



Lateral Lines

The Monthly Journal of Winchester TU
Chapter #638

People who take care of chickens are, literally, chicken tenders.

April 2021

Volume 26, Number 4

Gradually returning to Normal Operations

Although most indoor activities of Winchester TU are canceled, some outdoor activities are resuming.

The staff of LATERAL LINES will continue keep subscribers up to date via email as our 2021 calendar develops.



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: March Redbud Run Report & Plans for the April 10th Workday

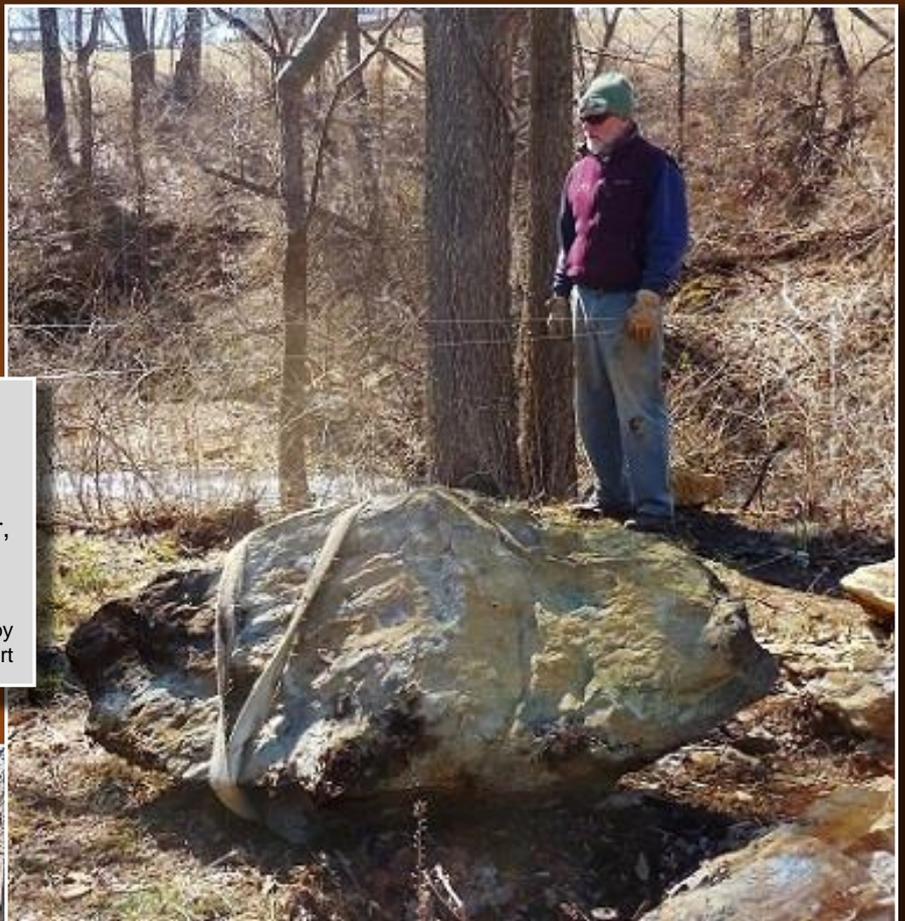
by Bud Nagelvoort

On March 6, 2021, a day which will be remembered in the annals of Winchester TU history, seven uniquely qualified physical specimens appeared at Redbud Run to attack the infamous boulder monsters growing in Seipel's pasture.

Right: Drew estimates the wire-fence clearance for the next big pull.

Below: Our tow-strap wrangler, Fred, on far right, arranges the strap for a perfect pull.

Photos this page by Bud Nagelvoort



Power Winch Bill, Attack Strap Fred, Power Pulley Terry, Rock Guide Drew, Pry Bar Clark, Drew's son Rock Guide Liam along with Professional Observer Bud proved in four hours that 80% of the residual boulders and 99% of the lesser granite could be wrestled under the wire fence and *en route* towards an eventual final resting place enhancing Trout habitat in the stream.

