

# THE CLINCH RIVER ANGLER

## NEXT CHAPTER MEETING

**When:** May 13, 6 p.m. Rain or shine. **NOTE THE TIME CHANGE!**

**Where:** the grassy field at the Norris Dam parking lot—at the base of the dam near the entrance to the powerhouse.

**Who:** Linda Good— graduate of the Wulffs' fly fishing and instruction schools, guide and instructor 'extraordinaire'.

**What:** casting basics and individual suggestions for improving our casting accuracy and distance. Bring your favorite rig and join the fun!

## PREVIEWS OF UPCOMING MEETINGS

**June 10** -Ian Rutter, author and renowned fly fisherman, will cover: "Fishing the Tennessee Mountains, Forests and Tail Waters".

**July 8**-Randy Kerr, head of TVA's River Scheduling, will discuss *TVA's Reservoir Operations*: operational changes resulting from TVA's recent *Reservoir Operations Study*, which affects the Norris tail water, and how daily operations decisions are made.

## KIDS FISH FREE DAY:

Saturday, **June 12**, 10 am-2 pm. This annual event is sponsored by our Chapter and will be held at the Miller Island parking lot (rain or shine) on the Clinch River.



The Clinch River Chapter -  
dedicated to conserving,  
protecting and restoring the  
natural environment of the  
Clinch River Watershed

## THE ANGLERS' CORNER

It will be **HUGE!!**

Hold on to your hats.. get your gear ready...the dietary 'crème de crème' of most fish will be emerging soon!

The Cicadas will be arriving late May and June! This is the year of the Brood X—the 17 year cicada. Experts expect this year's hatch to surpass the voluminous hatch we had in 1987. Following mating-the female lays her eggs on small tree limbs where the male and female rest until they die or fall. Any impoundments in prime emergence areas will be serving hundreds of cicada delicacies—the fish response will be explosive!

Anglers can buy/tie this black and orange (or copper) floating or shallow running fly or use a crank bait. Even after the hatch and into the fall, these baits will continue to be on fish menus. Fish the 1-2 inch bait on the surface, still to slow. When the cicada hits the water it often will sit, rest and then will vibrate its wings— which rings the dinner bell to nearby fish.

So hang on...we're in for a treat!

(Continued)

Members are encouraged to volunteer (please arrive at 9 am) by providing casting assistance and just helping out to make this an opportunity for kids and their families to get "hooked" on the fun of fishing (the River will have been stocked Friday) and stream protection

Extra things to bring:

- Spin and fly outfits,
- Lures, flies, bait
- Extra waders
- Life jackets
- Patience and caring
- Young friends and families

Other activities include: fly tying demonstrations, aquatic entomology displays plus folks to discuss stream ecology, casting lessons, boat fishing.

Directions from I 75 North: Take the Clinton/Norris Exit #122. Pass the Museum of Appalachia, turn left on Highway 441 through Norris toward the Dam. Just past the little white church (Island Home Church), turn left on River Road, go about one quarter mile and take the first right into the parking lot-look for our tent.

**CLINCH RIVER  
CHAPTER  
COMMITTEES, PRO-  
GRAMS and CON-  
TACTS-2004**

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**Programs**

Kids Fish Free Day  
(June 10)  
Carol Moore

Bio monitoring  
Dick Geiger

Coal Creek  
Barry Thacker

Weir Dam Clean up  
John Thurman

Look for an activity which ap-  
peals to your interests and con-  
tact the lead person for more in-  
formation or to volunteer your  
services.

**Clinch River Angler  
Newsletter**

Co-Editors Bob and Mary Jo  
Jenkins

Comments & contributors are  
welcomed!

**DID YOU KNOW??**

*(Editors' note: this and the next  
several Newsletters will include the  
quislings of member, John Thur-  
man)*

The Clinch tail water extends 13  
miles from Norris Dam to the High-  
way 61 bridge in Clinton where it  
becomes Melton Hill Reservoir.  
Above the weir (this small dam en-  
sures a downstream minimum flow  
of 200 cfs), the Clinch tail water is  
significantly different from the area  
downstream from the weir.

**Above the weir** macro inverte-  
brates, such as midges, black flies,  
sow bugs, scuds and snails, inhabit  
this mile long pool. The character  
of this "pond" (lentic) lacks habitat  
diversity, I.e., there are no riffle or  
shoal areas.

Below the weir, the tail water is  
more riverine (lotic) and has a  
more diverse array of habitats—  
long pools, exposed ledges (at mini-  
mum flow), riffles and shoals.  
Midges, black flies, sow bugs, and  
scuds are the most abundant spe-  
cies. Mayflies (primarily sulfurs)  
and caddis flit around in good num-  
bers.

Above the weir, dead-drift size 18-  
20 dark midge pupae or size 16  
scuds and sow bug patterns under  
an indicator. Adult midge patterns  
are productive but not nearly as ef-  
fective as pupa patterns.

At minimum flow (220 cfs) the  
Clinch presents the angler with the  
same challenges as a good spring  
creek-shallow, slow moving, trans-  
parent water which requires stealth  
good drift presentations, and small  
flies-size 16 is large for the Clinch!

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