

Lateral Lines

The Monthly Journal of Winchester Trout Unlimited Chapter #638

Mechanic: "If it ain't broke, I can't fix it. If you're broke, I can't fix it."

November 2023

Volume 28, Number 11

Winchester TU Meeting

7:00 PM Thursday

Thursday, 2 November 2023 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.



6:30 PM

Wednesday, 8 November 2023 Lake Frederick Community Lodge Lake Frederick, VA

BarFly

The next Winchester TU BarFly Wednesday, 15 November 2023 7:00 PM at Escutcheon Brewing Co. 142 W. Commercial Street, Winchester

See you at the 2 November 2023 WTU meeting.
Bill Prokopchak, Newsletter Editor
540-722-2620 voice only.



Tube





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WARREN DUDENBOSTEL FISHES RIVER BOUND

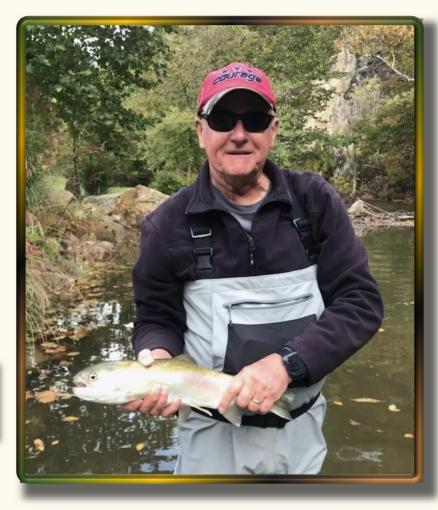
article and photos by Wayne White

Warren Dudenbostel, an Army veteran, and a Winchester program participant joined seven other Veterans from across Virginia at the Fall Virginia Region Project Healing Waters River Bound fly-fishing outing on 13-15 October.

Winchester program volunteer and Virginia conservation officer Jackson Dierberg guided Warren during the two-day event where they experienced excellent "fishing." However, some may argue that the more appropriate term for the two-day outing was "catching," based on the number of fish Warren landed. Nonetheless, there were noted teaching points along the way.

Warren proudly holds one of the larger fish he landed on Big Cedar Creek





"Warren Dudenbostel Fishes River Bound" continues on the next page.

WARREN DUDENBOSTEL FISHES RIVER BOUND

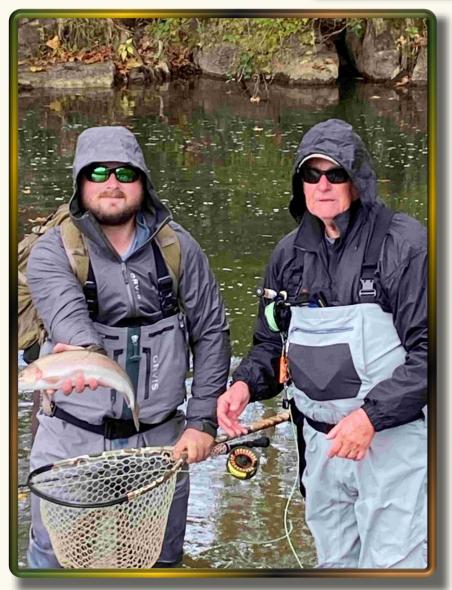
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A newcomer to fly-fishing, Warren hooked, and Jackson netted over 25 large Trout, fishing the Big Cedar Creek in Lebanon and Little River in Claypool. The huge Rainbows the Veterans angled for in the two freestone streams were courtesy of Jake Music who raised the Trout from eggs in his hatchery and stocked no fish smaller than 16 inches a few days prior to the trip.

Besides the thrill of battling and catching numerous good-sized Rainbows, Warren greatly appreciated the insight and tutorial Jackson provided on angling with a fly rod.

"I learned so much and Jackson was patient and the perfect guide that made for an outstanding couple of days of fishing for me," he said.





The Roanoke New River Valley Healing Waters Program sponsored the event, and the River Bound Fishing Club allowed the Veterans to fish their private waters by coordinating access to the streams with local landowners. Healing Waters provided food and lodging at no cost for volunteers and participants.

Many 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 for organizing and sponsoring this trip.

Above: One of many beautiful Rainbows Jackson netted for Warren.

Left: Although the cooler weather and occasional rain were a challenge, it did not dampen their spirits, and the fish were just as aggressive with those changing conditions. Jackson (1) helps Warren return one of the larger Trout back to Little River.



CAPON VALLEY BANK CELEBRATES VETERANS' BUSINESSES AND SUPPORT

ORGANIZATIONS

by Wayne White photo by Gary Myers

Winchester Project Healing Waters was a featured Veterans service organization at the first annual Community Veterans Day Celebration, hosted by the Capon Valley Bank, in Stephens City on Saturday, 7 October 2023.

Program volunteers and participants operated an information booth and discussed the Healing Waters mission with local area vendors and visitors to their booth in the bank's parking lot on S. Main Street. However, gusting winds prevented the volunteers from providing fly-casting demonstrations, and tying flies for the visitors was impossible.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Stephens City kicked off the event with a Salute to Veterans ceremony. Car and motorcycle displays, raffle items, and a gun raffle were all part of the day's events. All proceeds from the raffles were donated to the Veteran organizations participating in the community day celebration.

