



Hatches
PO Box 107
Delaplane, VA 20144

Inside this issue:

<i>Heritage/Kid's Day</i>	1
<i>President's Pool</i>	2
<i>Upcoming Evt's/Rapidan Rvr</i>	3
<i>50 Years TU Conservation</i>	4

Hatches Notes:

June Chapter Meeting 6/3:

At the 3 June meeting, an environmental DVD movie (Red Gold; ~55 minutes) about the proposed Pebble mine in Alaska will be shown (provided by Shane Fletcher/Rapidan), AND will include our annual PIZZA party (7:30pm). Bring a friend and a beverage! Please join us for the last Chapter meeting before summer recess activities commence.

2009 Best Days to Fish

-June 2009: 24th thru 31st

-July 2009: 7th thru 22nd

-Aug 2009: 5th thru 20th

Best Fishing times:

During the "[morning rise](#)" (after sunup for a spell) and the "[evening rise](#)" (just before sun-down and the hour or so after).

***Data according to "[The Old Farmers Almanac](#)" 2009**

Heritage/Kid's Day-2009

by Marcia Woolman

On a day that was so windy you couldn't keep your hat on, and the water was so high and fast from the much needed rain, that one would have considered it a "non-fishing" day. However, with child like optimism we all raced out to Graves Mountain Lodge on the Rose River with high expectations. We were not disappointed!

It wasn't the best fishing, but many children were photographed with big smiles and nice fish. The enhanced format included fishing and casting lessons on the newly stocked, catch & release, pond just upstream and across from the pavilion. This really helped to entertain some of the teenagers and parents who had come for the day, but were not permitted to fish in the stream.

Each year we try to improve, using suggestions from our volunteers. So this year we increased the number of portable casting ponds to three, so adults and children could all get casting lessons, but the wind kept this activity minimal for most of the day. Thanks to our many volunteers both from Rapidan, N. Shenandoah Valley, and Northern VA, we had well staffed fly tying tables both for learning and watching. We had certified stream monitors who netted the stream dwelling insects so all could see first hand, live fish food and better understand why we tie and use our flies to fool trout. Our fly tying tables were busy all day with kid's tying wooly buggers. We also had fly tiers plying their skill with flies as well as Walt Carey creating his world famous "Walt's Poppers."

The Graves family had the glass door sides pulled down on the pavilion and a great fire going in the giant fireplace. It provided a perfect venue for many of our activities and displays. Jimmy Graves also provided a free lunch for every one of our TU volunteers, and for that we are most appreciative.

As Jimmy Graves is expanding the Heritage Day aspect he had VDGIF include a hunting simulator which was a big hit with the kids. Likewise, I had my friend Dick Dement who is one of the original members of the Wild Turkey Federation, come with his own collection of turkey calls and 20 turkey calls donated by Lynch Calls to chance off. He spent the day in his "camo" suit teaching children to use the calls and then take a chance on winning one. This was a great attraction as well.

As the weather got warmer, and the wind died down, the fishing improved about mid afternoon. It turned out to be a very successful day with over 800 people attending. It will be held again next year on the first Saturday in April at the same location. Hope many of you will be able to volunteer or come and bring all the youngsters in your family. We will have events for all ages, but the stream fishing will always be for the kids 12 and under.



**Rapidan Chapter
Officers and Board
of Directors**

President:

Kevin Daniels----
2educ8rs@verizon.net

Secretary:

Fred Kallmeyer-----
FredKall@aol.com

Treasurer:

Douglas Farmer----
douglasfarmer@adelphia.net

Conservation:

Dr. Larry Puckett---
ljpuckett@comcast.net

TIC Coordinator:

Chuck Hoysa---
choysa@comcast.net

Newsletter:

Larry Willoughby---
larry.d.willoughby@boeing.com

FwF Coordinator:

Chris Murphy---
rapidantufwf@comcast.net

Membership Chairman:

Rob Paul---
r2rPaul@cox.net

At Large:

Joe Judd---
juddtrout@yahoo.com

Rapidan Chapter Meetings

Location and times:

Sun Trust Bank
251 West Lee Highway
Suite 680, Warrenton, VA

Chapter Meeting (7:00 pm):

First Wed every month

President's Pool

There is no big trip factored into my summer plans. This year, I will join the many Americans who are having a "staycation". Apart from the Honey Do list items that will finally get they're due there will be a few trips up to the Park. I know that the water temperatures in July and August are stressful on the trout but it sure feels good to me. I do enjoy wet wading. My quarry will hardly have any idea what's coming until plucked from the water and exposed in all of their diminutive glory.

