



Lateral Lines

The Monthly Newsletter of Winchester Trout Unlimited
Recognized as VCTU's best newsletter in 2014 & 2015
2013 Bollinger Award as TU's Finest Newsletter
Chapter #638

December 2015

Volume 20, Number 12

Next meeting is Thursday, January 7, 2016

5:30 p.m. Dinner
IJ Cann's

7:00 p.m. Meeting
NW Works
3085 Shawnee Drive
Winchester

See you at the meeting on
Thursday, November 5, 2015
Bill Prokopchak, Newsletter Editor
540-722-2620

In This Edition

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| Bud on the Run: Redbud Run | Page 1 |
| On the Fly: Better Woolly Bugger | Page 3 |
| On the Fly: Dreaded Line Twist | Page 6 |
| Project Healing Waters | Page 7 |
| Well-Schooled Angler | Page 8 |
| Harvest Gathering | Page 9 |
| Winchester TU Calendar | Page 10 |

Bud on the Run: Redbud Run Updates by Bud Nagelvoort Next Work Session: To be announced

As luck would have it, Dave, Bill, Drew, and Bud, on Oct. 31, were able to get a head start on the regular Redbud work session date of November 7.

Aggressive tactics resulted in complete boarding in of Project #3 sycamore log just upstream from the big silver maple (see picture at right).

In the process and after a few choice remarks from one of us, we may be acquiring a new, heavy-duty nail pounder. The old hammer, made in China in about 1937, has lost some of its capabilities after driving 9,647 three-and-a-quarter-inch galvanized deck nails into bank protection boards since 1996. Well done old faithful servant.

Aggressive tactics resulted in complete boarding in of Project #3 sycamore log just upstream from the big silver maple (see pic.) In the process and after a few choice remarks from one of us, we may be acquiring a new, heavy duty nail pounder.

The old hammer, made in China in about 1937, has lost some of its capabilities after driving 9,647 3 1/4" galvanized deck nails into bank protection boards since 1996. Well done old faithful servant.



Redbud Run Project #3 is completely boarded and filled with rocks.
Photo by Bud Nagelvoort

“Bud on the Run” continues on the next page.

