

NEWS CASTER

Overmountain Chapter
Trout Unlimited Ron Harrington, Editor

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COMING EVENTS

BOD: 11-02-06
Regular Meeting: 11-09-06
BOD: 01-04-07
Regular Meeting: 01-11-07
No December Meetings

The November 9, 2006 Meeting will be held at a new location: Sunny's Cafeteria, 601 Spring Street, Johnson City, TN. A buffet dinner begins at 6:00, followed by a short business meeting and then a program. Our speaker is Charles Saylor, Aquatic Zoologist/Biologist, TVA. His Topic: "The Status of Didymo in TVA Tailwaters."

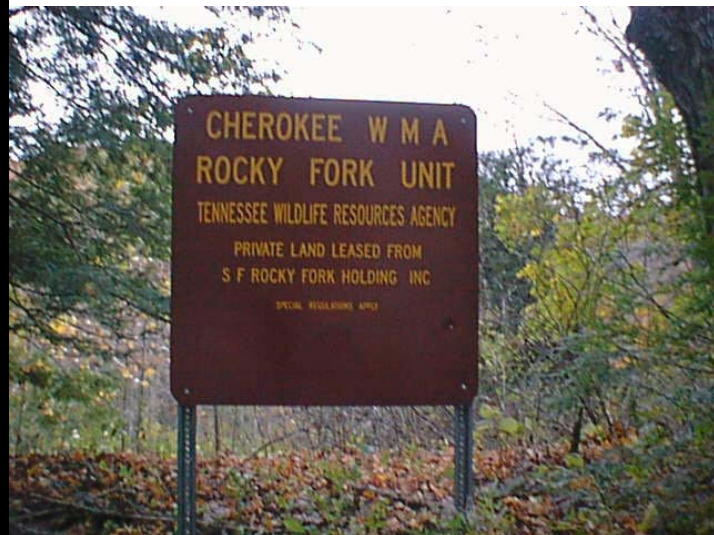
ON DIDYMO

The real danger of Didymo lies in the impact that it may have on our fish populations, especially the trout fishery of East Tennessee. The algae thrive in cool, nutrient-poor water where it forms blooms that result in massive mats. It crowds out the native organisms in streams and rivers that trout and other fish feed on resulting in the decline of their populations.

"This is a concern for a number of reasons," said TVA scientist Tyler Baker. "Didymo reduces the area of clean substrate on (See On Didymo, page 4)



OMTU Field Trip to Tellico Wildlife Management Area. John Dollard, bottom left hand corner, is fishing just below the Bald River Falls, located in the Tellico Wildlife Management Area. See report this page.



SANTA MAKES A SURPRISE VISIT TO ROCKY FORK!!! SEE PICTURES AND STORY ON PAGE 5. SEE PAGE 2 FOR AN UPDATE ON THE EFFORTS TO SAVE THIS BEAUTIFUL AREA.

TELLICO RIVER FISHING TRIP

By Bob Sherrill

On Sunday, October 1, John Dollard, Randall Rogers, Bob Hull, Patrick Fulkrod, and Bob Sherrill traveled to the Tellico River basin for 3 days of fishing. The group camped at the North River Forest Service Campground. Over the next 3 days the group fished the Tellico River, North River, Bald River, and Sycamore Creek. Several 12-inch stockers were caught on the Tellico River. However, most of the fish caught during the trip were 6-7-inch wild rainbows. According to the TWRA, which was doing shocking work on the Tellico and North Rivers while we were there, the larger adult fish were just not present. The reason was not known.

All enjoyed good food and company. On the trip home some persons stopped at the Orvis store in Pigeon Forge and some visited the Bass Pro store on I-81.

Plans will be developed for another trip to some other location next spring.

