



# SENECA VALLEY ANGLER

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Chapter # 369

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## OFFICERS

President: Noel Gollehon

Vice President: Warren Junium

Secretary: Dave Cleaves

Treasurer: Nate Wallace

## WE ARE BACK!

We hope you have been able to resume some semblance of normalcy during this pandemic. Our chapter meetings will be virtual until further notice. We look forward for you joining in on some new Chapter events!

### President's Note

How our world has changed! In January 2020 when we sent our last Newsletter who could have foreseen the radical change in our lives, livelihoods, and priorities. COVID has rocked our world in total—and Seneca Valley's little corner of it too.

First, we hope all are well and stay that way. Second, SVTU, like all most organizations basically shut down in March and, with a notable exception, are just now beginning operations again. That is not to imply that nothing has been happening. The Board of Directors has been meeting electronically virtually every month. Our Vice President and Social Media contact, Joe Walther, took the lead in dragging a few old dinosaurs a bit closer to today's world by putting together a series of fly-tying events on Facebook LIVE. The classes were very causal and super informative. If you have not seen the set of flies that Joe provided instruction on tying, please go to the website under fly tying or just jump to the page at <https://senecavalleytu.org/fly-tying-resources/>. Thank you, Joe, for leading this effort and providing some relief from the "every-day-the-same" syndrome.

As we reconnect to you and start our fall season, it is different because of COVID. You will see articles in this newsletter about our new virtual meeting format and our in-person but outdoor Fly Fishing 101 course. Things are different but, in many ways, the same. SVTU is still a group of dedicated conservationists, that happen to fish, coming together (maybe virtually) to try and improve the environment, stream habitat in our area, region, and nation. Whether we are focused on Beaver Creek in our chapter area,

Conewago Creek in Pennsylvania, or the Bristol Bay in Alaska, it is all about protecting or improving the resource and stream habitat.

As we go forward from here, things will be different, but still the same. If you like to fish you need someplace to do it, and if you do not protect and improve it, who will? We look forward to your support and participation as we all go down this different path together. MASK UP! Be safe and go fishing!

**Tight lines!**

**Noel Gollehon, President SVTU**

### Chapter Meeting Schedule has Changed Meetings are now VIRTUAL!

SVTU is pleased to announce that we will be resuming our regular meeting schedule in the fall of 2020 after canceling the spring meetings due to COVID. We will start with our new meeting date of **Monday, September 14**. Since we are no longer meeting in-person, and will now meet using Zoom, it has given us an opportunity to hold our meetings on a different day. We have moved to the second Monday of the month. We have meetings scheduled for October, November and possibly December.

**To attend the meeting**, you will need to register at the website in the meeting announcement. **To register** you will need to provide your name, e-mail address, let us know if you will be phoning in or joining the virtual meeting. If you have not used Zoom, you can go to the Zoom website (<https://www.zoom.us/test>) to see if your computer system will enable you to join the virtual meeting.

After you register, you will receive an automated reply that contains the information to join the virtual meeting. There is a hyperlink that will take you to the meeting. We will visit (fishing stories) and give everyone a chance to sign-in from 7:00 to 7:30 p.m. It takes a few minutes to get everyone on, then we will begin the program at about 7:30.

**If you wish to phone in, the number to call is in the invitation to join.** If you phone in and wish to follow the slides of the speaker's presentation, you must send an e-mail to [SenecaValleyTU@gmail.com](mailto:SenecaValleyTU@gmail.com). On the evening of the meeting, (September 14<sup>th</sup> for the current meeting) the speaker's presentation will be e-mailed to you in PDF form before the meeting. You can follow along with the slides as you listen by phone.

**To maintain a secure meeting, please *do not share* the hyperlink, meeting ID, or phone-in number with anyone.** We want to have a secure meeting and avoid Zoom bombing, or unauthorized persons hijacking our zoom meeting.

Many in the Chapter have used Zoom for meetings in these COVID days and it works fine if everyone is courteous and respectful.

