

NEWS CASTER

Overmountain Chapter

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Visit our Web Site at omtu.org

Volume 12, Issue 8

September, 2007



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Coming Events:

BOD: 09-13-20
Regular Meeting: 09-20-07
BOD: 10-11-07
Regular Meeting: 10-18-07
BOD: 11-08-07
Regular Meeting: 11-15-07
No December Meeting

The September meeting will be held at the Golden Corral, 3104 Brown's Mill Road, Johnson City. A buffet dinner begins at 6:00 p.m., followed by a short business meeting. The program will be presented by John Harrison. His topic: "Chile, The Jewel of South America" John's past programs are always well prepared and a big hit with attendees.

A brief photo essay of the Hampton Creek barrier project will also be presented.

Trout Unlimited is North America's leading Coldwater fisheries conservation organization, with more than 150,000 members dedicated to the protection and restoration of trout and salmon fisheries and their watersheds.

Todd Burleson Memorial Stream Cleanup Set for Saturday, September 29, 2007

This is the 13th annual stream cleanup that honors Todd Burleson, OMTU member, environmentalist, and fishing guide who passed away in 1997. The Doe River cleanup is held in the picturesque Roan Mountain on the Doe River. It is a beautiful place to bring your family for a half-day of beautifying, socializing and good food.

The cleanup begins at 9:00 a.m. and we meet at the Roan Mountain Community Park. To get there, follow Hwy 19-E to Roan Mountain. Turn right on Hwy 143 and cross the bridge over the Doe River. The Community Park is on your left and visible from the bridge. Turn left at the first intersection and proceed to the parking area.

At 12:00 noon the cleanup part ends and the rest of the fun begins. Dress in old clothes for you may get a little dirty. Bags and gloves will be provided for you. We will work in teams so bring your friends.

For more information, contact Bob Fondry, 423-772-3236.



Members of Cub Scout Pack 109, Bristol, TN, along with parents and other family members, pitch in to help with the South Holston Lake and River Cleanup held on August 11. This group of enthusiastic "trash bashers," working along the river, came back with a full truckload. Report is on page 3.

Hampton Creek Embrace-A-Stream Project Completed

By Perry Rindfleisch, President

In August of 2006 at a board of director's strategic planning meeting at TA Smith's fishing lodge, we talked about the failing status of the old Hampton Creek fish barrier that our chapter had originally created in 1988 and recreated in 1989 after a winter flood. The barrier was effective but gradually was being eroded by heavy storms that plugged the culvert with limbs and mountain debris forcing water to run around the barrier rather than through it.

We agreed to apply for an Embrace-A-Stream grant to build a new type of structure where the water would run over the barrier, eliminating the erosion and eventual loss of the structure.

We were awarded our full grant in February of this year and Bart Carter at TWRA swung into motion to line up three

(See Hampton Creek, page 5)

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

Beaver Creek Cleanup Set

The 8th Annual Beaver Creek Cleanup in Bristol TN/VA is set for Saturday, September 22, 2007

This cleanup is sponsored by Keep Bristol Beautiful.

Bags, gloves and assistance will be provided. Volunteers should register beginning at 9:00 A.M. at the Downtown Center (Shelby Street). Lunch will be provided following the cleanup. Free t-shirts while supplies last. Please note that is not an official OMTU project but our participation is welcome!

WANT TO BUY OR SELL PROPERTY?

Call Dempsey Shell, Shell & Associates Real Estate, (423) 547-9377. 10% of the net will be donated to OMTU.

The President's Corner

By Perry Rindfleisch

Greetings at the start of the fall season. We will all agree this has been an unusual weather year and the dryness has certainly impacted our streams and reservoirs. It appears that lakes are now at the "draw down" levels normally experienced in December of each year. TVA is debating now whether there will be any draw down at all this year. Lower flow rates in streams means water temperatures will raise. We can only hope there is no long-term impact on our trout populations as a result.

We have completed the Hampton Creek Embrace-A-Stream project. The final fencing was installed on August 31st. Thanks to all who helped make this project a reality. Please see the separate report on this project in this newsletter.

The Rocky Fork situation is nearly complete with a contract signed by the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy to purchase this 10,000 acre tract. One additional thing needs to be done to secure all of the financing. Representative David Davis needs to support in the House the Senate Interior Appropriations Bill for \$3.1 Million written by Senator Lamar Alexander.

