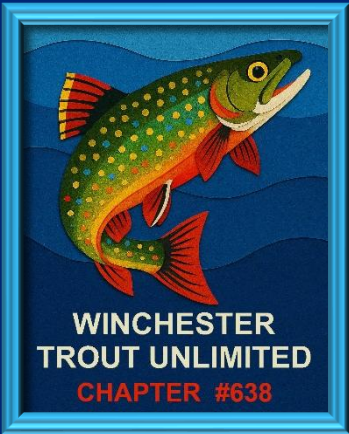




Celebrating
31 Years of
Lateral Lines

Lateral Lines

Monthly Magazine of Winchester Trout Unlimited
Chapter #638

Children have a great deal of willpower – and even more won't power. –Anon.

August 2026

Volume 31, Numbers 8

Next Winchester TU Meeting

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

Winchester TU Priority Waters Meeting

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

Project Healing Waters Monthly meeting

Wednesday, 12 August 2026, 6:00 PM
Shenandoah Lodge, Lake Frederick, VA

BarFly

The next Winchester TU BarFly
Wednesday, 19 August 2026
7:00 PM at Escutcheon Brewing Co.
142 W. Commercial Street, Winchester



For complete calendars, please see

Page 13 for Winchester Project Healing Waters

Pages 4 & 19 for Winchester Priority Waters

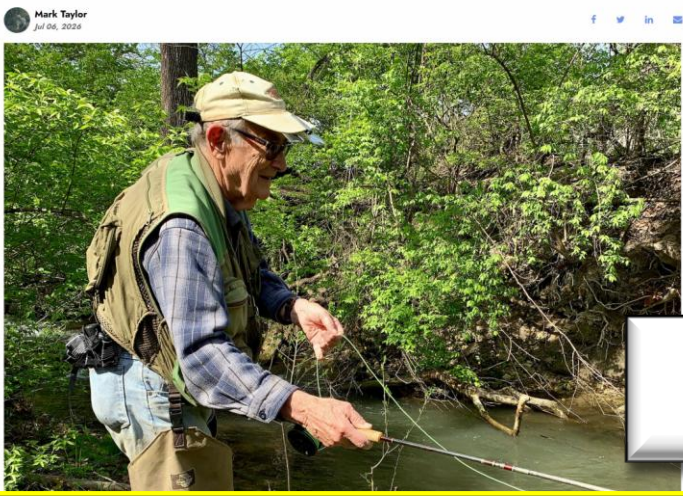
Page 19 for Winchester Trout Unlimited

Bill Prokopchak, Newsletter Editor
wilpro@comcast.net

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Stream champion: Bernard "Bud" Nagelvoort



Bud Nagelvoort named Trout Unlimited STREAM CHAMPION

Please ctrl-click on the link below to
see the entire article from the TU
online publication **TROUT WEEKLY**.

Stream Champion: Bernard
"Bud" Nagelvoort - Trout Unlimited



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

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

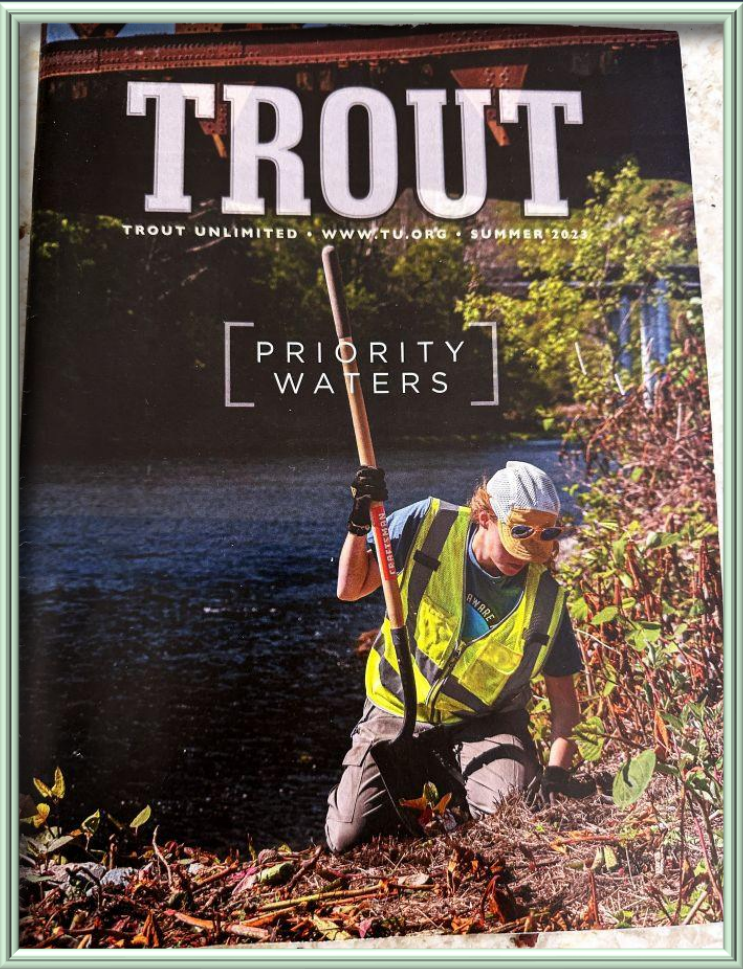
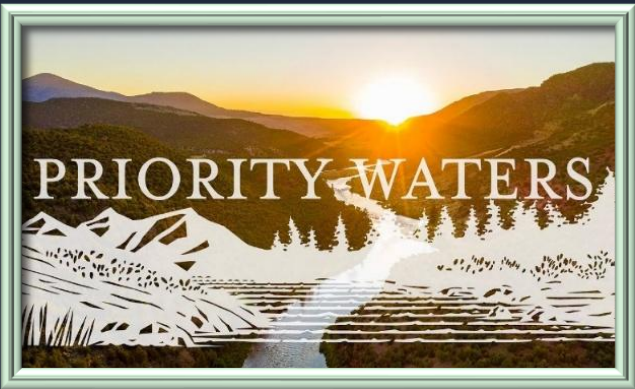
Brad Fink is a Coldwater Fisheries Biologist with the Virginia
Department of Wildlife Resources.

photo courtesy of Virginia DNR



Winchester Priority Waters: A Pause to Reflect *An Appreciation*

by Michael Lawler Smith
photos by Michael Lawler Smith



Indeed! What if, with a little tugging here and there, we could “stretch” that famous region a tad westward to include Massanutten Mountain, a rampart of the Ridge and Valley province?

Was it worth a try? Would the Winchester Chapter leadership listen to a proposal to support two Massanutten creeks as our Priority Waters? In 2023 I was still a newcomer to the chapter. And this would be a *big* request.

