



↘ *Middle Tennessee Fly Fishers, Inc.* ↙



Outing Information

**Caney Fork River
July 18-22, 2012**

Group Leaders

Tony Mitchell
(615) 646-7687

Cast Iron Cookout

Ray Alley
(615) 934-9865
r.alley@mtff.org

Outings Committee Chair

David Hudnall
(903) 520-2229
david.hudnal@mtff.org

River Information

The Caney Fork River is a year round fishery and is mainly fished from spring to fall. The Caney Fork River is the tailwater to Center Hill Dam in Buffalo Valley, Tennessee. There are several public access locations on the river: Buffalo Valley, Long Branch, Lancaster, Train Trestle, Happy Hollow, Interstate Rest Area, Betty's Island, Stonewall, and the Ball Fields. Please refer to "River Access" for type of access; wading and/or boat launch.

The river is broken up into three sections: Upper, Middle, and Lower. The Upper Section of the river is from The Dam to Betty's Island, the Middle Section of the river is from Betty's Island to Stonewall, and the Lower Section is below Stonewall to the Ball Fields. Most of the river access is for wading and/or floating is in the Upper Section which constitutes: The Dam, Long Branch, Lancaster, Happy Hollow, Interstate Rest Area and Betty's Island.

The Caney Fork is stocked with Brown, Brook, and Rainbow Trout and currently does not have a "Catch & Release" section of the river. The club supports the "Catch and Release" philosophy, but if you plan on keeping fish, please review the Tennessee Fishing Regulations for the Caney Fork River.

Fishing Species

Rainbow Trout, Brown Trout and Brook Trout

Campground Location

Long Branch Campground

478 Lancaster Rd, Lancaster TN 38569,
(615) 548-8002

www.recreation.gov/camping/Long_Branch_Tn/r/campgroundDetails.do?page=details&contractCode=NRSO&parkId=71272&topTabIndex=CampingSpot

Campground

Long Branch Campground is located below Center Hill Dam on the scenic Caney Fork River. A unique attribute of this campground is trout fishing below the dam. Campers also engage in other types of fishing, boating, swimming, and hiking above the dam. The Long Branch Campground offers 60 sites with electric, water and/or sewer hook ups. Additional amenities include hot showers, a dump station, a playground, a boat ramp, laundry facilities, a picnic shelter, and a fish cleaning station.

Alternative Lodging

Edgar Evins State Park

Edgar Evins State Park has campground and cabin facilities. Edgar Evins State Park encompasses approximately 6,000 acres on the shores of Center Hill Reservoir in the rolling hills of Middle Tennessee. The park has 60 campsites for year round tent and trailer camping. Sites are available only on a first-come, first served basis and maximum stay limit is two weeks. No reservations taken. For more information, call (931) 858-2114. www.state.tn.us/environment/parks/EdgarEvins

The Caney Fork Cottage

Getting away from it all isn't as easy as it used to be. But, for a weekend or a week, you can claim your own little spot of peace and quiet just 60 miles east of Nashville at the Caney Fork Cottage, located on the banks of the Caney Fork River in rural Smith County. Call (615) 885-2004 to make your reservations. caneyforkcabins.com

Comfort Inn – Gordonsville, TN

The Comfort Inn® hotel in Gordonville is ideally located at exit 258 off Interstate 40. This Gordonville, TN hotel provides visitors with many opportunities to enjoy the quietness of the country and the beautiful scenery of the mountains. It is 10 miles from Center Hill Lake and minutes from the lower sections of the Caney Fork River.

