**THOMAS JEFFERSON CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED**

**THE CHARLOTTESVILLE FLY FISHERMAN AND COLDWATER CONSERVATIONIST**

**JULY 2017 NEWSLETTER**

**TJTU JULY MEETING- THURSDAY JULY 27, 2017 6 PM**

**Monticello Community Surgery Center lower level conference room**

This month we’ll catch up over the last couple of months and be looking at the coming fall and the beginning of projects and events with The Annual Day of Caring on Wednesday September 20, 2017

Program-Chapter President Chubby Damron will give a short presentation with slides on summer trout fishing.

Discussion items for this month include Moorman’s River Trout Management Area maintenance work, new meeting space coming up, TIC this fall, the Garth Run Assessment and other area news. Preddy Creek Park, etc.

**TJTU AUGUST MEETING- THURSDAY AUGUST 24, 2017 6 PM**

**Monticello Community Surgery Center lower level conference room**

**Program and agenda TBA**

**TJTU FALL MEETINGS**

**NEW MEETING SPACE FOR FALL MEETINGS**

**September 28, October 26, and November 16**

These three meetings will have us in yet another new space as we continue to look for a permanent/long term home base for our meetings. Beginning with the September 28th meeting we will be at the **Northside Library on Rio Rd West** just a block or so west of the Rio/29 Interchange.

We’ll definitely be there again on October 26 and unless someone else gets there to reserve the November date before me on August 1 we’ll plan to be there in November on the 16th as well.

We’ll meet in the large conference room where we have ample sitting and tables for whatever size group we draw.

Parking at the library is limited out front but there is a bigger lot in the rear of the building and a well-lit entrance as well. Northside Library is quite busy so if either of these lots are full there is more parking along the side of the building The rear entrance has a long set of stairs to the main level but there is an elevator for those of us that need it.

We’ll have more info on the fall meetings coming soon.

**TJTU IS NOW ON FACEBOOK!**

Great news for those who use it, this will give the chapter another route to keep in touch with members and hopefully attract some new ones too.

The TJTU page is Thomas Jefferson Chapter of Trout Unlimited under President James Damron’s page.

We’ll be posting event and project updates there as they come around and other good stuff there too.

We’ll continue to send emails to the chapter list for updates as usual and use Facebook to reach out as well as we try to keep in touch with as many of the area TU members and other like-minded individuals and organizations as we can.

Please pass the word on about our efforts to those you think would be interested.

**New rod and reel outfits for use during events received:**

You may have read about the program LL Bean has set up with Trout Unlimited where chapters can apply for free fly rod and reel outfits for use in their programs.

This past spring as in prior years, chapters were invited to apply for up to six outfits and after all the entries were in and they divided up the outfits they had due to high demand it was decided that each chapter that applied would get two outfits.

Last week two outfits arrived, 8 ft. 6 weight 2 piece models with a nice reel and loaded with backing and a good 6 wt. floating WF fly line. So we’re thankful for the added equipment that will help with the on stream fly fishing instruction at yearly events.

All we have to do is take some pictures of our programs where the equipment is being used, add a short description of what is happening and send it in to them. A chance for some good publicity for TU and TJTU and get the word out about what TU is up to in our community.

**VA Council of Trout Unlimited Fall Meeting**

Saturday September 9. 2017

Graves Mountain Lodge

Syria, VA.

A great meeting to attend to see what the VCTU is working on. And, the lunch is well worth the drive and the wait. Great nearby trout fishing if stream flows are good.

The Council will be preparing for the National Meeting September 27- 30, 2017 In Roanoke

**Annual Day of Caring Wednesday September 20, 2017 9 AM- Moorman’s River Trout Management Area**

Mark Andrews again has us on the list. We’ll talk more about plans for this years’ event at the August meeting. We typically do trail and structure maintenance in preparation for the fall season.

**National Trout Unlimited Annual Meeting September 27-30, 2017 Roanoke, VA.**

More info will be out after the September 9, VCTU Meeting. A great event and Virginia’s first time as host state. You can also get more info by checking out the VCTU website at vctu.org

And the National TU website at tu.org

**Garth Run Project Assessment Summer 2017**

Rising WAHS Senior Trent Phillips working with a chapter angler will do a check-up of the Garth Run in-stream structures and the extent of the riparian area re-growth.

We’ll pass on more info once we have the report finished.

**Trout in the Classroom Programs:**

Schools are opening up around the area in just a few weeks and the annual TIC program will begin its next season in early October with egg deliveries to local participating classes. We’ll pass on more about this years’ program in the local area in a few weeks as schools get underway and set up for this years’ program.