Please call or write Representative David Davis to let him know your support the efforts to keep Rocky Fork natural and open to all Tennesseans to enjoy.

We start our fall meeting schedule on September 20th with a wonderfully entertaining program by our chapter's own John Harrison on "Chile, The Jewel of South America." I know you will enjoy it. I hope to see all of you at one of the fall meetings.

Perry

WHAT IS YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT?

Your carbon footprint is a measure of how much greenhouse gas your lifestyle lets loose into the air. Total greenhouse gas emissions are represented as units of carbon dioxide. The average American is responsible for 20 tons of carbon dioxide per year. That's the equivalent of four passenger cars driven for one year. For tips on how to reduce your footprint, go to www.GreenerChoices.org.

Source: Consumer Reports, October 2007

TVA Coldwater Report/aka "Cooperative Program Meeting"

By Bill Bezell

Perry Rindfleisch and I represented OMTU at the semi-annual TVA Coldwater/Cooperative Program meeting held in Knoxville on July 28, 2007. A total of 20 people attended representing TVA, TWRA, Cherokee National Forest, and other TU chapters in East Tennessee. The following is a brief summary:

- **TVA:** David Bowling gave an excellent report but did not seem alarmed about the lack of rainfall in the region. As of July 28, 2007, the amount of rainfall is running 60% below normal. The release of water must comply with a minimum depth of eleven feet. The generation of electricity from February-July was down 40%. There is a water temperature goal of 45-55 degrees in all trout waters, with an upper limit of 65 F. The normal lake turnover is about November 1. TVA has the ability to blend warm and cold stocks to maintain desired temperatures.
- **TWRA:** Frank Fiss, who has been managing cold-water fisheries, has accepted the position of Aquatic Biologist with TWRA. **TWRA has purchased 68 acres of land along the South Holston tail-water and a river access site is being planned.** Brown trout have been found in the Grassy Fork section of Big Creek in Cocke County. Didymo is now found in all Tennessee tailwaters with no known harm to the fishery.
- **Chapter Reports:** The Hiwassee tail-water has been receiving adequate cold water this year. Fishing on the Caney Fork has been good. On the Clinch, there has been plenty of cold water and good sulfur hatches. No further car break-ins have been reported. Brook trout are doing well in the Watauga. TVA has been able to vary water temperatures for trout and bass waters.
- **Cherokee National Forest:** Trimming back rhododendron continues to help trout in the Tellico WMA.

The next meeting is set for January 26, 2008.

South Holston Lake and River Cleanup

By Bill Bezell

The 15th annual South Holston Lake and River Cleanup was held on August 11, 2007. OMTU and the South Holston Ruritan Club were responsible for the tailwaters from the dam to Bluff City.

A total of 48 enthusiastic environmentalists registered for the South Holston Tailwater part of the cleanup—39 at the Weir Dam, and 9 at the Bluff City Pavilion. Nine OMTU members along with six members of the South Holston Ruritan Club took part.

As usual, a wide variety of trash was found, but the amount seemed to be down, which could be interpreted as a positive sign. A dumpster full was collected at the Weir, while approximately 34 bags and numerous tires were turned in at the Pavilion.

Ron Harrington, Edd Hill and I represented OMTU on the cleanup planning committee, which, beginning this past February, met monthly at the Bristol Chamber of Commerce to plan the event.

Eight inmates and two supervisors from the Sullivan County Sheriff's Department also helped. They picked up trash along Hwy 44, which runs parallel to the river. Sure looks better now along this road. If you get the chance, let them know how much you appreciate this.

According to Genette Patton, Bristol Chamber, more than 700 volunteers participated in the overall cleanup, collecting approximately 43 tons of trash from the lake, river, and surrounding area.

Thanks to everyone who took part. See you at the next cleanup.



All set up and ready! Members of OMTU and the South Holston Ruritan Club are shown ready to man the Weir Dam registration site for the South Holston River part of the annual South Holston Lake and River Cleanup held on August 11, 2007.

God's Earth

By Bill Bezell

One person, feeling moral authority, and having knowledge and commitment, can change the world. Rachel Carson, a person who understood our connection to all creatures, wrote four great books. She was so persuasive that she was named editor-in-chief of all publications of the Federal Bureau of Fisheries (later the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).

Silent Spring, a runaway best seller—first published in 1962, alerted a large audience to the environmental and human dangers of indiscriminate use of pesticides. From this evidence came revolutionary changes in laws affecting our air, land, and water. In her testimony before a Congressional Committee, Carson asserted that one of the most basic human rights must surely be the “right of the citizen to be secure in his own home against the intrusions of poisons applied by other persons.” She died of cancer in 1964.

