



May 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

Next Meeting

Meetings take place at 6:30 at Columbia Steakhouse, downtown Lexington, 201 North Limestone. **May 4th** Rob Foster. Rob is a history professor at Berea College and assist in fly tying and bamboo fly rod construction classes. Rob will be demonstrating and speaking on Bamboo Fly Rod Construction.

Pineville Elementary: A Reflection on Alevin

I've made it a practice, since I've become a father, to reflect on any significant occurrences in the form of a journal, so that I have my thoughts recorded for the occasional revisit. I wanted to share this with you and express my appreciation on behalf of myself, my school community and especially, my students. Feel free to post any excerpts or the article in its entirety to the blog. From a somewhat inexperienced teacher with his first encounter with TIC, here is my reflection:

I've heard an adage that quips: "It takes a village to raise a child." With that statement in mind, it has taken a community and several state agencies to raise rainbow trout and ensure the success of our Trout in the Classroom project.

In November, we received an exciting delivery of nearly 300 "eyed eggs," which looked like tiny orange marbles about the size of BB's with two dark dots peering through the translucent shell. Within two weeks the eggs hatched and the tiny, awkwardly moving alevin began their journey that would soon lead them into our very own Clear Creek stream.

With transparent bodies, they received nourishment from a yolk sac attached to their underbellies. As the amount of yolk decreased, the alevin became much stronger and braver as well. They ventured out of the hatching basket and into an artificial habitat in the form of a 55 gallon tank that would serve as their home for the next six months.

Little did they know they would have a great impact on an entire school community, encompassing grade levels, rekindling the desire to learn for both old and young. Nor did they seem to mind the many amazed and intrigued stares that are now redirected at them.

The fry, as they were now known, required a great deal of care. The parameters of the water had to be checked and documented daily. Water changes of about 20% were scheduled for 3 times a week, a "biofilter" of bacteria cultures had to be maintained and then there was the feeding of 2-3 times daily, on weekends, as well as holidays. Appetites, as we all know, do not take breaks

Continued Page 3

President's Message

The Annual Rock Creek Clean-Up and First Cast Training/Fly Tying Demo came off as huge success thanks to the efforts of Sandy Broughman, Conservation Director of the Chapter. In attendance were Boy Scout Troup's, a Cub Scout Troup, Job Crop Youth, Volunteer Leaders, Forest Service Personnel and Trout Unlimited members. In all near 100 people rallied to the cause to accomplish our mission of "conserving, protecting and restoring North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds". Thank You to all who participated for a job well done!

I would like to encourage our membership to consider attending the Southeastern Regional Rally 2010 of Trout Unlimited and Troutfest in Townsend, Tennessee, this May 13th -15th. It will be a great opportunity to learn more about Trout Unlimited from regional leaders and mingle with personalities of interest in the Fly Fishing world at the various events of Troutfest. It's not too late to make reservations to attend.

Our Trout in the Classroom Project for the current year is quickly coming to a close. During this month of May the various classrooms will be releasing their fingerlings into designated streams. A schedule of the release dates and the stream can be found under Trout in the Classroom on our website. These are big events for the students, parents and teachers. Don Thompson, Trout in the Classroom, Director has a great day planned for all participants. If you have been interested in this project but not directly involved I encourage you to set one of these dates aside to get INVOLVED! Speaking of involvement with Trout in the Classroom, plans are already being completed for the next school year and we desperately need volunteers to become classroom mentors to assist Don Thompson. Volunteers are essential to keep this project successful, if you would like to become involved please contact Don Thompson or myself.

As I have previously stated I'm accepting volunteers to serve on the nominating committee or run for election as a Chapter Officer or Board Member, if interested please contact me. Serving as a Chapter Officer or Board Member is a great way to share your talents to strengthen our Chapter for the future.

Gary Rose
President

Trout Unlimited Southeast Regional Rally 2010

Townsend, TN May 13-15, 2010

Rally Time: Fishing' & Planning

Sponsored by the southeastern state councils.