Bud on the Run: Redbud Run Updates -- continued

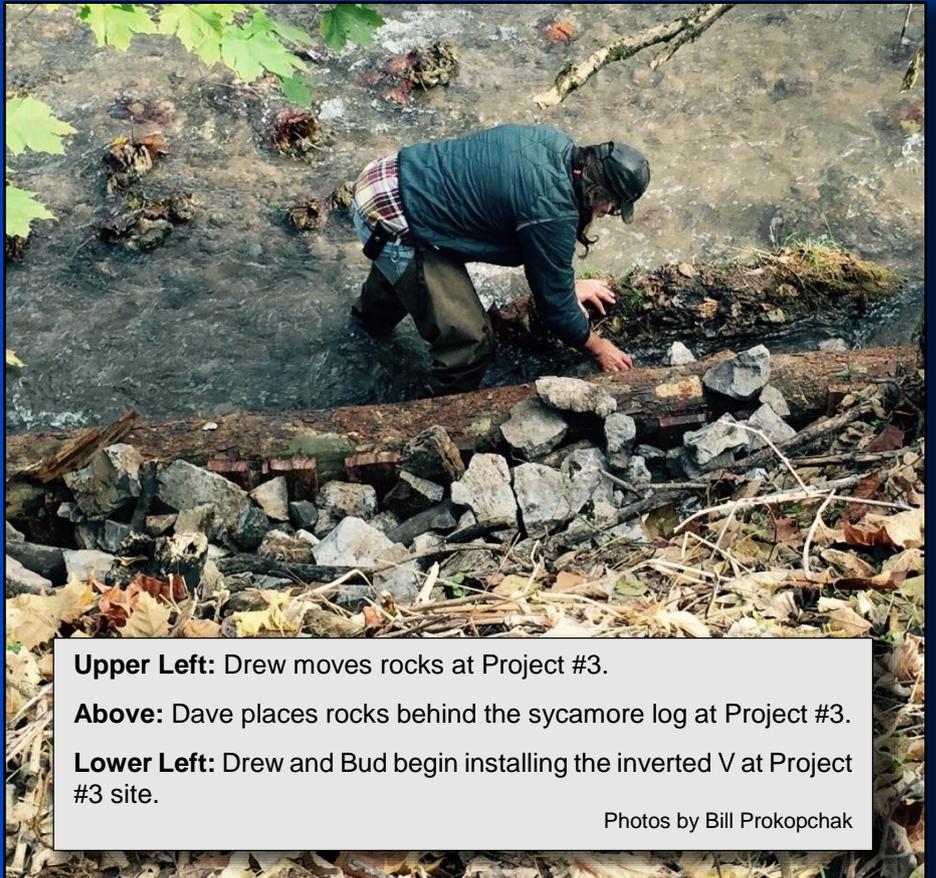
by Bud Nagelvoort

Next Work Session: To be announced

But that's not all. With Drew's soft touch even in guiding rocks he was unfamiliar with, three quarters of the initial pile of Dave's rocks (to provide major credit for the source) and all of the 2nd pile of Dave's rocks were deftly guided into place behind Project #3 sycamore in a chain gang operation. Several more truck loads are needed, but securing them awaits another day.



But that's still not all. While Drew was able to make a quick trip from China for these efforts on Oct. 31, he had only two hours before needing to return to China, so Bill, Dave, and Bud proceeded to commence installation of the long-planned inverted V dam just above the big silver maple extending across the stream.



While trying to figure out how Bud's pre-cut locust logs fit together, Bud provided the only serious lighter entertainment of the day by tripping in mid-stream and falling on his face. Fortunately, Bill had his camera securely ensconced where it could not be quickly brought into action and no embarrassing video resulted.

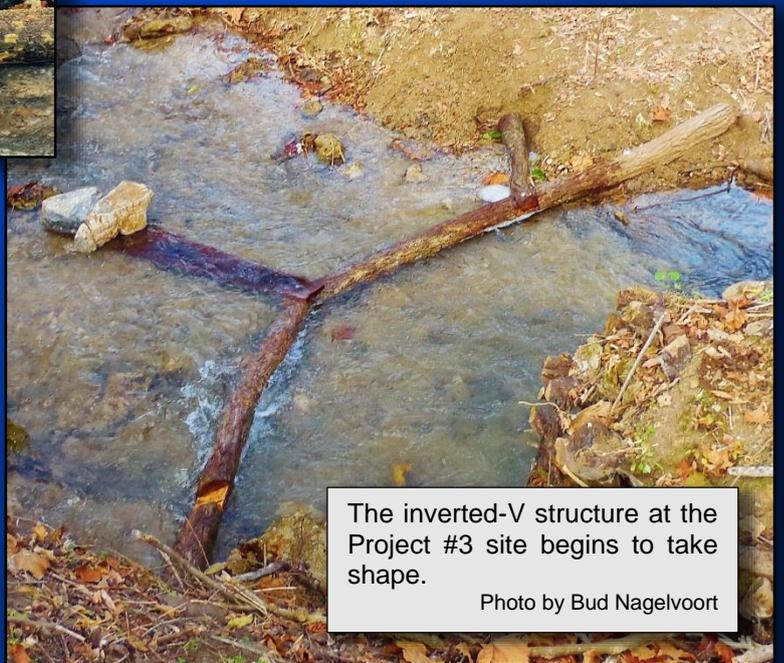
Upper Left: Drew moves rocks at Project #3.
Above: Dave places rocks behind the sycamore log at Project #3.
Lower Left: Drew and Bud begin installing the inverted V at Project #3 site.

Photos by Bill Prokopchak



However, after somewhat major mental exercise, the V log formula was re-discovered and the initial elements of the new inverted-V dam were locked into place with rebar and 12-inch machine bolts that fit snugly into pre-drilled holes.

Bill's skills were tested in turning the snugly fitting bolts through 8 inches of firm locust logs. In fact, he insisted that his 1/2 hour time required would be more valuably spent in the future if a somewhat larger hole were bored for the final bolt. Consequently, Bud now has the remaining piece of locust log in his vise at home while sizing it up for re-drilling.



The inverted-V structure at the Project #3 site begins to take shape.
Photo by Bud Nagelvoort

There you have it: a special work session on Oct. 31.

Stay tuned!



On the Fly: Tying a Better Woolly Bugger article, flies, and photos by Carl A. Rettenberger

“Tying a Better Woolly Bugger?” Come on, really, you have to be kidding, anybody and I mean anybody, can tie a Woolly Bugger!!

Okay, I’ll admit that’s true to one degree or another, but in the following, I’ll describe a method that will add some flash to your bugger and make it last longer and fish like a bugger is supposed to.

However, before I do that let’s see what we can find out about the history of the “Woolly Bugger” thanks to “Pursue the Outdoors”.



The History and Uses of the Woolly Bugger
BY: Pursue the Outdoors + POSTED: 6/21/11

Woolly Bugger

The Woolly Bugger might be the strangest-named fly in all of fly fishing but, in the right hands, it can also be one of the most effective.

The ubiquitous Woolly Bugger, never quite spelled correctly to my eyes, appeals to the eyes of every game fish imaginable. If I had one pattern to fish the rest of my life, no matter what the fish, no matter what the conditions, this would be it. Steelhead, Trout, Salmon, Bass, Shad, Pike, you name it, they will hit this pattern. And the best thing? Usually the fish will be bigger than average, the strikes harder than average, and the action better than average.

The origins of the Woolly Bugger can be traced back to the Old English pattern the Woolly Worm, which is also a very effective pattern. Most credit Russell Blessing with the actual invention of the Woolly Bugger in the early 1970’s in Pennsylvania. Although, Jack Dennis claims it is a variation of the Black Martinez popularized in the West. And still others claim it was originally a Bass imitation developed in the late 1800’s in Missouri. Whatever the origins, the popularity of this pattern cannot be denied.

Besides being used for all game fish, the Bugger’s popularity can also be attributed to its versatility. It can be tied in almost every color imaginable. The most popular colors are black, brown, and olive, with purple and white right behind. But, almost every color has been tied, and different color combinations are often used on the same fly. Another characteristic that makes the bugger so popular, is that you can’t fish it wrong. Okay, if fish are slurping delicately on #24 Tri-co spinners, you don’t want to plunk a #6 Bugger right in the center of them. But if you are searching sub-surface for any kind of fish, in any kind of water, you could do a lot worse than selecting the woolly bugger.

What fish think they are hitting when they hit a Bugger is somewhat a mystery. To human’s eyes it could be a bait fish, a leech, a grub, a cricket, a stonefly, a dragonfly nymph, a damselfly nymph, the list is endless. And perhaps that is what makes it such a great all-purpose pattern. It is a nymph, a streamer, and an attractor all in one. We’ll let the fish classify it.”

Great information, isn’t it?

To me Woolly Buggers are most effective when fished deep, and unless you like to throw a lot of split shot plus your fly, I strongly recommend you weight the fly itself and that’s what we’ll do.



Black Beadhead Woolly Bugger tied on a size 8 TMC 300 hook

**Carl’s article “Tying a Better Woolly Bugger”
continues on the next page.**

On the Fly: Tying a Better Woolly Bugger -- continued

article, flies, and photos by Carl A. Rettenberger

List of Materials:

- Hook: TMC 300 sizes 4 thru 10
- Bead head: Cyclops gold-plated brass bead.
(Sized according to hook size, per manufacture's recommendations)
- Weight: 0.025 to 0.015 lead-free round wire
- Thread: Uni-thread size 6/0, color: black or to match fly's colors
- Tail: Strung Marabou Blood Quills, color: black or to match fly's color
- Body: Woolly Bugger Chenille, color: black or to match fly's color
- Flash: Krystal Flash, color: Rainbow
- Hackle: Whiting's Bugger Pack Hackle, color: black or to match fly's color

Remember give them a break and bend down your barbs !!

Tying Instructions:

1. Start by bending down the barb of the hook using a pair of flat-jawed pliers and then slide the bead on the hook with the drilled out cone trailing as described in previous articles. After that, mount the hook in the vise such that the tip of the jaws grips the hook at the lower side of the bend as shown in the above picture.



Olive Beadhead Woolly Bugger tied on a size 8 TMC 300 hook

2. Next, it's time to weight the hook. I like to use round lead-free wire for these bigger flies, so I can add weight more quickly than I can if I were using "Self-Adhesive Zonker Strips".

For a size-8 hook, start the wire on top of the hook shank, about a third of the way up from the point of the hook and then take 16 to 18 booking wire wraps around the shank of the hook. Break or cut off the tag end of the wire, bend down both ends of the wire so they are touching the hook shank, then slide the coils of wire up and into the open cone of the bead head.

3. Now, mount the thread on the hook shank at the rear end of the coiled wire weight and take several overlapping wraps around the hook shank immediately adjacent to the wire to anchor it in place. You can wrap the wire with thread wraps to help secure it if you so desire. Park the thread at the rear end of the wire.

4. Next, for the tail choose a suitably sized marabou blood quill. Wetting the marabou will help to keep it under control as you prepare it for mounting. For a size-8 hook, I use a wet clump about a quarter to three eighths of an inch or so in diameter.

If you look at the quill, you will see that the fibers come to a sharp point that is lacking any fuzzy barbules. To get rid of these undesirable points, hold the quill against the back edge of your scissors and break them off using pressure from your thumb.

Okay, now measure the tail such that it is about one and one half times the length of the hook shank and tie it in on top of the hook shank where the thread is parked with several tight thread wraps. While holding the wet clump on top of the hook shank at the bend of the hook, wrap it down to the bend of the hook with tight open spiral thread wraps. To eliminate an unsightly bump in your fly, use a sloping cut to remove the waste at the tie in point of the tail, then wrap the thread back to the back of the bead using tight open spiral thread wraps, and park it there.

Something to ponder!!

"Calling Fly-Fishing a hobby is like calling Brain Surgery a job."

Paul Schullery

Carl's article "Tying a Better Woolly Bugger" continues on the next page.

On the Fly: Tying a Better Woolly Bugger -- continued

article, flies, and photos by Carl A. Rettenberger

5. Now, here's how to tie the body chenille in so as not to leave another unsightly bump in your fly. The fuzzy chenille material is wrapped around two or three threads, so if you use your thumb and forefinger, you can pinch off the fuzzy material from one end leaving yourself with bare threads which can be tied in at the back of the bead head with two or three tight thread wraps. Don't overdue the number of thread wraps at this point, or you'll have trouble tying off the fly latter on.

Next, while holding the chenille tightly at the bend of the hook, tie it down to the bend of the hook with very tight open spiral thread wraps, making sure the chenille stays centered on top of the hook shank. When you reach the bend of the hook, leave the chenille hanging there and reverse the thread wraps tying back to the bead with very tight open spiral thread wraps. Trim off the chenille waste thread at the tie in point and park the thread there.

Now, to form the body of your fly, wrap the chenille forward in tight booking wraps, stopping it where the thread is parked. Tie it off with a couple of very tight wraps such that here is a "slight gap" between the chenille and the back of the bead. This gap will allow you to tie in the flash and hackle without building up a lot of unsightly thread wraps at the head of your fly. Park the thread there.



Tan & Olive Beadhead Woolly Bugger tied on a size-8 TMC 300 hook

With the shiny side of the feather facing you, strip off about a quarter inch of barbules from the top of the feather which will make it easier to make the first wrap of hackle around the shank of the hook. Tie the hackle in with two or three very tight thread wraps and trim off the waste. A very small drop of super glue carefully placed on the threads will secure the hackle in place.

Next, lift the hackle up towards the eye of the hook and bring the thread behind the hackle, all while holding the strands of flash tightly at the bend of the hook and centered on top of the hook shank. Wrap the flash down to the bend of the hook with tight open spiraled thread wraps, about a quarter of an inch apart, keeping the flash centered on top of the hook shank while doing so. Park the thread there and let the flash hang over the top of the tail material for now.

Now, we'll palmer the hackle around the body. Start by taking one complete wrap of hackle around the tie in point, then tightly open spiral wrap the hackle around the chenille body to the bend of the hook, keeping the hackle wraps in line with the wraps used to tie down the flash. When you reach the bend of the hook, take two tight thread wraps around the hackle to anchor it in place. Trim off or break off the waste portion of the hackle.

To make your fly more durable, open spiral wrap the thread back to the back of the bead being careful not to tie down the hackle fibers as you do so.

When you reach the back of the bead, whip finish the thread with a few tight wraps and cut off the thread. Once again: The idea is to minimize the number of wraps so as to have a neat tie in point.

8. Lastly, trim off the flash about a half inch or so from the end of the tail, apply head cement to the thread behind the bead and you're fly is done.

