

# Winchester Trout Unlimited

(May 5, 2022)

The meeting was called to order by Dave Juth, Treasurer, at 7:00 pm in Rachel's Kitchen meeting room of the Shenandoah Lodge at Lake Frederick with 18 members and guests in attendance.

Guest Speaker Nathaniel (Than) Hitt-Than is a researcher for the US Geological Survey, Eastern Ecological Science Center in Kearneysville, WV. His presentation focused on how climate change, genes and the landscape impact Brook Trout. Deforestation, warming water temperatures and sediment all have a negative impact on Brook Trout populations. Stream locations that have cold ground water upswells can hold populations of trout. These locations can vary along the same stream depending on the location of these upswells. Streams coming off the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia are the few remaining locations holding native Brook Trout.

Than is experimenting on a mobile phone application that utilizes Artificial Intelligence algorithms to be able to identify individual Brook Trout by the distribution and color of the spots along the length of their body. If successful, an angler will be able to identify the last time that individual fish was caught, where, when and by whom.

Treasurer's report-Bill Prokopchak, retiring Treasurer officially handed over the Treasurer's responsibility to Dave Juth and reported that the Chapter has a balance as of 30 April 2022 of 9,300.48.

Trout in the Classroom- The number of schools that will be releasing trout is scaled back this year due to the number of tanks that had operational issues. The release date is Tuesday 5/10 with only three schools involved

Project Healing Waters-Phil Stevens

Phil reported that the first meeting of the newly formed Winchester Chapter of PHW is off to a highly successful start with two clients and 20 volunteers! The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday May 18 at the Lake Frederick Shenandoah Lodge starting at 6:30pm.

State TU update and Tri-State trout Camp- No reports

Red Bud Run Restoration-Bud Nagelvoort

Due to heavy rains expected on 5/6 and 5/7, Red Bud Restoration workday will be postponed. Bud will indicate via email the next workday.

Bar Fly-

The next Barfly is scheduled for 7:00pm Wednesday 5/11 at the Escutcheon Brewery in Winchester, VA.

Future Meetings and dinner

Our next meeting is scheduled for 7:00pm June 2, 2022, in the lower level of the Shenandoah Lodge at Lake Frederick. For those who wish to eat dinner in the Lodge prior to the meeting, 5:15 pm reservations should be made through Wayne White 703-919-2952.

Meeting adjourned approximately 8:30 pm.

Submitted by:

Fred Boyer: