



# SENECA VALLEY ANGLER

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Chapter # 369—Vol. 43. No.2  
[www.senecavalleytu.org](http://www.senecavalleytu.org)

SEPTEMBER 2025

## OFFICERS

President: Noel Gollehon  
Vice President: Joe Walther  
Secretary: : Peter Viechnicki  
Treasurer: Nate Wallace

## GREETINGS SVTU MEMBERS!

The “summer break” is over and we invite you to join us at our live and virtual Chapter meetings, events, and instructional opportunities beginning in September.

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### President’s Note

It has been tough fishing this spring and summer locally. From too much rain and blown out streams to intense heat with no break between those extremes for that “just right” condition. I for one did not get out much for trout. I guess I need to think about fishing for bass to put my fishing license to use.

We are getting our educational programs together for the fall season. Our first, on September 8, is all about local fishing with the focus on the creeks in Catoctins, less than an hour’s drive. We are planning a presentation outlining Pennsylvania’s fishing opportunities and a fly pattern design speaker before the winter fly tying season. It will be an informative fall, so watch for the e-mail notices and the website about upcoming events

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## Upcoming Meetings & Events

### SVTU Social Meeting & Event Schedule

September 8	SVTU Chapter Social Event & Speaker: Program: Trout & Coldwater Monitoring Surveys
September 15	Final Fly Casting @IWLA R Lake
September 27	IWLA-R Hunting & Fishing Day
October 11	Fly Fishing 101 @ IWLAR Lake
October 13	No Meeting
November 2	Beaver Creek Workday
November 10	SVTU Chapter Social Event & Speaker: Program: TBD
December 8	SVTU Chapter Social Event & Speaker: Program: Endless Opportunities on PA’s Diverse Streams 2026
January 12	SVTU Chapter Social Event & Speaker: Program: Designing Fly Patterns
January TBD	FT Sessions: Intro Session

#### *See details and check our website*

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 Fall/Winter Chapter Meetings

### September Chapter Social Meeting & Program (In person & ZOOM)

**When:** Monday, September 8, 2025  
**What:** In-person & ZOOM Chapter Social  
**Where:** IWLA-R Chapter House,  
8301 Waring Station Road,  
Germantown, MD 20874  
**Social:** 7:00 to 7:30 p.m.  
**Zoom Sign-in:** 7:15 to 7:30 p.m.  
**Program Start:** 7:30 p.m.  
**Speakers:** Michael Kashiwagi, MDDNR &  
Kevin Haney, Big Hunting Creek  
Working Group  
**Program:** “Trout and Coldwater Monitoring  
Surveys in Frederick and  
Washington counties”

Freshwater Fisheries will present an overview of trout population trends in the Catoctin Mountain region streams. Surveys to identify, redesignate, and protect coldwater resources will also be discussed.

**Michael Kashiwagi** is the Western II Regional Fisheries Manager for Frederick and Washington counties and the upper Potomac River. Born and raised in Montgomery County, Michael has a graduate degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Science from Mississippi State University. He has been with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources for the past 18 years. He initially worked with the Maryland Biological Stream Survey before transferring over to the Freshwater Fisheries Program.

**Kevin Haney** will present a brief update on the Big Hunting Creek Working Group, a group created to address issues regarding Big Hunting Creek and the surrounding Catoctin trout streams. It includes representatives from the Potomac Valley Fly Fishers, Trout Unlimited, Antietam Fly Fishers, Free State Fly Fishers, the Brotherhood of the Jungle Cock, Catoctin National Park, Cunningham Falls State Park, the USGS, and the Maryland DNR. Besides coordinating this group, Kevin is also a member of the Potomac Valley Fly Fishers and the Conewago Fly Fishers. He also has a web site, VintageAnglers.com.

### October Chapter Social Meeting & Program—No meeting

No meeting. FF101 on October 11 is our event this month.

