



SENECA VALLEY ANGLER

Official Publication of Seneca Valley Trout Unlimited

Chapter # 369—Vol. 42. No.1

www.senecavalleytu.org

JANUARY 2024

OFFICERS

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Vice President: Joe Walther

Secretary: VACANT

Treasurer: Nate Wallace

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We welcome you to join us at our Chapter meetings, events, and instructional opportunities in 2024!

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President's Note

As we start the new year, I would like to thank all the people that make Seneca Valley TU the organization that it is today. We have over 300 members but the people who put in the time are the officers, directors, and a core of dedicated volunteers that make the "big wheels roll". I am not going to start naming names, but you know who you are, and I wish to thank you!

Looking forward to 2024, we have a very busy winter/spring planned! It starts with our regular "meetings" which should more appropriately be called "educational seminars." The upcoming "regular" meetings on the second Monday of the month have an outstanding lineup of speakers—your fishing knowledge will improve if you join us. Details on the speakers and their topics are in this newsletter.

[Continued on page 10](#)

2024 SVTU Meeting and Event Schedule

January 8	SVTU Chapter Meeting: Steve Culton, guide: The Little Things 1.0
January 29	Fly Tying: Introduction Session
February 5	Fly Tying—Check website for pattern
February 12	SVTU Chapter Meeting & Elections Tim Flagler: Euro-Nymphing
February 19	Fly Tying—Check website for pattern
March 4	Fly Tying—Check website for pattern
March 11	SVTU Chapter Meeting South Branch Outfitters
March 18	Fly Tying—Check website for pattern
April 1	Fly Tying—Check website for pattern
April 8	SVTU Chapter Meeting: Bryan Donoway, Gunpowder River
April 15	Fly Tying – Final Session
May 13	SVTU Chapter Meeting: TBD

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

All our in-person meetings are held at the address below:

IWLA-R Chapter House
18301 Waring Station Road
Germantown MD 20874

Upcoming 2024 Chapter Meetings and Events

January Chapter Meeting (Zoom)

When: Monday, January 8, 2024
What: Zoom Meeting
Zoom: Sign-in: 7:15 – 7:30 p.m.
[Sign in here](#)
Program Start: 7:30 p.m.
Speaker: Steve Culton, Farmington/Saltwater guide/flytier/speaker
Program: **The Little Things 1.0**

They say that 10% of the anglers catch 90% of the fish. If that's true, it's not because those 10% are supernaturally gifted angling demigods. It's not because they are lucky. It's because they do a lot of little things that other anglers don't. As a guide, I have the opportunity to observe how people fish. I see their mistakes as well as their triumphs. When I'm fishing, I am constantly making adjustments and trying new approaches. That's what **The Little Things** is all about—seemingly insignificant practices that can make a big difference in your fishing.

About Steve

Steve has been writing about fishing since the first grade when he composed an essay about an outing with his father. Since then, Steve's work has appeared in *Field & Stream*, *American Angler*, *Fly Fish Journal*, *The Drake*, *Flyfishing & Tying Journal*, *Eastern Fly Fishing*, *Fly Rod & Reel Online*, and *Mid-Atlantic Fly Fishing Guide*.

Steve wears many hats: Fly fishing instructor, guide, speaker, fly tyer, freelance writer, husband, father. His fly fishing interests include trout, stripers, steelhead, smallmouth bass, and small stream native brook trout. Whether he's greased-line fishing 12" flatwings for stripers with a 5 weight rod and a 9 weight line or swinging old Yorkshire soft hackles for trout, one thing is certain—Steve likes to fish when, where, and how most other people don't. You can see more of his work on his website, currentseams.com, or on Instagram at [stevecultonflyfishing](https://www.instagram.com/stevecultonflyfishing).

