



Lateral Lines

The Monthly Journal of Winchester TU
Chapter #638

After all is said and done, more is said than done.

June 2021

Volume 26, Number 6

Gradually returning to Normal Operations

BarFly is back !!!!

The Winchester TU BarFly at Escutcheon Brewery is set for Wednesday, June 9, at 7:00 p.m.

The staff of LATERAL LINES will continue to 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: May Redbud Run Report & Plans for the June 5th Workday

by Bud Nagelvoort

photos and video

by Robert Friedensen

May 8 had a big AM as Clarke, Robert, Bill, and Bud cajoled and groaned a group of boulders into the stream from their location just streamside of the fence by the now-cleared area where the former boulder cemetery once existed.

Much sweat and prybar action was involved.

While a video was taken by Robert of the ultimate in physical and mental exercise as a giant boulder was launched into the stream with a great splash, Bud's computer refused to download the film possibly due to certain language content. **HOWEVER:**



Clark and Bud roll one of the many rocks that the crew moved into erosion-control position during Redbud work sessions thus far in 2021.

Because of Robert's technical skills, he has preserved a link to a video of the above-stated giant boulder launch. See page 2 of this journal for the link.

But on to the work session on June 5, likely to be embellished by additional choice language as we move some of the Shenandoah Valley's best karst bedrock around in the stream.

There are likely to be two main efforts on the 5th.

The first effort is to jostle the video rock a few feet to a site where it will strengthen the resolve of enormous tree roots not to wash out and collapse into the stream to destroy a deep present channel, no doubt the haunt or haunt-to-be of 14, 15, or even 16-inch Rainbows.

The second effort will be to fill gaps around the big boulder with smaller boulders (also from the former big rock cemetery) currently in the immediate vicinity.

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

Bud on the Run -- continued

by Bud Nagelvoort

If we then find ourselves with leftover energy and time, there will be an opportunity to clear passageways on the hillside 50 feet downstream for the dragging of giant boulders to streamside and subsequently cabling them upstream to their final resting place enhancing the efficacy of the present natural V.

The challenge will be establishing an efficacious cable/pulley operation with strong enough anchor trees -- and one which does not remove the front end of Bill's truck and its winch.

So, **9 AM on June 5**. Let me know if you plan to be there so I can inform you eve on the 4th not to come if the weather gods interfere.

Tight lines and singing reels.
Bud



Above: Clark and Bud use pry bars to nudge a thousand pounder to the stream bank.

Right: Bill lends a hand when the pry bars need just a bit more power.

Lower Right: Gravity takes over and the boulder tumbles into the stream.

Bottom: With a splash, the boulder lands in the creek.



To see a video of the giant boulder launch, please click on the link below.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1thtAYxr1ovnRF5FMYBHnUnnTWEsqhV3V/view>



ANGLER REFLECTIONS



On the Fly: Patagonia Revisited (Part 2 of 2)

by Carl A. Rettenberger

Editor's Note: Last month, we left Carl and his friends in wind-swept Patagonia. At the end of their fourth day, they had very little fishing luck.

Day 5: 12-11-06

On the 11th, we floated the Rio Espolon. We started just down from the lodge and took out about 10 clicks downstream. Guess what, the wind decided to do something different today and figured it would blow even harder.

I worked my butt off but wasn't able to land a fish, even though I had several chances at some really nice fish. Still paying my dues, I guess. Once again, we decided to cut our losses and boogied down to our take out, bypassing a large portion of the river.



Dan with a beautiful 25-inch Rio Espolon Rainbow



Patrick with one of Carl's 18-inch-plus rainbows

After dinner we went to the Lago Lancanao, a lake about three or four miles long and a mile or so wide. Once again, it was Jack and myself in Patrick's boat.

Well, I guess Chile decide that I had finally paid my dues and let me do my thing. I finished the evening on the lake with 19 takes, 13 hook ups with 10 nice fish to hand. All of the fish were in the 18 to 20-inch range. By the way, the wind subsided later in the evening as the rain started to fall once again.

