to be taken to the work site. Donning the assigned hard hats and toting the necessary tools, the crew proceeded down the trail to the crossing of the trail and stream.

Once on site, the group quickly split into work crews to begin the construction of a structure to constrict the creek from the approximately 60

Red River Stream Improvement Cont....

foot wide, braided stream to an confined stream of 4 feet wide. The channel constrictor has the added advantage of providing overhead cover in addition to greater depth for fish passage.

With a ten man crew to handle the large logs necessary to make a structure of sufficient size to stay in place in high water, the task of felling trees for the structure fell to Charlie Rowe, a certified chainsaw instructor. "Timber" was heard throughout the forest as old snags were brought down for material in the channel constrictor. Within a short time the structure began to take shape and the channel began to flow in one nice stream, deep enough for fish passage.

The long hike out of the Gorge was begun with a team leader at the front and one in the rear to make sure everyone exited the work site safely. The tools were loaded unto the Forest Service truck and hard hats returned to the duffel bag from whence they came. The entire crew including TU'ers Sandy Broughman, David Cummings, and Mark Hanni adjourned to a nearby campsite for a shared meal consisting of every fresh vegetable from the garden including green beans, sweet corn, squash and a variety of tomatoes. Rib eye steak, Smoked ham, meatloaf and more was lined up on the table. Salads made from fresh garden greens were assembled with every conceivable combination of fruit and vegetable. Fried pickles began the lineup as an appetizer to go with the homemade German beer. For desert the homemade peach (fresh peaches) ice cream was just the thing for all to enjoy. After a few adult beverages the evening was just getting started. The tents of those staying over were decorated for the Tent-a-palooza tent decorating contest, held annually in August by the RRGTM crew. Soon a mandolin, guitar and dulcimer were at the ready as informal bluegrass music began to waif through the forest.

David and Sandy thanked all the participants for their hard work and took their leave to return to Lexington and Georgetown, feeling very satisfied that a hard days work made a difference for trout in the Gorge.



workers at Parched Corn Creek

Bighorn Browns and Rainbows by Tom Schrott

Flowing through the Crow Indian Reservation in south central Montana there is a trout laden tail-water that is seldom fished by outsiders: The Bighorn. Not stocked since 1973, this river is plum full of trophy sized browns and rainbows eager to take imitations of nymphs and dries that they might be feeding on at the time.

For several days prior to this years 4th my son Andrew and I joined up and drifted a total of 28 miles of the Bighorn; catching equal numbers of the biggest, strongest browns and rainbows I have caught since fishing Alaska's Copper and Murrel Rivers. The fish were feeding on small red river worms and scuds, and we used imitations of both tied as doubles below a white indicator. Once hooked these river spawned fish would jump 5 or 6 times and then head for the fast water. The really big ones would be into our backing in a flash. Each day we landed more than 30 fish each between 15 and 20 inches, and only once did I handle a fish less than 14 inches. With simultaneous hookups it was everything we could do to keep our lines untangled. We kept our guide, Wayne Egbert out of Forresters' Bighorn Resort, busy either landing and releasing fish or untangling our lines. Wayne explained that the smaller fish hide in the grasses bordering the river knowing that to venture out is suicide with so many big browns out there. Catch and release is the practice; however, one may keep one fish; I believe it must be over 22 inches.

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As a tail-water one might ask how such a river can sustain a high population of fish without a stocking program. The answer lies in the slue dam some 2 miles below the 500 foot high, solid concrete hydro dam. This ingenious dam controls the flow to a constant 6,000 cfs. The river fluctuates little more than 6 inches and the numerous gravel beds provide ample sites for spawning. Recent surveys indicate there are about 6,000 fish per mile of river. Most of the river flows through the reservation; however, some of the land around the river is a U.S. National Park.

While called a resort, Nick and Francine's Forresters' 88 acres which borders the Bighorn, is actually a very comfortable lodge with an in-house Orvis shop, sporting excellent cuisine and several good wines. Typical evenings start with appetizers in the bar equipped lounge, followed by three and four course dinners. My favorite entrée was the top half of boned rainbow trout baked in parchment paper with a white wine and lemon sauce. Both rooms and cabins are available at Forresters', and the all inclusive cost includes all meals, guide fees, lodging and transportation to and from the put-ins.



Outings by Rusty Hallett

Another summer has come & gone. It's hard to believe it is September already. I hope everyone had a good summer - hope everyone got some fishing in.

Now that fall is just around the corner, our thoughts turn to cooler weather, the leaves turning into a blaze of color, & of course, more fishing.

Our chapter trip to the Cumberland River on August 23rd was a big success! Around 20 members fished that day, some in boats, some in canoes & kayaks, some in one man pontoons. All had a good time & lots of fish were caught! Our prez-Todd Martin had one of the best days I've seen anyone have on that river. Many of the fish came on Zebra Midges & Black Woolly Buggers.

We had so much fun, that we've decided to do it again! The date is Saturday, September 27, same time, same place, which is 8:00 a.m. local time at the Kendall boat ramp.

We are thinking about having an "organized" shore lunch between 12:00 & 1:00 at the Blackfish Creek area: We will bring a couple of grills & stoves, so bring some food & we will put together a pot luck shore lunch.

The river is really fishing good right now, so make plans to join us for the trip!

Our annual steelhead trip is coming up in early December. I will let everyone know the details as I get the trip set up. We caught some nice fish last year; should be even better this year.

One final note: our next meeting will be at Jacobson Park on September 9th. Come join us for some burgers & brats & all the trimmings, & check out our program for the evening. See you there!!

See you there!



David Cummings' Cumberland River "wal-trout"

Buy * Sell * Barter

Looking to Buy or Barter? - Looking for that perfect piece of equipment? Get the request to the Newsletter or post on our online forums at www.bluegrasstu.org



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Bluegrass Chapter Trout Unlimited #479
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From the President

Hello everyone. We are planning some fishing trips to several locations over the next couple of months. Please contact Rusty or see the web page for details and sign up info.

We are having an outdoor meeting picnic-style at Jacobson Park on Sept. 9th so come on out! We are always looking for projects, programs, or volunteers so if you want to get involved, please make sure to attend our monthly meetings or contact a board member.

Keep a drag free drift.....
Todd Martin, President

Editor's note: Our apologies for not getting everyone's trip articles and pictures into the newsletter this month. We had several submissions for August which is exciting! We do appreciate your writing efforts and will run new trip notes next month.

Please visit our Website!
www.bluegrasstu.org

Attention Members!!!

Renewals are required every year. You should receive a notice from National TU approximately four months before your membership expires. If you don't renew they will keep sending a notice monthly until some time after your membership expires. After a certain time your local chapter will send you a final notice. You will save a lot of unnecessary mail along with work and expense for the local chapter and the national organization if you renew right away. Please, when you get the first notice do not put it down. Send in the renewal right away or go on line at www.tu.org and get it done immediately. You might get a valuable coupon as a reward. Thanks - Charlie Ebling