### November Chapter Social Meeting & Program (In person & ZOOM)

**When:** Monday, November 10, 2025  
**What:** In-person & ZOOM Chapter Social  
**Where:** IWLA-R Chapter House  
18301 Waring Station Road  
Germantown, MD 20874  
**Social:** 7:00 to 7:30 p.m.  
**Zoom Sign-in:** 7:15 to 7:30 p.m.  
**Program Start:** 7:30 p.m.  
**Speaker:** TBD  
**Program:** TBD

### December Chapter Social Meeting & Program (In person & ZOOM)

**When:** Monday, December 8, 2025  
**Where:** IWLA-R Chapter House  
18301 Waring Station Road  
Germantown, MD 20874  
**Social:** 7:00 to 7:30 p.m.  
**Zoom Sign-in:** 7:15 to 7:30 p.m.  
**Program Start:** 7:30 p.m.  
**Speaker:** Taylor Hess  
**Program:** Endless Opportunities on PA's  
Diverse Fisheries

### January 2026 Chapter Social Meeting & Program (In person & ZOOM)

**When:** Monday, January 12, 2026  
**Where:** IWLA-R Chapter House  
18301 Waring Station Road  
Germantown, MD 20874  
**Social:** 7:00 to 7:30 p.m.  
**Zoom Sign-in:** 7:15 to 7:30 p.m.  
**Program Start:** 7:30 p.m.  
**Speaker:** Lou Digena  
**Program:** Designing Fly Patterns

## Upcoming 2025/2026 Chapter Events

### Fly-Casting Instruction—Final Session September 15, 2025

**When:** Monday, September 15, 2025  
**What:** Instruction in casting a Fly Rod  
**Where:** IWLA-R Jim Berrier Memorial Lake  
**Time:** 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Come out and join Dave Cleaves, SVTU Chapter member and a FFI certified master caster, for the final casting instruction session of 2025 at the IWLA Jim Berrier Memorial Lake! At these casting sessions, Dave provides fly casting instruction to both those who have never cast a fly-rod and to those who want to fine-tune their cast. Look for future info regarding instruction sessions in the spring.

### IWLA National Hunting & Fishing Day



**When:** Saturday, September 27, 2025  
**What:** Rockville Chapter 2025 Open House, National Hunting & Fishing Day  
**Where:** IWLA-R Chapter House  
18301 Waring Station Road  
Germantown, MD.  
**Time:** 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Izaak Walton Rockville's annual National Hunting & Fishing Day open house is free and open to the public.. On this day, the organization opens its doors to the public to showcase what the organization has to offer (fishing, archery, shooting, trails, drones, beekeepers, kayaking, SOS, and more). The event will include local

conservation partners' exhibits, which creates a fun family event and strengthens the relationships with the community. Visit [IWLAR.org](http://IWLAR.org) for more info.

### Fly-Fishing 101

**When:** Saturday, October 11, 2025  
**What:** Fly Fishing 101—Introduction to Fly Fishing  
**Where:** IWLA-R Jim Berrier Memorial Lake  
12057 Clopper Road  
**Time:** Exact time TBD. Late morning until about 4:00 p.m.

Join the Seneca Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited (SVTU) on Saturday, October 11 from TBD to 4:00 p.m. at the IWLA-R Jim Berrier Memorial Lake for our **Fly Fishing 101—Introduction to Fly Fishing**—a hands-on program designed for beginners and those looking to improve their skills.

Our experienced instructors will cover everything from fly casting and knot tying to stream fishing techniques, providing you with the knowledge and confidence to enjoy this rewarding sport. After the instructional sessions, you'll have the opportunity to practice your skills on both a lake and stream with expert guidance. Don't miss this chance to connect with nature and fellow fishing enthusiasts.

### You must register for the event.

All of the information will be on the SVTU website in mid-September.

Here are some photos from the 2024 FF101 session.



*Students at the 2024 fly Fishing 101 learn fly rod rigging techniques from instructor Dale Thatcher before trying it on their own.*





*Instructor Doug Hutzell (in water) demonstrates to participants "in-stream" fly-fishing techniques used for dry flies, nymphs and streamers.*



*Students in a fly rod casting course receive instruction from one of our Certified Casting Instructors.*

## November Beaver Creek Workday

**When:** Saturday, November 1, 2025  
**Where:** Beaver Creek catch and release parking lot  
**Time:** 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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

Last year, SVTU volunteers removed wire tree guards from trees along the stream buffer. Check your email or the Chapter website for future updates on the details for this annual workday to maintain and improve Beaver Creek and its access.

