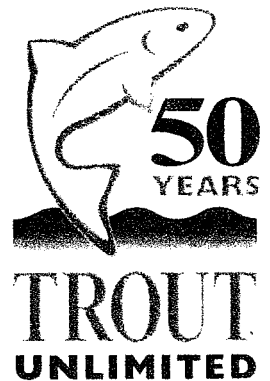
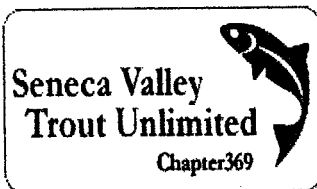


**Seneca Valley Angler
Seneca Valley Trout Unlimited Chapter #369
9 Lavenham Place
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877-3469**





SENECA

VALLEY ANGLER

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SEPTEMBER 2009 Chapter Meeting - NEW LOCATION!!!! See below

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

ISAAC WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA (IWLA):
ROCKVILLE CHAPTER / CLUBHOUSE. 18301 WARING
STATION ROAD; GERMANTOWN, MD. 20874. 301-972-
1645

7:00-7:45 p.m. – “Social Time”

7:45-8:15 p.m. – Meeting

8:15-9:15 p.m. - Program: Jay Sheppard – Fall Fishing in Maryland, is the Vice Chair for Resources for the Mid-Atlantic Council of TU, as well as a past president of the Potomac-Patuxent Chapter of TU. He has been fishing for over 65 years and for over half of that time for trout in Maryland with a fly rod. He retired from the US Fish and Wildlife Service in early 1995. Jay has been spending a lot of time helping TU to protect our important resources here in the State—from Savage River and the North Branch to the Gunpowder and streams in-between.

Future Events: 2009

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Sept. 16 | SVTU Board Meeting |
| Sept. 23 | SVTU Chapter Meeting |
| Oct. 21 | SVTU Board Meeting; |
| Nov. 18 | SVTU Board Meeting |
| Dec. 2 | SVTU Chapter meeting: |
| Jan. 20, 2010 | SVTU Board Meeting |
| Jan. 27, 2010. | SVTU Chapter meeting /Officer Election and FlyTying. |

TBD: Fly Tying Sessions in early 2010, Check our website!

Current SVTU Officers and Board

The current officers and open board positions include:

Officers:

President – Noel Gollehon
Vice President – Dave Cleaves
Secretary – Charles August
Treasurer – Nate Wallace

Board Members:

Stan Oaks Jr. (*ex officio*)
Charles August (*ex officio*)
Noel Gollehon (*ex officio*)
Garry Bush '09
Leslie Gollehon '09
Jason Andrick 11
Warren Junium '10
Al Smeltz '10

Committee Chairs:

Conservation Chair: Noel Gollehon
Program Chair: Garry Bush
Newsletter Editor: Warren C. Junium, Jr.
Education Chair: Vacancy
Banquet Chair: TBD (for 2010)
Membership Chair: Vacancy
Activities Chair: Dick Switalski

Chapter Delegates to the Mid-Atlantic Council:

Charles August
Gary Bush
Noel Gollehon
Stan Oaks
Al Smeltz
Ron Uleck
Nate Wallace
One vacancy

Membership Appeal / Repeated;

I feel it is important to repeat some parts of Stan Oaks' article from our January issue. Our chapter needs your support. I am paraphrasing his message:

- The chapter is grateful to those who support the Chapter by renewing their memberships each year, as well as those who are Life Members of Trout Unlimited.
- Of concern, however, is that only 4-5 percent (~14-18 individuals) of our 350 member base currently provides the benefits to be enjoyed by the entire membership. The Chapter could do so much more if that number doubled or tripled.
- Our Chapter covers a very large area of Maryland, so it is difficult for some to make it to the meetings, but a large percentage of our membership is within easy driving distance.
- Most SVTU members have never attended a Chapter meeting (including more than half of our Life members) though most renew their memberships year after year

Clearly, these facts are evidence that the Chapter needs to do something differently to attract members to the meetings and to entice them to be more active in the Chapter's activities. In this respect, each of you can help us out by contacting one of the Officers or Board members and talking with them about what it is that interests you, and that might get you to come to a meeting.