[\*\*SIGN UP FOR ZOOM MEETINGS NOW!\*\*](#)

## UPCOMING CHAPTER MEETINGS AND EVENTS

### September Chapter Meeting

**When:** Monday, September 14, 2020  
**Where:** VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM  
**Sign-in:** 7:00-7:30 p.m.  
**Program:** 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.  
**Who:** Mark Frondorf, Shenandoah River Keeper and Fishing Guide  
**What:** The state of the Potomac & Shenandoah Rivers – A Guide & Riverkeeper's Perspective

Mark will give an update on the state of the upper Potomac and Shenandoah systems and some of the issues he and the other riverkeepers are dealing with, plus a conservationists/fishing guide's perspective on smallmouth bass issues and prospects.

## SVTU Meeting and Event Schedule

<b>As needed</b>	Beaver Creek Workdays: see article that follows
<b>September 1</b>	<b>SVTU Fund Raising Auction Starts</b>
<b>September 14</b>	<b>SVTU Chapter Meeting (see details that follow)</b>
September 16	SVTU Board Meeting
<b>October 12</b>	<b>SVTU Chapter Meeting</b>
<b>October 18</b>	<b>SVTU FF 101 (see details)</b>
October 21	SVTU Board meeting
<b>October 31</b>	<b>SVTU Fund Raising Auction Closes</b>
<b>November 9</b>	<b>SVTU Chapter Meeting</b>
November 18	SVTU Board Meeting
<b>December 8</b>	<b>SVTU Chapter Meeting (T)</b>
December 16	SVTU Board Meeting

### 2021 Schedule

<b>January 11</b>	<b>SVTU Chapter Meeting)</b>
January 20	SVTU Board Meeting
<b>February 8</b>	<b>SVTU Chapter Meeting</b>
February 18	SVTU Board Meeting
<b>March 8</b>	<b>SVTU Chapter Meeting</b>
March 17	SVTU Board Meeting

We are finalizing the meeting programs scheduled for the rest of 2020. A December meeting is tentative. All Chapter meetings are virtual until further notice.

[\*\*FOR UPDATES CHECK THE SVTU WEBSITE\*\*](#)

## SVTU Online Fundraising Auction

SVTU, like other non-profit organizations, needs funds to operate. The interruption of all planned spring events and the continued need for social distancing preventing face-to-face events, means we need to find another option to fund our work. **We are pleased to announce that we will conduct an on-line auction, that will end on October 31.** The auction is hosted by a third-party website, that has been analyzed by National TU to make sure it is safe to use and properly secures bidder information.

To see what we are offering visit the website at <https://go.tulocalevents.org/svtu-2020-auction>.

**We will be adding to the selection through September 15,** so even if you do not see anything today that you are interested in, check back.

We have some great deals out there now, including:

- Box with over 70 hand-tied flies
- Fishpond waist pack
- Griffen Mongoose Vice & tools
- Feathercraft fly tying station
- Oak rod rack
- Scottie 88 bamboo fly rod
- Two duck stamp prints
- Some hand-crafted pieces

We need you to support the Chapter, and this is a chance to pick up some great items. [Check out the Auction site!](#)

Once you access the auction site there are simple instructions regarding how you can register for the auction and start the bidding process.

Check it out! Remember this is for a great cause, SVTU and to help fund our various initiatives.

### Sign up for SVTU E-mail

To streamline the sign-up process to join our e-mail, we are providing a simple link for you to register. Our e-mail is a secure 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 National TU's email system.

[Seneca Valley TU Email Sign-up](#)

### Upcoming Fly Tying Sessions

**When:** Various Mondays: The schedule is in the planning stage.

**Where:** VIRTUAL UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

**Time:** 8:00 p.m.

**What:** Fly Tying

The 2020 Charles August Memorial Fly Tying sessions commenced January 20, and four "in-situ" sessions were completed before we had to suspend them due to the pandemic. Starting in April, the remaining sessions were continued via Facebook LIVE. A big thank you goes Joe Walther, SVTU VP, and now the online fly-tyer for the chapter!

Plans are in process to continue the sessions online. We will provide an update as soon as we finalize the

agenda and schedule. The topic for each session will be posted on the website before the actual class.

