

Lateral Lines

The Monthly Journal of Winchester Trout Unlimited
Chapter #638

I didn't catch anything, but it was nice just being on the water.

March 2023

Volume 28, Number 3

2 March 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) before the meeting if you will be dining with us. We have only 10 seats available.



Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing

The next Winchester PHW meeting
6:30 PM at the Lake Frederick Community Lodge
Wednesday, 8 March 2023
All PHW meetings will be held on the second
Wednesday of the month in 2023.



BarFly

The next Winchester TU BarFly
7:00 PM at Escutcheon Brewery
Wednesday, 15 March 2023
All BarFly events will be held on the third
Wednesday of the month in 2023.

In This Edition

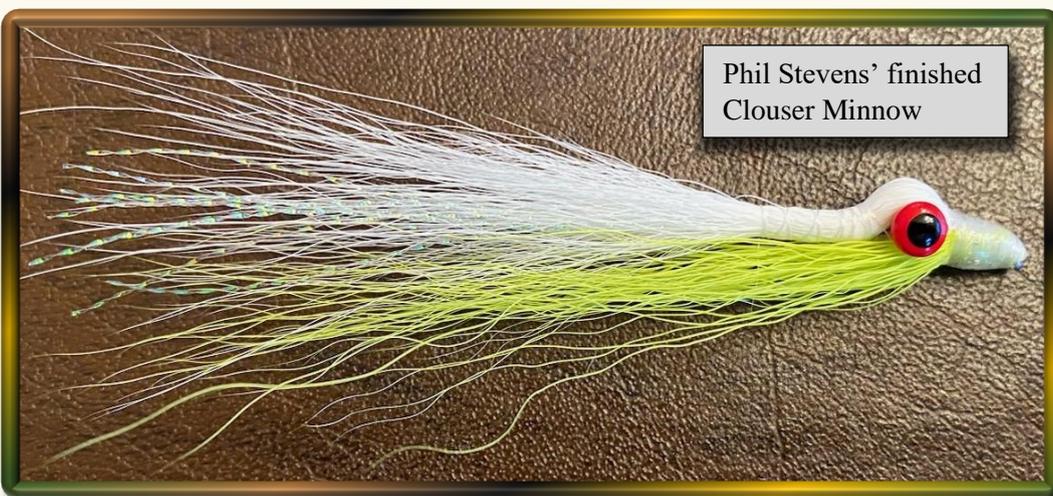
Winchester PHW: Vets Add Another Fly ----	Page 1
Winchester PHW at Rapidan Fly Show -----	Page 3
PHW Fly-Tying Marathon -----	Page 4
Bud on the Run: February Report -----	Page 5
Barbara's Books -----	Page 7
My Fly Box by Burr: Parachute Adams ----	Page 8
Winchester TU Speaker's Schedule -----	Page 10
BarFly -----	Page 10
Cigar Sisters: Perdomo Lot 23-----	Page 11
Poet's Corner: Echoing Green -----	Page 12
Conservation Film Festival -----	Page 12
Angler Reflections: Low and Clear -----	Page 13
Winchester Trout Unlimited Calendar -----	Page 15

See you on 2 March 2023 WTU meeting.
Bill Prokopchak, Newsletter Editor, 540-722-2620



WINCHESTER HEALING WATERS VETERANS ADD ANOTHER FLY TO THEIR BOX AND LEARN NEW TYING TECHNIQUES AT RAPIDAN FLY-FISHING SHOW

articles and photos by Wayne White



Phil Stevens' finished Clouser Minnow

Winchester Healing Waters assistant program lead, Phil Stevens, introduced fly tyers to the Clouser Minnow, while volunteers, Dan Soper and Mike Smith, guided new tyers on their first Woolly Bugger pattern on Wednesday, 8 Feb 2023, at the Shenandoah Lodge, Lake Frederick.

Phil introduced the class with a video on tying the Clouser <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xxApevyhZDw> and, shortly thereafter, the novice tyers quickly adopted the new techniques for working with the unique materials for the streamer.

“Winchester Healing Waters” continues on the next page.

WINCHESTER HEALING WATERS -- continued

Phil's Clouser recipe includes:

- ✓ Size 4, long-shank streamer hook (larger or smaller long-shank hooks may be used in size 10-2),
- ✓ UTC 140 white thread,
- ✓ Large dumbbell eyes (any color),
- ✓ Four strands of Flashabou,
- ✓ White bucktail,
- ✓ Chartreuse bucktail.



In addition to some regular volunteer tyers, new Winchester volunteers Dave Harrelson and 12-year-old Cade Bailey -- the owner of Dead Drift Fishing -- assisted tyers with the intricacies of finishing the baitfish impression.



Top: Phil (at right) instructs the details on the Clouser Minnow.

Above: Christine Erin (front), Mike Budnie, and Warren Dudenbostel start the Clouser Minnow.



