

NEWS CASTER

Overmountain Chapter

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Visit our Web site at omtu.org

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The July meeting, set for Thursday, July 16, at 6:00 pm, will be held at our new location: House of Ribs, 3100 Kingsport Hwy, Johnson City, TN. This is TN route 36.

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 8, 2009

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—is set for Saturday, August 8, 2009. 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.

July meeting highlights

Jerry Greer will be presenting an update on the status of Rocky Fork.

TN Speaker of the House, Kent Williams, will also attend as a special guest to report on environmental legislation in TN.

Other highlights include the usual reports: Membership, Finance and stream cleanup plans. A sign up sheet for the Fly Fishing Fest at River's Way will be available. Member John McKee will be recognized for a fly tying award.

The menu will be the same as last time. We have three entrees with vegetable to choose from, Prime Rib, Rocky Top Chicken and Tilapia. We have a drink table and a salsa and chips bar. A light dessert is included. All for \$19. Place your order upon arrival so the food can be served in a timely manner.

South Holston Fly Fishing Fest set for July 18, 2009

River's Way, a non-profit organization located in Bluff City, TN, is sponsoring a fly fishing festival/fund-raiser. The event will be held on July 18, 2009, 10AM-6PM, at River's Way near Hickory Tree.

The festival will feature an extensive line-up of anglers, artists, activities and vendors. Featured Presenters include: John Conrad, Don Holbrook, Kevin Howell, Rowe Lowe, Bill Oyster, Ian and Charity Rutter, and Harry Steeves.

Admission will be \$5 minimum donation per person at the gate or sign up at www.southholstonflyfishing-fest.com. Details and directions are available at the above website.

River's Way primarily works with youth experiencing disabilities or youth from disadvantaged backgrounds using team building activities and outdoor adventure programming to promote positive and measurable change.

FY 2009 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
- Dempsey Shell

Meeting Dates for 2009

July 16
September 17
November 19

The 2009 schedule is also posted on the OMTU Web site calendar.

Make your plans now to attend

The Roan Mountain Cleanup is set for Saturday, September 26, 2009. This is our last scheduled cleanup for 2009. Mark your calendar now and plan to attend!!

The President's Corner

By Perry Rindfleisch

Greetings Members and Friends:

Its mid summer and our chapter activities are heating up. Board member Bob Fondry's presentation to the Bristol Rotary Club last week was a big success and great outreach into the communities we serve. Thanks, Bob.

On July 18th we will represent our chapter with a table at River's Way's annual fundraiser and information day. River's Way is a non-profit organization that works with inner city and disadvantaged children and allows them to get out into nature with a variety of activities, including fly fishing. Please come join us at this event to show your support for what they are doing.

On July 25th, Mahoney's Fly Shop is having a fishing day. Even though we will not have a table there you can show your support of one of our local fly shops by stopping by and buying some of your supplies while you are there. Say hi to Jimmy, the new shop manager. Let him know that your from OMTU!

Stay well and keep fishing.

Perry

Other's views

Black carbon, aka soot, speeds arctic melting

From the smoggy sprawl of Los Angeles to the smoky slums of Mumbai, from the snowy Himalayas to the Arctic ice that sustains polar bears, black carbon cast a deadly shadow. But quick action to cut black carbon—microscopic airborne particles commonly known as soot—can slow Arctic melting, fight global warming, save lives.

The chief culprit in global warming is carbon dioxide, but recent studies show that black carbon may account for as much as half of Arctic warming. Along with deep cuts in CO2, curbing black carbon is crucial for slowing warming and averting catastrophic tipping points such as the melting of the Greenland ice sheet.

Black carbon comes from diesel engines and industrial smokestacks in the U.S. and Europe, and from primitive residential cooking and heating stoves in the developing world. It is a leading cause of respiratory illness and death, responsible for an estimated 1.6 million premature deaths annually.

Source: Earth Justice, Summer, 2009



Food for thought:

“The struggle for the environment, which is now a global struggle, is bound inextricable to the struggle for democracy.”

