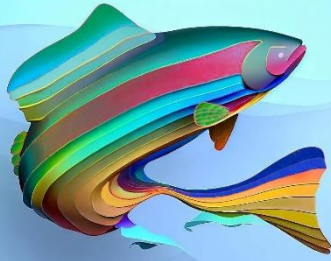


WINCHESTER
TROUT UNLIMITED



CHAPTER #638

Lateral Lines

The Monthly Magazine of Winchester Trout Unlimited
Chapter #638

The young have boundless vigor, old age just prays for another day. – Nick Brognano

November 2024

Volume 29, Number 11

Winchester TU Meeting Schedule

Thursday, 7 November 2024
7:00 PM
Rachel's Kitchen, Shenandoah Lodge,
Lake Frederick, VA

Winchester TU Priority Waters Meeting

Thursday, 7 November 2024
6:00 PM
Rachel's Kitchen, Shenandoah Lodge,
Lake Frederick, VA

Project Healing Waters Monthly meeting

Wednesday, 13 November 2024
Agenda to be announced later
RSVP Required

BarFly

The next Winchester TU BarFly
Wednesday, 20 November 2024
7:00 PM at Escutcheon Brewing Co.
142 W. Commercial Street, Winchester

For complete calendars, please see
Pages 19 and 20



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Bill Prokopchak, Newsletter Editor
(540)722-2620 (voice only)

Winchester TU 2024 Speaker Schedule

Mark your calendar now and plan to hear this presentation.

7 November 2024 - Dawn Kirk Fisheries Biologist USDA Forest Service



Dawn Kirk is the Forest Fisheries Biologist for USDA Forest Service. She is the only fisheries biologist for all of the George Washington National Forest and Jefferson National Forest.

Dawn has collaborated with us as we develop the Winchester TU Priority Waters initiative.

She has a couple of decades of experience in our region.

If you have an idea for a Winchester TU meeting speaker, please let Gene know. We are always looking for great programs on topics of interest to the fly angler.



Priority Waters – Wading in Deeper

by the Winchester TU Priority Waters Team



Note: The Winchester TU Priority Waters Team will meet at 6:00 PM on 7 November 2024 Shenandoah Lodge, Lake Frederick, VA

On Thursday, Oct. 17, one of the Priority Waters team members briefly visited each of the candidate streams. The goal was pretty simple — just to assess flow and snap a few pictures for comparison with the August outing.

The team member visited Mill Run first since that had been the team's greatest source of concern due to its extremely low flow and elevated temperatures. Happily, a better flow has been restored, certainly one far better than what we encountered in the August outing.

He hiked the half-mile from the parking area (which hosted three other vehicles, most likely archers) to the near-trail access where the team had encountered the sole Trout and 72-degree water temps on the last visit.

As the photo above suggests, flow has significantly improved. No fish were observed. But the water was pleasantly chilly to the touch, likely in the low 50-degree range. Since the team member had neglected to wear hunter orange, his site visit at Mill Run was short and he headed next to Little Passage.

The road into Little Passage has several stretches that have degraded even further since the August trip there with Dawn Kirk. It appears that there has been at least one significant storm event creating deeper ruts and washout areas.

The team member was driving a Honda CR-V, with just a shade over 8" ground clearance. Nine inches would have been preferable. He now regards the road as impassable for any regular sedan (with their customary 5" to 6" ground clearance). The 2.2-mile drive into the parking area at Mudhole Gap was pretty "white knuckle" in several locations, requiring constant driver attention and a very deliberate low speed.

Above: The flow and temperature of Mill Run have improved since August, but the Priority Waters team were not able to observe any Trout

Right: Recent high flows carved a new overflow channel, far right, on Little Passage Creek.



“Priority Waters” continues on the next page.

Priority Waters

-- continued

Right: A closer view of the newly cut channel.

