

# 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

June 2016

Volume 21, Number 6

**TROUT UNLIMITED**  
**WINCHESTER**  
**VIRGINIA**  
**CHAPTER 638**

**Next meeting is Thursday,  
June 2, 2016**

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



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

**Next Redbud workday is Saturday,  
June 4**

**Next TU BarFly is Wednesday,  
June 8, at Escutcheon Brewery**  
See page 8 for complete details.

## In This Edition

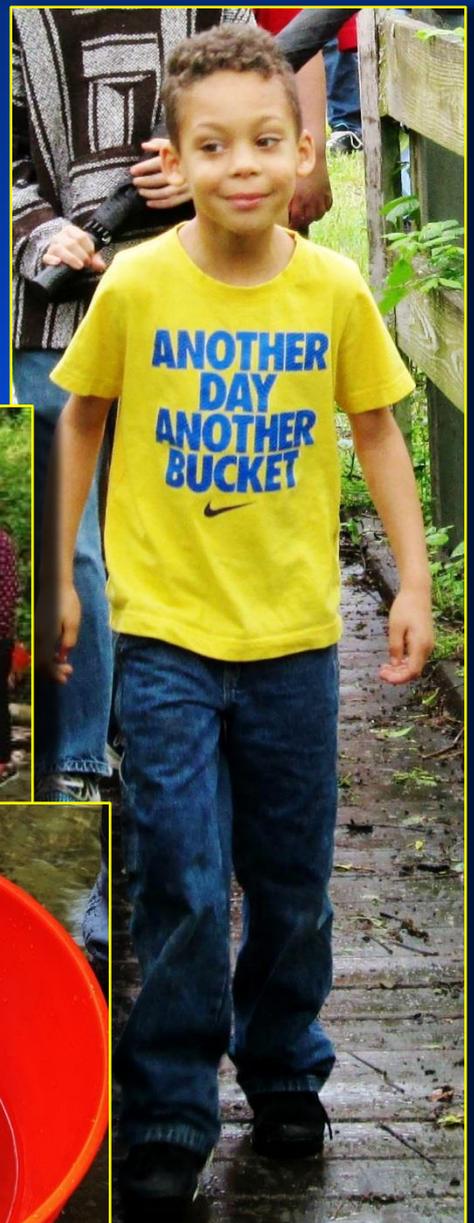
Trout in the Classroom News -----	Page 1
Bud on the Run: May Workdays -----	Page 4
WV Free Fishing Day at Glasgow's -----	Page 5
PHW at The Greenbrier -----	Page 6
PHW Monthly Update -----	Page 8
June 8 BarFly Supports PHW -----	Page 8
Dan's Angler Reflections -----	Page 9
Well-Schooled Angler -----	Page 10
On the Fly: Whitlock's Mouse/Rat -----	Page 11
Winchester TU Calendar -----	Page 14

See you at the meeting on Thursday, June 2, 2016  
Bill Prokopchak, Newsletter Editor  
540-722-2620

## Trout in the Classroom (TIC) News "Out of one school and into another!" by Lisa LaCivita

photos provided by Fred Boyer, Dan Brakensiek, Lisa LaCivita, Bill Prokopchak, & Mark Zimmerman

Local students released hundreds of fingerling Brook Trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*) into Redbud Run on May 10<sup>th</sup>, May 13<sup>th</sup>, and May 14<sup>th</sup>. The releases are the culmination of the Trout in the Classroom (TIC) Program, sponsored by the Winchester Chapter of Trout Unlimited (TU).



"TIC News" continues  
on the next page.

## Trout in the Classroom (TIC) News -- continued "Out of one school and into another!" by Lisa LaCivita

photos provided by Fred Boyer, Dan Brakensiek, Lisa LaCivita, Bill Prokopchak, & Mark Zimmerman

Students and teachers from Redbud Run Elementary School, James Wood Middle School, Northwestern Regional Educational Programs, and Orchard View Elementary School in Frederick County, Virginia; Strasburg High School in Shenandoah County, Virginia; Wildwood Middle School, Shepherdstown Elementary School, TA Lowery Elementary School, Harpers Ferry Middle School, and Wright Denny Intermediate School in Jefferson County, West Virginia, joined TU volunteers for release day activities.

The release site was the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Redbud Run Wildlife Management Area. Cold water from springs upstream of the property, provide the cold water temperatures that Trout require.

Despite our very rainy month of May, the water was clear enough to see some of the Trout after the students released the Brookies into the stream.



We were fascinated to see the Trout "school up" in the shallow water below the deep pool. As one Trout would disappear into the pool, the school would rearrange slightly but the Trout were able to maintain their positions in the current, orienting themselves to their new environment.

"TIC News" continues  
on the next page.

## Trout in the Classroom (TIC) News -- continued "Out of one school and into another!" by Lisa LaCivita

photos provided by Fred Boyer, Dan Brakensiek, Lisa LaCivita, Bill Prokopchak, & Mark Zimmerman

In addition to releasing the Trout and exploring the stream habitat, TU Chapter volunteers provided other activities for the students. A scaled-up fly-tying demonstration involved students in the aquatic food chain and macroinvertebrate mimicry. Flying casting was demonstrated and students got to try fly casting under the tutelage of TU members.

"Fishing in the Classroom" spinning rods and "backyard bass" were available for students to try spin casting and to "catch" and reel in the plastic fish. Students, teachers, and parents all seemed to enjoy the experience and activities.