Many thanks to Winchester Volunteers Michael Hart, Mark Zimmerman, Dave Harrelson, Peter Smith, Gary Myers, Ken Seroka, Paul Arienti, and Fran McVeigh, and Winchester participant Erwin Casto for supporting the event.



Mark Zimmerman (l) discusses Healing Waters activities with visitor Kurt Borgoyn as PHW volunteers Ken Seroka and Paul Arienti look on.

A special thanks to Amy Bender, Assistant Branch Manager of Capon Valley Bank and Mariah Carol Smith, Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of No One Left Behind, for their invitation and support for the Winchester Program to participate in the event.

WINCHESTER PROJECT HEALING WATERS NOVEMBER 2023 CALENDAR

The next Winchester Project Healing Waters monthly meeting is on <u>Wednesday, 8 November</u> <u>2023</u>, in Rachel's Kitchen, Shenandoah Lodge, Lake Frederick, 6:30-8:30 p.m.



Dan Soper will lead the fly-tying class, which will feature the foam beetle.

In addition to the fly-tying class, we will also discuss planning for a possible outing to Izaak Walton's Lake Neff later in November, and our planned outing to Rose River in December.

Please contact Wayne White or Phil Stevens either via email or RSVP to the calendar invite from the PHW portal if you plan to attend the meeting.

Wayne White
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Project Healing Waters
Wayne.white@project healingwaters.org
703-919-2952

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WINCHESTER PHW AT THE SHENANDOAH UNIVERSITY MILITARY AWARENESS FAIR



Shenandoah University will host its Military Awareness Fair on Friday, 10 November 2023, from 1130-1500hrs on the campus. Winchester Project Healing Waters is one of the Veterans' groups to participate in the event, hosting an information table. The events below are open to the public.

You can see all that SU will be offering that week by visiting the SU website at https://www.su.edu/blog/2023/10/20/salute-to-veterans-week-2023/

Military Awareness Fair

Friday, Nov. 10 | 11:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. | Brandt Student Center, Leadership Lawn

On the birthday of the U.S. Marine Corps, Shenandoah is encouraging greater awareness about all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces to the larger university community at this event. Several branches of the military, veterans service organizations, and university offices will share information about how they support veterans at the university and in the wider community.

Shenandoah University Men's Basketball Game vs. Regent Friday, Nov. 10 | 7 p.m. | Wilkins Athletics & Events Center

Yul Holloway (branch manager at Navy Federal Credit Union in Frederick, Maryland) will perform the honorary tipoff. Holloway enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserves, where he proudly served as an army broadcaster for eight years. The university will recognize veterans during halftime. The first 50 attendees will receive a commemorative rally towel. Tickets can be purchased at suhornets.com.

Veterans Lunch

Saturday, Nov. 11 | 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. | Wilkins Athletics & Events Center

Veterans and their families are invited to join Shenandoah University for lunch at the Wilkins Athletics and Events Center on Saturday, Nov. 11, at 11:30 a.m. This event is free, but registration is requested. For more information, please contact Niccole Gatliff at ngatliff@su.edu.

Shenandoah University Football vs. Washington & Lee (Veterans Tribute Game)

Saturday, Nov. 11 | 1 p.m. | Glo Fiber Field at Shentel Stadium

Veterans in attendance will be recognized at halftime and the first 200 attendees will receive a commemorative rally towel. This event is free to veterans and current Shenandoah students. Tickets can be purchased at suhornets.com.

Shenandoah University Women's Basketball Game vs. Mount Aloysius* Saturday, Nov. 11 | 6 p.m. | Wilkins Athletics & Events Center

Dottie Day, vice president of Winchester and Contact Center Operations at Navy Federal Credit Union, who is a U.S. Navy veteran and military spouse, will perform the honorary tipoff. The University will recognize veterans during halftime. The first 50 attendees will receive a commemorative rally towel.

Tickets can be purchased at suhornets.com.

Bud on the Run: October 2023 Report

The next workday is set for Saturday, 11 November 2023, at 10:00 AM. (Please note that this is a one-time change from our regular work session day)

by Bud Bagelvoort (read on to learn more) Bagelvoort artwork and photos by Bill Prokopchak

The Redbud monthly work session for November 2023 needs to be postponed for a week due to a schedule conflict I have on 4 November. My family has its 47th consecutive "Turkey Bowl" on that date this year. Family members from all over the country will be in

Berryville for this year's event.

The work session in October was more of a planning event than physical labor, with Bill, Terry, Clark, Fred, and me.



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



Bud on the Run -- continued

The major excitement of the session involved watching leaves entering a swirling vortex along the edge of Terry's giant log — evidence of leakage and unwanted stream flow under the log. Clark and Bud immediately supplied small rocks that stalled the spiral as the excitement ended.

With the aid of the red steel T-bar handcrafted by the late Dave VanBenschoten, Bill then proceeded upstream, exploring for potential sites for a new inverted V structure.

Above: The whirlpool caught our attention and, with childlike glee, we enjoyed watching floating leaves getting sucked into the vortex. We also spent some time tossing black walnuts into the vortex.