Join TUers for the Annual Southeast Rally May 13-15

at Townsend, Tennessee adjacent to the Great Smokey Mountain National Park.

Registration closes on May 1. at 12:00 p.m.

Highlights:

- Meet the New TU President Chris Wood and hear his Vision for TU. Making the Case for Water Quality and how we can all work together to influence policy.
- Visit the site of the Lynn Camp Brook Trout project (Embrace a Stream project) and hear Steve Moore GSMP Fishery Leader tell how a great project is done with the cooperation of Little River TU Chapter.
- Program is divided into three breakout sessions so you can pick topics of greatest interest to your Chapter and Council. See complete program details at www.tu.org/SERally2010.

Fishing:

- Little River is a couple of hundred yards from the motel. It is great fishing for many miles in the park.
- Also there are several branches some with Brook Trout in the park.
- Townsend is located adjacent to the park entrance.
- Either a North Carolina or a Tennessee License is needed.

Fun:

- Thursday night – TN Council will provide "Yo Mamas" Red Beans, Rice and Fried Corn Bread Thursday night from 5:30 – 'til... Annual Bourbon tasting will follow.
- Friday night—all are invited to attend Little Rivers Troutfest Auction, Banquet and Exposition (www.Troutfest.org.) If you want to attend the Banquet please order tickets directly online. There is no charge to attend the Troutfest Saturday and Sunday. Joe Humphreys, Lefty Kreh and Bob Clouser will be featured.

We have a special rate at Valley View Motel, \$65 for double occupancy. Please make your own reservations. Valley View Lodge www.valleyviewlodge.com. Registration for the conference is \$25 which includes Lunch Friday and Saturday. Breakfast is included in the motel charge. **Call Dale White at 859-221-1521 with any questions.**

Continued from page 1

Within the confines of the tank our rainbow trout grew into fingerlings, which are nearly 4 inches in length. While the students were conducting their tests, daily duties and delving deeper into their studies seeking understanding of the ways of this color-flecked spectrum wearing creature.

And then the day arrived for our "class pets" to be introduced into a natural habitat. Many preparations were made to ensure it was a success. Advice was sought from program directors and fisheries experts. The site was scouted and permissions were obtained. Extension agents were notified and community members, parents and school officials were invited. Check lists were nearly complete.

I awoke early on that late April morning filled with anticipation and an agenda surging up some last minute details. I went about my usual morning routine with a bit more enthusiasm and walked out the door mentally preparing myself for the day's events. I'm unsure how many steps I took towards my car before my mind registered the reverberating pitter-patter against the tin of the carport, the reflection of light from the blacktop, the damp feeling in the air that my hair hates or that mountainous smell of renewal we take for granted in our beautiful hills. "No time to be pessimistic," I told myself. "Let's do this." I soon found this was the attitude that was echoed by my students. The hardest of rains stands no chance at deterring the positivity of a determined child.

After some time, we were giving thanks to the cool waters of the stream for rinsing away the memory of the hot sun from the surface of our skin. We explored and discovered, turned over and snagged in our nets many larvae, flies, bi-valves, and crawfish. We measured the pH and the amount of oxygen in the stream, which received a rating of "excellent." Indeed, our fish would have a fine home which, to them, may be likened to the Garden of Eden.

And just as abruptly and exciting as it had all began, the trout were placed into their new habitats, shimmering ghosts suspended in the rippling current. "Now you see them; now you don't. Is that one? No, I lost it." And as the experience came to a close we sat under the sun on a nearby bank listening to the gurgling water trickle and wash across the countless sandstones, recalling and sharing stories of the day's excitement all over a PB & J sack lunch, truly appreciating that we were fortunate enough to take part in such a fun-filled learning experience.

