

SENECA VALLEY ANGLER

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OFFICERS

President: Noel Gollehon

Vice President: Joe Walther

Secretary: Bruno Beca

Treasurer: Nate Wallace

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We welcome you to join us at our Chapter meetings, events, and instructional opportunities in 2023!

President's Note

As we emerge from the COVID related restrictions, SVTU had a very good year in 2022. We held very successful Fishing 101 with an expanded focus to include spin fishing and had the largest participation of any of our learn-to fish courses. We had interesting and educational speakers at our meetings and sponsored two Beaver Creek workdays with close to 50 volunteers attending for stream and riparian maintenance.

We have plans in the works for a great program to kick off 2023. Our first presenter in 2023 is Steve Moyer. Mr. Moyer is the Vice-President for Governmental Affairs at Trout Unlimited. He has more than 30-year of experience working on conservation policy, especially at the regional and national scale. He will be speaking about his personal experience in fisheries conservation. I cannot emphasize enough the high honor it is for Mr. Moyer to take his time to speak with a local TU Chapter like SVTU. You are welcome to join us on-site, but this will be streamed as well. So, join us or dial in to LEARN about national policy that impacts local waters and the fishing that they support.

SVTU is also planning a hybrid fly-tying series with sessions starting in February and continuing through April (the first session in January is an introduction to learn the fundamentals needed to tie flies.). See the article in this Newsletter for more information.

[Continued on Page 7](#)

2023 SVTU Meeting & Event Schedule

January 9	SVTU Chapter Meeting Steve Moyer, VP for Govt. Affairs, National TU " <i>Reading the Water: Reflections on Three Decades of Fish Conservation Policy</i> "
January 23	Fly Tying: Introduction Session
January 25	SVTU Board meeting
February 6	Fly Tying—check website for details
February 13	SVTU Chapter Meeting & Elections
February 22	SVTU Board Meeting
February 27	Fly Tying—check website for details
March 4 & 5	The Fly Fishing Show, Lancaster PA
March 6	Fly Tying—check website for details
March 13	SVTU Chapter Meeting
March 18	Maryland Fly Fishing & Collectible Tackle Show
March 20	Fly Tying—check website for details
March 22	SVTU Board Meeting
April 10	SVTU Chapter Meeting
April 17	Fly Tying—check website for details
April 26	SVTU Board Meeting
May 8	SVTU Chapter Meeting
May 24	SVTU Board Meeting
June – Aug	"Summer break" no Chapter Meetings

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

Upcoming 2023 Chapter Meetings and Events

January Chapter Meeting

Special Speaker—**Steve Moyer, VP of Government Affairs, National TU**

Mark your calendar now for this special program.

When: Monday, January 9, 2023
What: Combo meeting, both in-person & Zoom
Where: IWLA-R Chapter House
12057 Clopper Road, Germantown, MD
Social: 7:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Demonstration:

During the “social time” Dave Cleaves of Adaptive Caster will be demonstrating how to do a cross-body cast

Zoom: Sign-in: 7:15 – 7:30 p.m.(see link below)

Program Start: 7:30 p.m.

Speaker: Steve Moyer, VP of Government Affairs, National TU

Program: Reading the Water: Reflections on Three Decades of Fish Conservation Policy

After a distinguished career of more than 30 years leading Trout Unlimited’s national conservation policy work, Steve Moyer, Vice President for Government Affairs, will reflect on the successes and future challenges for saving fish and their habitat. From Bristol Bay to the Klamath dams, from the Clean Water Act to the Endangered Species Act, and from the first Bush administration to the Biden administration, Steve has been at the forefront of every major fishery conservation battle and will draw on his experiences to offer a hopeful message for the future of fish conservation.

[Click here to Join the Meeting](#)

2023 Charles August Memorial Fly Tying Sessions

[Check Website for Details](#)

January 23 thru April 17, 2023

When: Various Mondays
Where: In-Person at the IWLA-R Chapter House
12057 Clopper Road, Germantown, MD
Zoom: Zoom Sign-in: 7:15 p.m.
Class Start: 7:30 p.m.

