

FEBRUARY-MARCH 2011 FONTINALIS



Photos above from Bill Cartwright

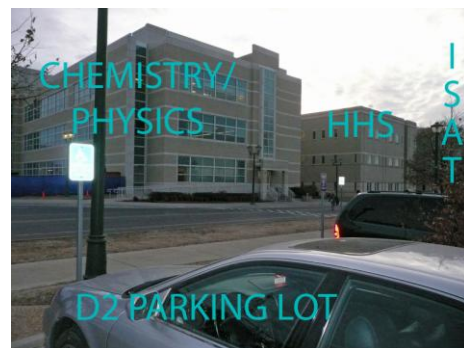
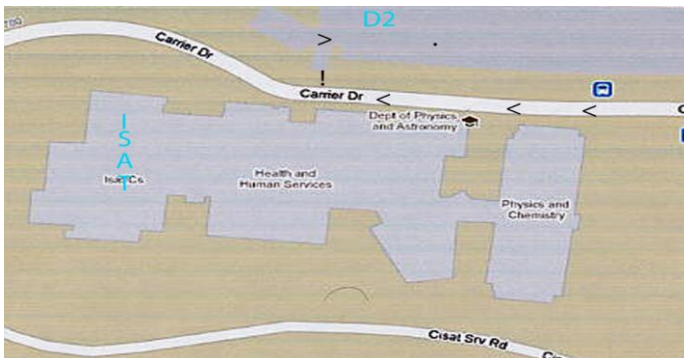
Kemper Eagle, Fontinalis editor

NEW MEETING PLACE!!!

Massanutten TU is changing its monthly meeting location to Room 150 in the James Madison University ISAT building on the East Campus, thanks to the efforts JMU faculty member and MTU board director **Jim Ridings**. Our chapter meetings are always on the second Tuesday of each month and start at 7:00. Come and learn area fishing from Bill Heresniak this month! Please save these directions for future reference.



Directions: Turn from either Port Republic Road (South) or East Market Street (North) on to University Boulevard. Proceed to the turn west on to Carrier Drive (opposite the Arboretum). Follow Carrier Drive around new library bldg. Turn right into parking lot D2. Park in an open (NOT RESERVED) parking space, across street from ISAT bldg. complex (a parking pass not required afterhours). There are two entrances across street from D2 lot: Chem/Phys bldg and bldg 3, ISAT (tower end). Volunteers will be at back entrance to ISAT, will direct you to Room 150.



Massanutten TU Spring Meeting Schedule

February 8, 2011, 7:00 PM. What do 6th Man, Clawdad, Goater Dome, and Peppermint Snaky Snake have in common? BIG FISH like em! William Heresniak, our Feb. speaker, guides on Maryland and Virginia rivers, specializing in 20" and better trout and bass on rivers like the North Fork of the Potomac. Bill will tell us the structure big fish like and techniques we need to catch them.

March 8, 2011, 7:00 PM. Tom Brtalik, owner of Tom's Fly-fishing Service, of New Cumberland, PA, has 30 years catching the sometimes finicky trout of Pennsylvania streams like the Letort Springs, Little Juniata, and many others. Tom is a likeable teacher-guide who will make your day. He will speak to us about his special techniques.

April 12, 2011. Shenandoah Riverkeeper Jeff Kelby will clue us in to the ecology and health of our Valley streams and rivers. This is always a very popular meeting for our members

May 10, 2011. Native brook trout management in Shenandoah National Park.

June 14, 2011. Annual Chapter picnic extravaganza at Brian Trow's home on Mossy Creek!

Other Chapter and TU Activities

February 19, 2011; Fish With A Member (FWAM) Trip:

Bill Cartwright will lead a chapter this fishing trip to the **North Creek** in Botetourt County. The upper portion of North Creek is a Special Regulation Catch & Release trout fishing area. In addition to North Creek, trip participants will have the options of fly fishing nearby Middle Creek, Jennings Creek, and Comelus Creek, all of which have an ample population of wild rainbow and brook trout. Those athletic and adventurous souls can try their luck at Apple Orchard Falls. **This trip will depart on Saturday, February 19th at 8:00 from the Mossy Creek Fly Fishing Shop.** The group should plan on car pool due to distance and logistics.

The temperature most probably will be cool, so dress appropriately. Bill has had excellent luck fishing nymphs, small wooly buggers, worms and glow bug patterns. For brookies over 10 inches, Bill has found the "Professor" wet fly to be extremely productive. Those planning to attend should e-mail Bill Cartwright at DICHB@AOL.COM. That way no fisherman will be left behind.

February 26, 9-4: The annual Rapidan TU Chapter Flyfishing Show is held this year in Warrenton at the Fauquier High School cafeteria. Our sister chapter holds a super-fun, localized fishing show every year! Please note the new location.

