



# SENECA VALLEY ANGLER

Official Publication of Seneca Valley Trout Unlimited

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[www.senecavalleytu.org](http://www.senecavalleytu.org)

SEPTEMBER 2019

## OFFICERS

President: Noel Gollehon

Vice President: Warren Junium

Secretary: Dave Cleaves

Treasurer: Nate Wallace

**PLEASE NOTE: Our Meeting Night Has Changed!**  
Starting September 23, ALL SVTU meetings held at the IWLA Rockville Chapter House will now be on a Monday Night.

## President's Note

While the forecast calls for some 90's this week, I think the heat of the summer may be over. That means it is time to start thinking about some fall fishing! Whether you hunt for Brook Trout in their fall glory, browns in Beaver Creek, or Steelhead in Lake Erie tributaries, it is time to get fired up about fishing again! [Continued on page 11](#)

## Verify Your TU Membership Status

Login to [www.tu.org](http://www.tu.org) and check your profile information in the TU national database. Membership reports from TU national indicate the email or mailing address for several chapter members needs to be corrected.

**ALSO, DON'T FORGET TO RENEW!**

## SVTU Meeting and Event Schedule

September 18	SVTU Board Meeting
<b>September 23</b>	<b>SVTU Chapter Meeting</b>
October 16	SVTU Board meeting
<b>October 20</b>	<b>Fly Fishing 102</b>
<b>October 28</b>	<b>NO Meeting</b>
November 20	SVTU Board Meeting
<b>November 25</b>	<b>SVTU Chapter Meeting</b>
December 18	SVTU Board Meeting
<b>December 23</b>	<b>NO Chapter Meeting</b>

## Other Upcoming Events

[Get the details about these upcoming events on pages 3&4](#)

- September 16-20 Bristol Bay SALMON Week, Washington DC  
[Participating Restaurants](#)
- September 18 Green Rockville Happy Hour | Brewshed Event
- September 19 Special Film Screening: **The WILD**
- September 28 [Izaak Walton League National Hunting & Fishing Day](#)

## UPCOMING SVTU CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

### September Chapter Meeting

- When:** Monday, September 23, 2019
- Where:** IWLA Rockville Chapter House  
18301 Waring Station Road, Germantown MD
- When:** 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- Who:** Art Senkel & Steve Malan, Patapsco Valley TU
- What:** Finding Coldwater and Trout in Maryland: A Benthic Search

How many times have you driven over a bridge that spans a small stream and thought to yourself "I wonder if there are any trout in that stream?" And then you think I have never heard about any State

fishing or stream protection regulations on streams in this area, so probably no trout. Do not be so sure!

Our September program features Art Senkel and Steve Malan, Patapsco Valley TU Members, who just identified multiple streams in Harford and Carroll Counties that likely contain wild trout. Art and Steve are coming to describe the benthic macroinvertebrate-based process they used to identify these streams that are now being considered for additional protection by Maryland Department of the Environment. Whether or not these streams are accessible for fishing—identifying them for protection creates a more resilient resource base. Come and hear how Patapsco Valley TU members are leading this effort. Maybe Seneca Valley TU would like to undertake a similar effort in Montgomery, Frederick, and Washington Counties? Who knows ... we may also have unknown trout streams in our backyard.

## Fly Fishing 102, Cookout & Fund Raiser

- When:** Sunday, October 20, 2019  
**Where:** IWLA Jim Berrier Memorial Lake  
12057 Clopper Road, Germantown, MD  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
**What:** Fly Casting, Knots & Rigging, Food and Fundraising

We are planning a social event with a cookout, bucket raffles, and other fun activities in addition to more serious topics such as casting assistance (correcting those pesky problems that limit distance and accuracy) and rigging and knots (including Euro leaders). But perhaps the real reason to attend our Fly Fishing 102 is that Sweetwater Brewing is our beer sponsor. Yes, come out have a burger, a Sweetwater brew, and have a great time!



