



# Tennessee Council, Trout Unlimited

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Vice Chair, Ryan Turgeon, [ryanturgeon76@yahoo.com](mailto:ryanturgeon76@yahoo.com)  
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National Leadership Council, Mark Spangler, [mspangl82@gmail.com](mailto:mspangl82@gmail.com)

## TU Council Meeting Via Zoom, August 13, 2022

### Attendees

Name	Chapter	Email
Brown, Steve	1Exec Comm/Clinch River	wsbrown08@gmail.com
Gregg, Tony	1Exec Comm/Clinch River	tgregg@inbox.com
Oates, Frances	1Exec Comm/Clinch River	franceshoates@gmail.com
Spangler, Mark	1Exec Comm/Little River	Mspangl82@gmail.com
Turgeon, Ryan	1Exec Overmountain	ryanturgeon76@yahoo.com
Fry, Steve	Appalachian	fryfisherman@gmail.com
Geren, Nicholas	Appalachian	nicholasgeren@icloud.com
Prytula, Rob	Appalachian	rprytula@comcast.net
Reynolds, Jim	At Large	jimreynolds5442@gmail.com
Whitted, Jerry	Cherokee	jerrywhitted@aol.com
Brown, Tim	Great Smoky Mountain	19ertim@gmail.com
Greene, Sherrell	Great Smoky Mountain	srgreene@protonmail.com
King, Pearson	Hiwassee	dpk78111@hotmail.com
Boyd, Shane	Hiwassee	Boyd12122000@yahoo.com
Bishop, Robert	Little River	bishmoose@sbcglobal.net
Young, Steve	Little River	steve_y@earthlink.net
Blank-Lukenbill, Heather	Music City	r.h.blanklukenbill@gmail.com
Whittaker, John	Music City	jwhittaker12118@gmail.com
Dunkelberger, Brian	Overmountain	dunkelberger102@hotmail.com
Elliott, Rick	Overmountain	hairfly27@yahoo.com
Fagan, Sean	Overmountain	tntroutstalker@gmail.com
Sells, Danny	Overmountain	amberlynn@att.net
Wright, Jeff	Overmountain	Jeff.Wright@tu.org

- Tony Gregg called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m.
- The minutes of the May 21 meeting were unanimously approved.
- Treasurer Bill Fuson could not be at the meeting, but provided the report appended below, which was unanimously approved.
- National Leadership Council representative Mark Spangler, who attended the July national meeting in Portland, ME, reported that TU now has 125,000 members and 220 national staff. He attended a conservation tour on a recovery program for Atlantic salmon, which is failing; four dams need to be removed before the effort can succeed.

- Sean Fagan, director of the John Thurman Smoky Mountains Trout Adventure Camp, said there were more than 40 applicants for this year's camp, which was held June 20-25. Fourteen were accepted, including three girls; six of the campers were sponsored by TU chapters. For the first time this year, overnight counselors this year were from Maryville College, aided by junior counselors; they worked out very well. Three campers left early—two were ill, one was unhappy. There were no 12-year-olds, and the camp probably will not accept 12-year-olds in future, although the application form will not change.
- Chapter leaders' reports began with Jerry Whitted, Cherokee Chapter, who said participation in activities has fallen due to the advanced age of many members; emails are being sent twice monthly inviting younger people to get involved. Plans are to reach out to local organizations such as scouts and Boys and Girls Clubs. The chapter does fly tying at youth camps, and is considering fly tying for adult camps. Cherokee is making use of the events calendar at tu.org. Robert Prytula of Appalachian Chapter suggested that Cherokee contact area radio stations to help promote activities.
- Steve Brown, Clinch River Chapter, said fly casting instruction was under way that day at Norris Dam State Park, where the chapter now meets. Fly tying programs also are held there. Weather canceled this year's Big Clinch River Cleanup and a TU Service Partnership trip, but the chapter continues to promote TU to service members and first responders. Twenty women attended a fishing program at a pond in the spring, and a Women on the Water program on the Clinch is scheduled for September. A fishing event on a private stream is planned for Casting for Recovery volunteers, and chapter members are invited to a September weekend cookout and fishing event.
- Bob Bishop, Little River Chapter, said the chapter has a cleanup in the Smokies planned for September and a Pistol Creek cleanup in December. Rain washed out three of this summer's five planned water samplings, and postponed the chapter's annual river cookout. Starting in April, members have been surveying stream barriers (culverts) blocking movement of organisms on the TN side of the Smokies; this effort will expand to four teams in October and finish in late spring 2023. Little River has 10 to 13 Trout in the Classroom tanks. An online auction in the fall, using the TU Online Fundraising Platform, will raise money for fisheries in Great Smoky Mountains National Park.
- Shane Boyd, Hiwassee Chapter, said members continue to teach Fly Fishing 101 and take Gold Star families fishing. The chapter is working with Boy Scouts—a chapter member is a scoutmaster, and the chapter reached out to the council; other troops responded. A women's fly fishing class is sponsored by Miss Mayfly waders, and a free women's retreat is set for November. The chapter is working on invasive plant removal and is considering organizing a fall trout camp.
- Ryan Turgeon, Overmountain Chapter, said members have been doing stream sampling with TWRA. The chapter offers a women's event, a cleanup, and a fundraising banquet that includes an online auction using the TU online site. The chapter has been working on the trout habitat improvement project funded by a \$9,509 grant last year from the TN Conservation Grant Program, adding wood to trout streams. Volunteers also monitor temperatures in the Watauga and South Holston rivers, and are involved in a fencing project to keep cattle out of Hampton Creek, where the state wants to add a cattle watering system.
- Steve Fry, Appalachian Chapter, said the TN Aquarium Conservation Institute raised 50% more