Of course, I won't be fishing. At least not for trout. Other day trips might take me to the Shenandoah or Rappahannock rivers in search of bass and bream, but my summer trips to the Park are for bugs. And I am especially fond of bugs that like to hold still for my camera.

Until recently, my interest in aquatic insects was limited to the observations on the stream that might help me choose the correct fly. I'm talking about brief observation here, not study. I have more patience than the average middle schooler but I still want immediate gratification. If nothing showed on the stream within a few minutes, I tied on an attractor and got busy casting. It sometimes worked too. But last spring, my interest was piqued from an unexpected direction.

I had enrolled in a basic photography course at NOVA in order to fulfill my recertification requirements as a vocational teacher in VA. The final project for the class was to be a series of pictures taken in a style or genre of choice. Throughout the course I had taken hundreds of pictures but what I most enjoyed was nature photography, particularly macro shots of small subjects. Among the pictures in my final grouping were some taken on Laurel Run and the Rapidan.

I have turned plenty of rocks over but this was the first time I had really gotten into it. I was having a good time. It was almost like I was 10 again rooting around in the creek near my home. I could spend hours just exploring 100 yards. Everything was magic and had a life unique from my own.

Not all of the shots were great, but the time spent getting them was. Besides, with digital cameras there is no wasted film. The other benefit of course was to discover how rich an environment these streams held. I was particularly surprised at Laurel. It had been almost bone dry 7 months before but I was standing in a hatch of Yellow Sallies.

This summer I plan to focus on a stream or two and make a couple of trips just to take a few pictures, enjoy the scenery and maybe learn something in the process. Maybe I'll even dust off my copies of Dave Hughes and Rick Hafele's entomology books to compare notes. And I will be more than happy to bore anyone with my amateur efforts come September.

As TU celebrates 50 years of successful conservation work this summer I for one, am proud to be a member. I hope you have a pleasant, safe and relaxing summer. And if you happen to be out hiking in the park and see a kilted wet wading middle aged doofus standing mid stream, staring at a rock, don't worry. I will have just pulled another prize from.....

The President's Pool

May 09

Upcoming Events

3 June 2009

7:30PM Chapter Meeting/Pizza party and "Red Gold" movie

June 21-26

Tri State Youth Camp, Graves Mtn. Lodge

June 29

Special Love Camp, Front Royal 4H center

July 2009

Summer Recess

August 2009

Summer Recess

Other 2009 Summer Activities:

June 6 HIV Event @ Front Royal 4H-**CANCELLED**

June 21-26 Tri State Youth Camp, Graves Mtn. Lodge

June 29 Special Love Camp, Front Royal 4H center



2009 Smallmouth Bass Forecast

The 2009 smallmouth bass forecast is very promising. Main fisheries to include the South Fork/Main Stem of the Shenandoah, as well as the Rappahannock are on the increase with respect to smallmouth populations. Average size predictions is between 9-16" for most catches and one will even have a chance to bag largemouth bass in the Shenandoah in the 2-3lb range. Just fish the deeper sections of the Shenandoah for such largemouth success. The time is now to catch big smallmouth as the May rains have created "near perfect environmental conditions" for superb growth rates of these fish. Larry Willoughby
(Data from VDGIF Fishing Module)

Rapidan River Clean UP-2009

One of the major goals of the Rapidan Chapter of TU is to maintain the habitat necessary for viable brook trout populations in our area. Brookies need pollution free, stable water in which to live and breed, and the presence of brook trout in an aquatic ecosystem is a strong indication of just that.

Annually, our chapter hosts a "Rapidan River Cleanup" event in the spring on the Rapidan River in the Shenandoah National Park. This picturesque stream contains some of the best brook trout water (and some of the biggest brookies) in the park, but due to the relative ease of access and the fact that it flows through the Rapidan Wildlife Management area, the road to the Rapidan sees a lot of travelers, many of whom do not have a fly-fisherman's regard for leaving a stream better than one finds it.