I was open about my motivation. I was nominating my two favorite waters (more on that in a moment). These were quite humble but endearing little creeks at the northern end of Fort Valley, the “heart” of Massanutten, that I had fished for nearly a decade by that time. And in that time, I had encountered only one other angler on the creeks. Thus, each offered rare solitude. Each had its charms; but both faced challenges. My brook trout tally each year was declining. Signs of scouring floods and stream channel incision grew more obvious with each passing season. Banks at stream bends that had hosted stalwart trees were now eroding concave walls of bare earth. Fallen timber and stout root balls told the rest of the tale.

Above: The issue that started it all. Could the Winchester chapter respond? It could!

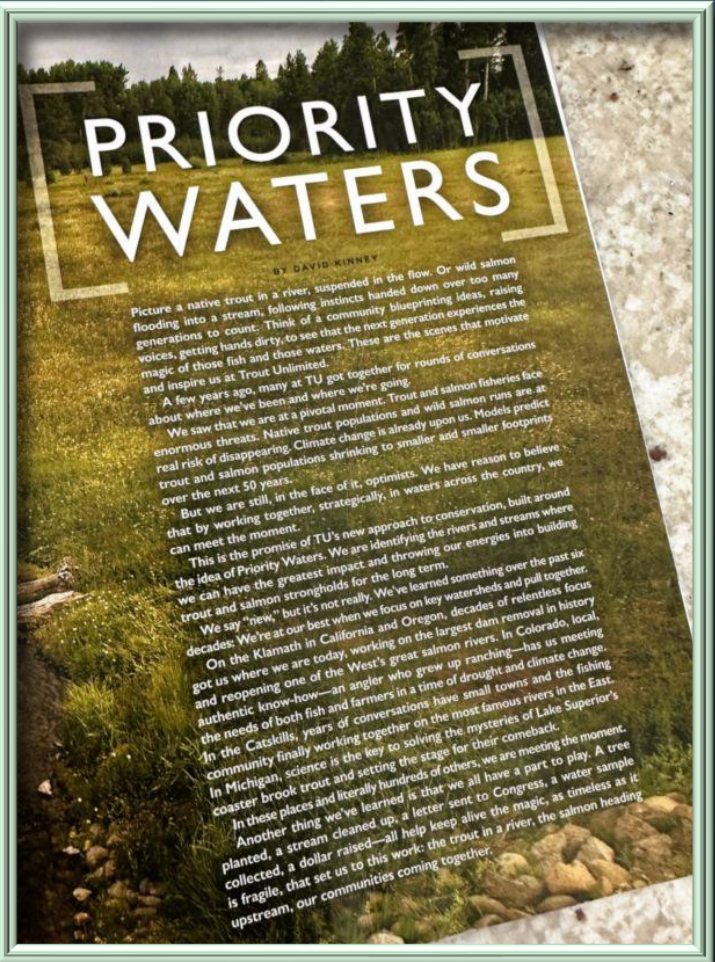
Right: David Kinney’s 2023 article pointed to an exciting and challenging opportunity for coldwater conservationists.

The Priority Waters Team has already logged a pretty vigorous roster of tasks in 2026. A calendar happenstance, however, found us without a meeting or field event these past few weeks to report upon. So, offered herewith, is one team member’s reflection on the national program, our adoption (and adaptation) of it and some discoveries along the way.

I recall pretty clearly the arrival of the Summer 2023 number of *TROUT* Magazine. Each issue is an event and worth hanging on to, especially in this digital age in which “hard copy” editions of any publication seem to have fallen by history’s wayside. And I recall, too, my initial reaction to David Kinney’s article in that issue announcing the future Priority Waters endeavor: How on earth could so grand an endeavor – after all, it cited waters and regions as vaunted as the Klamath, Colorado, the Catskills – ever involve a chapter as small as ours? What could we contribute?

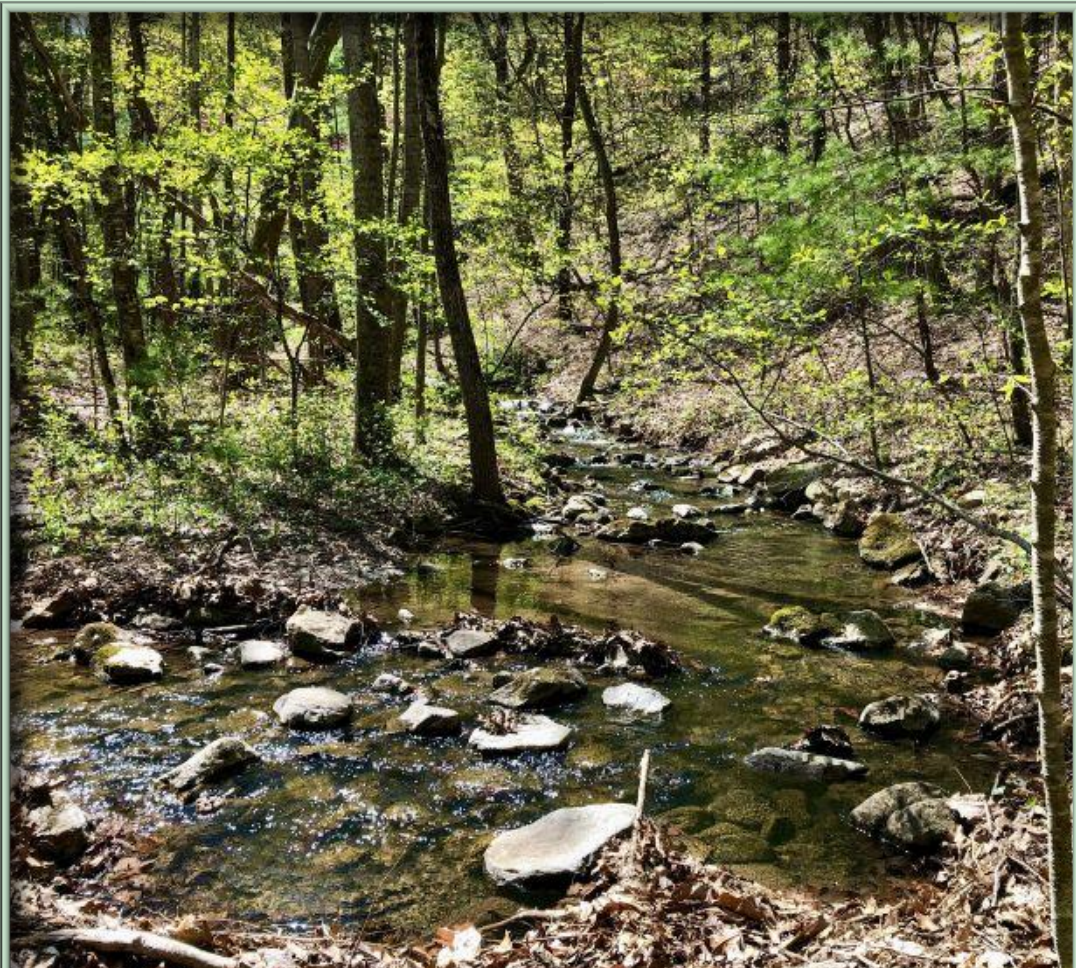
Perhaps I mentally filed it away in that mental folder headed “Wouldn’t it be great if ...” Still, the idea was appealing. Certainly, the timing seemed right. Climate change was nearing a gallop. Increased water demands were becoming obvious in the Commonwealth, and that new construction phenomena – vast windowless repositories called data centers – were starting to sprout like bull thistle across recently-rural landscapes everywhere.

