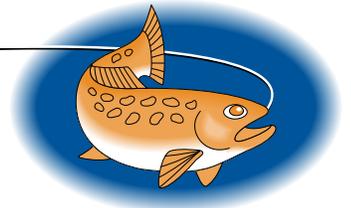


# TROUTLINE



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

## MARCH MEETING



### CHAPTER MEETING

**March 2, 2017**  
**6:45 p.m.** Fly tying demonstration  
**7:30 p.m.** Chapter meeting

### WHERE

Flame Room of Vienna Volunteer Fire Station, 400 Center St. S, Vienna, VA 22180.

### HOW TO GET THERE

Chain Bridge Road (Route 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.

### BOARD MEETINGS

**7:30 p.m.** Century 21 New Millenium, 10306 Eaton Place #120 Fairfax, VA, 22030

### MARCH CALENDAR

**2:** Members Meeting  
**4:** FWAM Trip to Piney Branch (VA)  
**9:** Board Meeting  
**11:** Herndon Kids Fishing  
**18:** Reston Kids Fishing  
**25:** FWAM Trip to Mountain Creek (PA)

## WHAT'S COMING OFF

MICHAEL ABRAMOWITZ

# Safety While Fly Fishing

The presentation on March 2nd will outline tips and methods to stay safe while fly fishing.



What happens if you trip and fall in the middle of the river and your waders start filling with water? Accidents happen and the best defenses are knowledge and preparation. This month's talk by Michael Abramowitz will cover the best methods to prevent the most

common potential accidents that can occur on a fishing outing, whether at your local stream or a distant location. You will learn how to respond safely to incidents so you can get back to your passion fishing, trying to net the one that got away.

## Honoring New Members

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

**Steve Jeffs**, Burke, VA  
**Ronald Krueger**, Burke, VA  
**Lawrence LaComa**, Springfield, VA  
**Timothy Mehall**, Ashburn, VA  
**Dave Merrill**, Arlington, VA  
**Rick Mertens**, Alexandria, VA  
**Innes Quiroz**, Alexandria, VA  
**Charles Schindler**, Fairfax, VA  
**Kelley Shepherd**, Arlington, VA

**Charles Sisler**, Fairfax, VA  
**Craig St. John**, Broadlands, VA  
**Gerald Stalun**, Alexandria, VA  
**Kevin Stapleton**, Fairfax Station, VA  
**Dave Steigler**, Arlington, VA  
**Deidra Stultz King**, George, VA  
**Justin Sutters**, Herndon, VA  
**Michael Tirrell**, Leesburg, VA  
**Craig White**, Leesburg, VA

TRIP 1

**Piney Branch**  
VIRGINIA

**When:** March 4, 2017  
**Depart:** 8 a.m.  
**Return:** On your own schedule and those you ride with  
**Meet:** Dicks Sporting Goods in Fair Lakes Shopping Center

The first trip will be to the 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 will be all you need to fish this stream. It will take 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. These small (size 18-20) flies can be fished behind a larger dry fly or piece of poly yarn. Both serve as a visual reference because you won't be able to see the stonefly. If a fish rises in the vicinity of your fly, set the hook. Small parachute Adams work well even when fish aren't rising. Working upstream with short casts. 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. I would suggest trying an ant pattern in size 14 or smaller as the

trout appear to mistake them for winter stoneflies. Another fly that works well is the green weenie, which imitates caddis larvae that are common in Park streams. Carry flies in several different sizes. 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!



The stream is fairly low gradient, so you will find quite a few families out walking the trails if the weather is nice. The trails follow the stream very closely. The stream is shallow enough in most places to get away with hip waders.

considered. Avoid green colored clothes in the morning and oranges and reds in the late afternoon. Clothes in blues and grey actually work best, not khaki like most tackle companies would have you believe. However, those are the exact colors I would choose in fly selections. The light will actually highlight the fly to the fish 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 on the surface as well. Conversely as daylight comes to an end you will find it near impossible to see your fly with those same colors.

