



SMITH RIVER TU NEWSLETTER

January 2023

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 27-28th – Angler’s Choice Open House in Martinsville, VA. Chapter will host an information booth at the event. More info to come.

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.

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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

Dec 1st – Last Chapter meeting of 2022. Guest speaker George Palmer, DWR Biologist, provided an update on the health of the wild brown trout population in the Smith River.



HIGHLIGHTING LOCAL BUSINESSES

Smith River Outfitters:

Your local guides for fishing the Smith

Have you ever wanted to try fly fishing for some brown trout on the Smith River but don't know where the best spots are? EJ Stern and his team of expert fishing guides are here to help.

This team of experienced guides have spent countless hours fishing the Smith River and know where to find fish for you to have the best fishing experience possible.

Smith River Outfitters, owned and operated by EJ Stern, is a flyfishing guide service located in Bassett, Virginia that offers guided trips on the Smith and other nearby rivers for trout, smallmouth bass and additional species. Half day and full day trips are available to anglers of all skill levels, with both float fishing and wade fishing options available.



"I took over the business and shop location in Bassett in 2021 and have operated it strictly as a guide service. We have a great group of guides that know the river well and provide our clients with an educated experience from countless hours on the water. Whether young or old, beginner or advanced. We have something to offer everyone." EJ Stern Owner SRO

For an experience you will never forget please contact EJ at (919) 605-8844 or email him at smithriveroutfitter@gmail.com



Smith River

Smith River Outfitters
3425 Fairystone Park Hwy
Bassett, VA 24055
(919)605-8844
smithriveroutfitter@gmail.com

Guide Service

- Half and Full Day Float Trips
- Half Day Wade Trips

  @smithriveroutfitters

Virginia Fly Fishing and Wine Festival

by Eric Tichay

Representatives from TU National and the Virginia Council TU attended the Virginia Fly Fishing and Wine Festival to staff the Council's booth, recruit new TU members and restart the Virginia Capitol Chapter. The festival was held January 14 and 15 at the Meadow Event Park, Doswell, VA.

TU National staff included Beverly Smith, Vice President of Volunteer Operations and Joanne Theurich, Chief Operating Officer. The Virginia Council volunteers included Jim Wilson, Council Chair; Burr Tupper, Council Vice Chair; Scott Allen Council Secretary; Tony Hill, President, Northern Virginia Chapter; and me, Eric Tichay, National Leadership Council Representative.

Overall, the event was a success for Virginia TU. We estimate at least 40-50 new TU members were recruited! Further, at least 30 persons attended the special meeting to restart the Capitol Chapter with a dozen attendees stepping forward to lead the Chapter. Beverly Smith stated, "I really felt it was altogether a great success – in particular I'm excited by the Richmond chapter prospect." The Council plans to attend the event again next year.



Virginia Council booth and exhibit.



Left to right--Jim Wilson, Beverly Smith, Tony Hill, and Burr Tupper talk to a new TU member.

Trout Unlimited, Forest Service launch \$40 million initiative

Originally published by TU Author Chris Wood

New chapter in a longstanding partnership to recover and reconnect trout waters on public lands

A century ago, Gifford Pinchot wrote: “The vast possibilities of our great future will become realities only if we make ourselves, in a sense, responsible for that future.”

As the nation’s first head of the U.S. Forest Service after its creation by Theodore Roosevelt, Pinchot put his words into practice. Under his leadership, publicly owned forest reserves tripled in size. Today, the Forest Service and its partners have an opportunity to expand conservation across the nation at a scale unlike any other period since.

Passage of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the climate resiliency law is allowing the Forest Service to deploy billions of dollars in funding for restoration work and hazardous fuels reduction across the national forests and adjacent private lands.

Trout Unlimited and Forest Service working to restore and reconnect fish habitat

At Trout Unlimited, we are excited to play an outside role in this work. This week, [we announced a five-year agreement with the Forest Service of up to \\$40 million in infrastructure funding](#) to help reconnect and restore the “green lands” that we collectively own as a nation.

The agreement builds on [years of work](#): In recent years, we have leveraged \$20 million to carry out \$62 million worth of projects on national forests, restoring more than 400 miles of fish habitat, reconnecting another 700 miles by removing fish passage barriers, and improving hundreds of thousands of acres of National Forest lands.