FY 2006 OMTU Board and Officers

Officers:

- President: Perry Rindfleisch
- Vice President: T.A. Smith
- Treasurer: Randall Rogers
- Secretary: Bob Sherill
- Immediate Past President: Bob Viers

Board Members:

- Marcia Carter
- Bill Bezell
- Bob Fondry
- Charles Martin
- T. A. Smith
- Ron Harrington
- Gary Barrigar

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Perry Rindfleisch

Our calendar year is drawing to a close and I want to thank all of you for making our chapter stronger this past year. To everyone who participated in our stream cleanups, our regular chapter meetings, feedback to your Board of Directors, exhibits and demonstrations and our youth outreach, I say thank you.

We finished the year strong financially with solid membership throughout the year. I think this is testimony to our purpose and outreach and your Board is committed to continuing our progress into 2007.

We are close to submitting our Embrace-A-Stream grant request for the Hampton Creek fish barrier and look forward to having many of you involved in this critical initiative to better protect the spawning area for Southern Appalachian Brook Trout above the barrier. This will be a great opportunity for our chapter to team with the Cherokee chapter in Greeneville to get this "on the ground" project accomplished.

Have a very happy Holiday Season. We'll see you next year.



BIG SMILE FOR A FIRST-TIME FISH!

Katherine Rochelle, daughter of OMTU member Steve Rochelle, proudly displays her first trout caught while first-time fly-fishing. Katherine ended up the day catching two while Steve had no luck at all. Katherine is a second-year medical student at the Quillen School of Medicine in Johnson City, TN.

Picture courtesy of Steve Rochelle

TREAD SOFTLY

“You can deduct correctly that ninety percent of the reasons why anglers fail to raise trout is because of the noise of their wading.”

Ray Ovington
Tactics on Trout
Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1969

Rocky Fork Update

By Gary Barrigar

At a League of Women Voters Meeting at the Johnson City Public Library on Monday, October 30, David Ramsey, President of Save Rocky Fork, presented a program on the importance of saving this beautiful and unique 10,000-acre tract. Rocky Fork is unique because of its ecological, scenic, recreational, and historical value. The offer of the developer to buy Rocky Fork from its present owner has been withdrawn, so we now have an opportunity to preserve this highly important segment of the greater Upper Nolichucky River Watershed, which is vital to residents of Unicoi, Washington, and Greene Counties, as well as to hikers, hunters and fishermen. According to David, the local economy will benefit more if the tract is not developed, as tourism will grow if it is protected as a National Recreation Area. At the meeting, Pete Wyatt TWRA representative, also presented the results

Rocky Fork Update Continued

of a biological inventory that was conducted in the 10,000 acre tract in June. Several rare and valuable species included Peregrine Falcons and Brook Trout are found in Rocky Fork Watershed.

Efforts are underway by several land trusts and conservation organizations to raise the necessary funds to make an offer to buy Rocky Fork to preserve it for future generations of all Americans, not just a wealthy few.

Rocky Fork is now believed to be the last unprotected area of its size and extraordinary natural features existing in the southern Appalachians.

For more information check the website <http://www.saverockyfork.org/>.

Federal Court Reinstates U.S. Forest Service "Roadless Rule."

U.S. District Judge Judy Laporte has reinstated the Forest Service's "Roadless Rule," a protective policy enacted by the Clinton administration in 2001 but changed by the Bush administration in May 2005. Judge Laporte cited the Bush administration's failure to incorporate the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act and the Endangered Species Act when it when the changes were made.

The Roadless Rule prohibits construction of new roads in areas designated "roadless" by guidelines set by the U.S. Forest Service. The rule affects 58.5 million acres nationwide, and protects the remaining roadless forestland across the country.

Source: Appalachian Voice, Autumn, 2006.

SOUTH HOLSTON RIVER SPAWNING AREAS TO BE CLOSED AGAIN

In order to protect spawning trout and their eggs on the South Holston Tailwater, TWRA will again close two important sections to all fishing from November 1, 2006-January 31, 2007.

