

TROUTLINE

Newsletter of the Northern Virginia Chapter of Trout Unlimited January/February/March 2021

CALENDAR

Next Meeting 4 Feb 7.30pm on Zoom

The Chapter Meetings 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 by clicking here for the February meeting, and here for the March meeting.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing instructions and the confirmation number needed to join the meeting.

2021 January

No chapter meeting. *14 Jan* 7.30pm Virtual Board Meeting

February

4 Feb

7.30pm Virtual Member Meeting

II Feb

7.30pm Virtual Board Meeting

March

4 Mar

7.30pm Virtual Member Meeting

II Mar

7.30pm Virtual Board Meeting

April

I Apr

7.30pm Virtual Member Meeting

8 Apr

7.30pm Virtual Board Meeting

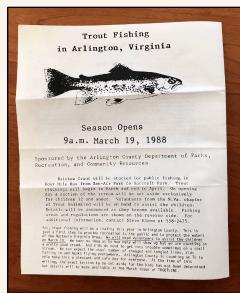
NVATU Turns 40 in 2021

he Northern Virginia L Chapter of Trout Unlimited celebrates its 40th Anniversary in 2021. Throughout the year, TroutLine will look at some of the most notable events and recognize the early members who helped make NVATU one of the largest TU chapters in the nation. If you'd like to share some stories and/or photos of notable chapter events over the past 40 years, send them to Jim Galligan at jimgalligan48@gmail.com or George Paine at ppafish@hotmail.com.

The Beginnings

The 'Godfather' of the chapter was 'Bud' Bowers, according to Jay Lovering and Tom Parrott, two of the early members. "Bud taught (Arlington) county recreation

classes in fly casting and fly tying. In 1981, the earliest members-to-be met through those classes and hatched the plan to gather a group and go to TU



Stocking announcement in TroutLine February, 1988

in Vienna," said Parrott.

Lovering said it began for him when he needed to learn how to tie an Adams. "I saw they were having fly tying classes at the county so I went. It was standing room only. Later, Frank Evans, Tom Guffain and Tom Parrott walked into my real estate office and said they wanted to start a TU chapter. I said I joined the Marine Corps and I'm not joining anything else."

Despite that, the chapter formed. The earliest members included Bruce Butler, Frank, Tom G., Jay, Charlie Most, Tom P., Jim Wilson and Mike Wine.

The first few meetings were held at Lovering's office before moving to a high school in Falls Church and then to the National Wildlife

Federation offices (now the McLean Bible Church) where they remained for several years.

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Upcoming Speakers

Fly Fishing the Smokies and the West

If you're about to plan your 2021 trips, the February and March virtual meetings should tell you what to expect for two popular destinations.

At the February 4 meeting, Eugene Shuler of Fly Fishing the Smokies, Gatlinburg, TN., will look at the prospects for fly-fishing in the Great Smokey Mountains this year. Shuler and his pro guides offer wade and float trips on more than a dozen streams in and around the GSM National Park.

If you've fished there before you're likely familiar with the geography in that region; the distance between waters may not be that far as the crow flies, but those mountain roads and traffic can eat up a

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edit: Douglas Barnes

January/February/March 2021



lot of time while you try to move between spots. For that reason, Shuler and the guides operate out of five locations; Gatlinburg, Pigeon Forge and Sevierville, TN, and Cherokee and Bryson City in NC.

If you're planning a western trip, don't miss the March 4 meeting. We'll have two speakers from the Yellowstone/Jackson area to talk about fishing, gear and travel tips as the areas recover from 2020.

Dan Gigone manages the Sweetwater Fly Shop, Livingston, MT., near the entrance to Paradise Valley. The shop advertises that it offers easy access to some of the most celebrated and diverse blue-ribbon trout waters in America: From placid Paradise Valley spring creeks—DePuy's, Armstrong's, Nelson's—to the Yellowstone River.

On the same bill will be Mike Dawes, from World Cast Anglers, Victor, ID. WCA, which also guides out of the Orvis store in Jackson Hole, WY., offers wade and float trips on the Henry's Fork, the white water of the Teton Canyon, the South Fork and the Snake and other top creeks in the area. "The best waters in Eastern Idaho and Western Wyoming", they say.