Plan on bringing gloves, loppers, and pliers to remove/add wire cages for tree protection. Lunch will be provided; please bring your filled water bottle.

Check SVTU website for info regarding the location to meet up.

## 2026 Fly Tying Sessions

January thru April 2026

**When:** Alternate Mondays: January through April  
**What:** In-person classes only  
**Where:** IWLA-R Chapter House  
18301 Waring Station Road  
Germantown, MD 20874  
**Time:** 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.  
**Who:** Anyone who wants to learn or improve their tying

SVTU will be holding in-person fly tying classes starting at the end of January 2026. The first class in January will be **an introduction class** where we cover the basics of fly tying and then tie a basic fly.

Following the introductory class, we will start our "production" classes where we will tie two patterns per night—each designed to increase your fly-tying skills.

These classes continue biweekly through April. We have everything you need to start tying: vise, tools, and material. If you have your own vise and tools, you are welcome to use them. We will post the complete schedule and the patterns we are tying in advance.

If you are an experienced tyer and just want to brush up on a specific pattern, feel free to drop in on that one class.

**If you are a fly-tying novice, you are encouraged to attend the January introduction class** and then as many of the tying sessions as you can. Each session will add to your knowledge of techniques and your skill level. *The key elements of fly tying are first and foremost getting the thread on the hook.* (It looks easy but until you do it a few dozen times, it can be frustrating.) Once you get the thread attached, the key to building a fly is tread control. This is something you can only learn by doing. So come out and learn with others at our open and friendly SVTU classes. Watch the website for more information on flies, materials needed and other details and updates.

## Winter/Spring 2025 Chapter Social Events and Programs Recap

Following is a brief description of some of the recent 2025 SVTU Chapter activities. Many of the meetings and events were live, with online viewing.

### January 2025 Program

**When:** Monday, January 13, 2025  
**What:** In-Person  
**Who:** Chapter Members  
**Program:** Rigging & Knots Hands-on Demos

As a preview to our FF 101 course we dedicated our January program to provide more in-depth instruction into rigging and knots. We had chapter members providing instruction on how to tie knots, and show rigs for various fishing situations.

### February 2025 Program

**When:** Monday, February 10, 2025  
**What:** In-Person & ZOOM  
**Who:** Dusty Wissmath  
**Topic:** Fly Fishing the Yellowstone Ecosystem

Dusty Wissmath took us on a tour of famous and not-so-famous fly fishing spots in southwestern Montana, northeastern Idaho, and Yellowstone National Park. He discussed conservation issues, fishing techniques, where to go, and how to avoid the crowds (and bears). Many people think that the best fishing days are in the Rocky Mountain West. This show will prove that feeling is far from the truth. Because of the efforts of individuals, agencies, and states, in many places, it is better than it has been since Lewis and Clark first explored the

### March 2025 Program

**When:** Monday, March 10, 2025  
**What:** ZOOM only  
**Who:** George Daniel  
**Topic:** Top & Bottom Techniques

George Daniel, renowned fly fishing expert, celebrated author and Director of the Joe Humphreys Fly Fishing Program at Penn State gave a great Zoom talk. He talked about how to set up a mono rig for "tight-line nymphing". He also discussed various techniques to

use in different types of water. He also talked about his approach to flies, which are "minimalist and slender" because the mono rig he utilizes is so thin, even a lightly weighted slender fly will get down to the fish.

### April 2025 Program

**When:** Monday, April 14, 2025  
**What:** Hands-on-event: Spring Tune-up  
**Who:** Chapter members  
**Topic:** Get Ready to Fish, it's Spring Tune-Up Time!

This month the program was a follow-on to the January program focusing on specific questions members may have

## Winter/Spring 2025 Chapter Events

### 2025 Fly Tying Sessions

#### January 27 thru April 7, 2025

**When:** Alternate Mondays January thru April  
**What:** In-person classes only  
**Who:** Anyone who wanted to learn or improve their tying

*Submitted by: SVTU VP, Joe Walther*



*Participants in one of the 2025 Fly Tying Sessions*

Once again, SVTU hosted in-person-only tying sessions as a chance to get out of the house and do something fun and rewarding. We started the fly tying classes with a special introductory class covering the basics (types, terminology, tools, etc.) and the key to

successful fly tying—thread control! From there, each class built upon the skills learned in the previous class and progressed to teach essential fly tying techniques to fill your fly box. SVTU provided all the materials needed for the various flies, and loaner vices and tools. The sessions included:

- January 27: Introduction and participants tied a simple Green Weenie fly
- February 3: San Juan Worm and Zebra Midge
- February 17: Nymphs: Easy Pheasant Tail and Bead Head Hares Ear
- March 3: Streamers: Clouser Minnow & Shad Dart
- March 17: Terrestrials: Chernobyl ant and Fur ant
- March 31: Dry Flies: Dry Flies. Adams and Elk Hair Caddis
- April 7: Poppers: Bass or Panfish poppers

## May 25, 2025 SVTU Chapter Hosted BSA Troop 1094 Fly-Fishing Merit Badge Course

*Submitted by: SVTU VP, Joe Walther, and Board Member Andrew Iams*

On the beautiful day of May 25th, SVTU hosted Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Troop 1094 from Darnestown, MD, for a full-day Fly Fishing Merit Badge course. The event was held at the Izaak Walton League of America Rockville (IWLAR) Chapter facilities, including classroom-style instruction at the Upper Chapter House, hands-on demonstrations at the Jim Berrier Memorial Lake pavilion, and on-water fishing at the lake in the afternoon. Eight scouts and three parent volunteers participated in the course activities that were organized and led by SVTU volunteers.

The scouts ran a gauntlet of instruction and discussion of all things fly fishing. They explored various fly patterns and the situations in which each is most effective, even tying their own Greenie Weenies and Woolly Buggers. Key topics included catch-and-release practices, Leave No Trace principles, on-water safety and first aid, and how fishing ethics align with the values of the BSA. In addition to the BSA-provided lunch, the scouts learned to filet fish, which were grilled onsite and enjoyed by all.

During the afternoon, the scouts demonstrated their fly fishing knot-tying skills, rigging line from reel to fly.

SVTU volunteers collected invertebrates from Seneca Creek that the scouts were very excited to identify, including a very large crayfish, sculpin, and hellgrammite! Afterwards, the scouts worked with Fly Fishing International Master Fly Casting Instructor Dave Cleaves to improve their casting and confidence to fish on the lake. By the end of the day, most scouts were able to reel in a fish on the fly.

Despite the long list of merit badge requirements, four of the eight scouts were able to complete all requirements and earn their Fly Fishing Merit Badge on that day. Another Scout fulfilled his final remaining requirement later in the summer.

To encourage the Scouts to continue exploring fly fishing, the Seneca Valley Trout Unlimited (SVTU) chapter invited them to submit essays explaining why they were interested in pursuing the sport as a hobby. A winner would receive a youth fly fishing rod and reel combo. The SVTU Fly Fishing Merit Badge volunteers received several well-written and inspiring essays, and after sorting through chapter gear we were able to award not only the youth rod and reel combo, but also a fly tying kit and a fly box filled with hand-tied flies to three of the scouts at their year-end Court of Honor on June 9, 2025.

### *An excerpt from one Scout's essay:*

*"...Fly Fishing has taught me many ethics and things about nature. Its relation to BSA has made it something very important as it is not only a new skill but also how to be a better scout. Many of the lessons taught to us have also enhanced my ability to fish and have a deeper connection with nature, further enhancing many other aspects of my life."*

The Fly Fishing Merit Badge course was a rewarding experience not only for the Troop 1094 scouts, but the SVTU volunteers as well. We look forward to continuing this kind of meaningful outreach and education in the future.