TRIP 2

**Mountain Creek**  
PENNSYLVANIA

**When:** March 25, 2017  
**Depart:** 8 a.m.  
**Return:** You decide  
**Meet:** Vienna Community Center Parking Lot North of Fire Station Lot

**THIS IS A SELF-GUIDED TRIP**

Mountain Creek eventually feeds into the Yellow Breeches several miles downstream. This freestone creek is stocked with brook trout. You can park all the way up the trail until you hit the gate. If you decide to fish the reservoir you will often find a significant number of spin fishermen.

You'll find yourself spooking a lot of trout before you even notice them. The water is usually gin clear and the fish often see you before you see them. Pick a place to start and only walk upstream. If you encounter a brookie that is feeding on the surface you will likely walk right into their cone of vision. A stealthy approach with subdued clothing is your best bet for success.

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 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 such clear water I would highly recommend using the finest tippet material you can see. Casts are generally shorter, calling for a rod that can roll cast well as well as a short, delicate false casts.

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

A Pennsylvania license and trout stamp are required.

MARCH FLY OF THE MONTH: DEMONSTRATED BY JOHN HADLEY

**Simple Elk Hair Caddis**



This fly was developed by the late Al Campbell. Many of his patterns and beginning through advanced fly tying lessons can be found on [www.flyangleronline.com](http://www.flyangleronline.com). There is no palmered hackle as on the standard caddis pattern so the fly body rests lower in the water. If tied in all black it can represent a cricket and on a small hook even a midge, black stonefly or other small nondescript insect. Bring your vice, bobbin, thread and stacker; materials will be supplied.

**Techniques to be learned:**

- Use of punch embroidery yarn

- for fly body
- Stacking Elk Hair
  - Tips on tying in an Elk Hair Wing
  - Finish with a double half hitch

**RECIPE**

- Hook:** Any standard dry fly hook # 16-12  
**Tail:** None  
**Body:** Punch embroidery yarn various colors, black/green/tan/brown: or a strand of yarn  
**Legs:** None  
**Thread:** 6/0 - Colored to match the body  
**Wing:** Elk hair. Bleached or natural, but black with a black body

**Fishing Tip:**

Target species are trout and smallmouth bass although I've caught lots of panfish with this fly. Cast across and up stream, let drift down stream. If you see active caddis laying eggs try to mimic their action with quick strips angling downstream. Or, only let the fly sit for a few seconds, then lift and make another cast to land a foot or so downstream from the previous cast. I've had particularly good success in the spring catching stocked trout with a size 16 black version of this fly.

# 4th Annual Fly Tying Marathon



The Quantico and Fort Belvoir programs of Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc. will host their 4th Annual Fly Tying Marathon in the main gallery of the National Museum of the Marine Corps on Saturday, March 18, 2017 from 9:00am to 5:00pm.

Flies created at the event will be distributed to programs across the nation for use at fly fishing events throughout the year.

Fly tyers can sign up for a shift from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM, 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM, or for both shifts.

Fly tyers must preregister by email to: [phwquantico@gmail.com](mailto:phwquantico@gmail.com).

Registration is first come, first serve.

Contact the event coordinator at: 540-287-6486.

Fly tyers must provide their own materials and tools.

**Recommended patterns include, but are not limited to:**

Wooly Buggers

Hare's Ears

Prince Nymphs

Muddler Minnows

Clouser Minnows

Lefty's Deceivers

Surf Candies

Half and Halves

Copper Johns

Pheasant Tails

Poppers

Slump Busters

Royal Wulffs

Elk Hair Caddis

Whistlers

Gurgle Bugs

Chronomids

Midges

Soft Hackles

Nymphs

Tiers may request a tax deductible receipt on site from event personnel.

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled and wounded Service Members and Veterans. PHWFF programs provide fly fishing, fly casting, fly tying and rod building opportunities to its participants at no cost.

