

**25<sup>th</sup> YEAR  
of  
LATERAL LINES**

# Lateral Lines

**The Monthly Journal of Winchester TU  
Chapter #63**

Of all things I learned in grade school, trying to avoid cooties was the last one I expected to use.

**May 2020**

**Volume 25, Number 5**

## COVID-19 Cancellations

All Winchester TU activities are canceled until further notice.

Under the direction of the Home Office of Trout Unlimited all TU group activities are canceled.

The staff of LATERAL LINES will keep subscribers up to date via periodic special bulletins during the COVID-19 pandemic.



See you whenever we are able to have our next meeting.  
Bill Prokopchak, Newsletter Editor  
540-722-2620

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## Bud on the Run: Updates and Plans at Redbud Run

by Bud Nagelvoort

I'm having some trouble remembering what happened way back on March 7, the last time we met at Redbud. But it comes back slowly (and imperfectly) after almost two months' absence.

Terry and Bill recovered an old log from the creek and temporarily tied it to a tree with a yellow tow strap for future use.



After perusing the big sycamore log resting over the stream we cleaned out most of the remnants of Dave's V. Terry and Bill then worked on extracting a big, dead log from under the sycamore while Tom, Drew, and Bud loaded boulders and rocks on Bud's truck two or three times and deposited them on the high bank inside the livestock exclusion wire to utilize in Dave's V replacement.

Terry and Bill finally dragged one end of the dead log partially up the bank and tied it to a tree with Bill's strap to await location at the next work session as cover in the stream for the big fish Bill had detected there several months earlier.

Subsequently, on several occasions, discussions took place among Terry, Bill, and Bud about the trouble in re-establishing a V at Dave's old site because the high water that washed out Dave's V had also washed out the ledge on which the V was constructed. It had created a long, deep pool extending from above the big sycamore to what had been a nicely developing pool below Dave's V.

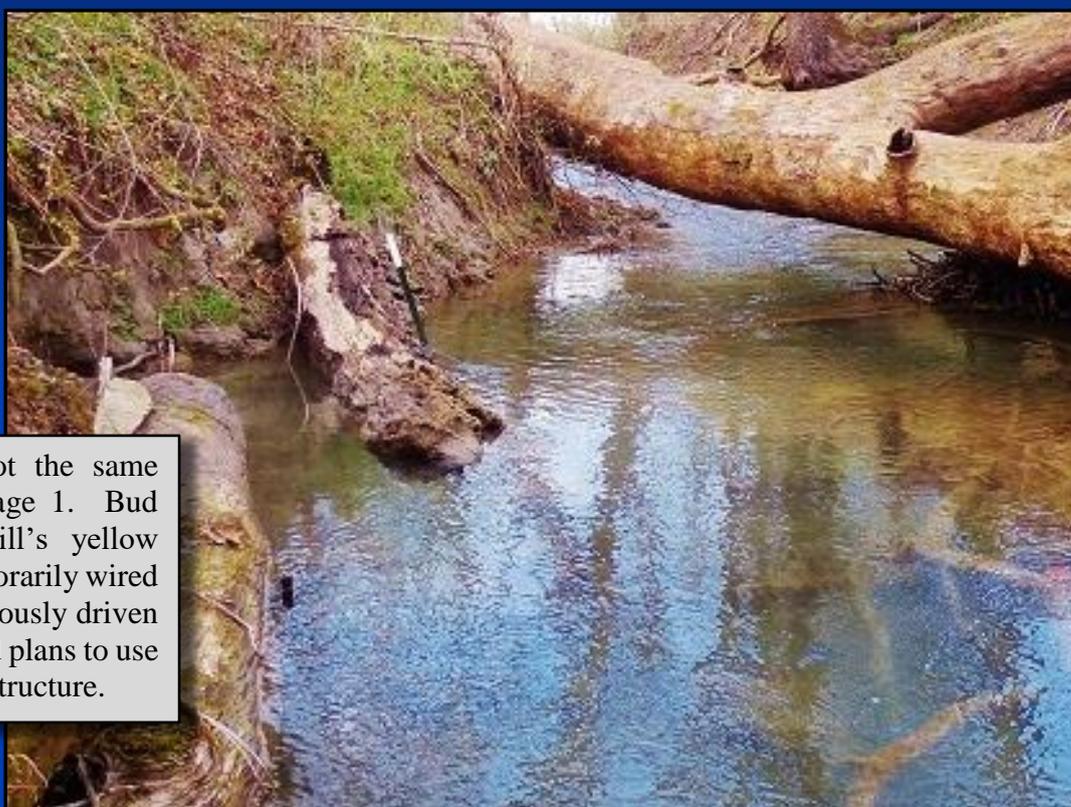
Much more was discussed as to the possibility of creating a new inverted V dam under the big sycamore, but that was considered to be unsafe. Bud also explored constructing a new V further downstream at a site which might have made sense except that the north bank side of the V would extend into a wide, shallow area and on into a low level flat area of recently deposited silt and easily wash out.

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

## Bud on the Run -- continued

by Bud Nagelvoort

So where to go from here? There are two locations, maybe three, between the big sycamore and the cattle crossing where Vs could easily make sense.



No, actually this is not the same photo as the one on page 1. Bud eventually retrieved Bill's yellow tow strap. He then temporarily wired the log to a T-post previously driven into the stream bed. Bud plans to use that old log in our next structure.

One would involve moving the new collection of boulders and rocks (just re-located to the impossible Dave's V site) upstream to a location at the head of a pool just downstream from the waterfalls using their present side of the bank's pasture as access.

A second site is just upstream from the long "ditch" that drains into the stream from the north. The rocks would be even closer.

