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April 2009 Newsletter

Bluegrass Chapter **Trout Unlimited** #478

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

Our Next Meeting is April 7th at Columbia's

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www.bluegrasstu.org

A Note of Gratitude

Thank you to all for another successful banquet last month. Thanks to all that donated their time and effort, auction items, and those who attended. The banquet is one the few opportunities we as a group the chance to meet as a whole. It was good to see familiar faces and new ones as well, and with the upcoming year there will be other opportunities to come out and support our chapter. One such event that is coming up is the Rock Creek Clean Up, and we hope to see you all out there supporting our local streams and our organization. Once again thank you to all that made the banquet a special and successful event, and we hope to see you soon.

-BGTU Board of Directors

Paperless Newsletter

Hello all! I have been attempting to make an effort to collect the interest from you, our members, as to whether or not it would be worthwhile to move from a traditional newsletter to a more eco-friendly e-newsletter. There are pros and cons to both sides, but as a conservation organization I believe we should give this a harder look. For instance, the amount of funds spent to get this newsletter to your doorstep annually could help fund as many as three new Trout In the Classroom projects, and with interest from more than six schools for the next school year this is something important to consider. There also benefits from a more interesting newsletter, as we would not be limited to four pages and would be able to include more pictures from events such as our banquet last month or the upcoming Rock Creek Cleanup. There is a forum post available on our website for you express your opinions as to whether or not you would be in favor of this decision. I think it would be a strong statement for our organization, which is a leader in conservation in the area and an example to other conservation organizations to follow. Thus far I have received emails from about a dozen people willing to receive their newsletters in email format, but unfortunately this is not enough of a response to move forward with. I ask you to think it over, look at the website's posts, and let me know what you would like to do.

Thank you for your support.

Kevin Koonmen

Help Clean Up Rock Creek and Have Fun Too!

A fun TU event is coming in April! The annual Rock Creek Cleanup and One-fly Fishing Competition weekend is planned for Saturday, the 18th, in the Daniel Boone National Forest. After all the effort TU put into getting acid mine drainage neutralized, the creek continues to revive and renew. Now fish enthusiast, conservationist, and people who love the outdoors have the opportunity to contribute to these improvements by participating in the cleanup activities along the shores.

Just driving to the park location on the Kentucky-Tennessee border is a fun and rewarding activity. A delightful taste of the mountain culture can be seen as you roll over the dips and curves of the hillsides. Something surprisingly beautiful awaits you at every turn. This is truly a way to escape city life and view a rural culture that clings to mountainsides like Rock Cress to a limestone outcropping. Interesting rock formations abound and watching them change in form and color as you go further south and deeper into the mountains, will fill you with awe at the earth forces that bring forth such beauty. Neat little settlements are nestled securely into the mountainsides, a bit of civilization in a wild and somewhat untamed part of Kentucky. Be sure to look for the big rock shaped like a giant skull, but be careful...it is part of a hairpin curve.

The cleanup begins at the Hemlock Grove Picnic area, overlooking Rock Creek. This is a nice place for a picnic with tall trees shading the tables. There, the Forest Service and Job Corps will provide a picnic lunch for participants at noon. Last year's lunch was delicious and consisted of hotdogs and hamburgers along with baked beans and slaw, and a fresh baked cake as desert.

As you meander along the gravel road and streamside with your trash bags in hand, you will have the opportunity to observe wildlife in action – birds on the wing and furry critters darting into the undergrowth. The water is clear and flows merrily along. Fish can be seen swerving in and out of the currents and rocks. Small tributary streams bubble down the hillside, in delicate tinkling waterfalls, mysteriously shrouded by plants native to the area that are often not seen in areas of the state not protected by the Forest Service. The wind can be heard rustling in the just budding trees overhead as a bit of sunlight glints through the boughs. What a great way to pick up trash! Participants may set up camp at the Great Meadow Campground. The campground is very neat and clean. Each camping area has a fire ring, a picnic table and a spot treated with pea gravel providing a nice level tent site. Outdoor toilets are nearby as well as a spigot for running water so you can wash camp dishes, etc. All in all, it is a very comfortable campsite. For those who are no inclined to rough-it, Whitely City has a Holiday Inn Express (606) 376-3780, Strensans has the Big South Fork Motor Lodge (606) 376-3156, please call for information and reservations.

The clean-up begins at 8:30 at the picnic grounds and runs until noon. After the lunch, the One-fly competition begins. The competition consists of teams of two persons drawn from the registrants. Individuals can fish as long as they retain the original fly, but when the fly is lost you must stop competing. The winner will be decided by the most fish caught and released without harm.

The award ceremony and cookout will commence at 6 PM at the Great Meadow Campground. Grilling of steaks and other entrée will be under the direction of the Conservation Committee. Call Sandy Broughman for information and covered dish coordination (859) 271-1778. Be sure to bring food, utensils and a chair!

So gather up your family and friends, get you camping gear together, tie your favorite fly (you only need one!) and join us on the banks of the beautiful Rock Creek in the Daniel Boone National Forest for fun and conservation.

(Driving Directions on page 3)

Driving Instructions to Rock Creek

FASTEN SEATBELTS

Proceed south on I-75 to Exit 62 at Mt Vernon.

Follow KY 461 south toward Somerset, approximately 18 miles to Shopville and the intersection with KY 80.

Follow KY 80 west 6 miles to KY 914 (Somerset Bypass).

Follow the Bypass south to US 27, south of Somerset, go 25 miles south on US 27 to Stearns. (An alternate route would be turning west on KY 1651 at Whitley City, then west on KY 701 to its intersection with KY 92, then west on KY 92.)

Turn west on KY 92 at Stearns, proceeding down to the South Fork of the Cumberland River at Yamacraw. At the west end of the Cumberland River bridge, turn left onto KY 1363.

Follow KY 1363 approximately 11.1 miles to its end at FS Road 564 (a gravel road). The rest of your journey parallels Rock Creek, keep a sharp eye for good fishing places.

Continue south on FS 564 for 2 miles to. FS 137.

Take the left fork (FS 137) about 3.8 miles to Great Meadow campground, passing Hemlock Grove picnic area along the way.

We will be camped in the first loop on the right. Find a campsite and unfasten your seatbelt.

These directions are more advisable than the directions provided in last month's newsletter. So please disregard what you read here last month and stick with these all the way until you see familiar faces with trash bags ready to help clean the creek.

Buy * Sell * Barter

Looking to Buy or Barter? - Do you have something you would like sell or trade? Just send an email to Kevin at ke-koonmen@yahoo.com for any item you would like placed in this section.



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From the President

Thank you, Thank you, and Thank you to all those who helped make the banquet a success. It was a great night of food and drinks, as well as raising funds to help protect the streams of this state that we all love so much. We have some other chances to get out and make a difference coming up so stay tuned and come on out and help us out. Look forward to seeing you all in the near future!

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

Editor's note:

We need more responses for the paperless newsletter before we can begin removing names from the list...I have received less than a dozen requests for paperless only. If you no longer want the traditional newsletter please email me at kekoonmen@yahoo.com.



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 online at www.tu.org and get it done immediately. You might get a valuable coupon as a reward. Thanks - Charlie Ebling