You do not have to register for these sessions.

For the 2023 Winter/Spring Fly Tying, SVTU is planning on offering a “hybrid” experience. We plan to make the tying sessions a social event since we have not seen each other face-to-face many times in the past few years. It will be a good time to catch up on fishing and family, as well as do some fly tying.

For those that are not comfortable attending in-person, we will also stream the class via Zoom. As you know, it is easy to see what someone is doing online but nothing replaces a little hands-on instruction when you cannot make what looks “so easy” on the screen work for you.

We are planning on returning to a more structured course this year with specific fly patterns and materials needed shown on our website. Our limited number of tying vises and tool sets will be available to those that attend in person. SVTU will also furnish needed materials for those that attend in-person.

Sessions are planned for Monday nights in February, March, and April. (See current schedule on page 1). There will be an introduction to the fundamentals on Monday, January 23 to help beginning fly tyers with general information on tools, techniques, and basic skills that are needed to make the classes enjoyable. We will finish up with a class at the Izaak Walton Lake to put our new flies to the test in early May.

Watch the website for more information on flies, materials needed and other updates.

February -June 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.

Officer and Board elections will be in February.

February Chapter Meeting (In-person & Zoom Mtg.)

When: Monday, February 13, 2023

The Chapter is finalizing the Program for this meeting. We will be having officer and board member elections during this meeting.

Other Happenings

The Fly Fishing Show, Lancaster, Pa.

When: Saturday & Sunday, Mar.4 & 5, 2023

Where: Lancaster County Convention Center
25 Queen Street, Lancaster Pa. 17602

Check out the [show's website](#) for details of vendors, speakers, directions for the venue, and admission cost.

Maryland Fly Fishing & Collectible Tackle Show

When: Saturday, March 18, 2023

Where: West Village Commons
Towson University
404 Emerson Drive, Towson, MD

Summary from the show's website:

"One of the east coast's premier shows, the Maryland Fly Fishing and Collectible Tackle Show brings together fishing enthusiasts throughout the mid-Atlantic region with high quality fishing dealers for a day of tackle review, sales, demonstrations, seminars, clinics and conversation.

Wayne Grauer, the show's founder, mission is to host a fishing show that relates specifically to the fly-fishing angler. A show focused on bringing uniquely skilled independent vendors throughout the east coast to display and sell their special fishing products and services, from collectibles to new custom rods are all

on display for you to see and purchase. Our vendors include; independent fly fishing retailers, collectible dealers, fly shops, fishing guides, fly tiers and artists. From a learning and entertainment perspective, we will have professional free seminars throughout the day, casting demonstrations and a few surprises!"

[Get the details](#) regarding the show location, directions, show presentations/presenters, vendors, and admission costs.

Recap of Fall 2022 Meetings & Activities

Following, is a brief description of some of the recent 2022 SVTU Chapter activities. Despite the impact of COVID-19 some of these activities were able to be held "live" following the applicable guidelines.

Fishing 101 – Intro to Spin & Fly Fishing

On Saturday, September 10, 2022, Seneca Valley Trout Unlimited (SVTU) partnered with the Izaak Walton League of America, Rockville (IWLA-R) to a host Fishing 101 Class on September 10, 2022. This class provided teens and adults an introduction to both spin fishing and fly fishing—presenting the basics of fishing with artificial flies and lures.

We had about 20 students attend the four hours of instruction (10 a.m – 2 p.m), including a combination of lectures, demonstrations, and hands-on practice. The instructors were drawn from the excellent talent pool of SVTU and IWLA-R and covered:

- A general overview of fishing and fly fishing
- Where to fish locally, and how to find places to fish
- Fishing Ethics (how to interact with fish and fishers)
- Knots and rigging
- What fish eat (flies and lures)
- Casting and techniques (for both spin and fly fishing)

One of the most valuable components of the course was a list of resources addressing all the topics that were covered. That resource sheet with more information on all the topics can be found at

https://senecavalleytu.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Fishing101_Resource-List.pdf.