Check out the recap of the virtual sessions that follows later in this issue. Photos and ingredients for the flies presented online can be found on our website. [Fly photos and ingredients.](#)

In addition, videos of the sessions can be found on our [Facebook](#) page.

### Upcoming Chapter Meetings

**When:** Monday, October 12, 2020  
Monday, November 9, 2020

**Who:** TBD

**What:** TBD

*Keep an eye on the website for more details.*

### Fly Fishing 101: Fly Fishing Basics

**When:** Sunday, October 18, 2020

**Where:** IWLA Jim Berrier Memorial Lake  
12057 Clopper Road, Germantown, MD

**Sign-in:** 12:30 to 1:00 p.m.

**Start:** 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

SVTU is pleased to offer our first in-person event since the COVID crisis began. We are planning on offering a **Fly Fishing 101: Fly Fishing Basics** course to a limited class size on Sunday, October 18, 2020.

To offer this course during a pandemic, changes were required from the five previous offerings of this course. The major changes are developing "distance" instruction methods, shorting the total time by dropping a couple of elements, eliminating the free lunch (bummer!), and dropping the fundraising efforts (raffles and auctions). (Please see the article in this newsletter about the how you can participate in our on-line auction.)

Despite the changes, this course and associated displays will provide the beginning fly fisher with a wealth of valuable information and provide additional learning opportunities for those with experience. The 4-hour course will devote half the time to fly casting. Our instructors are Fly Fisher International (FFI)-certified casting instructors, so whether you have never picked up a fly rod or have a "few bad habits" in your cast, they have the

experience and knowledge to help you learn or improve your casting skill.

Since fly fishing is more than just casting, there will be a session on how to “rig” a fly rod for different water conditions (stream or lake) and fly types (nymphs, emerging flies, or dry flies). There will be a stream techniques demonstration (no waders required) to show what to do with the “rigged” rod that you can cast. We will have displays and handouts on benthic macroinvertebrate identification and on different fly types and patterns. Check out the displays—before the course, at the break and after the formal instruction.

### **[REGISTER by October 15!](#)**

Conducting a class such as “Fly Fishing 101: Fly Fishing Basics” during a pandemic has its challenges. We can no longer just “show up”. We will do our best to make the event safe for everyone, but if you are in a high-risk group and uncomfortable around people, then please do not register. We will sanitize our club fly fishing rods before use, but if you have your own equipment, please bring it. **The class will be limited to 20 students.**

We will have snacks (cookies and apples) available at the break and water will be provided, but you may want to bring drinks of your own. No meal will be provided.

**If you are planning on attending the Fly Fishing 101 event, you are agreeing to the following conditions:**

- Agree to provide and utilize personal protective equipment and behavior.
- Bring and wear a suitable mask covering both nose and mouth—single layer sun buffs are not a suitable mask
- Gloves are up to the individual
- Social distance provisions of 6-feet will be followed with your cooperation
- Hand sanitizer will be provided and available at multiple locations

## **Beaver Creek Workdays**

**When: TBD check website**

Beaver Creek is SVTU’s primary stream that we support throughout the year. Beaver Creek is one of the largest limestone streams in Maryland.

Originating as a freestone stream on the west slope of South Mountain, the majority of the flow during the summer months is influenced by the numerous springs in the Hagerstown Valley. The largest spring (~11,356 l/min) influencing Beaver Creek is used as the water supply for the Albert Powell Trout Hatchery. Upstream of the spring’s influence, Beaver Creek is considered a warm-water stream and flows underground much of the year due to local Karst geology.

Starting in 2004, SVTU has been actively involved in helping with the Beaver Creek restoration project. During this time, our chapter has purchased trees, provided funds, and volunteered hours of labor to help with the restoration efforts.

**There are currently no planned "workday" events scheduled for Beaver Creek.** However, there are conservation opportunities available for individuals and families that want to get outside and improve the riparian area along Beaver Creek. We request that members reach out to Doug Hutzell, SVTU Board member, in advance and work directly with him on identifying a need and a time they could be available. **Contact Doug at [doug.hutzell@myact.net](mailto:doug.hutzell@myact.net)**

## **OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Trout in the Classroom (TIC)**

Seneca Valley TU participates in the Trout-in-the-Classroom program each year. The 2019/2020 program started as usual with trout eggs delivered to thirty plus schools in the region in December. The students started to monitor the development of the trout eggs into fingerling fish with plans to have “release events” during the months of April and May. With the onset of the school closures in the spring due to the pandemic, the releases were carried out by many of the teachers, and some were able to include one or two students. Some teachers even videoed the releases.

