

Lateral Lines

The Monthly Journal of Winchester TU
Chapter #63

"Not a better angler, just more persistent" W.M.P.

December 2019

Volume 24, Number 12


TROUT UNLIMITED
WINCHESTER
VIRGINIA
CHAPTER 638

Next meeting is Thursday,
January 2, 2020

5:00 p.m. Dinner
Donato's Touch of Italy
1361 N Frederick Pike
Winchester

7:00 p.m. Meeting
Winchester Red Cross
561 Fortress Drive
Winchester



See you at the meeting on Thursday, January 2, 2020
Bill Prokopchak, Newsletter Editor
540-722-2620

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Bud on the Run: Update on the November Workday at Redbud Run and Plans for the December Workday

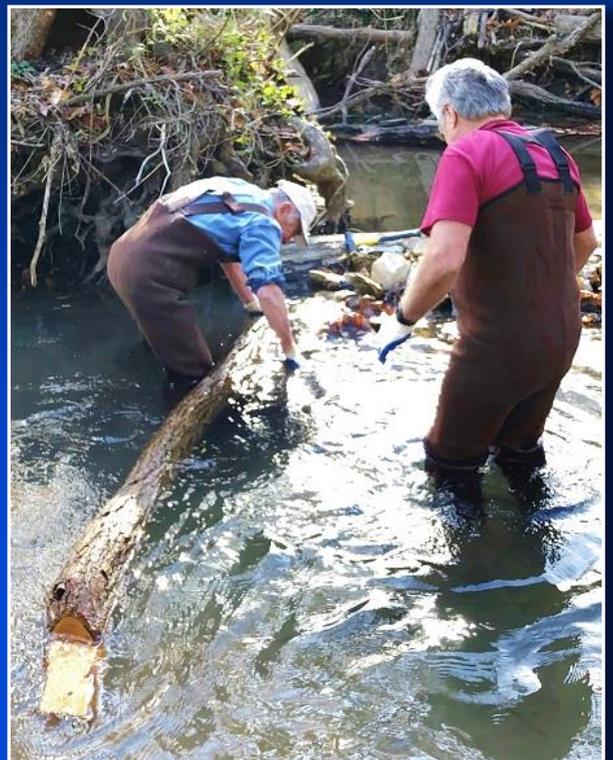
by Bud Nagelvoort
photos by Fred Boyer

On October 5, Terry, Bill, and Bud took on about a dozen boulders with trucks, cables, and pulleys and got all but one into the stream or, at least, down the bank, for re-locating as part of the construction of an alternative-type inverted V structure at the island above Clark's Crosslog at Sycamore Island.

While that was hard work, the trucks and winches did most of the heavy lifting.

Right: Bud and Terry align the locust logs that will form Sycamore Island V.

Below: Places the new V in the center of the stream flow.



For the November work session, which occurred on the 15th, it was a bright, sunny day with the stream at its lowest and clearest in two years and water temp 53 degrees. The same crew plus Fred appeared for the exercise. But 90% of the work was in chest waders with hands and arms under water moving those boulders into position.

Our first struggle was lining up the black locust inverted V logs to bolt them together and then lock the V into place. With one end spiked to the Sycamore Island end of the big oak log that is blocking the south bank channel and the other held in place with a steel fence post at the north bank, the work was not complete.

After success in that effort with only minor confusion on Bud's part as to which end went where, the balance of the morning was prying and lifting and pulling and dragging the boulders into place resting on the V logs underwater.

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

Bud on the Run -- continued

by Bud Nagelvoort

photos by Fred Boyer

Amazingly enough, it was possible to direct the stream flow into the center of the stream where it will flush the channel during both high and low flows while protecting the island and the north bank.

Some final polishing will take place at the December work session with another truck load or two from the piles of giant and small rock from Justin Mackay-Smith stashed a few hundred yards downstream two years ago.

In 2020, we'll be wiring in old Christmas trees for small cover both at this site and also just downstream at Clark's Crosslog. Bring Christmas trees to the January meeting.

We'll play it by temperature as to the December work session, but maybe the 6th or 7th should be on the calendar as most likely as of this date. Keep the long underwear and chest waders handy.