SVTU furnished a spin fishing rod and reel combo and a fly rod and reel combo as prizes in a drawing for the students of the course. Ethan Lee had the winning ticket for the spinning combo and Ping Jiang won the fly rig combo.

It was a great day with everyone enjoying the course, a great lunch, and the beautiful day.



Students getting an introduction to spinning rods.



Noel presents Ethan Lee with his new spinning rod.



Ping Jiang, the recipient of the fly rod combo, and her family at Fishing 101

September Chapter Meeting

When: Monday, September 12, 2022
Speaker: Tom Martin, Heavy Water Anglers
Program: Streamers & Streamer Fishing

Tom gave an outstanding presentation for those interested in streamer fishing. Tom talked about the types of streamers he uses, how to fish them and equipment needed. It was very in-depth, and had a lot of excellent information.

The meeting was held as hybrid in-person/Zoom meeting.

October Chapter Meeting

When: Monday, October 10, 2022
Speaker: Maggie Heumann, Manager of Volunteer Operations for trout
What: Trout Unlimited: Who we are, what we do, and how you can help!

Maggie Heumann, the Manager of Volunteer Operations for TU's National Office gave a presentation about TU—who they are, and what they do. She covered the organization and its structure; the current and future outlook for TU, and our roles as TU members and/or supporters. [You can watch the presentation here.](#) Please note you will be redirected to Vimeo to watch.

Fall Beaver Creek Workday

When: Saturday, November 5, 2021
Where: Beaver Creek, Hagerstown MD
What: Annual Beaver Creek Workday

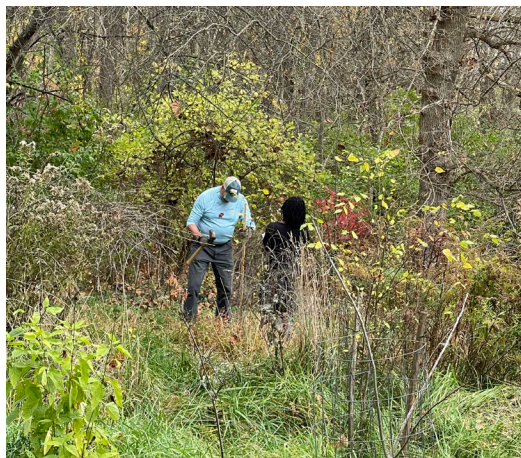
Once again, on the first Saturday in November, volunteers were mustered to Beaver Creek, to conduct streamside maintenance.

With great weather, the nine members from Seneca Valley TU Chapter (SVTU) and Beaver Creek Watershed Association (BCWA) along with 18 students from St. James High School were ready to tackle the day's tasks.

Tree guards were removed, and trees along the stream trail pruned. Wire around some trees was removed. Wire cages were installed around shrubs to try and prevent deer damage and around some trees due to the discovery of recent beaver damage. Old livestock fencing was removed, trash picked-up along Black Rock & Beaver Creeks, and recently installed benches secured. The benches were part of an Engle Scout project built by Jesse Mangalapati. Lunch was a highlight of the day with sub sandwiches, homemade chili and apple crisp.

Enthusiasm continued in the afternoon to complete the remaining work. A few diehard volunteers stayed afterwards for a nice cold beverage and to critique the day's work.

All-in-all it was a great day and SVTU and BCWA would like to thank everyone who attended, for a job well done. And a [very special thanks](#) to the participating students from the Saint James School in Hagerstown.



Installing wire cages around shrubs to protect from browsing deer



St. James students mixing concrete to anchor one of the benches at the fisherman's parking lot on Beaver Creek Church Road



The workday crew!

November Chapter Meeting

When: Monday, November 14, 2022
Speaker: Don Fine
What: Basics of Building Your Own Fly Rod

Don did an outstanding job of discussing the basic steps for construction of a 'personalized/custom' fly rod, as well as a demonstration and review of the basic components which comprise a standard fly rod. You can [watch Don's presentation here](#) (you will be redirected to Vimeo).

