



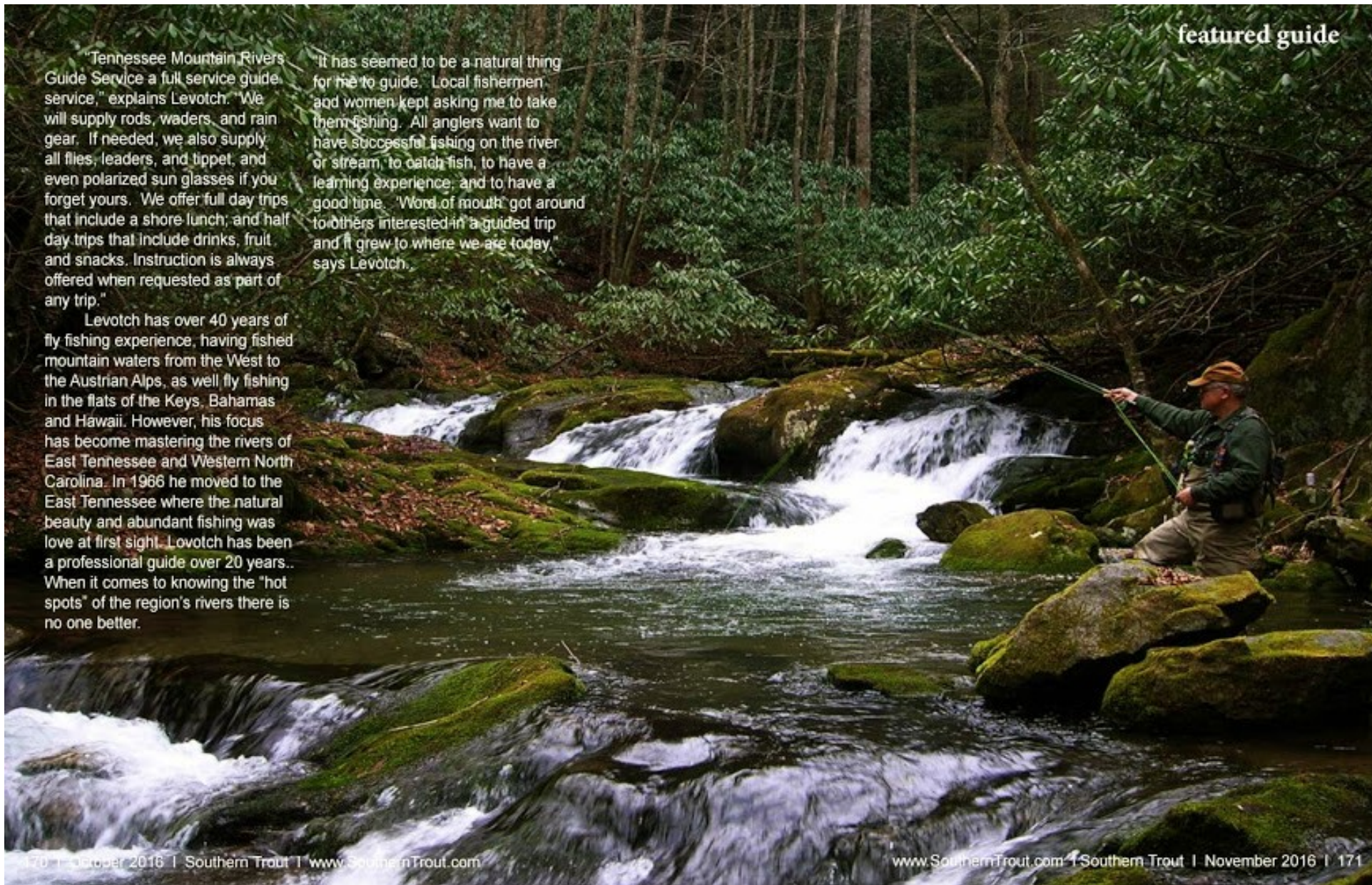
Successful East Tennessee fly fishing guides wear more hats than old Captain Kangaroo and Mister Green Jeans. Dixie's latest fly fishing hotspot, this region is an invariable smorgasbord buffet of different long rod angling opportunities. Nes Levotch, owner/operator of Tennessee Mountain Rivers Guide Service is truly a "guide for all seasons" in river/stream/lake rich East Tennessee.

Based out of Jonesborough, Tennessee, Levotch's mission for his guide service to help fishermen enjoy the experience while teaching them and hopefully increasing their sense of appreciation for fly fishing and its rewards. His class room is big, including trips to the Watauga River and South Holston River tailwaters for trout, and Holston, Nolichucky, and Little Pigeon rivers for smallmouth bass. For those wanting something special, Levotch offers to a privately managed section of Boone Fork Creek, in the Blueridge Mountains. Rising on the slopes of Grandfather Mountain in North Carolina, before joining the Watauga River in Tennessee this catch-and-release fly fishing paradise is alive with brook trout up to three pounds and brown trout up to 30-inches long.

"Tennessee Mountain Rivers Guide Service a full service guide service," explains Levotch. "We will supply rods, waders, and rain gear. If needed, we also supply all flies, leaders, and tippet, and even polarized sun glasses if you forget yours. We offer full day trips that include a shore lunch, and half day trips that include drinks, fruit, and snacks. Instruction is always offered when requested as part of any trip."

Levotch has over 40 years of fly fishing experience, having fished mountain waters from the West to the Austrian Alps, as well fly fishing in the flats of the Keys, Bahamas and Hawaii. However, his focus has become mastering the rivers of East Tennessee and Western North Carolina. In 1966 he moved to the East Tennessee where the natural beauty and abundant fishing was love at first sight. Levotch has been a professional guide over 20 years. When it comes to knowing the "hot spots" of the region's rivers there is no one better.

"It has seemed to be a natural thing for me to guide. Local fishermen and women kept asking me to take them fishing. All anglers want to have successful fishing on the river or stream, to catch fish, to have a learning experience, and to have a good time. 'Word of mouth' got around to others interested in a guided trip and it grew to where we are today," says Levotch.



featured guide

Levotch's talents do not end as a fishing guide. He is a master craftsman and is able to fish from the boats he builds, catch fish with the flies he ties, and land the fish with the nets he designed. He builds his custom wooden drift boats, wooden nets, and ties special flies for the targeted area and type fishing. All of these works of art are made in his own workshop located just behind his home in historic Jonesborough, in the custom workshop he built.

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Levotch says that his two most popular bookings are float trips on the Watauga River tailwaters, and wade trips at Boone Fork Creek's Trophy Waters. He notes a noticeable upswing in bookings from people of all walks of who have an interest in fly fishing, and have a willingness to learn new techniques from an experienced guide familiar with the waters. More and more people are traveling to East Tennessee to experience the local fly fishing buffet.

"I have fished northeast Tennessee for over 40 years and love this area and what it has to offer," say Lovotch. "When needed or requested, I can give guidance on their fishing techniques and we can share information and I learn from them too. The future is very bright too. The Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency is proactive in improving and protecting the fishing in upper East Tennessee. The fishermen are more aware and respectful of the programs in place including the "catch and release" and water conservation."

