



The Boone Watershed News

A Publication of the Boone Watershed Partnership, Inc.

Volume 1, Issue 3
Fall, 2007

The Boone Watershed Partnership Looks to the Future

The BWP continues to grow both in membership and scope. In the past few months, projects include the 11th Annual Boone Watershed Partnership Watershed Conservation Awards, continuing to work on the Upper Watauga Watershed Initiative in an effort to establish watershed groups in the upper Watauga watershed, clean-ups with our partners on Holston Lake, the Doe River at

Roan Mountain, the Watauga River, Buffalo Creek and Beaver Creek.

Stream projects include partnering with the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy to provide an alternative watering source for cattle in the State Natural Area on Hampton Creek and; an interpretative sign for the weir dam and fish ladder that was constructed below the cov-

ered bridge on the Doe River in Elizabethton.

We welcome our newest members, Wal-Mart of Elizabethton and Severn Trent Services of Bristol and Bluff City. As our region grows in population the work of our organization and the work of our partners can provide a critical service in protecting our precious water.

Gary Barrigar

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Profile of a BWP Partner - Overmountain Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Trout Unlimited is a national conservation organization with more than 150,000 volunteers organized into about 400 chapters from Maine to Montana to Alaska with a mission "To conserve, protect and restore North America's cold-water fisheries and their watersheds." TU is staffed by lawyers, policy experts and scientists who work with the volunteers on fisheries restoration work at the local, state and national levels.

The Overmountain Chapter was chartered in 1986 to carry out these goals in Northeast Tennessee. Many projects have been completed working jointly with other environmental organizations or with state and federal agencies. When possible, the chapter

seeks matching funds and grants to double the amount of money available for our projects from TU national's Embrace-A-Stream Grants and donation.

The Chapter's first Embrace-A-Stream Grant was awarded in May, 1994, for work on Laurel Fork in Carter County to provide habitat improvement structures, sediment traps at trail/creek crossings, permanent road closure to prevent illegal use and damage at stream crossings, tree planting along the banks, population monitoring station maintenance, and population/structure use monitoring. A sign was placed along the trail in the project area with information about brown trout and the EAS project.

Another project using an Embrace-A-Stream Grant was awarded in April, 1998, to provide a quality fishing area in the Limestone Cove Recreation Area in Unicoi County. The project improved wild brown trout habitat and water quality in North Indian Creek and included access to the stream for people with disabilities.

An Embrace-A-Stream Grant was awarded to the Chapter in April 2002 to install stream bank stabilization and habitat improvement on Buffalo Creek. Two hundred feet of affected stream bank, J-hook jetties and armored toe-protection were installed. Trees were planted by the Elizabethton High School Ecology Club.

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**Northeast TN
and
Southwest VA
are
experiencing
a severe
drought .**

**Do your part
to conserve
Water!**

The Drought Continues for the Southeast

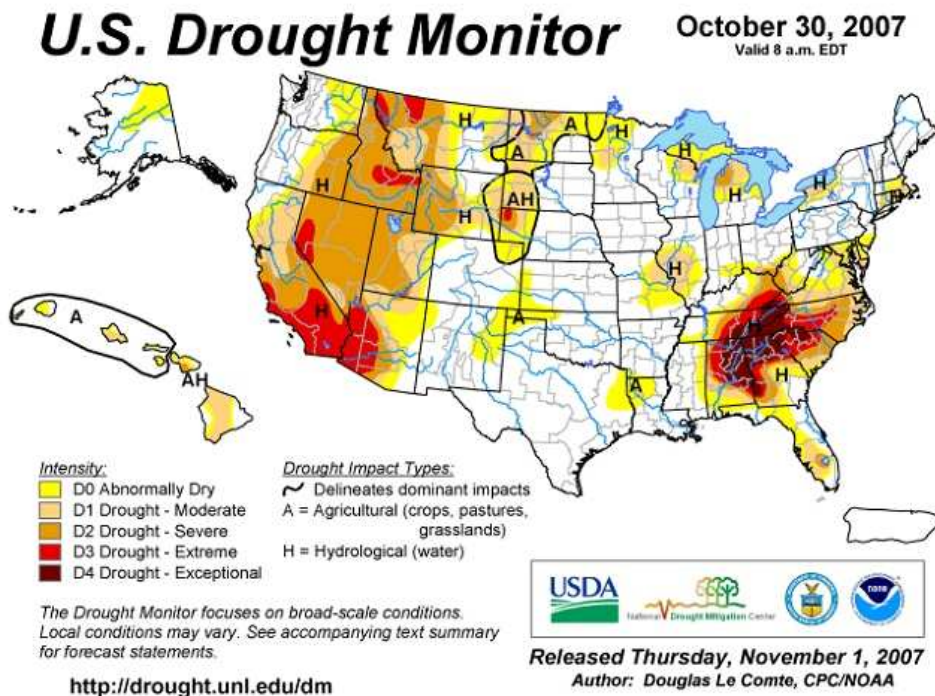
Drought Monitor, <http://drought.unl.edu/dm/index.html>, maintained by NOAA, the USDA and the University of Nebraska, lists our region as experiencing a drought that is the highest intensity on their rating scale (D-4 or exceptional). According to Drought Monitor, "...Long-term rainfall deficits remained a factor in the water supply situation in the Southeast, with year-to-date totals at least 16 inches below normal in much of Alabama, central and eastern Tennessee, northern Georgia, and western North Carolina ..." Agriculture is suffering and water supplies are dwindling for people and wildlife alike.