Right: Sycamore Falls is working as planned.

Below: Using the T-bar that our friend Dave VanBenschoten made, Bill probes the creek bottom searching for a place to construct our next structure.





A potential site immediately downstream from the long pasture drainage channel may offer possibilities.

Further inspection of the shallow pool a short distance downstream from the waterfalls will be a challenge for a major V structure but might lend itself to more concentrated flow at its upstream end.

Protection of the south bank along Terry's big log will need several long logs, possibly to be secured at Bud's property if we can line up adequate trailer capability for transporting them to the Redbud stream site. Drew may have a trailer for this purpose.

In any event, we'll try to develop more specific plans for the delayed work session on 11 November 2023 at 10:00 AM. If snow does not interfere.

In the meantime, tight lines and good fishing before winter takes over.

Bud

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

Bud Bagelvoort

The whole thing started on the day that Bill collected rocks for Trout in the Classroom (TIC) Brookie Egg Delivery Day.

After collecting the rocks from the Redbud Run site where Winchester TIC teachers and students release their baby Brookies, Bill walked upstream to check out the old house that is of interest to Civil War historians.

Bill was disturbed by the denuded hillside around the historic house. With all of the natural vegetation removed, the potential for serious erosion on the banks of Redbud Run was apparent.

Bill took photos of the site and sent them to Bud for his opinion. After seeing the photos, Bud contacted the officials at Shenandoah Battlefields Historic District to alert them to the erosion potential.





Top: Bagelvoort

Left: The Civil War era house and its denuded hillside as it stood in early October 2023.

Below: The weeded area, which had been home for a small wildflower meadow was also stripped bare.

In his response letter to Bud, the official from Third Winchester made a simple typo: Baglevoort instead of Nagelvoort!

In celebration of Bud's new nickname, Bill created a piece of comedic art to celebrate the event.





Left: Before the October workday began, the workers enjoyed fresh, warm, and delicious bagels with melted butter and strawberry jam

from Lenny Sweet's Big L' Bagels on

Piccadilly Street in Winchester.

Photo courtesy of Big L's Bagels



Trout in the Classroom (TIC) News - 2023-2024 School Year

Brookie Egg Delivery Part I

by Lisa LaCivita

The 2023 - 2024 Trout in the Classroom (TIC) Program is underway with the delivery of Brook Trout eggs to eleven schools located in the City of Winchester; Frederick, Clarke, & Shenandoah Counties of Virginia; Morgan County in West Virginia; and the Shenandoah Valley Discovery Museum.





Above: Mark Zimmerman – founder of the Winchester TU Trout in the Classroom Program – explains the egg-hatching process to Admiral Byrd Middle School students.

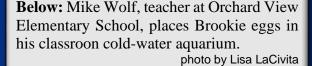
Left: Mark and Amanda Curry, teacher at Millbook High School, share information about proper fish feeding.

Below: Dan Reynolds, teacher at Dowell J. Howard Center, and Mark discuss fish tank water quality.

photos by Fred Boyer

Students will monitor the Brookies' growth, chemical balances in the tank, and learn of the habitat and ecosystems associated with our native Brook Trout.

Trout eggs are provided by the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources, (DWR) with coordination by the Virginia Council of Trout Unlimited. The small Brookies will be released into DWR approved streams next May.







Many Thanks to this year's Egg Delivery Volunteers

Fred Boyer
Rod DeArment
Bruce Johnson
David Juth
Lisa LaCivita
Bud Nagelvoort
Bill Prokopchak
Phil Stevens
Burr Tupper
Mary Weiss
Mark Zimmerman



Trout in the Classroom (TIC) News – Part II Brookie Egg Delivery to North Fork Middle School

Quicksburg, VA article and photos by Mary Weiss



Burr Tupper and I have volunteered for numerous activities within Trout Unlimited for over two decades. We've had the privilege to serve in projects at both local and State TU Chapters & Councils as well as the National Leadership Council and Board of Trustees. Recently we had the opportunity to do something completely new and different when we volunteered for the Winchester TU TIC Egg Delivery Day!

When Lisa LaCivita asked if any volunteers at the September Winchester Trout Unlimited Chapter would be available to help with the Trout in The Classroom Egg Delivery, Burr immediately signed up, and I offered to ride shotgun.

Lisa LaCivita is our chapter Egg Delivery Coordinator and kept us up to date on potential delivery dates of eggs to 13 schools and the SVDM (Shenandoah Valley Discovery Museum). Delivery locations included two schools in West Virginia: Martinsburg, & Pawpaw; three in Clarke County, two in Shenandoah County and the rest in Frederick County and City of Winchester.

I knew about the TIC program, but never really understood the depth and breadth. It really is a whole lot more than giving a school a chiller tank and some eggs and walking away with fingers crossed that the eggs turn into Brook Trout.

I fired up my ChatGPT app and learned that Trout in the Classroom has been in existence for over 30 years and this amazing turnkey program is compatible with diverse curriculums and engages with over 100,000+ students every year. TIC engages students in hands-on-learning and teaches the importance of preserving clean water and promoting environmental stewardship.

