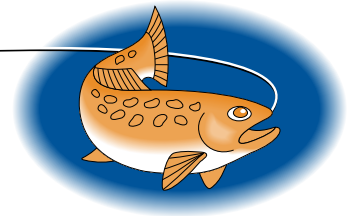


# TROUTLINE



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

**HAPPY  
NEW YEAR!**



## **NEXT MEETING DETAILS**

**Feb. 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.

## **JANUARY CALENDAR**

**1:** CHAPTER MEETING  
**CANCELLED DUE TO HOLIDAY**  
**3:** FWAM trip to Upper Hughes River (VA)  
**8:** Board Meeting  
**31:** FWAM trip to Conewago Creek (PA)



## **NPS to Re-Open Potomac River Access at Fletcher's Cove**

Thanks to quick responses by a coalition of local enthusiasts, the National Park Service said it would reopen Potomac River access at Fletcher's Cove. The NPS closed the facilities last October and declared the walkway to the boat dock unsafe for public use.

The National Capital Chapter TU issued the following statement:

Because of your passionate and timely action in showing such concern, officials with the National Park Service are aware of the problem and have assured the public that access to the river at Fletcher's will be restored by March, 2015. Kevin Brandt, Superintendent of the C&O Canal National Historical Park, and his staff earned our gratitude for their immediate response, fact gathering and sensitivity to the issues.

The National Park Service hosted a well-attended public meeting on December 17, and presented a series of aerial photographs from the 1950's onward to document the growing siltation problem in the cove. Attendees and Park Service personnel discussed alternative proposals for both short-term river access and long-term preservation of the cove. The Park Service made clear their commitment to fund and

implement a plan that addresses the immediate need for safe access to the Fletcher's dock.

The more complex long-term solution to the siltation at Fletcher's Cove will require your continued persistence and support. The Park Service anticipates a comprehensive study is needed and will develop a scope-of-work as a first step. This study would document the historical importance of access to river resources, verify the causes of increasing siltation and other environmental concerns, and suggest possible remediation. A detailed action and funding plan would be included. Our coalition must continue to assist with this vital effort to preserve the Fletcher's Cove experience for future generations to come.

This forum will be maintained as the process moves forward and the invitation to join our coalition remains active. Updates on progress will also be posted by participating organizations and emailed from [potomacaccess@gmail.com](mailto:potomacaccess@gmail.com). Please continue your active support to increase awareness by networking with other interested parties or organizations. A special thanks to KeepAmericaFishing.org, NCC-TU, TPFR and Urban Angler for spreading the word so our voice can be heard!

## **Honoring New Members**

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

**Michael Avjean**, Vienna VA  
**Callis Carleton**, Springfield, VA  
**Ralph Espach**, Alexandria, VA  
**Keith Kaspersen**, Fairfax, VA  
**Stephen Matherne**, Leesburg, VA

**Wilson Mudge**, Arlington, VA  
**Christopher Rich**, Reston, VA  
**Barbara Roberts**, Oakton, VA  
**Robert Santacroce**, Pascoe, VIC  
**Richard Weinmann**, Woodbridge, VA

TRIP 1

# Hughes River

VIRGINIA

**When:** January 3, 2015  
**Depart:** 8 a.m.  
**Return:** Whenever  
**Contact:** George Paine  
**Meet:** Dick's Fair Lakes parking lot

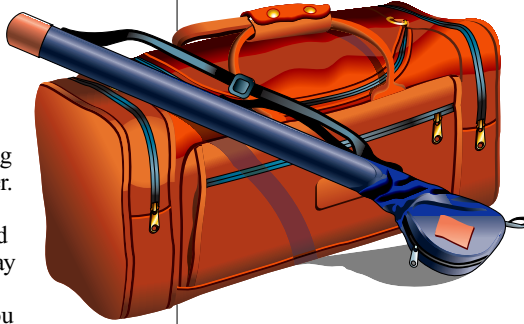
The first trip for 2012 is to the upper Hughes River. This is a fairly strenuous hike that will definitely warm you up on the way out.

This is a tough time of year to fish. Historically this trip gets cancelled due to inclement weather. That should be a hint to dress warmly and be prepared for bad weather to roll in. If foul weather is predicted for the day of the trip, you should call George Paine the night before to make sure the trip is still on. Also, check the Chapter's web site for announcements. Light rods and lines are best on most Shenandoah streams.

If you prefer to fish with dry flies,

try #18 or smaller black winter stoneflies, Adams and midges. You will find midges in abundance hovering just above the water. Look along the edges of pools and eddies and you may see a swirling hovering mass. You can also find them right along the edge of the stream just a few inches onto the bank. Other flies to try are a #16 golden stonefly, olive and natural hare's ear, and #14 green-cased caddis patterns. A small Bucktail or Wooly Bugger may yield results in some of the deeper pools.

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. As controversial as this is, it is the law. Oddly enough, the state allows fishermen to harvest



Brook Trout on this stream. Most of us practice catch and release.