NVATU Turns 40, continued.

"The first chapter meeting I attended featured Hank Woolman as the speaker," noted Jim Wilson. "He spoke about how he built bamboo rods."

In 1982, one of the chapter's first major outreach efforts was the Conewago Creek Restoration partnership with Adams County Trout Unlimited Chapter #323, a partnership that is still ongoing.

A February, 1988, edition of TroutLine lists the officers as: Bob Wesoloski, President; Ted J. Bush, Jr., Vice President; Ed Goldich, Treasurer, and Judy Harris, Secretary.

Directors included Neal Emerald, Bruce Mathews, Tom Tenney, Bob Bidwell, Bud Bowers, and Jack Kodrich.

Committee leaders that year included Bob Bidwell (Membership); Bud Bowers and Sam Gillette (Fly Tying); Phil Mello (Fly Fishing Classes); Dick Bennett (Public Relations); Neal Emerald (Mossy Creek Manager); Bob Wesoloski (Conewago Creek Mgr. and Banquet Chairman); Ted Bush (Programs);

SHAKY START FOR FWAM

Fishing with someone was one of the core reasons for starting the chapter. Sometimes it went well, sometimes not, as Bruce Butler recalled. "Early on, I volunteered to take a guy to fish the south fork of the Shenandoah. It was in the spring and the water was high. I'm 6'2', so it wasn't a problem for me. But the other guy took about two steps, fell in and went downstream. He got out, looked at me, said thank you very much and left. See you later. "Nobody asked me to go fishing with them again."

Bruce Mathews (FWAM); Tom Tenney (Newsletter Editor), and Jim Wilson (Conservation/Legislation).

Next issue:

Notable milestones and more stories.

Updates

Big Spring Creek Restoration Opportunity

Daniel Lazenby

When we were meeting at the Vienna Fire Hall last year you may have heard conversations about why our Chapter doesn't have a Virginia-based restoration project. In response to this, our chapter began putting out feelers exploring possible teaming opportunities with other like-minded conservation groups. The COVID-19 pandemic virtually shut down all progress on that effort.

Then, last September and again in October, our Chapter received stream restoration inquiries from two landowners on Big Spring Creek in Loudoun County. One inquiry came directly to our Chapter; the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) passed the other to us. Conveniently, these two properties are adjacent to each other.

The first step in exploring this possible opportunity is fact-finding. In this step a team comprised of DWR Staff and Chapter Leaders will have preliminary conversations with the landowners. Next, the team and landowners will walk the creek to view the creek's condition. The walkthrough provides DWR Staff and Chapter Leaders an opportunity to consider the potential project's complexity and magnitude.

The Team's preliminary conversation and creek walk were scheduled for Mid-December 2020. By the time you read this, the preliminary conversation should have taken place. Keep watch for updates on this possible restoration opportunity in the TroutLine Newsletter, on the Chapter's Website, on the Chapter's Facebook, and Instagram pages.

Trout in the Classroom Lives



George Paine

TIC has been a bit different in the 2020-2021 school year. Despite Covid restrictions, dedicated teachers

in seven schools are operating nine tanks. Dan Cunningham, Don Grattan and I delivered nine packets of eggs, with some already hatching into alevins, to the grateful teachers in Prince Willam, Loudon and Fairfax counties. It is expected that most will use their tanks in innovative ways while teaching online.

With Wildcat Hollow closed for DWR (new acronym for Virginia DGIF) study on reproduction, we'll stock most in the spring of 2021 in Catharpin in the Bull Run Mountain Conservancy.

www.brmconservancy.org

Congratulations

C ongratulations Adams County TU #323 and Richard Lewis.

Out of 49 Pennsylvania State Trout Unlimited Chapters, the Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited selected Adams (PA.) County chapter, our 38-year partner in Conewago Creek restoration, as the "Best In the State".

Additionally, a very active ACTU member Richard Lewis has been named Outstanding Individual Conservationist. Some of you may have met Richard during our annual Conewago Creek Workdays.

