



TROUTLINE

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2022

CALENDAR

November

3 November
7:30 Virtual Member Meeting

10 November
7:30 Virtual Board Meeting

December

1 December
7:00 In-Person Member Meeting

8 December
7:30 Virtual Board Meeting

January

No member Meeting

12 January
7:30 Virtual Board Meeting

February

2 February
7:30 In-Person Member Meeting

9 February
7:30 Virtual Board Meeting

The In-Person Chapter Meetings are held at:

Vienna Volunteer Fire Department:

**400 Center Street S.
Vienna, VA 22180**

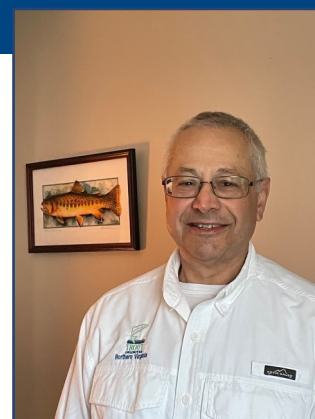
FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

Over the past few months, the chapter has received donations of various gear from several members. Leah Lutz donated her late husband Larry's and her fly fishing, fly tying and spin fishing gear, in total over six large bins of gear; Carl Jordan donated a large amount of fly tying material, a portable bench, tools and equipment; Tom Denny donated rods, reels and fly tying gear; Steve Kussman donated a large number of books on various aspects of fly fishing and tying; Ron Bartek donated a Sage rod, a Pflueger Progress reel, a wood fly-tying case, a pack, and flies. These items will be used several ways, some will be used in our youth programs, some will be used as raffle or auction items to help raise funds for our programs. We want to give special thanks to them all for their generosity.

There are several programs that NVATU is involved in, Trout In the Classroom, the youth fishing days in various towns, scout programs, our work with the Adams County Chapter on the Conewago and our partnership

with TJ High School to name a few. Many of you know and participate with other conservation organizations in our area that also have a mission to protect local water or work with youth groups. I'm thinking about any of the "Friends of" groups, such as Friends of the Accotink, or Friends of Devil's Run. The Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy and the Izaak Walton League are other examples. These groups do tree plantings, invasive removals, trash cleanups and those types of activities. They are all things that a family can come out and participate in doing. If you take part in one of these groups, please share information with us.

I've recently participated in several webinars with TU National staffers on different subjects, some are about running the chapter and others about general conservation topics. The webinars are hugely informational and I recommend you keep an eye out for future sessions. Most of these are recorded and can be found in The Tackle Box section of the TU National website, along with loads



of other useful info and ideas. I know that many of you read and contribute to the TU Members Forum. For those who aren't familiar it is an online forum open to TU members where folks post questions or suggestions about gear, destinations and sometimes just a well written piece about fly fishing. Here is a link to the forums:

<https://community.tu.org/home>

I hope to see a lot of you at the December meeting, to share some food and take a chance on some of the many raffle and auction prizes that will be given away that night.

-- Tony Hill

Merchandise Marketing Chair

Please welcome Alex Buellesbach as the new Merchandise Marketing Chair for the Chapter. If you are at one of our in-person meetings, please introduce yourself and maybe pick-up an item or two to help support the Chapter.

-- Scott Allen

December Meeting—Celebration!

Please be sure to RSVP for the December meeting. Your registration will help us with providing the appropriate food and beverage.

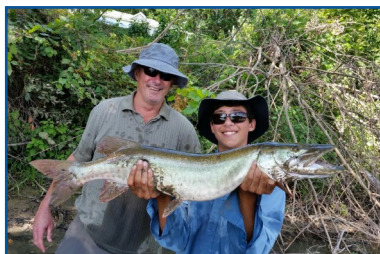
RSVP

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

NOVEMBER SPEAKER (ZOOM)

DECEMBER MEETING (IN-PERSON)

Robert O'Harrow Jr.



In a September article in the Washington Post Magazine, Robert O'Harrow Jr. described the decline of the mayfly worldwide. He explains the role of the mayfly and some of the reasons for the decline and tells the reader about who is tracking it. He has kindly

agreed to tell us more in an online zoom meeting. His article is online at:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/magazine/2022/09/19/mayfly-decline/>

Robert O'Harrow Jr. (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/people/robert-oharrow/>) is a Contributing Writer and author at The Washington Post. His areas of interest include climate science, ecology, travel, influence campaigns, technology, surveillance, corruption and political affairs. O'Harrow was a member of the team that won a Pulitzer Prize for the 2017 coverage of Roy Moore. He also has received top awards from Investigative Reporters and Editors and Sigma Delta Chi. He is a two-time Pulitzer Prize finalist twice and a four-time finalist for the Gerald Loeb Award for business writing. O'Harrow's books include No Place To Hide; Zero Day: The Threat In Cyber Space; and The Quartermaster: Montgomery C. Meigs, Lincoln's General, Master Builder of the Union Army

