



TROUTLINE

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED

JULY/AUGUST 2022

CALENDAR

July

No Member Meeting

14 July

7:30 Board Meeting
In-Person at CRF in
Sterling & Virtual

August

4 August

7:30 In-Person Member
Meeting

The Chapter Meeting will
be held in-person at the
Vienna Volunteer Fire
Department:

400 Center Street S.
Vienna, VA 22180

11 August

7:30 Virtual Board
Meeting

September

1 September

7:30 Virtual Member
Meeting

8 September

7:30 Virtual Board
Meeting

October

6 October

7:30 In-Person Member
Meeting

13 October

7:30 Virtual Board
Meeting

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

Over the past few months, I've had the chance to get out fishing a few times. The opportunities available to us within a reasonable drive are many and varied. There was the day fishing for brookies up in the park, a day fishing for shad (and whatever else came along) on the Rappahannock in Fredericksburg, a nice long day on the Yellow Breeches in Pennsylvania and a nice long day on the Gunpowder in Maryland.

All those locations are under two hours for many of us. Some of the places I learned about from the NVATU Stream Guide to Trout Fishing and others by word of mouth from folks at chapter meetings or Fish With A Member (FWAM) trips. I got to use a variety of gear, my 3-weight, my 5-weight and my 7-weight switch rod. There were chances to swing streamers, drift nymphs and catch a

few with dry flies when a hatch occurred. At some of the locations there was only a short walk from the car and on some of the streams I put in a couple of miles of hiking and fishing. I'm looking forward to my next chance to get out and hopefully try a new location I find in our Stream Guide.

There were also a couple of days when I helped with volunteer activities for the chapter. I helped with our inaugural Stream Girls event. There was a stream clean up on the Accotink, working with Friends of the Accotink. I also joined George Paine and Eric Gregory at the Vienna Green Expo where we explained Trout Unlimited to attendees that stopped by our table. Speaking of volunteering, in our last annual report for fiscal year 2022 NVATU had over 2,200 total volunteer hours across all of our activities.

Thank you to everyone that was able to help.



There have been several opportunities to reach out to our legislators and show your support for protecting watersheds, from Bristol Bay in Alaska to our local water here in Virginia. The campaigns typically are set up to make it easy. I hope many of you took a few minutes and did so.

I hope to see a lot of you at the chapter meeting in the Vienna Volunteer Firehouse in August. We do not hold a chapter meeting in July.

-- Tony Hill

NEW MEMBERS

April 2022

Alex Buellesbach	Mc Lean
Greg Chambers	Lorton
Naomi Donnelley	Arlington
Scott Gotcher	Falls Church
Rich Green	Ashburn
Betty Hall	Dahlgren
Theresa Hearn	Mc Lean
Jessica Michie	Hamilton
Ethan Rhoad	Arlington
Kristen Schultz	Clifton
Stephen Walters	Dumfries

May 2022

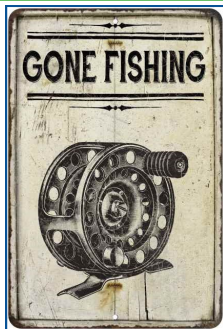
Sebastian Aguilar	Woodbridge
Carl Ayers	Sterling
Timothy Cague	Hamilton
Jason Cave	Vienna
Derek Cooper	Leesburg
Allan Edwards	Lovettsville
Sean Ely	Arlington
Garland Faist	Chantilly
Joseph Fearn	Ashburn
Mark Fowler	Arlington
Jennifer Gaillard	Alexandria
Kenneth Gandola	Alexandria
Edward A. Gutierrez	Vienna
Joe Hong	Vienna
Robert Jenkins	Woodbridge
Donna Kuroda	Herndon
Jeff Kwitowski	Herndon
Robert Luke	Sterling

Michael Mulkey	Arlington
Mo Musau	Ashburn
Kevin Natz	Mclean
Michael Parish	Ashburn
Nathan Patten	Leesburg
Christopher Pollard	Mc Lean
David Salzer	Great Falls
Sean Scott	Clifton
Scott Shannon	Reston
Kristen Shaw	Arlington
Andrew Showalter	Alexandria
Blair Stewart	Arlington
Rick Stewart	Dumfries
John Walsh	Vienna
Harris Wesh	Woodbridge
Steven Williams	King George
James R. Wilson	Alexandria
FlyFisher Pro Napier	New Zealand

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

JULY SPEAKER

No Member Meeting in July!



AUGUST SPEAKER

In-Person meeting!

This will be the first in-person meeting since the February 2020. We will kick things off at 6:30 with fly tying. We will cover some business starting at 7:30 and then turn the meeting over to the members to share your fishing stories and pictures with the other members. If you would like to participate in the Show-and-Tell, please bring a thumb drive with your pictures to the meeting we will put them up on the big screen. This format allows us to meet new fishing buddies. You'll be able to spend time connecting, and planning fishing trips

July Board Meeting and Summer Release of "Let It Fly" Lager



The July Board meeting will be held on Thursday, the 14th starting at 7:30 p.m. at Crooked Run Fermentation (22455 Davis Dr Suite 120, Sterling, VA 20164) and will coincide with the summer release of "Let It Fly" lager. All are welcome to attend. And all are encouraged to support the Chapter and this TU Business Partner by purchasing this collaboration beer; proceeds from the sale go directly to the Chapter.

-- Scott Allen

Both CRF locations (Sterling and Leesburg) offer 15% off purchases to TU members.

[Crooked Run Fermentation](#)

FLY OF THE MONTH [FLY RECIPES AND PHOTOS BY JOHN HADLEY]

July/August: Griffiths Gnat



John Hadley will demonstrate tying this fly during the August in-person meeting starting at 6:30. John will bring along a couple extra vices and tools so those wanting to try to tie a fly can quickly learn on an easy to tie fly. Others, bring your tying equipment and black thread; and I'll bring the tying material.

Originator:

George Griffith, one of the founding fathers of Trout Unlimited.

A must have addition to your fly box and one I use most for winter fishing. The fly imitates an adult midge or a cluster of midges.

Techniques and materials to be learned:

- * 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 pieces of herl, snap weak tips off strands

Hackle: Grizzly - palmered

Tying Tips:

- * Lay down tight wraps of thread from the head to the hook bend, tie in optional gold or copper wire
- * Tie in Grizzly hackle at the bend with the bottom, dull, concave curve side of the hackle facing forward so that the individual barbs curve forward when the hackle is wrapped around the shaft. After wrapping the peacock herl wrap the hackle with about 1/16" separation between wraps; basically, following the wraps of the bundled peacock herl.
- * To help "bullet proof" the peacock herl

loosely wrap the bundle of herl with three or four wraps of thread and then pull the wrapped herl over the top of the hook and work forward to just one eye width of the eye, tie off and cut off excess (save herl if it is long enough to tie another fly)

- * Counter wrap (opposite direction from the herl wraps) the gold or copper wire from the bend forward to one eye width from the eye, tie off, and wrap head then tie off with a whip finish or two half-hitches.

- * Tying videos: Google search or go to <https://howtoflyfish.orvis.com/fly-tying-videos/dry-flies/730-griffiths-gnat>

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, to the sides, in front of boulders, and over submerged ledge/shelf rock formations, and then finally to the head of the pool on either side of the plunging water inflow and in the back eddies.

FISH WITH A MEMBER

JULY

Rapidan River - Virginia

When: July 2

Depart: 8 a.m.

Return: Whenever

Meet: Starbucks in Fair Lakes Shopping Center ([map](#))

This will be a **smallmouth bass** trip to the lower Rapidan River, above where it joins the Rappahannock. We will, stream conditions permitting, fish Ely's Ford.

Wet wading is recommended as it will keep you a lot cooler and temps will be near 90.

Bring plenty of water.

You can almost always get away with a short fly rod, but when there is room to cast (and mend line) but a longer rod is a significant advantage. Mike Daly, who wrote the core for this updated article suggested a long rod in the six to eight weight range.

According to Mike: "I typically start with flies on hooks sized #6 or #8. I have a few favorite patterns on #2 and #4 hooks, which are heavily weighted. If you try to cast some of this big stuff on a light trout rod you won't get much distance, and the hook will likely end up in your ear.