**Moore’s Creek Project:**

The Rivanna Conservation Alliance has been working with VDGIF and the City of Charlottesville to remove old dams and repair stream channels on Moore’s Creek. Back in May they removed the Fry Springs Dam , an old dam and pump house on Moore’s Creek that was about 28 feet long.

The stream channel was restored through the area and the project will have a great effect on the streams environment. You can check out RCA on Facebook and online at **rivannariver.org**

**Sentara Martha Jefferson Hospital Magazine- Summer 2017 Edition**

A great article in this edition about this years’ Spring Fly Fling back in April. You can see it online on their website at- **sentaramarthajeffersonmagazine.yourwebedition.com**

**JULY TROUT FISHING UPDATE**

Mountain Streams:

Word is that stream flows aren’t too bad for this time of year and that can vary from watershed to watershed as summer rains tend to come in the form of thunderstorms with a hit and miss way of bringing rain.

In following the weather and keeping track of the radar when we’re in those stormy scenarios you can see where the better rains have fallen across the region and often heading to a stream in one of those rain soaked areas the next day can lead to good stream flows and good fishing.

The mid and upper reaches of the larger east slope streams in the Shenandoah National Park will be the best bets for those looking for a day out in the mountains.

At the time of this writing, July 26, until today the weather has been hot and sunny with scattered storms so with the hot, muggy weather there haven’t been many good days to trout fish in the last two weeks.

The forecast for the upcoming week is slightly below normal temperatures and better rainfall chances so the trout fishing outlook for the near future is getting better.

Terrestrials are a huge part of a trout’s diet at this time of year so when fishing the mountain streams for Brook Trout virtually any type of ant or beetle pattern fished in the correct size and manner should produce well on the surface.

Being summer stream flows are low and clear so using 9 foot leaders tapered to 5 or 6 x and Beetles in size 14 and 16 and Ants in sizes 16/18/ and 20are a good bet. A few Caddis may still be around as well as inchworms and other terrestrial insects such as bees.

You’ll need to be quiet and approach carefully watching the water ahead in these conditions. Walk the banks rather than wading and sloshing around and don’t clank the rocks along the bank either.

**Stocked Streams /Special Regs Water**

Larger streams such as the Jackson River offer good summer trout fishing with several miles of good water to search.

In the upper Jackson above Lake Moomaw in the Hidden Valley section searching the water early and late in the day when the air is cooler and the sun is low can put you on some good trout.

From the lower access fishing upstream look for deep runs and riffles dumping into pools where oxygen levels are high and water is cooler to find trout.

Overhanging trees and shrubs along the banks in good sections will hold trout feeding on the terrestrials that fall in the river and watching ahead as you fish for signs of rising trout can pay off well.

Fish the deep water with big stonefly nymphs and the dry fly water with terrestrial patterns on the surface. Appropriately sized hoppers and crickets for the time in the season are good big trout attractors and if they’re picky, small ants size 18 or 20 may be the trick.

Below Lake Moomaw in the cold water tailrace the section from the base of the dam downstream the first half mile can be a great place to fish in summer.

A hot day spent there can be cool and comfortable wading the section as it’s always cooler when standing in 56 degree water even when the air temperature is in the 80’s.

Early in the morning here Tricos are often coming off and the spinner fall brings the trout up and just searching with a dry/dropper can produce some good catches.

A size 12 Stimilator trailed by a heavy nymph such as a Hares Ear can be as hard as you have to fish to do well here on a summer day. Late in the day such as the last hour before dark can be quite good, most folks don’t stick around to see it.

Further downstream along the Jackson River stopping at any of the VDGIF access points can put you on good water that you can wade and fish with good results.

**Spring Creeks**

Spring creeks with their continuous cold water flow from the underground aquifers are still running cold just as the trout like it even though summer air temperatures are 30-35 degrees warmer.

Mossy Creek is one that often first comes to mind and the public section there offers plenty of water to search and trout to catch.

Searching with beetles and ants can bring trout up to the surface and learning where the trout are and being patient are the best pieces of advice I can give to those who like to fish Mossy.

Take your time, learn the good water and fishing it thoroughly with the

right flies in the right manner will make the difference at Mossy or any stream for that matter.

Again fishing appropriately sized hoppers and crickets is a good bet too, fish the edges of the deep weed beds and shady places where trout like to hide and go deep in those spots that call for it.

Drowned hoppers, beetles and ants take some good trout for those willing to pinch on a piece of split shot every now and then.

Buffalo Creek near Lexington is another spot for summer trout anglers where the same game plans work but there for me a deeply fished stonefly nymph or a Xmas Tree seldom fails to bring in a big one.

Spring Run- One of my favorites but can be really tough when the weeds get thick. Sowbugs, craneflies and small inchworms/aquatic worms are all I typically use there.