Above: Cade Bailey, 12-year-old PHW volunteer, and owner of Dead Drift Fishing also assisted tyers. Cade's photo courtesy of https://www.instagram.com/dead_drift_fishing/

Left: Dan Soper (standing) sets the bobbin for Mike Nemece to start the Woolly Bugger.



“Winchester Healing Waters” continues on the next page.

WINCHESTER HEALING WATERS -- continued



Dan Soper led an introductory class for first-time tyers detailing the basics of tying and the purpose of the necessary tools. Mike Smith and Pete Smith also guided the beginners, who produced several quality Woolly Buggers while learning the art of securing their ties with the whip-finish tool.

Left: Logan Williams focuses on the finishing touches of his first Woolly Bugger.



WINCHESTER HEALING WATERS AT THE RAPIDAN FLY-FISHING SHOW



Phil, Dan, Mike Hart, and I along with Veterans Charles Smith and Warren Dudenbostel represented Healing Waters at the Rapidan Fly Fishing Show, Saturday, 11 February 2023, at the Highland School in Warrenton.

Sharing the booth with the Fredericksburg program, the Veterans and volunteers tied flies and provided attendees with information and personal experiences with Healing Waters.

Bob Betts, a passionate fly-tyer and instructor with the Fredericksburg program, led the fly-tying session. He explained his simple approach to creating enthusiasm and confidence in novice tyers.

"My philosophy in teaching fly tying is the familiarity of materials and technique," Bob noted. "An instructor should challenge, yet not overwhelm, the novice fly tyer."



Above: Bob Betts (left) Fredericksburg lead fly tying instructor, puts the finishes on his zebra midge pattern at the Fredericksburg Fly Fishing show

Right: Charles Smith (camo hat) provides Warren Dundenbostel guidance on cutting foam for his ant fly.

Bob introduced the tyers to new patterns such as a #16 Zebra Midge and other bug impressions they had not seen. "The goal," he further explained, "is to instill focus and keen accomplishment. Instructors and coaches always encourage and laud accomplishment. I banish the words *cannot*. Our approach is just like the military ethos, we leave nobody behind."

"Rapidan Fly-Fishing Show" continues on the next page.

WINCHESTER HEALING WATERS AT THE RAPIDAN FLY-FISHING SHOW -- continued



Right: Phil Stevens (right) along with Charles Smith (camo hat) and Warren Dudenbostel (left) demonstrate their favorite fly ties at the Rapidan Fly Fishing Show.

Fredericksburg fly-tying classes for February and March are creating flies to fish the annual Shad run. Clouser Deep Minnows, Frittery Shad, and other Shad flies are the main focus of those sessions.

Rapidan Trout Unlimited hosted the Fly-Fishing Show for the first time since 2019, and it was well attended. Besides a full complement of vendors that packed the main gymnasium, the day featured a variety of seminars including Trout Fishing in Shenandoah National Park -- Paul Kearney, Thornton River Fly Tackle; Topwater Bugs for Smallmouth Bass -- William Heresniak, Eastern Trophies Fly Fishing; Results of the Virginia Trout Stream Sensitivity Study, 2021, -- Dr. Ami Riscassi, Dept. of Environmental Sciences, UVA; and Fly Fishing in Virginia, Brookies to Billfish, -- Colby Trow, Mossy Creek Fly Fishing.

Many thanks to our Winchester participants and volunteers for our successful fly-tying classes. We also want to thank Fred Fox, President, Rapidan TU, and Dave Ward, Program Lead, Fredericksburg Healing Waters, for their welcome and support of our Winchester program during the show.

The Winchester Healing Waters program's next monthly meeting is on 8 March 2023, 6:30-8:30 PM in Rachel's Kitchen, Shenandoah Lodge, Lake Frederick. Veterans and volunteers will continue honing their skills by tying the Slumbuster streamer and the Caddis Mop Fly.

As we continue to grow our program and make our services available to more Veterans in the greater Winchester area, please pass along our information and LATERAL LINES to a Veteran who may be interested in becoming a participant in our program. Please also share our information with anyone who may be interested in volunteering with our program and mission: helping heal those who served.



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

Note: All Winchester Project Healing Waters meetings will be on the second Wednesday of the month in 2023.

Wayne White
Lead, Winchester Program
Project Healing Waters
Wayne.white@projecthealingwaters.org
703-919-2952

Phil Stevens
Assistant Lead, Winchester Program
Project Healing Waters
Phillip.h.stevens@projecthealingwaters.org
703-380-4088

Notice: 8th Annual Project Healing Waters Fly-Tying Marathon, Saturday 11 March 2023, 9:00am to 5:00pm

The Quantico and Fort Belvoir Programs of Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc. will host this event in the main gallery of the National Museum of the Marine Corps.

Flies created at the event will be distributed to PHW programs across the nation for use at fly fishing events throughout the year.

