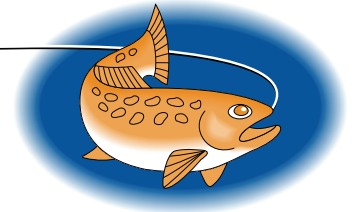


# TROUTLINE



www.nvatu.org • The Newsletter of the Northern Virginia Chapter of Trout Unlimited • October, November, December 2019

## MONTHLY MEETINGS



### DETAILS

**October 3, 2019**  
**November 7, 2019**  
**December 5, 2019**

**6:45 p.m.** Fly tying demonstration  
**7:30 p.m.** Chapter meeting

### WHERE

Flame Room of Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center Street, SE, Vienna

### GETTING THERE

Chain Bridge Road (123) becomes Maple Avenue in Vienna. Turn south on Center Street. Continue on Center Street past the athletic field on the left; note the fire station on the left at the intersection with Cherry Street. Turn left on Cherry Street and park behind the building. Go in the side door at the corner of the building and proceed up the stairs to the meeting room.

### NOVEMBER

**2:** Fish with a Member to Hughes River (VA)  
**7:** Members Meeting  
**14:** Board Meeting

**CONTINUED on Page 6**

## WHAT'S COMING OFF

**November Speaker: Russ Short**

# Update on Road Salt Management Project

**D**id you know that one teaspoon of salt can pollute five gallons of water? That's notable because runoff from salt and other deicing materials used on roads in winter has been polluting freshwater rivers and streams nationwide for years. The Environmental Protection Agency cited Virginia for violation of water quality criteria on Accotink Creek, which was directly related to application of road salt.  
A Stakeholder



Advisory Committee (SAC) has been working with Virginia's Department of Environmental Quality's Salt Management Strategy Development to develop a Salt Management Strategy (SaMS) since January 2018. The draft SaMS will be finalized in 2020. Russ Short, SAC representative for NVATU, will provide an update on the progress of the six working groups within the SAC at our November meeting.

**December Speaker: Dusty Wissmath**

# Fly-Fishing the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem

**I**f fishing the streams in Yellowstone NP and the southwestern Montana area is on your gotta-do list, you gotta hear Dusty Wissmath, our December speaker. Dusty, who manages the TCO Fly Shop in Boiling Springs, Pa., will talk about his experiences on the rivers in the tri-state corner of Wyoming, Montana and Idaho.

Dusty grew up in Missouri, started fly fishing when he was eight years old, and spent his formative years highly distracted by the sport. He began guiding and teaching fly-fishing in the early seventies while working on a degree in Wildlife Biology at the University of Wyoming. Living in



Jackson after dropping out of law school, he tied commercially for High Country Flies and guided the Snake, Green and New Fork Rivers and in Yellowstone National Park.

In 1996 he founded the Dusty Wissmath Fly Fishing School & Guide Service in the hills near Mercersburg, Pa. He heads the Orvis Fly Fishing School in Boiling Springs, is an instructor at the

Wulff School of Fly Fishing and served as the lead instructor at L.L. Bean's Fly Fishing School in Virginia. When not on or near the water, Dusty can be found chasing grouse and woodcock with Jim the Wonder Dog.

October Speaker RECAP: Gene Howson

# Guiding for Trout on the Gunpowder River System

**G**ene Howson, who guides out of the Backwater Angler shop in Parkton, Md., gave attendees at our October meeting an in-depth look at the Gunpowder River system, including detailed information on hatches, insect life, management, access spots, and, of course, fishing.

The Gunpowder Falls tailwater is a renowned trout fishery in

Baltimore County, Maryland, known for a strong population of wild brown trout within picturesque forested scenery. Throughout the 18 miles from Prettyboy dam to Loch Raven there are several diverse water types for the fly angler.

Gene began fly-fishing targeting trout and grayling growing up in Yorkshire, England. After he moved to Maryland, the

Gunpowder became his home away from home.

When both travelling and living across the USA, the UK and Peru, his fly rod is always at hand. With a background in Ecology & teaching, for the past four years Gene has dedicated his time to fly fishing & helping anglers of all abilities improve their game on the river.



