



↘ *Middle Tennessee Fly Fishers, Inc.* ↙



Outing Information

Watauga & South Holston Rivers June 6-10, 2012

Group Leader

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River Information

Watauga River

The Watauga River tailwater begins just below Wilbur Dam, in Elizabethton, TN. On the Watauga River, trophy trout fishing is quickly becoming recognized as some of the best in the Southeast and regularly attracts anglers from surrounding states. The stream is well known for its trophy rainbow and brown trout fishing. The upper section offers some public access, for wading. This part of the river receives less pressure than the quality section, yet it still offers great fishing.

Within its 16 miles of fishable trout water, the Watauga River has one of the only stretches of water designated as a trophy section in the state of Tennessee. A two-mile section on the lower portion of the river is set aside by special regulations as a Quality Trout Stream. The trophy section is subject to special regulations which are strictly enforced by region four of the Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency. Most of the trophy section is only accessible by boat.

South Holston River

The South Fork Holston River tailwater, a nationally recognized trout fishery, has become extremely popular among trout fishermen, especially those anglers who are intent on targeting fish that are the length of the fisherman's own arm. A few South Fork anglers have netted large browns that tipped the scales well above 10 pounds.

The South Holston River is a tailrace waterway that is 14 miles long, running from the dam at South Holston Lake to Bluff City, where the river flows into Boone Lake. South Holston is unique among Tennessee tailwaters in a couple of ways. Key among distinctions is a fabulous population of wild brown trout. Also unique is a gravel-heavy bottom substrate, which is part of what helps the river support such good natural reproduction.

The Holston tailwater also contains a unique labyrinth weir, which was constructed by Tennessee Valley Authority. The weir adds dissolved oxygen to the tailwater and sustains a minimum flow in the river. That consistently keeps the streambed wet, which has allowed great aquatic insect populations to develop.

The South Holston tailwater is managed for trophy trout through a slot limit. All trout between 16 and 22 inches long must be released, and only one fish from a seven-fish

limit may be more than 22 inches long. Special regulations also include two seasonal closures. Two important spawning areas are closed to all fishing from Nov. 1 to Jan. 31.

Fishing Species

Rainbow Trout and Brown Trout

Club Location

Bee Cliff Cabins, LLC
141 Steel Bridge Road
Elizabethton, TN 37643-5552

No Smoking or Pets

Phone: (423) 542-6033

Email: beecliffcabins@charter.net Online: www.beecliffcabins.com/

Club Location Description

Our club will be staying at Bee Cliff Cabins, LLC., nestled in the mountain valley of Siam on the Watauga River. The cabins are a great place for fishing, hunting, or just a peaceful family get-a-way. Three of the cabins are about 40 feet across a small road from the river and the others are located across the street on a hill with a beautiful scenic view. All the cabins share a dock on the river, but each cabin is fully furnished with all the luxuries of home. All you need is the food! Plus each cabin has its own private porch. The area has many exciting features; the lakes are only miles away, a river for fishing, rafting, and kayaking, and places for hiking including the Appalachian Trail. These unique cabins are owned and operated by John and Norine Allen.

We have booked the "Lodge". The lodge is also referred to as cabin 5 {the upper floor} and cabin 6 {the lower floor}. It sleeps a total 16 people in the two floors. We could get up to 20 if we were to bring extra beds.

The lodge includes 5 bedrooms with 6 beds, 2 pull-out couches, 2 or 3 other couches and plenty of room to set up extra cots and inflatable mattresses. The floors are large and together include two full kitchens, plenty of tables and chairs to feed a hungry mob, 2 and half baths, a big front porch, 2 or 3 BBQ grills, plenty of parking, and immediate river access (not as good as Meredith Valley Cabins). There is a game room with a TV, a ping-pong table, an air hockey table and 2 more shuffleboard tables, two separate living rooms, and 2 more TVs in them. More cabins are available for those that prefer the extra privacy.

Driving Directions

To BEE CLIFF CABINS from NASHVILLE, TN – *299 mi (4 hrs, 50 mins)*
www.mapquest.com

Merge onto I-40 E via the ramp on the LEFT toward KNOXVILLE/HUNTSVILLE - *212.4 mi*

Merge onto I-81 N via EXIT 421 on the LEFT toward BRISTOL - *56.6 mi*

Merge onto I-26 E/US-23 S via EXIT 57A toward ASHEVILLE/JOHNSON CITY - *15.5 mi*

Merge onto US-321 N/TN-67 E via EXIT 24 toward ELIZABETHTON/MILLIGAN COLLEGE/WATAUGA DAM - 8.8 mi

Turn SLIGHT LEFT onto US-19E N/TN-37 N/TN-91 N/VETERANS MEMORIAL PKWY. US-19E N is 0.1 miles past EAST ST - 0.2 mi

Merge onto TN-91 N/STONY CREEK RD toward STONEY CREEK/SHADY VALLEY - 3.3 m

Turn RIGHT onto BLUE SPRINGS RD. BLUE SPRINGS RD is 0.1 miles past GLENDALE DR - 0.1 mi

BLUE SPRINGS RD becomes SIAM RD - 0.05 mi

SIAM RD becomes BLUE SPRINGS RD - 0.8 mi

Stay STRAIGHT to go onto STEEL BRIDGE RD. BLUE SPRINGS RD becomes STEEL BRIDGE RD - 0.8 mi

Continue on STEEL BRIDGE RD across two-lane concrete bridge.