Now it's time to take your bead-head woolly bugger to your favorite water and give it a go!!

Something to ponder!!

"What a tourist terms a plague of insects, the fly fisher calls a great hatch."

Patrick F. McManus



On the Fly: The Dreaded Line Twist article and photo by Carl A. Rettenberger



The "Dreaded Line Twist"!! Look familiar does it?

I just can't think of anything that is more frustrating to the fly caster than to see a nice trout rise to a fly, well within casting distance, and then as he or she carefully strips off some line from his or her reel to make the cast, they watch it coil and twist up like an overused and abused yoyo string.

Sure, sure, we've all had this problem you say, and more than once, so what in the heck can we do about it you ask?

Well, before we endeavor to solve this problem let's see if we can define the root cause of it all. "Line Twist" can be caused by a number of things, which usually includes:



1. Trying to cast a poorly designed fly that twists in the air as you cast it.
2. Wind resistance to a large fly, even those that are properly designed.
3. Stripping off more line than you can shoot.
4. Poor casting stroke.
5. And of course, especially this time of the year, trying to cast with a leaf stuck to your fly. This will really do a job on your line.

Now, I try my best to eliminate or minimize all of the above causes of "Line Twist", but sooner or later, it still creeps into my fly lines. If the line has been coiled on my reel for a while, especially when it's cold, I'll stretch it out as I pull an arm's length from the reel and then continue to do this till I have reached the length of a comfortable casting stroke. This works well for tight reel coils, but it does little or no good for "Line Twist".

Fortunately, a twisted fly line is easy to fix. You don't have to lose valuable fishing time, while stripping the entire line off the reel and towing it behind a boat or letting it hang in the current. You can fix that twist in seconds.

So, here's what I want you to do to help correct your "Line Twist" problem the next time you're on the water. Make a long downstream cast, then if you're right handed, hold the butt of the rod loosely in between the thumb and forefinger of your right hand, and at the same time hold the rod near the first guide loosely in between the thumb and forefinger of your left hand. Now, rotate the rod, such that the reel spins towards you about eight or ten times. Next, make a couple of long roll casts down the tip of the rod. With this accomplished, strip off some line to see if you have removed the "Dreaded Line Twist". If you still have some remaining twists, just repeat the procedure. Left handers, you need to rotate the rod such that the reel spins away from you.

Something to ponder!!

"The water you touch in a river is the last of that which has passed, and the first of that which is coming; thus it is with time."

Leonardo DaVinci

That's it, now it's time to take your favorite rod and reel to your favorite water and get rid of some of that "Dreaded Line Twist".



**Winchester TU supports its
stream restoration
program with funds from
*Recycled Aluminum.***

**Please bring your aluminum cans
to any Winchester TU event.**



PHWFF Update: Last few days to purchase your raffle tickets

by Paul Wilson, PHW Program Leader, Martinsburg VAMC

The drawing for this beautiful Rainbow Trout carving by angler-artist Carl Rettenberger is December 5th. Buy your tickets now!

PHWFF Raffle: Remember to sell your raffle tickets !

The benefit raffle supports the Martinsburg VA Medical Center Project Healing Waters Program.

The drawing, set for December 5, is for this beautiful Rainbow Trout carving done by angler-artist Carl Rettenberger.

Contact Paul Wilson for tickets.

Mobile: 304-279-1361

Email: pjgrunt@gmail.com



Our PHW Project needs your gently used fly reels: We have had great participation at our fly-fishing classes and fishing events, and our TU/Sierra Club TFO reels are showing the wear and tear of having so active a program. Thus, we want to have extra reels and 5-wt. fly lines set aside for our fishing events. Please consider donating a used reel and/or 5 wt. floating line. This would really help us and give us extra reels with good lines that will be used **only** for our fishing trips. **PLEASE DONATE!! (We are up to 7 donated reels so far!)**

And as always, if you are available to volunteer for any of our Project Healing Waters fly-fishing events or classes, please contact me.