Mark your calendar now for this special program.
[JOIN THE ZOOM MEETING HERE!](#)

February Chapter Meeting and Board Member Elections

When: Monday, February 12, 2024
What: Zoom Meeting
Sign-in: 7:15 to 7:30 p.m.
Program Start: 7:30 p.m.
Speaker: Tim Flagler
Program: Euro-Nymphing

Euro-nymphing—from the basics to advanced techniques. Presentation will illustrate how to get started by converting a standard trout rod, say, a 9' 5 weight into a functional Euro-Nymphing set-up and the multiple steps that can be taken after that to produce an advanced outfit. Presentation will cover not only equipment, but flies and on-stream strategies and techniques as well.

Look out for the Chapter email and/or check the website for ZOOM instructions.

About Tim

Tim Flagler is the owner of Tightline Productions, L.L.C., a video production company located in Califon, NJ. Although he produces video programs over a wide range of topics, his specialty is fly fishing.

Tim is a well-known fly tying instructor. His YouTube videos are some of the best in the business and his YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/@tightlinevideo currently has over 113,000 subscribers and 36 million views.

Almost every week he produces a new fly tying or "how to" video which appear not only on his YouTube channel but on Midcurrent and the Orvis News fly fishing blog as well. They're also featured on Trout Unlimited's national website and in the Orvis Learning Center.

In addition, he has a regular column "Beginner's Masterclass with Tim Flagler" in Fly Tyer magazine, which selected Tim as their "Fly Tyer of the Year" in their Winter 2022 issue. Many of Tim's tying videos take the viewer well beyond just the tying of the fly and show what it looks like underwater, what natural it represents and how it can be fished.

Tim's a fixture at the Fly Fishing Shows—giving presentations, teaching classes and often as a Featured Tier. He enjoys guiding year round for South Branch Outfitters (formerly Shannon's Fly & Tackle) in Califon, NJ, and hosts annual trips to Patagonia in the spring and to the Kootenai River in Montana in the summer. He'll also be hosting several trips within the year to Spruce Creek, PA starting in 2024.

March Chapter Meeting

When: Monday, March 11, 2024
Where: IWLA-R Chapter House
18301 Waring Station Road,
Germantown, MD 20874
Social: 7:00 to 7:30 p.m.
Program Start: 7:30 p.m.
Speaker: South Branch Outfitters (Fly Shop
Owners: Abraham & Lindsey Beates)
Program: South Branch of the Raritan River
Fishing

The owners of this shop will describe their stream in New Jersey and show pictures, and provide an overview of how to fish there.

About South Branch Outfitters

[Abraham & Lindsey Beates South Branch Outfitters](#)

South Branch Outfitters is located 2 miles from the iconic Ken Lockwood Gorge (South Branch of the Raritan River), 6 miles from Point Mountain Trout Conservation Area (Musconetcong River), 13 miles to the Black River Wildlife Management Area (Black River/Lamington River), 14 miles to the Pequest Hatchery and TCA (Pequest River), and about 25 miles to the Delaware River—truly the heart of NJ trout rivers.

These picturesque locations offer a diverse option of species from our native brook trout, wild brown and rainbow trout, small and largemouth bass, striped bass, northern pike, and musky to name a few. The local TU chapters, watershed associations, and other conservation groups have led the charge for conserving our native populations through river restorations and catch and release/no kill zones. Come out and learn about the freshwater fishing options northern NJ has to offer!

South Branch Outfitters is a full-service Catskills-style fly shop offering an extensive fly and gear selection and guided wade fishing trips on all our local rivers. Our brands include Patagonia, Fishpond, Winston, Douglas, Rio, Redington, Abel, Ross, Airflo, Hareline and Regal.

We offer all levels of fishing instruction, host fly tying classes and social events, and hold an annual TroutFest in April. We work closely with many organizations, including Trout Unlimited, Native Fish Coalition, local township, county, and state Parks + Rec and Fish and Wildlife, in advocating for improved public access, clean water, and river restorations.

The shop continues the 50-year tradition of service to the local northern NJ fly fishing community started by Shannon's Fly & Tackle. We are the third set of owners, after Les Shannon and Jim Holland, to build on the proud history of fly fishing in the area. Jim Holland, a stalwart of the community, passed away suddenly in mid-2022, and the iconic shop closed its doors in the fall. Understanding the importance of the shop to the angling community, we stepped in to continue its legacy and we are proud to serve for many decades into the future.

