

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 2016

Volume 21, Number 12

Next meeting is Thursday, January 5, 2017

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





Winchester TU Holiday Party is, Dec. 11th Reservations are required for the party. Contact Bill for reservations.

Next TU BarFly is Wednesday, Dec. 14th

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See you at the meeting on Thursday, January 5, 2017 Bill Prokopchak, Newsletter Editor 540-722-2620

Bud on the Run:

Plans for the December 3rd Workday at Redbud Run Update on the November Work Day

Tube

Next workday is set for 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 3rd article and photos by Bud Nagelvoort

With the membership not getting together until Dec. 11, this will be the only general communication to all members regarding the next work session at Redbud Run scheduled for Dec. 3.

From current indications, it is not likely to snow on that date. However, considering the strange events that occurred in November, particularly on the 8th, it might be in the 70s or 6 feet of snow. Since you did all your Christmas shopping on November 25th, there is no excuse for not joining with Barbara, Bill, Terry, and Bud (so far the known committeds) for this always-exciting and intellectually stimulating effort.

On November 5, however, Robert, Clark, Bob, and Bud finished repairs on the boarding of the sycamore deflector log at the silvermaple root ball and the inverted V where part of the fabric cover needed to be re-attached to the boards. Exciting work to say the least.

In addition, there was some clearing of debris just below the V. Bottom line at that location now is good fish-attractive cover. Maybe no fish yet, but fish-attractive cover. Minnows are present.

While Robert had to depart at noon three of us proceeded to the beaver dam remnants for an hour hoeing, scraping, scratching, dragging and tossing logs, poles, sticks and stones on the south bank to deepen and widen the channel.



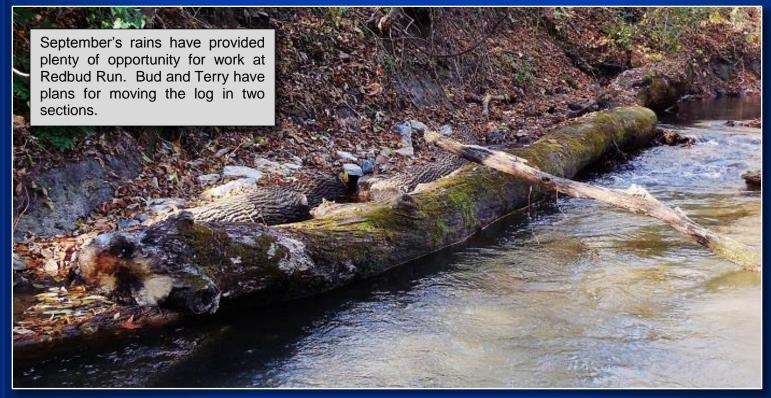
It probably needs another foot of logs, poles, sticks, and stones removed from the old dam bed to get the channel back to pre-beaver level. At the same time, the remaining half of the old dam needs similar attention. Still no evidence of current beaver presence.

"Bud on the Run" continues on the next page.

Bud on the Run -- continued Plans for the December 3rd Workday at Redbud Run

Next workday is set for 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 3rd article and photos by Bud Nagelvoort

On December 3 at 9:00 a.m., if no more than a foot of snow and temps below 70, we will attack the log at Boyer's Former Bog. Terry advises he has calculated the weight of this monster log at 5 tons. Since four of those tons are likely in the current (no pun intended) upstream half of the log, we will be cabling just the lower one-ton half of the log into place just below Dave's V.



Terry and Bud proved once more the ability of a 2X block and tackle system on an enormous emerald ash borer-deceased firewood tree at Bud's on November 22.

We'll lock in both remnant pieces of the 5 tonner with 6-ftot T-posts and 9-gauge wire along with standard 6-inch-spaced boards -- some day to be followed with rocks between the boards and the bank at least at the upper end -- unless five or more [volunteers] show up, in which case several may venture to the Sulphur Spring Road rock pile for less intellectual exercise.

In any event, we promise long sleeved rubber gloves for those pounding nails under water and brilliant conversation otherwise for all.

As always, please advise Bud at 540-277-7629 if your supervisor will give you time off for this event, which will no doubt give us something unique to talk about on December 11th as Dan relinquishes the treasured ugly TU Member award for 2016 to some equally deserving member.







