



# “TROUT LINES” February 2007

## The Newsletter for the Kanawha Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Editor: Randy Augustine  
augustine@suddenlink.net  
Newsletter Committee: Alvan Gale, Homer Sweeney, Bruce Kessel and Marc Kramer

### Hunt Show Results *By Bill Todd*

Last month's main fundraiser for our chapter was another success thanks to the efforts of our many volunteers. There are so many to thank that I hope I do not miss anybody. Paul Curry, John Lavender, Vince Dudley, Jason Butcher, Heath Perry, and Don Lyons unloaded and put together the booth on Thursday night. Mr. Larry Orr and Mr. Jack Williams did not miss a session.

Did you notice the chapter's ad in the Trophy Hunter's Program? Special thanks for the quality work done by Brian Jerrell on the back inside cover of the Hunt Show Program and on the great job he did last year.

About 18,000 people attended the Trophy Hunter's Hunt Show this year. Nitro High School Varsity Cheerleaders Stefani Taylor and Sara Painter helped sell our Stream Guides. At our popular booth we gained 13 new members. We donated to the annual Hunt Show Auction an ultra light spinning outfit along with a tackle bag full of smaller tackle boxes. This year we sold \$1,575 in merchandise and invoiced \$325 to Elk Springs for more Stream Guides.

### *Inside This Issue*

<i>Hunt Show Results and Follow-up</i>	1
<i>Banquet Announcement</i>	1
<i>Board of Directors and Chapter Officers List</i>	2
<i>Letter to the Editor</i>	2
<i>Book Review by Phil Smith</i>	3
<i>Trip Report by Tony Wheeler</i>	3
<i>Banquet at Coonskin</i>	4
<i>Reservation Form</i>	4

### Hunt Show Follow-up

*By Jason Butcher*

For the 2007 Hunt Show 692 flies were sold and what is noticeable is that only 20 of our 404 members tied flies for our cause. Paul Curry and Joe Crowder did most (if not all) of the heavy lifting in making the 249 donated spinners which sold out quickly. Let's make a note for other tiers to learn to make Joe Fly spinners for next year. Big ugly streamers sold well again this year. Also, fly tiers are encouraged to tie flies well in advance of the January 2008 deadline so that we can have a larger number to sell next year and remember, we need more spinner makers.

Those who worked the Hunt Show include Paul Curry\*, Jack Williams\*, Tom Moody\*, Jason Butcher\*, John Eary\*, Gary Chancey\*, Charlie Krepps\*, Paul Skaggs, Bob Vickers, Randy Augustine\*, Chuck Spann\*, Ed Hayne\*, Larry Orr\*, Robbie Spears, Don Lyons, John Lavender, Matt Spangler, Heath Perry, Charlie Adkins, A. J. Fiorelli, Al Farley, Joe Crowder\*, Bruce Kissel, Aubrey Cormany, Marc Kramer, David Strom, Greg Hall, Homer Sweeney, Jeff Nelson, Vernon Taylor, Alvan Gale, Charlie Nichols\*, Steve Young\*, Bob McKee, Bob Kopp, Max Robertson\*, Ed Crum, Diana Green, Sandy Latimer, J C Linkinogger\*, and Dr. Lloyd Adkins\*. [The asterisk beside their names indicate fly tiers.] Kudos to Paul Curry for his 90 spinners, Joe Crowder for his 60 spinners, Randy Augustine for his 111 hand tied flies and to Larry Orr for his 60 Stimulators.

### TU Banquet March 13, 2007 Coonskin Restaurant 6:00 PM

*By Tom Moody*

Mark your calendar! Don't miss this year's banquet! Our prize list is growing daily. Rods, reels, waders, hotels stays, guided trips.....this year's banquet committee has really been working hard to make sure this will be the best banquet yet. A partial prize list will accompany the banquet invitation we'll be mailing soon.

Your participation in the banquet fundraising events will allow us to continue stocking 70,000+ fingerlings a year, continue our commitment to fund limestone fines for Tea Creek and the Middle Fork of the Williams river and support a multitude of worthwhile activities that help to conserve, protect, and restore the cold water fisheries of West Virginia.

Bring a friend. This is a fundraiser, so bring your check book and cash. Let's make this year the best Chapter Banquet ever! See you on March 13th at 6:00 pm.