479 Gordonsville Hwy,
Gordonsville, TN 38563
(615) 683-1300

www.comfortinn.com/hotel-gordonsville-tennessee-TN003?promo=gglocal

Driving Directions

To Long Branch Campground from NASHVILLE, TN - 54.3 mi (about 1 hr)

www.mapquest.com

Take I-40 E towards KNOXVILLE – 48.9 mi

Take the TN-96 exit, EXIT 268, toward BUFFALO VALLEY RD/CENTER HILL DAM
- 0.2 mi

Turn RIGHT onto MEDLEY AMONETTE RD/TN-96. Follow TN-96 - 3.6 mi

Turn RIGHT onto TN-141/TN-96 – 1.1 mi

Turn RIGHT onto TN-141/LANCASTER RD – 0.4 mi

Turn RIGHT – 0.1 mi Welcome to LONG BRANCH CAMPGROUND

Local Fly Shops

Cumberland Transit
2807 West End Ave.
Nashville, TN 37203
(615) 321-4069
www.cumberlandtransit.com

Fly South
1514 Demonbreun St.
Nashville, TN 37203
(615) 251-6199
www.flysouth.net

Game Fair Ltd.
5703 Old Harding Rd.
Nashville, TN 37205
(615) 353-0602
www.gamefairltd.com

Local Guides

Contact the local fly shops.

Gear

- For casting nymphs or smaller streamers, a 9', 3-5 WT fly rod with a floating line will work well.
- For casting heavy streamers, a 9', 6 WT fly rod with a floating line will work well.

Recommended Flies

Nymphs:

Pheasant Tail (14-18)
Copper John (14-18)
Prince Nymph (14-18)
Hare's Ear Nymph (14-18)
Zebra Midge (18-22)
RS2 (16-20)
Yellow Soft Hackle (16-18)
Pheasant Tail Soft Hackle (16-18)
Orange Soft Hackle (16-18)
Purple Soft Hackle (16-18)

Streamers:

Krystal Buggers (10-12)
Slumpbuster (10-12)

Dry Flies:

Elk Hair Caddis (16-18)
Parachute Adams (16-20)
Blue Wing Olive (16-20)
Griffith Gnat (16-22)
Stimulator (12-16)
Hoppers (8-12)

Water Release Schedule / Information:

You can check the generation schedule for Center Hill by calling 1-800-238-2264; Center Hill Lake is #37 or check the website at lakeinfo.tva.gov/htbin/lakeinfo?site=CNH&DataType=All&submit=View+info

River Access:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| • Buffalo Valley (The Dam) | Wading & Boat Launch |
| • Long Branch | Boat Launch |
| • Lancaster Hwy (Lancaster) | Wading |
| • Happy Hollow | Wading & Boat Launch |
| • Train Trestle | Wading – Very Limited Parking |
| • Interstate-40 Rest Area | Wading – New Parking Lot |
| • Betty's Island | Wading & Boat Launch |
| • Kirby | Wading |
| • Stonewall | Wading & Boat Launch (Canoe/Kayak only) |
| • Ball Fields | Boat Launch |

Hwy 141

Lancaster Hwy has several pull-offs that allow easy access to the river, but no ramps. Again the easiest way to get there is to exit I-40 at exit#268 go South until you come to the stop sign at Big Rock Market (3.7 miles) and turn right. After you cross Center Hill Dam Turn right at the first road, this is Hwy 141. The best pull-off area is about 2 miles north of the dam on the right hand side of the road, the river is just yards from the Highway.

Happy Hollow

This access area provides a gravel parking, easy access to the river and a gravel ramp for either launching a boat during generation or easy access for canoes to put in or take out. Happy Hollow access area is located on the Putnam Deklab county line just 1.3 miles south of I-40 exit #268 and is visible on the West side of the road, there is small brown Happy Hollow Access sign at the parking area. When generation starts at the dam the rising water takes approximately one hour to reach Happy Hollow.

Rest Area at I-40

This is a good fishing area to access by foot, but for canoe access use Happy Hollow Access Area. It's only .25 mile up stream, and you can drive right to your boat. For foot traffic the rest area provides extremely easy access, lots of paved parking and access to a mile or more of fishable shoreline. To get there simply exit I-40 at the rest area just west of exit #268. There is a brand new parking area for anglers between the maintenance sheds and the dumpsters near the river access (where the East bound traffic enters first).