Day 6: 12-12-06

After breakfast we floated the Rio Futaleufu, another very large river under normal circumstances, made even bigger by the high flows and, yes, the wind was still howling at gale force, but at least the sun was out.

Jack and I teamed up again with Patrick as our guide. We started working the main river but soon agreed that it was in vain and headed for a river-left oxbow that afforded us some leeward protection.

We waded two medium-size back eddies, and I managed to land three nice 14 to 16-inch rainbows on a bugger, while Jack was working a dry fly with good results.

We loaded up and headed for another oxbow on the right side of the river that Mitch, a local Gringo guide, had informed Patrick about.



Jack with one of his nice Oxbow rainbows on a size 20 Elk Hair Caddis

"Patagonia Revisited" continues on the next page.

ANGLER REFLECTIONS -- CONTINUED

On the Fly: Patagonia Revisited

by Carl A. Rettenberger



That's Carl (red hat) with one of his Oxbow rainbows on a size 20 Elk-Hair Caddis

The spot was well protected from the wind and we were happy to get a reprieve. As Patrick rowed us upstream, I noticed a fish rising on the far side under an overhanging willow. That was the beginning of the best three hours of dry fly fishing Jack and I would witness on our trip.

We took turns fishing as we drifted down stream, casting size twenty elk-hair caddis dries to 18 to 22-inch rainbows. Each drift produced a large bodied hellcat that put a huge bend in our rods.

When we reached the bottom, Patrick would row back up and we would start the cycle all over again. By the time the hatch ended, we had landed 18 beautiful rainbows and probably missed ten more.

It was the first time that I can remember being so excited that I actually lost count of my takes and hook ups. Once we left this guarded spot, it was back into the wind so we headed post haste for our take out.

Day 8: 12-14-06

When I rattled out of the sack at 0500 hours, I was delighted to see that the wind had finally subsided, so I walked down to a nearby lagoon where I missed a really nice fish before breakfast.

With the respite in the wind, we decided to fish the Lago Lancanao again. The water was glassy but the front that blew away the wind also dropped the temperature and as a result the fish were down. How's that for a catch twenty-two!!!

I fished alone today with Patrick as my guide and we had a great time, even though the numbers were down. I ended the day six for twelve with the largest being an 18-inch rainbow.

I had a very large rainbow on for a short time trolling my line 90 feet behind the boat as we cut across the lake to fish more promising water, but I wasn't able to get the fish under control before he spit me out.