The third site is the head of a pool just downstream from the cattle crossing now protected from cattle access by the new stream fencing. Access would be close to our big remnant rock piles on the north side of the stream.

We can also be working on removing the giant boulders in our three old rock piles to stream sites closely adjacent to them. To do so we will need to figure out how to get them past the new electric fencing. This will require turning off power and raising fence wire temporarily while cabling the giant stuff just out of the pasture or thru some vegetation to the stream bank for structure use.

When do we get together for any of this????? Stay tuned for the quarantine lifting and hopefully being able to assemble on June 6.



## TU Offices and Chapters Remain Closed Through May 15

We are in a very fluid situation relative to COVID-19. Some states are beginning to open, and others are continue with shelter at home orders. Our number one priority is protecting the health of our volunteers and staff.

For that reason, TU offices and chapters will remain closed until May 15.

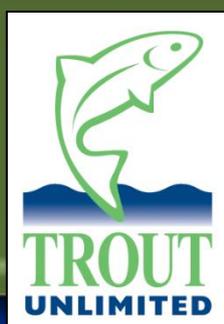
Outdoor activities where social distancing is practiced may occur when consistent with state and local ordinances and guidelines. We will review the application of this policy and provide additional guidance for TU staff and volunteers as various states and local governments begin to ease stay-at-home orders and restrictions.

We realize that some states may be opening during this period, and offering guidance that conflicts with ours. If your chapter wishes to continue with a scheduled event before May 15, please contact Beverly Smith so that she can help you think through whether to continue with the event/activity, or not.

These are very strange times, and neither Jim nor I are comfortable telling chapters when they can meet. Please know that our guidance comes from a deep well-spring of concern for all of you, your families, and your communities. Further guidance will be forthcoming as we approach May 15. Please contact us directly if you have any questions.

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# Winchester TU 2020 Speaker Schedule

Please note that this schedule is tentative due to COVID-19.



May 7<sup>th</sup>

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



Photo courtesy of USGS

June 4<sup>th</sup>

Mike Fies, wildlife biologist and Forecaster Project Leader with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, will be with us to talk about the role of the coyote in the ecology of Virginia. Mark calls coyotes "the most adaptable mammal in the world."



August 6<sup>th</sup>

Wayne Webb (Director of the Lord Fairfax Soil and Water Conservation District, Retired water quality specialists for the USGS, and research manager for Friends of the Shenandoah) will talk about the bacteria levels in the Shenandoah River.

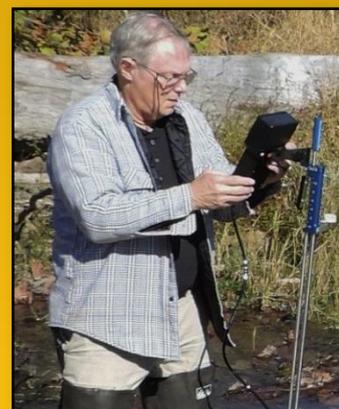
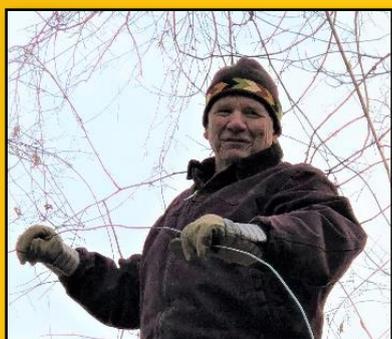
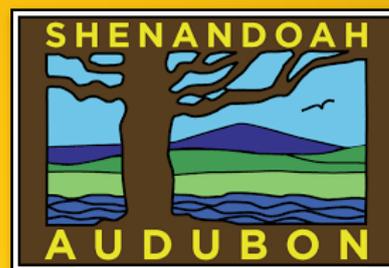


Photo courtesy of The Downstream Project

October 1<sup>st</sup>

Our annual joint meeting with the Northern Shenandoah Valley Audubon Society at Lord Fairfax Community College in Middletown is set for Oct. 1. The topic will be recycling.



November 5<sup>th</sup>

Tom McCabe will regale us with photos and stories about his fishing trip to South America.



## In Negotiations:

We are working on a dates for the following presentations

- Novice fly anglers fish Wyoming
- 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

### **Thrasher's Fly Fishing Guide: An Essential Handbook for All Skill Levels**

**Author:** Susan Thrasher  
**Paperback:** 256 pages  
**ISBN-10:** 1634042441  
**ISBN-13:** 978-1634042444  
**Publisher:** Menasha Ridge Press  
**Publication Date:** May 12, 2020

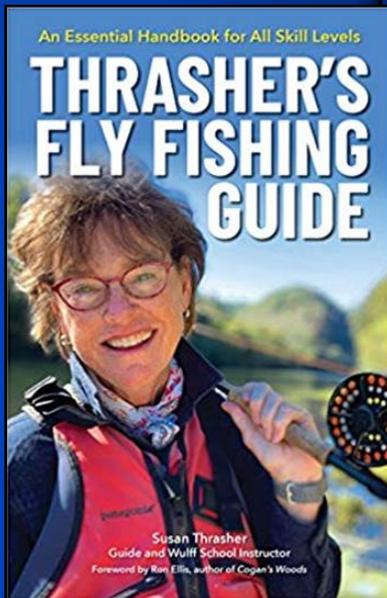
Fly fishing is a wonderful and thrilling way to catch fish -- and it isn't as complicated as you might think.

More and more people are using this intriguing method to catch trout, bluegill, sailfish, and more. You can count yourself among them. It just takes the right equipment, a little bit of know-how, and some practice. If you've never tried because you heard it's "too hard," then you are missing out! Ignore the doubters and the naysayers.