None of this would happen without the efforts of teachers: Francine DeRonda, Brian Fisher, Monica Grabowska, Kristi Holler, Kris Kitzmiller, Caroline Moffat, Terry Seal, Samantha Stern, Carolyn Thomas, Paula Tremba, Jason Unger, Ashlee Edwards, and Mike Wolfe.

Twenty-two volunteers helped on Friday and/or Saturday as well as on the site cleanup day on May 7<sup>th</sup>! We would also like to thank Jim Lawrence Ron Hughes, and DGIF staff for mowing the field prior to the release and the Frederick County Sheriff's Department for traffic control and school bus parking. Thanks go out to all the TIC teachers who participated this year. We very much appreciate the school staff and parents who joined us for these releases.



Many thanks to the volunteers who made this year's releases such a successful event: Fred Boyer, Dan Brakensiek, Grover Czech, Rod DeArment, Sandra & Galen Hart, Lisa LaCivita, Steve Lander, Curt McGee, Bud Nagelvoort, Mike Nemeck; Tracey, Tiffany, Shawn, and Joey Pitcock; Bill Prokopchak, Bob Ryan, Phil Steven, Jim Stonestreet, Paul Wilson, Mark Zimmerman, Mark Bruns of the Northern Shenandoah Valley Audubon Society, and DGIF Conservation Officers Dan & Mike Hyman.



## Bud on the Run: Redbud Run Update - May 21<sup>st</sup> Workday by Bud Nagelvoort

TU worked out great weather for the TIC work sessions and releases, but could not hang on for 3 out of 3 for the work session at Redbud on May 21<sup>st</sup>.

Even then, Bill, Barbara, and Bud managed three out of four Saturdays for TU and the 4<sup>th</sup> has not yet arrived! While the 21<sup>st</sup> was somewhat drizzly it could not stop the cable and chain gang from dragging and prying the biggest ash log, cut by Dave and Terry and previously dragged to stream-side at Dave's Dedication site, into place just downstream from Boyer's Bog.



While the T-post driving succeeded easily with Dave's device and Bill's mini-sledge hammer, certain problems arose in the wiring-to-the-log-and-T-post operation. Dave had developed the technique for bending the heavy gauge, unusually-less-flexible-than-normal wire into shape for locking the log and post together. But after certain contortionist twists and turns, Bill managed to inform the log it was not going to enjoy the freedom to float downstream in high water.



**Above:** Bud and Bill wrestle the largest of three ash logs into place at Dave's Dedication site.

**Left:** On May 21<sup>st</sup>, the TU Stream Restoration Team set T-posts and wired the big ash log in place.

In the years that I have fished Redbud Run, I've never seen an insect hatch. (I would be glad to hear about it if others have.) We know our naturally reproducing Rainbows appear well fed and some grew to 16 inches (long before any chance they might have consumed a small Brookie or two!) so we know there is **some** food. (Maybe Carl will syphon a trout stomach for us some time and tell us what they grow on and what flies to use!)

In any event, my thought is that we intentionally place a layer of heavier straight branches along our bank logs, on the bank side of the boards and extending up from the stream bed maybe a foot to provide new home territory for scuds or whatever else might like that protected habitat (crayfish as at Chapel Run?) and provide potential Trout food.

**Editor's Note:** Under Bud's direction, we began implementing his Trout food habitat idea on May 25<sup>th</sup> when we backfilled Dave's Dedication site with sticks under the rocks. See "Redbud Run Update - May 25<sup>th</sup> Workday" below.

That wood, if continually underwater, will be preserved for a long time. When it finally disintegrates (in 50 years?) we (meaning you, not me) might even remove the rocks we placed on top and refill the cavity with more trout food storage facilities!

Should we call this Boyer's Bog Bonanza or Brookie's Breakfast? Other ideas?

In any event, the next work session is scheduled for Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. The forecast, no doubt, is for showers and 88 degrees so working in 58 degree water will feel real good. While some boarding may take place on May 25<sup>th</sup> (Bill had to leave early on the 21<sup>st</sup> and wants to make up for this lost time and wages), we won't move another log until June 4<sup>th</sup> and will save rocks for then.

And by the way, with the help of Dave's neighbor Harry Cooper and his Ford tractor and front-end loader, Terry and I hauled the remainder of Cooper's limestone including some several hundred pounders to the work site on Mother's Day (don't tell our mothers). The big ones will help prevent extremely high water from again attacking the Seipel pasture.

There is also a big walnut with roots hanging over the stream that Terry may want to drop on that occasion.

