

# SENECA VALLEY ANGLER

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## OFFICERS

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SEPTEMBER 2022

## GREETINGS MEMBERS!

The “summer break” is over, and we invite you to join our live & virtual Chapter events starting in September 2022!

### Contents

Upcoming Meeting/Event Schedule.....	2
Winter & Spring Recap .....	3
SVTU & Education.....	4
SVTU & Conservation .....	4
SVTU Stories .....	6
The Adaptive Caster .....	11
Support SVTU.....	11
Stay Informed .....	12

### President’s Note

SVTU had a very productive spring in 2022. We held virtual fly-tying classes and had another great series of speakers. You can read about both programs in this newsletter. We responded to a safety concern on Beaver Creek with a work party, that is also described in this newsletter. My point for bringing these items up is to remind you that SVTU is an active organization that tries hard to provide useful educational content and resource protection.

We did have one event that fell a bit short in the spring. Our historically very successful “Fly Fishing 101: Learn to Fly” course failed to meet the minimum number of students to conduct the full course. Those that did enroll were provided with a more informal afternoon of instruction that covered all the same material. (Those that attended liked the one-on-one time with the instructors.) We have been conducting and improving our Fly Fishing 101 course since 2015 and do not know why our usually full class did not generate the same level of interest this spring. Maybe

it was the date or just lack of students after doing the course for seven years.

SVTU has responded with a new course, Fishing 101, scheduled for September 10, 2022, that will introduce beginning fishers to both fly and spin fishing. We have a revamped and broader course covering fishing with artificial flies and lures. Our goal is to introduce more beginners to the joy of being on the water, whatever the length of the rod.

We are starting our fall speaker series with a presentation by Tom Martin, Heavy Water Anglers, on streamers and streamer fishing. We will have speakers on techniques (like Tom’s talk), destinations, and conservation topics every month in the fall. We are going hybrid this fall, meeting in person at the Rockville Izaak Walton League Chapter House, and streaming it via Zoom to those that cannot—or do not—wish to attend in person. Reserve the second Monday of the month for an informative presentation hosted by SVTU. Details are in this newsletter and on the website.

We work with a small core of dedicated volunteers that could use your help to make the last half of 2022 an even better season. If you have time and the desire to help move SVTU forward, just click the “Contact Us” link in the top navigation bar on the website.

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 uncertain path toward the end of 2022.

**Stay safe and Tight lines!**

**Noel Gollehon, President SVTU**

# Seneca Valley Angler—September 2022

## Upcoming Meeting/Event Schedule

September 10	SVTU/IWLA Rockville Chapter Fishing 101: Introduction to Spin and Flyfishing Meeting (see details below)
September 12	SVTU Chapter Meeting – Tom Martin – Heavy Water Anglers: “Streamers and Streamer (see details below)
September 28	SVTU Board meeting
October 10	SVTU Chapter Meeting: TBD
October 26	SVTU Board meeting
November 14	SVTU Chapter Meeting: TBD
November 23	SVTU Board Meeting (T)
December 12	SVTU Chapter Meeting: TBD
December 28	SVTU Board Meeting
	<b>2023</b>
January 9	SVTU Chapter Meeting: TBD
January 25	SVTU Board Meeting

Updates to our schedule will be provided via Chapter emails and posted on our website and social media presence in Facebook and Instagram.

## Have Anything to Share?

We are always looking for contributions by you, our members, to share with the Chapter membership.

## Upcoming 2022 Chapter Meetings and Events

### Fishing 101: Intro to Spin and Flyfishing

**When:** Saturday, September 10, 2022  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
**Where:** Jim Berrier Memorial Lake, 12057 Clopper Road, Germantown MD 20874  
**Cost:** Free of charge

SVTU and the Izaak Walton League of America, Rockville (IWLA-R) chapters are joining together to offer both teens (**13 and above**) and adults an introduction to spin fishing and fly fishing. This class is the perfect opportunity for someone interested in learning the basics of fishing with artificial flies and lures. It will cover what you need to get out on the water and start fishing.