Lisa kept us informed with our date, October 4th; location, Martin's Parking Lot, Stephens City; 10:00 AM meeting time; and delivery location. Burr and I only had one school for delivery.





Top: Teacher Dara Booher and one of her students prepare supplies for care of the Brookie eggs.

Above: Students gather around as they prepare to place the fish eggs in protective baskets.

Left: And in they go. A student unfolds the cold and wet paper towel in which the Brook Trout eggs traveled from hatchery to their school.

"Trout in the Classroom – Part II" continues on the next page.

Trout in the Classroom (TIC) News - Part II -- continued

We received our action email from Lisa with what to bring and what to expect. Thank heavens for Lisa's attention to detail and commitment to Winchester Trout Unlimited. When we arrived at Martin's parking lot, we saw many friendly faces from Winchester TU ready to make their assigned deliveries. Lisa gently handed over the 400 eggs for transportation.

I am a bit of type A person, so cooler on the list, meant the largest Yeti cooler we had in the garage, and I managed to find and bring a Tupperware container that would have held numerous, foot-long Brook Trout and both a frozen bottle of water and double-bagged ice cubes so my home-chlorinated water would not endanger the fragile eggs. A bit of overkill, but good for a laugh. Lisa did offer a smaller Tupperware container since the packet of 400 eggs was actually very small.

We arrived on time with eggs intact and personal identification ready to enter the North Fork Middle School. Dara Booher and three of her students met us with big smiles and boisterous hellos as they walked us back to the classroom with the chiller.

What a wonderful experience! The three students were engaged, excited and enthusiastic and we can't wait to participate in the Brook Trout release day in the Spring of 2024. One of Dara's students is a fisherman, so Burr did spend a few moments sharing a few fly-fishing adventures with him.

Thank you to Lisa LaCivita for an outstanding commitment to the TIC program and we greatly appreciated her outstanding organizational and communication skills.



Dara Booher and her students now have many months of care and feeding of the tiny fish that will hatch from these eggs.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I really don't understand how you continue to create such a fantastic Monthly Journal of Winchester Trout Unlimited. I can only imagine the positive impact it would have if we had some way to create and publish such a spectacular publication for our TU chapter and Project Healing Waters program. You and your monthly journal are a total inspiration.

Sincere thanks for all you do,

George Gaines National Capital Chapter of TU DC Project Healing Waters

Lotta fishin, little catching

Grover C. Gore, VA

Here is a trout (speckled) that I caught on Friday. I suppose they were caught in the Croatan and Roanoke Sounds. They sort of run together.

Anne and I went out with a captain that we normally fish with on our family vacation during the summer. It is usually too crowded for the fly rod when 4 of us are fishing but worked out great with only Anne and me. The captain has recently begun fly fishing some and was happy to have me stand on the bow 4-5 hours casting. We probably caught 30 fish total with lots of smaller fish. We got 7 about this size, 3 of those I got on the fly.

Gene L. Winchester, VA





Barbara's Books

Compiled by Barbara Gamble

Fly Fishing Guide to New York State: Experts' Guide to Locations, Hatches, and Tactics

Author: Mike Valla
Paperback: 376 pages
ISBN-10: 0811771687
ISBN-13: 978-0811771689
Publisher: Stackpole Books
Publication Date: 5 September 2023

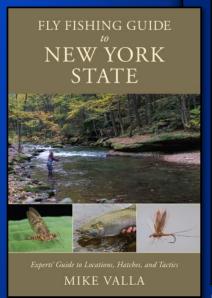
With more than 7,600 freshwater lakes, ponds, and reservoirs and some 70,000 miles of rivers and streams, New York state is a fly-fishing paradise. From steelhead and brown trout in the Lake Ontario tributaries to remote brook trout ponds in the Adirondacks to legendary Catskills streams the state offers some of the best fly fishing in the country. In this comprehensive guide to the state's best freshwater fly fishing, Mike Valla, along with many regional experts, shares the best locations, tactics, and seasonal strategies for success.

- Information on major insect hatches
- Essential fly patterns
- Best places to fish
- Seasonal strategies and information on access

Mike Valla is the author of
The Founding Flies,
Tying Catskill-Style Dry Flies,
Tying and Fishing Bucktails and Other Hair Wings,
Tying the Founding Flies,
The Classic Streamer Fly Box, and
Favorite Flies for the Catskills.

Valla is a recipient of the Poul Jorgensen Golden Hook Award and is often invited to speak about fly fishing at local, national, and international fly-fishing events and gatherings.

He is a frequent contributor to American Fly Fishing magazine and has published articles in Fly Fisherman, Fly Tyer, and American Fly Fisher.



He served on the Board of Directors at the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum. Valla has been fly-fishing New York State streams, ponds and lakes for well over 50 years. Valla lives in Cambridge, New York.

Sources: amazon.com and the publishers

Do you suppose these wild anemones know it is autumn?

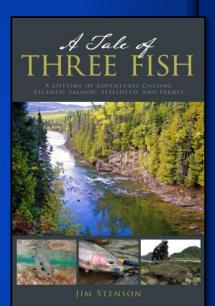
A Tale of Three Fish: A Lifetime of Adventures Chasing Atlantic Salmon, Steelhead, and Permit

Author: Jim Stenson
Paperback: 162 pages
ISBN-100811772500:
ISBN-13: 978-0811772501
Publisher: Stackpole Books

Publication Date: 15 December 2023

Many consider permit (tropics), steelhead (West Coast), and Atlantic salmon (East Coast) the holy trinity of the well-traveled fly fisherman.

