

# NEWS CASTER

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Overmountain Chapter  
Trout Unlimited Ron Harrington, Editor



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**NEXT REGULAR MEETING IS SET FOR SEPTEMBER 8TH AT CAMS CATERING, 203 HIGHPOINT DRIVE, JOHNSON CITY— BUFFET DINNER AT 6PM.**

## SOUTH HOLSTON RIVER CLEANUP SET FOR AUGUST 13

The 13th annual South Holston Lake and River Cleanup is set for Saturday, August 13, 2005. OMTU, in cooperation with the South Holston Ruritan Club, is responsible for the South Holston River from the Weir Dam to Bluff City. Registration begins at the Weir Dam at 8:00 a.m. Bring boots, waders, and insect repellent. Trash bags and gloves will be provided by the TVA. At 3:00 p.m., participants who show their armband can attend the cleanup party at Observation Knob (off route 44), featuring music, food, and prize drawings.

This has become the largest cleanup in East Tennessee, with attendance averaging 900 and trash pickup averaging 40-60 tons! Make your plans now to join us in this important conservation project.

## TODD BURLESON MEMORIAL STREAM CLEANUP SET FOR SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2005

This is the 11th annual cleanup that honors Todd Burleson, an OMTU member, environmentalist, and fishing guide who died in the prime of life. Roan Mountain is a beautiful place to bring your family for a half day of beautifying, socializing, and good food. Many OMTU members consider this the most enjoyable of all the cleanups. Dress appropriately and assemble at the Roan Mountain Community Park, Hwy 143, Roan Mountain at 9:00 a.m.

For more information, call Don Kreh (423-349-4637) or Bill Beazell (423-239-6991).

## FISHING SHOW

### A SUCCESS

The 2005 Fishing show, held at the Kingsport Civic Center on March 5 was an unqualified success.

Thanks for all of you who helped out on this very important project. Over 150 persons attended the show this year. The club made a total of \$1608.00.

## RIVER AND STREAM WATCH LEADERS

### Beaverdam Creek:

Ron Harrington  
(276) 669-4948

### Buffalo Creek

Gary Barrigar  
(423) 543-7576

### Fort Patrick

### Henry Tailwater:

Jerry Allen  
(423) 246-3263

### Doe Creek:

Jere Houser  
(423)323-8240

### Doe River:

Don Kreh  
(423) 349-6437

### South Holston

### Tailwater:

Bob Viers  
(423) 288-8815

### Rocky Fork:

Elaine Walker  
Foster Levy  
(423) 434-9544

### Hampton Creek:

Bob Bierbaum  
(423) 2583

### SreamWatch

### leaders are

### needed for

### Laurel Fork

### Creek, Stoney

### Creek, and

### Watauga River

### Tailwater.

If interested in  
serving as a  
SreamWatch  
leader, call Bill  
Bezell, (423)  
239-6991

## RIVER/STREAM- WATCH HELP NEEDED By Bill Bezell

The River/StreamWatch Program is the OMTU's response to Trout Unlimited's main goal of conserving, protecting and restoring wild trout and salmon throughout North America.

Our program focuses on monitoring stream conditions relating to pollution (including trash), sedimentation, high water temperature, low dissolved oxygen, acidic pH, low alkalinity, and poor stream structure. Jim Davis, former OMTU President, initiated the program in 2002.

We started with six streams and now have thirteen. Some significant accomplishments thus far:

1. Association with the following support groups—South Holston Lake and River Cleanup Committee (Bristol Keep America Beautiful), Roan Mountain Citizens Club, Elizabethton Chamber of Commerce, South Holston Ruritan Club, Girl Scouts, several local churches, and the Northeast TN Correctional Complex.
2. We are annually part of six river and stream cleanups.
3. We have helped complete four Embrace-A-Stream grants, the most recent being Buffalo Creek in 2004.
4. Along with TWRA we have investigated the possibility of developing two wading and boating access sites, one on the Watauga Tailwater, one on the Fort Patrick Henry Tailwater.
5. We have worked with TVA to optimize water release and stream temperature on the South Holston Tailwater.

6. We assisted in the solution of a sewage lift pump problem on Hendrick's Creek in Kingsport.
7. We stocked rainbow and brown trout in several area streams.
8. Using the TWRA website information as references, we have obtained chemical water analyses on four streams, the most recent being Beaverdam Creek
9. We support TDEC, TWRA, TVA, and the USDA Forest Service projects on many waters.
10. Team Leaders report at OMTU meetings.

In spite of these successes, we need to improve efforts in this program. Leaders are needed for three streams, and committee members are needed for all streams. Monitoring groups need to get out on their respective streams, make observations and collect data, and report back to the membership. Get involved. If interested in a particular stream, call the respective leader, or call Bill Bezell (276) 239-6991.

