



Clinch River Chapter 662 2015-2016 Work Plan

This annual work plan is designed to carry out the mission and vision stated in the fiscal year 2016-2020 Strategic Plan.

• **Goal One:** Promote conservation by protecting and enhancing the biological health of the Clinch River and its watershed.

Objective: Enhance shoreline and in-stream habitat.

Project: Big Clinch River Cleanup – Trash accumulates in the Clinch, potentially endangering wildlife and detracting from a quality experience for boaters, paddlers, anglers and wildlife watchers. We have conducted at least one in-river cleanup annually for many years, removing tons of trash and more than 7,000 tires. In 2013 we inaugurated the Big Clinch River Cleanup as a community event starting with breakfast at Museum of Appalachia; 75 people volunteered. In 2015, 105 people volunteered. In 2016, we want to recruit at least 100 volunteers. We will request a grant from TVA to help cover costs.

Action: Conduct Big Clinch River Cleanup

Managers: Buzz Buffington, Jim Ferguson

Schedule: July 23, 2016

Cooperators: TVA, TWRA, Anderson County Chamber of Commerce, Anderson County Solid Waste, Anderson County Tourism Council, Andersonville Volunteer Fire Department, Bingham Tire of Clinton, Keep Anderson County Beautiful, Museum of Appalachia, 3 Rivers Angler fly shop

Project: Adopt-a-Highway – As a member of TNDOT's program, we remove roadside trash along Highway 441 from West Norris Road to Norris Dam and along River Road from Massengill Bridge to Highway 441. This work is done on Saturdays, approximately every four months.

Action: Conduct roadside cleanups

Managers: Tony Gregg, John Thurman

Schedule: February, on Big Cleanup day in July, and November.

If the first cleanup is later than early March, check with Gary

Long, county road superintendent, to get timing of the first spring mowing.

Cooperators: TNDOT, TVA, Keep Anderson County Beautiful

- **Goal Two:** Attract new members, increase level of member activity and conduct funding activities.

Objective One: Attract new members, increase involvement of members in chapter activities and conduct funding activities to support chapter-sponsored meetings and functions.

Project: Women's Initiative – Recruiting new women members and developing women leaders is critically important to achieving success in all our goals. Creating a welcoming environment for women interested in fly fishing will help the chapter increase female participation.

Action: Develop outreach, networking and activities focusing on women interested in fly fishing.

Manager: Melissa Maples-Harrell

Schedule: Ongoing

Cooperators: TU women's initiative coordinators from other chapters and councils; TU national staff and volunteers

Project: Membership Development – Recruiting chapter members to become newly active in and lead chapter projects; identifying new volunteers for development as board members and officers; training an individual to succeed every current officer and board member.

Action: Continually develop new members

Managers: Membership chair, board, officers

Schedule: Ongoing

Cooperators: Current and past chapter leaders

Project: Appalachian brook trout – Support the efforts to study environmental impacts on and re-establish the Southern Appalachian brook trout in Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GSMNP) and Cherokee National Forest (CNF). Recruit youth to participate.

Action: Assist in acid deposition monitoring and re-establishment of Appalachian brook trout in identified streams in the GSMNP and CNF

Managers: Dick Geiger, Denise Jenkins

Schedule: Ongoing

Cooperators: National Park Service/GSMNP, Charlie Chmielewski, other TU Chapters, U.S. Forest Service/CNF, TWRA

Project: Fishing instruction – Fishing seminar (spin and fly) held in May will be repeated annually as long as it continues to meet its goal of

adding new members or increases the level of member activity. Chapter members also support Orvis' Fly Fishing 201 class with in-river instruction.

Action: Conduct in-river fishing seminar (spin and fly) to attract new members to the chapter

Managers: Jerry Van Fossen, Scott Hahn

Schedule: Seminar, May 14, 2016; Fly Fishing 201, as requested by Orvis-Sevierville

Cooperators: Orvis-Sevierville

Project: Make monthly programs attractive to members and the general public – Members have recommended a number of ideas including intermediate fly tying instruction.

Action: Develop an attractive, varied program menu for 2015-16

Managers: Board

Schedule: Ongoing

Cooperators: N/A

Objective Two: Conduct fundraising and promotional activities.

Project: Annual beginners' fly tying class – Since 2000, we've conducted a beginners' fly tying class each January/February. The class is limited to 12 students. Cost of the course is \$125 and includes a TU introductory membership, loan of tools, materials and a step-by-step manual with color photos for each tying step for nine flies. Chapter members serve as instructors.

Action: Conduct beginners' fly tying class

Managers: David Harrell, Buzz Buffington

Schedule: January and February 2016

Cooperators: CRCTU instructors, Little River Outfitters

Project: Intermediate fly tying class – Conduct an intermediate fly tying class using Clayton Gist's drafted step-by-step instructions for fly patterns for an intermediate fly tying course. The intermediate book will be similar to the beginners' manual.

Action: Conduct an intermediate fly tying class

Manager: Clayton Gist, board

Schedule: 2015-16

Cooperators: CRCTU instructors, Little River Outfitters

Project: Fly Tyer's Weekend – Six to eight chapter volunteers are needed to staff a booth and demonstrate fly tying during Fly Tyer's Weekend in November, hosted by Little River Outfitters in Townsend. This is a good opportunity to introduce visitors to our chapter, announce our annual fly tying class and support Byron Begley at LRO, who has been a great help to our chapter.

Action: Recruit TU volunteers to demonstrate fly tying and promote Clinch River Chapter
Managers: David Harrell, chapter volunteers
Schedule: November 2015 and 2016
Cooperators: Little River Outfitters

Project: CRCTU apparel and fly tying manuals – To publicize the chapter’s work and to create a more positive experience for newcomers, make available clothes, hats and fly boxes carrying the chapter name and logo to be worn during public activities and to be presented to guest speakers and new members. For 2015-16, we will investigate adding T-shirts. Also included could be orange safety vests with the chapter name, to be worn during highway and shoreline cleanups. A market has been developed for beginner fly tying manuals which has resulted in additional income to the chapter.