Robert Kennedy, Jr
President
The Waterkeeper Alliance

Appalachian Restoration Act reaches full Senate

In late June the Senate held its first hearing on mountaintop removal coal mining and the Appalachia Restoration Act (S 696)—an overflow crowd turned out to show their support for Senate action to end the destructive practice of mountaintop removal.

The Appalachian Restoration Act is the Senate version of the Clean Water Protection Act, which would outlaw the dumping of mining waste into streams and undo the Bush administration's 2002 gutting of the Clean Water Act.

Now, more than ever, it's absolutely critical that the Senate knows that the public—including you—supports ending mountaintop removal coal mining. Please take a moment out of your day to call your Senators and urge support for this bill.

Call your Senators now—<http://www.ilovemountains.org/call-your-senators/>

Sources: TU National and ilovemountains.org

The First Hundred Days:

The first 100 days of the Obama Administration have come and gone and we are busy tracking a number of positive policy changes both in the administration and on the Hill. The biggest issue is climate change—a substantial and historic energy and climate bill has been approved in the House Energy and Commerce Committee and is now awaiting floor consideration. We are pleased with the outcome of this legislation – it includes both an appropriate cap on carbon emissions as well as dedicated funding from the auction of permits for state and federal natural resource programs that will increase fish and wildlife population resilience in the face of unavoidable climate change in the coming years. Securing funding for fish and wildlife habitat was a major victory for the conservation community. The 900-page bill contains other opportunities for coldwater conservation, such as programs to increase carbon sequestration, and other hazards, such as the push to increase production of biofuels. Chairman Henry Waxman, Representative Ed Markey, and Representative John Dingell have all demonstrated skillful leadership in guiding the bill through committee.

Source: TU National

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.

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

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."

EPA Awards more than \$4.5 Million in Recovery Act Funds to Clean Up Underground Petroleum Leaks in Tennessee

In an effort to protect people where they live, work, and play, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the distribution of \$4,681,000 to Tennessee under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) to assess and clean up underground storage tank petroleum leaks. The greatest potential hazard from a leaking underground storage tank is that the petroleum or other hazardous substances seep into the soil and contaminate groundwater, the source of drinking water for nearly one-third of all Americans.

“The Recovery Act funds will help Tennessee in its effort to provide long-term protection from pollution caused by leaking underground storage tank,” said Stan Meiburg, EPA Acting Regional Administrator in Atlanta. “The state will use the funds to assess and clean up abandoned tank sites while providing a boost to its economy through the creation of green jobs.”

This money is part of \$197 million appropriated under the Recovery Act to address shovel-ready sites nationwide contaminated by petroleum from leaking underground storage tanks.

Source: EPA Press Release, July 10, 2009

The Upper Watauga Riverkeeper Program

The Upper Watauga Riverkeeper was founded in 2007, and serves as the primary watchdog and spokesperson for the Elk and Watauga Rivers which run from their headwaters on Grandfather mountain and the Blue Ridge Parkway in western North Carolina to the dam at foot of Watauga Lake in east Tennessee. Its mission is to protect and restore the communities, water quality, and ecological health of the watershed.

The Upper Watauga Riverkeeper program is dedicated to preserving and protecting YOUR WATER from polluters. It reflects the public’s right to clean water and healthy fisheries and serves the communities of Banner Elk, Boone, Blowing Rock, Valle Crucis and Watauga Lake. The Upper Watauga Riverkeeper is a program of Appalachian Voices, which now proudly advocates for environmental protection of air, forests, water and the Appalachian mountains. For more information about the other award winning environmental programs of Appalachian Voices please visit www.ilovemountains.org To report water pollution anywhere in the Watauga or Elk River watersheds, call our toll-free water pollution hotline: 1-877-277-8642

Source: Appalachian Voices Website

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](http://www.anglerslegacy.org), Summer, 2007



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www.ProtectYourWaters.net

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the Boone Watershed Partner-
ship**