



# NEWSCASTER

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Jeff Wright, Editor

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*Conserving, protecting, and restoring coldwater fisheries and watersheds in northeast Tennessee since 1986.*

## Join us at Our Next Meeting March 20th, 2018

Food City - 920 N State of Franklin, Johnson City, TN

Dinner begins at 6:00 pm

Program begins at 6:30 pm

Sally Petre, region 4 Coldwater Fisheries Biologist, will be taking us to the desert southwest to learn all about Gila trout. Ms. Petre will talk about the work she did on coldwater streams in Arizona and also talk about how and where to pursue this unique southwestern salmonid.

Dinner for the evening will be white chicken chili, a loaded baked potato bar, salad, and dessert. The cost will be \$12. Beer and wine will be available for purchase as well.

## IF4 Returning to the Great Outdoors Festival

The Overmountain Chapter will once again be hosting a showing of the International Fly Fishing Film Festival at the Erwin Great Outdoors Festival. The showing will be held at 2:00 pm on May 5th at Capital I&I Cinema. Check Facebook or our website for more details to come.

## Upcoming Events

3/13	Board of Directors Meeting
3/17	Bill Beazell Cleanup
3/20	Membership Meeting - Gila Trout Restoration
4/7	Thirsty Orange Fundraiser
4/10	Board of Directors Meeting
4/17	Membership Meeting - Fishing Ft. Patrick Henry
5/5	IF4 at the Erwin Great Outdoors Festival
5/8	Board of Directors Meeting
5/15	Membership Meeting - Swap'n'Shop Social

Details for all of these events can be found on our website or Facebook page

## Board Notes

- Bank balance as of 1/1/2018 is \$12,068.84
- Membership as of 2/12/2018 at 288
- Shannon O'Quinn, Bill Sunderland, and Dale White all ended their board service in January
- Daniel Back and Laura Thompson were elected to 3-year terms

## Did you know?

Getting your license plate can benefit OMTU! In 2017, Tennessee TU received over \$55,000 from license plate sales, most of which went to local chapters for conservation projects. Each plate adds \$17.50 to the fund so get yours when you renew this year.



### OMTU Officers

Jeff Wright, President  
Ryan Turgeon, Vice President  
Sean Fagan, Treasurer  
Bill Watkins, Secretary

### OMTU Board of Directors

#### *At Large*

Daniel Back  
Chris Lennon  
Laura Thompson

#### *Emeritus*

Gary Barrigar  
Ron Harrington  
Randall Rogers  
Bob Sherrill

### Coordinators & Others

Mike Adams, Chapter Advisor  
Adam Harber, Activities  
Alex Tarwater, TIC Kingsport

Questions? Comments?  
[overmountaintu@gmail.com](mailto:overmountaintu@gmail.com)

[@overmountaintu](https://www.instagram.com/overmountaintu)



## 2017 Annual Dinner a Success!

The Overmountain Chapter Trout Unlimited met at the Doubletree, Johnson City on December 5th for a very special event. The 2017 Annual Dinner featured speakers Ian & Charity Rutter from R&R Fly Fishing in Townsend, TN. Through an engaging and entertaining talk, the Rutters gave us all great insight into fishing Great Smokey Mountains National Park. On top of that, members had a chance at some excellent door prizes and a large variety of silent auction items. At the end of the night, over \$600 was raised for our future programs.

We also awarded our 2017 Partner of the Year awards. The corporate award went to Eastern Fly Outfitters and the conservation award went to the US Fish & Wildlife Services' Southeast Region.

Thank you all who came out to support the chapter and get Saturday, December 8th, 2018 on your calendar for next year's event.



James Gray and Norm Heil of the US Fish & Wildlife Service receiving their award

## 2018 Annual Business Meeting Recap

While it was snowed out in January, weather was no problem for our rescheduled Annual Business Meeting. The chapter met on Tuesday, February 20th, 2018 to go over the past year, hear about potential upcoming projects, and vote on board candidates and bylaws changes.

Chapter President Jeff Wright explained how 2017 was a major success for the chapter in 5 key areas; building more business partnerships, enhancing our financial standing, expanding Trout in the Classroom, engaging and building the membership, and making a conservation impact. These 5 areas will continue to be a target for improvement in 2018 and Mr. Wright challenged all chapters members to get involved in ensuring their success.

Chapter members unanimously voted to support three potential project for 2018/2019. These were the creation of the Doe River Fishing Trail, working with TWRA and TVA to build a mobility impaired fishing dock at the Blevins Rd Fishing Access, and working on a joint project with the Cherokee Chapter in Rocky Fork State Park.