March 12, 2011, 10 AM-4 PM Beaver Creek Spring Streambank Planting Event

Please join us on Saturday March 12th for our spring streambank planting event on Beaver Creek at Ottobine, VA. We will be planting willow cuttings on recently disturbed banks, pruning overgrown sections of the stream, and taking stock of other needs. Please bring pruning shears, loppers, bow saws, large screw driver (or similar pencil-diameter metal rods) for making holes in

soil, 5-gallon buckets and your older waders/stock boots. Dress for cold and wet but hope for better. Planting willow cuttings is a very easy, seasonal-specific activity. Planting in the temporarily seeded areas from recent stream reconstruction will be our primary goal. We are recruiting students, scouts and other conservation-minded volunteers to help with this event, so we need chapter members to help instruct and lead crews. Everyone is welcome and no experience needed. **We will meet at the Ottobine Elementary School at 10 AM.**

April 2, 2011 Plan on attending the Mossy Creek Flyfishing Shop annual Open House!

April 16, 2011 Virginia Flyfishing Festival in Waynesboro (Also Spring VCTU meeting).

April 23, 2011 FWAM Trip: Shad fishing on the Rappahannock River, Fredericksburg.

April 30, 2011 Massanutten TU Flyfishing Workshop at Riven Rock; volunteer to help!

May 1, 2011 Deadline for our Super Raffle Fishing Trip!

For the first time, we are requesting member financial support of our Chapter's conservation projects on Mossy and Beaver Creeks, as well as the Dry River. To accomplish this, our Chapter is raffling off an all expense-paid Float Trip for two on the beautiful Shenandoah River. In addition to the Float Trip, the lucky winner will receive:

- complimentary, two-night lodging including breakfast at the Harrisonburg Hampton Inn,
- \$100 dinner voucher at The Texas Road House
- \$100 gift certificate from Mossy Creek Fly Fishing Shop in Harrisonburg

This prize package is worth over \$1,000 and chances of winning are estimated at one in 100.

We would really appreciate your support. Tickets can be secured at the Chapters upcoming meetings, from your board members or at the Mossy Creek Fly Fishing Shop. The drawing will take place on May 1, 2011. You will find instructions for completing and mailing the tickets on the back of each ticket. Thanks so much for any help you can give us with this worthy endeavor!

Trout in the Classroom (TIC) Update

Jeff Peake, TIC coordinator, tells me: All 10 tanks are up and running in our Rockingham County public schools. The fish survived the winter school break. Now, we've bumped up the temperature to 55 F, which speeds up their metabolism. The trout fingerlings are eating and growing. Our latest tank was set up and is running at Montevideo Middle School. This year we also placed a tank in Ottobine Elementary School, just a few hundred yards from Beaver Creek.

Conservation Civics

The Virginia General Assembly is currently in session. You can view the introduced conservation bills and their status at the following websites;

Links to fish and wildlife bills at DGIF: <http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/legislation/>

Links to wide range of conservation bills at Virginia Conservation Network (VCN) to which VCTU belongs: <http://bit.ly/VCNbills>

Conservation Update

If you haven't been out to Beaver Creek since last summer, you would not believe the changes in the section just upstream of the Rte. 257 bridge (see back cover photos). This section of stream had been heavily impacted by decades of cattle access. The chapter has taken on a major, two-year stream restoration project on this property under TU's Embrace-A-Stream grant program. This EAS project includes cattle exclusion fencing, alternative stock watering sources, stream course and bank reconstruction, and the planting & maintenance of a larger riparian buffer. This past October **Seth Coffman** (TU-SHHRI) & **Larry Mohn** (DGIF) supervised the in-stream construction work which narrowed, deepened and added naturalistic bends to the stream. The steep and barren entrenched banks have been regraded and numerous stone and log erosion checks and fish sheltering structures have been added. The improved stream section has a noticeably higher flow velocity and richer spring creek benthic community will soon follow. Thanks to **Jerry Black** and **Seth Coffman** for all their community outreach on this project. **Henry Bowser** liked what he saw so much that he was back at fishing before the track hoes were out of the water. Over the next year we will be working on seeding the banks and establishing forested riparian buffer along this stream segment. Massanutten TU would like to formally recognize our funding and work partners in the Beaver Creek Stream Restoration Project which included TU Embrace-A-Stream Program, Chesapeake Bay Trust, Fish America, NOAA, VA Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund, NFWF, USDA-NRCS, DGIF, and TU Shenandoah Headwater Home River Initiative. New projects are in the works for Dry River, Mossy Creek and the St. Mary's River in the next year. Stay tuned.

