



# TROUTLINE

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED

MAY/JUNE 2022

## CALENDAR

**Next Meeting**  
**5 May**  
**7:30pm on Zoom**

The Chapter Meeting will be hosted on Zoom at 7:30 pm starting with our guest speaker and followed by Chapter business. To participate in the meetings you must register. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing instructions and the confirmation number needed to join the meeting. See the website for the Zoom link.

### June

**2 June**  
 7:30 Virtual Member Meeting  
**9 June**  
 7:30 Virtual Board Meeting

### July

**7 July**  
**No Member Meeting**  
**14 July**  
 7:30 Virtual Board Meeting

### August

**4 August**  
 7:30 TBD  
**11 August**  
 7:30 Virtual Board Meeting

## FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

We've had a busy start to the spring, with Kid's Fishing Days, Fish With A Member Trips, the release of Let It Fly Lager at Crooked Run, the event at Buchanan Hall, helping stock several rivers, the 2 Fly Tournament, trips to Mossy Creek, Our Military Kids Fishing Day and helping with the clean up on Accotink Creek. Thank you to all who participated.



We are looking to have an in-person chapter meeting back at the Vienna Volunteer Firehouse in August. This will be our first opportunity for a large get together indoors in two years. I'm sure there will be lots of stories to tell about trips taken and fish caught.

For those of you who are new to the area or new to trout fishing, I highly recommend our Stream Guide. Now in its third edition the guide has information on over thirty trout streams within a reasonable driving distance. Streams discussed are in Virginia, Maryland, and southern Pennsylvania. For each stream there are driving directions, info on where to park, details on various trails to access different parts of each stream. The guide was invaluable to me when I moved to Virginia and had all new water to learn. Ordering information is on the chapter website [www.novatu.org](http://www.novatu.org) under Support / Store.

Bob Parker is working on details of the Stream Girls event on June 5th. This is a Girl Scout version of the

Boy Scout program we have run. Volunteers will be needed for casting, fly tying and insect identification. If you are interested in volunteering or looking for more information, email [bparker@novatu.org](mailto:bparker@novatu.org).

Trout Unlimited is offering a free introductory membership through the TU Service Partnership program to all service members, veterans, and first responders. It's easy to sign up, just a few minutes online.

The Trout Unlimited Virginia Council sent out a questionnaire to help gauge interest in different aspects of conservation and fishing of the membership. This will help them planning the next steps the council will take.

Last call for your hours previously volunteered from April 1, 2021, through March 31, 2022. We collect this information for our annual report to TU National. NVATU members put in thousands of hours each year working on a stream, at an event, or doing the nuts and bolts work of running the chapter. Please send to [info@novatu.org](mailto:info@novatu.org).

If you aren't yet, please join our Facebook group, where you can learn about chapter activities, continue your education on fly fishing and share pictures and other information with chapter members. Also, a good place for inquiries about places to fish, gear, tactics or to set up a trip.

On this Memorial Day, please take a moment to remember our troops who have sacrificed for our freedom.

-- Tony Hill

## NEW MEMBERS

### February 2022

Morris Cramer	Fairfax
Stephen Foerster	Arlington
Lars Grater	Leesburg
Wade Huish	Arlington
Mark King	Stafford
Robert Korman, Jr.	Woodbridge
Tyler Liermann	Alexandria
Benjamin Luce	Alexandria
Raymond Maloney	Stafford
Aaron McClellan	Alexandria
Ashley Moore	Stafford
Andrew Wallace	Alexandria

### March 2022

Joyce Anderson	Leesburg
Forrest Bradley	Leesburg
Mike Brownlee	Alexandria
John Daniels	Dumfries
Clark Elliott	Falls Church
Daniel Gahafer	Lovettsville
Lars Grater	Leesburg
Kathryn Morgan	Herndon
Grant Pearse	Arlington
Mark Pidcock	Leesburg
Russell Pittman	Vienna
Gary Warncke	Woodbridge