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

Bud on the Run -- continued

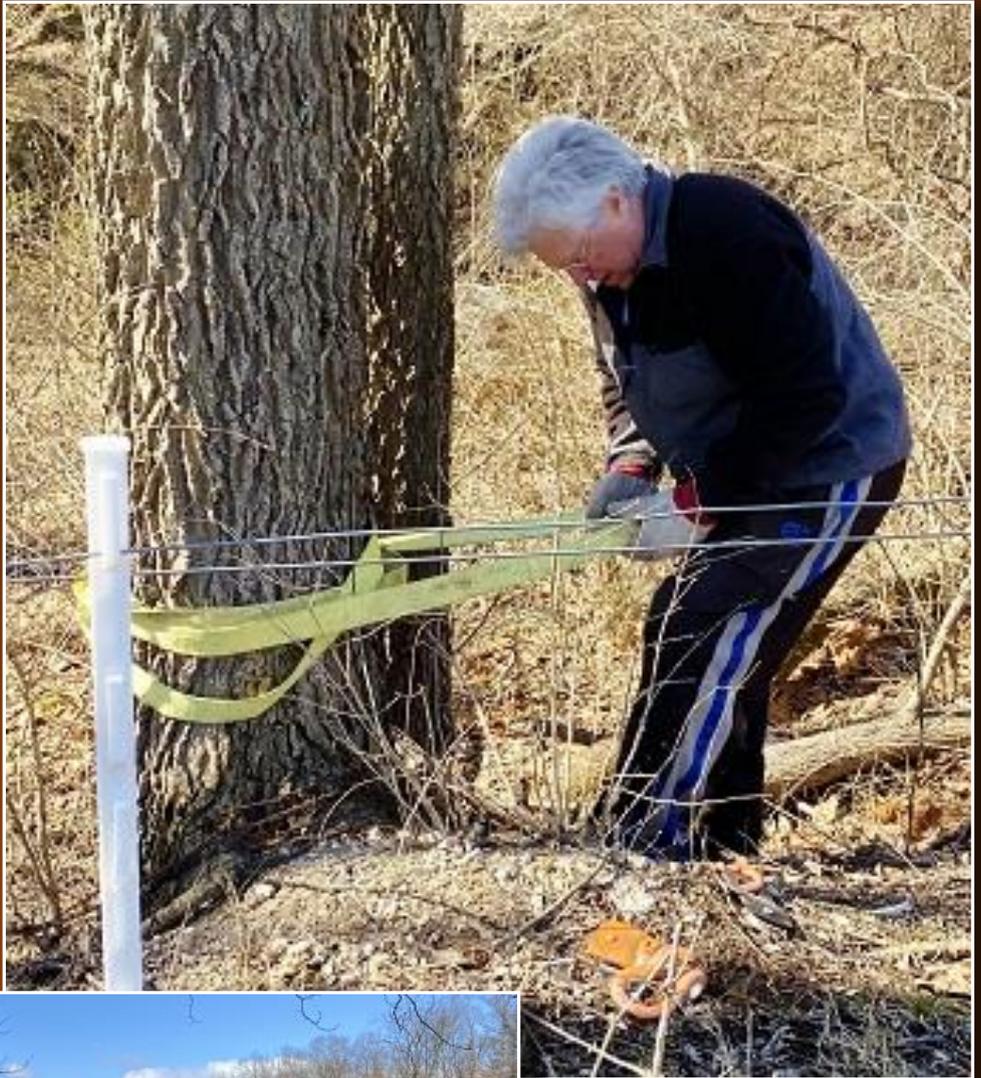
by Bud Nagelvoort

There were no harsh words in the process -- only mild admonitions -- a miracle in itself.

The only permanent damage, painful as it was, occurred to Fred's tow strap which gave its all to the challenge, far beyond any expectation. No doubt, a suitable burial will take place with appropriate ceremony.

Fred has already acquired a replacement tow strap which will be up to the task for future work sessions.

But this phase of rock removal has yet another episode. As difficult as it is to say so, after four hours of puffing and panting on March 6, this astounding crew suffered courageous collapse.



Above: Our engineer, Terry, makes the necessary preparations to move the huge rocks.

Left: Clark and Fred place a snatch block on the cable.

Below: Liam uses pure muscle power to move loads of smaller rocks.



And not wanting to leave any stone unturned -- or under the fenced (OutF'd for short), a second attack is planned for April 10 as a final element of phase 1.

(Normally the event would take place on April 3, but one of the critical members of the crew has an Easter egg hunt that day.)

So mark calendars. Don't over exert on April 3. The end of Phase 1 is near and we'll be over the initial hump (or under it if you prefer) on **April 10 beginning at 9:00 a.m.** (to avoid the heat of the day.)

Stay tuned for any change-of-plans message on the evening of April 9.



ANGLER REFLECTIONS

Rippy van Twinkle

by Bill Prokopchak



It never occurred to me one summer's evening several years back that there would be a second chapter to the curious conversation we had after that day of fishing: A conversation that would lead to some poaching, moonshine, and a vow.

We had been fishing all day long on a favorite stretch of one of our local rivers. Smallie fishing had been good, but after about eight hours on the water, the three of us were ready for a cold beer and some dinner at our favorite Italian eatery in that area. One member of our fishing party said he had brought along some cigars and wondered if we'd like to just relax waterside and enjoy an Arturo Fuente "Short Story" cigar before dinner. We all agreed.

Just as the first billows of cigar smoke dissipated, two local sheriff's vehicles pulled up. Two deputies in one vehicle and one in another. They were taking a break and decided this spot was a good place to get out of their cruisers. We struck up a conversation about fishing and spent a pleasant few minutes with them when the radio on one of the police cars came to life. One deputy took the call. The rest of us paid no attention.

The deputy who took the message called over the other two and they conversed among themselves. I don't know what the call was about, but I heard one of them say what sounded like street address.