Fly tyers can sign up for a shift from 9:00am to 1:00pm, 1:00pm to 5:00pm, or for both shifts. Fly tyers must preregister by email to: chris.thompson@projecthealingwaters.org Registration is first come, first serve. For further information contact the event coordinator at: 540-287-6486.

**Bud on the Run: February 2023 Reports,
A Timely Miracle, and
Plans for the 9:00 AM,
Saturday,
4 March 2023, Workday
by Bud Nagelvoort**

All I can say is that we have reached the end of the (rock) rope source from Justin Mackay-Smith (thanks, Justin) of Clarke County. He kept us supplied with rocks for three years ranging in size from those suitable for engraving on Mount Rushmore to perfect for use with a slingshot. 25 tons, Terry? 50 tons?



There were frequent suggestions only dynamite strategically placed could reduce the giant boulders to a usable size. They were wrong. All are now in place in the stream unscathed.

Then there were the marbles and all the sizes in between having found constructive locations.

The bottom line is that we used them all in Redbud Run at Wayne Siepel's cattle ranch -- thanks, Wayne -- to provide improved habitat for our naturally reproducing Rainbow Trout in a stretch of stream maybe 250 feet long. Only fingerlings or slightly larger have been found there in the past at both the upper end long pool and lower end short, but deep, pool where the stream makes a sharp right turn. We hope they like their improved habitat and more of them appear and grow bigger.

There have been many critical elements besides rocks contributing to success of the work at this location. Fred's straps, for one. Bill's truck and power winch, for two. Terry's turning blocks and expert engineering mentality, for three, Bud's 200' cable, for four. Clark's, Robert's, Bob's, Drew's, and Liam's muscles, for five. And, of course, the benefit of gravity.

Unfortunately, and we're obviously sorry, but all good things seem to come to an end. We ran out of Justin's rocks before perfection was achieved. Very sad.



BUT WAIT!

A timely miracle has occurred! A higher power has chosen to expose an absolutely astounding amount of free rock only 3 miles from our work sites! Somehow the construction of a new giant warehouse at the intersection of I81, Route 11 and Redbud Road has required the exposure of an unbelievable amount of bedrock and its reduction by the heaviest of rock smashing equipment to sizes ranging from grotesque 10-ton boulders to ideal, hand manageable sizes. And not only ideal sizes, but in fantastic quantities for one hand and two-hand lifting into trucks the size of Clark's and Bud's on a demonstration basis!

Top: Terry and Clark load Bud's antique wheelbarrow with hand-manageable rocks.

Left: Bud surveys the tons of rock his team has already moved, hoping to save the badly eroded sycamore root.

“Bud on the Run” continues on the next page.

Bud on the Run -- continued

You ask if we need to steal these rocks in the dark of night. Ah, but we sent a very talented emissary named Drew to reconnoiter ahead of time.

Low and behold our expert negotiator tracked down the construction big guy who wishes there were more like TU who want rocks! Not that we can collect them during work hours, but they knock off at 4:00 PM and don't work Saturdays or Sundays!

As if one miracle is not enough, a second has coincidentally occurred in the form of Christina and Chris Nelson representing Team Rubicon who joined us at Redbud on 11 February before the work session to discuss how their organization, Team Rubicon, might work with us in supplementing our rock-securing efforts. Chris even thought there might be a local trailer source for that purpose.

As if that discussion were not enough, they joined us then in driving to the construction site and helped load one-hand-in-size rocks in Clark's and Bud's trucks for special filler use at Right Turn V's eroding bank!



We will hear more at the WTU meeting after Christina explores potential WTU activities with their organization.

And just a few more words related to the 11 February work session. Terry, Clark, and Bud unloaded the small rocks at our current Redbud work site after Christina and Chris left for another meeting. With an old wheelbarrow, Terry navigated loads down the bank to Right Turn V where we chain-ganged them into gaps in the big rock sites protecting the bank there.

Work Session Scheduled for 9:00 AM on 4 March 2023

And a final note about rocks and the 4 March work session – Bud's truck [Editor's note: and Bud] has, subsequently to 11 February, hauled two loads of two-hand rocks from the construction site to our future V site at Boyer's Bog.

He and Terry have also identified and cut two locust poles for the planned inverted V to replace the one that washed out during high water several years ago. It will be a much stronger V this time with a plethora of big boulders locking the V logs into place, such boulders along with smaller rocks are already on site.

Look for an e-mail message on the evening of 3 March 2023 if weather conditions require a change in schedule.

Tight lines,
Bud

Above: Terry hauls a load of rock down a well-trodden path to the Right Turn V erosion-control project.

Once work in this area is complete, Bud's team will restore the footpath to eliminate it as a source of erosion.



