



Hatches
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Hatches Notes:

December Christmas Party
12/6:

This year's Christmas Party will be hosted by Kevin and Barbara Daniels. Directions noted page 4. Please come and enjoy some Christmas cheer and fun and spin the yarn with your fellow chapter members .

2008 Best Days to Fish

-Oct 2008: 28th thru 31st

-Nov 2008: 1st thru 13th/27th thru 30th

-Dec 2008: 1st thru 12th/27th thru 31st

***Data according to "Blue Ridge Country" 2008 Travel Guide"**

Trout Conservation in the East: What's New?

By Marcia Woolman

Well, the hot off the press news is: Trout Unlimited's newest Home Rivers Initiative is coming to Virginia. The Shenandoah Home Rivers project will be highlighted by a community wide effort to return the South River in Waynesboro to a true, year round, wild and native trout water. It will be the keystone project to kick off this Home Rivers Initiative. Several TU members in Waynesboro have identified the major large springs that feed the South River as it comes into town. In addition a major land owner has agreed to open nearly a mile of stream to restoration work with the hope that at some future time Waynesboro will be a trout fishing destination.

The Shenandoah River Initiative will also focus on restoring native brook trout to some of these larger springs, and other springs along the I81 corridor. One of the important undertakings will be to return trees and protection to streams so that water temps stay low enough to support trout. Well vegetated stream banks are extremely important in keeping sediment out of spawning areas. It has been noted by VDGIF that 25 or so years ago Mossy Creek had brook trout up to four pounds. Spring creeks provide the best temperatures and the best insect life, and it is hoped that we may once again be able to create the proper environment to bring back large, catchable native fish.

For those of you who may wonder at the shifting use of the terms wild and native, let me explain. A wild fish is one that is bred and raised in the stream it lives in. A native fish is one whose genetic history says it always lived here for thousands of years. That is why we now have some wild rainbows and browns in many streams, but they are descendents of fish stocked years ago. Browns came from Germany and rainbows from west of the Continental divide in the Rockies. The brook trout is our only native salmonid in the eastern U.S., so we really need to protect them. Their genetics has adapted to our region, and it is they that stand the best chance of survival into the next millennium. More info at www.brookie.org.

The Shenandoah Home Rivers Initiative will work hand in hand with another major trout restoration project that is occurring in the eastern U.S. and has been for almost 5 years. It is called the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture. Seventeen states from Georgia to Maine are working in partnership to help preserve the remaining brook trout streams in the high elevation mountains where they have been driven by poor land use, and other invasive trout species. But there is also a goal of restoring native brookies to many of the spring creeks that were their home before the white man arrived and removed the canopy from streams in order to farm the land. There are many government and state programs that help pay for fencing and tree planting in order to make them hospitable to trout again.

It is time for Rapidan to have a new stream project. Any ideas? Come to the January meeting which will be an annual planning meeting.

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President's Pool

Late July 1995. Red Lake, Ontario. It was hot. No..... really, it was. It was both hot and dry. The normally knee deep lichen crackled under foot. Nearly a thousand miles to the south-east, Chicago was blistering.

I had travelled north with Scott, a friend from work and numerous members of his mothers' family on their annual Canada trip. The week had been fantastic. The fishing had been fantastic. In fact, I really had nothing to compare it too.

So, here we were, hot, tired and happy, on the bank of the Chukuni River. It was time to cool off. We tossed our towels on the dock, took a deep breath, and jumped in.

At this point I should launch into something about how the chapter's fall and winter preparations are like that deep breath before the plunge. But I hope that our plunge is more like a refreshing dip in the Shenandoah. The Chukuni was probably the coldest water I have ever willingly jumped into. It took my breath away. My arms didn't want to work. I was numb (or was that 'dumb'). Scott's relatives thought we were nuts. And I suppose we were.

Rapidan Chapter will take the deep breath in January, as we make plans and flesh out the calendar for the spring. I hope to see you at this important meeting Jan. 7th. I also hope you will include the chapter Christmas party Dec. 6th as a part of your holiday celebration. In any event, I hope you have an enjoyable and safe holiday season.

Looking for that towel near.....

The Presidents Pool

Kevin Daniels

November 08

2008 Christmas Party

The 2008 Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, December 6 at the home of Kevin and Barbara Daniels. The Christmas party will take the place of the membership meeting for December. Please join us for an evening of food and storytelling starting at 6:30. (Directions page 4)

Upcoming Events

Dec 2008

6 6:30 PM Christmas Party at Daniels House
(No Board/Chapter Mtg)

Jan 2009

7 7:00 PM Board Meeting-All Hands Mtg
7:30PM Chapter Meeting/Steve Moyer TU

Feb 2009

4 7:00 PM Board Meeting
7:30PM Chapter Meeting/Fly Tying with
Chris Murphy

Our January meeting is fast approaching. Not only are we planning for the fishing show but for the rest of our spring projects as well. Our special guest for January is Steve Moyer, Vice President of Trout Unlimited. Steve will address the The General Mining Act of 1872. The 1872 Mining Law provides for the acquisition and protection of private mining claims on public land. The repercussions of this law effect not only mining in the intermountain west, but how the government views land use issues and how we as conservationists react to it. Please plan on attending and mark your calendars for January 7, 7:30 p.m., the Sun Trust Bank in Warrenton.