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

### MAY SPEAKER

#### Frank Weissbarth on New Mexico



We moved from the Philadelphia area to New Mexico in 1985 and moved to northern Virginia a few months ago to be near our children and grandchildren. I was involved in the creation of the first TU chapter in New Mexico circa 1990 and served as NLC rep from 2011 to 2014. I worked for 20 years in the New Mexico Attorney General's Office where, among many other things, I represented the Game and Fish Department in a series of hearings concerning the use of piscicides to restore native Rio Grande cutthroat and Gila Trout. After leaving the AG's office I served as General Counsel for a large state agency and then was in private practice for 10 years until retiring in 2020.

The Rio Grande begins as a series of tiny brooks high along the east slope of the continental divide, across the 12,000 ft. Stony Pass from Silverton, Colorado. Once a myriad of tributaries, large and small, joined the great river and it flowed unbroken to the sea. No more. Today, the Rio and its tributaries are used and abused. Most of the streams that once added to the river's flow sucked dry for irrigation

before they ever reach the river. Once the river was filled with Rio Grande cutthroats and a host of other native fish. Those fish are gone. Today Rio Grande cutthroats are found only in high country tributaries, most in streams so small that it's hard to believe that trout reside in them.



Despite the abuse, the Rio Grande remains a sometimes great but always mystifying fishery. It is a trout stream from its headwaters down to the village of Velarde, about 30 miles north of Santa Fe. For nearly 40 years this was my home water, and I've fished it from its headwaters down to where it becomes a warm water fishery, but the part of the river I love best is the Rio Grande Gorge, which runs roughly from the Colorado Border to the Orilla Verde Recreation Area at the southern end of the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument, a national monument TU helped create. This evening I want to take you on a trip down into the Gorge with me, albeit one a lot less strenuous than the real thing and give a few free tips for fishing the river that may come in handy if you ever have a chance to fish it.

The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. As before, registration information will be sent to all members.

### JUNE SPEAKER

#### Mike Abramowitz on Fly Fishing Safely

Mike is a retired anesthesiologist who has an interest in all types of safety issues. The presentation will focus on fly fishing safety, both on and off the stream, including traveling to far away destinations. Topics presented will include weather concerns, wading in streams, hook injuries, health issues, including hypothermia and altitude sickness. Planning local and distant travel helps you get home safely to fish another day. Mike finds fly fishing to be a challenging and exciting sport. When not fishing, he spends time volunteering with Project Healing Waters at the DC Veterans Hospital. He has assisted his wife's volunteer work with Casting for Recovery. Mike has written a number of articles that were published in the "Mid Atlantic Fly Fishing Guide". He is an active fly tier, fly designer, and fly rod builder. He loves spending time outdoors (even when not fishing)

The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. As before, registration information will be sent to all members.





**May: Foam Beetle Plus**



Time to tie flies to get ready for summer and fall fishing.

**Originator:** A.K. Best

One of my favorite flies for late summer and fall, and a sure winner for brookies in the Shenandoah National Park streams. It is also a hit with pan fish and smallmouth bass. This is a combination of several recipes, is quick and easy to tie, and adds a wing tip sticking out from under the back shell of a struggling beetle; recommended in an article by A.K. Best.

**Techniques to be learned:**

- \* Attaching white Z-Lon wing tip

- \* Preparing peacock herl - snapping off weak tips before tying in
- \* Twisting and wrapping peacock herl body with thread reinforcement
- \* Using moose hair for legs (stubs left over from making moose hair tails on the Mr. Rapidan fly), can also use a variety of natural and synthetic materials but I like the stiffness of the moose hair
- \* Cutting, attaching, stretching and tying down a foam wing case back
- \* Attaching various colored visibility indicator to top/back of fly
- \* Finish with two half hitches

**Recipe:**

Hook: Standard Dry Hook, TMC 100 # 12, 14, 16

Thread: Black 6/0

Wing Tip: White Z-Lon or yarn

Body: Peacock Herl - 4 strands

Legs: Moose or deer hair, pheasant tail fibers or black rubber legs

Wing Case: ¼ inch strip of Black foam (width the gap of the hook)