## Scout, Venture Adult Leader Event

### POWDER HORN 2019

On Sunday, August 25, four members of the Northern Virginia Chapter of Trout Unlimited supported a Boy Scout National Capital Area Council program called **Powder Horn 2019**, at Camp St Charles, Newburg, Md. This annual three-day resource course is designed to introduce Scouting's adult leaders to exciting program possibilities using a variety of resources. Its purpose is to educate youth Venture and adult Scouting leaders about outdoor programs like fly fishing, to connect them to resources to deliver those skills, and to get them enthused about delivering those skills in an exciting,



challenging way to youth.

We were proud to introduce fly fishing to more than 48 adult scout leaders by giving them a fly casting lessons, showing them how to tie flies and lead them in a discussion where we provided an overview of TU and why it is a great organization to consider. We conducted eight individual sessions throughout the day.

In addition, the Scout leaders were given various fly fishing resources in the Virginia, Maryland and DC area.

The goal for the participants was to leave the Powder Horn course with a list of ideas, contacts and resources to help these scout leaders develop and enhance their own fly fishing program. The resources included

lists of local fly shops, fly fishing festivals, Trout Unlimited programs, Tidal Potomac Fly Rodders' events, and the Boy Scout Fly Fishing Merit Badge program, to name a few.

The TU portion of event was coordinated by Tom Roberts, with assistance from: Bill Errico, Dan Cunningham, and Mike Thomson.

We were able to expose Scout and Venture program leaders to TU, fly tying and casting. There was significant interest, especially by the Venture leaders, which will hopefully result in a number of "Merit Badge" programs down the road.

**Fish On!**

## Volunteers Needed for Stream Monitoring

### MONITORING

Fellow NVATU Members, want to better get to know the bugs that you imitate? Becoming a monitor can up your game.

The Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District's (NVSWCD) website is: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov>

### v/soil-water-conservation/volunteer-stream-monitoring.

Reach out to Ashley Palmer, Conservation Education Specialist, the point of contact, at: [ashley.palmer@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:ashley.palmer@fairfaxcounty.gov); 703-324-1423, for details. For Reston events Will Peterson or Garrett Stewart are the points of contact with Reston Association.

For those wishing formal certification either Ashley or Will/Garret can assist.

The NVSWCD also holds an annual workshop in concert with Prince William County counterparts, and the Isaac Walton League.

This year's event was just held,

but it is normally in the August-September time frame.

For folks to whom stream monitoring is new, volunteers screen the water then lay the screen on a table to count the different types of bugs. The data helps us track changes and ultimately protect streams.

## FISH WITH A MEMBER

### Trips to Trout Streams in Virginia

**When:** First Saturdays in November and December  
**Depart:** 8 am  
**Return:** Whenever  
**Meet:** Dick's Fair Lakes parking lot

#### THESE TRIPS WILL BE TO:

**November**  
The Hughes River in the Shenandoah National Park

**December**  
White Oak Canyon



(Robinson River) also in the Park  
Light rods, good boots and hipsters/waist high waders work best. Best flies will be beetles, ants, olive caddis and #18 parachute Adams.

Bring a lunch and some water to carry on the hike. Travel light!  
If you don't see an e-blast two days prior, email me at [ppafish@hotmail.com](mailto:ppafish@hotmail.com) or call 703-860-0862

**Tight Lines, George Paine**

## Your Opportunity to Preserve, Protect and Restore

### CONEWAGO CREEK

A unique opportunity has presented itself to all NVATU members to make a perpetual difference in trout stream access.

Recently the local landowner granted access to his property in perpetuity to the Conewago Creek fly fish only catch and release (FFCRO) section. Knouse Foods, which owns the property upstream between Russell Tavern Road and the FFCRO section, wishes to dispose of its property.

A Task Force of Pennsylvania state, county and civic organizations has been assembled to work through an agreement with Knouse Foods to protect access to this property along the upper reaches of Conewago Creek.

Here is your opportunity to take a role in preserving, protecting and restoring trout stream access. For 37 years Adams County and Northern Virginia Trout Unlimited chapters have been joint stewards of Conewago Creek. Working together we can make a significant lasting difference. Your backing and support of NVATUs participation in this Task Force will provide a stronger preserve, protect and restore voice in the upcoming discussions.

Discussions are in the early stages. Watch for updates on how you can help protect this access.

The below link provides access to an article about Conewago Creek land preservation (PDF) written by Adams County TU.  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/19\\_zWNyQbeVjVYloDdAVa3HzD-xg\\_qae2/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/19_zWNyQbeVjVYloDdAVa3HzD-xg_qae2/view?usp=sharing)



OCTOBER FLY OF THE MONTH

Griffith Gnat



October Fly of the Month to be demonstrated by John Hadley. The Griffith Gnat is a must have addition to your fly

box for winter fishing. The fly imitates an adult midge or a cluster of midges.

**Originator:** George Griffith, one of the founding fathers of Trout Unlimited.

TECHNIQUES

- ▶ Methods of making peacock herl bodies
- ▶ Palmer hackle

RECIPE

**Hook:** Standard 1X Dry, sizes

14 – 22, TMC 100 or 101

**Thread:** Black or Olive, 6/0, 8/0  
**Rib:** Fine gold or copper wire, optional but helps bullet proof the wraps of peacock herl and hackle

**Body:** Peacock Herl – three or four herls, snap weak tips off strands

**Hackle:** Grizzly - palmered

FISHING TIP

This is my best winter fly for brook trout on the Shenandoah National Park streams. Please

stay off the loose gravel in the streams which may contain eggs of future brook trout from mid-October until March. Cast to the head of a small pool, mend to prevent drag, and dead drift the length of the pool. On a large pool, cast first to the lip, then the sides, in front of boulders, and over submerged ledge/shelf rock formations, and finally to the head of the pool on either side of the plunging water inflow and in the back eddies. Keep the slack out of your line and standby for a spectacular strike.

NOVEMBER FLY OF THE MONTH

Minibugger



November pattern to be demonstrated by John Hadley is the Minibugger.

**Originator:** Lance Putney, Arlington, VA. Bring your vise, thread and bobbin, other materials will be provided to tie a fly or two.

This is my favorite “go to nymph” for stocked trout, pan fish, and small mouth bass. It is basically a small bead-head

Wooly Bugger without palmered hackle. The standard pattern that was given to me on Four Mile Run in Arlington VA in 2002 had a gold bead head, olive chenille body and a black marabou tail with some Krystal-flash, but I’ve had good luck with an all-white version and an all-black version too. I think the smaller size, which probably is seen by the trout as a crayfish, leech or minnow, when used on smaller streams doesn’t scare the trout as much as a big Wooly Bugger. Who knows what the trout really thinks but this fly really works. After not knowing who the unknown fisherman who gave me the fly was in 2002 I finally met him at Anglers Lie in October of 2007. Lance told me that his inspiration for developing this

fly was to use up some left over egg hooks from a fishing trip in Alaska. He also told me that he has also uses a bushy dubbing in various colors (drab olive works best) as the body and they work well too.

This is a very easy and quick fly to tie; so if you want to try your hand at tying a fly this is a good one to start with.

TECHNIQUES

- ▶ Fixing a bead head onto the hook
- ▶ Tying a marabou feather tail
- ▶ Using Krystal-Flash to add accent to the tail
- ▶ Using various colored chenille for a body

RECIPE

**Hook:** TMC 105 # 8, #10 or any Egg Hook

**Head:** 5/16 Gold Bead Head (can go up or down a size if you want)

**Thread:** Black 0/6

**Tail:** Black or other color Marabou and Krystal-Flash or some other synthetic material

**Body:** Olive, Black, White or any other color small chenille, can also use bushy dubbing (leave in guard hairs) in a variety of colors.

FISHING TECHNIQUE

Dead drift with an indicator then drift with short strips. If you are getting hits from fish nibbling on the tail, but no hookups, trim the tail shorter and try again.

DECEMBER FLY OF THE MONTH

Elk Hair Caddis



December pattern to be demonstrated by John Hadley: Too Simple Elk Hair Caddis. This fly was developed by the late Al Campbell. Many of his patterns and beginning through advanced fly tying lessons can be found on flyangersonline.com. There is no palmered hackle as on the

standard caddis pattern so the fly body rests lower in the water. If tied in all black it can represent a cricket and on a small hook even a midge, black stonefly or other small nondescript insect. Bring your vise, bobbin, thread and stacker; materials will be supplied.