PHW Update Kenny Hawthorne Succeeds Paul Wilson as PHW Leader

Kenny Hawthorne, PHW Program Leader, Martinsburg VAMC

Kenny Hawthorne (seated in photo at right) has taken over as Program Lead for the Project Healing Waters activities at the Martinsburg, West Virginia, Veterans Medical Center.

Kenny succeeds Paul Wilson (standing in this photo) who established PHW at the Martinsburg Center and built it into the thriving program that it is.

Kenny was not a fly angler when he came along through the PHW program at Martinsburg. Through PHW, he discovered the joys and healing powers of fly fishing, eventually becoming Assistant Project Lead. Fly fishing has become such an important part of Kenny's life that he wants to step up to Program Lead when Paul's move out of our area.

We all wish Paul Wilson the very best as he moves to his new home in Colorado and expect that Paul, a Marine, will become active in PHW at a veterans' facility in his new location.

As always, if you are available to volunteer for any of our Project Healing Waters fly-fishing events or classes, please contact Kenny. He will add you to the email list.

Kenny Hawthorne Program Lead

Email: kennyhawthorne@gmail.com



Photo by Bill Prokopchak

Check out our Website:

http://www.healingwatersmartinsburg.org/

National PHW website:

http://www.projecthealingwaters.org/

Like us on Facebook:

https://www.facebook.com/ProjectHealingWatersOfMartinsburgWestVirginia



Editorial Page

With this edition of LATERAL LINES, the editorial staff of our newsletter introduces its first "Editorial Page" to the monthly publication. We plan to include, on a somewhat regular basis, thoughtful notes about the environmental issues of our times that have an impact on the angler and the clean water so necessary for our favorite activity. We invite you to follow the topics that appear here.

The Coming Assault on Our Environment?

For many years, anglers, hunters, indeed, all Americans have depended on enforcement by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of the provisions of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. §1251 et seq. 1972) to regulate the discharge of pollutants into the waters of the United States and to regulate the quality of our surface waters.

Our President Elect in a speech delivered in Florida's Robarts Arena on Nov. 7, 2016 said "But we need absolutely crystal clear and clean water."

Again on Nov 26, 2016 at an interview with the staff of *The New York Times* the President Elect said: "I will tell you this: Clean air is vitally important. Clean water, crystal clean water is vitally important."

On the other hand, during an interview with *Fox News* on Oct. 15, 2015 he said about the

Environmental Protection Agency, ". . . what they do is a disgrace."

A *Forbes Magazine* contributor reports that the President Elect said about the EPA: "We're going to have little tidbits left but we're going to get most of it out."

Every American needs to follow the President Elect's future actions in the clean water arena. Will he work to abolish the EPA, America's watchdog on water pollution?

Or will he stand by his promise that we will have crystal clear and clean water?

On so many issues, the President Elect has made contradictory statements. We wonder: Which presidential promise we will get?

The Editorial Staff Lateral Lines



Winchester TU Monthly "BarFly" Event Wednesday, December 14th at 7:00 p.m. Escutcheon Brewery, Commercial St., Winchester

The Winchester Chapter of Trout Unlimited will be gathering at Escutcheon Brewing in Winchester to offer anglers and **non-anglers** in our area the opportunity to learn about Trout Unlimited and to tie some fishing flies.

We hope all of you can attend our monthly "BarFly" at Escutcheon Brewery.





The brewery and tasting room are located at 142 W. Commercial St. Winchester, VA

No fly-tying or fly-fishing experience is necessary.

Please invite your friends. We hope to introduce more folks to the Winchester TU chapter and support a local business that supports TU.

Above: Gene turns out his first Woolly Bugger at the November BarFly.

Right: Denny instructs a left-handed BarFly participant in the fine art of fly tying. At Winchester TU BarFly, we welcome left handers. We have flything equipment that accommodates both left handers and right handers.