Visibility Indicator: Yellow Calf's Tail or synthetic material of any color that helps you see the fly under various lighting and water flow conditions

**Tying Tips:**

- \* Lay down tight wraps of thread from the head to the hook bend
- \* Extend white Z-Lon from attachment point at the bend of the hook to the back of the hook bend, do not extend beyond this point
- \* To help "bullet proof" the peacock herls 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)
- \* Carefully stretch the foam back forward, which will cause the foam to wrap around the sides of the body, make a few wraps to prevent the foam from snapping back then proceed to tie in the wing (indicator).
- \* Use several different colors for the indicator to use in various lighting conditions. Some like to tie in a little Krystal Flash to make it more visible.
- \* Google search "Tying the foam beetle fly" to see various patterns and flying techniques.

**Fishing Tip:**

This terrestrial fly is best fished in summer and fall. Apply your favorite floatant; dead float once through a likely lie and then dead float with occasional twitching.

**June: Foam Ants**



This is a sure winner for Brookies in the Shenandoah Mountains and catches sunfish and other fish in lakes and streams as ants are an abundant food source just about everywhere. Also to be discussed are several ant patterns that you can try.

**Originator:**

Unknown for most patterns but I first saw the cork plug/yellow calf tail ant tied by Harry Murray from Edinburg, VA.

**Techniques to be learned:**

- \* Firmly attaching the thread base

- \* Tying in wings
- \* Tying in various bodies
- \* Tying in and wrapping hackle

**Recipe:**

Hook: Dry Fly Hook, TMC 100 # 12 or 14  
Thread: black 6/0

Wing: Optional White Z-Lon, any color yarn, hackle tips, pink craft fur or Yellow Calf's Tail

Body: Rainy Ant Foam, 3/8" strip of black, brown or red foam, dubbing, or painted cork plugs (drink a bottle of good wine and save the cork)

Legs: black, grizzly or brown hackle

**Tying Tips:**

- \* Tie in the short base of thread about ½ way between the eye and the start of the bend of the hook. "Wrap the thread very tightly to prevent the wings from twisting around the hook shaft". I once had the cork body ant twist around such that the back half of the body mostly filled the gap of the hook. I kept getting strikes but no hook-ups?

Some people use a small file to roughen up the spot where you apply the thread and then coat it with head cement.

- \* The wing is really an indicator for you to see the small fly on the water. Use different colors for the weather and lighting conditions. Some put a little crystal flash in with the wing material, make the fly more visible.
- \* When using craft fur or other synthetic material for the wing tie it in a little long so that it is easy to grab when wrapping two to four twists of hackle behind and in front of the wing. Then trim the wing just a little longer than the hackle.
- \* You can also tie in the hackle parachute style. Just make several wraps around the wing to make a post to wrap the hackle (four wraps). Wrap thread in front of and behind the post so that it stands vertical.

**Fishing Tip:**

Dead float once then dead float with occasional twitching, best fished in summer and fall. Large cork body fly with a yellow calf tail wing can be used as an indicator for a small nymph.

## FISH WITH A MEMBER

### MAY

#### Piney Branch - Virginia

**When:** May 7

**Depart:** 8 a.m.

**Return:** Whenever

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

Depending on the weather, we will go either the top or the bottom of the Piney.

The only license you need is a current Virginia license. The terrain can be steep at times, so pack light and bring water to keep you hydrated. Hip boots will be all you need to fish this stream.

Small parachute Adams and Olive Elk Hair Caddis work well even when fish aren't rising. Working upstream with short casts and keeping the slack out of your line works best. Another fly that works well is the green weenie, which imitates caddis larvae that are common in Park streams. Carry flies in several different sizes. A final tip to avoid getting lost on the return: stay on the [Piney Branch Trail](#), and don't turn onto the Piney Ridge Trail. Remember that fish live in "branches" but not on ridges!