Prior to opening South Branch Outfitters, Abraham and Lindsey served ten years as Naval aviators, with Abraham flying the MH-60R Seahawk and Lindsey flying the P-3C Orion and P-8A Poseidon. They both continue to serve in the Navy Reserves. Abraham and Lindsey were formally introduced to fly fishing shortly after leaving active military service through a TU Service Partnership trip and are excited about expanding outreach to various under-reached communities, including veterans and women.

Check out the SVTU website for their contact, and social media info.

April Chapter Meeting

When: Monday, April 8, 2024
Where: IWLA-R Chapter House
18301 Waring Station Road,
Germantown, MD 20874
Social: 7:15 to 7:30 p.m.
Program Start: 7:30 p.m.
Speaker: Bryan Donoway, guide
Program: The Gunpowder and Euro-Nymphing tips

Check the Chapter website for an update on the details for this meeting and presentation.

May Chapter Meeting

When: Monday, May 13, 2024
Where: IWLA-R Chapter House
18301 Waring Station Road,
Germantown, MD 20874

Sign-in/social: 7:15 to 7:30 p.m.

Program Start: 7:30 p.m.

Speaker: TBD

Program: TBD

Check the Chapter website for an update on this meeting agenda.

2024 Fly Tying Sessions

January 29 thru April 15, 2024

When: Monday (1/29, 2/5, 2/19, 3/4, 3/18, 4/1, 4/15)
Where: In-person classes only
IWLA-R Chapter House
18301 Waring Station Road, Germantown,
MD 20874

Classes: 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Who: SVTU Chapter Tyers and those that wish to learn

Summary by Noel Gollehon, SVTU President

SVTU is planning on offering in-person fly-tying series the spring of 2024. We are going to have a social, in-person tying sessions held at the IWLA-R Chapter House. While there are plenty of online videos and resources that teach fly tying, nothing replaces a little hands-on instruction when you cannot make what looks “so easy” on the screen work for you.

We plan to make the tying sessions a social event as well, because 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.

We are planning on returning to a more structured course this year with flies, the techniques needed or taught, and material needs announced in advance. We have a limited number of tying vises and tool sets that will be available to those who need them. SVTU will furnish needed materials.

Sessions are planned for Monday nights in February, March, and April. There will be a fundamentals class January 29. If you are planning to attend our fly tying

sessions, we **ENCOURAGE** you to come to this session as it is the most important session. We want you to have fun, and not be frustrated trying to tie on a thread base when we are demonstrating actual flies.

This session will provide all 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 details and updates.

Other Happenings

The Virginia Fly Fishing & Wine Festival

When: January 13 & 14, 2024
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Where: Meadow Event Park
13191 Dawn Blvd., Doswell VA 23047
Program: Fly Fishing, Wine tasting & more

Edited from the Festival website:

The Virginia Fly Fishing Festival is the largest event of its kind in the country and attracts fly anglers from across the United States and the Mid-Atlantic in particular. The unique event combines fine wine tasting, microbrewery beer, and everything you ever wanted to know about fly fishing but were afraid to ask.

The mission of the Virginia Fly Fishing & Wine Festival is to introduce as many people to the sport of fly fishing as possible, and to raise the level of awareness to the many pressing conservation issues facing Virginia.

Bring your family, relax, take a casting class, and pick up a new sport that the entire family can enjoy.

Several new classes for beginners for both adults and children have been added and attendees can attend lectures from various experts and practice hands-on skills at the two-day, family-friendly event.

The festival will be held regardless of the weather. All vendors are under roof and contained within the Farm Bureau Building at Meadow Event Park located approximately 2 miles east of Kings Dominion.

For more details, check out their [website](#).

