

# **Lateral Lines**

The Monthly Journal of Winchester Trout Unlimited Chapter #638

About the time you think you can make ends meet; somebody moves the ends.

**June 2023** 

Volume 28, Number 6

#### 1 June 2023, Winchester TU Meeting

7:00 PM

Lake Frederick Community Lodge Lake Frederick, VA

Dinner before the meeting 5:00 PM at Region's 117 Restaurant

Please notify Wayne (703-919-2952) before the

meeting if you will be dining with us. We have only 10 seats available.



The Winchester Plivingue 6:30 PM at the lack Freder Wednesday 14 June 2023 Frederick Lodge

#### BarFly

The next Winchester TU BarFly 7:00 PM at Escutcheon Brewery Wednesday, 21 June 2023

> See you at the 1 June 2023 WTU meeting. Bill Prokopchak, Newsletter Editor, 540-722-2620









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# WINCHESTER **HEALING WATERS VETERANS ENJOY FISHING FOR FINICKY FISH** AT IZAAK WALTON PARK by Wayne White



photos by Heather Wright, Phil Stevens, and Wayne White

Reports of plentiful spring Trout stockings raised expectations for a good day for some Winchester Project Healing Waters Veterans as they began stalking the fish at the Izaak Walton Lake in Winchester on Saturday, 6 May 2023.

This was the first outing at the Ernie Neff Lake for the Winchester Veterans thanks to the hospitality of Izaak Walton Operations Director, Brian Callahan.

Veteran Heather Wright presents the first Rainbow on the day with the help of Fran McVeigh.

"Fishing for Finicky Fish" continues on the next page.

# FISHING FOR FINICKY FISH -- continued



Further up the bank Erwin Casto found good success with his guide Fran McVeigh as they landed several Crappie and a very good-size Large Mouth Bass. Erwin took top honors on the day with the most fish caught.

Cristen Lutz, Christina Nelson and her husband Christian, and Karen Trueblood put their fly-fishing skills to the test and caught fish under the guidance of Galen Hart and Phil Stevens. Many thanks to Pete Smith for guiding Veteran Mike Flagg, who demonstrated some innate casting ability.

Although the weather was perfect for early May, the bright sun and 70-degree temperatures made the fish suspect and difficult to find in the lake that had been heavily stocked with more than 500 trout in the previous weeks.

Besides being well-stocked and groomed, the venue provided excellent areas along the bank for practicing the many elements of fly casting, managing a line for a good fly presentation, and targeting areas that should hold fish.

Heather Wright caught the first and only Rainbow on the day. Since she landed the Trout within only minutes of making a few good casts. It seemed the bite was on, and her Wooly Bugger was the go-to fly. But as the morning wore on it was evident the Trout would play hard to fish.



**Top:** Christian Nelson shoots line for a perfect cast. He caught his first fish on a fly.

Above Right: Galen Hart gives Veteran Karen Trueblood some fine points on the back cast.

Below: Fran McVeigh lands a beautiful Crappie for Veteran Cristen Lutz.

**Below Right:** Veteran Erwin Casto proudly shows a beautiful Largemouth Bass -- his best fish of the day.







# WINCHESTER HEALING WATERS PHIL GUIDES AT RIVER BOUND OUTING

by Phil Stevens

A select group of Project Healing Waters participants from across the Virginia Region enjoyed the River Bound fishing outing on 9-11 May in Lebanon, Virginia.

As it were, the Region needed an extra guide for the trip, and I was eager to assist and guide two Veterans over the two-day event.

River Bound is tailored for intermediate to advanced fly fishers. The Roanoke New River Valley Healing Waters Program coordinates the event with the River Bound fishing club, which sponsors the event. Veterans have the chance to fish the Club's private waters in the vicinity of Lebanon through arrangements with local landowners. Healing Waters provided the trip at no cost for volunteers and participants.



The first morning began with fog in the low-lying areas around the hotel and there was a definite chill in the air. None of that mattered as the eager fishermen mounted up and headed for Big Cedar and Little River Trout streams.

I had the pleasure of guiding John Mithun, (USMC Ret) from the Fredericksburg program on Little River for the day. It is about a 45-minute drive from Lebanon, down a gravel road through spectacularly beautiful countryside. We were told in advance that access to the stream required four-wheel drive and high-ground clearance. Indeed. We entered through a gate on a farm, then a steep pothole-filled gravel road to the parking area right on the stream.

**Above:** The 10 participants and guides representing Virginia Project Healing Waters programs prepare for their first day on the water at the May River Bound outing in Lebanon, Virginia.

**Right:** The road to Little River winds through a cattle farm. The cattle cooperated and remained behind the fence.



Once at the river, we divided up and spread out and selected our initial fishing spots. John and I ended up on a terrific section of the stream with a large pool and riffles at each end. John rigged up a stone fly imitation below a prince nymph and strike indicator. That combination paid major benefits all morning.