Then an idea began to rumble about in my head. Had not the article specified that the scope of Priority Waters would include “the Blue Ridge”?



“Priority Waters” continues on the next page.

Winchester Priority Waters -- continued



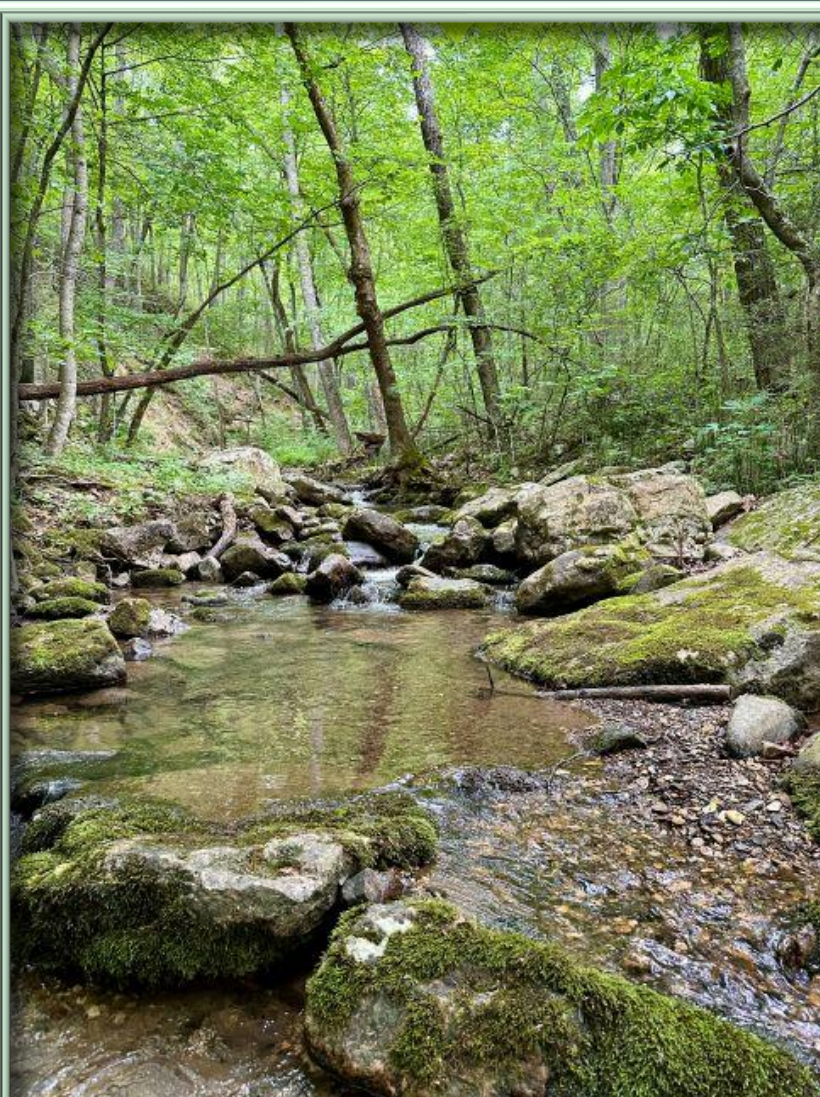
Left: Brown's Run, among the very first brook trout restoration fisheries on Massanutten Mountain — and a source of the author's longtime fascination with brook trout recovery efforts.

Below: The wild seed stock for both Mill Run and Little Passage came from this lovely brook farther south on Massanutten's flanks. The author won't share its name here, but is more than willing to take anglers there in person.

Why were Mill Run at Veach's Gap and Little Passage Creek my favorites? Well, every favorite creek I've ever had share this common denominator: they're all "underdogs." A late, dear friend used to chide me about this fascination of mine, calling these little project waters my "stray puppies." I had to agree. I have a couple others here in the Commonwealth — Simpson Creek in Alleghany County, and a wisp of a mountain trickle in Amherst County so tiny I dare not name it. I will share this feature about it, though: I doubt it has even a quarter mile of brook trout habitat left. Likewise, in Colorado (home to so many famous "Gold Medal Waters"), I espouse for two modest and unremarkable little streams that I visit every chance I get: one of which offers some of the most beautiful cutthroat I have seen anywhere. So, my "stray puppy" penchant will likely remain with me the balance of my days.

I am grateful our chapter's board has a stray puppy fancier or two as well. While our two little waters will never be "destination fisheries," nor ever sustain much angling pressure, I submit the choices were good ones. Beyond being my "underdogs," both represent a special class of streams here in Virginia: "restoration fisheries." There is only small number of such waters to which native trout have been restored. I submit that there should be a place for restoration fisheries among the broad expanse of Priority Waters. They capture what went wrong once upon a time — and what we as committed angler/conservationists can do right. Such stream restoration is not a quick or cheap endeavor, but thanks to the diligence and efforts of the Forest Service and the Department of Wildlife Resources (plus other TU chapters in the past, notably Northern Virginia and Front Royal) Massanutten Mountain hosts at least two other waters in that status, Upper Passage Creek and Brown's Run.

In fact, the latter stream was the very first restoration water I ever became aware of -- now several decades ago. A young Forest Service biologist named Dawn Kirk made a presentation to the Northern Virginia Chapter about Brown's Run and shared plans that there could be further restoration efforts on Massanutten in the future. I found that idea heartening and incredibly exciting — the prospect of restoring wild native brook trout fisheries! Where do I sign up? I like to think my zeal has not waned since.



"Priority Waters" continues on the next page.

Winchester Priority Waters -- continued

“There’s no such thing as an *unimportant* creek!”

