



Lateral Lines

The Monthly Journal of Winchester TU
Chapter #638

I must go in. The fog is rising. -- Emily Dickinson

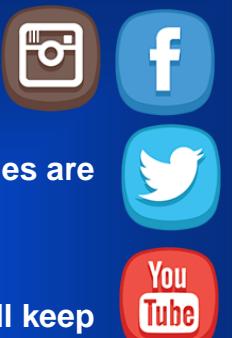
March 2021

Volume 26, Number 3

COVID-19 Cancellations

All Winchester TU group activities are canceled until further notice.

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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GIANT CONTEST WE HAVE A WINNER !!!

*WINCHESTER TU
EXCLUSIVE!*

Congratulations to Terrell Juth for submitting the winning entry.



What would YOU call a group of Steelhead?

From this day forward,
all subscribers of
LATERAL LINES are

required

to refer to a group of Steelhead as
an **ALLOY** of
Steelhead.

Of the dozens of submissions -- some anonymous (a full 12% were not printable) -- our panel of judges selected ALLOY.

The editor of LATERAL LINES will personally deliver to Terrell a host of not-so-fabulous prizes and the thanks of Steelhead anglers everywhere who will now be able to declare:

"There was a whole ALLOY of STEELHEAD in that river and I didn't catch a single one."



Bud on the Run: February 2021 Redbud Run Report & Plans for the March 6 Workday

article and photo
by Bud Nagelvoort

There is a suggestion of weather evolving this week conducive to moving big boulders on Saturday, March 6, at Redbud.



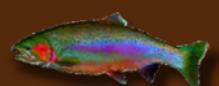
I know it has been bitterly disappointing for those of you who cherish great and frequent physical exercise that we have not been able to access the pasture rock piles for several months. But this great drouth (is this the right word at the right time?) hopefully will end on March 6 at 10 AM.

Between now and then, I expect to visit the scene of our long-term goal of establishing a majestic inverted V adjacent to the present rock pile site and determine the exact configuration of this trout-enhancing facility.

Who shows up on March 6 and can be blamed for figuring out how to move the remaining giant boulders into place will determine whose name is on the dedication plaque. It can't be Bill, of course, because he has already been responsible for naming the Sycamore Island V.

It will be very disappointing if Fred is not able to make the session because he already has a leg up on the title due to an unusual ability to wrap heavy duty straps around giant boulders to facilitate cabling operations. But such is life.

In any event, "Sunny Saturday" is the theme for March 6 and expect an e-mail on the evening of the 5th if there is another change in plans. And please advise Bud if you plan to participate.



Notes from a Neurotic Angler by Bill Prokopchak

Get Naked to Stay Alive !

That's right ! You might need to get naked to save your life. Outdoor experts know that if you get soaked even in mild temperatures, wet clothes will drain you of body heat in no time.

You've heard of wind-chill factor, but **water-chill factor** is much, much worse. You know how chilly you get when you step out of the shower if your bathroom is below 72 °, but you dry off and you are fine.

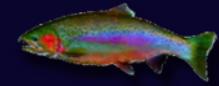
Same is true when you are out in the boonies. If you get wet, your best bet just might be to get naked. Get those wet clothes off. Your skin will air dry in a few minutes, and you will lose less heat.

Yes! You can get hypothermia even in mild temperatures if you combine them with wet clothes -- especially cotton. Remember that wet cotton kills.

When outdoors, it's wise to carry a couple of candy bars or the like. Load up on carbs if you get wet. A couple of Snickers bars or other sugar-laden food will give your body a quick boost of energy, and may help you get to the safety and warmth of your vehicle.

Finally, stop by any great hiking/camping store and pick up a high-tech survival blanket. An emergency blanket weighs only a few ounces, takes up very little space in your fishing vest, and would make a fine replacement for those wet clothes.

Remember, under that survival blanket, you are completely naked !



ANGLER REFLECTIONS

ANGLER REFLECTIONS

Michigan Pike

with Kenny Marble, BT Thomas,
Clark Thomas, and Bud Nagelvoort

"Kenny Marble is the gentleman who caught the big pike," Clark reported a few days back.

"My nephew who sent me the photo is BT Thomas. Kenny caught it ice fishing in Crystal Lake near Frankfort, Benzie County, Michigan. As you know, Bud's family had a cottage there and eagle eye that he is, was able to recognize the frozen lake as Crystal Lake. Bud never fails to amaze.

