

### **Fly Fishers Overcome Cold Weather, Large Breakfast, Rough Roads, Small Trout**

On April 7<sup>th</sup>, eight members of FFV - Jay Armstrong, Ken Barnes, H.W. Leathers, Steve Lewis, Mark Neale, Bill Pearsall, Britton Quinn and Jeff Wrobel - embarked on our annual visit to Graves Mountain Lodge and the native brook trout streams of Shenandoah National Park.

The day started quite cold but sunny. Just ask Billy and Britton, who drove up the night before and camped beside the Rapidan. But the fireplace and breakfast area at Graves Mountain Lodge were as warm and plentiful as usual. After the typical large and wonderful breakfast (for the record, Steve Lewis had corn flakes, fresh fruit and skim milk), we loaded up and headed for the Rapidan. Word of warning, the road up to the Rapidan was in worse shape than I've seen it in recent years. Care was required. But we successfully made it to the stream, split up and spent a very slow morning fishing.

After meeting for lunch around 1:00 and comparing notes, we decided to see if the warmer afternoon weather had stirred up the trout. There were a variety of bugs coming off the stream by then, some very small bugs and some good sized mayflies. I normally tell people going on this trip for the first time to stick with size 14 - 16s when fishing dry flies, but a size 18 Parachute Adams worked best for me that afternoon and the fishing was better. On the way out we even saw a ruffed grouse about two feet off the road. All in all, a typical trip to Graves Mountain Lodge and the Rapidan: good food, good folks, beautiful spring mountain scenery, challenging and pretty little trout.

## **Conservation News**

By  
Richard Roadcap

Fellow FFV member and I took part in the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Stream Survey Project. We fished Madison Run in Rockingham County, about fifteen miles north of Waynesboro. This project is designed to help VDGIIF collect data on wild trout streams and the fishermen who use them. We weren't able to gather much data due to low turnout of anglers, but we did manage to land a few Brookies on Hare's Ear nymphs and Royal Wulff dry flies. If you would like to help survey a wild trout stream contact me at (804) 526-6978 or Steve Reeser at VDGIIF's Verona office (540) 248- 9360.

As you may already know the Game Department's budget was cut \$5.9 million by the recently adjourned General Assembly. Most likely to be affected are boating programs and construction and maintenance of boat ramps. It's better than the proposed cuts of \$18 million, but in the future there could be other attempts to transfer license revenues to the General Fund. All outdoor sportsmen will need to keep informed on this issue.

Check out the "Shad Cam" on the VDGIIF website this Spring. You may get to see real time photos of fish migrating through the Boshers' Dam fish passage and you will learn about the shad restoration project that FFV continues to support through fund raising. The address is [www.dgif.state.va.us](http://www.dgif.state.va.us)