It is difficult to overstate the significance of the national forests to trout and salmon conservation and recovery. More than 40 percent of all blue-ribbon trout streams flow across the National Forest system. Native trout strongholds overlay almost perfectly with national forests. In fact, about 60 percent of all native inland trout habitat in the western United States are found on Forest Service managed lands. As changing climate shrinks the availability of suitable coldwater habitat, research indicates that in a few years, 80 percent of all cutthroat water in Montana will be found on National Forests.

TU and the Forest Service are working to shore up these rivers and streams against a changing climate.

For more details and to read the full article please visit: <https://www.tu.org/magazine/from-the-president/trout-unlimited-forest-service-launch-40-million-initiative/>

Trout Unlimited National Leadership Council (NLC)

by Eric Tichay, Virginia NLC Representative

Like many TU members for years, I had no idea there was an NLC and what role it performed in TU. This article will introduce the NLC.

The role of the NLC and its rules for functioning are detailed in Article IV. of the TU bylaws and in the comprehensive NLC Representative Manual. The NLC is the volunteer body that sets the direction of TU and is made up of one representative elected from each state of TU's 36 councils. The NLC has three purposes:

- Establish the National Conservation Agenda (NCA)
- Facilitate implementation of the National Conservation Agenda (NCA)
- Build the organizational capacity of TU

The NLC accomplishes these three tasks by being a conduit between councils and TU national. NLC Representatives bring issues and concerns from their states to the national level and then bring decisions and initiatives from the national level back to their councils. The NLC meets annually in person at the Annual Meeting and via teleconferences throughout the year. The NLC Chair and Secretary are elected annually by the members of the NLC and serve on the TU Board of Trustees. In addition, the NLC nominates grassroots trustees to serve on the Board as well as Embrace A Stream committee members.

NLC Representatives also serve on workgroups that focus on specific conservation or organizational issues that span more than two states. NLC workgroups are established to address regional or organization-wide issues. These workgroups are composed mainly, but not exclusively, of NLC members and are supported by one or more staff members.

As the NLC representative for the Virginia Council, I Chair the Native Trout Workgroup, and contribute to the Communication and Diversity Workgroups. I can be contacted by email at erictichay@yahoo.com.

For more information about the NLC visit the TU website at:

<https://www.tu.org/get-involved/volunteer-tacklebox/council-leader-resources/national-leadership-council/>



Pat's Rubber Leg Stone Variation

Courtesy of Fly fish food

- **Hook:** Daiichi 1730 - Bent Shank Nymph Hook - 10
- **Hook (Alternate):** Core C1730 Stonefly Nymph Hook - 10
- **Thread:** UTC Ultrathread 140 Denier - Dark Brown
- **Thread (Alternate):** Semperfli Classic Waxed Thread - 6/0 - Dark Mocha Brown
- **Bead:** Plummeting Tungsten Beads - Painted Colors - 5/32" (3.8mm) - Jet Black
- **Bead (Alternate 1):** Firehole Stones Matte Tungsten Beads - 4.0mm (5/32") - Black
- **Bead (Alternate 2):** Fulling Mill Tungsten Beads - Matte Black - 3.8 mm
- **Tail, Legs, Antennae:** Barred Sexi Floss - Medium - Yellow
- **Body:** Stonefly Chenille - Coffee/Black
- **Body (Alternate 1):** Stonefly Chenille - Seal Brown/Coffee
- **Body (Alternate 2):** Stonefly Chenille - Seal Brown/Ginger
- **Under-Body:** Lead Wire Spool - 0.015

We included the Pat's Rubber Legs(PRL) stonefly variant because over time the public has learned about the smith river having stone flies. Golden Stone flies and black stone flies are also known as Plecoptera and can be found in many healthy rivers. They have nymph, adult, and spinner life cycles. The PRL imitates a nymph stonefly.

Please visit Fly Fish Food for tying instructions, including a fly tutorial video at <https://www.flyfishfood.com/blogs/euro-nymph-tutorials/pat-s-rubber-leg-stone-variation>

COMMUNITY CORNER

Are you interested in taking on a more active role in the chapter? We currently have committee lead positions open and are looking for volunteers. The time commitment is flexible and you don't need to be an expert to help the chapter out. Contact Jeff Deering for more information



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 smithrivertu@gmail.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