

# **Lateral Lines**

**The Monthly Journal of Winchester Trout Unlimited** Chapter #638

Call your mom!!!!!

**May 2023** 

You

Tube

Volume 28, Number 5

### 4 May 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 next Winchester PHW meeting 6:30 PM at the Lake Frederick Lodge Wednesday, 10 May 2023

#### **BarFly**

The next Winchester TU BarFly 7:00 PM at Escutcheon Brewery Wednesday, 17 May 2023 All BarFly events will be held on the third Wednesday of the month in 2023.

> See you at the 4 May 2023 WTU meeting. Bill Prokopchak, Newsletter Editor, 540-722-2620

# In This Edition





# WINCHESTER **HEALING WATERS VETERANS** FOCUS ON CASTING TECHNIQUES FOR FIRST OUTING

article and photos by Wayne White



Winchester Project Healing Waters Veterans continued to hone their basic fly-casting skills at their second casting clinic held on 12 April at the Shenandoah Lodge Lake Frederick in preparation for two fishing outings scheduled for May.

Following a review of the basic casting principles presented in two previous clinics held in March, volunteers guided participants on the lawn behind the lodge and demonstrated the proper rod grip, the initial line pick up, back cast, and forward delivery of the line to a specified target at 30 feet.

Fred Boyer (l) talks Logan Williams through the correct delivery and finish of the forward cast.

"Winchester Healing Waters" continues on the next page.

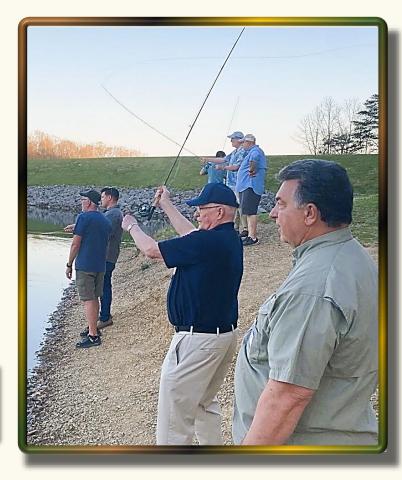
### **WINCHESTER HEALING WATERS -- continued**

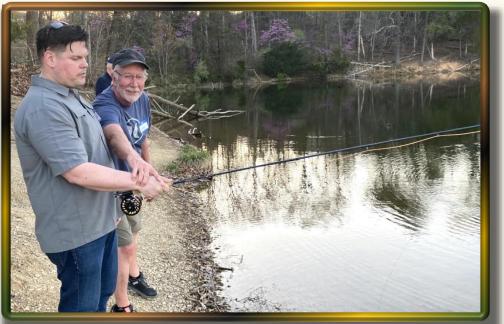
Following several successful basic casts, participants and their coaches moved to the shores of Lake Frederick adjacent to the dam to practice their skills on the water.

There they had the additional challenge of knot-tying, replacing the practice yarn fly with a foam beetle fly, donated by Dave Harrelson. That imitation bug provided a realistic feel for the casters as they picked up the line for the cast.

Since the water provides additional resistance by loading the rod at the start of the cast, many of the novice fly fishers felt the notable difference immediately and saw the improvement in their casting accuracy and distance. The foam beetle also provided a better sighting of the finish of the cast to their intended target.

Dave Matthes (I) makes an excellent pick up on the guidance of Ray Schmidt.





Although the beetle flies did not have hooks, many of the novice casters were surprised that some fish rose to the offering as March Browns were coming off the lake in the early evening light.

Gary Myers (r) corrects Kristjan Rauhala's grip before picking up line for his cast.

Before concluding the session, several of the new fly casters faced off in a casting competition back on the lawn.

They were challenged to make a 40-foot cast to a target. With only two tries for each caster, the top three closest to the target were declared the winner. The top finisher was Christina Nelson, second place was Mike Flagg, and Logan Williams was third. The winners had their choice of a sling pack or a fly-fishing tool lanyard.

The group returned to the lodge to watch a video on the basic casting fundamentals and techniques to reinforce the key teaching points.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oDJJ6W23gHw&t=48s

Mike Flagg makes his second attempt in the casting competition.



"Winchester Healing Waters" continues on the next page.

## WINCHESTER HEALING WATERS -- continued



The Winchester Program will hold its first two fishing outings on:

Saturday, 6 May 2023, at the Winchester Izaak Walton Lake, and

Saturday, 27 May 2023, at the Leetown Fish Hatchery, at the USGS Science Center, Leetown, West Virginia.

Details on those events will be in an email no later than 3 May.

The Winchester Program is proud to now serve 23 Veteran participants and would like to thank its 31 volunteers for their support of our mission – Helping Heal Those Who Served.

Christina Nelson shows good form as she wins the casting competition.



The next Winchester PHW Program meeting is Wednesday, 10 May 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 learning to fly fish, please contact:

Wayne White
Lead, Winchester Program
Project Healing Waters
Wayne.white@projecthealingwaters.org
703-919-2952

Phil Stevens
Assistant Lead, Winchester Program
Project Healing Waters
Phillip.h.stevens@projecthealingwaters.org
703-380-4088

# WINCHESTER HEALING WATERS VOLUNTEERS SHARE A GREAT DAY ON PASSAGE CREEK

article and photos by Wayne White

"Fly-fishing, like most things worthwhile in our lives, is a journey and exploratory," said Dan Soper a volunteer with the Winchester Project Healing Waters, as he planned the recent fishing outing for a small group of us volunteers on Passage Creek, on 4 April.

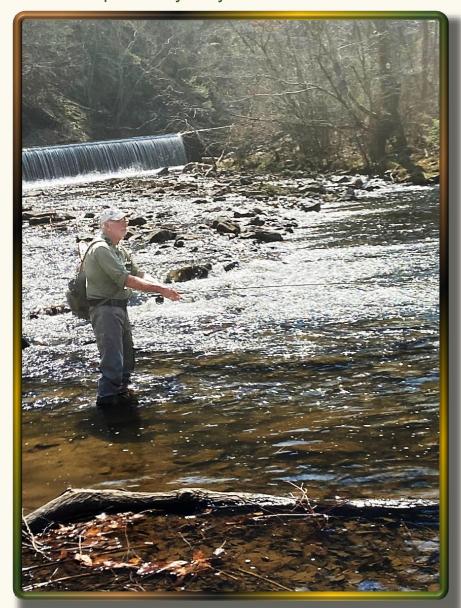


Ray (l) and Dan discuss a great day on Passage Creek.

"A Great Day on Passage Creek" continues on the next page.

## **GREAT DAY ON PASSAGE CREEK -- continued**

article and photos by Wayne White



Phil Stevens, Dave Harrelson, Ray Schmidt, Gary Myers, and I joined Dan at the Delayed Harvest section of the creek to fish with Dan who has been guiding Veterans for over 10 years in the Quantico and Fort Belvoir Programs before joining our team in Winchester.

His offer to share his tactics and techniques was an excellent opportunity to not only gather insight on this creek but to incorporate his angling expertise and coaching approach into our program of instruction for our volunteers as well as our participants.

We quickly learned Dan's unique perspective on fly fishing and in particular, his passion for hunting Trout in small streams. He offered a unique occasion to learn some new prospect-angling tricks.

"Fly fishing for me is my time to detach and focus on a piece of water the size of a coffee table that holds a fish that I know will succumb to my temptations," laughing as he explained a proposed approach to the creek for our day of fishing.

Gary Myers works a nymph below Passage Creek dam.

After gearing up and before getting on the water, Dan discussed his methods for reading the water, finding fish, and expected hatches on Passage. This early preparation was critical to initial fly selection and provided valuable clues to what may be productive imitations as the day progressed.

The Passage Creek Delayed Harvest Section is from the Shenandoah/Warren County line downstream approximately one mile through the Department's Front Royal Fish Hatchery. Special fishing regulations apply from October 1 through May 31, which include catch-and-release, artificial lures only, and a Virginia Trout license.

The early summer-like weather with 80-degree temperatures made for a spectacular day to be out in the Shenandoah Valley countryside. The creek was clear and a little below normal depth for early spring, but the flow provided ample riffles, pockets, and pools to hold fish.

Passage is a free-stone stream with somewhat easy access along both banks up and downstream from the bridge at the hatchery. However, wading can be tricky, and I was over-cautious negotiating the banks and shallow wading. The last time Phil and I fished in these waters, we both found out how difficult swimming there can be!

With Dan's insight, we found the fishing good. I only managed two long gentlemanly releases and three other misses while Gary, Phil, and Dave suffered through several refusals. However, Dan and Ray successfully caught and released eight fish. Dan landed three Browns, a Rainbow, and a Smallmouth, while Ray brought two Rainbows and one Brown to the net.

According to Dan, his successful fly selections included a #20 tan bead head soft hackle, a #20 tan bead head soft hackle, a #14 bead head double whammy -- a cream caddis larva (his creation) and a #14 olive slim grizzly (The Fly Fiend) <a href="https://youtu.be/KS5D0n7HtpU">https://youtu.be/KS5D0n7HtpU</a>. For Ray, a #16 Copper John was the productive fly for the day.

Gathering some new fishing tips, learning more about fly selection, and thoroughly appreciating the expertise and company of good friends -- with no one falling in -- made for a perfect day on the water.

But as we shared our experiences the next day through email, Dan captured the moment for us best, "Fly fishing is the opposite of life's complications. How amazing yesterday was with the dogwoods, redbuds, and perry winkle all saying hello. The scent of the water over the waterfalls the countless birds singing. Friendship. Things you just can't buy. Tight lines my friends, if I was focused on fish in the net, I would have stopped 45 years ago."



## PROJECT HEALING WATERS: A BROOK TROUT QUEST

article and photos by Mike Smith

They gathered at 13:00 hours at the Fisher Gap Overlook on Skyline Drive in Shenandoah National Park (The Park). They arrived in a wide range of vehicle types, from rugged off-roaders to staid suburban sedans. But once they were all out of their cars, and fly rods began to be assembled and strung, the heretofore strangers bonded, and the serious Brook Trout banter began.

Tuesday, 11 April 2023, was as bright a spring day as any could hope for, and the warm sun seemed to promise three bountiful days in the The Park. The event was the Project Healing Waters (PHW) Spring Shenandoah National Park Wild Trout Trip-1 ("SNP-WTT-1"). Dave Ward, Fredericksburg PHW trip leader, assembled the group and made key introductions.



After all the PHW participants and their volunteer guides were acknowledged, Dave introduced the NPS coordinators assigned to the event, Corrina Wendel, NPS staff, and Leah Cawthorn, an NPS partner/coordinator.

And soon thereafter Corrina and Leah led the small convoy of off-road vehicles down a gated park service road to an access point along Hog Camp Branch, a major tributary to the Rose River. Something tantalizing in being allowed access via a normally forbidden road.

First time visitors to The Park were struck by the grandeur of the scene: steep cataracts of Hog Camp Branch, with its glistening waterfalls and plunge pools, and the earliest of the hardwood trees putting out their earliest leaves.



Winchester TU and PHW were represented by Charles "Doc" Smith, the PHW participant, and chapter members/volunteers Jackson Dierberg and Mike Smith. All three were eager to get to the water: three men on a mission: the latter two to help "Doc" capture his very first wild native Brook Trout. Doc was the picture of preparedness.

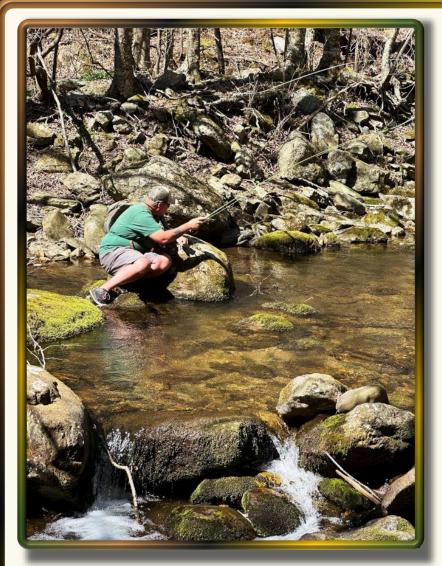
**Top:** The Project Healing Waters (PHW) Spring Shenandoah National Park Wild Trout Trip-1 ("SNP-WTT-1") group gathers for a photo.

