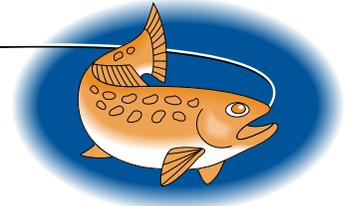


TROUTLINE



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

FEBRUARY MEETING



DETAILS

February 5, 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.

FEBRUARY PROGRAM

Vice President Kiki Galvin: Atlantic Salmon in Iceland.

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

5: Chapter Meeting
7: FWAM trip to Conway River (VA)
12: Board Meeting
28: FWAM trip to Big Spring Creek (PA)

WHAT'S COMING OFF

Kiki on Destination Iceland

NVATU Vice President Kiki Galvin will tell us about her record-making trip to Iceland earlier this year. She reports, "We all have a bucket list or a wish list if you will. One item that had eluded me so far was catching an Atlantic



Salmon. I traveled to Canada to fish the Miramichi River in 2102 and unfortunately it was a very low water year, in fact the lowest in 35 years! The chances of hooking and landing an Atlantic Salmon were very slim. The river was beautiful and I had the chance to cast numerous times, or better yet, thousands of times on some of the most fabled pools on the Miramichi. I only caught two very

expensive brook trout on the trip and vowed I would not give up on my quest! I had a second chance this past August when I traveled to Iceland along with a few of my girlfriends, or as I like to refer to them as my "band of merry

anglers." We fished two rivers three days apiece and on the first river, called the Haftralonsa in the Northeast, I hooked, played and landed my very first Atlantic Salmon. The hen measured 78 cm or 31 in. It was the thrill of my life and I was blessed on the trip to catch three more, one a record for the largest caught on the Vesturdalsa River for the 2014 season!"

Honoring New Members

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

Richard Ahern, Arlington, VA
David Barker, Derbyshire
Nicole Bayert, Woodbridge, VA
Craig Bendorf, Woodbridge, VA
William Buck, Arlington, VA
Scott Buckman, Alington, VA
John Cromwell, Arlington, VA
Colin Cummings, Ashburn, VA
Thomas Eubanks, Fairfax Station, VA
Susan Farmer, Springfield, VA
Tom Guffain, Oakton, VA
John Harburda, Hamilton, VA
Roger Harrison, Fairfax, VA
Brad Longman, Alexandria, VA
James Magee, Arlington, VA

Paul Peters, Centreville, VA
John Powel, IClifton, VA
Chris Quigley, Ashburn, VA
Matthew Quigley, Stafford, VA
Daniel Randall, Woodbridge, VA
Robert Renfrow, Leesburg, VA
Andrew Ruszkowski, Vienna, VA
Mark Silver, Dumfries, VA
Charles Stribling, Arlington, VA
Francis Sullivan, Alexandria, VA
Eileen Thornburg, Mason Neck, VA
Bill Uhr, Falls Church, VA
Charles White, Sterling, VA
James Wilson, Burke, VA

TRIP 1

Conway River VIRGINIA

When: February 7, 2015
Depart: 8 am
Contact: George Paine, ppafish@hotmail.com
Return: Whenever
Meet: Dick's Fair Lakes parking lot

Since you will be on the east slope of the mountains, the sun will dip behind the mountain by mid afternoon and leave you in the shade an hour or two before it actually sets so the nicest part of the day will be late morning and the early afternoon. Ordinarily bright sun spooks the fish but brookies start moving more after the sun warms the streambed.

As usual on our mountain streams, light rods and hip boots will suffice. If you prefer waders, that's fine, and they allow you to sit on wet rocks while keeping your backside dry and free of moss. Make sure the waders do not restrict your ability to move around. I prefer waist high waders for those reasons. Since the terrain is steep, the less stuff you carry, the less fatigued you will become. A gravel road parallels the Conway for most of the stretch you will be fishing so it will be possible to return to your vehicle to warm up or have lunch.