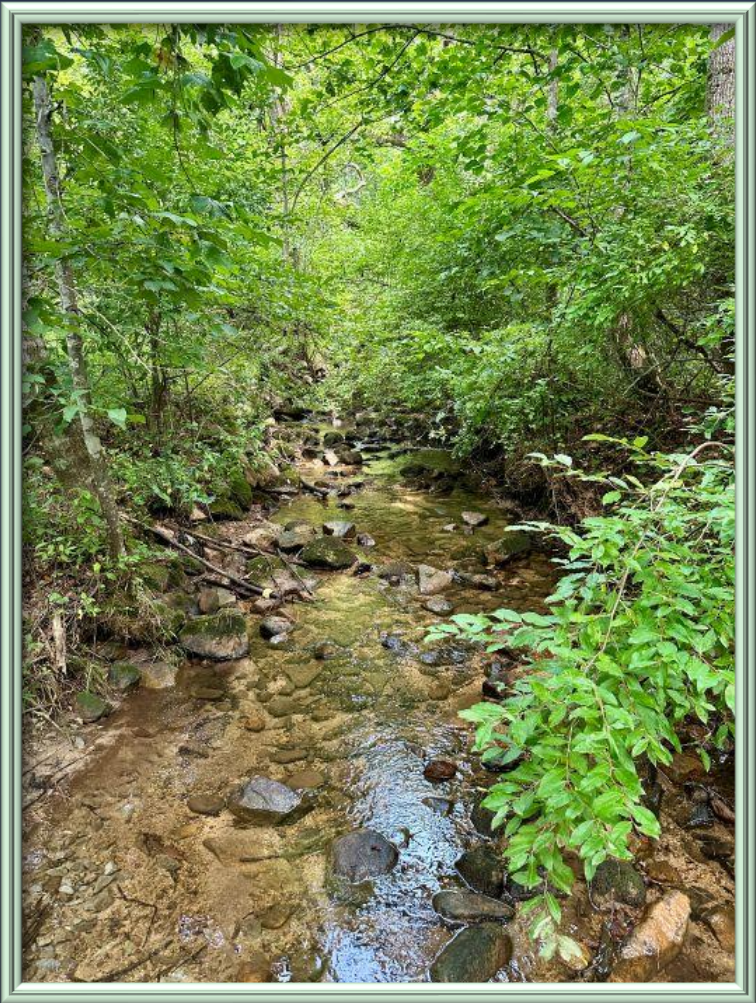


Left: This handsome specimen from the donor stream now has kin in our two restoration waters farther north.

Below: Afternoon in mid-July on Mill Run. Temperature and flow were surprisingly good despite ongoing drought and record heatwaves. The results of the 6 May electroshocking lifted the Priority Waters spirits significantly. Wild native brook trout, the author has concluded, can be astonishingly tough and resilient. But they nonetheless need our help and support.

I am grateful that I have been able to successfully fish for natives not only in the four northernmost restoration streams. But now have an opportunity to help safeguard the two geographically closest to our chapter. I am deeply grateful to all my colleagues on our Priority Waters team – and especially appreciative of the wise guidance and leadership Mike Makufka has so unselfishly provided us. Likewise, I am so appreciative of the enthusiasm, hard work, camaraderie, and dedication of all the crew. Newcomers and seasoned volunteers alike have contributed – and benefitted. And I am happy to reiterate here that invitation we issue in every monthly report: new members to the team are always welcome.

Thanks to this chapter’s Priority Waters initiative, I have learned far more about brook trout biology and stream conservation than I ever would have if I had stayed mum and not apprised the chapter of my two “pet” streams and their need for protection. So, for the time being, as we foster my two “stray puppies,” I think the lessons we are learning to help protect restoration streams may genuinely be of some value to TU statewide and, just maybe, to our national organization as a whole. To borrow a phrase I use often in another conservation group I work with: “There’s no such thing as an *unimportant* creek!”



Dates Scheduled for Winchester Priority Waters 2026 Field Work

<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>
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



WINCHESTER HEALING WATERS

all Project Healing waters articles by Wayne White



PHW PART 1 OF 8 WINCHESTER PROGRAM ADDS NEW MONTHLY MEETING AT MARTINSBURG VET CENTER

In an effort to expand Healing Waters services to Veterans in the Martinsburg, WV, area, the Winchester program held its first monthly meeting at the Martinsburg Vet Center in Falling Waters, WV, on 3 August 26.

This meeting and the plan to continue monthly meetings at the new venue are initiatives by the Vet Center and the Winchester program to offer activities and events for participants living in the vicinity of the Vet Center and the Martinsburg area. The Winchester program will provide volunteers to run the meetings and the resources to support the Healing Waters core services of fly-tying, fly-casting, and fishing education.

It is important to note that Project Healing Waters is not establishing a new program for this location. Veterans and volunteers in the Martinsburg area interested in participating in Healing Waters will be administratively enrolled in the Winchester program.

Winchester volunteers Phil Stevens and Dan Soper are leading this effort and will work with Andrew Chancey, Vet Center Outreach Program Specialist, to conduct meetings and track participant attendance. Initially, these meetings will be open only to Veterans who are clients of the Vet Center, and those Winchester participants who live in the vicinity of the Vet Center. As attendance is assessed and documented over the next four months, other Winchester participants and volunteers will be allowed to attend these meetings.

The new Winchester Program monthly meetings will be held from 6:00 to 7:30 PM on the first Monday of each month at the Vets Center, 1176 T J Jackson Drive, Suite D, Falling Waters, WV.



If you know of a Veteran in the Martinsburg area who may be interested in Healing Waters, please contact Andrew Chancey, Andrew.chancey@va.gov, 304-263-6776 x 5314.

Top: Vet Center logo

Left: The Vet Center in Falling Waters, WVA, is now an alternate meeting venue for the Winchester PHW program.
photo provided by Andrew Chancey

“Winchester Healing Waters” continues on the next page.



WINCHESTER HEALING WATERS

A FINAL LOOK AT WINCHESTER'S 2026 SPRING FISHING

In keeping with its goal of more fishing outings more often this past Spring, Winchester participants and volunteers fished in local Virginia waters, at the Leetown Hatchery in West Virginia, and even ventured into Pennsylvania in search of wild trout. The following stories cover events not included in the last *Lateral Lines*. In addition to the outings, PHW supported the "National Go Fish Day" celebration in Shenandoah National Park.

PHW PART 2 OF 8

WINCHESTER HEALING WATERS TURKEY MOUNTAIN FLY FISHING CLUB HOSTS WINCHESTER VETERANS ON THE THORNTON RIVER

The Turkey Mountain Fly Fishing Club sponsored a day outing for Winchester participants and volunteers on the Thornton River in Sperryville, VA, on Saturday, 6 June. The club manages about three-quarters of a mile of the river that runs through the Mount Vernon Farm, and stocks trout about three times a year for its members. The river also holds smallmouth bass, fall fish, red-eye bass, and bluegills, which allows for year-round angling. The club also maintains many easy access points to the stream and has named and marked all of the favorite angling holes.