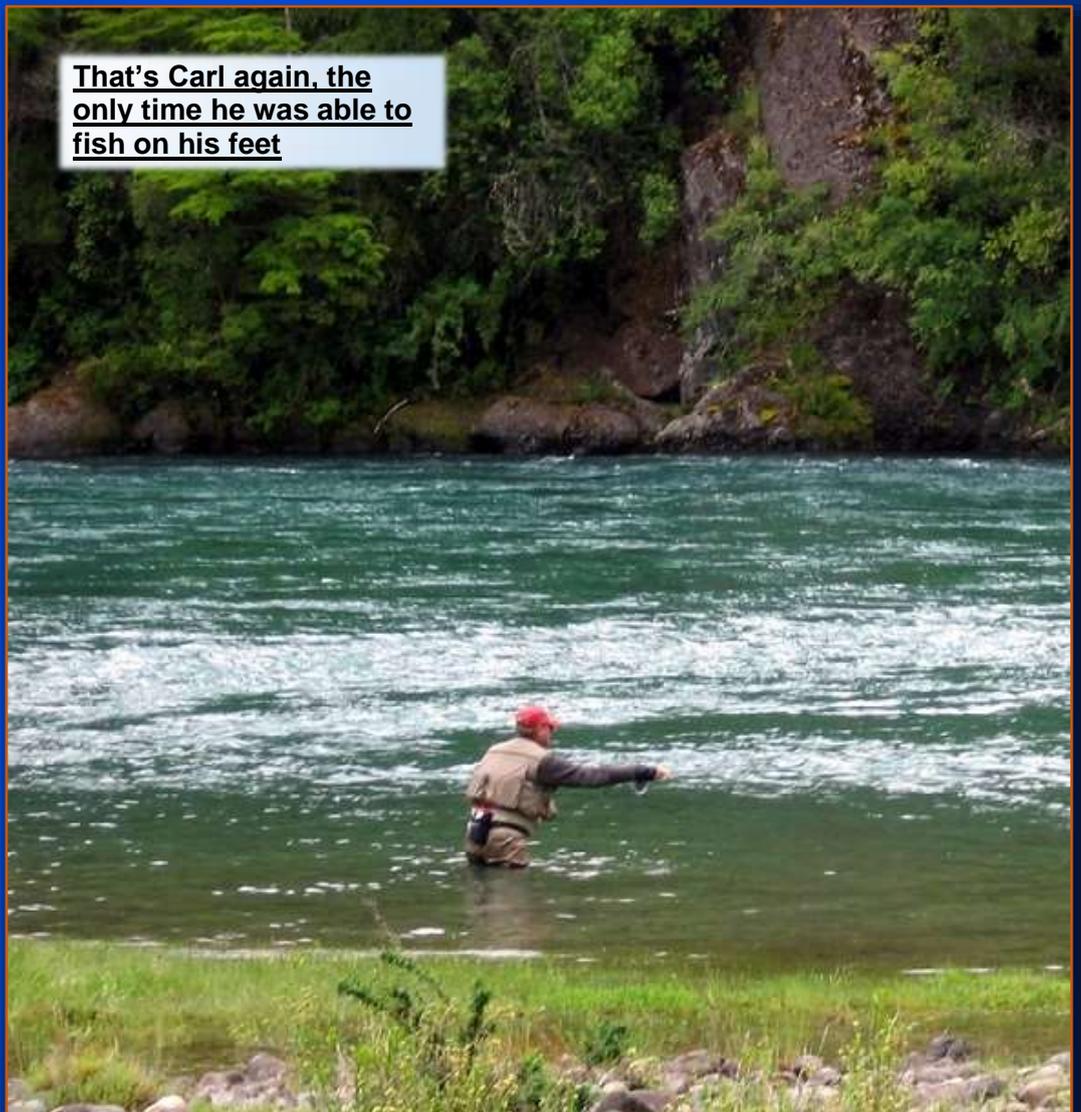
Day 9: 12-15-06

Once again, the wind was down, but now the rain was falling pretty steady. We headed for a secluded valley off the side of this mountain, down this dirt road (more like a goat path) to wade fish the Rio Futaleufu.

At last, I was on my feet fishing and in my element. I really don't like fishing from a boat!! This is one of the few sections of the Futaleufu that is compatible with wade fishing, but keep in mind it's still huge water that is up three or four feet above normal so getting to some of the better water was still very difficult.

I fished top water with a Madam X and did quite well. I finished the day with 18 fish landed out of 26 takes the largest was a 19-inch rainbow.

That's Carl again, the only time he was able to fish on his feet



“Patagonia Revisited” continues on the next page.

ANGLER REFLECTIONS -- CONTINUED

On the Fly: Patagonia Revisited

by Carl A. Rettenberger



Well, that's it, tomorrow we head for Chaiten and our long journey home.

You probably noticed that I didn't say much about the absolute beauty of the surroundings, the friendly natives and the relaxed atmosphere, but that, my friends, is something you need to witness for yourselves.

Day 10: 12-16 & 17-06

We got up early in the morning on the 16th for our three-hour drive from the Lodge to Chaiten where we boarded a small passenger plane and flew to Puerto Montt. After a five-hour layover, we left Puerto Montt aboard AA7704 for our flight to Santiago, where we once again went through Customs. We then boarded AA940 for our flight to Dallas arriving on the 17th. Jack and I said good bye to Dan who was heading home to Colorado, while we boarded AA2556 arriving in Dulles at 1245 hours.