A floating line and a leader tapered to around 5X are all you

should need. Water temperature will most likely be somewhere in the thirties. The quarry is native brook trout, but there are browns in the Conway. The little winter stoneflies could be about, and you could run into a few midges. It's a little early for the slightly larger brown stonefly. A warm day may see a few terrestrials about, but numbers will be sparse but a black ant imitation sometimes works, possibly because trout mistake them for little black stoneflies. Most trout food will be beneath the surface. There won't be enough of it to make the fish selective, so you can have fun with your favorite underwater patterns. The colder the water, the less effort the fish will be willing to expend to strike your fly. Short line nymphing, slow and near the bottom, will most likely be the order of the day. If you are lucky enough to see a fish rise, that fish will also be unlikely to be selective. An attractor dry like a Patriot or Royal Wulff, or a #18 Adams to imitate bluewinged olives should be fine. If you can't interest the fish in your fly, change it; but changing size, usually to a smaller size, may be more effective than changing patterns.



TRIP 2

Big Spring Creek PENNSYLVANIA

When: February 28, 2015
Return: You decide
Meet: Vienna Fire House Parking Lot or Vienna Civic Center

THIS IS A SELF-GUIDED TRIP

The second trip will be to Big Spring Creek, near Newville, PA. Light rods and hip boots will be fine, but consider chest waders, if it is a little chilly. (Chest high and waist high waders allow you to sit down without getting your backside wet, or moss-stained. There is plenty of room for a long rod if you prefer them. You will be able to park near where you fish, so your comfort hiking in and out is not an issue.

Fish Big Spring with midges and cress bugs. The midge patterns are simple pupal forms that are well illustrated in a book by Don Holbrook and Ed Koch titled, Midge Magic or a pattern with a black and white striped abdomen

and a black thorax in sizes down to #28. Holbrook lists about five patterns for the fourth week of February, including one that is very light gray and white in both a #18 and a #20.

As far as cress bugs go, none have proven demonstrably more effective than Ed Shenk's classic cress bug pattern. Just take some muskrat, guard hairs and all, and put it in a dubbing loop. Dub it on a Mustad 3906B hook (preferably from #12 to #20). Tie off and trim the fly flat on the top and bottom. Pick the sides out a bit with a dubbing needle.

A #16 is a good size to tie if you don't have time to tie a range of sizes.

(A longer version of this article was originally written by Mike Daly.)

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

From Belvedere Elementary teacher after delivery of new TIC fry following the disappearance of half the class' fish:

“The kids say they already have spotted some 'making friends' with the fish that were already in the tank.”

FEBRUARY FLY OF THE MONTH: DEMONSTRATED BY JOHN HADLEY

Shad Dart



Bring your vise, thread and bobbin, other materials will be provided.

Originator: Newell Steele, Angler's Lie Newell showed me this fly when I first went on a NVATU chapter's "Fish with a Member" trip for Shad on the Rappahannock River several years ago and I caught lots of Shad with this fly. It is an easy, simple and fast fly to tie. It can be tied with white or any other color chenille. A good fly for beginner fly tiers.

Technique and material to be learned:

- Attach a cone head
 - Use slinky fiber and holographic fiber for a tail
 - Attach color chenille bodies
- Shad Dart Recipe:**
Hook: TMC 3769, TMC 3761 (Sproat Bend), Orvis 122J or any 2X Long hook
Thread: White 3/0 or 6/0, some use mono-thread
Head: Red Cone 3/16" or 1/4" with Sproat Bend. Or use other colors: brass, pink
Tail: White Slinky Fiber, craft fur or other synthetic fiber

Silver/Gold Holographic Fly Fiber (optional: Flashabo or Krystal Flash)

Body: Pearl/White Speckled Chenille or other colors: light green

Fishing Tip: Cast out about 45 degrees out from straight down stream and let the fly sink and drift to dead downstream then strip in the line. Add a few yards with following casts, and then add weight to get deeper if necessary. In wadeable water I fish with a floating line and a sinking tippet.

Streamside: Acid Leaching Continues

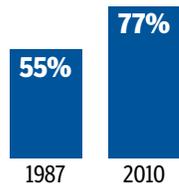
NVATU member: "Hey Doc, can you write a piece on whether or not there have been documented improvements in the pH of Virginia streams? I'm fearful the Congress might rescind many of the environmental protection laws, and such actions could put our valuable trout waters at risk."

FishDr: This is a great topic and one that most certainly needs to be explored. In short, there is little debate that significant national clean air legislation from the past has most positively impacted Virginia watersheds and corresponding streams. The Virginia Trout Stream Sensitivity Study (VTSSS), which began in 1987, has shown statistically significant improvements in pH levels of many Virginia trout streams while also showing improvement in buffering capacity of soils within watersheds. It is easy to pinpoint the cause of the overall improvement--the 1990 passing of amendments to the Clean Air Act (under the Bush administration). Provisions provided by the amendments capped sulfur dioxide emissions from coal-burning power plants which were targeted as the main contributors to acid rain. Sulfur dioxide turns into sulfuric acid when it's dissolved in raindrops, hence the term "acid rain."

Positive change

Amendments passed in 1990 to the Clean Air Act capped sulfur dioxide emissions and a 2010 Virginia Trout Stream Sensitivity Study found pH values in Virginia trout streams improved.

The percentage of survey streams in the suitable pH category:



1987

2010

SOURCE: VTSSS



TROUTLINE
GRAPHIC: GARY
VISGAITIS

The VTSSS, largely coordinated and administered by the recently retired Rick Webb of the University of Virginia, has revealed since the implementation of the 1990 amendments, there has been a slow but steady increase in pH in many of Virginia trout streams throughout a broad geographic region. If you remember from high school chemistry, a pH of 7 is considered neutral. Anything below pH 7 is acidic while higher pH's are basic. Interestingly, most stream improvements were not documented until the turn of the century, an indication of how important watershed soil chemistry is to the

entire pH balance observed in surface waters. In other words, because certain soil types retain sulfate ions and these soils have been saturated with sulfate after years of abusive acid precipitation, it may take years or decades to establish sustainable improvements in surface water pH as it takes time for excess sulfate (bound to soil particles) to leach out into our trout streams. During leach-out, stream pH may remain low even though there has been a substantial reduction in atmospheric sulfate. As of 2010, over 75% of VTSSS sample streams had a pH suitable (pH 5 or above) for sustainable

brook trout populations. Only slightly more than half the streams were suitable in 2000. It is believed the soils within the watersheds had to be flushed of sulfur containing contaminants that had accumulated through decades of acid deposition. Fortunately, trout streams located where there is limestone bedrock (Shenandoah Valley) are naturally buffered from acid precipitation and were spared during years of heavy acid deposition.

As for what Congress may or may not do, ultimately, it will be up to the general public to decide what measures of environmental protection are important and valued. It will be extremely difficult to turn back the clock on most environmental laws simply because too many people benefit from the provided lifestyle qualities.

If you have any questions you'd like to ask the Fish Doctor, please e-mail me at: fishdr@netzero.net You just might see an answer printed in an upcoming TroutLine.

—The Fish Doctor

Editors comment: For more information specific to the Shenandoah National Park please see a National Parks Conservation Assn., Winter 2015 article: <http://www.npca.org/news/magazine/all-issues/2015/winter/what-the-streams-say.html>



**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED FOR
FOUR KIDS
FISHING DAYS:
HERNDON,
RESTON AND
VIENNA**

MARCH 14 HERNDON

8 am–Noon
Behind Herndon Police Station
on Sugarland Run Trail
To help kids catch fish.

MARCH 21 RESTON

8 a.m.–Noon
Snakeden Branch Stream between
Soapstone Dr. and Lake Audubon.
Meet near the 7-Eleven at Soapstone
Dr.

Volunteers will be needed to stock
fish on March 20, and on March 21
to help kids catch fish.

Reston Kids' Trout Fishing Day
is made possible by a partnership
with Wetland Studies and Solutions,
Inc., NVATU, VDGIF and Reston
Association.

MARCH 28

Big Rocky Run in Eleanor

Lawrence County Party (starting in
AM)

Volunteers will be needed to stock
fish on March 26 (Thurs), and on
March 28 To help kids catch fish

APRIL 25 VIENNA

8 am-12:30 pm
Family Fishing Rodeo to be held
at Wolftrap Creek in Wildwood Park
<http://www.viennava.gov/Facilities/Facility/Details/11> Volunteers will
be needed to stock fish on April 24,
and on April 25 to help kids catch
fish.

If you are able to help stock,
and/or help kids, or represent
NVATU a table with flyers please
send me an e-mail at:
ppafish@hotmail.com

—George Paine

IN MEMORIAM

This past month two of
our members lost family
members. Jack Cason
lost his wife, Alice, and
Gary Visgaitis lost his
Mother. Our thoughts
and prayers go out to
them and their families.

NEWSLETTER STAFF Editors: **George Paine**, (703) 860-0862, ppafish@hotmail.com and **Andy Manley**, (703) 984-9875, manleyam@gmail.com
Jim Galligan, (703) 256-0244, jimgalligan48@gmail.com

Art Director: **Gary Visgaitis**, (570) 436-0839, tulogoguy@yahoo.com

CHAPTER OFFICERS

President: **Jay Lovering**, (703) 973-1024, jay.lovering@C21NM.com

Vice President: **Kiki Galvin**, (703) 899-6793, angla56@msn.com

Treasurer: **Marshall Osborne**, (703) 323-5393

Secretary: **George Paine**, (703) 860-0862, ppafish@hotmail.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Terry Lowe, (703) 476-3978, terryalowe@cox.net

Suzanne Malone, (571) 641-9705, flyfishgrl@aol.com

Art Brantz, abrantz@aol.com

COMMITTEES

Banquet: **VACANT**, CONTACT ANY BOARD OR COMMITTEE MEMBER

Boy Scouts Program: **Bill Errico**, dadoopman@hotmail.com

Education (Fly Tying): **John Hadley**, (703) 933-6629, jhadley@alionscience.com

(Course Co-Chair: **Andy Manley**, (703) 984-9875, manleyam@gmail.com)

(Fly Tying Classes): **VACANT**, CONTACT ANY BOARD OR COMMITTEE MEMBER

Financial Resources: **VACANT**, CONTACT ANY BOARD OR COMMITTEE MEMBER

Fish With a Member: **George Paine**, (703) 860-0862, ppafish@hotmail.com

Four Mile Run: **John Hadley**, (703) 933-6629, jhadley@alionscience.com

Legal: **Victor Kernus**, (703) 690-3133, vkernus@cox.net

Legislative Issues: **VACANT**, CONTACT ANY BOARD OR COMMITTEE MEMBER

Logo Merchandise: **Scott Allen**, scallen@cox.net

Membership: **Bill Pierce**, oregonosu@gmail.com

Natural Resource Advisor: **Kirk Smith**

Outreach: **Suzanne Malone**, (703) 768-8175, flyfishgrl@aol.com

Program Chairs: **George Paine** and **Andy Manley**

Publicity: **Kiki Galvin**, (703) 899-6793, angla56@msn.com

Refreshments: **VACANT**, CONTACT ANY BOARD OR COMMITTEE MEMBER

Stream Projects: **Kirk Smith**

Trout in the Classroom Coordinator: **George Paine**, (703) 860-0862

Volunteer Hours Coordinator: **Hal Metcalf**, hmr2000@verizon.net

Webmasters: **Otto Barnes** and **Taylor Blackwell**, nvatu-webmasters@googlegroups.com

Youth Programs: **Suzanne Malone**, (703) 768-8175, flyfishgrl@aol.com



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.

RAPIDAN FISHING SHOW FEB. 14

Our sister chapter is hosting their annual show on Feb 14. This is an opportunity to reconnect with old friends and make new ones ... plus some great raffles are held. For details see: <http://www.rapidantu.org/2011-rapidan-chapter-annual-fishing-show/>

MARCH

- 5: Chapter Meeting
- 7: FWAM trip to Piney Branch (VA)
- 12: Board Meeting
- 28: FWAM trip to Mountain Creek (Pa)

APRIL

- 2: Chapter Meeting
- 4: FWAM Rapidan (VA)
- 9: Board Meeting
- 10: (Friday) FWAM Rose River (VA)
- 25: FWAM Conewago Creek (PA)

MAY

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



TU website:
www.tu.org

Virginia Council
of TU website:
www.vctu.org

UPCOMING SPEAKERS

March 5: Dusty
Wissmath Returns.



Recycled and Recyclable



MEMBER ALBUM



Jim Galvin Nov. 2014 with a wild rainbow on the Colorado River at Lee's Ferry, Arizona.