Above: Hog Camp Branch

**Right:** Gearing up for the event



"A Brook Trout Quest" continues on the next page.



# A BROOK TROUT QUEST -- continued

In his time with PHW and Winchester TU, Doc has embraced not only fly fishing, but he has also excelled in his fly-tying lessons.

An avid angler, he tries to sharpen his Trout flyfishing skills at every opportunity. In anticipation of this event, Doc acquired a new three-weight fly outfit -- and after trying it on some Sunfish fishing just days before, his enthusiasm to encounter his first "Brookie" was growing -- and contagious.

Jackson guided Doc down the steep terrain to get a good approach on a promising pool. Brook Trout, he pointed out to Doc, are not picky feeders; in a harsh mountain stream environment with little food, they could ill afford to be. But they are wary little critters. Oh, are they ever wary! Mike relayed to Doc an anecdote he'd heard decades before at the National Capital TU chapter in Bethesda, MD.

"It's called the Rapidan Paradox: Brook Trout on the Rapidan will take any fly you present them... provided you don't get close enough to present it!" Doc nodded.

**Above:** Doc casts to a likely spot.

**Right:** Doc works some classic Rapidan pocket water.



Doc had a decent afternoon on Hog Camp. He landed no fish. But he saw fish. He raised fish. He refined his approaches and his casts. He mastered some beautiful drag-free drifts – no small accomplishment on mountain pools that often have swirling counter currents.

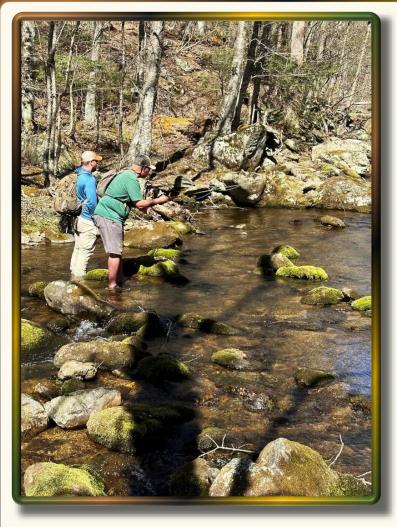
After a great dinner that evening at the Skyland Lodge, the group heard an excellent presentation by Jeff Murray of Murray's Fly Shop, Edinburg, VA, about the best ways to stalk The Park's Trout. Jeff, like his father Harry (author of the definitive source, *Trout Fishing in the Shenandoah National Park*), has many years of Park experience both as angler and guide.

Keep a low profile, he cautioned; search out those small seemingly insignificant places that can conceal a surprisingly good fish – a little swirling backwater, a deep pocket beneath a rock ledge, or old log. Above all, be stealthy.

12 April dawned "crisp." No, make that cold. But after a hearty breakfast, we knew Doc was fueled and motivated. The larger group had broken into two parties of anglers this date. Some would sojourn down to the fabled Hoover Camp reach of the Rapidan; the others would hike down the scenic Whiteoak Canyon. Smith, Dierberg, and Smith were in the latter party.

The unusually low water in the canyon quickly brought to mind every caution Jeff Murray had offered. Jackson Dierberg forged ahead to scout the most promising pools for Doc; Mike Smith coached Doc on his short line casting and flipping fly line to avoid overhanging (and always "hungry") tree branches.

"A Brook Trout Quest" continues on the next page.



# A BROOK TROUT QUEST -- continued

Doc's near-encounters with Brookies the day before had left him hopeful, but a tiny bit daunted – by their "hit-and-spit" speed, their "spookiness," their mystique of elusiveness.

Jackson returned. He had found a pool. The pool. Jackson and Doc kept a low profile and edged out onto the small gravel bar near the tail of the pool. It had everything, including some tricky cross currents, some overhanging vegetation, tough casting angles.

But Doc was focused. Jackson suggested a casting target. Doc nailed it perfectly. The next thing photographer Smith knew: there was great joy on the gravel bar in front of his lens. Doc turned, lifted his very first wild native Brook Trout from the net and offered it to the camera.

It is difficult to describe the emotional power of such a moment. The photographer could instantly recall the awe he had felt over his first wild Brook Trout (a Michigan fish ... some six decades earlier). Moments like that make this sport what it is.

Doc wound up his day in the canyon not only with a respectable tally, but an obvious affection for those "little blue lines" that can make a map so intriguing. At the group's Skyland dinner that evening, anglers, and guides swapped stories and pictures. It was agreed that the two largest fish were "tied" for overall length. The group was also in accord about the beauty of The Park and the overall excellence of the accommodations and coordinators.

If there was a minor hint of rue, it was the realization that the next day would be their last together in The Park. And all would go their separate ways. But some important friendships were forged; some fly-fishing skill sets grew by leaps and bounds. And participants and volunteers alike would go forward with an even deeper appreciation of what Project Healing Waters can help achieve.

Winchester TU and PHW participants in the event, volunteers Jackson Dierberg and Mike Smith, along with participant Charles "Doc" Smith, wish to express their great appreciation to the organizers of the "SNP-WTT-1" event, particularly to Bill Campbell of Virginia PHW; Dave Ward of Fredericksburg PHW, trip lead; Wayne White and Phil Stevens of the Winchester chapter; and to the NPS onsite coordinators who did such an outstanding job, Corrina Wendel and Leah Cawthorn.

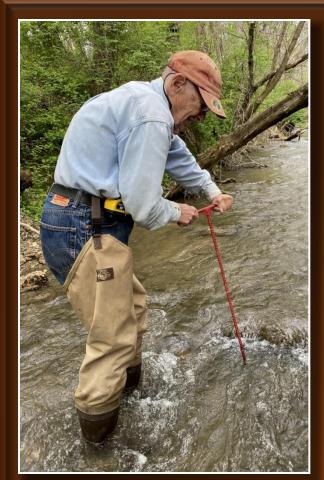
Additionally, a tip of their fishing caps to their new angler friends: (participant and volunteer) Ben Morgan and David Hisson, Hot Springs PHW; Donna Hoe and Lee Eames, Roanoke PHW; Dave McGrath and John Bauerlin, Fredericksburg PHW; Larry Wesling and Carl Allen, Tidewater PHW; and David Hall and Tony Escalona, Richmond PHW.