MDNR responded to an email we sent and noted that this year few schools have applied for the annual grants due to the confusion of what they can or can’t do. It is almost certain all will be in a virtual mode through at least this month. Since eggs will not be delivered until December there is a possibility tanks

could still be set up in the classrooms, and hopefully the program can get back to normal.

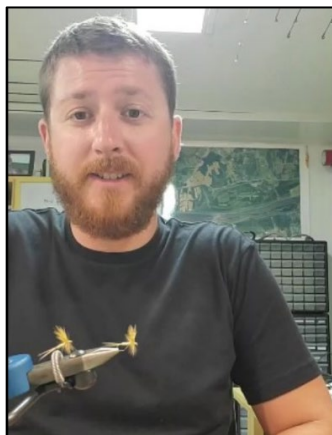
We will provide updates as new information is available. Keep this on your “to-do” list if interested because—as with all TU activities—volunteers are integral to the program, from distribution of eggs, to assisting the teachers and students from the participating schools in the releases to the streams. Volunteers also assist with fly casting, stream sampling and kid herding.

If you have interest in helping, please let us know at [svtroutunlimited@gmail.com](mailto:svtroutunlimited@gmail.com)

## RECENT CHAPTER ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

This section has a brief description of some of the 2020 SVTU Chapter activities since January. We were able to have two “in-situ” chapter meetings and fly-tying sessions before we had to cancel all such meeting starting in March.

Through the efforts of Joe Walther, as noted by Noel in his President’s report, we were able to continue to offer some fly-tying sessions online. They were a success. See a summary of these events that follows.



### Chapter Meeting: January 27, 2020

The program was “Trout and Coldwater Resources in Frederick County” presented by Michael Kashiwagi, MDNR. Michael gave an excellent presentation about how the Maryland Department of natural Resources Freshwater Fisheries Service has been working to compile information on coldwater aquatic organisms across the state.

Frederick County contains a diverse mix of coldwater resources. The Catoctin Mountains support several high-quality wild trout fisheries. Fishing Creek and Big Hunting Creek have some of the strongest populations in central Maryland. Other small streams

contain aquatic insects that are only found in the coldest water conditions.

The Freshwater Fisheries Service provided an overview of the coldwater monitoring and efforts to protect and restore these unique ecosystems.

### Chapter Meeting: February 24, 2020

February’s meeting included a program “Little Seneca: Survey results and Management of the Resource” by Adam Eshleman, Maryland DNR.

This meeting provided an opportunity for MDNR to share the results of the 2019 data collection efforts and provide a forum to discuss the range of management options for the stream.

DNR’s conclusion was not to revise the regulations for Little Seneca to a catch-and-release stream. The presentation is available on the SVTU website in the Past Meetings section.

### Our Fly Tying Sessions Have Gone Digital

*By Joe Walther, SVTU VP*

In late February 2020, SVTU was in full swing hosting in-person fly tying classes with sessions held every two weeks.

By early March, the rapid spread of the coronavirus disease forced SVTU, along with the rest of the world, to cancel any in-person gatherings including chapter meetings and fly tying classes for the foreseeable future.

As the COVID-19 lockdown continued through the end of March, SVTU decided to try to reengage with membership through live-streaming online fly tying classes. At the end of March, SVTU’s Joe Walther demonstrated two fly patterns, the Zebra and WD-40 midges, via a Facebook LIVE stream to test the ability of conducting online fly tying classes using a smartphone and a Wi-Fi connection.

The live stream was successful, and SVTU began planning a series of online fly tying offerings for the spring and summer of 2020.

The online fly tying classes were broadcast via Facebook LIVE every other Monday night at 8:00 p.m. Facebook LIVE allowed for Facebook users, as well as those without a Facebook account, to follow along with the live video.