Tight lines ---

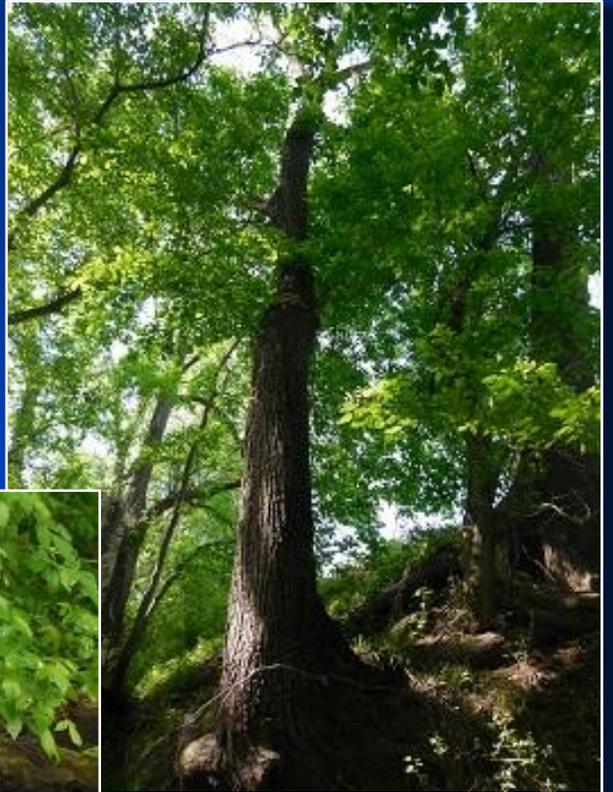
## Bud on the Run: Redbud Run Update

### May 25<sup>rd</sup> Workday

by Bud Nagelvoort

**Next Workday is scheduled for Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.**

On May 25<sup>th</sup> Bill made up for his early departure on May 21<sup>st</sup> and the two of us boarded in, filled in the gap with small logs and branches and provided the usual rock layer at the top.



**Above:** This large walnut may need to be taken down before it falls due to bank erosion.

**Left:** Bill and Bud gather tools after wiring in the big ash log.

Photos above by Barbara Gamble

**Below:** The big ash log is wired in place and backfilled with sticks and rocks.

Photo by Bud Nagelvoort



Having completed that effort in an hour and a half we killed the rest of the afternoon and into mid-afternoon by using up Fred's remaining half day (at his instigation) by testing the waters from Dave's Dedication site (Project #4) on up to the last great pool before the beaver dam.

There is evidence of spawning size fish in those waters.

Tight lines #2 ---



## June 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> are Free Fishing Days in West Virginia

I will be glad to host an overnight at my cabin on the Cacapon River beginning the afternoon of the 10<sup>th</sup> to the morning of the 12<sup>th</sup>. I will supply the food but not spirits, should have plenty beds, but it's best if you sleep on top of made up bed with your own light blanket or bag to save my wife work -- plenty of pillows. Fishing all warm water by wading wet or dry, or floating. You may come for part or all of the weekend (about 45 min-1hr from Winchester) but I need a fairly firm commitment by June 2<sup>nd</sup> (I will not be at the meeting) to plan food etc. The whole thing dependent on fishable water in Cacapon. EMAIL to [glasgow1395@Comcast.net](mailto:glasgow1395@Comcast.net) or phone 540-667-6157 let's see if we have enough interest. Allen Glasgow

# PROJECT HEALING WATERS FLY FISHING



## On the Fly Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing Greenbrier Sporting Club, White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia

by Carl Rettenberger  
photos courtesy of Jacob Ott

On the far left of this photograph stands Paul Moore the Regional Coordinator for West Virginia's Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing.

Paul is the coordinator responsible for organizing this event, and I now have a new friend and look forward to seeing him again next April when I once again have a chance to serve those who have sacrificed so much for all of us.

This event took place on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of April, when I had the privilege and honor of serving as a guide at the West Virginia Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing event held at the Greenbrier Sporting Club in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia.



This annual event is hosted by Jim Justice owner of the Greenbrier Resort located on some 10,000 acres in the beautiful mountains of West Virginia. Our immediate Greenbrier host was Jacob Ott, Director of Outdoor Pursuits/Naturalist, who was also the lead Professional fly fishing guide for the event. The other Professional guides serving our veterans were Lila Warren, Demian Wiles, and Paul Loss. Of the four, I have to say that Lila was by far the prettiest.

The waters we fished during our stay were a well-stocked three mile long section of Howard's Creek. The creek runs along and through two of the Sporting Club's 18-hole golf courses which host a PGA Golf Tournament each year. For those of you who follow golf, Sir Nick Faldo is a retired golfer and now golf analysts who built a home up on one of the mountains, and being an avid fly fisherman, he fishes this same section of Howard's Creek when he isn't working or fly fishing someplace else around the world.

This particular three-mile long section of Howard's Creek has been restored and contains a good assortment of holes, runs, and riffles. Believe me when I say, "there is no shortage of big Browns and Rainbows eagerly awaiting the next bit of food to float their way". I turned over several rocks while I was guiding and found a good number of caddis larva, as well as mayfly and stonefly nymphs.

We actually, all arrived at the Fairfield Inn in Lewisburg on the 11<sup>th</sup> where we met in the evening so that Paul Moore could outfit all of the vets with some really nice gear consisting of:

- Redington Waders
- Orvis fishing bag
- PHWFF hat
- Chota Wading Boots
- Rain jacket
- Temple Fork 9-foot/5-weight rod and reel outfit.

My assigned vet during our stay was Ray Wharton an outpatient at Martinsburg Veterans Hospital, whose trip was organized by our own Paul Wilson. Ray had never fly fished before and had all of an hour of my casting instructions before being put on the stream.

It took a while before Ray hooked and landed his first Trout, a beautiful 18.5inch Rainbow, but that was quickly followed by another fat 16-inch Bow.



Carl's article  
"On the Fly Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing"  
continues on the next page.



# On the Fly - continued Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing Greenbrier Sporting Club, White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia

by Carl Rettenberger  
photos courtesy of Jacob Ott

Here are some of the big Trout caught by other veterans.



That's a lot of Rainbow.

That's a pretty darn good Brown.