The December meeting will be an end-of-year celebration with food provided by the chapter. Alex Buellesbach has graciously agreed to fire up his smoker to prepare some pork and turkey. We will also have some cold sides and desert. Water, tea, and lemonade will be provided, but if you prefer something else, you are welcome to bring any other non-alcoholic beverage of your choice. In order to prepare the appropriate amount of food we ask that you register for this event. Click on the link to RSVP.



[REGISTRATION LINK](#)

John Hadley will be demonstrating the Mr. Rapidan fly starting at 6:30, food will be ready at 7:00, and raffle/auction winners will be announced at 8:00

Along with the food, we will have several great items (fishing rods, reels, bags, fly-tying material and tools, and books that will be up for silent auction and jar raffle. Each attendee will receive a raffle ticket at the door.

During the meeting, John Metz and Gordon Bailey will have a short presentation on their trip to the Soaring Eagle Lodge and fishing the San Juan River in New Mexico. Additionally, Stream Team Leaders will talk about some of this year's youth activities and how to volunteer for future events.

We look forward to seeing you at this celebration event!

NEW MEMBERS

August 2022

Jenn Aitchison	Fairfax
Andrea Auerbach	Falls Church
Anthony Black	McLean
Katie Busch	Falls Church
Douglas Copeland	Fort Belvoir
Dawn Crichton-Adams	McLean
Robert Dean	Falls Church
Stephanie Dean	Vienna
Kathy Diane	Falls Church
Scott Diaz	Falls Church
Megan Dygve	Fairfax
William Ferzoco	Reston
Zach Gebhardt	Reston
Lisa Gump	Falls Church
Lauren Kinne	Fairfax
Victoria Mah	Fairfax
Eric March	Alexandria
Chris Mills	Ashburn
Alexandra Mostoller	Falls Church
Paul O'Connor	Reston
Jason Perkins	Falls Church
Carolyn Pollack	Falls Church
Carol Schwartz	Alexandria
Mary Ann Settlemyre	Centreville
Donna Slebner	Clifton
Terence Smith	Great Falls
Kaitlin Smoot	Reston
Shawn Stickler	Alexandria
Bradley Webster	Fairfax

September 2022

Luke Bunker	Falls Church
Kyung Byun	Merrifield
Eric Casper	Fairfax
William Cody	Alexandria
Craig Diffie	Vienna
Brian Ellis	Falls Church
Brian Frumolt	Ashburn
Elizabeth Fugate	Alexandria
Culley Hess	Arlington
Jordan Jordan	Arlington
Tom Kiernan	Arlington
Keith Kluwe	Alexandria
Kenneth Kudick	Alexandria
Alfred McLaren	Sterling
Bryan Meadows	Sterling
Larry Meinstein	Fairfax
Jonathan Nguyen	Arlington
Mark Nozaki	Fairfax Station
Ali Ozgun	Fairfax Station
Seth Patterson	Herndon
Richard Pinkston	Alexandria
Miguel Quijano	Ashburn
Brian Rabbitt	Alexandria
Maliyah Rousseau	Alexandria
Fredrick P. Smith	Alexandria
Tom Somers	Centreville
Barbara Sullivan	Herndon
James E. Sullivan	Alexandria
Andrew Tush	Arlington

November/December: Mr Rapidan



November/December 2022 Fly of the Month to be demonstrated by John Hadley, at the December meeting, is the Mr. Rapidan Parachute. It is time to restock my fly box with my favorite spring fishing fly for brook trout in the Shenandoah National Park streams and this is good fly to learn how to tie any parachute pattern.

Originator: Harry Murray from Edinburg, VA. Designed through systematic trial and error to attract Brook Trout and is representative of a fair number of flies found in a Shenandoah National Park or any brook trout stream. Visit Harry Murray's website and his fly shop/drugstore in Edinburg for the latest conditions on the Shenandoah Park Steams and nearby stocked streams. You can buy #34 Fly Rite "Quill Gordon/Brown Drake Yellow" dubbing at his store.