Above: Terry maneuvers a 200 pounder into place at the head of the new inverted V structure in Redbud Run,

Left: Working exactly as Bud planned it, the new inverted V at Sycamore Island is directing the flow down the middle of the streambed and minimizing bank erosion.

Lower left: And here's a pic of a 15-inch, gorgeous native Rainbow from Redbud that Bud caught and released on Nov. 11. "It is why we're TU!" says Bud.

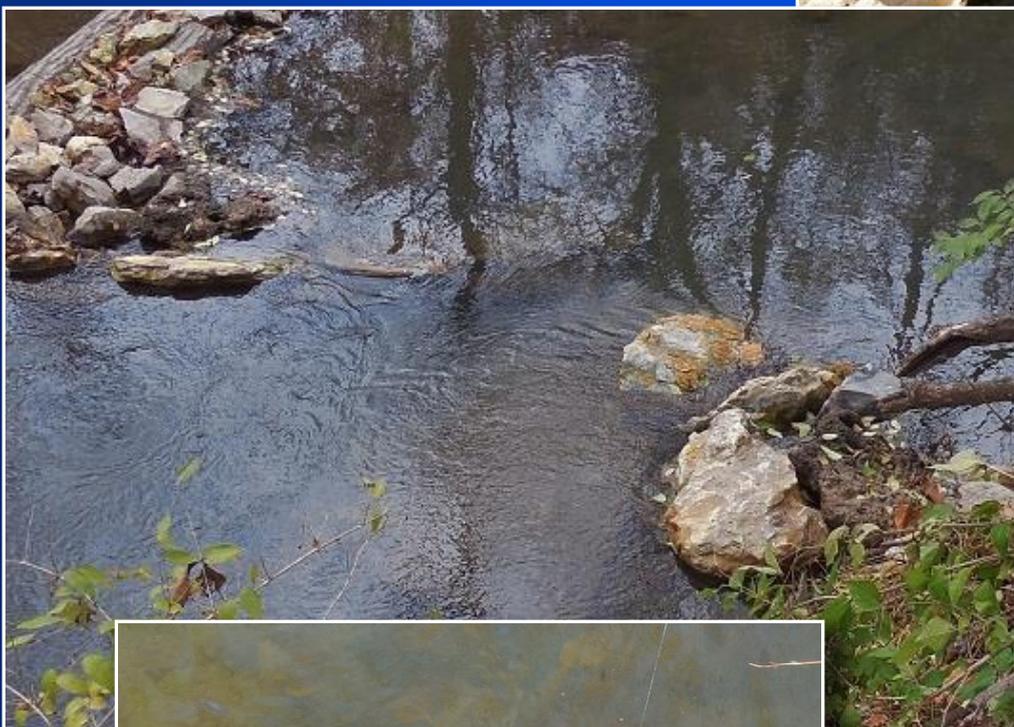


Photo by Bud Nagelvoort



Winchester TU Monthly "BarFly" Event Wednesday, December 11th 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 WTU.



Tech on the Water: Stocking Stuffers for the Angler

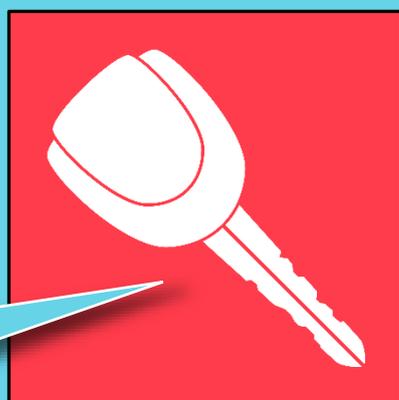
It's the Holiday Season, and every angler knows that this is the time of year to drop some hints, leave your wish lists lying about, or just plain ask Santa for some fishing stuff.

Here are some ideas that you might want to consider. These really aren't "high tech", but they just might come in really handy one day!
-- Bill Prokopchak

At one time or another, each of us has been stranded because someone locked the key for the fishing vehicle inside the dang truck.

Yes, a spare electronic key can be expensive, but most vehicles still have a mechanical back-up that is far less pricey.

Either way, the spare key is better than paying for a tow-truck to come to the rescue.



Spare Key for Your Fishing Vehicle

If you permanently attach the spare key to your fishing vest, you will always have it with you.