I would be totally remiss, if I didn't mention the Gourmet lunches that were provide for us by the Greenbrier and its staff of employees who feed us all to the breaking point with some really great food and deserts.



Wow, that was fun, but it's time for me to be on my way now !!!

That's a lot of Rainbow, too.





## PHW Update

### More TFO rods are donated by Elks of West Virginia and Casting Lessons for our June outing continue!

by Paul Wilson, PHW Program Leader,  
Martinsburg VAMC

Our next fly-fishing event will be Saturday June 18<sup>th</sup> for the CAT-5 group at the Martinsburg VA Medical Center. Casting classes for this group started on May 20<sup>th</sup> and will continue for the next few Fridays at 1:00 p.m. in the VA's gym ("Heroes' Center"). I will send class reminders throughout June.

We also expect some participating vets from the GOALS program at the VA Medical Center to join our vets from CAT-5. Regardless, a smaller number of participants is expected than we see from our PRRP outings. I think we can expect about 12-15 vets fishing on June 18<sup>th</sup>.

Late in May, I received 3 more TFO NXT 5-wt rod and reel kits which were graciously donated by the Elks of West Virginia. The 6 TFO kits will be used for fishing outings only to preserve the lines and leaders from our classroom abuse!

We still have about 10 donated rods of which at least half still need matching reels and lines. Currently, we have use for two 4-wt reels, three 5/6-wt reels, and two 8/9-wt reels. We need additional 5/6-wt. reels with or without line, as we can get some new lines with our PHW budgeted money.

-----  
**Our PHW Project needs your gently used fly reels:** With the recent equipment donations, we can use some more reels as some of the donated reels are quite old and barely usable. We need gently used reels (for 5/6 wt. lines) with or without line as backup reels for our "student" rods. **PLEASE DONATE!!**

**Social Media:** Please remember to send pictures to Charlie and Kenny for our Chapter and PHW program websites. And please "like" us on Facebook, use the calendar on our TU site, and, of course, all suggestions and additional content are much appreciated.

And as always, if you are available to volunteer for any of our Project Healing Waters fly-fishing events or classes, please contact me and I will add you to my email list.

Paul Wilson  
Program Lead  
Mobile: 304-279-1361  
Email: [pjgrunt@gmail.com](mailto: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.projecthealingwaters.org/>



## Winchester TU Monthly "BarFly" Event Wednesday, June 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Escutcheon Brewery, Commercial St., Winchester

The next Bar Fly will be to benefit Project Healing Waters! Paul needs Woolly Buggers for his events so we want as many folks as possible there with a goal of helping PHW stock up for future fishing events for veterans. PHW is particularly interested in root beer- and olive-colored buggers.

We will also be drawing a winning name for the Aleka A4 9-ft., 5-wt, 4-piece Rod and A3 Reel combo with hard case.

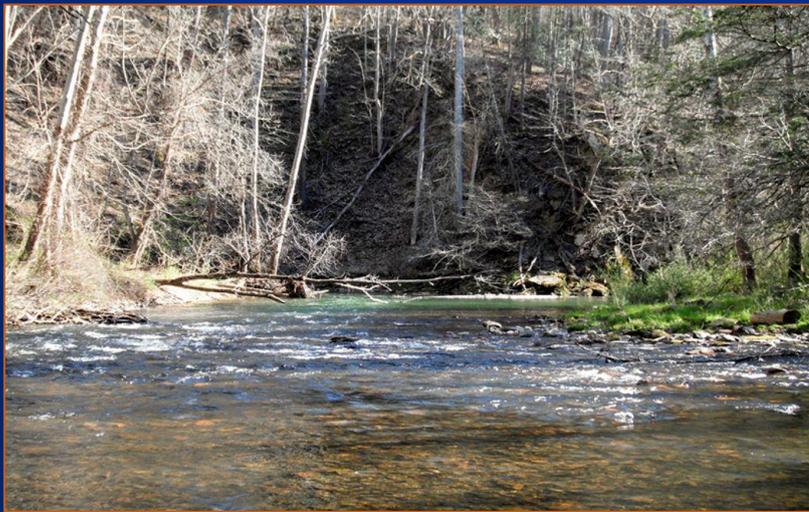
Anyone who would like to purchase tickets can let Gene or Paul know. We will be selling tickets at the next TU meeting as well as at the Bar Fly event prior to the drawing. \$2 per ticket or 3 for \$5. Retail value is around \$250!



# ANGLER REFLECTIONS

## Spring Odyssey FWAM: Jackson and Escatawba article and photos by Dan Brakensiek, Winchester TU President

Grover and I set off south for the Chapter's spring expedition to The Jackson River and Escatawba Farm (in Bath and Highland Counties) on April 20. After experiencing the smoke of the SNP fire on the drive, we climbed the Allegheny Mountain on curvy Route 250 to the upper end of the Jackson River catch-and-release area.



With reports that water levels were low and clear, we set off down the Poor Farm Road where we met with campers from Roanoke who were set for a 10-day stay. Being late in the afternoon, we only had a 2-hour window to explore, based on their stream report of the day.

Luck was with us as we both scored trout. Grover landed 5 Rainbows and Browns while I was fortunate to bring three to hand (all stocked Rainbows). The evening was clear, the toads were singing and hopping, the water was slightly stained, and the rocks were slippery. Contentment was afoot as we wearily dragged our bones to the car at twilight and set out for the last two hours to Covington, past the Homestead and the spectacular Falling Spring.

Thursday dawned on Covington with clear skies and great spring (60's) temperatures. We met up with Derrick Barr (owner) at Escatawba Farm. The water, again low and clear yielded up its bounty begrudgingly.

Grover matched his woolly buggers on the stream and I honed my tackle in the spring-fed ponds, then headed to the stream for some grown-up fishing. Using dry flies mostly, we both landed several including one big fat 18-inch Brown (picture right); but the one that got away still haunts me.

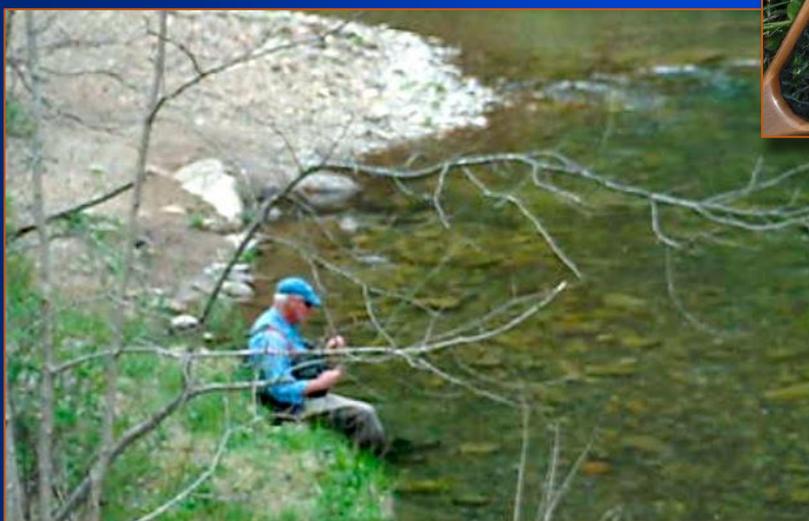
It was a Steelhead-sized Rainbow that charged at my two-toned stimulator caddis dry fly from across the water without hesitation. It connected with a gulp, leaped about 18 inches above the surface, swept its head side to side, and immediately snapped the 6X tippet I was using.



Heart pounding, I ran down the bank like a kid to where Grover was fishing and had to report my thrill. That's fishing!!

We ended the day rocking in the chairs stream-side and related the day's stories (and others) with Derrick and his wife, while we sipped a fine bourbon and smoked a cigar. The mood was full and the night's sleep sound.

Next year we'll do it again.... Join us.



## The Well-Schooled Angler

Compiled by Barbara Gamble

### Buffalo Jump Blues: A Sean Stranahan Mystery

**Author:** Keith McCafferty  
**Hardcover:** 320 pages  
**ISBN-13:** 978-0525429593  
**Publisher:** Viking  
**Publication Date:** June 28, 2016

*Buffalo Jump Blues* is the fifth novel in the Sean Stranahan mystery series, Montana's favorite fly fisherman-detective tackles a case of lost love, murder, and wildlife politics.

In the wake of Fourth of July fireworks in Montana's Madison Valley, Hyalite County sheriff Martha Ettinger and Deputy Sheriff Harold Little Feather investigate a horrific scene at the Palisades cliffs, where a herd of bison have fallen to their deaths.

Victims of blind panic caused by the pyrotechnics, or a ritualistic hunting practice dating back thousands of years? The person who would know is beyond asking, an Indian man found dead among the bison, his leg pierced by an arrow.

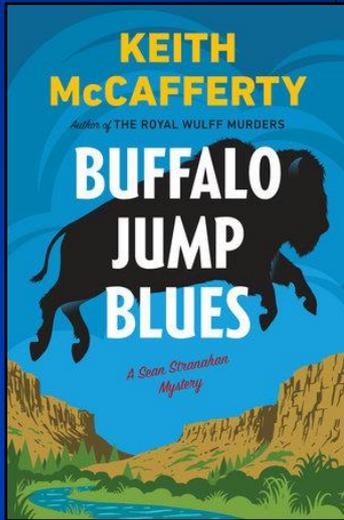
Farther up the valley, fly fisherman, painter, and sometime private detective Sean Stranahan has been hired by the beautiful Ida Evening Star, a Chippewa Cree woman, who moonlights as a mermaid at the Trout Tails Bar & Grill, to find her old flame, John Running Boy.

The cases seem unrelated -- until Sean's search leads him right to the brink of the buffalo jump. With unforgettable characters and written with Spur Award Winner Keith McCafferty's signature grace and wry humor, *Buffalo Jump Blues* weaves a gripping tale of murder, wildlife politics, and lost love.

"McCafferty's wryly bantering characters are irresistible, his humor tangy, and his lyricism potent as he matches escalating action with intriguing disquisition... A sharply ironic and suspenseful tale surreptitiously veined with profound insights into love, friendship, cultural collisions, and dire conflicts over wildlife and land, the sacred and the profitable."—**Booklist (starred)**

**Keith McCafferty** is the survival and outdoor skills editor of *Field & Stream*, and the author of *The Royal Wulff Murders*, *The Gray Ghost Murders*, *Dead Man's Fancy*, and *Crazy Mountain Kiss*, which won the 2016 Spur Award for Best Western Contemporary Novel. Winner of the Traver Award for angling literature, he is a two-time *National Magazine* awards finalist. He lives with his wife in Bozeman, Montana.

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



### 25 Best National Parks to Fly Fish

**Author:** Terry & Wendy Gunn  
**Paperback:** 224 pages  
**ISBN-10:** 1634969049  
**ISBN-13:** 978-1634969048  
**Publisher:** Stonefly Press  
**Publication Date:** June 15, 2016 (1<sup>st</sup> edition)

On August 25, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson signed legislation creating the National Park Service, a new federal bureau in the Department of the Interior responsible for protecting existing national parks and monuments and those yet to be established.

By doing so, he not only preserved America's most remarkable natural wonders, but he also created protections for some of the most idyllic fly-fishing locations in North America.

*25 Best National Parks to Fly Fish* celebrates the phenomenal fly-fishing opportunities in the National Park System, and the centennial of the National Park Service stewardship.

Authors Terry and Wendy Gunn tap into the collective knowledge of some of the most accomplished guides and anglers working the waters both inside and adjoining the nation's most accessible national parks.

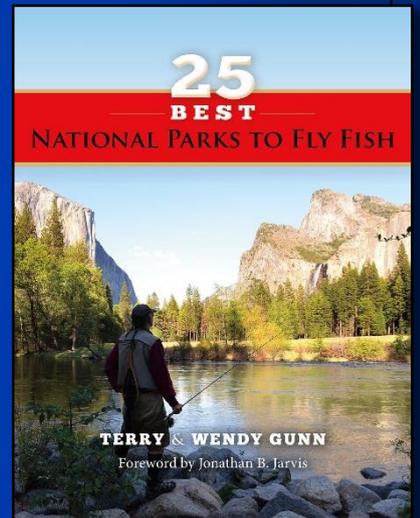
From jumping tarpon in the Everglades, high-sticking for brook trout in the small creeks of the Great Smoky Mountains, and throwing line in the high-alpine lakes of the Rocky Mountains, these authors and contributors share their deep knowledge of each park and the many species that inhabit their waters.

In addition to the detailed GIS maps, recommended flies, hatches, hot spots, and suggestions for gear, lodging, and dining for each location, this book contains more than 150 stunning, 4-color location photos that will make you want to pack up your gear and hit the road for a world-class experience in America's national parks!

Terry and his wife Wendy are the co-hosts of Fly Fish Television Magazine, an educational fly fishing show that has aired on Fox Sports National and International, and the Outdoor Channel.

Terry was the photography host for the television series, America's Outdoor Journal. In addition, he has appeared on scores of other fly fishing shows including In Search of Fly Waters, Fly Fishing the World, Fly Fishing America, and Fly Fishing Video Magazine.

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



**Winchester TU Recycles Aluminum.**

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

## On the Fly: Whitlock's Mouse/Rat

### article, photos, and Mouse/Rats tied by Carl A. Rettenberger

Dave Whitlock is a fine artist, fly tier and fly fisherman who created a great fly called the Mouse/Rat that can be used to catch "big" bass, pike, and trout. I used this particular fly pattern in Alaska and caught some really nice rainbow trout on it. Because the fly is fished on the surface where it is made to swim across the current, the strikes are fierce and sometimes spectacular. Where permitted by law to fish at night it is an awesome fly for big Brown Trout.



The following videos will give you a taste of what you can expect when you fish a mouse pattern:

<http://youtu.be/UYznmv65sDU>

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=G75Y4FCzJDw>

#### RAIF KILLIPS has the following to say about the Mouse Pattern called "Whitlock's Mouse/Rat":

"Uses:

In the first instance Dave Whitlock's Mouserat was developed for largemouth bass. Amongst categories of bass flies this is known as a slider. As well as working for largemouth, Whitlock's mouse pattern is effective for pike, chub, and several species of trout and char. The Mouserat is sometimes used in Alaska and Kamchatca for their resident trout and char, though the Moorish mouse, Mr. Hanky, and Mercer's Lemming are preferred by many anglers.

How to fish:

If you want the mouse to ride high all day don't forget to treat it with a little floatant before you start fishing.

On flowing water the Mouserat should be cast upstream, upstream and across, or directly across with a downstream mend. One or two anglers will cast down and across at 45° though the behaviour this imparts to the mouse is less natural. The concept being that a small rodent will more frequently swim across or downstream than up. The mouse should be retrieved via a quick strip or pull and pause or, in the latter case, sometimes a slow drift. On ponds, lakes and reservoirs it's a case of casting, usually to cover and structure, followed by a well judged retrieve. You should try different lengths and speed of pull, and durations of pause. Do this until you find what the fish respond to. You may also require a long pause after the initial presentation. Sometimes a retrieve without pauses, a hand over hand, roly-poly retrieve, is required.

In running water setting the hook will likely prove tricky. Setting the hook should be a 'considered' affair. Don't hit the fish instantly. Pause, if only for a moment, then lift into the fish. It's a little like hitting a strike to a downstream presentation – something to be felt and learned. Hitting the strike quick usually pulls the fly straight out the fish's mouth.

Variations:

The tie above shows a barbed stinger type hook. You might prefer to use a hook that is barbless and in some circumstances a hook having a smaller gape. These variations concern fish conservation but depend on the species to be targeted. Barbless is the way to go for all fish unless you are fishing for the pan. Trout may be protected by using a smaller gaped hook. A large gaped hook is preferable for species like pike and largemouth. If fishing to heavy cover then you may wish to add a weed guard.

