

Fish Tales

Little Stony Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited - Newsletter

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 11

SPRING, 2009



IN THE NET

Meeting Dates:

Regular meetings are held at 6:00 pm on the second Monday of the month on a Bi-monthly schedule. However, with the number of current events on our calendar we will meet monthly until June. Our next chapter meeting will be held on May 11th at Pathfinders Outdoor Adventures in Norton, VA.

Chapter Re-chartering

Our chapter was up for re-charterization this year and due to the past inactivity we faced an uphill battle. I'm happy to report that at the Virginia Council meeting in Waynesboro on April 18th, the council voted to re-charter the Little Stony Creek Chapter for four more years. Thanks to all who helped make this possible.

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Conserving, protecting and restoring coldwater fisheries and
their watersheds in beautiful southwestern Virginia

Little Stony Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited

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Norton, VA 24273

Little Stony Creek Chapter Picnic

The chapter held it's Picnic for all current and future members at Hanging Rock Recreation Area on March 28, 2009. Despite the cold and rainy weather, attendance was good. Invited guest John Ross of VCTU, George Palmer of VDGIF and Chuck Lane of USFS discussed potential projects and developments with cold water fisheries in our area.



John Ross discusses potential projects with Mark Caruso—LSTCU Treasurer



Head Cook—Brian Hunnicutt



Everyone enjoying good food and conversation

TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM

“TIC is a unique way to teach the relevance of Watersheds in our area.”

With already two schools in Wise County interested in the TIC program, Coeburn High School and St. Paul Elementary, we have added two more to the list; Norton City Elementary School and Thomas Walker High School located in Lee County. The Chapter is working hard to secure funding for the first two schools in order to provide a successful kick off in the fall of 2009. So far we have raise \$750.00, and have a pledge from a leading coal company in the area to support funding for a school. Anyone interested in volunteering assistance to the program or know of potential funding resources please contact us for more details.

TEACHERS: If you're a teacher in Virginia, we'd like to alert you to some excellent educational programs that are part of our VCTU initiatives, the Trout in the Classroom, Tri-State Conservation & Fishing Camp and the Boy Scout merit badge award. For more information or details please contact us or access the links through our web site at : <http://www.littlestonycreektu.com/>

Little Stony Creek - 2009 Officers/Board



During the February meeting elections were held for our 2009 officers and board members. We have also nominated and selected committee chairpersons for representative activates. The results are listed below with contact information. If anyone would like to get involved with a particular committee , please contact the appropriate chairperson.

CHAPTER OFFICERS

President: Mark Leonard 877 627-5632 leonardmr52@yahoo.com
Treasurer: Mark Caruso 276 445-3046 mark.caruso@us.army.mil
Secretary: Linda Leonard 804 363-3414 lcleonard@yahoo.com

CHAPTER COMMITTEES

Education: Linda Leonard lcleonard@yahoo.com
Conservation: Brian Hunnicutt brian_e_hunnicutt@wellmont.org
Fund Raising: Buzz Witt buzzywitt@yahoo.com
Communications: Mark Leonard leonardmr52@yahoo.com

CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

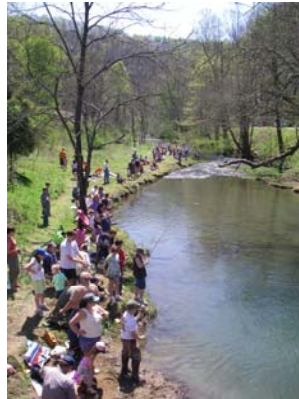
President: Mark Leonard
Treasurer: Mark Caruso
Secretary: Linda Leonard
At Large: Brian Hunnicutt
At Large: Bill Deel
At Large: Buzz Witt

Our chapter By-laws were also adopted and approved during the February meeting. Copies can be obtained by request or by download from our web site.

Natural Tunnel State Park Kids Fishing Day

April 25, 2009

The Little Stony Creek Chapter recently participated in the Natural Tunnel State Park Kids Fishing Day on Stock Creek in Scott County. The event was a success and the weather could not have been better for a nice day of trout fishing. A total of 295 kids turned out with poles in hand to land their limit of trout for the day. Most all kids went home with a least one trout and big smiles on their face.