Escutcheon logo courtesy of Escutcheon Brewing Co. Photos and BarFly Logo by Bill Prokopchak

7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 14

Commercial Street Winchester, VA



The Well-Schooled Angler

Compiled by Barbara Gamble

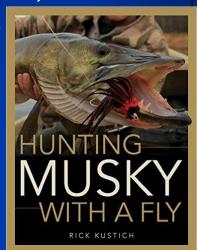
Hunting Musky with a Fly

Author: Rick Kustich Hardcover: 224 pages ISBN-10: 0811713571 ISBN-13: 978-0811713573 Publisher: Stackpole Books Publication Date: January 1, 2017

The most complete fly fishing guide to musky to date

Musky, short for muskellunge, have been called the fish of 10,000 casts and are one of the most challenging, yet rewarding, fish to catch on a fly.

Musky have a large range -from northern Michigan,
northern Wisconsin, and
northern Minnesota through
the Great Lakes region,
north into Canada,
throughout most of the St.
Lawrence River drainage
and northward throughout
the upper Mississippi valley,
extending as far south as
Chattanooga in the
Tennessee River valley.



This much-anticipated book

is the most complete guide to fly fishing for musky to date and includes fly patterns, wisdom, and local techniques from top guides around the country: Blane Chocklett (Virginia); Brad Bohen (Wisconsin); Chris Willen (Tennessee), and more.

When Rick Kustich first published his *Fly Fisherman* article "Hunting the Hunter" in 2010, fly fishing for muskies was an arcane pursuit. Six years later there have been dozens of magazine articles, fly-fishing films, and even fly rods, lines, and leaders created specifically for musky fishing.

Kustich continues to lead this rapidly expanding and evolving sport with a book compiling the knowledge gained from over 4,000 hours and 25 years of musky fishing. (Ross Purnell, Editor of Fly Fisherman magazine)

Rick Kustich is a fly fishing author, photographer, and instructor. In January 2013, he released *Advanced Fly Fishing for Great Lakes Steelhead* (978-0-8117-0792-3), his fifth fly fishing title. Rick's work has appeared in numerous national and regional publications. He has also spent time as a guide, fly shop owner, and fly fishing book publisher.

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

Winchester TU Recycles Aluminum.

Please bring your aluminum cans to any Winchester TU event.



Keystone Fly Fishing

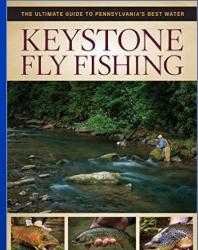
Authors: Henry Ramsay, Mike Heck, Len Lichvar, Gary Kell, Dave Rothrock

Paperback: 608 pages ISBN-10: 1934753459 ISBN-13: 978-1934753453 Publisher: Headwater Books Publication Date: February 1, 2017

The definitive, up-to-date guide to Pennsylvania's best fly fishing by regional experts and guides.

Includes over 200 rivers and streams across the state as well as information on where to fish for trout, smallmouth bass, and other game fish species.

First ever guidebook to the state written by a group of regional experts (professional guides, fly fishing instructors, lecturers, fly tiers) to provide insider knowledge to the best fishing opportunities.



Stunning color photographs, accurate maps (created with GIS), and over 200 local fly patterns are featured.

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





Drew Patterson: Featured Speaker at the Winchester TU January Meeting

Drew Patterson will talk about his recent fishing trip to Alaska, including the Brooks River, Naknek River, and Margo Creek.

His quarry: Rainbows, Dolly Vardens, Pink Salmon, and Northern Pike.

7:00 p.m. on January 4, 2017 at our usual meeting place, NW Works, Winchester.



On the Fly: Hoppers and Crickets

article, flies, and photos by Carl A. Rettenberger

Editor's Note: If you are anything like me, you are either months ahead in your fly tying -- or months behind. Just the other day I was madly tying a bunch of sucker spawn for a trip to Erie for Steelhead. I was also gathering my materials for the dry flies I'd be using in the spring and summer of 2017. This month's featured "fly" is Carl's recipe for the Letort Hopper and Cricket (variant). It will give you plenty of time to learn the pattern and tie up a bunch of them to have ready when grasshopper and cricket season rolls around in 2017.



It has been my experience that crickets can be found streamside in both field and forest, while for the most part you'll find the majority of hoppers along streams that meander through fields and meadows. Crickets are not found in trout streams nearly as often as grasshoppers, but fly shops still sell imitations and trout still take them eagerly.

For those of you who are not familiar with the Letort Spring Run, for which this fly is named, it is a good size spring creek located near Carlisle Pennsylvania about an hour and a half north of Winchester. The Letort Spring Run, is where Fox, Trimmer, Marinaro, and other legends made angling history. I've fished it many times in the past, on some days I did very well, and on others, I got skunked. It is typical of our low to moderate gradient spring creeks in as much as it is very silty.

List of Materials:

Hook: TMC 5263 sizes 10 thru 16

Thread: Uni-thread size 6/0, gray for the hopper and black for the cricket

Tail: A tail is not called for in the original pattern. However, I like to create a tag from red Ultra Chenille for both the hopper and cricket. I believe that like big eyes on big game fish flies, it gives the fish something

to target.

Body: Yellow rabbit dubbing for the hopper and brown mixed with black rabbit dubbing for the cricket

I use yellow and dark brown Wapsi Super Fine Dubbing for the hopper and cricket respectively.

Wing: Mottled turkey quill segment treated with Dave's Flexament

Collar: Natural deer hair for the hopper and black deer hair for the cricket

Head: Natural deer hair spun and clipped for the hopper and black deer hair spun and clipped for the cricket.

Grasshopper & Cricket Tying Instructions

- 1. Mount the thread on the hook shank just behind the eye and then wrap the shank with tight booking thread wraps from that point down to the beginning of the bend of the hook shank and park it there. The bend starts opposite the barb of the hook.
- 2. Offer the Ultra Chenille to your side of the hook such that the free end *stops just short of the three-quarters point of the hook shank*. It is very important that you don't go beyond the three-quarters point of the hook shank length because if you do you will not have room enough to spin your deer hair collar and head. The end of the chenille will be the point at which you stop your body and start you collar and head.



Tie it in by taking several tight thread wraps around the chenille and the hook shank at the bend of the hook.

Now create a tag at the bend of the hook by forming a small loop (about three or four millimeters long) around the bend of the hook with the other end of the chenille being placed on the far side of the hook shank. To accomplish this, bring the free end up along the far side of the hook shank, then while holding both sides of the chenille tightly against the sides of the hook shank, take several tight turns at the same location as you did when you started tying in the chenille, then continue to tie them in with tight spiral thread wraps to the point where the near side piece ends. Cut off the waste chenille and wrap the thread back to the bend with tight spiral wraps.

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

Carl's recipe for tying your own Letort Hopper & Cricket (variant) continues on the next page.

On the Fly: Hoppers and Crickets -- continued article, flies, and photos by Carl A. Rettenberger

- 3. A hopper's body does not follow the lines of a long uniform carrot taper, rather it comes up quickly from the posterior end then tapers slightly towards the thorax. With this in mind, start your dubbing at the bend of the hook and then wrap forward creating a short ramp at about a forty-five degree angle. From this point, dub forward to the end of the chenille forming a slightly tapered body.
- 4. The wing on a Hopper is laid down and back like the wing on a Stonefly. Use your dubbing needle to separate several fibers from the treated quill feather. It may take a little experimenting to select the appropriate number of fibers. What you are looking for is a wing that will come down about half way around both sides of the body when tied in.

Selecting too many fibers will still allow you to remove some. Selecting too few fibers will result in starting over.

Fold the fibers in half and trim the thin end to a rounded point. The length of the wing should be equal to the "total length" of the hook. Tie it in on top of the dubbing where the body stops, being careful to center the wing such that it wraps down equally on each side of the dubbed body. The wing should extend beyond the bend of the hook approximately one third the length of the shank. Trim the waste at the end of the body and take a couple of tight thread wraps around the hook shank at the end of the body and park it there.

- 5. Now it's time to learn something new, and that is "spinning deer hair". This can be a messy job so I wouldn't recommend doing it where cleanup might be difficult.
- Okay let's get started. In this case, we will be spinning deer hair to create the collar and head of our hopper. Start by selecting a clump of deer hair about the diameter of a pencil, cut it from the patch, clean away the fuzz, and stack it in your hair stacker so that the tips are even. The hair collar should extend about one-third the length of the wing.
- Once you have the hair measured for length, slip it down over the front of the hook with the tips pointing toward the bend of the hook. Try to keep the amount of hair even on both sides and on the top and bottom of the hook.



