

Lateral Lines

The Monthly Journal of Winchester Trout Unlimited
Chapter #638

It's beginning to cost a lot like Christmas.

December 2022

Volume 27, Number 12



5 January 2023, Winchester TU Meeting

7:00 PM

Lake Frederick Community Lodge
Lake Frederick, VA

Dinner before the meeting

→ **5:00 PM** at Region's 117 Restaurant

Please notify Wayne (703-919-2952) two days before the meeting if you will be dining with us.



BarFly

The next Winchester TU BarFly
7:00 PM at Escutcheon Brewery
Wednesday, 14 December 2022

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing

The next Winchester PHW meeting
6:30 PM at the Lake Frederick Community Lodge
Wednesday, 11 January 2023

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See you at the 14 December 2022 BarFly.
Bill Prokopchak, Newsletter Editor, 540-722-2620



WINCHESTER

PROJECT HEALING WATERS THANKS ITS VOLUNTEERS FOR A SUCCESSFUL YEAR !

by Wayne White

Looking back over the past year, it's hard to imagine that the Winchester Project Healing Waters (PHW) program was just an idea that Phil Stevens and I had been considering when the Martinsburg program at the VA hospital went inactive in the wake of the COVID pandemic.

But thanks to the tremendous support of the Winchester Trout Unlimited chapter and veteran organizations in our area, our program is headed into 2023 as a robust organization that will continue to help disabled military veterans on their healing journey through fly fishing education and activities.

The Winchester program now has 16 veteran participants and 25 volunteers. Those numbers far exceed our expectations when we launched the organization on 1 February 2022.

In addition to the success of our growth, we have provided numerous activities and instructional fly-fishing classes as well as local, regional, and national fly-fishing outings for our veteran participants. Our volunteers contributed significant time and valuable expertise, guaranteeing the success of all our activities and outings.



Bob Wilson checking his thread wraps.

“Winchester PHW Thanks Its Volunteers” continues on the next page.

WINCHESTER PHW THANKS ITS VOLUNTEERS -- continued

For 2023, we are planning educational classes and clinics to include additional classes for fly tying. In fact, we will begin our new year with our second fly-tying class on Wednesday, 11 Jan 2023.

We are also considering rod-building classes. We are scheduling local fishing day trips to the Leetown hatchery and outings to other nearby fisheries, as well as one overnight destination fishing outing in late May or early June.

We will also send participants to Virginia Regional trips that include Wild Trout Shenandoah National Park in April; Back Creek (Bath County) and River Bound (Lebanon, VA) outings in the Spring and Fall.



Above: Fred Boyer (right) ties up the details on his knot tying class.

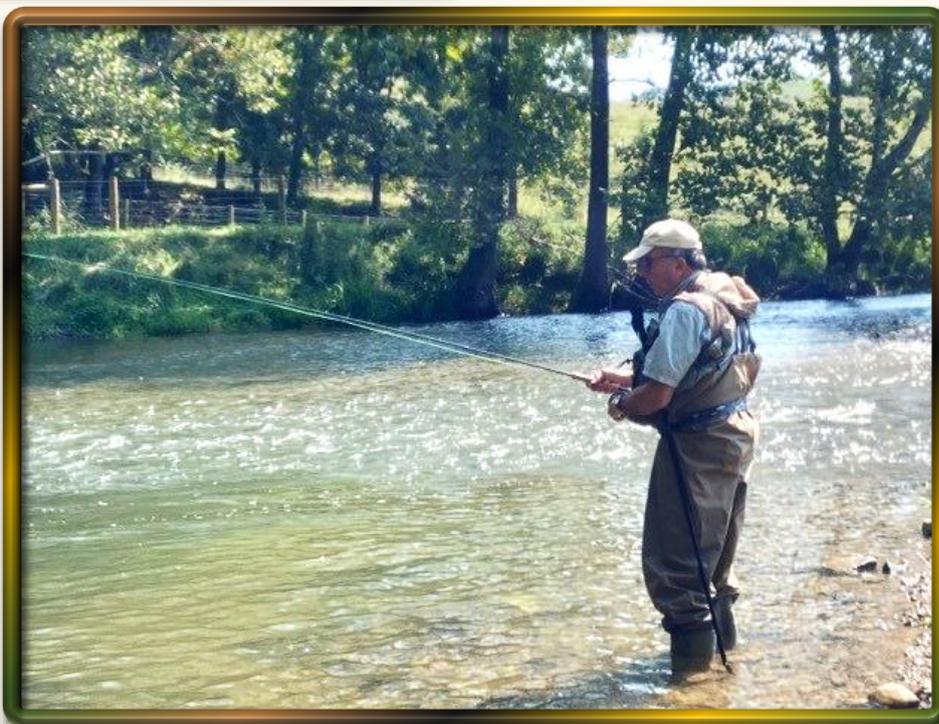
Left: Jim Stonestreet nets a Leetown Rainbow for George Booth.

