

*Celebrating  
31 Years of  
Lateral Lines*

# Lateral Lines

**Monthly Magazine of Winchester Trout Unlimited  
Chapter #638**

"... so everything will live where the river goes." Ezekiel 47:9 (RSV)

May 2026

Volume 31, Numbers 5

### Winchester TU Meeting

Thursday, 7 May 2026, 7:00 PM  
Shenandoah Lodge, Lake Frederick, VA

### Winchester TU Priority Waters Meeting

Thursday, 7 May 2026, 6:00 PM  
Shenandoah Lodge, Lake Frederick, VA

### Project Healing Waters Monthly meeting

Wednesday, 13 May 2026, 6:00 PM  
Shenandoah Lodge, Lake Frederick, VA

### BarFly

The next Winchester TU BarFly  
Wednesday, 20 May 2026  
7:00 PM at Escutcheon Brewing Co.  
142 W. Commercial Street, Winchester



**For complete calendars, please see**  
**Page 14 for Winchester Project Healing Waters**  
**Page 5 & 21 for Winchester Priority Waters**  
**Page 21 for Winchester Trout Unlimited**

Bill Prokopchak, Newsletter Editor  
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## Winchester TU Featured Speaker 7 May 2026 Chris Wood, President & CEO of Trout Unlimited

Chris Wood will be at Lake Frederick for the 7 May 2026 Winchester TU meeting.

Chris will update the chapter on TU's national initiatives and priorities and will be available for questions from members.



photo courtesy of TU



photo courtesy of Virginia DNR

## Winchester TU & Northern Shenandoah Valley Audubon Announce Speaker for Annual Joint Meeting at Laurel Ridge Community College

Mark your calendar for the Annual Joint meeting on 7 October 2026 at Laurel Ridge Community College.

Brad Fink is a Coldwater Fisheries Biologist with the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources.

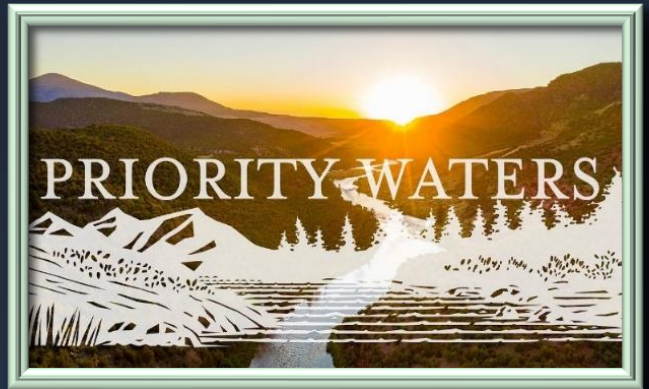


# Winchester Priority Waters: Part 1

## April Field Day

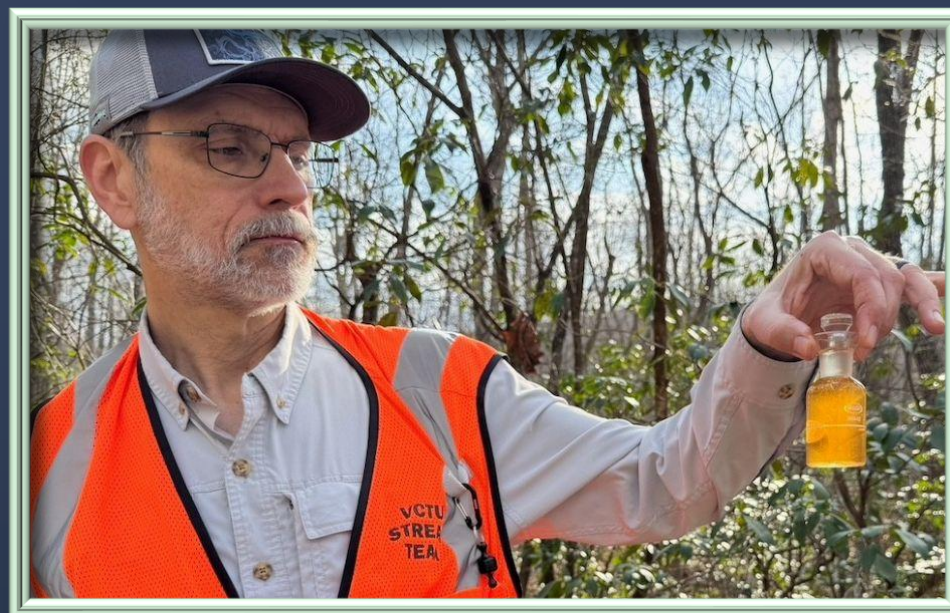
By Tedd Gimber

Photos by Dave Juth unless otherwise noted



**Above:** Mike and Tedd record data from the stream data logger.

**Below:** Tedd takes a dissolved oxygen reading.



The NFS truck continued up FR 66 to the second gate, which was also secured, as is typical. Once again, luck was on the Priority Waters team's side, as the lock for which they had a key had been removed and a new locking system installed. The NFS crew quickly added their own lock to the gate so the team could open and close it as needed. The NFS folks continued up the road, leaving the team to lock the gate behind them.

The team eventually arrived at the first sensor site on Little Passage Creek, designated as "LPC1." It was 9:14 AM and 63°F, according to the thermometer in Tedd's truck. It took some time to locate the data sensor; GPS coordinates provide the general area, but the sensor itself is tricky to find. The key is to look for the silver chain attached to a tree along the stream, which anchors the sensor in the water. Once located, the data were quickly downloaded onto a mobile device. After nearly a year in the water, the sensor was in good shape, and the battery was still fully charged. Notably, water levels were good, even at the far upstream location of LPC1.

The Priority Waters team met at the now traditional meeting location, the Front Royal Target parking area, at 8:00 AM. The team was smaller for this outing, as several members had prior commitments or medical issues. The assembled team consisted of Dave Juth, Mike Makufka, and Tedd Gimber. They took both Dave's and Tedd's trucks to the National Forest for safety and so Dave could leave early due to an afternoon commitment.

The team arrived on Forest Road 66 (FR 66) before 9:00 AM and found the road in good condition. However, their progress was slowed by a National Forest Service (NFS) vehicle parked at a closed gate that is usually open. The NFS crew was friendly and recognized the team from previous outings. Fortunately, the two gentlemen from the NFS were unlocking the gate, which had been closed for the season. If the team had come a day later, they would not have been able to conduct their stream survey, as their NFS gate key did not fit the locks on this gate.

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

# Winchester Priority Waters: Part 1

## April Field Day -- continued

**Left:** Mike (l) mentioned that the sensor was near a big tree along the creek, which led to some good-natured ribbing from the other team members

**Below:** Mike (l) and Dave trying to get a little dirtier.



photo by Tedd Gimber

Once the sensor was placed back into the stream, the team measured pH and dissolved oxygen (DO). It took a little longer to sample at the first site, as the team needed to refresh themselves on the procedure. At one point, Mike took the drastic step of reading the printed directions for getting an accurate DO reading. The data from these samples are recorded -- see the data table below. The numbers looked good and were consistent with previous readings.



After leaving LPC1, the group parked at the Strasburg Reservoir, and Mike walked down to the dam's discharge area.

He was pleased to report that the orange-colored seepage previously seen there was now mostly gone.

### 1 April 2026 Field Data

Site	Measured pH	DO	Temperature	Comments
LPC 1	6.4	11	11.1°C	Temperature from handheld thermometer
LPC 2	6.7	9	13.7°C	“
LPC 3	6.9	9	12.2°C	“
LPC 4	7.5	NA	14.4°C	DO not measured
MR 1				Not visited
MR 2				Not visited

“Priority Waters” continues on the next page.

# Winchester Priority Waters: Part 1

## April Field Day -- continued

**Right:** Very small (less than an inch long) crayfish.

**Below:** Big stonefly with other aquatic insects collected.



The team proceeded to LPC2 and again had some difficulty locating the submerged temperature sensor. Mike mentioned that the sensor was near a big tree along the creek, which led to some good-natured ribbing from the other team members. In the end, Mike was right—the chain for the sensor was found within ten feet of the largest oak tree in the area indicated by the GPS.

Once again, the team downloaded data from the sensor and conducted chemistry tests for pH and DO, finding everything in good order. From there, it was a two-mile drive to LPC3 at the parking area for the trail to Mud Hole Gap.

At LPC3, the team quickly and efficiently retrieved the sensor data and sampled pH and DO. They then searched for a suitable spot to sample macroinvertebrates from Little Passage Creek. Dave and Tedd had attended macro sampling training the week before and had received their certification, so they were eager to apply their new skills. Mike, previously certified, provided experienced guidance to Dave and Tedd.

The sampling went well, though the team did not collect the minimum of 200 bugs required for a successful survey. Mike noted that this is not unusual, as small headwater streams like Little Passage typically have limited aquatic bug life. On a positive note, mayflies and stoneflies were present, indicating clean water with good oxygen levels. No black fly larvae were found, which are often a sign of pollutants in the stream.

After the fourth sample was conducted (the protocol calls for up to four attempts to capture aquatic life with a net), Dave bid Mike and Tedd adieu to make his afternoon appointment.

Mike and Tedd took a lunch break and then traveled about one-third of a mile to LPC4. By this time, they were comfortable with collecting data, but upon arrival, they realized they did not have the chemistry kit for sampling dissolved oxygen. Tedd was eager to return to the truck to retrieve the kit, but Mike wisely suggested it could wait until next time. It was getting late and warm, so this was the right decision.

Back at the truck, Mike and Tedd briefly discussed visiting Mill Run to collect data but decided they had accomplished a good amount of work for the day, and it was time to return home. They arrived at the Target parking lot at about 2:30 PM, and the truck's thermometer showed an outside temperature of 83°F. Mike and Tedd parted company, agreeing it had been both a productive and enjoyable day.

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

# Winchester Priority Waters: Part 2

## Important Questions and Expanding Skill Sets

Compiled and edited by the Priority Waters Team, from notes provided by Tedd Gimber

The priority Waters team met at 6:00 PM, 2 April 2026, prior to the regular Winchester Chapter meeting at 7:00. Team leader Mike Makufka chaired a group comprised of Bob Fish, Tedd Gimber, Dave Juth, Drew Patterson, Will Ponder (new member) and Mike Smith.

At Mike Makufka's request, Tedd Gimber noted that minutes from the 3 March meeting had elicited no changes and thus the minutes were uploaded as a final document to the team's Priority Water Google Drive.

With updates provided by Seth Coffman, TU Field Representative for Trout Unlimited, Mike Makufka confirmed that the electroshocking of the project streams is still slated for Wednesday, 6 May. Mike added that electroshocking had been conducted on Mill Run by Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) in 2025, but Seth had not yet received the resulting data from DWR; there was no information regarding Little Passage Creek. He added that Seth is still working on getting updates on private property owners adjacent to the lower reach of Little Passage. Additionally, he is still pursuing information regarding removal of the old USGS gauge in the upper reaches of Mil Run.

Drew Patterson posed the question that had been more or less silently shared among the team over recent months: "What happens if we conduct the electroshocking and find no brook trout?" The question commenced a lengthy discussion. The suggestion arose that it could pause work on the streams and allow time for refocusing efforts elsewhere. Another idea raised was that the team could approach the key management agencies (DWR and George Washington National Forest) to replenish one or both waters with wild stock. This is how these restoration waters came into being two to three decades ago using "seed stock" from a wild brook trout fishery farther south on Massanutten Mountain.

One team member suggested that if brook trout were found via the electroshocking, then perhaps it would be beneficial to retain samples for DNA sampling (and added as an alternative, should none be found, if eDNA sampling might possibly be employed at a later date).

Mike Makufka pointed out that regardless of what we find on 6 May 2026, the emphasis of Priority Waters is clean, accessible (i.e., no barriers) streams that are healthy. The group discussion concluded with broad agreement that we would have to wait and see what the electroshocking turns up and then decide what the next steps should be.

Team discussion turned to its recent Macro training. Dave Juth and Tedd Gimber both felt the training conducted by Maggie Dombroski was excellent. Dave had been trained previously and said the session Maggie conducted was much better than his previous training. Mike Smith, who observed the training, commented on how well it was done and was particularly impressed with the materials provided by Izaak Walton League and Virginia Save Our Steams.

As the time for the overall chapter meeting quickly approached, Mike Makufka noted that the team has now added a monitoring site directly below the Strasburg Dam. He further noted that during the group's outing on the previous day (1 April 2026), he had an opportunity to visit the seepage area directly below the dam and noted very little orange seepage present. The team concluded its meeting at 6:55 PM.

Below, the updated calendar of field activities for the Priority Waters Team. New members are always welcome!

### Dates Scheduled for Winchester Priority Waters 2026 Field Work

<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>
6 May 2026	Tentative for electroshocking with Seth
3 Jun 2026	Water Quality Monitoring and/or Barrier Assessment
5 Aug 2026	Water Quality Monitoring and/or Barrier Assessment
7 Oct 2026	Water Quality Monitoring and/or Barrier Assessment
2 Dec 2026	Water Quality Monitoring and/or Barrier Assessment





EST. PROJECT 2005  
HEALING WATERS

## WINCHESTER HEALING WATERS

### Gets Back to Basics at Casting Clinic

by Wayne White  
photos by Wayne White

Every fly angler realizes that better casting skills open more fishing opportunities with less frustration. And anyone who pursues the art of angling with a fly rod can always benefit from improving their technique.

That was the lesson for more than 25 Winchester Healing Waters participants and volunteers from Terry Cummings, a certified FFI instructor from the Goose Creek Casting Club, at the recent casting clinic at Shenandoah Lodge, Lake Frederick, Virginia, on 9 April 2026.



**Top:** Terry Cummings demonstrates the arm position for the basic fly cast as David Buhan, mimics the technique.

**Right:** Terry Cummings emphasizes starting the fly cast with the rod tip pointed down, as Jeb Stewart (l), Robert Kilby, and Christian Nelson take careful note of this instruction.

Focusing on a basic understanding of physics, the principles of fly rods, and how to apply that to casting techniques, Terry provided beginners with an appreciation of the fundamentals of fly casting. The session also offered the volunteers tips for making corrections when coaching new fly anglers.

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

## WINCHESTER HEALING WATERS

### Casting Clinic -- continued

Besides demonstrating basic casts, Terry provided instruction on progressively challenging casts that covered the skill categories of loop control, accuracy, roll cast, bow-and-arrow cast, change-in-direction presentation, and achieving greater casting distance with a double haul.

It was a fast-paced 90-minute instructional session that allowed all students to practice the new techniques. The class left everyone understanding that practice is key to developing the newly introduced skills.

Goose Creek Casting Club promotes fly fishing, conservation, and the wise use of our natural resources. The club also provides classes in fly tying and fly-fishing and is also offering free fly-casting clinics from 9:00 to 11:00 AM on Sundays, 19 April, 17 May, and 21 June at the Windmill Park in Ashburn, Virginia. For more information about those classes, the club, or Fly Fishers International (FFI), contact Terrance Cummings at [flycstrva56@gmail.com](mailto:flycstrva56@gmail.com)

or call 703-489-7632.

Goose Creek Casting Club

<https://www.goosecreekcastingclub.org/home>

FFI <https://www.goosecreekcastingclub.org/fly-fishers-international>



**Above:** Using an orange metal loop, Terry Cummings describes what the line loop should look like in the back cast.

**Below:** The Winchester Program participants and volunteers concluded the successful casting clinic with Terry Cummings and a beautiful evening at Lake Frederick.



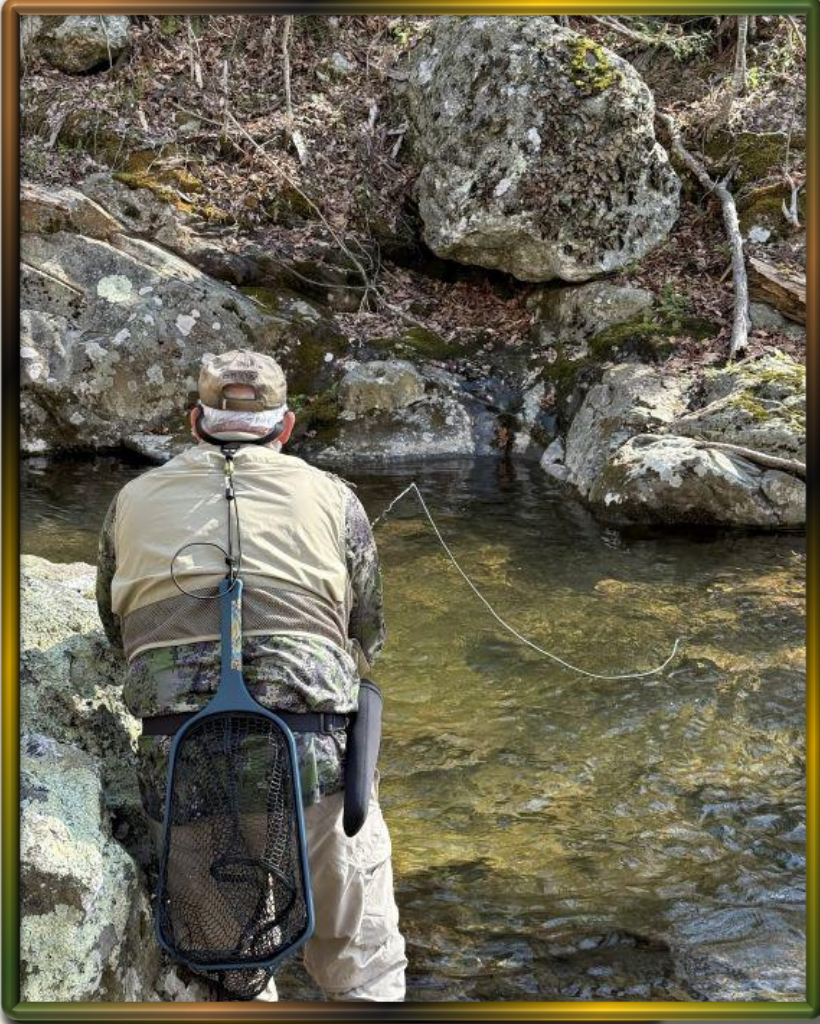
**“Winchester Healing Waters” continues on the next page.**



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HEALING WATERS

## WINCHESTER HEALING WATERS Veterans Stalk Shenandoah Brookies

by Wayne White  
with Jeb Stewart and Steve Weik



Spectacular spring weather and plenty of winter runoff provided many scenic views and ample fishing opportunities for Steve Weik and his guide, Jeb Stewart, who attended the annual Virginia Region Wild Trout Trip in Shenandoah Park from 10 to 12 April.

Steve, a participant in the Winchester Project Healing Waters program, was one of five Veterans from Virginia PHW programs who took part in this trip, made possible by a grant partnership between the National Park Foundation and Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc.

Shenandoah National Park, headquartered in Luray, Virginia, hosted the trip lead, Steve Tegtmeier, the Virginia Regional Coordinator, and assistant coordinator Robert Misiaszek, along with participants and volunteer guides, at the Skyland Lodge on Skyline Drive. The grant covered lodging and all meals. Park Ranger Corrina Wendel, also a Winchester PHW volunteer, coordinated access to various streams in the park for the Veterans to fish for native brookies.

**Above:**

Steve Weike makes a great presentation in a perfect splash pool in his relentless search for very selective Brookies.

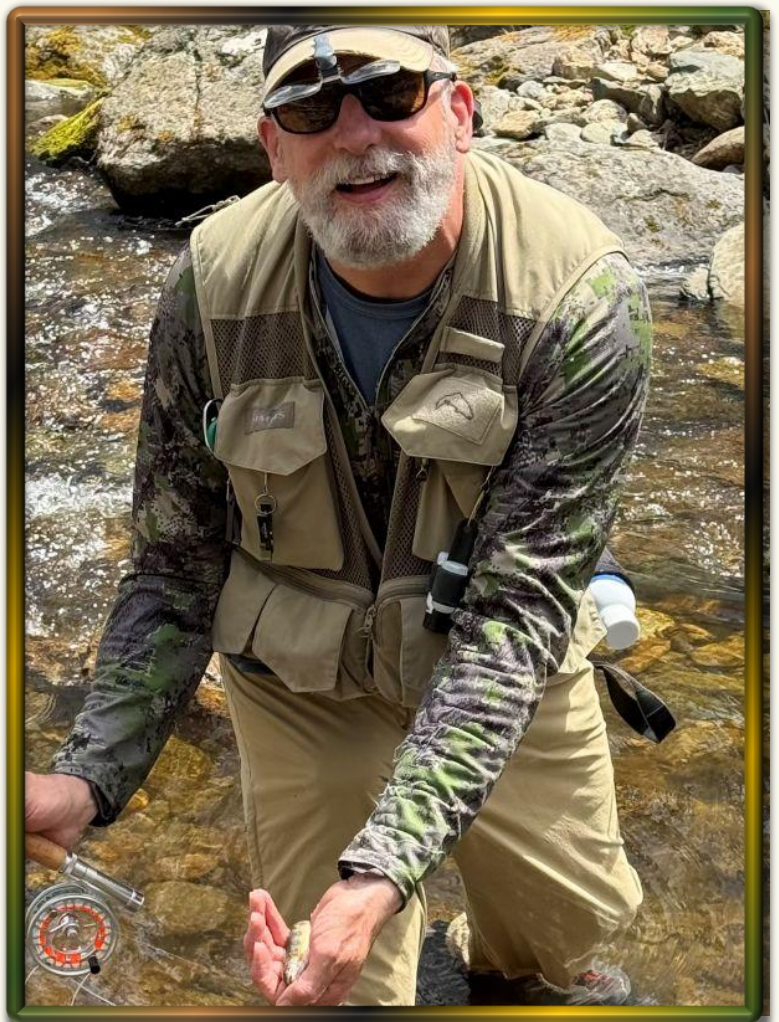
photo by Jeb Stewart

**Right:** Steve prepares to release one of the native trout while fishing near the Hoover Camp.

photo by Jeb Stewart

This was the second time Steve and Jeb, a retired Marine aviator, had teamed to stalk mountain-stream brookies. The two attended the National Park Trust fishing outing at the Great Smoky Mountains National Park as part of the Virginia Region Healing Waters contingent last November.

According to Jeb, they found many nice pools in White Oak Canyon to fish in on Saturday, the first day of the trip. The road to White Oak Canyon was rough and rocky, requiring vehicles with 4-wheel drive and relatively high ground clearance to negotiate much of the trail. Even still, the warm weather drew a crowd of hikers who traveled right up to the edge of the stream. "Eventually, hikers were wading in some of the pools, making the fishing tough, and even Corina was amazed at how crowded it became," Jeb noted.



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

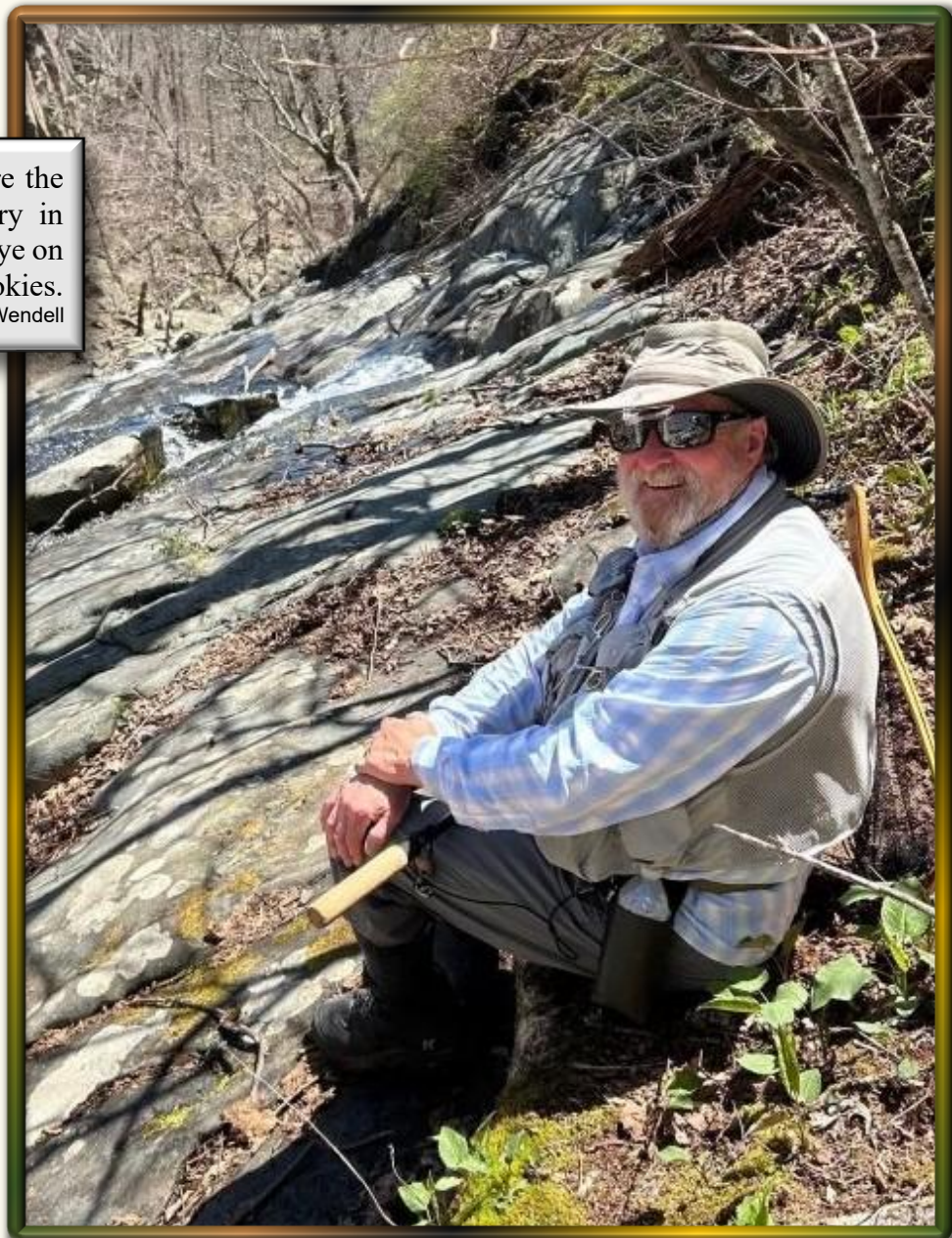
## WINCHESTER HEALING WATERS Shenandoah Brookies -- continued

Although Steve has navigated tight mountain streams before, he noted that the small pools, surrounded by boulders and downed trees, made stealthy approaches more difficult and required more flexibility in casting techniques. He found purple or brown parachute flies seemed most appealing and garnered the most hits.

On Sunday, they fished the Rapidan near the Hoover Rapidan Camp. Jeb noted there weren't any hikers to worry about, but moving through the brush to get to the river was a challenge. But the work paid off. They found some nice pools and caught several brookies. And Steve appreciated the solitude and serenity of the surroundings. "The remoteness and solitude of the Rapidan Camp was a nice contrast to the busy hiker-traveled stream on the first day. It provided numerous small pools with aggressive brookies that had an appetite for orange parachutes."

These Wild Trout outings have become a hallmark of the annual Virginia Regional fishing events. Steve Tegtmeyer and the other program leaders ensure that planning and coordination provide memorable experiences for participants and volunteer guides. Corina Wendel and her assistants from SNP always provide outstanding support, handling many of the administrative tasks for the event and coordinating the movements to the fishing spots both days.

Jeb Stewart takes a break to admire the beautiful weather and SNP scenery in White Oak Canyon as he keeps an eye on Steve's continued attack on the Brookies.  
photo by Corina Wendell



The camaraderie and connections among the Veterans are the intangible stuff and leave a lasting impression. As Steve remembered the social aspects of the trip, "Each evening, the Virginia group gathered for dinner in the Skyland dining room and made easy conversation with our fellow veterans about fly fishing and various topics. A patron stopped by to ask whether we were a motorcycle club or a church group. Our answer, being veterans, seemed to cover both possibilities."

