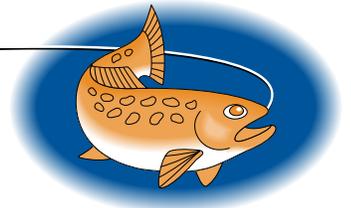


# TROUTLINE



www.nvatu.org • The Newsletter of the Northern Virginia Chapter of Trout Unlimited • April 2015

## APRIL MEETING



### DETAILS

**April 2, 2015**

**6:45 p.m.** Fly tying demonstration

**6:45 p.m.** Boy Scout Merit Badge group

**7:30 p.m.** Chapter meeting

### WHERE

Flame Room of Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center Street, SE, Vienna.

### GETTING THERE

Chain Bridge Road (123) becomes Maple Avenue in Vienna. Turn south on Center Street. Continue on Center Street past the athletic field on the left; note the fire station on the left at the intersection with Cherry Street. Turn left on Cherry and park behind the building. Go in the side door at the corner of the building and proceed up the stairs to the meeting room.

### APRIL PROGRAM

Legend Dusty Wissmath.

### APRIL CALENDAR

**2:** Chapter Meeting  
**4:** FWAM Rapidan (VA)  
**9:** Board Meeting  
**10:** (Friday) FWAM Rose (VA)  
**11-12:** Virginia Fly Fishing and Wine Festival, Waynesboro (VA)  
**25:** FWAM Conewago (PA)

## WHAT'S COMING OFF

# Dusty Wissmath — A Local Legend

Dusty grew up in Missouri. He started fly-fishing at age eight, and spent his formative years highly distracted by the sport. He began teaching and guiding while working on a degree in Wildlife Biology at the University of Wyoming. Living in Jackson, WY, after graduate school he tied flies commercially for High Country Flies and guided on the Snake, Green, and New Fork Rivers and the well-known waters of Yellowstone National Park.

After working for a while as a biologist in Wyoming and East Africa, Dusty started his fly-fishing school and guide service in 1995. He also



served as the lead instructor at the L.L. Bean Fly Fishing School in Virginia and still teaches at the Wulff School of Fly Fishing in New York. He is a Federation of Fly Fishers (F.F.F.) Certified Casting Instructor and is a member of the F.F.F. Guides Association Board of Governors. When he's not teaching or guiding, Dusty gives casting

demonstrations and workshops at sports shows from Montana to Virginia. His articles and photographs can be found in several outdoor magazines.

Dusty will talk about fly fishing in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

## Honoring New Members

We would like to welcome aboard our newest members! We look forward to seeing you at our Chapter events.

**Mike Cantwell**, Reston, VA  
**Alan Funkhouser**, McLean, VA  
**Martin Gamache**, Falls Church, VA  
**Andrew Kimsey**, Arlington, VA  
**Richard Leininger**, Fairfax, VA  
**Mike Lewis**, Stafford, VA  
**R. Lheureaux**, Alexandria, VA  
**Michael Murray**, Arlington, VA  
**Randy Rouse**, Lorton, VA

**Jeff Scott**, Clifton, VA  
**Doug & Debbie Simon**, Alexandria, VA  
**Joshua Soucek**, Vienna, VA  
**John Tenshaw**, Ashburn, VA  
**Arfux Thierry Chelles Alexander Thomas**, Vienna, VA  
**David Vance**, Woodbridge, VA  
**Thomas Walker**, Arlington, VA  
**Wayne White**, Woodbridge, VA

TRIP 1

Rapidan River  
VIRGINIA

**When:** April 4, 2015  
**Depart:** 8 a.m.  
**Return:** Whenever  
**Meet:** George Paine at Dick's parking lot in Fair Lakes

The first trip is to the Rapidan River. If the road to the middle section is in bad shape we may 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. Spring is officially here so there should be plenty of bug life. We've had better precipitation this year and as a result park streams are up for the moment.

You should find a variety of medium, and even some larger 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. As for insects, look for ants--big Carpenter Ants. Don't know what it is about ants that make trout go nuts. If you like dry fly fishing, the ant is probably the easiest hatch to match. There is something about a splashy and voracious take on an ant that is addictive. 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. You will very likely want to carpool if you own a car. The road to the middle section is rough and unforgiving. Arrive early at the Dick's parking lot so you can secure a ride in a truck or SUV. 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.



his property. As always, be respectful of all land owners. Being a good fisherman means being a good neighbor as well. If you see some trash out it might earn you some points with him if you take the time to remove it. Carpooling also cuts down on the number of cars.

The Rose River is one of the streams that fall under the SNP Brown Trout removal program. In an attempt to return the Rose and other streams to pure Brook Trout streams, the SNP made it illegal to return any Brown Trout to the river. Any Brown over 7 inches must be harvested. Any Brown that is less than 7 inches must be discarded away from the stream and trails. There are still some ill feelings about this regulation, but as conservationist and sportspersons we don't pick and chose the rules we follow.

Recommend light rods and short leaders for this stream. A 7' 4-weight rod is more than enough. If you decide to use a longer rod, select one with a mid or full flex. This will allow you to load the rod with as little as 6-8" of fly line extended beyond the tip. With clear water use

the finest tippet material you can see. Casts are generally short, calling for a rod that can roll cast well. Like many of the Park's streams, the Rose is mostly pocket water. A shorter leader, 5-6' long with 18-24" of tippet material, works well for the shorter casts and drifts. The stream is shallow enough in most places that you can get away with hip waders if you have them. You should see hatches of size #12 and #14 Quill Gordons and March Browns, and possibly some #14 and #16 olive caddis. Ants and beetles (especially Harry Murray's deer-hair or foam beetle) always do well. A #14, #16, or #18 Blue-Wing Olive, Mr. Rapidan, or "Wulff" dry-fly patterns work well. Elk Hair Caddis and small Stimulators can also be quite effective.

TRIP 3

Conewago Creek  
PENNSYLVANIA

**When:** April 25, 2015  
**Depart:** 8 a.m.  
**Return:** You decide  
**Meet:** Vienna fire house parking

**THIS IS A SELF-GUIDED TRIP: Need volunteers to guide future trips.**

The last trip this month is to Conewago Creek, near Biglerville, PA, just north of Gettysburg. Don't forget to bring your Pennsylvania fishing license. If you park at the bottom end of the special-regulation section, it's not a very long walk **FWAM CONTINUED NEXT PAGE**

TRIP 2

Rose River  
VIRGINIA

**When:** Friday, April 10, 2015  
**Depart:** Contact George Paine  
**Return:** You decide  
**Meet:** Dick's Fair Lakes parking lot

This is the first Friday trip for 2015. This freestone stream runs through the Shenandoah National Park and wild Brook Trout are the target. We will be going to the lower park boundary. Please park as close to the park gate as you can. The land owner that shares this road has a bit of a temper and has been known to express himself freely with those he thinks are parking too close to

APRIL FLY OF THE MONTH: DEMONSTRATED BY JOHN HADLEY

Mr. Rapidan Parachute



This is my favorite spring fishing fly for brook trout in the streams in the Shenandoah National Park and is good fly to learn how to tie any parachute pattern.

**Originator:** Harry Murray from Edinburg, VA. Designed by trial and error to attract Brook trout and is representative of a 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 nearby streams.

Bring your vise, bobbin, tan or light color thread and stacker if you have one; other materials will be provided.

**Techniques to be learned:**

- Tying in Moose Hair tails; precut, stack and glue butts
- Dubbing the body
- Tying in post of calf hair
- Different ways of tying off the hackle
- Using half hitches

**RECIPE**

**Hook:** TMC 100 #12-16  
**Thread:** Tan 6/0, or 8/0 for #16

**Tail:** Moose body hair  
**Body:** #34 Fly Rite "Quill Gordon/Brown Drake Yellow" dubbing  
**Hackle:** Grizzly and Brown  
**Wing/Post:** Yellow calf tail (optional bright colors for visibility in various lighting conditions)  
**Fishing Tips:** Approach a pool slowly and keep low. Cast first to a prime feeding lane at the lip of the pool. Next cast to the likely spots to the left and the right side and then up to the head of the pool letting the fly drift through the entire pool. Move on and repeat.

# Herndon and Reston Kids Fishing Days



Julia Cartwright is all smiles after catching two big trout.



**Above:** Mason and Palmer Kasprovicz flying the new chapter flag in Reston.

**Left:** George Paine and a reporter from the Fairfax Observer discuss the fishing news and weather forecast.

## Volunteers Needed for FF 101



It's that time of year again when we are looking for some help from our friends. Our Fly Fishing 101 program starts up again on March 28th, and we are hoping to find a few qualified people who are willing to volunteer and help us teach 250 people how to fly fish. We will be offering a tiered discount to all of those who volunteer.

If you or anyone you know might be interested please let us know. Likewise, if you have a friend who might want to attend one of our classes please let them know to contact us at the store. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Jimmy Aliff or Morris Gills at the Orvis Leesburg store by phone at 703.777.5305 or email at [retail-leesburgstr627@orvis.com](mailto:retail-leesburgstr627@orvis.com)

### Fly Fishing 101 Dates:

April - 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>

May - 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>\*, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>\*, 30<sup>th</sup>

June - 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>

\* more than one class per day

### Fly Fishing 201 Dates:

April - 12<sup>th</sup>

May - 9<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>

June - 14<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>

## A Reston Spring Festival

On Sat, May 2, volunteers are needed to assist with kids fishing at the annual Reston Spring festival

There is a dock on Lake Audubon where RA will set out with spinning gear for kids to do fishing games and fish. Volunteers are asked to be there around noon and the festival starts at 1pm and goes until 5 pm.

There is also an opportunity to

promote NVATU, and TU generally, as Reston will provide a table at the Nature House for one of us to put out flyers and talk about our mission.

Please contact George Paine at [ppafish@hotmail.com](mailto:ppafish@hotmail.com) if your are available.

### FWAM FROM PAGE TWO

from your car to the stream. It's just across the street. This section of the river has wide pools and long, slow bends with plenty of blow down and a few undercut banks to challenge your fishing and casting skills. You can fish the Conewago with hip boots, but breathable waders are always an option. If the weather remains warm, a variety of dries, nymphs, streamers, glo-bugs, and soft hackles will take fish.

There is plenty of room to use a longer rod and since you will

probably spend some of the day nymphing, a longer (9 ft) 3-5 weight rod will definitely come in handy. A floating line will suffice and I'd start with 4X tippet and go smaller only if needed.

There are a lot of mayfly nymphs of the fast-water clinging variety to include Quill Gordon and Cahill nymphs. Turn over a few rocks and you will see them. They are a transparent shade of gray and still quite immature. You may see the dark wing pads that appear just before they hatch. These nymphs are not very available to the fish but

gray nymphs have worked well on Conewago. The nymphs you find won't be as large as a #12 or #14, but that's the size I'd start with. Why, because that's what has worked in the past.

If you have other ideas, don't hesitate to put them into practice, as I doubt you will need to worry too much about the fish being selective. There are quite a few sculpin in Conewago Creek and streamers will take fish. The key is to keep the streamer moving.

When you fish the Conewago, don't overlook the mud sills our

chapter helped build. They provide good cover for the fish. The sills, along with the large boulders used to control erosion, are great locations to fish a dry fly. For both structures, make sure the drift is far enough away from the edge of the sill, or the boulder, so the fish can see it. Nymphs, on the other hand should be drifted as close to the edge as possible.

The fish in Conewago are mostly of hatchery size and origin, but there is at least a small amount of reproduction occurring in the stream.

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**CONSERVATION CALENDAR**

**Unless otherwise noted:**

- **Chapter meetings:** Vienna Volunteer Fire Station, 7:30 p.m.
- **Board Meetings:** Century 21 Office, 6631A Old Dominion Drive, McLean, VA, 7:30 p.m.

**MAY**

- 2:** FWAM trip to Jeremy's Run (VA)
- 7:** Chapter meeting
- 8:** (Friday) FWAM trip to Rapidan (VA)
- 14:** Board Meeting
- 30:** FWAM trip to East Branch Antietam Creek (Waynesboro, PA)

**JUNE**

- 4:** Chapter Meeting
- 6:** FWAM trip to Lower Rapidan (VA)
- 11:** Board Meeting
- 27:** FWAM trip to Big Hunting Creek (MD)

Virginia Council

TU website: [www.tu.org](http://www.tu.org) of TU website: [www.vctu.org](http://www.vctu.org)



**CALLING ALL STOCKING VOLUNTEERS!**

NVATU is looking for **eight** volunteers to help DGIF Stock Holmes Run and Accotink Creek on **April 17, 2015**.

If you are interested in stocking trout on that date please contact **Roger Brown** at [matchbox@cox.net](mailto:matchbox@cox.net).



Recycled and Recyclable



**MEMBER ALBUM**



**Persistence pays off:** Jeff Silvan caught this grass carp out of a pond in his parent's backyard in Bluffton, SC, over Thanksgiving. Jeff used a small blue boogle bug on a 7-wt. rod. He said he had been trying to get one on the fly for months. He hooked a couple and couldn't get a hook set on tons more before successfully landing this one.