Though the methods and environments vary, all three species have attained an almost mythical status and can be, at times, extremely difficult to catch on fly. Author Jim Stenson chronicles his life of adventures chasing these fish, sharing entertaining stories as well as insights into catching these fish.



Jim Stenson has written numerous articles and columns about fly-fishing, surfing, and the unique culture of South Florida.

He was managing editor and publisher of *The Contemporary Sportsman* and *The Contemporary Wing Shooter* magazines, and the founder of Sweet Waters Adventure, an international adventure travel company catering to fly fishermen and wing shooters.

He owns Integrated Digital Publishing, an outdoor marketing company specializing in graphic design, photography, web design, and video development. He lives in Mobile, Alabama.

Sources: amazon.com and the publishers





My Trout Fly Box John Burr's Slump Buster

article and photos by Burr Tupper

In my last article I mentioned that I was a real fan of both John Barr and Jack Gartside fly patterns. Having tied John Barr's Copper John, one of my go-to flies, I thought that I would share another fly that I have had great success with when fishing for both Trout and Smallmouth Bass.

Barr created the Slumpbuster to look like a bait fish. Some streamer patterns have lots of glitz, flash, rubber legs and other materials that produce action strikes, but really don't look like anything they have been eating.



The Slumpbuster has a perfect baitfish profile and has a subtle flash and looks alive in the water.

One feature that adds to the fly durability and makes it a snap to tie is the unibody construction. The tail, wing and collar are made from the same pine squirrel zonker strip, ribbed with ultra wire and a cone that is glued and jammed back onto the collar.

Pine squirrel has a shorter hair and is excellent for smaller flies.



Materials for the Rust Slumpbuster

- •Hook Size 4-12 Heavy nymph hook
- •Thread Rust pine squirrel zonker strip.
- •Cone gold Tungsten, size 4-6(large), size 8-10 (medium)
- Rib Gold ultra wire
- Body Sparkle Braid
- Wing/Tail Rust pine squirrel
- Collar Rust pine squirrel

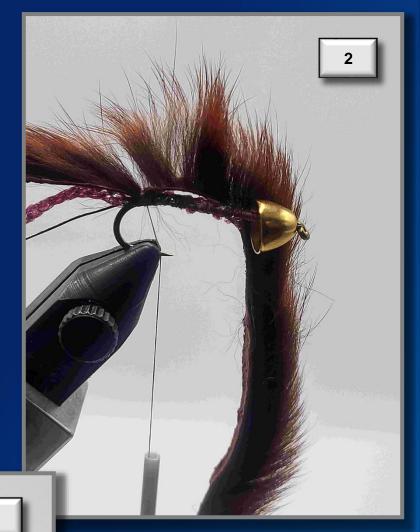
Slumpbuster can also be tied using grey, natural, or olive pine squirrel strips.

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

My Trout Fly Box -- continued

Directions

- 1. Mount hook and cone in vise and then tie in the sparkle braid and wire.
- 2. Part the squirrel strip about a shank length from its end and tie in at the bend of the hook.
- 3. Pull squirrel strip back and wrap the braid to the front.
- 4. Pull squirrel strip forward and tie in and evenly spiral wrap the wire forward through the squirrel strip and tie off.
- 5. Place some zap a gap in the cone.
- 6. Wrap the remaining squirrel strip forward 2-3 times to form a collar and tie off.
- 7. Jam the cone back onto the collar.







Editor's Note:

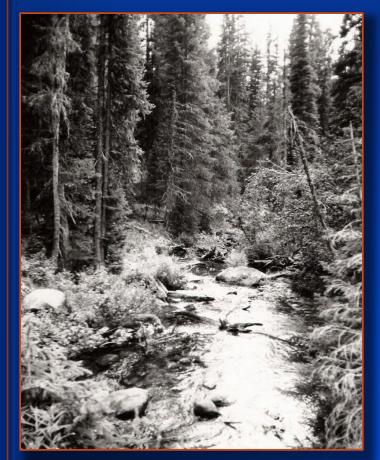
Remember to fish with barbless hooks or bend down your barbs, especially when catch-and-release fishing.



ANGLER REFLECTIONS

A Long Search Adjourns

article and photos by Mike Smith



My wife and I had the opportunity in mid-October to slip away to Colorado for a week. To be sure, fishing was on the agenda. But what I really wanted was visit a special little headwater creek in far northern Colorado, in the Routt-Medicine Bow National Forest, near the Wyoming state line.

Why this destination? Lovely streams abound in that high country. Why did I regard one as so special? I guess because of time invested and days savored there.

It rises close to timberline. I had expended many long (but delightful) days exploring it, in quest of a remnant population of native Cutthroat I had posited (and long hoped) still resided there.