We would like to thank:

- Steve Cawood, sponsor
- Bobby Bennett, principal
- Don Thompson, TIC program director
- Trout Unlimited, Bluegrass Chapter
- Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources
- Brian Radcliffe, University of Kentucky Department of Agriculture Biologist
- Custodians Marie, Kelly and Mark
- John Williams, Eastern Fisheries Division
- Ray Lawson, Conservation Officer
- Bell County Sheriff's Department and Sheriff Bruce Bennett
- Pineville Rotary Club
- Clear Creek Baptist Bible College

Mr. Justin Abbott
5th grade Instructor
Pineville Elementary School

Outings Calendar

Contact: Gene Slusher geneslusher@yahoo.com /859-221-3287

| Month | Location | Tentative Dates |
|-----------|------------------|---|
| May | Driftless Area | Friday 14 th – Sunday 16 th |
| June | Elkhorn Creek | Saturday 12 th |
| July | Holston River | Friday 23 rd – Sunday 25 th |
| August | Clinch River | Friday 20 th – Sunday 22 nd |
| September | Paint Creek | Friday 10 th – Saturday 11 th |
| October | Cumberland River | Friday 9 th – Sunday 11 th |



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Doug Gradek - Editor
3640 Burning Tree Lane
Lexington, KY 40509

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Hatch & Release

Trout in the Classroom Rock & Roll Release Picnics

This is the climax for the students studying the trout environment, life-cycle, clean water resources, watersheds, trout food chain, and the macroinvertebrates trout prefer. Releasing trout they have raised from eggs to 4 inch fingerlings is a moment they will cherish for a lifetime.

Before they can release their fingerlings, the cold, clean water must be tested. We are fortunate enough to have Brian Radcliffe and Kelly Taylor of UK's Tracy Farmer Center for the Environment to teach the students how to roll over rocks, find and net insects, crawfish, worms & beetles that are part of their diet and count them for a three-value weighted biological stream index for supporting trout. After this, the students will release their fingerlings and watch where they dart and swim—a great time for pictures.

Anyone is welcome to come and observe any Rock & Roll Release at the dates and locations below:

| DATE | TIME | SCHOOL | RELEASE LOCATION | TEACHER |
|-------------|----------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| 23-Apr-2010 | 10:00 AM | Pineville Independent Elem. | Clear Creek, Pineville, KY | Justin Abbott |
| 10-May-2010 | 10:00 AM | Providence Montessori Elem. | Lusby Lake, Georgetown, KY | Chris Zachritz |
| 10-May-2010 | 11:00 AM | Estill Co Middle | Station Camp Creek Hwy 89 | Wade Richardson |
| 15-May-2010 | 10:00 AM | Liberty Elem. | East Fork of Indian Creek | Kristi Fehr |
| 15-May-2010 | 10:00 AM | Athens-Chilesburg Elem. | East Fork of Indian Creek | Melinda Kensel |
| 15-May-2010 | 10:00 AM | Spencer Co. Middle | Otter Creek, Ft. Knox | Sean Buynak |
| 15-May-2010 | 10:00 AM | Taylorville Elem. | Otter Creek, Ft. Knox | Shannon Buynak |
| 15-May-2010 | 12:00 PM | Maxwell Elem. I | East Fork of Indian Creek | David Mato |
| 15-May-2010 | 12:00 PM | Maxwell Elem. II | East Fork of Indian Creek | Deborah Aparicio |
| 15-May-2010 | 12:00 PM | Southern Elem. | East Fork of Indian Creek | Melissa Hagans |
| 26-May-2010 | 10:00 AM | Poage Elem. | Grayson Lake Tailwaters | Tandy Nash |
| 27-May-2010 | 10:00 AM | Phillip A. Sharp Middle | Raven Creek near Morgan on 303 | Pat Brownfield |

Help with fly casting and fly tying to match macroinvertebrates, mayflies or caddis is greatly appreciated. Please contact Don Thompson via email: donlesterthompson@gmail.com for Google Map directions.