Summer trout fishing is out there for those of us that pursue it and the traffic is usually quite low. Low summer flows reveal a lot about a stream that’ll pay off in higher flows when you can look into the flow and remember seeing it at lower flows and know where the deep seams are and the best hiding spots for the trout.

**TJTU JULY UPDATES**

**Presidents Report**

**Still on the inside looking out, or Salad anyone?**

To follow up on last month’s updates I’m happy to report that it seems as though I won’t be needing that arm lengthening operation that I had begun to wonder about as a possible follow up to my spine surgery that occurred back on May 10th.

Although I was well informed about what to expect following the surgery by my doctor and my own research, I didn’t take to heart just what he meant about one little part of his talk at an appointment leading up to the date.

I was somewhat dreading the weeks following such a major event the closer the date came to being a reality and I finally told myself not to worry all will be fine. I just need to be strong and patient and I’d get though it and sooner or later and life would return to some sort of normalcy.

That little bit of information the doctor spoke of and I didn’t absorb was also a bit of information that I didn’t come across in all my research so it never crossed my mind until the day I was to be released from the hospital.

I know this subject is not one that is often talked about openly and one that may be disliked and may even be offensive or sickening to some of our readers but it is an important part of my recovery that I had to face whether I liked it or not.

And as I’ve learned over the course of my life if you can find the humor in adversity you can get through anything and that way of thinking has done well at helping me many times over the years. I’d certainly recommend that way of thinking to everyone as a way of coping and knowing there is a light at the end of that sometimes long, dark tunnel.

Well, it turns out one of the requirements for being released from the hospital on the prospective day was that I had to go number two before I went home so they would know everything was working and I wouldn’t show back up in a few days with complications.

I was all for that as after what I had just gone through I certainly didn’t want to return anytime soon and the morning of that prospective day I finally was able to do my business and then is when the reality of the situation came into plain view.

My first attempt being as sore and stiff as I was took quite some time and fortunately due to all the good medications was quite dry and easy to handle. That bit of info the doc spoke of but didn’t go into detail about because I didn’t ask came into my fuzzy mind quite clearly and I became quite concerned.

Good thing I was able to manage but I knew if this was the way things were going to be for the time being or maybe for the long run it was not going to be pretty as time wore on.

Being independent and not one to ask for help until it was sometimes a last resort I hated the idea of needing help with this and if I had just listened a little better when the doc said the biggest complaint most people have after this surgery is the inability to reach back to wipe I may have been able to prepare and realize that I am not quite invincible as I thought. That often overlooked part of life would come to the forefront of everyday life and yes I’d need some help.

Well I made it back to the bed, didn’t flush and called the nurse to let her know I had gone on my own and she could come take a look if she need a visual to confirm and please give me my certificate of completion and kick me to the curb where Judy would be waiting to get me the hell out of there.

A few minutes later in came a woman that I had not seen before carrying a bunch of items and it turned out she was with Physical Therapy and was there to evaluate my ability to care for myself at home. She introduced herself as I began to notice she was observing me closely and I’m thinking I hope I can pass these tests as I was not going to no damn nursing home as visions of the horrors we often hear of in the news about such places began flashing through my fuzzy mind.

I had to put on a pair of baggy hospital pants on my own, get in and out of bed and do the log roll in the correct manner in doing so, describe my home environment and its ability to accommodate my disability and use items to assist putting on my socks and use grabbers to reach the floor instead of bending over which I am forbidden to do.

I explained that I had already installed an ADA compliant toilet last year before my second hip surgery, rearranged things at home to make it easy to get around and about a week before I was admitted for the spine surgery I had built my own ramp going into the front of my house and I had plenty of help at home.

She said I see there’s a note here from the other physical therapists that had been in to see you in the previous days and I thought I’d check to be sure. Well I don’t think they believed me although my wife and daughter had backed me up on that with the other therapists. My daughter even had a picture on her phone of the ramp.

So this realization along with hearing all about what I couldn’t do, no bending over and no twisting over and over again and again and after several such reminders I told her in a stern voice that I understood completely, I couldn’t do either to any extent anyway and I definitely didn’t need any further lecturing about the subject.

It was a Monday and she evidently like myself hadn’t had the best of mornings so far and that come back on my end changed her demeanor and a smile came to her face, her eyes lit up a little and her tone of voice changed as she said I think you’ll do just fine and by the way there’s one more thing to discuss and we’ll be done.

I’m usually soft spoken unless it’s a subject I’m passionate or pissed off about so I’ve learned over the course of my life to keep my low voice low unless it’s necessary as to not scare anyone into thinking I’m some kind of nut so I was glad she took it in stride and we moved on.

That’s when she whipped out the salad tongs and asked had I been trained in their importance and use. Well fuzzy headed or not I knew right away what they were for and wished like hell she had been there sooner as that was part of the reason I was not in a good mood or feeling well due to the ordeal I had went through earlier that morning in the john.

