



NEWS CASTER



Volume 9 Issue 1

Overmountain Chapter Trout Unlimited
www.omtu.org

January 2004

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Year in Review

From the President, Ken Chase

It has been a privilege to serve as your President during 2003. The support of the Board and membership has been very gratifying. Some of the key accomplishments this year were: 1) conducted cleanups on South Holston, Watauga and Fort Patrick Henry Tailwaters; Beaverdam and Buffalo Creeks; and Doe River and other streams in the Roan Mountain area; 2) published a wallet-size information card with contact information when you're in the watershed; 3) conducted informative monthly meetings highlighting conservation, instruction and favorite fishing locations; 4) provided training during the first Youth Introduction to Fly Fishing class; 5) established a new web site address (omtu.org) and email address (info@omtu.org); 6) member survey resulted in quarterly publication of the *News Caster* and reducing monthly meetings from 12 to 10; 7) received TDEC's 2003 Aquatic Resource Preservation Stewardship Award; 8) progress was made on our fourth Embrace-a-Stream project (Buffalo Creek); 9) expanded River/Stream Watch program and 10) revised format of the *News Caster*.

During 2004 there will be many opportunities for you to contribute your time and talents to improve our trout streams. With 55 trout streams within a 60 mile radius of Johnson City, there is room for all of you to make a difference. I hope to see you at a monthly meeting or at one of our many conservation projects.

Ken

**Membership Meeting January 8th at Cams Catering,
203 Highpoint Drive, Johnson City - Buffet dinner at 6PM.**

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**Members and Guests
attended the
November Meeting**

January Meeting Program

The January Membership Meeting program will feature Appalachian Anglers' co-owner, Theo Copeland, presenting "Fishing in Alaska". This is always a very popular and informative program. Don't miss it! We look forward to seeing you there.

Quick Bites & Short Strikes

Calendar of Events
2004

January 5, 7:00 PM
Directors Meeting
Eastman Credit Union
January 8, 6:00 PM
Membership Meeting
Cams Catering, Johnson City
January 24, 9:00 am
TU/TVA Coldwater Resources
Meeting, Knoxville
February 2, 7:00 PM
Directors Meeting
Eastman Credit Union
February 12, 6:00 PM
Membership Meeting
Cams Catering, Johnson City
March 1, 7:00 PM
Directors Meeting
Eastman Credit Union
March 11, 6:00 PM
Membership Meeting
Cams Catering, Johnson City
April 5, 7:00 PM
Directors Meeting
Eastman Credit Union
April 8, 6:00 PM
Membership Meeting
Cams Catering, Johnson City
May 3, 7:00 PM
Directors Meeting
Eastman Credit Union
May 13, 6:00 PM
Membership Meeting
Cams Catering, Johnson City
May 15, 9:00 AM
16th Annual Watauga River
Cleanup, Elizabethton
June 7, 7:00 PM
Directors Meeting
Eastman Credit Union
June 10, 6:00 PM
Membership Meeting
Cams Catering, Johnson City
July TBD, 9:00 am
TU/TVA Coldwater Resources
Meeting, Knoxville
August 14, 9:00 AM
12th Annual South Holston
Cleanup, Weir Dam
September 18, 9:00 AM
10th Annual Todd Burleson
Cleanup, Roan Mountain

Submission of articles and suggestions for the newsletter are encouraged and may be sent to info@omtu.org or call Ken Chase at 975-0357. The deadline for the February issue is **January 20**.

You may access the current and archived issues of the *News Caster* on the internet via a link from the OMTU web site at www.omtu.org. To receive the latest news faster, please send an email to info@omtu.org requesting you be added to our monthly meeting announcements. Your email address will not be shared with anyone.

According to a December 9, 2003 Johnson City Press article, TWRA is considering property belonging to the city of Elizabethton as a possible site for new trout hatchery and environmental education center. When the Environmental Assessment is developed and reviewed, the Chapter needs to be involved to ensure the Watauga River is not impacted.

There is legislation proposed (HB1479-Fitzhugh) that would allow the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission to set hunting and fishing license fees. To learn more about the bill and make your opinion heard, you can complete a Tennessee Conservation League survey on their web site at: www.conservetn.com and answer the 3 short yes/no questions.

Bob Sherrill has scheduled an outstanding line-up of speakers for future meetings. Contact Bob if you have a recommendation for a future speaker or topic.

Ken Chase met with Marcia Carter, U.S. Forest Service, at Limestone Cove to review the status of the Chapter's Embrace-A-Stream project that was completed in 2000. The platform and stream access ramp are in good condition. Some work is required on the streambank stabilization effort as a result of increased flow during the year. A workday will be planned for late Spring to continue the improvements along North Indian Creek.