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

**Charles Kuralt**

**“Cold clean streams need special protection because new ones cannot be made....”**

**Charles K. Fox**

***Rising Trout 1967***

**OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS TO BE ELECTED AT THE SEPTEMBER MEETING**

The following officers and directors will be nominated:

**Board of Directors**

Perry Rindfleisch, Gary Barrigar, Bill Bezell, Charles Martin, Don Kreh, Bob Sherrill, Randall Rogers, Ron Harrington, Bob Fondry, Bob Viers, and T.A. Smith.

**Officers:**

President: Perry Rindfleisch  
Vice President: Open  
Secretary: Bob Sherrill  
Treasurer: Don Kreh

**Please plan now to attend this very important Annual Meeting. The date is Thursday, September 8, 2005. We meet at Cams Catering, Johnson City. Check OMTU web site for details.**

**Slimy, Dense Mats of Algae Reported in Watauga and South Holston Rivers**

According Jack Williams, Chief Scientist for TU National, there have been increasing reports of dense mats of brown algae (more like grayish brown) forming along stream bottoms in several western states. Apparently, this has been occurring locally as well. "It looks slimy, but feels like wet cotton. The growth is thick enough to smother other plants and aquatic insects. The

culprit appears to be a single-celled diatom with a big scientific name: *Didymosphenia geminata*."

"This is a naturally -occurring type of algae that appears to have exploded in numbers and may threaten trout populations. Scientist suspect that increased ultra-violet radiation may be the cause. Normally, ozone in the atmosphere absorbs most of the ultra-violet light reaching the Earth, but holes in the ozone layer may be coupling with climate change to shift the balance of power in the alga world and allow this species of diatom to proliferate to detrimental levels."

Be sure to thoroughly clean your boots and fishing gear to prevent the spread. Anyone with information about a bloom should contact Sarah Spaulding at [Spaulding.sarah@epa.gov](mailto:Spaulding.sarah@epa.gov).

**GREAT PROGRAM SET FOR SEPTEMBER MEETING!**

**Our speaker for the September 8, 2005 regular meeting will be Mark Brien. His topic will be "Saltwater Fly Fishing. So mark your calendar, tie a ribbon on your pinkie, leave a note on the refrigerator and plan to attend!**



**TAKE A KID FISHING**

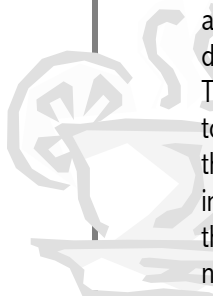
According to a survey reported in *Trout Magazine*, Summer, 2005, 85% of youth ages 8-18 were interesting in fishing and three quarters of them thought that their friends would consider fishing a "little cool."

However, an article in the Thursday, July 28, 2005 edition of USA Today quoted from a report by the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association that the number of people in the USA who fish declined from 58.4 million in 1987 to 47.9 million in 2004. This is probably due to a number of societal changes, but one reason given was "youngsters are not being taken fishing, and it's kind of hard for them to discover the sport if an adult doesn't show them how in the first place."

The Overmountain Chapter will continue to focus on ways to encourage our youth to take up this wonderful sport. Get involved in OMTU youth programs, and take a kid fishing.

**VA/TN COMPREHENSIVE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION STRATEGIES AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW**

The VA Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, and the TN Wildlife Resources Agency have announced the development of their respective CWCS for review and comment. This is a comprehensive effort involving many agencies and massive amounts of data. States must develop a CWCS by October 1, 2005. The primary goal of the CWCS will be to prevent wildlife from declining to the point of endangerment. It is the intent that the strategic plans from the states will collectively create a nationwide approach to wildlife conservation and turn the tide of species decline. The TWRA website for the plan is <http://state.tn.us/twra/wildlife/cwcs/cwcsindex.html>. The VA site is at [www.vawildlifestrategies.org](http://www.vawildlifestrategies.org). LOOK!



**THE TENNESSEE BOTTLE BILL: DOWN BUT NOT OUT**

Supporters of the Tennessee Bottle Bill Project (TBBP), which did not pass in this year's Tennessee Legislative session, are gearing up for another effort next year. The TBBP is a project of Scenic Tennessee, a not-for-profit corporation committed to protecting and enhancing Tennessee's scenic resources. For more information, check in on the TBBP website, <http://>

**AS OF JULY 14, 2005, OMTU HAD 315 MEMBERS.**

**TDEC TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETING ON WATAGUA WATERSHED**

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation will be holding a Public Meeting at 5:30 pm on August 8, 2005, to involve the public in a meaningful discussion of the water quality in the Watauga River Watershed. The location is the Johnson County Mountain City Community Center. 214 College Street, Mountain City, TN. The public is urged to attend. This is what OMTU is all about! We need a good turnout for this meeting; particularly in light of the cattle feeding operation that is locating in Johnson County, which threatens the watershed in question. Plan to attend and bring a friend.

**NEWS CASTER**

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Goes  
Here