

# NEWS CASTER

Overmountain Chapter

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Visit our Web site at omtu.org

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### Coming Events

BOD:	07-10-08
Meeting:	07-17-08
BOD:	09-11-08
Meeting:	09-18-08

The **July meeting**, set for 07-17-08, 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 Sheriff Chris Mathes, Sheriff of Carter County. His topic will be "Conservation and Law Enforcement, How Can They Work Better Together?"

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.

## South Holston Lake and River Cleanup set for August 9, 2008

The 16<sup>th</sup> 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—is set for Saturday, August 9, 2008. Registration sites are open at 8:00 A.M. OMTU members and volunteers from the South Holston Ruritan Club will man the river sites at the Weir Dam and the Boardwalk in Bluff City.

- Assemble at either the Weir Dam or the Boardwalk at 8:00 A.M.
- Dress appropriately: bring boots/waders, long pants, insect repellent and sunscreen.
- The cleanup celebration party will be held 3:30-6:00 P.M. at Observation Knob Pavilion on the lake. Each participant who collects three or more bags of trash will be given a tee shirt and a wristband that will grant permission to attend.
- The celebration features good food, live music, and lots of door prizes.

This is a great opportunity to get involved and do your part to keep our streams clean and free of trash.

**Extension for purchase of TU Specialty Plate as been granted!**



Good News!! The TU plate has gone into overtime! We have an extension on the plate deadline of July 1. The bill became law on June 21, 2008. So now we need to get on with it and sell the remaining 150 plates in order to start the process of getting the plates into production.

If you have been waiting to see whether the plate will succeed, it will!! So if you haven't ordered yours yet, now is the time. Once the last one is pre-ordered, will immediately forward the list of names and money to the Department of Safety. It will probably take 4-6 months before the first plates will be available at the local county clerk's offices. Updates will be posted on the website.

For more information or to order on line, go to [www.tuplate.org](http://www.tuplate.org)

Source: [www.tuplate.org](http://www.tuplate.org)



**Time to rally around the OMTU banner for another cleanup!**

## 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 Beazell
- Bob Fondry
- Charles Martin
- Ron Harrington

## Frequency of OMTU meetings changed for 2008

The OMTU Board has voted to change the frequency of the regular meetings from ten a year to six. The dates for 2008:

January 17  
March 20  
May 15  
July 17  
September 18  
November 20

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

## 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

Finally some rain to replenish our reservoirs and streams. I hope all of you are taking advantage of this chance to do some fishing locally.

I had the occasion to travel to Red Lake, Ontario, Canada recently in search of Walleye and Northern Pike and found both in abundance. The photo is my largest Northern @ 43 1/2" and about 30# on 8 pound mono. It was a thrill.

Come join us at our July meeting to hear Sheriff Chris Mathes talk about law enforcement and conservation and how the two work together.

I want to extend an invitation to all of you to submit photos of your fishing trips to Ron Harrington so they can be published in our newsletter. Feel free to add text about where you stayed and amenities available. This might give other members valuable information on where to stay and where to fish outside our area.

Have a great summer.

Perry



President Perry with his 30 lb/43.5" Northern Pike caught on Red Lake, Ontario, Canada

## Editorial

### Choosing a President: Science Debate 2008

There is a growing movement—cosponsored by a number of elite scientific organizations and societies— by citizens, scientists, and public leaders to arrange a public debate between the U.S. presidential candidates in which they share their views on the issues of the environment, medicine, and health, and science and technology policy. The short-term goal of Science Debate 2008, as it is called, is help voters measure how each candidate understands the role of science and approaches the challenge of making informed decisions.

With all the other issues on the table such as the economy and the Gulf War, it has been hard for me so far to get a clear picture on where the candidates stand on these issues, especially those pertaining to conservation and protecting the environment. A debate that focuses on these specific issues would go a long way in helping me decide come November.

Whether the debate comes about or not, it is incumbent on each of us as the stewards of coldwater fisheries to carefully look at each candidate's position on these issues and choose accordingly. To do otherwise would be a dereliction of our duty. **For more information see [www.sciencedebate2008.com](http://www.sciencedebate2008.com).**

"It is no exaggeration to declare that the future of life on earth—not to mention the quality of human existence within it—hangs in the balance of decisions and behaviors executed by humans during the coming decade. How we control emissions, such as carbon, mercury, and sulphur, and how we invest in alternative, non-polluting energy sources will profoundly influence global climates for centuries. Beside energy related issues, we need comprehensive national policies on science education, stem cell research, pandemic diseases, fisheries and ocean management, fresh-water supplies, endangered species recovery, and health care, to name just a few major issues that face our next president."