"The fish was caught on a 5-inch gold minnow and landed after a 25-minute fight. It measured 38 ½ inches, but weighed only 26 ½ pounds."



Bud continues the story: "I fished through the ice many times in those youthful years in Michigan. Saginaw Bay for yellow perch, Thunder Bay River backwater spearing pike from a shanty, Shiawassee River spearing pike from a shanty, lakes near home from shanty for pan fish. Might do it now if there was enough ice on some pond, but not going to Erie to catch 6-inch perch....

"I used a Coleman lantern for heat in the shanty and on the sled out in the open.

"Wow! Don't think I've ever seen a Michigan pike that big. And with no wounds, so I'm thinking he caught it on a minnow and tip-up.

"I also think it looks like Crystal Lake where my parents had a cottage from 1963 to 1987 just a couple miles east of Frankfort.

"I'll guess 38 lbs. The dark spot on the lower left of the photo looks like the edge of a tip-up hole. I'll bet it made the local papers!

"My parents summer home was on South Shore Road just southeast of the girls camp where that road comes down to the Lake and then runs along the lake to its northwest end. I think the cottage is the third one southeast of the camp. There is a boathouse there converted to sleeping accommodations now and a pier there. Sue Luedtke, widow of Carl, and family have been adding to the cottage just next door to the northwest.

"Does Clark's nephew, BT, live in Frankfort? If so, he probably knows Jon and Peggy Hawley. Jon and I worked on a Congressional staff together and helped establish Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. His family still has a cottage on Crystal at the west end."



NORTHERN SHENANDOAH VALLEY AUDUBON INVITES YOU

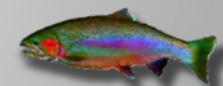
This is Mark Bruns from NSV Audubon. I am inviting the TU members & LFCC folks to attend our guided hike to the heron rookery & eagle nest along the Shenandoah on March 13.

It is listed in detail on our website (www.nsvaudubon.org) under the events tab.

We also have a Facebook page with the event. Please extend an invite to any & all.

Thanks,

Mark Bruns



Barbara's Books

Compiled by Barbara Gamble

The Waters Between Us: A Boy, A Father, Outdoor Misadventures and the Healing Power of Nature

Author: Michael J. Tougias
Hardcover: 256 pages
ISBN-10: 149305760X
ISBN-13: 978-1493057603
Publisher: Lyons Press
Publication Date: March 5, 2021

Untamed. Unsupervised. Uncontrolled.

Boyhood in the 1960s and '70s was a time for exploration and mischief. Author Michael Tougias found more than his share of misadventures in the woods and on the water: some life-threatening but others innocently hilarious.

Over time -- and after reading a multitude of adventure books -- these experiences took shape in his quest to be a mountain man, owning a cabin in the forest and living off the land. Part of that dream would come true, but only after a family tragedy that shook his world and forced changes in his life.

This is also a story of a complex and strained relationship between father and son, the efforts at understanding, and ultimately respect and devotion.

In *The Waters Between Us*,

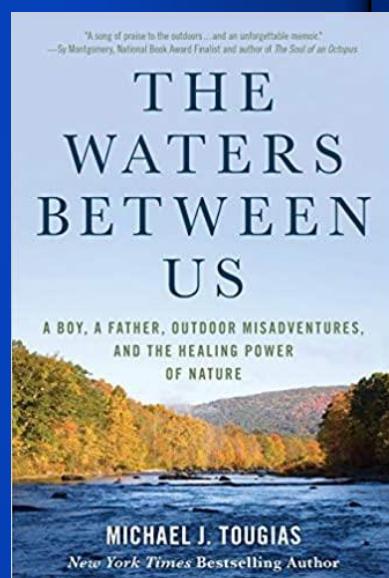
Tougias channels Bryson's "A Walk in the Woods" to mix laugh out loud humor with insight into the natural world through the eyes of a curious boy.

Tougias is a *New York Times* Bestselling author and co-author of 31 books, including *There's A Porcupine In My Outhouse* (Winner of the Independent Publishers "Best Nature Book of the Year") and *The Finest Hours* (inspiration for a 2016 Disney movie).