How long had this quest endured? Off and on, over 35 years. It all began in the summer of 1987. In the spring of that year, I had acquired a copy of Patrick Trotter's initial edition of *Cutthroat: Native Trout of the West.* To this day, I remain under its thrall. And then in that summer of '87, I was invited to the annual Association for Conservation Information's conference, to be held in Steamboat Springs, CO. That singular town and its magical surround likewise cast a spell.

While on that trip, taking an angler's detour high into the upper Elk River Valley, I "discovered" this little creek with a quirky name. And since it was a season to be smitten, I designated it my favorite Trout stream. That designation reasserts itself whenever I am anywhere near Colorado.

On what had I based my assumption that a relict population of Cutthroats yet survived in that creek? Nothing. Absolutely nothing. Or rather, wishes, wistful yearning, and unbridled romanticism – all abetted by thin mountain air.

Thus, for many years, my annual search resumed. My tally of native Cutts remained fixed: zero. But this shouldn't suggest the little stream was fishless. Far from it. A simple drift of a #14 parachute Mr. Rapidan would seldom advance more than a foot in its flow before an avid Brook Trout would try to gnaw it to its shank. Yes, I am now a bit embarrassed to admit: There were episodes of "a fish on every cast." Many, in fact.

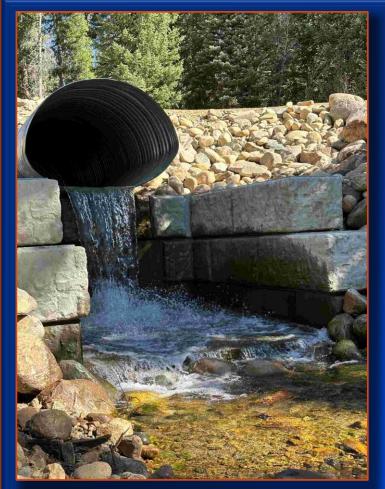
But even this small stream, scene of such summer idylls, is heir to the inevitabilities Planet Earth metes out. In October of 1997, a freak storm drastically altered the landscape. The event earned its spot in meteorological history: The Routt County Blowdown, with winds averaging 120 mph and gusts raging up to 150 mph. What made the storm so devastating was that it blew in from the east – against trees that had grown ancient bucking the mountains' customary western winds. When the gales subsided, more than 20,000 acres of forest lay flattened, nearly all old growth. Four million plus trees – a gash in the mountains almost thirty miles long and 2 to 4 miles wide.

Needless to say, it would be several years before I could make another visit. And in the interim, there came a fire in 2002. Two-thirds of the 1997 Routt Blowdown was estimated to have burned in the Hinman and Burn Ridge fires.

Above: An old b/w snapshot of my 'favorite trout stream' before its epochal changes.

Right: Numerous Trout streams drain into the upper Elk River, Routt County, CO.

"A Long Search Adjourns" continues on the next page.



ANGLER REFLECTIONS

A Long Search Adjourns -- continued

At length, the Forest Service eventually reopened access to the devastated high country. But not without stern warnings about challenging hiking conditions and the grave hazard of falling trees – those in sheltered coves that had been spared in '97 were now charred husks that could topple in a breeze. I can attest to this. On my very first trip back after the "apocalypse years," a charred pine fell resoundingly less than 50 feet from where I was fishing.

Access to my little stream was never exactly easy. The forest road was anything but smooth, though in the late 1980's and early 1990's, a family sedan could safely negotiate it. For the past two decades, the stream has become exceedingly difficult to access. There is still a numbered Forest Service "road" that climbs a winding ridge to reach it. Suffice it to say that decades of unforeseen fire-fighting expenses have left the road unmaintained and very much the worse for wear.

Fortunately, on this recent trip I had rented an all-wheel SUV with acceptable ground clearance. A half hour of slow and cautious driving delivered me a mere 1.5 miles to the little stream's first crossing. A second, and far better, access lies about another mile further, but the duress of the drive discouraged me from further ascent.

So what did I see, coming across by beloved little brook for the first time since the Covid era? I beheld a new culvert. It was huge. The old culvert had been slightly "perched," meaning a drop to the pool below. Perhaps the non-native Brook Trout above and below that old structure could safely pass through and intermingle, perhaps not. Nonetheless, the tiny creek was aswarm with our beloved albeit invasive Brookies -- having vanquished the native Cutts long since.

Did I fish? I really did not feel much need to (a few desultory casts demonstrated anew my ongoing mediocrity as an angler). But it was just so good to be there, back on my stream, even if I had to stop a mile shy of my favorite reach.

What really intrigued (and distracted) me was this vast new culvert. Obviously new; and equally obvious, a fairly enormous investment. Hmm, I thought, why -- and on a nearly impassable road? What gives? I must note here: my "culvert awareness" was sky-high (no pun intended).