The second deputy asked, "Are you going to go out there?"

The first deputy responded, "I ain't goin' out there. Are you?"

The third deputy said, "No way I'm goin' out there!"

Rippy's moonshine, rebottled for medicinal purposes only.

The first deputy spoke up again, "There are some places in this county that I'm just not willing to go." And they all left it at that.

We tried to inquire where and who, but they'd said too much already, and weren't willing to say anything more about it.

A couple of years passed, and I'd totally forgotten about that conversation. I was Brookie fishing in the Shenandoah National Park one cold day in early spring not too far from the site of that encounter with the deputies. Being by myself, I chose to go to one of my "secret" spots which required some rough 4X4 driving and a good hike.

It was mid-morning before I arrived at my "secret" spot and, much to my surprise, I came across a beat up old green Tacoma with an expired license plate that said "RIPPY". **Note: It really wasn't "RIPPY". I have changed the name for my own safety.**

The owner of the truck was walking down the hill toward the truck. We struck up a conversation. It was apparent that he wasn't an angler. He had no fishing rod in his hand. He didn't seem to be a hiker, either. Rippy was dressed in well-worn in canvas overalls and beat-up leather work boots.

We talked of my expected day of fishing. He talked of hunting mushrooms in the area and the owl that had been hanging around lately. He said if I stayed late enough the owl just might show himself come evening.

While we were talking, I leaned up against the back fender of his truck and noticed a couple of nice gobblers laid out in the bed of the truck. Both cleanly shot in the head so as not to mess up the meat.

Next to the two birds was a break-barrel, single-shot .22 caliber air rifle. Hmmm !

Rippy said to me, "I wish you hadn't seen them two birds and my gun."

Believe me, at that moment I wished that I hadn't seen "them two birds" either. He was a poacher, and he had gotten two nice turkeys for his home freezer, or the illicit market, or who knows what.

He gave me a crooked little grin -- part malicious and part benevolent -- and offered me a deal, saying, "How about I share something special with you if you promise not to tell anybody about this little meeting?"

At this point, I'm recalling the deputies' words from a couple of years before. I was ready to promise anything so long as I got out of there in better shape than those turkeys.

He opened the passenger-side door. I was afraid he was reaching for his .45, when he pulled out a plastic milk jug filled with an amber liquid. He handed me the jug and said, "Take a pull on that."

I'm telling you, that was the finest moonshine I'd ever tasted. This guy was good. In fact, it was not just the best moonshine, it was one of the best rye whiskies I have ever tasted. This "RIPPY" was a master distiller.

Rippy said ominously, "Now, I know you are a man of your word. Besides, I know your truck. Ain't many with a wench [sic] like that around here. You say nothing about them birds, and I'll give you that whole jug of juice."

"Deal," I said. We shook hands. Rippy climbed into his truck and drove off down the hill.

"Rippy van Twinkle" continues on the bottom of page 4.



Barbara's Books

Compiled by Barbara Gamble

Streams of Revenue: The Restoration Economy and the Ecosystems It Creates

Author: Rebecca Lave and Martin Doyle
Paperback: 208 pages
ISBN-10: 0262539195
ISBN-13: 978-0262539197
Publisher: The MIT Press
Publication Date: January 26, 2021

Market-based approaches to environmental conservation have been increasingly prevalent since the early 1990s. The goal of these markets is to reduce environmental harm not by preventing it, but by pricing it. A housing development on land threaded with streams, for example, can divert them into underground pipes if the developer pays to restore streams elsewhere. But does this increasingly common approach actually improve environmental well-being? In **Streams of Revenue**, Rebecca Lave and Martin Doyle answer this question by analyzing the history, implementation, and environmental outcomes of one of these markets: stream mitigation banking.

In stream mitigation banking, an entrepreneur speculatively restores a stream, generating "stream credits" that can be purchased by a developer to fulfill regulatory requirements of the Clean Water Act.

Tracing mitigation banking from conceptual beginnings to implementation, the authors find that in practice it is very difficult to establish equivalence between the ecosystems harmed and those that are restored, and

to cope with the many sources of uncertainty that make positive restoration outcomes unlikely.

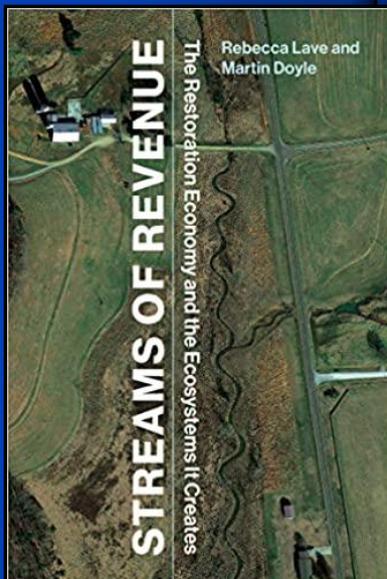
Lave and Doyle argue that market-based approaches have failed to deliver on conservation goals and call for a radical reconfiguration of the process.