"I loved it! Tougias's wonderful memoir celebrates a time before cell phones and social media cluttered our lives; when a kid could drape a fishing rod across the handlebars of his bike and find high adventure in the woods and streams around him." —Stephen Sautner, author of *Fish On, Fish Off* and *A Cast in the Woods*

"The Waters Between Us is a song of praise to the outdoors, an apology for boyhood misunderstandings, and a loving appreciation for a father whose grace, joy, and kindness remained steadfast in the face of tragedy. Young Michael Tougias reminds me of Huck Finn, and it's great fun to accompany him on his river adventures. But even more rewarding is the compassion he has gained in hindsight. You'll be grateful to the boy, the man he became, and the father who quietly nurtured them both for this unforgettable memoir." —Sy Montgomery, National Book Award Finalist and NY Times Bestselling Author of *Soul of an Octopus*

Sources: amazon.com and the publishers



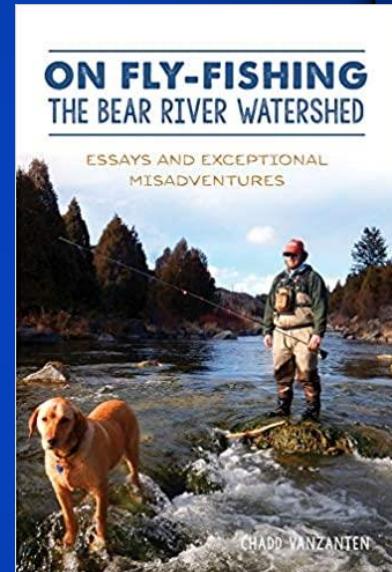
On Fly Fishing the Bear River Watershed: Essays and Exceptional Misadventures Paperback

Author: Chadd VanZanten
Paperback: 176 pages
ISBN-10: 1467149098
ISBN-13: 978-1467149099
Publisher: The History Press
Publication Date: April 12, 2021

The Bear River rises in the high Uinta Mountains and flows through Wyoming, Idaho, and Utah before emptying into the Great Salt Lake.

Within the watershed are scores of secluded trout streams, dozens of reservoirs, and one of North America's largest populations of native cutthroat trout.

Angler and author Chadd VanZanten offers a compelling portrait of the most extraordinary fly-fishing destinations you've never heard of. It's also a story of embattled but resilient ecosystems, warring factions of the American West, a dash of San Francisco counter-culture, cataclysmic upheavals of the planet itself and, of course, pursuing big, elusive trout.



Chadd VanZanten writes outdoor essays and short fiction. His book *On Fly-Fishing the Wind River Range*, a collection of narrative essays about backpacking and fishing in the Wind Rivers of Wyoming, was named 2019-2020 Book of the Year by the League of Utah Writers.

Chadd's short fiction and nonfiction can be found in numerous other books, magazines, and journals, but has appeared most recently in *Fly Culture Magazine*. He lives in northern Utah, where he works as a professional editor. When he is not writing, he is fishing. The opposite is also true.

Sources: amazon.com and the publishers



Winchester TU Recycles Aluminum.

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



Poet's Corner:

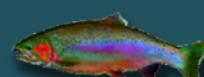
Poems selected
for the angler

The Crocuses

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



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



They heard the South wind sighing
A murmur of the rain;
And they knew that Earth was longing
To see them all again.

While the snow-drops still were sleeping
Beneath the silent sod;
They felt their new life pulsing
Within the dark, cold clod.

Not a daffodil nor daisy
Had dared to raise its head;
Not a fair-haired dandelion
Peeped timid from its bed;

Though a tremor of the winter
Did shivering through them run;
Yet they lifted up their foreheads
To greet the vernal sun.

And the sunbeams gave them welcome,
As did the morning air—
And scattered o'er their simple robes
Rich tints of beauty rare.

Soon a host of lovely flowers
From vales and woodland burst;
But in all that fair procession
The crocuses were first.

First to weave for Earth a chaplet
To crown her dear old head;
And to beauty the pathway
Where winter still did tread.

And their loved and white haired mother
Smiled sweetly 'neath the touch,
When she knew her faithful children
Were loving her so much.

2020 Fish of the Year

Here's the only fish I
caught this pandemic
year !

You can get you're your
own to mount and show
off at

<https://www.freshwatersillustrated.org/bringing-back-the-brooks>

Carolyn Thomas



Conservation Film Festival -- 48 free films March 24-28

by Carolyn Thomas, Board Member, American Conservation Film Festival

The American Conservation Film Festival is presenting 48 films, virtually and FREE to all, March 24-28.