Join our chapter in congratulating ACTU and Richard on their achievements.

OBITUARY

Jim Greene

Jim Greene, a long-time Trout
Unlimited volunteer and a leading driver
of Maryland's Trout in the Classroom
program, passed recently from
complications associated with COVID19. Jim was the president and CEO of
Waterwisp flies, and before that, he was
an advisor at the World Bank, and a
U.S. Foreign Services officer. Jim was
recognized with the Ray Mortenson
award in 2015, the highest annual award
TU gives a volunteer. For a more
detailed look at Jim Greene, read Chris
Wood's obituary here: www.tu.org/blog/
remembering-jim-greene.



My Yellowstone Cutthroat



Willow-like bushes are a natural buffer to stream access in the Shoshone National Forest.

Story and photos by Daniel Lazenby

This is the first of four installments as Daniel describes his efforts to complete the Wyoming Cutthroat Slam (https://wgfd.wyo.gov/Fishing-and-Boating/Cutt-Slam), catching four cutthroat trout subspecies: Yellowstone, Colorado River, Snake River, and Bonneville. In Search of the Second Cutthroat can be read on the Web at novatu.org/Fishing, and on the chapter's Facebook page. Story #3 will be posted in February and #4 in March.



A nice Yellowstone Cutthroat.

What do 5,046 miles, 15 days of dispersed tent camping in two different national forests and the State of Wyoming have in common? The Wyoming Cutthroat Slam. The Wyoming Cutt-Slam involves submitting documentation supporting the catch of four cutthroat trout subspecies: Yellowstone, Colorado River, Snake River, and Bonneville.

I used the website, https://wgfd.wyo.gov/Fishing-and-Boating/Cutt-Slam, to identify streams in each of the subspecies watersheds. Due to high bear activity, some portions of the national forest only allow dispersed camping in hard-sided campers. I had to identify primary and secondary streams I wanted to fish in national forest sections with lower bear activity and approved dispersed tent camping.

First fish on my list was the Yellowstone Cutthroat. I had identified the confluence of three streams at 8,750 feet elevation in the Shoshone National Forest north-north-west of Dubois, Wyoming, off forest service road 532. Hunters were busy setting up their camps. This narrowed my choice of dispersed tent sites and meant I had better wear something hunter orange.

Once camp was established, I went to survey my primary and secondary trout streams. No matter how much electronic reconnaissance you do, no matter how comfortable you are with your assessment of the terrain, nothing beats seeing it in person. All three streams were protected by a buffer of willow-like bushes anywhere from 3 to 7+feet tall and anywhere from a few feet to 50+foot wide swath of willows between the road and the actual creek (see photo 1). Fishing any of these creeks meant willow-bush whacking was going to be the order of the day. Very low crystal-clear water added an additional challenge to the fishing.

Of the three allotted Yellowstone Cutthroat fishing days most of the first was spent building up the nerve to enter the willows while not knowing who or what else was in the willows with me, exploring stream access, and trying not to scare the fish as I popped out of the willows. I never got a strike in any of the places I would have caught fish in east coast streams. I felt like the fish were thumbing their fins at me.

Nights dropped into the low 30 to high 20-degree Fahrenheit range. Woke the second morning to an overcast rainy day and a tent covered in ice. The day passed slowly. Finally got on the water a couple hours before dark. The water was so cold I'd have to hit them on the nose to get their attention. Not a fish to be seen. Two days down and no fish.

The third morning opened in the upper 30-degree Fahrenheit range. Beautiful blue sky. Water was warming up by 10AM. I located a nice stretch of water with a few runs, pools/holes, and a couple of beaver ponds. Started at the downstream end and worked my way upstream. The day moved slowly. Moved from Hopper/dropper, to stimulator/attractors, to beetles and dropper, to nymphs, to dry/dropper. Nothing! Not a thing moved!

The sun was about 45 minutes away from ducking behind the mountaintop and I was coming to the end of my stretch of water. There was just the beaver pond and a nice-looking hole below the dam. I was going to have to call it quits shortly so I could work my way through the willows and hike back to the car before dark. In desperation I put on a sparkly black woolly bugger with a flashy green tail and stripped it through the pond. Again nothing!

Wood debris from the dam wedged into the creek bank of the hole. I got into position at the bottom of the hole and started casting and stripping the woolly bugger back. Slowly I worked my way towards the head of the hole/pool. One retrieve just skirted the edge of the wood debris. Nothing. The next retrieve went under the debris. That was all it took! I had my first cutthroat!

One down three more cutthroats to go.

New Landowners Bordering SNP Affect Access

(Or, Why You Need the Latest Chapter Guide)

By George Paine

F orty-five years ago, armed with a few wet flies I'd used in Colorado and very little understanding of brookies, I headed down Jeremy's Run with a neighbor. After passing

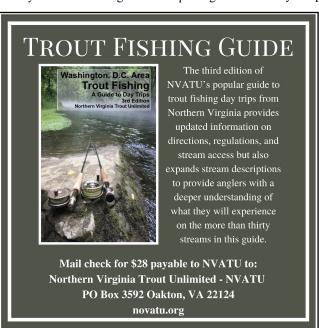
some teenagers tormenting a rattlesnake, we proceeded to fish over some of the smallest fish I'd ever seen; certainly nothing like the rainbows I'd caught as a kid in Colorado. Out of desperation we drove down to the lower end of Jeremy's hoping to find bigger water (I

learned later from one of the Trow brothers at Mossy Creek Flyshop that a lot of the water in Jeremy's goes underground into an aquifer before reaching the road.) The area appeared to be inaccessible, which was probably a good thing because I also learned later that one of the landowners used to shoot at trespassers headed for Jeremy's.

Jeremy's, which was one of my favorites, has again been closed from the bottom; this time apparently by a new landowner.

One of many key elements to successfully fishing for Brookies in the Shenandoah National Park is finding a place to leave your vehicle. The availability of parking is a patchwork similar to the patchwork of land that was assembled to create the Park in the 1930's. Various parcels were donated and bought, sometimes following condemnation. Many of the inhabitants were not happy about being resettled. Some of those are still living and their families are resentful. Overall, however, most are really good folks who share our desire to protect the Brookies. There are also newcomers who have built weekend homes on the edge of the park. Bottom line is that most will welcome you if you respect their rules for crossing their land or parking.

When accessing the Park from the base of the Blue Ridge it helps to know where the landowners are willing to let you park. That's where our Trout Fishing Guide comes in handy. On the Rose River, for example, you have to avoid parking outside the circular parking area at the trailhead to keep from upsetting the adjacent landowner whose anger management training has worn off! For the Hughes and Brokenback Run you may need to pay \$5 to park in the lower lot for hikers (unless you are early enough to find a spot in the upper lot) now that the fishermen's spots have been blocked with rocks. The Trout Fishing Guide tells you this, and much more.



Volunteers

Volunteers Continue Cleaning Up Local Waterways

- ▶ Luke Hendrixson reported that he and several neighbors cleaned up an unnamed creek that runs through their neighborhood. The creek dumps into Tripp's Run and eventually makes it to Lake Barcroft, which feeds Holmes Run, one of the few trout fishing streams within chapter boundaries. Half a dozen volunteers pitched in for the project. Volunteers met at John Mastenbrook-Greenway Downs Park and then worked the two-block stretch of the creek for several hours.
 - "I picked up garbage in the stream while others picked up trash along the road and helped cut back invasive plant species. While I was grabbing trash (mainly plastic bottles and bags) I was surprised to see a handful of aquatic creatures such as chubs and a few crayfish. I believe Fairfax County has washed their hands of the creek, so all of the work falls to Greenway Downs residents." Luke Hendrixson
- ▶ The Friends of Accotink Creek, joining the International Coastal Cleanup in October, removed 224 bags of trash, 25 tires, and junk ranging from a leaf blower to an ankle monitor along 12 adopted stretches of Accotink Creek.
- ▶ In September, the District of Columbia, through the Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE), announced an interim action plan that will greatly reduce the health risk posed by PCBs across parts of the Anacostia River as part of the Anacostia River Sediment Project (ARSP). In total, an area of approximately 77 acres will be cleaned up at an estimated cost of \$35.5 million, reducing the human health risk from PCBs by approximately 90%. For more information, go to: doee.dc.gov/release/bowser-administration-announces-planaction-cleanup-anacostia-river.