Below: Mike Nemec nymphing on the Little River in Tazwell, VA.



Participants and volunteers to be nominated for national outings will need to have a current biography on file with our program to complete the application process.

It is also important for volunteers to have a biography on file so they can be nominated as trip leads for national and destination outings. Phil will send a reminder to everyone to complete their biographies.



**“Winchester PHW Thanks its Volunteers”
continues on the next page.**

WINCHESTER PHW THANKS ITS VOLUNTEERS -- continued

Right: Mark Zimmerman (seated in khaki shirt) presents the finer points of fly tying at the first fly tying class.

Below: Christine Erin shows off her first catch of the day at Leetown.



With the Holiday Season upon us, there will be no December PHW monthly meeting. Additionally, due to a schedule conflict with the Shenandoah Lodge our day for monthly PHW meetings in 2023 will be the second Wednesday of the month in Rachel's Kitchen, 6:30-8:30pm. Our next meeting is Wednesday, 11 January 2023. An email reminder and meeting agenda will be sent to all participants and volunteers by 28 December 2022.



In addition to our volunteers, we would like to thank our many supporting organizations particularly:

Lake Frederick Veterans Association,
Joining Forces Community,
Shenandoah University Veteran Supporters,
AmVets Post 18,
VFW Post 9760,
Virginia Veteran and Family Support Services,
Heroes on the River, and
Virginia Career Works !

Thanks to all for making our first year an overwhelming success!
Happy Holidays!

The next Winchester PHW Program meeting is Wednesday, 11 January 2023, 6:30-8:30 PM in Rachel's Kitchen, Shenandoah Lodge, Lake Frederick.

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Barbara's Books

Compiled by Barbara Gamble

Fly Fishing in Maine **Local Experts on the State's Best Waters**

Author: Bob Mallard
Paperback: 232 Pages
ISBN-10: 0811771563
ISBN-13: 978-0811771566
Publisher: Stackpole Books
Publication Date: December 15, 2022

Maine has the most diverse fly-fishing opportunities in New England and is a popular destination for anglers seeking trout, landlocked salmon, striped bass, and a host of other game fish.

This guide to the state's best fly fishing, covers rivers and streams, ponds and lakes, and salt water, also includes extensive information on backcountry ponds and other out-of-the-way places. In addition to the top fishing destinations, author Bob Mallard covers a lot of fascinating Maine angling history and includes chapters on the fish species and conservation.

With contributions by a who's who list of Maine writers including Emily Bastian, William Clunie, Will Lund, Bill Sheldon, George Smith, Ted Williams, Paul Reynolds, and King Montgomery, this book is sure to be a valuable resource for resident and visitor alike.

I don't know a better angler or a more articulate and dedicated advocate for Maine's fish and fishing than Bob Mallard.

His favorite fish is the eastern brook trout, Maine's signature species. Should he be promoting Maine's brook-trout waters? Yes, because he understands that native brook trout are in need of friends, and that's what anglers who chase them ultimately become.

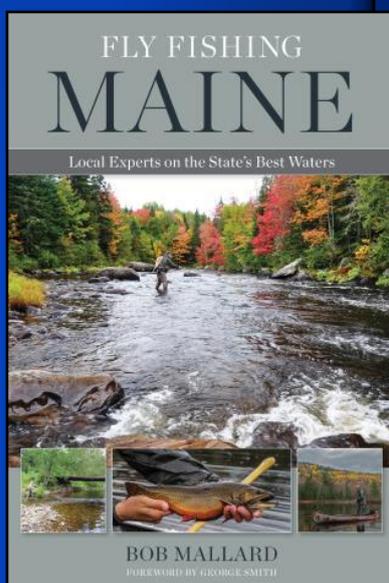
-- Ted Williams, author of *Something's Fishy*

Bob Mallard has fly fished for over 35 years. He owned and operated *Kennebec River Outfitters* in Madison, Maine, from 2001 to 2014.

Bob is an accomplished fly tyer and staff fly designer for *Catch Fly Fishing*. He has written about fly fishing, fly tying, fisheries management, and conservation for nearly fifteen years.

His work has appeared in newspapers, magazines, e-zines and blogs at the local, state, regional, and national level. Bob is the Publisher and Northeast Regional Editor for *Fly Fish America* magazine and a columnist for *Southern Trout* online magazine. He is the author of *Squartail* and *Favorite Flies for Maine*.

Sources: amazon.com and the publishers



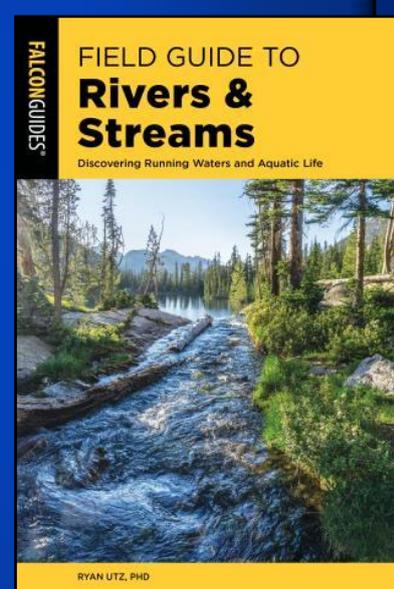
Field Guide to Rivers & Streams

Discovering Running Waters and Aquatic Life

Author: Ryan Utz
Paperback: 304 pages
ISBN-10: 1493060384
ISBN-13: 978-1493060382
Publisher: Falcon Guides
Publication Date: August 1, 2022

In *Field Guide to Rivers & Streams*, Dr. Ryan Utz (Chatham University) presents a broad scientific understanding of rivers, streams, and the animals that reside within them, written accessibly for a general audience.

Topics range from what causes river flows to rise and fall to the ecology of riverine fishes. Kayakers, anglers, and hikers alike will find many tools within *Field Guide to Rivers & Streams* to deepen their understanding of their favorite waterway.



Dr. Ryan Utz is an assistant professor of water resources at Chatham University and outdoor enthusiast with an obsession for backcountry camping.

He has published over forty scientific articles on subjects ranging from salmon restoration in California to long-term rising salinity levels in North American rivers. An avid outdoor enthusiast, he also contributes to *Backpacker* magazine.

Sources: amazon.com and the publishers



Winchester TU Recycles Aluminum.

Bring your cans to any Winchester TU event.



Bud on the Run: November Workday Report and Plans for the 10:00 AM, Saturday, 3 December 2022, Workday

by **Bud Nagelvoort**

photos, etc. by Bill Prokopchak

Well, the rock piles are essentially eliminated in the Seipel major pasture. Only a few details to complete the process.

Detail 1: Ten to fifteen smaller boulders were removed last month by hand and Bill's truck and chain to streamside just above the crossing for final disposition there on Saturday for rational bank protection. Half hour.

Note: Bill removed himself from truck driving duties after proving himself a hazard to life and limb. Terry competently completed the truck-driving tasks.



Above: Clark and Terry free rocks from the soft ground prior to relocating them.

Left: Terry and Bob use the WTU chain system to prepare three rocks for relocation as erosion control.

Below: The Winchester TU Tacoma hauls rocks down the cattle crossing.



Detail 2: See, quickly, if some remnants of big dead sycamore just down pasture from old rock pile sites can be substituted for hand full of boulders now preventing cattle-calf access to stream bank. If so, manipulate rocks to stream to block flow along north stream bank at natural V there. Half hour.

Detail 3: Below Right Turn V, see if fallen tree across stream can be made permanent to help raise depth in RTV pool, maybe with a "Clark Notch" and rock support. Fifteen minutes.

Detail 4: Reassess potential for installing a "Clark-Type Notched Log" below shallowed pool at Terry's giant sycamore. (It has been determined that it is not practical to try to use the big sycamore trunk in the pasture for this purpose.) There are some big rocks still available at the south side of stream, there to help secure a cross-log in place if we can locate a suitable log. Potential hour-long effort.

Now looks like might have shower(s) Saturday, 3 December, AM, but will try to tough it out -----
Work starts at 10:00 AM.

Usual E-mail Friday eve if change in plans.

Bring big fish stories to early social at gate.



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

Bud on the Run -- continued



Left: Terry drags a load of rocks through the creek. During the December workday, WTU members will move these and other rocks into erosion-control position.

Below: Bob checks progress as Terry backs the WTU Tacoma up the narrow cattle crossing.

Bottom Right: Terry reverses the truck into position to pull another load of rocks.

Bottom Left: Bud takes a break after the workday. Supervising this group including Bob, Terry, Robert, Clark, and Bill is thirsty work.



**Winchester TU Monthly “BarFly” Event
Wednesday, 14 December at 7:00 PM
Escutcheon Brewery
Commercial St., Winchester**

The Winchester Chapter of Trout Unlimited (WTU) will be gathering at Escutcheon Brewing in Winchester to offer anglers and **non-anglers** in our area the opportunity to learn about Trout Unlimited and to tie fishing flies.

We hope all of you can attend our monthly “BarFly” at Escutcheon Brewery.



Above: The Helltown Riffraff enjoyed an evening of fly tying and great beer at the Winchester Trout Unlimited BarFly last month. The Helltown Riffraff is a music group that describes their style as “gothic blues and rock with a country twang.”

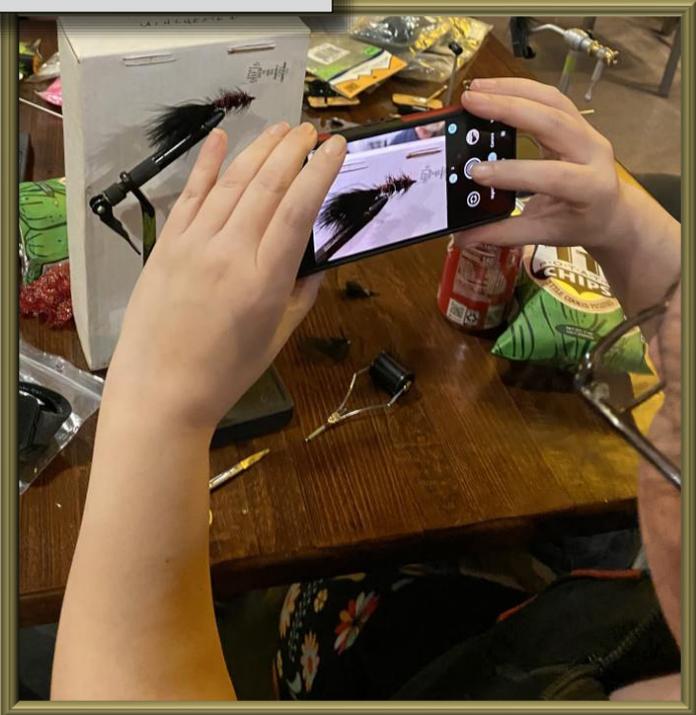
The Helltown Riffraff includes (from left to right) Charlie, Jeremy, Lani, and Marie. You can learn more about Helltown Riffraff at [Helltown Riffraff](#).



Right: Jeremy finishes his very first fishing fly called a Woolly Bugger.

Left: Marie prepares to wrap a black hackle feather.

Below: Lani takes a photo of her very first fishing fly.



No fly-tying or fly-fishing experience is necessary.

Please invite your friends. We hope to introduce more folks to the Winchester TU chapter and support a local business that supports WTU.



Poet's Corner: Poems selected for the angler

The Night Before Steelhead

by Bill Prokopchak
20th-21st Century
USA

with apologies to
Clement C. Moore
1779-1863
USA



Selfie
Bill Prokopchak

'Twas the night before Steelhead, when all through the house,
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.

The fly rods were readied with meticulous care,
In hopes that huge Steelhead soon would be there.

The grandkid was nestled all snug in her bed,
While visions of Steelheads all danced in her head;
And Mamma with her kerchief and a small cup of booze
Had just settled her brains for a long winter's snooze.

When out at the truck there arose such a clatter,
Mamma sprang from her bed to see what was the matter.
Away to her laptop she flew like a flash,
Turned on the spy cam and gave a great laugh.

The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow
Gave the luster of mid-day to objects below,
When what to her wondering eyes should appear,
But her elderly spouse, and all of his gear.

The little old angler was lively and bright.
She knew in a moment it must be all right.
More rapid than eagles he ran to his truck,
"When I'm out there fishing, I just can't get stuck."

He whistled, and chuckled, and checked off his stuff.
"I've got waders, and fly rods, if that's not enough,
I have tippetts, and leaders, and a cell phone or two.
In the bed of the truck! In the toolbox, too."

As dry leaves before the Erie winds fly,
When they meet with an obstacle mount to the sky.
So up to the truck old Bill scurried around,
With a truck full of gear. He was Lake Erie bound.

But wait, there is something still that he must do,
So back to the house our old hero withdrew.
And then, in a twinkling, Mamma heard on the stairs,
The old angler kneeling and saying his prayers.

As she closed up her laptop, and was turning around,
Up jumped the angler with hardly a sound.
He was dressed all in Gore-Tex, from head to his feet,
And with nymphs, flies, and eggs, he was nearly complete.

A bundle of clothes that he carried in hand,
And it looked so darned heavy he could hardly stand.
His eyes, how they twinkled, they really were glowing,
"It is time for the Steelhead, I've got to get going."

His broad little mouth was drawn up in a smile
And said to his wife, "I'll be gone for a while."
He was ready to leave and excited to go.
She said, "It's now midnight. Get on with the show!"

With a wink of his eye and a peck on her cheek,
He jumped in the truck for the drive to the creek.
He stepped on the gas, and he gave her a whistle
And away he now flew like the down of a thistle,

But she heard him exclaim as he drove out of sight.
"Happy fishing to all, and to all a good bite!"



ANGLER REFLECTIONS



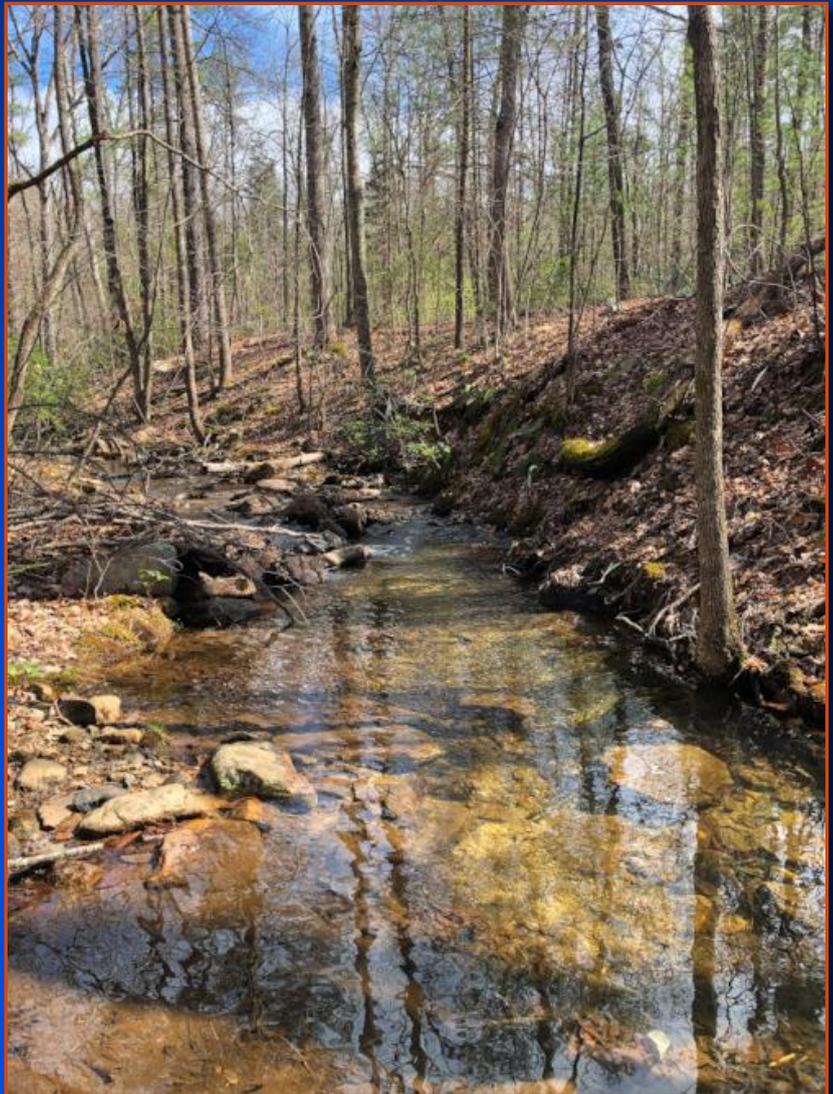
Tenkara in Winter?

by Mike Smith

Over recent winters I have enjoyed Tenkara fishing for our native Brook Trout on some of the smaller headwater streams both in Shenandoah National Park and the George Washington National Forest. So, how does this pursuit differ from outings in the balmy days of spring? Well, you will likely not see a Brookie rocket halfway across a tiny pool to intercept a #16 Mr. Rapidan.

No, the pace of things slows considerably on the short chill days of December and January. The water is coldest and densest now. The metabolism of even the Brook Trout slows markedly, and their haunts tend to shift, too. Look for them in the deeper, slower water now, especially pools that offer good deep cover.

The Brook Trout will continue to feed through winter. But they feed less often, and they seem disinclined to move very far for a meal. The angler will have to play Grubhub or DoorDash delivery person for winter Brook Trout. And it may take repeated knocks on their submerged door to elicit response.



I use some of my lightest Tenkara rods this time of year, and rig these rods with light level lines, usually a 3 or 2.5 level line. These specialty lines (often bright pink or orange for visibility) are usually fluorocarbon and are roughly equivalent to 0X leader material in diameter and density.

For tippet? 7X is recommended. Why so light? The thin tippet offers less resistance and thus speeds the tiny, weighted flies to their deep destinations.

Speaking of flies, the now familiar traditional Japanese Kebari and Sakasa-Kebari (reverse hackle) synonymous with Tenkara can be left at home on winter outings.

Smaller and heavier jig-type flies tend to work best (sounding a wee bit like Euro nymphing, eh?). The advantage of Tenkara this time of year is very much its tactical similarity to Euro nymphing — get the fly (or flies — fishing a tandem rig can work on Tenkara rods) down deep as possible, as quickly as possible. Then watch the line and pay attention for subtle taps. Be ready to strike quickly at any resistance. But also, be ready to replicate your drift, again and again. “Later, rinse, repeat.” Persistence pays.

Do I talk big numbers of Brook Trout this way? Not really. My trips are usually just an hour or two in duration (hey, sometimes it’s really chilly out there!). If I catch (and release) a couple, I am quite satisfied to call it a successful day.

If you enjoy fishing for natives, like smaller waters, and can appreciate the special solitude winter streams may offer, I think this special type of Tenkara may appeal to you.

One additional advantage? Even on the coldest of days, you will never have to worry about iced line guides.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Brookies in the SNP 1950s

As often happens, one of my Google searches for one topic leads ever onward to more interesting fare.

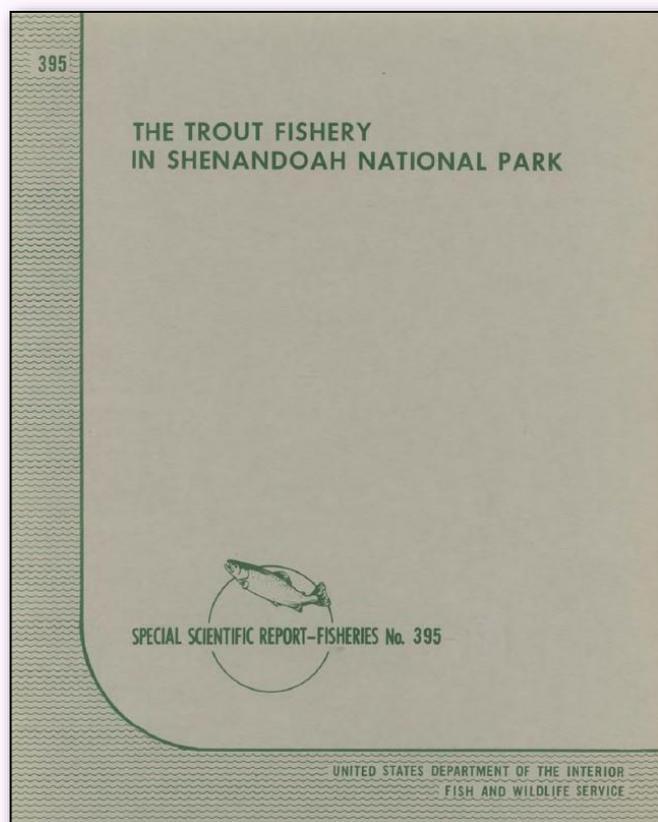
I was trying to get as much info as possible on the Brook Trout fishery in Overall Run (a drainage on the north flank of Matthew's Arm in the Park); but, of course, kept coming up empty.

But one sidebar search yielded this little gem linked below, an NPS Bulletin #395, issued in November 1961, providing some fascinating glimpses at Brook Trout populations and habitat conditions in the Park during the previous two decades or so.

I think you'll enjoy this!
— Mike Smith

Link:

<http://npshistory.com/publications/shen/ssr-fisheries-395.pdf>



Whisky/Whiskey:

BALLECHIN (bal-a-kin)

Highland Single Malt Scotch Whisky By Edradour

10 years old

46% ABV

Non-chill filtered

by Bill Prokopchak



I acquired this bottle of Scotch during a trip to Scotland several years ago. Finding a few minutes of free time, I explored the Whisky shops of Edinburgh. Not far from the Princess Street Gardens near the Sir Walter Scott Monument, I came upon a little Whisky shop, not bigger than your average dormitory room.

It's shelves, floor to ceiling, were lined with golden gems from the wondrous distilleries across the width of Scotland. I was overwhelmed. Most of the Whiskies in this shop were from tiny Whisky works. I decided then and there to take home three.

