

NEWS CASTER

Overmountain Chapter
Trout Unlimited
www.omtu.org

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March Program: The March meeting will be held as usual at the Firehouse Restaurant beginning at 6:00. . Guest Speaker Jeff Loftin will talk about non-conventional fly fishing methods used in the orient and how they can be adapted for our use. Included will be Tenkara and Spey style fishing methods using long, telescoping rods and no reel. Tenkara originated in the mountains of Japan. Jeff currently resides in the mountains of Western North Carolina and Eastern Tennessee and spends most of his time fly fishing on, writing or speaking about, the waters of Appalachia. For info go to www.rockinglflyfishing.com



John Torchick, TNTU Chair, visits OMTU during January meeting

John Torchick (shown above on the right with T.A. Smith), the new TNTU Chair, paid our chapter a visit at the regular meeting on January 20. John lives in Cleveland, TN and is a member of the Hiwassee Chapter. He took over the reigns from George Lane in 2010, and has been busy making contacts and visiting chapters throughout the state.

John, a native of Ohio, is a retired sales representative. He is married with two children and five grandchildren—a sixth is on the way in April. He reports that he caught his first trout on the Cherokee Indian Reservation in 1958, and took up fly-fishing in 1961. But he didn't really get serious about trout fishing until around 1996, at which time he joined the Hiwassee Chapter. He has served as a member of the Hiwassee board and as chapter president. He is a member of the First Baptist Church, Cleveland, TN, where he serves as the chief instructor for Outdoor Ministry. He is a custom rod builder and is a life member of B. A.S.S. He also belongs to the NRA and DAV.

Besides Ohio and Tennessee, John has lived in several other states including Georgia, New York, North Carolina, Kentucky, and Louisiana. John is a Viet Nam Era disabled veteran.



Above: Pictures from the fly-tying workshop held as part of the January 21, 2011 meeting

Rotating Presidents for 2011

- December-January: T.A. Smith
- February-March: Randall Rogers
- April-May: Dempsey Shell
- June-July: Gary Barrigar
- August-September: Bob Sherrill
- October-November: Bob Fondry

Note: Communications may be routed through Ron Harrington, omtuinfo@bvunet.net. Telephone: 276-669-4948

MINUTES OMTU Board Meeting February 17, 2011

Membership- As of February 1, 2011: Total membership is 276. Treasury- balance as of 1/30/11 is \$2278.79. There were no expenses reported since the last meeting.

Coldwater Fisheries Meeting- Bill Beazell and Randall Rogers attended the winter Coldwater Fisheries & TN Council meetings in Knoxville on Sat January 29. A brief report of this meeting will be presented to the Chapter at our March meeting. A summary of both meetings will also be included in the March-April newsletter. Highlights: Reintroduction of Appalachian brook trout into TN streams; and TU Youth Camp.

Southeast TU Rally May 13-14, 2011- Dale White volunteered to represent OMTU at this meeting.

Trout Unlimited Youth Camp- This is scheduled for June 20-25, 2011 at the Great Smoky Mountain Instituted at Tremont. Details have been sent to the membership on line. The deadline for registration is March 1.

Carter County Clean Streams - The Date for this event is April 29 – 30. Gary Barrigar reported that help is needed in collecting door prizes. Our club needs to be more involved. Details will come out later.

Trout in the Classroom - John Ross, Past-Chair of VA TU Council gave a presentation on this program and the financial details for implementing this education youth conservation program. Funds donated by Appalachian power are available for a project in the Kingsport City Schools. This information will be presented to the chapter at the March meeting and solicitation for a project lead will begin.

Chapter Strategic Planning Meeting- The Board will participate in a Chapter Strategic Planning session on March 26th. T.A Smith has offered to host the meeting at his cabin.

TU Youth Education and Outreach – A survey sent to us by TU National was completed and returned by Ron Harrington.

Chapter By-Laws - OMTU by-laws have been approved and accepted by TU National. Thanks again to Ron for his effort to revise this document to meet National standards.

See **Board**, Page 3

Fly-fishing Tournament set for March 19-20 in Pisgah Forest, NC

Fly-fishing for a cause! The Pisgah Center for Wildlife Education and the Davidson River Outfitters are hosting the Pisgah Fly Masters Fly-Fishing Tournament March 19-20, 2011. The tournament is limited to 125 entrants. There is competition in youth, fisherman and professional categories. The Fees: \$50 for adults; \$30 for youth.