Sweetwater Brewing is a solid supporter of Trout Unlimited and their support reaches down to the local Chapter level. We thank Sweetwater for their support. Look for Sweetwater next time you are picking up a 6-pack or two.

We will start the grills at 11:00, so the first burgers will come off about noon. We will have casting instruction and rigging assistance and demonstrations from 10:00 until lunch and then until at least 3:00 pm. Bring your fly rod and reel so experienced chapter members and our certified casting instructors can work with you one-on-one. While targeted to fly fishers with some experience, all are welcome at any skill level. (If you are new to fly fishing, start here, and consider our Fly Fishing 101 course in the spring.)

This is also Seneca Valley TU's most important fund raiser of the year for general operating funds. Check our website for updates.

## November Chapter Meeting

- When:** Monday, November 25, 2019  
**Where:** IWLA Rockville Chapter House  
18301 Waring Station Road, Germantown MD  
**When:** 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
**Who:** Jim Harris, Beaver Creek Fly Shop and Tom Martin, Heavy Water Anglers  
**What:** Nymphing Techniques and Holiday Shopping
- This year, once again, James Harris will bring the fly shop to you just in time for Holiday gift lists (even if it is from you, to you). James will bring some selected merchandise down for you to pick up that stocking stuffer (new rods fit in stocking too!) just in time for the Holidays.
- And to make the evening complete James and Tom Martin will be discussion nymphing techniques. Have you wondered what Euro nymphing is all about? How about suspension nymphing or contact nymphing? Where do you use which method when all you want to do is go fishing! James and Tom will provide a big picture overview and some details that will improve your fishing experience.

## Beaver Creek Workday

In late October or early November, we will need volunteers to help with tree maintenance on Beaver Creek in the fly fishing only area.

There are beaver guards to remove that are too small and beaver guards to install where needed. We need to do some pruning and general cleanup. Bring your gloves, pruners, pliers to install and remove wire beaver guards, and an appetite.

Lunch will be provided by Seneca Valley TU and Beaver Creek Watershed Association. Watch the website for the date and logistic details (when to meet, where to park, etc.)

## OTHER HAPPENINGS IN OUR AREA

### Green Rockville Happy Hour

**When:** Wednesday, September 18, 2019

**Where:** Respite Brewing Company  
7301 Calhoun Place, Suite 600  
Rockville, MD

**Time:** 6:00 p.m.

SVTU is partnering with IWLA-Rockville to participate in the "Green Rockville Happy Hour. This event is sponsored by the Rockville Watersheds Committee, which is associated with the city's Environment Commission. Over the past year, the Committee has begun to partner with local breweries and Croydon Creek Nature Center to organize "brewshed" outreach events to engage members of the public on local watershed-related topics, emphasizing the connection that "great beer begins with healthy water." So, come and test the water (in a beer glass!)

## Special Film Screening: The WILD—How Do You Save What You Love?

On Thursday, September 19 at 7:00 p.m. the National Capital Chapter of Trout Unlimited is proud to present "The Wild" in partnership with Trout Unlimited Alaska and the Save Bristol Bay Coalition.



"The Wild is a race against time, where the hard-won protections for Bristol Bay now seem as fleeting as morning mist. Focused through the lens of Mark Titus' inherent love for wild salmon, the conflict in Alaska becomes a harbinger to a larger, global question: How do we reconcile human separation from the natural world that sustains us—and if we can change course—how do we save what remains?"

Hosted at the Carnegie Institution for Science, join Trout Unlimited CEO Chris Wood, Director Mark Titus and other luminaries from the film for a special screening and panel discussion about the future of Bristol Bay, Alaska - America's largest wild salmon fishery.

