

NEWS CASTER

Overmountain Chapter

Trout Unlimited Ron Harrington, Editor
omtuinfo@aol.com

Visit our Web Site at omtu.org

Volume 12, Issue 9
October, 2007



CONTENTS

Coming Events:	1
Todd Burleson Cleanup Report:	1
Wetlands Disappearing:	1
President's Corner:	2
Tri-State Watershed Conference:	3
Rave About Dry-Fly Fishing:	3
TN Nature Conservancy Report:	4
TN TU License Plate Update:	4
Bob Burleson Cleanup Pics:	5

Coming Events:

Regular Meeting: 10-18-07
BOD: 11-08-07
Regular Meeting: 11-15-07
No December Meeting

The **October** meeting 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. The program will be presented by Judy Murray, Roan Stewardship Director, Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy. Judy will give an overview of SAHC and then detail some of the current projects including Rocky Fork. Join us for a very informative program.

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.

Bob Burleson Memorial Cleanup Report By Bob Fondry

Another successful Bob Burleson Memorial Cleanup was held on September 29, 2007. A good number of volunteers showed up including chapter members Perry Rindfleisch, Bill Bezell and his wife, Norma, Linda Good, Bob Burleson and me and my wife, Susan.

We also had help from the Washington County Department of Corrections and Carter County Inmates. There were 30 or so folks from the Roan Mountain area. All were there bright and early. It was 37 degrees at 8:30. We sent the groups out at 9:00 or so and then everyone reconvened at noon. There were no accidents but several people got wet after falling in the water.

We collected 5-6 truckloads of trash and debris. Including lots of bottles, cups and car parts. There were probably 50 bags of debris and several tires also. One of the participants found a used oil filter in the water from a large truck or such. It's unusual but indicates that we haven't yet reached everyone about the need to protect our waters.

(See **Bob Burleson Cleanup**, page 2)



Bob Burleson and family, shown above, co-sponsored the Bob Burleson Memorial Cleanup and provided a delicious lunch for the participants.

Wetlands Disappearing Without Federal Protection

Since 1972, the Clean Water Act has worked hard to safeguard our rivers, lakes, streams, and wetlands from pollution. Recent Supreme Court decisions have put some of these protections in jeopardy. These recent rulings have narrowed the focus of the Clean Water Act, and wetlands and smaller streams and tributaries are the losers.

In a 2001 decision, the Supreme Court rejected federal regulatory authority over isolated, non-navigable, intrastate waters that were used by migratory birds. The Court decided the original focus of Congress when it enacted the original Clean Water Act was on navigable waters. Since then, polluters have argued that the law no longer protects numerous wetlands, streams, rivers, lakes and other waters historically covered by the Act. A more recent 2006 Supreme Court decision made matters worse by adding greater confusion to the issue of what waters and wetlands are federally protected, putting even (See **Wetlands**, page 2)

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

"No life so happy and so pleasant as the life of a well governed angler, for when the lawyer is swallowed up in his business and the statesman is preventing or contriving plots, there we sit on cowslip banks, hear the birds sing, and possess ourselves in as much quietness as these silent silver streams which we now see glide so quietly by us. Indeed, we may say of angling as Dr. Boteler said of strawberries: 'Doubtless God could have made a better berry, but doubtless God never did'; and so God never did make a more calm, quiet, innocent recreation than angling."

Izaak Walton, The Compleat Angler, 1653

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

Fall and drought somehow don't match up in my mind...but this year has been unusual so far and a challenge to our efforts to conserve, protect and restore native fish habitat.

Our project at Hampton Creek is completed and is beautiful. I encourage all of you to go there to see what has been done. I will have a presentation for you at one of our next meetings so you can see how the project was done and what was involved.