Maryland Fly Fishing & Collectible Tackle Show—March 23, 2024

When: Saturday, March 23, 2024
Where: West Village Commons
Towson University
404 Emerson Drive, Towson, MD

Summary from the show's website:

The Maryland Fly Fishing and Collectible Tackle Show, one of the east coast premier shows will be held Saturday, March 23, 2024. This event unites fly fishing aficionados from the mid-Atlantic region with top-tier fly-fishing vendors for a day filled with gear exploration, sales, expert fly-tying demonstrations, insightful seminars, enriching clinics, and engaging conversations.

Check out all the details of the show, including detailed directions, at their [website](#).

Fall Chapter Meetings and Events Recap

Following, is a brief description of some of the recent 2023 SVTU Chapter activities. It was a pleasure to resume "live" attendance meetings.

Emergency Tree Removal on Beaver Creek

The same storm that brought the August 7 fish kill on Beaver Creek also did damage to a tree along the creek. Normally, the removal of a tree in the creek would be left to nature or be a part of our normal fall Beaver Creek workday. However, due to the need for DNR to conduct a fish population assessment to determine the remaining trout population, the removal of the tree became an immediate priority.

On August 12, SVTU members Emiliano Morales, Doug Hutzell and Noel Gollehon, along with PPTU (Potomac-Patuxent TU) member Jason Simon tackled the task of removing enough of the tree to enable DNR to conduct an electro-shocking the following week. We left a part of the tree underwater for woody habitat. In about two hours on a hot, humid Saturday we had the tree trimmed back where access was possible to a fish population assessment.



Picture as we started work, note the tree reaches almost to the far bank. Emiliano and Jason are in the stream.

SVTU participates in a Beaver Creek Community Event

When: Saturday, Sept. 9, 2023
What: Beaver Creek Community Meeting with various volunteer organizations

The community around Beaver Creek hosted an open house on September 9 at the Beaver Creek School Pavilion. It was advertised as an opportunity for the residents and businesses of Beaver Creek to get together and just enjoy.

Washington County Commissioner, John Barr, was the main organizer of the event, and he furnished the hotdogs! SVTU was pleased to participate and talk with residents about conservation opportunities to improve the cold-water habitat of Beaver Creek.

September Chapter Fishing Outing for Smallmouth Bass on the Monocacy

When: Sunday, September 10, 2023
What: Chapter Social Event
Where: Monocacy River—Buckeystown MD

SVTU sponsored an outing on Sunday September 10 to do a little fishing. Due to the low water conditions and warm temperatures, we decided to try some local bass action rather than a long drive for stressed trout.

Six members and friends met at Buckeystown Park where Fingerboard Road crosses the Monocacy to see what we could catch. In the few hours we fished, only

a few fish were seen, and one of the group even managed to catch a few. But we had fun getting out and for most of us trying a new fishing spot. It might be worth another try, but higher water levels would make better conditions.

Fly-Casting Instruction September–November 2023

When: Mondays, September through November

What: Instruction in casting a Fly Rod

Dave Cleaves, SVTU Chapter member, and a FFI-certified master caster, provided fly casting instruction at the IWLA Jim Berrier Memorial Lake. Attendance was excellent. Participants included those who never casted a fly-rod to those who wanted to fine-tune their cast. Other Chapter members assisted in the sessions.

IWLA-Rockville Hunting & Fishing Day

When: Saturday, September 23, 2023

Where: IWLA Chapter House, Germantown

This event was cancelled due to rain. The event was to celebrate over 50 years of National Hunting & Fishing Day.

October Chapter Meeting—Cancelled

Since October and November included many activities planned for members to meet and support our ongoing involvement at Beaver Creek and help other organizations we partner with, the regular Chapter meeting was cancelled.

Beaver Creek Workday

When: Saturday, October 14, 2023

What: Trimming work on trees & trails

In addition to the planned work several SVTU members helped to clear up the stream after the August storm, we still are committed to supporting ongoing improvements to the stream. SVTU sponsored a workday to trim stream-side trails and perform any needed tree maintenance along Beaver Creek.