Although the weather was unseasonably warm for early June, the morning clouds kept the water temperature in the low 70s, which was just cool enough to keep the recently stocked rainbows active and hungry. Although participants and volunteers successfully landed and released a substantial number of trout before noon, the afternoon sunny skies scattered the fish to safer, cooler places where they hunkered down for the rest of the day.



Eric Bradley tries straight-line nymphing the section known as "the Confluence," where the North Fork of the Thornton joins the river at the beginning of the TMFFC section.

photo by Luke Robins

"Winchester Healing Waters Part 2 of 8"
continues on the next page.



PHW PART 2 OF 8 – CONTINUED

WINCHESTER HEALING WATERS ON THE THORNTON RIVER

The Winchester Participants and Volunteers want to thank the Turkey Mountain Fly Fishing Club for hosting this event. Many thanks to Jim Galvin, a TMFCC member and Winchester PHW Ambassador, for coordinating and leading the event. Jim has been a longtime supporter of PHW and notes that the TMFFC supported the PHW Mosey Creek Invitational in past years by providing an outing on the Thornton River as a training run for the national event. Many thanks to Phil Stevens for coordinating Mission B-B-B-Q in Charlottesville, VA, for providing lunch.

Right: The “Migrant Pool” is where Jackson Dierberg found this nice fish and several others before the bite turned off.
photo by Burr Tupper

Below: The Winchester Participants and Volunteers take a moment to capture their day on the Thornton in front of the TMFFC Clubhouse.
photo by Jim Galvin



“Winchester Healing Waters” continues on the next page.

PHW PART 3 OF 8

WINCHESTER HEALING WATERS WINCHESTER VETERANS ENJOY ANOTHER DAY OF “CATCHING” AT THE LEETOWN HATCHERY

A cool, bright, late spring day at the Leetown Hatchery in Kearneysville, WV, on Saturday, 30 May, provided excellent conditions for the Winchester Veterans to stalk some unusually large Rainbow trout.

Even with the bright sunshine, the fish were not fussy and attacked an assortment of wet flies, nymphs, and streamers. It was a banner day of fishing, or as some may call it, “catching.”

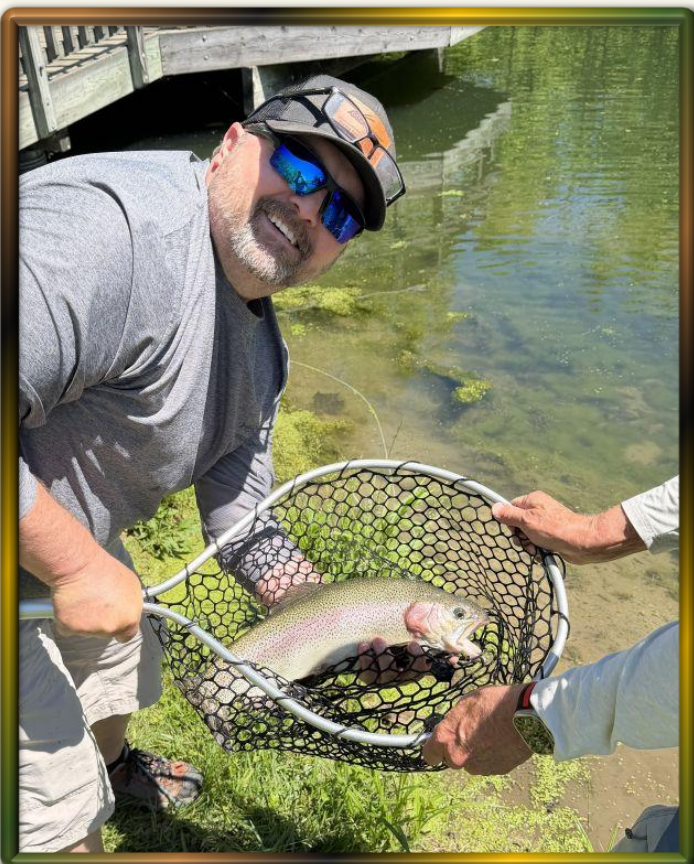
For his many years of support of Project Healing Waters, the Winchester program presented Frank Roach, the operator of the USGS hatchery, with an original watercolor print by Dan Soper, titled “The Leetown Rainbow.”



Top right: Norman Marriott takes a photo of his very first trout he landed on a fly rod with the help of Fran McVeigh.

Below: Christian Nelson holds one of his many big rainbows. Besides capturing top honors for the most trout caught, he also landed some big, largemouth bass. He said his secrets to big trout were improving his casting and changing positions at his favorite spots to make a better presentation of the fly.

both photos by Wayne White



Above: Heather Wright revives a monster rainbow; her husband, Eric, fought out of the weeds in the back section of the Leetown trout pond.

photo by Eric Custer

“Winchester Healing Waters” continues on the next page.

PHW PART 4 OF 8

WINCHESTER HEALING WATERS PENNS CREEK PROVED CHALLENGING FOR WINCHESTER VETS

Winchester participants had their first opportunity to fish for wild brown trout at the first Penns Creek Challenge, 10 – 12 June, in the vicinity of Weikert, PA. This was the program's first overnight outing, and it offered a clinic on all facets of fly fishing.

Penns Creek is a limestone stream that stretches from Coburn, PA, about 30 miles east of State College, to the Susquehanna River at Duncannon, PA, just north of Harrisburg. The stream at Weikert, section 5, is catch-and-release, artificial-lure-only, and supports a plethora of aquatic insects. This wild brown fishery is renowned for its dry-fly fishing. We were hopeful that this late-Spring trip still held some of those fishing possibilities. However, according to Josh, at the Penns Creek Angler fly shop, the dry-fly fishing this season was downright disappointing. Nonetheless, he chose 12 different patterns for us that are the go-to flies for early June.



Even with the regular Caddis, Stoneflies, Cahills, Slate Drakes, Crane Flies, Sulfurs, and Olives hatches, rising fish were not to be found over the two days. A couple of small browns and some other fish were caught, but the action was limited.

After a frustrating morning the next day, Warren Dudenbostel, fishing several tandem nymph combinations through some tricky spots with no luck, finally mastered the water load cast. He placed a Slate Drake nymph with a Zug Bug trailer into a perfect seam below a fast-moving riffle, where he masterfully hooked, fought, and landed his first brown – a beautiful 16-inch fish that smashed the trail insect with tremendous gusto.



Above: Not to be outdone by the challenging conditions and finicky fish, and still optimistic, Dan Soper focused on tying some of his own subsurface creations in hopes of finding fish feeding.

Left: Warren nets his first wild brown trout after an exceptional presentation and patient fishing.
both photos this page by Wayne White

“Winchester Healing Waters” Part 4 of 8 continues on the next page.