After lunch, we headed to another spot on the stream, but as luck would have it, it was a poor choice. The Trout seemed to have taken a break, so we headed back to the morning location and, again, did well.

One peculiar story for the day was a fish that John had to catch twice. In the morning John hooked up with a very large Rainbow, fought it well, and just as I was ready to net him, he broke off. But in the process, the fish broke off all the tippet at the line including both flies and the strike indicator.

"Phil Guides at River Bound" continues on the next page.

## PHIL GUIDES AT RIVER BOUND OUTING

## -- continued



**Left:** John Mithum proudly shows one of several large-sized Rainbows he netted.

**Below:** Alan Keathley's first catch of the day on Big Cedar Creek.

For the rest of the morning, the indicator was seen "cruising" around the pool playing hard to get.

We returned to the same spot in the afternoon, and there was the indicator aimlessly wandering around the water. John tied on a stone fly, made a couple of casts, hooked the monofilament, and fought the fish into the net. He actually caught the same fish twice for which we gave him credit to his count. That fish is now known as "Phoenix Phish."

The next day I guided Alan Keathley, (USMC Ret) from the Hot Springs program. We fished Big Cedar Creek. That stream is distinctly different from Little River with more trees and shrubs with which to contend when casting and negotiating the water.

Alan is relatively new to fly fishing but did an admirable job. On his first cast of the afternoon, he hooked up a marvelous Trout.

After lunch, most everyone loaded up and headed for home. Along with a couple of the other guides I stayed to fish the afternoon. That went very well with several very nice Trout landing in my net. However, on the very last cast of the day, I hooked my fly in a tree.

In an effort to retrieve it, the top two sections of my brand-new Winston rod came off and were left hanging in the tree right below the fly.



All I could think of at the moment was the discussion I would have with Winston requesting that they send two new sections.

I was finally able to retrieve the sections, but not without significant effort. And no, I did not have to climb the tree.

#### A special thanks to

Scott Barrier, Ned Hooper, and all the volunteers from the Roanoke New River Valley Healing Waters program and the River Bound Fishing Club organizing and sponsoring this trip.

# PROJECT HEALING WATERS: WINCHESTER PROGRAM LEADS GUIDE HARRISBURG VETS ON PENNS CREEK

by Wayne White

What was originally planned as a unique occasion to learn more about fishing outings from another Healing Waters program turned out to be a great day on the water with Veterans from another Region.

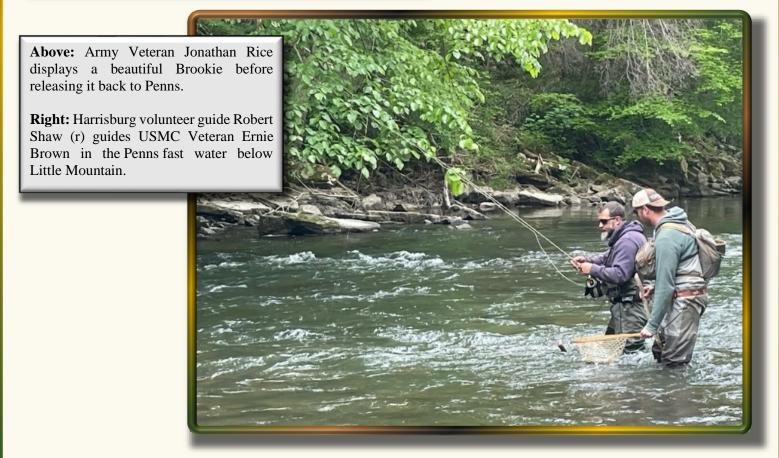
The Harrisburg Project Healing Waters program trip to Penns Creek on 20 May 23, provided Phil Stevens and me the chance to participate as guides with their Veterans as well as gather information and tips about their local and overnight outings.



For the enthusiastic Vets, fishing was difficult. The water was near-perfect; the temperature was 58 degrees; the flow was 290 cfs; and the watercolor was that special Penns spring green. However, none of the big browns common to that stretch of the stream just north of the village of Weikert were interested in the various fly imitations or impressions that the troops offered.

Nevertheless, some were lucky to hook and land a few nice fish! But for the majority, it was somewhat disappointing. Blame it on the weather as several small fronts passed through hinting at the rain that would arrive in the late afternoon finally dampening spirits as the day ended.

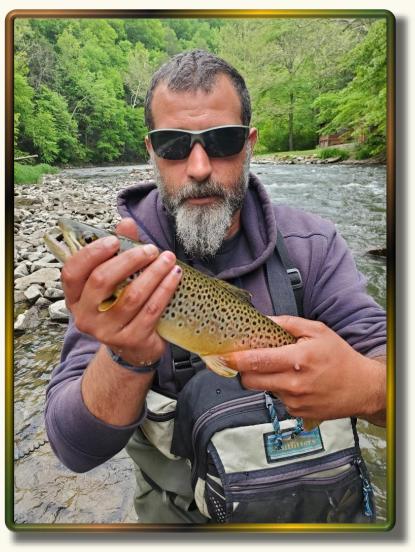
Phil and I greatly appreciated the opportunity to help guide with this outing, and the chance to talk with Glenn Klinger, Harrisburg program lead, about his program operations and conducting fishing outings, particularly overnight events. It was helpful information that will benefit our program.