TRIP 2

# Conewago Creek

PENNSYLVANIA

**When:** January 31, 2015  
**Depart:** 8 a.m.  
**Return:** You decide  
**Meet:** Vienna Fire House N. of Parking Area

THIS IS A SELF-GUIDED TRIP

The last trip in January is to Conewago Creek, near Biglerville, PA, located just north of Gettysburg. It's not a very long walk from your car to the stream.

You can fish Conewago with hip boots, but breathable waders are always an option.

There is room on Conewago Creek to use a longer rod and since you will probably spend some of the day nymphing, a longer rod will definitely come in handy.

There are a lot of mayfly nymphs of the fast-water clinging variety to include Quill Gordon and Cahill nymphs. The nymphs you find won't be as large as a #12 or #14, but that's the size to start with.

There are quite a few sculpin in Conewago Creek, and soft-hackle flies and even Glo-bugs take fish.

When you fish Conewago, don't overlook the mud sills our chapter helped build.

The fish in Conewago are mostly of hatchery size and origin.

## JOHN HADLEY'S GEAR UP GUIDE FOR WINTER FLY TYING

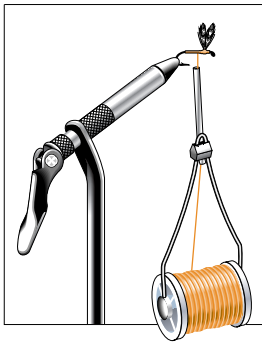
No meeting this month so we will cover what you need to bring to a meeting to join in the monthly fly tying demonstrations.

*Listed in the order of importance:*

**Vise:** any type vise will do; see if you can borrow or try out various models and types before you buy one.

If you plan on tying big flies for bass and/or ocean fishing I recommend a rotary vise. You can make a cheap vice using an X-Acto knife and look up designs on the web.

**Bobbin:** to hold the thread. I like the ones with a ceramic or plastic insert in the tube as a nick on a metal tube will cut the thread. You only need one.  
**Thread:** 6/0 can be used for any of



the flies that are demonstrated although you may want to use 3/0 for hooks larger than #6 and 8/0 for hooks smaller than #14.

**Colors:** you can get by with black, white and tan for the demonstrations and then add other colors if you find you will

be tying a lot of a pattern that calls for a different color. You can also use markers to color white thread.

**Threader:** I use a dental floss threader. I have a box of them so ask for one at the meeting if you need one.

**Scissors:** one fine for trimming thread and materials close to the fly and one rough (larger) for cutting heavy hair, hackle, wire (cut near

the jaws), etc.

**Bodkin:** you can make one with a needle and a 1/4 inch to 1/2 inch wood dowel.

**Bodkin cleaner:** make one by cutting a piece of Scotch-Brite Scour Pad to size, roll up and put into a film case or pill bottle. You can also use steel wool.

**Pliers:** for crushing down the barb on the hook.

**Hackle Pliers:** you can use electrical test clips.

**Half hitch tool:** you can use a small straw.

**Whip Finisher:** unless you can do it by hand.

*Optional tools and things you will want to have as time goes by:*

**Hackle gauge:** I measure the hackle I give you at the demo but you will want one to tie at home. You can just bend the hackle around the hook and eyeball it against the hook gap until

you buy or make one.

**Hair Stacker:** you can borrow one at the meetings until you decide if you want to buy or make one.

**Dubbing Comb:** you can make one with a piece of hooked Velcro glued to a popsicle stick or pencil. You can borrow mine at the demo.

**Hair Comb:** for removing under fur/hair before stacking hair. A pet tick comb works well. You can borrow mine at the demo.

**Dubbing pick:** for grabbing hold of dubbing from a container, but you can also use your pliers to grab some dubbing.

Dubbing wax and head cement for use at home, but I'll supply at the demo.

Hope you enjoy relaxing by tying up some flies this winter in anticipation of using them this spring, summer and fall or on a nice, relatively warm and sunny winter day.

### NVATU Members Receive 2014 State Council Awards

Youth Educator of the Year:  
**SUZANNE MALONE**

**Suzanne Malone** has been involved with the Tri-State Conservation and Fishing Camp held annually at Graves Mountain for more than 10 years. She serves as lead counselor and assistant camp

director. Her influence on campers and counselors has helped lead many of them into careers in conservation and the environmental sciences.

**Certificates of Appreciation:**

Andy Manley, John Hadley, Bill Errico, Otto Barnes, Taylor Blackwell, Gary Visgaitis, Bob Bidwell, Roger Brown, Anna Harris and Kiki Galvin. **Congratulations to all our hardworking volunteers!**

# Northern Virginia Chapter of Trout Unlimited Fiscal Year 2014 Volunteer Hours

Our members volunteered more than 2,500 hours and drove more than 9,000 miles supporting activities that included stream monitoring, working with advocacy groups, improving trout streams, stocking, and helping with a number of conservation efforts. We also raised funds for Casting for Recovery, Project Healing Waters, heritage days and youth educations and training. Chapter operations, including our fish with a member trips, chapter and board meetings, Virginia TU Council meetings and other TU-related meetings accounted for more than 1,000 hours

Event Category	Hours	Miles Driven
Conservation	256	1,859
Fundraising	129	632
General Operations	1,002	2,763
Youth Education and Outreach	530	1,522
General Education and Outreach	659	2,266
<b>2014 Total Hours &amp; Miles</b>	<b>2,576</b>	<b>9,042</b>

of our volunteer support. Northern Virginia TU members also spent nearly 1,200 hours on outreach and education activities that included

youth fishing days, scouting merit badge work, Trout in the Classroom, more Project Healing Waters and Wounded Warrior events, and

support for fellow conservation and training events.