## 2nd Annual NVATU-FLY

By Kiki Galvin

Mark your calendars for Saturday April 22, 2017! Levi Pitcock from Double Spur Outfitters in Star Tannery, VA will be hosting our event on Cedar Creek. For those who competed in our inaugural event we were most grateful and the TU-FLY committee hope to increase our team participation in 2017 and we look to our members to take part in this wonderful event

as well as other members from neighboring chapters.

**Benefits:** Supports NVATU programs, Project Healing Waters, Kids Fly Fishing Camp, stream restorations, Merit Badge classes, Casting For Recovery and much more.

**Rules:** Use only two flies per angler.

**Donation:** \$250 per team of two

anglers.

**For further information:**  
[www.nvatu.org](http://www.nvatu.org).

**To Pre-Register Contact:**  
• Art Brantz, (703) 980-5776  
or e-mail to [abrantz@aol.com](mailto:abrantz@aol.com).  
• Jay Lovering: (703) 973-1024  
• Kiki Galvin: (703) 899-6793

Reach out to fellow anglers and spread the word!



## Lake Fairfax TU Event

For those interested in supporting the upcoming TU event at Lake Fairfax on March 4 please attend the planning meeting prior to the regular TU monthly meeting. This meeting will start at

6:30 on March 2 in the Vienna Fire House.

Our participation at the March 4 event will be from 9-1. The event coincides with the opening day of trout stocking at the lake. TU members

will be there to support a variety of demonstration activities for fly fishing at the main pavilion. If you can commit or have any questions, contact Bill Errico at: [dadoopman@hotmail.com](mailto:dadoopman@hotmail.com).

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

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Board Member (FY 2016): Bill Errico, (703) 825-8801, dadoopman@hotmail.com  
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Board Member (FY 2015): Suzanne Malone, (571) 641-9705, flyfishgrl@aol.com  
Board Member: VACANT

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Women's Initiative Coordinator: Kiki Galvin, (703) 893-7020, angla56@msn.com  
Youth Representatives: Mason and Palmer Kasprovicz, fb2bemall@gmail.com

**Keep up with the latest chapter happenings on Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/334014474470/>



**Want to join the Northern Virginia Trout Unlimited Chapter?**



Use this QR Code to sign up or use the following URL link to sign up online for a special offer:

<https://gifts.tumembership.org/member/intro>

Will quickly link to the national [www.TU.org](http://www.TU.org) website to become a member for **\$17.50 for your first year.**

In the pull-down menu select 360-Northern Virginia and Introductory Rate.

**CONSERVATION CALENDAR**

**APRIL**

- 1:** FWAM trip to Rapidan River (VA)
  - 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)

**MAY**

- 4:** Members Meeting
- 6:** FWAM Trip to Jeremy's Run (VA)

- 11:** Members Meeting
- 12:** (Friday) FWAM Trip to Rapidan (VA)
- 27:** FWAM trip to E. Branch of Antietam (PA)

**JUNE**

- 1:** Members Meeting
- 3:** FWAM Trip to Lower Rapidan/Staunton (VA)
- 8:** Board Meeting
- 24:** FWAM Trip to Big Hunting Creek (MD)

**UPCOMING SPEAKERS**

**April 6:** Captain Tim Welch on the Chincoteague.

NOTE: SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Deep Creek's #1 vacation rental provider offers Alpine Dreaming and other fine homes! RMLV and Alpine Dreaming are proud sponsors of the NVATU Bi-Annual Western Maryland Fly-fishing trip! Alpine Dreaming info: <https://tinyurl.com/AlpineDreaming> RMLV info: <http://rentals.deepcreek.com> (866) 544-3223




Recycled and Recyclable



**MEMBER ALBUM**



Jim Galvin and bow he thinks he caught on Suzie Q about four years ago – but he's caught so many big fish.



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