"Harrisburg Vets on Penns Creek" continues on the next page.

# HARRISBURG VETS ON PENNS CREEK --

# continued



After sharing several fishing stories and discussing upcoming Harrisburg program outings, we agreed with Glenn Klinger to plan a combined future outing for the programs.

Beyond the tips and insightful information for travel, lodging, meals, and equipment, we gained more appreciation for the value of the healing waters mission. The many conversations with the former military, now fisherman, highlighted the importance of the camaraderie and the chance to experience the solitude and beauty of the stream and surrounding pristine forest. The time on the water with these former service members highlighted the Healing Waters mission that it's more than fishing it's about the relationships we build to help heal those who served!

Many thanks to Harrisburg volunteer Rick Edwards for coordinating the opportunity for Phil and me to be part of the outing. We are grateful to Glenn and his program leadership for allowing us to share a special day meeting and fishing with a very deserving group of Veterans.



The next Winchester PHW Program meeting is Wednesday, 14 June 2023, 6:30 - 8:30 PM in Rachel's Kitchen, Shenandoah Lodge, Lake Frederick. If you are interested in volunteering or know a Veteran who would be interested in lacrning to five fish, please contact:

assembles at the Union County Sportsman's Club in Weikert, PA, before heading onto Penns Creek in quest of wild Trout.

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# **Bud on the Run: May 2023 Report**

### The next workday is set for 3 June 2023 at 9:00 AM.

by Bud Nagelvoort

photos by Bill Prokopchak

A major change is taking place in the annals of Winchester TU and Redbud Run. For many weeks in 2023 and preceding several years the focus (since 2015 to be exact), as we all know, has been on rocks at Wayne Seipel's private stretch of stream. Giant rocks, big rocks, medium size rocks and small rocks depending on the source and the use. While we are not giving up on the use of rocks (they have a permanent place in our Seipel site), our attention is there suddenly, if only temporarily, on something equally exciting – giant, big, and smaller logs, mostly dead sycamores. Dead sycamores?

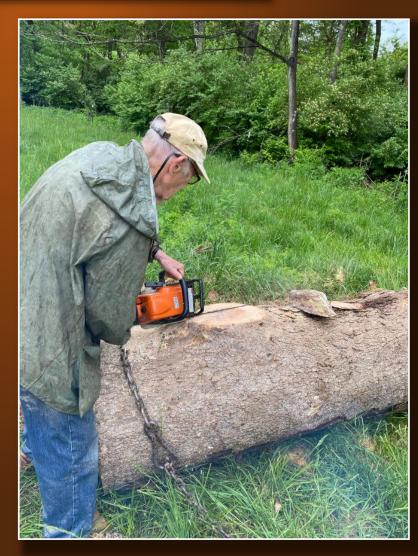


It's not that we don't like live sycamores. They have their place in providing shade to help minimize stream temperatures in the heat of summer. On the other hand, they aren't worth much otherwise because of awkward grain. One never hears of sycamore dinner tables or sycamore syrup. But I digress.

There is some history here at Seipel's stretching back several years to the work session when Bill and Clarke were moving rocks in the stream and several large limbs from a giant, dead sycamore fell, with little warning, into their immediate vicinity.

Fortunately, both were reasonably quick witted and avoided being the first members of Winchester TU to succumb during line of their stream enhancement duty. Scared, but safe. Some sweat, but nothing overwhelmingly embarrassing.

However, having been a first-hand witness to the threat to innocent TU members by this particular giant, dead sycamore, Terry Lay, our member with a giant Stihl chainsaw, saw (pardon the pun) an opportunity to become part of this TU annal by not only suggesting his willingness to carry out the removal of this threat to safe stream activity, but at the subsequent Redbud work session did, in fact, do so. (Barbara Gamble even videoed the scene which yours truly has in his possession if there are any doubters who insist on seeing it first hand for believing.)



"Bud on the Run" continues on the next page.

#### **Bud on the Run -- continued**

"So what," you say. Well, Terry's Stihl skill translated into dropping the giant sycamore into a unique position where the base of the trunk at its upstream end rests partly in the stream at the south bank and the remainder of the tree rests diagonally downstream across the stream (over a long, deep pool) with a major limb up the north bank and holding the entire giant, dead tree in place.

"So what," you say again? There is more.

The pool under this dead tree was the home of a big rainbow several years ago (Bill swears to its presence.) And the entire scene then appeared to lend itself to the installation of an inverted V integrated with the dead sycamore log to enhance the nice pool for big Rainbows.

Unfortunately, the stream bed immediately above the pool proved (with our special steel rod streambed poker created by Dave VanBenschoten) to be so solid that a normal inverted V structure could not be installed. Frustration occurred.

But a vision then occurred of a possible solution.



Last year, for some reason, another giant sycamore (but not nearly as large), fell upstream -- past the long drainage channel in the pasture -- in a heavy wind. Wayne has been cutting the upper limbs for firewood, but the big trunk has been lying useless on the ground. There was an eleven-foot segment of the trunk weighing, by Terry's educated estimate, about 2,500 lbs.

If we could figure out a way to drag this huge log to the dead sycamore site we had a vision for its use if installed properly notched into the dead sycamore at one end and into the bank at the north side of the stream at the other end to create a useful flow guidance segment in the midstream section of this log to enhance the pool under Terry's dead sycamore.



The major challenge was determining how to get this log to the work site.

After much discussion and many ideas, bottom line – we tapered cuts at one end of the log to minimize gouging of the pasture and proceeded to attach a chain to the log and to Bill's truck at its rear trailer hitch.

The pasture ground was reasonably dry and, proceeding very slowly and keeping as close to the fence line as possible, moved this big log without incident, to a site on the stream bank immediately adjacent to the planned installation location. Wow! We did it!

**Top:** Terry checks the truck, chain, log connection before we begin to pull the huge sycamore log.

**Left:** In 4-wheel low, Bill completes the long slow pull from one pasture to the next. The log now awaits its move into the stream.

### **Bud on the Run -- continued**

At the work session of 3 June, the plan is to move this log into the stream via Terry's cable/pulley system after creating the notch in Terry's dead sycamore and figuring out the mid-log notch to create appropriate flow over the new log to enhance the pool immediately downstream. And there will be some rock usage to plug the flow under the new log for those who are nostalgic.

9 AM Saturday, 3 June 2023 unless atrocious weather forecast.

Tight lines and big rainbows. Bud





**Above:** Bud takes photos to help formulate future restoration plans. **Left:** Bud uses tree roots to climb out of Redbud Canyon.

### Remembering Dave VanBenschoten

The section of Redbud Run on which we have been working for the past several months is named in memory of our friend, and resolute Redbud Worker who died on 9 April 2016.

We miss his gravelly voice, irreverent humor, encyclopedic knowledge of history, and his friendship.

And thanks to his wife, Diana, and family for sharing him with us.



# **Barbara's Books**

#### **Compiled by Barbara Gamble**

#### When the Island Had Fish: The Remarkable Story of a Maine Fishing Community

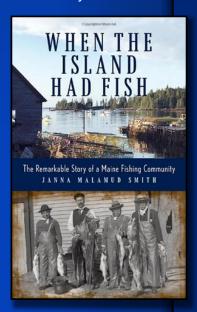
**Author: Janna Malamud Smith** 

Hardcover: 324 Pages ISBN-10: 1684750784 ISBN-13: 978-1684750788 Publisher: Down East Books Publication Date: 1 July 2023

When the Island had Fish is the story of a tiny island, Vinalhaven, Maine, that offers a close look at the significant history of Maine fishing particularly, but also offers perspective on the impact of industrialized fishing on small fishing villages all over the United States and the world. Vinalhaven's documented habitation by fishermen dates back over 5000 years, and still today lobstering is the primary source of employment for its 1100 year-round residents; islanders currently harvest lobsters at a rate almost unrivaled nationally.

The book investigates the changing meanings of the notion of a "fishing community" and of community members changing relationships with the natural world and with international commerce.

Through this broader lens, it sheds light on the way that species, including humans, are impacted by – and at moments contribute to - climate change, environmental degradation, and sustainable and unsustainable uses of natural resources.



When the Island had Fish also provides a meditation on America's past and future. Vinalhaven's fishing history is in every way America's history. It's a story of habitations by Native Peoples and European-American settlers, their use of natural resources, their communities and kin, and their efforts to find ways to live in a harsh environment. Anyone interested in creating a viable collective future will learn from reading about the Penobscot Bay fisheries and fishermen, and about Vinalhaven's citizens' expansive knowledge of craft, husbandry, self-governance, and community independence, and interdependence.

Janna Malamud Smith has lectured and has published widely nationally and internationally. She is the author of four books. The first two, *Private Matters* (1997) and *A Potent Spell* (2003) were chosen as "Notable Books" by The New York Times Sunday Book Review.

Her third, My Father is a Book (2006) was selected as a Washington Post Best Book of the Year, and a New York Times Editor's Choice. Two of her essays were reprinted in Best American Essays.

Her most recent book is An Absorbing Errand: How Artists and Craftsmen Make their way to Mastery (2013).

She writes regularly for *Cognoscenti*, an opinion website for WBUR a Boston NPR station.