Spool of Nylon Cord

A spool of nylon cord can come in handy.

How sad to have a spare key, but lose it on the stream.

Use the first length of your new spool of nylon cord to tie your spare key to your fishing vest

Not only can a good tow hook help pull you out of a jam. You might need to be the one doing the pulling.



Receiver Tow Hook or Ball

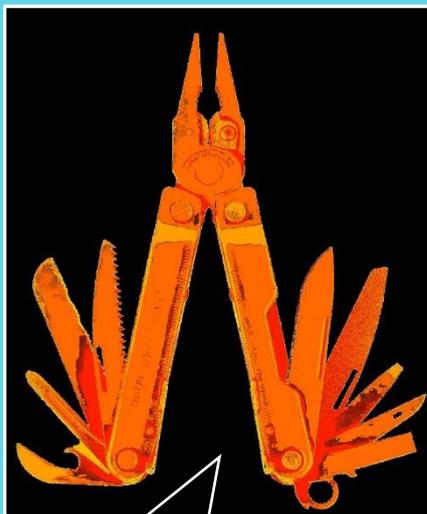
There's no substitute for a tow hook when things get slippery on your favorite Trout stream.

A tow strap is inexpensive, relatively light weight compared to a chain, and easy to use in a variety of predicaments.



Tow Strap

Your tow hooks aren't much good without some method of connection.



Multi-Tool

A good multi-tool comes in handy for all sorts of reasons. They can be a bit pricy, but the variety is endless.

If Santa brings you the wrong one, you can exchange it for model that better suits you.

After using my multi-tool in the wild a couple of times, I realized that it was nearly invisible on the ground and the bottom of a creek.
Paint your multi-tool fluorescent orange for greater visibility.



Winchester TU 2020 Speaker Schedule

Mark your calendar now and plan to hear all of these presentations.

January 2nd - Wayne White

Sweetwater Guide School and WTU Chapter member Wayne White recently attended the Sweetwater Fly Fishing Guide School in Greycliff, Montana as a Project Healing Waters volunteer. Wayne will talk about his experience in the week-long fly-fishing certification course that will include some beautiful scenery and action fishing shots as well as tips on fishing tactics, techniques, and procedures that will benefit local Project Healing Waters Chapters.

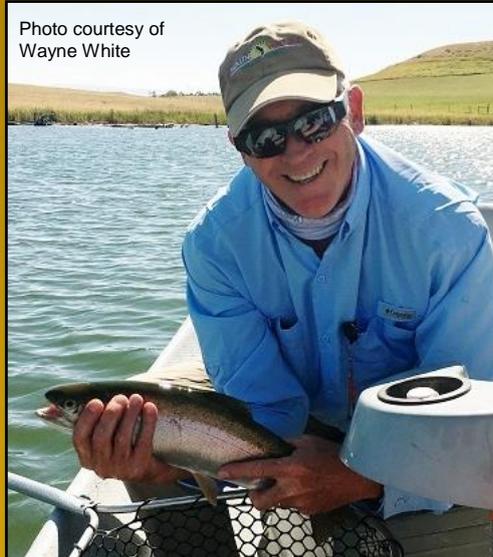


Photo courtesy of Wayne White



Postponed (to be rescheduled) -

Nathaniel Hitt, PhD, research biologist for the US Geological Survey will be back! Than will talk about Brook Trout health and welfare in our region.

Photo courtesy of USGS

March 5th -

Art Overcash will be here to teach all of us how to ty the "Humpy" dry fly. Art has been tying flies since he was a youngster and continues to teach fly tying to youth, seniors, and everyone in between.

Photo courtesy of Potomac Valley Fly Fishers



In Negotiations:

We are working on a dates for the following presentations

- Other wild critters that inhabit the hills and hollows here in Virginia.
- An encore presentation of Lisa LaCivita's "Frederick County Frogs: What are they telling us and why should we care?"

If you have an idea for a Winchester TU meeting speaker, please let me know. We are always looking for great programs on topics of interest to the fly angler.



