



Joe's "little green book" is as good today as it was in 1938.



Stream Blazer Joe Frank Manley 1904-1995

Forge Creek and Little River, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Tennessee

Joe Frank Manley was born in Royston, Georgia. Growing up he had two major interests, the outdoors and baseball. He never lost a game with his pitching abilities in high school and he pitched for the University of Georgia on Scholarship. He was the first person in his family to achieve a college education.

He studied physics and chemistry but he discovered that forestry was his real interest. Upon graduation he was employed by the U.S. Forest Service in Idaho where he had the opportunity to fish streams that rarely saw an artificial fly. It was paradise except for an occasional intense crown fire and the risk of encountering a grizzly. On one occasion he followed a grizzly on a trail with moisture from a recent

rain still fill the tracks. The trail happened to lead to a nice stream. Even a grizzly could not deter him from polishing his techniques to fool the cutthroat and rainbow trout.

In 1932, he applied and was hired in 1933 as the first, and only, Chief Forester for the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. His Duties included establishing routes for fire prevention roads, determining peaks where fire towers needed to be located and overseeing the towers construction. All the large trees around the lawn at Park Headquarters near Gatlinburg today were transplanted young trees planted by Joe in 1934 and 1935.

In Joe's spare time he chased the local Brook trout, Smallmouth bass and Rainbow trout. He found that some stream banks produced grasshoppers that provided protein which produced fish with more size and weight. He was never secretive about his knowledge, sharing locations, best lures and effects of weather on trout with serious anglers.

Joe gained a significant knowledge of the streams both within and outside the Park boundaries. In 1938 he wrote and self-published a book entitled "Fishing in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and Adjacent Waters." Ben East, the well-known editor of Outdoor Life magazine, discovered the book and bought all of Joe's remaining copies for distribution.



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1904-1995

Cutthroat Trout in Tennessee

Joe Manley had a love for all of nature, particularly the flora and fauna on the Great Smoky Mountains. He worked closely with Willis King, the Fisheries Manager and Arthur Stupka, the Park Naturalist. Stupka's book, "Notes on the Birds of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park" 1963 University Press, mentions his contributions in "Acknowledgements."

Willis King and Joe Manley carried a transport can of cutthroat fry up Forge Creek, in Cades Cove, in 1939 and released them. In 1952 Joe's son caught a trout in Forge Creek that had the unmistakable markings of a cutthroat - evidence that some genes had survived for thirteen years.



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