

February, 2012 C.O.F.F. Speakers – Ian and Charity Rutter

Subject – Great Smoky Mountains National Park: Wild Trout Paradise

Ian and Charity Rutter are known as “the guides to learn from” in the Smoky Mountains and East Tennessee. They literally wrote the book on fly fishing in the Smokies with five books to their credit. They are staff members for Scott Fly Rods, Ross Reels, Patagonia, Smith-Action Optics and Hyde Drift Boats.

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park is the most visited national park in the United States, and for the fly fisher it has over 800 miles of trout streams with wild rainbow, brown and brook trout. Nearby east Tennessee tailwaters provide both float and wade fishing opportunities for large trout as well as smallmouth bass. Ian and Charity both guide these waters (as well as some western US rivers) and keep their past and future clients informed through a website (www.RandRFlyFishing.com) with regularly updated fishing reports, articles and video tips and techniques. The website receives over 6000 visits per month.

Ian’s first job was in a tiny fly shop in Townsend, Tennessee, within a couple miles of a prime entrance to Smoky Mountain trout fishing. The Rutters still live in Townsend. Ian spends almost every day on the water either in the Smokies, drifting one of east Tennessee’s great tailwaters or cold water lakes, or floating one of several smallmouth bass rivers. In addition to the books he has written, both educational and documentary, he hosted a DVD series on fly fishing freestone streams. His photography appears in all of his books, as well as in his articles published in national magazines.

Ian is a founding member, past president and board member of the Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited and holds a degree in Botany and Zoology from the University of Tennessee.

Charity Rutter, Ian’s partner in R&R Fly Fishing Smoky Mountain Guide Service, spends several days each week on the water in Tennessee and well as the Rockies. She teaches an annual women’s fly fishing school in North Carolina. Somehow she also finds time to spend valuable hours with husband Ian and their two children, Willow and Boone. She has collaborated with Ian on all of their books, including the photography and design. With a degree in Graphic Design from the University of Central Oklahoma she helps various groups create logos and print materials for the fly fishing industry. Charity is also a casting instructor for Casting for Recovery and has been featured as a caster, presenter and instructor at various fly fishing shows and events across the eastern U.S.

Charity is also a very active member of TU, has served on the board of the Little River Chapter and together with Ian has worked closely with fishery biologists on Smoky Mountain native brook trout restoration projects and trout population surveys.