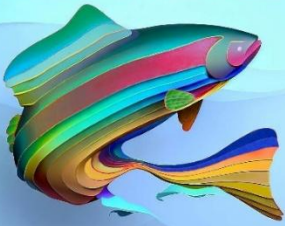


WINCHESTER
TROUT UNLIMITED



CHAPTER #638

Winchester TU
earns
Golden Chapter
Award

Monthly Magazine of Winchester Trout Unlimited
Chapter #638

The thinnest yellow light of November is more warming than any wine. –Henry David

November 2025

Volume 30, Number 11

Winchester TU Meeting

Thursday, 6 November 2025, 7:00 PM
Rachel's Kitchen, Shenandoah Lodge,
Lake Frederick, VA

Winchester TU Priority Waters Meeting

Thursday, 6 November 2025, 6:00 PM
Rachel's Kitchen, Shenandoah Lodge,
Lake Frederick, VA

Project Healing Waters Monthly meeting

Wednesday, 12 November 2025, 6:30 PM
RSVP Required

BarFly

The next Winchester TU BarFly
Wednesday, 19 November 2025
7:00 PM at Escutcheon Brewing Co.
142 W. Commercial Street, Winchester

For complete calendars, please see

The Priority Waters November calendar was
under development at press time
Page 10 for Winchester Project Healing Waters
Page 21 for Winchester Trout Unlimited



In This Edition

Introducing WTU's new website -----	Page 1
Winchester Priority Waters: Field Time ----	Page 2
Project Healing Waters I: Fall Fishing -----	Page 7
Project Healing Waters II: Update -----	Page 10
WTU Earns <u>Golden Chapter Award</u> -----	Page 10
Barbara's Books -----	Page 11
Angler Reflections: Old Friends, New Friends --	Page 12
BarFly -----	Page 16
Poet's Corner: When the Frost is on the Punkin ---	Page 16
Burr's Flies: The Hatching Pupa -----	Page 17
Trout in the Classroom: Egg Delivery -----	Page 19
Letters to the Editor -----	Page 20
Winchester TU Calendar -----	Page 21

Bill Prokopchak, Newsletter Editor
wilpro@comcast.net

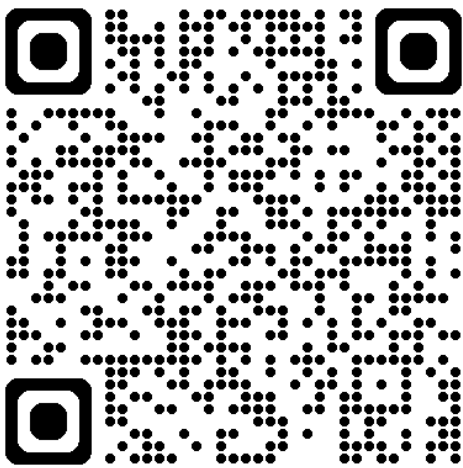
Winchester TU Introduces Its New Website
Thanks to Charlie Loudermilk

Beginning immediately, the old winchestertu.org is OBSOLETE
OUR NEW HOME IS NOW

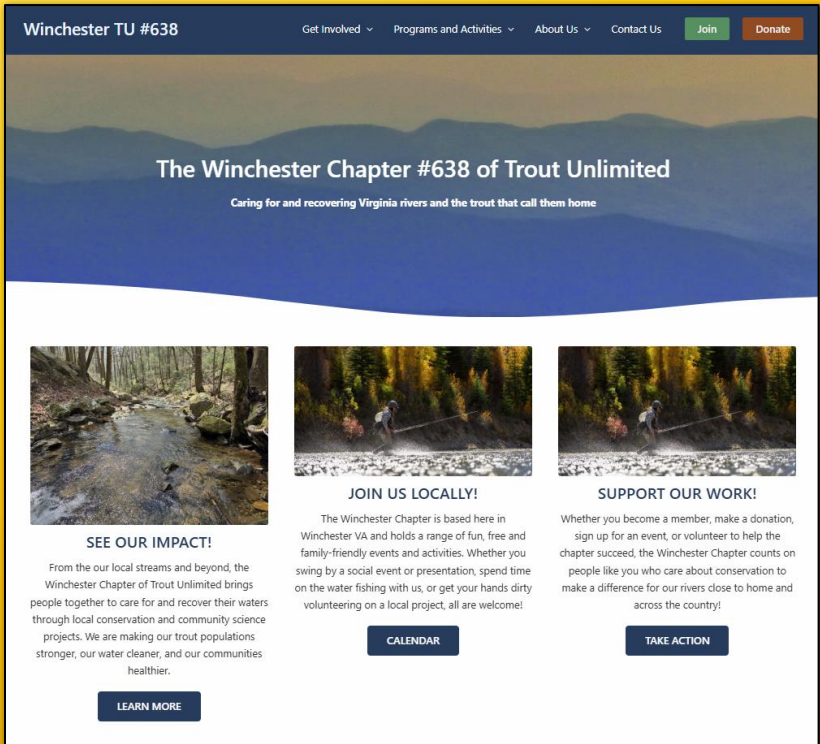
winchester.tu.org



Please notice the extra . (dot)
in the new address.



Mobile phone users can use the QR
code to immediately access the
Winchester TU mobile website.



Please note that the new
website is under
construction. It will take
some time before all
functions are in place.

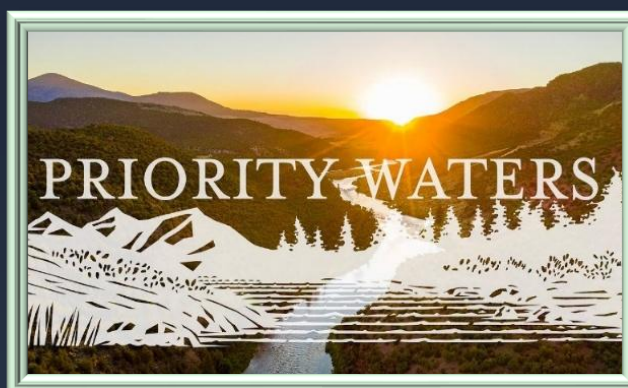


Winchester Priority Waters: More Field Time, More Insights

Report prepared by the
Winchester Priority Waters Team

The Priority Waters team found itself busily afield in late September and again in October. The September outing, conducted on the 23rd, saw a crew of four (Tedd Gimber, Luke Robins, Nick Skorup, and Mike Smith) undertake barrier assessments at sites tentatively identified by Forest Service staff as possible impediments to native trout passage.

Three of the four had been formally trained in barrier assessment techniques by the Forest Service; Smith was not but served as site photographer.



The initial destination was Little Passage Creek, to continue assessments begun back in the summer. But as soon as the two-truck crew arrived at Forest Road 66, it was clear a Plan B was immediately necessary. While the road itself had been recently regraded (the team had become increasingly concerned about its deterioration), recent rains had saturated the earthen route – and opportunistic off-roaders had resculpted the softened clay into deep and treacherous ruts. The group decided to reschedule Little Passage. The wisdom of the decision is attested to by one of the accompanying photos showing an unfortunate sedan mired to its axles.



Mill Run at Veach's Gap proved a more realistic site for the day's efforts. Previous visits revealed that Mill Run's sharply cut valley contains several cataract waterfalls and rock ledges. The crew had collectively wondered if the terrain of the valley might limit instream movement as well as ingress/egress with Passage Creek.

Top: Heavy September rains had left Forest Road 66 impassable to all but the most rugged four-wheelers. The Priority Waters team focused its 23 September barrier assessment work on Mill Run instead.

Above Left: Nick Skorup eyes a log jam and rock pile along Mill Run — Mother Nature's efforts, or one human-booster?

Lower Left: Luke Robins stands by what we first thought to be the uppermost Mill Run barrier, this ford along the Massanutten Trail.

**“Priority Waters”
continues on the next page.**

Priority Waters – continues



Left: The real barrier soon revealed itself: a USGS stream gauging structure believed to have been abandoned in the 1980’s. The team speculated about options for its potential removal.