"Ripping open the ever-expanding black box of environmental markets, mitigation banking, and restoration, Lave and Doyle educate and entertain. Revealing the convoluted process of market-based attempts to protect nature, this is a must-read for those who love or study the environment -- especially rivers and streams." --Margaret Palmer, Distinguished University Professor, University of Maryland, College Park, and Director, National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center

Rebecca Lave is Professor and Chair of the Department of Geography at Indiana University. She is the author of *Fields and Streams: Stream Restoration, Neoliberalism, and the Future of Environmental Science*.

Martin Doyle is Professor of River Systems Science and Policy and the author of *The Source: How Rivers Made America and America Remade Its Rivers*.

Sources: amazon.com and the publishers



The Optimist: A Case for the Fly Fishing Life

Author: David Coggins
Hardcover: 256 pages
ISBN-10: 1982152508
ISBN-13: 978-1982152505
Publisher: Scribner
Publication Date: May 4, 2021

A modern tribute to an ageless pastime, and a practical guide to the art, philosophy, and rituals of fly fishing, by an expert, lifelong angler.

In **The Optimist**, David Coggins makes a case for the skills and sensibility of an enduring sport and shares the secrets, frustrations, and triumphs of the great tradition of fly fishing, which has captivated anglers worldwide.

Written in witty, keenly observed prose, each chapter focuses on a specific place, fish, and skill.

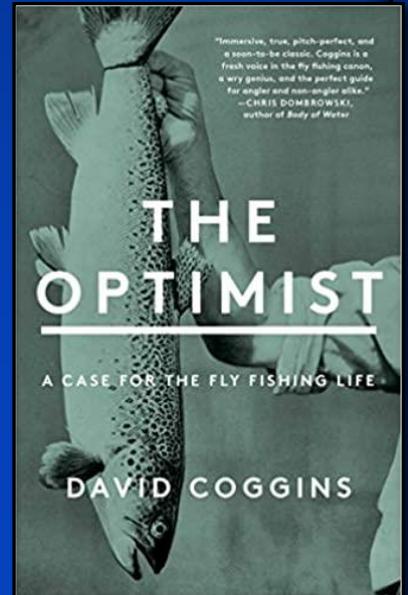
Few individuals, for example, have the visual acuity required to catch the nearly invisible bonefish of the Bahamas flats or the patience to land the elusive Atlantic salmon, "the fish of a thousand casts," in eastern Canada.

Pursuing these challenges, Coggins, "a confirmed obsessive," travels to one fishing paradise after another, including the great rivers of Patagonia, private chalk streams in England, remote ponds in Maine, and New York City's Jamaica Bay. In each setting, he chronicles his fortunes and misfortunes with honesty and humor while meditating on how fishing teaches focus, inner stillness, and a connection to the natural world.

Perfect for the novice, the enthusiastic amateur, and the devoted angler alike, **The Optimist** offers a practical path toward enlightenment while providing a welcome escape into one of the world's ancient pastimes.

David Coggins is the author of *Men and Manners* and the *New York Times* bestseller *Men and Style*. He writes about fly fishing for *Robb Report* and tailoring, drinking, and travel for numerous publications, including the *Financial Times*, *Bloomberg Pursuits*, and *Condé Nast Traveler*. Coggins lives in New York.

Sources: amazon.com and the publishers



ANGLER REFLECTIONS

Rippy van Twinkle -- continued
 by Bill Prokopchak

If you believe even 10% of this story, you truly are an April Fool.

Poet's Corner:

Poems selected
for the angler

Dandelions

by *Frances Ellen Watkins Harper*
1825-1911
U.S.A



Ink wash portrait of
Frances Ellen Watkins Harper
by W. M. Prokopchak © 2021

Welcome children of the Spring,
In your garbs of green and gold,
Lifting up your sun-crowned heads
On the verdant plain and wold¹.

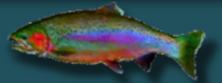
As a bright and joyous troop
From the breast of earth ye came
Fair and lovely are your cheeks,
With sun-kisses all aflame.

In the dusty streets and lanes,
Where the lowly children play,
There as gentle friends ye smile,
Making brighter life's highway

Dewdrops and the morning sun,
Weave your garments fair and bright,
And we welcome you to-day
As the children of the light.

Children of the earth and sun.
We are slow to understand
All the richness of the gifts
Flowing from our Father's hand.

¹ wold -- open hilly country



2021 Fish of
the Year --
thus far

Galen Westman



THE CIGAR SISTERS

by Lynn & Dora Butler

Arturo Fuente, Don Carlos, Reserva
Cameroon 5.2X50 Robusto

Photo courtesy of
Cigars International



Lynn: I'm Lynn.

Dora: And I'm Dora. We are The Cigar Sisters.