The hair used to dress the top of the mouse should be fine enough at the tie-in point that it doesn't flare excessively. If you use prime spinning hair when tying the back of this fly you'll run into 'problems'. The underside of the body is usually intended to be lighter than the back. You can therefore stack different hair underneath. This should be a hair that is lighter in colour towards its base and flares easily. The process is what Dave Whitlock refers to as "stacking and flaring".

Dave Whitlock originally drew eyes on his pattern using a permanent marker pen. I like adding mono eyes – even if the fish aren't impressed they inspire a little extra confidence in me when gazing into my fly box. The whiskers are usually tied in at the eye, but again my preference is to fix them further back in a similar fashion to Chris Helm's signature Mouse."

That said you need to have several Whitlock's Mouse/ Rat patterns in your fly boxes and fish them with confidence, as I have learned to do.

Now, let's get on with the tying.

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

**Carl's Recipe for  
"Dave Whitlock's Mouse/Rat"  
continues on the next page.**

## On the Fly: Whitlock's Mouse/Rat -- continued

### article, photos, and Mouse/Rats tied by Carl A. Rettenberger

#### List of Materials:

- Hook: TMC 8089 size 6
- Thread: Uni-thread size 6/0  
color white & 8/0, color: black
- Tail: Tan chamois
- Body: Natural deer hair
- Ears: Same as tail
- Head: Natural deer hair
- Eyes: Mono Eyes, size medium, color: black
- Whiskers: Black Moose (I usually leave off)



Dave Whitlock's Mouse/Rat (with whiskers) on a size 6 TMC 8089 barbless hook

#### Tying Instructions:

1. Start by bending down the barb of the hook using a pair of flat jawed pliers. 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.
2. Next, mount the 6/0 white thread on the shank of the hook between the point and barb of the hook (where the bend starts). Park it there.

Now, for the tail, cut off a five-centimeter-long piece of chamois from the patch such that it is about three or four millimeters wide at one end and tapers uniformly to a point on the other end.

Tie it on top of the hook shank by the wide end with several tight thread wraps. Keep the wraps as close to the tie-in point as possible and secure the tie-in with a small drop of Super Glue. Park the thread there.

3. For the body, you will be stacking deer hair in two parts; first the belly then the back. For the belly, you will be using the butt section of the deer hair that is lighter in color, and for the back, you will be using the darker tip ends of the deer hair.

We'll start with the stacked hairs on the belly first. To do this, cut a clump of deer hair from the patch about the size of a pencil and remove the fluff. Stack it butt first in your hair stacker, then cut off the tips, leaving only the white coarser part of the hairs. Now, with the thumb and index finger of your left hand, hold the clump under and centered on the bottom of the hook shank where the thread is parked and take two loose concentric thread wraps around the middle of the clump. Next, while holding the clump tightly in place with your left hand, pull the thread tightly and straight down on the far side of the hook shank. This will cause the hairs to flare, but it's important that you hold them tightly in place and don't let them spin around the hook shank.

Now, move the hairs to the left and right of center, such that they are uniformly distributed around the "bottom half" of the hook shank. That done, tie them down tightly with several concentric thread wraps at the tie-in point and then advance the thread to the front of the tied-in clump and take several tight thread wraps around the bare hook shank.

Next, using the thumb and index finger on your right hand, encourage the fibers in front of the tie-in point to lay back against the fibers to the rear of the tie-in point. This will take some doing, but keep at it till you get it right. Then pack the clump tightly using the thumb and index fingers of your right hand while holding the thumb and index finger of your left hand tightly around the hook shank and against the back of the clump to keep it from sliding off the back of the hook shank. Look things over and readjust the hairs as necessary, such that they are uniformly distributed around the bottom half of the hook shank.

Now, following the same procedure tie a second clump of the same size under the hook shank and in front of the first clump. Pack it tightly and park the thread there.

4. Now, we'll stack a clump of deer hair centered on top of the hook shank over the belly hairs to form the back of the mouse. To do this, cut a clump of deer hairs from the patch a little larger than the size of a pencil. Clean and stack the hairs tip down in your stacker. Remove the hairs from the stacker tips first and neatly cut off the butt ends such that the clump is between three-quarters to one-inch long. Restack the hairs as necessary to keep the tips even.

Now, while holding the clump tightly with the thumb and index finger of you left hand, place it centered over the top of the hook shank where the thread is parked, tips extended back over the bend of the hook, and take two loose thread wraps around the butt end of the hair clump. It's important that you keep the wraps as close to the end as possible and the clump as close to the top of the hook shank as possible.

Next, while holding the clump tightly in place, pull the thread tightly and straight down on the far side of the hook shank. The butt ends will flare, but once again don't let the hairs spin around the hook shank. Take a couple tight thread wraps around the clump, then distribute the hairs uniformly around the top half of the hook shank. Park the thread there and then pack the top and bottom clumps of hair tightly together.

**Something to ponder!!**

"Game fish are too valuable to only be caught once."

*Lee Wulff*

**Carl's Recipe for  
"Dave Whitlock's Mouse/Rat"  
continues on the next page.**

## On the Fly: Whitlock's Mouse/Rat -- continued article, photos, and Mouse/Rats tied by Carl A. Rettenberger

5. Now, following the above procedure, keep adding one clump of hair, first to the bottom and then to the top of the body till you reach a point about nine millimeters behind the shoulder of the eye of the hook. Whip finish, cut off the white thread and tie in the 8/0 black thread at the whip finish point. It's important that you don't get closer than nine millimeters to the shoulder of the eye of the hook or you won't have sufficient room to tie in the ears and to form a nice head.