Techniques to be learned:

- * Tying in Moose Hair tails; precut, stack and glue butts to the lid of a medicine bottle to speed up tying
- * Dubbing the body
- * Tying in post of calf hair and other

- materials
- * Tying in and wrapping parachute hackles and different ways of tying off the hackle
- * Whip finish thread on the wing-post or using two half hitches to tie off the thread at the head

Recipe:

HOOK: Standard Dry Fly, TMC 100 #12-16
THREAD: Tan 6/0, or 8/0 for #16 if you wish
TAIL: Moose body hair
BODY: #34 Fly Rite "Quill Gordon/ Brown Drake Yellow" dubbing
HACKLE: Grizzly and Brown, three wraps each, one size larger than the hook size
WING/POST: Yellow calf tail (optional pink or other color synthetic material to improve visibility in various lighting conditions)

Tying Tips:

- * Wrap thread tightly to the hook shaft from the eye to the bend.
- * Moose hair tail should be about the length of the shaft. Many like a thick/heavy tail like some western fly patterns, others like a sparse tail like many eastern fly patterns.
- * Wing should be 1 1/2 the hook gap. I recommend stacking the calf tail hair but you don't have to; you can trim any extra long scraggly hair fibers if you want to. Make several wraps around the hair fibers to make a post that the hackle will be wound around.
- * Apply dubbing as thinly as you can to the thread. The body is usually rather thick so wrap dubbed thread up and down the shank a couple of time; tapered from the tail to the wings.

- * Hackle should be twice the hook gap (one size up on a hackle gage) I usually make four wraps of the heaviest hackle on first (grizzly hackle) and then four wraps of the lighter brown hackle; but you can wrap them together.
- * We will try to finish off the fly with a whip -finish on the post; I haven't taught this method before so we will see how it goes.

Fishing Tips:

I use size #14 and #16 flies, mostly in the spring when fishing for brook trout whether there is a hatch or not. Check the stream water level; normal or a little above normal is optimum. Best right after a rain so the water is a little turbid (not the usual crystal clear which gives the fish a better chance of seeing you). Cloudy days are best in the spring and early summer. Approach a pool slowly and keep low. Cast first to a big brook trout that may be lurking in a prime feeding lane at the lip of the pool. Next cast to the likely spots to the left and the right side of the pool, especially above large boulders, and then up to the head of the pool letting the fly drift through the entire pool. Talk to experienced small stream fishermen as to how to identify spots where brook trout are most likely to be found. In a small pool, especially in low water conditions, you may only get one or two casts before the trout are spooked. In a larger pool you may be able to hook a couple before they are spooked. Keep casting if you are getting strikes but when they get shy, don't waste your time; just move onto the next pool. I'll cast into likely skinny water spots between pools, but it is more luck than skill to pick up a small fish here and there, but that's better than just letting a possible hookup go by.

WE ARE ASKING FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Each year, we ASK each of our members to make an Annual Supporting Contribution ("ASK donation") to help sustain our Chapter's continuing financial obligations for operating and administrative expenses and ensuring we can continue to contribute to and support our activities.



Annually, our Chapter's operating expenses include monthly meetings (In-Person and via Zoom), publishing our monthly newsletter "Troutline" (a valuable tool distributed to local fly shops to help attract new members), and maintaining a web and social presence. Programs and activities we support through our three pillars: Community, Conservation, and Education include supporting Casting for Recovery, Project Healing Waters, and May Fly Project, supporting other TU chapters for stream restoration on waters we fish, funding Trout in the Classroom programs, Save our Streams programs, Boy Scout merit badge, Stream Girls, and Stream Keepers, and contributing to the Tri-State Conservation and Fishing Camp.

We hope you consider donating to ensure that NVATU can continue to carry out its role in our community as the vibrant focal point for fly fishers in supporting TU's mission. Donations can be made to the general fund, which is distributed across all of the Chapter costs or donations can be earmarked to support specific activities. To earmark all or a portion of your donation, just add a note along with your donation.

Your donation is tax deductible. Download the form on the website, or request the form with your check as a record of your donation.

Contributions by Credit Card (through PayPal) or by PayPal can be made on our website at:

<https://www.novatu.org/donate>

Contributions by check can be made out to NVATU and sent to:

Northern Virginia Chapter of Trout Unlimited
PO Box 3592
Oakton, VA 22124

FISH WITH A MEMBER

NOVEMBER

Little Stony Creek - Virginia

When: November 5

Depart: 8:00 a.m.

Return: You Decide

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

Deja vu- we're rescheduling this destination which was canceled due to the hurricane remnants last month. Originally, we had planned to visit the upper Hughes but have decided to give the spawning brookies in the park a break. The brookies in Little Stony will be more visible as they spawn in the 40 yards above the reservoir. This will be primarily a learning trip about this unique fishery.

Little Stony Creek is west of Woodstock. As always, weather may dictate some changes so if it is a really cold day, or some members need easier access we may divert part of the group to Big Stony.