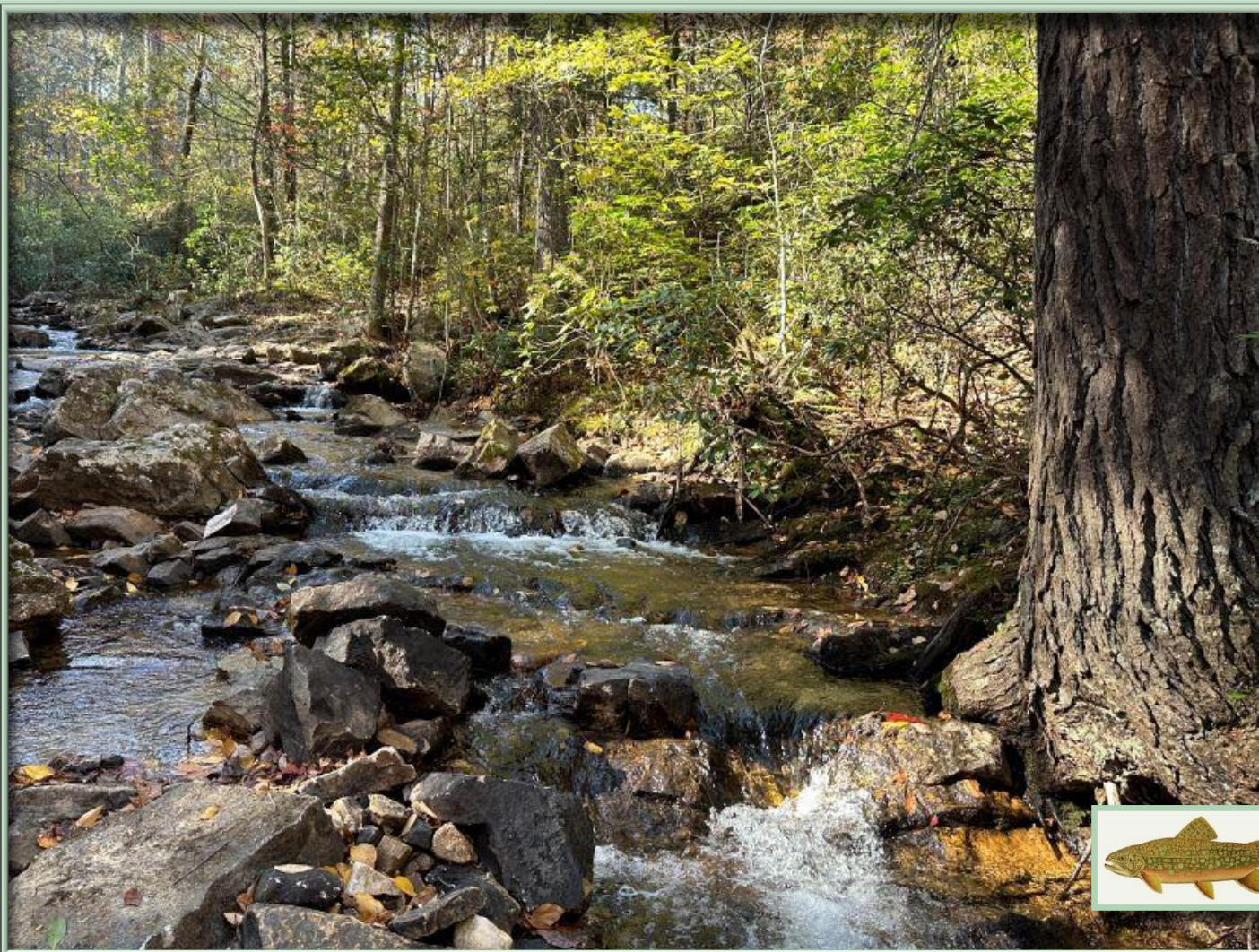
Below: Good flows and several Trout were evident on Little Passage Creek in Mudhole Gap.



Happily, he found that the parking area was empty indicating little likelihood of deer hunters active in the area. While this stream remains somewhat low, its flow was noticeably more robust than back in August, and the temperature was easily in the Trout comfort zone. Several Trout were sighted during the visit, which included a short hike down into Mudhole Gap itself.

This visit did feature one very noticeable change: a recent high flow event (perhaps a very high flow event) broke open a whole new stream channel that exits the main stream on the left just at the tail of the trail-crossing pool. The new channel, though small, maintained a visible flow for at least hundred meters, or more, before it rejoins the main channel. The team member noted while afield that it must have been very high volume flood event because the new incision was deep and showed a straight, non-meandering flow. The new channel continued to carry a measurable volume even at what now appears to be the new normal base flow for Little Passage.

The Priority Waters team will meet in the hour prior to the chapter's next regularly scheduled meeting to discuss next steps it may take with Forest Service and DWR staffs.





EST. PROJECT 2005
HEALING WATERS

WINCHESTER HEALING WATERS FINISHES A FULL CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR OCTOBER

by Wayne White

Community Veterans Day in Stephens City

Community outreach, an overnight fishing outing, one participant's National fishing outing, and fly-tying classes rounded out another busy schedule of activities and events for Winchester Healing Waters' participants and volunteers for October 2024.



Winchester Project Healing Waters was a featured Veterans organization at the second annual Capon Valley Bank Community Veterans Fair, in Stephens City on Saturday, 5 October 2024.

Program volunteers and participants provided fly-tying and fly-casting demonstrations at the program information booth, where they also discussed the Healing Waters mission with local area vendors and visitors.

Following an impressive K9 demonstration by the Middletown Police, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Stephens City opened the event with a 21-gun Salute to Veterans that included the playing of Taps recognizing Veterans who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Besides the many displays of numerous volunteer organizations supporting Veterans, the event featured a generous number of silent auctions and drawings of donated products and services. All proceeds were donated to the Veteran organizations participating in the community day celebration.



Top: Erwin Casto (l to r), Burr Tupper, and Dan Soper render honors during the National Anthem at the opening ceremonies at the Community Veterans Fair.
photo by Mary Weiss

Left: Erwin Casto (l) and Dan Soper entertained the crowd with their fly-tying demonstration at the Community Veterans Fair.
photo by Wayne White

“Community Veterans Day” continues on the next page.

Community Veterans Day -- continued



EST. PROJECT 2005
HEALING WATERS



Many thanks to Winchester Volunteers Dan Soper, Peter Smith, Burr Tupper, Mary Weiss, and Winchester Ambassador Erwin Casto for supporting the event.

A special thanks to Melba Thorne, Branch Manager, Capon Valley Bank and Mariah Carol Smith, Vice Chairman, Board of Directors, No One Left Behind, for their invitation and support for the Winchester Program to participate in the event.

Burr Tupper (r) explains the importance of a correct grip and line management to Melba Thorne during the fly-casting instruction at the Community Veterans Fair.

photo by Mary Weiss

WINCHESTER PHW

Winchester Healing Waters Ambassador/Participant Erwin Casto and I were guests of the Fredericksburg PHW's second annual fishing outing, hosted at the Virginia Elks Youth Camp in Millboro, Virginia, from 18 to 20 October.

Dave Ward, Fredericksburg Program Lead, planned and led the trip which included five participants and three volunteers from his program and Erwin and me for fishing the Jackson River, Spring Run Creek, and the Cowpasture River over the weekend event.

With perfect Fall weather and peak foliage for Bath County, the water levels were still low from the summer drought. Hurricane Helene left rivers high in her wake but most of that water dissipated quickly within two weeks after the storm.

Winchester Shares Outing with Fredericksburg PHW at Virginia Elks Youth Camp (VEYC)

by Wayne White

Erwin Casto (far l) joins the Fredericksburg PHW for the group photo on the Jackson River near Monterey, Virginia.

photo by Wayne White



"Elks Camp Outing"
continues on the next page.



EST. PROJECT 2005
HEALING WATERS

Elks Camp Outing -- continued



Left: Erwin stalks some stealthy Trout on Spring Run Creek.
photo by Wayne White

Below: The Elks Youth Camp main hall fireplace and the entire building look the same today as they did in 1913. With a full commercial-size kitchen, the hall is the main dining facility for the camp.
photo by Wayne White

Fishing was challenging in the slow crystal-clear, 55-degree water allowing the fish we spotted in mostly shallow pools to see us first and disappear.

Further complicating the fishing puzzle was the lack of any visible bug activity. However, the Trout holding steady in the current seemed well-fed and happy. Guiding on these streams was frustrating. However, we agreed that the fall beauty and majesty of these waters was spectacular and a special experience.

And not to be completely shut out, four anglers in our group did net six Trout over the two days.

Originally founded as an American fraternal organization in 1868, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks has supported the U.S. military since 1917. Their pledge has been: "So long as there are Veterans, the Elks will never forget them." In keeping with that creed, Gigi Jones, President of the VEYC ensured the Elks went above and beyond to accommodate the PHW participants and volunteers with the full use of the camp's lodging at no cost and having two nearby Elks Lodges provide dinner on Friday and Saturday nights and breakfast for the anglers on Sunday morning.



The outing provided excellent insight into the planning and coordination of a successful overnight trip. I captured many notes about operating such a future event for the Winchester program to host, and before leaving, Dave Ward and I met with Ms. Jones to discuss possible dates to use the camp for next year's outings.

Winchester PHW news continues on the next page.



EST. PROJECT 2005
HEALING WATERS

WINCHESTER PHW

by Wayne White

Winchester Vet Has Banner Outing at Oak Heart Lodge

Army Veteran Fran McVeigh joined seven other Project Healing Waters participants from six other states for an exciting three days of Salmon fishing at the Oak Heart Lodge from 15 to 19 October.

Fran, who lives in Lake Frederick, is a participant in the Quantico program and has served as well as a volunteer with the Winchester program since 2022.



Although it was not his first time fishing for Salmon, he was grateful to Tom Caulfield, PHW Quantico Lead, for selecting him for this trip where he landed several King Salmon for the first time.

Oak Heart Lodge is secluded on an 11-acre property with 400 feet of river frontage along the Muskegon River in Newaygo, Michigan. Its mission at Oak Heart Lodge is to provide a place of healing, comfort, and camaraderie for disabled veterans and to thank them for their sacrifice.

Partnering with Project Healing Waters in 2024, the Lodge donates lodging, food, and guide services for the participants' trip. Healing Waters operates these national outings on the Freedom Ranch model selecting eight participants from all PHW Regions across the country for each of the 19 weekly trips. This trip included participants from Georgia, Colorado, Alaska, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia.

Fishing the Pere Marquette River from a jet boat with his guide and fishing buddy, Fran landed his best King catch of 35 inches on the first day. The fish could not refuse the egg pattern. He also managed to land six others and hooked and lost six on the 45-degree overcast day.

Besides the thrill of catching his first King, Fran was overwhelmed with gratitude for the opportunity and praised the Lodge for its accommodations and commitment to Healing Waters. "Everything about this trip was first class; it was a memorable experience."



Above: Fran McVeigh proudly holds his first King Salmon caught on the Pere Marquette River.

photo by Fran's Oak Heart Lodge Guide

Left: The Oak Heart Lodge along the Muskegon River in Newaygo, Michigan.

photo courtesy of Oak Heart Lodge

Winchester PHW news continues on the next page.



EST. PROJECT 2005
HEALING WATERS

WINCHESTER PHW

article and photos by Michael Lawler Smith

Fly Tying at Jakes Bait & Tackle

The turnout may have been a bit smaller than usual for the PHW Fly Tying session at Jake’s Bait and Tackle on Saturday, 26 October, but the assembled group enjoyed thorough mentoring in crafting one of the most productive of all nymph patterns, the beadhead Prince nymph.

Dan Soper served as chief instructor, with cogent commentary by Dave Harrelson. Charles “Doc” Smith was the sole program participant tying at the session, so project volunteers Jeb Stuart and Mike Smith enjoyed the opportunity to join in the tying session to hone their nymph-tying skills.

As always, Dan’s instructions were clear, concise, and paced to meet the tyers’ needs.



Dave chimed in from time to time to point out viable alternative steps or materials that tyers could consider. Among the interesting materials on offer were some new hen capes Dave brought — the dyed light ginger proved to be an excellent choice for the “legs” on the Prince nymph.

A small gathering but immensely productive for honing nymph tying skills.

Top: “Doc” chuckles at a comment offered by one of the volunteers.

Above: The monthly Saturday crew prepares for the PHW fly tying session at Jake’s Bait & Tackle



Bud on the Run:

The next workday is set for **Saturday, 9 November 2024**
 at **10:00 AM** weather permitting.

Bud will notify the Redbud Regulars of any changes to the plan.
 by Bud Nagelvoort

Guys, after several short visits in September to Redbud to make certain newly named Dave's Notch was performing properly and also discussing and cussing with Terry over the next site -- and finally agreeing that the two foot space between the lower edge of a big log and the stream bed might be more than we could handle, he and I agreed there was another site requiring attention.

Do you all remember Sycamore Falls in the crosslog notched into Terry's giant dead sycamore at Terry's Notch? It happens that the lovely waterfall flow through Sycamore Falls into Bill's Big Fish Pool is performing strangely.

Instead of creating the lovely pool anticipated under Terry's giant sycamore, it has gouged out a nice pool there. But instead of the drainage from that pool being downstream it has jammed up the flow under the big log so that it diverts towards the south bank of the stream and then, astoundingly, to cause the flow to back up along the south bank almost to the upstream end now of the giant log. How the flow then eventually ends up going downstream has not yet been determined.

This late 2023 photo shows Terry's Notch, Sycamore Falls, and Bill's Big Fish Pool functioning as designed. *

It seems that several high-water events have modified the flow since the completion of this project and some additional work will be needed to redirect the flow.

*A review of the literature confirms the names of these Redbud Run Structures.



But what we do know is that it is impossible to determine where any fish might be hiding in that conundrum.

And what we intend doing on 9 November at 10:00 AM is solving this mystery after which we will move many all-sized rocks from our nearby storage pile on the south bank to the area of the south bank parallel to Terry's big log and cause the flow out from under said log to no longer flow upstream, but to create a deep pool extending downstream towards Boyer's Bog which has been the intent all along.

If we can agree on the 9th at the work site as to what exactly we need to do, if there is any time left before noon, we can begin the work which, hopefully can be completed by the spring fishing season.

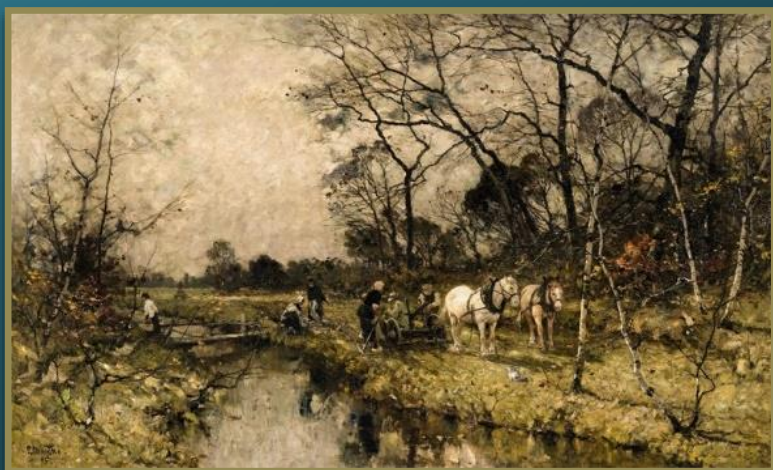
Any questions?
 Tight Lines
 Baffled Bud



Poet's Corner: Poems selected for the angler

Bleak November

by *Robert Leighton*
 1822-1869
 Scotland



Autumn Landscape with Peasants
 19th century
 Ludwig Munthe

When the year fell damp and cold,
 Long the nights and short the days,
 And the forest's fallen gold
 Trodden in the miry ways;
 Cloud-drifts trailing on the ridges,
 Moorland rivers swollen and brown,
 Lone birds, from the dripping hedges,
 Seeking shelter near the town:
 Quite forgotten summer's rays,
 Closed we round the glowing ember,
 And deem'd the cosiest of our days
 The bleak beginning of November.

List'ning to the beating storm,
 And the wind up in the vent--
 Without, so cold--within, so warm--
 Hearts so full of deep content:
 Reading legends in the ashes,
 Telling tales that charm and move;
 Looking underneath long lashes
 To devour the eyes we love:--
 Eyes are closed and hearts are still'd;
 But 'tis given me to remember
 The more than summer light that fill'd
 The bleak beginning of November.

Barbara's Books

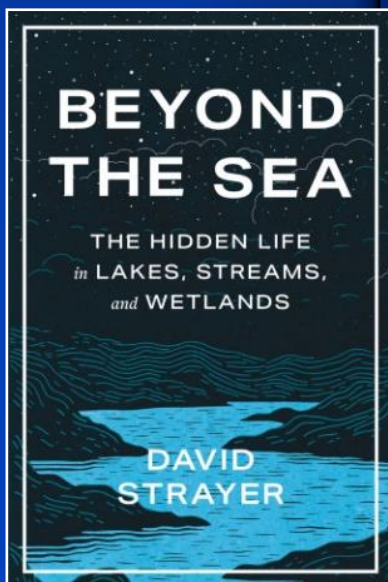
Compiled by Barbara Gamble

Beyond the Sea: The Hidden Life in Lakes, Streams, and Wetlands

Author: David Strayer
 Hardcover: 232 pages
 ISBN-10: 1421450070
 ISBN-13: 978-1421450070
 Publisher: Johns Hopkins University Press
 Publication Date: 26 November 2024

When we call Earth "the blue planet" we immediately envision the vast oceans that cover most of its surface. But seas aren't the only bodies of water that make Earth special. Millions of diverse inland waters rush, meander, and seep throughout the planet, teeming with life. These streams, lakes, wetlands, and groundwaters are home to thousands of species, many of which are extraordinary and some of which are critically endangered.

In ***Beyond the Sea***, ecologist David Strayer introduces readers to the world's most remarkable and varied inland waters, including massive lakes that fill only once a century, groundwaters miles beneath our feet that host unique microbes, volcanic lakes more corrosive than battery acid, and catastrophic floods that carry ten times more water than the Amazon River.



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Strayer also shares stories of the myriad fascinating species supported by these crucial ecosystems, featuring mussels that seduce fish, tiny tardigrades that cheat death, animals that photosynthesize, and plants that eat meat.

Because humans have used—and abused—inland waters so intensively for everything from drinking water and fly-fishing to sewage disposal, many species around the world that depend on them are in desperate peril. Strayer explains the damage that humans have caused and offers solutions to sustain and restore inland-water ecosystems. Proving that the sea isn't the only aqueous realm of mystery and wonder, this book illuminates the secrets, science, and amazing denizens of the overlooked waters in our backyards.

Wade into the vibrant world of inland waters, where lakes shimmer with life, streams show their resilience, and wetlands teem with biodiversity. ***Beyond the Sea*** helped remind me of the delicate balance of freshwater ecosystems and their importance in safeguarding our planet's biodiversity and water resources.

—Jennifer L. Tank, Notre Dame Environmental Change Initiative

David Strayer (ANN ARBOR, MI) is a freshwater ecologist at the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies. He is a coeditor of *Fundamentals of Ecosystem Science* and the author of *The Hudson Primer: Ecology of an Iconic River*.

Sources: amazon.com and the publishers

Fly Fishing Guide to Steelhead Alley: Steelhead, Salmon, and Brown Trout in Lake Erie Tributaries

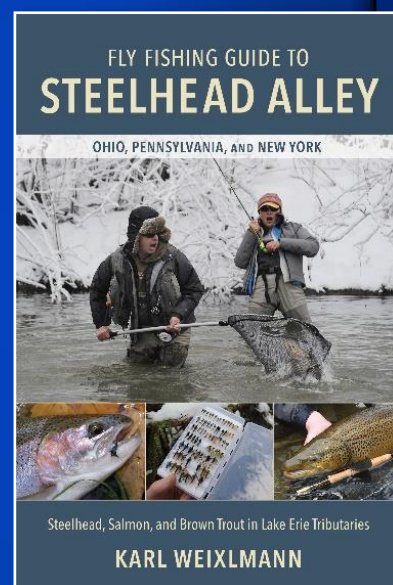
Author: Karl Weixlmann
 Paperback: 256 pages
 ISBN-10: 0811776638
 ISBN-13: 978-0811776639
 Publisher: Stackpole Books
 Publication Date: 9 November 2024

The tributaries that flow into Lake Erie provide some of the best steelhead fly fishing on the planet, as well as plentiful opportunities to catch salmon, brown trout, smallmouth bass, and other species.

The 400 miles of southern Lake Erie shoreline in three states -- Buffalo, New York at its eastern end; Toledo, Ohio, on its western flank; and Pennsylvania's shoreline in the middle -- is affectionately called "Steelhead Alley" by the tens of thousands of anglers that come to fish it.

According to many, "the Alley" is the best location within the entire Great Lakes region to catch steelhead on a fly.

This book is the culmination of over twenty years of guiding and fly fishing throughout the Alley. In addition to covering steelhead in depth, it also covers opportunities for smallmouth bass, lake run brown trout, lake trout, and the occasional chinook or coho salmon that you can catch on a fly, along with the best tributaries and shorelines in which to find them.



The author shares his tips for timing the best fishing, reading the water, the most productive local fly patterns, and how to rig and fish for success.

He covers detailed access, individual tributary descriptions and reports, many of which are relatively unknown, plus a few new techniques that will help you put some more fish in the net.

Karl Weixlmann is a full-time guide on Steelhead Alley as well as a frequent contributor to *Fly Fisherman* magazine, the *Erie Times News*, and many other publications.

He is the author of *Great Lakes Steelhead, Salmon & Trout: Essential Techniques for Fly Fishing the Tributaries*, and contributor to *Keystone Fly Fishing*.

Sources: amazon.com and the publishers



Winchester TU Monthly "BarFly" Events Wednesday, 20 November 2024 and Wednesday, 18 December 2024

both events at 7:00 PM

Escutcheon Brewery, Commercial St., Winchester, VA



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

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

Right: Luke builds his version of the Thin Mint streamer.

Below: Luke's Thin Mint streamer



All participants under age 21 must be accompanied by a responsible adult.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fishing has been good.

Bill P.
Near Great Falls, MT



26 lb. King Salmon.

Curt N.
Manistee River, MI



My Trout Fly Box

Spider Flies

(often called soft hackle flies)

Article and photos
by Burr Tupper

What are Spider Flies?