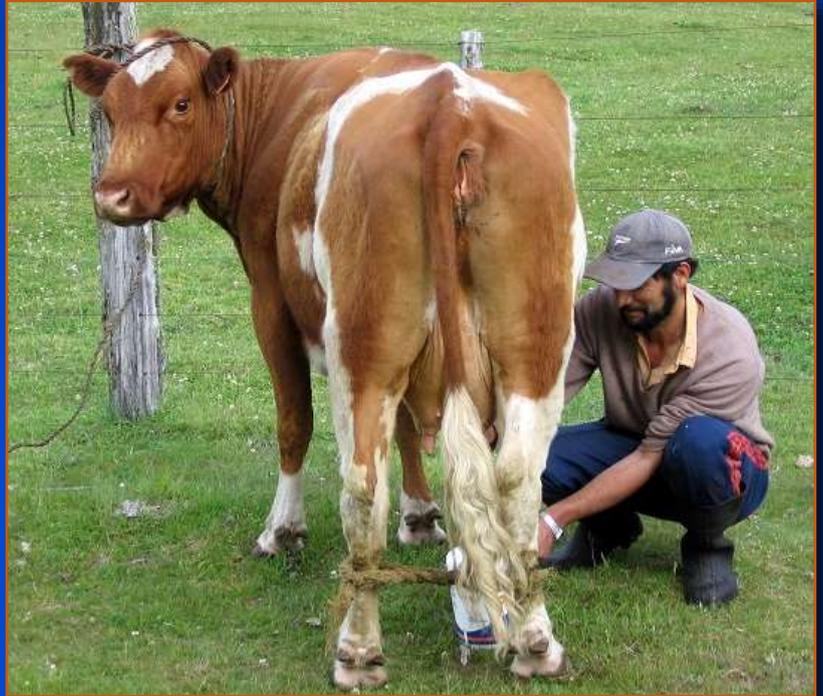
So ended my first international fly-fishing adventure. Was it worth it? From the total number of fish we caught probably not, but then again, I think we did very well considering the adverse conditions we witnessed for most of the trip.

The adverse conditions and the high waters in the rivers and lakes were the results of scheduling our trip in early December which is late winter/early spring in that part of the Country. Had we been better advised, we would have scheduled the trip for late January/early February.

Now, on the other hand, from a first-time experience standpoint, and fishing with good friends, it was definitely worth it. I'm already looking forward to further adventures with Jack, the man who got me out of Virginia.

Stay tuned for my Alaskan Adventures.

To the right is our Rio Espolon neighbor milking his cow.



The End !!!!

Right: The Rio Espolon with our blue-roofed lodge.

Below: Rules to fish by in Chilean Patagonia

Below Right: Our cabin at Valle Bonito. Not much to look at, but it was clean and the main lodge was really nice.



Barbara's Books

Compiled by Barbara Gamble

Trout Water: A Year on the Au Sable

Author: Josh Greenberg
Hardcover: 176 pages
ISBN-10: 1612199011
ISBN-13: 978-1612199016
Publisher: Melville House
Publication Date: March 23, 20

It's the beginning of trout fishing season, and Josh Greenberg -- proprietor of one of the nation's most famous fishing outfitters, on America's most iconic trout-fishing stream, the Au Sable River in Michigan -- is standing in the Au Sable at dusk when he gets the call that a dear fishing buddy has died.

The solace he takes from fishing -- from reading the movement of the river water, studying the play of the light, and relying on his knowledge of insect and fish life -- prompts him to reflect on the impact of the natural world on his life in his fisherman's journal.

Over the course of a year, the journal transcends fishing notes to include some beautifully lyrical nature writing, entertaining stories of the big one that got away, cheerful

introspection about a love that's hard to explain, and yes, a tip or two.

