



AUGUST MEETING



DETAILS

August 2, 2018

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 Street 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.

AUGUST CALENDAR

2: Chapter meeting
9: Board meeting
11: FWAM Trip to Rappahannock River (VA)

WHAT'S COMING OFF

RICHIE FARINO

District Angling opens niche DC fly fishing shop

District Angling, an independent company formed to fill a small niche in the Washington DC area specializing in fly-fishing, has opened its new store at 2105 North Pollard Street in Arlington, VA.

Richard Farino, District Angling's founder, will talk about the shop's new location and upcoming plans at the August meeting.

Rich is a Bronx resident who relocated to the Washington DC area a few years ago to run another fly shop. An avid fly angler (and known to his employees as "El Jefe", or The Boss), Richard is a registered guide, fly tyer and also runs the fly fishing travel and outreach programs with non-profit organizations.

District Angling has more than 100+ years of combined fly-fishing experience, knowledge, and expertise among the staff. In addition to guiding they also are involved in conservation, outreach, education, and fundraising. They not only support



national organizations like Project Healing Waters, Coastal Conservation Association, and Trout Unlimited but also participate in important events and regional awareness like the Friends of Fletcher's Cove, Trout In The Classroom, and the Cape Lookout Albacore Festival.

Trout In the Classroom May be Too Successful

The story I wrote for the Washington Post about the James Madison High School stream team did not cover all the issues in great depth. A couple of them are genuinely interesting and worth mentioning here in our newsletter.

One is a complication born of great irony: Trout Unlimited has been so successful in setting up Trout in the Classroom (TIC) projects that the number of brook trout to be returned to Virginia waters in the spring exceed the availability of ideal streams to handle them.

And that bears on another issue: whether it is advisable to add brook trout raised from hatchery eggs – like TIC fish – to streams that hold

“genetically pure” wild trout.

A bit of background here: Currently, 230 schools in Virginia have TIC programs. The programs, which are largely supported by local TU chapters, supply the school with an aquarium and other water-cooling equipment. In October the schools get fish eggs from nearby hatcheries. Students raise the fish in the tanks, learning much about fish biology. In May, the fry are 1.5 to 3 inches long and ready to be released.

Chuck Hoysa, who managed the state program from 2013-2015 and who still plays a role in TIC in

FISH WITH A MEMBER

TRIP 1

Rapidan, Rappahannock Rivers

VIRGINIA

SMALLMOUTH TRIP

When: August 11, 2018

Depart: 8 a.m.

Return: Whenever

Meet: Dick's Fair Lakes parking lot

This trip will be to the lower

Rapidan or Rappahannock River. Bring plenty of water.

We'll pause enroute at Kelly's Ford on the Rappahannock and see if the water is low enough to wade. There are three possible access points at or near the bridge. If it's not, we'll drive down to Ely's Ford (below). Kelly's has a huge basin with a rock garden above it.



The quarry will be smallmouth bass. Wet wading is recommended as it will keep you a lot cooler and temps will be near 90. Some of these sites require

cautious wading due to irregular bottoms, as well as silt and algae.

You can almost always get away with a short fly rod, but when there is room to cast (and mend line) a longer rod is a significant advantage.

I like a long 6-weight rod. A heavy rod allows you to toss heavy streamers and sinking leaders.

Stay flexible, however, and carry a floating leader. In low water, top water bugs such as a Parachute Madam X work well as well as nymph imitations, my favorite being a Zug Bug.

AUGUST FLY OF THE MONTH

Cathy's Super Beetle



Mason and Palmer Kasprovicz will demonstrate and assist you in tying Cathy's Super Beetle. Bring your vise and tools. Materials will be provided. Doors open around 6:30.

Cathy's Super Beetle is an excellent beetle imitation for the terrestrial season taking place right now in our trout streams.

Its general shape and silhouette allow it to be mistaken for a wide variety of beetle species. Also, the large amount of foam used in the fly gives it buoyancy through rough waters and over a longer duration of fishing.

RECIPE

Hook: Mustad Signature R50-94840 Sizes 8-12, or equivalent

Thread: Black 6/0

Underbody: Peacock Herl or Black Ice Dubbing

Body: Black 2mm Foam

Wing: Pearl Crystal Flash and White Zylon

Head: Folded Black 2mm Foam

Trout in the Classroom Report - 2018

Our expanded TIC team of Gary Beard, Dan Cunningham, Tim Toole, John Davey, Bob Speegle and myself supported 19 local schools (25 tanks total) in raising and releasing well over 1,000 brook trout fry into Wildcat Hollow and Catharpin Creek this year. Eggs were obtained last fall from DGIF by Chuck Hoysa, who has retired but continues to faithfully support us.

This is the tenth year for the program, which started with one home school and continues to grow every year. We now have all grade levels with tanks and public as well as private schools in three counties participating. Some of the students have learning challenges and readily connect with the elements of the program.

We added stream sampling to the events on release day last year. This year, based on requests from teachers, we also added hands on casting practice for the students. John and I perfected a technique, borrowing from the flight attendant model, in which he does the audio and I do the video, then I hand the student the rod.

For details on the national program see: <http://www.troutintheclassroom.org>.

— George Paine

Left: Dr. Peter Mecca and George Paine screening for bug life.



Continued: Trout In the Classroom

Northern Virginia, estimates that 90 percent of the trout raised in Virginia are brook trout. That is due to the fact that the brook trout is the state freshwater fish of Virginia, and because Trout Unlimited is rightly proud of Virginia's wild brook trout population.

But the ideal brook trout stream is one that is very cold, clean, and has year-round flow, and so the number of streams in Virginia that fit that description is limited. Indeed, they are mainly the little trout streams that flow eastward from the Blue Ridge, and most of them already hold native brook trout. Their availability to TIC is also limited by the fact that Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) has resisted inserting TIC (hatchery-originated) fish into streams that hold populations of wild brook trout. The fear has been that mixing the trout will alter the DNA of the wild trout, which are thought to be genetically unique or "pure."

The result is that in Northern Virginia, TIC fish are being released into the few streams that do not hold wild trout and at the same time are cold and pure enough to nurture them. George Paine, who is instrumental in the program, noted that for this spring's release 14 schools put their fish into Wildcat Hollow, a creek about 10 miles east of Front Royal, and three schools released in Catharpin Creek, the stream "discovered" by the Madison High School students. Three others released into Passage Creek at Elizabeth Furnace, roughly 10 miles west of Front Royal. According to Paine, between 1,000 and 1,500 fingerlings were introduced this spring into Wildcat Hollow. "We've dumped zillions of fish in there because we don't have other choices," George told me in an earlier interview.

But what about the 200 or so other schools that also have TIC aquariums? Hoysa believes that between Winchester and Bristol many schools have a trout stream where they can introduce fish between 15 and 30 minutes from the school, and certainly within



Dr. Peter Mecca's George Mason HS Class.

an hour. The Rose River, which flows past Graves Mountain Lodge, is an example. Hoysa said that TIC brookies can be released there because the stream there is already stocked. He said that some schools -- about 10 percent -- raise browns and rainbows and release them into stocked waters holding those fish, like the Smith River in southwestern Virginia. Other schools -- a lot of them -- travel each spring to Riverfest in Waynesboro and release their trout there into the South River, a river stocked with browns and rainbows.

Kevin Little, the co-owner of the South River Fly Shop in downtown Waynesboro, said he has not seen a lot of brookies in that river. He guessed that the odds of a fingerling brook trout surviving in that stream with all the other established fish was about "one percent." So even though most of the TIC brookies raised are being released into trout streams, given the hazards -- warmer water temperatures, hungry mature fish -- their chances of survival are less than ideal.

Is this a problem? John Odenkirk, the VDGIF fisheries biologist for northern Virginia, put it this way: This really deals with the question of the ideals and goals of the TIC program, he said. If the point of the program is to place brook trout into perfect streams where they were once extirpated, and have them reproduce and create a new population, the odds for that are very small. But if the point of the

program is to get students engaged in learning about fish biology and stream and forest ecology, then the program can be judged a true success. Seen this way, he said, the lack of perfect brook trout streams for TIC fish "is a dilemma, not a problem." The fact that there is no pristine brook trout habitat close to a TIC school may be a lesson in itself. And the fact that VDGIF does not want to introduce hatchery (non-native) brook trout on top of native trout that populate the best waters can be a lesson in fisheries genetics.

However, when I mentioned this to Dawn Kirk, the US Forest Service's fisheries biologist, she noted that there is some debate on this issue of genetic mixing. While most apparently think it is important to maintain genetic purity of the wild trout, others think that a little genetic mixing might actually make the brook trout population more robust. Steve Reeser, the VDGIF District Fisheries Biologist in the Verona office, said there are two camps on this issue: One believes introducing hatchery fish will "water down" the purity of the brook trout, making them "not as tough." But the other camp believes that genetic diversity will actually make the brook trout stronger. "We have stocked hatchery brook trout in some cases right on top of wild brook trout and we've not seen (negative) impacts," he said.

One reason for this may lay in something that Stephen Faulkner told me at the end of our June

meeting. Steve is the chief of the U.S. Geological Survey's Aquatic Ecology Branch in Kearneysville, WV. Steve said that some studies have shown that brook trout, if genetically different, generally will not interbreed. He said they have seen instances where trout placed in a stream will not move into the areas inhabited by other trout -- they just keep to themselves.

Meanwhile, there is one more issue looming. Wildcat Hollow, where most of the Northern Virginia brookies are released, originally was the project of VDGIF fisheries biologist Mike Isel. It was one of two streams that he studied that had never held brook trout, but seemed promising. The stream was marginal, but DGI and others worked on it, building pools and improving the flow. And Isel approved it for the release of TIC fish.

But now he would like to know whether the brookies that are being released in there are reproducing. And there is no way to know, as thousands more brookies are released in there every year. Isel has made it known, Hoysa said, that it would be great if the TIC schools would stop releasing trout into Wildcat Hollow for a couple of years so he could see if the trout in there are reproducing. "That would be great, but we'll need to find a stream where 20 schools can release their fish," he said. "Hopefully we could come up with something."

– Peter Cary

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Vacant Positions: Secondary Treasurer, Webmaster, Publicity Chair



Keep up with the latest chapter happenings on Facebook:

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



Want to join the Northern Virginia Chapter of Trout Unlimited?

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 website to become a member for **\$1750 for your first year**. In the pull-down menu select 360-Northern Virginia and Introductory Rate.

CONSERVATION CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

- 1:** FWAM Trip to Rappahannock River (VA)
- 6:** Chapter meeting
- 13:** Board meeting
- 29:** FWAM Trip to Patuxent River (MD)

OCTOBER

- 4:** Chapter meeting
- 6:** FWAM Trip to White Oak Creek (VA)
- 11:** Board meeting
- 27:** FWAM Trip to Morgan

Run (MD)

NOVEMBER

- 1:** Chapter meeting
- 3:** FWAM Trip to Rose River (VA)
- 8:** Board meeting
- 24:** FWAM Trip to Gunpowder River (MD)

DECEMBER

- 1:** FWAM Trip to Stony Creek (VA)
- 6:** Chapter meeting

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MEMBER ALBUM



May 5, 2018 - Lower Piney Trip: Left, Suzanne Malone, Tony Hill, George Paine, Carl Jordan, John Milbow and Scott Russell.



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