Since 2002, the festival, based in Shepherdstown, WV, has offered films which educate, inform, and inspire viewers to examine the world around us. This year the festival takes pandemic-weary viewers from the Arctic to Africa, showcasing how we interact with our world in short and full length films -- without leaving home.

"Where I Belong" and "Hidden Rivers of Southern Appalachia" are two of my favorite films this year. Both films speak to a sense of place and the life-changing impact of engaging young people in the outdoors.

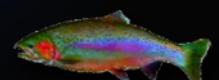
Angler and environmental lobbyist Chris Hill, featured in "Where I Belong", began her connection to the outdoors at Camp Calleva (based in Northern Virginia). The "Freshwaters Illustrated" team shows the history and beauty and vulnerabilities of our Appalachian rivers and streams.

Check out the full film guide with descriptions and trailers and order your FREE tickets now at

<https://conservationfilmfest.org/>

Invite your pandemic partners or your vaccinated friends to join you for a watch party.

Please consider donating or purchasing a pass to support the American Conservation Film Festival.



Whiskey/Whisky edited by Bill Prokopchak

St. Patrick's Day is coming up soon, and what better time than to make sure your whiskey cabinet has a bottle or two of Irish Whiskey to celebrate the season.

Red Spot is one of the finest. It comes from Middleton's Distillery, County Cork, Ireland, through the hands of Mitchell & Sons, and is one of a quartet of "spots" that they export to the US. The others, Yellow Spot, Blue Spot, and Green Spot, are all younger and are all excellent at their price points. We will review those at a later time. But right now let's focus our attention on Red Spot Irish Whiskey.

This spirit comes bottled at 46% ABV. For me, that's a bit high, so I will add a teaspoon of filtered water.

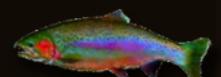
Red Spot is matured 15 years (which is reflected in its price point) in a series of casks including American bourbon, Spanish sherry, and Sicilian Marsala. It's triple distilled which, in my opinion, does not damage the complex flavors, but does minimize what might have been a more creamy mouth feel.

The first aroma that strikes me is the American oak. Oak is forward on the nose tamed by creamy fruits, mango, fresh apple, a light nuttiness.

At first taste, the oak is forward. A greener oak than I would expect from a bottle aged 15 years.

Then, the initial aromas are turned into a mouth full of flavors, too many to name. There's oak, apple, hazelnut, a mild black peppery spice, clove, tobacco, and leather. The flavors linger and linger, especially on the back of the tongue. The finish is long, long, long. Mild pepper, warm apple and pie spices, bourbon, and a hint of oak fading to mild, sweet licorice. Amazing.

Red Spot is one of the most sought-after spirits out there right now. The list price was about \$100, but it has become very difficult to find a bottle and current prices reflect its rarity.



Virginia Trout Stream Study set for April 19-24, 2021

by Stan Ikonen stanikonen@gmail.com

April 19-24, 2021, are the dates set for the VTSSS. Those who had volunteered for 2020 know that the study was postponed last April due to COVID-17 outbreak that started in the late winter of 2020. Hopefully we will be able to safely collect our samples and get them delivered to the UVA labs during those dates.

The dates for sample collection that Marcia Woolman (the volunteer coordinator for the TU chapters in Northern Virginia) has set is for Thursday-Saturday April 22-24.

That will allow us to collect samples from our designated sites and have them ready for Marcia to pick up on April 24 and deliver them to the lab site at UVA in Charlottesville.

Bill has attached an email from Ami Riscassi (see below), the biologist for UVA taking the lead for the study, asking that all of our present volunteers and any other potential volunteers sign up for online training. I know several of you have already received the training but it never hurts to hear the parameters again. Please fill out the poll regarding the training ASAP as Ami would like to get this info collated soon so she can set up the training.

Also, those of you who volunteered last year were given your collection info and sample containers at our meeting back in February or March of 2020. The plastic containers will have to be replaced with new ones. I will be making arrangements to issue the fresh sample containers.

After I let this info settle in I will ask Bill to forward the COVID guidelines as set forth by UVA. So in the interim you might get with your fellow collection team member and decide how you want to proceed with your sample collection procedure. That will depend on each individuals comfort level regarding social distancing, mask wearing, riding in the same vehicle, whether or not you have received a vaccination etc. Some ideas that I have had would be to ride in separate vehicles or enlist the help of a family member. Anyway, more shall be revealed.