Attendees that were logged into their Facebook user account also had the ability to make comments and ask questions via the chat function during the live demonstrations, which allowed for a more personal experience than watching pre-recorded videos that are available online.

Not including the initial test broadcast, seven virtual fly tying classes were held from April through the end of July. Most of the classes included a demonstration of two fly patterns per session that were related.

The fly patterns included:

- April 20: Caddis Larva & Cased Caddis
- May 4: X-Caddis Emerger & Elk Hair Caddis Dry Fly
- May 18: Clouser Minnow & Marabou Baitfish Minnow
- June 1: Rainbow Warrior Nymph & Rainbow Scud
- June 29: Floss Body Soft Hackle & Hares Ear Soft Hackle Wet Flies
- July 5: Parachute Sulphur Dry Fly
- July 20: Catskill-Style Sulphur Dry Fly

At the end of July, SVTU decided to take a short break from the online fly tying series with the goal of returning to the screen in the late fall of 2020.

Thank you to all of our members who tuned in to follow along with the virtual fly tying classes, and we look forward to bringing more online content to our membership starting this fall.

If you are interested in following along with any of the previous fly tying classes, the videos can be found on the chapters Facebook page ([facebook.com/senecavalleytu](https://www.facebook.com/senecavalleytu)) and the materials lists can be found on the SVTU website ([senecavalleytu.org/fly-tying-resources](https://senecavalleytu.org/fly-tying-resources)). Future online fly tying classes will be announced on the SVTU website, newsletter, Facebook, and Instagram (@senecavalleytu) accounts.

## SVTU CHAPTER MEMBER ARTICLES FOR YOUR PLEASURE!

### SVTU and Little Seneca Creek

*by Noel Gollehon, SVTU President*

The closest cold/cool-water resource to many of us in the SVTU chapter is Little Seneca Creek near Boyds. Little Seneca is a tailwater stream from the discharge out of Little Seneca Lake in Black Hills Regional Park.

The lake is deep enough to discharge cold/cool water throughout most years.

SVTU has watched the regulations on Little Seneca Creek go between a put-and-take fishery stocked by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), to a catch-and-release stream over the years. It is currently managed under the “general regulations” provision of the fishing regulations.

Over the past two years, SVTU has been working with DNR to explore alternatives to the current management plan—and what that might mean for Little Seneca. During 2019, DNR monitored the stream temperature, conducted benthic macroinvertebrate sampling, and conducted a fish electroshocking survey in selected stream reaches.

The results of the 2019 data-collection effort was presented to the Chapter at our February 2020 meeting (<https://senecavalleytu.org/past-speakers/>).

The DNR conclusion presented at the meeting was to not change from the current regulation—which means the stream will not be listed as a catch-and-release stream or aggressively stocked with adult fish. DNR reached this conclusion based on the relatively low benthic macroinvertebrates found and that no coldwater obligate species of macroinvertebrates were found, implying there is not enough food for a more intensive fishery. There are a few trout in the stream as the electroshocking demonstrated, and there will likely continue to be from occasional stocking. However, at this time a sufficient adult fish population for a change in regulations does not seem to be likely.

SVTU followed up with the DNR concerning their conclusion and was not successful in securing assurances that a future demonstration of adult fish survivability would be enough to trigger a change in regulation to a catch-and-release stream. That possibility was not vetoed, but there was not a lot of hope implied either.

SVTU’s Board of Directors has met on this topic and discussed it multiple times. The conclusion reached was to take the resources (time and money) that it would take to conduct an adult brown trout survivability experiment on Little Seneca for a very uncertain outcome would be better spent elsewhere. We will invest those resources where there is a

greater chance of success whether on Beaver Creek or Catocin-area streams.

The issue is not totally closed. If another group or organization wished to invest in Little Seneca we would be happy to share what we have learned with them.

## Trout Fishing During the 2020 COVID Pandemic

*by Dale Thatcher, SVTU Board Member*

If you decide to go trout fishing during the pandemic be ready for some company. I never thought it would be an issue, but social distancing may even be challenged at times. I guess this is no real surprise given the health suggestions regarding outdoors versus indoors and the widespread feelings of being cooped up. What surprised me more was the numbers of people during the “work” week probably thanks to “work-at-home.” This may continue well into the fall with many colleges and schools turning to virtual learning.

If you are lucky, most of your company will not be fishing, but almost any activity even walking, can be a problem for spooking the fish on our small trout streams which have been experiencing low water typical of this time of year.

The bigger problem will most likely be the wading, splashing, dam building etc., that comes with the walking/hiking and the attraction of the cool trout waters during the recent very-hot weather. In the worst case, swimmers and/or tubers will take over the deepest water resulting in spooked fish and possibly, stressed fish.

### Big Hunting Creek

Big Hunting creek day-in and day-out demonstrates all these issues. We almost all know that it is in a beautiful mountain setting with lots of trails and of course a cool water stream.

Unfortunately, it is run very-low during this time of year—in part to maintain enough cold water in the lake to get through hot summers and potentially low rainfall. With the very-low flows, water temps have trended up since about June. Each time temperatures seem to be approaching the upper 60s during the day the State has been able to release some cold water to

drop the temperatures. As recently as the end of August, they seem to have gotten the overnight water temperatures below 60. (Note: The water temperature is sensed fairly near the dam so the temperatures downstream can be higher. So still take your thermometer!) If you do go, you will need to go early just to find a parking space or pull-off. If you get a chance to dry fly fish, be ready for some serious inspections and refusals if you can even get a cast that doesn't spook all the fish.

### Gunpowder

Big Gunpowder Falls, though larger, exhibits many of the same issues as Big Hunting. The valley park and trails provide a beautiful setting for trout fishing. The stream is also run very low for long periods of time due to varying needs of the Baltimore area.

Water temperatures seem to have been consistently maintained in a good range all summer but there have been long periods of low water. Most all road access crossings in the catch and release section see lots of visitors. Again, not all are fishing but there is a lot of other activity in and around the water.

York road downstream of the bridge is one very popular swimming area due to the gentle sloping mowed field along the bank. Parking areas fill up quickly, resulting in long lines of parked cars along York road. Falls Road is a little more remote, but on a late August Tuesday, there was little parking at 9:30 in the morning.

### Beaver Creek

Beaver Creek can offer some trout fishing opportunities with consistent colder water, but because of its small size a few fishermen can be a crowd. As recent shockings show, there are large numbers of wild fish and with so many fingerlings, plenty of food to grow big fish. The best bet is to check with the Beaver Creek Fly shop for the latest information on the fishing at Beaver creek.

### Patuxent

The Patuxent river on the border of Montgomery and Howard counties could be another fishing option but it tends to also have a large amount of activity along the stream.

Flow and water temperatures are also marginal. Almost all the big holes within 100 yards of a bridge

have been turned into swimming holes. Further away fishing often requires battles with overgrown paths with plenty of thorns from the multiflora rose.

By the time you read this we should be into more fall-like conditions which should mean cooler weather and maybe more water to help with social distancing. Some crowding may persist, but the swimming should subside. New obstacles, such as falling leaves, will come but MD DNR appears to be planning fall stockings which could give us some more opportunities. If you can't, or don't want to, get out on the streams, you can make some time for our upcoming virtual meetings and place a bid on items in our fundraising auction.

## Good Pickups Mean Good Casts

*by Dave Cleaves, SVTU Board Member & IFFF-Certified Fly Casting Instructor*

The basic cast is a fluid motion in four parts, the pickup of the line off the water; the backcast; the forward cast; and the lowering of the rod to follow the line back down to the water.

Each part depends on the one before, so problems in casting efficiency and fly delivery can sometimes be corrected by paying some attention to what went on early in the casting cycle.

Aside from getting set up well on the stream or in the boat, the pickup is the first and arguably the most important part of the casting cycle. But we sometimes take the pickup for granted, rushing through it to the more dynamic and exciting parts of the cast. But those intoxicating loops and presentations all start with lifting the line off the water smoothly and quietly.

What we end with on the forward cast and delivery—good or bad—started *in front of us on the pickup*. So, if we are not feeling the rod bend or having it bend too much at the wrong times, the problem may have started during the pickup. Let's start at the beginning, check out our pickup, and avoid common mistakes.