Southern Appalachian Brook Trout this year than expected—1,300 instead of 800. Three creeks have two generations of the trout now. Later in August the chapter will test a stream barrier to see if rainbows can get around it. The chapter has been having attendance issues, so the plan is to buy prizes such as rods; every time people attend a meeting, they get tickets for a rod drawing. If they bring a new person, they get a ticket for a waders drawing.

- Jeff Wright, TU's Southeast volunteer coordinator, reported on the Wolf Creek Aquatic Organism Passage project, funded in part by a \$10,000 grant from the TN Conservation Grant Program. The project started this summer; the stream part is finished, but the new bridge has been delayed because of cost increases. An event is being planned this fall or next spring to thank the people who helped with the project.
- Frances Oates, committee chair for the TN Conservation Grant Program, reported that four applications had been reviewed by the committee on Aug. 2. Funding was approved as follows: Appalachian Chapter, "Reintroduction of Southern Appalachian Brook Trout into the North River watershed," \$12,062; Hiwassee Chapter, "Evaluating brook trout distribution and reintroduction potential in southeast Tennessee," \$43,725; Tennessee Council, "Improving native and wild trout habitat through strategic wood addition," \$10,000. Final decision was delayed\* on part of a \$9,600 request from Music City Chapter until more details were received about plans for a film and podcast to "inform public about the Caney Fork water control manual," but \$2,000 was approved to buy parts for the chapter's dissolved oxygen sensors.
- \* Music City submitted its revision on August 31, an entirely new proposal, "U.S. Army Corps Handshake Partnership Agreement: Moody Boat Ramp Access Improvement," \$5,000. The grant committee reviewed it individually and voted by email to approve it.
- Dates were set for upcoming meetings, with the fall meeting set for Oct. 29 in northeast Tennessee and the Coldwater/winter meeting set for Jan. 28, possibly at the TN Aquarium Conservation Institute in Chattanooga.

The meeting adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Frances Oates, Past Chair

Treasurer's Report, Summer 2022

Bill Fuson

Account	Book Balance (Reconciled)	Pending/ Outstanding	Committed	Net Available
License Plate Account	158,939.35		75,725	83,214.35
Operating Account	17,420.31	250		17,170.31
TIC Account	16,893.51			16,893.51
Thurman Trout Camp	6,669.54	410	1,000	5,259.54

License Plate Account – Grants Committee met, reviewed and approved four (4) grants totaling \$65,725. The Little River Grant 2021 for Trout mapping has \$10,000 remaining unfunded.

License Plate revenue year-to-date is \$50,190.00. I expect two (2) additional distributions from the State in this fiscal year – tracking to exceed \$100,000 in revenue for the first since inception.

Operating Account – I expect to receive the TU Membership Rebate this month (+/- \$6,000.00). We have received the Travel Reimbursement (\$1,250) from TU for NLC Rep travel to the Annual Meeting.

I do have a change/add to this year's budget due to IRS Rules requiring 990-EZ(s) be filed electronically – can no longer file paper forms for charitable organizations; Required to have an ERO (Electronic Return Originator) file the return. The accounting firm of Carr, Riggs & Ingram prepared and filed the Council's return this year.

Total General & Administration expenses (this year-to-date) are \$3,928.

Sean Fagan, Mike Givney and I have started working on Trout Camp and Trout-in-the-Classroom budgets for next year.