



SMITH RIVER TU NEWSLETTER

February 2023

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 3rd – Regular quarterly chapter meeting. We have special guest speaker Chris Powell, Operations Project Manager for Philpott Lake providing us with an update on Philpott Dam repairs

March 10-12th – 2023 TU Southeast Regional Rendezvous in Asheville, NC. Meetup for TU members and guests from throughout the Southeast Region.

April 8th – Kid's Fishing Field Day in Stuart, VA. Meet at the Mayo River Rail Trail Picnic Area. We will assist as kids fish the stocked Mayo River.

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Happy New Year and welcome to 2023. As we kick off another great year, I want to thank our amazing Chapter Board members for coming together to help plan out our events calendar. We've lined up a lot of great events, fishing trips and community projects for the next 12 months.

I would also like to welcome Adam Gordon (Chapter Secretary) and Matt Tuggle (Conservation Committee Chair) to our leadership team. Without the help of all of our leadership team none of this would be possible.

-Jeff Deering



Recent Chapter Events



January 27-28th – Angler's Choice Open House was held in Martinsville. This event was the first time this event has been held since COVID. Chapter members had a table set up and talked about TU's mission and our chapter with event attendees.

American Fisheries Society by Eric Tichay

The Virginia Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) recently hosted the AFS Southern Division's Annual Meeting, February 1st to the 5th at Norfolk, VA.

The event was attended by government and industry fisheries professionals, university professors and students, and aquatic resource conservationists from 18 AFS chapters throughout the south from Texas to Maryland, including Puerto Rico. The Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources successfully administrated the event.

The event schedule was packed with 15 educational workshops, 21 symposium (technical sessions) and a Saturday morning plenary session. In addition, university students were invited to compete in the Best Student Poster contest. Students displayed technical posters depicting research projects throughout the event hallways.



Workshop on reconnecting aquatic habitat. University student's research project posters.

Workshops were generally presented by experienced fisheries biologists, university professors, and industry professionals. Technical sessions were expertly presented by university students assisted by professors. The author attended workshops on Problematic Aquatic Plants and Aquatic Connectivity. The author also attended 10 technical session topics that included Brook Trout Genetic Data, Creel Surveys and Angler Attitude, Aquatic Connectivity, Climate Change, and Techniques, for example electrofishing.

The AFS Southern Division Annual Meeting is an ideal event to get quickly informed on current aquatic and fisheries conservation practices, and to meet fisheries biologist and other conservation professionals. I highly recommend joining AFS and attending the 2024 annual meeting in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

The mission of the [American Fisheries Society](http://fisheries.org) is to improve the conservation and sustainability of fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems by advancing fisheries and aquatic science and promoting the development of fisheries professionals. The benefits of the various types of membership are found at: <http://fisheries.org/membership/types-of-membership/>

The Smith River Allieworm



**Pattern Originated By
and Fly Tied By
Al (Al Kittredge)**

Smith River Allieworm
Hook : Dai-Riki #060, or similiar Nymph hook.
Thread : Black.
Weight or Underbody : 3.20mm Gold bead or .020 lead wire. The bead is best but try both.
Tail : Alaskan Roe Salmon Egg Yarn by Orvis.
Body : Black Orvis Ultra or Micro chenille, or similiar in small (fine) diameter.
Hackle : Black Saddle hackle Palmered over the body.

**Link to story that explains how the Allieworm came about:
<http://www3.roanoke.com/outdoors/billcochran/1437.html>**

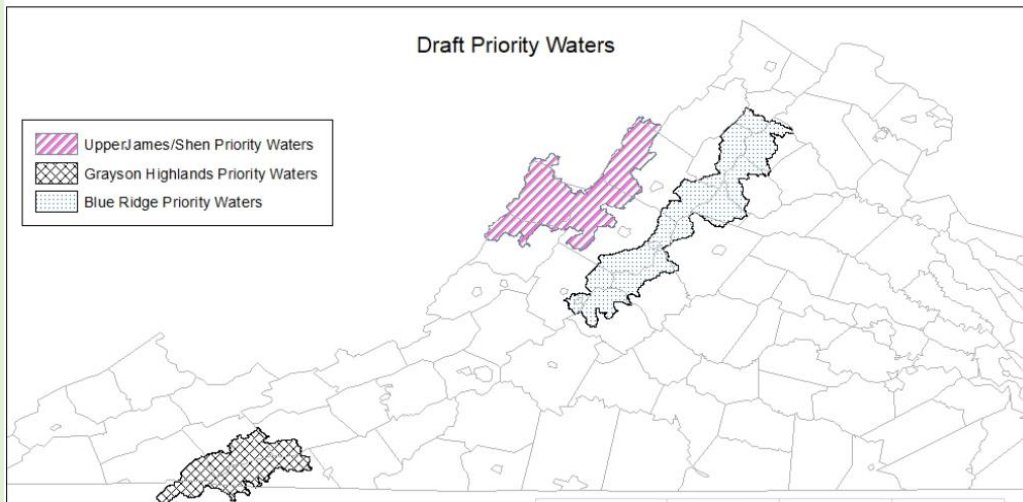
Trout Unlimited Priority Waters Initiative

By Jeff Deering

Over the past few years Trout Unlimited has been working on a project called Priority Waters. It's goal: Identify a national network of shared priority waters for native and wild trout and salmon, and take strategic actions to fix them.

