

NEWS CASTER

Overmountain Chapter

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Visit our Web site at omtu.org

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The September Meeting, set for 09-18--08, 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. Our speaker will be Tom Scott, Tennessee Wildlife Federation. Tom will address the mission and activities of TWF. This should be an interesting and informative program, so make your plans now to attend.

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 27, 2008

This is the 14th annual stream cleanup that honors Todd Burleson, an Overmountain Trout Unlimited member, environmentalist, and fishing guide who passed away in 1997. The cleanup is held in 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 Stream Cleanup begins at 9:00AM and we will meet at the Roan Mountain Community Park. To get to the park, follow Highway 19-E to Roan Mountain. Turn at Highway 143 (143 dead ends into 19-E) 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, please call Bob Fondry at 423-772-3236.

OMTU is a proud member of the Boone Watershed Partnership

Boone Watershed Partnership (BWP) Report

By Bob Fondry

1. Buffalo Creek has been adopted by Milligan College. This means that these folks will monitor the stream and cleanup trash and alert others when they detect problems with the creek.
2. The BWP will hold a series of "rain-barrel" workshops in the near future. We will have materials available and assist in the construction of a rain-barrel for personal use.
3. Sinking Creek Grant—The BWP has received a EPA funded 319 grant of \$300,000 (Total value of the project is \$517,000) to improve the condition of Sinking Creek. We will be funding the construction of a sewer line to serve homes in the area that currently rely on individual Septic Systems. We will also work to eliminate pollutants that come from all sources and end up in the creek.

Chris Ford, the Executive director of the Tennessee Conservation Voters (TCV) will be at Winged Deer park on 10/13/08 at 7PM. Since the BWP is a member organization, he will meet the BWP Board of Directors earlier in the day and meet with other interested members of the Community at 7PM.

FY 2008 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:

- Bill Bezell
- Bob Fondry
- Ron Harrington

Meeting Dates for 2009

January 15

March 19

May 21

July 16

September 17

November 19

The 2009 schedule is also posted on the OMTU website calendar.

Make your plans now to attend

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

Several things are close on the "radar" screen as we end another fiscal year on September 30th.

Long time chapter member and Board member, Charles Martin, has tendered his resignation from your Board of Directors effective September 30th. Charles has admirably served your chapter since the 1980's in many positions, including President and has always given his very best to benefit all of you. Please join me in wishing him all the best in all of his endeavors as fiscal 2009 gets underway.

Chapter members Pat and Betty Holmes, who live on Stony Creek, have graciously offered to donate part of their stream bank property to create a handicapped fishing area open to the public. Discussions are underway with TWRA about managing the property if your chapter builds the facility to be American's With Disabilities Act compliant. We will need to speak with other civic groups and organizations that provide services to the handicapped in Elizabethton and the surrounding areas about helping with this project. It's still in the early planning process and Randall Rogers has agreed to champion this for our chapter. Please offer your help to him, as you feel appropriate, especially if you have experience with ADA projects.

Finally, several of you, as well as your Board members, have been concerned about the level of noise at our current meeting site. A number of chapter members, myself included, have hearing impairments that make it very difficult to hear our speakers in a noisy environment. Board members TA Smith and Bob Sherrill have taken on the task of checking other areas that would be centrally located but quieter so speakers do not need to shout and so you will be able to hear what is being presented. Stay tuned for more to come on this but probably not until January 2009. If you have suggestions for locations please let TA and Bob know your thoughts.

Stay well and good fishing.

Perry

Cold Water Meeting Report

By Bill Bezell

Perry Rindfleisch and I attended the summer coldwater meeting in Knoxville on July 29, 2008. Approximately 30 persons attended.

- Susan Jacks, TVA, reported that TVA was managing water with 10 major dams and 39 minor ones. Graphs showed that in both 2007 and to date in 2008, water runoff met the model curve for only the first three months of the year. So far, 2008 is only slightly better than 2007. The reduction in power being generated has greatly increased TVA's production costs.
 - Wayne Poppe—when questioned about water for public use--said that when overall usage surpassed input that system would shut down. TVA supplies input to the states, but they must decide how to control usage. Poppe also stated that by law TVA must provide for stream life. The agency is now working on managing this in four streams.
 - TVA—in a cooperative effort with TWRA—recently purchased a shocking unit.
 - Jason Henegar has replaced Frank Fiss as the TWRA Rivers and Streams Coordinator.
 - There is no develops are new information regarding Dy-dimo
 - Slot limits are in place on the Clinch River below Norris Dam
 - TWRA is increasing efforts to protect Paddle Fish in the Tennessee River. Fish roe now sells for \$150 per pound!
- Continued on page 3**

Coldwater Meeting (from page 2)

- Jason gave a brief update on the 2010 effort to pass a constitutional amendment giving people the right to hunt and fish.
- Jim Habera reported that the low water levels in Tennessee streams leads to greater reproduction but smaller fish. TWRA surveys on Hampton Creek show 200 fish per hundred meters of stream.
- The Elizabethton Hatchery is still in the works—EPA requirements have been addressed in the plans.
- Trout production has substantially increased at the Irwin and Buffalo Springs hatcheries as a result of higher levels of oxygen levels.
- TWRA is shocking and removing rainbow trout from the Lynn

Dam work on the Center Hill dam should help the fish in the Caney Fork

An effort is underway by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers to stop leaks in the Center Hill Dam. This is a five-year, \$283 million rehabilitation project that should not only plug the leaks, but should help the trout as well. A metal gate will be placed at the base of the dam, which not only will allow a constant, low flow to replace the seeps, but also will mean more oxygen will be mixed with the water moving through.