"Steve and I had a great time at this event, Jeb said in reflection. "The Skyland rooms were nice, and the breakfasts and dinners in the Skyland restaurant were excellent. Thanks to Steve Tegtmeyer and Robert Misiaszek, who did a really nice job planning the outing."

For Jeb and Steve, the relatively short drive topped off their overall appreciation. "This was a really nice outing, and I think Steve learned a lot and certainly improved his skills," said Jeb.

**"Winchester Healing Waters" continues on the next page.**



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## WINCHESTER HEALING WATERS

### Beaver Creek Invitational Friendly Fishing Competition for Veterans

by Wayne White



**Above:** Heather watches as Forrest Black measures one of the five fish she caught at Beaver Creek.

photo by Eric Custer

**Below:** Eric Custer works the stream patiently, hoping for that last fish as Forrest Black and his fishing buddy, Tripp, watch and wait intently.

photo by Heather Wright

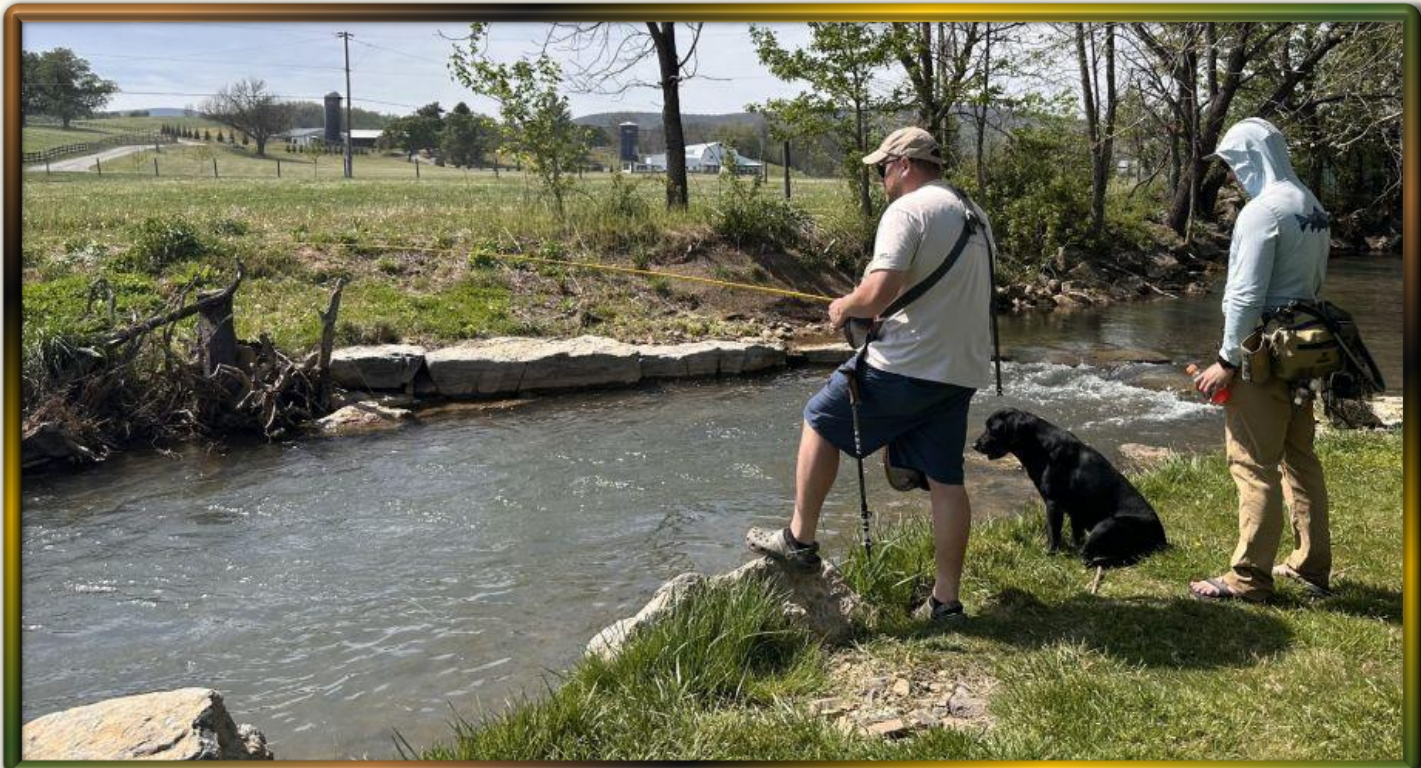
The annual Beaver Creek Invitational fly fishing tournament, sponsored by the Massanutten Chapter of Trout Unlimited, introduces Veterans to the therapeutic effects of fly fishing while providing a relaxing day on one of the Shenandoah Valley's noted trout streams.

In addition to the angling tutorial, the BCI provides a competitive element that offers some fun and bragging rights for the event. And for Winchester PHW Veteran Heather Wright and her husband Eric Custer, the competition became somewhat of a family challenge.

Heather was chosen to participate in the BCI held on 18 April and asked if Eric could attend as her guide. For the first time, the tournament invited family members to participate and teamed Heather and Eric with Forrest Black as their guide, along with Tripp, his dog.

The daylong event began with morning casting instructions for inexperienced anglers. After breakfast, ten teams of guided veterans fished the 2 ½ mile length of the Beaver Creek special regulation area, competing for prizes for the largest, most, and smallest fish.

With Forrest providing excellent insight and years of experience with the creek's nuances, Heather and Eric were doing well, catching fish that kept their team in the running for bragging rights.

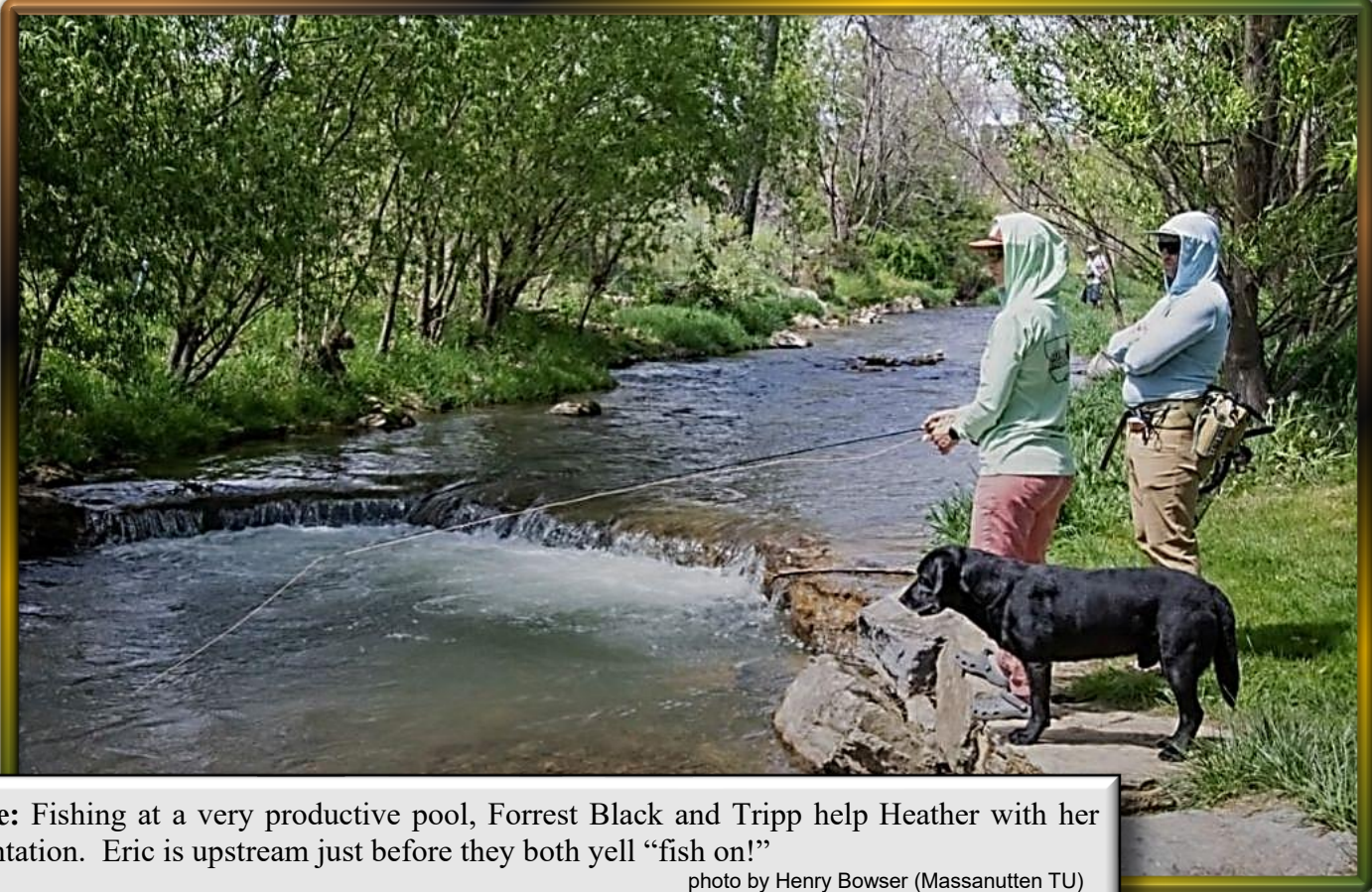


“Winchester Healing Waters” continues on the next page.