**Winchester TU Recycles Aluminum.
Bring your cans to any Winchester TU event.**



Barbara's Books

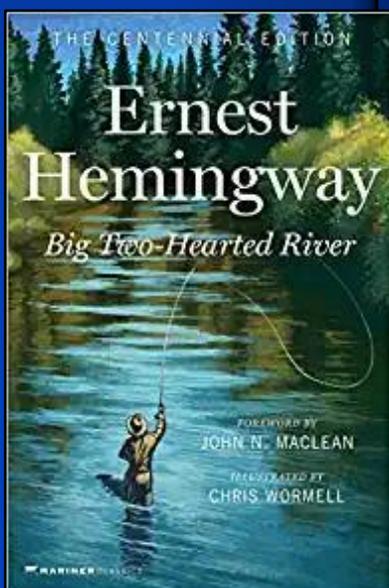
Compiled by Barbara Gamble

Big Two-Hearted River: The Centennial Edition

Author: Ernest Hemingway
Foreword: John N. Maclean
Hardcover: 112 Pages
ISBN-10: 0063297493
ISBN-13: 978-978-0063297494
Publisher: Mariner Books Classics
Publication Date: 9 May 2023

A gorgeous new centennial edition of Ernest Hemingway's landmark short story of a veteran's solo fishing trip in Michigan's rugged Upper Peninsula, illustrated with specially commissioned artwork by master engraver Chris Wormell and featuring a revelatory foreword by John N. Maclean.

"A century since its publication in the collection *In Our Time*, "Big Two-Hearted River" has helped shape language and literature in America and across the globe, and its magnetic pull continues to draw readers, writers, and critics.



The story is the best early example of Ernest Hemingway's now-familiar writing style: short sentences, punchy nouns and verbs, few adjectives and adverbs, and a seductive cadence.

Easy to imitate, difficult to match. The subject matter of the story has inspired generations of writers to believe that fly fishing can be literature. More than any of his stories, it depends on his 'iceberg theory' of literature, the notion that leaving essential parts of a story unsaid, the underwater portion of the iceberg, adds to its power. Taken in context with his other work, it marks Hemingway's passage from boyish writer to accomplished author: nothing big came before it, novels and stories poured out after it." —from the foreword by John N. Maclean.

"In Hemingway, fishing was always and infinitely metaphorical; Nick Adams plumbs the depths of his soul as he dangles a line." — Jay Parini, *New York Times Book Review*

John N. Maclean is an award-winning author and journalist. He spent thirty years at the *Chicago Tribune*, most of that time as a Washington correspondent. After leaving the *Tribune*, Maclean wrote five nonfiction books about wildland fire that are considered a staple of fire literature as well as training material for firefighters.

Sources: amazon.com and the publishers

Paper Valley: The Fight for the Fox River Cleanup

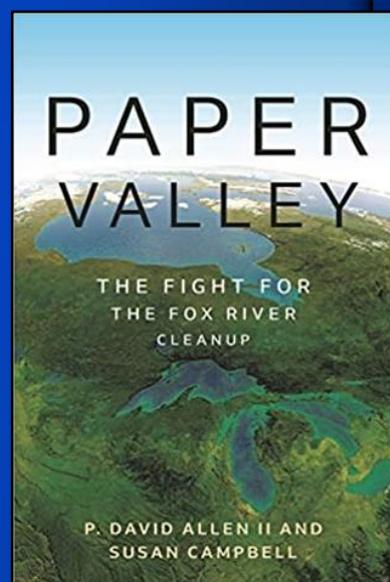
Authors: David Allen and Susan Campbell
Paperback: 296 pages
ISBN-10: 0814349587
ISBN-13: 978-0814349588
Publisher: Wayne State University Press
Publication Date: 11 April 2023

When government scientist David Allen arrived at his new jobsite in the 1990s, the Fox River near Wisconsin's Green Bay was dominated by hulking paper mills, noxious industrial odors, and widespread ecological damage. Confronted by his lack of resources to force the politically powerful "Paper Valley" polluters to fix their mess, Allen proceeds against all bureaucratic odds in building a \$1 billion case against the paper company bosses.

Two small but vital players, Allen along with journalist Susan Campbell were relentless in bringing the case to the public at the time. They do so again in this book: an act of radical transparency to uncover the intrigue that nearly blocked the cleanup behind the scenes at US Fish and Wildlife, Wisconsin's Department of Natural Resources, and the US Environmental Protection Agency.

In a rare and major environmental win, the Fox River became the site of the largest polychlorinated biphenyls cleanup in history, paid for by the paper companies rather than taxpayers, to the tune of \$1.3 billion, and completed in 2020.

This true story of struggle, perseverance, and success inspires hope for environmentalists who strive to restore natural landscapes.



The detailed account given in this book is meant to inspire and offer practical knowledge and solutions for those fighting similar opponents of environmental cleanup and restoration. Allen and Campbell eloquently outline the problematic bureaucracy involved in environmental cleanup efforts and reveal tactics to compel corporate entities who would dodge accountability for decades worth of contamination.

P. David Allen II is a retired wildlife biologist and environmental consultant, who has worked for federal, state, tribal, and local governments in twenty-five states.

Susan Campbell is a former environmental reporter for the *Green Bay Press-Gazette* and the coauthor of *Beyond Earth Day: Fulfilling the Promise*, with the late Earth Day founder, Sen. Gaylord Nelson.



Sources: amazon.com and the publishers

My Trout Fly Box

Tying the Parachute Adams

by Burr Tupper
photos by Mary Weiss

The Parachute Adams is among the more popular dry-fly patterns for fly fishermen the world over, and it is often a "go-to" fly for those situations when you want to fish a fly with confidence. The secret to its success is the fly seems to imitate a broad spectrum of mayflies, plus the post makes the fly visible, even in low light. When I am not sure what's hatching on a given stream, the Parachute Adams, and the Elk-Hair Caddis are my two first choices, almost every time.

As is the case for all attractor flies, it remains unclear exactly what the Parachute Adams imitates or suggests to Trout. While its traditional gray color most closely resembles the blue-winged olive, its effectiveness is not limited to that hatch. It can be fished as an imitation of olives, midges, or tricos, changing only the size.



I think its shape or form, rather than its color, is the most likely reason that Trout favor it so highly.

Lying flush on the water's surface, it creates a silhouette that could resemble a spent spinner or a crippled dun. Both of these stages are helpless and are easy pickings for hungry Trout.



Every fly tier has their own recipe for tying a fly.

Here is is my recipe for the Parachute Adams.

Dry-fly hook -- size 12-22 (I like 14 & 16, but will tie a 12 for large mayflies.)

Tail -- CDC or mixed brown & grizzly hackle feathers

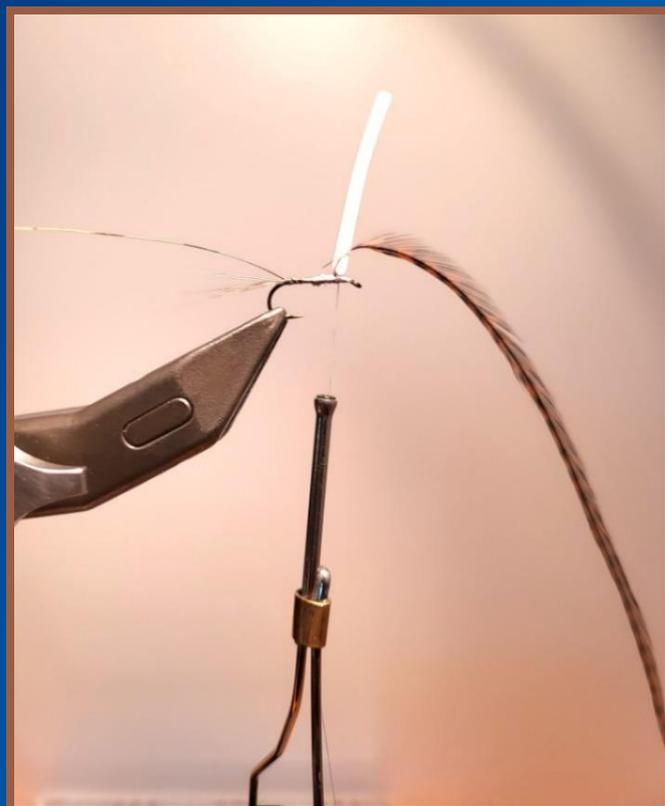
Wire -- x-small gold

Dubbing -- gray, olive, brown, or tan

Post -- Antron yarn, 1/16 rubber cylinders or thin foam posts

Hackle -- brown & grizzle (can be mixed or use just single strand) – I like single strand.

Thread -- black, grey, olive, or brown depending on the dubbing used



Burr's "My Trout Fly Box" continues on the next page.

My Trout Fly Box -- continued

Traditionally posts were made of calf tails, but with the introduction of other materials as noted above, today's posts can use multiple different materials.

I tie many with the traditional white post, but I also tie some with a black, orange, or pink post as I seem to see these better in riffles or pocket water.

The process starts with tying in thread about $\frac{1}{4}$ back from the eye and the wrapping to the rear and tying in the tail feathers and the wire.

Next, tie in the post using your choice of materials.



Wrapping hackle around the post can be challenging.

A TIP -- After tying in the hackle feathers in front of the post, move the thread to behind the post, apply a small dab of zap-a-gap to the base of the post, then lifting the feathers up alongside the post, twist the feathers and the post together once and hold to set the zap-a-gap. 3-4 wraps of the hackle around the post are more than adequate.

To complete the fly, pull the hackle down, whip finish, and tie off.



Wrap your choice of hackle 3-4 times around the post and then whip finish and tie off. Cut off the post to desired length,

There are many great videos out there on tying this fly, but I have always liked Tim Flagler's version.