That's where our chapter came to the rescue. Seventeen members arrived April 11th to collect trash along the access road which parallels the Rapidan River. Over ten bags of trash were collected from along the roadway in the park and the RWMA, mostly comprised of beer and soda cans, food packaging, and beer bottles. The trash was delivered to the Fauquier County landfill with a smile and a sense of pride, as our organization's turnout was the largest in recent memory.

After collection, the group enjoyed a cookout in the SNP, where many a fish tale was told and a fly pattern shared. This year, a "Fly Fishing Tuneup" was provided for new fly fisherman or those who were new to fishing the Park. Members volunteered to personally guide anyone new to fishing the area, and it was great to see several people land their first brook trout.

Thank you to all for your participation in and support of one of our most important events. The Rapidan River is the place where I, like many of you, learned how to fly fish, and your efforts will ensure that it will be a better stream when I teach my daughter to fly fish there in the years to come.

Chris Murphy

Fly Fishing Film Tour

In March I attended the Urban Angler sponsored "Fly Fishing Film Tour" which was hosted at the Arlington Cinema and Draft House. The movie itself was completely revolutionary and just watching it creates a powerful urge to "go fish". The movie features a 2 set production; one on the pebble mine issue with incredible scenes of Alaska wildlife and guides who are passionately committed to their trade, and the other is simply a collection of global fly fishing venues (bone fishing in Belize and fishing reds on the east coast to name a few). I am not a movie critic but I must say this movie is worth attending. Additionally, the fee to watch the movie (\$15) is a deal in itself as all proceeds collected go to conservation efforts for the Potomac and Shenandoah fisheries.

Larry Willoughby

Page 4**Hatches****PO Box 107****Delaplane, VA 20144**

50 Years of Conservation Success

2009 marks the 50th anniversary of TU's founding on the banks of the Au Sable River near Grayling, Michigan. The 16 fishermen who gathered at the home of George Griffith were united by their love of trout fishing, and by their growing discontent with the state's practice of stocking its waters with "cookie cutter trout"—catchable-sized hatchery fish. Convinced that Michigan's trout streams could turn out a far superior fish if left to their own devices, the anglers formed a new organization: Trout, Unlimited (the comma was dropped a few years later) dedicated to ensuring that wild and native trout populations were allowed to thrive, as nature intended.

From the beginning, TU was guided by the principle that if we "take care of the fish, then the fishing will take care of itself." And that principle was grounded in science. "One of our most important objectives is to develop programs and recommendations based on the very best information and thinking available," said TU's first president, Dr. Casey E. Westell Jr. "In all matters of trout management, we want to know that we are substantially correct, both morally and biologically."

In 1962-63, TU prepared its first policy statement on wild trout, and persuaded the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to curtail "put-and-take" trout stocking and start managing for wild trout and healthy habitat. On the heels of that success, anglers quickly founded TU chapters in Illinois, Wisconsin, New York, and Pennsylvania.

From its hundreds of local stream restoration projects, to helping lead the way to remove the Edwards Dam on the Kennebec River in Maine, to compelling Congress to strengthen the Clean Water Act, TU has a strong 50 year track record of conservation achievements. Perhaps TU's greatest strength is that it works at multiple levels of society and government to achieve its mission. From the landowner on the stream bank, to the state fisheries agency, to the Halls of Congress, TU is working to achieve its vision.

The Future As it enters its second half-century, Trout Unlimited knows that the environment faces massive challenges from global warming, competition for water, and the quest for supplies of energy. To meet these challenges, TU is committed to developing strategies based on the best science and broad understanding of social and economic impacts.

To guide it into the future, TU has defined goals in four broad themes: Protect watersheds to ensure the highest quality habitat for native and wild fish; Reconnect fragmented streams to sustain healthy populations of native and wild fish; Restore degraded coldwater habitat thorough collaboration with landowners and other stakeholders; and Sustain conservation efforts by building capacity within all levels of TU with a particular emphasis on enabling young people to successfully engage in long-term conservation efforts so that TU's legacy will endure beyond the current generation.

Excerpted with permission from Rivers of Restoration, by John Ross, published in 2008 by Skyhorse Publishing.

Contributors to this Quarter's Hatches Newsletter include: Kevin Daniels, Fred Kallmeyer, Marcia Woolman, Chris Murphy; John Ross excerpt noted above; and VDGIF.
