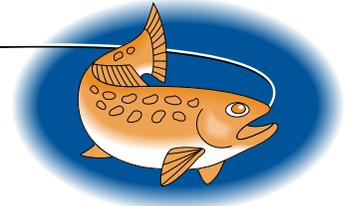


# TROUTLINE



www.nvatu.org • The Newsletter of the Northern Virginia Chapter of Trout Unlimited • January 2017

## No Meeting



### DETAILS

**Meeting in February**  
**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

**5:** No Members Meeting due to holiday  
**7:** FWAM Trip to Hughes River (VA)  
**12:** Board Meeting  
**28:** FWAM Trip to Conewago (PA)

## WHAT'S COMING OFF

# Casting for Recovery Mid Atlantic has another great retreat thanks to NVATU!

Thanks to support from NVATU, Casting for Recovery (CFR) Mid-Atlantic had a wonderful September weekend retreat for breast cancer survivors. Fourteen lovely and energetic ladies spent Friday and Saturday learning the basics of fly fishing, and on Sunday had a great day of fishing on Beaver Creek assisted by NVATU members Bill Errico, Jim Galvin, and Andy Manley; and many of other willing helpers.

Additionally, NVATU donated to the CFR "stocking fund." No, we didn't provide nylons for the ladies, we helped provide the fish! Everyone knows that if you're introducing someone to fly fishing, it's a whole lot more fun if they actually catch fish. Beaver Creek is a lovely limestone stream, and Oliver Tessier, the new owner, has graciously continued with former owner Luigi Perini's generosity by allowing the ladies to fish the private water on his property. Unfortunately for the ladies this stretch is home to some of the pickiest trout most of us will ever encounter.



The solution is to add some not-so-picky trout to the population. The kind that will actually "taste" a size 12 olive wooley bugger. That's where TU came in. It cost \$650 to put in 135 fish. NVATU joined seven other chapters, in response to CFR's request, and funded the entire stocking. The retreat staff volunteers did the actual stocking the Thursday before the retreat. We understand they had fun even when their boots filled with water.

stayed at the retreat center in Sharpsburg, Maryland, and spent Friday and Saturday learning about fly fishing. Casting practice went very well with this group – not always the case. On Sunday they fished, and almost everyone caught at least one fish. Several ladies landed multiple fish.

Many new friendships formed over the weekend. Most had never been to a support group gathering where they could share their experiences and their hope for life after breast cancer. CFR would like to thank TU and its volunteers for helping make this weekend possible, and memorable.

## Honoring New Members

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

**Tony Bowersox**, Woodbridge, VA  
**Robert Harper**, Falls Church, VA  
**Clyde Hurst**, Falls Church, VA

**Marni Kasprovicz**, Reston, VA  
**David Mahoney**, Leesburg, VA  
**Tim Newman**, Carterton, VA

TRIP 1

**Hughes River**  
(FROM THE TOP)  
VIRGINIA

**When:** January 7, 2017  
**Depart:** Contact George Paine or check online at [www.nvatu.org](http://www.nvatu.org)  
**Return:** Whenever  
**Meet:** Dick's Fair Lakes parking lot

The first trip for 2017 is to the upper Hughes River, and involves a moderately strenuous hike. Remember that if you are within the National Park boundary and catch a Brown Trout you are not allowed to return it to the water. You may keep 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; however, most of us practice catch and release.

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 your best bet on the Shenandoah National Park streams. Most of your casts will be short. When making short-distance casts it is to your advantage to use a shorter leader, and it is especially important to create a tight loop and transfer just enough energy to the fly line to turn the leader over allowing it to gently, but completely straighten out before falling on the water. When fishing nymphs you can add a little extra power which will cause the nymph to "tuck under" at the end of the cast and drive it deeper into the water column. Tight loops also allow you to better aim your casts, thereby reducing your chances of hooking branches that you didn't see; and letting the line straighten and then fall softly to the water reduces the chances you will spook fish.

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 buck-tail streamer or Woolly Bugger may yield results in some of the deeper pools. One last thought, trout will linger near the edges of pools where the water is warmer.

TRIP 2

**Conewago Creek**

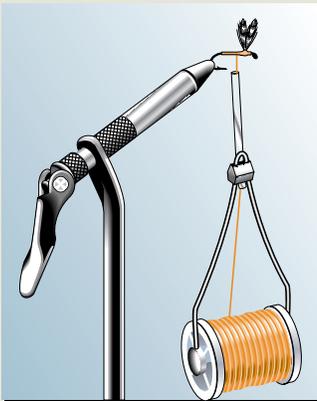
PENNSYLVANIA

**When:** January 28, 2017  
**Depart:** 8 a.m.  
**Return:** You decide  
**Meet:** Small Vienna Community Center, parking Lot just across the street from Firehouse lot

THIS IS A SELF-GUIDED TRIP

The last trip for January is to Conewago Creek, near Biglerville, PA, located just north of Gettysburg. The stream isn't a long walk from your car. You can fish Conewago Creek with hip boots, but breathable waders work well also. 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.