EST. PROJECT 2005
HEALING WATERS

PHW PART 4 OF 8 -- CONTINUED

WINCHESTER HEALING WATERS PENNS CREEK

A storm rolled through in the late afternoon, and some rising fish appeared in the early evening. But there were no bugs on the water, and the large splashes were infrequent and difficult to locate. Assuming the fish were taking emergers, we all switched to wet flies and emergers. Soon thereafter, Kurt Koller hooked his first wild brown on a small caddis emerger. With some coaching, Kurt played the bolting trout like a pro. It was getting dark, and netting the fish was very dicey. With patience and additional instruction, we finally landed the fish.

The fish feeding frenzy was over just as quickly as it began -- all in about 20 minutes. With darkness now settled in, we made our way back to the cabin, where Luke continued the lessons over the two days, talking until midnight about aquatic insects, fly selection, and some additional points on fishing tactics. Discussions about fly selection and fishing a wild trout stream continued the next morning before the group headed home. Although Penns can frustrate even the most seasoned angler, time spent on this special water is always an educational experience.



Above: Kurt Koller plays his first brown trout and, with patience and some fishing finesse, lands the wild fish with perfect control.

Left: Frequent weather fronts often disrupted optimal fishing conditions, giving us a chance to get out of the waders and focus on fly selection, knot tying, and fishing tactics for different areas of the stream. These clinical sessions provided a hands-on approach to hone many practical skills. Here, Luke Robins helps Mike Hyams understand the complexity of the many different insects available to the fish and how to translate that knowledge into effective fly selection.

both photos this page by Wayne White



“Winchester Healing Waters” continues on the next page.

PHW PART 5 OF 8

WINCHESTER HEALING WATERS WINCHESTER VETERANS HELP CELEBRATE NATIONAL “GO FISH DAY”

The Project Healing Waters Virginia Region celebrated “National Go Fish Day” in the Shenandoah National Park on 14 June as part of the Virginia Region's support of the event. This is an annual nationwide event where admission to all Parks is free for the day.

Winchester treated park patrons to fly-tying and casting demonstrations at the Dickey Ridge Visitor's Center, while the other Virginia programs demonstrated Healing Waters activities at Big Meadows Park. The support for this day is a heartfelt thank you on behalf of the Virginia Region and Healing Waters for the annual grant from the National Park Foundation, which funds the Region's annual Wild Brook Trout fishing outings, as well as other fishing opportunities in the Park.

Above right: Gary Myers helps a young visitor learn the basics of a fly cast, pick-up, and put-down at the PHW information booth at the Dickey Ridge Visitors Center.

Right: Many of the 42 visitors to the PHW booth found the fly-tying demonstration very interesting. Jeb Stewart starts a new fly pattern as these two future fly anglers watch intently.

Below: Joining Corrina Wendel, SNP Ranger (c), are Jeb Stewart (l), Gary Myers, Cole Bradshaw, and Mike Hart. Missing from the photo are Mike Smith and Cathy Hart.

all photos this page by Wayne White



“Winchester Healing Waters” continues on the next page.





PHW PART 6 OF 8

WINCHESTER HEALING WATERS

WINCHESTER PLANS AN OUTING AT



Thanks to a new partnership between Project Healing Waters and the Ward Burton (NASCAR fame) Wildlife Foundation (WBWF), the Winchester Healing Waters Program will hold its first fishing and outdoor event for six participants at the foundation's property in Halifax, VA, from 4 – 6 September.

The WBWF hosts Veterans groups, enabling veterans to leverage the proven benefits of being in nature and enjoying the great outdoors, facilitating camaraderie and friendly competition. In addition to Project Healing Waters, the foundation partners with the USO and the Wounded Warrior Project to identify Veterans who will benefit from these outdoor events.

Each of the 10 PHW Virginia Programs will have a three-day outing at the WBWF property in Halifax, VA, this year. Winchester Volunteer, Gary Myers, attended a mandatory leadership training session at the site in May to learn the operations, procedures, and program responsibilities for conducting the outings. Activities include clay shooting, fishing, archery, axe throwing, hiking, and ample time for fellowship and meals together.

Winchester participants interested in attending this outing should contact Jim White or me.

For more information on the foundation, follow the link to the WBWF website <https://www.twbwf.org/>

PHW PART 7 OF 8

WINCHESTER HEALING WATERS

CAPON VALLEY BANK 4TH ANNUAL VETERANS COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

★ **SAVE THE DATE!** ★

Inviting all car enthusiasts

Capon Valley Bank's
**4th Annual
Veterans Community Festival**

NOW BIGGER THAN EVER WITH A
NEW COMMUNITY CAR SHOW

★

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2026
11:00 AM – 3:00 PM
LOCATION: BACKSEAT EVENT CENTER
104 Full House Dr, Winchester, VA 22603

Honoring Our Veterans and Active-Duty Military	Prizes and Awards	Proceeds Benefit Local Veteran Organizations	Family Friendly Fun for All Ages
--	-------------------	--	----------------------------------

REGISTRATION AND MORE INFORMATION TO COME!

TO KEEP UP TO DATE
www.caponvalleybank.com/veterans-2026

Or contact

Melba Thorne	mlthorne@caponvalleybank.com
Scott Evangelista	scott.evangelista@gmail.com

WINCHESTER CHAPTER AUGUST - OCTOBER 2026

by Wayne White



PHW PART 8 OF 8

PLANNED ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS AUGUST - OCTOBER 2026

current as of 14 July 2026

August

- 3 -- Vets Center, Falling Waters, WVA, Initial Monthly Meeting 6:00 – 7:30 PM
- 12 -- Monthly Meeting Wednesday, Rachel's Kitchen, Shenandoah Lodge, Lake Frederick, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM.
- 15 -- Fly Tying at Jake's Bait and Tackle, Winchester, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
- 22 -- (T) Wade Fishing Shenandoah River. Details TBD

September

- 4 – 6 -- Winchester Fishing Outing at Ward Burton Wildlife Foundation, Halifax, VA. Winchester has an allocation for 8 participants.
- 9 -- Monthly Meeting Wednesday, Rachel's Kitchen, Shenandoah Lodge, Lake Frederick, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM.
- 12 -- Winchester Fishing Outing at Leetown Hatchery, Kearneysville, WVA.
- 14 -- Vets Center, Falling Waters, WVA, Monthly Meeting 6:00 – 7:30 PM
- 19 -- Capon Valley Bank 4th Annual Veterans Salute Celebration and Car Show at the new branch in Winchester, across the street from Jake's Bait and Tackle.