The upper section is between the Hickory Tree Bridge on HWY 44 (Pvt Carrier Memorial Bridge) upstream to where Bottom Creek enters the river, just above Rivers Way. The lower section extends downstream from the top of the island above Webb Bridge Road to the downstream point of the first island below Weaver Pike Bridge. This island is called Boyd's Island.

Help maintain this great resource for wild trout reproduction by spreading the word.

TROUT UNLIMITED'S 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 wa-

GLOBAL WARMING

"It's official. The first six months of 2006 made up the hottest half of any year on record. By itself, that may not sound like a big deal. But 2005 was tied with 1998 as the hottest year ever, and nine of the 10 hottest years on record have come in the past decade. Scientists struggled for years to prove once and for all that greenhouse-gas emissions, particularly CO2, cause global warming. That debate is over. Burning fossil fuels like coal, oil, and natural gas emits CO2 into the atmosphere, and the buildup of CO2 causes global warming."

"We also now know from South Pole ice cores that the average global temperature goes up and down in direct proportion to the concentration of CO2 in the atmosphere. And here's the scary part. Current CO2 concentrations already exceed the highest level in 650,000 years."

Unfortunately, it is already too late to prevent some of the effects of global warming. Still, this is a time for action, not despair. The worst effects of global warming can be prevented. The United States emits more CO2 than any nation, and Americans more per capita than anyone else. **The solution starts with us through changes in both our personal behavior and public policy."**

John Flicker
President,
National Audubon Society

Source: Audubon, September-October 2006

WANT TO BUY OR SELL PROPERTY?

Call Dempsey Shell, Shell & Associates Real Estate, (423) 547-9377. !0% of net will be donated to OMTU.

REPORT VIOLATORS! Call TWRA Hotline at 800-332-0900

You can help TWRA game and fish officers with their role of enforcement of the Tennessee fishing regulations by reporting violations to the TWRA Hotline. They need "real-time" information such as nature of violation, date, location, vehicle description, license plate numbers and so forth.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"The environmental movement isn't about lifestyle. It's not whether we eat tofu or not, or whether we are Republicans or Democrats. It's whether or not people care about things like the health of their children, the quality of the water they drink, the quality of the air they breathe."

Lenny Kohm, "Building a Bigger Choir," Appalachian Voice, Autumn, 2006.

Renew your Trout Unlimited membership today!

Become an active member by attending meetings and participating in OMTU activities such as stream cleanups and those aimed at promoting conservation of our wetlands and streams.

Volunteers Needed for Boy Scouts of America Merit Badge University

By J.V. Dollard

The ESTU-sponsored BSA Merit Badge University is scheduled for January 20, 2007 in the Culp Center Ballroom on the ETSU Campus. Volunteers with fly-fishing and fly-tying expertise are again needed to assure success for the Fly-Fishing Merit Badge component. Specifically, four volunteers, two for the morning, and two for the afternoon, would be great assuming that the class is the same size as last year. The big segments of the program are casting, knot tying, and fly tying. Topics for this merit badge include fishing safety, fly-fishing equipment, knots, casting, flies, fly tying, and conservation. These topics will fill the day and provide for plenty to do. Identifying aquatic insects may be done if resources permit, but actual fishing cannot be carried out.

The Ballroom is next to the cafeteria and provides an excellent PR opportunity for OMTU. Plan now to help out!

For more information or to volunteer, contact me at jvdollard@earthlink.net. Thanks!

"Water, Water, Everywhere" Trout Unlimited National has recently launched its Eastern Water project, modeled on the highly successful Western Water Project. In February 2005 an attorney who specializes in water conservation was hired. Numerous Eastern states are grappling with the reality that they do not have unlimited supplies of water, and many states are actively evaluating their laws and regulations concerning water diversions, in-stream flows, and water allocation. The Eastern Water Project will focus initially on New England, and seek to create state policies that result in sustainable water management and healthy in-stream flows.