Fiends a Booth, a member of TU and Friends of Dyke Marsh, noted in a recent edition of The Connection that in addition to all of the fishing line, bait cans and other assorted trash regularly lining the Potomac shoreline, a torrent of masks, rubber gloves, wipes and more takeout food debris has soared since the start of the Pandemic. Wipes in the sewer system, for example, skyrocketed by 17 tons in March and April 2020 year compared with the same months in 2019, Lynn Riggins of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission told the Associated Press

A Getaway to the SNP

By Palmer Kasprowicz

A Description of the Beauty of the Shenandoah National Park Using Sensory

Everyone has a special place, where we go to rejuvenate, where we simply enjoy being; a second home. This is what Shenandoah National Park is for me. The park is a large swath of majestic, scenic land situated in the Appalachian Mountains. I have been traveling there as long as I remember. It is fitting, though purely coincidental, that currently we are on our way to the SNP.

My family and I are very fond of the park because it is a renowned fly fishing destination. Fly-fishing is a large part of my life, and the first time I caught a native Brook Trout was in the SNP.

To go to my favorite fishing spot, we pull off Skyline Drive into a small lot usually so

packed that cars are practically falling off the edge. From here, the view is expansive, simultaneously filled with hues of green on the valley floor and shades of blue turning into grey as the

mountains disappear in the distance. Once the road is crossed, the loop trail requires a decision: take the hard way down or up. Usually we make the return easier.

As we descend the switchbacks and climbable boulders, civilization's sounds fade into nature's songs. Calm wind rustles the leaves composing a peaceful melody. There are a myriad of insect and bird noises, most notably the grasshopper's chirping and the cat bird's "meowing." The farther we descend into the valley, the more audible the



river becomes. The river at the top section is a series of small pools with riffles and slight drop-offs, the bubbling water adding this cacophony of sounds to conduct nature's symphony. As we follow the meandering

> stream down the mountainside, the scenery changes drastically. The tumultuous trail leads us near towering rock faces that engulf the stream or large open areas filled with light green ferns

looking like the set of Jurassic Park. As we draw closer to better fishing

spots, we traverse ancient rocks covered in so much gritty lichen and plush moss that the rocks themselves are alive. While not much

with life. If we are lucky, we catch at least one Brook Trout, the most colorful, spectacular fish in Virginia. They are an

artist's color palette; blue over red speckles, red over yellow speckles, all over an evergreen forest body. The fins, however, are a stark contrast, fiery red like dragon's wings, capped with vivid black and white striping. While fairly slimy to handle when releasing, the trout are uncharacteristically calm, not squirming to escape their benevolent captors' clutches. Even though we have caught many, every time is equally awe-inspiring. As the sun lowers behind smoothtopped mountains, we

increase our pace to return to our car on time. The stream guides our path; although for the trek upwards, we go against the flow. The 50-foot drop of fast whitewater from the thundering waterfall signifies the end of the strenuous, yet rewarding, part of the journey. Now all that remains is the one-mile flat, wide fire road bringing us back to Skyline Drive. Though our legs are sore, our smiles are big, giving us the perfect time to reflect on another fantastic, scenic trip.

While in any season the park is packed with color and natural majesty, fall is the most amazing. The normally solid green Appalachians are transformed into a blazing landscape as the trees are a mixture of bright

oranges, vivid yellows, and deep reds. All of these leaves then drop onto the forest floor piecing together a blanket of colors. This

blanket produces the undeniable signature of fall: the smell of wet leaves. The pungent, mildew-y leaves help to establish fall, reminiscent of childhood pumpkin patches.