Betty's Island Access Area

This access area has a gravel parking area and good river access. There is no boat ramp but there is easy access to put in or take out a canoe. To get there Take I-40 exit#268 and go North 1.9 miles to St. Mary's Road and turn left. Take St. Mary's Rd 4.1 miles and you will see a small brown Betty's Island sign on the left at the entrance to the parking area. When generation starts at the dam the rising water takes approximately 2.5 hours to reach Betty's Island.

Kirby Road

Road side parking and good river access. There is no boat ramp but there is access to put in or take out a canoe. To get there Take I-40 exit#268 and go North 1.9 miles to St. Mary's Road and turn left. Take St. Mary's Rd (approx)6 miles to Kirby Rd and turn left (last time I was there, there was no road sign). You can't miss the pull-offs on the left. This area is about 1.5 miles past the Betty's Island area.

Stonewall Bridge

This access has foot access but no ramp. The bridge is located where Hwy 264 (Stonewall Hwy) crosses the Caney Fork River. To get there Take I-40 exit#268 and go North 1.9 miles to St. Mary's Road and turn left. Take St. Mary's Rd 10.4 miles to Stonewall Hwy and turn left, the bridge is just 1/2 mile away you can't miss it. *See attached maps and Caney Fork River Outing Resource page.*

Class / Group Function

Entomology Class/Stream Survey – Saturday, July 21, 2012 at 7:00am

MTFF is attempting to adopt the Caney Fork River through FFF. In order to do so, we must hold at least four conservation efforts on the river each year. One of those will be a stream survey to monitor the aquatic insect populations on the river. We thought it would be a great idea to incorporate this into our Entomology Class.

The Entomology Class/Stream Survey will be held from 7:00am to 12:00pm. The schedule will also depend on the generation schedule. Typically the release schedule is 9:00 to 11:00am this time of year, but always subject to change. We will break the class into groups, with each group surveying a different section of the river. As the class gathers and identifies insects, the students and survey members will take a sample count of each. We plan to gather at the GLOO Loop gazebo around 10:00am to go over the results of the class and survey.

We will be seeking volunteers to help guide the Entomology Class/Stream Survey groups. If anyone is interested, or if you have any questions regarding the two events, please contact Joel Dean (Education Director) at j.dean@mtff.org, or R.J. Tazelaar (Conservation Director) at rj.tazelaar@mtff.com.

Cast Iron Cooking Class Cookout – Saturday, July 21, 2012 at 7:00pm

In conjunction with this outing, the club will hold its annual Cast Iron Cooking Class cookout on Saturday evening. Food prep and cooking will begin around 5:00pm. The class meets earlier in the week to learn how to select, care for, and cook with cast iron cookware. During this classroom session, members will select a dish which they will prepare for the club at the outing cookout.

Members not participating in the class who wish to cook a dish for the cookout, are encouraged to do so. This is always a great event with plenty of food for all, so bring your appetites! Even when the fishing on the river is a washout, we have had a huge turnout for this outing, because of this cookout! If you are interested in this class, or would like to volunteer to cook a dish for the cookout, please contact Ray Alley at r.alley@mtff.org.

Recommended Resources

Maps:

Tennessee Atlas & Gazetteer by Delorme

shop.delorme.com/OA_HTML/DELibeCCtpSctDspRte.jsp?section=10096

Center Hill Dam Quadrangle by USGS

Buffalo Valley Quadrangle by USGS

Gordonville Quadrangle by USGS

www.usgs.gov/pubprod/maps.html

See the Caney Fork River Outing Resources page.

Books:

Tennessee Trout Waters by Ian Rutter

www.randrflyfishing.com/pages/store.shtml

Home Waters by Mid South Fly Fishers

www.msff.org

Tailwater Trout in the South, 2nd Edition by Jimmy Jacobs
www.countrymanpress.com/titles/TailwaterTroutintheSouth2.html

Emergency/Medical Information

Hospitals:

DeKalb County Hospital

520 West Main Street

Smithville, TN 37166

(615) 215-5000

(615)215-5600 fax

www.dekalbcommunityhospital.com

Always remember to only call **911** if you have a life threatening emergency.