# WINCHESTER HEALING WATERS

## Beaver Creek -- continued



**Above:** Fishing at a very productive pool, Forrest Black and Tripp help Heather with her presentation. Eric is upstream just before they both yell “fish on!”

photo by Henry Bowser (Massanutten TU)

**Below:** The 2026 BCI Participants pose for a group shot at the end of the tournament.

group photo by Henry Bowser (Massanutten TU)

After a streamside lunch and a break, the teams returned to the stream. Early in the afternoon session, Heather realized she might have won the award for the smallest fish, landing a five-and-a-half-inch native rainbow. However, that honor was short-lived when another Vet landed a four-and-three-quarter-inch fish, which took top honors.

But the family team was still in the running for top overall honors. In fact, at one point, both hooked up at the same time on a Rainbow and landed the two fish. Even with their consistent action, they placed second overall.

Accepting the second-place honors for the team, Heather’s competitiveness still lingered as she realized that she had caught five fish that day, while Eric had caught four. According to Heather, “He (Eric) normally catches more than I. So, it was the first time I can remember out fishing him.” And that was enough for her to claim top family honors.

Many thanks to the Massanutten Trout Unlimited Chapter for sponsoring this event again this year. The participating Project Healing Waters Programs appreciate how this event supports our mission of connection, camaraderie, and community through fly fishing in helping heal those who serve.



“Winchester Healing Waters” continues on the next page.



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## WINCHESTER HEALING WATERS Cedar Creek at Double Spur Doesn't Disappoint Veteran Anglers

by Wayne White

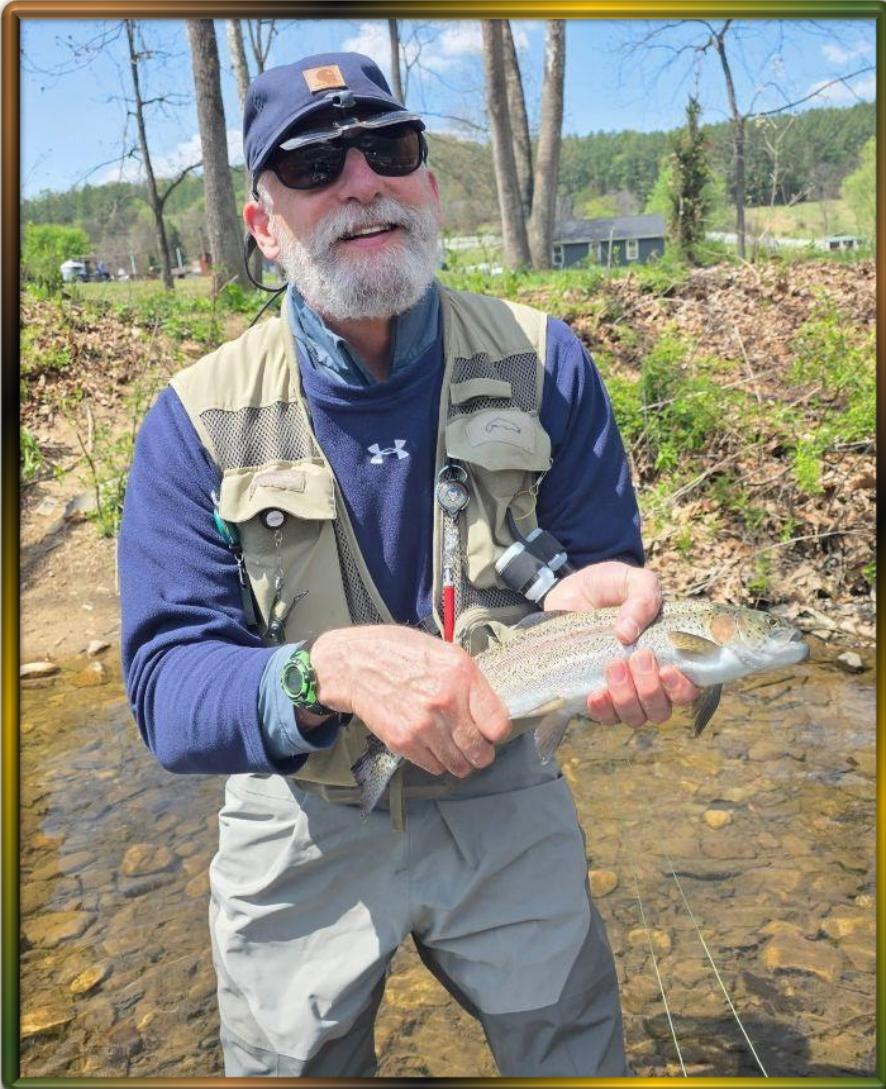
A perfect Spring Day on Cedar Creek at Double Spur Outfitters in Star Tannery, Virginia, offered some exceptional fishing for Winchester Project Healing Waters Veterans participants and volunteers on 22 April.

The off-and-on threat of an April shower and water temperatures hovering around 60 degrees kept the fish active but selective at times. However, persistence, patience, and the willingness to change flies, tactics, and techniques produced consistent and constant action throughout the day. Angling success was found in a variety of efforts from fishing smaller nymphs, dry dropper rigs, and, yes, even the San Juan and Pink Worm, which few wanted to admit using.



**Above:** Catching was the norm for most anglers. Linda Litchfield poses for another photo of one of the many nice Rainbows she outsmarted! Linda let angling skills do all the talking when it came to sharing those fish stories at lunch. photo by Dave Buhan

**Left:** One of the larger Rainbows, Steve Weike caught while nymphing through a long stretch just upstream from the bridge at the parking lot. Steve had a good day and admitted he benefited from all the angling lessons from last fall's outing on Cedar Creek. photo by Dave Buhan



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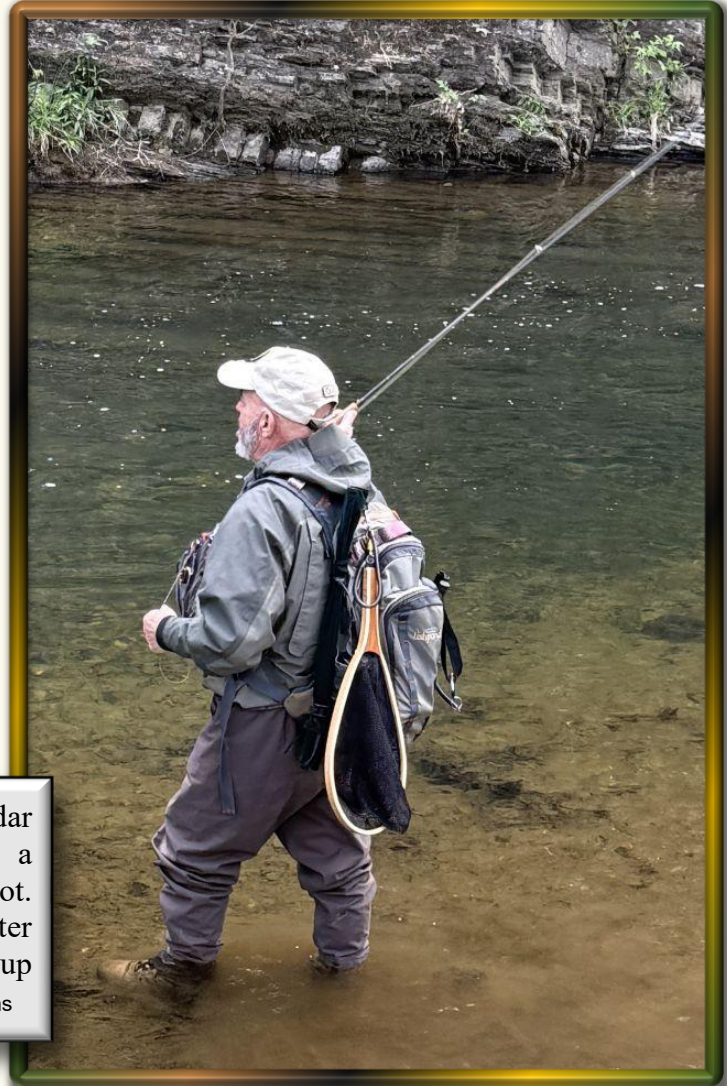


EST. PROJECT 2005  
HEALING WATERS

## WINCHESTER HEALING WATERS Cedar Creek at Double Spur Doesn't Disappoint Veteran Anglers

Many of the Double Spur homegrown, larger Rainbows were landed, providing great photo opportunities for all anglers. In fact, Christina Nelson was excited to report that, although she had landed fish on a fly rod before, this was the first time she successfully hooked, fought, landed, and released a trout on her own without the aid of a guide. It was a significant boost of confidence for the Air Force Veteran who will be fishing the Pierre Marquette and Muskegon Rivers next month as part of a Healing Waters National trip to Oak Heart Lodge in Newaygo, MI.

Many thanks to the Winchester Mission Barbeque for supplying an excellent streamside luncheon for the group. We also want to thank Levi Pitcock, Double Spur owner and operator, for his hospitality and welcoming ways in supporting Healing Waters.



**Right:** Surveying some of the key structures Cedar Creek offers, James Asti prepares to make a presentation to some trout holding in a tight spot. James fished a variety of subsurface and top water bug combinations, which were very productive up and down the stream.

photo by Phil Stevens

**Below:** A Mission Barbecue streamside lunch was a welcome break for the participants and volunteers, thanks to the Winchester store. The pavilion at Double Spur is the perfect setting to relax over lunch while swapping fish stories and making plans for an afternoon of fishing. Thanks to Levi Pitcock for all the amenities and comforts at this great fishing venue.

photo by Wayne White



“Winchester Healing Waters” continues on the next page.



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HEALING WATERS

# WINCHESTER CHAPTER MAY - JUNE 2026

by Wayne White

## PLANNED ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS MAY – JUNE 2026

revised 27 April 2026

### May

30 April – 2 May -- Back Creek. Virginia Regional Fishing Outing, Bath County.  
Winchester: Participant - Cole Bradshaw, Volunteer Guide – Rich Brooks.

17 May -- Beaver Creek, Winchester Day Fishing Outing – Limited to four participants and four volunteer guides. Slots are filled.

5 – 9 May – Virginia Regional Trip Oak Heart Lodge, Newaygo, MI.  
Erwin Casto and Christina Nelson will attend. Wayne White is the Trip Lead.

13 May -- Change – Monthly Meeting, **Wednesday**, Rachel's Kitchen, Shenandoah Lodge, Lake Frederick, 6:00 – 8:30 PM

15 -- New Event – Matt Spaid Fishing, Cedar Creek, Strasburg, Virginia.  
Winchester Fishing Outing at Cedar Creek.  
One participant slot still available and four volunteer guides are needed.

27 – Rose River, Winchester Day Fishing Outing, Rose River Farm, Syria, VA  
One participant slot still available.

30 – Leetown Fish Hatchery, Winchester Fishing Outing,  
at USGS Science Center, Kearneysville, WVA.  
Open to all participants and volunteers.

30 – South Fork Fly-Fishing Tournament, Shenandoah River State Park.  
The Winchester Chapter will sponsor three Veteran Participants. One slot available.

### June

6 – Thornton River, Winchester Day Outing,  
Sponsored by Turkey Mountain Fly-Fishing Club (TMFFC), Sperryville, Virginia.  
Four participant slots are available and four guides are needed.

Change 18 – Monthly Meeting, **Thursday**, Rachel's Kitchen, Shenandoah Lodge, Lake Frederick

27 – (T) - Annual Smallie Challenge,  
Cool Spring, Shenandoah University, Parker Lane, Bluemont, Virginia.

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## Barbara's Books

Series created by Barbara Gamble

### **The Fly Fishing Book: An Artful Guide to Angling**

**Author:** Steven Weinberg  
**Print Length:** 176 pages  
**ISBN-10:** 1250364388  
**ISBN-13:** 978-1250364388  
**Publisher:** Odd Dot  
**Publication Date:** 5 May 2026

Whether you're a seasoned angler, a curious beginner, or simply someone who appreciates the beauty of the outdoors, **THE FLY FISHING BOOK** offers a uniquely enriching journey into the world of fly fishing. From the masterful watercolors of artist and angler Steven Weinberg, this book welcomes everyone to the water.

Inside, you'll find:

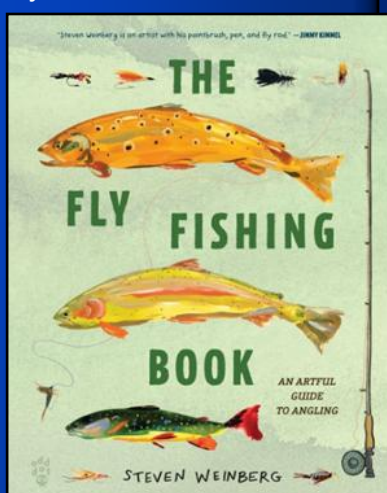
-Accessible Guidance: Weinberg's approachable writing demystifies everything from foundational techniques like casting and gear selection to more advanced skills such as reading water and understanding fly selection.

-Stunning Artwork: Immerse yourself in lush paintings that capture the beauty of trout and their natural habitats – artwork admired by enthusiasts and featured in prestigious settings.

-Expert Insights: Benefit from Weinberg's years of experience, alongside interviews with other fly fishing experts.

-More Than Just Fishing: Explore unexpected elements, from understanding insect life cycles to pairing the perfect beer with your catch.

**THE FLY FISHING BOOK** isn't just an instructional guide; it's a beautiful object that will enhance any coffee table. With its broad appeal and stunning visuals, it's the perfect gift for anyone who appreciates the art and tranquility of fly fishing.



"This book brought a big smile to my face. It's crisply written—with tons of helpful tips—and gorgeously illustrated, a winner for kids and adults, beginners, and experts. But above all, it's just plain fun, which is exactly what the sport of fly fishing should be." – Monte Burke, NYT Bestselling author of *Rivers Always Reach the Sea*, *Lords of the Fly* and *Saba*

**Steven Weinberg's** books and art have been featured in The New York Times, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, and The Smithsonian Institute. He's written and/or illustrated more than fifteen books for kids and adults. Steven and his wife, Casey Scieszka, also own and operate the Spruceton Inn: a Catskills Bed and Bar. Their annual artist residency hosts world-renowned painters, bestselling authors, and Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award finalists.

Sources: amazon.com and the publishers

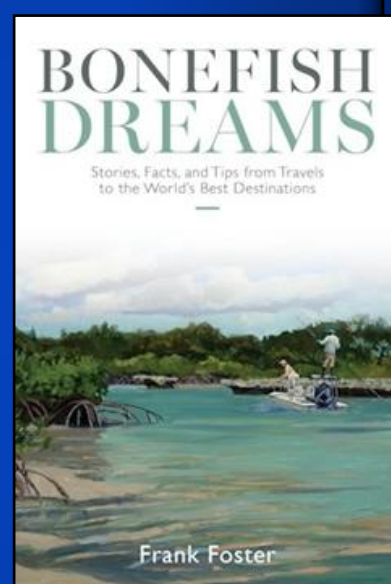
### **Bonefish Dreams and Other Essays**

**Author:** Frank Foster  
**Print length:** 272 pages  
**ISBN-10:** 0811778126  
**ISBN-13:** 978-0811778121  
**Publisher:** G11-Stackpole Books GPQ  
**Publication Date:** 21 April 2026

**Bonefish Dreams** is a light-hearted but fact-filled romp through a novelist's almost forty-year obsession with fly fishing. Prepare to be informed and entertained by this worldwide, how-to guidebook that visits resplendent saltwater flats, up-scale lodges, and some celebrities while introspectively examining the soul of the fly-fishing angler.

#### **"BONEFISH DREAMS**

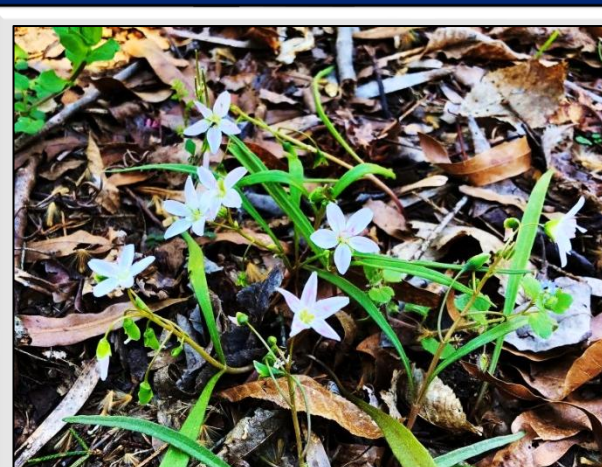
is a fun read whether for anglers between trips to the flats or anglers with a flats fishing trip on their bucket list. This book is an entertaining collection of tales from an itinerant angler who has pursued bonefish and many other species in just about every place they swim. With a fly rod, of course."



~Aaron Adams, Ph.D., Director of Science and Conservation for Bonefish & Tarpon Trust; Author of *Fisherman's Coast* and *The Orvis Guide to Fly Fishing for Coastal Gamefish*

Before becoming a published author, **Frank Foster** was chairman and CEO of one of America's fastest-growing small public companies. After his company was acquired he became a commercial real estate investor, developer, and independent venture capitalist. Frank and his wife live in Central Florida and the mountains of North Carolina as he writes, fly fishes, enjoys his wine cellars, and plays golf with his treasured friends.