Raffle tickets for the Feb. 09 Fishing Show are now available. There are 2 separate raffle events.

Premium Rod Raffle Plus \$5.00 per ticket or 6 for \$25.00, 5 winners

Items for the Rod Raffle include: a custom can rod by Chris Bogart; a Winston Vapor rod; a Sea Eagle inflatable boat; a \$300.00 gift certificate to Dick's Sporting Goods; and a Ross CLA2 reel

Montana Trip Raffle \$25.00 per ticket, only 300 tickets printed
1 week in Yellowstone for 2 people, any 7 days 7/15 – 8/15 2009

For ticket information contact: Fred Kallmeyer 703-553-7625
or Fredkall@aol.com

Trout in the Classroom-Eyed Eggs, Alevin and Fry... Oh My!

Ever been called a small fry? The fifth graders at P.B. Smith Elementary School don't mind. They are learning about eyed eggs, alevin and of course, fry through Trout in the Classroom, a conservation-oriented environmental education program for kindergarten through high school students. The teachers can use this interdisciplinary program to teach science, social studies, language arts, math and art.

Upon receiving the trout eggs at P.B. Smith, fifth graders invited all grades to visit the class aquarium for an egg-sighting experience! Mrs. Crosby's primary class, with all eyes on the egg basket, discovered that trout eggs are very small compared to chicken eggs. When her class returns, they will see that the eggs have hatched! But... they won't see any feathers on these alevin! All the students at P.B. Smith will have many opportunities to observe the growth of trout in the fifth grade throughout the year.

The fifth graders, after raising and caring for the brook trout from eyed eggs (eggs with eyes) to alevin (newly hatched fish in the larval stage) to fry (small fish), will then release their trout into a state approved stream. Throughout the school year, students will also learn about stream habitats, water quality and coldwater conservation, however, a long term goal of the Trout in the Classroom program is to reconnect young people to their local environments that include the systems of streams, rivers and watersheds that sustain them. Trout in the Classroom programs have been helping students become stewards of the earth for more than twenty years. In Virginia, there are trout habitats set up in over 50 schools throughout the state. Aquariums can be found in the elementary schools as well as the high schools.

P.B. Smith's program has been sponsored by the local chapter of Trout Unlimited. The school is so thankful for the generous donation from Kevin Daniels and the Rapidan Chapter of Trout Unlimited which funded the cost of the specialized equipment necessary for caring for the trout until they can be released into the wild waters of Virginia. In addition, the Heatwole family provided a 55 gallon tank which will be the home for the trout for the next 6 months and for many more generations of trout in the years to come. **Students at P.B. Smith are reconnecting with nature one fry at a time!**

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Directions to Kevin Daniels House for 2008 Rapidan Christmas Party:**From Manassas:**

Route 28 South (travel under 234 bypass then three more lights) to Route 619 take a left on Bristow Road. Cross the RR tracks in Bristow, travel 1 mile to the first right on Valley View. On Valley View Drive, travel 3 miles. The road ends in a "T" intersection. Directly across is the driveway. I am the old brick farmhouse on the right.

From Rt. 29 North of Remington:

Take the exit for 28 North, go about 15 ½ miles to the light at Fitzwater Drive in Nokesville (there is a 7 eleven and Joes Pizza on the corner) Make a right on Fitzwater. Travel through downtown Nokesville to the "T" where Fitzwater ends. You will see Brentsville High School in front of you.

Make a right on Aden Road. Go about ¼ mile and turn left on Park Gate Drive. Travel 3 miles to 11305 Park Gate on your right. There will be a cemetery on your left and my driveway on the right (across from the intersection with Valley View Drive).

From Warrenton

29 north to a right on route 605. Take 605 to route 28 north. Fitzwater Drive is the next light on 28 north Travel through downtown Nokesville to the "T" where Fitzwater ends. You will see Brentsville High School in front of you.

Make a right on Aden Road. Turn at the next left on Park Gate Drive. Travel 3 miles to 11305 Park Gate on your right. There will be a cemetery on your left and my driveway on the right (across from at the intersection with Valley View Drive).

From I 95 South

Take the 234 north exit

Go approx. 8 miles and turn Left on Bristow Road/(across from the landfill)

Follow Bristow for a short distance- you will see Crosby's crab house on your left. At the intersection after Crosby's, turn left on Aden Road. Proceed straight through the first stop sign, then 8 miles to the second stop sign.