

Winchester Trout Unlimited

(March 3, 2023)

The meeting was called to order by Gene Lewis, President, at 7:01 pm in the Rachel's Kitchen meeting room of the Shenandoah Lodge at Lake Frederick.

Guest Speaker – Jason Hallacher, VA DWR, spoke on the health and population of Small Mouth Bass in the Shenandoah River System. His data was centered around the fish sampling over several years and ending in 2022. Metrics taken include fish ID, weight and age. Samples were taken each year at 4 sites on the North Fork, 9 sites on the South Fork and 4 sites on the main stem. The South Fork is divided into the Upper (Port Republic-Shenandoah dam), the Middle (Shenandoah dam-White House dam) and the Lower (White House dam-Front Royal dam). The study also included assessment of fish health, flesh chemical contaminant, and indications of the presents of parasites and/or bacteria. In terms of numbers the Upper section shows the best holdover from year to year.

Treasurer's report-Dave Juth reports that the Chapter has a balance of \$10,086.20 as of March 1, 2023.

Project Healing Waters-See the attached report.

Trout in the Classroom- Lisa was not present. However, the release date is questionable this year. The uncertainty hinges around teachers being able to obtain transportation for students. More to follow.

Projects- Bud reports that Red Bud Run workday is rescheduled for 9am on Saturday March 11.

DWR section of Red Bud Run- This stretch of Red Bud is being taken over by Civil War Battlefield Association. Gene is keeping in touch with the appropriate folks to determine if we can still use this site for TIC release if teachers are willing and able to bring students out to release their fingerlings.

Bar Fly- The next Bar Fly meeting will be on March 17 at 7 pm at the Escutcheon Brewery. All are welcome, especially those new to fly tying.

Meeting adjourned approximately 8:50 pm.

Submitted by:

Fred Boyer, Secretary



HEALING THOSE WHO SERVE.

**Winchester Trout Unlimited Chapter Update
2 March 2023**

We now have 21 Veteran participants and 31 volunteers.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, 8 March, 6:30-8:30 pm in Rachel's Kitchen. This will be our third fly-tying class featuring the Slumbuster and the Mop Fly.

Lateral Lines: Thank you to Bill Prokopchak for his support of our activities and outreach.

Planning for local fishing outings including Rose River, Hawksbill Creek, Passage Creek, Frederick Co Conservation Club, and Shenandoah National Park.

Regional Fishing Outings: (6) (One participant and one volunteer for each trip)

Wild Trout (Shenandoah National Park) April 11-13

Participant: Charles Smith and Guide: Mike Smith

Back Creek 2-4 May and Sep (TBD)

River Bound 9-11 May and 22-24 Sep

Invitational Trips

PHW Harrisburg, PA: Penns Creek 19-21 May (# of participants TBD)

Maryland: Stars and Stripers (Kent Island Yacht Club) 19 Aug (1ea participant)

National Trips

Freedom Ranch, Virginia Region: 22-26 Aug 23 (8 seats)

Freedom Ranch, Women Only: 25-29 July 23 (8 Seats)

Regional Casting Competition: 14 June 2023

Outreach to Veterans Groups and groups supporting Veterans:

- **23 Feb 23 Briefed Northern Shenandoah Valley Community Veterans Engagement Board, Shenandoah University, and Joining Community Forces**
- **23 Feb 23 Briefed Community Based Outpatient Clinic Staff**
- **2 March 23 Shenandoah Univ Student Veteran Association**
- **VFW Berryville Presentation: March**
- **Korean War Vets Winchester American Legion: April 11**

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