Sources: amazon.com and the publishers



# ANGLER REFLECTIONS



## Changing Seasons

reflections and photos  
by Michael Lawler Smith

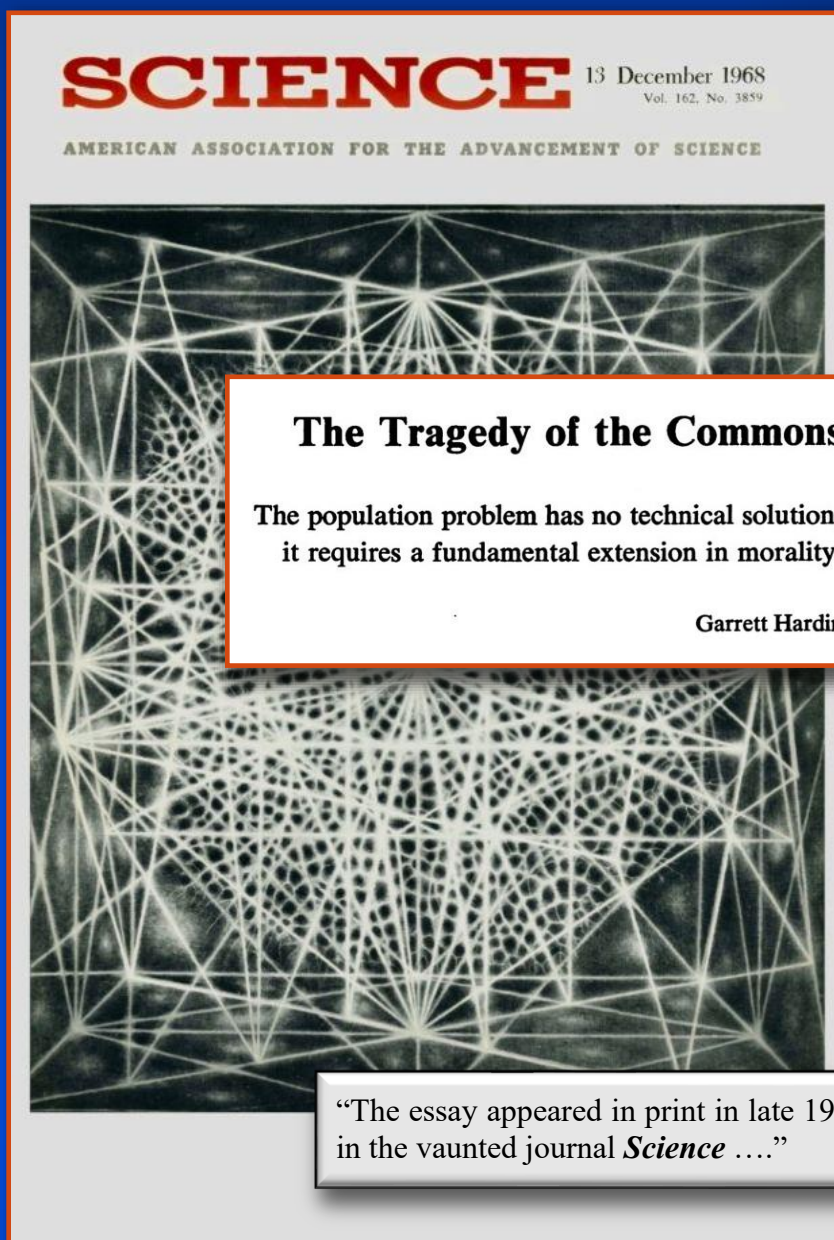
The winter just past was unusually glum for me. I don't suffer the season gladly under the best of times. The most recent brought an interval of loss, including the final passages of old friends. Lest I revivify that gloom, it is sufficient to say that relying on some old favorites brought surcease; and slow, steady increments of day length added glimmers that spring might eventually prevail.

One of the reading "favorites" that rekindled my spirits is an odd one, indeed. A provocative essay published over half a century ago, "The Tragedy of the Commons," isn't usually the kind of reading that sparks uncontrollable giggles [*essential aside: but if so, please seek help promptly*]. No, it is an historically important jeremiad that asserts that our species' overpopulation will stress ecosystems beyond capacity and inevitably yield horrific environmental crises. So, why have I re-read this essay numerous times over the intervening decades? And why do I continue to "lock horns" with it now? Because I find in it something timeless.

The essay appeared in print in late 1968, in the vaunted journal **Science**, based upon a paper its author, Garrett Hardin, had delivered to a conference earlier that year. Some of you may be of a generation that can recall 1968. It was a year of considerable tumult. My reaction to its long-ago initial reading? I redoubled my efforts to be part of conservation, of environmental protection. And somehow, within a brace of years, I was enrolled in a graduate program pursuing just such a role. Needless to say, Hardin's essay was much discussed and debated during my grad school days in Wisconsin.

The essay continued to echo through the years, largely within the tea kettle of academe, with countering visions galore. And, predictably, the *ad hominem* attacks: Hardin was *this*; no, Hardin was *that*. I followed these analyses, the claims, and counter claims, down through the years. Over time, I agreed and I disagreed -- both with Hardin and his critics. Currently, I do both -- reflecting accurately, I think, my conflicted earliest response. Part of my reaction, as always: I am drawn to conservation -- especially as I understand "the commons (The Commons)."

Do I recommend its reading? Maybe. It is easily located online. Be advised: it brings a whiff of brimstone. Some may find it too disquieting. My most recent re-reading was to turn back my personal clock -- a curious quest for an unusual spring tonic, to recall not just the tumult of 1968 but to perhaps savor the memory of the optimism of that era. My optimism, about conservation, environmental protection, my future.



### The Tragedy of the Commons

The population problem has no technical solution;  
it requires a fundamental extension in morality.

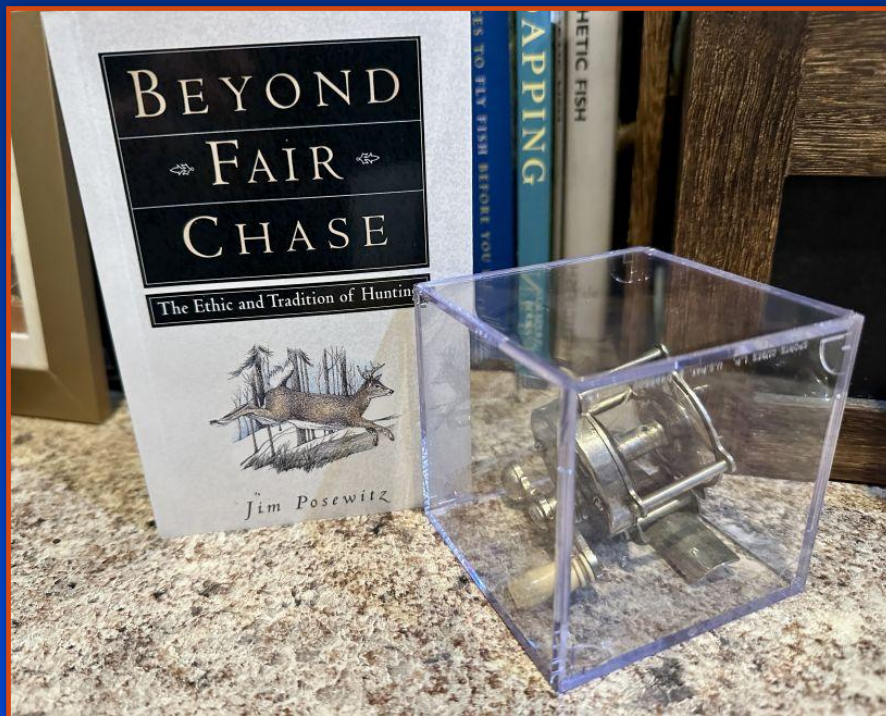
Garrett Hardin

"The essay appeared in print in late 1968,  
in the vaunted journal **Science** ...."

**"Angler Reflections" continues on the next page.**

# ANGLER REFLECTIONS -- CONTINUED

Another re-reading I recently undertook was far less provocative, but with a message equally essential in these times. ***Beyond Fair Chase: The Ethic and Tradition of Hunting*** was greeted with justifiable praise and recognition upon its publication thirty some years ago. Its author, Jim Posewitz, a retired wildlife biologist from Wyoming, crafted a relatively brief but deeply moving argument of behalf of *doing more* to assure that one's behavior in the hunt is not only legal, but ethical. And beyond that, a conscious endeavor to safeguard hunting's future with proactive practices throughout the year, not just during open seasons.

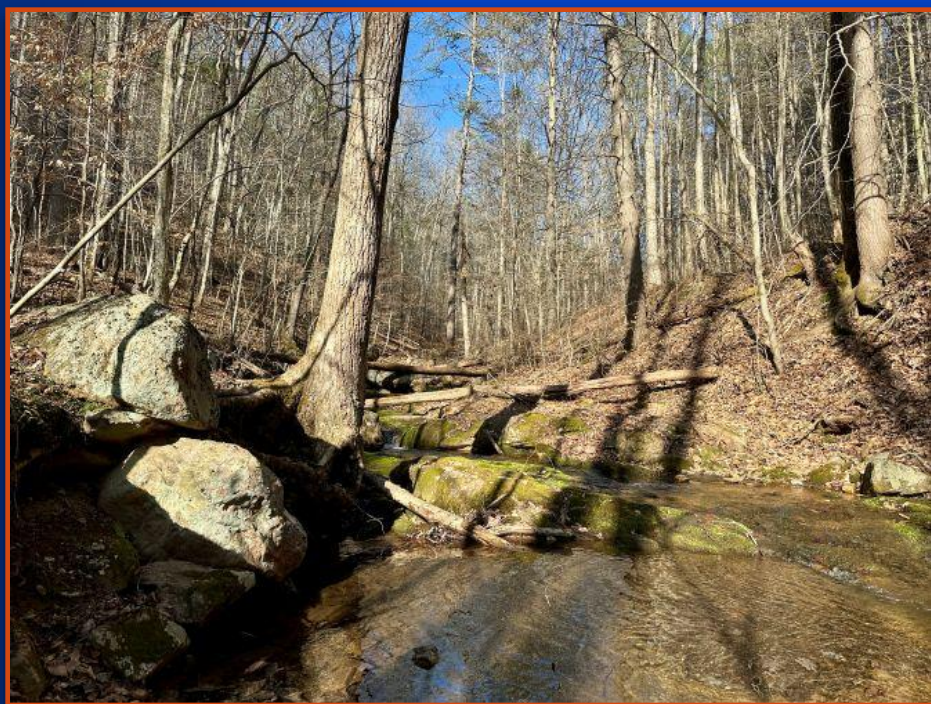


He stresses the need for preparation, physically, mentally, and morally. His argument is not shrill. It is steady, thoughtful. The examples he provides are uncomplicated but revealing – and very rewarding. His prose is simple, spare, and elegant. On this re-reading, I was struck anew (as I was in the mid-1990's when it first appeared): ***Why is there no published counterpart for anglers?*** Even if you do not hunt, nor have ever hunted, this is a book an angler can treasure; it underscores the importance of establishing a solid moral context before venturing afield.