In **Thrasher's Fly Fishing Guide**, expert angler Susan Thrasher provides all the information you need to get you on the water and fly fishing with success.

Thrasher begins with the basics, introducing terminology and recommending equipment to get you going.

She delves into various techniques and further touches upon everything from taking a guided trip to winter fishing.



Along the way, she includes personal stories and anecdotes sure to entertain and encourage. As you continue further into this essential guide, you'll gain more advanced knowledge, such as how to select the best fly line and fly rod for different fishing situations, how to identify the fish that you catch, and even proper etiquette while fishing.

Whether you've never hooked a fish or have spent your whole life filling a basket with fresh catch, **Thrasher's Fly Fishing Guide** is your all-in-one resource on fly fishing. You'll enjoy Thrasher's engaging writing style, and you'll appreciate her step-by-step approach that can take you from "never tried" to "let's go again tomorrow!"

"This fly fishing guide is a brilliant escape from the stuffy tutorials often found in the fishing world. Told through real-life stories, the author's passion and love of bringing new anglers into the fold are overshadowed only by her true dedication to the sport itself. This is a literary gem bound to become a pillar in today's fly fishing landscape."  
 -- Jen Ripple, editor, *Dun Magazine*

Susan Thrasher started fishing at a young age with her dad in East Tennessee and has been passionate about the outdoors all of her life. In 2004, she started Southern Brookies Fly Fishing, a guide service and instructional school, near Nashville, Tennessee. She left a successful engineering career in 2015 to venture into the business full-time. Her passion for fly fishing led her to serve as the co-founder of the Music City Fly Girls, a women's fly-fishing group, and to serve as the Middle Tennessee retreat leader for Casting for Recovery, a program focused on breast cancer survivors and the healing nature of fly fishing.

Sources: amazon.com and the publishers

### **Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation that Starts in Your Yard**

**Author:** Douglas W. Tallamy  
**Hardcover:** 256 pages  
**ISBN-10:** 1604699000  
**ISBN-13:** 978-1604699005  
**Publisher:** Timber Press  
**Publication Date:** February 4, 2020

Douglas W. Tallamy's first book, *Bringing Nature Home*, awakened thousands of readers to an urgent situation: wildlife populations are in decline because the native plants they depend on are fast disappearing. His solution? Plant more natives.

In this new book, Tallamy takes the next step and outlines his vision for a grassroots approach to conservation. **Nature's Best Hope** shows how homeowners everywhere can turn their yards into conservation corridors that provide wildlife habitats. Because this approach relies on the initiatives of private individuals, it is immune from the whims of government policy. Even more important, it's practical, effective, and easy -- you will walk away with specific suggestions that you can incorporate into your own yard.

If you're concerned about doing something good for the environment, **Nature's Best Hope** is the blueprint you need. By acting now, you can help preserve our precious wildlife—and the planet—for future generations.

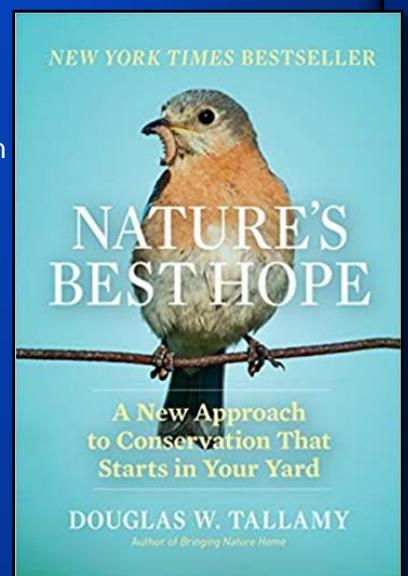
"Tallamy is one of the most original and persuasive present-day authors on conservation." —Edward O. Wilson, University Research Professor Emeritus, Harvard University

"Tallamy shows how to transform yards into ecological wonderlands full of vibrant life. Your local birds, butterflies, and plants will thank you for learning from his wise advice." —David George Haskell, author of *The Forest Unseen*, Pulitzer finalist, and *The Songs of Trees*

"If you're concerned about doing something good for the environment, **Nature's Best Hope** is the blueprint you need. By acting now, you can wildlife --and the planet --for future generations."  
 -- *Hockessin Community News*

Doug Tallamy is a professor in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware, where he has authored 95 research publications and has taught insect related courses for 39 years.

His book *Bringing Nature Home* was awarded the 2008 Silver Medal by the Garden Writers' Association. *The Living Landscape*, co-authored with Rick Darke, was published in 2014. Doug's new book **Nature's Best Hope** became available in February 2020. Among his awards are the Garden Club of America Margaret Douglas Medal for Conservation and the Tom Dodd, Jr. Award of Excellence, and the 2018 AHS B.Y. Morrison Communication Award.



Sources: amazon.com and the publishers



## On the Fly: Yellow Sally

by Carl A. Rettenberger

### List of Materials:

- Hook: TMC 100 size 16 to 18
- Thread: Uni-thread size 8/0 or 10/0, color: yellow
- Tail: Yellow rooster hackle fibers
- Tag: Red floss
- Body: Ginger dubbing
- Ribbing: Uni-thread size 8/0 or 10/0, color: yellow
- Hackle: Light ginger rooster hackle (palmered)
- Wing: Yellow deer body hair
- Legs: Three wing butts on each side of the body



Photo and fly by Carl A. Rettenberger

### Tying Instructions:

1. Wrap the hook shank with tight booking thread wraps from the back of the “eye” of the hook down to the “bend” of the hook which is located directly above the “barb” (to find this point let your bobbin act as a plumb bob and hang straight down from the “shank”).

