



MARCH MEETING



DETAILS

March 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.

MARCH PROGRAM

Dusty Wismath
Local Legend

MARCH CALENDAR

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

WHAT'S COMING OFF

Dusty Wismath — 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 (FFF) 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 Fly Fishing 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.

Stephen Evans, McLean, VA
Dane Farrekk, Ashburn, VA
Lori Gingrich, Burke, VA
Blair Hansen, Fairfax, VA
John King, Woodbridge, VA
Henry Klein, Alexandria, VA
Joseph S. Luppino, McLean, VA
Henry McNeilly, Falls Church, VA

Francis McVeigh, Woodbridge, VA
Diane Pennessi, Burke, VA
David Renner, Alexandria, VA
Amy Schneider, Alexandria, VA
Eric Sears, Broadlands, VA
Jacob Slater, Arlington, VA
Jeremy Stehle, Fairfax, VA

TRIP 1

Piney Branch
VIRGINIA

When: March 7, 2015
Depart: 8 a.m.
Return: On your own schedule and the schedule of those you ride with
Meet: Dick's Fair Lakes parking lot

The first trip this month is to Piney Branch. The only license you need is a current Virginia license. The terrain can be steep at times, so pack light and bring water to keep you hydrated. Hip boots are sufficient to fish this stream.

If it has been cold, it will take a few warm days to get the fish moving. If we get lucky, you may see some black winter stoneflies, and if trout are rising it is a good bet they are taking these small stoneflies, or midges, on or just under the surface. These small (size 18-22) flies can be fished behind a larger dry fly or piece of yarn. Both serve as a visual reference because you won't see be able to see the small fly. If you don't have a winter stonefly pattern, try tying on a black ant pattern in size 14 or smaller as the trout appear to mistake them for winter stoneflies. If a fish rises in the vicinity of your fly, set the hook. In the absence of rising fish, your best bet is to fish size 14-16 nymphs slowly along the bottom of deep runs and pools. The copper john, zug bug, and flash-back pheasant tail are my favorites, but a white crystal bugger or dark wooly bugger may get results in the larger pools. Another fly that works well is the

green weenie, which imitates the caddis larvae that are common in Park streams.

Pocket-water angling rarely requires long casts or much false casting. The idea is to use as little line as possible. Since you won't need much more than 6 to 9 feet of line and 5-6 feet of leader and tippet, your casts should be tight and short, more of a pickup and lay down than a true cast. You seldom have long drifts and line control is essential--mend often. A few things to remember when fishing winter pocket water: (1) the water is broken, which means you can't see the trout, and more importantly, the trout cannot see you. Use this to your advantage by moving close to your target. (2) Fish the seams between the fast and slow water, plunge pools, and the deeper runs. An inch or two difference one way or another can make a lot of difference, so be patient. (3) If fishing nymphs or streamers, make sure to have enough weight to get the fly down quickly. If you don't get strikes, add more weight.

I've found that working upstream with short casts and keeping the slack out of your line works best. Try to keep the end of your fly line pointed upstream. If the line stops or moves upstream, lift your rod to set the hook. A final tip to avoid getting lost on the return: stay on the Piney Branch Trail, and don't turn onto the Piney Ridge Trail. Remember that fish live in



"branches" but not on ridges!

TRIP 2

Mountain Creek
PENNSYLVANIA

When: March 28, 2015
Depart: 8 a.m.
Return: You decide
Meet: Vienna Community Center Parking Lot

The second trip in March is to Mountain Creek, which eventually feeds into the Yellow Breeches several miles downstream. It's a typical Pennsylvania mountain stream, about 16 miles long, and is stocked with rainbows, browns, and brookies throughout its entire length. It also has a good population of native brookies in its headwaters.

If you decide to fish the reservoir you will often find a number of spin fishermen. Upstream of the reservoir is where we will do most of our fishing and the only people we should see are hikers. The stream, and the adjacent trail, has a relatively gentle gradient so you see quite a few families out walking the

trails if the weather is nice. Despite this being a freestone stream, and a stocked one at that, I have found the trout spook rather easily. The water is usually gin clear and the fish often see you before you see them. I suggest picking a place to start and then move slowly upstream. If you encounter a Brookie feeding on the surface you will likely walk right into its cone of vision. A stealthy approach with subdued clothing is your best bet for success. Believe it or not, the light spectrum has more to do with the colors trout see than anything else. Green light is more dominate in the morning and red light is more dominate in the afternoon. Using these tactics for fly selection as well as clothing selection should be considered. Avoid green colored clothes in the morning and oranges and reds in the late afternoon. Clothes in blues in grey actually work best, not khaki like most tackle companies would have you believe. However, green and red are the exact colors I would look for when choosing a fly. The light will actually highlight the fly making it more visible. Greens, brown and even black will work best in the morning and you will be surprised just how well you can see them as well. Conversely as daylight comes to an end you will find it near impossible to see your fly with those same colors. If you are fishing dry flies, consider generic patterns like the Royal Wulff or a Stimulator and actually tie them in several colors. There is nothing against the rules in tying a Royal Wulff with green