On Friday December 12, Eddie Wyatt opened his FLY SHOP OF TENNESSEE, INC. His new, spacious, state of the art shop is located at 102 Willmary Road in Johnson City, 37601. This shop is located across the lake from Winged Deer Park on the Bristol/Johnson City Highway. The shop's phone number is 928-2007 and the fax number is 929-2009. For over 20 years Eddie has provided quality service, products, and expert knowledge to solve our fly fishing needs. Eddie will employ a professional staff and he will appreciate your support and business.

OMTU Membership is 492

The TU membership rebate program has been changed. Chapters can now offer a year's TU membership for a special rate of \$17.50. The offer is for **NEW** members only (cannot be used by previously expired or archived members). The change also provides significant discounts for multi-year memberships, family, senior, youth, sponsor, business, conservator and life memberships. New members can join by mail or join on the web @ www.tu.org/intro. For OMTU to receive a rebate of \$15 from the \$17.50 the new member must include the Overmountain Chapter number (**492**).

The following is a summary of Trout Unlimited's Strategic Plan. In the next few issues, we'll review the Chapter's plans for 2004.

**Overmountain
Chapter Officers,
Committees and
Directors (director term)**

President

Ken Chase, (04)
975-0357

Vice President

Bob Viers, (04)
288-8815

Secretary

Charles Gibson, (04)
239-9655

Treasurer

Donald Kreh, (04)
349-4637

Editor

Open

Committees:

Education

Gary Barrigar, (04)
543-7576

Resources

Bill Bezell, (04)
239-6991

Membership

Perry Rindfleisch, (06)
773-8333

Program

Bob Sherrill, (04)
276-623-0863

Directors:

Randy Bartels, (06)
246-7289

Marcia Carter
638-4109

Charles Martin, (04)
245-4966



OUR VISION

By the next generation, Trout Unlimited will ensure that robust populations of native and wild coldwater fish once again thrive within their North American range, so that our children can enjoy healthy fisheries in their home waters.

OUR MISSION

To conserve, protect, and restore North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.

OUR VALUES

HEALTHY WATERSHEDS & CLEAN WATER

We are committed to ensuring quantities of cold, clean water sufficient to sustain healthy fish populations and to watershed restoration and wise fisheries management.

WILD & NATIVE TROUT & SALMON

Healthy populations of native and wild fish are the best indicators of watershed health, and we are committed to the protection and restoration of these fish where ecologically sustainable.

STEWARDSHIP & ADVOCACY

As stewards for future generations, we employ sound science and work cooperatively with a broad spectrum of interests in defending and advocating for our natural resource legacy.

COMMITMENT TO MEMBERS

We owe our uniqueness to a passionately committed, diverse, volunteer network of members who pursue our mission in their local councils and chapters. We will sustain this member network through representative governance and a continuous commitment to grassroots support, learning, and development.

QUALITY PEOPLE

In the pursuit of our cause, our most important resource is our people – both staff and volunteers – who sustain and support each other's work.

OUR GOALS

- Strengthen TU's leadership in coldwater conservation nationally, regionally & locally.
- Better integrate and enhance the development of the TU team.
- Increase public awareness of TU and its mission.
- Increase and motivate an effective membership.
- Diversify and grow sources of revenue.
- Achieve financial stability and security.

Fly of the Month

Submitted by Charles Martin

A. K. Best Sulfur Quill Parachute

A. K. Best Quill bodied flies tied in both dun and parachute versions have proven to be extremely effective in local tailwaters. The dun, as is typical for a pattern which is high off the water, is more effective on broken water and is typically fished from a boat during generation or in a riffle which remains after rundown. The parachute, as is typical for a pattern which resides low in the water, is quite effective on broken water but is significantly more effective on flat water created by substantial rundown. The parachute version is not as laborious or difficult to tie as the dun and many folks believe the A. K. Best Sulfur Quill Parachute is the most effective of any sulfur pattern after substantial rundown has occurred.