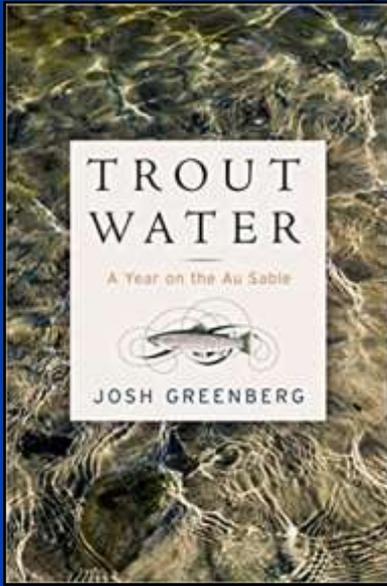
Eventually, Josh Greenberg realizes he hasn't been all alone in the woods, not really.

Much of his relationship with his family and friends has played out on the river. And as he catches — and releases — trout after trout back into one of the most beautiful rivers in America, Greenberg comes to help us realize, too, that there's more to fishing than catching fish.

"In this luminous, limpid journal/memoir, Josh Greenberg has given Michigan's legendary Au Sable River a pulse and presence in language that is at once clear and immediate, informative and educational, lyrical and transcendent, like the river itself. This is fly-fishing literature of the first order -- a classic for our time -- and should be on every angler's shelf."
 —Bob DeMott, *Astream: American Writers on Fly Fishing*, and *Angling Days*

Josh Greenberg is the owner of the famous Gates Au Sable Lodge, and writes a popular, on-line fishing report that draws as many as 40,000 hits a month. He has contributed to several magazines, including *Fly, Rod & Reel* and *Fly Fisherman*. He is the author of *Rivers of Sand: Fly Fishing Michigan and the Great Lakes Region*.

Sources: amazon.com and the publishers



Black River Dreams: Meditations on Fly Fishing

Author: Maximilian Werner
Paperback: 174 pages
ISBN-10: 0888396333
ISBN-13: 978-0888396334
ISBN: 978-0-88839-443-9 [eBook]
Publisher: Hancock House Publishers
Publication Date: April 30, 2021

A celebration of fly fishing, alternately lyrical and meditative, mystical and sensuous, each of these 16 essays represents an exploration of the intersection between past and present, spirit and body, water and land, trout and people, ghosts and dreams.

Whether Werner is describing his first and last time fly fishing as a boy on a stream in northern Maine or the golden evenings he and his wife cast to Apache trout cruising in the dim mountain light, he brings an ecologically informed, poetic sensibility to all of his fly-fishing encounters.

"This book will stay with you long after you put it down. It is an intimate look inside Mr. Werner's thoughts, feelings, and perceptions about life...all viewed from the serenity of the out-of-doors, with birds chattering overhead, the smell of the woods and the moist dirt, and from the banks of a river.

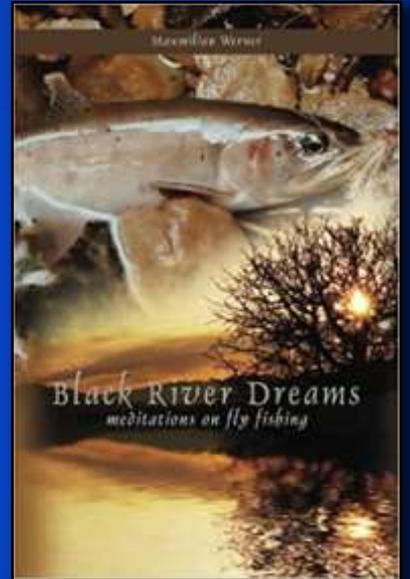
"It is more than a book about fishing. It is a book about life, death, relationships and families.

"And we are compelled to look inside ourselves with Mr. Werner's help and see that we are all ONE with the cosmos. It is also a book of prose, beautifully written, so descriptive you feel privileged to be there with this talented young writer and see and feel what he sees and feels on his own quest and personal journey. I highly recommend this book." -- Nancy Werner

Maximilian Werner is the award-winning author of seven books, including the essay collections *Black River Dreams* and *The Bone Pile: Essays on Nature and Culture*; the memoir *Gravity Hill*; the nonfiction book *Evolved: Chronicles of the Pleistocene Mind*; the novel *Crooked Creek*, and a book of poems titled *Cold Blessings*.

