



# Maryland Chapter Trout Unlimited

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## **Maryland Chapter of Trout Unlimited Receives Prestigious National Award**

(Towson) - [The Maryland Chapter of Trout Unlimited](#) (MDTU) has been named the recipient of national [Trout Unlimited's](#) (TU) Gold Trout Chapter Award for 2017. MDTU President Norma Haynes will accept the award at the TU 2017 Annual Meeting in Roanoke, Virginia on September 29, 2017.

[The Gold Trout Chapter Award](#) is TU's highest annual award, recognizing a singular chapter that took the most innovative and thoughtful approaches to building community and advancing the TU mission: to conserve, protect and restore North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds. The over 400 nationwide chapters are judged on criteria relating to conservation, communication, member and community engagement, fundraising and chapter development.

"It is quite an honor for our chapter to receive this prestigious award" says MDTU President Norma Haynes, "It recognizes the dedicated service our board members and volunteers have provided to help improve our aquatic ecosystems and engage with the community".

The Maryland chapter's work includes initiation of an extensive restoration of a section of the Jones Falls near Lake Roland, establishment of a long-term multi-partner approach to preserving native brook trout habitat in the Upper Gunpowder Falls watershed, and launch of an ongoing series of volunteer stream cleanups, currently targeting sections of the Jones Falls. Conservation projects are supported in part by fundraising events such as the chapter's popular "Restoration Run" 5k race held each fall.

MDTU also supports robust youth environmental education programs. Now active in over 90 Baltimore and DC-area schools, MDTU continues to expand the [Trout in the Classroom Program](#) locally, helping students and raise and release their own trout to learn first-hand about fish biology and stream ecology. 17 schools in the Baltimore area are now supported directly by MDTU volunteers through this program. Additionally, the chapter's annual *City Catch* event, in partnership with the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks, hosts 75-100 Baltimore youth at Leakin Park to fish and learn principles of aquatic conservation. A similar event takes place annually on Stony Run.

Formed in 1971, the Maryland Chapter and its programs are operated entirely by the 600+ community volunteer members, primarily from Baltimore City and Baltimore and Harford Counties. MDTU is an active member of the TU Mid-Atlantic Council. The organization hosts regular, free meetings at the Towson Presbyterian Church and encourages the public to attend and participate in programs and projects. For more information about MDTU please visit [mdtu.org](http://mdtu.org).

About Trout Unlimited: [Trout Unlimited](#) is the nation's oldest and largest coldwater fisheries conservation organization dedicated to conserving, protecting and restoring North America's trout and salmon and their watersheds. Follow TU on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), and follow our [blog](#) for all the latest information on trout and salmon conservation.

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