- Hold the collar hair in place between the fingers on you left hand, and then using the soft loop and pinch technique, make two loose wraps of thread around the deer hair and hook shank with your right hand. The thread wraps should overlap each other and be as close as possible to the end of the body.
- Now while still holding the hair, make a tight wrap of thread around both the hair and hook shank, and pull the thread straight down. The hair will start to flare, as it does let go of it and it will start to spin around the hook shank.
- Your next thread wrap be should be tight and slightly forward "through" the flared fibers. Be careful not to tie down the fibers. (Don't let the hair spin without taking your next wrap forward through the flared fibers or it will spin right off the hook shank.)
- Continue with tight thread wraps placed through the flared fibers and towards the eye of the hook until the clump stops spinning around the hook shank. When it does, advance the thread through the flared fibers and take a couple of thread wraps around the hook shank in front of the tied-in clump. This takes a little practice, so don't get discouraged if the hair spins and falls off the hook shank. Occasionally, I still cuss when this happens.
- If you made it this far, it gets somewhat easier from here on out. So select another somewhat smaller clump of hair, cut it from the patch, and clean out the fuzz.
- This time you don't need to stack the tips as you will be tying in the clump with the cut ends extending towards the bend of the hook. To do this, hold the clump on top of the hook shank by the cut 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. Repeat the process of wrapping the thread tightly forward through the flared fibers until the clump stops spinning. (It helps to consolidate the whole mass if you take one back wrap through the previously tied in spun segment.)
- Advance the thread through the fibers and take two wraps in front of the clump. Hopefully, you still have some room left between the end of the hair clump and the shoulder of the eye of the hook. If you really have crowded the eye, you may need to unwrap and start over with a second smaller clump of hair. If you have too much room left at the eye of the hook, tie in another smaller clump.

On the Fly: Hoppers and Crickets -- continued

article, flies, and photos by Carl A. Rettenberger

- Now it's time to pack or tighten up the spun deer hair. There are a lot of commercial hair packers on the market and I've tried most of them, but I always go back to just using my fingers. To do this and to prevent the clump from sliding off the rear of the hook shank, place the thumb and index fingers of you left hand on the shank of the hook at rear of your fly's body, pinch tight so that your fingers don't slide forward and crush or push the body materials forward as you use the thumb and index finger of your right hand to pack or push the hair fibers at the eye end of the hook rearward. The thumb and forefinger on your right hand should be wrapped tightly around the hook shank as you push the fibers back with your nails. Don't let your fingers slide up on the hair or you will shear off some of the fibers. Move your fingers around the hook shank as you push rearward to consolidate the whole clump.
- 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 about a half-inch of thread near the hook shank with varnish then whip finish as usual.
- 6. Time to give your fly a "Crew Cut." You can trim spun deer hair with a very sharp safety razor blade or a very sharp pair of scissors, or both, the emphasis being on *sharp*.

Start by pulling all of the "head" fibers up so that they are standing perpendicular to the hook shank. You need to be careful not to include the collar fibers while doing this step. During the initial trimming stage, it is best to leave the fibers slightly longer than needed so that you can clean and square up the cuts up with a razor.

To help the fly float correctly the bottom of the head is trimmed flat and close—to the body. You can leave the fly in the vice or remove it, as I prefer to do, while make a neat square cut of all fibers along the bottom of the fly, including the collar. Next trim both sides square to the bottom with a slight slant from the eye of the hook towards the bend being careful to leave the collar fibers intact. Now do the same with the top. Clean and square up the cuts with a razor if necessary and you're done!!

To tie a cricket just substitutes the appropriate colored materials.

That's it. Now it's time to take your Cricket or Hopper Variant to your favorite trout stream (or bass water), slam it in the water along the bank and give it a go!!



Phil's New Kayak a photo essay by Mark Zimmerman







After weeks of research and discussions with other watercraft owners, Phil decided upon an inflatable -- lightweight, highly portable, and guaranteed for life.

Can't wait for Smallie fishin' in the summer.

What could go wrong?
Just ask Phil.

ANGLER REFLECTIONS

Steelhead!! Rain – Shine – Fish – Food - Camaraderie

by Dan Brakensiek

Our Chapter Trip up north to wrestle "Steelies" took place this year from October 30 to November 5. Seven intrepid fly fishers journeyed up to the wilds of Pennsylvania on the shore of Lake Erie. This was the first time brothers Glenn and Chuck Wilson who joined Charlie, Bill, Fred, Steve, and me.



This year Charlie procured quarters for all of us at a "new" location on a bluff overlooking the lake.

Photo by Dan Brakensiek

We survived two cycles of high water (chocked full of fall foliage) in the mile streams east of Erie wherein we were able to bring to hand several of the watery beasts.



Bill educated the rest of us on fineries of Irish Whisky and fine cigars -- and, of course, catching Steelhead.

Photo by Fred Boyer

We alternated dinners at the "House" and at the Freeport Diner nearby. Much relaxation, some adrenaline, breathtaking fall colors, and several early mornings proved the trip to be an altogether excellent experience. In a word put out by Glenn: "amazing"! Join us next

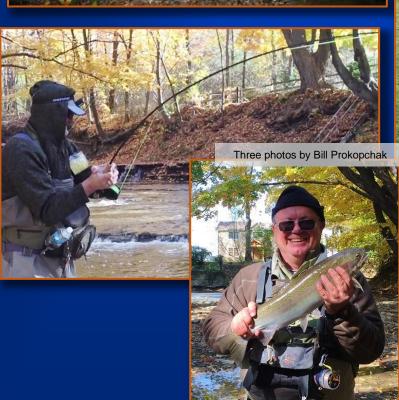




Photo by Dan Brakensiek



2016 Calendar of Events Winchester Trout Unlimited By Fred Boyer

See the complete calendar of Winchester TU events at

http://winchestertu.org/

December 2016

- √Thursday 1 December 2016 -- 7:00 p.m. No monthly TU meeting
- ✓ Saturday 3 December 2016 -- 9:00 a.m. TU workday at Redbud Run and Morgan's Mill Road
- ✓ Sunday 11 December 2016 -- 3:30 p.m. Holiday Party Reservations required contact Bill for details
- ✓ Wednesday 14 December 2016 -- 7:00 p.m. Winchester TU BarFly at Escutcheon Brewery

January 2017

- ✓Thursday 5 January 2017 -- 7:00 p.m. TU monthly meeting Drew Patterson is our featured speaker talking about "Fishing in Alaska"
- ✓ Wednesday 11 January 2017 -- 7:00 p.m. Winchester TU BarFly at Escutcheon Brewery
- ✓ Saturday 7 January 2017 -- 9:00 a.m. TU workday at Redbud Run and Morgan's Mill Road

February 2017

- ▼Thursday 2 February 2017 -- 7:00 p.m. TU monthly meeting.
- Saturday 4 February 2017 -- 9:00 a.m. TU workday at Redbud Run and Morgan's Mill Road
- ✓ Wednesday 8 February 2017 -- 7:00 p.m. Winchester TU BarFly at Escutcheon Brewery

March 2017

- ▼Thursday 2 March 2017 -- 7:00 p.m. TU monthly meeting
- √Saturday 4 March 2017 -- 9:00 a.m. TU workday at Redbud Run and Morgan's Mill Road
- ✓ Wednesday 8 March 2017 -- 7:00 p.m. Winchester TU BarFly at Escutcheon Brewery

April 2017

- √Thursday 6 April 2017 -- 7:00 p.m. TU monthly meeting
- Saturday 8 April 2017 -- 9:00 a.m. TU workday at Redbud Run and Morgan's Mill Road
- √Wednesday 12 April 2017 -- 7:00 p.m. Winchester TU BarFly at Escutcheon Brewery

May 2017

- Thursday 4 May 2017 -- 7:00 p.m. TU monthly meeting
- √Saturday 6 May 2017 -- 9:00 a.m. TU workday at Redbud Run and Morgan's Mill Road
- √TBA May 2017 -- TIC Brookie Release Cleanup Day
- ▼TBA May 2017 -- TIC Brookie Release Days

June 2017

- √Thursday 1 June 2017 -- 7:00 p.m. TU monthly meeting
- ✓Saturday 3 June 2017 -- 9:00 a.m. TU workday at Redbud Run and Morgan's Mill Road

July 2017

- √No Winchester TU meeting in July
- √No BarFly in July
- ✓Saturday 8 July 2017 -- 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 <u>all</u> 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.