Paul Wilson
Program Lead
Mobile: 304-279-1361
Email: pjgrunt@gmail.com

Check out our **new** Website: <http://www.healingwatersmartinsburg.org/>

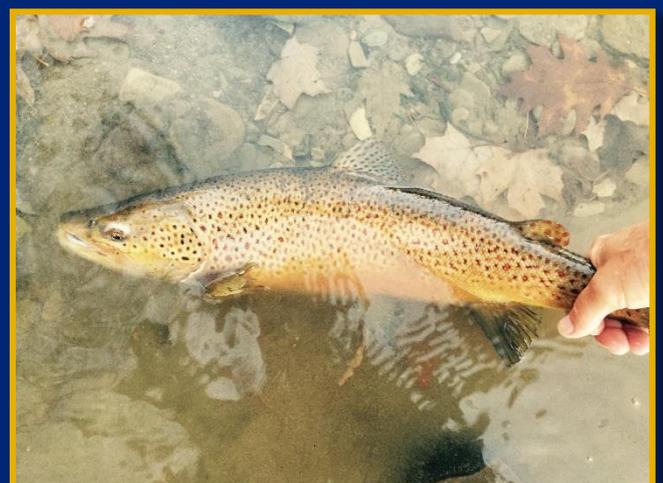
Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ProjectHealingWatersOfMartinsburgWestVirginia>

National PHW website: <http://www.proiecthealinawaters.org/>



Left: Fred assists Galen in landing a Steelhead at a secret location on a stream near Erie, PA.

Below: Bill releases a feisty Brown Trout near Erie, PA.
Photos by Bill Prokopchak



The Well-Schooled Angler

Compiled by Barbara Gamble

25 Best Off-the-Beaten Path Montana Fly-Fishing Streams

Author: Molly Semeniik
Paperback: 180 pages
ISBN-10: 1939226694
ISBN-13: 978-1939226693
Publisher: Stonefly Press; 1st edition
Publication Date: November 5, 2015

Explore the streams less traveled in the state known for its legendary fly-fishing rivers!

The Bighorn, the Madison, the Missouri, the Bitterroot -- these are some of the biggest, most storied fly-fishing waters of Montana.

They host thousands of anglers and guides every season, and they provide some of the most exceptional fly fishing in North America.

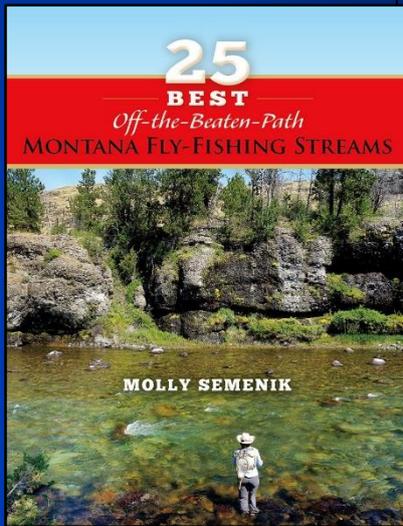
But beyond these famous Montana rivers, there are hundreds of equally productive, equally breathtaking rivers and streams that are a little smaller, a little less known, and a lot less frequented -- and every bit as beautiful!

In *25 Best Off-the-Beaten-Path Fly-Fishing Streams of Montana*, author Molly Semeniik explores the best of these under-appreciated fisheries, beginning first with what fly anglers can uniquely expect from Montana, before moving to each individual destination.

With over 100 color photographs and local guide interviews throughout, the stream-specific chapters include detailed GIS maps highlighting access roads and entry points, ease-of-access ratings, specific information on local hatches, recommended tackle, fly shops, outfitters, campgrounds, lodging, dining, watering holes, and even local hospitals and treatment centers.

As a Big Sky Country native, as well as Master Casting Instructor (MCI), member of the International Federation of Fly Fishers Board of Directors, and owner of Tie the Knot Fly Fishing, Semeniik knows Montana streams intimately, and brings her knowledge to bear in this absolute go-to guide for natives and non-natives alike.

