



# SENECA VALLEY ANGLER

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[www.senecavalleytu.org](http://www.senecavalleytu.org)  
**APRIL 2015**

## OFFICERS

President: Noel Gollehon  
Vice President: Warren Junium  
Secretary: Charles August  
Treasurer: Nate Wallace

## SPRING IS HERE!

The Maryland DNR, with the assistance of many volunteers including local TU Chapters, has been stocking streams throughout the state for the past few months. The weather has also been cooperating lately so, hopefully many of you have been able to pull out your equipment from storage and visit a local stream. See the articles about local streams and some casting tips that follow.

In addition, SVTU, YOUR Trout Unlimited Chapter, has several outdoor activities planned in the next few months. We you can join us at our meetings and activities. Our activities are only limited by the number of volunteers who participate, so if you want to see the Chapter do more in 2015, volunteer!

## MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2015

- APR. 28**      **SVTU Chapter Meeting**  
**Topic: Macroinvertebrate Identification, and Stream Monitoring**
- MAY 9**        **Project Healing Waters** (details to follow - check SVTU website)
- MAY 20        SVTU Board meeting
- MAY 30**      **SVTU Chapter Meeting (Saturday)**  
**Topic: Stream Survey @ Beaver Creek & BBQ/Fundraiser (more details to follow – check SVTU website)**
- JUN. 5 – 7**    **TU- Mid Atlantic Chapters**  
**Conference:** Frederick, Md. (details to follow – check SVTU website)
- JUN. 17        SVTU Board Meeting
- Jun. 21-26**   **TU Tri-State Conservation & Fishing Camp (see info that follows)**
- JUN. – AUG.** **NO Chapter Meetings**
- JUL. 15        SVTU Board Meeting
- JUL. 25**      **Little Bennett Regional Park: 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Campground Great Outdoors Festival** (check the park's website)
- AUG. 19        SVTU Board Meeting
- SEP. 16        SVTU Board Meeting
- SEP. 19**      **Project Healing Waters** (details to follow - check SVTU website)
- SEP. 22**      **SVTU Chapter Meetings resume**

## APRIL CHAPTER MEETING

**WHEN: TUESDAY, APRIL 28**

**WHERE: IWLA CLUBHOUSE: 18301 Waring Station Road; Germantown**

**TIME: 7:30 -9:00 PM**

**Social: 7:30-8:00**

**Program: 8:00 – 9:00**

**WHAT: CHAPTER MEETING AND PROGRAM: MACROINVERTEBRATE IDENTIFICATION AND STREAM MONITORING WITH ERIN JOHNSON OF IWLA.**

Join us at the April 2015 TU meeting as the Izaak Walton League of America's Clean Water Fellow, Erin Johnson, joins us for an interactive talk about the League's Save our Streams (SOS) monitoring program. Erin will cover the basics of stream monitoring, explain why macroinvertebrates are excellent indicators of water quality and will lead participants through multiple macroinvertebrate identification exercises. These activities and information will allow participants to (virtually) dip their eyes beneath the water and gain a better understanding of water quality and the ability of a stream to support sensitive species, such as trout. This hands-on interactive session will be great preparation for TU's stream monitoring event in May.

Erin joined the League in 2014 as a Clean Water Fellow and works to promote and expand the League's Creek Freaks and Save our Streams (SOS) programs and is responsible for implementing the Creek Freaks train-the-trainers program and working directly with youth to deliver Creek Freaks lessons. Erin travels across the country delivering training workshops to Izaak Walton League members and educators interested in water quality and education. Prior to joining the League, Erin served as an AmeriCorps Watershed Ambassador for the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. In that position, she developed and delivered environmental education experiences focused on water quality, pollution prevention, and watershed restoration to students. She also performed stream monitoring and lead community volunteer events centered on water quality protection. Erin received a Bachelor's of Science degree from Elizabethtown College in 2012.

## **SVTU CHAPTER MEETING/ANNUAL BBQ / FUNDRAISER MAY 30<sup>th</sup>:**

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The Chapter is currently finalizing plans for the May chapter meeting to be held on Beaver Creek in Hagerstown, Md.

The day will commence with our meeting at the Pavilion on Beaver Creek Church Road and conducting a stream survey of the creek in the morning. Then, in the afternoon, we will hold our BBQ and fundraiser at a nearby pavilion on the stream. In addition to the camaraderie and tasty food there will be an auction and fly-fishing activities.

This will be our major fundraiser for SVTU in 2015. All money raised support the work the chapter does each year as well as provide the chapter with the ability to support other organizations' work that we share an interest in.

Save the date and continue to check the website and your email for more details that will be coming soon

## **SVTU MEMBER, CHARLES AUGUST, WAS HONORED ON MARCH 28TH BY THE MID-ATLANTIC COUNCIL:**

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Charles August, SVTU member, was recognized at the annual Banquet of the Mid-Atlantic Council of Trout Unlimited, the Council that represents SVTU.