Barbara's Books

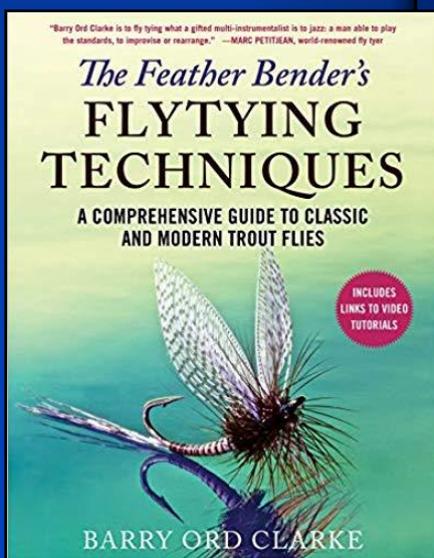
Compiled by Barbara Gamble

The Feather Bender's Flytying Techniques: A Comprehensive Guide to Classic and Modern Trout Flies

Author: Barry Ord Clarke
Hardcover: 256 pages
ISBN-10: 1510751505
ISBN-13: 978-1510751507
Publisher: Skyhorse
Publication Date: January 7, 2020
Comprehensive edition

A comprehensive, lavishly illustrated guide to tying popular trout flies.

This book is aimed at all fly tyers, from those with modest experience to those with more advanced skills. The author's intention is to focus on certain important elementary techniques, and then share some of his favorite contemporary twists on old, tried-and-true techniques. Many of the flies in this book are based in his own techniques and patterns, ones that he has developed in more than thirty-five years of tying.



The book is arranged in sections to give readers the opportunity to easily locate the pattern or technique they are looking for. Patterns are not grouped alphabetically, but by technique. For example, the section on dry flies has categories demonstrating a particular dry fly style or technique such as mastering the use of deer hair, parachute, CDC, and so on.

If you are fairly new to fly tying, the opening chapters on materials and special techniques and tricks will familiarize you with some basics and help you get started. Seasoned tyers will similarly find information here to help them raise their tying skills to a new level.

Each pattern is listed with a recipe, recommended hook style, size, and materials. They are listed in the order that that author uses them, and illustrated by the book's step-by-step images. This will help you plan each pattern and assemble materials beforehand.

Included are lushly illustrated photos for such well-known trout flies as:

- Pheasant tail nymph
- Klinkhamer
- Humpy
- Deer Hair Irresistible
- CDC Mayfly Spinner
- And much more.

A special feature of this one-of-a-kind book is that it's the first tying book to have a video link for all the patterns featured. Watch the author tying online, then turn to the matching chapter in the book to follow the step-by-step instructions so that you can tie your own fly in your own time. Author Barry Ord Clarke will respond online to your questions.

Sources: amazon.com and the publishers

The Practical Guide to Fishing: An Illustrated Manual for Freshwater, Game, Saltwater, and Fly Fishing

Authors: Martin Ford, Tony Miles, and Peter Gathercole
Hardcover: 256 pages
ISBN-10: 0754834794
ISBN-13: 978-0754834793
Publisher: Lorenz Books
Publication Date: January 7, 2020
Illustrated edition

Angling is one of the most popular sports around the world, giving thousands of hours of pleasure to fishermen and women of all ages and levels.

Here is extensive expert advice on the best fishing techniques and locations, and how to select rods, reels, lines, flies and plugs as well as clothes and accessories for all situations.

The various skills involved in freshwater, saltwater, and game fishing are covered in detail, with diagrams and explanations of different techniques.

The book includes an in-depth visual guide to the major species the angler is likely to encounter, with advice on recognition, size potential and feeding habits, together with professional tips of the trade on how to catch each type.

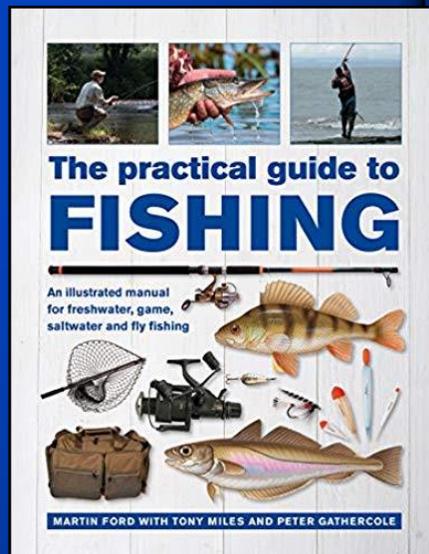
Martin Ford has been a keen fly fisher since casting a line to a trout on a Yorkshire stream as a child, and contributes regularly to *Salmon and Trout* magazine.