Like many things around us, we seldom appreciate what is plentiful and easy to obtain. In normal times, for most of us in our region, what could be more plentiful than water? To get water all we do is turn on the faucet 24 hours a day and it's there, ready to use. But think again -- the water we use doesn't just magically appear. Treated water is a carefully manufactured product which appears in your home only after traveling through many miles of pipeline and lengthy treatment processes. It's a valuable resource that shouldn't be wasted.

Just 1% of the entire water supply in the world is available for human use -- the rest is salty or locked in ice caps and glaciers. This relatively small 1% keeps all the world's agricultural, manufacturing, community and personal household and sanitation needs operating. We actually drink very little of our processed "drinking water"; around 1%

of all treated water. The rest goes on lawns, in washing machines, and down toilets and drains!

When you conserve water, you also save on other services. When you use less hot water, there is less energy needed to heat that water, thereby reducing your gas and electric bill. When you use less water, you also put less water down your sewer drains, thereby reducing your sewer bill. So you can see, by implementing a simple conservation program, you are helping the environment by helping ease the burden on water storage, purification, distribution and treatment facilities.





Simple Things That Can Collectively Make a Difference in Our Supply of Water

Estimates vary, but each person in the U. S. uses about 80-100 gallons of water per day. In a recent press release, Governor Phil Bredesen urged every Tennessean to conserve water. Here are simple measures provided in that release.

- **Fix all leaky plumbing fixtures, including outdoor hoses.** One leaky faucet leaking a drop a second would result in the waste of 2,777 gallons in a year.



- **Install low-flush toilets, or put a one-liter water bottle in the toilet tank.** Toilets use the most water in our homes. Every day, Americans flush 4.8 billion gallons of water down the toilet.

- **Install sink faucets with aerators, motion sensors, or automatic shut-offs.** Even though federal law requires that new faucets are low flow, we could save billions of gallons each year by retrofitting the country's 222 million bathroom sink faucets.



- **Install low-flow shower heads.** Showering is one of the top uses of residential water in the United States, representing approximately 17 percent of residential indoor water use—more than 1.2 trillion gallons of water consumed each year.



- **Run washing machines and dishwashers only with full loads.** Running the dishwasher only when it's full can save 1,000 gallons of water per month.



- **Buy appliances with water conservation features.** Front-loading washers, for example, can provide tremendous water and energy savings.

- **Water lawns and gardens sparingly in the morning or evening to prevent excessive evaporation.** During drought or times of restricted landscape watering, most lawns, including bluegrass, will withstand reduced watering regimes by going dormant. In these situations, adjust mowing, fertilizing, aeration, and weed control practices appropriately to the watering schedule.



- **Landscape with native plants, shrubs, and trees.** They are adapted to periods of drought and may require less water than non-native ornamentals.

Check out the following web sites for more suggestions on conserving water:

<http://www.wateruseitwisely.com/>

<http://www.epa.gov/watersense/index.htm>

<http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/consumer/09952>.



Profile of a BWP Partner - Overmountain Chapter of Trout Unlimited (continued from page 1)

In 2007, the Chapter, working with the Cherokee Chapter, received a Embrace-A-Stream Grant to replace a failing rainbow trout passage barrier on the Left Prong of Hampton Creek in the Hampton Cove Natural Area in Carter County. The Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the US Forest Service and the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy partnered with TU to provide this "Engineered Waterfall" to protect Tennessee's most abundant southern Appalachian brook trout population .

In addition to stream improvement projects, the Overmountain Chapter partners with local business and community groups conducting annual river and stream cleanups on the South Holston Tail-water, the Watauga River and its tributaries and Doe River in Roan Mountain.

The Overmountain Chapter meets regularly on the third Thursday of each month at the Golden Corral, 3104 Browns Mill Rd, Johnson City, Tennessee. The dinner at begins about 6 p.m. The program follows a brief business meeting at 7 p.m. featuring guests and topics related to trout and coldwater conservation concerns. Everyone inter-

ested in trout and coldwater conservation is invited to attend the meetings and to join Trout Unlimited.

Previous awards to the Chapter include: Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's 2003 Aquatic Resource Preservation Stewardship Award, TU National's 1997 Silver Trout Award and Tennessee Conservation League's 1996 Outstanding Conservation Organization Award.



TU provided this "Engineered Waterfall" on Hampton Creek to protect southern Appalachian brook trout



To partner with local users, regional, state and federal entities, educators and others to identify and address water resource issues in the Boone Watershed.

We're on the WEB!

<http://boonewatershed.com/>

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