FWAM CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

MARCH FLY OF THE MONTH: DEMONSTRATED BY JOHN HADLEY

Mr. Rapidan Parachute



Bring your vise, bobbin, tan or light color thread, and hair stacker if you have one; other materials will be provided. This is a favorite spring fly for Shenandoah National Park streams. It is also a good fly to learn how to tie a parachute pattern. Harry Murray, from Edinburg, VA, designed this fly to represent a number of bugs found in Brook Trout streams. Visit Harry Murray's website and his fly shop/drugstore in Edinburg for the latest conditions on the Shenandoah Park Steams and

nearby stocked streams.

Techniques to be learned:

- Tying in Moose Hair tails; precut, stack and glue butts to the lid of a medicine bottle to speed up tying
- Dubbing the body
- Tying in a post of calf hair and other materials
- Tying in and wrapping parachute hackles and different ways of tying off the hackle
- Using two half hitches to tie off the thread

RECIPE

HOOK: Standard Dry Fly, TMC 100 #12-16
THREAD: Tan 6/0, or 8/0 for #16 if you wish
TAIL: Moose body hair
BODY: #34 Fly Rite "Quill Gordon/ Brown Drake Yellow" dubbing
HACKLE: Grizzly and Brown, three wraps each, one size larger than the hook size
WING/POST: Yellow calf tail (optional pink or other color)
FOTM CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

Time to Spring into Action!

NCC-TU SHAD NIGHT MARCH 11

The annual shad run in the Potomac River offers exciting fishing that is readily accessible to fisherman in the National Capital Area. At the March 11 meeting of the National Capital Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Mark Binsted (author of our Shad Reports) will present a special Shad-Night program. Before the presentation, you will find DC fishing licenses for sale, multiple shad fly tying demonstrations, tackle care and rigging demonstrations for fly and spin fishing, and information on the status of the dock at Fletcher's Cove. There will also be raffles for prizes including guided shad fishing trips, and book sales. Plan to arrive early! Shad Night will be on the second floor of the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Services Building, 4805 Edgmoor Lane, downtown Bethesda, MD. Doors open at 7:00 pm, the meeting starts at 7:30 pm.

FLY TYING MARATHON MARCH 21

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing (PHWFF) is hosting its Second Annual Fly Tying Marathon at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, Virginia on Saturday, March 21 from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm. All flies tied at the event will be donated to the PHWFF program.

There are two tying sessions: 0900-1245 and 1315-1700, with a maximum of 35 tyers per session. Tyers may participate in one or both sessions, and should bring tools and materials to tie patterns of their choice. Standard flies such as Woolly Buggers, Hare's Ear Nymphs, Clouser Deep Minnows, Royal Wulffs, and Dahlberg Divers are all welcome. However, there are no restrictions on the type or size of flies to be donated. There are programs in a variety of climates with participants anxious to catch the fish in local waters. PHWFF provides lunch, light refreshments, and beverages to all volunteers as well

Volunteers Needed for Four Kids Fishing Days

March 14: Herndon 8:00 am - 12:00 pm.

March 21: Reston 8:00 am - 12:00 pm.

March 28: Big Rocky Run in Ellanor Lawrence County Party Volunteers will be needed to stock fish on March 26 (Thurs), and on March 28 to help kids

catch fish

April 25: Vienna 8:00 am - 12:30 pm

Family Fishing Rodeo to be held at Wolftrap Creek in Wildwood Park. If you are able to help stock, and/or help kids, or represent NVATU a table with flyers please send George Paine an e-mail at: ppafish@hotmail.com

as tables with chairs and electrical outlets for the tyers. Tax deductible donation forms are available upon request.

Fly Tyers that are unable to attend the event, but who still wish to donate flies may do so by contacting the Event Coordinator and requesting the shipping address. Tyers must register for the event by emailing the Event Coordinator at phwquantico@gmail.com with their name and preferred shift.