Tony Miles specialized in coarse fishing and wrote regularly for *Coarse Fisherman* magazine and wrote several books.

Peter Gathercole is a leading fly dresser, game fishing author and natural history photographer.

Sources: amazon.com and the publishers

Editor's Note: Hard to believe but there was once a magazine entitled *COARSE FISHERMAN*. I have met more than a few in my day, but this magazine was targeting anglers of coarse fish like carp, suckers, etc. *COARSE FISHERMAN* has been out of print for ages.



Winchester TU Recycles Aluminum.

Please bring your aluminum cans to any Winchester TU event.



From the Archives of Winchester Trout Unlimited

by Carl A. Rettenberger

Our old friend, Carl, published this article in *LATERAL LINES* back in August 2002.

By now I'm sure you all wonder about my sanity, given the fact that I fish all year round. To me it doesn't matter whether its spring, summer, fall, or the coldest days of winter. But my most recent experience has left me wondering, and my wife convinced, that I'm not all there.

It all started when Eric Shockey suggested we try someplace new, and that, that place should be Black Water Canyon. Sounded good to me, so off we went to fish the legendary Black Water Canyon River. I mean how hard can it be to climb down and up the side of some hill? I'm getting older, but I'm still in reasonably good shape, so away we went on a sunny Saturday morning to fish the Black Water River.

It's easy enough to get there, all you need do is take Route 50 west to Route 42 south, then right on Route 91, then another right on route 32 to the National Park. It's an even 104 miles from my home off Apple Pie Ridge.

Neither one of us knew where we were going, so we drove through the Park past the sign announcing the location of the falls to a likely looking parking area containing the standard catch and release sign.

We parked, I put my waders on, and rigged up while Erick packed his waders and other accessories into his back pack. We walked across the parking area, then along a nice trail to a big brown sign advising that, yep you're here at the beginning of one of the several trails leading down to the river. Believe me when I say "down: was the operative word. We stood at the edge of a cliff and looked down at the river running between two sets of mountain, it was then that I started to question, whether or not I really wanted to fish Black Water Canyon.

Turning back to the big brown sign, we read the message which warned all normal people to go home and to leave the trail down to mountain goats. Believe me, they are not kidding, and everything you have read about access to the river is understated. It's hard to judge vertical distance, but I'm guessing it's about a half mile straight down to the river.

By now, it started to drizzle and down the trail we went. Trail is not really the appropriate word to describe what we were on, it was more like a trace left by a sick mountain goat weaving back and forth. We slid, climbed hand over hand, holding onto tree roots and anything else we could find to slow down our descent. When we finally reached the bottom I breathed a sigh of relief and sat down to try to get my legs back under me.

Here we were at the famous Black Water Canyon River. I always thought black was the opposite of white, but this water looked like a strong cup of coffee with a dash of milk. It was then that we realized the river was just coming down as the result of a heavy rain storm. Now I checked the weather forecast the night before and found no indication that there was any rain on the east coast let alone a storm heavy enough to cause the river to flood.

But what the heck; we were here so we might as well fish.

Incidentally, remember I told you I had rigged my rod when I was at the top of the mountain, mistake number two. Mistake one, was letting Erick talk me into coming here.

On the slide down the mountain, I got stuck on branches and everything else in sight, until I finally snapped my tippet and lost my rigging. So I rigged back up fishing a bead head prince over a bead hare's ear dropper. Now came climbing lesson number two. One can't walk more than fifty feet before you have to climb over huge boulders to get to the next place to wet your fly.

By this time, we were ready to climb back up. I had managed to catch three nice browns and a beautiful rainbow, while Erick claimed six rainbows.

It had rained all day, but not to worry I left my rain parka in the truck where it was nice and dry. Can't say the same for me.

We came down early that morning.

I looked up, and it was then that I really started to doubt my sanity. The climb back up was a real trip, you needed to use all you had to pull yourself up the 30-degree slope or climb hand over hand up the rock outcrops. I finally did make it to the top, but believe me when I say I had to stop every vertical fifty feet or so to get my breath back and my legs back under me.

