



SENECA

VALLEY ANGLER

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SEPTEMBER 22, 2010 Chapter Meeting

7:00-7:30 p.m. – Social Time

7:30-8:00 p.m. – Meeting

8:00-9:15 p.m. – Program: FLY-FISHING MARYLAND WILD TROUT STREAMS: Tom Starrs will share some of his favorite locations to fish for wild trout.

In addition we will have a short presentation by Benton McCarthy, a student we sponsored to attend the Tri-State Youth Camp, the TU Youth Fly-fishing Camp held in July at Graves' Mountain Lodge in Syria, Virginia.

**Location: Up-County Regional Service Center; Rm. D
12900 Middlebrook Road | Germantown, MD 20874
240-777-8000**

Loss of a Cherished Member: Dick Switalski

Dick passed away suddenly on May 28, 2010. He was a longtime active member of SVTU and was currently in his 2nd year as a chapter board member. For friends and members who participated in our winter fly tying sessions, you'll note that Dick served as the intermediate/advanced group's guru one evening. Dick could get you excited about catching trout even before you finished tying a fly—a great teacher! He had recently completed a fishing trip with Charles August, SVTU Secretary, in the Catskills (NY). In fact, at our May 26th chapter meeting, Dick gave a wonderful presentation on fishing the Catskills. Even at 70 years of age, his enthusiasm for TU and all things fly fishing just oozed from Dick anytime you were around him. Many chapter members would rank him as the #1 fishing buddy you could ever have. Those same folks knew that if you were serious about planning a fishing trip to anywhere in the area, or the U.S. for that matter, Dick was your man. As a memorial to Dick, the family established a memorial fund. The Chapter, with agreement from his family, is using the memorial fund proceeds to support restoration activities on Beaver Creek.

See page 3 for how you can help on Beaver Creek.

Future Events: 2010/2011

- Sept. 15 SVTU Board Meeting
- Sept. 22 **SVTU CHAPTER Meeting**
- Oct. 16 **Beaver Creek Planting (details follow)**
- Oct. 20 SVTU Board Meeting
- Nov. 17 SVTU Board meeting
- Dec. 1 **SVTU CHAPTER Meeting**
- Jan 15, '11 SVTU Board Meeting
- Jan 22, '11 **SVTU CHAPTER Meeting/
Election and Fly Tying**

Other Events planned are:

Casting Clinic—Usually held the first Saturday of the month on the lake at Seneca State Park (will not be held in October 2010) (see website for updates).

Continued support of Beaver Creek improvements and other conservation activities / events (see info on page 3)

Fly-tying classes – See our January newsletter.

Check our website, or, as noted below, sign up for our listserv to receive updates and announcements!

Current SVTU Officers and Board

The current officers and open board positions include:

Officers:

- President – Noel Gollehon
- Vice President – Stan Oaks
- Secretary – Charles August
- Treasurer – Nate Wallace

Board Members:

- Stan Oaks Jr. (*ex officio*)
- Charles August (*ex officio*)
- Noel Gollehon (*ex officio*)
- Nate Wallace (*ex officio*)
- Warren Junium '10
- Al Smeltz '10
- Jason Andrick '11
- Ron Uleck '10
- Dale Thatcher '11

Committee Chairs:

- Conservation Chair: Noel Gollehon
- Program Chair: Ron Uleck
- Newsletter Editor: Warren C. Junium, Jr.
- Education Chair: *Vacancy*
- Banquet Chair: TBD (for 2011)
- Membership Chair: *Vacancy*
- Activities Chair: *Vacancy*

Chapter Delegates to the Mid-Atlantic Council:

- Charles August
- Noel Gollehon
- Stan Oaks
- Al Smeltz
- Ron Uleck
- Nate Wallace
- Two vacancies*