## September Chapter Meeting (In-person and Zoom Mtg)

**When:** Monday, September 12, 2022  
**What:** Combo Meeting: In-person and Zoom (link below)  
**Where:** IWLA Chapter House, 18301 Waring Station Rd; Germantown  
**Time:** Social Time & Zoom Sign In: 7:15 - 7:30 p.m.  
Program Start: 7:30 p.m.  
**Who:** Tom Martin of Heavy Water Anglers  
**Topic:** Streamers and Streamer Fishing

Join us as we kick-off our fall speaker series with a hybrid format, both in-person and via Zoom, featuring Tom Martin of Heavy Water Anglers.

Tom's presentation will be for those that want to improve their knowledge and skills to use this important fly-fishing technique. He will be discussing the types of streamers he uses, the way to fish them and the equipment needed. For those of us who do not fish much with streamers, maybe learning how to fish them will encourage us to use them more. For those of us that now use streamers, this presentation will help improve our techniques. Join us for a program dedicated to improving your technical fishing skills with streamers.

If you can't attend in-person, use the link below to join the meeting. If you wish to "call in" vs. ZOOM, use the number below.

[For those that will join remotely click here!](#)

Meeting ID: 833 6815 0888

Passcode: 472709

One tap mobile: +1-301-715-8592 -- \*472709# US

## IWLAR Hunting & Fishing Day

**When:** Saturday, September 24, 2022  
**Time:** 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.  
**Where:** 18301 Waring Station Road, Germantown MD 20874

Celebrating 50 years of National Hunting & Fishing Day. Join the IWLA Rockville Chapter for a day of outdoor fun! There is a lot to do and participate in. Visit <https://www.iwlar.org> for more information.

## October '22- May '23 Chapter Meetings

The Chapter is finalizing Programs for these meetings. As a reminder, meetings are scheduled to be held the second Monday of each month. Updates will be posted on the website, and notifications will be provided via email to those who have opted-in to our Constant Contact email service.

As noted in the September Meeting summary the plan is to hold a combo “In-person” and “Zoom” meeting.

## October Chapter Meeting (In-person and Zoom Mtg)

**When:** Monday, October 14, 2022  
**Sign-in:** 7:15 to 7:30 p.m.  
**Program Start:** 7:30 p.m.  
**Speaker:** TBD  
**Program:** TBD

The Chapter is finalizing the Program for this meeting. The other Chapter meetings and their dates are included in the calendar listing on Upcoming Meetings/Events on previous pages.

## Winter & Spring Chapter Meeting and Event Recap

Following, is a brief description of some of the recent 2022 SVTU Chapter activities since January. Despite the impact of COVID-19 some of these activities were able to be held “live” following the applicable guidelines. The Chapter meetings were all held via ZOOM. Attendance was excellent.

## January Chapter Meeting

**When:** Monday, January 10, 2022  
**What:** Tim Flager: What Trout Eat & What to Feed Them

Tim provided an excellent presentation to SVTU on on “What Trout Eat & What to Feed Them” that was full of information and really mind-opening videos. He started with a discussion of where trout like to stay and provided video evidence to support the idea that trout are most likely near the bottom. It is one thing to say this and another to watch videos of trout returning to a specific depth. Then the presentation moved into the

selection of macroinvertebrates that trout feed on. Each species was accompanied by an amazing video that provided new insight on the materials used for fly tying. Tim discussed caddisflies, stoneflies, mayflies, midges, terrestrials, bait fish, and eggs as a source of trout food. Along with each source, Tim provided some of his favorite fly patterns to simulate each type of food source.

The flies that were included in the presentation are all on [Tim's YouTube channel](#), and there are playlists there which can help narrow patterns down by category. Check out the SVTU website for links to some of the specific patterns that Tim discussed.

This was an outstanding presentation! There was no recording of this presentation made for posting on the SVTU website. If you get a chance to see Tim's presentation in person... take it in!

