

2026 Smith River Trout Unlimited Events

- **January 23 & 24, Angler's Choice Open House.** We will have a booth at this event to provide information, community outreach and demonstrate fly tying. Jason Collins is the lead, Jaymcoll81@yahoo.com
- February 21. Virginia Council of Trout Unlimited Meeting hosted by Thomas Jefferson Chapter. Location: Brooks Family YMCA, 151 McIntire Park Drive, Charlottesville, VA. 9:00am-1:00pm
- **February 28, River/Road Clean Up.** We will designate a section to clean. Assemble 8:00 am at the Bassett Canoe Access, 271 Trent Hill Dr. (off Route 57 E. in Bassett). This is the first of four river/road clean up conservation projects. Lunch will be provided for those participating Matt Tuggle is the lead. matt.tuggle@henry.k12.va.us
- **March 5, March Regular Meeting.** Meeting will be held at Hugo's Restaurant, 25 Bridge St N, Martinsville, VA. Starting at 6:30pm Chris Powell, Operations Project Manager at Philpott Lake will be our guest speaker. Chris will give an update on the Philpott Lake Dam construction and generators. We will also discuss the chapter's 2026 events, membership and financial updates then end the meeting with a raffle. Jason Collins is the lead, jaymcoll81@yahoo.com
- March 7, The Dan River Basin Association (DRBA) annual meeting will be held on Saturday, March 7th. DRBA will soon announce the event site and time.
- March 13 & 14, 2026 Eastern Regional Rendezvous, YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly, 85 Blue Ridge Cir, Black Mountain, NC.
- March 28, The Virginia DWR Brook Trout Fish Passage Project Training (Culvert Assessment Survey Training) will be held in the Martinsville area on Saturday, March 28. The training site and time will be announced at a future date.
- **April 11, Kid's Fishing Field Day, Stuart, VA.** We will assist as kid's fish the stocked Mayo River. Mayo River Rail Trail Picnic Area in Stuart. Jeff Deering is the lead. Jdeer76@yahoo.com
- **April 15 & 16, Spring Fishing Trip, Yellow Creek Trout Club. 650 Stewart Run Rd., Brush Valley, PA. 15720.** A private, exclusive fishing club in Brush Valley, that offers a stocked trout fishery. Danny Newman is the lead, newmandr2002@yahoo.com.
- **April 25, River/Road Clean Up.** We will designate a section to clean. Assemble 8:00 am at the Bassett Canoe Access, 271 Trent Hill Dr. (off Route 57 E. in Bassett). This is the first of four river/road clean up conservation projects. Lunch will be provided for those participating Matt Tuggle is the lead. matt.tuggle@henry.k12.va.us
- May 9. Virginia Council of Trout Unlimited Meeting hosted by Roanoke Valley Trout Unlimited. Location: Heights Community Church, 2014 Memorial Ave., Roanoke, VA. 9:00am-1:00pm

- **Specific Spring Dates TBD, Trout in the Classroom fish release.** SRTU members will attend to provide support and assistance as needed for the release of trout into the Smith River that area school children raised in their classrooms from an egg to releasable fish. Jeff Deering is the lead. Jdeer76@yahoo.com
- **Specific Dates TBD, Virginia Trout Stream Barrier Survey (VTSBS).** Volunteers are needed to help survey barriers to trout and other aquatic organism passage in our region's waterways. Eric Tichay is the lead, erictichay@yahoo.com.
- **May 16, Blue Ridge Heritage Veteran's Fishing Day, Floyd.** We assist the veterans with fishing and BRH members with lunch. At the Heritage Home located at 902 Rock Castle Gorge Rd in Floyd, VA. Al Kittredge is the lead. aakitt@earthlink.net
- **June 4, June Regular Meeting.** Meeting will be held at Hugo's Restaurant 6:30pm. Krista Hodges, Dan River Basin Association's Education Director will discuss the Trout in the Classroom trout releases from this past spring. Eric Tichay, Smith River Trout Unlimited's Treasurer will give an update on Culvert assessment surveys and progress with dam removals. We will also discuss the chapter's 2025 events, membership and financial updates then end the meeting with a raffle. Jason Collins is the lead, jaymcoll81@yahoo.com
- **June 5-7, Covington, Virginia fishing trip.** Fishing local streams, Jackson River, mountain streams or at Escatawba Farms. Danny Newman is the lead, newmandr2002@yahoo.com.
- **June 13, Introduction to Fly Fishing. King's Grant.** King's Grant, 350 King's Way Rd, Martinsville, VA. We will cover flies, equipment, fly rods, fly casting, fishing, wading safety and knots. Lunch will be provided. Jason Collins is the lead, jaymcoll81@yahoo.com.
- **June 14-19, Rivercourse Cold Water Conservation & Youth Fly Fishing Camp.** Smith River Trout Unlimited will send one youth to camp in 2026. If you know a youth between the ages of 12 to 15, let SRTU know and we will send out a form for completion. Deadline will be March 6. Jason Collins is the lead, jaymcoll81@yahoo.com
- **August 15, Trash Float. River/Road Clean Up.** Assemble 8:00 am at the Bassett Canoe Access, 271 Trent Hill Dr. (off Route 57 E. in Bassett) or meet at Smith River Complex float to the Great Road take out by High School. Lunch will be provided for those participating. Matt Tuggle is the lead. matt.tuggle@henry.k12.va.us
- **August 22, Smith River Fest, Smith River Sports Complex, Axton.** We will have a booth and talk to festival attendees about fly fishing, conservation, TU, casting instruction and also demonstrate fly tying. Jason Collins is the lead, Jaymcoll81@yahoo.com
- **Fall, Introduction to Fly Tying Workshop.** This class will be held at Fairy Stone State Park, Fayerdale Hall, date is TBD. The workshop is open to 12 persons. Park Ranger Stephanie Hawthorne will make the official announcement with contact and registration information. Fairy Stone State Park, 276-930-2424, FairyStone@dcr.virginia.gov. (Eric Tichay is the instructor for the fly tying workshop. SRTU volunteers are very welcome to join in to assist the participants.)

- **September 3, September Regular Meeting.** Meeting will be held at Hugo's Restaurant 6:30pm. Matt Tuggle, SRTU Conservation chair to give a presentation on "matching the hatch" for the Smith River and smallmouth fishing. Jason Collins is the lead, jaymcoll81@yahoo.com
- September 25-26, Virginia Council annual meeting to be held at Graves Mountain Lodge, 205 Graves Mountain Lane, Old Blue Ridge Turnpike, Syria, VA. 22743
- **October 10, Project Healing Waters Veteran's Fishing on the Smith River.** We will assist veterans on the river. Meet at the Bassett Canoe Access at 8:00am. Volunteers are needed. Jason Collins is the lead, jaymcoll81@yahoo.com
- **November 7, River/Road Clean Up.** We will designate a section to clean. Assemble 8:00 am at the Bassett Canoe Access, 271 Trent Hill Dr. (off Route 57 E. in Bassett). Lunch will be provided for those participating. Matt Tuggle is the lead, matt.tuggle@henry.k12.va.us
- **December 3, December Regular Meeting.** George Palmer, DWR Biologist, will be our guest speaker. George will provide an overview of the results of the past year's fish sampling and health of the wild brown trout population in the Smith River. We will also hold elections of officers for 2026 and announce the fundraiser winner. Jason Collins is the lead, jaymcoll81@yahoo.com