*Troop 1094 Scouts and Volunteers with SVTU Chapter Volunteers*



*Scouts preparing to fine tune their casting skills*



*Scouts are working on knot tying and rigging of the fly line*



*Scouts identifying invertebrates*



*Jack Higgins, SVTU Board member, presenting award to Scout from Troop 1094 at the Court of Honor for the FF Meit Badge*



## SVTU Fly-Casting Clinics April thru September 2025

**When:** Third Mondays, April through September

**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. See the article that follows about the Spey-Casting session as part of this program.

### Highlights Spey Techniques

A highpoint of the casting clinics hosted by SVTU this summer was the June 16<sup>th</sup> session at Clopper Lake, where internationally recognized trout guide John Bilotta taught us how to use spey techniques to improve our fishing in local conditions. The session was organized as part of the ongoing 'adaptive caster' series by SVTU instructor Dave Cleaves. It was well attended by approximately ten students of varying expertise, from beginner to expert. Judging from their smiles and questions, all attendees learned from John's instruction, not dampened by the light rain that began halfway through the program.

John emphasized how spey techniques don't require a big double-handed rod, and can be used profitably with the short rods most of us in SVTU have in our garages. John taught us how spey strokes are ways to move your line in various angles and directions, and being able to do so can help us in tight casting situations on narrow local streams.

The Clopper Lake location was ideal for a large group of students with plenty of room for all of us to practice on the grass and then in the water. I've tried using these new techniques a few times since the class and think they'll be helpful for my own fishing success.

Here is a video on the same topic, which reinforces the single-handed spey technique:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DVVBAgVuTz8>.



*John Bilotta, Trout Guide, conducting Spey Casting Class*



*John Bilotta, and Spey Casting Class Attendees*



## SVTU & Conservation

### Trout In the Classroom – (TIC) Appeal for Volunteers

*By Noel Gollehon, President SVTU*

TU has issued a request to all Chapter presidents regarding TIC.

#### *Chapter Presidents,*

Below is a description of a volunteer(s) position to help Trout in the Classroom (TIC) in an administrative capacity. There is an immediate need, and the work can be done from home in a few hours. TIC is an excellent program that has positively impacted students for many years. Please share this request multiple times through your media platforms. Thank you in advance for sharing with your board members and the membership at large. Please reach out to Alan Burrows with questions at [aburrows53@gmail.com](mailto:aburrows53@gmail.com).

#### Trout in the Classroom Release Coordinator

The Trout in the Classroom (TIC) program is seeking volunteers to coordinate 'release permits' and 'school confirmations' for the program in Maryland and DC. This is an administrative role that can be done anywhere with a computer spreadsheet, internet searches, and a phone. You do not have to physically go to schools or release sites. Changes in Maryland DNR requirements mean that the Trout in the Classroom program needs to track activity at the 30 release sites used by more than 100 schools. This volunteer's role will confirm that schools have permission to release fingerling trout at those sites and that the schools are aware of any rules associated with the release site. If you have an interest in helping with a really worthwhile program, this task is for you. The Maryland TU chapters run the largest all-volunteer TIC program in the country, which has positively impacted students for many years. Please contact Alan Burrows to learn more at [aburrows53@gmail.com](mailto:aburrows53@gmail.com).

### Small Trash Can Have Big Consequences For Wildlife

*By Andrew Iams, SVTU Board member*

On a recent fishing trip with my dad to one of our favorite central Pennsylvania limestone streams, I was reminded how even the smallest pieces of litter can have big consequences for wildlife.

As I worked my way along the stream, I picked up a small brown trout. At first glance, it looked like any other fish you'd expect from these waters; vibrant, healthy, and full of fight. As it got closer, I saw green plastic attached to the fish. Initially, I had thought it might be tagged. However, closer inspection revealed it was a green plastic ring from a bottle lodged around its head. At some point, the fish must have tried to swim through it and became trapped. Over time, the plastic began cutting into its skin, leaving behind a lesion where the fish had actually started growing around the obstruction.