[\*\*Get your ticket now!\*\*](#)

Also during this week the Save Bristol Bay Coalition, SalmonState, and other likeminded organizations to our nation's capital for [Bristol Bay Salmon Week](#), in which 28 restaurants across Washington D.C. will be serving salmon fresh from Bristol Bay for your culinary enjoyment

## Izaak Walton League of America's National Hunting and Fishing Day

**When:** Saturday September 28, 2019  
**Where:** IWLA Chapter House, 18301 Waring Station Road, Germantown  
**Time:** 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
**What:** National Hunting & Fishing Day

The public is invited to experience Chapter activities like shooting, archery, fishing, and more! And it's also an opportunity to help understand the enormous contributions that hunters, anglers, archers and boaters make to conservation in this country, and the League's role in all of it. Start at the IWLA Rockville Chapter House. SVTU will offer casting and fly tying demonstrations at the lake.

## STREAM REPORTS

### Beaver Creek Update

*By: Doug Hutzell, SVTU*

The rain events have been less frequent this month and water levels have been reasonably stable. After several sediment pollution discharges from a crop field that occurred in June and July, water clarity has come back.



This incident was due to negligence of a farmer removing grass-lined waterways and planting soybeans. The incident was reported to MDE which investigated and concluded it was a violation. The farmer must comply with the corrective actions that MDE issued.



Over the summer months volunteers have been conducting water sampling on Antietam Creek and tributaries, including Beaver Creek, to monitor pH, dissolved oxygen (DO), turbidity, nitrates, phosphorus, and other parameters. Monitoring will continue every month, so if anyone is interested in helping, please contact Doug Hutzell ([doug.hutzell@myactv.net](mailto:doug.hutzell@myactv.net)).

Fishing has been normal for this time of the year. Grasshoppers, beetles, and ants seem to be the choice for top-water and nymphing is still a good alternative for catching fish.

With fall on the horizon, it's time to think about scheduling a stream workday. A date for late October or early November will be posted on the website.

### Tailwater High Temperature Issues

*By: Dale Thatcher, SVTU*

Years back I wrote about fishing with a thermometer. The main issue I was focused on was low water flows during hot summer weather leading to high water temperatures—conditions which seem to be with us again. As an alternative to our freestone streams I suggested fishing spring creeks and tailwaters. A caution should be added particularly for some of the local tailwaters based on some recent events and conditions.

We have been getting above normal amounts of rainfall over the past couple of years, but the

rainfall coming from downpours (some with record setting rates) during or closely following heat waves has created some instances of high temperatures for our local tailwaters. The high air temperatures and long sunlight hours can lead to very high surface water temperatures in the reservoirs. If reservoir lakes are near capacity, overflow of very warm will occur and may last for long periods of time.

The two local tailwater streams which can be impacted by these conditions are Big Hunting Creek and Little Seneca Creek because they both suffer from very minimal coldwater releases which often cannot maintain cold enough water temperatures, let alone buffer even small amounts of overflow. The impacts of some recent overflow events on the Little Seneca may become clearer when the in-stream temperature loggers are recovered this fall by the DNR.

On the other hand, Big Hunting is clearly being impacted by these events. Based on my own observations and temperature checks, the water flows have sometimes been higher than the minimum release. but the temperatures still rise above 68°F/20°C for days. ***When trout waters reach these temperatures, it is generally considered time to stop catch and release fishing due to the stress on the trout.***

I contacted Maryland DNR Freshwater Fisheries and they confirmed the temperature issues with the stream, and they were trying to get increased bottom release from Cunningham Falls Park. Later DNR did confirm that the park was able to adjust the release to try and reach the 68-degree mark. Spillover events are still a possibility and we still should check the temperature before fishing, even in the morning because there are often high overnight temperatures.

This catch and release steam with its wild reproducing brown trout is clearly in for problems if these conditions reoccur too often. Along those lines, local weather forecasters have been noting an increase in downpour type events as the air temperatures also seem to be rising. Their explanation is that the hotter air can hold more

moisture and can create larger thunderstorm events. On the possible positive side, maybe the Big Hunting trout can continue to be masters of the refusal and no return policy (one hit or look only) and therefore avoid potential stressful battles during these conditions. If you really want to get out on the water during hot weather, you could cut off the hook point and let yourself believe that any takes you get would be caught and released trout. Zane Grey has been quoted as saying *“If I fished only to capture fish, my fishing trips would have ended long ago.”*

The Gunpowder tailwater has also had its issues with water temperatures due to the same type of conditions.

Although the cold-water flows are typically a lot greater than Big Hunting, sometimes spillover from the much larger dam impoundment can overwhelm even these flows. Fortunately, there is a water temperature monitor at the Falls road gage area for anyone to look up on the USGS website. In addition, the Riverkeeper at Backwater Angler keeps tabs on the water temperature and on his website advises fishermen to give the fish a break when they reach 68°. There is also a link there to the river gages.

For those practicing catch and release, the takeaway should be to be aware of water temperatures during summer-like conditions in all our streams. And hopefully by the time you read this we will be into more fall-like temperatures.

## Electroshock Sampling of Little Seneca Creek

*By: Leonard Keifer, SVTU*

On two previous occasions attempts to sample Little Seneca Creek using electroshock to assess the population of trout in the stream were canceled because of dangerously high water. On July 16, 2019 a team from Maryland DNR and Montgomery County parks sampled the creek.

Sampling was observed by several SVTU members and several other interested parties. Sampling was done on three reaches of the creek: Downstream of Seneca Lodge, upstream across Clopper Road from

the Lodge, and near the small concrete bridge along Hoyles Mill Trail. Each of these locations also has a temperature logger which was put in place in spring of 2019 and will be retrieved in October 2019. DNR used a modified protocol designed to count the trout population but not to get a total fish count. At each sampling location the team started at the downstream end of the reach and walked up stream shocking in pools and riffles for a total of 1,200 seconds (20 minutes). Fish other than trout were noted by type only. DNR will share sampling data with SVTU and the other interested parties. Some observations by the author, by reach:

## Downstream of Seneca Lodge

Water temperature: approximately 65 degrees; no trout, one large American carp, 5 eels, several kinds of sculpin, suckers, yellow perch, and sunfish. Upstream of Clopper Road: Water temperature approximately 65 degrees; 2 rainbow trout; a couple of eels and the usual sculpin and suckers.

## Along Hoyles Mill Trail

Water temperature approximately 66 degrees; 1 rainbow trout and 1 brown trout, another eel or two, some sculpin, suckers, and yellow perch. Following completion of temperature logging and any further macro invertebrate sampling in the fall DNR will make a decision concerning the stream. Options mentioned were doing nothing, stocking with fingerlings, stocking with adult trout, stocking with a mix of fingerlings and adults.

The two photos below show the Team working in the stream, and one of the healthy sculpins found in the stream.



## CHAPTER ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

This section has a brief description of some of the spring 2019 SVTU Chapter activities. These activities are all open, but some are only announced at Chapter meetings due to logistic issues. Come join us and let us know what interests you!

### Charles August Memorial Fly Tying Series—February thru April 2019

Seneca Valley TU hosted fly tying at the IWLA-Rockville Chapter house starting in February and then every two weeks through March and April, weather permitting. We concluded the tying series

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with session at the IWLA lake where we “water-tested” some of the flies we tied.

For this series we tried something new. We started with the regular introduction to fly tying session. In following sessions, we moved on to some more advanced techniques and flies. The goal was to spend more time working the related techniques into the tying classes as needed, rather than have each session center on basic techniques.

After the initial introductory session, the schedule included streamers, nymphs, emergers, poppers, terrestrials, and dry flies. We had as many as a dozen students participate in the tying sessions working with several Chapter members. The SVTU fly tying series is named in honor of Dr. Charles August who started the chapter’s fly tying instruction.

## Fly Fishing 101

SVTU offered its Fly Fishing 101: Learn to Fly Fish course on May 4, 2019. We had 22 people sign up for the course (and we fed lunch to more like 35)! It is a crash course that comes with a free lunch!

It was a fun and educational day that takes beginners from zero to a basic understanding of the art and science of fly fishing. We have six learning “stations” that teach fly casting, rigging and knots, stream entomology and fly selection, and stream and lake fishing techniques.



A big thanks to our instructors Tom Vegella, Tom Wirfs, Dale Thatcher, Noel Gollehon, Dave Cleaves, Mike Banaszewski. Doug Hutzell, and Greg Cwalina.



**Consider joining us next spring.**

## Stroud Water Research Center Field Trip

On April 26, 2019, several SVTU members drove up to Avondale PA to the Stroud Water Research Center for a fun field trip.



The Stroud Center is a world-class water research center and the research they do in improving and monitoring water quality is always fascinating. At the Center they have a stream that has several

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approaches to restoration that has been monitored for over 50 years.

To see how nature works and talk with people who really understand the natural process makes for a great day.



This trip has become a springtime tradition for SVTU and every trip up is worth the time. Consider joining us in the future.

## Trout-in-the-Classroom releases on Little Seneca Creek

Starting in late April and running the whole month of May, SVTU volunteers assisted in the Trout-in-the-Classroom releases on Little Seneca Creek. This process starts in December when we help deliver trout eggs to 6th grade classrooms all over Montgomery County.



*Photo shows trout in a cooler prior to stream release.*

The students use the development of trout from eggs to fingerlings as a part of their environmental

science program. Then comes the release when students and their trout descend on Little Seneca Creek at the Lodge on Clopper Road.



In a 2 to 4 hour field trip the students release their trout into the wilds of the Creek, look for benthic macroinvertebrates, learn to cast a fly rod, and see someone tie a fly to mimic what they saw in the stream.

While the students have school and parent chaperones, Seneca Valley and other TU chapters furnish much of the volunteer labor and skills to do the fly casting, fly tying, and streamside education. It is great to see the “light come on” in the student’s eyes, when they make the connection between conservation and the environment. Thanks to all who participated. The program will need more help next spring as more and more schools join this program.

## March and April: Benthic Sampling in the Antietam Watershed

SVTU provided volunteers to assist with sampling tributaries and the main stem of the Antietam Watershed in Washington County. SVTU has been very active in Beaver Creek Restoration activities and this sampling effort helps provide an overall baseline for water quality in the region.



The sampling process uses a State-wide protocol and the data collected is entered in a state-wide database. Those that participated picked a lot of “bugs” and it was a lot of fun!



## SPRING MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

This section has a brief description of the SVTU Chapter meetings from the spring of 2019. You will see a range of topics designed to inform and improve your fishing knowledge.

### February 2019

**Program:** Fishing on the North Branch

**Presenter:** Tom Martin

Tom Martin of Heavy Water Anglers, a local independent guide talked about fishing on the North Branch of the Potomac River in Western Maryland. He discussed lines, leaders, and flies. It was a great discussion about fishing opportunities, for both floating and wading opportunities.

### March 2019

**Program:** Fishing Opportunities in a 50 Mile radius from Damascus

**Presenter:** Dale Thatcher, SVTU Board member  
Dale, an SVTU board member, gave an excellent presentation about fishing opportunities within a 50-mile radius of Damascus. You can get a copy of his presentation on our [website](#).

### April 2019

**Program:** Greg’s Fishing Adventure from Maryland to Montana and Back

**Presenter:** Greg Cwalina, Patuxent River Flies

Greg Cwalina of Patuxent River Flies gave a great presentation about his fishing adventure through 12 states, and three time-zones. Greg drove 4,641 miles site seeing and fishing along the way.

### May 2019

**Program:** Trout in the Classroom (TIC) from a Teacher’s Perspective

**Presenter:** Leroy Hyson, Science

Leroy Hyson, a Science Teacher at Neelsville Middle School gave a great presentation about Trout in the Classroom from a teacher's perspective. He discussed how he gets all his students excited about the program, how he gets the students involved utilizing teamwork. It was nice to hear about how excited the kids get from egg delivery in January to releasing their fish in May.

## Support SVTU when you shop!

SVTU has partnered with CauseNetwork and Amazon Smile to help with fundraising. It’s easy to join. Find out more below.