FLY FISHING MERIT BADGE PROGRAM NEEDS VOLUNTEERS APRIL 18

NVATU will be conducting its Spring Fly Fishing Merit Badge Program on **April 18th** at the Riverbend Park Nature Center from 8:00 am - 4:00 pm. We like to have a minimum of two instructors for each module, but more volunteers mean more one-on-one time for the scouts. The following are volunteer opportunities and the volunteers we have so far:

General Overview - John Davey
Casting - Dave Selmer, Scott Adams

The bugs - Steve Moulton
Fly Tying - John Hadley
Knot tying - OPEN
Fishing - All hands

In addition to the break-out sessions, we need volunteers to solicit donations and material from Orvis, LL Bean, Dicks, Urban Angler, and VA GIFD; hand out material; and provide general assistance on April 18th. If you are interested, please submit your name and preferred activity to Bill Errico at dadoopman@hotmail.com or 703-725-8801. Bill Errico will meet with

volunteers at 6:45 pm before the March and April NVATU monthly meetings.

RESTON SPRING FESTIVAL MAY 2

On Saturday, May 2, volunteers are needed to assist with kids fishing during the annual Reston Spring festival. The Festival starts at 1 pm and goes until 5 pm. The Reston Association will set up on the dock at Lake Audubon where they will provide spinning gear for kids. Volunteers are asked to be in place by noon. In addition to helping kids fish, there is an opportunity to promote NVATU. The Reston Association will provide a table at the Nature House where we can put out flyers and talk about the TU mission. Please contact George Paine at ppafish@hotmail.com if you are available.

CASTING FOR RECOVERY ROD RAFFLE

Mid-Atlantic Casting for Recovery program is holding a rod raffle to fund the purchase of fly rods. The cost of shipping shared equipment across the country is becoming cost prohibitive so each 'program' is left to provide all the fishing equipment for their retreats. Mid-Atlantic Casting for Recovery, supported by many of our members with time and donations, is raffling off two custom rods and a custom rod package. Only 300 tickets are available for purchase and they are going fast. Once all tickets are sold, the winners will be drawn. Please see: <https://secure.acceptiva.com/?cst=27d6f7> for more information on purchasing tickets.

GET LANDOWNER FISHING PERMITS ONLINE!

Written landowner permits required for fishing Buffalo Creek, Upper South River, and Mossy Creek are now available at <https://www3.dgif.virginia.gov/troutpermits/>. See information, maps, and regulations for each body of water at <http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/fishing/trout/special-regulation-trout-waters/>.

FWAM CONTINUED

or chartreuse floss instead of the traditional red. You can often find Stimulators in a variety of colors. I would recommend light and short tackle for this stream. A 7' 4 weight is more than enough rod. With the clear water I highly recommend using the finest tippet material you can see. Casts are generally short, calling for a rod that loads easily and roll casts well. The stream is shallow enough in most places to get away with hip waders. A Pennsylvania license and trout stamp are required.

FOTM CONTINUED

synthetic material to improve visibility in various lighting conditions).

Fishing Tips: In the spring I use a size #14 and #16 fly when fishing for Brook Trout—hatch or no hatch. Cast first to the big brook trout lurking in the prime feeding lane at the lip of the pool. Next cast to the likely spots to the left and the right side of the pool, especially above large boulders, and then up to the head of the pool. Let the fly drift through the entire pool. In a small pool, especially in low-water conditions, you may only get one or two casts, and only hook one fish before the others become spooked. In larger pools you may be able to hook multiple fish. Keep casting as long as you are getting strikes. When they get shy, just move to the next pool.

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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.

APRIL

2: Chapter Meeting

4: FWAM Rapidan (VA)

9: Board Meeting

10: (Friday) FWAM Rose River (VA)

11-12: Virginia Fly Fishing and Wine Festival, Waynesboro (VA)

25: FWAM Conewago Creek (PA)

MAY

7: Chapter meeting

8: (Friday) FWAM Rapidan (VA)

9: FWAM Jeremy's Run (VA)

14: Board Meeting

30: FWAM 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)



TU website:
www.tu.org

Virginia Council of TU website:
www.vctu.org



Recycled and Recyclable



MEMBER ALBUM



**SUBMIT
YOUR
PHOTOS
TODAY**



Pictures of fishing trips, conservation work, trout travel or other moments advancing TU.

E-mail photos from your smartphone or computer to one of our editors.

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Andy Manley:

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Jim Galligan:

jimgalligan48@gmail.com

Please include brief details of your photo to share the moment with chapter members. See you here.

Beautiful Bow: Ford Moseley with a fiesty 19-inch Missouri Bow in 2008.