As the stream is in the national forest, unless you are over 65 you will need a National Forest permit. It is only a few dollars and obtainable on the DGIF website: <http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/fishing/regulations/licenses.asp#national-forest-permit>

As far as flies, I like foam ants, which double as little mountain stoneflies (a #18 nymph), green weenies and olive flashback nymphs (an Orvis pattern). Also, a few midges are always a good idea in winter. Hip boots will suffice but waders will be warmer. Light weight rods work best for brookies. This freestone stream extends for two miles above the Woodstock dam.

Conewago Creek—Pennsylvania

When: November 19

Depart: 8:00 a.m.

Return: You Decide

Meet: Orvis-Leesburg Parking Lot ([map](#))

The Conewago Creek, Northwest of Gettysburg Pa, is the planned destination. Weather may dictate some changes so we may divert to another stream if the conditions are not favorable.

The section we will be fishing is located the fly fishing only designated area. There are stocked brown and rainbow trout that Adams County Trout Unlimited as well as the state put in the fall every year.

As things cool down, subsurface action with dominate choices in flies. Green and red worm patterns, wooly buggers, caddis patterns, rainbow warriors or any other flashy nymphs as well as stone fly patterns are effective. If the water is up, streamers can be incredibly effective. Dark colors have been most successful for me but don't be afraid to experiment.

Hip boots will suffice but waders will be warmer. Some of the fish can be big so a 4 to 6 weight rod should be fine.

DECEMBER

White Oak canyon (Robinson River) - Virginia

When: December 3

Depart: 8:00 a.m.

Return: You Decide

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

This stream is on the east slope of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Shenandoah National Park. Remember that if you are within the park boundary and catch a Brown Trout you are not allowed to return it to the water. You may creel any Brown Trout over 7 inches, all others should be discarded away from the stream. Remember brook trout have a dark background with light spots, and it is the opposite for Browns.

Your lightest rod will be in order. Rods less than eight feet long are popular, on most of our headwater native brook trout streams. Hip boots will suffice, but you will probably be more comfortable with waist high waders.

One trick that I have found useful is to fish downstream. At times like that I try to get near the chute flowing into the head of a pool and drop my fly into it and the shakeout enough leader and line to get the fly down to the fish. Since the fish are facing upstream, you must stay down pretty low, hopefully leaning against a rock or tree so they won't see you.

You will be in steep country and excess weight will be unwelcome. Plan to carry water and your lunch. Your fly box should include, a bright green caddis larva, and maybe some stonefly nymphs. Soft hackle flies with orange or lime-green bodies work well in the deeper water.

Yellow Breeches Creek—Pennsylvania

When: December 17

Depart: 8:00 a.m.

Return: You Decide

Meet: Orvis-Leesburg Parking Lot ([map](#))

The Yellow Breeches Creek, near Boiling Springs Pa, is the planned destination. Weather may dictate some changes so we may divert to another stream if the conditions are not favorable.

The section we will be fishing is located the fly fishing only designated area. There are stocked browns, rainbows, brook and Palomino (Golden Rainbow) trout stocked as well as wild brown trout populations in the Yellow Breeches.

As things get colder, subsurface flies will be the choice. Red worm patterns, egg patterns, zebra midges, pheasant tails, wooly buggers, caddis pupa patterns, stone fly patterns, rainbow warriors or any other flashy nymphs are effective. If the water is up, streamers can be effective, but it will be dependent on the water temps.

Waders will be warmest choice since the air temps can be down close to freezing. Some of the fish in the Yellow Breeches are enormous so a 4 to 6 weight rod is recommended.

Please send any questions or comments about the Fish With A Member Trips to: FWM@novatu.org



NVATU coordinates an annual event in collaboration with the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District (NVSWCD) for Thomas Jefferson High School freshmen. This year the event was held at Green Spring Gardens in Alexandria. Eighty

freshmen participated in stream ecology activities including chemical monitoring and macroinvertebrate sampling of Turkey Cock Run. Students learned the three methods for measuring stream health; 1) physical observation of erosion, contamination, and environmental factors, 2) chemical monitoring which provides an accurate assessment of instantaneous health, and 3) macroinvertebrate sampling which provides a less accurate but more long-term health assessment. Students broke into groups of 20 students each and the groups rotated through the stations.

Chemical monitoring included water clarity measurements, dissolved oxygen levels, as well as, detection of metals, and e-coli levels. The E. coli levels were satisfactory for recreational use but too high for safe swimming. This is not unexpected in urban streams. What was surprising was low levels of phosphates, nitrates, and copper which indicates an unknown upstream source of this pollution. The water had a neutral pH of 7 and was very clear because of a lack of recent rain.