Editor's Note: Here's a link to one of Tim Flagler's many Parachute Adams videos.
<https://news.orvis.com/fly-fishing/how-to-tie-a-parachute-adams-dry-fly>



Winchester TU 2023 Speaker Schedule

Mark your calendar now and plan to hear all of these presentations.

2 March 2023

Jason Hallacher, Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources Fisheries Biologist, will be here to talk about "Warm Water" Fisheries in our area.



Photo by John Page Williams courtesy of <https://dwr.virginia.gov>

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.



Winchester TU Monthly "BarFly" Event Wednesday, 15 March 2023 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.

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.



THE CIGAR SISTERS

by Lynn & Dora Butler

Perdomo

Lot 23

Wrapper: Nicaragua Maduro

Binder: Cuban-seed Nicaragua

Filler: Cuban-seed Nicaragua

6 X 50 Toro

Lynn: I'm Lynn.

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

Lynn: And we are here to enjoy and tell the readers of LATERAL LINES about this cigar from Perdomo.

Dora: This is a 6 X 50 toro. Our favorite cigar size.

Lynn: I like the toro size because cigars it gives me a long respite from whatever is going on in the world.

Dora: My thoughts exactly, although, we both enjoy a good Churchill, too. And an even longer respite.

Lynn: This is a pretty cigar, right out of the box. It has a very dark, dry, toothy wrapper, looks like a high-quality tobacco. I have never had a Lot 23, and I'm expecting great things because I have enjoyed all the other Perdomos that I have had.

Dora: The iridescent blue of the cigar band against the dark wrapper caught my attention, that's what got me thinking of smoking and reviewing this Lot 23.

Lynn: The wrapper on mine as flawless. The veins are small, the seams are tight. Unfortunately, there is a small crack in the wrapper right at the foot. I must have bumped it against something because it was perfect when I took it out of my humidor. The crack is not into the binder so it should not present a problem.

Dora: The pack is firm. The draw is just on the tight side of perfect. The aroma of the wrapper is magnificent. It's a slightly sour fermented tobacco smell.

Lynn: Don't be put off by the slightly sour aroma because it is quite delicious. I don't know if I have ever smelled a cigar wrapper quite like this one. Just delightful.

Dora: On light up I get the impression that this might be a light cigar. Initially there is no pepper at all. It's slightly fruity.

Lynn: And grassy. I'd say that grass is the dominant flavor on light up. When I say grass I'm talking about green fresh grass, not the real sweet grass of spring, but a mild grass with a hint of floral notes. That little crack at the foot of my cigar messed up the initial burn but I touched it up a little bit and all is well.

Dora: The pepper is building toward the middle and back of the tongue, but it is not bothersome. I don't like peppery cigars, and it is OK so far.

Lynn: The grassy notes have faded, and the floral notes are coming forward. It's distinctly rose. Like the smell of a delightful rose petal turned into a flavor. That's what we have.

Dora: Well into the first third now. The burn is just about perfect, and the ash is holding on well, both indications of a well-made cigar. The flavor continues to be interesting. There's a little pepper in there, but it is pleasant – not harsh at all.

Lynn: The smoke output is quite good, and the draw continues to be just on the tight side of perfect. And the flavor is just this wonderful rose petal. I've never had a cigar like it. Very pleasant.

Dora: Of course, you have the tobacco flavors there. The tobacco flavors are mild with the rose petal forward.

Lynn: I'm getting into the second third and what a transition there has been. The rose aromas and flavors have morphed into more of a coffee-cocoa combination. Very mocha-like.

Dora: This has gone from a relatively mild cigar to one of robust flavors. Chocolate, cocoa, and oak. Quite delightful.

Lynn: Smoke output is copious. It's slightly breezy and even with the wind the smoke is coming out in vast clouds.

Dora: You know, that rose petal is still in there. It hasn't completely disappeared. It's still there. It's subtle and you taste it on the long finish. It's just a hint to keep you mind actively engaged in this delightful cigar.

Lynn: Getting down into the final third of this Perdomo Lot 23. By the way, Lot 23 is actually a plot of land upon which all the tobaccos for the Lot 23 brand are grown, then aged 5 years.

Dora: As we come to the end of this cigar, mild cocoa flavors have come forward. Coffee flavors have faded. The oak is still there. Very pleasant.

Lynn: This has been a surprisingly mild cigar; I'm not feeling any nicotine buzz. We have gotten a good hour and a half out of this Perdomo.

Dora: I think we can agree that this was a dandy smoke. Plenty of interesting flavors and intriguing transitions. I'm going to have another some evening this summer.

Lynn: Me too.



Poet's Corner:
Poems selected for the angler.

The Echoing Green

by William Blake
1757-1827
England



Ink wash portrait of William Blake
by W.M. Prokopchak ©2023 all rights reserved



The sun does arise,
And make happy the skies.
The merry bells ring
To welcome the Spring.
The sky-lark and thrush,
The birds of the bush,
Sing louder around,
To the bells' cheerful sound.
While our sports shall be seen
On the Ecchoing Green.

