

Winchester Trout Unlimited

(April 6, 2023)

The meeting was called to order by Gene Lewis, President, at 7:03 pm in the Rachel's Kitchen meeting room of the Shenandoah Lodge at Lake Frederick.

There were 13 in attendance with one first time guest.

Treasurer's report-Dave Juth reports that the Chapter has a balance of \$9, 931.20 as of April 6, 2023.

Project Healing Waters-See the attached report.

Trout in the Classroom- Gene reports that there are no schools indicating that they need help with releasing fish. The program is struggling across the state due to many factors. The biggest is school district funding for transportation to the release site. Mike Makufka, state coordinator for TIC from our chapter will attempt to make contact with school board contacts to encourage financially supporting this wonderful learning experience for the students.

Projects- Bud reports that Red Bud Run workday is rescheduled for 9am on Saturday April 15.

DWR section of Red Bud Run- This stretch of Red Bud is being taken over by Civil War Battlefield Association. There is no new information as to the date of this takeover and if the Association will allow our chapter to use the site for future TIC releases.

Project Healing Waters-Phil reports that the next meeting will be on Wednesday April 12 at 6:30pm at the Shenandoah Lodge at Lake Frederick. Casting will be on the agenda. The program is only 1 year and 3 months old and thanks to the efforts of Phil and Wayne White, there are 23 participants and 21 volunteers. Future outings include a 5/27/2023 outing to the Leetown fish hatchery for a catch and release session, as well as 6 additional trips planned for 2023. Phil and Wayne are approaching Walmart and the Trex company for grants to fund some of these outings.

Fly-tying and casting lessons-Burr and Mary have approached Winchester Parks and Rec to conduct public fly-fishing classes over the summer. Winchester Parks and Rec would charge \$75 per participant to attend, with a portion of that fee being returned to the chapter. Tentative dates for the classes are 6/20, 6/27 and 7/11. The location is TBD.

Bar Fly- The next Bar Fly meeting will be on April 19 at 7pm at the Escutcheon Brewery. All are welcome, especially those new to fly-tying.

New Business-Gene reported that the Chapter officers (Gene Lewis, President; Mike Smith, VP; Dave Juth, Treasurer; Fred Boyer, Sec; along with Bill Prokopchak and Drew Patterson have had a couple of meetings to discuss the direction of the Chapter and how to form a Board of Directors for the Chapter. By-Laws that were written several years ago will be provided to members at a future meeting. It is being suggested that the Board consist of the four officers and 3 Chapter members in good standing with TU. Several committees are being considered. Four that are immediately suggested are 1) Membership/Outreach, 2) Youth Outreach-to include TIC, 3) Adult Outreach-to include Project Healing Waters (PHW), Casting for Recovery (CFR), Reel Recovery (RR) and Team Rubicon. If a member has an interest in heading up a committee, please inform Gene. The intent of the board and committee leaders is to spread the workload and provide direction and guidance to the Chapter.

A motion was made by Fred Boyer to move \$1000.00 from the general fund to PHW to help offset the cost of sponsoring a client trip. The motion was seconded by Pete Smith. The motion was passed by the majority of the members present.

A motion was made by Mike Makufka to move \$400.00 from the general fund to cover the supply costs for the Winchester Parks and Rec fly-tying and casting program that Burr and Mary will be conducting this summer. These costs are expected to be re-covered by a portion of the registration costs paid by the participants. Bud Nagelvoort seconded the motion, and it was passed by the majority of the members present.

Shenandoah National Park Brook Trout Blitz-The National Park Service, TU and the Friends of the Rappahannock will be conducting an environmental DNA survey to determine the status of Brook Trout populations across the Shenandoah National Park on Saturday June 10, 2023. With the help of citizen scientists, it is hoped to collect samples from 146 sites across the park. If one is interested in helping go to the following to sign up: <https://riverfriends.org/event/shenandoah-national-park-brook-trout-blitz/>

The meeting adjourned approximately 8:30 pm.

Submitted by:

Fred Boyer, Secretary



**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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