The second factor contributing to rod choice is the depth and flow of the water. If the water is up and the fish are deep, it can take a lot of weight to get your fly down to where

the fish are. Most smallmouth fishing is done beneath the surface. This means a variety of sinking or floating/sinking lines can be useful. A full floater is easier to use if the water is not too deep.

With a floating line, I usually start with a leader about the length of the rod. Low, clear water, and spooky fish might cause me to lengthen the leader a few feet. With sinking or sink tip lines I use a short leader, anywhere from three to six feet, usually just one section.

For smallmouth I would start with an eight pound tippet and go down to six if conditions were difficult. Take along tippet from 0X to 4X. Start with 3X if you are using something like a #6 or #8 fly. As to flies, I like the action of a wiggle tail. On my list of streamers is a Zonker, and then a Clouser Minnow. The latter is perhaps the classic modern smallmouth pattern. Take something to imitate a hellgrammite, either a realistic pattern or a black Woolly Bugger."

CAUTIONS: The steep boat ramp can be extremely slippery. Even with wading shoes on, a couple of members have come down hard. Also, check the water depth as you step off the bank. There are a couple of deep holes that can surprise you.

-- George Paine

AUGUST

Rapidan-Rappahannock Rivers- Virginia

When: August 6

Depart: 8:00 a.m.

Return: Whenever

Meet: Starbucks at Fair Lakes Shopping Center ([map](#))

This trip will be to the lower Rapidan or Rappahannock River. **Bring plenty of water.**

We'll pause enroute at Kelly's Ford on the Rappahannock and see if the water is low enough to wade. There are two possible access points. If it's not, we'll drive down to Ely's Ford (below on the Rapidan).

The quarry will be smallmouth bass. Wet wading is recommended as it will keep you a lot cooler and temps will be near 90. Some of these sites require cautious wading due to irregular bottoms, as well as silt and algae.

You can almost always get away with a short fly rod, but when there is room to cast (and mend line) a longer rod is a significant advantage. I like a long 6 weight rod. A heavy rod allows you to toss heavy streamers and sinking leaders. Stay flexible, however, and carry a floating leader. In low water, top water bugs such as a Parachute Madam X work well as well as nymph imitations, my favorite being a Zug Bug.

-- George Paine

COMMUNITY—CONSERVATION—EDUCATION

Stream Monitoring Certification

Two chapter members: Bob Parker and Scott Allen, recently received their Stream Monitoring Certification.

On April 11th, Bob Speegle, George Paine, Bob Parker, and Scott Allen met Benjamin Rhoades, of the Reston Association, to perform stream monitoring for Snakeden Branch in Reston. Both Bob and Scott previously completed the on-line portion of the training and Benjamin conducted the field portion of the certification.

Certification is conducted via the Save Our Streams (SOS) Program under the direction of the Isaac Walton League. Certification requires attendance at two presentations (both available on-line or in-person). The presentations are used to prepare for an on-line macroinvertebrate ID exam. Once the ID exam is complete, an in-person field session is required to practice and demonstrate the sampling protocol.

A critical component of NVATU's education program is assessing the health of our local streams. One approach to this assessment is macroinvertebrate sampling that is typically done twice each year. Whether you are a biologist with macroinvertebrate knowledge or a flyfisher interested in knowing what that fly at the end of your line is supposed to imitate, please join us as a volunteer and we will help you learn about the creatures in our streams. If you are interested in becoming certified here is a link with more information: <https://www.iwla.org/water/stream-monitoring>.