I said no I hadn’t had any training but sure could have used it as I had been to the bathroom earlier that morning for the first time and realized my arms had evidently shrank up a few inches and that brought a little smile to her face again as I went on to explain my struggles.

She then went to the bathroom and came back with a section of paper about 18 inches long and proceeded to show me how to roll it around the tongs so it wouldn’t fall off.

I watched with the eyes of wonderment often seen in a child as they learn the ways of the world but inside I’m like shit! This is going to be a long road to recovery and at that moment I was unable to see the possible humor in the situation but gladly it soon came about.

She asked if I had any questions and then I remembered that she had been in earlier that morning when I was lying on my side facing away from the door and I didn’t see her face. She had said the nurses told her I was in a lot of pain and was given some meds to help and may be sleeping and it may be best to come back later to give me some time to rest as I hadn’t slept much in the previous six days.

The nurses were right I was asleep and I vaguely remember saying I’m trying to sleep, come back later in that higher tone know to get one’s attention as I tried to doze back off from suddenly being awakened.

I guess I was the start to a shitty Monday morning for her and I felt a little bad for her when I realized it.

She stood up from the bedside chair and said good luck with your recovery and said remember what we talked about as she extended her hand to shake. I think she saw the pain in my eyes and on my face when I snapped at her but when unprovoked I was ok and was just going through a lot at the moment and didn’t mean to single her out.

She said as she began to walk out that I was strong and doing much better than most in my position and I’d soon be feeling better and moving around well, you’ll get there. Nice to meet you Mr. Damron, you have a great day.

You too I said, hope you have a great day too and thanks very much for your help. Especially with those salad tongs I said under my breath, whew! I’m glad they had an answer for that dilemma as that was probably the scariest thing I had faced up until then.

Well to get back to my original train of thought it seems as though my arms have grown back to their original length and I can once again reach those faraway places that I never thought about until they were out of reach.

No surgery will be required to lengthen my arms and the tongs have been sanitized and retired stored out of sight and not in the kitchen. The only tongs kept there are of the salad tossing variety so it’s now safe to eat the salad.

But for those of you reading this and remember last months beginning to the story I’m sure from now on where ever I am whether at home or in a restaurant for the rest of my life the sight of a salad bar especially if there are tongs provided for your serving convenience will bring back the memory of old stories from times gone by.

I’d guess by this point many of you are thinking what the hell does all this have to do with trout fishing and conservation? Well as part of my continuing recovery some things have to be achieved before I can do much of either so I reached a milestone I’m now quite proud of.

I don’t know about you but I certainly don’t want to be out in the forests and meadows along my favorite trout streams and suddenly realize I forgot the salad tongs and the TP. The thought of having to rush to fashion a pair out of two sticks a shoe string and hand full of appropriately sized leaves doesn’t sit too well with me so the first step to outdoor independence has been reached.

Wait a minute I can’t even bend over to put my shoes anymore so I’ll likely have boot foot waders on and no shoe strings! Guess these vines I’m standing in will have to do in replacing the shoestring. Shit! I hope this is honeysuckle and not poison ivy. I’m not allergic on my hands, arms, face or torso but I’ve never stuck my butt in it so here goes nothing.

Never thought about the need for boot foot waders, guess that’ll be a necessity since I can’t reach my feet anymore, or I could just ask one of the guys to help me pull on the old standard wading boots and tie them for me so I can hurry up and get out on the stream so they can finish gearing up.

That might not go over well for long so I’m looking at my options in hopes of remaining an adapted, independent fly fisherman. Boot foot waders and now something else has come to mind I’ll be in need of too.

A long handled net comes to mind next that is unless I can get someone to follow me around carrying the net and netting my trout since I can’t bend over and of course they’ll need to carry the tongs in case of emergencies. They’ll maybe even have to re-tie my wading shoes a couple times after I stagger through the stream side briars and brambles.

Wish those damn boot foot waders would hurry up and get here I’d hear them say under their breath several times that day and even louder in a tone such as the one I used on the physical therapy lady when taking my old muddy boots off for me at the end of the day.

I am working on solutions and my prototype is rigging my cane into a combination wading staff/long handled net complete with a place to hang the salad tongs safely without fear of losing them in the weeds somewhere along the way.

I’m looking at adding either a .410 shotgun or a spear gun to the cane shaft in the second phase of development and may as well add a rechargeable power source with docking station for my phone and tablet and a seat of some sort too.

Before things get too out of hand or out of reach here I’ll close till next month when the way it’s going I’ll have more ideas and updates to pass along.

In ending I’ll quote a lyric from back in the day that seems to fit………..

Do do do looking out my back door.

Chubby

July 5, 2017