Sources: Amazon.com, Barnesandnoble.com, and the publisher



The Complete Fly Fisherman: The Notes and Letters of Theodore Gordon

Author: Theodore Gordon
Editor: John McDonald
Preface: Arnold Gingrich
Foreword: Nick Lyons
Contributor: Ed Van Put
Hardcover: 640 pages
ISBN-10: 1634502906
ISBN-13: 978-1634502900
Publisher: Skyhorse Publishing
Publication Date: December 4, 2015

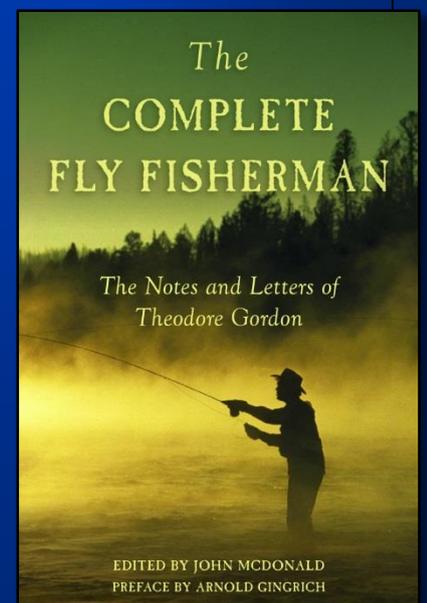
A classic collection of writing by the father of American fly fishing, is now in a beautiful collector's edition.

"The best thing about Gordon," writes editor, John McDonald, in his introduction to this classic book, "is that he wrote well and with remarkable knowledge about contemporary fly fishing."

Theodore Gordon was a reclusive writer who fished in the Catskills of upstate New York. He adapted British methods of fly-tying to match the kinds of insects that could be found in America. As John McDonald said in his book, *Quill Gordon*, "[Gordon] represents the major figure in the transition from wet to dry-fly fishing in the United States."

Originally published in 1947, this book contains Gordon's finest essays, articles, and letters, carefully compiled by John McDonald.

This special collectors' edition includes a faux leather package with gilded embossed lettering and a ribbon marker, as well as a new foreword by Nick Lyons, and a section of newly found materials introduced by Ed Van Put.

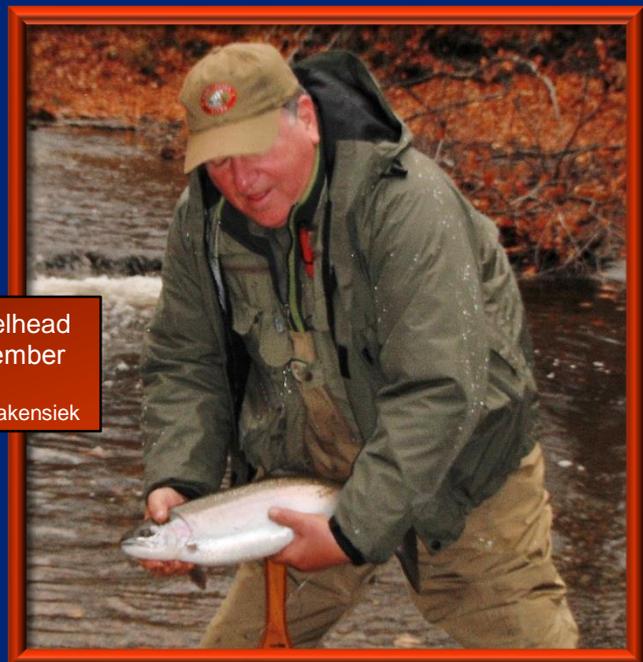


Sources: Amazon.com, Barnesandnoble.com, and the publisher



Rod releases an Erie Steelhead during the Chapter's November Steelhead trip.

Photo by Dan Brakensiek



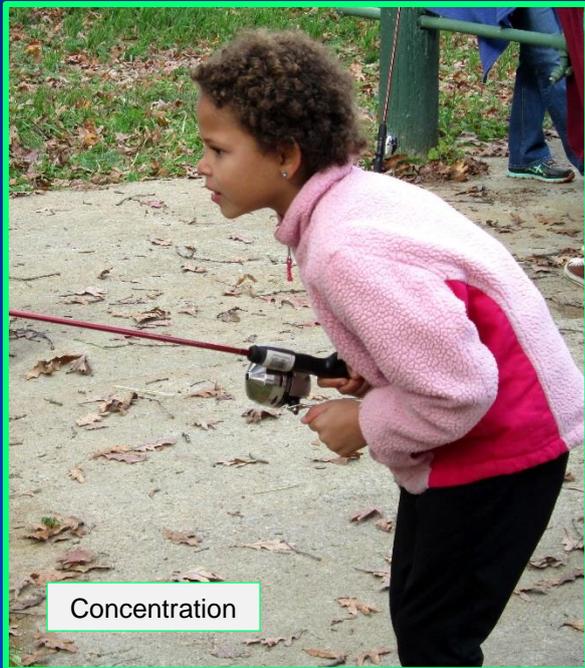
Winchester TU & Project Healing Waters at the Harvest Gathering

photos and article by Lisa LaCivita

Berryville hosted the Harvest Gathering, a celebration of *agri-culture* and Native American Heritage at the Clarke County Fairgrounds, October 30th through November 1st, 2015.