October

- 5 – Vets Center, Falling Waters, WVA, Monthly Meeting 6:00 – 7:30 PM
- 14 -- Monthly Meeting Wednesday, Rachel's Kitchen, Shenandoah Lodge, Lake Frederick, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM.
- 17 -- Fly-Tying at Jake's Bait and Tackle, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
- 21 -- Double Spur Outfitters. Winchester Fishing Outing at Cedar Creek, Star Tanery. Limited to six participants and six guides
- 27 -- Rose River, Winchester Day Fishing Outing, Rose River Farm, Syria, VA
– Six participants and six volunteer guides.

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Jim White
Assistant Program Lead
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Barbara's Books

Series created by Barbara Gamble

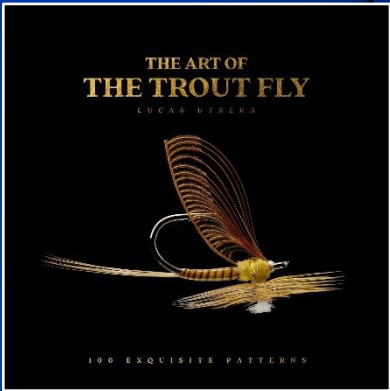
The Art of the Trout Fly

Author: Lucas Utrera
Print Length: 232 pages
ISBN-13: 978-8893961218
Publisher: Familius
Publication Date: 15 September 2026

Fly tying is where angling and art meet, requiring both function and beauty, a traditional practice that has shaped the history of fly fishing.

Umpqua signature fly tyer Lucas Utrera uses design and art principles -- such as color theory, form, symmetry, and the golden ratio to push the boundaries of traditional fly tying.

Balancing innovation and tradition, *The Art of the Trout Fly* showcases Utrera's most unique flies, including the biot wing caddis, the vicolor melted glue ant, and the parachute emerger.



With stunning macrophotography, clear descriptions, and complete material lists for each fly, this collection celebrates beauty in the simplest forms.

More than an instruction manual, it's a coffee table keepsake with gold foil details that will captivate anglers and art lovers alike.

The first time I saw Lucas Utrera's images on Instagram, I immediately followed him (and I don't actively follow many people). His flies are unique and different, and when he ties his patterns, every single hackle fiber seems to be in place. His book, featuring his own photographs (among the best fly images I have ever seen), is a delight to the eye with lots of bright colors and superbly crafted patterns. I imagine even a non-tier would be interested in this book—and for serious fly tiers, these patterns are examples of perfection for emulation." —Tom Rosenbauer, Chief Fly Fishing Enthusiast, Orvis

Lucas Utrera was born in Córdoba, Argentina, but currently lives in Miami, Florida. He's an industrial designer, art director, and professional fly tyer with almost 30 years of experience. Featured in major international publications and nominated as World's Best Fly Tyer in 2022, he shares his unique flies through his social media account @UtreraFlyTying to inspire other fly tyers to go further, break some rules, and be carried away by creative instinct.

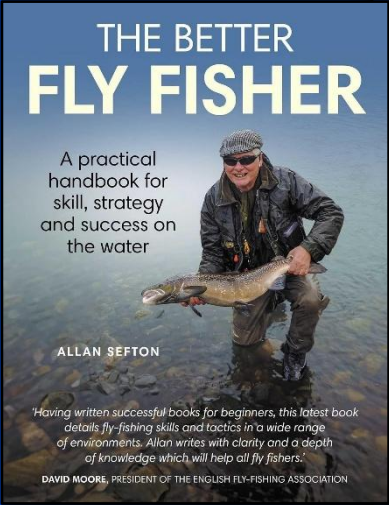
Sources: amazon.com and the publishers

The Better Fly Fisher

Author: Allan Sefton
Print length: 160 pages
ISBN-10: 0719846285
ISBN-13: 978-0719846281
Publisher: The Crowood Press
Publication Date: 27 October 2026

Fly fishing isn't just about the perfect cast – it's about understanding fish behaviour, reading the water like a scientist and approaching every outing with quiet confidence.

In *The Better Fly Fisher*, coach and lifelong angler Allan Sefton shares decades of hands-on experience from fishing rivers, reservoirs and coastal waters across the UK and beyond.



Drawing on a deep understanding of fish ecology and teaching others to catch them, you'll find thoughtful guidance for becoming a more effective and adaptable angler, whether you're chasing trout in tiny streams, salmon on Highland rivers or bonefish on tropical coral flats.

INSIDE, YOU'LL LEARN:

- Why understanding geology, water quality, and fish behaviour matters more than the 'right' fly
- How to correct common casting faults and master single- and double-handed techniques
- What makes fish tick, and why learning their habits pays off
- How to wade, tie flies, read rivers and the environment, and plan your days
- Tactics for stillwater, rivers and saltwater plus what to do when nothing's working

The Better Fly Fisher is packed with practical advice, subtle tricks and perspective-shifting insights. Whether you're new to fly fishing or refining your craft, this book will help you fish with more purpose, perspective and success.

ALLAN SEFTON holds a PhD in freshwater ecology and qualified as a Licensed Level 2 Game Angling Coach. He has coached the England youth fly-fishing team competitors, contributed extensively to *Trout & Salmon* magazine, and authored several angling guides. Allan has pursued trophy fish worldwide across rivers, reservoirs and saltwater flats.

A gentle

Sources: amazon.com and the publishers



ANGLER REFLECTIONS



Gunnison River Float Trip reflections by Peter Smith photos by Rebecca Smith

I visited my adult daughter, Rebecca, where she lives in the Denver area in June 2026. After a few days there, where I met her new dog named Zoe, we all drove about 200 miles west to a nice creek-side cabin near Crested Butte to spend four nights.

"I booked a float trip on the Gunnison River for the two of us, even though my daughter does not fish."



On Tuesday, June 23, I booked a float trip on the Gunnison River for the two of us, even though my daughter does not fish. Only 15 miles south of our cabin is the postal stamp of Almont where the Taylor and the East Rivers converge to form the headwaters of the Gunnison. The river is named after an army topological engineer who was killed by Utes in 1853. It's a tributary of the Colorado River, which it meets 180 miles south at Grand Junction.

After breakfast we met Sam Gigliotti, an independent guide with Crested Butte Angler at the put-in in Almont for our trip on the river. He was late because a bus failed to show up from where the guides park their trucks at the takeout point after unloading their McKenzie style dories upriver at the put-in. (While waiting in a parking lot for Sam, a septic truck entered and on its tank it had an image of a cowboy throwing a lasso at a "Turd Herd.") Sam is a bearded big guy in his 30s who graduated from Western State University. He also has guided in Patagonia in the winter. He is accomplished and has a positive attitude, just what one wants in a guide. Also, there were seven or eight other guide boats at the put-in.



"The Gunnison is 30 to 50 yards wide where we drifted, and its banks are dense with cottonwood and other vegetation"

"Angler Reflections" continues on the next page.

ANGLER REFLECTIONS -- CONTINUED



"I caught between 15 and 20 trout, both browns and rainbows, and lost another 6 to 10 on early releases."

The Gunnison is 30 to 50 yards wide where we drifted, and its banks are dense with cottonwood and other vegetation so one must be aware of possible entanglements when casting. Much of the land on both sides of the river is posted. Due to poor snowpack this past winter, the river was very shallow, about August's usual levels according to Sam, and the bottom of his dory bumped along many sections of rocks in the river. The current alternates between white water ripples and smooth water during the entire float. We did not see any wading anglers.

As for fishing, Rebecca had the rear seat in the drift boat to observe, and I sat in the front. Due to knee issues, I did not stand much. We drifted nine miles on the river and, using nymphs, I caught between 15 and 20 trout, both browns and rainbows, and lost another 6 to 10 on early releases. The largest fish was 16 or 17 inches and fought hard. I was happy to also catch a few small trout because that meant that they were reproducing naturally in the river. Sam said it had not been stocked in over five years. The takes were very subtle and as soon as the hopper disappeared, Sam told me to instantly set the hook. At times the lures hooked up on the shallow rocks, and I did lose one rig to them.

I used a couple of Sam's 5-weight rods with a hopper and a double dropper combination, the bottom one with a copper beadhead. Because the best fishing seemed to be on the right side of the dory, as a right hander, I did a lot of back casting. I estimate the nymphs were about size 16 or 18, tied onto 3X and 4X tippetts respectively. Although I spotted a few sporadic rises, at no time did trout strike the floating hopper. (I noticed that one of the rods was a Temple Fork Outfitter with the logo of Project Healing Waters.)

Sam estimated the water temperature was in the 60s. The air temperature was in the 40s when we started but it rose to about 80 degrees at 1:00 o'clock. A high SPF is recommended due to the sun, thin air, and an altitude of about 8,000 feet. Although it was sunny, there was a trace of smoke in the air from a distant forest fire on the Western Slope of the Continental Divide, where we were. In fact, my cellphone buzzed with a notice of an evacuation alert in an area miles away.

Both Rebecca, who was our unofficial photographer, and I enjoyed the trip and if anyone is visiting the Crested Butte area and is thinking of flyfishing, I can recommend exploring the Gunnison.



Winchester TU Monthly “BarFly” Events

Wednesday, 19 August 2026, 7:00 PM
Wednesday, 16 September 2026, 7:00 PM
Wednesday, 21 October 2027, 7:00 PM

Escutcheon Brewery
Commercial St., Winchester, VA

See you at the next
Winchester TU BarFly.



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.



Foam Ant
by Tedd Gimber



Gurgler
by Luke Robins



Pool Noodle
by Jackson Dierberg



photos by Bill Prokopchak

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Somewhere on the Missouri River in April 2026.
from Kurt Nyberg



Poet's Corner:

Poems selected for the angler

The Waterfall

by *Henry Vaughn*
1622-1695
Welsh



Henry Vaughan
Ink wash by W.M. Prokopchak © 2026
There is no known contemporary portrait of Henry Vaughan. This ink wash portrait is based on an anonymous 19th century "invented likeness" of the poet.

With what deep murmurs through time's
 silent stealth
Doth thy transparent, cool, and wat'ry wealth
Here flowing fall,
And chide, and call,
As if his liquid, loose retinue stay'd
Ling'ring, and were of this steep place afraid;
The common pass
Where, clear as glass,
All must descend
Not to an end,
But quicken'd by this deep and rocky grave,
Rise to a longer course more bright and brave.

Dear stream! dear bank, where often I
Have sate and pleas'd my pensive eye,
Why, since each drop of thy quick store
Runs thither whence it flow'd before,
Should poor souls fear a shade or night,
Who came, sure, from a sea of light?
Or since those drops are all sent back
So sure to thee, that none doth lack,
Why should frail flesh doubt any more
That what God takes, he'll not restore?

O useful element and clear!
My sacred wash and cleanser here,
My first consigner unto those
Fountains of life where the Lamb goes!
What sublime truths and wholesome themes
Lodge in thy mystical deep streams!
Such as dull man can never find
Unless that Spirit lead his mind
Which first upon thy face did move,
And hatch'd all with his quick'ning love.
As this loud brook's incessant fall
In streaming rings restagnates all,
Which reach by course the bank, and then
Are no more seen, just so pass men.
O my invisible estate,
My glorious liberty, still late!
Thou art the channel my soul seeks,
Not this with cataracts and creeks.

Calendar of Events

Winchester Trout Unlimited

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

For the complete Winchester Project Healing Waters calendar, please see page 13 of this newsletter.

For the complete Winchester Priority Waters calendar, please see page 4 of this newsletter.

August 2026

Thursday, 6 August 2026

6:00 – 7:00 PM Priority Waters monthly meeting,
Rachel’s Kitchen, Shenandoah Lodge, Lake Frederick

Thursday, 6 Aug 2026

7:00 – 9:00 PM Winchester Trout monthly meeting
Rachel’s Kitchen, Shenandoah Lodge, Lake Frederick

Wednesday, 12 August 2026

6:00 – 9:00 PM Project Healing Waters Monthly Meeting Wednesday,
Rachel’s Kitchen, Shenandoah Lodge, Lake Frederick

Wednesday, 19 August 2026 – Winchester Trout Unlimited BarFly

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

September 2026

Thursday, 3 September 2026

6:00 – 7:00 PM Priority Waters monthly meeting
Rachel’s Kitchen, Shenandoah Lodge, Lake Frederick

Thursday, 3 September 2026

7:00 – 9:00 PM Winchester Trout monthly meeting
Rachel’s Kitchen, Shenandoah Lodge, Lake Frederick

Wednesday, 9 September 2026

6:00 – 9:00 PM Project Healing Waters Monthly Meeting Wednesday,
Rachel’s Kitchen, Shenandoah Lodge, Lake Frederick

Wednesday, 16 September 2026 – Winchester Trout Unlimited BarFly

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

Looking Ahead -- October 2026

Thursday, 1 October 2026

6:00 – 7:00 PM – Priority Waters monthly meeting. Location TBA

Thursday, 1 October 2026

7:00 PM – Winchester TU annual meeting with Northern Shenandoah Valley Audubon at Laurel Ridge Community College. Featured speaker is Brad Fink, Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources Cold Water Fisheries Biologist

Wednesday, 14 October 2026

6:00 – 9:00 PM Project Healing Waters Monthly Meeting Wednesday,
Rachel’s Kitchen, Shenandoah Lodge, Lake Frederick



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.

