

Fish Tales

Little Stony Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited - Newsletter

VOLUME 2, ISSUE III FALL, 2009



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IN THE NET

Meeting Dates:

Regular meetings are held at 6:00 PM on the second Monday of the month. Meetings are held at Pathfinders Outdoor Adventures in Norton. We will not be meeting in December due to the Holidays. Meetings will resume on January 11th of 2010. For directions and additional information on meeting check our web site.

Trout In the Classroom:

Keep up with the latest developments in the TIC programs at various schools in our area by logging on the our web site and access the individual schools by clicking on the Trout In the Classroom links.

Contact Info:

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

Little Stony Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited

PO Box 756

Norton, VA 24273

Letter From the President

Dear Members,

Since moving back to the area a little over two years ago, I made the Stony Creek Chapter of TU a priority for the area. When looking into the chapter we had a little over a dozen members and no recorded activity in close to four years. As a matter of fact, the chapter was about to be dissolved by the Virginia Council (VCTU) and incorporated into the new Mountain Empire Chapter in the Abingdon-Wytheville areas.

At my insistence, the VCTU allowed me some time to get things going again and remain a sovereign chapter in Southwest Virginia. In March of this year, we held elections and elected officers and passed a new set of by-laws. Since that time we faced numerous task to obtain re-charterization, which we received this summer from the VCTU.

I'm happy to report that since the beginning of the year, we have increase membership to 30 members, raised funds for 4 Trout In the Classroom (TIC) programs, received grants for two conservation projects, participated and provided prizes for two Kids Fishing Days and posted one of the best web sites in the Virginia Council of chapters.

Of course none of this could have been accomplished without the volunteers in our chapter. We have had great success in raising funds this year and I would like to thank Buzzy Witt for his devotion to this task. But, as programs and activity begin to increase we are going to need more volunteers and funding. We have two TIC coordinators now, but we will need two more for next years programs. We have partnered with VDGIF to restore Brook and Brown trout in two local streams on High Knob and will need assistance in stocking of fingerlings this fall and spring. In short, we need more volunteers to make this chapter successful and to continue with coldwater conservation and education programs for Southwestern Virginia.

I am open to new ways or suggestions on improving the chapter and increasing membership. As a group of local anglers we all have one common goal and that is to preserve, protect and restore our trout fisheries in the area. We are off to a good start and we need to keep the momentum moving forward as we grow and develop.

Thanks for your time and devotion,

Mark R. Leonard

Phone: 877 627-5632
email: mark@unitedcontrol.com



Little Stony Creek Trout Unlimited



Little Stony Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited is located in Southwestern Virginia and includes Buchanan, Dickenson, Lee, Russell, Scott and Wise Counties. We are a group of anglers from the region dedicated to the preservation and restoration of local trout waters.



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:	Buzzy Witt	buzzywitt@yahoo.com
Cummunications:	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 are listed on the web site. Copies can be obtained by request or by download from the web.

WHAT'S NEW/UPCOMING EVENTS

NEWS REPORT - I hope everyone had a chance to see the news report from WCYB-TV 5 on November 16th. The news featured two of the schools that are participating in the Trout In the Classroom program this year; Coeburn & St. Paul. We hope to have a follow up report in the spring during our releases and feature the other two schools, Clintwood and Castlewood.

Also look in your local papers for a future news article on the TIC program and how we are implementing it in Southwest Virginia. We hope to have stories in the Coalfield Progress, Star and Clinch Valley Times.

AWARDS - At the recent Virginia Council of Trout Unlimited's awards meeting the Little Stony Creek Chapter received two awards. One was a certificate of appreciation award for our President, Mark Leonard, for his work on redevelopment of the chapter. The chapter also received the Councils Award for Excellence for our work this past year in Southwestern Virginia. We received one award last year, a silver award for our web site work. Thanks to all that made this possible.

GRANT UPDATES - We are still waiting to here from the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture as to our status on the grant application to modify the culvert on FR704 crossing Mountain Fork. If not successful we have other grant opportunities to pursue to keep this project active. We are applying for an Embrace-A-Stream grant through Trout Unlimited for Stock Creek the deadline for this grant is December 14. If you would like to assist with this grant please contact Mark Leonard.