## March Chapter Meeting & Elections

**When:** Monday, March 14, 2022  
**What:** “Member's Night”

We did our March meeting a bit differently. We asked our members to be our speakers. We had several members share stories about fishing various locations.

- Joe Walther - Fishing on the Juniata
- Doug Hutzell - Steelhead in Lake Erie Tributaries
- Noel Gollehon - Pine Creek with the Feathered Hook Lodge
- Thearin Wendel - Fall Fishing at Steamboat Springs
- Bob Irvin - Octoraro Creek, a tributary of the Susquehanna River in Maryland

## April Chapter Meeting

**When:** Monday, April 11, 2022  
**What:** Matt Sell, Maryland DNR Fisheries Service—Cold-Water Fishing Opportunities in Western Maryland

If you wondered about fishing in Western Maryland and need some information to get started, or if you make the drive out often, this program was for you. Matt talked about some of the many streams in Western Maryland, their species, regulations, and access points. There was a great discussion about the North Branch of the Potomac, the Savage (both upstream and downstream of the reservoir), and other streams in Garrett County.

## May Chapter Picnic/Fishing Outing at Beaver Creek

**When:** Saturday, May 9, 2022

**What:** Chapter Members and Friends Picnic, Fishing Outing, and Raffle

The fishing outing was washed out due to high stream flows. The day was in the 50's with a stiff wind and rain. 16 people showed up to enjoy burgers and tell stories. The Chapter conducted a silent auction with donated rods, packs, and nets. The attendees agreed the picnic was a success even though the weather was not cooperative.

A previously planned stream sampling and benthic sampling by DNT Fisheries was cancelled.

## SVTU & Education

### Seneca Valley Virtual Fly-Tying

*By Joe Walther, SVTU Vice President*

In February, March, and April 2022, SVTU hosted six fly tying sessions using a virtual platform. This year we upgraded our camera and lighting so the “guest tyers” who did not have an existing broadcast station could use it for their session. We also rotated the instructors, so several had the opportunity to show some of their favorite flies. Our tyers and their patterns were:

- **Blaney Del Priore** with a Brassie Midge and Barr's Slump Buster
- **Bob Irvin** with a Woolly Worm and a Fore-and-Aft
- **Joe Walther** with a Pat's Rubber Legs and a Stimulator
- **Joe Walther** with a Golden Retriever and a Marabou Muddler Minnow
- **Noel Gollehon** with a Sulphur Nymph and a Sulphur Barr Emerger
- **Martyn Holland** with a Peeping Caddis and a Hare's Ear Spider Wet Fly

You can see a photo of the fly and the pattern materials by clicking the “Fly Tying” in the main menu bar on the SVTU website.

Look for an announcement of our 2023 classes later this year.

## SVTU & Conservation

### Trout In the Classroom – (TIC)

*By Noel Gollehon, SVTU President and & Warren C. Junium, Jr. Chapter Board Member*

Trout in the Classroom (TIC) offers students of all ages a chance to raise Salmonids in a classroom setting and then release them into a nearby stream or river. Caring for the fish fosters a conservation ethic in the students, and the act of walking to a streambank and directly releasing the fingerlings into the water makes a concrete connection between caring for the fish and caring for the water.

TU is one of the many organizations facilitating the program across the country. A mix of NGO and government agency support brings this environmental education program into schools in around 35 states. Over 5,000 classrooms participate annually.

Visit [www.troutintheclassroom.org](http://www.troutintheclassroom.org) for more information.

For the local effort George Opryszko, of PPTU, was the Montgomery County TIC Coordinator. Several local Chapter members participated including: Dale Thatcher, Sonny Bell, Noel Gollehon and Leonard Keifer from SVTU.

The team distributed eggs to a total of twenty schools including four elementary, 14 middle and two high schools. These schools have set up a total of 32 tanks.

Those delivering eggs met at a specified location to pick up the eggs, set the eggs in a cooler, and then proceeded to deliver them to the schools and then helped place the live eggs to the tank in participating classrooms.

If you want to engage with the kids and talk about the eggs, most teachers like that. Lots of teachers video the delivery. In the spring (March through June) TU members volunteer to assist in the release of the fingerlings into Little Seneca Creek in Boyds. The volunteers assist the students in casting a fly rod. Some students become very proficient in placing a fuzz-ball on the end of the tippet in a two-foot ring from 25 feet. That is amazing since most have never picked up a fly rod and two instructors are working with a dozen students at the same time. TU members also tie flies

and try to emphasize the link between the macroinvertebrates students collected in the creek and what flies are trying to mimic.

It is a lot of fun to both deliver the eggs to schools and participate in the release. If you have some time in December of egg delivery or during the week from mid-March to early June and would like to assist, just let us know by using the contact us form.

## Spring Beaver Creek Workday

**When: Saturday, April 9, 2022**

**Where: Beaver Creek, Hagerstown MD**

SVTU received permission from DNR to remove a couple of trees across Beaver Creek, just upstream of the area where the Chapter assists with tree plantings and maintenance. While wood in the water often improves fish habitat, that was not the case with these trees that spanned the creek just above the water level. If a person wading was caught under these trees the outcome could be catastrophic. For safety reasons it was decided to remove them.

A group of six from SVTU and Antietam Fly Anglers met on the stream on April 9 to remove the trees. This was HEAVY work. First, we safely used chain saws to cut the trees into sections. Next, we floated (pulled and pushed) the logs to calm water near a bank. Finally, we used chains and a come-along and boards for a temporary ramp to pull the logs out of the stream onto the bank. We got it done with what we had, but it was hard work. It was also very satisfying to see that wading hazard removed and the job accomplished with no injury except a few sore muscles.



*Cleaning off the small limbs to gain access for the chain saws.*



*It took a lot of manpower to position the logs s they could be removed.*



*A temporary ramp helps the slide up and out of the creek.*



*The pulling power comes from the guy working the come-along anchored to a nearby tree.*

## Beaver Creek Trout Survey

**When:** Thursday, August 18,  
**What:** DNR: Michael Kashiwagi, DNR Fisheries Biologist

*By Doug Hutzell, SVTU Board member*

DNR Fisheries wrapped up this year's Beaver Creek trout survey. They surveyed three 300 meter reaches of stream: one in the Put & Take area above the confluence of Black Rock Creek (behind the fly shop) and two in the Catch & Release area down stream of Black Rock / Beaver Creek confluence. All three areas produced young of year and adult brown trout. Trout size ranged from 2 inches to 20 inches and all fish were healthy with minimum hook injury. Michael Kashiwagi, DNR Fisheries Biologist said, that it has been another good year for Beaver Creek.

## Beaver Creek Eagle Scout Project

**When:** August 2022  
**What:** Beaver Creek Church Road Fly Fishing area Kiosk & Benches

*By Doug Hutzell, SVTU Board member*

A kiosk and two benches were installed at the Beaver Creek Church Road fly fishing parking lot on August 6, 2022. This was an Eagle Scout project conduct by Boy Scout Troop 8 of Hagerstown.



The scout's name that was in charge of this project is Jesse Mangalapati. He and five other scouts showed up to auger holes and clear brush to install the sign board and benches with rod holders built into the back of each bench. Jesse was able to raise the funds for the project through "GoFundMe". He spent 10-12 hours

building the benches and installing them. This was a long-time coming for an information sign that will include fishing regulations, a map of the fly-fishing area and information about the organizations that have been involved in the restoration of wild trout in Beaver Creek.



## SVTU Stories

### Western Fishing Trip to Colorado and Utah, July 2022

*By Noel Gollehon, SVTU Chapter President*

A group of six, including me, traveled to Colorado and Utah in July 2022 to fish. We fished the Conejos River in Southern Colorado and the Green below Flaming Gorge Dam in Utah. It was a great trip!

For those that have never fished the Conejos it drains the eastern slope of the San Juan Mountains through some spectacular country. It is a tailwater stream. There is a dam/reservoir managed for an irrigation water supply very near the headwaters of the stream. The reservoir is above the village of Platoro at an elevation of about 10,000 feet. When we were there in early July the monsoon rains were ongoing, so the river had plenty of water from tributaries and runoff with minimal reservoir releases. (We have been there in

## Seneca Valley Angler—September 2022

previous years where the stream was heavily dependent on reservoir releases.)

The Conejos is a moderate-sized stream. Access is through Forest service lands scattered along the lower river up to almost all forest service land in the headwaters. There is posted private land along the stream so you must pay attention to where you fish. We fished both the public water and paid rod fees to fish some private water. We all caught fish and had a great time!

We access the Conejos by flying into Albuquerque and driving straight north to Antonito, CO, then west up the Conejos valley. There is a grocery store and two restaurants in Antonito. There are a good number of cabins and rental places in the Conejos Valley, but no hotels/motels within 30 miles.



*The Conejos below Platoro.*



*Doug with a resident Brown on the Conejos.*



*Doug with a Rainbow in a private water section of the Conejos.*

Then it was off to the Green River below the Flaming Gorge Dam in Utah. Much of the Green is wade accessible, but there are limited access points. There is an access point below the dam with the next access point seven miles downstream at Little Hole. There is a trail that connects the two access points, but the most common wade access is to hike upstream from Little Hole until you reach your desired level of “fishing by yourself.”

The most common way to access the river is by drift boat. The float through the first seven miles (A section) is almost all between canyon walls. The water is clear, and the cliffs are spectacular! There is a good population of nice-sized brown trout, and the float can be a lot of fun. Fish rise to dry flies almost all day and they did in July. Some fish nymphs and probably catch more fish, but do you have more fun?

This year Leslie and I also fished the ten mile “B” section and about three miles of the “C” section. The water in these lower sections is still very nice. One nice feature of this area is the riverside camps that are only accessible by boat. However, there are not as many insects, fish (or boats fishing) but the fish tend to be bigger. The canyon walls are upstream and there is more of a valley with bluffs and hills away from the river. It looks a lot like many Western Rivers. The Green in the “B” and “C” sections has no services, limited access, and few ranch houses. If you want to fish this area, go with a guide/outfitter, or do your homework!

There is no easy way to get to the Green below Flaming Gorge. It is definitely a destination spot, you go to fish the Green, it is not a stop in on your way to another river. Drive time is about four hours from Salt

# Seneca Valley Angler—September 2022

Lake City, UT, the nearest major airport. (Some smaller airports with limited service are closer.) Dutch John is the closest “town” with a couple of fly shops and several guide services. There is a real “lodge” about 20 miles from Dutch John, but other than fisherman accommodations (two beds and a shower), lodging (and restaurant choice) is very limited in the area. If you want to fish the Green, plan it advance and unless you are willing to pay at the lodge, keep your expectations for accommodations in check.



*The canyon walls of the “A” section of the Green below Flaming Gorge.*



*The river walls open up in the “B” section.*



*A nice fish from the “B” section. Note the large cicada pattern.*

## A Modern Take on Fishing Journals

**By Joe Walther, SVTU Chapter Vice President**

I don't know how long fisherman have been keeping fishing journals, but I am certain that the practice has been around much longer than I have. I had heard about the concept of keeping notes from your fishing outings for most of my angling career, but never put (digital) pen to paper (spreadsheet) until a few years ago. Most of my initial exposure to the idea centered around a bound notebook used to log dates, water and air temperatures, and experiences on the water. Maybe it's the engineer in me, but I was always skeptical of how years of handwritten notes would impact my fishing success. After all, what good is data if you can't make use of it?

After moving to Maryland and having kids about five years ago, I found a local stream that allowed me to get a morning of fishing in before I needed to get back to help with preparing lunches and getting the little ones down for a nap. While I still love to get out to the more renowned waters of western Maryland, the local stream maximized my time on the water by skipping the need for an hour and a half commute.

At first, my success was fairly slow, but I attributed that to not knowing the stream well. I would have good days and bad days. Days where I would catch a handful of fish, and days that were skunkers. I fished any day that I had an easy opportunity to get out, which meant a wide variety of stream and weather conditions, and importantly a pretty diverse dataset. Somewhat frustrated with my seemingly stochastic success, I made the decision to start keeping a log of my fishing



# Seneca Valley Angler—September 2022

trips in hopes of better understanding the conditions that lead to more hookups.

I will provide two caveats to my experiences below. First, at this point I am more of a smallmouth bass fisherman than a trout angler, although I have gone through various stages in my fly-fishing lifecycle including trout bum, chasing salmon and steelhead, and dabbling in the salt, but I imagine this type of analysis would translate. Second, if this isn't already apparent, I nerd out on data analysis. With the second stated, I decided to keep my fishing journal in spreadsheet format that allowed me to easily analyze data trends and develop simple predictive models.

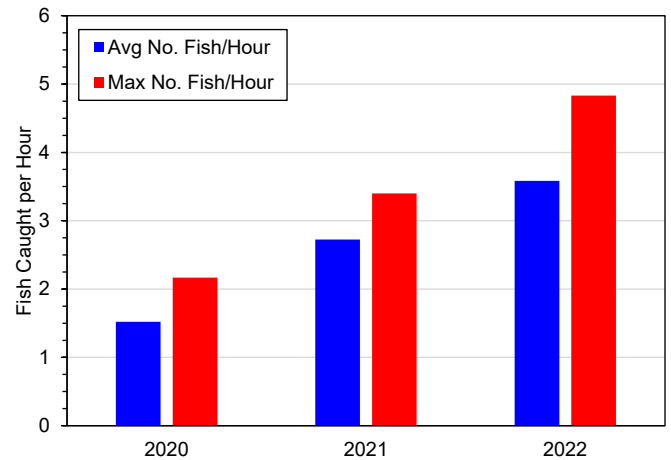
And so it began a few years back that I started capturing what I thought was the most relevant data surrounding my fishing outings. I logged stream and air temperatures, overall weather conditions (sunny, overcast, windy, etc.), gauge heights and flow rates, the number of hours spent fishing, the total number of fish landed, the number of different species, and the characteristics of the flies used to catch those fish (fly name, size, color).

Now looking back over the data and trends from the last few years, it is clear that my success has increased with each year of fishing passed. Sure, some of this could be attributed to a better understanding of the stream and some improved tactics, but there is no doubt that I was able to identify more opportune days to hit the water. My skunk rate has noticeably dropped each year, and my average catch rate continues to tick up. I learned how to predict when conditions would be right for a successful day on the water by primarily monitoring the USGS gauge website from the comfort of my couch.

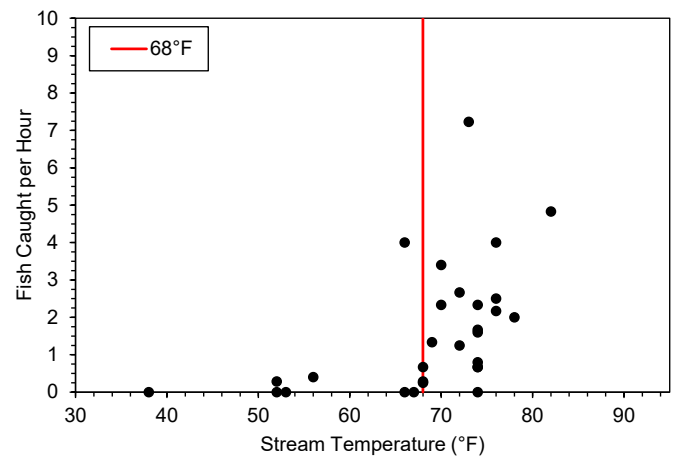
Two of the most prominent factors in judging stream conditions are water temperature and flow rate. Logging the temperature data helped me identify when the smallmouth bite would start to turn on in early summer, and the flow rate data identified days that would be ideal for fishing and wading. If your stream has a USGS water station site available, the stream flow rate and gauge height are easy to figure out. However, my local stream did not have temperature monitors at its only measurement station. Instead, I had to rely on being on the water to take readings with my thermometer to log that data. Eventually, I had the idea to correlate my tributary's temperatures with that

of the mainstem Potomac River which did capture that type of data.