2. Now for the tail. The tail is made from rooster hackle fibers “stripped” (not cut) from the stem of a dyed yellow rooster hackle feather. The length of the tail is set equal to the length of the hook shank, so choose a suitable feather before stripping the fibers. The best feathers to use for tailing are located within a small quarter moon section, half way down and on either side of the rooster cape.

To get all of the hackle fibers to be of the same length, use your thumb and index finger to pull the fibers up so that they are perpendicular to the stem of the feather. The number of fibers that you strip off to form the tail will depend on the size of the hook but don’t be afraid to be generous. Grab the upright fibers tightly between your thumb and index finger and strip them from the stem. Now you’ll need to change your grip on the fibers so that you are holding them in your left hand by the tips. To make this switch it helps to wet the fibers so that they will stay together as you swap them end for end.

Once you have them properly oriented, measure them against the shank of the hook and tie them in at the bend of the hook with one thread wrap. Now take one thread wrap under the tail fibers extending beyond the bend of the hook, and between the hook itself, this will help to elevate the tail fibers. Next bring the thread back in front of the bend and take one more tight thread wrap around the fibers and hook shank to secure the tail in place and park the thread there. Trim off the waste end of the tail fibers at the full length of the body (about the three quarters point of the hook shank).

3. The “Tag” is a new term I haven’t used before, at least not in this context, but its purpose is to represent the egg sack on a female Yellow Sally which is located at the posterior end of her abdomen. To form the tag cut off a section of floss about four inches long and split it longitudinally into two equal halves. Take one piece and tie it in at the base of the tail with the waste end extending up towards the eye of the hook and trim it off the full length of the body.

Floss can be a pain to work with so you need to exercise patience when wrapping it around the hook shank so that you don’t break a strand on the hook point. You can cause the floss to flare or tighten by rotating it counter clockwise or clockwise, respectively. Wrap the floss tightly around the hook shank forming a small ball about one or two mils in length. Tie it off and then tie down the waste end by wrapping it with thread towards the eye of the hook for the full length of the body. Apply a light coat of varnish to the tag only and let it dry before proceeding.

4. In most cases, “ribbing” is made of thin silver, gold, or copper wire and is used to create the appearance of segmentation in a fly’s body. In this case, however, it will be used to add durability to the palmered hackle. To minimize the weight on a dry fly, I like to use thread instead of wire.

You can tie in a separate piece of thread at the front end of the body and then wrap it down to the “tag”, or you can save a step by using your bobbin thread instead. To do this pull about three inches of thread from the bobbin so that it is straight up from the hook shank at the front end of the body. Now pinch the thread between the thumb and forefinger of your left hand and then pull the bobbin down to the hook shank forming a loop at the fingers of your left hand. Take a couple of tight thread wraps around the hook shank at the end of the body then bring the loop back over the top of the body extending it towards the tail and begin wrapping it down with thread wraps. When you get about half way down to the “tag,” use your scissors to cut one strand of the looped thread right at the top of the hook shank. With this done, continue wrapping the now single strand of thread down along the top of the hook shank to the “tag” and park it there. That’s it you now have your thread ribbing ready to use to help secure the palmered hackle.

**Carl’s recipe for the YELLOW SALLY continues on the next page.**

## On the Fly: Yellow Sally -- continued

by Carl A. Rettenberger

5. The next step is to dub the body. Like most insects the Sally's body is carrot shaped, being narrower at the posterior end of the abdomen and wider at the thorax. As you begin to spin the dubbing on the thread, remember it's a lot easier to add more dubbing to the thread than it is to remove excessive dubbing from the thread. With your thread and bobbin at the front end of the "tag" start with a very small pinch of dubbing and roll it onto the thread using a "*clockwise twisting motion*" of the thumb and forefinger on your right hand. Don't try to get it real tight on the thread at this point, instead just take a single wrap of dubbed thread around the hook shank. With this done, the dubbing will be anchored and you can then thin it out and spin it tight around the thread forming a nice neat thin dubbing rope. Dub the body toward the eye of the hook forming that nice smooth carrot shaped body, adding more dubbing to the thread as you go following the same procedure as previously stated. When you get to the end of the body, park the thread there.

6. You are now ready to add the "palmered" hackle to your fly. "Palmered" simply means that the hackle is tied in towards the eye of the hook then spiral wrapped back to the bend. To begin this step, choose a rooster hackle feather which has fibers that are about one and a quarter times the "gape" width of the hook in length. Strip off the fuzzy stuff at the base of the feather and tie it in at the end of the body with the shiny or convex side facing you and the bare stem extending towards the eye of the hook. Next, you need to trim off the waste and take one tight turn of hackle around the hook shank at the end of the body. Then spiral wrap the hackle around the body to where you have parked the "ribbing thread" at the end of the tag. The wraps need to be tight, but don't get them to close together, about two mils will usually work just fine. When you get to the "tag" bring the hackle straight up and take a tight thread wrap around the bare hook shank and the hackle stem binding it down securely.

7. Now spiral wrap the ribbing from the end of the palmered hackle up through the hackle to the end of the body where the palmered hackle was originally tied in. As you wrap the thread forward use care to minimize the number of hackle fibers that you tie down, a wiggle motion of the thread through the hackle as you wrap will help. When you get to the end of the body, take a couple of turn of ribbing around the hook shank and tie it down with your bobbin thread. Now you can break or cut off the waste part of the hackle that you left back at the "tag."

8. Next, it's time to tie in the wing. The wing on a Yellow Sally is a "hollow-hair downwing" similar to that used on an Elk Hair Caddis except for the fact that you don't want the wing to flare out as much. Start by cutting a small clump of deer body hair off the deer hair patch about the diameter of a regular drinking straw. If it looks or feels like it is too thick for the size hook you are using you can remove some of the fibers. While holding the fibers by their tips with the fingers on your left hand, use the fingers of your right hand to clean out as much of the underbody hair or fuzz as you can. A fine-tooth comb will help to accomplish this task.

