



# SMITH RIVER TU NEWSLETTER

April/May 2023

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**June 1<sup>st</sup>.** *June Regular Meeting. Krista Hodges of the Dan River Basin Association(DRBA) will be our guest speaker. Krista is the coordinator for the Trout in the Classroom program at DRBA. She will provide an overview of the program and discuss the successes and challenges over the last school year. Jeff Deering is the lead. [Jdeer76@yahoo.com](mailto:Jdeer76@yahoo.com)*

**June 2-4.** *South Holston Fishing Trip, TN. We have reserved the same house as prior years, the Redbrick Castaway, 572 Riverside Road, Bluff City. Over a mile of private river access. Drive to other access. Wade/drift. Sign up early, there is room at the house for 8 anglers. Eric Tichay is the lead. [erictichay@yahoo.com](mailto:erictichay@yahoo.com)*

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



This has been a very busy spring for our chapter. We conducted a half day intro to fly fishing class, assisted with multiple trout releases for Trout in the Classroom, a trash pickup, camping trip and more. And we're not done yet. These have all been great activities for our chapter but as always we need volunteers. Please take a look at our upcoming events and see if you can help out for an hour or two. We are only successful with your help.

Hope to see you soon.

-Jeff Deering



## Recent Chapter Events

April 8<sup>th</sup> – Kid's Fishing Day in Stuart, VA. Great turnout with over 60 kids. SRTU members helped out and gave away two new fly rod packages as prizes.

April 15<sup>th</sup>. Trash Pickup in Bassett. SRTU members arrived early for our first of four trash pickups.



April 29<sup>th</sup>. Introduction to Fly Fishing class was held at King's Grant Retirement community. 12 attendees learned the basics of fly fishing.

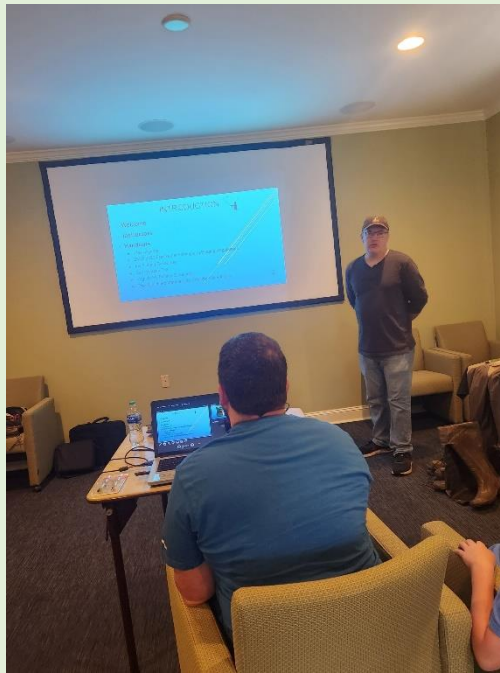
May 20<sup>th</sup> BRH 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Veteran's Fishing Day was held on a mild overcast day. About 40 veterans from all the service branches came out and enjoyed a great day of fishing.

# Introduction to Fly Fishing Class a Great Success

by Jeff Deering

On April 29<sup>th</sup> 12 people met at Franck's Place Café at the King's Grant Retirement Community in Martinsville, Va. These 12 people came together to learn the basics of fly fishing from members of the Smith River chapter of Trout Unlimited. Attendees were a diverse group with a 15 year old member of the Bassett HS Fishing Team, men, women, couples and families.

The day began in the meeting room at Franck's Place where discussions led by SRTU volunteers touched on topics such as the basics of a fly rod and reel, fly fishing equipment, types of fly lures used and general fishing safety.



The class then moved outside where participants learned how to cast a fly rod using multiple techniques such as the overhead cast, roll cast and sidearm cast.



After a break for a chapter provided lunch of hot dogs and chips it was back outside to try their luck catching a fish using their newly learned skills. Using fly rods and flies provided by the chapter everyone was able to fish for close to two hours at a pond on the premises owned by the King's Grant community. By the end of the day almost everyone had caught at least one fish.



The smiles and thanks expressed by the attendees was clear evidence of a job well done by our chapter volunteers. Special thanks to the staff of King's Grant for being so accommodating for the event and especially to King's Grant Executive Director James Souter for making this event such a success.

# BLUE RIDGE HERITAGE'S VETERAN'S FISHING DAY

By Al Kittredge

Blue Ridge Heritage (BRH) hosted its 8th Annual Veterans Fishing Day at the BRH Education Center just off the Blue Ridge Parkway near Floyd VA on May 20, 2023.

Their spring fed pond is actually the headwaters of Rock Castle Creek. This is a popular event with about 40 veterans showing up this year.



BRH stocks the pond with several hundred pounds of good size rainbow trout about a week before the event. This is a "catch and keep" with any legal method of fishing allowed. Power Bait seemed to be the bait of choice but we also saw worms, corn, small spinners and artificial flies all catching fish.

Smith River Trout Unlimited was on hand to talk about fishing opportunities in the area and assist

with fish handling

Patrick County High School Fishing Team did a great job assisting wherever needed.



*These two young fellows stayed with and helped this Korean War Vet and his wife throughout the event.*



At noon we were treated to a fine meal of hamburgers, hot dogs and all the fixings.

After lunch the fish were still biting so back at it to see if a few more could be added to the stringer.

The Patrick County HS Fishing Team set up a table and cleaned fish for anyone who didn't want to clean their own - it's kind of hard to beat that!





There ya have it. With Memorial Day fast approaching this event was a great way to show our appreciation for the sacrifices our veterans made to provide us with the freedoms we enjoy today.

Tip of the hat to Blue Ridge Heritage and all the volunteers. These events don't just happen - They take planning, coordination, resources and a lot of just plain hard work. The Good Lord willing we will do it all over again next year.

## June 01, 2023, Quarterly Chapter Meeting



Our second chapter meeting of the year is quickly approaching. The meeting will be held at Rania's Restaurant in Martinsville beginning at 6:30. Regular chapter updates will be given as well as including a special guest speaker from the Dan River Basin Association. Krista Hodges has been leading DRBA's Trout in the Classroom program and our chapter is once again assisting this great program. Krista will be discussing the recently completed Trout in the Classroom

season, what the program's goals are and what challenges and successes the program experienced this year.

Also kicking off at the quarterly meeting will be our first fundraising sweepstakes with an amazing grand prize of a half day fly fishing guided float trip generously donated by our friends at Smith River Outfitters. See our fundraising flyer later in this newsletter.

As always we will be holding a raffle at the meeting with some great prizes. This quarterly meeting raffle will have a fly tying theme. The featured item for the first ticket number drawn in the raffle is the HMH Standard Bench Vise Pedestal Base, pictured below.

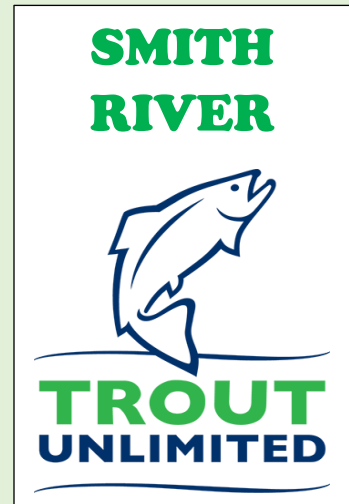


The HMH Standard vise is made from precision-machined and carefully finished stainless tool steels and brass. Each vise is individually hand fitted and tuned for maximum performance. The base price for this vise is a whopping \$425.00!!

In addition, we have three fly tying materials grab bag packages to choose from for the next three ticket numbers drawn. Fly tying materials in these packages have a retail value of about \$100 each.

Donations for raffle tickets will be accepted in person at the June 01 meeting. The raffle drawing will be done at the close of the meeting. Winners must be present at the meeting.

Come on out and enjoy the evening with us.



## **ENTER TO WIN A HALF DAY GUIDED FISHING TRIP ON THE SMITH RIVER**



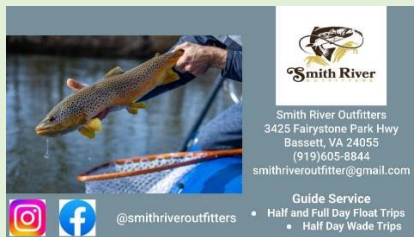
**Proceeds to benefit Smith River Trout Unlimited's youth education and conservation programs. No purchase necessary. Contest winners to be announced September 7th at the chapter's quarterly meeting. Contact [smithriverchapter@tu.org](mailto:smithriverchapter@tu.org) for full rules and prizes list.**

**Sweepstakes begins June 1<sup>st</sup>. More details to be released soon.**



## COMMUNITY CORNER

Have an interesting article, fishing trip photo or some fishing tips you want to share in the newsletter? Please email us at [srtuandfriends@yahoo.com](mailto:srtuandfriends@yahoo.com). We'd love to hear from you.



Interested in fishing on the Smith but aren't sure where the best spots are? Are they biting on dry flies or nymphs? Call Smith River Outfitters and schedule a full or half day trip. Local guides are ready to put you on some fish.



Smith River Chapter

Trout Unlimited

[Smithriver.tu.org](http://Smithriver.tu.org)

Visit our Facebook group where we share event announcements and photos. <http://www.facebook.com/SmithRiverTU>



For story suggestions or to share photos from your recent fishing trips please contact us at [smithriverchapter@tu.org](mailto:smithriverchapter@tu.org)

## Smith River TU Chapter Officers

Chapter President – Jeff Deering ([jdeer76@yahoo.com](mailto:jdeer76@yahoo.com))

Chapter Vice President – Jason Collins ([jaymcol81@yahoo.com](mailto:jaymcol81@yahoo.com))

Chapter Secretary – Adam Gordon ([gordonadam81@gmail.com](mailto:gordonadam81@gmail.com))

Treasurer – Eric Tichay ([erictichay@yahoo.com](mailto:erictichay@yahoo.com))

### Board Members

Roy Ford

Joe May

Al Kittredge