-- George Paine

#### Rapidan River - Virginia

**When:** Friday, May 13

**Depart:** 8 a.m.

**Return:** Whenever

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

**This is a Friday trip.**

Make sure you have a current Virginia license, and remember this is a catch and release only stream. Spring is officially here so there should be plenty of bug life.

You should find a variety of bug hatches. You can always do well with a size 12 Quill Gordon, or a size 14 or 16 Mr. Rapidan, Blue Quill, or Royal Wulff. Even, if nothing is rising, brookies will often hit a dry fly. If you nymph, a size 14 or 16 Hare's Ear, flash-back Pheasant Tail, and Prince nymphs, fished deep and allowed to tumble along the bottom, or a soft hackle fished on a swing will usually take fish.

Bring some water along because you will be doing quite a bit of hiking. Short rods, 5x or 6x tippets, and hip boots will be all you need to fish this stream. The terrain can be steep at times, so I suggest packing light and bringing some water to keep you hydrated. A backpack can slow you down, so if you can fit lunch and water in your vest or on your belt you'll be able to wade and fish more efficiently.

-- George Paine

### JUNE

#### Rapidan-Staunton Rivers- Virginia

**When:** June 4

**Depart:** 8:00 a.m.

**Return:** Whenever

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

We will fish the Rapidan/Staunton near Graves Mill near where the Rapidan leaves the Park.

Make sure you have a current Virginia license, and remember this is a catch and release only stream.

I like Mr. Rapidans, Quill Gordons, Olive Caddis and the Orvis Look-Up ant. If you nymph, a size 14 or 16 Hare's Ear, flash-back Pheasant Tail, and Prince nymphs, fished deep and allowed to tumble along the bottom, or a soft hackle fished on a swing will usually take fish.

Short rods, 5x or 6x tippets, and hip boots will be all you need to fish this stream. The terrain can be steep at times, so I suggest packing light and bringing some water to keep you hydrated. A backpack can slow you down, so if you can fit lunch and water in your vest or on your belt, you'll be able to wade and fish more efficiently

-- George Paine

Pictures from the March FWM Trip to the Rapidan River





Spring 2022 Family Fishing Days Set Records

In late March, Herndon, Reston, and Vienna resumed their annual fishing events focused on families. Participants averaged 200 for three events with about 100 stocked rainbow trout at two of the events. John Davey led in Vienna, and I led in Herndon and Reston. Fairfax City, at which John Davey led, had the last event of the season at Ashby Pond on April 16. We had the largest turnout ever of NVATU members to support them! John Davey, John Odenkirk, DWR Fisheries Biologist, and I cleaned a total of over 125 fish.



NVATU members assisted with stocking, tackle, tactics, and fish cleaning. They included:

John Barretta and son Anthony  
Ron Bartek  
Kevin Beach  
Nathan Brookshire  
Jon and Adrienne Scott-DeLeon  
Bill Errico

Chris Feucht  
Jim Galligan  
Garrison Grisedale  
Robert Juarez  
Jason Kirby  
Bob Krieger

Roy Lindstrom  
Jeff Mangeno  
Ralph Nappi  
Russ Pittman  
Mike Ross  
Ron Sticinski

Dave Semler  
Bill Taylor  
Larry Wilkerson  
Owen Williams

-- George Paine



NVATU Supports Service Partnership and Military Families

In March and April, the chapter organized and participated in two events in support of Service Partnership and Military families.

On Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, Crooked Run Fermentation re-released “Let It Fly Lager” and hosted the chapter for an on-site event. This event showcased the Trout Unlimited Service Partnership program

which is designed to introduce our military active duty and veterans, law enforcement, first responders (fire/rescue), medical professionals, and their families, to the healing power of our waters, with a goal of thanking them for their service and engaging them in our Chapter activities.



Daniel Lazenby helping with the canning of “Let It Fly” Lager  
Stuart Wallace standing at the chapter display table  
Members and guests socializing in the barrel room at Crooked Run Fermentation

On Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, Eric Gregory and Luke Hendrixson represented the chapter during the Our Military Kids fishing day at Harpers Ferry National Park. The event brought 12 children of military personnel and their families for a day of fishing on the banks of the iconic Shenandoah River.