He is an Associate Professor/lecturer in the Department of Writing and Rhetoric Studies at the University of Utah, where he teaches Intermediate Writing, Investigative Environmental Writing, and Writing about War.

Sources: amazon.com and the publishers



Winchester TU Recycles Aluminum.

Please CONTINUE to save your aluminum cans. Bring your cans to any Winchester TU event.



Poet's Corner:

Poems selected
for the angler

On The River

by *Paul Laurence Dunbar*
1872-1906
U.S.A



Ink wash portrait of
Paul Laurence Dunbar
by W. M. Prokopchak ©2020



The sun is low,
The waters flow,
My boat is dancing to and fro.
The eve is still,
Yet from the hill
The killdeer echoes loud and shrill.

The paddles plash,
The wavelets dash,
We see the summer lightning flash;
While now and then,
In marsh and fen
Too muddy for the feet of men,

Where neither bird
Nor beast has stirred,
The spotted bullfrog's croak is heard.
The wind is high,
The grasses sigh,
The sluggish stream goes sobbing by.

And far away
The dying day
Has cast its last effulgent ray;
While on the land
The shadows stand
Proclaiming that the eve's at hand.



Brood X Cicada Portrait
by W.M. Prokopchak ©2021

W. M. Prokopchak

Whisky/Whiskey

edited by Bill Prokopchak

ABERLOUR A'BUNADH

We are talking some really serious single malt here. A'bunadh -- Scots Gaelic for "of the origin" -- truly takes us back in time.

According to the label, A'bunadh is an homage to the Aberlour founder, James Fleming and "is produced in the traditions of the 19th century..."

Now, I can't truly say that I know what 19th century Scotch tasted like, but this single malt is like no other. I have sampled all of the Aberlour single malts sold in Virginia and reviewed Aberlour 16 back in November 2020.

Whereas the delicious Aberlour 16 is the grand old man in the autumn of his years, this Aberlour A'bunadh is the feisty adolescent full of spirit and untamed youth.

And I like it !

Before we get to the tasting notes, I have a few words of caution.

A'bunadh is made in small batches and sold at cask strength. The term "small batch" is defined by each distiller, but generally means that it is from a smaller run than the normal. Some distillers define small batch as being about 10 barrels. Others define it as 20 barrels while some as much as 200 barrels. To add to the confusion, some distillers define small batch by the amount of grain used to make the batch. This bottle is from batch #63.

Now, let's take a look at cask strength. Cask strength is the alcohol content of the whisky as it comes out of the cask. Alcohol content is easier to define because it can be measured using standard equipment.

My current bottle of A'bunadh comes in at a whopping 61% alcohol by volume (abv). Considering that the typical spirit is about 40%, A'bunadh can set your head spinning in short order. Drink it responsibly !

A typical American serving of whisky is 1½ ounces. With high abv A'bunadh, reduce the serving size to a single ounce. Add a teaspoon or two of water, if you must.

Tasting notes

A'bunadh, at first glance, is a deep amber color from both its years in sherry casks and, not being watered down to a 40 abv.

This single malt is thick in the glass and on the tongue. The mouth feel sets this whisky apart from most others and carries bold and complex flavors.

I let my pour rest in the glass for at least 15 minutes before the first sip. I swirl the glass to coat the inner walls with the spirit and notice how thickly A'bunadh covers the glass. I take my first sniff. Immediately I recognize the sharpness of the high abv, but beyond that, we get spicy, ripe fruit: apple, pear, cinnamon, allspice, vanilla, caramel. Ah, the caramel ! With aromas like this, I can't wait to take my first sip.

On the tongue, the aromas are translated to flavors. The spices appear first: cinnamon, allspice, and just a hint of pepper. What sort of pepper? I'd say a mild red cayenne that adds immense interest to this delightful Highland Scotch. Then the ripe fruit appears. I'm tasting ripe apple, pear, peach, and mango drizzled with caramel. Rosewater always comes through with Aberlour whisky, and this is no exception. The rose is buried deep in the complex ripe fruit flavors.

