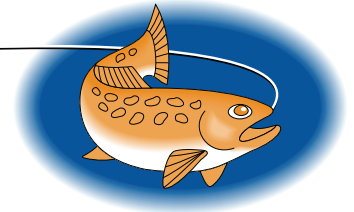


TROUTLINE



www.nvatu.org • The Newsletter of the Northern Virginia Chapter of Trout Unlimited • March 2020

MONTHLY MEETING



DETAILS

March 5, 2020

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.

MARCH

5: Members Meeting
7: Fish with a Member - Piney Branch (VA)
12: Board Meeting

APRIL

2: Members Meeting
4: Fish with a Member - Rapidan (VA)

WHAT'S COMING OFF

March Speaker: Steve Reeser

Reeser to Talk About VDGIF's Trout Management Plan

Steve Reeser has been managing Virginia's wild trout resources for more than 20 years and is currently the Regional Fisheries Manager for DGIF in Northern and Northwestern Virginia. He is an avid wild trout angler, growing up in North-Central Pennsylvania, and is an active member of the Eastern Brook Trout



Joint Venture, American Fisheries Society South Division Trout Technical Committee and the Chesapeake Bay Brook Trout Action Team.

Steve will be discussing VDGIF's newly adopted Wild Trout Management Plan. He'll talk about the Plan's development; history of DGIF wild trout management, current status of Virginia's wild trout resources, threats to wild trout, and strategies to protect and enhance wild trout resources in the Commonwealth.



Northern Virginia Trout Unlimited Volunteers Needed

Even though it's cold and cloudy, before you know it ... Spring weather will be in the air and local Northern Virginia Municipalities will be sponsoring Fishing Festivals for their citizens and especially for their youngsters during the months of March and April.

Over the past years, the Northern Virginia Trout Unlimited (NVATU) has provided support for each of these Fishing Festivals. The support consists of manning a table at each location to provide fish cleaning services and distributing Trout Unlimited brochures and information. The chapter also provides "Stream Walkers," who travel up and down the stocked waters to help amateurs get their rigs in the water, bait hooks, net catches, untangle rig birds nests, pull rigs out of trees, and generally provide expert help.

Our volunteers assume the rank "Master Fisher Person," and are looked upon with awe by the citizen participants. Volunteers do require a modicum of diplomatic skill to persuade ambitious amateur anglers that they don't really need a 12 foot surf rod to fish a seven foot wide stream; that a size four hook may be just a little too big for a 12 inch rainbow, and that an overly excited child can't really eat a creek chub at home.

Volunteering for these Municipal Fishing Festivals is actually a lot of fun. Volunteers leave with a sense of pride, a renewed hope in the younger generation. The local Fishing Festivals have become so popular that they are expanding each and every year to new locations. Last year, volunteers were stretched so thin that we actually missed participating in one of the Festivals.

If you want to have some fun and help spread the pleasure and enjoyment of fishing to new people, please consider volunteering. The only equipment volunteers need are a pair of boots, a small knife, some nippers, and knowledge of the overhand knot.

Please contact George Paine at 703-986-0862 (ppafish@hotmail.com) or John Davey at 703-281-5293 (jr.davey@verizon.net) to indicate an interest in these worthwhile efforts.

-March 21: Vienna

-March 28: Herndon

-Apr 4: Reston and Fairfax City (same day)

Stocking volunteers will also be needed a day or two in advance of the events.

Check the website calendar

www.nvatu.org/calendar for details as we get closer.

MARCH FLY OF THE MONTH

Shad Dart



John Hadley will demonstrate the Shad Dart at the March meeting. Bring your vise, thread and bobbin. Other materials will be provided to tie a fly or two.

Originator: Newell Steele, Angler's Lie. Newell showed me this fly when I first went on a NVATU chapter's "Fish with a Member" trip for Shad on the Rappahannock River several

years ago and I caught lots of Shad with this fly. It is an easy, simple and fast fly to tie. It can be tied with white or any other color chenille. It's a good fly for beginner fly tiers.

TECHNIQUES

- ▶ Attach a cone head
- ▶ Use slinky fiber and holographic fiber for a tail
- ▶ Attach various color chenille bodies

RECIPE

Hook: TMC 3769, TMC 3761 (Sproat Bend), Orvis 122J or any 2X Long hook
Thread: White 3/0 or 6/0, some use mono-thread
Head: Red Cone 3/16" or ¼"

inch. Or use other colors: brass, pink

Tail: White Slinky Fiber, craft fur or other synthetic fiber, Silver/Gold Holographic Fly Fiber – four to eight strands on each side (Optional: Flashabo or Krystal Flash)

Body: Pearl/White Speckled Chenille or other colors: light green

FISHING TIP

I start with the original white Shad Dart but if it is not working I try another color. In my limited Shad fishing experience I've found Shad fishing is best in the early morning, late afternoon or on a cloudy day and worst on a bright sunny day.

Cast out about 45 degrees out from straight down stream and let the fly sink and drift to dead downstream then strip in the line. Add a few yards with following casts, and then add weight to get deeper if necessary.

In wadeable water I fish with a floating line and a sinking tippet. From a boat, in deeper water, I fish with a sinking line. The fish run in schools so if fishing from an anchored boat and other boats are catching fish but you aren't you need to up anchor, move a few yards to one side or the other, and try again until you get over a school and start catching fish. I like using a seven-weight rod the best.



A new sign marking the Conewago Creek Zigler Mill road entrance has been installed.



Stream Study Volunteers Needed

Sampling Dates: April 24-26

Through the combined effort of stream sampling volunteers from the Virginia Council of Trout Unlimited and scientists at the University of Virginia, the 2020 Virginia Trout Stream Sensitivity Study (VTSSS) will be the fourth regional 'decadal' survey (prior surveys in 1987,

2000, and 2010) of water quality for the majority (450 plus) of native Brook Trout streams in Virginia. These surveys are designed to track the effects of acid deposition and the data are used by state and federal managers and regulators to make informed resource management decisions to protect cold-water trout habitat.

NVATU has been assigned 22 sites in support of this year's VTSSS sampling program. Many volunteers are needed to successfully complete the program. A signup sheet, along with the location maps, photographs and information packets will be available at the February, March and April chapter meetings.

Russ Short, our coordinator, will attend a training session February 15 to receive the latest up to date information and guidance.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, contact Russ at **770-598-0762** or email at: **ras749@bellsouth.net**.