Now you need to stack the hair so that all of the tips are even. To do this, place the hair bundle in your hair stacker with the tips down and then tap the hair stacker on your desk several time. To keep from driving our dog crazy, I tap on a piece of leather to dull the sound. While holding the base of the stacker in your right hand with the funnel end pointing slightly downwards, remove the funnel end exposing the tips of the hair bundle. Remove the bundle from the base of the stacker using the fingers on your left hand being careful not to lose the alignment of the tips. Now you need to grab the bundle with the fingers on your right hand, being careful once again not to lose the tip alignment. Measure the wing bundle such that it is the length of the hook shank and then switch back to holding it with your left hand and position it near the desired tie in point where the hackle was tied in.

Bring the bundle down close to the top of the hook shank at the end of the body with the tips extending back towards the tail of your fly and take a fairly tight loop of thread around the *bundle only* at the desired length of the wing. This will help to prevent the bundle from separating and spinning around the hook shank. Next, take a thread wrap around the bundle and the hook shank and, while holding the bundle tightly so that it doesn't rotate around the hook shank. Use straight down thread tension to pull the bundle down onto the top of the hook shank and tie it down with several tight thread wraps (five or six should do), being careful to place one wrap on top of the other as best you can. If you do it right, the wing will only flare slightly and will slant up from the hook shank at about a fifteen-degree angle.

The waste portion of the hair bundle that is extending out over the eye of the hook will flare quite a bit and will almost stand straight up. Grab all of the waste fibers with you left hand and lift them up and back, then bring your thread to the front of the clump and create a nice thread head after which you can tie off with a whip finish and cut off the thread.

9. Stoneflies are hexapods and as such have six legs, three on each side. So, if you want to make your Yellow Sally look more realistic you can use the waste portion of the wing fibers to form legs. To do this, separate three fibers on each side of the hook shank from the bottom section of the waste and pull them down under the hook shank, don't pull too hard or they will break off. Now you need to gather the rest of the waste in a tight bunch in your left hand and pull it straight up. With this done, use the point of your scissors to cut off the waste slightly above the eye of the hook and at the same angle as the eye of the hook. To make the fly last longer put a *very small amount* of super glue on the top and bottom thread wraps that are holding the wing in place and also on the slanted head section that you just formed by cutting off the waste. That's it. You're done with your Yellow Sally. Now go out and catch some of those mountain Brookies!!

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

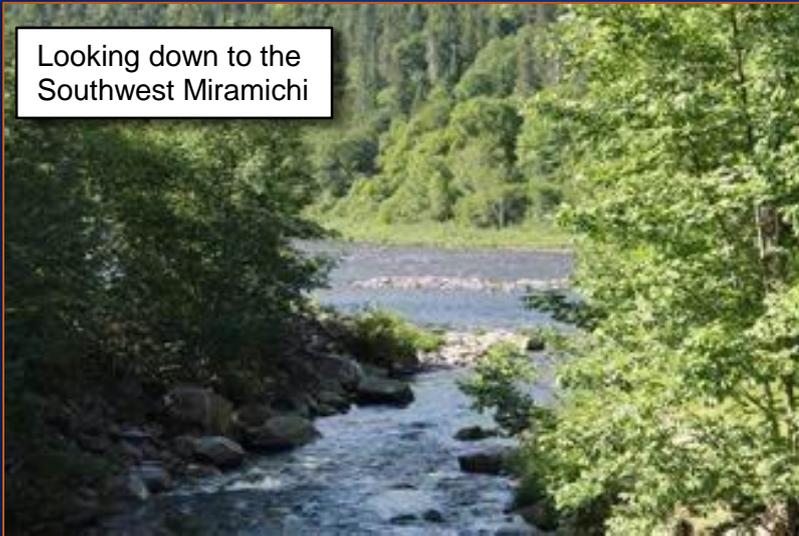


# ANGLER REFLECTIONS

## Salmon Fishing On The Southwest Miramichi River by Rod DeArment



I caught my first trout on a fly when I was around 13 and living in Germany. After years of reading fishing publications, I became interested in Atlantic salmon fishing. In the 1970s, I bought the book *Salmon Fishing in the Northeast* which ignited the idea of a trip to Canada to seek out some salmon fishing.



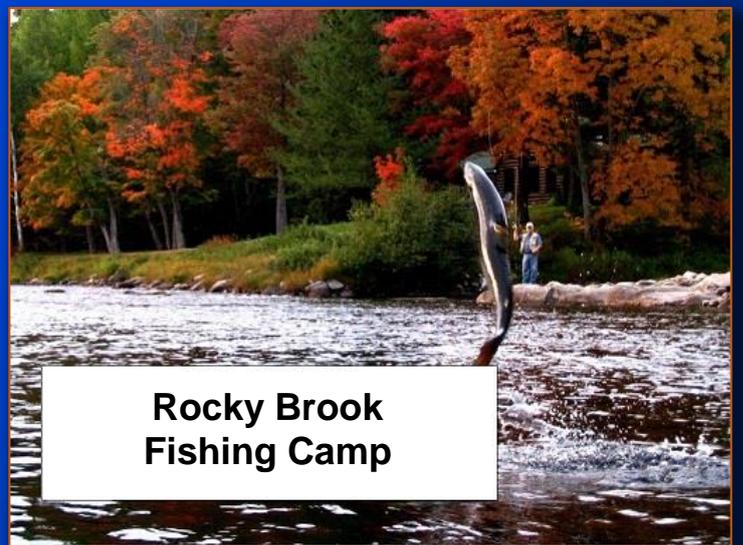
Looking down to the  
Southwest Miramichi

My wife and I borrowed her parents VW camper and took the Bluenose ferry across to Nova Scotia intent on trying out legendary rivers such as the Margaree. Unfortunately, all of the Nova Scotia rivers were in draught with no salmon running. We headed onto New Brunswick, the home of the massive Miramichi River system. To our disappointment, we found every place we stopped had no fishing available to the general public--the pools were either controlled by lodges or booked up long in advance. So we headed around the Québec's Gaspé Peninsula checking on the Restigouche, the Grand Cascapédia, and the Bonaventure only to be shut out again.

