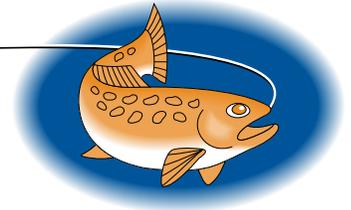


TROUTLINE



www.nvatu.org • The Newsletter of the Northern Virginia Chapter of Trout Unlimited • October, November, December 2018

QUARTERLY MEETINGS



DETAILS

October 4, 2018
November 1, 2018
December 6, 2018
6:45 p.m. Fly tying demonstration
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.

OCTOBER CALENDAR

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

MORE CALENDAR listings on page six

WHAT'S COMING OFF

OCTOBER SPEAKERS: Jim Wilson & Adam Lynch

Climate Change and the Health of the Rappahannock

Environmental issues will be on the agenda at the October meeting.

Jim Wilson, who has been working with the TU Climate Change Working Group, will update chapter members about the growing study of extreme event attribution -- the ability of scientists to link climate change with occurrences of extreme weather.

The past decade has seen a remarkable increase in interest and activity in this emerging area of science and has drawn the public's interest because of the frequently devastating effects of the events that are studied.

Also, **Adam Lynch**, from the Friends of the Rappahannock, will review the group's Middle



Rappahannock Report Card project. The MRRC measured and tracked quantitative indicators of stream health among 11 tributaries of the Rapp's middle portion focusing on rating Human Health, Land Use, Stream Ecology and Community Engagement.

He also will talk about the stream restoration on Kinsey Run.

Friends of the Rappahannock aims to be the voice and active force for a healthy and

scenic Rappahannock River. The group provides advocacy, restoration and educational programs throughout the Rapp's watershed.

For more information, go to:
<https://www.riverfriends.org>.

Honoring New Members

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

Donald Cohen, Burke, VA
Bill Craddock, Sterling, VA
Gary Crouse, Alexandria, VA

Robert Hillkirk, Arlington, VA
Yusuf Idris, Vienna, VA
Bob Lin, Vienna, VA

TroutLine Goes Quarterly

Beginning with this issue, TroutLine will be produced every three months instead of monthly. Members can keep up with the latest chapter happenings on Facebook at

www.facebook.com/groups/334014474470, by monitoring www.nvatu.org, or by signing up for e-blasts at: <http://nvatu.org/new/googlegroups>.

NOVEMBER SPEAKER: John Odenkirk

Brookies and Browns on the Conway River

John Odenkirk, Fisheries Biologist with the VA., Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, will talk about the Brook and Brown Trout interaction program for the Conway River at the November 1 meeting.

John is well known to NVA TU chapter members after having worked on numerous joint projects. He is a Certified Fisheries Scientist from the American Fisheries Society and has served as state AFS President and Southern Division Secretary/Treasurer. He has authored several papers and studies.



DECEMBER SPEAKER: Chris Newsome

The Lower Chesapeake Bay's Shallow Water Striped Bass Fishery

At the December meeting, Chris Newsome, owner of Bay Fly Fishing, Gloucester, Va., will talk about fly fishing opportunities for stripped bass — Rockfish — in the lower Chesapeake Bay. They take up residence in relatively shallow water during the warm months of the year and can be found around a variety of structures, from oyster reefs and grass beds to old pilings and rock piles. With the fish holding in predictable areas, it is possible to catch numerous stripers in a single outing while fishing calm, sheltered waters. Rockfish readily eat streamer fly patterns and often can be caught on topwater flies.



Chris has been guiding fly fishing anglers on the lower Chesapeake Bay for the past 19 years. A native of the Tidewater region, Chris' childhood playground was the Piankatank River on Virginia's Middle Peninsula. He examined the Chesapeake ecosystem in college with studies in marine and environmental science, and after graduating from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, returned home to the Middle Peninsula to start his fishing guide service. Newsome uses two specialized boats to put his clients on species such as striped bass, redbait, cobia, speckled trout and bluefish.

OCTOBER

TRIP 1

Little Stony Creek

VIRGINIA

When: October 6, 2018
Depart: 8:00 a.m.
Return: You decide
Meet: Dick's Fair Lakes parking lot

Little Stony Creek, west of Woodstock, is the planned

destination. As always, weather may dictate some changes so if it is a really cold day we may divert to one of the park streams on the "morning side" of the Blue Ridge.

As the stream is in the national forest, unless you are over 65 you will need a National Forest permit. It is only a few dollars and



obtainable on the DGIF website: <http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/fishing/regulations/licenses.asp#national-forest-permit>

As far as flies, I like foam ants, which double as little mountain stoneflies (a #18 nymph), green weenies and olive flashback nymphs (an Orvis pattern). Also, a few midges are always a good idea in winter.

Hip boots will suffice but waders will be warmer. Light weight rods work best for brookies.

This freestone stream extends for two miles above the Woodstock reservoir, just under a two hour drive from Dicks, counting pit stops.