**Board of Directors**

**Dawn Dowd** 342-4324  
[dmdowd@suddenlink.net](mailto:dmdowd@suddenlink.net)

**Marge McCutcheon**  
344-8606  
[loghavenfarmwv@msn.com](mailto:loghavenfarmwv@msn.com)

**Charlie Krepps** 562-9050  
[cmkrepps@suddenlink.net](mailto:cmkrepps@suddenlink.net)

**Bob Kopp** 643-1266  
[bob.kopp@yahoo.com](mailto:bob.kopp@yahoo.com)

**Bob McKee** 565-3157

**John Paulousky** 372-7645

**Heath Perry** 543-0885  
[uncleheath52@yahoo.com](mailto:uncleheath52@yahoo.com)

**Matt Spangler**  
541-3205  
[mbspangler@mcjunkin.com](mailto:mbspangler@mcjunkin.com)

**Robbie Spears** 347-2227  
[rspears@chdwk.com](mailto:rspears@chdwk.com)

**Scout/Youth Liaison**  
Gene Burkett 757-8664  
[burkett3@earthlink.net](mailto:burkett3@earthlink.net)

**Stocking Program Coordinator**  
Joe Crowder 965-1338  
[J.R.Crowder@att.net](mailto:J.R.Crowder@att.net)

**KVCTU Officers**

**President**  
Jack Williams  
Phone: 776-2566  
[Jackwilliams1@suddenlink.net](mailto:Jackwilliams1@suddenlink.net)

**Immediate Past President**  
J. Frank Hill  
Phone: 562-9505  
[Jfhill@suddenlink.net](mailto:Jfhill@suddenlink.net)

**Vice President Programs**  
Jeff Nelsen  
Phone: 768-3933  
[JeffLNelsen@suddenlink.net](mailto:JeffLNelsen@suddenlink.net)

**Vice President Environmental**  
Alvan Gale  
Phone: 345-5280  
[alvangale@charter.net](mailto:alvangale@charter.net)

**Vice President Membership**  
Tom Moody  
Phone: 744-4083  
[scpeebo@yahoo.com](mailto:scpeebo@yahoo.com)

**Secretary**  
Steve Young  
Phone: 344-5819  
[shy1wv@suddenlink.net](mailto:shy1wv@suddenlink.net)

**Treasurer** Travis Wilson  
Phone: 523-2479  
[traviswilson@suddenlink.net](mailto:traviswilson@suddenlink.net)

**Newsletter Editor**  
Randy Augustine 343-5928  
[augustine@suddenlink.net](mailto:augustine@suddenlink.net)

**Friends of the Board**

**Jason Butcher** 610-7473  
[jason.butcher@wwvinsurance.gov](mailto:jason.butcher@wwvinsurance.gov)

**Aubrey Cormany** 345-2320  
[adc@hccpawv.com](mailto:adc@hccpawv.com)

**Ed Crum** 937-2214  
[edcrum21@aol.com](mailto:edcrum21@aol.com)

**Paul Curry** 949-2719

**Vince Dudley** 343-0996  
[vdudley0996@charter.net](mailto:vdudley0996@charter.net)

**Ed Hayne** 345-6960  
[ifishwv@aol.com](mailto:ifishwv@aol.com)

**Sandy Latimer** 346-1841  
[islr@juno.com](mailto:islr@juno.com)

**John Lavender** 949-1728

**Don Lyons** 595-1244

**Ernie Nester** 779-2706  
[eenester@suddenlink.net](mailto:eenester@suddenlink.net)

**Charlie Nichols** 776-4403  
[wvtroutbum@cebridge.net](mailto:wvtroutbum@cebridge.net)

**Larry Orr** WVTU Council Chair  
[edhorse@charter.net](mailto:edhorse@charter.net) 965-7185

**Lee Orr** 342-6392  
[orrwhat4@verizon.net](mailto:orrwhat4@verizon.net)

**Max Robertson** 744-9338  
[troutczar@peoplepc.com](mailto:troutczar@peoplepc.com)

**Nelson Sorah** 344-9190  
[nsorah@aol.com](mailto:nsorah@aol.com)

**Homer Sweeney** 722-3825  
[hbsweeney@suddenlink.net](mailto:hbsweeney@suddenlink.net)

**Bill Todd** 714-446-3443  
[bptodd@frognet.net](mailto:bptodd@frognet.net)

**Ken Yufer** 565-7707

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**Letter to the Editor:**

I am reading "The River Why" right now. It's an older book that many have already read (maybe including yourself), but one that everyone needs to read like "Trout Bum". I liked how you put a book review in the last newsletter and want you to keep it up. Makes for good copy during the winter anyway.

Phil Smith

**Book Review** *by Phil Smith****Pale Morning Done***

Author: Jeff Hull

Have you ever thought that the greatest job on earth would be guiding fly-fishers in Montana? I'm sure many of us have entertained that thought at one time or another. 'Pale Morning Done' by Jeff Hull is a good novel about a guide in Montana who is the son of a rich 'easterner' and is also in charge of taking care of his father's ranch. In addition to guiding he develops a spring creek on that ranch.

