

## Little River TU Meeting Notes

**Date: February 24, 2022**

**Location: BlueTick Tavern**

**Meeting Type: General Meeting**

**Presiding Officer: Steve Young, President**

**Attendees: General Membership**

**Agenda:** New Members, Member News, Fishing Stories, TIC, Fisheries Projects, Upcoming Events, Speaker: Keep Blount Beautiful Executive Director Britteny Whipple.

**TIC:** Jim Jeswald-13 active tanks, everybody is releasing out into 55-gallon tanks this week. 8 people signed up to help with TIC. The biggest need is in May with the release with so many schools and students.

**Fisheries Projects:** Last Saturday was annual water sampling meeting with Matt Kulp, and about 30 people showed up. Water sampling started in 1993.

A yearly plan was given for TN and NC as well as summer activities including electroshocking, IBI, and and brook trout restoration.

Matt Kulp has an additional project that involves **e-coli concerns from horse droppings** in the streams. There is a map and training for sampling the water, the training is 6-8 weeks.

**Screen Barrier assessments:** Culverts were built years ago but they block the passage of animal, fish, etc. from migrating. Teams of 3 mid-week will go out to define culverts by latitude and longitude. When more money becomes available, these culverts will be fixed. They will need trainers, leaders, and participants.

There is a **schedule of activities** that was generated to allow anyone to identify if they want to do water sampling, when to do it and where. Put your name on it or email Richard Barnes to let him know. There are two areas for input on the bottom of the page: one is the e-coli assessment (not yet signing up for officially), and also the barrier assessment (they are looking for the trainer, team leader, or just a volunteer). There are over 500 culverts in the park. Richard would like an idea of how many people are interested in these activities.

The park would like **volunteers to work in various campgrounds**. Four specific dates starting February 25<sup>th</sup>.

Lastly, **there are 3 documents** for anyone who wants to work in the park to complete. These are now done annually. By completing these, you get signed up for park insurance. Email Richard Barnes to request the pages. **These are VERY important.**

**Your hours volunteered in the park or for the chapter give financial support to the park from the government.**

**IBI:** Shockers go down stream and push the fish into the net. They scoop up the net and note all the different species that are found in the net. About a day of volunteering, relatively easy to do, 3-4 per year.

**Brook Trout Evaluation:** A little more strenuous. There are shockers and the netters scoop up the fish. The bucket guys collect the brook trout. They do a 100m pass, 3 times. They find the number of fish per 100m. Can find the good areas where the fish are.

**Water Sampling:** Collect water sample along with temperature. These samples go into a study that is analyzed by UT. Acid effects, improvements or not. There are very short distances, 1 mile, 6-7 miles and 14-mile trips. These locations are analyzed every 2 months during the odd months, January, March, May, etc.

### **Upcoming Events**

February 28<sup>th</sup>: Tie and Lie at Casual Pint Maryville, starting 6:30pm

March 19<sup>th</sup>: Bimonthly water sampling

March 24<sup>th</sup>: Monthly Chapter Meeting

March 26<sup>th</sup>: Pistol Creek Cleanup (Want to make this a city wide event)

May 14-15: LRCTU Fish Camping Roan Mountain SP(contact Larry Davis if you're interested)

Early May-TIC Program Fish releases

July- River John's

No June or August Meetings

**Evening Program: Keep Blount Beautiful Organization, Brittany Whipple,  
Executive Director.**

Mission is to encourage and educate Blount County residents to take action to improve and beautify their community. They provide education, events, and programs to complete this initiative.

**Four Values:**

1. Litter elimination (large litter pickup events, event partnership, small group cleanups, Adopt-A-Mile, and Supply check-out)
2. Waste Disposal (Public education, BER Trailers and Clearstreams, and recycle collections)
3. Beautification (Tree Plantings, Invasive Plant removals, Stormwater management)
4. Education (Classroom lessons, Field Trips, and Education Partnership)