

NEWS CASTER

Overmountain Chapter

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Visit our Web Site at omtu.org

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COMING EVENTS

BOD: 03-01-07
Regular Meeting: 03-08-07
BOD: 04-05-07
Regular Meeting: 04-12-07

The March 8, 2007 Meeting will be held at Sunny's Cafeteria, 601 Spring Street, Johnson City, TN. A buffet dinner begins at 6:00 p.m., followed by a short business meeting. The program usually begins around 6:30. The speaker this month is Marge Davis, PRIDE OF PLACE/Tennessee Bottle Bill Project Coordinator who will be driving in from Nashville for our meeting. Marge will be bringing us up to date on the 2007 Bottle Bill proposal.

The Southeast TU Rally is set for April 27-29 at Hungry Mother State Park, Marion, VA.

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.

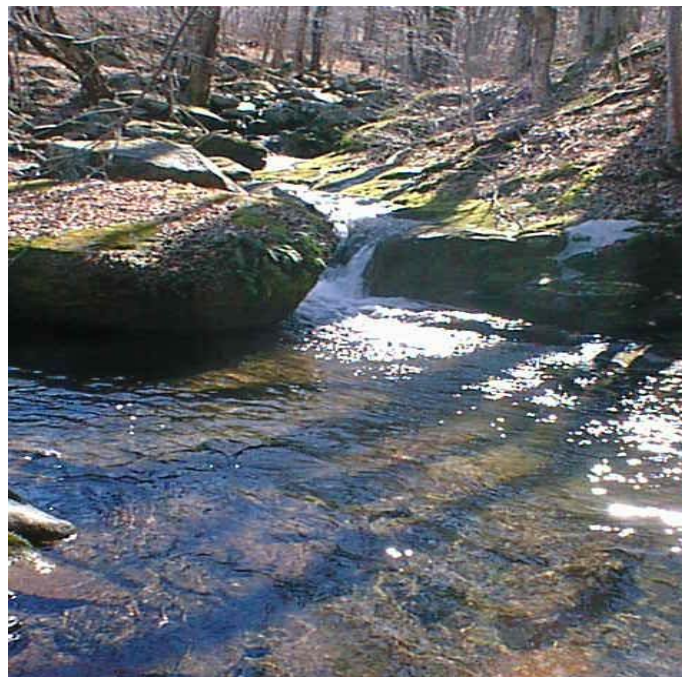
The President's Corner

EMBRACE-A-STREAM 2007 GRANT APPLICATION APPROVED!

By Perry Rindfleisch, President

I am pleased to inform you that the joint application by the Overmountain and Cheorkee chapters for an Embrace-A-Stream Grant to install a new trout passage barrier on Hampton Creek has been fully funded by TU National.

Hampton Creek, located near Roan Mountain, TN in Carter County, is a high mountain creek that has produced what is considered to be the most abundant Southern Appalachian Brook Trout population in Tennessee. The upper portion of the Left Prong was targeted for a brook trout restoration effort in 1997.



A typical pool surrounded by a beautiful, northern hardwood forest awaits the angler who ventures up Hampton Creek in pursuit of native brook trout. This site is several hundred yards above the proposed location of the new barrier.

Severe flooding early in 1998 compromised the culvert and log barrier, which was rebuilt shortly thereafter. Following reconstruction of the existing barrier in 1998, extensive stream restoration efforts were required because of flooding in 2000.

The work will be completed this summer and our partners at Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, National Forest Service, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, and the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy are already hard at work securing permits and finalizing drawings of the new rainbow trout barrier that I hope you will help us build.

This is a wonderful opportunity for our chapter to come together with the Cherokee Chapter in Greeneville to complete a project that benefits everyone. **We will need in excess of 200 volunteer person hours to accomplish this project.** We will need to rely on you to put on your work clothes and get your hands dirty to build this important barrier.

We will be reaching out to our communities for help as well and hope that through this process we will attract

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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 Beazell
- Bob Fondry
- Charles Martin
- T. A. Smith
- Ron Harrington

Mountain Biking and Fly Fishing

Are you sick and tired of driving to your favorite fishing spot at the peak of the hatch only to find the banks lined with fishermen? An ever increasing number of fly fishermen are discovering that mountain bikes, outfitted with a fly rod rack, can get them to remote places where there's solitude and little fishing pressure.

Check with your favorite fly shop to see if they carry the fly rod rack mounts. If not, you can find them at river-trailgear.com

WANT TO BUY OR SELL PROPERTY?

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

(President's Corner, continued from page 1)

new members to each chapter and spread the word on what our Trout Unlimited organization is all about, which is "conserving, protecting and restoring trout habitat."

Our work plan for the project is being put together now and your Board of Directors will be sharing the details with you as soon as possible.

Stay well, and I hope to see you at one of our meetings or at one of our projects real soon.

Perry



Above: A view of the current culvert and log barrier on Hampton Creek looking up stream. Below: OMTU Board Member Bob Fondry stands on the farm access road which crosses the culvert.



THE 2007 VIRGINIA RIDGE AND VALLEY ACT WILL HELP PROTECT KEY TROUT STREAMS AND PARTS OF THE HOLSTON RIVER WATERSHED

U.S. Representative Rick Boucher along with Senator Webb and other Virginia House Members have introduced legislation, that if approved, would designate nearly 55,000 acres as new Wilderness Areas, new National Scenic Areas, and would expand six existing Wilderness Areas in western sections of Virginia. The proposed designated areas would encompass several trout streams that are part of the Holston River Watershed including Comers Creek, Hurricane Creek, Bear Creek, and Dickey Creek in Smyth County. In addition the Act would add 308 acres to the Lewis Fork Wilderness Area in Smyth and Grayson Counties, and 1,845 acres to the Little Wilson Creek Wilderness Area in Grayson County. A similar act, described in the April 2006 edition of this newsletter, was introduced in 2005 but failed to make it out of a House subcommittee.

National Forest Land For Sale!

Nearly 5,400 acres in the Jefferson and George Washington National Forests in Virginia are among some 300,000 acres of public lands President Bush proposes to sell as revenue for the 2008 Federal Budget. However, none of the acreages falling under the 2007 Virginia Ridge and Valley Act are included.

Contact your congressional delegation and urge that they support the 2007 Virginia Ridge and Valley Act. Also tell them that you oppose the sale of our public lands!!! Editor

Sources: Courtney Lamie, Congressman Rick Boucher's Office in Abingdon/[Bristol Herald Courier](#), 2/14/07

The Other Road

"We stand now where two roads diverge. But unlike the roads in Robert Frost's familiar poem, they are not equally fair. The road we have long been traveling is deceptively easy, a smooth superhighway on which we progress with great speed, but at its end lies disaster. The other fork of the road—the one 'less traveled by'—offers our last, our only chance to reach a destination that assures the preservation of our earth. The choice, after all, is ours to make."

Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring*, 1962

Opportunity Knocks: Time to Address Global Warming

Support the Global Warming Pollution Reduction Act of 2007

The National Audubon Society supports a mandatory cap or limit on greenhouse gas emissions and reductions in carbon emissions by at least 15% to 20% below current levels by 2020, with 80% reductions by 2050. The Global Warming Pollution Reduction Act of 2007 (S 309) would add a new title to the Clean Air Act, with multiple programs designed to curb dangerous interference with the Earth's climate. It would have the most sweeping effect of any piece of global warming legislation currently proposed in Congress.

Source: The National Audubon Society Newsletter

PROPOSED 2007 FARM BILL INCLUDES DRAMATIC INCREASE IN CONSERVATION FUNDING

Trout Unlimited applauds the February 1 announcement by Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns, which would increase conservation funding in the 2007 Farm Bill by \$7.8 billion, almost tripling existing funds.

"NRCS and the Department of Agriculture really stepped up to the plate for fish and wildlife habitat," said Kira Finkler, Legislative Director for Trout Unlimited. "We're thrilled to see this level of commitment."

The conservation title of the Farm Bill is the single largest source of federal money for conservation efforts on private lands, which cover two thirds of the American landscape. The 2002 Farm Bill provided \$4 billion annually for restoration projects and initiatives that help

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."

farmers, ranchers and other private landowners implement conservation practices on their properties.

The February 1, 2007 announcement also included a proposed Regional Water Enhancement Program, which would invest \$175 million annually to support large-scale cooperative projects that improve water quality and increase stream flows.

"While we need to study the details, this new proposal is compelling," added Finkler. "Our research has found that only 4.5% of current Farm Bill funds directly support restoration of fish habitat. This new program may begin to make up that gap."

This new data is included in Fair Funding for Fish, an analysis released in early February by Trout Unlimited, which finds that less than 4.5% of all allocations made from Farm Bill conservation programs benefit fisheries.

Reauthorization of the Farm Bill is scheduled for later this year. Trout Unlimited encourages the House and Senate Budget Committees to support the proposal for increased conservation funding, and to focus specifically on securing additional resources for fish and water.

Source: Trout Unlimited News Release

MORE COMMENTS ON THE 2007 FARM BILL

Trout unlimited recommends that a fisheries program (similar to the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program[WHIP]) be included in the 2007 Farm Bill, funded at \$60 million annually. This would create a needed focus on important fish habitat and watershed restoration projects. Such a program would go a long way toward ensuring that Farm Bill expenditures focus sufficient attention on fish and aquatic restoration.

Be sure to mention this when you contact your Congressional delegation.

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

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.

Hampton Creek Cove: An Unusual and Unique Area

Hampton Creek Cove--located about 5 miles from Roan Mountain, TN--is a designated Tennessee State Natural Area that is cooperatively managed by the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy and the TN Department of Environment and Conservation. With 693-acres nestled on the north flank of Little Hump Mountain, this is the largest non-federal component of the Highlands of Roan, with elevations up to 4,500 feet.

Part of the Hampton Creek Cove Area is a working farm with more than 100 acres still being grazed by cattle and horses. This is part of a management strategy designed to provide special habitats for wildlife such as the golden-winged warbler, an imperiled neo-tropical, migrant songbird. Hampton Creek, which runs through the property, is considered one of the most productive native brook trout streams in the state. There are two new hiking trails that begin at the Hampton Creek Cove parking lot. One of these is connected to the Appalachian Trail and the other is a segment of the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail. Source: [View from the Highlands](#), Winter, Vol XXXVI, No. 1



Trout Fishing: A Lifetime of Passion and Learning

“There is a rhythm to the angler’s life and a rhythm to his year. If, as Father Walton says, ‘angling is somewhat like poetry, men are to be born so,’ then most anglers, like myself, will have begun at an age before memory—with stout cord, bamboo pole, long, level leader, bait hook, and worm. Others, who come in late, often have the sensation of having found a deep and abiding love, there all the while, like fire in the straw, that required only the proper wind to fan it forth. So it is with a talent, a genius even, for music, painting, writing; so it is, especially, with trout fishing—which ‘may be said to be so like Mathematics that it can never be fully learnt.’ ”

Nick Lyons, *Full Creel*, Grove Press, New York, 2000

STREAM CLEANUP SCHEDULE

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

Watauga River: 5/19/07

South Holston River: 8/11/07

Doe River: 9/29/07

Mark your calendars now and plan to participate in these important club projects. Details will be included in the *NewsCaster* edition just prior to the cleanup.

Bob Fondry, OMTU Cleanup Coordinator



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Contacting Your Legislators 101:

How to Effectively Advocate for Issues That Matter to You

1. Know your issue: When contacting an elected official, be as specific as possible. For example, if you are contacting your Congressman about specific legislation, give him or her not only the bill title or number but a brief description of the legislation as you understand it.
2. Know your audience: Be sure to know if your issue is a federal, state or local matter, and know which one of your elected representatives has jurisdiction.
3. Build support: At times, it may be appropriate to show that others support your issue. For example, if you are approaching a legislator about a local project, show support from the local government or other community groups.
4. Remember that elected officials like to hear from their constituents. Do not be afraid to call and ask questions or share your views.
5. Don't assume that others will be contacting your Congressman regarding an issue of concern. Only you can make a difference. Become proactive

Useful Resources:

Congressman Rick Boucher
188 East Main Street
Abingdon, Virginia 24210
276-628-1145

2187 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-3861
ninthnet@mail.house.gov
<http://www.boucher.house.gov/>

Senator Jim Webb
Senate Russell Building, C1
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-4024
<http://webb.senate.gov>

Senator John Warner
225 Russell Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-2023
<http://www.senate.gov/~warner/>

Congressman David Davis
320 West Center Street
P.O Box 769
Kingsport, TN 37662
423-247-8161
<http://daviddavis.house.gov/>

Senator Lamar Alexander
SD-445
Washington, D.C. 2010
202-224-4944
<http://alexander.senate.gov/>

Senator Bob Corker
SD-B40A
Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-3344
<http://corker.senate.gov/>

VA State Legislators: <http://legis.state.va.us/>

TN State Legislators: <http://tennesseeanyttime.org/government/elected.html>

State government: www.virginia.gov

Source: The above was prepared with the generous help of Representative Rick Boucher's staff, Abingdon, VA