Fish Caught per Hour in July vs. Calendar Year



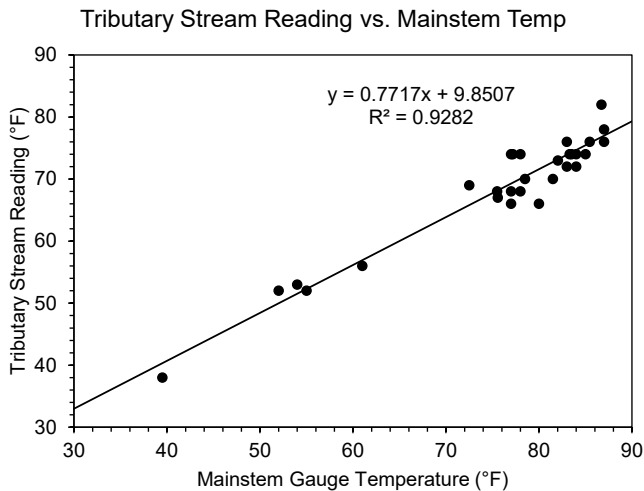
Fish Caught Per Hour vs. Stream Temperature



One of the benefits of an electronic fishing journal is the flexibility to revisit old logs and modify them with updated information. Historical information for weather conditions and USGS gauge data are readily available online, so I was able to retroactively include Potomac River flow rate and water temperature data from previous outings. Furthermore, historical datasets were available for download in spreadsheet format that mapped water conditions over the last decade or two. I then had all of the information needed to correlate my local stream water temperature data to that of the mainstem Potomac.

The spreadsheet format was also conducive to perform a linear fit of the mainstem vs. tributary temperature data to be able to predict my local stream temperature based on the latest Potomac River USGS water station reading. What I found was that during the late spring and early summer months, the

mainstem Potomac runs about 10 degrees warmer than my local tributary.



I have also found that the fishing journal has provided valuable insight on fish behavior at different times of year. I found that in late spring, I caught significantly more fallfish than any other times of the year by drifting wooly buggers, golden retrievers, and zonkers low in the water column. I suspect that this timeframe somehow aligns with their spawning run, information that I would not have been aware of without keeping a log or researching on my own. I have also confirmed that the best smallmouth fishing of the year occurred after the emergence of crayfish. I now pay much more attention to the stream bottom as I wade in late June into early July searching for the indicative crustaceans and looking forward to throwing weighted crayfish patterns that are the hot ticket from late July through September.

I have learned a lot about my local fishery and have improved as an angler through keeping a fishing journal, and maybe more importantly, a digital record. The data I have collected has helped me target my days off from work (or parenting) in a way that has increased my enjoyment and success on the water.

I have learned more about fish behavior, the response of tributaries and mainstem rivers to rain events, as well as annual patterns and variations. Sometimes it's just nice to get out on the water, but I am sure that we can all agree that it is even better when a plan comes together. If you have not yet been documenting your fishing outings, I would encourage you to pick up the practice if you have ever been

curious about it. You may just find the practice as informative and fun as I have.

## For Bad Eyes or Shaky Hands a Better Way to Attach a Fly to a Leader

*By Bob Irvin, SVTU Board member*

Earlier this year, I lost most of my vision due to a rare condition. With some low vision remaining in my right eye, I was determined to find a way to continue tying flies and fly fishing. One of the biggest challenges was how to thread a leader through a hook eye and tie a clinch knot. To be frank, this was often a challenge even when I could see fully, as aging eyes and unsteady hands made it hard to do.