We are a volunteer organization and we need volunteers to help run it. Several individuals have already come forward but there is room for others to join them and help make this Chapter's programs more representative of what the membership wants.

Major Activities from Jan. – Aug. 2009

Here is a recap of Chapter sponsored events, since the last newsletter, as well as other events that members supported with volunteering:

March 14: National Capital Chapter of TU (NCCTU) Annual Fly Fishing Show @ Georgetown Prep: The Chapter sponsored a booth highlighting Invasive Species. Noel and Leslie Gollehon, Jason Andrick, Al Smelts and Warren Junium manned the booth and assisted with show logistics while enjoying the show.

March 22: Big Hunting Creek Clean-Up with the Potomac Patuxent and Nat'l Capital TU Chapters.

April 2: Beaver Creek Stream Buffer Tree Planting with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Nine SVTU members participated along with approximately 100 other volunteers.

April 2: Mid Atlantic Council (MAC) Meeting

April 8: Children's Fishing Clinic with the Montgomery County Dept. of Parks and recreation at the Isaac Walton League off Muddy Branch Road Eight SVTU members assisted the county park staff with this event.

April 26 & 27: Casting Call – Family Fishing and Meeting with government leaders on the C&O Canal and Potomac River.

May 1&2: Chapter Fishing trip to Western Maryland (See recap)

May 27: Chapter Meeting. A presentation on Alaska Fishing and flies by member Dick Switalski (supported by Vic Ezerski)

June 13: Children's Fly Fishing Clinic. It was attended by 8 children. 4 instructors including 3 SVTU members: Al Smeltz, Vic Ezerski, and Dick Switalski

July 11: MAC Meeting in Western Maryland with three SVTU members.

TU - Mid-Atlantic Council News

The Council includes the six TU Chapters in MD and the District of Columbia. Our Council delegates, Charles August and Stan Oaks, are on the MAC Executive Committee for 2008-2009.

Book Review Fishing Tandem Flies, by Charles Meck (Headwater Books, 2007) Tactics, Techniques, and Rigs to Catch More Trout

At 119 pages, Fishing Tandem Flies is a detailed, but quick study on fishing multiply fly rigs. If you've not heard of Charles Meck, you'd be interested to know that he is a lifelong Pennsylvania resident and author of several trout fishing books focused on small streams and hatches. If you attend any Fly Fishing shows in the Northeast, you're almost sure to spot Meck at the authors' table or fly tying bench. In this volume, Meck focuses on the development,

selection, and use of multiple fly rigs that will make you a more successful trout fisherman.

The book begins with some general education on the 7 different types of rigging connections, and then quickly dives into fly combinations that are commonly used. The combinations range from dry-and-dropper rigs to streamer and wet fly rigs. For example, during a hatch, duns float on the water's surface while nymphs are emerging subsurface. Continuing to build, the hatch can feature different stages of the insect drifting throughout the water column. Ever fish a hatch with a dry fly that perfectly matches the size and color of the duns, only no hits? Perhaps the fish were feeding subsurface on the emergers and nymphs, as is mostly the case. Using the dry-and-dropper, you can cover the different stages of the insects hatch in real time from nymph to emerger to dun to spinner.

As the book moves on, Meck instructs on the knots and instructions necessary for building the leader/tippet/knot combinations for the 7 rigging connections. There is a detailed chapter on tackle and techniques, a discussion on fishing the hatches (a standard in nearly every Meck volume), and 2 final chapters regarding dry fly and subsurface fly recipes and tips. Some highlights include:

- Instructions and recipe for the looped-leader rig and looped-leader Patriot fly.
 - Discussion on hatches, where Latin taxonomy is downplayed and anecdotal data creates an easy to understand resource.
 - Photos and illustrations are valuable and plentiful.
- I highly recommend picking up a copy of the book. Having been introduced to tandem fly rigs during my first fishing trip to Montana in 2007, I have fished multiply fly rigs almost exclusively for the past 2 years. Personally, Meck's instructions and tips have expanded my rigging selection and refined my approach. While the disadvantages of more knots and more tangles are real; they can be solved with practice and less false casts. Oh, not to mention more fish landed.