NOVEMBER

TRIP 1

Hughes River

VIRGINIA

FROM THE TOP

When: November 3, 2018
Depart: 8:00 a.m.
Return: Whenever
Meet: Dick's Fair Lakes parking lot

The upper Hughes, in the Shenandoah National Park, is a tough climb out so I recommend going only if you can hike a couple miles uphill. It will be cool in November so that will help. Plan to travel light and wear layers you can peel off.

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 hares ear, and #14 green cased caddis patterns. A small Bucktail or Woolly Bugger may yield results in some of the deeper pools.

DECEMBER

TRIP 1

White Oak Canyon Run

VIRGINIA

(ROBINSON RIVER)

When: December 1, 2018
Depart: 8:00 a.m.
Return: Whenever
Meet: Dick's Fair Lakes parking lot

The first trip will be to White

Oak Canyon Run on the east slope of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Shenandoah National Park.

Your lightest rod will be in order. Rods less than eight feet long are popular, and effective, on most of our headwater native brook trout streams. Hip boots will suffice, but you will probably be more comfortable with waist high waders.

One trick that I have found useful is to fish downstream. At times like that I try to get near the chute flowing into the head of a pool and drop my fly into it and

shakeout enough leader and line to get the fly down to the fish. Since the fish are facing upstream, you have to stay down pretty low, hopefully leaning against a rock or tree so they won't see you.

You will be in steep country and excess weight will be unwelcome. Plan to carry water and your lunch. Your fly box should include, a bright green caddis larva, and maybe some stonefly nymphs. Soft hackle flies with orange or lime-green bodies work well in the deeper water.

Student presentation at Fish Science Center

On July 17th, James Madison students Mary Waclawski, Katelynn Waclawski, Yusef Essawi, Alex Habibi and Lynn Waclawski (chaperone) went to Leetown and presented their Trout Out of the Classroom program to a number of the scientists and were given a working tour of the facility. Representing NVATU were Jay Lovering, Tim Quinn, Kirk Smith and Bill Errico. Host for the day was Kay Marano Briggs, PhD, Branch Chief, National Fish Health Research Laboratory. Assisting Kay were LSC staff, Craig Snyder (worked with the students in the bug lab), Deborah Iwanowicz (did genetics work with students), Christine

Densmore (spoke on fish health and invasive species and conducted a tour of the lab talking about the different fish species housed there), and Frank Roach and volunteers helped students while fishing)

The USGS Leetown Science Center (LSC) provides science to better enable local, state and federal managers address the complex conservation and management needs of our nation's fish health and habitat.

Major areas or research include: fish biology and aquatic ecology, conservation of migratory fish, aquatic animal health and disease, imperiled species and invasive species, and conservation genetics. Many

researchers are sports fishers themselves, and they have dedicated their professional careers towards providing managers with the information they need to ensure our kids and grandkids can have the same experiences as we have had. The LSC Headquartered in Leetown, WV just 15 minutes west of Shepherdstown, WV with two satellite laboratories in Wellsboro, PA and Turner Falls, MA, the LSC team stands ready to work with Trout Unlimited and others who share in our natural resource stewardship responsibility. More information can be found at the LSC website:

<https://cms.usgs.gov/centers/lsc>
Photo and chapter link page 6

OCTOBER FLY OF THE MONTH

Copper John



Rated among The 25 Greatest Flies of All Time (#16) by Field and Stream 2009.

Originator: John Barr of Boulder, Colorado in 1996. The Copper John is a

wire-bodied nymph with a bead head and lead weight that sinks rapidly to get to the bottom where the fish are. This is not a hard fly to tie but takes some time as it has several materials and steps to finish it.

Techniques to be learned:

- Attaching a bead head
- Tying on split biots tail
- Wind a copper wire body
- Using peacock herl to form the thorax
- Using Partridge feather for legs
- Using thin skin for a wing case with a Flashabou accent
- Using 5 minute Epoxy finish

RECIPE

Hook: Standard 1X Nymph Hook #12 to #22, TMC 5262, 5263

Head: Gold Bead Head, sized to match hook size

Thread: Black 6/0, 8/0

Tail: Goose or Turkey Biots, Brown or Black

Body: Copper wire or optional colored copper wire, red, green or black

Thorax: Peacock herl, two or three strands; optional ostrich or dubbing

Legs: Partridge, soft hackle or from hen back

Wing case: Thin Skin with Flashabou center strip and

Epoxy finish (turkey feather optional)

TECHNIQUE

In moving water, dead drift within a few inches of the bottom with or without an indicator then drift with short strips.

In calm water, cast past the target area, let sink to near the bottom, strip to bring the nymph to the surface and then let sink again; repeat until you cover the target area.

Target fish: primarily trout but works on many other species, too.

NOVEMBER FLY OF THE MONTH

Hellgrammite



This is a must for any stream fly box.

Originator: unknown, probably someone who didn't want to get nipped by a live one! I cobbled this one together from a number of different patterns and you can vary the pattern as you wish or use whatever

material you have on hand. Color varies from black to mottled brown to yellow brown. I've only seen black ones in Virginia.

On the delayed harvest section of Passage Creek, above the hatchery, I once caught a rainbow trout, with my imitation, that had a live Hellgrammite in its mouth; guess he was greedy or really hungry.

RECIPE

Hook: big long hook, 3X long in anything from a size 12 to a size 4

Thread: Black 6/0, although you could use 3/0 on the larger flies

Weight: optional, wrapped around the thorax

Tail and Pinchers: Black Biots or fine black rubber

Back and Belly: Dark turkey feather coated with flexament (flares hackle out to the sides)

Gills: black hackle palmer wrapped around abdomen

Abdomen: black wool, dubbing, or chenille

Legs: black rubber

Thorax: Thicker wrap on wool/dubbing with turkey feather segment over top. I've also seen a little red wool on the underside of the thorax; looks like a good option to me.

Tying Tip: When you lay down your initial thread base leave a long thread tag at the tail to counter wrap over the turkey

feather back and belly to help flare out the palmered hackle. You can also put a little cement or flexament on the hackle to stiffen them and stick some together.

TECHNIQUE

Pretty much fished like any other nymph; cast upstream and drift through likely feeding lanes. Use an indicator and weight about a foot above the fly to get the fly down fast in faster water. The Hellgrammite is a poor swimmer so it just tumbles along in the current. I've seen some flies with the hook bent at the thorax to impart a spin. I haven't tried that but it looks like it would work.

DECEMBER FLY OF THE MONTH

Little Black Stonefly Nymph



Originator: unknown; a web search will disclose a vast variety of patterns. This pattern doesn't follow any pattern exactly. It is a very effective nymph.

RECIPE

Thread: black 6/0

Hook: Standard dry fly hook, TMC 100, or a nymph hook

heavy-2X long #10-16

Weighting: optional. I don't add lead wire wraps but you can if you want

Tail: black biots

Body: black Hareline dubbing with counter wrapped gold wire, plucked with dubbing brush

Wing Case: dark turkey feather (pre-hardened with flexible cement)

Legs: dark hen saddle
Thorax: black Hareline dubbing

TECHNIQUE

Use with or without an indicator, weight about 6-inches above the nymph. The length of the leader between the indicator
DECEMBER FOTM PAGE 5 ►

NVATU Members Support Scout Adult Leader Event



Adult scout leaders got an introduction to fly-fishing by NVATU members at the Powder Horn event in August at Camp St Charles, Newburg, Md.

On the Sunday August 26, four members of the Northern Virginia Chapter of Trout Unlimited supported a Boy Scout National Capital Area Council program called Powder Horn 2018 at Camp St Charles, Newburg, Md. The three-day program is designed to introduce Scouting's Adult leaders to exciting program possibilities using a variety of resources. Its purpose is to educate youth and adult Scouting leaders about outdoor programs like fly fishing,

to connect them to resources to deliver those skills, and to get them excited about delivering those skills in an exciting, challenging way to youth.

We were proud to introduce fly fishing to more than 40 adult scout leaders by giving them fly casting lessons, showing them how to tie a fly (a #2 Clouser minnow) and leading them in a discussion with an overview of TU and why it is a great organization to consider. In addition, they were provided

various fly-fishing resources in the Virginia, Maryland and DC areas.

The goal for the participants was to leave the Powder Horn course with a list of ideas, contacts and resources to help these scout leaders develop and enhance their own fly fishing program by including lists of local fly shops, fly fishing festivals, Trout Unlimited programs, Tidal Potomac Fly Rodders, and the Boy Scout Fly Fishing Merit Badge program, to name a few.

The TU portion of the event was coordinated by Tom Roberts with assistance from Bill Errico, Dan Cunningham and Mike Thomson.

We were able to expose Scout and Venture program leaders to TU, Fly Tying and Casting. There was significant interest, especially the Venture leaders, that will hopefully result in a number of "Merit Badge" programs down the road.

Fish On!

DECEMBER FOTM

and the weight should match the water depth, or if in a strong current a little greater than the

depth. Cast up or across to a likely spot far enough above the target area to allow the nymph to sink to the bottom. Keep a tight line, especially if you are

not using an indicator. Set the hook if the indicator moves or you feel the slightest tug. It will often be just the bottom, but if you don't set the hook the trout

will spit the fly out. Tie up a bunch, as you will lose some on the bottom if you are fishing at the correct depth.

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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

OCTOBER

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

NOVEMBER

1: Chapter meeting
3: FWAM Trip to Rose River (VA)
8: Board meeting

DECEMBER

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

13: Board meeting

JANUARY 2019

No chapter meeting
5: FWAM Hughes River
10: Board meeting
12-13: VA Fly Fishing & Wine Festival

FEBRUARY 2019

2: FWAM (tbd)
7: Chapter meeting
14: Board meeting
16: Rapidan TU Annual Fly Fishing Show
23: FWAM (tbd)

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! RMLV info: <http://rentals.deepcreek.com> (866) 544-3223



Recycled and Recyclable



MEMBER ALBUM



Class Trip: Members of the James Madison High School Trout Out of the Classroom club visited the Leetown Fish Science Center in July. See <https://nvatu.org/new/node/375> for details, story page 3.



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