The macroinvertebrate sampling was conducted in two parts. For the first part, NVATU and SWCD conducted an official sampling which requires the collection and identification of at least 200 macroinvertebrates. Our sampling yielded an incredible 320 bugs even with very low water conditions. After identification, bugs are characterized

by their level of tolerance to pollution. This characterization process results in a score which indicates stream health. Turkey Cock Run scored an “8” out of a possible “12” which is considered “acceptable” and compares favorably with a county wide average of closer to “6”. It is likely that this stream scored a little higher because it is relatively protected inside the Garden. The score, in addition to detailed information about the stream, is uploaded to the Virginia Save Our Streams database and forwarded to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality to be used in decisions regarding the allocation of conservation resources. The purpose of



completing an official sampling at this event was to introduce the students to the metrics-based process, make them aware of the condition of our urban streams, and to encourage them to get involved in stream ecology.



During the second part of the macroinvertebrate sampling, the students did all the work. They were provided with three stations. The first station was a sampling net taken from the Run where the students could locate macros and place them into ice cube trays of water for analysis. The second station had ice cube trays and “bubblers” containing macros that had been collected and sorted. Students could study the variety of these macros, ask questions, and select one of more to take to the third station for identification. The third station was equipped with magnifying cubes and microscopes to aid in the identification process. Students had phone apps as well as identification charts to aid them. Students had to choose three macros, identify them, and then draw them in their notebooks. They also had to identify the level of pollution tolerance of their chosen macros.

For further information on this or similar NVATU education activities, contact Bob Parker at bparker@novatu.org. Volunteers are an essential component of a successful education program. This program provides an opportunity for you to prepare the next generation to deal with the environmental challenges. Volunteer skills ranging from fly tying and fly casting, and macroinvertebrate sampling, to coordination, and herding cats are all welcome. Also, if you are interested in bugs, come join us to learn more about what lives in our streams.

-- Bob Parker

Fall Stream Monitoring

On October 12, Bob Speegle, George Paine, Bob Parker, Bob Ryder, and Scott Allen met Calvin Dickens, of the Reston Association, to perform stream monitoring for Snakeden Branch in Reston. This sampling of macroinvertebrate is typically done twice each year across several locations. If you are interested finding out more about how to get involved, contact Bob Parker



(bparker@novatu.org). And, if you want more information about stream monitoring go to: <https://www.iwla.org/water/stream-monitoring>.

-- Scott Allen

Stream Monitoring Certification

Bob Krieger is the most recent Chapter member to receive his Stream Monitoring 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 followed by an in-person field session to demonstrate the sampling protocol.

-- Scott Allen

On 1 October 2022, friends of the Conewago joined to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Adams County TU and NVATU, Conewago Creek Partnership. The long-term nature of our relationship is remarkable and rare, so absolutely a celebration of the partnership is warranted. ACTU showed what excellent hosts I've known them to be, and all enjoyed the day.



Another achievement celebrated on 1 October includes a broader set of partners and is a success for all anglers. We also celebrated the acquisition of 58 acres surrounding Conewago Creek and our new access lease agreement. Due to the generosity of those involved, the acquisition and lease arrangements assure Conewago Creek access for anglers for decades with a large area reserved for catch and release.

This effort took nearly half a million dollars to accomplish, far surpassing any 501(c)(3) fundraising most of us will ever see. This was all accomplished by our friends at ACTU who dreamed of making the Conewago permanently available to anglers, then took the leadership initiative to make that dream happen. I am in awe of our friends of ACTU who raised the banner and led it forward against the odds: Frank Kozak, Dave Swope, Richard Lewis, Gary Perry, and the dedicated members of ACTU who have supported their leadership through dim days of funding worries and the sunny days when their commitment prevailed.

ACTU is installing a plaque commemorating these successes and listing the principal participants in the effort. The permanent plaque will be placed at the downhill side of our new access road and parking lot off Ziegler Mill Road, between PA Highway 94 and Russell Tavern Road, south of Biglerville, PA at 39.90636665342612, -77.25861847306122. Here's a look at the plaque text showing contributors to our success:

- Bob Krieger

Conewago Creek
ZEIGLER MILL ROAD ACCESS

PARTNERED BY:

ADAMS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT ADAMS COUNTY OFFICE OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ADAMS COUNTY TROUT UNLIMITED		LAND CONSERVANCY OF ADAMS COUNTY NORTHERN VIRGINIA TROUT UNLIMITED PENNSYLVANIA FISH AND BOAT COMMISSION
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SUPPORTED BY:

CONEWAGO ENTERPRISES, INC	ROBERT SHARRAH DESIGN GROUP	VULCAN MATERIALS COMPANY
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FUNDED BY:

ADAMS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ADAMS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT ADAMS COUNTY TROUT UNLIMITED BURNELL (DOC) HUMBERT CROWNSTONE EQUIPMENT/BOBCAT OF ADAMS COUNTY CUMBERLAND VALLEY TROUT UNLIMITED DANIEL LAZENBY DILLSBURG FISH AND GAME	FALLING SPRINGS TROUT UNLIMITED FRANK AND HEIDI KOZAK GAIL SWEENEY J. WILLIAM WAREHIME FOUNDATION LAND CONSERVANCY OF ADAMS COUNTY MARGUERITE (LEAKY BOOTS) LOUGH McSHERRYSTOWN FISH AND GAME PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION	MICHAEL MARTYS MUMMASBURG SPORTSMAN'S ASSOCIATION NORTHERN VIRGINIA TROUT UNLIMITED PENNSYLVANIA DEPT. OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES PENNSYLVANIA FISH AND BOAT COMMISSION ROBERT AND JOAN MILLER THOMAS AND LINDA RITTER WATERSHED ALLIANCE OF ADAMS COUNTY
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ESTABLISHED 2021

Chapter Members support CfR Retreat

Bill Errico and Dave Semler provided Stream Guide support during the Casting for Recovery (CfR) retreat held from 23 to 25 September in Sharpsburg, Maryland. Kathy Hardy, Assistant Director, Mid-Atlantic CfR, coordinated the event at Devil's Backbone Park, in Boonsboro, Maryland for 11 participants, guides, and other staff members of the program. A fun time was had by all and some even caught fish in spite of the rain delays. For more information about the Mid-Atlantic program, see their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/cfrmidatlantic>

-- Bill Errico



FWM Report—15 October



Twenty anglers, the largest group for FWAM this year, met the trip host, Matt Kozak, at the Orvis-Leesburg parking lot for an excursion to the Conococheague Creek in Pennsylvania. It was a long, beautiful, and scenic drive on route 15 and back roads through small PA towns and apple orchards.

The venue was a state park with hikers, day picnickers, overnight campers, and dogs on leashes. The water was clear, low, but not unfishable. There was no hatch, or rising fish, observed. The reported fish caught: *Salvelinus fontinalis*, *Salmo trutta*, *Oncorhynchus mykiss*, and *Squalius cephalus* all on a full gamut of flies: dries, nymphs, streamers, and dry-droppers.



Some access required a little bushwhacking, and the leaves were turning, falling like snowflakes. Matt Kozak did a nice job picking a great spot to fish and leading the excursion.

-- Scott Russell & Gregg Rockett

Stream Keepers, a Trout Unlimited youth education program, is the gender-neutral version of the Stream Girls program. The curriculum is identical between the two versions. This approach allows NVATU to offer the program to a broader range of youth groups, including, in this case, a cub scout den. On October 15, under a bright blue sky and near perfect temperature, NVATU hosted 11 cub scouts from den 1116 and their parents at Meadowood Recreation Area in Lorton. This was the first Stream Keepers event in the state of Virginia. We had a dozen NVATU volunteers leading activities including a stream walk, fly tying, fly casting, flyfishing, and macroinvertebrate sampling. The scouts each received a workbook where they entered the data, collected during the events, that was used to form a health assessment of the local stream. Scouts completing the event received a Stream Keepers patch and a complimentary membership in the TU Headwaters Youth Program.



This program was designed to span two days and is operated on that schedule by some chapters in other parts of the country. Because of the complexity of scheduling youth groups in an urban setting where sports and numerous youth activities vie for time coupled with scheduling qualified volunteers to cover the instructional activities, NVATU compresses the schedule into one long day. Groups are divided into sub-groups of between 6-8 scouts, for example, in this case the Brook Trout and the Brown Trout groups of about 6 scouts each. The sub-groups rotated through the event stations to complete the required activities. A group size of around 12 scouts required about seven hours to complete the activities.



The event began with flytying and an introduction to insects. Scouts had the opportunity to observe an insect collection that demonstrated not only the insect life cycle but also the artificial flyfishing flies created to imitate the insects. The flytying activity taught the scouts to tie a wooly bugger style fly and a gurgler pattern. Local water is often limited to warm water species like bass and sunfish, so these patterns offer a choice of top water or streamer style fishing. Concurrently with fly tying was the macroinvertebrate

sampling of the local stream. Scouts learned that stream assessment involves, physical observation, chemical monitoring, and macroinvertebrate sampling. Streams have very low water levels in the fall but the volunteers were able to gather a few varieties for the scouts to identify and draw in their workbooks. Caddis flies, aquatic worms, crayfish, crane fly nymphs, and riffle beetles we found in the sample. Scouts learned that some species of macros are more tolerant of pollution than others so by sorting the sampled bugs and assigning them value based on their tolerance, a stream health score can be calculated.