Fly Fishing 101—Intro to Fly Fishing

When: Saturday, October 21, 2023

What: An Introduction to Fly Fishing

Seneca Valley Trout Unlimited partnered with Izaak Walton League of Rockville to host a “Fly Fishing 101: Introduction to Fly Fishing”. In the class, 21 students were exposed to all segments of fly fishing with an Introduction and Overview of fly fishing in the morning. That was followed by a BBQ sandwich lunch with all the sides and pumpkin pie for dessert.

Then the students broke into two groups to acquire hands-on experience with three critical elements of fly fishing

- How to cast a fly rod
- How to rig a fly rod
- How to tie the correct knot depending on the need

Finally, students moved over to Great Seneca Creek for a demonstration of stream fishing, casting, and line management in moving water with three different types of fly fishing techniques.

- Nymph fishing where the goal is to “dead drift” a fly under water
- Dry fly fishing where the floating fly imitates an insect on the water
- And, streamer fishing where the fly imitates a small bait fish

It was a great day at the lake. The students all learned a great deal. Lunch was excellent. And a good time was had by all!

All the handout materials are on our website: <https://senecavalleytu.org/fly-tying-info/fly-tying-resources/>.



Students getting one-on-one instruction in the art of casting a fly rod.



IWLA member Ricardo gets some help with equipment from fellow IWLA member and casting instructor David Cleaves



Instructor Doug Hutzell demonstrated stream fishing techniques.

November Beaver Creek Workday

When: Saturday, November 4, 2023

What: Tree Tube Removal

Where: Albert Powell Fish Hatchery Area

On November 4, SVTU members were among a group that removed and picked up tree tubes on a tract owned by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) just upstream of the Albert Powell Fish Hatchery on Beaver Creek.



Part of the cleanup crew with a pile of used tree tubes.

DNR acquired the property and is converting it into woodlands to protect and filter the water flowing into Beaver Creek. The trees that survived have grown and were splitting the protective tree tubes. Where the trees did not survive the tubes were on the ground. The crew picked up and pulled out a pickup load of old tree tubes but came nowhere close to finishing the task. The clean-up crew were members of Seneca Valley TU, Beaver Creek Watershed Association, Antietam-Conococheague Watershed Alliance, the Sierra Club and interested individuals. There will likely be another workday, so look for a notice via SVTU e-mail.

SVTU Stories

Driving & Fishing Along the Way

By Noel Gollehon, SVTU Chapter President

Have you ever wanted to just take off in your truck and go fishing? Well Doug Hutzell and I did just that in September 2023. We logged 5,000 miles, were gone 24 days (on the road 12 days and fishing for 12 days), wet our flies in eight different rivers and streams, and caught fish in every one. We traveled and joined up with others for parts of the trip, but it was Doug and I that managed to not kill each other for the 24 days.

We started fishing in Arkansas on the White. We went to the White to target browns on hoppers, but that did not work out. The water release out of Bull Shoals reservoir did not provide enough flow for the browns to come up off the bottom of the pools where they hide in low water. We caught rainbows using nymphs in the 12-15 inch range but no browns on hoppers.

Then it was on to the San Juan in New Mexico for a week fishing with friends and family. The San Juan was running high, so wading and fishing was a bit tougher than normal. The higher flows had the fish hanging in places where they would not normally be in September. And you would think that with as many fish as there are in the San Juan they would be easy to find, but they were not. That said all caught fish and we had a great time.

After a day off, to recover in Albuquerque, Doug and I were back fishing in northern New Mexico. This time in the Jemez Mountains in the Valles Caldera National Preserve. This high valley (above 8,000 feet) is the caldera of a volcano that erupted about a million years ago. It has quite a history being part of a Spanish land grant then to a private ranch and then to the Federal Government in 2000.

We had to get fishing permits from the National Park Service and a back-country vehicle pass because access is controlled to limit the number of visitors past the visitor center. We fished San Antonio Creek for wild browns and Jaramillo Creek for wild, native Rio Grande cutthroat trout.