Submitted by Jason Andrick

Chapter Western Maryland Fishing Trip May 1&2 Recap:

Stan Oaks, Charlie August and I linked up mid-day on Friday at the Cassleman. After surviving and detouring around the I-70 road closure at Hancock, MD; I finally arrived at 12:45 PM Friday. Charlie had to head home later Friday afternoon, but had a great week fishing the Cassleman, North branch (above Jennings-Randolph), the Savage River (above the reservoir), and a few native trout streams (Monroe Run, Big Run, etc). Due to weather, Dick Switalski and Mike Lopas were a no-go. Can't say I blame them, since the forecast was ugly at best.

We had rain off/on on Friday, but really nothing significant past 3 p.m.. Charlie, Stan, and I all had a few fish and hook ups right at the I-68 bridge on the Cassleman. Once Charlie departed, Stan and I headed up river toward the PA line. We saw loads of anglers/cars at all the normal spots. We decided to hike back into a few secret spots. It paid off. We hit a few holes/runs with very lively rainbows. A very good caddis hatch went on/off from

3 p.m. on. We fished until about 6:30/7PM and then headed to secure lodging and dinner.

Saturday morning, Stan and I linked up again on the Upper Savage River. Dark, cloudy skies, but no significant showers or rain all day. In fact, the air temps got up to about 65-67 degrees at peak times. Again, numerous anglers, but mostly in the put-take areas. And mostly spin fisherman. We ended up with several native brookies and a few rainbows. One of the brookies was probably 8-9", nice size. Beautiful colors/patterns on all the fish. Stoneflies, mayflies, and caddis off/on most of the day. We even spotted a few waterfalls and a water snake. Around 4PM we hit Big Run to check it out (neither of us had fished it before) in search of more brookies. Stan hooked up on 2-3 fish, but it was hard work casting in tight terrain and figuring out what the fish wanted to bite on. We hung it up at about 6/6:30 PM.. I headed back to MoCo and Stan spent the night.

Overall, a successful trip with normal May weather in Western MD. We would have loved to catch more fish, but the scenery was beautiful as usual and it was great to catch up with Stan and Charlie on the stream(s).
Submitted by Jason Andrick

More reports on Trips to Western Maryland by SVTU Chapter Members: Part 1.

Last summer my wife bought a float trip with Ken Pavol (KenPavol@pennswoods.net). My son and I finally got around to making the trip on May 31 over Memorial Day weekend. We floated the section from Piedmont WV (Westernport MD) to Black Oak MD, about 8 hrs. A beautiful sunny day. Then Charles August and I fished the same stretch on July 8 with William Heresniak (william@easterntrophies.com). We caught lots of fish on both trips, using different strategies.

My son doesn't flyfish so Ken set him up with a spin outfit, something like a black Mepps spinner. He said that Mark would have a good shot at some of the big browns and smallies in the river. He had me rig a 5 weight rod with a strike indicator (bobber style) and a short leader of 3 or 4 ft. to a black/grizzly wolly bugger and a prince nymph dropper. He had me fishing the main seams and edges while Mark cast to the shore and retrieved. We each landed a large number of fish, I hesitate to estimate but certainly 30 or more each. I caught mostly rainbows and the occasional brown, but not any lunkers. Mark caught many more browns, including 3 that went over 20 inches, one maybe 25 (didn't measure any of them). It was a fantastic day. William took a different approach to the river. We were using 7 weight rods with 9' or so leaders to 2x.

We mainly fished an ingenious hellgrammite imitation. We cast to the shore, and let it dead drift down and across, and then walked" the fly back before recasting. We also tried wooly bugger and other streamer patterns. William emphasized hitting each fish to set the hook because we would never know initially if we had a big brown on. While this approach gave us a good shot at a big brown, neither of us caught a big one, though we caught lots of very nice fish. We also caught more smallies and browns than the trip with Ken. And we both caught lots of fish, again at least 30 each.

Both guides were excellent, A+. Both used an inflatable with a rack, guide in the middle and seats fore and aft for the 2 fishermen. I had the front on the trip with Mark, the back with Charles. I didn't think the position mattered. If you have not floated this section of river I highly recommend it. The only other trips that come close to this that I have taken are trips on the San Juan and the Yakima. Caught larger rainbows on the San Juan, but not as many. The Yakima was comparable.