Old John, with white hair
Does laugh away care,
Sitting under the oak,
Among the old folk,
They laugh at our play,
And soon they all say.
'Such, such were the joys.
When we all girls & boys,
In our youth-time were seen,
On the Ecchoing Green.'

Till the little ones weary
No more can be merry.
The sun does descend,
And our sports have an end:
Round the laps of their mothers,
Many sisters and brothers,
Like birds in their nest,
Are ready for rest;
And sport no more seen,
On the darkening Green.

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS!



**AMERICAN
CONSERVATION
FILM FESTIVAL**
ENGAGE • INFORM • INSPIRE

MARCH 10 - 12, 2023
SHEPHERDSTOWN OPERA HOUSE

**ONE WEEKEND
15 FILMS**

Screening in person,
in Shepherdstown!

FOR TICKETS & INFO: CONSERVATIONFILMFEST.ORG

Click on this link to make your reservation.

<https://conservationfilmfest.org/>



ANGLER REFLECTIONS

Low and Clear

by Nick Brognano



Elmer and I arrived at Erie on Tuesday, 8 November 2022, while Fred, Preston, and Mike came in a day later and planned to stay until Saturday. Elmer and I left for home on Friday. While the weather was most pleasant for most of the trip the water conditions were not good for stream fishing.

The first place we fished was at the Route 832 bridge on upper Elk Creek conveniently located about one mile from our motel. We could see fish up and down stream. It was an enticing experience seeing very big Steelheads but that feeling soon led to frustration and disappointment.

We could see fish but unfortunately, they could also see us. They were also more interested in chasing each other than chasing anything with “Fur or feathers.” I specifically reference “Fur and Feathers” because a respected TU fellow called Fred while Fred was on the stream fishing and asked to report the number of fish caught using only “Fur and Feathers.” The implication in this narrow request is upsetting.



This request was so disturbing that I called my therapist. She verified that the sole purpose in fishing is to catch fish and the furless and featherless rubber worm is very successful in doing that. She even went a step further and said, “Your little rubber worm deserves respect.” I left her office feeling better about myself. Elmer, it should be shockingly noted landed two fish without the worm. His propeller, triple hook, spinner (absent fur or feathers) landed two Steelhead. Fred, Preston, and Mike had a few on for a short while but they escaped. Mike brought several dozen minnows, but unfortunately, they were unable to make much of a difference. Although there were a couple hook ups with the minnows.

At some point we decided to try another spot at lower Elk Creek called the “Power Lines.” Here again the water condition was the same. Except for a sizeable pool of fish hanging out on the far side of the stream there were very few fish in the water. There must have been at least 30 swimming in that elongated deep hole on the far side. Our expectations ran high especially after landing one immediately upon our arrival. Early on Preston hooked up several times and then suddenly all went dead. After a few uneventful hours, we decided to move on.

Fred always wanted to scout Conneaut Creek and check out the fishing. The trio marched off while Elmer and I went back to the Route 832 Bridge spot. Neither group had much luck but the report concerning the Conneaut stream was a little strange I thought. Since this impromptu Lewis and Clark group did not see fish in the stream (which was the sole reason for scouting the place) they apparently decided to trespass and wander about scouring the woods. Fish were not sighted there either. They reported seeing a deer, however. How marvelous. It was a wonder they didn't return with a bushel of mushrooms, colored leaves, and pussy willows I soliloquized. Fishermen indeed!

“Low and Clear” continues on the next page.

ANGLER REFLECTIONS

Low and Clear -- continued

We stayed at the Quality Inn. A delightful full breakfast was included in the bill. We all thought that was nice. Elmer generously paid for everyone's meal Wednesday night (he may have started a tradition since Preston did the same the following evening) and entertained all with jokes and stories. One would have thought we had all caught our limit from observing the fun time we were all enjoying. A tip was left that almost equaled the total bill. That pretty, young, blue eye, blond waitress probably still has that nice smile on her face.

Thursday was the last day of fishing for Elmer and me. It did not start off well. After an early breakfast we rushed off to our room to get our fishing gear. The room was located far from the main office. Unfortunately, the card reader failed to unlock our door. I quickly ran down the steps and out to the front office. I was given a new card to try. I rushed back to our room. The card was no better than the original. I rushed back to the front office again. This time the manager accompanied me bringing a portable device and screwdriver. After unscrewing the lock box and inserting new batteries the door still failed to open. He then went back to the office and returned to try again. Meanwhile Elmer and I hit the depths of Hell feeling we lost the best chance of catching fish by not arriving at the stream early. Once the door was finally opened, we were given new cards again. Incidentally, Elmer later discovered that the new card not only opened our door but every other door in the entire motel: I think Elmer still has that card and he can be a devil at times. Therefore, a word of caution is in order. Be sure to bolt your door when staying at a Quality Inn Motel. At some point we were finally on our way, but it didn't take long for either of us to realize time was not of the essence. The fish were not biting any better at 6:00 AM than they were at 7,8, 9 AM or any time thereafter.

