



DNJ photo by Seth Dana

A rescue-team diver prepares to search the water at Nice Mill Dam for the body of a drowning victim Monday night. The body of Charles Ray Burke was pulled from the river at 11 p.m.

Smyrna man drowns at Nice Mill

Rescuers pull body from river after three-hour search

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Avid swimmer Charles Ray Burke drowned Monday after slipping into the Stones River at Nice Mill Dam, tumbling into a strong current of water.

"This was such a shock," said his mother, Mary Burke of Smyrna. "I pray that he didn't suffer."

County divers pulled Burke's body out of the lower dam area about 11 p.m. Monday after a three-

hour search of the popular recreation area off Sulphur Springs Road between Smyrna and Murfreesboro.

Burke, 35, a deli manager at Smyrna Wal-Mart, took two neighborhood children ages 14 and 15 to the dam to play earlier in the evening. When he toppled into the water from a rock wall stretching halfway across the river, the 14-year-old girl screamed, drawing the attention of a fisherman who called 911.

Deputies and divers searched for the man, who moved in with his mother to take care of his father before he died in 2003.

Paramedic Wendy Lampley, a diver on the rescue team, located Burke's body about 50 yards from
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Man drowns

Charles Ray Burke of Sam Davis Road drowned Monday at Nice Mill Dam.