Yes, I can brag about fishing Black Water Canyon and living to tell about it, but rest assured I'm not sure this tired old body will ever do it again.



Poet's Corner: Poems selected for the angler

Aftermath

By Willa Cather
1873-1947
U.S.A



Can'st thou conjure a vanished morn of spring,
Or bid the ashes of the sunset glow
Again to redness? Are we strong to wring
From trodden grapes the juice drunk long ago?
Can leafy longings stir in Autumn's blood,
Or can I wear a pearl dissolved in wine,
Or go a-Maying in a winter wood,
Or paint with youth thy wasted cheek, or mine?
What bloom, then, shall abide, since ours hath sped?
Thou art more lost to me than they who dwell
In Egypt's sepulchres, long ages fled;
And would I touch—Ah me! I might as well
Covet the gold of Helen's vanished head,
Or kiss back Cleopatra from the dead!



Part 4: Notes on “A Treatyse on Fysshynge wyth an Angle”

Dame Juliana Berners, the First Woman of Fly Fishing

translated from Middle English to Late Modern English
by Bill Prokopchak



In Part 1 of this series, we learned that Dame Juliana Berners, O.S.B. (born 1388) is widely regarded as the mother of fly fishing. In Part 2, we looked at the preface to her *Book of St. Alban's* which includes chapters on angling, hunting, and hawking. In Part 3, we learned of the curious word she used for an artificial fly: **dubbe** and learned that the word has made it through the centuries to describe the twisted fibers for building fly bodies that we now call **dubbing**.

Dame Juliana, after several introductory paragraphs begins her *Treatyse on Fysshynge* by telling the reader:

“If you want to be a crafty angler, you must first learn to make your *harnays*. That is, to make your rod and your lines of diverse colors.”

The word *harnays* comes to Middle English from the Old French word for **personal fighting equipment, weapons**. It comes to Modern English as the word *harness*.

Interesting, don't you think, that Dame Juliana seems to compare preparations for angling with preparations for battle.

Just last week, our angling buddy, Fred, and I agreed that as we get older, we certainly could use a squire, as did the knights of yesteryear, to get into our chest-high waders and boots.



Look for part 5 of this series on
Dame Juliana Berners in
a subsequent edition of
LATERAL LINES.



