



Hatches
PO Box 107
Delaplane, VA 20144

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Hatches Notes:

September Chapter Meeting **9/3:**

Barbara Stewart from the National Park Service will be joining us to discuss the effects of fires and her role in firefighting in the NPS. This will certainly be an interesting and educational meeting so please plan on attending.

2008 Best Days to Fish

-Sept 2008: 1st thru 15th

-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"**

2008 TU Kid's Conservation Camp- Graves Lodge

by Fred Kallmeyer

I had the opportunity to be a helper at the June 22--27 2008 TU Kid's Conservation & Fishing Camp hosted by Graves Lodge in Syria, Virginia. A total of eighteen children from four different states as well as the District of Columbia attended the camp. Specialized classes were the main attraction at this year's camp and included: Stream Monitoring Macroinvertebrate (Jeff Wolinski); Fish Habitat/Population (Paul Bugas/DGIF); Shenandoah National Park (Karen Beck-Herzog, Dave Demarest), Protecting Watersheds (Nat Gillespie/TU); Dominion Power Partnerships (Bill Bolin); Rose River Electrofishing (Dave Demarest/Paul Bugas); Trout Habitat (Jim Gracie); Popper Tying (Walt Carey); Shad Restoration (Sandy Burk); and Fishing in Tri-State Area (Beau Beasley) were taught to the students. There were also daily classes of teamwork development (Paul Kearney), casting (Phil Gay), fly tying (Bud Brune) and trout and bass fishing (daily volunteers).

George Gaines (Chief Camp Director) received a leadership award from VDGIF chairman for sustained leadership in directing this camp for the past 5 years.

There was a core staff of 9 people led by Paul Kearney, with 5 additional volunteers helping and assisting the kids each day. I observed that the students were very attentive, asked excellent questions, retained a great deal of information, and spent time on the water where they caught many fish. In my opinion, this program is very rewarding for both staff and children. This year's camp was defined by camaraderie and learning. I truly believe that this camp is one of the more dynamic programs of Trout Unlimited to help teach the younger generation about the benefits of our environment and what our natural resources can offer in return.



**Rapidan Chapter
Officers and Board of**

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2educ8rs@verizon.net

Vice President:

Mr. Vacant

Secretary: Vacant.....

Treasurer:

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douglasfarmer@comcast.net

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bajjwalls@comcast.net

James Hart---
hartswoods@comcast.net

Kyle Dings---
kdd8989@aol.com

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

Chris Murphy--
manutd51@comcast.net

Fred Kallmeyer---
FredKall@aol.com

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Hatches Editor: Larry Wil-
loughby

Web Site Manager:

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web site: www.rapidantu.org

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President's Pool

Bill eased his Subaru up to the gas pump in Ft. Smith and put in enough to take him to Billings after our day on the Bighorn was through. I was surprised, it was almost \$5.00 per gallon. And to think that I had complained about the price of gas in Hardin. Bill said that the folks who ran the store were really nice and since they were next to the shop he worked out of, it was part of the cost of doing business.

The cost of just about everything had been on my mind this whole trip.

It had been 2 years since my wife Barbara and I visited our close friends Shelly and Earl Sutherland in Montana, so, last winter we planned the trip. I would drive out in mid July and Barbara would fly out at the end of the month as her vacation time allowed. This was before 4.00 per gallon of gas, which prompted me to take my Nissan sedan and a backpacking tent instead of the 1/2 ton Dodge pickup towing a camper.

On the drive I noticed that many things were more expensive. Not only fuel, but hotels, food, camping, park entrance fees and fishing licenses. All due to the cost of doing business. I also noticed subtle things hinting that this cost is likely to effect us well into the future. Many of the endless South Dakota wheat fields are now corn fields, offered up for ethanol production. There were fewer cars on the road than you would expect and more motorcycles (most, but not all of them were headed to Sturgis). Very few pickups pulling anything. RV/camper sales lots were full and offering tremendous sales (none of them were on the road).

In spite of these things, I had a great time. I spent time with some wonderful friends, saw some beautiful country (not just in MT), and caught lots of fish. What's not to like?

As a Trout Unlimited member I also find that there is a cost to doing business. As volunteers, we give our time, money, sweat and who knows what else for the success of the organization and a cleaner environment for us all. In many cases we give of ourselves willingly yet sometimes less so. Nevertheless, the cost is paid and things get done. Or not.

This then becomes the question; What is the cost of not doing business? Do we give up on head-water streams that no one else has the time to restore or protect? Do we wait for someone else to challenge damaging building/agricultural/industrial practices? Do we stop educating our communities on water quality issues and freshwater conservation? In short: Do we stop making a difference?

I think not. If you are reading this of course you have already made your decision. You are a member of one of the most successful and respected conservation organizations to date. An organization working on National, regional, state, and local levels to improve our environment. And for your membership alone I would like to thank you.

You give of your time, money, and talent as you are able and I appreciate each and every individual effort. There are many opportunities for active support and I would encourage our inactive members to come to a meeting and discover them. And if not now, I hope to see you whenever, if ever, your situation allows.

To our active members I would add my sincere Thanks for everything you do. Thank You. Rapidan Chapter was known for its hard work and dedication long before I came on board and it still is. Yet because of this reputation, there is an expectation that we will continue. That's OK, it's just the cost of doing business.

Taking a summertime dip in the President's Pool.

Kevin Daniels

August 08

Upcoming Events

Sept 2008

- 3 7:00 PM Board Meeting
 7:30PM Chapter Meeting/Speaker-Barbara Stewart of NPS "Fire Fighting in the National Park "

Oct 2008

- 1 7:00 PM Board Meeting
 7:30PM Chapter Meeting/Speaker-Chip Drozenski/
 Guide-"Argentina Fishing and Hunting"

Nov 2008

- 5 7:00 PM Board Meeting
 7:30PM Chapter Meeting/Speaker-Jeff Kelble-Shenandoah River Keeper-Shenandoah River Status/Smallmouth Bass"

FACTOID

Looking for that lunker Brown....if your fishing in all the regular spots, this is the reason why you can't find him. For lunkers, you really need to employ a different strategy because larger browns do not prefer the same territories as smaller trout and for many reasons.

Next time your fishing for lunker browns, look for areas in a river or stream that provide depth, cover and a slow, steady current. Deep holes further downstream are usually where you find these conditions and are where the large predatory browns prevail.

Big browns will also lurk in the shadows of undercut banks where they are protected from harm and where they can easily dart out and inhale baitfish or the common grasshopper or other insects.

Field and Stream; July '08

Picture from this year's TU Conservation Camp at Graves Lodge.



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WADING SAFELY-Larry Willoughby

As summer will soon turn into fall, trout fishing will become everyone's pleasure again. This means wading and boating in rivers, lakes and streams where you will at some point experience high water flow, fast water and strong currents. For some of us we have to remember that we are not as young as we once were or as agile as we liked to be. This can result in spills in the rivers and lakes and we need to know the rules in how best to self-rescue ourselves. Let's face it, none of us ever wants this to happen, but if it does the following examines some of the techniques one can employ in preventing any serious endangerment during a river wading or watercraft accident.

If you have fallen out of your canoe or boat or slipped on a rock while wading in deep river water and a fast current has sucked you under and overtaken the moment, here is what you can do:

- (1) **Assume the position:** The safest way to ride a rapid is on your back, head pointed up-stream, feet down, legs flexed, and toes just above the water's surface. Lift your head to watch ahead. Use your feet to bounce off rocks and logs.
- (2) **Time your breathing:** Choking on water will unleash a panic reaction in even the most experienced swimmer. The surest way to avoid a sudden, massive gulp of water is to inhale in the troughs (low points) and exhale or hold your breath at the crests (tops) of the waves.
- (3) **Scout for an Out:** As you look downstream to avoid obstacles, such as log-jams, also scan the shoreline for calmer water, such as an eddy on the downstream side of a rock or river bend.
- (4) **Go with the Flow:** As the current carries you toward quieter water, paddle with your arms and kick with your legs to steer yourself toward shore. When you get close, roll onto your stomach and swim upstream at a 45-degree angle, which will ferry you to the bank.

Other considerations when wading:

- ⇒ Always carry a wading staff with you and make sure you use it whenever in the river/stream to mobilize your footing and as a tool to check water depth
- ⇒ Be wary of different colorations in the water as this may be an indication of deeper water ahead
- ⇒ Always use personal flotation devices (PFD) when fishing from any watercraft and depending on high river flows these are highly recommended for wading as well
- ⇒ If you've fallen out of control in the river and your \$1200 rod/reel package has slipped from your grip, don't be foolish. Your life is worth much more than that rod and reel.
- ⇒ Make sure that someone knows where you are before you venture out to the stream/river. Communicate the name of the stream/river to your spouse or child and carry a cell phone and a change of clothes. Also state an approximate time as to when you expect your return home.

Techniques of self-rescue provided by Field and Stream; June, 2008