Lynn: Did you see that old picture that Bill found of us three at the house, "Le Ménage", that we shared on Richmond Road in Williamsburg? I told Bill he would be sorry if that photo ever saw the light of day.

Dora: Can you believe we were ever that young? Enough on the reminiscences. Let's get to the cigar.

Lynn: This is a beautiful golden brown cigar with a dry-straw aroma before light-up. The binder and filler are Dominican, which always catches my attention. This cigar is beautifully made with a firm pack and a perfect draw. Large double cap.

Dora: We are enjoying our Don Carlos cigars on a mild March day with only the slightest breeze. I'm going to fire up my stogie with the traditional cedar spill. On light up I get billows and billows of white, fragrant smoke. We have had this cigar before, so we know what to expect.

Lynn: Right. The Don Carlos cigars are ideal for the novice just as they are ideal for the experienced cigar lover. The flavors and aromas are mild enough for the novice, while being complex enough to keep the more experienced smoker engaged.

Dora: On light-up, I'm getting woodiness -- oak -- building just like a nice red oak log you are preparing for the fireplace. There's nuttiness, too. Maybe almond? Maybe walnut? Espresso beans.

Lynn: A mild green chili pepper is building in the first third. The oak and straw-like flavors continue. The burn is perfect and the ash looks like a stack of dimes.

Dora: I'm into the second third, and I'd say this cigar is consistent. The chili is fading, but still there to keep things interesting. No huge flavor transitions.

Lynn: Oak, straw, with a mild sweetness coming forward. Creamy. The chili is becoming milder yet flavorful like grilled red bell pepper. Great smoke output.

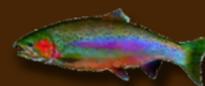
Dora: I'm into the final third. Oaky woodiness continues. There's a hint of black pepper tingle on the tongue. The green chili has faded away. Lynn, I think you are right: I'm getting hints of grilled red bell pepper.

Lynn: This is our third cigar review for LATERAL LINES. In December, we reviewed an A.J. Fernandez cigar, and it was fabulous. In February, we reviewed the San Lotano Oval and we put it in our "Favorite Five" list because of the wonderful flavor transitions within a single cigar. What are your thoughts on this Arturo Fuente cigar?

Dora: The Don Carlos, Reserva, from Arturo Fuente is totally unlike the other cigars we have reviewed for LATERAL LINES so far. It's a consistent smoke from start to finish. There are no dramatic flavor transitions, but the flavors are delightful, mild, and interesting. I got no nicotine buzz either.

Lynn: If you are just getting started with fine cigars, this just might be the one for you.

Dora: Even if you are a seasoned aficionado, this cigar will hold your interest. I think it is ideal for a lazy evening with good friends and good conversation. Just like this mild March afternoon -- now turned to evening -- with my best friend in the world, you, Lynn.



Winchester TU Recycles Aluminum.

**Please CONTINUE to save your aluminum cans.
We will collect them when it is safe to do so.**



Virginia Trout Stream Study set for April 22-24, 2021

Stan Ikonen stanikonen@gmail.com

with Bill Prokopchak and Gene Lewis

In the next few days, Stan, Bill, and Gene will be contacting all of you who have volunteered to help with the Virginia Trout Stream Study.

The Trout Stream Study has been delayed a whole year by the pandemic, but the study is ready to go ahead this year.

The study leaders at UVA are making some changes to the collection procedures, but we will go over the procedures with all the Winchester TU volunteers before sampling day.

Please contact us for more information and to answer your questions.

Thanks,
Stan Ikonen
WTU volunteer coordinator for VTSSS
stanikonen@gmail.com
540-550-3555



An ALLOY of STEELHEAD

A WINCHESTER TU EXCLUSIVE !