JANUARY 2015 FLY TYING



No meeting this month so it gives me an opportunity to cover what you need to bring in order to fully participate in the monthly fly tying demonstrations. Listed in the order of importance:

**Vise:** any type of tying 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.

**Bobbins:** 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 for the demonstration.

**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. You can get by with black, white and tan colored thread for the demonstrations. You can purchase the correct color thread for a specific patterns at a later date. In the meantime, you can use markers to color white thread.

**Scissors:** one fine pair for trimming thread and materials close to the fly, and one rough (larger) pair for cutting dense material such as heavy hair, hackle, and wire.

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

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

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

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

**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.

**Optional tools and things you will likely need over time:**

**Hackle gauge:** I measure the hackle I give you a the demo but you will want one to tie at home but 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 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 can also use your pliers to grab some dubbing.  
**Half hitch tool:** you can use a small straw.

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

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

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

— John Hadley

# Trip to Yellow Breeches



Scott Russell, Patrick Wentz, and Don Grattan – from NVATU – enjoyed a trip to the Yellow Breeches Creek in Boiling Springs, PA. Scott took this picture at the Allenberry Resort and Playhouse. This destination is included in the 2nd edition of the NVATU publication: Washington, D.C., Area Trout Fishing – A Guide to Day Trips. Scott and Don plan to organize trips to Pennsylvania for Chapter members—keep an eye out for announcements in the newsletter. Contact either of them if you are interested in a fishing trip to a Pennsylvania trout stream.

## Winter Fishing in Shenandoah National Park

With more “seasonable temperature” returning this week, fishing will slow down but it's still possible to move a few brookies. Streams on the eastern “morning” side of the Blue Ridge usually warm about 5 degrees by noon. Most of us depend on nymphs but sometimes a tiny blue-winged olive or adams is more effective even

though you don't see bugs rising.

The lower Rapidan at Graves Mill is one of my favorite streams this time a year. It often becomes too warm in the summer and brookies seem to migrate upstream only to return in winter. While you're there check out the huge beaver dam about a half-mile above the trailhead.

**Please note:** Until Sunday, January 8, 2017, Skyline Drive between Front Royal (Mile 0 at U.S. Highway 340) and Rockfish Gap (Mile 105 at U.S. Highway 250) closes daily at 5:00 p.m. and does not reopen until 8:00 a.m. the next morning. This closure is to reduce poaching during deer season.

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

Art Director: **Gary Vsgaitis**, (570) 436-0839, [tulogoguy@yahoo.com](mailto:tulogoguy@yahoo.com)

#### CHAPTER OFFICERS

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

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

Treasurer: **Scott Allen**, (571) 228-0183, [scallen@cox.net](mailto:scallen@cox.net)

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

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Terry Lowe**, (703) 476-3978, [terryalowe@cox.net](mailto:terryalowe@cox.net)

**Suzanne Malone**, (571) 641-9705, [flyfishgrl@aol.com](mailto:flyfishgrl@aol.com)

**Art Brantz**, [abrantz@aol.com](mailto:abrantz@aol.com)

#### COMMITTEES

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

Boy Scouts Program: **Bill Errico**, [dadoopman@hotmail.com](mailto:dadoopman@hotmail.com)

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

(Course Co-Chair): **Andy Manley**, (703) 984-9875, [manleyam@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:ppafish@hotmail.com)

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

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

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

Logo Merchandise: **Scott Allen**, (571) 228-0183, [scallen@cox.net](mailto:scallen@cox.net)

Membership: **Art Brantz**

Natural Resource Advisor: **Kirk Smith**

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

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

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

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

Rep to State council: **Jim Wilson**, (703) 859-2992, [jhw210@juno.com](mailto:jhw210@juno.com)

Stream Projects: **Kirk Smith**

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

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)

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

**Chapter address:** NVATU, P.O. Box 27, Herndon, VA 20172

## CONSERVATION CALENDAR

### Unless otherwise noted:

- **Chapter meetings:** Vienna Volunteer Fire Station, 7:30 p.m.
- **Board Meetings:** Century 21 New Millenium, 10306 Eaton Place #120 Fairfax, VA, 22030-7:30 p.m.

### FEBRUARY

- 4:** FWAM Trip to Conway River (VA)
- 25:** FWAM Trip to Big Spring (PA)

### MARCH

- 2:** Members Meeting
- 4:** FWAM Trip to Piney Branch (VA)
- 9:** Board Meeting
- 25:** FWAM Trip to Mountain Creek (PA)

### APRIL

- 1:** FWAM trip to Rapidan River (VA)
- 1:** Graves Mtn Lodge Heritage Day (VA)
- 6:** Chapter Meeting
- 7:** (Friday) FWAM trip to Rose River (VA)

- 8-9:** Virginia Fly Fishing and Wine Festival
- 13:** Board Meeting
- 29:** FWAM trip to Conewago Creek (PA)



### CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

Looking for **eight** volunteers to help DGIF stock Holmes Run and Accotink Creek on **February 15, 2017**

If you are interested, please contact **Roger Brown** at [arby.brown@comcast.net](mailto:arby.brown@comcast.net).



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



**FISH ON!** Kenn Hall hooks up with a fall-run beast in Oak Orchard River, N.Y.