President's Message

The success of SVTU in 2010 is not yet known, but we are off to a good start. It takes money to run any organization and SVTU is no different. Your Executive Board runs a tight fiscal operation with as little overhead as possible to reduce the need to raise funds and to provide money for what the Chapter supports, **primarily** conservation and education. The Chapter has tried various alternatives for fund raising — banquets, raffles, and BBQ with auctions. This year we tried something new, a direct appeal to the membership. It was successful. At the time the Chapter had to commit the funds to the Beaver Creek Restoration project we had raised about \$1500 from the direct appeal. All of those funds went directly to purchasing trees and associated items for on-the-stream conservation and stream improvement. (A additional few hundred dollars was received after the fund commit date and is currently unallocated pending completion of the planting.) For those that contributed THANK YOU. We limit our fund raising activities, but when we have a need (in this case planting material) we thank the membership for stepping forward. (If you missed the summer opportunity, feel free to send a contribution at any time to the return address on the newsletter.)

One element of SVTU's success this year was the recruitment and support of a student at the Tri-State TU camp. We sponsored Benton McCarthy from Boonsboro MD. He reports that it was a great educational experience and he is on the program for September 21 if you would like to hear from him. We hope to recruit and fund two students next year.

One big factor in the success of the Chapter this year will occur next month with the October 16 planting along a newly restored section of Beaver Creek. We need all hands out to complete the project and assure a successful utilization of your financial contributions. (See page 3 for details on the planting.)

I hope to see you there.

Noel Gollehon, President SVTU

Dedicated member moved to the West Coast

In June, Gary Bush, our Program Chair, transferred to California. We will miss his enthusiasm and his ability to arrange some excellent speakers to come to our meetings. Best of luck and, of course, tight lines Gary!

Sign-up for Email Updates from SVTU

The chapter has started a secure opt-in email alert and event invitation system for members (and selected non-members that enroll at Chapter meetings).

The new communication tool will be used, in addition to our newsletters, to provide brief periodic (e.g., monthly, quarterly) updates regarding chapter meeting reminders, invitations to chapter events, and volunteer opportunities.

In addition to providing more timely information, the e-mail system provides significant cost savings to SVTU. With printing and mailing costs on the rise, the Chapter will

be utilizing e-mail more over time.

If you would like to opt-in to this communication service:

1. Email your name, address, phone number, and preferred email address to:
svtroutunlimited@gmail.com.
2. You will receive an opt-in message from:
svtroutunlimited@gmail.com.
3. In the email, you will be required to simply click an opt-in link to begin the service.
4. You can unsubscribe to the free service at any time by clicking "unsubscribe" at the bottom of any update message, or by emailing us at:
svtroutunlimited@gmail.com.
5. We will not provide/sell your e-mail to others.

Stream cleanups earn special TU prize

This year, the national office of TU encouraged all chapters to sponsor a stream cleanup on either April 17 or June 26. Participating chapters submitted a photo and info on their cleanup efforts and National TU staff selected chapters for three awards: largest number of volunteers, most trash collected, and most community organizations involved in the clean-up. We did not win one of those awards; however, they weren't sure what to do about us, as we were the only TU chapter to sponsor stream cleanups on both dates, so they created a special prize for our chapter. SVTU received ten hats and four "On the Rise" series DVDs, plus the recognition for going above and beyond what was asked of us. Thanks to all of you who helped out on those cleanups! See the reports that follow.

Stream Clean-up Reports

On April 17, 2010, ten members and guests of SVTU participated in a stream cleanup at two locations in Maryland. For four hours, five members and guests cleaned a section of **Beaver Creek and Black Rock Run, a key tributary in Washington County, Maryland**. This area cleaned is a state-stocked, put-and-take section directly upstream of a catch-and-release, fly fishing only section. The downstream fly fishing only section has benefited from several stream restoration projects, including some funded in part by [Embrace-A-Stream](#) grants. This group gathered an impressive pickup load of trash.

The 2nd cleanup location on April 17 was along **Little Seneca Creek in Montgomery County**. Five members of [SVTU](#) plus volunteers from the [Rockville store of REI](#) (Recreational Equipment, Inc.) collected a healthy quantity of trash in about three hours.

