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

THE TYING THROWDOWN YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR

SMOKEY BONES 1905 N ROAN ST | **TUES. MAY 16TH**
JOHNSON CITY, TN | DOORS AT 6 PM COMP. AT 7 PM



ON THE FLY

Take a bag. Tie your flies. Walk away victorious.

Our May meeting will be the "On the Fly" tying throwdown. Every tyer will receive two bags of random material and will have to create 2 unique flies. A panel of experts will score each fly and the winner will walk away with the Big Ugly Fly trophy and a special gift. This is being held at Smokey Bones Johnson City (1905 N Roan St). Cost is \$5 to tie, free to watch.

6:00 pm - Dinner starts

6:30 pm - Business meeting

Tying begins immediately after

This event is B.Y.O.E., bring your own tying equipment.

Upcoming Events

- 5/16 On the Fly Tying Throwdown
- 6/10 Kid's Free Fishing Day, Mountain City
- 6/20 Members' Meeting - Aquatic Entymology
- 7/15 Chapter Picnic
- 8/15 Members' Meeting - State of TN Trout

Board Notes

- Bank balance as of 5/1/17 - \$13,568.18
- Membership is sitting around 260
- Voted to transfer \$10,000 for Briar Creek project to partner organization to cover culvert purchase
- Voted to spend \$25 on May meeting
- Voted to hold Annual Dinner on December 5th, 2017 and to pursue Ian and Charity Rutter as keynote speakers.
- Ryan Turgeon agreed to head summer and fall Bluffs maintenance projects.
- Sean Fagan agreed to serve as fishing event coordinator. Planning to have at least 1 outing a month.

OMTU Officers

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

OMTU Board of Directors

Chris Lennon
Shannon O'Quinn
Bill Watkins
Dale White

Did you know?

Getting your license plate can benefit OMTU! In 2015, Tennessee TU received \$49,000 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.



Questions? Comments?

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From the Classroom to the River

Photos by Bill Watkins

May 8th saw a welcome break in the weather, which turned out to be perfect timing for this year's Trout in the Classroom release day. The Cherokee and Overmountain Chapters worked together to bring out almost 160 students from Avoca Elementary, Emmett Elementary, Holston View Elementary, and Sullivan East High School



Bezell Cleanup Continues to Grow

Photo by Linda Good

For the third year in a row, the Overmountain Chapter of Trout Unlimited hosted the Bill Bezell Memorial Cleanup. This year's March 25th event included two different meeting locations, one at the Watauga River Bluffs State Natural Area and the other in the Elizabethton Ingles' parking lot for the drift boat crew. The weather was excellent and the turnout was better than we have ever had. Over 28 people came to the Bluffs, with another 25+ coming to the Ingles meetup. The attendees were made up of Overmountain Chapter members, Cherokee Chapter members, individuals from Project Healing Waters, local fishing guides, and a number of members from the Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts. Having such a big partnership between people who care about our rivers meant that we were able to clean from Siam Bridge all the way to the Persinger Bridge takeout. Thank you to all who made it out to make a difference for coldwater conservation. Look for the Fourth Annual Bezell Memorial Cleanup coming March 17th, 2018.



International Fly Fishing Film Festival Comes To Erwin

The Second Annual Erwin Great Outdoors Festival provided a chance at a new partnership and outreach opportunity for the Overmountain Chapter. From 9 am - 1 pm on May 6th, OMTU members manned our festival booth, passing out Stream Explorer Magazines to kids, teaching casting to anyone who wanted to learn, and discussing how our chapter is making a difference for local conservation. While the festival was slated to go until 6 pm, the weather had other ideas. While people were willing to put up with a little sprinkle here and there, we were all forced to clear out as the rain really started to come down in the afternoon. Even though the weather shut down the festival, a good group showed up for the 2017

International Fly Fishing Film Festival at Capital Cinema I & II. The mix of films kept everyone interested and, more importantly, OMTU members had the chance to connect with a number of people who are not yet chapter members. We are looking forward to this event growing in the years to come. A big thank you goes out to chapter members Brett and Kelly Kattesh and Andrew Price for all the help in planning and organizing for the IF4!



Photo by Chris Lennon

SoHo to See Changes in Typical Flows

By Bill Watkins

James H. Everett, head of TVA's River Management, was our April speaker. He was there to discuss flow regimes while the TVA replaces the South Holston Dam generator. They expect the outage to begin on July 1 and last for about 250 days. Before it begins, we'll probably notice some changes. The valve intakes they will be using for spilling are below the generator intake and are subject to magnesium concentrations. So, they will blend water for a few days until the concentration goes down. The blending will eliminate any health hazards. They cannot release for extended times between 400 cfs and 1200 cfs, because the weir dams vibrate. If flows in this range were to continue for a long period, the weirs could be damaged or destroyed. While releasing with valves, the TVA will not be changing flows as frequently as they do with the generator. Expect to see flows stable for a few days between changes. Downstream commitments for South Holston water will not change during the generator outage. That means that average flows will be the same as they would be if they were generating. Those commitments are partially dependent on rainfall here and downstream, but we can expect the lake levels to be lowered between June and December. Average flows will be relatively high during that period. So, it looks like we'll see two regimes, South Holston flows will run at 1200-1400 cfs for five days or so and then switch to about 400 for three days or so. The lower flows will most likely occur on weekends. All that said, managing the Tennessee River drainage is a big job, one with lots of uncertainty. So, the TVA reserve the right to change flows to meet unexpected demands.

Thank you, IF4 Sponsors

We would not have been able to host the International Fly Fishing Film Festival without the support of a great group of sponsors. That group included:

USA Raft/Mountain River Guides
Eastern Fly Outfitters
Trophy Water Guide Service
Unicoi County Memorial Hospital
Moe's Original BBQ Johnson City
Overmountain Outdoors
Mahoney's
The Shamrock Smoke Shop Johnson City
The Mackie Group
Downtown Farming
Dari Ace Erwin
Brett and Kelley Kattesh
Yee Haw Brewing
White Duck Taco Shop

Upcoming Meeting Topics

The OMTU Board has been working hard to get our meetings set for the rest of the calendar year. Here is a list of what is to come for the next few months.

June 20th - Entymology of Tailwaters, Dennis Baxter from TVA/Clinch River

July 15th - OMTU Summer Picnic, food, games, and getting to know other members

August 15th - State of East Tennessee Trout, Jim Habera from TWRA

September 19th - Project Healing Waters will discuss their program and how they support veterans.

We will not have a November meeting but will be hosting our Annual Dinner on December 5th. More details on that, the October meeting, and other events to come. Keep checking www.omtu.org or our Facebook page for information.