Later in the day however, I did hook on to three and landed a fat 7 1/2-to-8-pound Steelhead who I could see laying in the middle of some moderately fast water. I was able to place the magic pink guy in front of his nose and, bam, he hit it and the show began. I landed the prize of the day. Earlier I had met a young fellow and asked what he was using. He showed me a size 22 nymph attached to a 6X tippet. He said he had landed Steelhead with this rig. I waited a while hoping to witness such a feat, but nothing happened, so I moved on. Fred had hooked on to some, but they broke off. Preston and Mike had the same luck. During our full two-and-a-half-day trip Elmer landed two and I landed two.

On our way home I decided to call Fred who I assumed would be on the stream along with the other guys. They had planned on fishing into Saturday. I wanted to know how the fishing was going since some rain was forecast which should improve fishing. Fred answered but the background noise was not what I expected to hear on a Trout stream. Apparently, the remaining three had left the stream early because a few drops had fallen, and the water was rising fast. Fishermen indeed!

What I heard on my cell phone was a symphony of echoing flushing toilets and gushing urinals. Unfortunately, I don't have a musical ear and could not distinguish a urinal gush from a toilet flush. However, mixed in with the flushing and gushing I could hear Preston's distinctive voice as he tried to speak over the loud noise in a roomie truck stop bathroom on the PA turnpike. I immediately envisioned the good doctor s..... on a convenient commode pontificating in his high pitch voice. I could not decipher if it was simply grunts and groans one would normally and naturally expect to hear in such an exclusive and competitive environment or if Preston was simultaneously struggling to utter something intelligent. Nevertheless, there was no doubt it was his voice. I promptly concluded Preston is a multi-tasker. He can s... and talk at the same time! Mike must have been in a neighboring stall s..... in dignified silence. Fred was obviously holding the phone which could have been a stand in for a conductor's baton. In a fit of uncontrollable laughter, I was somehow able to tell Fred I would call back at a more convenient time.

It wasn't until Saturday morning that I discovered my plastic container holding a high number of nymphs and flies was missing. I had searched everywhere and was about to call Elmer and ask him to search his truck when Fred happened to drive by the house. I told him about the missing fly box. He asked me to describe it. To my amazement and good fortune, he had seen the box floating down the stream and picked it up. He did not know it was mine. The timing in all of this is beyond coincidence. I thanked Fred and the one above for the return of a box full of selective "Furs and Feathers."

In sum, fellow anglers, while few fish were caught the trip was nevertheless a big success. All team members enjoyed being together laughing, joking, telling stories, and looking forward to our next misadventure.



2023 Calendar of Events Winchester Trout Unlimited

See also
<http://winchestertu.org/>

Reminders

All Winchester Project Healing Waters monthly meetings will be on the second Wednesday of the month during 2023. The location remains the same: Lake Frederick Community Lodge.

All monthly Winchester BarFly sessions will be on the third Wednesday of the month during 2023. The location remains the same: Escutcheon Brewery.

March 2023

- ✓ Winchester Trout Unlimited Meeting – 2 March 2023 -- 7:00 PM
- ✓ Saturday -- 4 March 2023 -- Redbud Run workday – 9:00 AM
- ✓ 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 May 2023 -- Redbud Run workday -- Time to be announced later.
- ✓ Wednesday -- 10 May 2023 -- 6:30 PM - Monthly Project Healing Waters meeting
- ✓ Wednesday – 17 May 2023 -- 7:00 PM - BarFly at Escutcheon Brewery

June 2023

- ✓ Winchester Trout Unlimited Meeting – 1 June 2023 -- 7:00 PM
- ✓ Saturday – 3 June 2023 -- Redbud Run workday -- Time to be announced later.
- ✓ Wednesday -- 14 June 2023 -- 6:30 PM - Monthly Project Healing Waters meeting
- ✓ Wednesday – 21 June 2023 -- 7:00 PM - BarFly at Escutcheon Brewery

July 2023

- ✓ Winchester Trout Unlimited Meeting – There is no Winchester TU monthly meeting in July.
- ✓ Saturday – 8 July 2023 -- Redbud Run workday -- Time to be announced later.
- ✓ Wednesday -- 12 July 2023 -- 6:30 PM - Monthly Project Healing Waters meeting
- ✓ Wednesday – 19 July 2023 -- 7:00 PM - BarFly at Escutcheon Brewery

August 2023

- ✓ Winchester Trout Unlimited Meeting – 3 August 2023 -- 7:00 PM
- ✓ Saturday – 5 August 2023 -- Redbud Run workday -- Time to be announced later.
- ✓ Wednesday -- 9 August 2023 -- 6:30 PM - Monthly Project Healing Waters meeting
- ✓ Wednesday – 16 August 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.