Fortunately, I found a solution that works well and is easy to obtain. A dental floss threader works great and can be purchased at any drug store or online. With a long straight piece and a large loop at one end, a floss threader can be used to pull a leader through the hook eye.

### Here's How

- Position the hook eye between your thumb and index finger.
- With your other hand, guide the long piece of the floss threader through the hook eye by feel, using your thumb and index finger on either side of the hook eye as guides.
- Next, with the floss threader positioned in the hook eye, place the end of a leader through the large loop of the floss threader, with two or three inches or more of leader through the loop.
- Then pull the straight end of the floss threader through the hook eye along with the large loop and the leader.
- Once the leader is through the hook eye, slide the floss threader loop off the leader and grab the leader and its tag end and twist the fly 6 or 7 times.
- With the fingers of the hand holding the fly, feel for the loop in front of the hook eye or make a loop opening through which to insert the tag end of the leader.
- Once the leader is through that loop, hold the tag end and the fly, pull the leader in the opposite direction to cinch the knot, applying a little saliva to tighten the knot.

After mastering this technique, I wondered why I hadn't thought of using it even when I had my sight. I am pleased to report that I used it successfully to attach and change flies when fishing the upper Monocacy this summer. Even better, I caught a nice smallmouth bass there on a black wooly bugger I tied myself! The great thing about fly fishing is there is always something we can learn about how to catch fish.

## The Adaptive Caster

The Chapter has been the benefactor of excellent casting instruction and tips throughout the years thanks to Dave.

He has provided live instruction at various Chapter meetings and events, often with assistance from other instructors

In addition to live instruction, Dave has authored many great articles on "the cast" that are posted on the Chapter website.

- Small Streams—Headwaters of the Fly-Fishing Experience
- Weighty Adjustments
- Casting: Practice With Purpose
- Loops
- Tips and Techniques—Teaching and Practicing
- Good Starts for a Good Cast—Low, Slow, and Slackless Pickups
- Accuracy—Tips for Spot-on Casting
- Don't Forget the Line Hand
- Backcasts—Improving the Hidden Half of Your Cast

For the complete article, and his other instructional articles go to [the ADAPTIVE CASTER](#) link on the lower right of the main page of [the SVTU WEBSITE](#).

*Dave Cleaves of North Potomac is a Fly Fishers International (FFI) 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 Discovery 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.*

## Other News

### Beaver Creek Fly Shop

If you have not had the opportunity to visit the shop, it is worth your while especially if you head to Beaver Creek in search of its elusive trout. The shop is owned/managed by **Precision Fly and Tackle** out of Lancaster PA. This is their third store with another in Mt. Holly Springs PA.

The store carries Orvis, Sage, and Scott rods (for those that wish to spend more) as well as other more moderately priced rods.

They also maintain a full fly shop complete with a full selection of fly-tying materials. The manager is Ben John, who was our speaker for the December 2021 meeting. Stop in and see him and let him know you are a member of Seneca Valley TU.

## Support SVTU When you Shop OR By Making a Donation!

We have made it easy to make monetary donation to SVTU by clicking the "Donate Button" on our site. Or you can [go directly to the donation page here](#). It will redirect you to a donate page where you can donate as much as you wish. We thank you for your donation.

### 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

### CAUSE NETWORK

Due to security issues with Cause Network, we have removed the link to Cause Network from our site. We do not recommend that SVTU members visit the Cause Network site. If you have bookmarked the site, please remove it.

## Stay Informed About Happenings in our Chapter

### 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.** Our database is separate from National 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>

### Verify Your TU Membership Status

There has been a lot of chatter on the TU website regarding membership by many chapter reps around the country. One key issue is that many members do not review ad update, if necessary, their profiles.

As newsletter and email communications editor I utilize the Chapter membership roster that TU National provides to approved Chapter Officers.

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 your membership!**

### 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). We hope to see you at future events.