Finally, at the top of the Gaspé, we were able to get a day permit to fish the Sainte-Anne River. I fished hard all day on my assigned stretch using both wet and dry salmon flies. I caught no salmon, but landed about a dozen nice-sized brook trout. I finally gave up on salmon fishing, and on the banks of the Sainte-Anne, I fried up three plump brook trout on the Coleman stove. Not an auspicious start for my salmon fishing career.

About a decade later, I was invited by a friend with whom I had worked on the Hill to join him at his paper company's salmon lodge on the Southwest Miramichi. I immediately accepted and headed up the Rocky Brook Camp which controls a number of pools on the river, including the very productive Home Pool at the mouth of Rocky Brook.

In addition, the camp controls miles of fishing on the Rocky Brook and Clearbrook, smaller streams with some very deep holes and breathtaking sylvan pools backed by high cliffs. It is a rare joy to angle for huge fish in these intimate streams.



Rocky Brook  
Fishing Camp

Salmon fishing at Rocky Brook Camp has entrenched rules and rhythms. First, every non-New Brunswick angler has to be accompanied by a licensed local guide. Rocky Brook employs a team of guides most of whom have been guiding for 20 or 30 years. Generally, I was assigned the same guide every year, a gentleman in his mid-70s, who assessed I knew what I was doing and would sit and let me fish.

Second, the times for fishing are always the same -- a morning session and evening session with lunch and afternoon free. Some days we spent the afternoon reading, but on most trips, we had planned activities such as a hike to a waterfall or a trip to W.W. Doak's, a second-generation salmon fly shop in Doakstown. Usually on one afternoon, the guides arranged a trout fishing trip in boats on a nearby lake. This interrupted the guides' afternoon off and they tried to get the limit of puny brook trout in the boats as quickly as possible using small spinners with worms. They were annoyed that I insisted on fly fishing because it delayed their departure.

Third, each angler is limited to landing two salmon each session, so a maximum of four per day. I recall only one day that I landed four salmon. If you decided to keep a fish, you had to stop fishing for the session (or in some years, for the day). The only fish that could be kept are "grilse" -- salmon that have spent only one winter at sea. The larger salmon which have spent up to 5 or 6 winters in the sea are called "salmon". The grilse tend to run about 5-9 pounds and in the Miramichi, the salmon tend to weigh in the teens to low 20s. The Miramichi produces about 5 grilse for every salmon. In contrast, the Grand Cascapédia, long famed as a big-fish river, produces about 5 salmon for every grilse, and salmon exceeding 30 pounds are not uncommon.

**Rod's reflection on the Miramichi continues on the next page.**

# ANGLER REFLECTIONS

## Salmon Fishing On The Southwest Miramichi River -- continued by Rod DeArment



The guides at Rocky Brook were very orthodox and limited in their fly selection. The most popular wet fly was the "Green Machine" -- a bright green clipped deer hair fly, palmered over with brown hackle with a white calf tail (or with a red and green tail tag). The most popular dry fly was the "Bomber"-- a large cigar shaped clipped deer hair fly with forward and rear tufts of calf's tail. This fly was invented in the early 1960s by Father Elmer Smith. My favorite version of the Bomber has a brown deer hair body palmered with orange hackle and with white calf's tail front and back.

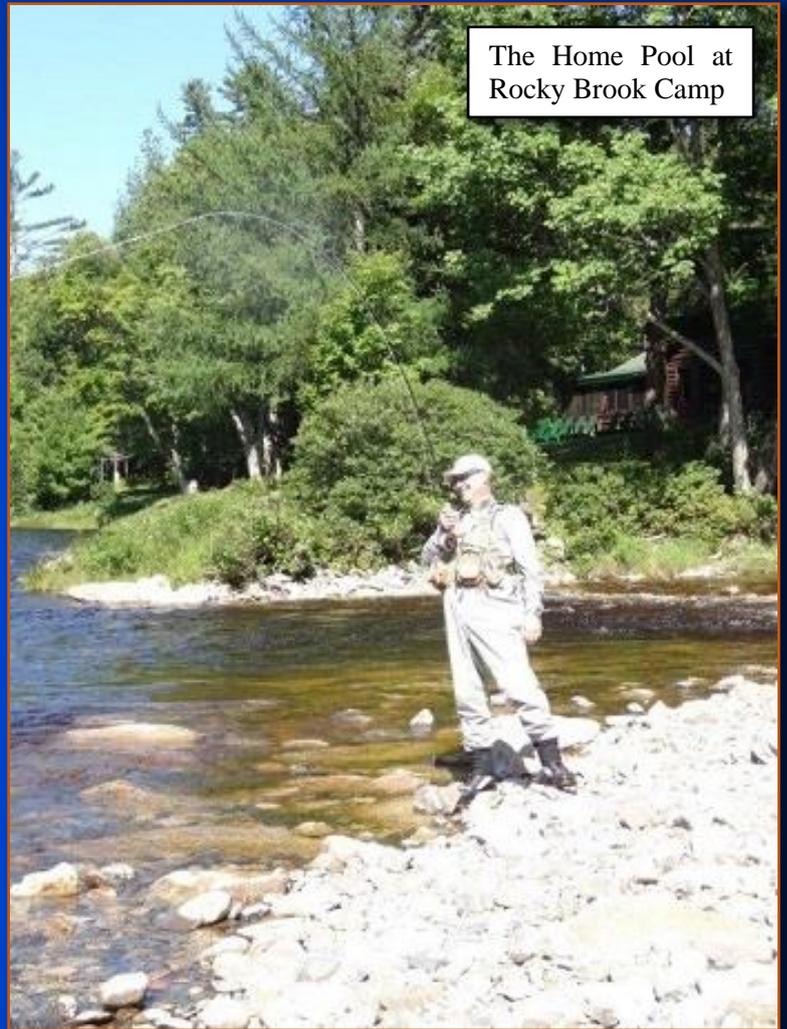
The wet flies are typically cast downstream at a 45 degree angle and then allowed to sweep with the current in an arc across the river. Usually one starts with short casts and that are lengthened each cast. After the river has been covered from that spot, the angler steps down a couple of feet and repeats. I think the guides like wet fly fishing because the salmon hit hard and hook themselves. Salmon are magnificent jumpers.