6. Next, cut a pair of ears that look like an elongated heart from the chamois patch. Play around with the size until you are satisfied that the ears are correctly sized for the size of your mouse. Tie them in tightly on top of and centered on the hook shank where the thread is parked using figure-eight thread wraps. Take several tight thread wraps around the bare hook shank as close to the ears as possible and park the thread there. A small drop of Sure Glue will keep everything in its place.



Dave Whitlock's Mouse/Rat  
(no whiskers) on a  
size 6 TMC 8089 barbless hook

7. Now, you will be spinning deer hair to form the head of your mouse.

If you made it this far, it gets somewhat easier from here on out as you spin the deer hair head. So, select another clump of hair about the size of a pencil, cut it from the patch, clean out the fuzz and trim off the tips.

This time you don't need to stack the hairs as you will be tying in the clump with the butt ends extending towards the bend of the hook. To do this, hold the clump on top of the hook shank by the butt ends with the thumb and forefinger of you left hand. As before, take two loose overlapping thread wraps around the hair clump and hook shank.

Again, as you take another tight thread wrap and pull straight down the fibers will flare and the hair will spin around the hook shank. Now, wrap the thread tightly forward through the flared fibers until the clump stops spinning. Advance the thread through the fibers and take two wraps in front of the clump. Pack the clump then add and spin more clumps until the packed mass is about two millimeters from the shoulder of the eye of the hook. (It helps to consolidate the whole mass if you take one back wrap through the previously tied in spun segment.)

Now grab "all" of the fibers between the thumb and forefinger of you left hand and pull them "all" back exposing the shoulder of the eye (hopefully) and take several tight thread wraps around the hook shank. In this case and in many other situations, you won't have enough room to varnish the head wraps after you whip finish, so here's a little trick you can use. With the thread hanging down in the bobbin, cover a half inch or less of the thread near the hook shank with varnish then whip finish and trim off the thread.

9. Time to give your fly a "Hair Cut". You can trim stacked and spun deer hair with a very sharp razor blade or a very sharp pair of scissors, or both, the emphasis being on "sharp". Start by pulling all of the hair fibers up and/or out so that they are standing perpendicular to the hook shank. During the initial trimming stage, it is best to leave the fibers slightly longer then needed so that you can clean and shape up the head and body with the final trimming.

To help the fly float correctly, the bottom of the head and body of the mouse is trimmed flat, making a neat straight cut of all fibers along the bottom of the fly.

The head should be trimmed the shape of a bullet, so start at the eye of the hook and trim the hair up and back all the way around the head. You can leave the fly in the vise or remove it, as I prefer to do during the trimming process.

Now, go back and clean up the head to its final shape. Use a razor if necessary to get a nice smooth shaped head and you're done!! Don't get carried away with the trimming or your head will be too small!!

10. Now, take your Mono barbell eyes and trim off the bar or stem on each eye such that it is about two or three millimeters long. Place some Super Glue on the stem and bottom of each eye and place them one at a time uniformly on each side of the head of your mouse. "Be careful doing this, or you'll glue the eye to your finger and not the head of your mouse".

Now it's time to take your Whitlock's Mouse/Rat to your favorite water and give it a go!!

Hey, any of you guys seen that Big Brown or Big Rainbow Trout around here lately?? You didn't, that's great, but just remember, no matter what else happens, "Don't Go in the Water"!!!!



## 2016 Calendar of Events Winchester Trout Unlimited

By Fred Boyer

See the complete calendar  
of Winchester TU events at

<http://winchestertu.org/>

### 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
- ✓ Wednesday 8 June 2016 -- 7:00 p.m. - Winchester TU BarFly at Escutcheon Brewery
- ✓ Tuesday 14 June 2016 -- 6:30 a.m. meet at Cracker Barrel in Winchester - Muhlenberg Middle School River Day (Mark Zimmerman is coordinating)
- ✓ 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 -- 9:00 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 -- 9:00 a.m. - TU workday at Redbud Run and Morgan's Mill Road

### September 2016

- ✓ Thursday 1 September 2016 -- 7:00 p.m. - TU monthly meeting
- ✓ Saturday 3 September 2016 -- 9:00 a.m. - TU workday at Redbud Run and Morgan's Mill Road

### October 2016

- ✓ Thursday 6 October 2016 -- 7:00 p.m. - Joint TU and Shenandoah Audubon Society meeting at Lord Fairfax Community College - Featured speaker is Gregory D. Wiens, PhD, of the USDA fisheries research facility in Kearneysville, WV
- ✓ Saturday 8 October 2016 -- 9:00 a.m. - TU workday at Redbud Run and Morgan's Mill Road
- ✓ Sunday 30 October through Saturday 5 November 2016 -- Steelhead trip to Erie

### November 2016

- ✓ Thursday 3 November 2016 -- 7:00 p.m. - TU monthly meeting
- ✓ Saturday 5 November 2016 -- 9:00 a.m. - TU workday at Redbud Run and Morgan's Mill Road
- ✓ Dates to be determined November 2016 -- Chapter Steelhead Trip to Erie

### December 2016

- ✓ Thursday 1 December 2016 -- 7:00 p.m. - TU monthly meeting
- ✓ Saturday 3 December 2016 -- 9:00 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. A responsible adult must accompany all minors.

