



# *SMITH RIVER TU NEWSLETTER*

Spring 2026

## *UPCOMING EVENTS*

- **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
- **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

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Greetings friends and members of Smith River Trout Unlimited,

This year's slogan from Trout Unlimited is Every River Needs A Champion. A person can be a champion in many sports, hobbies, and other areas in life...especially being an advocate for a cause. In all areas some crossover traits of champions are ongoing improvement, showing resilience, and being focused on a goal.

Some ways to help out as a River Champion for SRTU would be to join a trash pickup (on February 28 or later in the year), attend the Culvert Assessment training (on March 28), helping at a Trout in the Classroom release(s) and lastly being involved for the Culvert assessments to record which culverts could be removed (throughout 2026). Thank you for being interested in The Smith River and let's all be River Champions!

Jason Collins,

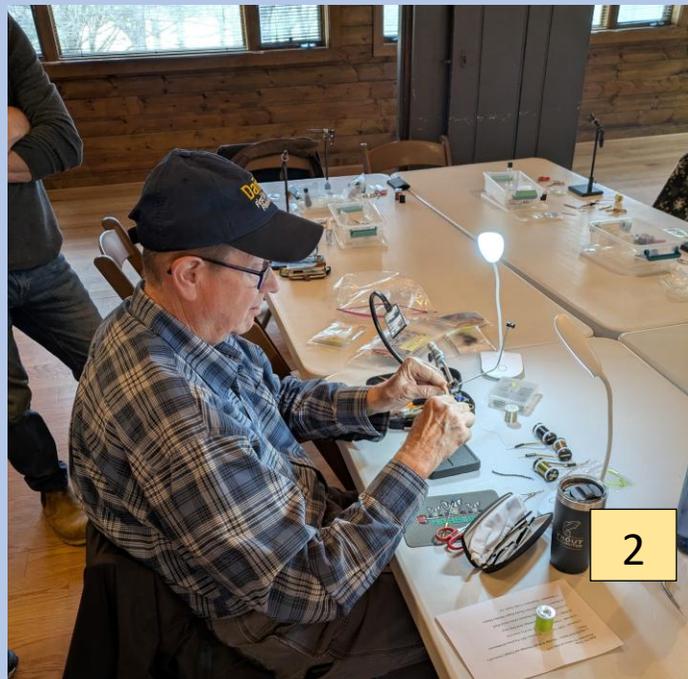


## Recent Chapter Events

January 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> – Angler's Choice Open House. Members of SRTU braved the elements of an incoming winter storm and manned a display table at the annual Angler's Choice Open House. Attendance was light due to the expected weather, but this is always a good event to start off the new year.



February 21 – Chapter members led by Eric Tichay and hosted by Fairystone Park, held a Introduction to Fly Tying class at Fairystone Park's Fayerdale Hall. Attendees learned the basics of fly tying and were able tie their own flies.



# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM RELEASES

Since October schools in our region have been participating in the Trout in the Classroom program hosted by the Dan River Basin Association. The eggs were delivered in the fall and since then have continued to grow to fingerling size. It is almost time for them to be released into the Smith River. Below is a list of release dates for the schools. Smith River TU chapter will be helping at releases again this year. We would like to have at least two chapter members at each release if possible. If you would like to volunteer for specific dates, please contact Jeff Deering at [ideer76@yahoo.com](mailto:ideer76@yahoo.com) or 540-238-1801.



**Trout in the Classroom Release Schedule 2025-2026**

|    | School                                | Teacher            | Release Date   | Backup Date         | Location   | Time          |
|----|---------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|---------------------|------------|---------------|
| 1  | Bassett High School                   | Caitlin Tatum      | March 10, 2026 | March 12, 2026      | Great Road | 10:30         |
| 2  | Greensboro Montessori School          | Tim Goetz          | March 11, 2026 |                     |            | 10:30         |
| 3  | Westchester Country Day School        | Dean Stern         | March 17, 2026 |                     | Great Road | 1-2 PM        |
| 4  | Tunstall High School                  | Matthew Bowman     | March 24, 2026 | March 26 @<br>11:30 | Great Road | 10:30         |
| 5  | Patrick Henry Elementary              | Kristin Moorefield | March 26, 2026 | March 27, 2026      | Great Road | 10:30         |
| 6  | Albert Harris Elementary              | Cyndi Jones        | April 15, 2026 | April 18, 2026      | Great Road | 10:00 - 11:30 |
| 7  | Smith Mountain Lake Christian Academy | Jessica Davenport  | April 21, 2026 |                     | Great Road | 10:30         |
| 8  | Williamsburg Elementary               | Callie Medina      | April 28, 2026 | April 30, 2026      | Great Road | 10:30         |
| 9  | Magna Vista High School               | Alyson Martin      |                |                     |            |               |
| 10 | Snow Creek Elementary                 | Carrie McCrary     |                |                     |            |               |
| 11 | Ledford Middle School (2)             | Jason Zanni        |                |                     |            |               |
| 12 | Asheboro Zoo High School              | Josh Snider        |                |                     |            |               |
| 13 | Virginia Museum of Natural History    | Christy Deatherage | tank loss      |                     |            |               |
| 14 | Uwharrie Charter Academy              | Stacey Weatherly   | tank loss      |                     |            |               |
| 15 | Lincoln Elementary                    | Kelly Hancock      | tank loss      |                     |            |               |
| 16 | Hope Academy                          | Adam Hubert        | tank loss      |                     |            |               |