Photo Gallery

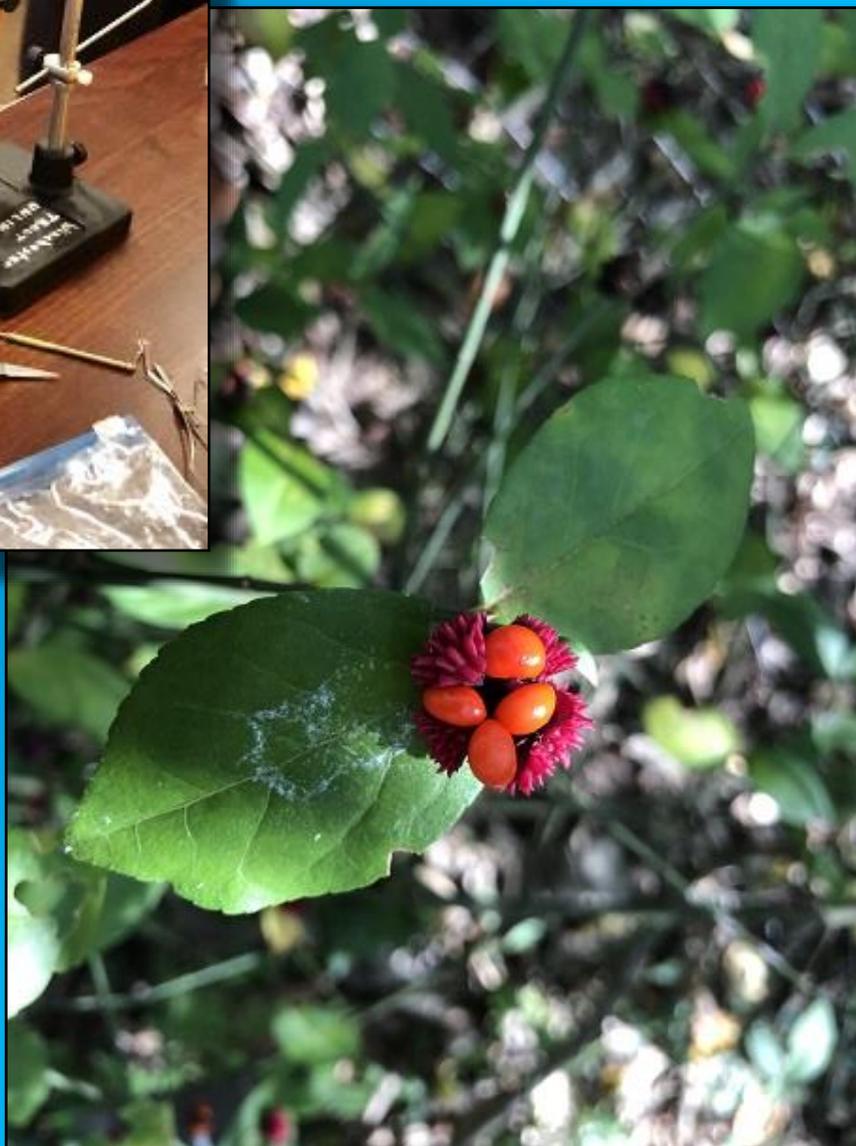


Above: October Caddis courtesy of Bruce Fisher, Owner of Penn's Creek angler



Left: Tying a woolly bugger at Winchester TU's BarFly event at Escutcheon Brewery.

Below: Mystery wild plant photographed in Clarke County. The first person to identify this plant correctly will win a free pack of "Bill's Brookie" note cards. Submit your entries to Bill.



2019-2020 Calendar of Events

Winchester Trout Unlimited

By Fred Boyer

See also

<http://winchestertu.org/>

December 2019

- ✓ No Business Meeting in December
- ✓ 6 or 7 December 2019 Redbud Run workday -- Time to be announced at a later date
- ✓ Wednesday 11 December 2019 --7:00 p.m. - BarFly at Escutcheon Brewery

January 2020

- ✓ Thursday 2 January 2020 -- 7:00p.m. -- Monthly TU meeting
Our featured speaker is Wayne White. See page 4 of this newsletter for details.
- ✓ Saturday 4 January 2020 Redbud Run workday -- Time to be announced at a later date
- ✓ Wednesday 8 January 2020 --7:00 p.m. - BarFly at Escutcheon Brewery

February 2020

- ✓ Thursday 6 February 2020 -- 7:00p.m. -- Monthly TU meeting
Postponed: Nathaniel Hitt, research biologist for the USGS.
- ✓ Saturday 8 February 2020 Redbud Run workday -- Time to be announced at a later date
- ✓ Wednesday 12 February 2020 --7:00 p.m. - BarFly at Escutcheon Brewery

March 2020

- ✓ Thursday 5 March 2020 -- 7:00p.m. -- Monthly TU meeting
Our featured speaker will be Art Overcash who will teach us how to tie the "Humpy" dry fly.
- ✓ Saturday 7 March 2020 Redbud Run workday -- Time to be announced at a later date
- ✓ Wednesday 11 March 2020 --7:00 p.m. - BarFly at Escutcheon Brewery

April 2020

- ✓ Thursday 2 April 2020 -- 7:00p.m. -- Monthly TU meeting
- ✓ Saturday 4 April 2020 Redbud Run workday -- Time to be announced at a later date
- ✓ Wednesday 8 April 2020 --7:00 p.m. - BarFly at Escutcheon Brewery

May 2020

- ✓ Date to be determined May 2020 -- 7:00p.m. -- Brookie release days
- ✓ Thursday 7 May 2020 -- 7:00p.m. -- Monthly TU meeting
- ✓ Saturday 9 May 2020 Redbud Run workday -- Time to be announced at a later date
- ✓ Wednesday 13 May 2020 --7:00 p.m. - BarFly at Escutcheon Brewery

June 2020

- ✓ Thursday 4 June 2020 -- 7:00p.m. -- Monthly TU meeting
- ✓ Saturday 6 June 2020 Redbud Run workday -- Time to be announced at a later date
- ✓ Wednesday 10 June 2020 --7:00 p.m. - BarFly at Escutcheon Brewery



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.