Bob Speegle, George Paine, Scott Allen, & Bob Parker counting all the stream critters

-- Scott Allen

Stream Girls Event

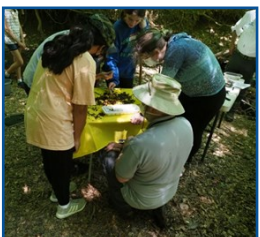
On June 5, 2022, Northern Virginia Trout Unlimited (NVATU) held its inaugural Trout Unlimited Stream Girls event. Stream Girls is a Trout Unlimited program held in conjunction with the Girl Scouts of America to teach girl scouts about conservation, stream ecology, fly fishing, and fly tying. Detailed information on the Stream Girls program can be found at www.tu.org/streamgirls. Although the program is actively supported by chapters in other regions of the country, the NVATU event is the first one held in the metropolitan D.C. region. The three participating scout troops from the Vienna area were the first to complete the program and receive the Stream Girls patch. The event was held at the Bureau of Land Management's field station known as Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area where activity stations were established at a pond, Thompson Creek, and the park headquarters.



The program was a one-day event with twenty-seven adults including parents, park officials, NVATU volunteers, and scout leaders and twenty scouts in their early teens. The scouts were divided into three groups which rotated through five stations comprised of fly tying, macroinvertebrate sampling, stream walk,

fly casting, and fishing. The scouts spent approximately one hour at each of the stations. They were given a Stream Girls Field Notebook in which they documented each activity as a scientist would experience it and then were asked to reflect on what they observed from an artistic point of view. The scouts completed the relevant sections of the workbook as they circulated through the stations.

The stream walk was an opportunity to explore the ecology of the stream environment. Scouts explored indicators of the health of the stream, looked at possible sources of pollution, and talked about how nature impacts the stream conditions. The scouts explored the sights and sounds of animals, fish, and plants as they walked along the stream.

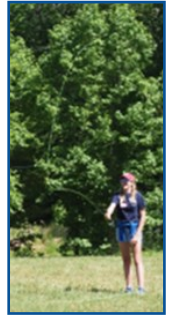


Macroinvertebrate sampling gave the scouts an opportunity to learn firsthand what lives in the local streams. They helped collect macroinvertebrates, sort them into types and then they had to apply a scientific method to identify them. The macroinvertebrates included snails, beetles, True fly, two types of worms, two types of

caddis flies, dragon fly nymphs, and a damselfly emerger. In addition to the macroinvertebrates, the scouts found a number of

salamanders and crayfish. The scouts learned about pollution tolerant and intolerant types of macroinvertebrates and how the types and numbers of bugs found in a stream reflects the overall health of that stream. Scouts then learned about how the types of bugs found in the stream relates to the types of flies that fishermen use to catch fish.

Fly tying gave the scouts an opportunity to try their hand at mastering one of the most productive fishing flies ever created, the Woolly Bugger. The scouts not only successfully tied this fly but were then able to use it during the fishing session.



Prior to the fishing session however, the scouts learned to fly cast. The three groups of scouts rotated through the casting lesson learning the basic overhand casting technique from a certified casting instructor.

Finally, it was time to fish. Scouts tried their hand at spin fishing as well as fly casting in the pond. Scout volunteers helped each scout apply what they had learned to the art of fly fishing.



The event took significant effort to coordinate and execute but everyone involved seemed to have a great time and NVATU will refine the program and plan similar future events. For information on this Stream Girls event, if you would like to volunteer for a future event or if you know a cadet level Girl Scout troop who might be interested, please contact bparker@novatu.org.

-- Bob Parker

Conewago Creek Update

This Fall, our Northern Virginia TU Chapter is planning to join our friends at the Adams County (Pennsylvania) TU Chapter in celebration of 40 years in partnership on Conewago Creek. The exact date of the celebration is still fluid because we're working to install a new parking lot and access road which will make the creek more readily accessible for visitors.



By my estimate, a couple dozen of our members travel up to Conewago Creek fairly regularly and are enjoying the connections to other excellent Pennsylvania streams through relations formed with friendly ACTU members. If you haven't tried Pennsylvania and are looking for new water to explore, the Conewago represents not only a great place to fish but also a model of conservation success for our chapters.

The author on the Conewago, March '22

Conewago Creek Update - continued

Both ACTU and NVATU Chapters have been recognized by TU National for our partnership on the creek and we've been held up as an example of successful cross-border chapter collaboration for restoration and stocking activities. Stocking and restoration activities continue throughout the year with both chapters contributing to those efforts.