TECHNIQUES

- ▶ Use of punch embroidery yarn for fly body (optional use single strand of black yarn or black dubbing)
- ▶ Stacking Elk Hair
- ▶ Tips on tying in an Elk Hair Wing

DECEMBER FOTM PAGE 5 ▶



# South Holston & Watauga Rivers

NVTU exploring best option to raffle or auction off a Free Float Trip at upcoming meeting

NVTU is offering a chance to win a free float trip on some of the most productive streams in the East, and to support the chapter.

**Trophy Water Guide Service**, Hampton, Tenn., has donated a two-person full day float to NVATU.

Native Brown Trout that average 16 inches and range from 12 to 24+ inches, frequently caught on small zebra midges or split wing nymphs, and sometimes on dry flies like caddis or sulphurs. Sound interesting? Bring your 4 or 5 wt. with long 5x

or 6x leaders to Bristol or Elizabethton, Tenn. The South Holston in Bristol is a tailwater fed by Holston Lake, with water flows and temperatures regulated to sustain 8,000 trout per mile. The Watauga in Elizabethton is also a tailwater, with similar features, and just as many trout.

Some of our NVATU members fished these rivers in April and July. Wading was an interesting experience, with 47-degree water temperatures in July on the Watauga. Float trips were the most productive at higher water levels on the South Holston

There are a good number of guides available in the area, as well as fly-fishing lodges, hotels and house rentals, some of them on the water with nice wading access.

Rhett Shroyer of Trophy Water Guide Service (<https://www.trophywaterguide.com/>) was our guide on two floats on our July trip. Both floats were outstanding, as were floats taken with Rhett and his brother Justin in April. In addition to good numbers of rainbows and browns, larger fish in the 18 to 20 inch range, like

these, were caught on every float **Now for the interesting part:** Trophy Water Guide Service We will be raffling or auctioning off the float and are presently looking at which option works best for NVATU. We plan to announce at our monthly meetings, so come to the meeting and find out how you can be the lucky winner. You will have until December 2020 to book your float.

The best time to fish either river?

**Anytime for fish like these!**

## DECEMBER FOTM

► Finish with a double half hitch

## RECIPE

**Hook:** Any standard dry fly hook # 16-12

**Tail:** None

**Body:** Punch embroidery yarn

various colors, black/green/tan/brown: or a strand of yard or dubbing

**Legs:** None

**Thread:** 6/0 - Colored to match the body

**Wing:** Elk hair. Bleached or natural, but black with a black body

## FISHING TIP

Target species are trout and small mouth bass although I've caught lots of panfish with this fly. Cast across and up stream, let drift down stream. If you see active caddis laying eggs try to mimic their action with quick strips

angling downstream or only let the fly sit for a few seconds, then lift and make another cast to land a foot or so downstream from the previous cast.

I've had particularly good success in the spring catching stocked trout with a size 16 black version of this fly.

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**Keep up with the latest chapter happenings on Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/334014474470/>



**Want to join the Northern Virginia Chapter of Trout Unlimited?**

Use this QR Code to sign up or use the following URL link to sign up online for a special offer:  
<https://gifts.tumembership.org/member/intro>

Will quickly link to the national [www.TU.org](http://www.TU.org) website to become a member for **\$1750 for your first year**. In the pull-down menu select 360-Northern Virginia and Introductory Rate.

**CONSERVATION CALENDAR**

**DECEMBER**

- 5:** Members Meeting
- 7:** Fish with a Member to White Oak Canyon (VA)
- 12:** Board Meeting

**JANUARY**

- NO MEMBER MEETING DUE TO HOLIDAY**
- 4:** Fish with a Member to Hughes River (VA) - from top
- 9:** Board Meeting

**FEBRUARY**

- 1:** Fish with a Member to Conway (VA)
- 6:** Members Meeting
- 13:** Board Meeting

Deep Creek's #1 vacation rental provider offers Alpine Dreaming and other fine homes!  
 RMLV and Alpine Dreaming are proud sponsors of the NVATU Bi-Annual Western Maryland Fly-fishing trip!  
**RMLV info: <http://rentals.deepcreek.com> (866) 544-3223**



Recycled and Recyclable



**MEMBER ALBUM**



Ralph Nappi and nice bow on South Holston May 2019 and other fine browns from the river.

**Xx: Xxx**



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**NATIONAL TU WEBSITE**

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