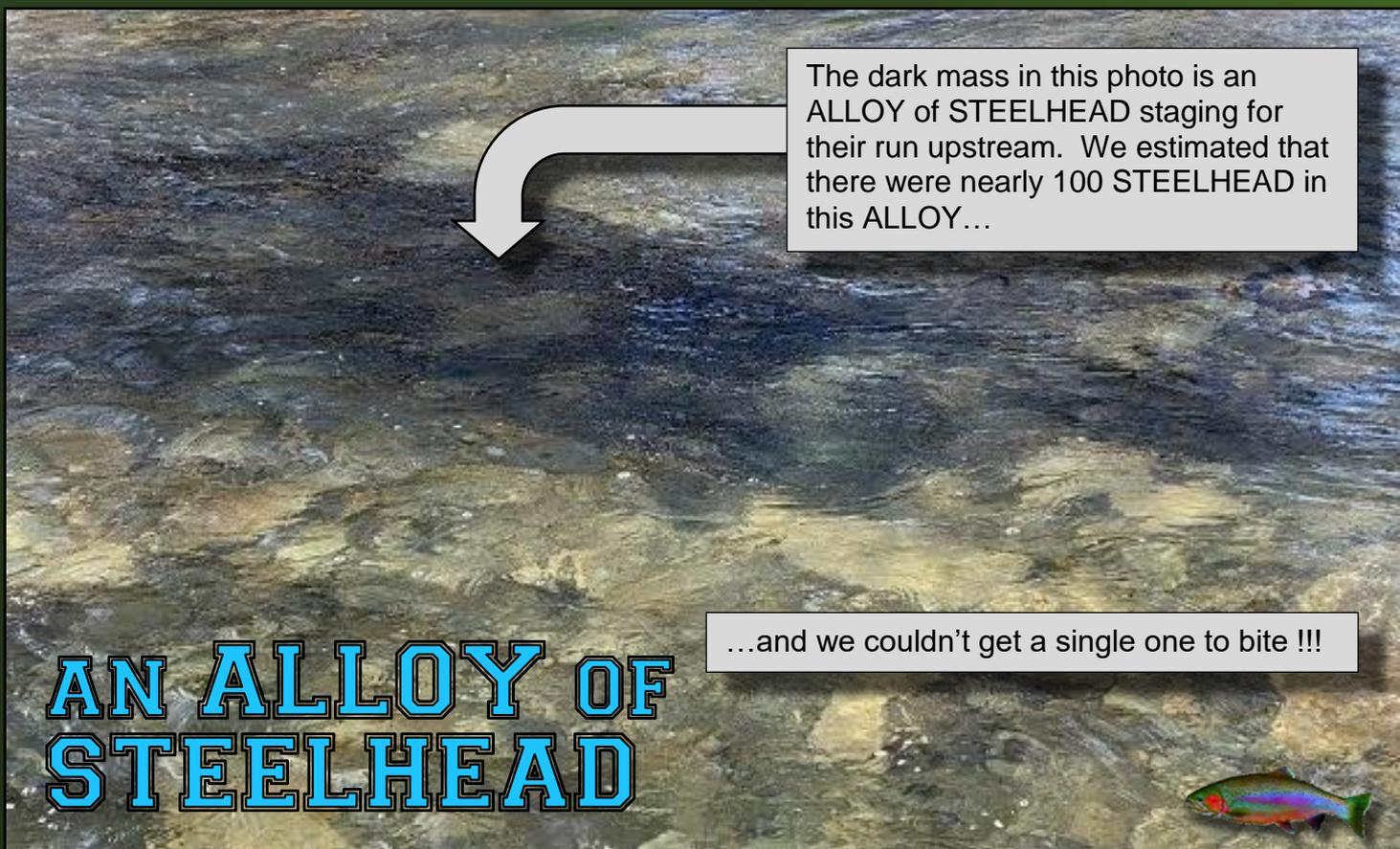


In March, a committee of Winchester TU members presented Terrell Juth with an array of not-so-fabulous prizes for winning our Steelhead collective noun contest.

Among the not-so-fabulous prizes were a bottle of "Writer's Tears" (perfectly appropriate because Terrell is, indeed, a writer), a bottle of "Rippy van Twinkle's Rot-Gut Rye", and a packet of "Rippy van Twinkle" note cards.

Although some say that Steelhead of the great Northwest don't actually gather into alloys, the Great Lakes Steelhead certainly do.

Below is a photo from a Lake Erie tributary, showing an ALLOY of STEELHEAD.



The dark mass in this photo is an ALLOY of STEELHEAD staging for their run upstream. We estimated that there were nearly 100 STEELHEAD in this ALLOY...

...and we couldn't get a single one to bite !!!

AN ALLOY OF STEELHEAD



Product Line: The EZ Keeper

by Bill Prokopchak

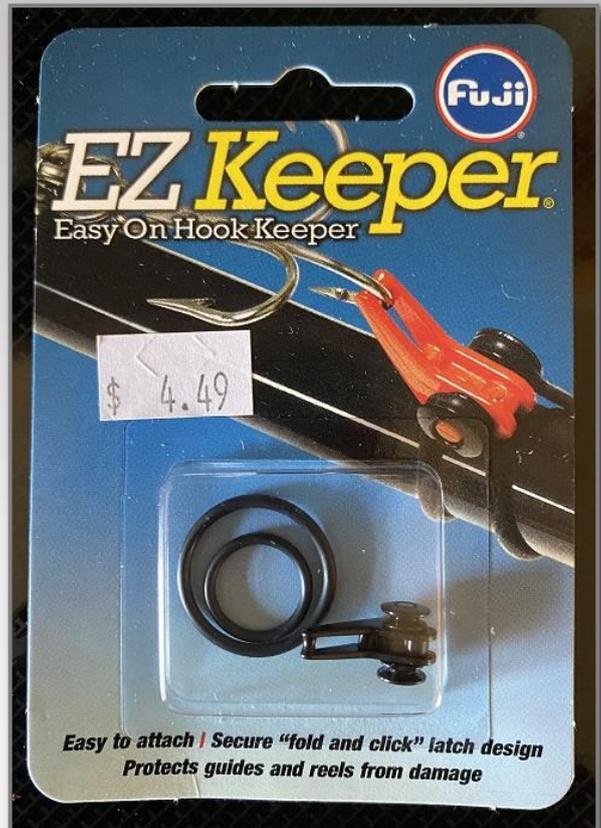
Anyone who has ever gone fishing knows that dang hook seems to catch everything but fish. When I was a kid back in the 1950s, my dad and I always stuck the hook into the cork handle of our fly rods to keep the hook out of our fingers, hats, clothes, tree limbs, and everything else.