John Fitzpatrick, Director, Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Source: [Living Bird/Spring 2008](#)

Ron Harrington, Editor

## Volunteers needed to help with Virginia trout sampling

The Virginia DGIF trout biologist for our region (George Palmer) has asked me to ask you if you can help us sample trout in some of our most productive trout fisheries - SF Holston & Whitetop Laurel. The dates are July 21 & 22 = SF Holston in Smyth county near the Buller Hatchery. July 24 & 25 in Whitetop Laurel creek in Grayson county. He also plans to sample below the Flannagan Dam on July 23 for those of you in the western counties. All dates are tentative (flows & weather).

This is a good opportunity to learn more about our fisheries, communicate with our Fisheries managers, and catch BIG trout. I have helped on this sample every year I have lived here, and we routinely catch 20+ inch fish. If you participate be ready to walk a long distance in the stream with very rough substrate. You can handle hundreds of trout in a day, if you wish.

Here is the note from George = "If possible, I want to sample 5 sites on the South Fork Holston River (2 days), 5 sites on Whitetop Laurel Creek, (2 days) and 3 sites on the Pound below Flannagan Res. (1 day). I would like to set the week of July 21st through the 25th as the week to start with the following week as a make up if something goes wrong."

Please contact me or George directly to arrange details about what dates you might be able to help! George.palmer@dgif.virginia.gov or 276.783.4860.

Thanks

Justin Laughlin

Stream Restoration Biologist

VA Dept. of Game & Inland Fisheries

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### Cleaning up America, one river at a time

**"We have very good environmental laws in this country. If we enforced them, we probably wouldn't have environmental problems."**

**Robert Kennedy Jr  
Chief Prosecuting Attorney  
Riverkeeper environmental alliance**

Source: AARP Magazine, May/June 2008

## Fun in Damascus

By Bill Beazell

Damascus, VA now has a fly shop, **Trails Crossing (Fly Fishing Outfitter & Espresso Bar)**. The shop is owned and operated by Richard Rominger. His trout fishing experiences have primarily been in Tennessee and North Carolina waters, but he is quickly learning all the good places in Virginia as well.

On the evening of May 24, 2008, Richard and his wife hosted an open house party, which about 25 folks attended, including my wife Norma and I, and Jere and Brenda Houser.

I was given the opportunity to give a pitch for our chapter, and folks seemed impressed by the activities and programs that we pursue. Plenty of good food and espresso coffee were available—they operate an espresso bar too—followed by a great DVD of about 10 fishing trips around the world, including Mongolia.

Stop in and visit with Richard the next time you're in the Damascus area, and give some of the great streams in the area a try—White Top Laurel, Tennessee Laurel, Beaverdam Creek, and the South Holston River—just to name a few.

Richard can be reached at 276-475-3070. Store hours are 8:30-5:00, Monday-Saturday. The address is 101 South Shady

### Trout Unlimited Donates \$14,000 for Brook Trout Restoration

Great Smoky Mountains National Park Fisheries Biologists got a big boost last week in their efforts to restore native brook trout to a Park stream in the form of a \$14,000 donation from the Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

Source: GSMNP News Release 07/08/08

### 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.

## 2008 Stream Cleanup Schedule

South Holston Lake and River Cleanup: August 9, 2008

Doe River Cleanup, Roan Mountain: September 27, 2008

Make your plans now to participate in these important OMTU conservation projects. For more information contact Bob Fondry, OMTU Stream Cleanup Coordinator, at (423) 772-3236. Details will be announced via the OMTU News-Caster preceding the cleanup, or via special "just in time" bulletins from OMTU communications.

## The impact of a tree buffer:

Scientific research has shown that a 35-foot wide tree buffer will filter 95 percent of the sediment, 92 percent of the nitrogen and 84 percent of the phosphorus in run-off out of the water.

Robert Whitescarver, district conservationist  
United States Department of Agriculture

## Happy Birthday Bill!

Congratulations are in order for OMTU member Bill Beazell. Bill, who has been an active member since 1986, turned 85 in May 2008. Bill is a member of the OMTU Board, and is still going strong.

## A brown trout worth smiling about!!!



Debbie McMillin, Bristol, TN, recently caught this 14 pound, 31" Brown on the South Holston Tailwater just above Bluff City using a jerk bait on a ten pound test line. Photo courtesy Trey Taylor. This was submitted by Derrick Snavelly via Lynn Smith.

## 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](http://www.anglerslegacy.org).

Source: Trout, Summer, 2007



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# Fun in Damascus

By Bill Bezell

Damascus, VA has a new fly shop,