STREAM RESTORATION - We have developed a plan, with VDGIF, for restoring trout in two local streams. The plan calls for stocking of fingerling Brown trout in Little Stony Creek from the first bridge above Hanging Rock to the falls. We also plan on stocking fingerling Brook trout in Mountain Fork. By stocking fingerling trout it will give the fish a chance to survive by adapting to the stream environments and move throughout the stream without the possibility of being harvested. Both stocking plans will take place this spring and your help is needed to pack the fish into remote areas of the streams. Please contact us on how to help out with these two projects.

Conservation Projects

Stock Creek - Scott County

The Little Stony Creek Chapter has been working with Natural Tunnel State Park on restoring the stream banks and removing the sediment along Stock Creek to improve trout habitat. We have received a grant from Appalachian Power Company this summer for \$1,700.00 and we are applying for an Embrace-a-Stream grant from Trout Unlimited. If successful the chapter will work with Double C Environmental contractors to install a series of rock vanes, restore the bank and plant trees along the banks of Stock Creek at Natural Tunnel State Park's Interpretative Center.



Mountain Fork - Wise County

Another project the Little Stony Creek Chapter has been working on involves the 704 culvert on Mountain Fork. We have been working with the US Forest Service, US Fish & Wildlife and the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture to modify or replace the culvert to allow fish passage up to the base of High Knob Lake Dam. We have applied for a grant from EBTJV which would allow the work to take place in the summer of 2010 if accepted. The plan calls for a series of rock vanes to raise the stream bed below the culvert and make a natural stream bed in the culvert allowing enough depths for aquatic wildlife to move upstream. We also have a plan in place with VDGIF to stock the stream with fingerling brook trout to establish a native brook trout stream on High Knob.



WOW is about all that can be said! We have really exceeded expectation with the Trout In the Classroom for our first year in the program. We had hoped to have three schools this year to participate in the program and we actually have four. Not a bad start.

TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM

Trout In the Classroom is a national education program sponsored by Trout Unlimited. The program has reached a milestone in Virginia by reaching over 100 schools across the state.

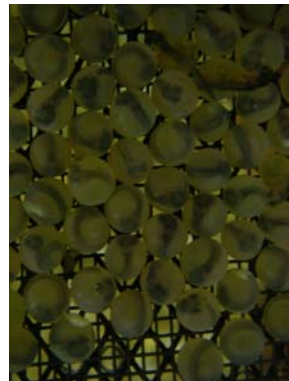
In the program, students work with the Little Stony Creek TU Chapter to receive eggs in the fall, raise them in a 55-Gallon aquarium until they are two to three inch fingerling trout, and then release them in a coldwater stream in the spring. Students learn about water quality, stream ecology, conservation ethics and biology.

With each TIC program having a start-up cost of about \$1,300, new projects are supported by cooperative partnerships between TU chapters, schools, local businesses and foundations that often provide funding assistance, and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, which supplies eggs, educational and technical support, and helps with the releases. Over the last two years, these partnerships raised almost \$50,000 in funding and in-kind services for TIC projects. This year's grants included a four-year commitment of \$40,000 from the American Electric Power (AEP) Foundation to fund projects in Southwest Virginia, and \$5,000 from Dominion to initiate 10 new TIC sites in the state. Of those funds the Little Stony Creek chapter received \$1,000 from AEP in support of Castlewood Elementary and Clintwood High programs. The chapter also received \$1,000 from Dominion in support of St. Paul Elementary and Coeburn High schools.

We have also been successful in obtaining donations from a couple of private donors, Alpha Natural Resources, Cumberland Resources, Clintwood High School and Colby Supply.



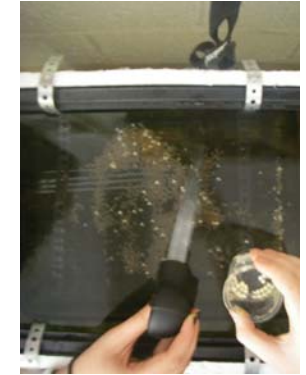
St. Paul Elementary Students and their eggs in the "eyed stage"



Also the "good ole boys" of Home Hardware in Norton contributed supplies and material for each school to maintain their aquariums.



Coeburn High Students removing dead eggs from their aquarium.



Castlewood Elementary students changing water in their aquarium..



Clintwood High Teachers and our own Bill Deel