Beginning in 2021 Seth Coffman, TU's Shenandoah Headwaters HRI in Virginia, began a working group in Virginia to identify a list of Virginia's priority waters. From January through February of 2021 group members set parameters to determine which rivers and stream systems to focus on. Some of the questions asked for each was were there native or wild trout populations? Was their interest among various partners to work together towards preservation and improvement of the system? Were there identifiable conservation opportunities and could TU provide added value towards achieving those goals? After taking these factors, and others, into account a list of three priority waters areas were identified.

- Grayson Highlands Priority Waters Area
- Upper James River/Upper Shenandoah River Priority Waters Area
- Blue Ridge Priority Waters Area



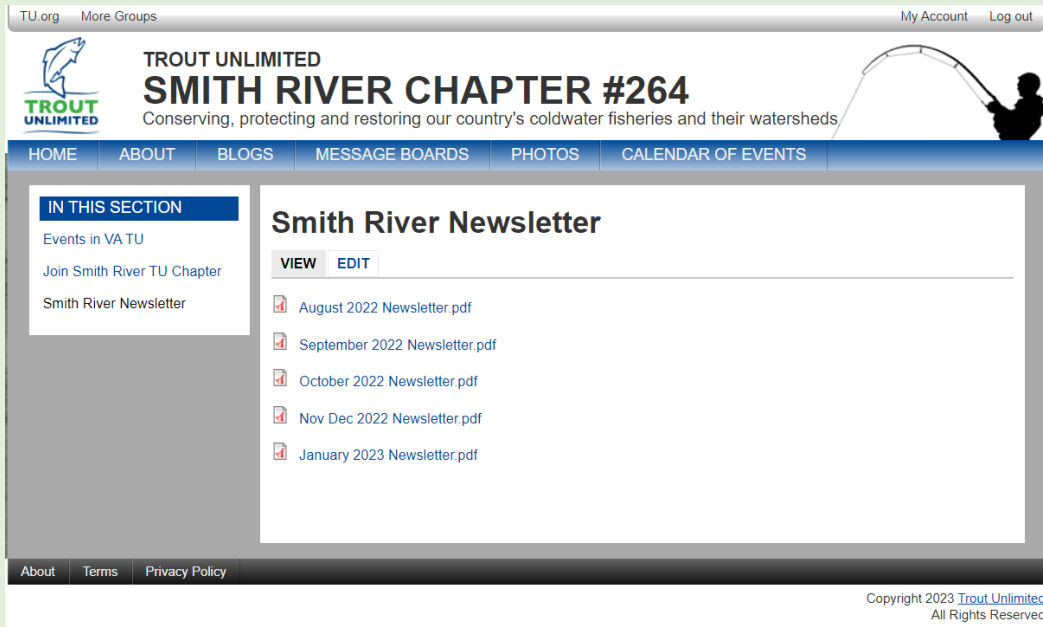
In the years ahead Seth will lead efforts in these three areas. SRTU plans to have Seth join us for our September chapter meeting where he will be able to provide a deeper dive into future plans for these areas of Virginia and can answer any questions you may have. Trout Unlimited has many efforts throughout the United States and often the focus seems to be on regions far from Virginia. However, as we can see there are efforts and projects happening right here in our own state.

Updates to the Smith River TU Chapter website

Have you visited our chapter's website at <https://smithriver.tu.org> lately?



The website has our events calendar and occasional blog posts. It has also now been updated to hold archives of past newsletters. To access the Newsletters click on ABOUT and in the left hand menu click on Smith River Newsletter. As new features or updates are made this site should become more user friendly and useful to our members. If you have suggestions for the site please let us know.



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. 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

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 srtuandfriends@yahoo.com

Smith River TU Chapter Officers

Chapter President – Jeff Deering (jdeer76@yahoo.com)

Chapter Vice President – Jason Collins (jaymcol81@yahoo.com)

Chapter Secretary – Adam Gordon (gordonadam81@gmail.com)

Treasurer – Eric Tichay (erictichay@yahoo.com)

Board Members

Roy Ford

Joe May

Al Kittredge