Charles received a Citizen Recognition Award for his contribution to facilitating the quality of the trout fishing experience in Maryland. Charles was honored for the multi-year effort invested to organize, lead, and conduct a series of fly tying classes offered to the public by the Seneca Valley TU Chapter, with the cooperation of the Izaak Walton League of America, Rockville Chapter.

Almost single-handedly, Charles established a successful fly tying course for Seneca Valley TU, bringing an important part of the fly-fishing experience to a new group of anglers. His efforts to organize and lead the fly tying course for the past several years resulted in almost 50 participants learning the art of fly tying, from novice to more advanced levels. Because of his passion, Charles consistently attracted master fly tiers to engage and teach members of our Chapter and class participants. For his efforts to improve the quality of the trout fishing experience (nothing like catching a fish on a fly you tied), Charles was a deserving recipient.

## **APRIL 18<sup>TH</sup> STREAM CLEANUP REPORT**

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Five hardy souls from our chapter tackled the annual task of cleaning up Little Seneca Creek, SVTU's local stream and namesake. The team managed to gather enough trash to fill a pickup truck bed. It is certainly sad to see such a wonderful refuge in our area used as a dump site.



This stream has a trout population, and is the repository for all the local schools' Trout-In-the-Classroom (TIC) trout hatching program fingerlings supported by members of our Chapter.

## **2015 TU TRI-STATE CONSERVATION & FISHING CAMP: JUNE 21 - 26**

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**LOCATION:** Graves' Mountain Lodge - Syria, Virginia  
Adjacent to Shenandoah National Park

**THIS. IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY for students who are in the 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades or will be 13 years old by June 21<sup>st</sup>.** You can be one of 24 high school students, both male and female, who will spend most of six days outdoors experiencing mountain streams, fishing and learning about stream environments. You will learn about successful and responsible fishing, conservation,

stream life and restoration, wildlife, outdoor skills, team challenges, leadership, and lots more, all while having fun. You'll enjoy delicious generous meals and snacks, and sleeping in modern lodge facilities overlooking the Shenandoah Mountains and valleys.

More information and application can be found @<http://www.tucamp.org>.

Apply soon, camp fills early.

## **2015 FLY-TYING CLASSES RECAP**

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The 2015 Fly Tying "semesters" will have concluded by the time you receive this. As in the past, the class was developed and managed by our "sage of fly-tying" Charles August.

The Beginners course, held in January and February, was a great success with many new members and tiers in attendance. Even the wrath of winter weather did not keep the students, nor instructors, away! The attendees learned about hook choices, fly tying tools, materials and techniques while tying several classic flies for use on our streams. The flies included: the Green Weenie, San Juan Worm, Woolly Bugger, Walt's Worm, the Hares Ear and Pheasant Tail Nymph, Elk Hair Caddis and the Adams. Classes were taught by Noel and Leslie Gollehon, with assistance of Charles August, Dale Thatcher, and Nate Wallace. Class attendance averaged ten students each week.

The Advanced course was also well attended with an average of seven students each week.. The classes included: Parachute Adams by Noel Gollehon, Bass Poppers by Greg Swalina, Spun Deer Hair Cress Bugs by Vic Ezerski, and Soft Hackles by Tom Wirfs. "Graduation" was a gathering on April 21<sup>st</sup> at the IWLA pond to fish using their creations.

## **SOME EARLY NEARBY TROUT FISHING**

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I'm sure most of us would agree that fishing conditions over the first months of 2015 were rather challenging. In spite of the bad weather, I was able to get out a few times between storms when temperatures at least got above freezing (and with light enough wind chills!).

One fairly close by Pennsylvania Fly Fishing only/Catch & Release stream is in nearby Waynesboro. The upper part of the East Branch of Antietam creek flows through Renfrew Park where parking and access is very easy. In spite of snow, cold weather and some high flows, the stream was stocked in mid-February with brown and rainbow trout. I didn't get a chance to fish it until mid-March and the

flow was still pretty high. Luckily there is a USGS water data gauge on this stream. It is located in MD just below the PA border and the confluence with the West Branch but it does give a good indication of conditions. I decided to give it a try even though I checked the gauge and knew the stream would be about twice its normal flow and therefore there would be a lot more water to cover. I put on a Woolly bugger with some heavy weight, worked it like a streamer and managed to land one brown and four rainbows. I also had a number of other bumps/short strikes. The rainbows (12-14 inches) put up some respectable fights in the heavy water.

One added benefit related to fishing in Waynesboro is that if you still have time left (or can make the time) you can plan your route to come back to our area and fish the Catoctin streams like Big Hunting Creek or Owens Creek, both in Thurmont, or even Beaver Creek in Hagerstown on the way home.

As far as I know didymo has not been found in the East Branch of Antietam but when fishing multiple streams in our area we need to consider the potential for spread of invasives such as didymo. An alternative to wader washing streamside is to have along another set waders and boots, which can also can serve as a backup to the occasional leaky waders or torn boots.