**Above:** Jackson & Doc on the Rapidan.

Left: SUCCESS!!!





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

# The next workday is set for 6 May 2023 at 9:00 AM.

by Bud Nagelvoort

photos by Bud Nagelvoort and Bill Prokopchak

Friends of Redbud Run:

The TU work session at Redbud Run, Seipel's, on 15 April 2023 did not turn out quite right.

Bill, Terry, and Bud are responsible.

Bud's plan was to determine where a new inverted V should be located immediately upstream of the upstream end of Terry's huge, dead sycamore now resting gently in the stream above Boyer's Bog.



Its upstream end rests against the south bank edge and its trunk extends 30 feet downstream to its end almost reaching the north bank, about 10 feet upstream from the Bog log. A very large limb extending up the north bank keeps the log barely reaching the stream surface at the current low flow.

The idea was to have the new V focus flow to the middle of the stream and under the big sycamore log so that the concentrated flow at the V would gouge the stream bottom to a 4-to 5-foot depth with the wings of the V creating adjacent cover.

Unfortunately, it turned out the stream bed where the V was to be installed did not cooperate. The 4-foot steel rod could not penetrate more than a foot into the stream bed before it ran into a very solid, hard layer which extended downstream to the head of the pool under Terry's dead sycamore.



After considerable discouraging cogitation the effort was abandoned, and the crew migrated up the bank and to the nearby rock pile at the fence. From there, by hand, we moved smaller rocks to the bank by the fence further downstream where the rocks had an interim resting place before being tossed down the bank for use in reinforcing the security of a bank-protection log we had installed there several years ago.

**Top:** Bud probes the creek bottom at the proposed site for an inverted V structure, only to find the bottom too hard for the V to work properly.

**Above:** Bud ponders other options.

**Left:** The team resorted to the back-up plan and moved rocks into the creek for erosion control.

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

There are additional ideas as to a final determination for enhancement of the present natural pool under Terry's big sycamore log for consideration.

One is simply to use our large supply of big rocks for protection of the banks on both sides of the pool where Terry's log is now.

Another is to install a reinforced cross log with notch just above the pool at Terry's log to concentrate flow in the middle of the pool.

We may want to install such a cross log above Boyer's Bog to replace the V that washed out in high water several years ago. That old V had begun the formation of a nice pool immediately downstream.

Maybe all of these ideas have merit and should be carried out over time.



**Right:** The April crew, unable to complete the day's planned work, chose to make use of the new rock delivered both by Bud and Team Rubicon for erosion control.

**Below:** Additional work to follow at the site of Terry's huge sycamore log.

It would seem some discussion needs to take place at 9:00 AM on 6 May 2023 at the gate at Seipel's, if the weather cooperates. In the meantime, the rocks aren't going anywhere so send your ideas to me between now and then.

Regular determination as to possible need to postpone work session due to weather will be made with suitable notice on evening of 5th.

Tight lines --- Bud





Winchester TU Recycles Aluminum.
Bring your cans to any
Winchester TU event.



### **Barbara's Books**

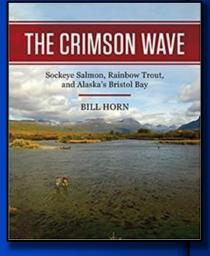
#### **Compiled by Barbara Gamble**

# The Crimson Wave: Sockeye Salmon, Rainbow Trout, and Alaska's Bristol Bay

Author: Bill Horn Hardcover: 192 Pages ISBN-10: 081177242X ISBN-13: 978-0811772426 Publisher: Stackpole Books Publication Date: 16 August 2023

The word "Alaska" conjures visions of jagged icy peaks, smoking volcanoes, vast crimson tundra, sweeping blue rivers and lakes, shaggy brown bears, bush airplanes and pilots, remote Native villages, flashing rainbow trout, and rivers teeming with crimson salmon. These visions are realized, on a stupendous scale, in southwest Alaska's Bristol Bay region. Each year 60 million or more wild salmon pour into the Bay to fight their way upstream past nets, anglers, bears, swirling rapids, and cascading waterfalls in lake and river systems with magical names -- Iliamna, Kvichak, Naknek, Alagnak, Becharof, Egegik, Nushagak, Togiak, and Ugashik.

Sport anglers travel to the region to pursue all five species of Pacific salmon, dolly varden and arctic char, grayling and giant rainbow trout that provide unmatched thrills on the end of a line with their explosive runs and twisting leaps. This unparalleled fishing -- driven by the salmon -- makes Bristol Bay the place of fly fisher's dreams.



In this book, author Bill Horn provides a detailed and compelling account of the natural history and life cycle of these fish as well as a glimpse into the culture, management, and politics that are part of the sockeye salmon story. It also offers essential information for anglers planning a trip to the region, including best times of the year for fishing, strategies, and fly choices, and planning your trip.

Bill Horn has had a fifty-year connection -- professional and personal -- with Alaska. He was part of a 1972 Trout Unlimited team making recommendations to the U.S. Department of the Interior for salmon and trout conservation in the Bristol Bay region. He then worked for the Alaska Congressional delegation on the major Alaska Lands Bill enacted in 1980. From 1981-84 he was Deputy Under Secretary of the Interior overseeing implementation of the 1980 Act and continued that role as "Mr. Alaska" within the agency when he was nominated and confirmed in 1985 as Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks. Following government service. Horn joined an Alaska law firm and represented an array of clients in the state including sport fishing lodges, bush pilots, Native corporations, hunting guides, the State of Alaska, and Trout Unlimited-Alaska.