The first barrier site we visited was the uppermost, and one known to be from human causation. The crew made its way from the trailhead up the Veach’s Gap trail to its intersection with the Massanutten Mountain and Tuscarora trails, a distance of approximately 1.5 miles. The Veach Gap trail parallels Mill Run, though the stream bends well to the north away from the path for significant distances, later to rejoin the stream as it climbs up the steepest part of the ravine. This was new terrain for all the crew, save for Smith who had hiked the upper portion of the stream years earlier (in quest of his first-ever Mill Run brook trout).

Flows were low, but not alarmingly so, as the group hiked upward. In fact, they commented on just how promising a number of pools appeared. While no trout were observed, all agreed that the habitat appeared suitable.

When the trail began to flatten somewhat, it bent to the right and down a short grade to a ford. Was this the barrier? All seemed to think so, at least for a moment. But then Luke offered a “Hey, look at this!”

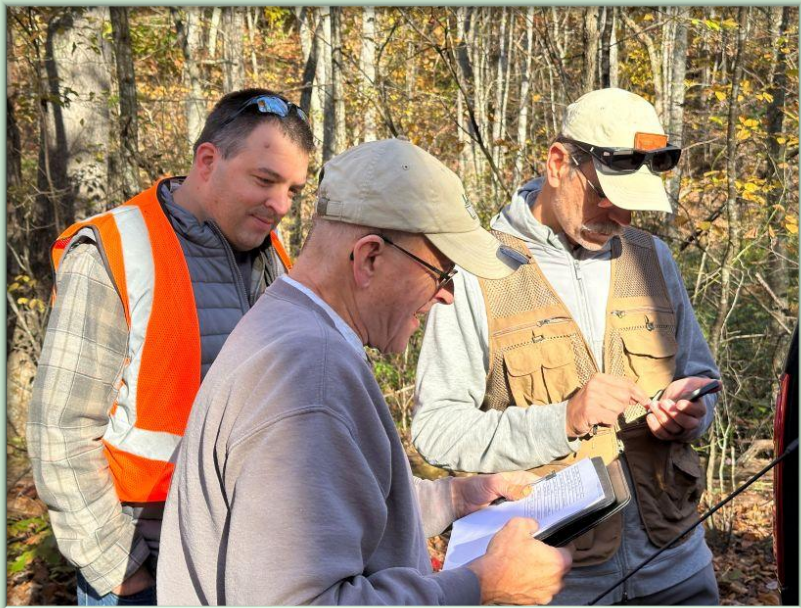
“This” turned out to be an abandoned shed, and an old wing dam with a metal sluice box, a clear and very obvious manmade structure, and most certainly a barrier. Two of the group who had spent time in the West offered that it seemed reminiscent of irrigation control devices or possibly diversion structures. But those guesses proved wide of the mark. Tedd’s sleuthing later that day turned up the truth of the site: an old (and long abandoned) USGS gauging station.



Above Left: Nick Skorup conducts one of the standard measures in the barrier assessment protocol. Time has taken its toll on the galvanized steel device.

Above: Some of the sites tentatively identified as possible man-made stream barriers proved to be natural features such as this impressive cataract where Mill Run appears to drop 20 feet vertically in less than 100 linear feet. The question: Can brook trout navigate such extreme features?

“Priority Waters” continues on the next page.



Priority Waters – continues

Further inquiry disclosed that the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) had to abandon a significant number of stream gauging stations in the early to mid-1980s, with some further reductions again in the early 1990's. So, an old USDI site on USDA lands (the Priority Waters team cordially invites input on how best to broach the topic of this barrier's removal).

The crew's return hike down the valley brought them to the three remaining sites to be explored that day. None appeared to be of human origin. Indeed, the Forest Service had indicated that these areas simply needed on-the-ground inspection. Apparently, all had been flagged per aerial images; all in turn were disclosed to be significant rock formations, some quite steep and visually impressive. Passable by spawning brook trout? We decided we would have to defer to biologists.



Top Left: Nick Skorup, Mike Makufka, and Tedd Gimber consult the data sheet from the earlier water quality testing prior to starting their 21 October sampling above Strasburg Reservoir.

Left: No trip to the Strasburg Reservoir site would be complete without checking the mysterious rust-colored seep.

On Tuesday morning, 21 October, a Priority Waters team went afield again, this time for gathering water quality data. This quartet was headed up by the overall team leader Mike Makufka, along with Tedd Gimber, Nick Skorup and Mike Smith. And once more the initial target stream was Little Passage.

Fortunately, Forest Road 66 proved passable (the mired Ford sedan now long gone), and as the crew arrived at its first upstream site high up on the ridge, the temperature was a brisk 34 degrees.

Right: Tedd's drone returns to home base atop his truck bed. Drones may have a valuable role to play in future stream habitat assessments.

“Priority Waters” continues on the next page.

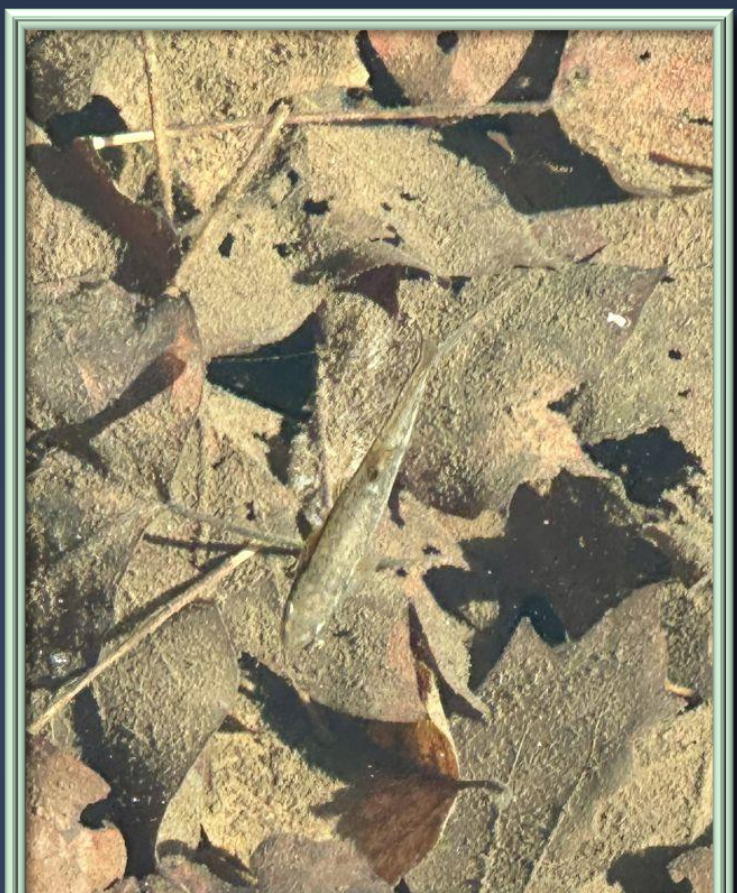


Priority Waters — continues

This test site upstream of Strasburg Reservoir was quite low, in fact at its observed lowest all season. Temperature and dissolved oxygen were not regarded as critical at this time of year. The only possible “glitch” encountered at the first site was a balky pH meter. Though recently recalibrated, it kept delivering intuitively too-high readings. It turns out that we were using it outside its recommended temperature range. As the day warmed (and as the device traveled in a heated truck’s cab), its performance bounced back to where it was expected.

One new piece of apparatus deployed this date was Tedd’s drone. He used it to gather panoramic shots of the reservoir and adjacent woodlands. Its potential use for recording aerial sequences over sections of stream where tree canopy is limited may eventually be possible. We hope to share access soon to the Priority Waters Google data/image site where Tedd’s drone photos will be stored.

Data gathering progressed smoothly at the three remaining Little Passage sites. At site number 4, deep in Mudhole Gap, the group invited the team leader to tarry behind to conduct “qualitative aquatic sampling,” and was issued suitable testing apparatus. While Mike M. reported an official Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) of 0 fish, he was able to note not only the presence of a sub-adult *Salvelinus fontinalis* in an upstream pocket, but also that said species had indicated a positive attraction to the testing apparatus’ “enticement device”.



Top Right: Tedd Gimber prepares to add one of the sequential powders needed in dissolved oxygen sampling via the Modified Winkler Method.

Middle Right: Can you spot the young creek chub in this photo?

Lower Right: Team leader Mike Makufka deploys the “aquatic sampling device.”

**“Priority Waters”
continues
on the next page.**

Priority Waters – continues

The crew next conducted its water quality testing at Mill Run. Flow was low, but about what was anticipated. The first site was the one that had proven to be so elusive back in early September, but now easily attained thanks to an irrefutable landmark Tedd had noted. The data logger remained fully submerged at this site (not always guaranteed on such a tiny creek), with temperature, pH and DO all in the anticipated zone. The downstream sample site was espied by Nick, giving him a near perfect score for data logger chain sightings on the day. As the day had worn on, each team member was offering in advance their best guesses regarding what the DO readings would be for each site. With the crew's increasing proficiency in applying the Modified Winkler Method for determining oxygen levels, by this final site nearly all correctly predicted the reading: ten parts per million.

The Priority Waters team has another field outing tentatively slated for mid-November. But due to deer hunting season, this field endeavor may be rescheduled until late January. The team is always open to welcoming new members. This current year has been a time of trying new ideas and approaches, and we recognize anew with each outing how valuable additional sets of eyes, ears, and ideas prove to this effort.

One of the great benefits of the Priority Waters activities the Winchester Chapter has discovered is that it accords its members substantive field biological experiences, ranging from a "Trout Stream 101," if you will, to speculative discussions on stream morphology to conservation partnership strategies. Prospective members are encouraged to reach out to team leader Mike Makufka, or any of the team members noted in these articles.

Top: Tedd reaches for a pH and temperature reading at the Mud Hole Gap sampling site. 21 October flows were excellent at this site.

Above Left: At the "elusive" upper sampling site on Mill Run, Tedd (l) awaits the pH reading that Nick (r) is acquiring, while Mike M. prepares to record on the official data entry sheet.

Right: Nick (l) and Tedd collect the final water sample of the day at Mill Run. Dissolved oxygen readings were excellent at all test sites.



WINCHESTER HEALING WATERS

FALL FISHING

by Wayne White

Air Force Veteran Christian Nelson and Winchester volunteer guide Dan Soper joined eight other Veterans from across Virginia at the Fall Virginia Region Project Healing Waters River Bound fly-fishing outing, 13-15 October.

The River Bound fly-fishing outing is a Virginia Region bi-annual event -- one in the fall and one in the spring -- tailored for intermediate to advanced fly fishers.

The Roanoke New River Valley Healing Waters Program coordinates the event with the River Bound fishing club. Veterans have the chance to fish the Club's private waters of Big Cedar Creek near Lebanon and Little River in the vicinity of Claypool through arrangements with local landowners.

Healing Waters provided food, lodging, and stream access fees at no cost for volunteers and participants.



The weekend was a tale of two fishing experiences. According to Dan, Christian landed over 16 trout on Saturday while fishing Big Cedar Creek. Most of those fish were 16 inches on average, with one hearty Rainbow stretching almost 21 inches. However, on Sunday morning at Little River, it was an all-out fishing effort with no catches.

As Christian noted, "The fish were there, but they often saw us before we saw them." Dan also pointed out that there were many otters fishing, and fly anglers are no match for those pesky animals. It was a very frustrating morning, and Christian and Dan agreed it was a good day to take a hike by the stream. And so, they took advantage of the quiet of the beautiful surroundings, where the fish could not bother them!



Top: Christian Nelson prepares to release one of the many large Rainbows he caught on the Big Cedar River.

photo by Dan Soper

Left: Christian and Dan take a break from the action on Big Cedar to capture a selfie.

photo by Christian Nelson

"Winchester Healing Waters" continues on the next page.

WINCHESTER HEALING WATERS WINCHESTER VETERANS FIND MANY ANGLING CHALLENGES AT DOUBLE SPUR OUTFITTERS



Beautiful October weather and a fully stocked stream provided Winchester Veterans with a challenging day of fly angling on Cedar Creek at Double Spur Outfitters in Star Tanery, Virginia, on 15 October.

Levi Pitcock, Double Spur proprietor, briefed us before hitting the water and explained he had recently placed some of his Rainbow/Steelhead hybrid fish in the deeper holes. He explained that by using a new egg supplier, his fish are growing at a faster rate, and he had to move more of the fish from his ponds to the stream.

Although 60-degree water temperatures were perfect for active fish, the water was low and gin clear. This made it difficult to stalk the trout, regardless of the best stealthy tactics, and determining their food preferences added to the angling puzzle. It meant changing flies often with little success.

Above Left: Charles “Doc” Smith nets his first fish of the day at Double Spur. Doc figured out sooner than later that small nymphs worked best.
photo by Jessica Michie

Below: Linda Litchfield shows off a Rainbow she caught in the pond at Double Spur.
photo by Jessica Michie

Heather Wright summed up the frustration precisely. Known for some of her poetic thoughts about fishing, she lamented,

*“...I clipped off a whole lot of tippet...
despite all the changes,
no fish would nip it!”*

Further downstream, Eric Custer and I guided Steve Weik through numerous runs and holes with no luck. Again, the fish were there, but they were not interested in our menu selection. I finally decided to use a simple approach, a #16 Mayfly nymph, on a 5x tippet with tiny split shot and a strike indicator.

**“Winchester Healing Waters”
continues on the next page.**



ANGLING CHALLENGES

– CONTINUED

by Wayne White

Steve precisely guided the rig into a long, narrow slot just below a riffle holding barely two feet of water.

On the third cast, the indicator disappeared, and Steve's 4-weight doubled over to the handle, and the fight was on! He managed the fish well, and we could see the big Rainbow trying to battle its way back into the fast water.

Steve laid the rod on its side to direct the fish to my net, but this determined monster shot back across the stream. We agreed the Rainbow had to be at least 18 inches.

As it made its last desperate dash, Steve let the rod straighten up and snap! Just like that, the fish was gone.

Steve did everything in textbook fashion; however, I was more shocked and disappointed than he appeared. In fact, when we saw that the tippet let go right at the surgeon's, which I had tied for the rig, it was quite embarrassing. I told Steve my guide privileges would have to be suspended indefinitely! All three of us had a good laugh at my humble admission!

Besides fishing the creek, some of the anglers took advantage of Levi's offer to fish one of his trout ponds just above the parking lot. Those fish were somewhat more cooperative and provided an excellent opportunity to hone some basic catch-and-release skills.

Many thanks to Levi for providing such a serene and inviting place to cast a line for a great day on the water. Many thanks to the volunteer guides for another successful outing.

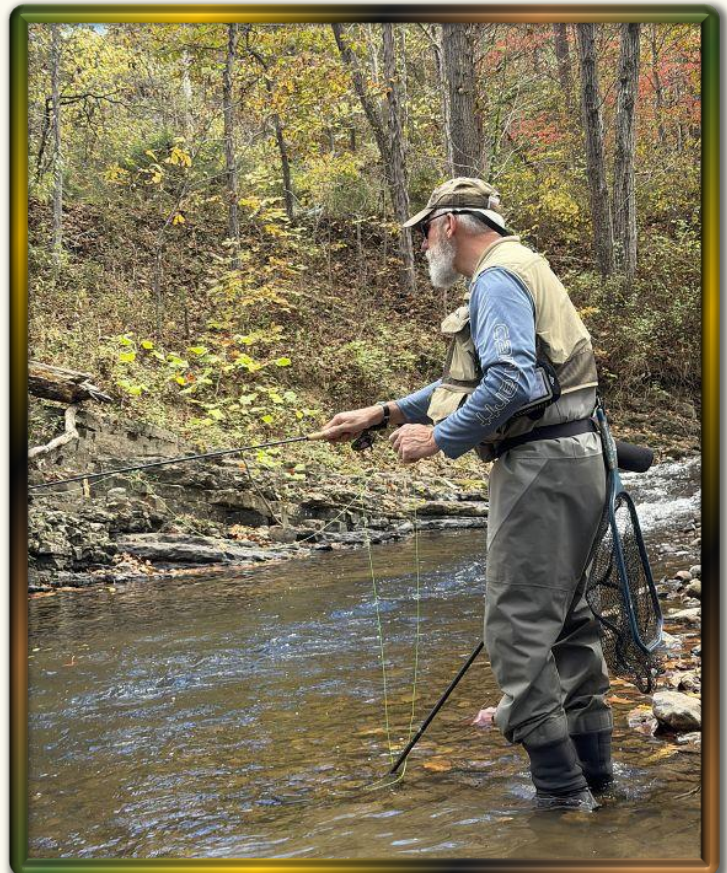


Above: Veterans Heather Wright (l) and Linda Litchfield (c) share their planned strategies for their day on the water with volunteer guide Jessica Michie.

photo by Eric Custer

Right: Steve Weik works a good presentation in a very tight slot just before he hooked a large Rainbow.

photo by Eric Custer





WINCHESTER PROGRAM UPDATE – NOVEMBER 2025

by Wayne White

The next monthly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 12 November, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM, at Rachel's Kitchen, Shenandoah Lodge, Lake Frederick. This meeting will include a presentation on the Sweetwater Guide School by Brian Peeler and a fly-tying class. We will also discuss plans for events and outreach activities scheduled for November and December.

The following fly-fishing activities and events support our veterans' ongoing education and skill development in fly-fishing and are subject to change.

November

- 11 – Veterans Day Outreach Program at Big Meadows Visitors Center, Shenandoah National Park
- 11 – Veterans Day Memorial Program, Shenandoah Lodge, Lake Frederick
- 12 – Monthly Meeting at Rachel's Kitchen, Shenandoah Lodge, Lake Frederick, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm
- 13 – Dedication of the Veterans Center, Martinsburg, WVA
- 15 – Fly tying at Jake's Bait and Tackle (T)

December

- 6 – Program Holiday Party at Rachel's Kitchen, Shenandoah Lodge Lake Frederick, from noon to 4 pm.
- 10 – No monthly meeting

Additional information and updates about these activities and events will be published in *Lateral Lines* at <https://winchester.tu.org/>. Updates and post-activity information will be posted on Facebook at Winchester Project Healing Waters.

Wayne White
Program Lead
Wayne.White@projecthealingwaters.org
703-919-2952

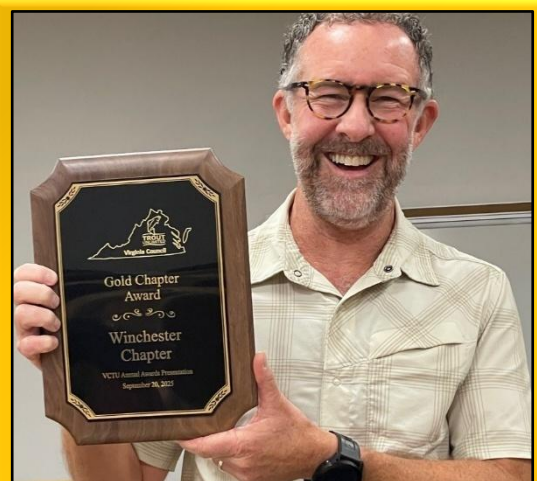


Jim White
Assistant Program Lead
Jim.White@projecthealingwaters.org
703-650-8696



Winchester TU Earns Gold Chapter Award

The *Gold Chapter Award* is presented to the chapter in the state which has accomplished the most with resources at its disposal. The Winchester Chapter earned this award for the work they have done with Trout in the Classroom, Project Healing Waters, Community Outreach and especially with the work being done to support the TU Priority Waters initiative. This award was presented at the VCTU annual meeting in September and is not awarded every year.



Gene Lewis, Winchester TU Chapter President, accepts the *Gold Chapter Award* on behalf of the membership.

Barbara's Books

Series created by Barbara Gamble

The Healing Power of Trees:
The definitive guide to forest bathing

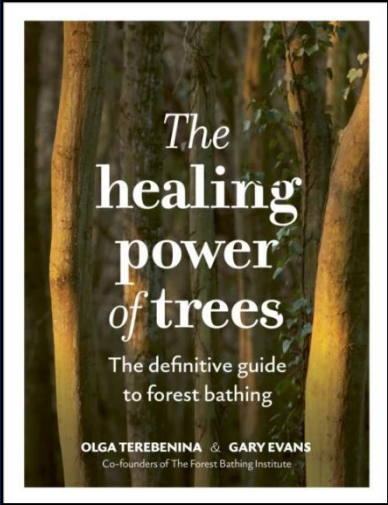
Authors: Olga Terebenina and
Gary Evans
Print Length: 224 pages
ISBN-10: 1836000065
ISBN-13: 979-1836000068
Publisher: Leaping Hare Press
Publication Date: 5 August 2025

Recent research shows that just 15 minutes outside can enhance mood, concentration, and physical health. This beautifully crafted guide reveals the unparalleled health benefits of the great outdoors, with the experts at The Forest Bathing Institute leading you on a journey of healing through forest bathing.

The book includes both practical guidance and advice on addressing key challenges such as:

- Easing depression and anxiety
- Lowering stress
- Improving energy levels
- Boosting your immune system

The Forest Bathing Institute has spent years collaborating with universities and governments to research the benefits of this practice and train practitioners to share them. Now, its founders present their unique method in this stunning guide – an essential gift or self-purchase for anyone ready to reconnect with nature.



Packed with expert insights and captivating photography, *The Healing Power of Trees* not only helps you plan your next forest bathing trip but also brings the restorative power of nature into your home.

“The beautiful layout and exquisite forest photography are likened to a forest bathing experience, creating an accessible and pertinent guide for all readers looking for a simple but profound practice leading to personal health and a deepening connection to nature.”
—*Library Journal* **STARRED** Review

The Forest Bathing Institute (TFBI) was founded by Gary Evans and Olga Terebenina, who set out to advance the Japanese practice of Shinrin Yoku (Forest Bathing) in the UK, and started a program of research dedicated to replicating the original physiological research carried out in Japan. Gary and Olga are peer-reviewed authors and are committed to furthering research into the effectiveness of this nature-based therapy.

Sources: amazon.com and the publishers

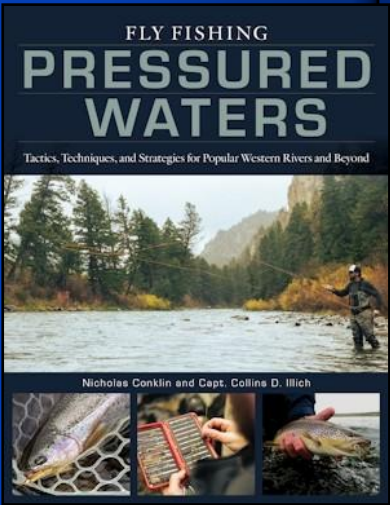
Fly Fishing Pressured Waters:
Tactics, Techniques, and Strategies for
Popular Western Rivers and Beyond

Authors: Nicholas Conklin and
Collins Illich
Print length: 168 pages
ISBN-10: 0811775674
ISBN-13: 978-0811775670
Publisher: Stackpole Books
Publication Date: 16 December 2025

Fishing pressure on the popular western waters is at an all-time high and to be able to have a successful day on the water, anglers have had to adjust their strategies, tactics, and equipment. In this book, Nick Conklin and Collins Illich share their vast experience fishing the West (and bring in techniques from their experience fishing other areas around the country) and teach readers more advanced level techniques and approaches to become more proficient on highly trafficked waters chasing PhD level fish.

While the emphasis is western US waters, the techniques can be applied to any angler's local water.

The key here is addressing the rise in angling pressure and how to overcome common ideas and obstacles to become a more effective angler.



Nick Conklin is the fly-fishing product category manager for Temple Fork Outfitters. He coordinates the trade and consumer shows at Temple Fork Outfitters and is a popular presenter at the fly-fishing shows. He is a committee chair of the American Fly Fishing Trade Association (AFFTA) and is a published freelance author for national newspapers and magazines such as *Field & Stream*, *Outdoor Life*, *The Drake*, *Florida Sportsman Magazine*, *The Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, and the *Lone Star Outdoor News*. He lives in Dallas, Texas.

Collins Illich is the vice president of Sawgrass Rods. A USCG master captain, he also operates a guide operation based in North Texas with an emphasis on trophy smallmouth and freshwater striper. Collins has hosted trips and guided on six continents. He interacts with thousands of anglers annually at trade shows, on the water, and through professional social media management. He lives in Dallas, Texas.

Sources: amazon.com and the publishers



ANGLER REFLECTIONS



Old Friends, New Friends, and Big Smallies

reflections by Fred Boyer

I have had the blessing of traveling to Western Ontario, Canada for ten+ years with old friends to fish for mainly Smallmouth bass and occasionally Northern Pike. This year, I had the pleasure of traveling with two new guys as well as three of my old compatriots.

Mark Cochran, Preston Fox, and Mike Bundie are old hats for this adventure.

Gayland Heathcoat and Kenny Ganoie were the new commers who proved to be outstanding fishermen, fantastic camp companions and loads of fun to be with.

The trip from Winchester through northern Michigan's Sault Ste Marie plus an hour to the lake, is a long one. 15+ travel hours.

Prior to this year, there were five on the journey, so we were able to crowd men, gear, and food in one vehicle. With six on this trip, two F150 super crew trucks were required.

Departing Winchester at 0500, our first stop was in Toledo, Ohio's, Costco for refueling of our vehicles and ourselves: Gasoline for the vehicles and their famous hot dog with soda for each of us. We also secured a big Costco pie for desserts during our week at the cottage.

To my amazement, Costco was out of apple pies! They apparently were transitioning to pumpkin.



Top right: Mark Cochran was our host and one of the “Old Hats” on this Ontario trip hosted.

Above right: Preston Fox another “Old Hat.”

Right: Mike Budnie rounds out the team of “Old Hats.”

photos this page by Gayland Hethcoat

“Angler Reflections” continues on the next page.

ANGLER REFLECTIONS

-- CONTINUED

We then stopped in Gaylord, Michigan, for an overnight. In the morning, a grocery stop in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, is necessary to be certain we have plenty of snacks and food to get us through the week. Clearing customs proved to be a breeze on this leg as there was only one vehicle ahead of us.

The log cabin that we have had the pleasure of staying in has been owned by Mark's extended family for several generations.

Over the years, a kitchen was added to the cabin and a two-bedroom mobile home was added to the property at some later date to accommodate large family gatherings.

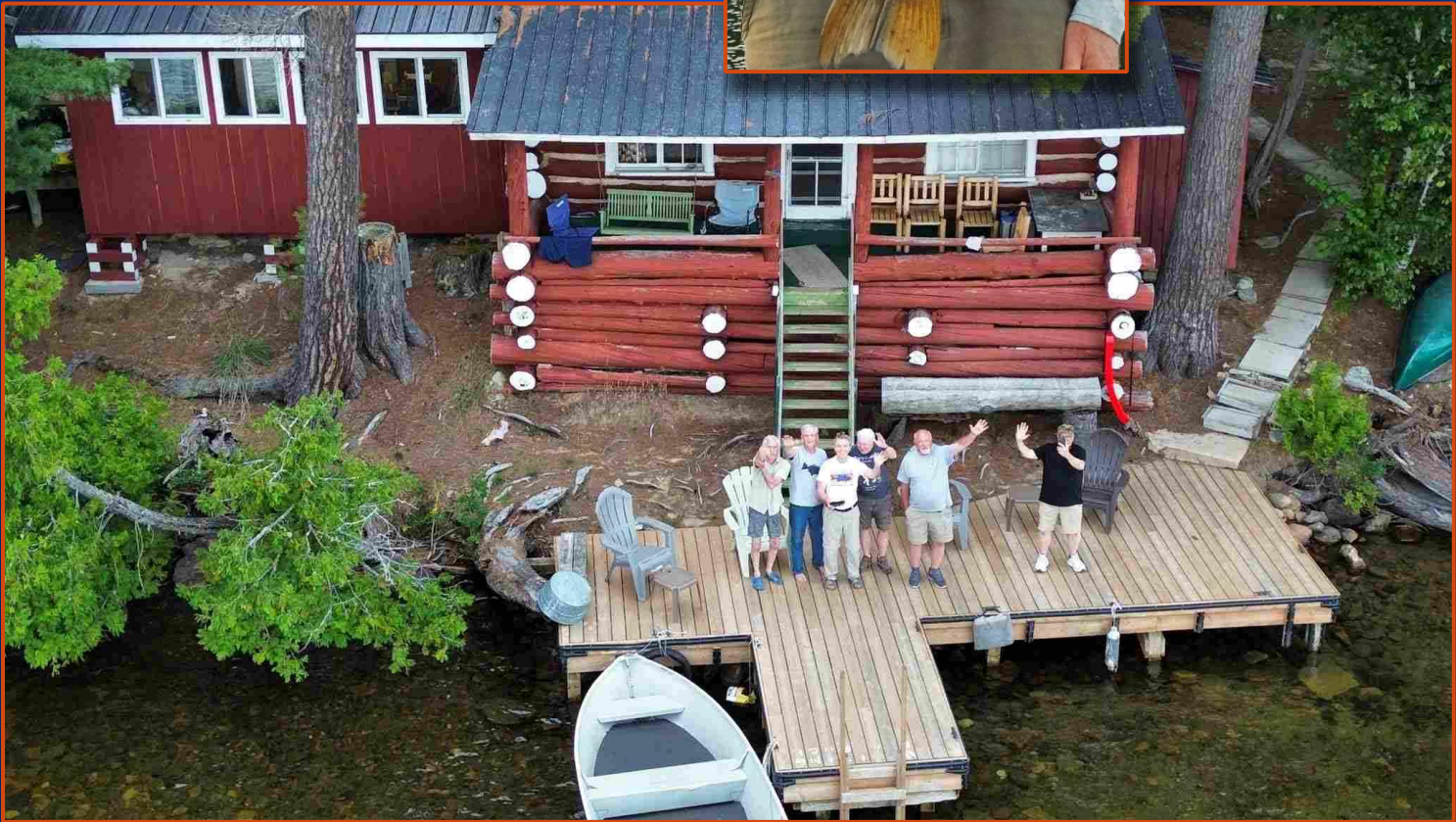
The camp is very rustic but comfortable.... except for the outhouse.



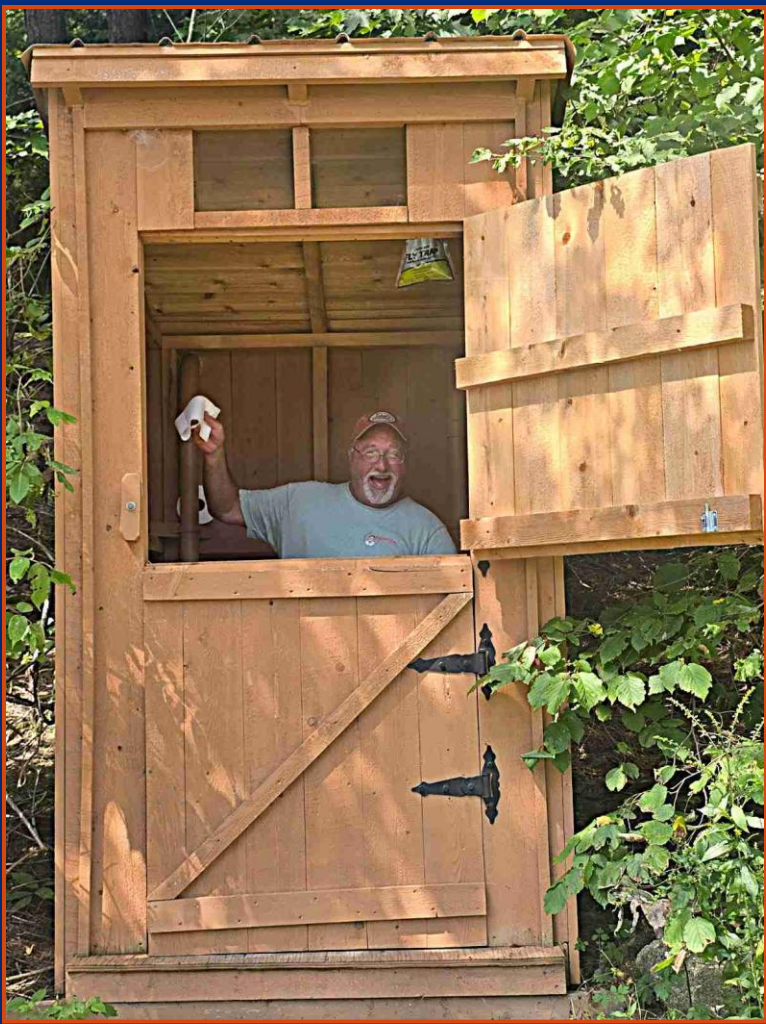
Top: Kenny Ganoe with a fat Smalie.
photo by Fred Boyer

Right: Gayland Hethcoat with an Ontario Smallmouth.
photo by Fred Boyer

Below: The cabin taken from Gayland's drone.
photo by Gayland Hethcoat



“Angler Reflections” continues on the next page.



A 100-yard hike over an isthmus is required to access the Chipman.

Several lake property owners store extra boats here as there is no road access to this lake.

We split our group each day so three guys would fish on one of these lakes using two boats outfitted with 2.5 HP gas motors and trolling motors.

On the days Gayland was fishing the Smallie lake, he acted as the “pack animal” and would carry the two motors and battery across the tree-lined path. I am thankful he always volunteered for this task. The rest of us would pitch in and carry most of the fishing gear.



“Angler Reflections” continues on the next page.

ANGLER REFLECTIONS

-- CONTINUED
-- CONTINUED

The lakes in this area are unusual compared to those we are accustomed to here in VA. Each lake (of which we typically fish three during our six-day trip) has a preponderance of a single species.

Patten Lake, on which the cottage property is located, is home to primarily Smallmouth Bass and some Northern Pike. It is 2 miles long and about ¾ mile wide.

Chipman is primarily home to Smallmouth and measures about 1 mile by ½ mile.

Stuart contains primarily Northern Pike, but we were unable to get to Stuart this year.



Top: ...very rustic and comfortable
except for the outhouse. photo by Fred Boyer

Above: Another hefty Smallie for Fred.
photo by Gayland Hethcoat

Left: A relatively small Smallie for Fred.
photo by Gayland Hethcoat

ANGLER REFLECTIONS -- CONTINUED



The photos accompanying this article really tell the story of our success and fun. As the editor of this newsletter knows, he and I typically keep track of our catch by “the number of fish in the boat.” (All of which are released.) My count was 41 with several Smallies over 4 pounds and one weighing in at 5lb-8oz. Now that is a great fishing trip in my book.

As is normal for a bunch of middle aged and elderly fishermen, food planning, and cooking is always a challenge.

We purchased way too many snacks and way too many meals. This resulted in food being discarded, resulting in a challenge of the disposing of garbage.

If you did not know, crossing the Canada/USA border with garbage is any absolute no-no. If you declare that you have garbage in a vehicle, it results in an automatic full vehicle search.

The consequences are even more dire if, by chance, one gets flagged for a random search and the garbage was not declared.

A delay of an hour or more will ruin a 15+ hour trip home. Dump sites are difficult to find, and public trash bins are non-existent. At 0530 we were lucky to find a large truck-stop on the outskirts of the Sault that permitted us to utilize their dumpster. I’m certain in future trips we will use this same location. I pray that the same station attendant is working the 12-8 shift on future adventures.

Our 15-hour trip home proved to be uneventful, even without an overnight stop. As the group ages, however, I suspect that an overnight motel stop will be in the planning.



This page: The stunning beauty of North America is one of the reasons cold-water anglers cherish time on the water.

photos this page by Gayland Hethcoat



Winchester TU Monthly “BarFly” Events

Wednesday, 19 November 2025, 7:00 PM
Wednesday, 17 December 2025, 7:00 PM
Wednesday, 21 January 2026, 7:00 PM

Escutcheon Brewery
Commercial St., Winchester, VA

The Winchester Chapter of Trout Unlimited (WTU) will gather 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.

No fly-tying or fly-fishing experience is necessary.
All participants under age 21 must be accompanied by a responsible adult.



See you at the next Winchester TU BarFly.



Poet’s Corner: Poems selected for the angler.

When the Frost is on the Punkin

By James Whitcomb Riley
1849-1916
USA



Ink wash portrait of James Whitcomb Riley
by W.M. Prokopchak ©2025



When the frost is on the punkin and the fodder’s in the shock,
And you hear the kyouck and gobble of the struttin’ turkey-cock,
And the clackin’ of the guineys, and the cluckin’ of the hens,
And the rooster’s hallylooyer as he tiptoes on the fence;
O, it’s then’s the times a feller is a-feelin’ at his best,
With the risin’ sun to greet him from a night of peaceful rest,
As he leaves the house, bareheaded, and goes out to feed the stock,
When the frost is on the punkin and the fodder’s in the shock.

They’s something kindo’ harty-like about the atmusfere
When the heat of summer’s over and the coolin’ fall is here—
Of course we miss the flowers, and the blossums on the trees,
And the mumble of the hummin’-birds and buzzin’ of the bees;
But the air’s so appetizin’; and the landscape through the haze
Of a crisp and sunny morning of the airly autumn days
Is a pictur’ that no painter has the colorin’ to mock—
When the frost is on the punkin and the fodder’s in the shock.

The husky, rusty russel of the tossels of the corn,
And the raspin’ of the tangled leaves, as golden as the morn;
The stubble in the furries—kindo’ lonesome-like, but still
A-preachin’ sermons to us of the barns they grewed to fill;
The strawstack in the medder, and the reaper in the shed;
The hosses in theyr stalls below—the clover over-head!—
O, it sets my hart a-clickin’ like the tickin’ of a clock,
When the frost is on the punkin and the fodder’s in the shock!

Then your apples all is gethered, and the ones a feller keeps
Is poured around the celler-floor in red and yeller heaps;
And your cider-makin’ ’s over, and your wimmern-folks is through
With their mince and apple-butter, and theyr souse and sausage, too! ...

I don’t know how to tell it—but ef sich a thing could be
As the Angels wantin’ boardin’, and they’d call around on me—
I’d want to ’commodate ’em—all the whole-indurin’ flock—
When the frost is on the punkin and the fodder’s in the shock!

My Trout Fly Box

The Hatching Pupa ... it just catches fish.

article and photos
by Burr Tupper

As I have mentioned in the past, I really like to fish using sub-surface flies. As we know this is where the fish are feeding. The Hatching Pupa was originated by Ellis Hatch, a well-known New Hampshire fishing legend and fly tyer. I found that this is one of the most productive wet fly patterns when fishing for trout.

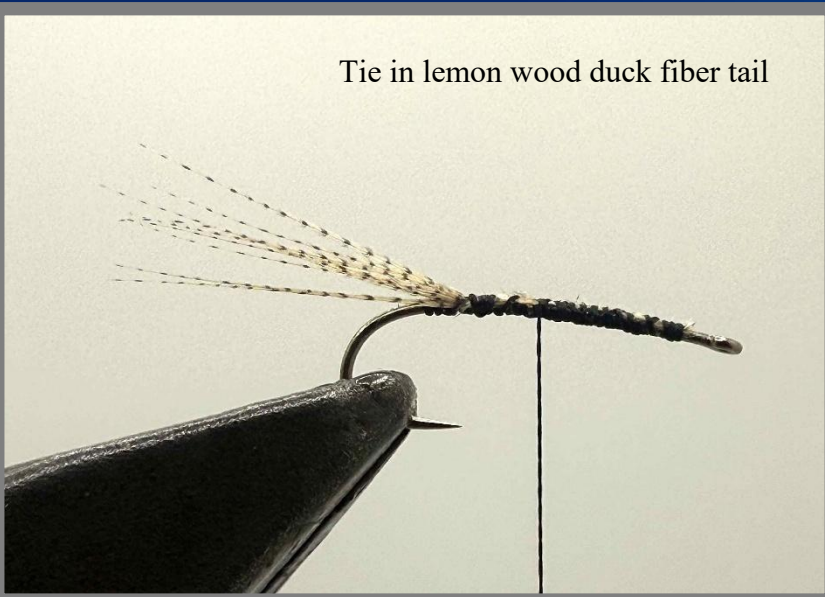


The Hatching Pupa

Materials List

- Hook: 1X to 2X 12-14 nymph/wet hook
- Thread: Black
- Tail: Lemon wood duck fibers
- Abdomen: Stripped peacock herl
- Rib: Small wire (I like to use red wire)
- Thorax: Peacock herl, stripped of barbules
- Collar: Hungarian Partridge

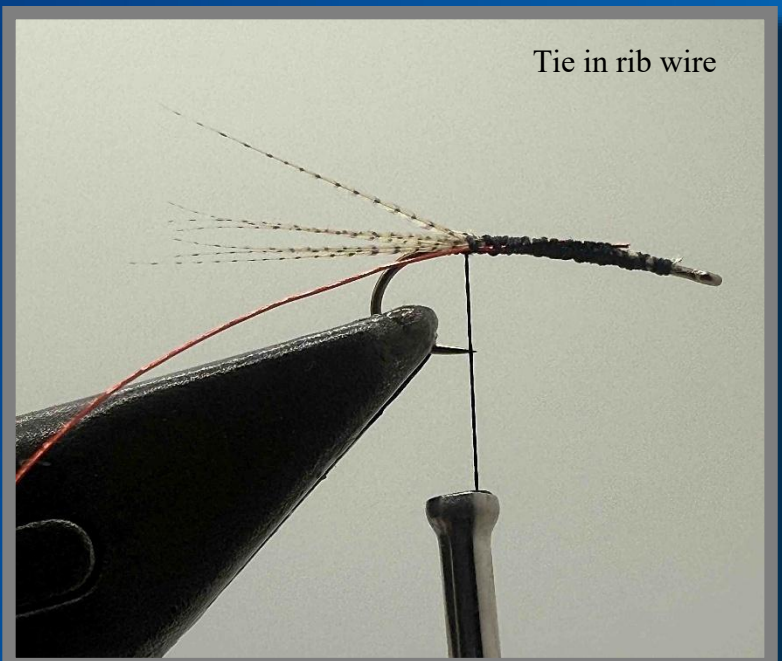
Tie in lemon wood duck fiber tail



Why fish The Hatching Pupa?

- I have used this fly when fishing for trout from Maine to Montana.
- It can be fished alone or as a dropper off a point fly.
- Whether in moving water or still water lakes and ponds it just catches fish.
- It can be adapted in size and color to mimic almost any emergent insect.
- It also is a good fly for smallmouth bass.

Tie in rib wire



“My Trout Fly Box” continues on the next page.

Tie in peacock herl stripped of barbules

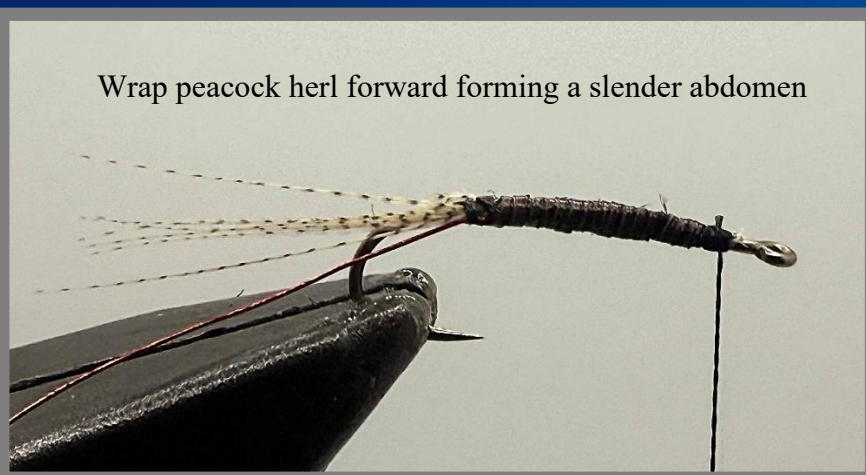
My Trout Fly Box -- continued

Hints for Stripping the Peacock Herl

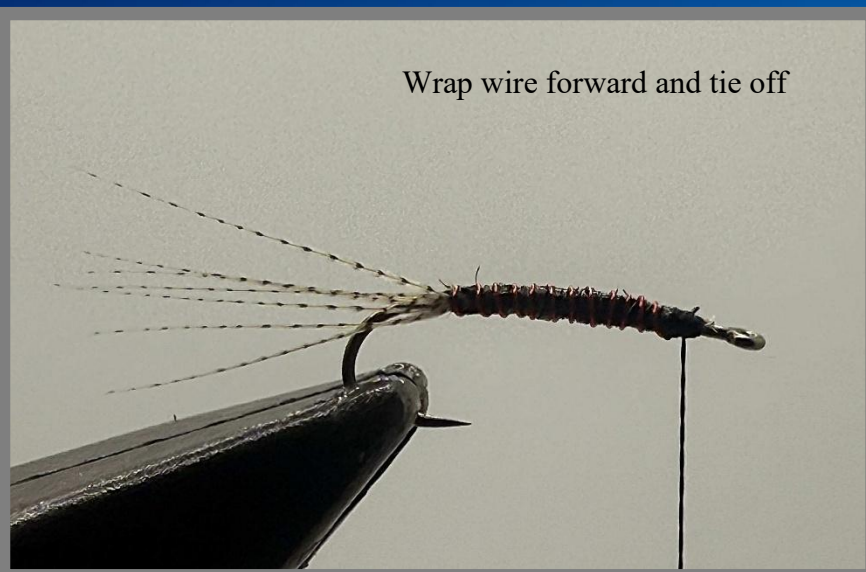
- If you are just tying a few flies, you can use a pencil eraser to remove the barbules.
- If tying a large batch of flies the herl can be soaked in bleach mixture to get rid of the fine barbules. Davie McPhail has a 15-minute YouTube video on the process at [How I Remove the Fine Herl from the Peacock Eye Feather..](#)
- Soak the stripped herl in warm water for about 10 minutes. This makes them more pliable and easier to tie.

Editor's Note to the new fly tyer: Please know that the feather terms used by fly tyers are not necessarily the terms used by feather anatomists and may differ from the terms you learned in Bio 101.

