

To date, with continued support from Troutfest, the Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited and numerous corporate and individual contributions, as well as volunteer efforts, the scholarship fund has received more than \$2.2 million over the past 15 years, and 19 miles of Brook Trout Streams have been restored.

“The national park has more than 800 miles of fishable trout streams with wild rainbow and brown trout, as well as Brook Trout in the higher elevations—a fisherman’s dream,” said Herb Handy, executive vice president of tourism for the Smoky Mountain Convention and Visitors Bureau. “Troutfest is not only a great event that draws people who are passionate about the area into our community, it raises money to preserve the streams that make our area unique and beautiful, which is essential to our continued success, both as a community and as a tourism destination.”

Troutfest is a yearly fly fishing exposition and fundraiser held at the Townsend Visitors Center, and it will be held on May 14-16, 2010. Fly tyers will demonstrate their skills for many types fly tying, such as trout, bass, panfish and saltwater. The event also features southern food and live bluegrass music. Fly fishermen will offer free seminars and share their expertise, and National Fly Tackle Manufacturers will have gear on site. Fly shops, artists, non-profit organizations and government fish and game agencies will also exhibit. Proceeds from this event are donated to Great Smoky Mountains National Park Fisheries Department, Friends of the Smokies Fisheries Scholarship Endowment or other youth educational conservation projects.

Trout Fest is sponsored by the Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited, a nonprofit volunteer organization that is committed to protecting and restoring cold-water resources and watersheds in and around the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

For more information, please visit www.troutfest.org.

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