The Pisgah Center has been providing free educational opportunities for Pre-K children - adults since 1998. The center is holding this special fund raising event to ensure that the community has continued access to free wildlife education and outdoor skills. The center tries to teach what it means to be a steward for our natural resources. Proceeds from this event and the contributions from community sponsors will be used to fund education programs.

On Saturday competitors will be casting for distance and accuracy at the Pisgah Center. The top 5 adult fisherman and top 5 adult professional competitors from Saturday will then compete on Sunday morning at Davidson River Outfitter's private waters for the fishing portion of the tournament. The top 5 youth will fish off on Saturday afternoon.

If anyone is interested in competing a copy of the registration form and tournament rules can be downloaded from the Pisgah Center website at www.ncwildlife.org/PisgahFlymasters/. Volunteers are needed to help with the event. If interested please contact Melinda Patterson by phone at 828-877-4423 or email melinda.patterson@ncwildlife.org. Registration monies will go back into the Pisgah Center's programs. These include free fly-fishing and fly-tying programs for children and adults.

Report Fish and Game Violators!

Call the TWRA "Poaching Hotline at 1-800-831-1174. 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 the nature of violation, date, location, vehicle description, license plate number and so forth.

Report Litterbugs!

Call TDOT at 1-877-854-8837

- License plate #
- Type/make of vehicle
- Date and time of incident
- Location of incident
- Type of litter

Board (from page 2)

March 17th Chapter Meeting- Will be held at the Firehouse Restaurant (627 West Walnut in Johnson City @ 6pm) our featured speaker is local guide Mr. Jeff Loftin. www.rockingLflyfishing.com

Troutfest Journal Magazine - TU Council has purchased an ad in this magazine and will list chapters contact information. Ron Harrington will be the POC for our chapter.

L.L. Bean Donation 2011 - Once again is offering to donate fly rod outfits and fishing vests for our chapter's fundraising.

Elizabethton Elks Lodge Trout Tournament - The board voted unanimously to donate \$100 to this youth event. Request submitted by Dempsey Shell.

Project Healing Waters- John Ross encouraged the club to get involved in this program. Members had no details on what is currently going on the area. Randall is to follow up with the VA in Johnson City.

National Meeting- John Ross announced the 2012 National TU meeting will be held in Asheville, NC. This will be a great opportunity for folks in the area to attend.

Attendees: Ron Harrington, Dempsey Shell, Dale White, Gary Barrigar, Bob Fondry, Randall Rogers, and special guest John Ross.

Winter Coldwater Meeting Report January 29, 2011

By Bill Beazell

Gary Springston of TVA and John Torchick of TNTU served as co-chairs. The meeting began at 9:00. A total of 37 attended, which is well above the normal of about 25. Randall Rogers and Bill Beazell represented OMTU.

TVA: David Boling reported below normal rainfall and runoff, but said all reservoirs were at or above flood guide. Below normal rainfall is expected for 2011 as well. Following questioning regarding water release scheduling in the fall (when power needs range around 25%, Lola Tyson responded that adjustments seem reasonable, and TVA would examine the possibility. This would provide for more fishing opportunities than is possible under the current practice.

TWRA: Jim Habera reported the first trout sampling in the Wilbur tailwaters since 2008 shows very good numbers, including those 14 inches and above. Jim also reported that TWRA is going to sample the Watauga tailwater (upper end of Little Wilbur Lake) in 2011. To learn more about their movements between Boone Lake and South Holston and Wilbur tailwaters, large brown trout have been radio-tagged and are being tracked by a Tennessee Tech student. No holdovers of brook trout previously stocked in the Clinch tailwater have been found. Jim also reported low numbers of trout in mountain streams resulting from the recent drought, which started in 2007. However, water conditions are fairly good right now. The Trail Fork of Big Creek (Cocke Co.) is being evaluated for a potential brook trout restoration project.