Somewhere along the way, realized we were destroying the cork handles of our fly rods. We began putting the hook in the bottom eye of the rod and snugging the line with the reel.

Eventually someone invented the wire hook keeper and some fly rods came with a hook keeper as standard equipment, but not all.

I have an old Temple Forks rod that didn't come with one so I wrapped on a hook keeper myself. It doesn't look pretty, but it does the job.

My biggest gripe is that my \$800 Winston 5-wt. did NOT come with one. You'd think that for 800 bucks they could afford to add a 10-cent hook keeper.



Upper left: The EZ Keeper attaches to your rod with an O-ring that comes in the package.

Lower left: When not in use, the EZ Keeper folds out of the way. You can place this little device on your rod wherever you want it, and you can move it at any time without the need for tools.

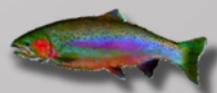
The other day, I was at Jake's Bait and Tackle, a family-owned business just north of Winchester, to check on some fly-fishing stuff with Jared Mounts, a member of the family that owns the shop.

I was poking around the shop for a wire hook keeper to tie onto my Winston rod when Jenny Myers, store manager at Jake's, also a member of the family, showed me the **EZ Keeper**, a movable, and even portable hook keeper.

The **EZ Keeper** an interesting little device. I bought one and it seems to work perfectly.

You simply attach the keeper to you rod using one of the rubber O-rings.

I bought the last one in stock, but Jake's has more on order so you should be able to get yours in a couple of days.



March "Shadness"



Mike and Fred are obviously suffering from March "Shadness" in these photos that they provided from their Shad run on March 29th.



Winchester TU 2021 Speaker Schedule

Please note that we are working to reschedule these speakers.



May 7th

Nathaniel Hill, 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

June 4th

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 6th

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.

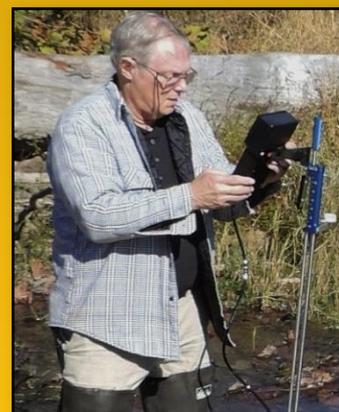
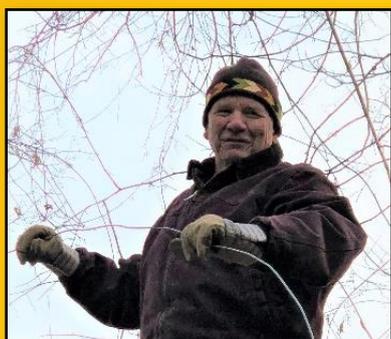
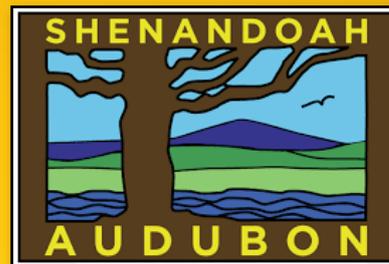


Photo courtesy of The Downstream Project



October 7, 2021

Our annual joint meeting with the Northern Shenandoah Valley Audubon Society at Lord Fairfax Community College in Middletown is **TENTATIVELY** set for Oct. 7, 2021. The topic will be recycling.