Recipe

Hook: Tiemco 101

Thread: Uni-Thread 8/0 Light Cahill

Body: Pale Yellow or Orange Hackle Quills thoroughly soaked in water

Tail: Barred Ginger Hackle

Wing Post: White Turkey Flats

Hackle: Barred Ginger Hackle



Instructions

Wrap thread back to 0% point and make 1 additional turn over the last turn. Install spade hackle fibers so that the length of the tail is between 2 and 3 hook eye diameters longer than the entire length of the hook. Prepare a post with the tips precisely aligned from a dense, turkey feather with a clean sharp edge. Install post so that the length is equal to the entire length of the hook and the center of the post is located at the center of the second hook eye diameter back from the eye. Position post perpendicular using tight wraps in front of the post. Set post with circular wrap around base. Place wraps up the post and wind back down. Soak quills in water for at least 30 minutes. Select 2 quills for sizes 14 and 16, use 1 quill for sizes 18 and 20. Cut off the quill(s) where the width of the quill(s) is about 2/3 the diameter of the thread wrap, tie in quill(s) and spiral wrap thread back to the 0% point. Install thread sub body of appropriate size and shape. Wrap quill(s) forward and on the last rotation wrap the quill(s) on the bottom as far forward on the sub-body as possible. Tie off quill(s) and clip off butts. Complete forward body by winding thread from end of quill wrap forward to create a conical section which reduces to 1 thread wrap 1/2 hook eye diameter the eye. Select a hackle which is one size larger than normal. Tie in hackle with the shiny, convex side up. Wind hackle so that the plane of the hackle will be parallel to the water and does not tilt forward. Wind hackle by making the first wrap high and making 4 additional wraps with each wrap below the preceding wrap. Gather hackle upward and tie off with several half hitches. Break off barb of hook.

Submissions Wanted for Fly of the Month

Do you have a fly that trout just can't resist that you want to share with your fellow OMTU members? Submit your favorite pattern, with a sample fly or photos, along with the recipe, tying instructions and fishing tips or any other interesting information about the fly. Email the information to info@omtu.org.

**River and Stream
Watch Leaders:**

Beaverdam Creek

Ron Harrington
276-669-4948

Buffalo Creek

Ken Chase
975-0357

Doe Creek

Jere Houser
323-8240

Doe River

Don Kreh
349-4637

Fort Patrick Henry

Tailwater

Jon Krutak
239-7340

Andy Hale
239-5843

Hampton Creek

Bob Bierbaum
246-7582

Laurel Fork Creek

Gary Barrigar
543-7576

N. and S. Indian Creek

Elaine Walker
Foster Levy
434-9544

Rocky Fork

Elaine Walker
Foster Levy
434-9544

Stoney Creek

Wayne Stockton
542-5449

South Holston Tailwater

Bob Viers
288-8815

Watauga Tailwater

Margie Stratton
John McKee
543-6153

River and Stream Watch Program

By Bill Beazell

Our local trout waters require ongoing monitoring to ensure they are protected from pollution sources. Trout Unlimited's mission is conserve, protect and restore our coldwater streams and watersheds. To fulfill this mission we need well informed and active grassroots advocates to be constantly vigilant for sources of pollution. This is where you, as a TU member, can serve as a valuable resource.

It is easy to develop support in response to a crisis that has caused damage to your favorite fishing waters. But we need to develop an early warning system to catch crisis early and spread alarm so we can focus our efforts on resolving the problem. This early warning system is known as **RIVER and STREAM WATCH.**

Everyone in the chapter should be on at least one team. Points of contact for the rivers and streams currently assigned are shown at left. Please contact the Team Leader and volunteer your time to watch these streams. To add additional waters to this list, contact a Board member or email: info@omt.org.

Each "watch" team is responsible for regularly observing the water and reporting to Chapter leadership all irregularities in water quality. For example: sources of sedimentation, unusually high water temperatures, low dissolved oxygen levels, abnormal point source discharges; in other words anything which should cause concern for the quality of the water. To volunteer for the RIVER and STREAM WATCH of your choice, please signup at the next Chapter meeting or E-mail: info@omt.org.

The 'how to become involved' is easy. This is where our River and Stream watch teams enter the picture. As each team becomes organized their **first** responsibility is to evaluate the condition of their assigned resource. **Second**, they need to conduct an inventory of the pollution sources that impact their resource and rank each source in order of degree of threat to water quality. **Third**, the river and stream watch teams must become involved in the protection of their assigned water. This involvement will mean reviewing the pollution sources in descending order of threat and evaluate each. Such a review includes:

1. Review TWRA's annual Wild Trout Report for previous health indicators.
2. Contact TWRA biologists concerning your findings (800-332-0900).
3. Contact TDEC regarding silting or stream pollution (423-854-5400).
4. Discuss your views of the water quality conditions with other volunteer environmental organizations.

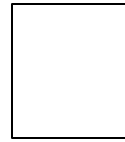
When this review is completed, document your findings and present them at a future Chapter meeting so a corrective strategy can be developed.

Let us hear from you!

NEWS CASTER

A Quarterly Publication

Overmountain Chapter
Trout Unlimited
15 Willow Tree Court
Johnson City, TN 37603
www.omtu.org



News Caster

River Quotes



"The mark of a successful man is one that has spent an entire day on the bank of a river without feeling guilty about it." **Chinese Philosopher**

"Rivers run through our history and folklore, and link us as a people. They nourish and refresh us and provide a home for dazzling varieties of fish and wildlife and trees and plants of every sort. We are a nation rich in rivers." **Charles Kuralt**

"Water is the most critical resource issue of our lifetime and our children's lifetime. The health of our waters is the principal measure of how we live on the land." **Luna Leopold**

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