After the success of the April cleanup effort, SVTU reached out to staff of the Maryland Park Service (MPS) and asked them to suggest a stream for attention on June 26. MPS was happy for the offer of assistance. Eight members and guests of SVTU endured extremely hot, humid, and sweaty three hours to sweep a long section of the put-and-take section of **Great Seneca Creek in Montgomery County, centered on Black Rock Road**.

In total, SVTU members and guests contributed 60 hours to stream cleanup efforts in Washington and Montgomery counties in Maryland. We collected a couple of

full pickup loads of trash from streams and adjacent areas and reached out to Maryland Parks Service and REI, two organizations that SVTU had not worked with in the past. All in all, three successful events, even if one was a sweat fest! Way to go!

Seneca Valley TU Sponsoring Planting on Beaver Creek: Saturday, October 16

The Seneca Valley chapter hopes to see its members and members of other groups at this planting. Come and help improve a section of Beaver Creek, a headwater of the Chesapeake Bay.

WHEN: Saturday, Oct. 16, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. until the job is done or you have to leave. (If you can come earlier to help distribute plants that would be helpful.)

WHERE: Beaver Creek restoration site, Beaver Creek fly fishing only area, Washington, County. Gather in the fly fishing parking area off Beaver Creek Road. (From Frederick, go west on I-70 to exit 35, proceed south on MD route 66 to a left (west) on Beaver Creek Road proceed to fly fisherman parking on the right. If you cross Beaver Creek at the mill, you have gone too far.)

WHAT TO BRING: Gloves, shovels, waders or boots and a good attitude to pitch in and do what is needed to replant the restoration area from this summer's work.

WHO: While sponsored by SVTU, Beaver Creek Watershed Association, and Chesapeake Bay Foundation, all are welcome to come and help out.

WHAT TO DO: Hold the date, and let someone know you are coming so we can know how many lunches we will need. The volunteer coordinator will be announced soon, or else you can contact Noel Gollehon at 301-330-8253 or by email at ngollehon@comcast.net.

Invasives Continue to Move in Maryland

For the past three years, your Seneca Valley TU Chapter has maintained an angler education program on preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species. SVTU developed the educational display, handouts, and educational materials after the spread of Whirling Disease in Western Maryland with emphasis placed on preventing the spread of another invasive found in Maryland—Didymo. We will continue to carry the message of this critical issue to future events we can support.

SVTU Fishing Expeditions

SVTU members are always interested in organizing fishing expeditions whether it is for the day or an extended trip. In addition to fishing with good companions, the trips are aimed at providing participants with an opportunity to fish new fisheries and see some exhilarating country. Keep an eye on the Chapter website for news of trips.

Major Activities: Jan to Sept 2010

Chapter sponsored events, since the last newsletter, as well as other events that members attended or participated in.

January 27 Chapter Meeting: Jim Greco, local fly-tying legend, provided us demonstration of his fly-tying techniques. Several attendees joined in with their equipment and ingredients and tied flies as well.

March 13: National Capitol Chapter TU Angling show: In addition to enjoying the events at the show several members manned our booth providing education to attendees on Invasives.

March 16: Patuxent River Stocking - Stan Oaks participated in adding 750 trout to the river.

March 20: Beaver Creek Tree Planting

March 24: Chapter meeting – Dusty Wismuth, owner operator of a fly-fishing school and guide service at Whitetail Resort in Mercerberg, PA since 1995 gave a presentation on fly fishing small streams.

March 27: MAC TU Banquet – many members and friends of SVTU attended and came home with some excellent prizes.

April 18: MAC Meeting – attended by Al Smeltz, Stan Oaks and Charles August

May 26: Chapter Meeting – presentation by Dick Switalski (RIP) on fishing the Catskills.

June 19: SVTU BBQ and Fundraiser

July 10: MAC TU Meeting – Stan Oaks attended and provided feedback on the topic, - “Update on Maryland State Brook Trout Management Plan”

SVTU BBQ and Fundraiser

On Saturday, June 19, the chapter held a BBQ for members and friends at Seneca Creek State Park featuring food from Famous Dave's. A great time was had by all, and we were especially pleased to have several new members/friends attend. The day also included a multiple bucket raffle and an auction of some great items including: Guided Spring Rockfish trip on the Chesapeake Bay; two nights lodging at the Savage River Outfitters; a Sage RPL 9' 5 wt rod; and a Sage 4 wt rod. The proceeds from the raffles and auction and other direct donations helped us raise additional funds for our Embrace-a-Stream project and other work.