Sources: amazon.com and the publishers

#### Kings of Their Own Ocean: Tuna Obsession and the Future of Our Seas

Author: Karen Pinchin Hardcover: 320 pages ISBN-10: 0593471474 ISBN-13: 978-0593471470

**Publisher: Dutton** 

**Publication Date: 18 July 2023** 

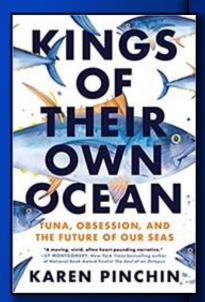
This is a tale of human obsession, one intrepid tuna, the dedicated fisherman who caught and set her free, the promises and limits of ocean science, and the big truth of how our insatiable appetite for bluefin transformed a cottage industry into a global dilemma.

In 2004, an enigmatic charter captain named Al Anderson caught and marked one Atlantic bluefin tuna off New England's coast with a plastic fish tag. Fourteen years later that fish -- dubbed Amelia for her ocean-spanning journeys -- died in a Mediterranean fish trap, sparking Karen Pinchin's riveting investigation into the marvels, struggles, and prehistoric legacy of this remarkable species.

Over his fishing career Al marked more than sixty thousand fish with plastic tags, an obsession that made him nearly as many enemies as it did friends. His quest landed him in the crossfire of an ongoing fight between a booming bluefin tuna industry and desperate conservation efforts, a conflict that is once again heating up as overfishing and climate change threaten the fish's fate.

Kings of Their Own Ocean is an urgent investigation that combines science, business, crime, and environmental justice.

As Pinchin writes, "as a global community, we are collectively only ever a few terrible choices away from wiping out any ocean species."



Through her exclusive access and interdisciplinary, mesmerizing lens, readers will join her on boats and docks as she visits tuna hot spots and scientists from Portugal to Japan, New Jersey to Nova Scotia, and glimpse, as the author does, rays of dazzling hope for the future of our oceans.

"Pinchin provides a solid analysis of the far-reaching consequences of human action on marine life." --Publishers Weekly

Karen Pinchin is an award-winning investigative journalist and culinary school graduate. A recent Tow Fellow at PBS's Frontline, she graduated from Columbia Journalism School with a Master of Arts in Science Journalism and has since been supported by the Canada Council for the Arts and the Sloan Foundation.

Sources: amazon.com and the publishers



# My Trout Fly Box: Tying the Hornberg

article and photos by Burr Tupper



The Hornberg fly pattern was originally created by Frank Hornberg who was the first game warden assigned to Portage County Wisconsin in 1920.

It is a classic pattern and is one of my favorites for Trout fishing.

#### **Hornberg Materials**

- Hook: #08-12 Tiemco 5262
- Thread: Black UNI 8/0 or Veevus 8/0
- Body: Large Gold/Silver Mylar Tinsel
- Underwing: Yellow or Orange Calf Tail
- Overwing: Natural Mallard Flank
- Eyes: Jungle Cock
- Hackle: Grizzly and Brown

#### Editor's Note:

Remember to fish with barbless hooks or bend down your barbs, especially when catch-and-release fishing.





**Burr's "My Trout Fly Box" continues on the next page.** 

## **My Trout Fly Box -- continued**





#### Recipe

- 1. It is tied on a 2X-long streamer hook size #8-12.
- 2. The shank is wound with silver or gold tinsel.
- 3. Yellow calf tail or small hackles are then tied in as an under wing.
- 4. The wing consists of two mallard flank feathers tied parallel and vertically along the shank.
- 5. Jungle cock eyes are attached so that the second eye shows.
- 6. The front is then wound with grizzly dry fly hackle.
- 7. The old version had wing tips that were lacquered and twisted or stroked to a point. I like to apply dubbing wax to the tips and then stroke them to a point.

#### **Fishing the Hornberg**

The Hornberg can be fished as a dry fly dead drift or fished as a streamer below the surface of the water. Alternately a combination approach can be employed.

It can be cast upstream and drifted until the fly swings below and dangles. Then the fly can be pulled under the surface and stripped in as a streamer.

Fished as a dry fly, the Hornberg can represent a caddis, stonefly, or hopper.

When stripped subsurface it is intended to represent a baitfish.



# Winchester TU 2023 Speaker Schedule

Mark your calendar now and plan to hear all of these presentations.



Thursday, 5 October 2023 Joshua Kincaid, PhD

Professor of Environmental Studies and Geography
Shenandoah University

Josh will talk about the importance of large woody debris in streams. Woody debris in streams plays important roles in stream ecology, erosion, and sediment storage and there has been a great deal of research on this over the last decade.

If you have an idea for a Winchester TU meeting speaker, please let me know. We are always looking for great programs on topics of interest to the fly angler.



# Winchester TU Monthly "BarFly" Event Wednesday, 21 June 2023 at 7:00 PM **Escutcheon Brewery**

**Commercial St., Winchester** 

The Winchester Chapter of Trout Unlimited (WTU) will be gathering at Escutcheon Brewing in Winchester to offer anglers and non-anglers in our area the opportunity to learn about Trout Unlimited and to tie fishing flies.

We hope all of you can attend our monthly "BarFly" at Escutcheon Brewery.

#### No fly-tying or fly-fishing experience is necessary.

Please invite your friends. We hope to introduce more folks to the Winchester TU chapter and support a local business that supports WTU.





# Whiskey/Whisky:

Port Charlotte 10 Year with

Oliva Master Blends Robusto 5X50

Wrapper: Sun Grown Nicaragua

Filler: Nicaraguan

by Phil Stevens

Last night was absolutely perfect weather and just cloudy enough that I could not see the stars. That is one of my favorite activities when sitting on the deck at night with a good cigar and an excellent spirit.



Photos courtesy of cigarsinternational.com and https://www.bruichladdich.com

Last night was heavily peated Port Charlotte (10-year-old, single malt, Islay Whisky aged "on the shores of Loch Indaal") and an Oliva Master Blend in Robusto. Both were excellent.

The Port Charlotte delivered its wonderful smoky, in your face taste and aroma. The smoky flavor did mask many of the more refined tastes of oak, caramel, and citrus. A wee bit of water should have been added, but I was too engrossed in the cigar to wander back to the kitchen.

The Oliva was absolutely perfect. Tightly rolled it burned slowly and aromatically leaving a nice flavor of campfire smoke and a light oak back flavor. This is one of my favorite cigars and fortunately there are quite a few still in the humidor for later consumption.

Cheers, Phil

# THE MOSSY CREEK MOBILE FLY SHOP Made Winchester its very first stop! Thank you, Colby and Brian Trow.



NIS RIZED ER

**Left:** Colby and Brian Trow at their very first day on the road with the Mossy Creek Mobile Fly Shop

**Below:** Brand new fly angler, Brian Gonzalez made one of the first purchases at the Mobile Fly shop.

Watch for more about the Mossy Creek Mobile Fly Shop in future editions of LATERAL LINES.



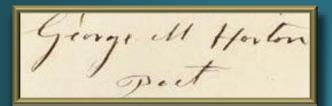


### **Poet's Corner:**

Poems selected for the angler.

#### On Summer

by George Moses Horton 1872-1906 U.S.A.



George Moses Horton was an enslaved man living in North Carolina and later in Philadelphia in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. There is no known photo or portrait of him, but there are two known signatures. Here is one of them.

To learn more about George Moses Horton please click on the links below.

George Moses Horton - Wikipedia

https://www.npr.org/2017/09/30/554307300/sl ave-poets-lost-essay-on-individual-influence-resonates-through-centuries

Esteville begins to burn;
The auburn fields of harvest rise;
The torrid flames again return,
And thunders roll along the skies.

Perspiring Cancer lifts his head, And roars terrific from on high; Whose voice the timid creatures dread; From which they strive with awe to fly.

The night-hawk ventures from his cell, And starts his note in evening air; He feels the heat his bosom swell, Which drives away the gloom of fear.

Thou noisy insect, start thy drum; Rise lamp-like bugs to light the train; And bid sweet Philomela come, And sound in front the nightly strain.

The bee begins her ceaseless hum, And doth with sweet exertions rise; And with delight she stores her comb, And well her rising stock supplies.

Let sportive children well beware, While sprightly frisking o'er the green; And carefully avoid the snare, Which lurks beneath the smiling scene.

The mistress bird assumes her nest, And broods in silence on the tree, Her note to cease, her wings at rest, She patient waits her young to see.



# ANGLER

# REFLECTIONS

# **Gavin's Fishing Trip to Chile**

by Gavin Dominick Morrill

Hi, everybody my name is Gavin Dominick Morrill, and I want to tell you about my exciting fishing trip to Chile where I fished for big Trout with my dad. With the assistance of my Pop Pop who is also a devoted fly fisherman we will attempt to put in writing everything I experienced on this amazing adventure. Before we begin, all readers of this narrative should know that I just turned 11 and Pop Pop is about to turn 81. He can't hear very well, and I am having some difficulty communicating with him, but I love the guy, and he says he loves me more, (that is up for argument) so we are patient with each other as we attempt to reduce my once-in-a-young-lifetime story to writing.



"Gavin's Fishing Trip to Chile" continues on the next page.

# ANGLER REFLECTIONS

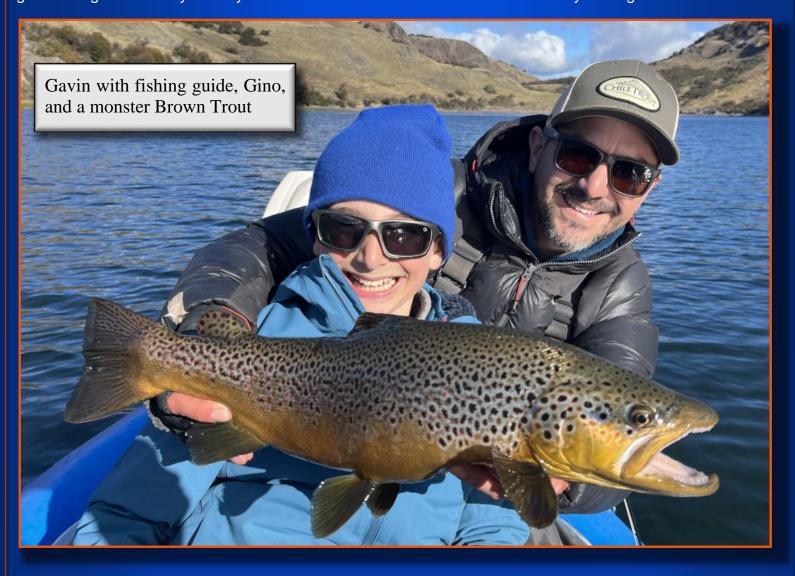


## **Gavin's Fishing Trip to Chile -- continued**

by Gavin Dominick Morrill

A year ago, my dad asked if I would like to go on a fishing trip with him. I said, "sure" not really knowing what he had in mind. When he told me it would be in Chile fishing for huge Trout I jumped for joy and began practicing using a fly rod. The year flew by and before I knew it, it was April 2023, spring break, and I was happily released from school. I'd much rather fish than go to school. Pop Pop said I shouldn't feel guilty about that because he felt the same way when he was a kid. My Dad is a great Dad and an equally great fly fisherman. Like most kids I want to be like my dad especially when it comes to fishing. After school let out, we were on a plane flying out of Dulles airport on our way to Coyhaique, Chile. Gino who was to be our guide for four days picked us up when we landed in Chile and took us to the lodge we would be staying at. The lodge is big and is the home of Poncho and his family. It is about 45 minutes away from the streams we fished. Poncho is also a fishing guide and took us fishing for two days. Altogether we fished a total of six days.

In Chile, the seasons are the reverse of ours. April is like early fall here. We had to dress warmly but there was no way I could keep my hands warm when fishing. We arrived late in the afternoon, and we wanted to immediately go fishing. Gino took us to a nearby pond where we caught some Trout before dinner. They were about average size, and it was a lot of fun, especially after sitting in a plane for so long. Gino is a smoker who makes his own cigarettes. He is younger than my dad and has long hair and a beard. He is also a video game designer and very friendly. He said he travels a lot and was in India two years ago.



I slept in the most incredibly comfortable bed I had ever slept in. It was amazing! It was big and had at least four sheets, each one softer than the other. I know that sounds strange but that is what I remember, and Pop Pop wants all the detail. Along with the fishing I will never forget that bed. I was more than ready to go fishing in the morning. It was a cold morning. Gino guided the raft while I sat in the rear behind my father, flinging a 6-weight fly rod with a streamer on the line. I had no luck with the streamer. Not until the afternoon when I fished from the front did my luck change. I caught 2 big Trout on a black beetle. One was a colorful twenty-four-inch Brown Trout that leaped up out of the water to take the beetle. I will never forget that sight. At least half of the fish's body came out of the water to get that bug. I did not realize a rod could bend that much without breaking.

"Gavin's Fishing Trip to Chile" continues on the next page.

# ANGLER REFLECTIONS

# Gavin's Fishing Trip to Chile -- continued

by Gavin Dominick Morrill

With Gino as our guide, on our second day, we waded and also floated the Rio Simpson and fished some pocket water for a while. There was a Mayfly hatch going on and we caught some big Trout with tiny white flies. Dad caught more than I did. The first fish I hooked broke my line and I felt like crying but didn't. The fish were so big and strong that I learned to let them run before reeling in. After all this excitement Gino showed us his house which was close to the stream.

When we left the water Gino told us to walk up a road and wait for him at a bridge while he went to get his truck. He forgot to tell us which turn to take when we had to later make a choice. We made the wrong choice, and a blizzard began. It took some time for Gino to find us all covered in snow. It was cold but exciting walking in my first snow blizzard. Several times Gino pleaded with us not to tell Poncho. We teased him a lot, and my dad jokingly said we wouldn't tell but might change our mines if we failed to catch more fish.

It took a long time for my dad to get the hang of fishing here. He now tells me that it wasn't <u>that long</u> and that I am exaggerating. My Pop Pop said exaggerating goes hand in hand with good fishing stories and it is ok to see things differently. At first, my dad was getting hits but not catching anything. Gino told my dad he was pulling up too fast and not setting the hook.

I was making the same mistake until I heard what Gino said. I began to count to 2 before I pulled up. That did the trick. We began hooking onto a lot of big hungry Trout. Once I hooked a fish, with my cold hands (following instructions) I would quickly strip the line toward the raft where Gino could net the fish. Wow, wow, Trout are the most beautiful fish there are.

The bright pinkish color of a Rainbow Trout is a pretty sight. My Pop Pop just said I will notice a lot of pretty things other than fish as I get older. My Pop Pop jokes around a lot, but I think I know what he means. The Brown Trout I caught earlier sparkled with all its colored spots. It is hard to say which of the two Trout is the prettiest.

I was excited to catch fish and happy to release them watching each swim away. With some difficulty I later learned to roll cast toward the shoreline using streamers and later dry flies. Gino tied on all our flies. The next day with Gino's help, I tied a black woolly bugger and later caught a Trout on it. That was great. Pop Pop had showed me how to tie flies, but I had forgotten a lot.

Poncho also builds homes when not fishing. Poncho's son Simon, who is one year older than me, along with his friend and I played a little soccer when I was not fishing. While I like playing baseball and soccer neither one can match the excitement of catching a leaping, fighting big Trout. I also saw my first pig roast. Many people from nearby ranches had gathered to celebrate and eat a huge pig that was being skewered over an opened fire pit in a butterfly like way.

We were warmly welcomed to take part in a unique cultural ritual. It was SOOO cool to be invited and participate in this. It made me feel like a part of the family. It is called "Moto Rale" where everyone drinks something like coffee out of the same cup using individual straws. Everyone is given a name and several rules must be followed like receiving the cup using only the right hand and passing it on using only the left hand. Also, everyone is given a different name, my given name was "Police." My partner in this writing just said, "Meeting nice people can guarantee a successful fishing experience."

On our last day we fished Lago Frio, a lake near Poncho's house. Here I caught some big Rainbow Trout jigging with a streamer. Even my dad landed a monster Trout. It had to be 27 to 30 inches and we named it "Zero Hero."

I also caught my biggest fish here. What a great way to end the trip. It was hard to leave knowing I may never see Trout that big again. It was a trip with my dad I will never forget. My Pop Pop said all those Trout are still there waiting for my return and many years from now I could be fishing there again with my dad and possibly my own child. He said that is what dreams are made of.



# 2023 Calendar of Events Winchester Trout Unlimited

See also

http://winchestertu.org/

#### **Reminders**

All Winchester Project Healing Waters monthly meetings will be on the <u>second</u> Wednesday of the month during 2023. The location remains the same: Lake Frederick Community Lodge.

All monthly Winchester BarFly sessions will be on the <u>third</u> Wednesday of the month during 2023. The location remains the same: Escutcheon Brewery.

#### **June 2023**

- **✓** Winchester Trout Unlimited Meeting 1 June 2023 -- 7:00 PM
- Saturday 3 June 2023 -- Redbud Run workday 9:00 AM
- ✓ Wednesday -- 14 June 2023 -- 6:30 PM Monthly Project Healing
- ✓ Wednesday 21 June 2023 -- 7:00 PM BarFly at Escutcheon Brewery

#### **July 2023**

- Winchester Trout Unlimited Meeting There is no Winchester TU monthly meeting in July.
- Saturday 8 July 2023 -- Redbud Run workday -- Time to be announced later.
- Wednesday -- 12 July 2023 -- 6:30 PM Monthly Project Healing Waters meeting
- ✓ Wednesday 19 July 2023 -- 7:00 PM BarFly at Escutcheon Brewery

#### August 2023

- Winchester Trout Unlimited Meeting 3 August 2023 -- 7:00 PM
- ✓ Saturday 5 August 2023 -- Redbud Run workday -- Time to be announced later.
- ✓ Wednesday -- 9 August 2023 -- 6:30 PM Monthly Project Healing Waters meeting
- Wednesday 16 August 2023 -- 7:00 PM BarFly at Escutcheon Brewery

#### September 2023

- **✓** Winchester Trout Unlimited Meeting 7 September 2023 -- 7:00 PM
- ✓ Saturday 9 September 2023 -- Redbud Run workday -- Time to be announced later.
- Wednesday -- 13 September 2023 -- 6:30 PM Monthly Project Healing Waters meeting
- ✓ Wednesday 20 September 2023 -- 7:00 PM BarFly at Escutcheon Brewery

#### October 2023

- /Joint Meeting of Winchester Trout Unlimited and Northern Shenandoah Audubon Society – 5 October 2023 -- 7:00 PM Laurel Ridge Community College, Middletown, VA
- ✓ Saturday 7 October 2023 -- Redbud Run workday -- Time to be announced later.
- ✓ Wednesday -- 11 October 2023 -- 6:30 PM Monthly Project Healing Waters meeting
- √Wednesday 18 October 2023 -- 7:00 PM BarFly at Escutcheon Brewery 🥯



The opinions expressed in *Lateral Lines* are those of the individual authors and are not necessarily those of Winchester Trout Unlimited or Trout Unlimited National.

All water sports, including fishing, and stream restoration activities have inherent dangers. Participation in <u>all</u> Winchester Trout Unlimited activities is at the participant's own risk and participants agree to hold harmless Winchester Trout Unlimited and its members. A responsible adult must accompany all minors.