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If we are lucky,

Programs

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grey as the mountains

disappear in the distance

TU Program Expanding For First Responders



Trout Unlimited is re-energizing its Veteran's Service Partnership program by adding first responders and encouraging more local chapter-sponsored events.

Since 2011, TU's Veteran's Service Partnership has been serving active duty military, reservists, veterans, and their families by engaging them through the recreational therapy of angling and conservation.

Mike Banaszewski, Director of Service Partnership, told NVATU members in October that TU is expanding the program to include members of the fire service, medical, and law enforcement communities and their families and promoting more diverse outreach efforts. One of the ways will be to expand chapter-hosted events for military, first responders, and families, such as fly-fishing open houses and outreach to non-traditional partners, such as JROTC. Program details can be found on the TU national web site at: www.tu.org/service.

Member Photo Album

The Magnificent 7 Take on the Holston and Watauga

Late last August, the gang of seven (Pete Cary, Bill Errico, Don Hart, Roy Lindquest, Jay Lovering, Hal Metcalf and Tom Roberts) spent a great week of floating and wading these two rivers nestled in the Smokies of Tennessee. These two rivers are under the management of TVA, which established some of the first earthen dams back in the 30's.

Hal Metcalf orchestrated an excellent trip. The lodging, meals, fishing and catching were excellent. The floats were run by very professional guides who knew their stuff. The wading was just as productive. We all picked up some new tricks, especially when it came to dry dropper fishing.

Officers

Tom Roberts with one of the reasons for the trip.



Hal Metcalf and the morning mist.



NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED

| Chapter President Chapter Vice President Chapter Treasurer Assistant Chapter Treasurer Chapter Secretary | Tony Hill Ken Bailey Steve Peters | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| Board of Directors Chapter Board Member (FY 2019) Chapter Board Member (FY 2019) Chapter Board Member (FY 2019) Chapter Board Member (FY 2018) Chapter Board Member (FY 2018) Chapter Board Member (FY 2019) Chapter Board Member (FY 2019) Chapter Board Member (FY 2018) | Kiki Galvin Daniel Lazenby Roy Lindquist Terry Lowe Steve Peters Suzanne Malone Jim Wilson | | | |
| Advisors to the Officers and Board of Direct Chapter Legal Counsel Chapter Financial Review | Victor Kernus | | | |
| NVATU Committees | | | | |
| Communications Chapter Communications Chapter Newsletter Editor Secondary Chapter Newsletter Editor Chapter Newsletter Design Chapter Publicity Chair Chapter Webmaster Chapter Facebook Administrator Secondary Chapter Secretary Chapter Stream Guide Editor | Jim Galligan George Paine Anna Rockett vacant Rob Snowhite Scott Russell Terry Lowe | | | |

| Chapter Membership Chair | Carl Jordan |
|--|--------------|
| Chapter Meeting Coordinator | Jim Galligan |
| Secondary Chapter Meeting Coordinator | vacant |
| Chapter Veteran's Service Coordinator | Kiki Galvin |
| Chapter Women's Initiative Coordinator | Kiki Galvin |
| Chapter Youth Representative | Palmer |
| | |

Kasprowicz

Education

Momharshin

| Chapter T.I.C. Coordinator | George Paine |
|---|---------------|
| Chapter Education (Fly-Tying) Coordinator . | John Hadley |
| Chapter Youth Education Chair | Bill Errico |
| Secondary Chapter Youth Education Chair | Kirk Smith |
| TU Tri-State Youth Conservation Camp Co | -Chair |
| | Suzanna Malor |

TU Tri-State Youth Conservation Camp Co-Chair
Paul Kearney

Conservation

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|---|---------------|
| Secondary Chapter Conservation Chair | Roy Lindquist |
| Chapter Delegate to Virginia Council | Jim Wilson |
| Chapter Program Leader for TIA Alliance | Roy Lindquist |
| Natural Resource Advisor | Kirk Smith |
| Chapter Fish With a Member Coordinator | George Paine |
| Chapter Western MD Trip Coordinator | James Barber |
| | |

Financial Development

Merchandise Sales Chair Don Grattan



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

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



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