Throughout these decades, he always found time to pursue char, grayling, salmon, and trout in the Bristol Bay region. He has written two previous books, *Seasons on the Flats* (Headwater Books/Stackpole, 2012) and *On the Bow* (Stackpole, 2021). Horn lives in the Florida Keys (Marathon) and Teton Valley, Idaho.

Sources: amazon.com and the publishers

# The Orvis Guide to Finding Trout

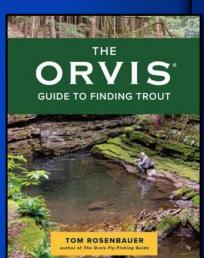
Author: Tom Rosenbauer Paperback: 256 pages ISBN-10: 1493061011 ISBN-13: 978-1493061013 Publisher: Lyons Press

Publication Date: 1 June 2023

In full color, *The Orvis Guide to Finding Trout* is a brand-new book from Tom Rosenbauer and the Orvis Company. Most beginners (and many experts) are mystified when faced with a new river or changing conditions on their home river. And if they can't predict where trout might be, they lose confidence and fish poorly.

This book is about how to find trout in all types of water, at all seasons. But it's also about what methods and flies may work best in each water type.

There is also a concluding chapter on Ten Trout Myths, which are mostly related to where trout are found and how to approach them.



Tom Rosenbauer has been a fly fisher for five decades and was tying flies commercially at age fourteen. Tom is the host of many popular YouTube videos on how to catch trout, and his podcast has been downloaded over 20 million times.

He is the author of numerous books as well as countless articles for *Fly Fisherman, Audubon, Outdoor Life, Field & Stream*, and other periodicals. He has worked for the Orvis Company in various capacities since 1976. He lives in Pawlet, Vermont.

Sources: amazon.com and the publishers





### My Trout Fly Box Tying the American Pheasant-Tail Nymph

article and photos by Burr Tupper

Mary and I will be traveling to the Second College Grant (also known as the Dartmouth College Grant — see footnote on the bottom of this page) in New Hampshire over Memorial Day Weekend. This is a trip that we have made over the last ten years, where we will be teaching Dartmouth students fly fishing. In preparation for the trip, I have been thinking about what flies I have had the most success with when we are there, and immediately the Pheasant Tail Nymph was one I knew that I had to include in my fly box.



The original Pheasant Tail Nymph was tied by Englishman Frank Sawyer, a riverkeeper on the River Avon for more than 50 years.

Al Troth -- inventor of the Elk Hair Caddis -- liked Sawyer's pattern, but wanted something bulkier and with more prominent legs, so he created the American version. Although Troth weighed his fly with lead wire, the bead-head version is now probably the most popular variation today. This pattern is a must in your fly box. Weighted and unweighted versions are deadly in the right situations.

This fly imitates an array of various insects and aquatic life and can be fished as suggestive patterns as well. The Pheasant Tail Nymph was specifically designed to imitate the slender types of the Baetis family, also known as 'Olives,' but the Pheasant Tail Nymph also covers the mobile nymphs, certain caddis species, and stone flies.

The Pheasant Tail Nymph can be fished either as dry/dropper set up or double nymph rig. It can also be tied in the following configurations.



Classic Pheasant Tail Nymph is the standard nymph fished in sizes #14 - #18. This is the perfect pattern to fish on a suspension rig or under a dry fly in a shallow freestone run.

Flashback Pheasant Tail Nymph – I love this variant. The flashback thorax is the perfect little trigger that often makes all the difference -- fished in a Size #14 and #16 mostly.

**Beaded Pheasant tail Nymph** – The beaded version is a great point fly and can be the very effect when fished in larger sizes. This version in dun grey or black is also a great pattern.

My favorite is a combination of flashback and bead head in size #14. The fly can be tied in either green, black, or brown pheasant tail. Brown being the most common.

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

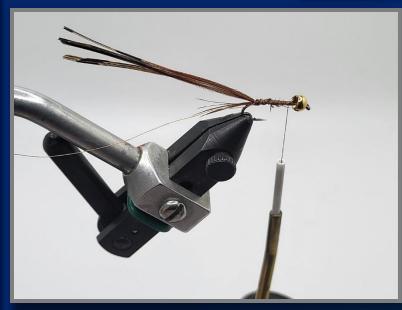
Footnote: The Second College Grant (also known as the Dartmouth College Grant) in New Hampshire is a piece of real estate owned by Dartmouth College. It is a largely uninhabited piece of land used by Dartmouth for forestry. It was originally intended to be the site of the College but was not suitable for such a use. The property includes a couple of rivers.

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

#### Materials

- Wet fly hook: Size 14 -18
- Thread: 8/0 -- brown, olive, black
- Rib: Copper wire
- Tail: Pheasant tail -- brown, green, black
- Body and wingcase: Pheasant tail/flashabou
- Thorax: Peacock herl
- Optional: Gold Beadhead







#### Recipe

- 1. Secure hook in the vise.
- 2. If you are tying the pattern with a bead, now is the time to add it.
- 3. Wrap a tapered thread base from behind the hook eye to juts on the hook bend.
- 4. Tie in 4 or 5 strands of pheasant tail fibers to form the tail.
- 5. Note: The length of the tail needs to be 2/3 of the shank in length.
- 6. Tie in the copper wire, making sure it's on the side of the hook shank.
- 7. Wrap thread forward ending 2/3 up the hook shank.
- 8. Wrap the pheasant's tail towards the hook eye, tying the fibers off where the thread starts.
- 9. The body profile is important to keep in check here. Make sure the abdomen length is 2:1 to the thorax.
- 10. Wrap the copper wire forward in the opposite direction to the pheasant tail. Ensuring you lock the fibers down nicely. This is a crucial step, and it will be the difference between a fly that breaks or not.
- 11. Tie in flashabou and 4 to 6 strands of pheasant tail on top of the hook shank to eventually wrap over the peacock herl as the thorax cover.
- 12. Tie in the three peacock herl strips and wrap them forward to form the thorax. Tie the peacock herl off and start a thread head.
- 13. Fold the pheasant tail over the herl to form the cover and tie it off.
- 14. Fold over the flashabou and tie it off.
- 15. Fold back pheasant tail tips and tie off to form leas.
- 16. Complete with some Solarez or Loon UV Clear Fly Finish.
- **TIP:** You can finish this fly with a red thread to create a trigger. The color red is a great Trout trigger.