The Ballechin 10 is a peat firecracker ready to explode in your mouth and delight your senses. It's not for the novice, for sure. But, maybe, someone who is steeped in smoke-pit barbecue might find Ballechin 10 to be a new friend and kindred spirit.

On the nose you get smoke, smoke, smoke. A prominent peat smoke to my palate, but also a solid oak-like smoke. But don't let the first minutes with this little gem discourage you. Let that first sip settle on your tongue and linger a while. You will be rewarded. Be patient. Let your drink breathe.

The mellow flavors come gently forward. The purveyor tells me that this whisky is smoked with heather. And I believe it. It's spicy, it's herbal, it's sweet, it's got aromas of fresh moist earth, umami.

There's more complexity here than I was able to grasp just a few years ago. I've aged along with this Scotch. I like it. If you ever see this Scotch at your favorite bar, have a wee dram. I'd buy another bottle, but this Scotch might not be for every palate.



2022-2023 Calendar of Events Winchester Trout Unlimited

See also

<http://winchestertu.org/>

December 2022

There will be no Project Healing Waters December monthly meeting.

Beginning in 2023, Project Healing Waters meetings will move to the second Wednesday of the month in Rachel's Kitchen, 6:30-8:30 PM. Our next Project Healing Waters meeting is Wednesday, 11 January 2023. You will receive an email reminder and meeting agenda not later than 28 December 22.

- ✓ Meeting – There is no monthly Winchester Trout Unlimited business meeting in December
- ✓ Saturday, 3 December 2022 -- 10:00 AM -- Redbud Run workday
- ✓ Wednesday, 14 December 2022 --7:00 PM - BarFly at Escutcheon Brewery

January 2023

- ✓ Winchester Trout Unlimited Meeting – 5 January 2023 -- 7:00 PM
 - ✓ Saturday, 7 January 2023 -- Redbud Run workday -- Time to be announced later
 - ✓ Wednesday, 11 January 2023 -- 6:30 PM - Monthly Project Healing Waters meeting
 - ✓ Wednesday, 18 January 2023 -- 7:00 PM - BarFly at Escutcheon Brewery
- Please note that BarFly will be the third Wednesday of the month in 2023

February 2023

- ✓ Winchester Trout Unlimited Meeting – 2 February 2023 -- 7:00 PM
- ✓ Saturday -- 4 February 2023 -- Redbud Run workday -- Time to be announced later
- ✓ Wednesday -- 8 February 2023 -- 6:30 PM - Monthly Project Healing Waters meeting
- ✓ Wednesday -- 15 February 2023 -- 7:00 PM - BarFly at Escutcheon Brewery

March 2023

- ✓ Winchester Trout Unlimited Meeting – 2 March 2023 -- 7:00 PM
- ✓ Saturday -- 4 March 2023 -- Redbud Run workday -- Time to be announced later
- ✓ Wednesday -- 8 March 2023 -- 6:30 PM - Monthly Project Healing Waters meeting
- ✓ Wednesday -- 15 March 2023 -- 7:00 PM - BarFly at Escutcheon Brewery

April 2023

- ✓ Winchester Trout Unlimited Meeting – 6 April 2023 -- 7:00 PM
- ✓ Saturday -- 8 April 2023 -- Redbud Run workday -- Time to be announced later
- ✓ Wednesday -- 12 April 2023 -- 6:30 PM - Monthly Project Healing Waters meeting
- ✓ Wednesday -- 19 April 2023 -- 7:00 PM - BarFly at Escutcheon Brewery

May 2023

- ✓ Winchester Trout Unlimited Meeting – 4 May 2023 -- 7:00 PM
- ✓ Saturday -- 6 April 2023 -- Redbud Run workday -- Time to be announced later
- ✓ Wednesday -- 10 April 2023 -- 6:30 PM - Monthly Project Healing Waters meeting
- ✓ Wednesday -- 17 April 2023 -- 7:00 PM - 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.