The hours and miles driven in this report are the sum of individual quarterly reports, e-mails, plus some careful estimates of activities not listed. As in prior years, we still probably do not include some unreported volunteer hours for conservation and outreach education and fly fishing. These hours are important, and we report them through the TU National Annual Report. They represent how much we care for and support conservation.

Thanks for all the great support!

## Marcia Woolman to Talk Fly Tying at NSLM

On February 7, the National Sporting Library & Museum, Middleburg, Va., will host Marcia Woolman for a fly tying demonstration and instruction. She will provide instruction to 16 participants on where and how to fish the five life phases of the Mayfly. Please reserve your seat early. Marcia Woolman is an avid trout fisherwoman, fly tier, and cold water conservationist. She learned to fly fish when she joined Trout Unlimited 33 years ago. Woolman lived in central Pennsylvania amidst the limestone streams filled with

finicky wild brown trout and learned the entomology of the streams by necessity. She learned from George Harvey, Dean of American fly tiers, and for her first 15 years tied all her own flies. In 2009, Marcia's conservation work on trout streams earned her Trout Unlimited's most prestigious award: The Ray Mortensen Award for Outstanding TU Volunteer. Reservations are \$20 per person, \$15 for NSLM Members. Space is limited to 16 participants. RSVP by January 24. For more information, call (540) 687-6542 x18; jconnolly@nsl.org

## Odenkirk to Discuss Snakeheads at FDM

The non-native Northern snakehead fish (*Channa argus*) has been seen in the Potomac and Occoquan Rivers, Dyke Marsh, Huntley Meadows Park, Hunting Creek, Little Hunting Creek, Dogue Creek and other northern Virginia waterways.

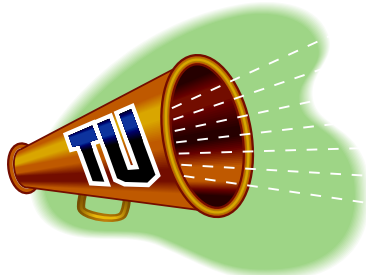
At the next quarterly meeting of the Friends of Dyke Marsh, 2 PM on Feb. 22, John Odenkirk, fish biologist with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, will explore the world of the snakehead—its characteristics, impacts—and discuss the future

health of the Potomac River fishery. John is a certified fishery scientist who got his bachelor's degree from Virginia Tech and a master's in fishery biology from Tennessee Technological University.

The Northern Virginia Chapter of Trout Unlimited, the Assawoman Fishing Unlimited Club and the Friends of Little Hunting Creek cosponsor this program. It is free and open to the public. The Norma Hoffman Visitor Center (703-768-2525) is at 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria, Virginia 22306.

Please join us!

## Annual Supporting Contributions



We ask each of our members to donate an Annual Supporting Contribution (we'll use the acronym "ASK") to help sustain our Chapter's continuing financial well-being.

We don't consider this donation to be dues; rather, it is a voluntary contribution by every member 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 that it has been for the past 30 years.

If each member contributed \$20 annually we would be able to cover all of the Chapter's financial obligations and provide support to worthy programs such as Casting for Recovery, Project Healing Waters, and Trout in the Classroom.

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

**Marshall Osborne, NVATU  
Treasurer  
5504 Falmead Road  
Fairfax, VA 22032**

You may also contribute at Chapter meetings.

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Volunteer Hours Coordinator: **Hal Metcalf**, [hmr2000@verizon.net](mailto:hmr2000@verizon.net)

Webmasters: **Otto Barnes** and **Taylor Blackwell**, [nvatu-webmasters@googlegroups.com](mailto:nvatu-webmasters@googlegroups.com)

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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.

River (VA)

**9:** Board Meeting

**10:** (Friday) FWAM trip to Rose River (VA)

**25:** FWAM trip to Conewago Creek (PA)

### FEBRUARY

**5:** Chapter Meeting

**7:** FWAM trip to Conway River (VA)

**12:** Board Meeting

• Holmes Run Stocking

**28:** FWAM trip to Big Spring Creek (PA)

### 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 trip to Rapidan

### UPCOMING SPEAKERS

**Feb. 5:** Kiki Galvin on fly fishing in Iceland.

**March 5:** Dusty Wissmath returns ...

NOTE: SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE



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

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



Recycled and Recyclable



## MEMBER ALBUM



Just one of the nice rainbows first timer Gary Donnelly landed at Beaver Creek last Spring, his first guided trip.