Chapter Treasurer Sean Fagan explained our 2017 finances. The chapter finished the year with over \$12,000 in the bank but a majority of that is designated to specific projects and expenses. He estimated that we currently have a little under \$3,000 unallocated and are on track to finish the year with just under \$7,000 in the bank outside of any grants we may secure.

Finally, Laura Thompson and Daniel Back were both unanimously elected to the Board of Directors and the proposed 2018 Bylaws Amendments were also unanimously approved. If you would like to see what these changes entail, they are available on our website.

**Thank you for sponsoring the 2017 Annual Dinner**



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## 4th Annual Bill Beazell Cleanup

### Saturday, March 17th

We will be hosting the fourth annual Bill Beazell Memorial Cleanup of the Watauga River on the third Saturday of March. We are looking to make this the biggest event yet and need your help! Cleanup participants will meet in the parking lot of Ingle's in Elizabethton (768 W Elk Ave) by 8:30 am. There, you will pick a cleanup location and head out to remove trash and debris and show the community we care about our local tailwaters. There will be options for people bringing boats, those who want to wade an area, and those who simply want to walk the riverbank without getting wet. At 3:00 pm all participants are invited to a celebration lunch at Watauga River Lodge (643 Smalling Rd, Watauga, TN). There will be free food, a participation raffle, and a presentation on the importance of the Land & Water Conservation Fund by the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy.

We also need volunteers for a few specific roles. If you are interested in any of these, please email [overmountaintu@gmail.com](mailto:overmountaintu@gmail.com) or call Bill Watkins (805-705-5568) to let him know.

**Drop Off Attendant** (x3) - Oversees one of the three trash drop off locations and makes sure that items are correctly placed in respective containers.

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## Thank you for sponsoring the 2017 Annual Dinner

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For reservations call 855-275-4790



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## **2017 Kids' Fishing Day**

We had another great time at 2017 Kids' Fishing Day, hosted by USA Raft. The Erwin National Fish Hatchery was again generous and there were plenty of trophy sized fish to go around. Over 15 kids showed up to take part. Thanks to all who helped out.



## License Plate Contest

Do you like graphic design and supporting conservation? Then we have a contest for you! The Overmountain Chapter is looking to create and sell vanity front license plates to help fund our projects. We want something that looks great and you can help. We will take entries into the plate design contest now until March 19th. The chapter will then vote on which design they like. The winner will receive a free plate and a small prize.



Plate images are 6" x 12" and need to be high quality. We will send you a high quality copy of our logo if you need it. No images can contain copyrighted work unless it is your own and you are giving OMTU rights to use it. Entries or questions can be sent to [overmountainchaptertu@gmail.com](mailto:overmountainchaptertu@gmail.com).

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## Thank you for sponsoring the 2017 Annual Dinner



With over 20 years of experience, you can't go wrong with Mountain River Guides. Whether you want to run some rapids or land a trophy Tennessee smallmouth, let Mountain River Guides help make your dreams a reality.

Guide Chris Lennon offers float trips through the Nolichucky Gorge and wade trips on the Watauga and South Holston rivers.

Book your trip today by contacting Chris at 1-800-USA-RAFT or [legacyanglers@yahoo.com](mailto:legacyanglers@yahoo.com)

# From Around the Region

## 2018 Trout Adventure Camp Applications Open

Trout Adventure Camp provides youth an opportunity to spend a week learning about the importance of conserving our coldwater ecosystems and the fundamentals of the sport of fly fishing.

This year's camp will be held at the Tremont Institute from June 18 – 23, 2018.

Campers who will be 12 - 15 years old at the time of camp may apply for 1 of 14 spots.

For an individual accepted from our chapter, the camp cost of \$530 will be covered by the Overmountain Chapter Trout Unlimited

Additional information and an application can be found at [www.tntroutadventure.com](http://www.tntroutadventure.com)

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## Milligan Highway Cleanup

Carter County Proud is sponsoring cleanup of Milligan Highway on Saturday, March 24th starting at 10 am.  
Meet in the Happy Valley Elementary School parking lot.

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## Wild & Scenic Film Festival

Friday, April 6th, 2018

6 - 9 pm

Presented by ETSU's Department of Sustainability and the Department of Media and Communication  
Free and open to the public

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## Blue Ridge Trout Fest

Saturday, April 28th, 2018

Blue Ridge, GA

10 am - 5 pm

A celebration of all things trout and trout fishing. OMTU is considering renting a vehicle to shuttle members to and from the event. The cost would be about \$10 per rider. If you are interested in going, please email us to let us know. We will not be able to do the shuttle if we do not have a mostly full vehicle.