According to Dr. Richard Davis, president of the Cumberland chapter of TU, “It’s a great idea. They used this on Wolf Creek Dam, and it really improved the dissolved oxygen.”

Trout—rainbow, brook and brown—that have been stocked in the chilly Caney Fork have made it a favored destination for anglers and an economic plum for the area, but low oxygen levels in the water have been a concern for years.

Source: *The Tennessean* (Nashville)

Tennessee Trout Unlimited Meeting Report

By Bill Beazell

Approximately twenty individuals attended the semi-annual meeting of the TNTU Council.

- It was reported that the U.S. Forest Service has completed an environmental impact study regarding the use of off-road vehicles in the Tellico River watershed. The main concern is over stream sedimentation. The Forest Service has developed a plan for twenty-five miles of trails prior to filing a suit. TU council has voted to support the Forest Service in this legal action.
- The TNTU will review a Clean Water initiative with the Tennessee Network for Clean Water.
- Efforts are continuing regarding the goal of 1000 for the Trout Specialty Plate. As of August 21, 2008, we were 83 short of this goal. Seventy OMTU members have signed up.
- Many states have State Trout Camps. A TNTU committee will investigate our potential in Tennessee.
- The eight chapters represented show a wide range of attainments. These include First Cast, Kid’s Fishing Days, Scout Merit Badges, Back-the-Brookie presentations, cleanups, rhododendron cutting along streams, stream life teaching, leadership training, fish surveys, community donations, and river environmental studies. The one activity receiving the most positive response was the Delta Chapter report on how they work with veterans at the VA Hospital.
- TU National requires that all chapters must be “re-chartered” this year. This is to ensure that local by-laws follow TU National guidelines.
- The Fall Council meeting will be November 1, 2008. This will be held on the Clinch River. Stay tuned for details and directions.

REPORT LITTERBUGS!

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

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.

Trout Unlimited Asks Manufacturers to Eliminate Production of Felt-Soled Waders and Equipment by 2011

Trout Unlimited (TU) has asked fishing equipment manufacturers to stop producing felt-soled waders and wading shoes by 2011 to help stop the spread of aquatic nuisance species (ANS) by anglers in America's rivers and streams.

Many waders, wading boots and shoes used by anglers have felt-soled bottoms that are used to provide traction while walking in water. Felt is a material that transmits aquatic nuisance species such as New Zealand mud snails, the invasive algae called didymo and the parasite that causes whirling disease, a disease fatal to trout. Felt soles can very easily become impregnated with mud and other organic matter, and become difficult or impossible to clean and disinfect.

"While the elimination of felt soles on waders and boots will not entirely prevent the spread of ANS, this action will help reduce the risk and help protect our precious aquatic resources," said David Kumlien, executive director of the Whirling Disease Foundation. This action will also help make the public more aware of the threat of ANS and hopefully will motivate them to change their behavior and practices related to other aquatic recreational activities that may also contribute to the spread ANS."

New technology and materials provide viable alternatives to felt. Some manufacturers are already using these newer materials on wading shoes and angling products.

Preventing the proliferation of aquatic nuisance species (ANS) is central to TU's mission to conserve and protect North America's trout and salmon fisheries. The impact of ANS to native species is substantial, second only to loss of habitat, and is responsible for losses in biodiversity, changes in ecosystems, and impacts on economic enterprises such as agriculture, fisheries, and international trade. The costs of preventing and controlling invasive species are not well understood or documented, but estimates indicate that the costs are quite high.

"It's like a war on our streams, rivers and lakes, with a new enemy rearing its ugly head each week. First, whirling disease, then mud snails, then some invasive aquatic plant," said Jack Williams, Trout Unlimited's senior scientist. "We have to be more aggressive in our battle against the spread of invasive species."

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 such as 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](#)



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South Holston Lake and River Cleanup, August 9, 2008



The 16th Annual South Holston Lake and River Cleanup—sponsored in part by OMTU in cooperation with the Keep Bristol Beautiful program of the Bristol Chamber of Commerce—was held on Saturday, August 9, 2008. OMTU members and volunteers from the South Holston Ruritan Club manned registration sites at the Weir Dam and the Bluff City Boardwalk Pavilion. Ruritan members Jim Humphrey and Randy Thomas did a great job managing activities at the Weir Dam, while OMTU members Bill Bezell and Ron Harrington held the fort in Bluff City. The turnout was relatively low all over, with 35—18 at Bluff City and 17 at the Weir—turning out this year compared to 45 last. Eight OMTU members took part.

According to Genette Patton, Director of Keep Bristol Beautiful, the cleanup was a “tremendous success.” She reported that more than 700 volunteers participated on Saturday, August 9th and collected 37 tons of trash from the lake, river and surrounding area. “This extraordinary event would not be possible without the participation of the major sponsors and the community volunteers. Keep Bristol Beautiful and the South Holston Lake and River Cleanup Planning Committee sincerely appreciate their financial commitment to this event.”