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

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

VTSSS 2021 Collection Coordinators,

For those of you who are new TU Collection Coordinators this year, my name is Ami and I am the University of Virginia VTSSS 2021 coordinator. For those of you returning, thank you for remaining with us for VTSSS 2020 +1.

We will be conducting an online training/presentation for the Collection Coordinators this February via Zoom. The presentation will provide background information on the VTSSS 2021 project and details on sample collection. I will also review your specific duties as Collection Coordinator and answer any questions you may have at the time. I realize some of you already attended training last year, but please join in again this year for a refresher as well as for additional protocols for COVID-19.

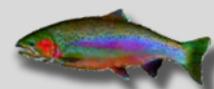
Please click on the link to the Doodle Poll below, and fill out your name and the dates/times in February when you are available to attend an online presentation (20 minute talk, another 10-20 for questions). If you could fill out the poll by this weekend, that would be appreciated. Once I determine the date and time you are all available, I will get back to you.

https://doodle.com/poll/k5n6q5tdyp65pspw?utm_source=poll&utm_medium=link

Thank you all for volunteering to lead your TU Chapter in our upcoming state-wide sampling effort. I look forward to meeting you all (or seeing you again).

Ami Riscassi
 Shenandoah Watershed Study & Virginia Trout Stream Sensitivity Study
 University of Virginia, Department of Environmental Sciences
 Office location: 282 Clark Hall
 e-mail: alr8m@virginia.edu
 phone: 434-924-0520

Mailing address: P.O. Box 400123, Charlottesville, VA 22904-4123
 Delivery address: 291 McCormick Road, Charlottesville, VA 22903



Winchester TU 2021 Speaker Schedule

Please note that we will reschedule these presentations when it is safe to do so.



May 7th

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

POSTPONED



June 4th

Mike Fies, wildlife biologist and Furearer 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."

POSTPONED

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.

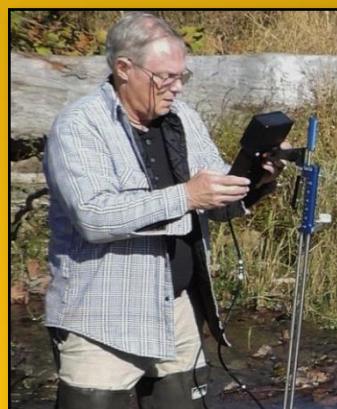
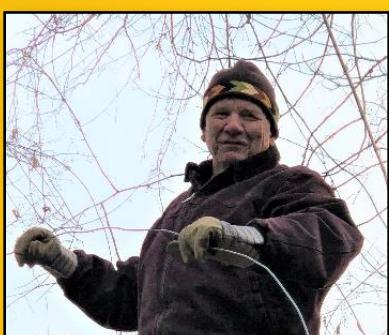
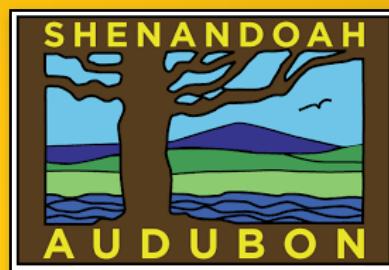


Photo courtesy of The Downstream Project

October 1st

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 5th

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

POSTPONED

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.



2021 Calendar of Events

Winchester Trout Unlimited

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

See also

<http://winchestertu.org/>

2021

March 2021

- ✓ Thursday 4 March 2021 -- 7:00 p.m. -- Monthly TU meeting **canceled**
- ✓ Saturday 6 March 2021 -- Redbud Run workday -- **Bud will finalize details the day before**
- ✓ Wednesday 10 March 2021 --7:00 p.m. - BarFly at Escutcheon Brewery **canceled**

April 2021

- ✓ Thursday 1 April 2021 -- 7:00 p.m. -- Monthly TU meeting
- ✓ Saturday 3 April 2021 -- Redbud Run workday -- Time to be announced at a later date
- ✓ Wednesday 17 April 2021 --7:00 p.m. - BarFly at Escutcheon Brewery

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

October 2021

- ✓ Thursday 7 September 2021 -- 7:00 p.m. -- No monthly TU meeting in July
- ✓ Saturday 9 September 2021 -- Redbud Run workday -- Time to be announced at a later date
- ✓ Wednesday 13 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.