Charles and I drove it in one day, leaving from Charles' house around 5:30 a.m., arriving around 8, leaving about 8PM after driving back to retrieve the car, stopped for dinner and returned home around 1 AM. Mark and I drove out the night before and stayed the night at LaVale outside Cumberland. We met Ken earlier (around 6:30) and were off the river earlier, back home that night by 9 with no stop for dinner. If you want to stay the night before Ken recommended the Keyser Inn in Keyser WV, but it was booked. If you're driving straight to Westport, then the quickest way is to take MD 36 from I-68. But to get to Keyser you would take US 220 from Cumberland.

Also, for the first time, my family vacationed at a rental house on Deep Creek Lake staying along the south side of the lake convenient to some of the main Western MD rivers. I visited the fly shop at the Wisp resort and talked with PJ Daley (pdaley@wispresort.com). He said that he Yough had been would not be fishable for much of the week, also it was running very low when not running water. He recommended the Savage or Barnum stretch of the North Potomac. For both he recommended 7x fluorocarbon. Mon afternoon I took a 20 min drive to the lower Savage river and fished between the two suspension bridges. I didn't catch anything. Fishing the pocket water was very tricky and the wading difficult.

When driving down the road that parallels the stream I noticed a flyshop, Savage River Outfitters (www.SavageRiverOutfitters.com). The owner, Mike Evans, also rents out 3 vacation homes that are next to the shop and that about a prime section of water with a long glide pool along a ridge. Mike offered me access to the pool where I caught my first Savage River decided to try the Barnum (upper) stretch of the North Branch of the Potomac. I fished the first pool in the catch and release section, a pool maybe 50 yds long. I didn't catch any fish but saw numerous fish rising and coming up to inspect my fly. This section of the river is very different from the stretch floated by Ken and William. The water in the upper stretch is crystal clear whereas that below Westernport is slightly roiled from industrial (treated) wastewater. There is also very limited access to the lower stretch, although locals know how to access a few points. But even then the banks are usually very steep and wooded so that wading up or down stream is greatly limited. Conversely Barnum is easily accessed and waded.

Interestingly, for those who are adventurous, there are also cabins and tent sites provided by Mineral Co. WV. The cabins have electricity but no running water, though there are facilities nearby. Google "Barnum cabins" for info. If you go to fish the Barnum stretch or the Savage, be sure to bring cleats (if you have them) and a wading staff. If you don't have the latter, I have used a simple hiking staff that you can buy at Target for about \$20, just add

string to loop over your neck. Then also bring 6x and 7x leaders and tippets.

The book by Gelso and Coburn (Guide to Maryland Trout Fishing) is indispensable. It gives detailed descriptions of the waters, hatches and access points. And numbers to call to check water releases, all of these being tailwaters. I also highly recommend the Savage River Outfitters website. Mike Evans has a section on tips. He describes an approach to high sticking even with dry flies. I wish I had read his advice before making the trip rather than after I got home. I'm sure it would have helped. Mike runs a special deal where if you order anything from Orvis through him, he'll have it shipped to your door at no cost and give a discount.

Submitted by John M. Lachin

Part 2.

Even though we didn't catch as many fish as we hoped or expected, had a fun two days of fishing in Garrett county. We left home early afternoon Tuesday and checked into a motel

I found on the web around 2:30pm, which was located between LaVale and Frostburg, and central to all the rivers we were planning on fishing (i.e., 24 miles to Friendsville and 20 miles to Westernport). The motel was clean and had two comfortable beds, a frig, microwave, and coffee. After unloading our clothes we headed to the rivers.

I thought we might start at Bear creek first since it was around 3pm and sunny. However, when we got to Friendsville, we thought we would check out the Y first. The water was very low and clear and had a few risers here and there, so we thought we would fish it a little later in the day. The water was very low at Bear creek also but we saw a number of fish in the pool where the creeks merge. I got dressed before Ron and started out using a 18 Henryville special in one of the riffles coming into the pool. Second cast and bang, a pretty 10 inch Brown that wouldn't stop jumping. By that time Ron came to the pool rigged with a gigantic light surface fly and began casting to the Bear creek riffle. After changing to a small caddis, Ron picked up the Brown who also commenced some serious aeriels. We then picked up a couple more acrobatic browns in the riffles above and below the pool. We saw a number of fish in the 4-5 other pools we fished downstream, but seemed to be spooking them, so we headed over to the Yough.