### CAUSE NETWORK

Cause Network is a marketplace where up to 10% of every purchase you make (at no cost to you) through



<http://svtu.causenetwork.com> helps fund our education programs and stream improvement projects.

There are over 1,000 stores participating in the CauseNetwork program—including many of the brand names you know and love.

When you click one of the links below, you will be directed to our CauseNetwork site. It is easy to help. Below are three different ways to support SVTU when you shop online.

1. Click the SHOP buttons on our CauseNetwork website: <http://svtu.causenetwork.com>
2. Download your version of the CauseNetwork Mobile App:  
<http://svtu.causenetwork.com/mobile>
  - Open the app and select a cause
  - SVTU can be found under the following category: Environmental Protection
  - Scroll down and select Seneca Valley Trout Unlimited (#369)
  - Complete registration
3. Use the Web App:  
<http://svtu.causenetwork.com/webapp>

There's never been an easier way to help us. Visit <http://svtu.causenetwork.com> to get started. We thank you for your support. Watch the video to [learn more about how CauseNetwork works](#).

## AMAZON SMILE

If you shop through Amazon, please select us for your Smile cause and Amazon will donate to SVTU as well.

- Register at [org.amazon.com](http://org.amazon.com)
- Click the Register Now button
- In the search box type in:  
Seneca Valley Trout Unlimited
- Select us by choosing:  
Seneca Valley Trout Unlimited  
12520 Knightsbridge CT, Rockville MD

**Stay Informed about Chapter happenings**

## Website

<https://www.senecavalleytu.org> is the primary manner in which we can reach all friends of the Chapter. Check it out for info on upcoming events/activities.

## Social Media

We are now on social media, follow us on [Instagram](#). We will be adding other social media connections in the future.

## eMail

Our email is 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. We do not share or sell our email listing. This is separate from TU's email system.

If you wish to opt-in or opt-out to our email list, please contact the Chapter at [svtroutunlimited@gmail.com](mailto:svtroutunlimited@gmail.com)

## Trout Unlimited Online Community

TU National has an [ONLINE COMMUNITY](#) which is open to the entire Trout Unlimited membership.

In the past, the online community has been specific to volunteer leaders. A separate forum for leaders-specific conversations will be maintained for volunteer leaders.

The Open Forum enables both leaders and all TU members to participate with the discussions in all the communities.

Supporting the conversations in both the Open Forum and the Leaders Forum helps to grow engagement in the online community and our local communities as well.

To sign up for the new community go to his link: <http://community.tu.org/browse/welcome-guide>

## ***President's Note: Continued from page 1***

This issue of the Seneca Valley Newsletter provides a list of upcoming events and a recap of the spring/summer activities. As you look through the list of events and meetings completed, how many have interest? Did you attend? Seneca Valley TU (SVTU) is like all other organizations, you need to put in effort to reap rewards.

Make sure you show up to hear about the great fishing spot or find out which stream is fishing the best. As you peruse the list of upcoming events, note those that have interest and make an effort to come out, you never know what you will learn.

One event, I want to point out is the Fly Fishing 102 on October 20. We have held casting clinics in the fall but this year we expanded it beyond casting to include rigging and knots. It will be a good time! (See page 2 of the newsletter!)

SVTU finally made it to social media! Thanks to the work of Joe Walther, SVTU has an [Instagram](#) presence. Follow us if you use social media.

As you can tell SVTU is an active chapter with the meetings and events detailed in this newsletter. And the common feature in all of this is you—our volunteers. Volunteers are always needed.

You too can participate! Watch the website, e-mail notifications, and our [Instagram posts](#) for activities and dates for your chance to be involved.

You do not have to commit to much time or effort to take a role in the planning and execution of a Chapter activity, and we could really use your help! I look forward to seeing you at an SVTU event and look forward to you contributing to making your Chapter events happen.

**Tight lines!**

*Noel Gollehon, President SVTU*

## **Note from the Editor**

If you have articles, photos, fish stories, fishing/stream reports, 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)

**Tight lines and we hope to see you at future meetings and events!**