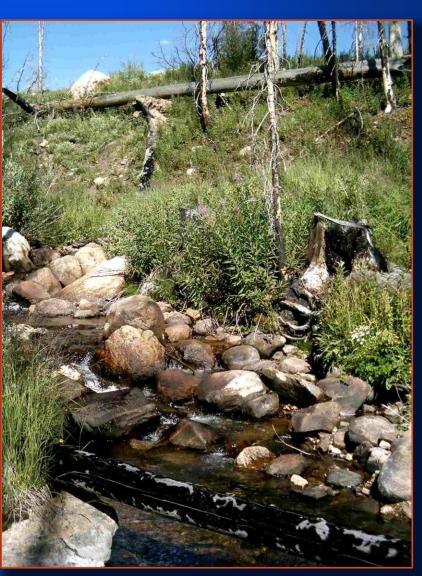
I had spent the entire week prior writing a grant request to the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture on behalf of the Virginia chapter of the Native Fish Coalition about a perched culvert campaign. Perched, or hanging, culverts pose grave threats to connectivity in Brook Trout populations here in Virginia. If populations cannot mingle, genetic diversity suffers greatly. Culverts can interrupt fish passage.

As you will see in the attached photo, interruption of fish passage seemed to be precisely the point here! Could it be!? Was this a new state-of-the-art fish *barrier*! I knew my next destination ...

Two hours later, at the district Forest Service ranger station in Steamboat Springs, I had the opportunity to meet and talk with a very nice field biologist named Rick Henderson, who smiled and cheerfully confirmed the hopes I could hardly dare put into words: YES! A native cutthroat restoration was underway upstream of that new barrier. In fact, it started this very summer!

Above: Just another perched culvert, or something else entirely?

Right: When access to the upper reaches reopened, charred and fallen timber filled the landscape; non-native Brook Trout filled the pools nonetheless."



"A Long Search Adjourns" continues on the next page.

ANGLER REFLECTIONS

A Long Search Adjourns -- continued

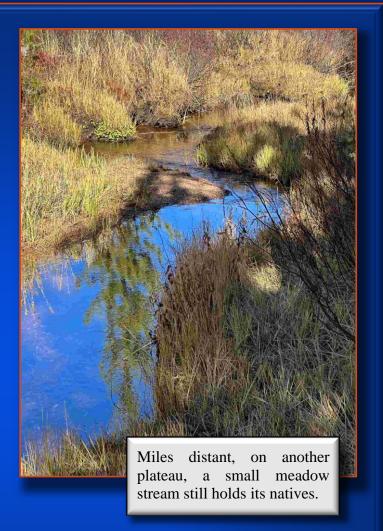
Mr. Henderson went on to explain how several other Cutthroat restoration projects are planned for the Forest. I think it must have been obvious to him just how moving I found this good news. Very close to overwhelming.

Okay, I had been all wrong about a relict population. In my many years of fruitless casting, there were never any Cutthroats there at all. But in all those hopes and all those casts, I can't help but believe I was, somehow, to borrow a favorite phrase from my dear spouse, "putting it out there into the Universe." Thank you, Universe.

Obviously, I get carried away by the topic of native fish restoration. But I find this so heartening and exciting. That new "culvert," far from being the black-hat hombre, is a glimmer of hope for native Cutthroat restoration.

* * * *

Is there even a brief angling report to share from my trip? Yes. The day before my exciting discovery about the Cutthroat restoration, I fished a "secret" meadow creek on a 9,000' plateau miles to the east.



I had not fished there since 2014. It was the kindness of another Forest Service biologist who had put me on to it back in 2006 – after I had recounted to him my futile (and foolish) saga of seeking a remnant Cutthroat population on my favorite creek.

I am delighted to share that the secret stream still retains wild Cutthroats *only*. No invasives of any type, I am delighted to report. I fished three tiny pools. I caught and released three improbably large (almost 10") Cutthroats, in mere minutes. No, I am not that good an angler; yes, it is that naive a population. I felt a bit guilty indulging even that many hook-ups. That meadow, its stream and its Cutthroat remain as I remember them.

May they remain so forever. And may other restoration streams join their ranks and swell their numbers. I'm counting on the Universe to make it so.



Winchester TU Monthly "BarFly" Event Wednesday, 15 November 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.





Young fly tyers like Sam, Cade, and Jack enjoy fly tying while their parents and grandparents swap fish stories with other Trout Unlimited Members and friends.

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

We hope to introduce more folks to the Winchester TU chapter and support a local business that supports WTU. Anyone under age 21 must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

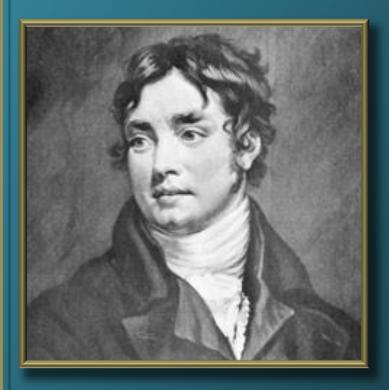


Poet's Corner

Poems selected for the angler.

Frost at Midnight

By Samuel Taylor Coleridge 1772-1834 England



The Frost performs its secret ministry,
Unhelped by any wind. The owlet's cry
Came loud—and hark, again! loud as before.
The inmates of my cottage, all at rest,
Have left me to that solitude, which suits
Abstruser musings: save that at my side
My cradled infant slumbers peacefully.
'Tis calm indeed! so calm, that it disturbs
And vexes meditation with its strange
And extreme silentness. Sea, hill, and wood,
This populous village! Sea, and hill, and wood,
With all the numberless goings-on of life,
Inaudible as dreams! the thin blue flame
Lies on my low-burnt fire, and quivers not;
Only that film, which fluttered on the grate,

Still flutters there, the sole unquiet thing. Methinks, its motion in this hush of nature Gives it dim sympathies with me who live, Making it a companionable form, Whose puny flaps and freaks the idling Spirit By its own moods interprets, every where Echo or mirror seeking of itself, And makes a toy of Thought.