On this reading I consciously sought to supplant “hunting” with “fishing” in several sections of the book. It was eye-opening. I think we are already arrived at a stage where a more rigorous ethical examination of our fishing is due. Unfortunate examples of need are daily fodder on Facebook, YouTube, and other social media.

Early March found me in Lexington, VA, where I spent a dozen or so years in early retirement. This trip was for the annual meeting of the Virginia/Virginia Tech Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. I try to never miss these meetings. The presentations never disappoint. This year a number of papers focused on the uses of eDNA technology<sup>1</sup>. There were few attendees in my age bracket; but fortunately, there was one seated nearby for whom my reference to eDNA as “Buck Rogers stuff” was not totally lost.

The meeting coincided with the first warm sunny afternoon of “almost Spring,” and I suddenly recalled a wisp of a nearby mountain brook. Did it remain as lovely as I had imagined? Only one sure way to know. The road to its hollow was somehow longer than I recalled; twistier, too. But I arrived at the mouth of the hollow as the sun was swiftly heading toward a western ridge. I rigged in a trice: a dainty ultralight Tenkara rod, only 160 cm long, several grams shy of an ounce. The fly was one of my early spring go-to's: green thread body, a spiral wrap of small black wire, a turn or two of peacock herl and a very sparse starling hackle. Size 14.



**Above:** A late twentieth century book that remains especially timely — for anglers.

**Left:** A little mountain stream on a warming afternoon in early March. Hints of Spring arrive in the Blue Ridge.

**“Angler Reflections” continues on the next page.**

<sup>1</sup>eDNA technology allows detection and monitoring species in the environment by analyzing genetic material left behind in soil, water, or air. It allows scientists to monitor species without catching or even seeing them.

# ANGLER REFLECTIONS -- CONTINUED

Eager to fish, I hurried to a close-in series of known pools, still in sunlight but now accepting lengthening shadows. My early casts caught: stream bank, twigs, log, one slender frond of a sapling. Fortunately, no permanent imbedding of the fly, and soon enough the fly began actual contact with water. Amazing how effective that can be. And scarcely a minute later, the 7x tippet tightened and my first brook trout of the year earned entry to my acrylic photo tank. Its brief session in the afternoon sun concluded my winter. I looked upstream. Shafts of sun glowed upon the pools. Somehow, for an instant, I was no longer brook trout fishing but captive in a little lobe of heaven.



On another outing, mid-April, spring now well established, I hiked to a stream in Shenandoah County. I had the same small, frail Tenkara along with me, though the potential for its successful use ranged from unrealistic to risible. I just needed to hike. I'd been stewing a fortnight about a "reorganization" of a federal agency on whose very land I now trod. Winter's bleakness wanted back in. Big time.

My destination was a meager stream I'd written about before ("Once Upon a Time in the West," Lateral Lines, May 2024). It offered the kind of solitude I needed. And, after all, had it not utterly surprised me nearly six years earlier? Perhaps some magic might recur. And something did, in a way. There was no miraculous return appearance of brook trout – though the waters that day had the same beguiling glisten native creeks flaunt in spring.

On the hike in, I became aware of how unusually dry the trail was. April here often meant a marshy slog. But the upland section was dry, almost dusty. I noted and pressed on. Descending the steep slope into the riparian zone, the trail was now moist, a good sign. The creek itself was beautiful. As ever. But troublingly low for the season. I paced the ridge trail high above the creek. Am I too old to try this descent? I found a place to access the water. I lingered only fifteen minutes. I offered a few casts. My expectations were not high. As I told myself, brook trout *could* revisit this stream someday. Today, I accepted, was not that day. It offered beauty and its inimitable creek sound: gifts enough.

On my hike out, I reflected on what I had learned about this stream valley, about the habitat needs of brook trout and about forest ecology during the past six years. I found it surprising that I somehow knew what scope of environmental restoration this little valley would require to allow its natives to return. And I realized how grateful I was that in countless other little valleys across this country other hikers and anglers, of varying ages, are reaffirming their commitment to conservation, to safeguarding their commons, to fealty to a living earth.



**Above:** The writer returned to his stream of mystery, one that featured native trout but for only one brief season. This spring brought different rewards.

**Left:** Brook trout have the power to put winter to rout; the writer will never believe otherwise.



# Winchester TU Monthly "BarFly" Events

Wednesday, 20 May 2026, 7:00 PM

Wednesday, 17 June 2026, 7:00 PM

Wednesday, 15 July 2026, 7:00 PM

Escutcheon Brewery  
Commercial St., Winchester, VA



See you at the next  
Winchester TU BarFly.



Chartreuse Woolly Bugger  
by Dave Juth

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.



**SOUTH FORK FLY FISHING TOURNAMENT**



BENTONVILLE VIRGINIA  
**2026**

**Saturday, May 30, 2026**

884 Indian Hollow Road  
Bentonville, VA US 22610

**DOWNRIVER VIRGINIA CANOE COMPANY STATE PARKS**



### Tournament Overview

- Competitors must use park-designated access points only
- 6:30 a.m. - Check-in begins
- 7:30 a.m. - Lines in
- 2:30 p.m. - Mandatory lines-out
- 3:30 p.m. - Awards

**Prizes include trophies, gear, gift cards, and more!**

### Categories

- ★ Grand Champion
- 🏆 The Lunker
- 🏆 Lady Lunker
- 🏆 Youth Lunker
- The Small Fry
- The Bottom Feeder



Scan for information and registration!



Registration Fees

Adults \$50

Youth (ages 10-15) \$25

**Scan for information and registration!**



Registration Fees

Adults \$50

Youth (ages 10-15) \$25

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



## Poet's Corner:

Poems selected for the angler

### At the Spring Dawn

by Miss Angelina Grimké  
1880-1958  
American



MISS ANGELINA GRIMKÉ  
Ink wash by W.M. Prokopchak © 2026 after a PUBLIC DOMAIN, Gutenberg Project drawing by an unidentified artist

I watched the dawn come,  
Watched the spring dawn come.  
And the red sun shouldered his way up  
Through the grey, through the blue,  
Through the lilac mists.  
The quiet of it! The goodness of it!  
And one bird awoke, sang, whirred  
A blur of moving black against the sun,  
Sang again—afar off.  
And I stretched my arms  
                    to the redness of the sun,  
Stretched to my finger tips,  
And I laughed.  
Ah! It is good to be alive, good to love,  
At the dawn,  
At the spring dawn.

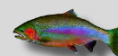


## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Yes, we did some short-leash nymphing. Also caught some browns on dry flies and spey fishing... It was bizarre seeing the size of the BWO hatch during snow storms and high winds.

Kurt Nyberg  
Somewhere in Montana



## USED KAYAK SALE

**USED HERITAGE FEATHERLITE 9.5 FISHING/RECREATIONAL KAYAK**  
**contact the seller directly: Stuart Pregnall**  
**<stuartpregnall@gmail.com>**

Perfect flat water fishing/recreational kayak.  
Lightweight and stable platform for lakes and calm river waters.

Complete outfit – Specs:

Length - 9.5

Width – 30

Weight – 39 pounds

Capacity - 300 lbs

Accessories:

Aqua Bound Paddle,

Stohlquest Fisherman Vest

Yakima Bow Down Roof Rack

58-inch Yakima Cross Bars

Yakima Timberline Raised Roof Rack Attachments

Garage Wall Storage Rack

The kayak and gear as they appear in the seller's garage.



# Calendar of Events

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

## Winchester Trout Unlimited

(For the complete Winchester Project Healing Waters calendar, please see page 14 of this newsletter.)

### May 2026

#### Thursday, 7 May 2026

6:00 PM – Winchester Priority Waters monthly meeting  
 Rachel's Kitchen, Shenandoah Lodge, Lake Frederick, VA

#### Thursday, 7 May 2026

7:00 PM – Winchester TU monthly meeting  
 Rachel's Kitchen, Shenandoah Lodge, Lake Frederick, VA

#### Wednesday, 13 May 2026

6:00 PM – Winchester Project Healing Waters monthly meeting  
 Rachel's Kitchen, Shenandoah Lodge, Lake Frederick, VA

#### Wednesday, 20 May 2026 – Winchester Trout Unlimited BarFly

7:00 – 9:00 PM – Escutcheon Brewery, Commercial Street, Winchester

### June 2026

#### Thursday, 4 June 2026

6:00 PM – Winchester Priority Waters monthly meeting  
 Rachel's Kitchen, Shenandoah Lodge, Lake Frederick, VA

#### Thursday, 4 June 2026

7:00 PM – Winchester TU monthly meeting  
 Rachel's Kitchen, Shenandoah Lodge, Lake Frederick, VA

#### Wednesday, 17 June 2026 – Winchester Trout Unlimited BarFly

7:00 – 9:00 PM – Escutcheon Brewery, Commercial Street, Winchester

#### Thursday, 18 June 2026

6:00 PM – Winchester Project Healing Waters monthly meeting  
 Rachel's Kitchen, Shenandoah Lodge, Lake Frederick, VA

### July 2026

#### Thursday, 2 July 2026

At publication time, plans were not finalized for a Priority Waters meeting in July.

#### Thursday, 2 July 2026

Winchester Trout Unlimited does not have a monthly meeting in July.

#### July 2026

Winchester Project Healing Waters monthly meeting TBA

#### Wednesday, 15 July 2026 – 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.

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