### Winchester TU 2023 Speaker Schedule

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

Thursday, 4 May 2023

Ami Riscassi, PhD

Senior Research Scientist

University of Virginia

Ami will present an overview of the Shenandoah Watershed/Virginia Trout Stream Sensitivity Study. She has Been the coordinator and research scientist for this project since 2014.





## 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, 17 May 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:

### Mezcals with Montechristo Media Noche

by Phil Stevens

It was a fortuitous event. Yesterday I happened to be in Leesburg and stopped at one of the ABC stores to restock my favorite vodka, Grey Goose. Wandering the store, I came across a table loaded with several bottles of Scotch and several bottles of Los Amantes Mezcal Anejo. Anejo?



Photos courtesy of cigarsinternational.com and losamantesmezcal.com

As all of you know my favorite mezcal is Los Amantes Reposado. There was Los Amantes Joven on the shelf, but no Reposado. But Anejo? I had never seen it. Suffice to say the purchase included a bottle of the Anejo.

Before I had even reached my car, images of an evening sampling of both Los Amantes products, plus a good cigar, was firmly fixed in my mind.

#### The Results

Since it was raining last evening, TJ (my dog) and I opened the garage door, set up my spirits/cigar chair, and set up a tasting of the two mezcals and the cigar.

Los Amantes Reposado (aged 6 months in French oak barrels): The nose is very floral with highlights of agave, and green freshly mowed grass. This is followed by clear overlay of smoke which accentuates the agave particularly and slightly the grass. The mouth taste combines all of these scents into a complex, and delightful flavoring on the tongue with the smoke lingering very nicely after all the other flavours have melted away.

Los Amantes Anejo (aged 2 years in French oak barrels) - Bottom line, absolutely fantastic. On the nose a much stronger impression of smoke and agave. On the tongue everything explodes: smoke, agave, dark chocolate, toasted coconut. And again, the smoke lingers. This spirit stands shoulder to shoulder with some of the wonderful Islay Scotches in my cabinet.

Cigar: The two mezcals were paired with a Montecristo Media Noche Robusto. This is without a doubt my favorite cigar. Dark wrapper, tightly made. A rich, dark flavor of a smoky campfire, but not harsh. It clearly paired best with the Anejo. It burned perfectly from start to finish and never got hot, or bitter toward the end. The flavor stayed with me the entire smoke.

TJ enjoyed the garage time, although I am sure he would have preferred to be out on the deck guarding against intruding deer.

I recommend all three of the items and am planning more tasting in the near future.

Cheers Phil





# There are more reasons to go fishing than just to catch fish.

photo by Mike Smith

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

Poems selected for the angler.

#### **The Clear Mountain Streams**

Attributed to
Adelaide Bridgewater-Hastings
Circa 1850-1901
Norwich, England



Ink wash portrait of Adelaide Bridgewater-Hastings by W.M. Prokopchak ©2023 all rights reserved after the only known photograph of her

Our thanks to Professor of English Literature, Emily R. Williams-Watkins, PhD, of Balliol College, Oxford University, England, for the work she has done bringing this formerly unpublished poet to the attention of the public and for securing for us permission from the Bridgewater-Hastings estate to include several of her poems in LATERAL LINES during 2023.

The Complete works of Adelaide Bridgewater-Watkins will be available for purchase everywhere in 2024.

The clear mountain streams, they flow so bright, Reflecting the sun's warm, golden light, A glittering path, that winds and weaves, Through rocks and stones, and summer eves.

The water rushing, wild and free,
A symphony of sound, for all to see,
A dance of life, both pure and bright,
A moment of beauty, which fills our sight.

The world around, so still and calm, As we watch the stream, with open palm, And feel the water, cool and clear, Against our skin, so free of fear.

Oh, how the stream can lift us high,
And take us on a journey, nigh,
To places far beyond our reach,
To dreams and thoughts, that we beseech.

So let us wander by the stream, And let its beauty fill our dream, And let our hearts be free to soar, On wings of wonder, evermore.

Let's walk along the stream's bright edge, And feel its power, our souls to pledge, To nature's grace, and all its charm, That fills our hearts, with such great calm.

The rocks that line the stream's clear way, So full of life, in every way, The moss that grows, in shades of green, A secret world, yet to be seen.

And as we walk, with each new bend, Our journey takes us, to the end, Where water flows, to meet the sea, And takes us on, to infinity.

For in the stream, we see a tale, Of life and death, a holy grail, A cycle that, forever turns, And in its flow, our spirit learns.

So let us cherish, the clear stream's flow, And let its beauty, our hearts bestow, A gift of life, both pure and bright, A moment of wonder, which fills our sight.



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Quantico Fly-Tying Marathon

Your newsletter was one of the very best I've ever seen. Obviously, you put a great deal of effort into it. It was chock full of newsy items. Also, I wanted to thank you for the thoughtful, laudatory comments you made of me from the Rapidan TU Fly Fishing Show. I enjoyed that one more than all of the others I've participated in over the many years. Gosh, that show has grown larger each year.

I would like to see more collaborative events between our programs, e.g., fishing, fly tying. I'll speak to Dave about it.

The annual Quantico Fly-Tying Marathon is a hoot. marathon will be my eighth, since I started from the inaugural. Chris Thompson , Bob Gartner, and others do a phenomenal job creating it every year. The fly tying area is beneath the amply rotunda. Organizers even throw in lunch. I hope I see you and your members there. I look forward to the marathon to reacquaint old friends I seldom see. Many are outstanding fly tiers and I feel I must bring my Agame of expertise to this event. I plan to have a few surprises for them this year with some of my contributions. Tight lines,

Bob B.

# WTU Paid Staff - April Fool Spoof

I have to tell you that, as one who is fond of a good pun, the list of paid TU staff members was a hoot! Well done indeed.

I was prompted by this fine effort to try my hand at a few:

Patch Thierry - Manager of wader maintenance

Homer (Biggy) Waits - Deep Water Casting Instructor

Ariel D. Lights - Dry Fly Casting Instructor

Count D. Finns - Manager of Hatchery Fish Identification

Harry Hooks - Manager of Terrestrial Fly Design

Itza Merkie - Water Quality Manager

Krystal Kleer - Assistant Water Quality Manager

Owen Bucks - Manager of High-End Tackle Reviews

Bob N. Flote - Manager of Self-Rescue Techniques

Terry L. Clarke County, VA

# WTU Paid Staff - April Fool Spoof

DeDee Tueferteen. DeDee Tueferteen. DeDee Tueferteen.

I'm a veteran and you would have thought I could get that one immediately.

Whew! I eventually got it and laughed at myself for my slow wit. Loved your April Fool's Day Tribute to the Paid Staff. Thanks for a good laugh.

Wallace W. Ames, IA

#### Salmon River, etc.

When I opened up the Monthly Journal yesterday, I was so surprised to see my name in it. You didn't have to do that, but I do thank you. It was such a pleasure for me to finally find a good home for everything left of my 50+ years of flyfishing and tying.

The Journal contains so much information that it will be several days before I can do justice to it. The short Letter to the Editor on the Salmon River caught my eye as I have fished it and it brought back fond memories of a fellow fly fisherman showing me the ropes.

Thank you again, Wayne. I will have more comments as I complete this wonderful read.

Mark W.

#### Barbara's Books

Here is a suggestion for the **Barbara's Books** section, should she be interested in reviewing the publication for a future edition of the newsletter. It is: The *Open-Air Life* by Linda McGurk, ISBN: 978-0-593-42094-2.

It isn't about fishing directly but about enjoying the outdoors, harmonizing with nature with a touch of survival-tips from a Nordic perspective. Although not about angling it does provide a little 'change of pace' for another perspective on the great outdoors that goes hand-in-hand with sports like fishing. Certainly our members can relate to this topic. I found my copy at the local public library.

https://www.treehugger.com/ope n-air-life-book-review-6830130

Tom U.



# ANGLER REFLECTIONS

# **Trout Fishing in the Mountains of North Carolina**

by Nick Brognano

It had to be around 20 years ago when I first fished in North Carolina. I remembered saying to myself back then, "I could fish these gentle mountain streams in my eighties if I make it that far." I have made it that far. So, when Fred asked me last year if I would be interested in going on a weeklong fishing trip to North Carolina I bit like a big, old, hungry Trout.

About a month short of the year-long wait, Fred suggested all those interested in going should meet and greet. Fred, Marc, Bill, Mike, and I met at Cracker Barrel and, over coffee, began planning. Only Marc, who allegedly had never flyfished, was new to the group. There was so much to plan for that we held a second meeting a week later. It was at this second meeting we met Chuck at Panera's. Chuck is a good friend and neighbor of Fred's, who was graciously offering us his spacious mountain home for our weeklong fishing adventure. We enjoyed more coffee and pastry as we examined the stream map on Cherokee Indian property in Cherokee, North Carolina.

Like most adventures there is the one who plans and leads and those who follow. Fred led this expedition from day one. Thank you, Fred.

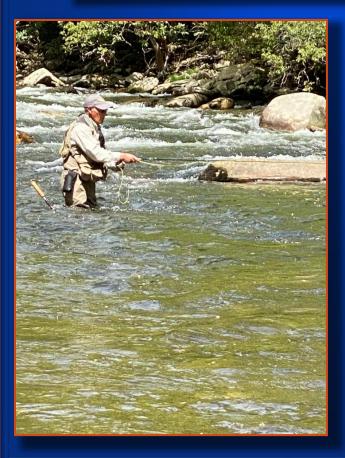
Chuck's home is about a 45-minute drive to the Trout stream. We could not have found a better place to stay. There were enough bedrooms for more than the five of us.

If we hadn't fished so much, we could have enjoyed the big front porch overlooking a panoramic view of mountain tops, drinking a few beers, telling stories and jokes well into the night. Chuck adamantly refused to accept any money for all this. His generosity made this trip possible. None of us other than Marc and Fred, who attend the same church as Chuck, had ever met Chuck before the Panera's get together. I believe Chuck's gift to us was his way of following St. Peter's words of spreading the gospel, "Using words only when necessary." Living in the home for a week and reading the many inspirational quotes throughout the house gave further evidence of Chuck's Christian compass. A heartfelt thank you goes out to Chuck from all of us.

**Right:** Fred not only led the entire North Carolina fishing expedition; he also caught the two biggest Rainbows of the week.

**Below:** Author of this article, Nick Brognano, fished with intensity all week.





Cherokee, North Carolina, is the home of a huge gambling casino owned by the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. The revenue from this enterprise has been wisely invested within the Cherokee community.

On our first day, we stopped at the local fly shop in the Qualla\* to buy an assortment of flies and purchase the special permit to allow us to fish a barbless fly, catch and release only, trophy section of the Raven Fork River. On our way to the stream, we could see the heart of Cherokee, NC, with its impressive modern housing, schools, and athletic fields. Kids could be seen playing lacrosse the same way their ancestors played the game, shirtless, and shoeless. It was a wonderful and beautiful modern day Native American community. The Cherokee language and heritage appear to be alive and doing well.

"Trout Fishing in the Mountains of North Carolina" continues on the next page.

# ANGLER REFLECTIONS

### **Trout Fishing in the Mountains of North Carolina -- continued**

With our six-, five-, and three-weight rods, we spread out along the river. The Raven Fork is wide, waist to chest deep in parts, with a strong current. There are deep holes and plenty of pocket water. We mostly fished with size-16 nymphs.

Everyone caught at least one fish except for Bill who slammed them. His weapon of choice was an eleven-foot, three-weight. It was obvious he was the man throughout the trip. Bill is a knowledgeable, patient, and skilled fisherman who willingly invests a lot of time at a spot where fish should be holding. He jokingly said he gets a real kick when he can hook onto fish in front of a guy who hadn't caught a thing out of the same hole. In my lifetime of fishing, I have played both roles but, unfortunately, most of the time, I have been the guy watching instead of catching. Other than this warped and malicious character flaw we all agreed Bill is a very nice guy.