Scouts then assembled for casting instruction. Thanks to an equipment grant from Trout Unlimited, scouts had the opportunity to cast with a new Temple Fork Outfitters rod. After the learning the basics of fly

casting, the scouts tried their hand at casting a velcro dot to a hoop on the ground that encircled “fish”. The “fish” could be “hooked” by the Velcro dots and reeled in. With the basics under their belts, it was time to fish.



Scouts lined up along the edge of the pond and demonstrated their newly learned flyfishing prowess with the fly they tied during the flytying activity. Fly fishing was augmented by spin casting to balance the requirement to attempt flyfishing with the option to switch to spin casting. Scouts with some prior experience in flyfishing tend naturally to be more comfortable with casting a fly.

For further information on this or similar NVATU education activities, contact Bob Parker at <barker@novatu.org>. Volunteers are an essential component of a successful education program, isn't it time to give back? Volunteer skills ranging from fly tying and fly casting, and macroinvertebrate sampling, to coordination, and herding cats are all welcome. If you are interested in bugs, come join us to learn more about what lives in our streams. Also, contact us if you know of, or are involved with, a youth group and would like to participate in one of these programs.

-- Bob Parker

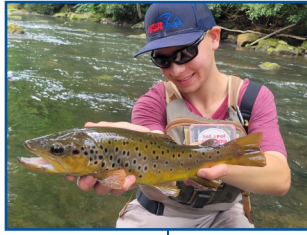
Annual Activity Report

Every year the chapter reports on Activities and Volunteer Hours. In an effort to collect this information in a timely manner, we kindly request you report your participation and hours upon completion of the volunteer event. This will allow the chapter to have a more accurate accounting and not have to rely on end of year memory. You can send an email with the details of your volunteer work (Activity, Date, Location, & Hours-including travel time) to treasurer@novatu.org.

-- Scott Allen

THE US YOUTH FLY FISHING TEAM EXPERIENCE

Who am I? My name is Justin. It is possible you may know me by my YouTube Channel, hot spot nymphing. I am a 16-year-old high school junior and competitive member on the US Youth Fly Fishing Team



(USYFFT). Fly fishing and fly tying are two of my greatest passions. Several years ago, I learned about the competition side of fly fishing and it became my goal to make the Youth National Team. In my quest I learned a variety of competition tactics, improved my fly fishing and tying skills and gained a clearer understanding of what it means to be part of the team.

What is competition fly fishing and what is the US Youth Fly Fishing Team all about?

The USYFFT is an organization dedicated to the development of the highest quality competitive fly-fishing team to represent the United States every year in worldwide competition. Its main objective of course is to bring home gold medals, but the team is so much more than that. Most importantly to me, it has provided valuable camaraderie and the opportunity to make connections with many of our country's leading anglers and

fly fishing industry professionals.

The USYFFT hosts several clinics every year. They are open to all anglers under 18 years old interested in advancing their fly fishing

skills and competing with other youth from around the country. The team also holds an annual National Championship that the coaches use to help in their selection of new team members. Sign-ups for clinics and Nationals are found at usangling.org.

What is it like to attend USYFFT clinics?

This year I have attended three youth clinics; two on the Nantahala River in North Carolina, and one in central Pennsylvania where we fished Penns Creek, Spring Creek and Pine Creek. The clinics are led and managed by some of the greatest in the sport including George Daniel, Josh Miller, Gordon Vanderpool, Joe Clark, Brian Kimmel, Tess Weigand, and Tucker Horne. In addition to learning competition techniques, we take part in stream conservation and are instructed in the etiquette of good sportsmanship and international fellowship. The clinics are generally three days long and programmed

by the coaches to ensure everyone is advancing their angling skills. Evenings and nights are spent tying together, socializing, and learning from each other. I have made a ton of friends from these clinics, and we regularly meet up on video chats to tie together and talk fishing.

Team members also compete in competitions held around the country. I have competed in several this year including the Seffl Regional on White



Top Laurel Creek last May where I was able to take first place. The tournaments are a great way to meet others interested in the sport and another amazing opportunity to learn. The tournaments are open to all ages, not just youth, and sign-ups are at flycomps.com.

I hope to see you at a local competition in the near future or on a stream nearby. Please check out my YouTube channel, [hot spot nymphing](#) where I post relevant fishing and tying videos and on Instagram [@hotspotnymphing](#).

-- Justin Hardie

MIRAMICHI RIVER OPPORTUNITY

Fellow Members,
The following is from Michael Cherwek, who manages the Project Healing Waters program at Quantico and has established a foundation to assist wounded vets in the Fredericton area. His wife has been diagnosed with cancer. Having seen the world famous Miramichi River and read about it, I would purchase his membership in this unique club if I could. Please consider this unique opportunity.

George Paine
Secretary

After 60-plus years of fly fishing for Atlantic salmon, I have come to the unfortunate realization that, with Nancy's current battles, my salmon fishing days in Canada are now rapidly coming to a close and that I probably should begin the process of selling my club membership to the Hinchey Pond Hunting and Fishing Lodge in Boisetown, New Brunswick on

the Miramichi River. This private Atlantic salmon club is composed of slightly over 20 club members and it owns extensive property on both sides of the Miramichi River, with one primary lodge on one side of the river and another smaller cottage on the opposite side of the river, with exclusive fishing rights for Atlantic salmon fishing on both sides. Interestingly, some of the more elderly club members haven't fished the club waters in years but still maintain their club memberships.. Most of the club members live in the New Brunswick capital of Fredericton area and travel for day trips to fish the club waters. There is also ample brook trout fishing on both the Miramichi and in the local area. As an additional bonus, there is a major sea-run trout run every summer on the Miramichi. Like so many Canadians (and Atlantic salmon fly fishers in general), the club members are gentlemanly and really good guys

and I have been impressed with their collegiality and conservation practices. Although 99% of the salmon fishing is wade-fishing, the club keeps 2-3 motorized canoes onsite for canoe fishing or for those members who just want to fish the other side of the river. Being private and not public waters, fishing crowds have never been an issue and I am usually alone or with a friend or two when I salmon fish, perhaps occasionally seeing another club member on the other side of the river. The bald eagles, moose, deer and occasional black bears are always a nice bonus while salmon fishing at Hinchey Pond. Solitude without loneliness.

Another major advantage associated with my personal club membership is that it carries a Special New Brunswick Fishing Guide Exemption with it. This special exemption allows me to salmon fish a huge stretch of the

Miramichi River without having to hire a licensed New Brunswick fishing guide each and every day to fish for Atlantic salmon, which is a New Brunswick law for out-of-province Atlantic salmon fishers. This additional club exemption benefit saves me about \$150- 200 daily. This limited special permit associated with my club membership is a great deal.

Last year, a Hinchey Pond club membership became available and sold for \$15,000.00 (U.S.), which is what I am asking for my Hinchey Pond Club membership with it's own Special Fishing Guide Exemption. The annual club dues vary with the taxes and property management expenses and has averaged about \$600.00-\$650.00 per year.

Michael Cherwek
mlcherwek@gmail.com
540-809-1048

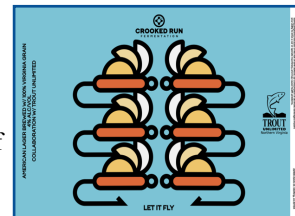
SNAPSHOTS/ HEADLINES FROM THIS YEAR

LET IT FLY LAGER

Let It Fly Lager Collaboration with Crooked Run Fermentation!

Crooked Run Fermentation re-released “Let It Fly” lager twice this year. The proceeds from sales raised over \$1000 for the chapter.

Support this Trout Unlimited Business and don’t forget to show your TU membership card to receive 15% off Beer and Merchandise at both locations– Sterling and Leesburg



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.

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



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, fly fishing, 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 know as Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area where activity stations were established at a pond, Thompson Creek, and the park headquarters.



A TU CONSERVATION SUCCESS, 40 YEARS IN THE MAKING: CONEWAGO CREEK 1982-2022

NVATU Supports Service Partnership and Military Families

Get Involved

Protect the places you're passionate about.

If you want to be a part of the multitude of activities the Chapter engages in, please reach out!

Email your interest to: contact@novatu.org

There is a place, and need, for you!



MEMBER PHOTO ALBUM



Chapter members enjoying some small mouth bass fishing during the September FWM trip to the confluence of the Rappahannock and Rapidan rivers



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!

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



KEEP UP WITH THE LATEST CHAPTER HAPPENINGS ON FACEBOOK:

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 Snownhite
Facebook Administrator.....Scott Russell
Instagram Administrator.....Jeff Mangeno
Merchandise Marketing Chair.....Alex Buellbach
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