I read part of *Silent Spring* in 1962, and am now re-reading it. It will dramatically stir and challenge you.

Mountain Top Removal Mining: A High Price

“At the current rate, Mountain Top Removal mining will gobble up more than 1.4 million acres by 2010. That’s a greater area than the entire state of Rhode Island. Destroying communities and leveling mountains crafted over millennia is too high a price to pay for power.” Editorial, *Bristol Herald Courier*, Sunday, August 26, 2007

REPORT LITTER-BUGS!

CALL TDOT AT 1-877-854-8837

- Tn License Plate #
- Type/make of Vehicle
- Date and time of incident
- Location of incident
- Type of litter

REPORT FISH AND GAME 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.

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.

As of July 2007, we had 216 members assigned to OMTU

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 waters.”

State Chair Report
Tennessee Council, Trout Unlimited
July 29, 2007

The State Council just completed the summer session and has some great plans for the next year. A new chapter, Delta, has been started in Memphis and now we have statewide coverage.

The most exciting news is the completion of the “**Back the Brookie**” educational DVD. Linda Good has shepherded this project and it is great. This DVD tells the story of Brook Trout and why they are so important to our region. Designed for 11th grade environmental education classes it is interesting to all. It will make a great program for civic clubs, other environmental groups and the general public. It talks conservation and stresses the need for action without being preachy. All chapters will receive two copies and are urged to show one at a program and to actively seek audiences for this message.

The second great news is we now have the opportunity to have a **TU license plate**. Dick Davis of the Cumberland Chapter (Nashville) has shepherded this thru the state and we are now taking orders. A separate article appears in the newsletter showing you the plate and (its beautiful, the best looking Tennessee specialty plate) and how you can own one. By the way TU gets \$17.50 for each plate and the first year this goes to the chapter. A great money raiser. After

that it goes to various state wide Trout Conservation projects. We must get orders for 1000 before it will be shipped. I urge you to order now.

The Cherokee Chapter will be host chapter for a project and activity training session on Paint Rock Creek in Green County October 13th. In addition to a great opportunity to learn about stream projects the date is a week after the delayed harvest sets in the Paint Creek. **BIG FISH** and a chance to develop our skill on Trout Habitat improvement. I urge the chapter to have at least 5 participants.

Other projects are under way but I will leave those for later.

George Lane
State Chair

Take a Kid Fishing

More than 90 percent of today’s anglers fish because they were introduced at a young age. Several studies show that a high percentage of children who participate in outdoor activities like fishing, attending a TU youth camp or participating in Trout in the Classroom programs are much more likely to become conservationists. Pledge to take a child fishing by visiting www.anglerslegacy.org.

Source: Trout, Summer, 2007

STREAM CLEANUP SCHEDULE

Here are the dates for the remaining stream cleanups that are planned for 2007:

Doe River: 9/29/07

Mark your calendars now and plan to participate in this important club project. Details of planned cleanup are included in the *News-Caster* edition just prior to the cleanup.

Bob Fondry, OMTU Cleanup Coordinator



**STOP AQUATIC
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Particularly waders/boots.

www.ProtectYourWaters.net

(Hampton Creek, continued from page 1)

other government entities to cooperate on permitting this project and making it happen.

We also received a corporate contribution from Eastman Credit Union, an additional grant from The Trout Foundation in Chicago, and a matching grant from NRCS—all totaling \$18,000 to fund this project.

Our sister TU chapter in Greeneville joined with us to co-sponsor this project and has provided people, financial and moral support in getting the work done.

Combined we have contributed 250 volunteer hours in addition to the grant money for this very successful project, the first of its kind in eastern TN, and a model for other TU chapters who face a similar situation to Hampton Creek. We purchased 287 tons of large limestone rocks—some weighing 3,000 pounds or more—to construct the barrier.

This project is also unique because it is the only Southern Appalachian Brook Trout restoration project that is NOT located on federally owned land. The state of Tennessee actually owns Hampton Cove and the creeks on the property.

I extend my thanks to all of you who have contributed to this successful effort. I also want to thank Bart Carter and TWRA, without whom this would never have become reality.

Perry



A view of the new barrier from the downstream side.



Some of the many volunteers who turned out to help with the project take a break for a photographic moment in time.