The next day we hit the West Fork of the Pigeon River. This river was not as wide as the Raven Fork. I found myself climbing over boulders looking for deep pools. I happily landed a 12-inch Brookie here but nothing more.

Even with his "Trout Magnet" shirt on, Mike was not able to hook up more than a few times. It is a great shirt but didn't work on this trip. The day a fish can read English is when all my fishing shirts will read, "Here fishy, fishy." Mike would rather fish for Bass, but unfortunately for him this is a Trout stream.





While chewing gum, I once watched him constantly fling his fly rod. Maybe it was the gum, or his heaving of the rod left and right that brought to mind an old, popular, humorous song from the past. The few lyrics I remembered went as follows: "Does your chewing gum lose its favor on the bedpost overnight? If your mother says, 'Don't chew it.' Do you swallow it in spite? Can you catch it on your tonsils? Can you heave it left, or right?" Obviously, someone must have spiked the gum I was chewing.

We all caught at least one fish except for Bill who, as expected, repeated what he had done yesterday. We decided to hit Raven Fork on Wednesday. Here, Fred netted an 18-inch Rainbow on an elk hair caddis. His "Dudley Do-Right" smile never left him even after several pictures had been taken. I admire Fred's fishing style. He seems to always be relaxed in and out of the water.

A person can learn a lot from watching others. If I hadn't moved around so much and stood still more and didn't chew so much gum my luck might have changed. Again, it was Bill who did well while the rest of us struggled to hook up at least once.

I had never fished floating a bobber which seemed to be the way to go. (Editor's note: In fly-fishing terminology, the bobber is called a strike indicator. A bobber by any other name is still a bobber.)

**Top:** Bill landed a nice Rainbow on a size-16, bead-head midge.

**Above:** A feisty Pigeon River Brown Trout, one of 15 Rainbows and Browns caught by a member of our group that day.

**Right:** Novice fly angler, Marc, brought to hand his very first Trout – a fierce Rainbow -- caught on a fly rod.



"Trout Fishing in the Mountains of North Carolina" continues on the next page.

# ANGLER REFLECTIONS

### **Trout Fishing in the Mountains of North Carolina -- continued**



When I finally got around to trying it, I discovered it made no difference in my case. I'm sure if we could have fished two hours longer until 7:00 or 7:30 PM, which is generally dinner time for the fish, our chances would have greatly improved but that would have meant eating too late and getting up too early.

On Thursday we tried the upper section of the Raven Fork and here the rest and best of the story, in my view, begins and ends.

It was at this wide, smooth flowing spot across the river that Marc began to blossom after he and Bill consulted on drifting his bobber and nymph with the current close to the far bank side.

Maybe it was all an act between the two of them because Marc immediately exhibited a heavenly level of expertise with that nine-foot rod. Since I was having no luck, I took time to closely observe Marc's somewhat strange fishing technique, always hoping to learn something. Marc, it should be noted, is an ordained pastor which I strongly surmised had a strong bearing on his most unusual fishing routine.

Either he is an exceptionally fast learner, or he had fooled us into believing he was an innocent novice, I thought to myself. Although smiling Fred landed a big, beautiful Rainbow at this spot (more pictures were taken, of course) using a dry fly, it was Marc who stole the show here.

**Above:** Mike fishes heavy riffles on the Raven Fork. Fish on!?

**Right:** Marc lands his second feisty Rainbow just moments after landing his first. Marc went from novice to skilled fly angler status in just four days.



Clearly, this nice young man of the cloth must believe all water is holy indeed because he simply could not get enough of it. He dunked himself often. But then who am I to question a man's peculiarities? While I recognize the sacrament of Baptism varies among different religious groups Marc's idea went way beyond anything I had ever witnessed or read about.

I could not count the times he fell in, each time aggressively swinging the long fly rod above his head like an out-of-control Pentecostal. Was he simply sight fishing while submerged or was this a wild sacramental exhibition designed to capture God's attention and assistance? It was at that moment I realized we are in the Easter season and many years ago even the apostles were exhibiting strange behavior.

Maybe this is the way all holy fly fishermen fish during Easter season. It is all speculation on my part, but one thing was certain The Lord led him to where the fish were, and he caught a boatful, well almost! It all sounds familiar, doesn't it? How can anyone compete with that? Be that as it may, the guy spent an awful lot of time underwater. Who knows, he could have baptized 50 people by proxy before he left the water. Next time he should bring a snorkel.

Lastly, in my long and blessed life I have fished with many guys, some nice and some not so nice. This group far exceeded any bunch of fishermen I have ever fished with. During and after meals we calmly discussed sensitive subjects with respect and understanding. Although our host Chuck was not present, he really was, because this was his house and the many family pictures on the walls said a lot about the man and his joyful family life. Although I went a long way and failed to catch the fish of a lifetime {I continue to lose sleep over this}, I thoroughly enjoyed our group camaraderie and winded discussions, especially on the ride back with Bill. It is often said that God works in mysterious ways. For an old fisherman, I would like to say, if your eyes and ears are open, it is not so mysterious at all.

\* The Qualla -- Also known as the Qualla Boundary -- is not a reservation. It is territory held as a land trust for the federally recognized Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. The Cherokee purchased the land in the late 1800s and placed it in trust.



# 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.

#### **May 2023**

- Winchester Trout Unlimited Meeting 4 May 2023 -- 7:00 PM Ami Riscassi is the featured speaker. Topic: Virginia Trout Study
- ✓Saturday 6 May 2023 -- Redbud Run workday -- Time to be announced later.
- Wednesday -- 10 May 2023 -- 6:30 PM Monthly Project Healing Waters meeting
- ✓ Wednesday 17 May 2023 -- 7:00 PM BarFly at Escutcheon Brewery

#### **June 2023**

- Winchester Trout Unlimited Meeting 1 June 2023 -- 7:00 PM
- ✓ Saturday 3 June 2023 -- Redbud Run workday -- Time to be announced later.
- Wednesday -- 14 June 2023 -- 6:30 PM Monthly Project Healing Waters meeting
- 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.