

Lateral Lines

The Monthly Journal of Winchester TU
Chapter #638

So, what's the speed of dark?

July 2021

Volume 26, Number 7

Gradually returning to Normal Operations

BarFly is back !!!!

The Winchester TU BarFly at Escutcheon Brewery is set for Wednesday, July 14, 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: June Redbud Run Report & Plans for the July 10th Workday

by Bud Nagelvoort

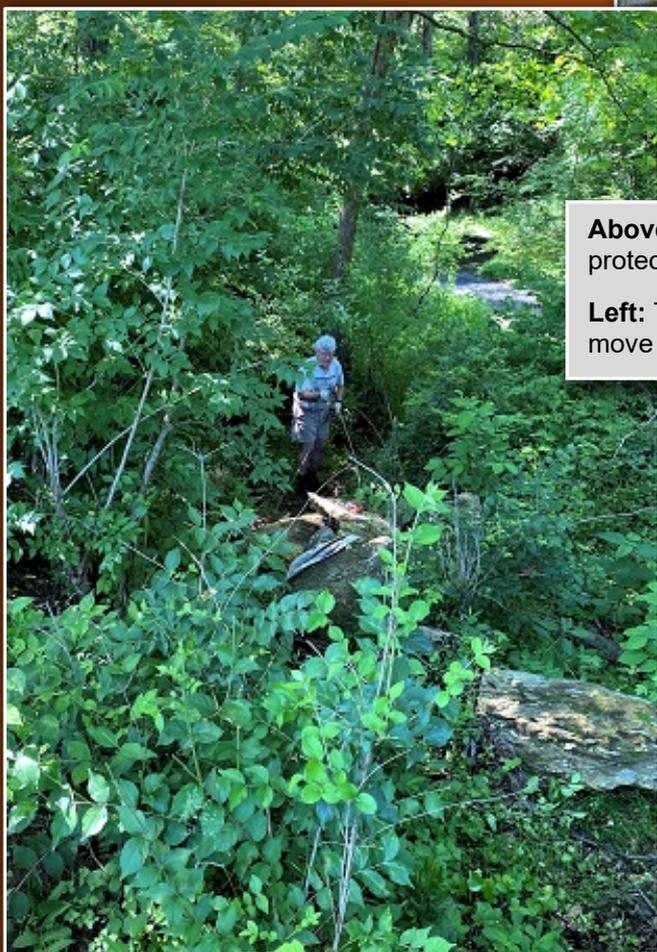
photos by Barbara Gamble & Bill Prokopchak

An excellent crew of would-be fish agitators appeared at 9 AM of June 5th, the first day of National Fishing and Boating Week, to enjoy the cold waters of Redbud Run. What a way to celebrate! Barbara, Bill, Bud, Clark, and Terry found their way to the creek and didn't spend much time talking, but did manage three hours of healthy exercise.



Above: Clark and Bud move rocks into erosion-control position to protect the roots of a stream-side sycamore.

Left: Terry pulls cable and arranges pulleys that the work crew used to move thousand-pound limestone boulders into erosion-control position.



All their effort focused on moving boulders, formerly in the pasture, but now either in the stream ready for precise re-location to enhance bank protection or to be moved bankside for ultimate re-location in the stream.

Bill and Terry tackled the most challenging effort setting up a cable and pulley system across the stream with one end of the cable attached to 1,000 pounders (or more) using a once-abandoned strap belonging to Fred and the other to Bill's cable car - er - truck. The device helped them move several giants to streamside. These huge limestone boulders will be moved again to one of two inverted V structures now planned -- both sites already having natural V elements.

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

Bud on the Run -- continued

by Bud Nagelvoort

Clark and Bud wrestled with smaller stuff at the base of "May's video shoot" where, immediately downstream, is a complex tree root holding the bank in place, but is threatened by erosion.

We filled in what we could with smaller boulders and then spent the better part of an hour futilely trying to prybar a big one past the "video" boulder to cap off the root protection. At the next session we'll move the "video" boulder a few feet closer to the far bank where it will serve a channel-narrowing purpose and lose its obstacle status.



Above: Bill and Terry prepare to pull a thousand-pounder.

Left: Terry's rigging enables us to move huge rocks into place for erosion control.

Below: Terry prepares to move another huge rock.

Bottom: LATERAL LINES staff photographer, Barbara Gamble, documents the work done by Clark and Bud.

It was at that location and activity that Bud heard a slight splash at his side while bending over and thought something had fallen out of his shirt pocket. Unfortunately, he had forgotten his cell phone was in the pocket and ignored the splash only to discover shortly after that the cellphone was missing. A quick search did not find the phone (and Bill looked later to no avail).

But the good news is that Bud got a new phone a couple days later and the deal at AT&T reduced his monthly bill by \$48! Anyone need a new phone?

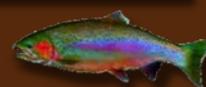
More of the same kind of work is scheduled for July 10 since Terry is entertaining grandsons near Pittsburg on the 3rd. Nine until noon. Guaranteed good exercise. Please advise if you will be there and not at some ocean beach getting sunburn.



But there is more news. Monday, August 16

Recently we were contacted by a Boy Scout Troop leader who is interested in helping some Scouts achieve fishing-related merit badges.

The proposed date is Monday, August 16. Consequently, we will try to schedule our August work session for that date. Mark your calendars.



ANGLER REFLECTIONS



Virginia Trout Stream Sensitivity Study

by Bill Prokopchak

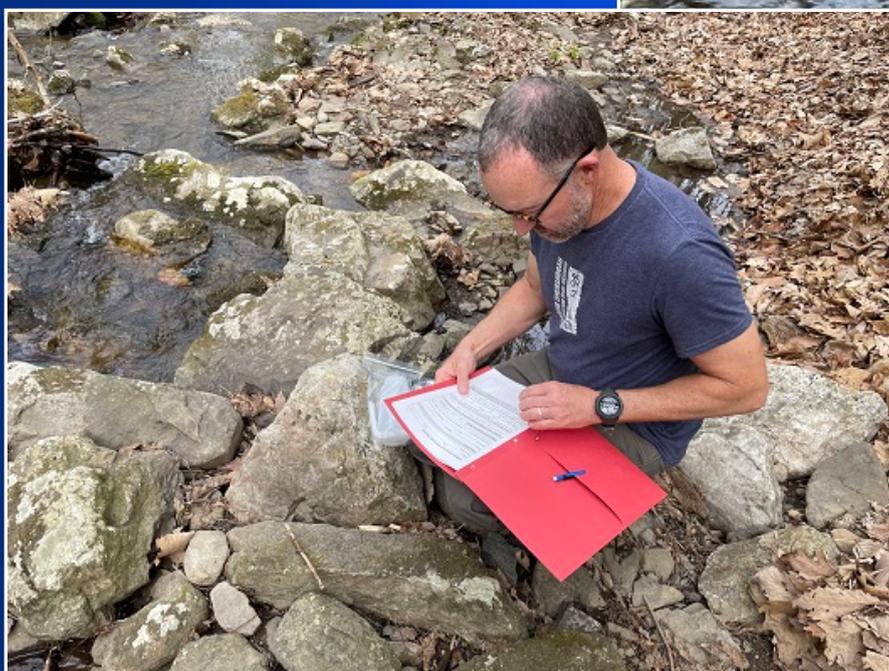
photos by Gene Lewis & Dave Juth

On Saturday, April 24, hundreds of conservation-minded volunteers, most members of Trout Unlimited, fanned out across remote parts of Virginia to take water samples for the Virginia Trout Stream Sensitivity Study (VTSSS).

Stan Ikonen, assisted by Gene Lewis, headed the Winchester TU volunteer effort for VTSSS. Paul Dugas and Andy Holmas, members of other chapters, were a part of our team as well.

Mike Nemecek, Galen Westman, Bill Prokopchak, Preston Fox, Drew Patterson, and Jim Cutler rounded out the Winchester TU VTSSS team.

We had 19 remote sampling sites to locate, gather samples, document the samples, store the samples following the VTSSS protocols, and deliver the samples to Stan for delivery to the University of Virginia in Charlottesville.



Above: Dave takes a water sample from Sirks Run.

Left: Gene follows the VTSSS protocols and records details of water sample from Sirks Run.

VTSSS is a water monitoring and research network focused on mountain streams in western Virginia. Most of the study streams hold naturally reproducing populations of the region's native Brook Trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*), and most streams are associated with public lands including national park, national forest, and wildlife management areas.

The objectives of the VTSSS program are to increase understanding of factors that govern biogeochemical conditions and stressor-response relationships in forested mountain watersheds of the central Appalachian region.

The data-collection network accounts for spatial gradients, temporal variation, and chemical composition of relatively undisturbed headwater systems in the region.

VTSSS was established in 1987 and the Shenandoah Watershed Study (SWAS) component of the program was initiated in 1979.

“Virginia Trout Stream Study” continues on the next page.

ANGLER REFLECTIONS



Virginia Trout Stream Sensitivity Study -- continued

Some of the sampling sites include the high-elevation springs that form the headwaters of our larger creeks and rivers.

And sometimes finding the exact sampling site on the stream is nearly as tricky as finding a needle in a haystack.

A tiny aluminum disk nailed to a tree indicates the exact location of the sampling site.

However!!! The study has been going on for decades and in some cases, the tags have fallen from the tree, or the tree has died and rotted away. And one tiny spring looks pretty much like another until you locate the tag.



Above: Beech Lick Run is one of thousands of tiny springs that feed the German River.
Left: After so many decades, this tree is consuming this numbered tag on the German River.
Below: Beautiful Sirks run flows through Marigold Hollow about three miles (as the crow flies) from Bergton, VA.

VTSSS tracks the effects of acidic deposition and other factors that impact water quality in these Brookie streams.

2021 marked the fourth of these 10-year surveys -- this one delayed a year due to COVID restrictions.

Volunteers sampled water from about 450 streams in 34 Virginia counties.



Researchers analyze the water samples for pH, acid neutralizing capacity, acid anions (sulfate, nitrate, and chloride) and base cations (calcium, magnesium, potassium, and sodium).

Some sites this year included analysis of microplastics. Volunteers used special non-plastic sampling bottles, and special protocols that included documenting the colors and materials worn by the volunteers to rule out any accidental contamination of the samples by the volunteer's clothing.

Because of the complexity and number of samples taken for this study, results are incomplete at the time of this report.



Barbara's Books

Compiled by Barbara Gamble

Fish of Michigan Field Guide: Minnows to Muskies -- Your Must-Have Resource!

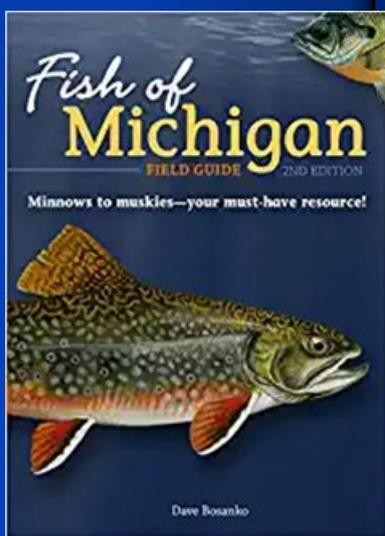
Author: David Bosanko
Paperback: 176 pages
ISBN-10: 1647550459
ISBN-13: 978-1647550455
Publisher: Adventure Publications
Publication Date: June 29, 2021

Learn to Identify Fish in Michigan!

Fishing is a perfect outdoors activity for all ages and skill levels, and the Great Lake State is an angler's paradise. Reel in your catches and make identifying those fish a snap. Now in its second edition, the popular ***Fish of Michigan Field Guide*** by Dave Bosanko features detailed information about 79 species of Michigan fish.

When you're not sure what you caught, grab the handy guide and narrow your choices by family. Then identify your prize with the intricately detailed fish illustrations. Further verify the type of fish using the "Similar Species" charts.

Then read fascinating facts on spawning behavior, feeding habits, and more. Plus, match up your best catches against the state records.



This new edition includes updated information about everything from range to state records, as well as the inclusion of six new species. A new section on fishing tips offers pointers to help you catch more fish, and more information on invasive species can help prevent their spread.

With inside information for locating fishing hotspots, this book is essential for every tackle box, beach bag, RV, and cabin. Its convenient size makes it perfect for the dock or boat.

Dave Bosanko was born in Kansas and studied engineering before following his love of nature to degrees in biology and chemistry from Emporia State University. He spent thirty years as staff biologist at two of the University of Minnesota's field stations. Though his training was in mammal physiology, Dave worked on a wide range of research projects ranging from fish, bird, and mammal population studies to experiments with biodiversity and prairie restoration.

An avid fisherman and naturalist, he has long enjoyed applying the fruits of his extensive field research to patterning fish location and behavior and observing how these fascinating species interact with one another in the underwater web of life.

Sources: amazon.com and the publishers

Smallmouth Bass Flies: Top to Bottom

Author: Jake Villwock
Paperback: 264 pages
ISBN-10: 0811737845
ISBN-13: 978-0888396334
ISBN: 978-978-0811737845
Publisher: Stackpole Books
Publication Date: July 1, 2021

Smallmouth bass swim in lakes and rivers across the United States and Canada and are a premier fly-rod game fish in almost every way -- they take flies readily, feed on diverse foods for a long period of time, tolerate higher water temperatures than trout, and fight harder than any other North American freshwater fish their size.

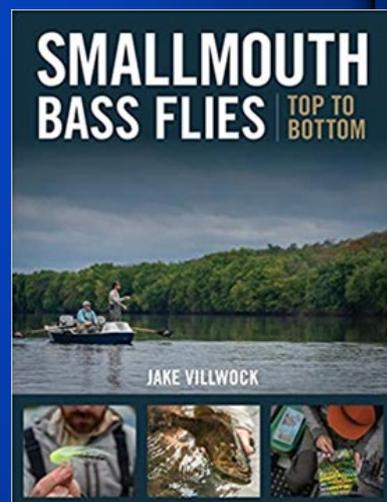
This is the first book dedicated to the best modern flies for these fish that includes both detailed step-by-step tying instructions as well as top patterns and recipes for flies that cover the complete water column, from top to bottom. With over 500 full-color step-by-step images and 300 patterns by today's top tiers from around the country, this book is the definitive resource for smallmouth bass.

Jake Villwock is owner and head guide of Relentless Fly Fishing. Growing up in a commercial fishing family on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, fishing has been part of his life from day one, so it should come as no surprise that he chose a career in the fishing industry.

After guiding in Alaska, Jake returned to the east coast and worked for TCO Fly Shop.

He started Relentless Fly Fishing, which serves as TCO's contract guide service. In addition to guiding, Jake is Fulling Mills Signature tier, blog-writer, author, contributor to *Eastern Fly Fishing* magazine, and serves on various pro-staffs of leading industry companies such as Hatch Reels, Scientific Anglers, Simms Fishing, Clacka Craft Drift Boats, Scott Fly Rods, and Regal Vise. He lives in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

Sources: amazon.com and the publishers



Check this how-to bear spray video link

[Bear Safety Tips for the Backcountry - Gaia GPS](#)



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

The Brook

by Alfred, Lord Tennyson
1809-1892
England



Ink wash portrait of
Alfred, Lord Tennyson
by W. M. Prokopchak ©2021

Footnotes

¹ heron

² villages



I come from haunts of coot and hern¹,
I make a sudden sally
And sparkle out among the fern,
To bicker down a valley.

By thirty hills I hurry down,
Or slip between the ridges,
By twenty thorpes², a little town,
And half a hundred bridges.

Till last by Philip's farm I flow
To join the brimming river,
For men may come and men may go,
But I go on for ever.

I chatter over stony ways,
In little sharps and trebles,
I bubble into eddying bays,
I babble on the pebbles.

With many a curve my banks I fret
By many a field and fallow,
And many a fairy foreland set
With willow-weed and mallow.

I chatter, chatter, as I flow
To join the brimming river,
For men may come and men may go,
But I go on for ever.

I wind about, and in and out,
With here a blossom sailing,
And here and there a lusty trout,
And here and there a grayling,

And here and there a foamy flake
Upon me, as I travel
With many a silvery waterbreak
Above the golden gravel,

And draw them all along, and flow
To join the brimming river
For men may come and men may go,
But I go on for ever.

I steal by lawns and grassy plots,
I slide by hazel covers;
I move the sweet forget-me-nots
That grow for happy lovers.

I slip, I slide, I gloom, I glance,
Among my skimming swallows;
I make the netted sunbeam dance
Against my sandy shallows.

I murmur under moon and stars
In brambly wildernesses;
I linger by my shingly bars;
I loiter round my cresses;

And out again I curve and flow
To join the brimming river,
For men may come and men may go,
But I go on for ever.

THE CIGAR SISTERS

by Lynn & Dora Butler
Herrera Esteli by Drew Estate
6X52 Toro

Lynn: I'm Lynn.

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

Lynn: I have an amazing cigar for you today, Dora. It's such a great day, the sky is blue, the winds are calm, and the air temperature and humidity are as beautiful as we could expect on the Eve of Independence Day 2021. And we are on the bank of our favorite Brookie stream.