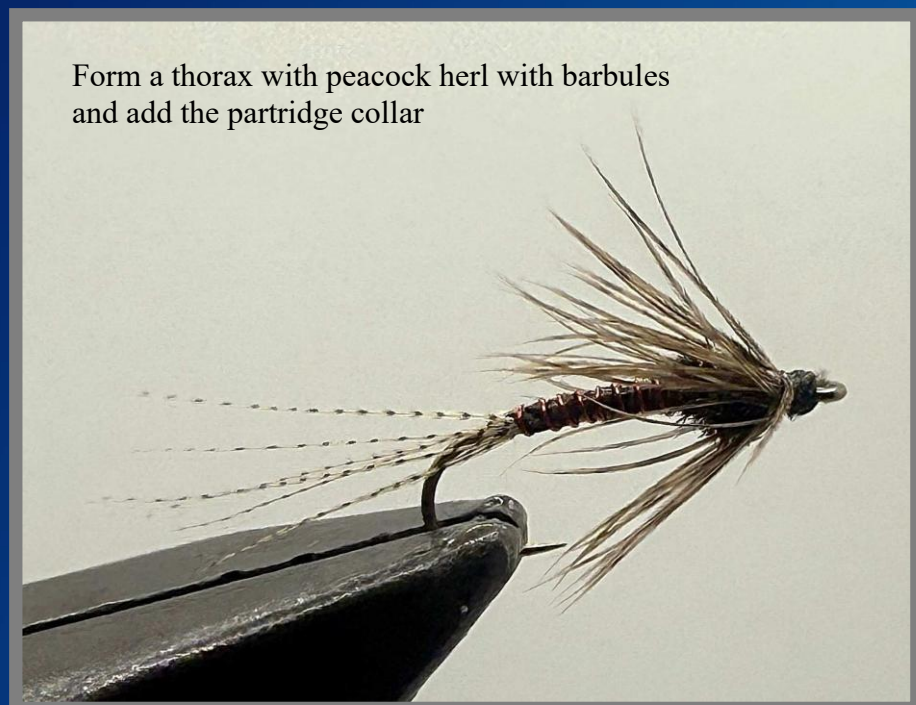
Wrap peacock herl forward forming a slender abdomen



Wrap wire forward and tie off



Form a thorax with peacock herl with barbules and add the partridge collar



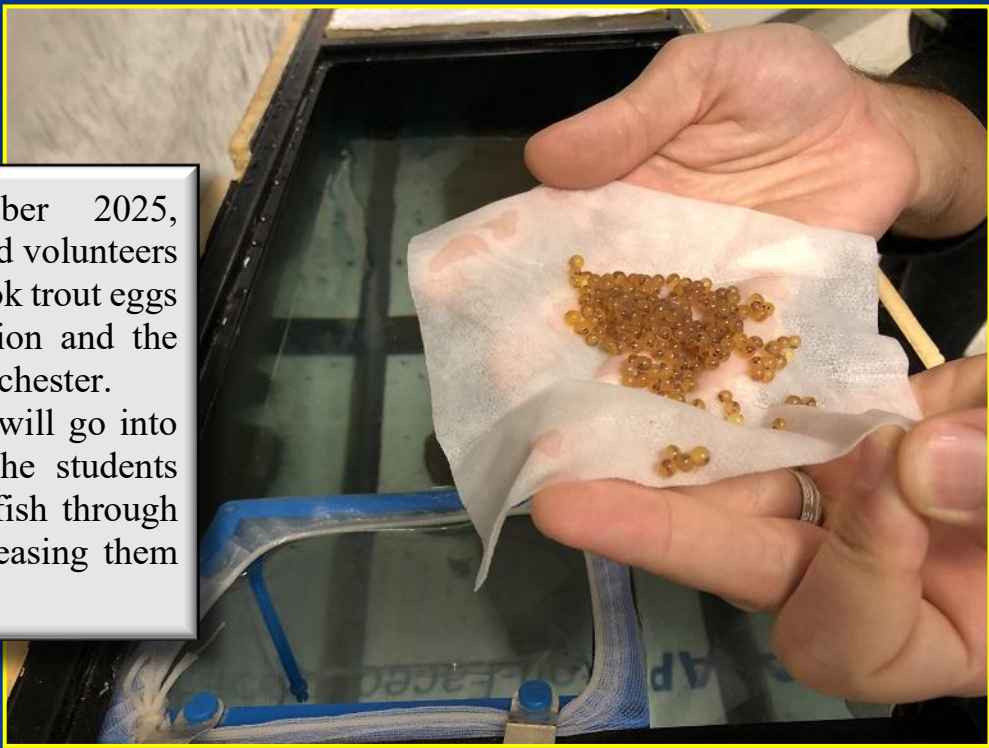
Editor's Note: Remember to use barbless hooks or bend down your barbs, especially when catch-and-release fishing.

Trout in the Classroom (TIC) News

by Mark Zimmerman

On Tuesday, 7 October 2025, Winchester Trout Unlimited volunteers delivered thousands of brook trout eggs to schools across our region and the Discovery Museum in Winchester.

These brook trout eggs will go into cold-water aquariums. The students and staff will nurture the fish through the school year before releasing them into the wild in the spring.



Handley High School teacher, Galen Westman, points out the features of a cold-water tank. Brook trout are a cold-water species so every aquarium must have a chiller to keep the water at a temperature where the eggs can hatch, and the young fish can thrive.

Students from the classroom of Eric Cornish and Sierra Jenkins at Daniel Morgan Middle School show off their cold -water aquarium ready for the brook trout egg delivery.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I spent an enjoyable afternoon on the North Fork, South Fork and main stem of the Shenandoah River in late August with Brian Peeler of Rivergoat Outfitters (rivergoatoutfitters@gmail.com; www.rivergoatoutfitters.com/) fishing for sunnies and smallmouth bass, primarily with poppers. We caught a bunch of sunfish, mostly on the small end, but I managed to hook and land a beautiful 17.5 inch smallmouth on a top-water take. As always, thanks for the wonderful Lateral Lines newsletters.

Mark Zimmerman
Winchester, VA



Nice job with both your newsletter and chapter activities. I am impressed. Sorry about the meeting chaos.* It sure caught me off guard, but thankfully we seem to have recovered!!!

Thanks
Mark Bruns

*Editor's Note: The original speaker scheduled for the October joint meeting with TU and Northern Shenandoah Valley Audubon cancelled with short notice. Mark Bruns and friends were able to find a substitute.

I just read the newsletter and as always, it is excellent. I know you're not the sole author of this, but I really appreciate you pulling together the disparate sources and producing a clean publication!

Thanks for your hard work.
Tedd Gimber

Great stuff! Another award winning edition! Many thanks for all your support! Have a great trip!
Wayne White
Lake Frederick, VA

We'll, I had the opportunity to whittle down the bucket list last week. I was up in Pulaski, NY, on Thursday and Friday, trying for either kings or cohos (either would have been a new species).

As luck would have it, kings were the order of the day, both days. Five fish brought to net over two days; but – many - hookups and spectacular losses. All fish released, mostly none the worse for wear. The angler wishes he could say the same for himself. Still, quite an adventure into bucket-list land!



Best,
Mike Smith



2025 - 2026 Calendar of Events Winchester Trout Unlimited

November 2025

Thursday, 6 November 2025
6:00 PM – Winchester Priority Waters monthly meeting

See also
<http://winchester.tu.org/>

Thursday, 6 November 2025
7:00 PM – Winchester TU monthly meeting

Saturday, 8 November 2025 – Tentative Winchester Trout Unlimited Workday
Bud will contact the “Redbud Regulars” to schedule the November workday

November 2025 – Priority Waters field day may be delayed. Contact the Priority Waters team members for updated information

Wednesday, 19 November 2025 – Winchester Trout Unlimited BarFly
7:00 – 9:00 PM – Escutcheon Brewery, Commercial Street, Winchester

December 2026

Thursday, 4 December 2025
6:00 PM – Winchester Priority Waters monthly meeting

Thursday, 4 December 2025
There is no Winchester TU monthly meeting in December

Saturday, 6 December 2025 – Tentative Winchester Trout Unlimited Workday
Bud will contact the “Redbud Regulars” to schedule the December workday

December 2025 – Winchester TU Priority Waters Field Days to be announced later

Wednesday, 17 December 2025 – Winchester Trout Unlimited BarFly
7:00 – 9:00 PM – Escutcheon Brewery, Commercial Street, Winchester

January 2026

Thursday, 1 January 2026
There is no in-person Winchester Priority Waters monthly meeting in January 2026. Priority Waters team leaders will keep members updated about future meetings.

January 2026
The WTU board will notify members of any upcoming meetings.

January 2026 – Winchester TU Priority Waters Field Days will be announced later.

Wednesday, 21 January 2025 – Winchester Trout Unlimited BarFly
7:00 – 9:00 PM – Escutcheon Brewery, Commercial Street, Winchester



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 all 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.