# SMITH RIVER CHAPTER FISHING TRIP

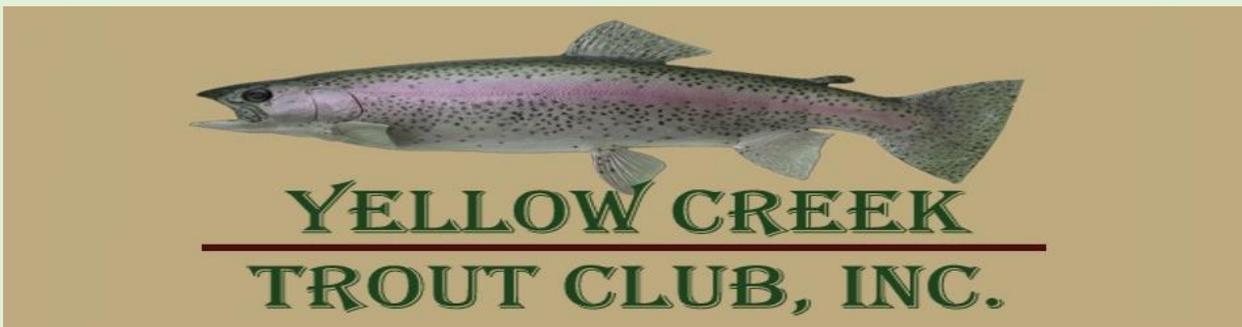
SRTU has booked two nights at the Yellow Creek Trout Club in Indiana, PA. The dates are April 15th and 16th. We've reserved the upper cabin onsite for \$450 a night for four people, and any extra guests are \$75 a night. We can start fishing right away when we check in. We can fish as much as we want on the day we leave, as long as we're out of the cabin by 10:30 so the cleaning crew can get it ready for the next group.



The Yellow Creek Trout Club is a private fishing club and outdoor recreation spot near Brush Valley, just outside Indiana, PA. It started in 1995 and has become a popular location to fish in western Pennsylvania, especially for its great trout fishing and beautiful stream views. There are paved roads

and bridges over the stream to make it easier to get to, and the water is stocked with fish to keep the trout and other sport fish populations healthy. Members (and anyone who buys a day pass) can fish on private waters that are kept in great shape, with facilities that make the whole experience better.

If you would like to join us for a great weekend of fishing, please contact Danny Newman at [newmandr2002@yahoo.com](mailto:newmandr2002@yahoo.com).



<https://yellowcreektroutinc.com>

# **Stream Barrier Assessment Training- Volunteer Opportunity!**

March 28, 2026

Location: Patrick & Henry Community College,  
645 Patriot Road, Martinsville, VA at West Hall, room 127

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

## **Join Smith River Trout Unlimited Chapter (SRTU) and friends for a Stream Barrier Assessment Training**

In partnership with the Dan River Basin Association, Virginia Council of Trout Unlimited (VCTU), VA Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR), and other partners, DRBA and SRTU

will host a stream barrier assessment training for the Dan River Watershed. Stream barriers are an important piece to our watershed habitat stewardship. These barriers include culverts, bridges, and low-head dams that affect flood patterns and aquatic passage in local waterways.

To get a glimpse of what the larger idea of the project is, please see this video titled, [“Clearing the Way”](#) by the US Forest Service about how barrier passage assessment is used to protect our waterways.

**Registration is required! Please register in advance as there are limited slots. Stream barrier assessments require at least two volunteers. It is only required that one volunteer per group take the training. Please be mindful of this as you register, we are hoping to have a full class that will make an impact throughout the watershed.**



## SARP Standardized Culvert Assessment Protocol

Adapted from North Atlantic Aquatic  
Connectivity Collaborative



### About the training:

- Training will be from 8 am to 5 pm in Henry County, VA
  - Classroom instruction in the morning (location TBD)
  - Break for lunch – 30 minutes. Pack a lunch and water bottle
  - Field training outdoors in the afternoon. Please plan to drive about 15 minutes to the sites. Carpooling is encouraged and available.
- Plan to get muddy: bring muck boots or waders for the field work
- Notebooks are encouraged
- Please download ArcGIS Survey 123 before the class onto your phone or tablet before the class.

### REGISTRATION FOR THE CLASS:

1. Apply to be a [Virginia DWR Volunteer](#), this may take time – do this ASAP
2. Once registered, sign up for the Brook Trout Fish Passage Project Training in the Opportunities Tab

3. Watch the entire training [webinar](#) listed on the page.
4. Register for the **Brook Trout Passage In-Person Training – 3/28/26** on the Opportunities list.
5. You're registered!

*\*If you are unable to attend due to date or closed registration, please email Anna Wheeler*

*at [awheeler@danriver.org](mailto:awheeler@danriver.org) to ensure we have enough interest for another class.*

Thank you for supporting DWR, SRTU, and DRBA's missions.

## COMMUNITY CORNER

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



For a fly fishing guide on the Smith give Matt a call.

Lucky Strips Fly Co.

[www.luckystripsflyco.com](http://www.luckystripsflyco.com)

276-732-0517

Smith River, Va



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.



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

Chapter Vice President Thomas Barbee ([tbarbee517@yahoo.com](mailto:tbarbee517@yahoo.com))

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

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

### Board Members

Roy Ford

Al Kittredge

Matt Tuggle

Membership Chair Danny Newman