Valles Caldera National Preserve

The streams were small (literally step across them in places) but the fishing was fun even if getting the fly in the water with the wind and grass was a challenge. (Fun fact—the movie *The Magnificent Seven* was filmed here.) You can catch bigger fish in many places, but the location cannot be topped!



San Antonio Creek was 3 to 5 feet wide, but the wind made it hard to get the fly where it needed to be.



This was a wide spot in Jaramillo Creek. In most places it was about 18 inches wide and deep. But if you could get a fly on the water you could catch a fish.

We crossed the Rio Grande and started fishing on the slopes of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. These mountains are at the southern end of the Rockies with peaks over 13,000 feet. We started on the Red River, flowing to the west, toward the Rio Grande and finished on the Cimarron, flowing east into the Canadian River and eventually the Gulf of Mexico. In between the western and eastern streams we fished some beautiful high country especially the Rio Castilla.



The Rio Castilla above Comanche Creek.

The Rio Castilla is a high mountain valley stream that is managed by a combination of the Forest Service and the Rio Castilla Cooperative Livestock Association, that manages the land for grazing and recreation. The land has a long colonial history going back to Spanish exploration and settlement in the 1690s. In 1860 it was part of a land grant approved by Congress and the Livestock Association purchased 80,000 acres in 1942. Stream restoration activities, including a fish barrier to bar invasives, have occurred on the upper Rio Castilla and Comanche Creek, a major tributary.

Trout Unlimited was involved in those restoration efforts. Now there are wild native trout that we were fishing for. They were not big, maybe 8 inches but they were beautiful cutthroats. And they were FAST! You did not set the hook on your dry fly, they either hooked themselves or you missed it, cast again, and try to get the one just above the one you missed. It was a real treat to catch native fish in a beautiful area.



Comanche Creek

While in this area we stayed in Red River, New Mexico. It is a booming ski town with breweries and restaurants and a lot of cabins for rent. If you are looking for a high-elevation get away (over 8,400 feet) this is a beautiful area. (One note, to help locate the area. On our way down the Cimarron, we fished in a State Park. The park is just upstream of the Philmont Scout Ranch.)



A Rio Grande Cutthroat caught on an elk hair caddis.

The fishing portion of the trip was done, the rods packed away and we were on the road again. We traveled across northern New Mexico, southeastern Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, southern Illinois, southern Indiana, eastern Kentucky, West Virginia and then home. WHAT A TRIP!

The Adaptive Caster

Dave Cleaves

Winter Casting Practice—Tips and Resources

By Dave Cleaves, SVTU ChapterMember and FFI Certified Fly-Casting Instructor

This is a quick summation of the [complete article that can be found on SVTUs website](#). Take the time to read it **and practice your skills**—no need to get rusty while inside during the winter months!

So winter is here, the sky is spitting ice, and the fly rods are nestled in their tubes, hibernating until March or April when you break them out and start waving them around at fish. Plenty of flies to tie and videos and books to read. But winter is also a good time to catch up on some casting goals, work on specific improvements or “rough” spots, and just keep your cast from getting rusty.

Winter is a good time to reflect on the summer’s fresh fishing experiences and casting skills you would like to work on, embed the good casting habits you learned in the summer by accumulating good repetitions (reps) by continuing to improve your concentration, feedback, and casting stroke adjustment.

Practicing indoors and/or on warmer days outside can be a refreshing antidote for cabin fever and a reasonable alternative to fixing leaky faucets and other questionable practices. Some thoughts ...

List 2-3 improvements you want to make based on the past spring and summer’s fishing experiences. **Did you?**

- Slow down and/or smooth out your basic stroke?
- Try a new grip?
- Improve accuracy?
- Cast in different planes—vertical, sidearm, oval, other?
- Reduce the number of false casts needed?
- Expand the variety of presentation techniques?

[See some improvement ideas described in the longer version of this column](#) in the Adaptive Caster

page of the SVTU website and other articles. Learn how to ...