President's Tacklebox

As I look out at the frozen edges of North River and feel the bite of a 6°F windy morning, it is hard to turn my mind to even coldwater fishing. However, the wildlife assures me that the great cycle of the seasons is turning and soon the spring and the familiar flit-flit-flit of the aerial fly line will return. All winter your TU chapter board and officers have been busy beavers laying the foundation for a successful new year. Education, conservation, fishing and social – whatever your interest, we have an event for you this year. I wanted to highlight a few of the upcoming activities. Many are detailed in this or future newsletter and/or on our website (<http://massanuttentu.com>). Currently our chapter membership is 122 strong. We are one of the most active and successful TU chapters in the Virginia, but we are still hoping to grow. I want to offer you a personal invitation to participate in any or all of our offerings, to get more involved, and to bring a friend.



Board Directors Mike Wong and Rodney Miner log in guests at MTU Landowners' Dinner.

First, I want to let you know that Massanutten TU just had two very successful events; our annual Christmas Party and Landowner Dinner. Thanks to **Bill Conlin, Doug Dunkle, Michael Wong, Rodney Miner, Bill Cartwright, Jerry Black** and everyone who worked to make these events so wonderful. Additional thank to all of you who attended on two cold and snowy evenings.

I would to invite everyone to attend our series of entertaining and informative monthly programs. **Brian Trow** has set up an impressive selection speakers this year and hope you will try to join us at least once. Please note that we will be meeting at a new location on James Madison University's east campus (ISAT Bldg, Rm. 150 - direction attached), so allow a little extra time to get to your first visit. This facility offers us better audio-visuals, fewer distractions, a later end time when needed and will facilitate student in the **Madison Flyfishers**, JMU's flyfishing club, joining us. This group is about to become one of TU first college-affiliated sub-chapter and we hope they will be joining us for most of our meetings and events. I want to note here the **Mossy Creek Fly Shop** is also offering an impressive series of free fly-tying workshops each Saturday throughout out the winter. Please check out their webpage (<http://mossycreekflyfishing.com>) or call for details. Our meetings are on the second Tuesday of each month and start at 7:00.

Our first conservation event of 2011 will be a restoration workday on Beaver Creek on March 12th. This will be streambank willow whip planting event for newly reconstructed area and an opportunity to prune the overgrown lower section before the banks leaf out. We are inviting several youth and civic organization to join us to this workday, so it is important that enough chapter members attend to help coordinate work crews. Our recent EAS stream restoration work on Beaver Creek has really raised the interest of other landowners and opened discussion about other potential projects and potential fishing opportunities on other properties. We have also taken up a year-long study of the Beaver Creek permit fishing program & need adjustments. Board member **Jerry Black** is leading this effort. Your comments on this are always welcome. There are other chapter conservation events scheduled on Beaver & Mossy Creeks and the Dry River later this year with details to come.

The **Shenandoah Valley TU chapter** (Waynesboro) in coordination with DGIF has just opened up a new Special Regulation Area (artificial only, 2 trout over 16" harvest limit/day) for trout on the upper South River (Waynesboro Nurseries properties). They have invited us out for a half-day of trail building on the stream on February 13th (1-4 pm at the Shalom Road parking area). What better way to learn about this exciting new fishery than to join those responsible for a half-day of conservation service. For details on this fishery, please see their website: (<http://sites.google.com/site/shenandoahvalleytu/trout-streams/upper-south-river-special-regulations-area>)

Our first Fish-With-A-Member (FWAM) of the year will be on February 19th. **Bill Cartwright** will be leading us to **North Creek** in Rockbridge County (see article). **Bill Wentz** will be leading a FWAM trip for shad on the Rappahannock River near Fredericksburg on April 23rd. We have planned fewer member fishing outings this year to get more consistent turnout. I really enjoy these trips and learn something every time I go. Please put these dates on your calendar and plan to come out fishing with us. Better yet bring a friend and potential members with you. **Bill Cartwright** coordinates our FWAM program. If you have a place you would like to go, or better yet want to volunteer to lead a FWAM trip, please contact Bill or myself.

Feel free to contact me at 540-908-1329 or marteafan3@verizon.net if you have any questions or comments on your chapter. Look forward to seeing you on a creek soon – **Graham Simmerman**

Beaver Creek EAS Stream Restoration Project



Cattle access to this portion of stream over time resulted in wider and shallower stream conditions. The decreased flow velocity and many hooves resulted in benthic-impaired muddy bottom conditions. Stream banks were bare, nearly vertical and receding. Significant sediment and nutrients were input into stream. Altogether this resulted in forming a dead zone in an otherwise vibrant spring creek fishery.



The same section of stream after it was significantly narrowed, deepened to five feet, and returned to naturalistic curves. Note the stone-armored cut banks which will aid in limiting future erosion. Numerous submerged stone and log structures were added as aquatic shelter. The resulting higher flow velocities will result in the return and maintenance of free stone bottom conditions.

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