Dry fly fishing for salmon involves the same upstream casts as trout fishing and requires the fisherman to be prepared to strike back when a salmon bites. There are frequent missed hook-ups. At Rocky Brook Camp, the only fly lines allowed were floating lines and no weight was permitted on the leader or in the fly. I once wanted to use a popular Québec fly -- a Green Stonefly -- but the guide rejected it since the pattern is made with a tiny piece of bent pin and pin head tied into the body -- too much weight.

Every fish caught at Rocky Brook was recorded by the guide, with the time, weight, and fly noted. This data was entered in the camp's database so the camp manager could give you a record of every salmon that you ever caught at the camp.

The weights were generally not determined using a scale, but the guide estimated the weight before the fish was quickly released. These estimates were sometimes controversial because some guides tended to estimate more generously than others and money was riding on the results among the anglers.

I was fortunate to have my friend invite me to Rocky Brook for more than 20 years. I was very sad when my friend retired from the paper company and the trips ended, but I am grateful for the years of fishing with a group of long-time friends. I offered to handle his retirement negotiations to seek lifetime fishing privileges, but he declined.



The Home Pool at  
Rocky Brook Camp



There are some good commercial lodges on the Southwest Miramichi, but I have generally travelled with my son and son-in-law to Québec's Grand Cascapédia when we can work it out. This involves entering in a paid lottery in December to possibly get slots on the river the next summer. Some of the water on the upstream branches is self-guided and relatively affordable, but the pools on the main river come with two guides and are fairly expensive per day. The cost of the Grand Cascapédia trips makes me appreciate all the trips to Rocky Brook.



## PHW Update COVID-19 Update



With so much uncertainty surrounding us and to prevent further COVID-19 spread in our communities, PHWFF is suspending ALL program activities and events at least until the end of May 2020 at which time the situation will be reassessed. All previously scheduled Martinsburg PHW events are also canceled.

As COVID-19 drastically affects the world, our country, and our community, it is imperative that we protect the most vulnerable members of society. The health and wellbeing of our volunteers, participants, and families continues to be of the utmost importance. Over the last several days, many programs partnered with Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities have suspended all volunteer activities.

Phil Stevens  
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## Casting for Recovery

## COVID-19 Update

Before addressing how the pandemic has impacted Casting for Recovery (CfR) this year, I'd like to draw your attention to CfR's recently completed 2019 Annual Impact Report. Because of supporters like you, CfR continued to improve the quality of life of those affected by breast cancer.

I hope you find some time to read the report for some inspirational stories of our collective effort.



Also, April is Volunteer Appreciation Month, and we SO appreciate CfR volunteers! None of the magic could happen without them. Did you know that for every CfR staff member, there are 195 volunteers? We are proud and humbled with that ratio.

In mid-March, we made the difficult decision to postpone all CfR retreats in March and April due to the coronavirus. All retreats in May have now also been postponed.

The local program volunteers and national staff have been successful in rescheduling five retreats for later this year. Unfortunately, 11 retreats will be postponed until 2021.

While the vast majority of the retreats were cancelled with no financial loss to the local programs, our national expenses continue in areas such as volunteer support, insurance, participant placement, planning, management of gear, finance, and other areas. This is why your support is incredibly important to us.

We are in the process of determining alternative ways to support the women we would have served at retreats this spring. We are taking every precaution and working with our healthcare professionals to make certain that when we do hold retreats, we can safely support the women we serve, many of whom have weakened immune systems.

Thank you again for your support.  
Kind regards,

FAYE NELSON  
CEO of Casting for Recovery



## Poet's Corner: Poems selected for the angler

### Fides, Spes (Faith, Hope)

excerpt

by Willa Cather  
1873-1947  
U.S.A.



Willa Cather  
Portrait by  
Bill Prokopchak  
©2020

Joy is come to the little  
Everywhere;  
Pink to the peach and pink to the apple,  
White to the pear.  
Stars are come to the dogwood,  
Astral, pale;  
Mists are pink on the red-bud,  
Veil after veil.  
Flutes for the feathery locusts,  
Soft as spray;  
Tongues of the lovers for chestnuts, poplars,  
Babbling May.  
Yellow plumes for the willows'  
Wind-blown hair;  
Oak trees and sycamores only  
Comfortless bare.  
Sore from steel and the watching,  
Somber and old,—  
Wooing robes for the beeches, larches,  
Splashed with gold;  
Breath o' love to the lilac,  
Warm with noon.