Dora: You have been telling me about the Herrera Esteli for some time and I'm finally going to enjoy one with my best friend, you.



Photo courtesy of
Cigars International

Lynn: This is a beautiful golden-brown cigar with an Ecuadoran Habano wrapper, firmly packed with Nicaraguan filler. The wrapper on this cigar really catches my attention. To the fingers it is slightly leathery-oily and smooth. Before you light up, Dora, just enjoy the aroma of the cigar.

Dora: What aroma. Beautiful. Wonderful country aroma. Tobacco and hay. Just like a summer day on the farm. This is a well-packed cigar, and the draw is just on the snug side of perfect. Before it is lit, this seems like a cigar that could be a real beauty. I hope it matches all the wonderful things you have told me about it.

Lynn: Here we go. The wind is dead calm, so we are both lighting up with cedar spills. This is the original and best way to light a cigar. OK, Dora, what's your first impression?

Dora: On light-up, I'm getting a mouth full of light pepper. The pepper goes from the lips right on to the back of the throat. It's extremely light. Green leafy salad greens. Highly unusual. Hints of oaky woodiness.

Lynn: I'm getting a sweetness along with the black pepper and a nuttiness. The finish is long, long, long.

Dora: I'm into the second third, and the nuttiness is building. Dark black bitter cherry notes are coming forward in the second third. It has been a half hour and I'm only in to the second third. This is going to be a 90-minute cigar, at least.

Lynn: I'm getting tons of smoke from this cigar. As I get into the final third, dark chocolate is building to go along with the cherry that appeared earlier.

Dora: This is really fun. Yes! The cherry and chocolate are coming together nicely, and the tobacco sweetness is building in the final third. It's creamy, too. Lynn, you have chosen a totally delightful cigar with pronounced flavor profile changes that were a bit sneaky. I never expected the peppery opening to finish so sweet and creamy.

Lynn: This is our fourth 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. In April we did the Arturo Fuente Reserva Don Carlos and found it a good cigar for the novice. What are your thoughts on this Herrera Esteli Fuente cigar?

Dora: This cigar is not at all serious. It is pure fun with a surprise at every third. I thoroughly enjoyed it from the first sniff of the wrapper to the moment I put it down. I think this Herrera Esteli is going into my "Favorite Five" list for the moment, if they can continue producing it with the same flavor profile.

Lynn: I agree completely. I told you that you'd enjoy this cigar. Congratulations to Drew Estate for giving tobacco blender Willy Herrera the freedom and time to develop this cigar.

Dora: This has been a wonderful July evening with my best friend. Sitting here in our lawn chairs beside our favorite -- and highly secret -- Brookie stream.

We didn't even wet a line today. Can you believe it !



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 here! Than will talk about Brook Trout health and welfare in our region.

Photo courtesy of USGS

June 4th

Mike Fies, wildlife biologist and Furbeater 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.

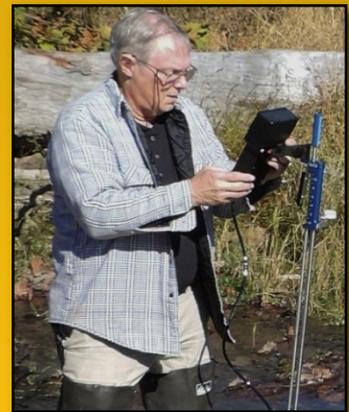
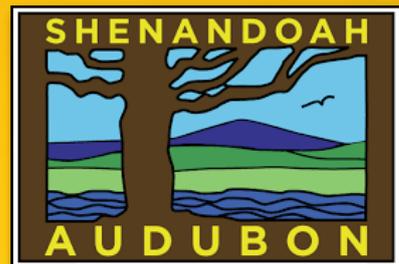


Photo courtesy of The Downstream Project

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/>

July 2021

- ✓ Thursday 1 July 2021 -- 7:00 p.m. -- No monthly TU meeting in July
- ✓ Saturday 10 July 2021 -- Redbud Run workday -- 9:00 a.m.
- ✓ **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
- ✓ Monday 16 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 soon. 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

January 2022

- ✓ Thursday 6 January 2022 -- 7:00 p.m. -- No monthly meeting in December
- ✓ Saturday 8 January 2022 -- Redbud Run workday -- Time to be announced at a later date
- ✓ Wednesday 12 January 2022 --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.