I snipped the ring free and released the trout, though it carried the scar from the ring. I don't know if it fully recovered, but the moment stuck with me. It was a reminder of how even small pieces of trash can have big impacts on wildlife.

Like many anglers, I try to pick up litter when I'm fishing. But seeing that trout turned "try" into "must." Every piece of trash we haul out is one less hazard to the fish, birds, and other creatures. The next time you're on the stream, take a moment to pack out a little extra. It could make a big difference for the wildlife.



*Trout caught in a Green Plastic Ring*



*The Ring removed!*

### Beaver Creek Trout Recovery Report

*By Doug Hutzell, SVTU Board member*

It's just over two years since a devastating fish kill occurred on Beaver Creek. This year's trout survey showed very little improvement for both adult and young-of-year brown trout. DNR Fisheries is continuing ongoing monitoring of the water chemistry. One of the issues may be higher readings of conductivity, which is the measurement of ion concentration in water. When conductivity levels are too high, ecosystems cannot physiologically maintain a salt balance. This affects organisms living in the stream, which can become stressed and not survive.

DNR Fisheries has deployed five conductivity loggers. Two are located above the Beaver Creek Quarry and Interstate 70. Three are located below Interstate 70 at the I-70/MD Route 60 interchange, Black Rock Creek, and the Put and Take area behind the recently closed fly shop. When these loggers are retrieved sometime in September, the recorded data will identify any areas that may be contributing to high readings of conductivity in the stream. Also, the University of Maryland Center of Environmental Studies will be analyzing water samples for "6PPD-quinone". "6PPD" is a chemical that prevents tire wear. When "6PPD" reacts with the ozone in the air, it forms "6PPD-quinone". During a rain event, stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces washes into streams and rivers. Available information on "6PPD-quinone" indicates that it is toxic enough to quickly kill trout.

With the reduced trout population, DNR Fisheries is proposing to stock 3,000 brown trout fingerlings in the upper Put and Take area to utilize the natural gravel

bottom, which in the past showed higher numbers of both adult and young-of-year brown trout. The plan is to clip the adipose fin of the stocked fingerlings, so when next year's survey is conducted, they can see #1, if they have survived, and #2, distinguish the stocked young-of-year from the wild young-of-year. Hopefully, there will be spawning trout this fall as long as the flows are normal or above.



*Brown Trout from Beaver Creek*



*Young Trout from Beaver Creek*





*Checking a Rainbow Trout from Beaver Creek*

## SVTU Stories

### Hopper Heaven in Rocky Mountain National Park

*By Bob Irvin, SVTU Board Member*

The mighty Colorado River is the lifeblood of seven western states, according to American Rivers, supporting 36 million people and a \$1.4 trillion economy. But on a post card perfect day in mid-August, I waded across the Colorado at least 20 times. Of course the river is only 10 to 20 feet wide in its headwaters in Rocky Mountain National Park, where my son Tom and I were casting foam hoppers for brook trout.

Tom, a former member of Seneca Valley TU, is fortunate now to live in Erie, CO, only an hour from the east entrance to Rocky Mountain National Park and a little over 90 minutes from the headwaters of the Colorado on the western slope of the Continental Divide. Entrance to the park in the summer requires a timed reservation after 9 a.m., so we got an early start to enter the park before 9 and be on the river by mid-morning after the water starts to warm up and the fish become more active.

This was a special trip for me. I introduced Tom to fly fishing about 10 years ago and he is as enthusiastic as me about fishing small mountain streams. He caught his first brook trout on a dry fly in the headwaters of Owens Creek in Catocin Mountains National Park under my guidance. But today the former student was to be my guide. I lost most of my vision three years ago due to a rare optic neuropathy, leaving me legally blind with low vision. While I continue to fly fish and tie flies, I need some direction in wading and casting. I have been fortunate to be a member of SVTU where my fellow members have been great friends in helping me continue to enjoy fly fishing and fly tying.

