



TROUTLINE

Newsletter of the Northern Virginia Chapter of Trout Unlimited
October/November/December 2020

CALENDAR

Next Meeting

1 Oct
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 meeting you must register by clicking [here](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing instructions and the confirmation number needed to join the meeting.

October

1 Oct
7.30pm Virtual Member Meeting
8 Oct
7.30pm Virtual Board Meeting

November

5 Nov
7.30pm Virtual Member Meeting
12 Nov
7.30pm Virtual Board Meeting

December

3 Dec
7.30pm Virtual Member Meeting
10 Dec
7.30pm Virtual Board Meeting

2021

January

No chapter meeting.

February

4 Feb
7.30pm Virtual Member Meeting
11 Feb
7.30pm Virtual Board Meeting

Speaker of the Month

The South River Story



October: Tommy Lawhorne

The South River in Waynesboro, Va., is an urban fisheries success story. As late as the 1970's, industrial and municipal pollution had rendered it almost fishless. By the late 1980's, improvements in water quality from regulatory changes had greatly improved the fishery and VDGIF implemented the first Urban Trout Stocking program. Shenandoah Valley Trout Unlimited quickly adopted the South as its home waters and have been working since to

continue improving the trout fishery. Our presentation will focus on the highlights of this transition and on the quality of the fishery that has been restored.

Tommy Lawhorne is the President of Shenandoah Valley Trout Unlimited and the Co-Owner of South River Fly Shop in Waynesboro. Tommy has been a lifelong resident of the Waynesboro area and has been fly-fishing the South River regularly since 1992.

Donations

Chapter Initiatives:

- ◆ Trout In the Classroom (TIC) in 22 local schools
- ◆ Casting For Recovery (CFR) for women who have had breast cancer
- ◆ Project Healing Waters (PHW) for veterans
- ◆ Tri-State Teen Conservation and Fishing Camp
- ◆ River restoration projects
- ◆ Family Fishing Day and other kids fishing days
- ◆ The Mayfly Project for foster children



Bob Parsons and Project Healing Waters Veteran on Thornton River 2017

Asking for Your Support

As we approach the end of the year, consider making a donation to the chapter. We are ASKING each of our members to make an Annual Supporting Contribution ("ASK donation") of \$20 to help sustain our Chapter's continuing financial obligations. These donations help us cover operating expenses and ensure that we can continue to contribute to and support our activities. Annually, our Chapter's operating expenses include: renting the Vienna fire department's "Flame Room" for our monthly meetings (which we expect will return in 2021); editing and printing our newsletter "Troutline" (a valuable tool distributed to local fly shops to help attract new members); contributing to the annual tri-state kids' fishing camp at Graves Mountain Lodge; funding Trout in the Classroom programs;

supporting Casting for Recovery and Project Healing Waters; and paying for other operating and administrative expenditures. We do not consider this donation to be dues, but rather a voluntary contribution by members 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.

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

Northern Virginia Chapter of Trout Unlimited
P.O. Box 3592
Oakton, VA 22124
or donate on the website at:
www.novatu.org/donate

Fishing Public/Private Waters



November: Escatawba Farms

Opportunities abound for landing photo-worthy trout at some of the pay-to-fish waters in Virginia. The nearby Rose River and Mossy and Beaver Creeks

are popular day trips for chapter members, and an outing at Double Spur Outfitters in Star Tannery, west of Strasburg, is not much farther. There are more opportunities farther south and NVATU's virtual November 5 meeting will feature two speakers to talk about the fishing opportunities in their area.

Escatawba Farms, near Covington, offers more than two miles of private fishing on Dunlap Creek. Derrick Barr, owner, said they limit access to eight rods a day and give anglers a chance to land stocked 'bows, brookies, brown and tiger trout. The farm also has a spring-fed, stocked lake if still water is your goal.

The Albemarle Angler, Charlottesville, offers non-guided access on private stretches of the Moorman's and Cowpasture Rivers with very reasonable rod rates, and guided access on the GT near Charlottesville. All guided trips are limited to three guests plus the guide.

The Health of Shenandoah Valley Rivers and Streams



December: Ami Ricassi

Ami Ricassi, Projects Coordinator for the Shenandoah Watershed Study, will close out NVATU's 2020 with a look at the health of Shenandoah Valley rivers and streams at the December 3 meeting with a review of the Virginia Trout Stream Sensitivity Study.

The VTSSS was initiated in 1987 to

investigate the impacts of acid deposition on water chemistry in Virginia's native Brook Trout streams. Ami will talk about the impact of stream acidity on fish health, how the data from VTSSS was used to enact key environmental legislation such as the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, and how both water quality and fish abundance have changed since the dramatic reductions in acidic emissions and deposition in the past 30 years. Going forward, the VTSSS program will be used to inform policy aimed at improving water quality and fisheries habitat in sensitive regions.

A native of West Hartford, Conn., Ami received a B.S. in Mathematics from Wake Forest University in 1996. After working in Yosemite National Park, where she was absolutely humbled and inspired by the landscape, she made the decision to pursue a career in natural resources. She received her M.S. in Environmental Engineering in 1999, followed by volunteer work in Alaska supporting fisheries and water quality research. She joined the USGS National Research Program conducting research on the hydrology in Everglades National Park and received her PhD in



PRIVATE WATERS

Here are a few relatively close private fishing opportunities in Virginia. Some are too far for a comfortable day trip but lodging is either on site or nearby. Some permit access only with a guide.

Big Bend Farm, Millboro
Cowpasture River
(434) 977-6882
www.bigbendfarm.com

Doublespur Outfitters, Star Tannery
Cedar Creek
(540) 533-3898
www.doublespuroutfitters.com

Escatawba Farms, Covington
Dunlap Creek
(540) 916-6487
www.escatawba.com

Mossy Creek Fly Shop, Harrisonburg
Beaver Creek, Mossy Creek,
Smith Creek at Susie Q Farms.
Susie Q Farms does not require a guide.
(540) 434-2444
www.mossycreekyflyfishing.com

Omni Homestead, Hot Springs
Cascades Creek
(800) 839-7760
www.omnihotels.com/hotels/homestead-virginia

Rose River Farm, Syria
Rose River
(703) 209-2832
www.rosriverfarm.com

Albemarle Angler
Cowpasture River
Moorman's River
(434) 977-6882
www.albemarleangler.com

Environmental Sciences from UVA. Ami took over the reins from Rick Webb in 2014 as Projects Coordinator for the Shenandoah Watershed Study-Virginia Trout Stream Sensitivity Study where she maintains the long-term water quality monitoring and research program.

Introducing Kids to Fly Fishing

From Trout in the Classroom to volunteering at kids-day fishing events, NVATU members contribute time and resources to introducing young people to fly-fishing. Matthew's recollections of his early days learning to fly fish illustrate the life-long impact such efforts can have on the young.



Matthew Lourdeau then...

From Matthew's blog Casting Across (www.castingacross.com)

I began fly-fishing at the age of 14. That means I have been involved in the sport in one way or another for over half my life. That also means I've been fly fishing for longer than I've known my wife or have lived in any one place.

There were a number of pros and cons to being a flourishing angler as an early teenager. There were a lot of trade-offs. I couldn't drive myself anywhere, but I could also fish without buying a license for those first years. Living in northern Virginia that meant that I could fish in state as well as nearby Maryland, DC, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania for free. There were plenty of opportunities. All I needed to do was get on the water.

My first job involved setting up chairs for my church's Sunday service, and then tearing them down afterwards. It was a quick

hundred bucks a weekend, which made for easy math. I'd figure, in my head as I unstacked and stacked chairs, what I could buy and when. I can still clearly remember a month of looking forward to the 7-foot, 3-weight St. Croix Avid, Orvis Clearwater 3/4, and Cortland Spring Creek line.

I feel like I'm not just speaking for myself when I say that cultivating interested young fly fishers is very important. Teenagers have great potential. I'm always blown away at some of the flies, videos, and fish young people put online. Just like there are prodigies in academics and the arts, there are inevitably gifted child anglers. The big difference is that there aren't state-sponsored magnet programs. That puts the impetus on friends and family who fish, local organizations that these kids reach out to, and even people like fly shop staff. Finite resources do need to be handed off into capable hands. It is a constant challenge for TU chapters, anglers' associations, and other groups: How do we get kids involved?

I didn't give a lick about conservation when I started fishing. I didn't chuck used worm cups into the woods or kill everything I caught, but I wasn't aware of everything that protecting the fish and their ecosystems entails. The Pennsylvania camp and the Northern Virginia chapter of Trout Unlimited helped with my fishing, but also helped me see the "other side" of taking from the resource. They didn't hammer me with who I should vote for, what companies I should patronize, or how many hours I should volunteer cleaning up stream banks.

How do we get kids involved?

I look back on my first years of fly-fishing as some of my most memorable

They knew that I wanted to learn how to fish and to actually fish, so they integrated the conservation ethic into the angling seamlessly.

It might mean spending time with a kid who has a foam-gripped fly rod, earbuds, and a *shudder* flat-brimmed hat. I'm sure we all looked and acted completely ridiculous when we were 16, too. Win them over. Give them flies. Let them fish where you know fish will be, and then tell them about more of those places. Take them to a fly shop. Introduce them to other fly fishers you know. Pay for their TU membership (now with a cell phone dry bag!). Hand down old fishing magazines... and explain that they are like apps that don't require batteries. Treat them like they aren't an idiot, a nuisance, or the criminal element. It might work.

It could just be run of the mill nostalgia, but I think it could be legitimate. I look back on my first years of fly-fishing as some of my



...and now

most memorable. I couldn't cast, was preoccupied with catching lots of fish, and probably incessantly talked about fishing to the annoyance of friends and family; but those were the days. Waters were still new, I was seeing things in nature at a high-speed pace, and every trip out meant experiencing something.

Over twenty years in and the experience has aged well. Now I have the opportunity/responsibility of passing it all on. I'm doing it piecemeal with my own little guys, but there are other young people that can be reached. One of the most dangerous things for us is to forget what it was like to be young. Once we do that we lose so much of what makes fly fishing, and life in general, so wonderful: the mystery, the spontaneity, the fun.

*By Matthew Lourdeau
NVATU Member*

CHAPTER BLOGS AND VIDEOS

Several of NVATU's young members are posting blogs and videos of their experiences.

Palmer and Mason Kasprovicz, co-founders of Flies By Two Brothers, have a series of instructional videos and photos on Instagram www.instagram.com/fliesbytwobrothers and Facebook www.facebook.com/Flies-by-Two-Brothers-364285073752318/?view_public_for=364285073752318

Justin Hardie, 14, posts videos of his fishing experiences on local streams and fly tying on his YouTube channel, Hot Spot Nymphing www.youtube.com/channel/UCmKvSwdOnaI450eqInIGzgg

If you know of others, send a note to:

jimgalligan48@gmail.com or ppafish@hotmail.com.

Fishing a Two-Fly Rig Downstream

As a wet fly fisher, I love to dance my nymphs, Woolly Buggers and leeches downstream in front of rocks and log jams.

This strategy surprises many of my friends. They worry about being visible to the fish, and stirring up the creek as they approach a hole.

In the small streams that I like to fish, I try hard not to enter the water. Although I am no longer willing to crawl on the ground to approach the stream, I do use bushes and trees to hide my profile.

Downstream fishing has some distinct advantages. Often I will encounter several currents entering pools. I can fish each of those currents without having to make an extra cast.

That is really valuable on a small stream. I work the nearest current seam and let my flies drift down through the likely holding spots, dancing my flies the whole way down. As I bring the flies back upstream, I do it in short spurts and drops to entice a strike and to make my offerings look like the real thing.

Once I have covered a section, I can mend my line to cover some slack water in the run, or pull the

fly upstream far enough that I can feed it down another seam. I use a two-fly rig that provides different movement for each fly. Generally, the dropper fly is a bead-head and the trailer is often an un-weighted Woolly Bugger.

These two flies in tandem mimic an emerging nymph when the line is paused or stripped, and a struggling damselfly nymph

when dropped downstream, or a fleeing minnow as I strip the flies upstream. I often have an indicator about four feet up the leader from the flies that allows me to gauge where my flies are in relation to the obstacle I am trying to tease a fish from.

*By Chris Hunt
National Digital Director, Trout Unlimited Media, Trout Unlimited*

Member Photo Album



Ralph Nappi



Jim Galvin

NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED

Officers

Chapter President.....	Jay Lovering
Chapter Vice President.....	Tony Hill
Chapter Treasurer.....	Ken Bailey
Assistant Chapter Treasurer.....	Steve Peters
Chapter Secretary.....	George Paine

Board of Directors

Chapter Board Member (FY 2019).....	Bill Errico
Chapter Board Member (FY 2019).....	Kiki Galvin
Chapter Board Member (FY 2019).....	Daniel Lazenby
Chapter Board Member (FY 2018).....	Roy Lindquist
Chapter Board Member (FY 2018).....	Terry Lowe
Chapter Board Member (FY 2019).....	Steve Peters
Chapter Board Member (FY 2018).....	Suzanne Malone
Chapter Board Member (FY 2019).....	Jim Wilson

Advisors to the Officers and Board of Directors

Chapter Legal Counsel.....	Victor Kernus
Chapter Financial Review.....	vacant

NVATU Committees

Communications

Chapter Communications.....	Gregg Rockett
Chapter Newsletter Editor.....	Jim Galligan
Secondary Chapter Newsletter Editor.....	George Paine
Chapter Newsletter Design.....	Anna Rockett
Chapter Publicity Chair.....	vacant
Chapter Webmaster.....	Rob Snowwhite
Chapter Facebook Administrator.....	Scott Russell
Secondary Chapter Secretary.....	Terry Lowe
Chapter Stream Guide Editor.....	Bob Parker

Membership

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 Kasprovicz

Education

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.....	Suzanne Malone
TU Tri-State Youth Conservation Camp Co-Chair.....	Paul Kearney

Conservation

Chapter Conservation Chair.....	Kirk Smith
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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CHAPTER WEBSITE
www.novatu.org
inonvatu@gmail.com

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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 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



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