Link to the local news story about the event:

<https://www.localdvm.com/news/west-virginia/military-families-get-together-for-fishing-day/>

Link to report on the event:

[https://www.journal-news.net/journal-news/partnership-provides-military-families-with-day-of-fishing-in-harpers-ferry-national-historical-park/article\\_51b08676-775e-5fe0-8fce-bea5e592257a.html](https://www.journal-news.net/journal-news/partnership-provides-military-families-with-day-of-fishing-in-harpers-ferry-national-historical-park/article_51b08676-775e-5fe0-8fce-bea5e592257a.html)

### Chapter Mossy Creek Fishing Trips

On March 14 and April 8, 16 NVATU members enjoyed great fishing with Mossy Creek's guides on a chapter-sponsored trip organized by Casey Peltier.



John Vanden Bergh—Nice fish and NVATU hat pin

Participants included: Ron Bartek, Chris Buchen, Casey Church, John Cooper, Ken Fugate, William Harrison, Bob Hohman, John Hughes, Bill Maher, Hal Metcalf, Ralph Nappi, Bill Read, Chris Rich, Tom Roberts, Gregg Rockett, and John Vanden Berghe



Mossy Creek Fly Shop guide Nick, holding a very strong Mossy Creek Rainbow caught by Hal Metcalf “He’s grinning because this fish was exactly where he told me to drift a big streamer!”

### Fly Fishing Field Day at Buchanan Hall

Buchanan Hall, located in Upperville Virginia, hosted a Fly Fishing Field Day on Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. Tony Hill and Justin Hardy represented the chapter at the event. Tony welcomed visitors and talked about all the goodness of Trout Unlimited while Justin demonstrated fly tying. Members of the Rapidan Chapter of TU spent time introducing visitors to the art of fly tying; many, or which, tied their fist fly.



The Leesburg Orvis store sponsored part of the event: providing casting instruction as well as showing the 50/50 On the Water movie. Scott Allen, along with some volunteers, conducted multiple sessions of instruction in the adjacent open field. Beginners and advanced castes alike had a marvelous time.

-- Scott Allen

### NOTICE OF ELECTIONS

Congratulations to Terry Lowe and Suzanne Malone for being reelected to their board positions. And, welcome to Bob Krieger the chapter's newest board member.

### Merchandise Clearance

The chapter has a few items remaining from the recent clearance sale. If you are interested in an item or items, please email: [merchandise@novatu.org](mailto:merchandise@novatu.org) with your selections. Stock and sizes are limited to what is listed.

- \* Button Down Oxford, Blue (MD), White (MD) (2XL) [*\$10 each*]
- \* Men's Polo, White (2XL) [*\$5*]
- \* Women's Polo, Sky Blue (MD) (LG), Black (XL) [*\$5 each*]
- \* Pink Baseball Caps [x2] [*\$5 each*]
- \* Rappahannock River Water Trail Guide [x2] [*\$7 each*]



# MEMBER PHOTO ALBUM



**MAILING ADDRESS:**

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

**CHAPTER WEBSITE:**

[www.novatu.org](http://www.novatu.org)  
[contact@novatu.org](mailto: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*



Scott Allen on South Holston River, March 2022



Ralph Nappi with a chunky Rainbow caught during the member trip to Mossy Creek 2022



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!

<https://rentals.deepcreek.com>  
(866) 544-3223



KEEP UP WITH THE LATEST CHAPTER HAPPENINGS ON FACEBOOK:

[www.facebook.com/groups/334014474470](https://www.facebook.com/groups/334014474470)

VA STATE TROUT UNLIMITED



**WEBSITE:**

[www.virginiatu.org](http://www.virginiatu.org)



**NATIONAL TROUT UNLIMITED WEBSITE:**

[www.tu.org](http://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 Kasproicz  
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