One mistake is to start the pickup without first minimizing slack line. We should setup the cast so that slack line does not interfere with the casting cycle. Slack is usually right in our face—in waves and piles on the water, in the belly beneath the rod tip, in

sags between the rod guides, and in front of and behind where our left (line) hand holds the loose line. If we raise the rod tip to start a cast amidst slack, we are spending energy and casting space just straightening it out rather than really casting—bending the rod from the tip. We must get rid of the slack before the pickup begins or it will follow us into the cast.

Another common mistake is to start the pickup with the rod tip held too high, angled out in front at a level above our shoulder or even our head. This allows a sagging belly of flyline to form below the rod tip even before we can start the pickup. This slack must be removed before we can begin to bend the rod. And the high angle of the rod position limits the distance we can move it up and backward during the pickup and the backcast. So, we not only burden the cast with slack, we also rob it of the stroke length it would take to straighten it out.

It can tempt us to reach way back during the backcast to “find” the tension of the rod against a straight line, only to throw the backcast down toward the ground in a big swooping circle, spoiling chances of a good forward stroke.

A third common mistake is to pick up the line up too quickly. We sometimes rip the flyline off the water like a sub-launched missile, startling all forms of life and bending the rod grotesquely and erratically into backcast stroke.

A rushed pickup can sometimes pull the fly under the water rather than lift it off and it then breaks out of the water with a loud “POP”. We may try to slide the line rapidly along the water with a forearm pull and backward bending of the wrist rather than lifting, but when the fly leaves the water, it breaks free and zings backward like a ricochet bullet.

It is impossible to accelerate smoothly into the backcast when we have already moved the line so fast just getting it off the water. All the rod can do is decelerate somewhere in the backcast with results ranging from a lazy, drooping loop, to a closed or tailing loop as the rod tip springs up coming out of its bend.



Here are some tips for making each pickup **low, slow, and slackless**.

### 1. Get the slack out

Strip in line with your opposite hand. Or you may have to roll cast the line out to straighten out the slack and start a new cast (a great use of the roll cast not often talked about). No squiggles on the water, and no sags between the guides.

The line out beyond the rod tip on the water *should be pointing straight to the leader*. The only loose line below the rod tip should be under your control, behind your line hand locked in place in your fingers or against the rod handle.

### 2. Start low

Start the pick-up with the *tip just touching the water in front of you*. It will not hurt the rod and it also positions you with enough stroke space to strike and fight any fish foolish or ferocious enough to test you.

### 3. Lift slowly!

Start to lift the line like you are lifting a skillet carefully from a hot stovetop. Lift excruciatingly slowly at first, gradually peeling the line closest to your rod tip inch-by-inch out to the leader's attachment. At about 45 degrees you shift into the backward and upward acceleration of the backcast.

During the pickup, you will see, and feel the rod progressively bend against the water tension and the line's weight, rising along the channel you created for it during the setup and pickup.

Like an archer smoothly drawing the bow, you are giving the back stroke and the rest of the cast a smooth start and plenty of room to finish the cast. Your presentation and the chances of connecting with the fish will be the better for it.

*Dave Cleaves of North Potomac is an IFFF-certified fly-casting instructor (CI, MCI), who teaches fly casting and guides in Maryland. Dave is retired from the US Forest Service and has worked for Trout & About (Phil Gay) and the LL Bean Outdoor Discover schools. He is a member of the Seneca Valley Trout Unlimited Chapter. Dave welcomes questions from readers and opportunities to help fly fishers improve their casting.*

## 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 has never been an easier way to help us. Visit <http://svtu.causenetwork.com> to get started. We thank you for your support

## 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](https://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 we 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](#) and/or [Facebook](#).

### 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 sign up/opt-in to our email list, please use the following link.

[Seneca Valley TU Email Sign-up](#)

## 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>

## 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!**

## 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 at [wjunium1@hotmail.com](mailto:wjunium1@hotmail.com) or to the Chapter at [svtroutunlimited@gmail.com](mailto:svtroutunlimited@gmail.com)

**We hope to see you at future meetings and events!**