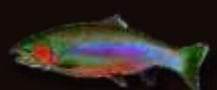
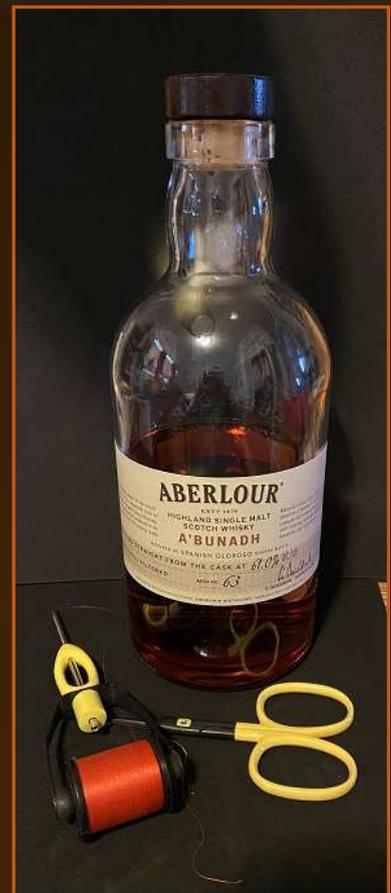
You can taste the sherry cask: a slight oakiness is there in the deep background and the sherry nuttiness: Macadamia? Brazil?

The finish is remarkably short for such a powerhouse whisky. Because the flavors don't linger, it is tempting to take the next sip too soon. But wait. And wait a wee bit longer. You will find that this A'bunadh does linger on the tongue. It has a very, very long, but subtle finish that only the patient drinker will discover. It's soft and gentle and totally unlike the initial flavors.

I'm NOT going to describe or name the flavors in the long finish because I hope you will, someday, have the opportunity to discover it for yourself. Be patient and be rewarded.

Remember, too, that these notes apply to batch 63. Earlier and later batches might differ.

Aberlour A'bunadh is available in Virginia for about \$92 a bottle.



Shad 2021: A Look Back at the Shad Run



Clockwise from upper left
Aiden, Fred, Bill, Mike, Preston, Roy
Photos courtesy of Fred Boyer



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 Furcaster 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

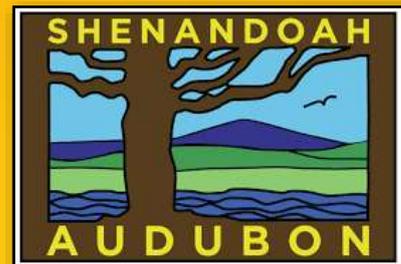
Wayne Webb (Director of the Lord Fairfax Soil and Water Conservation District, Retired water quality specialists for the USGS, and research manager for Friends of the Shenandoah) will talk about the bacteria levels in the Shenandoah River.



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.



2021 Calendar of Events

Winchester Trout Unlimited

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

See also

<http://winchestertu.org/>

June 2021

- ✓ Thursday 3 June 2021 -- 7:00 p.m. -- Canceled due to COVID
- ✓ Saturday 5 June 2021 -- 9:00a.m. -- Redbud Run workday
- ✓ 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. -- Canceled due to COVID
- ✓ 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. -- We hope to resume regular monthly meetings. Watch LATERAL LINES for further information
- ✓ 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 October 2021 -- 7:00 p.m. -- **Tentative joint meeting with Northern Shenandoah Valley Audubon**
- ✓ Saturday 9 October 2021 -- Redbud Run workday -- Time to be announced at a later date
- ✓ Wednesday 13 October 2021 --7:00 p.m. - BarFly at Escutcheon Brewery

November 2021

- ✓ Thursday 4 November 2021 -- 7:00 p.m. -- We hope to resume regular monthly meetings. Watch LATERAL LINES for further information
- ✓ Saturday 6 November 2021 -- Redbud Run workday -- Time to be announced at a later date
- ✓ Wednesday 10 November 2021 --7:00 p.m. - BarFly at Escutcheon Brewery

December 2021

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