Angler with fish



Concentration

The Winchester Chapter of Trout Unlimited and Project Healing Waters were represented and active participants on Kidz Day. Chapter members Paul Wilson, Kenny Hawthorn, and Mark Zimmerman gave fly casting demonstrations and lessons, while Lisa LaCivita oversaw the spin casting "Fishing in the Classroom" activities for kids and their parents.

Thank you to Trout in the Classroom Teachers Mike Wolfe and Terry seal who volunteered their "Fishing in Classroom" equipment for the Kidz Day activities.

The spin casting rods were equipped with plastic plugs that could hook plastic fish placed out in the grass.

Anyone could try spin casting and then employ strategy, skill, and luck to "catch a fish" and reel it in.

For the youngest kids, the plugs were cast for them, and they enjoyed reeling in their fish.

Some participants had fished before, some never; all seemed to enjoy the game. There were many stories and much reminiscing of fishing with parents and grandparents.



Fishing with Grandma



Fly casting

Several parents remarked how they had taken their older kids fishing but not the younger ones. Hopefully, all participants will be inspired to spend some time outdoors, fishing in 2016.



2015 Calendar of Events

Winchester Trout Unlimited

By Fred Boyer

See the complete calendar
of Winchester TU events at
winchestertu.org

December 2015

- ✓No monthly meeting in December
- ✓Thursday 3 December 2015 -- 11:45 a.m. - Strasburg High School fly-fishing clinic (Mark Zimmerman is coordinating.)
- ✓Saturday 5 December 2015 -- 8:00 a.m. - TU workday at Redbud Run and Morgan's Mill Road
- ✓Wednesday 9 December 2015 -- 7:00 p.m. - Winchester TU "Bar Fly Event" at Escutcheon Brewing Co., 142 W. Commercial St., Winchester, VA (Gene Lewis is coordinating.)

January 2016

- ✓Thursday 7 January 2016 -- 7:00 p.m. - TU monthly meeting
- ✓Saturday 9 January 2016 -- 9:00 a.m. - TU workday at Redbud Run and Morgan's Mill Road

February 2016

- ✓Thursday 4 February 2016 -- 7:00 p.m. - TU monthly meeting
- ✓Saturday 6 February 2016 -- 9:00 a.m. - TU workday at Redbud Run and Morgan's Mill Road

March 2016

- ✓Thursday 3 March 2016 -- 7:00 p.m. - TU monthly meeting
- ✓Saturday 5 March 2016 -- 9:00 a.m. - TU workday at Redbud Run and Morgan's Mill Road

April 2016

- ✓Thursday 7 April 2016 -- 7:00 p.m. - TU monthly meeting
- ✓Saturday 9 April 2016 -- 9:00 a.m. - TU workday at Redbud Run and Morgan's Mill Road

May 2016

- ✓Thursday 5 May 2016 -- 7:00 p.m. - TU monthly meeting
- ✓Saturday 7 May 2016 -- 9:00 a.m. - TU workday at Redbud Run and Morgan's Mill Road
- ✓TBA May 2016 -- Brookie Release Days

June 2016

- ✓Thursday 2 June 2016 -- 7:00 p.m. - TU monthly meeting
- ✓Saturday 4 June 2016 -- 9:00 a.m. - TU workday at Redbud Run and Morgan's Mill Road
- ✓Sunday 26 June 2016 to Saturday 1 July 2016 -- Tri-State Fishing Camp for High School Students (Stan Ikonen is our chapter contact person.)

July 2016

- ✓No monthly meeting in July
- ✓TBA -- 8:00 a.m. - TU workday at Redbud Run and Morgan's Mill Road

August 2016

- ✓Thursday 4 August 2016 -- 7:00 p.m. - TU monthly meeting
- ✓Saturday 6 August 2016 -- 8:00 a.m. - TU workday at Redbud Run and Morgan's Mill Road



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.