Source: Trout Unlimited Web Site

The Scientific Angler

"On most streams, there are numerous periods during the year when midges form a significant portion of the trout's diet. In October, we have seen eighteen- to twenty-two-inch browns and rainbows on the Missouri River in Montana feeding on green midges. At dawn in midsummer, larger fish will often feed on these miniature flies, completely ignoring the larger mayflies which are hatching simultaneously. On a sunny winter afternoon, trout in Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Montana can be seen rising to midges. Thus this fly provides food for the fish all year long."

Doug Swisher and Carl Richards, Selective Trout, Crown Publishers, Inc., NY, 1971



STREAM CLEANUP SCHEDULE

There are no more cleanups scheduled for 2006. Check this spot in future issues for the 2007 schedule.

I appreciate and thank those of you who helped with the cleanups this year. We had a good year and the selected streams sure look better, and we have helped to improve the overall quality of the streams and the fishing experience.

Bob Fondry, OMTU Stream Cleanup Coordinator

On Didymo (from page 1)

which fish nest and lay eggs. The resulting change in habitat could conceivably cause a shift in the types of aquatic insects present. It also tends to out-compete and limit the growth of native algal species, many of which are food sources for aquatic insects, which in turn are preyed upon by fish and other creatures."

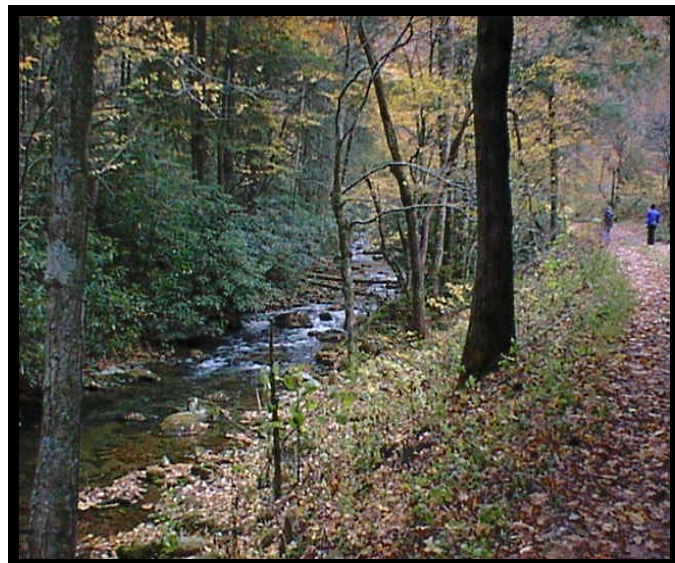
Source: Owen Schroeder, TWRA



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www.ProtectYourWaters.net



SANTA VISITS ROCKY FORK!! SEEN FLY-FISHING BY LOCAL HUNTERS

These pictures of Santa were taken along Rocky Fork, Unicoi County, TN on Monday, October 23, 2006. Local hunters spotted him while out looking for missing coonhounds. According to their spokesman, I. B. Hunting, they really don't believe in Santa but did stop long enough to ask him for help finding their missing dogs. Later in the day Santa's helpers found three bluetick hounds and one redbone. However, the hunters never returned. Perhaps they got a little spooked, being it was close to Halloween and all.

Santa didn't tell them why he was there, but I bet it was because of all the recent publicity relating to the sale of Rocky Fork Tract. He did comment on the pristine beauty and how it all was worthy of special consideration as a wilderness or recreation area. He didn't seem to mind the unusual cold weather along with a few snow flurries, which added to the effect as he demonstrated his casting ability. No one saw him catch a fish, but I wouldn't bet against it.

And I heard him exclaim as he fished out of sight, "**Work to save Rocky Fork with all your might.**" And then he added, "**Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night.**"

Maybe, just maybe, this is an omen of good luck for the campaign to save Rocky Fork. For more information and to offer your support, go to www.saverockyfork.org.

Pictures courtesy of Santa's Elves, Jamie and Jill Scott of Gray, TN.