The Adaptive Caster

Dave Cleaves

Dave Cleaves, of the Adaptive Caster has a new article for us. *Going Offside to Open Your Casting Options*. We are providing a glimpse of the article, but the complete article with diagrams can be found [here](#).

Advice from a Pro

In a recent SVTU chapter meeting, Tom Martin, well-known guide, and owner of [Heavy Water Anglers](#) gave an excellent talk on streamer fishing. He also told us that from a casting standpoint, being able to make cross-body casts is important, given the variety of obstacles and safety concerns that arise on the casting side, whether fishing from boats or wading.

Great advice. Let's see what it takes to cast on the opposite or offside of your body—left side for right-handed casters and vice versa. You may open up casting opportunities and enjoy your next trip with Tom, other guides, and friends even more fully.

Offside casts are also called the cross-body, over-the-shoulder, backhand, and other names. They also have some rather unflattering names given to them by unprepared anglers. Offside casts are normal casting strokes performed in different planes than your regular overhead cast. The objective is to avoid barriers on your right—or reach targets otherwise unavailable by moving the rod tip along the left side of your body. You still use your dominant hand and do not shift to another casting position, by casting across your body or off your non-dominant shoulder. With these adjustments, you can tackle some difficult situations and keep yourself and the friends, family, or guide on your right side safe and more relaxed. No hard hats needed.

There are other techniques for getting the fly to your left such as spey casts, oval casts, and curve casts, but they involve line flying on your right side. You can also learn to cast with your non-dominant hand, a useful skill that takes some retraining of both your right and left hands to reverse their roles. We will address these options in future columns.

Two Moves—Many Situations

There are two basic offside-cast moves. The cross-body cast brings the rod back to stop at your chest before reversing into the forward stroke. The over-the-shoulder move, also called the off-shoulder tilt brings the rod over your head and opposite shoulder by raising the elbow and tilting the rod to put the rod tip path on the other side. Click [here](#) to watch Orvis's instructor Pete Kutzer demonstrate offside casting in dealing with a sidewind.

Here are some situations for offside casts:

- **Boats**—You are trying to cast out in front and/or your right. But the path of the line could strafe and maybe collide with other passengers. Not a safe move, especially if the flies are heavy or pushed around by the wind. Joe Mahler, Florida guide, casting instructor, and illustrator calls this hazard set the "No-Fly-Zone".
- **Wading**—Bank-side trees, brush, and other hungry vegetation walls you in on your right. Deep or treacherous water out to your left prohibits wading out and away.
- **Wind**—blowing into your casting side, slapping your body, or pushing the cast off-track to the target. See another excellent article in the digital Fly Fisherman magazine on casting in the wind by [Joe Mahler](#).
- **Fish rising or cruising**—off to your left, reachable only by changing your position and/or making multiple false casts that could spook them down or off to parts unknown. Sometimes fish can tell you are a right-hander and work left just to aggravate you.

During a day of fishing, you may be confronted with these and other challenges that could shrink your casting options. They may require that you cast offside—maybe for extended periods, without tiring or losing your accuracy—while dealing with other demons like rocking boats, changing winds, or weighted and unwieldy rigs.

Practicing offside casting moves can prepare you to toggle more freely between different casting situations. You can expand the zone in time and space that is effectively "castable". And you can enjoy the fishing experience inside this zone with safer and

more relaxed casting, more ease in handling winds, and less body turning, shifting, false casting.

A side-benefit of improving your offside cast is improvement in your basic casting stroke on either side—specifically in backcast form and forward cast accuracy. The offside moves set up the chest and opposite shoulder as effective body blocks that prompt your hand to stop the rod cleanly on the backstroke, giving you a tighter, more efficient loop. And on the forward stroke, because your right hand more is more tightly aligned to the eye to target line, you may become more accurate. Some of my casting students, after experiencing these improvements, have adopted a more vertical (i.e., closer to offside) casting style in their regular onside stroke.

Dave Cleaves

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.

Get the complete article here

Editor's Note

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. Here is a list of his gems.