TU - Mid-Atlantic Council (MAC) News

The Council includes the six TU Chapters in MD and the District of Columbia. Two of our Council delegates, Charles August and Stan Oaks, are currently on the MAC Executive Committee.

The chapter participated in the MAC banquet/fundraiser for March 27, 2010 at the BWI Airport Marriott.

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) and 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.

Redfish on a Fly!

I love catching trout on a fly but I also greatly enjoy warmwater and saltwater fly fishing. I have managed to catch a number of different species but, despite several efforts at doing so, had not hooked and landed a redfish, also known as red drum.

Well, this summer, I finally realized my quest. Fishing with Captain Brian Vaughn, out of Hilton head Island, I hooked and landed my first redfish. We were fishing at the upper end of Broad Creek and looking for tailing reds, when Brian spotted one cruising along about 30 feet from the boat. He told me to lay the fly right in front of his nose, which I somehow managed to do on the first cast. I let I sink for about a second, the twitched tit and the fight was on! I was not ready for the first run, and it took off and just about broke my thumb and the reel started spinning. The fish made about four runs of 30 – 50 feet and then I was able to slowly work it in towards the boat. After a good fight, the fish finally surrendered to the net. I had landed y first redfish! Brian worked quickly so that we could photograph him and then return him to the water.

What a beauty. My next quest – a tarpon on the fly!
Stan Oaks

Fishing Montana's Bitterroot

At the National TU show, Noel Gollehon won a "free guided day" on Montana's Bitterroot River with Bill Abbott's Guide Service of Hamilton Montana (<http://www.abbotsmontanafishing.com>). Since we had never fished that part of Montana Noel and Leslie booked three additional days of fishing.

The fishing was excellent with great guides and beautiful weather. The catching was very good on two days and pretty slow on two days. The days the fish were on, there were numerous small fish, some 10-12" fish and even some 14-20" fish landed, mostly on dry flies. The hatches are incredible, there were golden stonefly, caddis and mayfly hatches encountered somewhere every day.

The Bitterroot is mainly a freestone stream (a dam and reservoir is on the west fork, but miles upstream from

Hamilton). It is a really nice river to float—and if you do fish it, floating is about the only way to cover the stream. The water is crystal clear and you can step out of the raft in what you think is knee-deep water and go in to your waist. We floated and then were able to get out of the raft to wade fish selected areas. Most of the larger fish were caught on the float, but wading was very enjoyable too. We fished the lower West Fork and the upper main stem (above Hamilton). There is about 60 miles of the Bitterroot left to explore.

We combined the Bitterroot fishing with a trip to Glacier National Park (two hours north of Hamilton). It makes a nice vacation that combines fishing with some of the most beautiful scenery in the U.S.

A few tips from our trip that we would like to pass on.

- We were fishing on the Bitterroot on July 19-22—and that is too late. According to everyone we talked with, the best fishing is earlier in the season (end of June, beginning of July), however, the water is higher so wade fishing will be more difficult.
- There is big water in Northwest Montana. The Clark's Fork, the Flathead (main stem and three forks), and even the Bitterroot near Missoula are all substantial rivers even in mid-July. There are wadeable areas, but you have to go to the tributaries to find it.
- We found some cheap tickets in and out of Spokane, WA which is about four hours west of the Glacier Park and Hamilton areas. There is drive time, but if you've never been to that part of the country, the scenery made up for flying in to other Montana destinations (Missoula).

In summary, we will go back! It is beautiful county with lots of water to fish. There is something about watching a nice West Slope Cutthroat come up off the bottom for a big dry fly! That puts a lasting image in your mind that a photo just cannot match.

Noel Gollehon

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.