The stream work on Beaver Creek seems to be proving to be beneficial to the fishing. On a number of trips in February and early March, (alone and with my buddy Greg), we have found good fishing including some rising fish. Most times when there are rising fish in these early months it is hard to identify exactly what the fish are taking other than it is usually small. I have at times seen some midges and Blue-winged olives in the air. When the fish are steadily feeding, sometimes a Griffith's Gnat can do the trick. Good luck with the hook set. My hookup/landing percentage is often somewhere around 50% and with these wild brown trout you will most likely only get one chance. One of my best days I managed to land about a dozen browns on midge patterns, nothing big, but a lot of fun.

By the time you read this, we should be well into spring, all the trout streams will be open and hopefully water temperatures will be in better ranges for fish and bug activity (and weather conditions should be more pleasing for us). Flows will probably vary widely so it's wise to check water levels if you can find a gauge which shows flows relative to your fishing location. Another great option is to call a fly shop. We are lucky to still have some in our area including Beaver Creek Fly Shop, Hunting Creek Outfitters and Backwater Angler for the Gunpowder area. The SVTU website has links to some shops.

Try to get out there when you can, time flies but with a bit of luck, the flies (and fish) will be out there waiting.

Dale Thatcher, SVTU Board member

## **“CROSSCURRENTS NOTEBOOK”**

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Following is an excerpt from an article written by Dave Cleaves, SVTU chapter board member and a Federation of Fly Fishers certified master casting instructor. The full article can be found on the SVTU website.

Dave has authored several great articles on Fly-fishing and, more specifically, the intricacies of casting, that we will be sharing with our reading public in a new section of our website, “Casting Corner”, that is under development.

We will keep you all up-to-date on future offerings through our email announcements and on our website.

Tight Lines! And now, the article.

## **“SMALL STREAMS – HEADWATERS OF THE FLY FISHING EXPERIENCE”**

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*“Time in a mountain stream is not time wasted, but rather time fully used, felt, experienced completely.”  
Harry Middleton in “On the Spine of Time”*

*My mother sent me an old photograph of myself, sitting with toy sailboat beside tiny stream in the last pool before it emptied into Intermediate Lake in northern Michigan. The picture triggered a shower of memories. I remembered that in the brook behind me was a familiar collection of tiny brook trout. I would sit in the grass at the edge of the pool for hours and watch their furtive movements, how they maintained their assigned positions in the pool, and how they launched themselves to the surface to take the hapless crickets and ants I would flip into the water. After a while, I would walk the little brook upstream, stopping to watch similar villages of brookies. From the fence that bordered the resort, the little stream groped across a field into the wooded Michigan hills. I wanted to follow it, beyond my boundaries, to know every pool and bend up to the source of the cold water that floated my sailboat and suspended the imaginings of a chubby little kid.*

*That’s what little streams do to you. They make you want to know them.”*

*I never got to know that little brook. It didn’t take much arm-twisting from my grandfather to turn my attention back to the glitter of the lake, with its silver walleyes and bronze smallmouths. But I always regret not following out that little stream. Maybe it’s that nameless brook I have been trying to rediscover in all the small streams I’ve fished since that faded photo was taken.*

*Small streams are where many of us learned to fish. They were all we had. In our own small world, these streams were big to us, and they now loom large in our memories because they wove their way into our hearts. We got to know them as friends. We learned their quirks and how to appreciate each one of them as individuals. We learned to approach each stream deliberately, to go out and meet it, to fish and to watch and to experience all it had to offer on each day. We didn’t just brisk through like a tourist and sample only the highlights. We got to know it. It became part of us.”*

©Dave Cleaves  
cleaves.david@comcast.net  
The entire article can be found  
[www.senecavalleytu.org](http://www.senecavalleytu.org).

## **HOW TO KEEP INFORMED!**

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### **SIGN-UP FOR EMAIL UPDATES FROM SVTU**

The Chapter maintains a secure opt-in email alert and event invitation system that is used only by the Chapter for functions that we sponsor or support. This service, along with the Chapter’s website, provides up to the minute details of upcoming activities.

If you would like to opt-in to this service email your name, address, phone number, and preferred email address to: [svtroutunlimited@gmail.com](mailto:svtroutunlimited@gmail.com)

### **SVTU WEBSITE [www.senecavalleytu.org](http://www.senecavalleytu.org).**

The website is the primary manner in which we can reach all friends of the Chapter. Check it out for info on upcoming events/activities.

## **EDITOR’S NOTE**

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If you have articles, photos, fish stories, fishing/stream reports, etc. that you think might be appropriate for inclusion in the newsletter, or the website send an email to me @ [wjunium1@hotmail.com](mailto:wjunium1@hotmail.com) or to the Chapter [@svtroutunlimited@gmail.com](mailto:@svtroutunlimited@gmail.com)