Action: Provide and/or sell logo apparel and fly tying manuals
Managers: John Thurman, Buzz Buffington, Steve Thompson
Schedule: Ongoing
Cooperators: N/A

Project: Annual swap and sell – Develop a more structured and entertaining session for the annual swap meet, possibly including representatives and merchandise from fly shops including Little River Outfitters and 3 Rivers Angler in addition to the longstanding participation by Chota Outdoor Gear. We already encourage partnership with these businesses by posting links from our website to theirs. Previous swap meets were held in November, when they tended to conflict with the church bazaar; depending on the bazaar schedule, possibly change the timing to October.

Action: Plan a more structured swap and sell meet
Manager: Melissa Maples-Harrell, Rachel Baxter
Schedule: November 2015 and October 2016
Cooperators: Chota Outdoor Gear, Little River Outfitters, 3 Rivers Angler

• **Goal Three:** Support outreach programs regarding aquatic biology and increase public awareness of the economic and ecological significance of the Clinch River trout fishery.

Objective One: Provide aquatic natural resources educational opportunities for area youth.

Project: Coal Creek Health Day – Each October our chapter joins with the Coal Creek Watershed Foundation to hold a daylong environmental health day at Briceville Elementary School. Kids work with chapter members and UT and TVA biologists in conducting a

biological monitoring survey of Coal Creek. They also participate in fly tying and casting.

Action: Participate in Coal Creek Health Day

Managers: Carol Moore, Barry Thacker

Schedule: October 2015 and 2016

Cooperators: TVA, University of Tennessee

Project: Kids Fish Free Day – For many years, our chapter has conducted this popular event in June on the Saturday designated by TWRA as fish free day. Kids fish, tie flies, take boat rides and learn about the river. We provide equipment, instructors, food and drinks.

Action: Conduct Kids Fish Free Day

Managers: Denise Jenkins, Dick Geiger

Schedule: June 11, 2016

Cooperators: TVA, TWRA

Project: Trout in the Classroom (TIC) – This TU national curriculum is a conservation teaching tool designed for students in grades K-12. Students set up a classroom aquarium environment and raise trout fry from eggs to fingerlings, then release the fingerlings in area waters.

Action: Support local teachers

Managers: Dick Geiger, Terry Douglas

Project: Great Smoky Mountains Trout Adventure Camp – The Tennessee Council's first trout camp was held in June 2011 at Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont (GSMIT) in Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GSMNP); the 2016 camp will be June 20-25. Girls and boys 12 to 15 years old are accepted (Tennessee residency is not required). Trout Unlimited volunteers serve as chaperones, mentor students in fly tying and guide students in fly fishing.

Action: Recruit student participants and TU volunteers

Managers: John Thurman, Dick Geiger, Steve Thompson

Schedule: June 20-25, 2016

Cooperators: Tennessee TU chapters and council, GSMIT, GSMNP, TVA, USDA Forest Service, University of Tennessee

Project: Roane State Fly Fishing Course – Dave and Melissa Harrell are teaching a fly fishing course in the spring and fall semesters at Roane State Community College that started in the fall of 2015. For one class each session, they need help from chapter members in a panel discussion about coldwater fisheries conservation, with other panelists from TVA and TWRA. Also, chapter members are needed to serve as river guides for one Saturday outing per course.

Action: Recruit TU volunteers to teach conservation and guide students on the water

Managers: David Harrell, Melissa Maples-Harrell, chapter volunteers

Schedule: Spring and fall 2016

Cooperators: Roane State Community College

Objective Two: Support education and opportunities for focus groups.

Project: Liaison with Casting for Recovery – Chapter members support Casting for Recovery (CFR) as river helpers. We have developed an aquatic invertebrate collection for the program (“Norton Creek Bugs”). Chapter members tie flies for the CFR retreat and a chapter member speaks to the participants about our chapter. Several CFR attendees have become active chapter members.

Action: Contact CFR for participants’ names and invite those from our area to join the chapter

Managers: Lindsay Long, Buzz Buffington

Schedule: April 2016

Cooperators: CFR

Project: Veterans’ program – Working with Trout Unlimited’s Veterans Service Program, we developed a chapter program using members’ expertise in fly tying, fishing and conservation to support area military veterans. The Knoxville chapter of Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing (PHWFF) is coordinated by chapter member Robert Bogus. Activities have included fishing outings and classes in fly tying and rod building.

Action: Continue expanding this program, encouraging veterans in the program to take on leadership roles

Managers: Robert Bogus, Steve Thompson, Wayne Nobles

Schedule: 2015-16

Cooperators: Alan Folger (coordinator of TU’s Veterans Service Program); Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing

Objective Three: Increase public awareness of the economic and ecological significance of the Clinch tailwater, and of the chapter’s work to conserve, protect and sustain the tailwater.

Project: Continue refining communications strategy – Suggestions for improving communications have included adding a prepared PowerPoint presentation to educate the general public about the significance of the Clinch River. Communication is accomplished now via a website, a Facebook page and frequent emails broadcast to members, friends and the press.

Action: Continue refining a communications strategy.

Managers: Frances Oates, Communications Committee, Board

Schedule: 2015-16

Cooperators: Chapter members

Project: Enhance website – Continue improving our website, crctu.org. Investigate the feasibility of contracting for technical service.

Action: Continue work on crctu.org

Managers: Frances Oates, Larry Allen, Communications Committee

Schedule: 2015-16

Cooperators: Chapter members