Turn RIGHT onto WILBER DAN RD as soon as you cross the bridge. If you are on GRINDSTAFF RD and reach BISHOP HOLLOW RD you've gone about 0.9 miles too far - 0.07 mi

Turn RIGHT onto STEEL BRIDGE RD. If you reach BOWERS LN you've gone about 0.5 miles too far. - 0.01 mi

141 STEEL BRIDGE RD is on the RIGHT. If you reach the end of STEEL BRIDGE RD you've gone about 0.2 miles too far.

Office is the brown brick house at 141 Steel Bridge Rd. Pick up envelope with contract and keys in the Bee Cliff Cabins mailbox on the driver's side if no one is home.

Cabins are 1 mile up the river on the left on Wilbur Dam Road.

Local Fly Shops

Mahoney's
830 Sunset Dr.
Johnson City, TN
(423) 282-5413
www.mahoneysports.com

Nashville 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 nymph or smaller streamers, a 9 Ft, 4-6 Wt rod with a floating line will work well.
- For casting heavy streamers, a 9 Ft, 6-8 Wt rod with a floating, sink tip, or sinking line will work well.

Recommended Flies

Dry Flies:

Elk Hair Caddis (12-16)
Sulfur Comparadun (14-16)
Parachute Sulfur (14-16)
Griffith Gnat (16-18)

Streamers:

Krystal Bugger (10-14)
Clouser Minnow (6-10)
Slumpbuster (10-12)

Nymphs:

Pheasant Tail (14-18)
Prince Nymph (14-18)
Hare's Ear Nymph (14-18)
Zebra Midge (18-22)
RS2 (16-20)
Sparkle Emergent Caddis Pupa (14-16)
Deep Caddis Pupa (14-16)

Water Release Schedule / Information:

Watauga River

You can check the generation schedule for the Watauga River by calling 1-800-238-2264; Wilbur Dam is #42 or check the website at:

lakeinfo.tva.gov/htbin/lakeinfo?site=WIH&DataType=All&submit=View+info

River Access:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Wilbur Reservoir Ramp | Ramp and Parking Area |
| • Pull-offs along Wilbur Dam Road | River Access, No Ramp |
| • Wilbur Dam Parking Area | Parking Area Below Dam |
| • Hunter Bridge Access Area | Ramp With Gravel Parking |
| • Blevins Road Access | Ramp With Gravel Parking |
| • Highway 400 | Ramp And Gravel Parking |

South Holston River

You can check the generation schedule for the South Holston River by calling 1-800-238-2264; South Holston Dam is #01 or check the website at:

lakeinfo.tva.gov/htbin/lakeinfo?site=SHH&DataType=All&submit=View+info

River Access:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| • Fisherman Access Area at dam and labyrinth weir | No Ramp |
| • Emmett Road Access Area | Gravel Ramp And Parking Area |
| • Walk-In Access | Limited Parking |
| • Weaver Pike | Limited Parking |

Recommended Resources:

Maps

Tennessee Atlas & Gazetteer by Delorme

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

Elizabethton Quadrangle by USGS

Johnson City Quadrangle by USGS

www.usgs.gov/pubprod/maps.html

See the *Watauga and South Holston 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

Trout Streams of Southern Appalachia by Jimmy Jacobs

www.countrymanpress.com/titles/TroutStreamsSAppalachia2.html

Emergency/Medical Information

Hospitals:

Sycamore Shoals Hospital

1501 West Elk Avenue

Elizabethton, TN 37643

(423) 542-1300

www.msha.com/facility.cfm?id=54

Medical Clinics:

First Assist Urgent Care of Elizabethton

314 Rogosin Drive

Elizabethton, TN 37643

Hours: M-F 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM and Sat 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Phone: (423) 542-8929

www.brmmc.net/body_BRPG_practice_sub.cfm?id=163

Medical Care, LLC

1900 W. Elk Ave

Elizabethton, TN 37643

Hours: M-F 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM and Sat 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Office: (423) 543-2584

Fax: (423) 542-5109

www.medicalcarellc.com/locations/elizabethton.php

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