As we walked down to the river below the bridge, the fish were still rising. So Ron walked up stream and I fished my usual are. Just as we began casting, a number of kayakers paddled by and indicated that the river was rising. Sure enough in the next 10 minutes the river rose some 12 -15 inches catching Ron halfway back to shore and filling his hip waders with water. Ron emptied his waders and we waited about a hour for the river to fall but there was no more action that evening. The next day, contrary to the weather report we awoke to rain. After a quick Micky D's breakfast we headed to the lower Savage. Since it was raining pretty hard we used nymphs at the first hole and did nothing. By the time we moved to the upper bridge hole the rain had stopped. I hooked a nice fish in my first few casts but lost him (i.e., using size 18 crystal caddis nymph). Then let Ron fish the hole where he

caught a nice Brown and had a few more strikes. The rest of the morning I showed Ron some of my favorite holes where he landed about 4 or 5 (the largest around 14- 15 in.) when it wasn't raining ... mostly in riffles or fast water.

We got to the Potomac around 2pm in a rain white out. So we ate our sandwiches and contemplated what to do. I certainly wasn't going to walk all the way up to the head hole with the ominous weather. After awhile, the rain began to subside, so we took our rods to the catch and release area where I hooked a nice one on a brown San Wan worm. As the sun began to peek through we put on orange stimulators and I caught a nice bright brown (measured at a little over 14 inches). We had a few more strikes in between bouts of rain and Ron landed the only rainbow of the day.

Submitted by Richard (Dick) Switalski

Part 3.

In late June I took a couple of days off from work and went to the Savage. I stopped at Savage River Outfitters for flies and suggestions for fishing. Mike Evans was a wealth of information. I was thinking of fishing the Lower Savage and the North Branch but both were running too high and fast, so I decided to go after brookies. Mike said Middle Fork was doing well, about a mile up from the road. As I was walking along the path about two-thirds of mile up I heard a splash in the river, looked and saw a black bear coming out and going up the hill on the opposite side. Decided to fish another location Next day on another tributary I came upon a BWO hatch, brookies rising all around me. Caught my fair share, several were well over 10 inches.

Submitted by Garry Bush

ANGLING WEB SITES

Since the advent of the internet, many websites have been developed dealing with angling in general and fly fishing and fly tying in particular. The editor and his friends on the SVTU Executive Board have gathered a list of such websites they hope the general membership might find useful. The list will be published in two parts, the first, presented here, will concern angling and fly fishing in general. The second, which will be presented in a forthcoming edition of the Newsletter, will deal with fly tying. The list is by no means exhaustive. For exhaustive, Google "fly fishing". In 0.12 second almost 3 million links will be displayed! To be more specific, Google "fly fishing in Western Maryland" and in 0.24 second 44,500 links become available. To make our list more helpful, it has, to some extent, been annotated.

Local Sites.

1. National Trout Unlimited: [<http://www.tu.org>] Everything about TU. We all should visit this site at least occasionally.
2. Seneca Valley Trout Unlimited, Chapter 369. [<http://www.senecavalleytu.org>] Our home. Learn about the regular chapter meetings, our upcoming conservation activities, fishing trips, and fly tying evenings. Register and then participate in the Forum.
3. National Capital Chapter of Trout Unlimited: [www.tu-ncc.org] website describes their general membership meetings, conservation activities, outings, and their annual fly fishing show.