Here's a current update on the progress we continue to make as partner-chapters:

- * Purchase by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) of 58 acres surrounding a section of the catch and release fish fishing only (CROFFO) section of the Conewago.
- * PFBC and ACTU signing a 25-year lease for ACTU to manage and maintain the 58 acres.
- * The PFBC and abutting landowners Rodgers and Reevers signing ten-year agreements allowing unrestricted access for anglers through the CROFFO as well as upstream areas of the creek.
- * State and Township approval of our parking lot and access road engineering plans.

We have more to do, including obtaining donations of stone by Vulcan Materials for construction of the road and parking area and of the the parking lot and access road construction by Conewago Enterprises. I will post updates on this construction work and the 40-Year Anniversary Celebration.



A nice brown in the net! The Conewago is well stocked- trophy rainbows, browns, even goldens.

And of course, the Conewago has fish! Regrettably, the Conewago is now too warm in summer to sustain a wild trout population, but stocking in the Spring and Fall keeps the stream in top shape for anglers at all skill levels for most of the year. It's a great place to bring your family, or just come on up with fellow anglers like I do. Hope to see you on the creek and I hope you'll join us for our 40th Anniversary Celebration – expected in the Fall!

-- Bob Krieger

6th Annual 2-Fly Tournament

The 6th annual NVATU 2-Fly tournament was held on Saturday, April 23rd at Double Spur Outfitters in Star Tannery, VA. The six teams that took on the challenge were:

- Fish On--Wes Bullion / Dennis Waddell
- Just 4 Fun--Alec and Casey Peltier
- The Cutthroat--Steve Walker / Tommy Donahue
- S&H Dreamers--Guy Surian / Tony Hill
- Lord of The Flies--Chloe Abbott / Chuck Abbott
- H.P. Lovecast--Phil Squair / Daniel Squair

The water at Double Spur was dissected into six beats—four on the lower portion of the property and two on the upper portion. Each team member chose two flies that would be used for the duration of the day. Beats were randomly assigned, and the teams were sent off for the morning fishing window. The fish were not very cooperative, and all the teams struggled to catch and measure fish.

Lunch was a welcome break with Chapter Vice President Scott Allen working the grill and serving up burgers, dogs, and veggie burgers. After lunch, the beats were reassigned, and the teams headed out hoping for better luck in the afternoon. The fish, mesmerized by the beautiful, bright sunny day, were not very interested in taking what was being offered and once again the teams returned with little to show for their efforts.

Three teams were rewarded with coveted laser engraved river rocks. Third place went to NVATU president Tony Hill and his brother-in-law Guy Surian of S & H Dreamers, Second place



went to veteran fishers Wes Bullion and Dennis Waddell of Fish On, First place went to the father and daughter team: Lord of the Flies—Chuck and Chloe Abbott. Chloe landed her largest trout to date, and largest fish caught during the tournament, a nice 21-inch rainbow.

While the teams were out on the water, Fred Parmenter, who graciously sponsored a team entry, enjoyed some time on “dock” casting his hand-crafted bamboo rod and passing the time chatting with Scott.



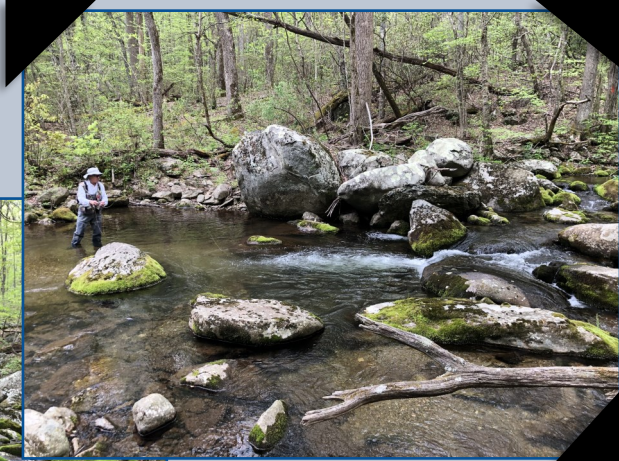
Big thanks to the participants, the organizers, and to Double Spur Outfitters for hosting. This event is tremendous fun and helps the chapter raise funds for all the great activities we support. Consider participating in next year's event.