- Accuracy—Tips for Spot-on Casting
- Backcasts—Improving the Hidden Half of Your Cast
- Don't Forget the Line Hand for Better Casting
- Destination Casting—Planning and Practice for Fly Fishing Trips
- Good Starts for a Good Cast—Low, Slow, and Slackless Pickups
- Hauling
- Loops

- Ovals - Rounding Out Your Casting Repertoire
- Practice Casting With Purpose
- Small Streams—Headwaters of the Fly Fishing Experience
- Tips and Techniques—Teaching and Practicing
- Weighty Adjustments

Here is the link to the articles on the Chapter Website in the section [THE ADAPTIVE CASTER](#).

Make sure to keep an eye on our website for notifications of future casting instruction and/or more articles.

Note from the President Continued

With spring coming on we will look to offer our Fly Fishing 101 course again, so keep an eye out for this class on instruction on how to use that new fly-fishing outfit you acquired over the Holidays. This course is your one-stop class for casting, rigging, and fly-fishing techniques. Also in the plans for the fall is another Fishing 101 course that will provide information in both spin and fly fishing. (See the article about our first Fishing 101 course offered in 2022 in this newsletter.)

You can tell we have a lot already in the works for 2023, and the year is just starting! We will have more work to do on Beaver Creek in 2023. We co-host an annual workday in November and provide additional voluntary time as needed. (Last year we removed two storm-downed trees that were wading hazards.)

We did all this with a small core of dedicated volunteers that could use your help to make 2023 an even better year. SVTU operates on the skills of our volunteer leaders. We have need for new ideas and approaches on our leadership team. This is a great opportunity to give back to the organization and join this group of leaders. SVTU will be conducting elections at its February 2023 meeting, and we need you to join the Chapter leadership team. We will have an open position on the Board of Directors. (One of our directors moved out of the area to take his “dream” job and we must fill his position.) The time commitments can be as much as you want, or only few as a couple hours a month. What we need are new ideas and a desire to help make those ideas become a reality. We are in real need to find a volunteer to help lead fishing outings for those that

wish to fish with friends. We are all volunteers, we understand if SVTU is not on the top of your agenda, but we have a great group of officers and directors, and it is a chance to give back to the sport of fly fishing and the resources that support it.

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 improving path in 2023.

Stay safe and Tight lines!
Noel Gollehon, President SVTU

Other News

Maryland DNR News Trout Stocking has Commenced!

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has not produced a stocking schedule for 2023 at this time. Preseason trout stocking has commenced in December.

All stocked locations that fall under a closure period will be announced prior to the traditional opening day March 25, 2023.

The department posts stocking updates on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) and through its [email news service](#). Lastly, anglers may also call 800-688-3467 and press option #1 to get a recorded weekly update when stocking is in process (usually updated on Fridays).

Put-and-take areas have a five-trout limit and specific spring closures depending on location. Consult the Maryland Guide to Fishing and Crabbing for [closure dates and special management area restrictions](#).

The daily limit in areas (that are not put-and-take or special management areas) is two trout with no minimum size and no closed season, except in special trout management and put-and-take areas.

Trout anglers are reminded that [regulations for brook trout](#) are now in effect requiring catch-and-release in all put-and-take trout areas and all waters east of Interstate 81. Anglers should take time to properly [identify brook trout](#)—*which are not stocked by the department*—when fishing in catch-and-release waters.

Time to Renew Your Fishing License!

As a reminder, with the New year here don't forget to renew your fishing license for 2023!

Purchase your license through the DNR website / COMPASS portal. See links:

- [DNR licensing requirements/information](#)
- [COMPASS portal to purchase a license](#)

Support SVTU

Support SVTU with 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.

Support SVTU when you Shop!

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://www.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

As a reminder (we reported in our September 2022 Newsletter) 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.

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>
<https://compass.dnr.maryland.gov/dnrcompassportal>

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 and 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 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 or to the Chapter @ svtroutunlimited@gmail.com. We hope to see you at future events.

We hope to see you at future meetings and events!