## Notes from a Neurotic Angler

by Bill Prokopchak

### 8-Weight Rod & 5-Weight Line

There are anglers out there who fly fish with brilliantly matched rod, reel, line combinations that engineers, materials scientists, and expert fly anglers have developed after years of research and testing.

And then, there's me !

I certainly have my finely matched, high-dollar rod, reel, and line combos. And they work well -- sometimes.

Over the years I have developed combos of my own that are, let's say, out of the norm. My favorite combination works perfectly for Steelhead in the small tributaries of Lake Erie. I'm making short casts with the same little nymphs that I use to catch Brookies. I don't need an 8-weight line or the heavy reel.

With the 5-weight line, I can feel "takes" before the Steelie has time to reject the artificial nymph.

On the other hand, I need the backbone of a heavier rod to handle 30 inches of angry Steel as it rockets upstream at lightspeed. The combo works. Period.

Sure, the setup is out of balance, but I hardly notice while I'm landing fish, and my fishin' buddies stand there with slack lines.



Photo by Bill Prokopchak  
Steelhead with 8-wt. rod and  
mismatched 5-wt. reel and line



# From the Archives of Winchester Trout Unlimited by Carl A. Rettenberger

Our old friend, Carl, published this article in *LATERAL LINES* back in May 2003.

We have reprinted excerpts from that article below courtesy of Bud and his old copies of *LATERAL LINES*.



icture this if you will. The whole week preceding Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> [2003] reports from Fredericksburg's "Fish the Fall Line" and the local fishing shop went something like this: "If you can hit the water you'll catch a bushel of shad...."

The weather was less than great, seeing as how it was cool, cloudy, and rainy..... The river wasn't crowded so we could pretty much fish where we wanted to. That's the best part of the story. Seems the shad decided to take the weekend off....

Oh, you want to know what we caught?! Well, I managed to catch two smallmouths, one large mouth, one sunny and a couple white perch, the largest being about eight inches.... So you are disappointed with this story, are you? Well, it was just one of those days....

Seeing as how I rambled on with my shad fishing report and Bud gets upset if I don't leave him room for the boring stuff he reports on, I won't have time to go into detail about my trout fishing trip to the North Branch of the Potomac. (Bud's Note: the Barnum catch and release section) I will tell you that it was a beautiful day, the water level and temperature were perfect, and fish had the feed on. I'm planning on a three-day camp-over weekend....

\*\*\*\*\*



## 2020 Shad Photo Gallery

photos courtesy of Fred Boyer



Preston Fox



Dan Scott

"Crazy day on the Rappahannock! Flow at 3000 CFS, water the color of coffee with two creams. 64 to hand over 4 hours. My casting hand was cramping up in the 4th hour! Once in 100 outings experience."

--Fred Boyer (Right)



Winchester TU Recycles Aluminum.

Please bring your aluminum cans to any Winchester TU event.



## 2020 Calendar of Events Winchester Trout Unlimited

All scheduled WTU events are  
**tentative** due to COVID-19.

**See also**

<http://winchestertu.org/>

### May 2020

- ✓ **May 2020** -- Brookie release days are canceled
- ✓ **Thursday 7 May 2020** -- 7:00p.m. -- Monthly TU meeting has been cancelled.  
Nathaniel Hitt's presentation on Brookie Health will be rescheduled.
- ✓ **Saturday 9 May 2020** -- **Redbud Run workday** -- TU group activities are cancelled.
- ✓ **Wednesday 13 May 2020** --7:00 p.m. - All BarFly events are postponed until further notice.

### June 2020

- ✓ **Thursday 4 June 2020** -- 7:00p.m. -- Monthly TU meeting  
Mike Fies' presentation on coyotes in Virginia will be rescheduled.
- ✓ **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

### July 2020

- ✓ **No Monthly Meeting in July 2020**
- ✓ **July Redbud Run workday** -- Time to be announced at a later date
- ✓ **No BarFly in July**

### August 2020

- ✓ **Thursday 6 August 2020** -- 7:00p.m. -- Monthly TU meeting  
Wayne Webb will talk about the bacteria levels in the Shenandoah River.
- ✓ **Saturday 8 August 2020** -- **Redbud Run workday** -- Time to be announced at a later date
- ✓ **Wednesday 12 August 2020** --7:00 p.m. - BarFly at Escutcheon Brewery

### September 2020

- ✓ **Thursday 3 September 2020** -- 7:00p.m. -- Monthly TU meeting  
Wayne Webb will talk about the bacteria levels in the Shenandoah River.
- ✓ **Saturday 5 September 2020** -- **Redbud Run workday** -- Time to be announced at a later date
- ✓ **Wednesday 9 September 2020** --7:00 p.m. - BarFly at Escutcheon Brewery

### November 2020

- ✓ **Thursday 5 November 2020** -- 7:00p.m. -- Monthly TU meeting  
Tom McCabe will regale us with stories about fishing in South America.
- ✓ **Saturday 7 November 2020** -- **Redbud Run workday** -- Time to be announced at a later date
- ✓ **Wednesday 11 November** --7:00 p.m. - BarFly at Escutcheon Brewery
- ✓ **8 to 14 November 2020** -- Winchester TU Steelhead Week

### December 2020

- ✓ **December 2020** -- No monthly meeting in December
- ✓ **Saturday 5 December 2020** -- **Redbud Run workday** -- Time to be announced at a later date
- ✓ **Wednesday 9 December** --7:00 p.m. - BarFly at Escutcheon Brewery
- ✓ **December 2020** -- Winchester TU Holiday Party & Fundraiser -- Date to be announced at a later time



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.