-- Scott Allen

MEMBER PHOTO ALBUM



George Paine fishing the Upper Conway River



Pat Kerrigan fishing the Upper Conway River

MAILING ADDRESS:

Northern Virginia Chapter
Trout Unlimited
P.O. Box 3592
Oakton, VA 22124

CHAPTER WEBSITE:

www.novatu.org
contact@novatu.org

Go to the Chapter Website for information on chapter activities and to sign up for a full year of TU member benefits including: TROUT magazine, discount on travel and fishing gear, opportunities to win trips prizes, and more. Be sure to specify Chapter 360



Railey Vacations and Alpine Dreaming are proud sponsors of the Chapter's Western Maryland Fly-fishing trips

Railey Vacations, Deep Creek's #1 vacation rental provider, offers Alpine Dreaming (<https://www.deepcreek.com/vacation-rentals/alpine-dreaming>) and other fine homes!

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www.facebook.com/groups/334014474470

VA STATE TROUT UNLIMITED



WEBSITE:

www.virginiatu.org



NATIONAL TROUT UNLIMITED WEBSITE:

www.tu.org

NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED – CHAPTER LEADERS

Officers

President (FY 2021).....Tony Hill
Vice President (FY 2021).....Scott Allen
Treasurer (FY 2021)Ken Bailey
Secretary (FY 2021).....George Paine

Administration

Secondary Treasurer.....Steve Peters
Secondary Secretary.....Terry Lowe
Legal Counsel.....Victor Kernus
Financial Reviewer.....Steve Peters

Board of Directors

Board Member (FY 2019).....Kiki Galvin
Board Member (FY 2019).....Daniel Lazenby
Board Member (FY 2019).....Steve Peters
Board Member (FY 2019).....Jim Wilson
Board Member (FY 2021).....Bob Parker
Board Member (FY 2021).....Carl Jordan
Board Member (FY 2022).....Terry Lowe
Board Member (FY 2022).....Suzanne Malone
Board Member (FY 2022).....Bob Krieger
Ex-officio board member (FY2021).....Jay Lovering

Operations

Communications Chair Vacant
Newsletter Editor Jim Galligan
Secondary Newsletter Editor George Paine
Newsletter Publisher Scott Allen
Email Coordinator Carl Jordan
Webmaster Rob Snowhite
Facebook Administrator Scott Russell
Instagram Administrator Jeff Mangeno
Merchandise Marketing Chair Vacant
Membership Chair Carl Jordan
Meeting Coordinator Jim Galligan

Community Pillar

Community Chair Tony Hill
Delegate to Virginia Council Jim Wilson
Activity Development Chair Vacant
Service Partners Coordinator Eric Gregory
Women's Initiative Coordinator Kiki Galvin
Diversity Initiative Coordinator Vacant
Youth Representative Palmer Kasprowicz
Events Coordination Chair Vacant
Fund Raising Chair Gregg Rockett
Member Engagement Chair Vacant
Fish With a Member Coordinator George Paine
Western MD Trip Coordinator Vacant

Conservation Pillar

Conservation Chair Daniel Lazenby
Project Committee Chair Vacant
Conewago Project Coordinator Bob Krieger
External Coordination Committee Chair Vacant
Opportunity Development Coordinator Vacant
Legislative Awareness Coordinator Vacant
Climate Change Coordinator Jim Wilson
Natural Resources Advisor Kirk Smith
Road Salt Sampling Coordinator Bob Speegle

Education Pillar

Education Chair Bob Parker
T.I.C. Committee Chair George Paine
T.I.C. Macroinvertebrates Instruction Bob Speegle
Youth Education Committee Chair Vacant
Youth Education Coordinator Vacant
Secondary Youth Education Coordinator Kirk Smith
TU Tri-State Youth Camp Co-Chair Suzanne Malone
TU Tri-State Youth Camp Co-Chair Paul Kearney
Content and Publications Committee Chair Vacant
Stream Guide Editor Bob Parker
Education Activities Committee Chair Vacant
Fly-Tying Coordinator John Hadley
Stream Sampling Coordinator Bob Speegle