- Break down your stroke into component movements, pick the ones most important for you to improve
- Set measurable objectives for each movement
- Design some practice drills for each of the movements. See the suggestions in the [Practicing with Purpose article](#) on the Adaptive Casting page
- If you have questions, call or email me and we’ll talk it over. It’s a free service of the [Fly Fishers International \(FFI\) Casting Education Program](#)

President’s Note

Continued from page 1

We have a “special” meeting planned for January 22. We will get the latest information about the August 2023 fish-kill on Beaver Creek from Maryland Department of Natural Resources. What’s done is done, but we can help formulate a plan to see that it does not happen again and assist in the recovery efforts. Come to this meeting to offer your input and find a way to help bring more brown trout to Beaver Creek. Our speaker will be via Zoom, but several of us will gather at our usual meeting location to view the presentation and provide feedback over a “cold one” (weather permitting). Feel free to zoom in or join us in-person. (I remind everyone that winter driving conditions can be tricky. Before traveling to an SVTU event, confirm on our website that the meeting has not shifted to virtual only or has been rescheduled or canceled.)

We start our annual fly-tying series on January 29 with a special introductory session. Our set of six classes will begin the next week on February 5 and meet every other week. We have the materials and some vise and tool sets (bring your own if you have it) so all we need is you. The session on January 29 is very important to those who have never tied flies or need a refresher on fly tying. (That does not mean that even a knowledgeable tyer cannot learn something new, so come on out!)

When the weather warms and the time changes to have more light in the evenings, we plan on starting our popular monthly casting clinics. In the summer/fall of 2023 we held the monthly clinics, and they were

well attended and very enjoyable. Watch the website and e-mail notices for more information on the casting clinics.

As a volunteer organization, we always need more hands, ideas, and time. We will hold elections in February and are searching for a new Secretary to develop our Executive meeting minutes and be a part of the leadership team. In general, the time commitment can be as much as you want, or only a few hours a month. What we need are new ideas and a desire to help make those ideas become a reality. We are all volunteers.

If you like to fish, you need someplace to do it. We look forward to your support and participation as SVTU works to restore the wild brown population on Beaver Creek.

Stay safe and Tight lines!
Noel Gollehon, President SVTU

Other News

Maryland DNR News

Trout Stocking—Pre Season & Season

Edited from the DNR website:

DNR has begun “preseason” stocking with the first of about 290,000 trout in Maryland waters statewide.

This stocking will help coldwater hatcheries reduce overcrowded fish densities caused by record drought conditions this year. The first preseason stockings will be allocated to impoundments, special management, and delayed harvest streams providing ice fishing and catch-and-release fishing opportunities through winter and into the spring.

Sustained drought has resulted in historically low water flow at the spring-fed [Albert Powell Hatchery](#) and Cushwa rearing facility in Washington County. To compensate for the lack of water, the hatchery closed two of 19 outdoor holding areas called raceways and monitored water conditions closely to ensure the survival of the maximum number of trout.

The state’s hatcheries are raising more than 290,000 brown, golden rainbow, and rainbow trout, which will be stocked in more than 119 locations across 19 counties during the 2024 spring season. The annual stocking program will be completed in three rounds – preseason from now through February 2024, followed

by two rounds of spring stocking, March 4 to 29 and April 1 to 26.

Once stocking is complete, DNR will provide updates on its [website](#) and via [email bulletin](#) and [social media](#). Anglers may also call 800-688-3467 for a recorded weekly update (usually updated on Fridays) when stocking is in process. Stocked locations that fall under a closure period are not included in the daily updates but will be announced before opening day on March 30, 2024.

The trout stocking program is supported by the sale of nontidal fishing licenses and trout stamps as well as funding through the federal Sport Fish Restoration Program.

Consult the Maryland Guide to Fishing and Crabbing for [closure dates and special management area restrictions](#).

Time to Renew Your Fishing License!

With the New year here don’t forget to renew your fishing license for 2024!

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

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

Support SVTU 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.

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 at wjunium1@hotmail.com or to the Chapter at svtroutunlimited@gmail.com.

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