Jason Henegar reported the late spring stocking the Hiwassee has been discontinued. A delayed harvest stocking will begin in October. Normal stocking will continue using fish from the Dale Hollow National Hatchery. Rainbow trout will be stocked again in the Pigeon River near Hartford in early 2011. Henegar noted the recession has caused a reduction in tax funds from sale of fishing and hunting equipment, and fishing license sales are down. As a result, TWRA has gone through a restructuring process and many positions, opened by retirement or promotion, are currently not being re-filled.

US Forest Service: Jim Herrig announced the Forest Service is looking to raise southern Appalachian brook trout at the Tellico Brook Hatchery as part of an effort to restore these fish to their natural habitats. Trout will be raised only at the Tellico Brook Trout Hatchery.

Great Smoky Mountain National Park: Steve Moore reminded the group there are several factors influencing their efforts to restore brook trout to native habitats. Besides the incursion of rainbows, acid rain and adverse weather have a great effect on trout distribution. Acid rain is more prevalent at higher altitudes where the brook trout roam. Higher stream flows are generally more favorable to rainbow than brook trout, while drought conditions impact rainbows more severely than brook trout.



Trout Unlimited Vision

“By the next generation, Trout Unlimited will ensure that robust populations of native and wild trout once again will thrive within their North American range, so that our children can enjoy healthy fisheries in their home waters.”

OMTU is a proud member of the Boone Watershed Partnership, and the Tennessee Clean Water Network

Minutes of January 29, 2011 TNTU Council Meeting

Submitted by Roger Hamiter, Cumberland Chapter

Previous to the council meeting, Jim Herrig, USFS, reported on successful reintroduction of Appalachian Brook Trout by Southern Appalachian Backcountry Horsemen into Tennessee streams. USFS is in need of funding/grants for interns and housing at the hatchery. A board of directors has been mentioned for the Appalachian Brook Trout Hatchery to be comprised of members from TU, USFS and TWRA.

Jason Henegar, TWRA, presented information on the success he and Patricia Miller, Aquatic Education Trainer, have had on a pilot program of "Fishing in the Schools. It is featured on the TWRA website.

The January 29, 2011, meeting of TCTU was called to order by chair John Torchick at 1:00 pm at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Knoxville, TN. Twenty-six members attended, representing nine chapters.

The July 31, 2010, meeting minutes were read and approved. The December 14, 2010, meeting minutes were read, corrected and approved. The September 2010 meeting minutes were read, corrected and approved. George Lane, TNTU Treasurer, presented the treasurer's report. John Thurman will be signatory on a separate account to be established for the 2011 Trout Camp in Tremont. The treasurer's report included the projected 2011 budget. An amendment to the budget for a \$350.00 donation for a TCTU advertisement in the Troutfest 2011 magazine was approved and the treasurer's report was approved as amended and read. Opening balance was reported as \$13,697.01 and closing balance was reported as \$2001.06

Dick Davis gave the TU license plate financial report as prepared by Rufus King and Dick Davis. Funds available for conservation projects in 2011 were reported to be \$12,831. Chapter presidents are responsible for filing revenue distribution forms. Don Byerly moved that a committee be established to study the organization of a standing committee for review of applications from TCTU chapters soliciting monies for funding of their proposed conservation projects. The standing committee would be comprised of TCTU members on a rotating basis. The motion was adopted. Steve Brown, Bob Ross and Steve Fry were asked to present the solution at the May TNTU meeting.

John Thurman and Jack Betchick gave the Summer Trout Camp report. The camp can accommodate 8—12 campers. Five applications have been completed. Chapters should have applications for campers completed by 03-01-2011. One preference will be given to a camper from each chapter. Once those slots have been filled, preference will be on order of application date. Each camper (12—15 years old) will leave camp with his/her own fly rod outfit as used in camp.

Rick Murphree gave the National TU report. There has been a successful transition to Chris Woods from Charles Gauvin. TU continues on sound financial footing. New programs include "One TU" which is a synthesis and integration of local, state, regional and national Trout Unlimited. "CAST", Campaign for American Salmon and Trout, will be showcased as well.

The Southeast Rally will be held in conjunction with Troutfest, May 12-14, 2011.

Due to time constraints, items on the meeting agenda not discussed and moved to later TCTU meetings were: Bottle Bill, Legislative Representative and Mountaintop Mining.

The motion to adjourn was approved.

Editor's Note: Bill Bezell and Randall Rogers represented OMTU