4. Potomac-Patuxent Chapter of Trout Unlimited: [www.pptu.org] presents an overview of their meetings, outings, angling mentoring program, local stocking schedules, and trout in the classroom programs etc.
5. Antietam Fly Anglers: [www.antietamflyanglers.com] fly fishing club in Hagerstown which is affiliated with the Federation of Fly Fishers. Website describes club activities, the club's involvement in conservation projects, items for sale, and links to a variety of locally important websites.
6. Potomac Valley Fly Fishers: [www.pvflyfish.org/] a close-to-home fly fishing and conservation organization with links to the websites of other angling and conservation organizations, technical resources, fly tying websites, and states of Md., Pa., and WVa. Dept. of Natural Resources websites.
7. Maryland Stream Information: [<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/md>] general description of the state of Maryland's waterways with links to data from specific rivers.
8. USGS Real time Maryland Stream data: [<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/md/nwis/current?type=flow>] - Best way to gauge flows and conditions of local streams. This website is sometimes inaccessible. However it can be accessed via the website above.
9. Eastern Trophies Fly Fishing: [<http://www.eastertrophies.com/>] - William Heresniak has recently expanded the site to include stream reports, especially streams in Western Md. (The guided float trips he offers are excellent.)
10. Backwater Angler: [www.backwaterangler.com] the website of the Backwater Angler fly shop which is the best source of up-to-date information about fishing the Gunpowder River.
6. Fly Fish America: [www.flyfishamerica.com] the website of the free magazine that is available at many fly shops. Many, but not all, past issues are archived and articles may be read online. The site is not particularly user-friendly, however, as the most recent issues are not yet available and the pages of the issues which are online are difficult to navigate. Not recommended.
7. Fly Rod & Reel Online: [www.flyrodreel.com/] the website of the magazine. Easy access to all articles as well as some material which exists only online. There are also blogs dealing with subjects sometimes far afield of angling. Navigating the website takes a bit of practice.
8. Fly Fisherman.com: The Virtual Flyshop: [www.flyfisherman.com/] the website of Fly Fisherman Magazine with content similar to the other magazine-based websites. However, this one has more links to videos, but also more advertising. Subject matter includes conservation, fly fishing tactics, gear, cartoons, species guide, and regions. The links vary in quality, some excellent, others not informative. The site is easy to navigate but the links vary in quality and some were unreachable.
9. Catch: [<http://catchmagazine.net/>] an online magazine featuring stunningly beautiful fly fishing photography. Free
10. This is Fly: [<http://www.thisisfly.com>] a very exotic online fly fishing magazine featuring stories and photos of angling in places most of us don't even dream about.
11. Fish Swami, an online personal fishing log/journal: [<http://www.fishswami.com/>] a free online personal fishing log where it is possible to record one's own experience and to track the entries of others.

Submitted by Charles August

General Fly Fishing Websites

1. Midcurrent .com [www.midcurrent.com/]. Far and away my favorite. It is a weekly newsletter featuring fly fishing tips, gear, advice, videos, interviews, and writing by some of angling's best writers. It also has a section on fly fishing news which is updated daily. A free subscription will put you on their weekly emailing list which will provide links to the current newsletter .
2. Troutnut: [www.troutnut.com] an excellent resource for learning about insects. There is also a forum covering a wide variety of fly fishing topics, a gift shop. The site is more eclectic than most and has excellent photographs.
3. Jason Borger's Fish Flies & Water (blog): [<http://jasonborger.com/>] provides a flow of educational fly fishing links, articles, news, and art. Content is more related to the West and upper Midwest, than the East, however.
4. Fly Anglers Online: [www.flyanglersonline.com/] a weekly magazine which covers a wide range of topics such as techniques, flies, gear, books, and travel. Additionally, there is easy access to archived material.
5. Ask About Fly Fishing: [www.askaboutflyfishing.com/] is internet radio featuring interviews with and talks by a large number of celebrity anglers. (I don't know how many of us like to use our computer as a radio, however).

SVTU Website

Organize a special fishing outing, spread the word about a new fly, tell us about a conservation opportunity, and share your fun and serious information with your fellow SVTU members and others who visit the SVTU web site. Go to the SVTU site, [<http://www.senecavalleytu.org>], (register, if you have not already done so) then click on 'Forum,' under 'PAGES' on the right side of the front page. Add a new post or read and respond to items that others have posted.

Editor's Note

Contact me if you have articles, photos, fish stories, fishing/stream reports, etc. that you think might be appropriate for inclusion in the next edition of the newsletter. My e-mail address is: wjunium1@hotmail.com.