The banks were packed with fishing poles



The stocking truck arrives with lots of Trout

Any kid that did not get to catch a fish did not go home empty handed. All kids that registered received a prize via Scott County Outdoorsman, Appalachian Whitetail Association and the state park.

The Little Stony Creek Chapter participated in the event with help from Bruce Wankel of the Virginia Creeper Fly Shop. Kids where taught knot tying skills, how to identify aquatic insects and fly casting. Any kid that took interest in learning the above skills was eligible to win a complete fly rod and reel set. Ethan Hensley was the lucky winner and our best wishes go out to him on his future trout fishing adventures.



Stocking of Trout begins



Bruce Wankel teaches the art of fly casting



One happy fisherperson

Conservation Efforts

Mountain Fork - The Little Stony Creek Chapter is active in several potential project in the area. One is the culvert replacement at the 704 crossing of Mountain Fork on High Knob. The chapter will apply for an Embrace-a-Stream grant from Trout Unlimited and work with the US Forest Service to obtain funds to replace the drain pipe with an arch to allow for a natural steam bed. This will allow fish and other aquatic wildlife to migrate upstream of 704 up to the base of the dam at High Knob Lake.



Stock Creek - In discussing Stock Creek with the Craig Seaver, Park Manager of Natural Tunnel State Park, there is interest in improving steam habitat at the Stock Creek Interpretive Center. The banks of the creek have sever erosion and must be repaired to prevent future damage. The chapter has the potential to work with a Conservation Contactor, Ecotone, who is looking for a project on the Clinch River watershed to improve wetland and stream habitat.



Little Stony Creek Chapter #652



Events / Activities

MAY

- 1st thru 3rd - TU Southeast Rally - HMSP, Marion, VA
 5th - Spearhead Trails Meeting, MECC, Big Stone Gap, VA
 11th - Little Stony Creek Chapter Meeting, Norton, VA

JUNE

- 6th - Hungry Mother State Park Outdoor Expo, Marion, VA
 8th - Little Stony Creek Chapter Meeting, Norton, VA
 13th - Best Friends Festival Kids Fishing Day, Norton, VA
 21st thru 26th - Conservation & Fishing Camp, Syria, VA

AUGUST

- 17th thru 24th - TU 50th Anniversary Celebration, Traverse City, MI

SEPTEMBER

- 14th - Little Stony Creek Chapter Meeting, Norton, VA
 19th thru 20th - SWVa Hunting & Fishing Expo, Abingdon, VA

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TU Southeast Rally

TUers from the southeast will be gathering at Hungry Mother State Park in Marion, Virginia, May 1 –3, to capitalize on TU's 50th Anniversary to raise big bucks for Chapters and Councils.

Come out and join leaders from Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, North & South Carolina, Tennessee, West Virginia and Virginia in seminars to learn how to attract and involve more members, improve communications on a budget, and increase habitat for native and wild trout.

There will also be lots of fun and fishing . Join locals as they guide you on streams that include the South Fork Holston, White Top Laurel, Beaverdam Creek, Big Wilson Creek or some other secret stream. The evenings will include a Friday Night cookout and a 3-B delight (Barbecue, Bourbon & Branch) for Saturday.

Cost for the entire weekend is \$95, which includes lodging and all meals. \$65 for those that don't need lodging.

Find out more by going to: www.tu.org/SERally2009.com

TU Tri-State CONSERVATION & FISHING CAMP

The Conservation & Fishing Camp is coming up on us very fast and we still have not had a student from our area to participate. The camp will be held June 21-26, at Graves' Mountain Lodge in Syria, Virginia.

The camp is an exciting week of hands-on activities in a beautiful mountain stream environment, where treasured brook trout have survived for thousands of years. In this environment a high school kid (Grades 8-12) can become a skilled and responsible angler and conservationist.

The camp is for boy & girls and will be a 6-days, 5-night residential camp. Fee is \$600 per camper and financial aid is available for those who may need assistance. The camp is limited to 24 campers, so we need to have a least one student from our area to attend and enjoy this fantastic opportunity. If you know of a potential camper please contact us for details and assistance.