On our trip to the upper Colorado I was hoping to once again catch a wild trout on a dry fly, something that had eluded me for the past three years. I have done pretty well fishing for smallmouth bass and shad with streamers, but getting a timely hook set on a dry fly has been more of a challenge. Today we would be casting size 12 and 14 foam hoppers with colorful names such as Hippy Stomper and others not suitable for a family publication. Mine featured prominent white parachutes or foam so I could see their drift and spot a take by an eager brookie.

Tom and I took turns fishing short runs consisting of riffles and pools in between bends of the stream. The river is anywhere from ankle to thigh deep in most places, with some deeper pools. There are brown trout and Colorado River cutthroat trout in the headwaters, but on this day we only saw brook trout ranging from 4 to 12 inches. With grasshoppers flipping through the air in the surrounding meadows, the fish were keyed in on our foam hopper offerings. Strikes were frequent but takes less so as the fish were smaller than the flies at times. Still, Tom put six fish in the net, including one that was at least 10 inches. And while I only managed to put one small brook trout in the net, it was my first wild trout on a dry fly since losing my vision, so it was pretty special. Almost as special as spending a day on a gorgeous river in one of our most spectacular national parks, expertly guided by my son.



*Upper Colorado River in Rocky Mountain National Park*



*Bob and Son, Tom, happy to be together on a stream*



*Tom with one of his Trout*



*Bob with his catch*

## Fly Fishing On The Big Horn River Below The Yellowtail Dam

*By Nate Wallace, SVTU Board Member & Treasurer and Eve Wallace*

Eve and I flew out to Bozeman, MT to visit family and to fish the Big Horn River, which is a big river. These cold, clear nutrient rich flows being released from the bottom of the dam produce a thriving biomass of insects and crustaceans that enable rainbow and brook trout to grow to above average size and in great abundance. We spent three days and four nights at Kingfisher Lodge near Ft. Smith, MT on the Crow Indian Reservation. We floated the river three days with three different guides, all excellent. The rainbows and browns were large and muscular, by far the strongest fish I've ever caught. Some that broke off straightened out the hooks. We caught plenty of fish, all between 17 to 24 inches. Although we saw a lot of black caddis flies and stoneflies on the surface, we saw few rises. So, we nymph fished every day.

We encountered significant floating and subsurface moss and weeds which required checking the rig before each cast. When bringing a fish to the net, our lines would be festooned with weeds.

The Kingfisher Lodge was comfortable and had great food. The hot water coming out of the tap smells of sulfur. The Lodge was purchased recently and is under new management. Sharon Hastings is the General Manager. Previously, she guided on the Missouri River below Craig, MT. She intends to make the Lodge female friendly



## Seneca Valley Angler—September 2025

If you fish the Bighorn River on the Crow Indian Reservation, you will need to take your own beer, wine, spirits, etc. Eve and I plan on returning to the Lodge next summer. We highly recommend the Big Horn River and the Kingfisher Lodge.

The Wallace's score some beautiful Brown and Rainbow Trout on their trip!



## President's Note

*Continued from page 1*

Speaking of upcoming events, our big event in the fall is our annual Fly Fishing 101 program on October 11. It is a great chance to bring people who have never held a fly rod to get an introduction to the sport. We have everything that is needed, plus we furnish lunch. All you have to do is register and show up. You will not find a better deal than that! Details will be on the website in mid-September.

Please watch the website for more educational opportunities and activities, including our annual Beaver Creek workday to be held on November 1, 2025.

As a volunteer organization, we always need more hands, ideas, and time. 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 some place to do it. We look forward to your support and participation as SVTU works to restore the wild brown population on Beaver Creek and protect trout across Maryland.

Please look for our emails and check the website for details on all our activities!

*Stay safe and Tight lines!*

*Noel Gollehon, President SVTU*

## Support SVTU By Making a Donation!

We have made it easy to make a 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 donation 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 list.** 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 leader-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

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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](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

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If you have articles, photos, fish stories, fishing/stream reports, that you think might be appropriate for inclusion in the newsletter or the website, send an email to me at [wjunium1@hotmail.com](mailto:wjunium1@hotmail.com) or to the Chapter at [svtroutunlimited@gmail.com](mailto:svtroutunlimited@gmail.com).

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