

Responses from members aged > 60

1. Age

60-69 6

>70 13

2. Why do you belong to TU? Check all that apply

Support the mission of the national conservation organization 16

Involvement /volunteer opportunities for projects related to Trout-in-the-Classroom or other educational programs 9

Involvement /volunteer opportunities for projects related to rivers, streams and lakes (e.g. restoration, clean-up, fish populations, etc.) 14

Involvement / volunteer opportunities for projects to make rivers, streams, and lakes more resilient to hotter and drier summers. 12

Meet and fish with other local anglers 12

Learn and/or improve fishing / fly fishing skills (e.g. techniques, equipment, locations, fly tying, etc.) 13

Introduce children / grandchildren to conservation 3

Other (please specify)

Spouse has Parkinson's which limits my activities

To continue my personal/professional involvement with management and conservation of wild resources on the state/regional/national level

3. What would inspire/motivate/encourage you to become more involved with your local CVTU Chapter?

Not applicable, I am actively engaged in the chapter 4

More conservation projects 5

More of a focus on making rivers, streams, and lakes resilient to hotter and drier summers 4

More of a focus on water quality issues 3

Casting clinics, fly tying tutorials, or other skills-based meetings 2

More local chapter activities 6

Events closer to my home 2

More centralized meetings (other than Burlington VT), different time/dates (other than the first Tuesday of every month) 2

More information on fishing destinations 3

I don't receive information about meetings/events to be able to participate

More interesting meeting topics, speakers 1

Other (please specify)

In person meetings would be a plus

Seasonal fishing outings

Better communications

I don't think I have ever heard of a volunteer opportunity or event for the local chapter taking place in Addison County

4. *CVTU has a very active Trout in the Classroom (TIC) program serving up to 45 classrooms annually. The program needs volunteers to assist with pick-up and delivery of eggs, act as a resource for teachers and help with fish releases in the spring. (To learn more about TIC, click on this link [About TIC – Vermont TIC \(weebly.com\)](http://www.weebly.com)) If you have not been involved with TIC during the past 2 years, what stopped you (Check all that apply) If you would like to become involved, please contact Ed Collins at coll158@comcast.net*

Covid 2

Too busy 4

Physically Unable

Did not know about it 1

Too far away

Just not interested 4

Other

I have been involved with TIC for several years and would like to continue.

Out of state commitments, family matters

Have been involved

Family illness is limiting my time away from home.

I'm a visiting instructor in a number of the TIC schools and do my part that way

I am involved

Was unaware Ed C. was the new TIC leader. I had participated when Bob W. was heading the program, then I was dropped from the volunteer list!?

5. *Our CVTU board has had difficulty attracting new members for the past several years. What could we do to make it more appealing for members to become involved with the Board?*

Let us know we are needed and what you need us to do. Tell us what skills/abilities you are looking for. Give us an idea of the time commitment board membership entails.

Board member status belongs to the younger members.

I wish I knew.

I'm not familiar with the governance structure of CVTU. What is the general level of activity and time commitment expected of CVTU board members? What particular skills/attributes are you looking for? Although a seasonal Vermont resident for 35 years, I relocated permanently to South Hero during Covid. Being here full time may permit me to become more active/involved.

Start with more activities that bring people together (e.g., many activities of the Mad Dog chapter). Then, twist some arms!

Publish board minutes prior to next meeting to show what the board does.

Sorry, but I'm retired and I made a concerted effort to get off of boards over the last year or two. Not sure what to suggest other than contact some of the younger members and encourage them to join.

Advertise more at the local level

I served for 6-8 years and then made room for new members to step up

6. *Currently, how do you receive most of your information about local CVTU activities?*

E-mails 15

CVTU website (www.Vttu.org) 2

CVTU Facebook page 3

Vermont Trout Unlimited Council (www.vttucouncil.org) 2

Other (please specify)

CVTU postcards

7. *Occasionally CVTU has a need for volunteers with specific skills to help us accomplish a local project or event. Please indicate any areas in which you have particular skills that you would be willing to donate (time, expertise) to the chapter if asked and available.*

Graphic design - art

Writing / editing 4
Geographic Information System / mapping 1
Event planning and management 1
Public relations / media
Photography 1
Research 4
Grant writing 2
Fundraising 2
Heavy equipment operation 1
Landscaping, native plants, Master Gardener 1
Advocacy / Lobbying 3
Youth education 7
Engineering / surveying
Fisheries management
Other – specify
No special talent

Additional comments:

I'm good at teaching fly tying. I am also an instructor with F&W'S Let's Go Fishing Program, year-round.

Old age and family health issues prevent me from being more involved

The comments below (in italics) are from the same person. I changed the response to italics so that it would be clear that it was all from the same person

I'm afraid that TU sealed the deal when in the 80's they went from an all inclusive Cold Water fishing club to an elitist Fly Fishing, Catch and Release , Wild Trout idealist club. Look down on the catch and keep or release if you wish, folks. It's important to enjoy and preserve the whole resource realizing that most of the country is no matter what a stocked seasonal fishery. In my opinion at that time TU eliminated 80 % or more of the possible members just as the young folks were getting into gaming instead of outdoor sports. Most parents had given the sport up because of time to other commitments or interests. Go look at the sales of fishing licenses nation wide. Fly Fishing is dear to me also but usually involved a trip somewhere to satisfy. I'm 70 now and feel that I lived and experienced the best time of Vermont stream trout fishing. Climate change and stream flooding and land posting developments have reduced stream quality availability to a mere fraction of what I knew even 50 years ago. I attended Johnson State 1970-74 and wondered why anyone would want to go anywhere else. We caught trout and some real beauties on bait, tackle and flies.

We both caught and kept and released as we wished. When I first joined TU and the New Haven River Anglers it was all inclusive and everyone contributed as a brotherhood for the benefit of the fishery. We went through a Western Fish and Game Commissioner who wanted Vermont to somehow turn into Idaho with wild trout everywhere. The New Haven River Anglers did a 3 year no stock/ catch and release study and conclude that some fish could live 3 years but due to Ice out grinding, river overheating and unsuitable overall habitat they were toast as a wild fishery. New Haven River Anglers spent a lot of manpower and raised money for tree planting, digger rock planting and wood placement all to have it gone in recurrent flooding.

We got our first Lake trout in Champlain and TU talked about it and presented ways to catch them. Lake fishermen were among the group. We got Landlock salmon and I caught my first worm fishing for perch off Swifts in Ferrisburgh. Years of Lamprey control finally settled with great success due to the support and funding obtained by Senator Patrick Leahey and run by the USFW. We now have a possibly self-sustaining Lake trout fishery and with the use of returning salmon for egg harvest and milt capture we have a better chance with the Bouquette and Saranac rivers actually having a lake returning class of Landlock salmon. Invasive species as Alewives and Spiny Water Fleas have made this a less enjoyable but still a World Class fishery in our own Back yard.

Maybe National should take a page out of Ducks Unlimited and look at their fundraising and charter. It's all about the Duck and habitat and you sure better enjoy being out there and it's OK to kill a limit as it shows the success of the Membership. The best as I can explain my view. Hope it helps.

It would be nice if there were a blog or forum for members to interact on a regular basis, whether it be on the hot fly for the week, a "ride board" where you could post planned fishing for others to join, or a bragging page for successful outings. It seems that most of the interaction I have had with CVTU other than TIC starts and stops at the meeting door.

Thanks for offering the survey!

The "3 dots" was the key to utilize this survey using my chromebook! Thanks.

Again, many thanks for responding to this survey.

CVTU Board of Directors