We have some exciting news about next month's meeting on November 15th! We are planning to hold a used equipment sale for all chapter members and the public. Almost all of us have equipment that is no longer being used and many of us are looking for unique pieces of equipment that we would like to purchase for ourselves, family or friends. **NOVEMBER 15TH IS THE TIME TO MAKE A MOVE!**

We will hold the meeting at Golden Corral is our usual meeting room. Please plan to come, have dinner together and bring some **used items that you would like to sell**. This should be a great warm-up for the Holidays and a chance to talk with other chapter members.

Our meeting schedule for next year will be changing from 10 meetings to 6 meetings. Our new schedule will be sent via email and posted on our website later this month. If you have suggestions for programs or speakers next year please contact me with your thoughts.

The World Without Us

"Look around you, at today's world. Your house, your city. The surrounding land, the pavement underneath, and the soil hidden below that. Leave it all in place but extract the human beings. Wipe us out, and see what's left. How would the rest of nature respond if it were suddenly relieved of the relentless pressures we heap on it and our fellow organisms. How soon would, or could, the climate return to where it was before we fired up all our engines? And what would become of the species that shared the planet with us?"

From The World Without Us, by Alan Thomas

(Bob Burleson Cleanup, from page 1)

Bob Burleson and family cosponsored the event and provided lunch as in the past. They provide such a pleasant presence and it is a family gathering in which we are allowed to participate.

(Wetlands, from page 1)

more of our precious resources at risk of pollution and destruction.

The **Clean Water Act of 2007** would restore the traditional scope of protection intended by Congress under the Clean Water Act for wetlands, which are critical for birds, fish, and other wildlife. This legislation would restore the regulatory status quo prior to the Supreme Court decisions in 2001 and 2006, which have rolled back federal protection of our waters and wetlands. It does not expand the scope of the Act in any way. It merely clarifies existing law, regulations, and Congressional intent.

Take action now and ask your Representative to co-sponsor the Clean Water Restoration Act now!!

Source: National Audubon Society Action Alert, September 20, 2007

Tri-State Watershed Conference Set

By Danny Sells

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend the **Tri-State Watershed Conference** set for **Friday, Oct. 26 and Saturday, Oct. 27, at the ETSU Bristol Campus**. This conference is part of the Upper Tennessee River Roundtable's U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Targeted Watershed Grant. The Appalachian RC&D Council and the Upper Tennessee River Roundtable are offering this conference for watershed groups and other interested individuals in Tennessee, Virginia and North Carolina. With EPA funding, we are able to offer this conference **at no cost**, but we **need your reservation by Oct. 19** so we can adequately plan for snacks and meals. Lunch will be provided both days.

Each morning we'll have breakout sessions with field trips in the afternoons.

Breakouts will focus on:

Funding Your Program
Public Outreach
Best Management Practices
Watershed Group Management
Riparian Restoration

General Sessions will include:

Finding and Keeping Volunteers
Land Trust and Conservation Easements
Exploring Tri-State Partnerships

I'm attaching information about the conference with phone numbers for you to call to reserve a space. Better yet, we have included our website addresses where you can register online. We expect the link to be available by Wednesday, October 3rd.

The other attachment outlines a series of classes being offered through the Southwest VA Community College. With the EPA funding, **we will pay for six full** (Continued in next Column)

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."

Why Rave About Dry-Fly Fishing?

"In our trout world why do so many rave about dry-fly fishing? It is because everything about it is prolonged and much is visible. Things start before a fish is hooked and there are times when hooking requires considerable doing. One sees the hatch, then the rise forms, then he attempts to watch the hatch, then he delivers his offering, then he watches it drift into the window of the fish. Anticipation is prolonged, expectation is prolonged, execution is prolonged. If things are right, that is if the fly and the float are right as far as the trout is concerned, the fly disappears in a ring and when the angler tightens the line there is a living throbbing resistance. Electrifying impact is appropriate phraseology to describe the contact."

Charles Fox, Rising Trout, 1967

Full Scholarships and a **reduced price for others**. Please see attached information for more details.

I really hope you can join us for this conference!

Carol Doss and Danny Sells

Carol W. Doss, Coordinator
Upper Tennessee River Roundtable
P.O. Box 2359
366 West Main St., Suite 400
Abingdon, VA 24212
Phone: (276) 628-1600
Fax: (276) 623-1353
Email: upperTNriver@yahoo.com

Danny D. Sells, Watershed Coordinator
Appalachian RC&D Council
1105 East Jackson Blvd, Suite 4
Jonesborough, TN 37659
Phone: (423) 753-444-, ext 4
Email: amberlynn@att.net

Mountain Top Removal Mining: A High Price

"At the current rate, Mountain Top Removal mining will gobble up more than 1.4 million acres by 2010. That's a greater area than the entire state of Rhode Island. Destroying communities and leveling mountains crafted over millennia is too high a price to pay for power." Editorial, Bristol Herald Courier, Sunday, August 26, 2007

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.

As of July 2007, we had 216 members assigned to OMTU

Tennessee Nature Conservancy Involved in Historic Agreement with Alcoa Power Generating, Inc.

TNC has been involved in a historic agreement with Alcoa Power Generating Inc. to protect 10,000 acres in the Great Smoky Mountains. The agreement will allow Alcoa to continue its hydropower activities at four dams in Tennessee and North Carolina while granting conservation easements, protective buffers, and future purchase options.

TNC also announced that it has purchased a 250-acre tract on Roan Mountain to add to the Cherokee National Forest.

Source: Appalachian Voice, Late Summer, 2007

Since 1959

“Trout Unlimited’s mission hasn’t changed since its founding in 1959. The most basic tenet of TU’s philosophy—take care of the fish, and the fishing will take care of itself—hasn’t changed either. Today’s organization is one that TU’s founders would know and love: a conservation group, not a fishing club.”

Charles F. Gauvin, TU President

Tennessee TU License Plate Report

According to Dr. Dick Davis, President, TU Cumberland Chapter, the sale of the new Tennessee TU license plates is going a little slower than is necessary to meet the goal of 1,000 plates a year. So far, 157 plates have been sold (6 by OMTU members). “Our trend line needs to be 100 plates ordered per month. There are 2,500 TU members in Tennessee. We all need to do a better job in reaching out to them. The plate sales are an instant fundraiser for each chapter. Once we sell 1,000 plates and the money is refunded to TU, each chapter will get \$17.50 per plate for a year’s usage.”

Make a mental note now to purchase your TU plate! For more information and to purchase your plate online, go to www.tuplate.org. You can reach Dr. Davis at (615) 297-3508 (home) or (615) 477-8936 (cell).

Source: e-mail message from Dr. Dick Davis

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



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!™

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
Clean all recreational equipment.
Particularly waders/boots.

www.ProtectYourWaters.net



Scenes from the 2007 Bob Burleson Memorial Cleanup on Doe Creek, Roan Mountain, TN



Participants with bags almost full pause for a photo opportunity.



Doe River Cleanup participants enjoy a nice lunch after a morning of picking up trash.



Some of the many volunteers who turned out to help with the project bagging up trash found in and along Doe River.

On Global Warming

“What were we thinking? We dump more than 21 million tons of greenhouse-gas pollution into the atmosphere every day. Did we think it would matter? Unlike some other pollutants that dissipate over time or that weaken as they become diluted, greenhouse-gas pollution can last for centuries and continues building up in the atmosphere. As it accumulates, it forms a barrier around the planet that traps heat. Average global temperatures have already increased by one degree-F over the past century, and 13 of the hottest years on record have occurred since 1990. Until recently there was a lingering scientific debate about whether the rise was the result of human activity or something else. The debate is now over. Carbon dioxide emitted from burning fossil fuels—coal, oil, and natural gas—is the problem’s largest source. The climate crisis is global. Since the U.S. contributes one-quarter of the world’s greenhouse-gas pollution, we should lead the world in addressing the problem.”

John Flicker, Audubon, Sept/Oct 2007