November 5th

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



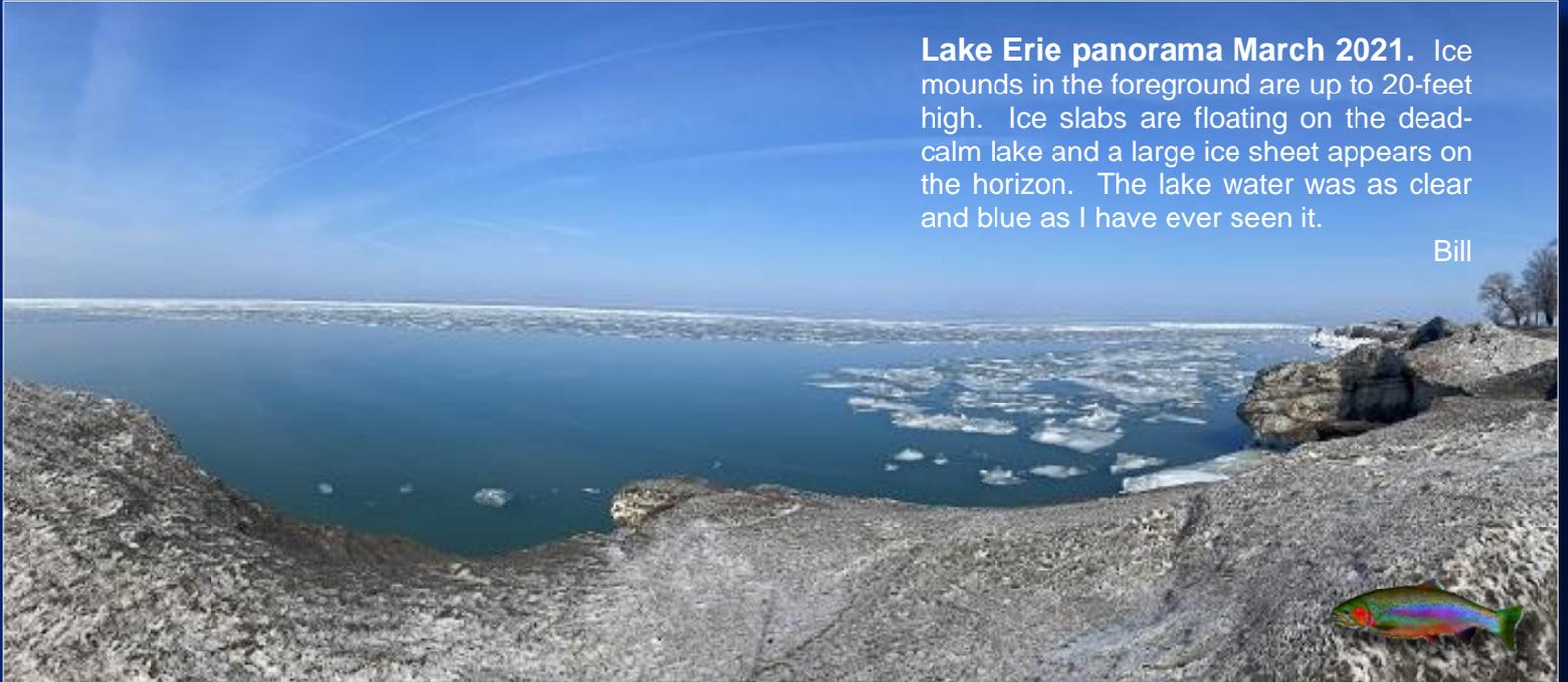
In Negotiations:

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.





Lake Erie panorama March 2021. Ice mounds in the foreground are up to 20-feet high. Ice slabs are floating on the dead-calm lake and a large ice sheet appears on the horizon. The lake water was as clear and blue as I have ever seen it.

Bill



2021 Calendar of Events Winchester Trout Unlimited

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

See also

<http://winchestertu.org/>

April 2021

- ✓ Thursday 1 April 2021 -- 7:00 p.m. -- Monthly TU meeting **canceled**
- ✓ Saturday 10 April 2021 -- 9:00 a.m. Redbud Run workday
- ✓ Wednesday 14 April 2021 --7:00 p.m. - BarFly at Escutcheon Brewery **tentative**
- ✓ April 22-24 -- Virginia Trout Stream Study -- The water sampling for this study is going ahead as planned. Stan, Gene, and Bill will contact volunteers in the next few days.

May 2021

- ✓ Thursday 6 May 2021 -- 7:00 p.m. -- Monthly TU meeting
- ✓ Saturday 8 May 2021 -- Redbud Run workday -- Time to be announced at a later date
- ✓ Wednesday 12 May 2021 --7:00 p.m. - BarFly at Escutcheon Brewery

June 2021

- ✓ Thursday 3 June 2021 -- 7:00 p.m. -- Monthly TU meeting
- ✓ Saturday 5 June 2021 -- Redbud Run workday -- Time to be announced at a later date
- ✓ Wednesday 9 June 2021 --7:00 p.m. - BarFly at Escutcheon Brewery

July 2021

- ✓ Thursday 1 July 2021 -- 7:00 p.m. -- No monthly TU meeting in July
- ✓ Saturday 3 July 2021 -- Redbud Run workday -- Time to be announced at a later date
- ✓ Wednesday 14 July 2021 --7:00 p.m. - BarFly at Escutcheon Brewery

August 2021

- ✓ Thursday 5 August 2021 -- 7:00 p.m. -- No monthly TU meeting in July
- ✓ Saturday 7 August 2021 -- Redbud Run workday -- Time to be announced at a later date
- ✓ Wednesday 11 August 2021 --7:00 p.m. - BarFly at Escutcheon Brewery

September 2021

- ✓ Thursday 2 September 2021 -- 7:00 p.m. -- No monthly TU meeting in July
- ✓ Saturday 4 September 2021 -- Redbud Run workday -- Time to be announced at a later date
- ✓ Wednesday 8 September 2021 --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.