But O! how oft, How oft, at school, with most believing mind, Presageful, have I gazed upon the bars, To watch that fluttering *stranger*! and as oft With unclosed lids, already had I dreamt Of my sweet birth-place, and the old churchtower,

Whose bells, the poor man's only music, rang From morn to evening, all the hot Fair-day, So sweetly, that they stirred and haunted me With a wild pleasure, falling on mine ear Most like articulate sounds of things to come! So gazed I, till the soothing things, I dreamt, Lulled me to sleep, and sleep prolonged my dreams!

And so I brooded all the following morn,
Awed by the stern preceptor's face, mine eye
Fixed with mock study on my swimming book:
Save if the door half opened, and I snatched
A hasty glance, and still my heart leaped up,
For still I hoped to see the *stranger's* face,
Townsman, or aunt, or sister more beloved,
My play-mate when we both were clothed alike!

Dear Babe, that sleepest cradled by my side, Whose gentle breathings, heard in this deep calm, Fill up the intersperséd vacancies And momentary pauses of the thought! My babe so beautiful! it thrills my heart With tender gladness, thus to look at thee, And think that thou shalt learn far other lore, And in far other scenes! For I was reared In the great city, pent 'mid cloisters dim, And saw nought lovely but the sky and stars. But *thou*, my babe! shalt wander like a breeze By lakes and sandy shores, beneath the crags Of ancient mountain, and beneath the clouds, Which image in their bulk both lakes and shores And mountain crags: so shalt thou see and hear The lovely shapes and sounds intelligible Of that eternal language, which thy God Utters, who from eternity doth teach Himself in all, and all things in himself. Great universal Teacher! he shall mould Thy spirit, and by giving make it ask.

Therefore all seasons shall be sweet to thee, Whether the summer clothe the general earth With greenness, or the redbreast sit and sing Betwixt the tufts of snow on the bare branch Of mossy apple-tree, while the night-thatch Smokes in the sun-thaw; whether the eave-drops fall

Heard only in the trances of the blast, Or if the secret ministry of frost Shall hang them up in silent icicles, Quietly shining to the quiet Moon.



2023-2024

Calendar of Events Winchester Trout Unlimited

See also

http://winchestertu.org/

Reminders

November 2023

- ▼Thursday, 2 November 2023 7:00 PM Winchester Trout Unlimited Meeting This is the
 "Annual Meeting" required under our bylaws. 5:00 PM for dinner before the meeting
- ✓ Wednesday -- 8 November 2023 -- 6:30 PM Monthly Project Healing Waters meeting
- ✓ Saturday 11 November 2023 10:00 AM Redbud Run workday Please note that this is A one-time change in our usual workday.
- ✓ Wednesday 15 November 2023 -- 7:00 PM BarFly at Escutcheon Brewery

Editor's Note: Please see page 4 of this newsletter for more details about the Winchester Project Healing Waters schedule.

December 2023

- **▼There is no Winchester Trout Unlimited Meeting in December**
- ✓Saturday 9 December 2023 -- Redbud Run workday -- Time to be announced later.
- ✓ Wednesday 13 Dec 2023 -- 6:30 PM Monthly Project Healing Waters meeting
- Wednesday 20 December 2023 -- 7:00 PM BarFly at Escutcheon Brewery

January 2023

- Thursday, 4 January 2024 7:00 PM Winchester Trout Unlimited Monthly meeting 5:00 Dinner before the meeting at Shenandoah Lodge, Lake Frederick, VA
- Saturday 6 January 2024 -- Redbud Run workday -- Time to be announced later.
- **✓ Wednesday 10 January 2024 -- 6:30 PM Monthly Project Healing Waters meeting**
- Wednesday 17 January 2023 -- 7:00 PM BarFly at Escutcheon Brewery

February 2023 -- Please note these February dates carefully.

- ✓Thursday, 1 February 2024 7:00 PM Winchester Trout Unlimited Monthly meeting 5:00 Dinner before the meeting at Shenandoah Lodge, Lake Frederick, VA
- ✓Saturday 3 February 2024 -- Redbud Run workday -- Time to be announced later.
- Wednesday 14 February 2024 -- 6:30 PM Monthly Project Healing Waters meeting
- ✓Wednesday 21 February 2024 -- 7:00 PM BarFly at Escutcheon Brewery

March 2024 -- Please note these February dates carefully.

- Thursday, 7 March 2024 7:00 PM Winchester Trout Unlimited Monthly meeting 5:00 Dinner before the meeting at Shenandoah Lodge, Lake Frederick, VA
- ✓ Saturday 9 March 2024 -- Redbud Run workday -- Time to be announced later.
- ✓ Wednesday 13 March 2024 -- 6:30 PM Monthly Project Healing Waters meeting
- ✓ Wednesday 20 March 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.