This is one of those fictions that is likely just the way it is as a guide in Montana, or anywhere else for that matter. The main character hates the labels that he's been painted into as a rich kid from the east and is truly a trout bum. He has to deal with water rights disputes by neighboring ranchers who hate trout fishermen, unlicensed and unethical guides, irresponsible clients, and an over-bearing father.

This book is light reading, but captures the untold negative story of being a guide that I suspect is pretty accurate to the profession. It also reveals a lot about water rights, something most of us 'easterners' are fairly unfamiliar with in terms of how much water means to the west. You will have to suffer through some "romance scenes" which I am sure some of the ladies may appreciate.

This book is available through the Kanawha County Library as well as most book outlets. See [www.palemorningdone.com](http://www.palemorningdone.com) for more details.

**Trip Report—North Branch** *by Tony Wheeler*

The North Branch of the Potomac River is West Virginia's only real tail water fishery. The river forms the border between Maryland and West Virginia, and both states manage the trout fishery, with the bulk of the work being done by Maryland. There is something like almost 24 miles of big, rough, hard-to-wade trout and smallmouth bass water. The river right below the dam is rough water and it is full of trout, some in the 20 inch class. The North Branch contains both wild and naturalized stocked rainbows, browns, brookies, and the only cutthroats in the East. As you head further down river the smallmouth bass fishing also gets good. However, The North Branch is a river with a shady dead industrial polluted past. Limestone dousters, improvements in discharge regulations, and the effects of Jennings Randolph Lake have only in recent years brought the North Branch back from the **dead**.

This past June, we loaded up Randy Augustine's truck with camping gear, my raft, and all our trout stuff, and after a long drive we eventually ended up at our rented Mineral County cabin right in downtown Barnum, West Virginia. The cabin was a little rough, but it did have electric lights, and I loved the rough built-in wooden bunk beds. I really liked sleeping on the top bunk, except when you had to navigate the ladder at 2:00 a.m. when you had to pee. I also loved the fact when I called the reservation number everything was on the honor system. The lady on the phone, just told me where to find the key and where to leave the key with the money. (That was pretty cool.) This local county park has a total of six little cabins right there on the river.

The first day, Randy and I fished the Lower North Branch Float from Western Port, Maryland through Piedmont, WV. Below Piedmont, some industrial discharges turned the river water a bright orange and I quickly rowed on out of there, for fear of my raft dissolving out from underneath us. Later, we learned that trout do thrive in this pollution. We had heard we could call a taxi for a shuttle service. Much to our surprise the cell phone worked, and sure enough for ten bucks we caught a Keyser taxi cab back to the put in. By the way, Randy is the only angler I know who has ever called a taxi while fishing.

Robbie Spears joined us the next day and we did the Upper float, Blue Hole to Western Port. The fishing was pretty tough, and we ended our float 8 miles down river with a raft total of only seven trout landed. (I will not point out who landed the bulk of them.) The North Branch is a river reborn, and the Upper Section is one the prettiest Eastern Rivers I have been on yet. Plus on our trip, the wildlife viewing was great with encounters with deer (does and bucks in velvet), a mama grouse and her eight fussy little chicks, a couple of black snakes, and the most wolf-looking coyote I have seen. Add in rowing highly technical rock-bouncing white water, good company, some good food, buckets of cold 7oz ponies in Duckies Bar and Grill in Piedmont, and a trip to the North Branch is well worth the drive.



*"Trout Lines"* ~ the Official Publication of the  
Kanawha Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited  
Alvan Gale (e-mail: [alvangale@charter.net](mailto:alvangale@charter.net))  
317 Eureka Road  
Charleston, WV 25314-2151

**NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
PERMIT NO. 245  
CHARLESTON, WV 25301**

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## Kanawha Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited Banquet Registration Form

**When:** March 13, 2007      **Where:** Coonskin Park Golf Course Club House Restaurant      **Cost:** \$25.00

Dress for the evening is casual--very casual. Any questions may be directed to Tom Moody at 744-4083 (email: [scpeebod@yahoo.com](mailto:scpeebod@yahoo.com)). Please send \$25.00 per person to **Tom Moody, 212 Sutherland Drive, South Charleston, WV 25303** by Tuesday, **March 7th**. Please bring money to buy some raffle tickets. Your donations will help support and improve trout fishing in West Virginia.

<b>Name:</b>	<b>BBQ Chicken</b> <b>Baked Steak</b> (please circle one) <b>Baked Ham</b>
<b>Address:</b>	Please circle chicken, steak, or ham so that we can plan accordingly. Looking forward to seeing you at the Coonskin Park Clubhouse Restaurant. Dinner will be buffet-style and there will be an assortments of vegetarian options.
<b>Phone:</b>	How many people are in your party?  Amount of money enclosed: