

NEWS CASTER

Overmountain Chapter

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Visit our Web site at omtu.org

Volume 15, Issue 5
September-October, 2010



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The September meeting, set for Thursday, September 16, 2010 at 6:00 pm, will be held at the Firehouse Restaurant, 627 West Walnut Street, Johnson City, TN. **(Please note the change in location from the House of Ribs)**

Our speaker will be Patrick Fulkrod, Orvis endorsed guide from Mountain Sports, LTD, Bristol, VA. Patrick's topic will be "Fly Fishing Adventures of 2010." This should be a good program, providing an opportunity to go on a variety of "vicarious" fishing trips.

South Holston Lake and River Cleanup Report

By Bill Beazell

Genette Yates, Director of Keep Bristol Beautiful and Coordinator of the South Holston Lake and River Cleanup Committee, reports the 18th Annual Cleanup was another tremendous success—more than 1100 volunteers collected an estimated 37 tons of trash. The amount collected was down this year, perhaps a sign that less trash is being dumped into the lake and river.

This is the largest water cleanup in Northeast Tennessee and possibly the state. At its peak, the Watauga River Cleanup—the oldest cleanup in the area—had anywhere from 300-400 volunteers. This year the Boone Lake cleanup reported 550.

Ron Harrington and Bill Beazell are current Overmountain representatives on the committee which meets monthly for seven months at the Bristol Chamber of Commerce to plan the cleanup.

For a number of years the South Holston Ruritan Club has assisted us with registration at the Weir Dam, the main site of the river part of the cleanup. This year, OMTU members Randall Rogers and Bill Beazell manned the Bluff City Pavilion, the second river registration site. Two other OMTU members, Bill Taylor and Bob Cheers showed up pick up trash. Nineteen registered at the Weir Dam, twenty five showed up at Bluff City.

Bob Cheers, along with his wife and son, did a yeoman's job, turning in a half dozen tires, a 55 gallon gas tank, and among other large items, a bed spring.

Each year the Sullivan County Sheriff's Department provides a work crew of ten men who mainly clean along the adjacent roads and banks. We always acknowledge their efforts with free t-shirts.

The cleanup is always followed by a great party at Observation Knob Park including lots of good food, live music, and lots of door prizes (this year we gave away over 100). And as usual, the top prize was a Kayak, generously donated by Mountain Sports in Bristol, VA. Mountain Sports is owned by the Cheers family.

The 2011 Cleanup is already set for Saturday, August 13. Make a note in the future planning section of your calendar and take part in this important OMTU function.

August Board Minutes

By Bob Sherrill

-The Chapter took in \$125 at the recent Fly Fishing Show at Rivers Way

-Membership: Signed up 2 new members at the fly fishing show

-Trout License Plate Monies: The money received has to be used for some type of conservation project, which we will have to report on. Chapter members will be asked to submit proposals for projects. A decision on the project will then be made at a later date.

-Chapter Budget: A financial budget for next year will be prepared for review.

Randall Rogers will pull together cost history and data. Anyone that will be spending money in the coming year should give Randall your info ASAP.

Budget will be worked up at the October meeting.

-Anti-Litter Signs: 200 signs are on hand. We have to keep track of where the signs are put. OK to put on TWRA properties.

-Guide Licensing: Chapter will not get involved unless TWRA promotes and pushes the issue.

(Continued on page 2)

FY 2010 OMTU Board and Officers

Officers:

- Rotating Presidents
- Vice President: T.A. Smith
- Treasurer: Randall Rogers
- Secretary: Bob Sherill

Board Members:

- Bob Fondry
- Ron Harrington
- Dempsey Shell
- Gary Barrigar
- Ernie Walker
- Dale White

August Board minutes (from Page 1)

-Bottle Bill: TU state council now supports the Bill. Groups will be formed throughout the state in order to promote the bill at the local level.

-Rocky Fork: In July the House passed a bill that included an earmark for Rocky Fork funding. Not gone to senate yet. TEDEC may become part owner of the property.

-September 16 Chapter Meeting: Speaker will be Patrick Fulkrod, guide at Mtn Sports Ltd.

New Business: Chapter members will be invited to make a tax-deductible donation to the Chapter as a way of improving our financial situation.

Todd Burleson Memorial Stream Cleanup set for Saturday, September 25, 2010

By Bob Fondry

This is the 16th annual stream cleanup that honors Todd Burleson, an Overmountain Trout Unlimited member, environmentalist, and fishing guide who passed away in 1997.

The cleanup is held on the Doe River in picturesque Roan Mountain. It is a beautiful place to bring your family for a half day of beautifying, socializing and good food. The cleanup begins at 9:00 a.m. Registration is at the Roan Mountain Community Park.

To get to the park, follow Highway 19-E to Roan Mountain. Turn at Highway 143 and cross the bridge over the Doe River. The Community Park is on your left and visible from the bridge. Turn left at the first intersection and proceed to the parking area. At 12:00 noon the cleanup part ends and the rest of the fun begins.

Dress in old clothes for you may get a little dirty. Bags and gloves will be provided for you. We will work in teams so bring your friends.

For more information, contact Bob Fondry at 423-772-3236. This is a great opportunity to get involved and do your part to keep our streams clean and free of trash.



331,000,000 barrels of petroleum and natural gas were used to make U.S. plastic products in 2006. Thirty million tons of plastic was consumed in 2008. It takes 450 years for a plastic bottle to decompose.

Perry Rindfleisch resigns from OMTU Board of Directors

After many years of service to OMTU, including over four years as our president, Perry has finally decided to step down from the board.

Suffice to say that Perry did an outstanding job as a board member and president. His presence and the skills and wisdom he brought to the table will be missed. For more information on his many accomplishments see the November-December 2009 issue of this newsletter. Perry, we wish you well.



A View from the Riverbank

Ron Harrington, Editor

What's for dinner? The next time you stop by your favorite fish restaurant, check for **"silverfish"** on the menu. This fish is reported to be quite tasty fried or smoked.

The name sounds like some unknown trout or char species, but it's far from it: This is just the invasive, "flying" Asian carp with a more palatable name.

The carp—prolific reproducers with voracious appetites—were imported from Asia in the 1970s to devour algae in catfish ponds in the South. Now they have escaped and are rapidly invading tributaries of the Mississippi watershed, posing a major threat to native fish.

Among the many strategies being tested, wildlife officials are encouraging chefs to serve it on their menus. "Silverfish" just might catch on and put a dent in the carp numbers. Great lake companies are also catching these carp and exporting them to countries like Israel and China, where demand is high.

So do your part to help prevent a potential environmental disaster. Order a plate of **silverfish**. Add some fries, hushpuppies and coleslaw too! YUM. Source: Audubon September-October 2010

Minutes of Tennessee Council of Trout Unlimited Quarterly Business Meeting

By Don Denney, Hiwassee Chapter

The TNTU Council met in Knoxville, TN on July 31, 2010. Fifteen attended. There were no representatives from the Delta and Overmountain Chapters.

Update on TU License Plate: Dr. Dick Davis reported that \$14,500 of the plate proceeds for the first year has been distributed to chapters. The plan is to distribute the remaining \$3000 from the first year, hopefully by the end of the year. The next distribution will first pay back Cumberland Chapter for its investment in this project, with proceeds after that going to the Council to be distributed as grants. Chapters may apply for grants for conservation, including projects of an educational nature. We have to sell 1,000 per year to keep the plate in production.

Southeast Rally: George Lane reported that the Southeast Rally was well attended. A lot of positive comments were received from out-of-state attendees, and the Rally will probably be held in Townsend again next year, in conjunction with Troutfest.

Report of Nominating Committee: Steve Brown reported that the nominating committee could not present a report at this time. The following motion was made and approved:
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Nomination Committee submit a list of nominees for Council Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, and NLC Representative to the TN TU Council on or before August 31st and that on or before September 9th the Council meet via conference call and elect Council officers and NLC Representative for the 2010-2113 fiscal years.

Bottle Bill: Bill Guinn reported that the bottle bill is still being worked on. Some concerns of Alcoa Aluminum are being addressed. Chapters and members are encouraged to work for the adoption of this bill.

State Trout Camp: John Thurman proposed that our first Trout Camp in 2011 be held at the Great Smokey Mountain Institute in Tremont, with GMSI providing most of the services. TU would have to provide volunteers for instruction and activities, and financial support and nominations for attendees. John will be contacting chapters to solicit commitments. Chris Wood has committed National to supply tackle to be given to participants on completion of the program.

Trout in the Classroom: Lane Davis has changed employment and cannot continue as our Trout in the Classroom Coordinator, so we are seeking a replacement.

Canton Paper Mill Re-licensing: George Lane attended a hearing regarding this re-licensing, and urged that they continue to tighten pollution standards to result in improved water quality.

TU Conservation Easement Reporting: National is requesting that Councils and Chapters report any conservation easements that they have, and forms were distributed for that purpose.

Tellico OHV Status: George Lane has reported that OHV advocates have filed a suite against the NC Forest Service regarding the closing of the OHV area at Tellico.

Rocky Fork Purchase: John Thurman moved that the council donate \$1,000 toward the purchase of the Rocky Fork tract in northeast Tennessee for conservation.

Nomination of Steve Moore as Conservation Professional of the Year: By common consent the Council, in conjunction with the North Carolina Council, will nominate Steve Moore for the Conservation Professional of the Year at the TU National Annual Meeting in September for his work with Brook Trout restoration.

Proposed Brook Trout project in Tellico: Jim Herrig provided info on a Forest Service project to introduce southern strain brookies into additional streams in the Tellico watershed. Part of this would involve restarting the hatchery facility at Pheasant Fields. George Lane will draft a letter to the Forest Service supporting this project.

Other Business: No date was set for the next Council meeting.

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 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."

TU's Statement on Climate Change Legislation

Trout and salmon are especially vulnerable to climate change and global warming because they are dependent on an abundance of clean, cold water. As coldwater habitats warm, rising temperatures will have negative impacts on all life phases of these fish. As an organization dedicated to conserving our nation's coldwater fisheries, TU has been urging Congress to address this crucial issue.

In late July, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid announced that he was suspending work on passing climate change legislation for the summer. The Senate will, instead, take up a much smaller package of energy and natural resource measures. Although disappointed that Congress could not get a good bill passed this summer, TU will remain steadfast in urging Congress to pass a bill that will take a strong step towards building an energy future which minimizes impacts to trout and salmon.

Source: "Lines to leaders," TU National

Annual State of the Climate report says "no doubt that the earth is warming"

"A comprehensive review of key climate indicators confirms the world is warming and the past decade was the warmest on record."

The report does not focus on the cause of the warming, but includes detailed analysis of 10 indicators that relate to the surface temperatures around the world. All tell the same story: "Global warming is undeniable."

The report was compiled by more than 300 scientist from 48 countries.

For more information, go to www.ncdc.noaa.gov/barns-state-of-the-climate

Source: Bristol Herald Courier, Monday, August 2, 2010

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

OMTU is a proud member of
the Boone Watershed Partner-
ship

Releasing trout

Releasing wild trout helps preserve the quality of a fishery. Trout are more delicate than most fish and require careful handling. When a trout has been caught but the hook is still embedded, wet your hands before handling the fish. Dry hands stick to the adhesive slime coating the fish and can pull off its scales. It is preferred for the fish to remain in the water when removing the hook, but holding the trout out of the water will not be lethal, provided the hook is removed quickly and the trout is returned immediately.

Small trout caught on a barb-less hook can be released simply by grasping the eyelet of the fly, and rotating the eyelet toward the bend (the U-bend). This pulls the point backwards, back through the way it entered. Push the eyelet directly toward the bend until the point is removed from the fish. Large trout can be grasped gently and forceps can be used to grip the bend and push backwards, away from the direction the hook currently points. If necessary, squirming trout can be held on their backs. This often subdues the fish and provides enough time to remove the hook.

Once the hook has been removed, return the trout into the water. Support the trout until it stabilizes. This includes holding the fish in water deep enough to submerge its gills. After long fights, it may be necessary to manually move water past its gills. This can be done either by holding the trout in moving water with its head facing upstream, or, in calm water, moving the trout backwards and forwards repeatedly. Once stabilized, the trout will swim off on its own. If released prematurely, the trout, not having enough energy to move, will sink to the bottom of the river and suffocate. Take however long is necessary to revive a trout.

Source: Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

TWRA announces availability of riparian tree planting grants

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) has announced the availability of grant dollars to assist cities, schools, community organizations, civic groups, watershed organizations, and conservation groups, etc., with riparian tree planting projects. All seedlings must be bought through the Department of Agriculture, Division of Forestry. Tree planting season in Tennessee is October through March. Five grants, at \$500 each, are available for each of TWRA's four regional Aquatic Habitat Protection projects (a total of \$2,500 per region). The funds will be obligated as grants, so the grantee must have a nonprofit tax number. The projects are to be completed, the money spent, and a report submitted by June 30, 2011. In order to meet this deadline, TWRA will accept proposals through Dec. 15, 2010. Grant proposals should include the applicant organization's name, tax ID number, address, phone, and name of a contact person authorized to enter into contractual agreement on behalf of the organization. The proposal should also include the name of the stream, county or counties involved, and the project area and description. Contact Della Sawyers at (615) 781-6577, (615) 781-6577, or by e-mail at Della.Sawyers@tn.gov with any questions.

Source: TWRA News Release 9-3-10

TNTU Report (from page 3)

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Other Business: No date was set for the next Council meeting.

Another View

“Our streams and the public accesses that line them thread a complex course through pristine natural continuity, history, and rapid cultural change, carrying along the time-series of our collective angling memories like Technicolor autumn leaves. The great chronicler of the American West Wallace Stegner observed that our national parks represent ‘the best idea we ever had. Absolutely American, absolutely democratic, they reflect us at our best rather than our worse.’

If one agrees that's true, our system of river accesses—warts, weirdness, wildness, and all—might just be the second best idea we ever had.”

“Down by the River,” Jeff Erickson
Fly Fisherman, July-September, 2010