Spider or Soft Hackle flies have been around for over 200 years. Originally, the flies were designed to fish the fast-flowing rivers of Northern England for Trout. However today you would not be out of place fishing spiders in freestone rivers, chalk streams or lakes. Contrary to what their name suggests these flies were designed to imitate aquatic insects not spiders. Some patterns are designed to imitate specific flies, but more often or not, they just represent a general impression of emerging or drowned flies.



The "Partridge and Orange" Spider Fly



Spider patterns are effective at catching fish because the soft hackle produces a life-like movement when buffeted by moving water, thus imitating the slender-bodied emerging flies and nymphs.

If you are beginning fly tying, there are several reasons to recommend spider flies.

- They are simple to tie,
- They are effective imitations of many flies, and
- They catch fish.

One of my favorites is the Partridge and Orange (also tied with green and yellow thread).

Others favorite spider flies include March Brown, Tups Indispensable, Olive/Black wire with olive partridge, Black Partridge, and Peacock Herl.

Fishing the Spider Fly is a cast across, let the flow swing the fly, dangle the fly for a few seconds at the end of the swing and slowly lift.

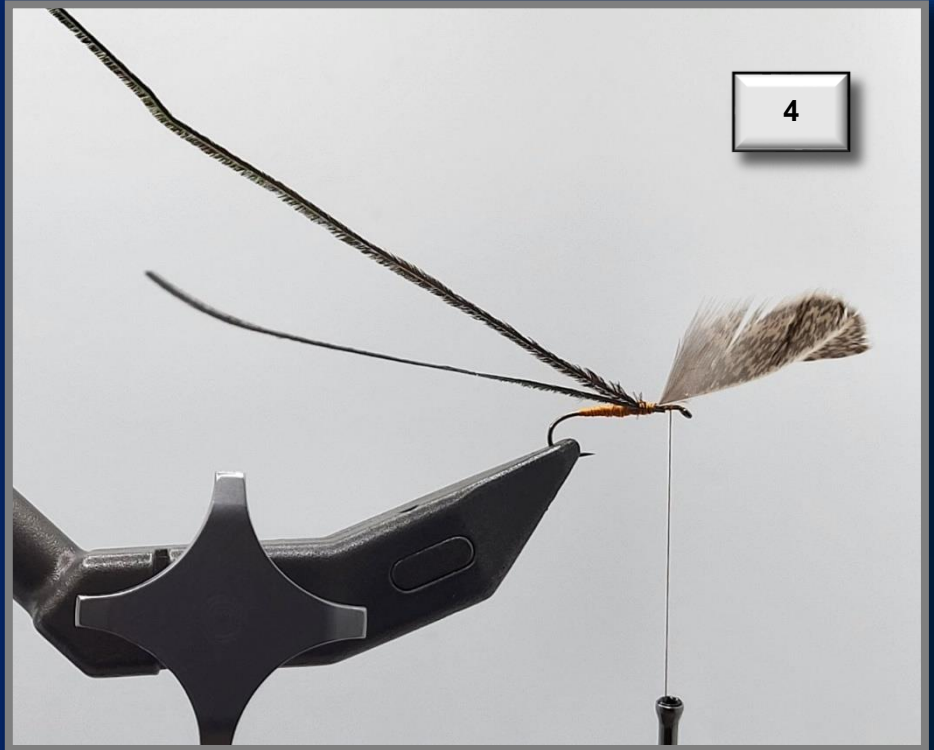


**"My Trout Fly Box"
continues on the next page.**

My Trout Fly Box -- continued

Materials List for the Partridge and Orange

- Hook – 1X long nymph or Czech nymph hook size 18-10
- Thread – Orange silk Thread
- Thorax – Peacock herl or tungsten bead
- Hackle – Partridge feather



Tying the Spider Fly is Simple

1. Mount hook in vise and tie-on the thread.
2. Select a partridge feather, strip one side, and tie the stem onto the hook
3. Wrap thread up and down the hook building a nice, tapered body.
4. Tie in two strands of peacock herl and wrap several times before tying it off.
5. Using hackle pliers, warp the partridge feather at least twice around the hook and tie it off.
6. Build a small head, tie off the thread, and put on a dab of your favorite head cement.

Editor's Note: Remember to fish with barbless hooks or bend down your barbs, especially when catch-and-release fishing.



Trout in the Classroom: Brookie Egg Delivery Day by Lisa LaCivita

Wednesday, 25 September was “egg delivery day” for our Trout in the Classroom (TIC) schools. The Winchester Chapter of Trout Unlimited is supporting 15 schools and the Shenandoah Valley Discovery Museum participation in the TIC Program.

Brook Trout eggs were delivered to fifteen schools located in the City of Winchester, Frederick, Clarke, Shenandoah & Warren counties of Virginia, Morgan & Berkeley Counties of West Virginia, and the Shenandoah Valley Discovery Museum.

Students will monitor the Trout’s growth, chemical balances in the tank, and learn of the habitat and ecosystems associated with our native Brook Trout.

The Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources provides Trout eggs, (DWR) with coordination by the Virginia Council of Trout Unlimited. They will be released into DWR approved streams next May.

Many Thanks to this year’s
Egg Delivery Volunteers:

Fred Boyer
Nick Brognano
Ron Clevenger
Galen Hart
Sandra Hart
David Juth
Lisa LaCivita
Bud Nagelvoort
Bill Prokopchak
Luke Robins
Mark Zimmerman



photo by Ron Clevenger

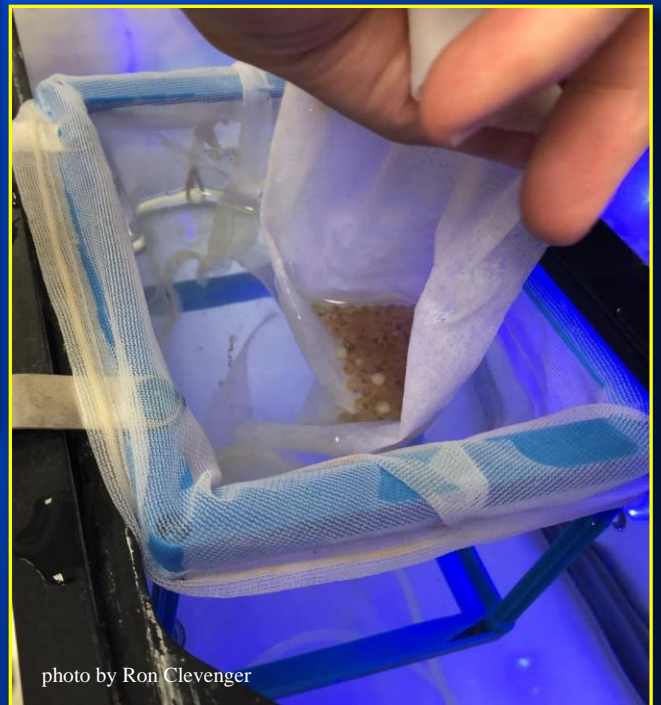
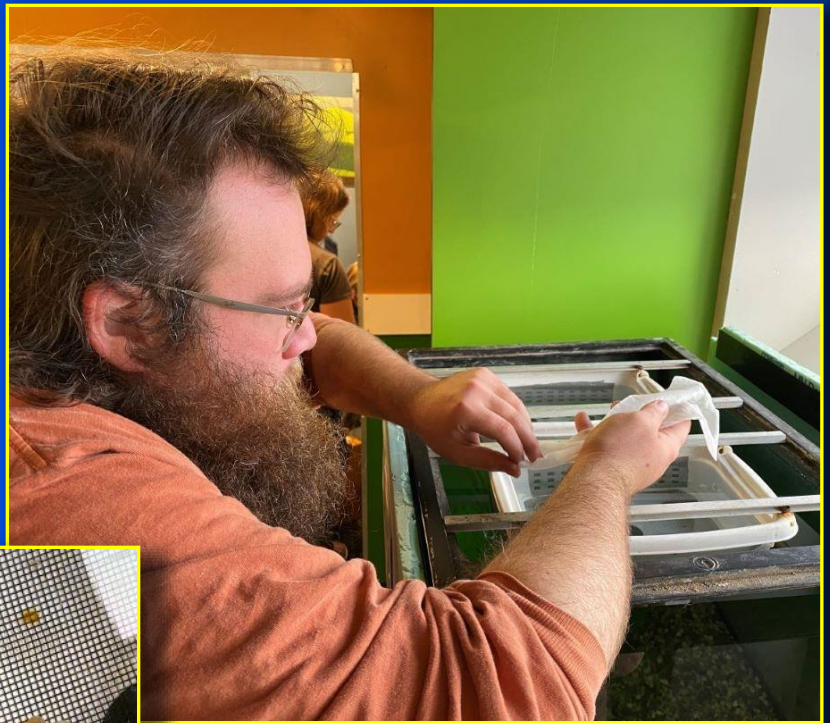


photo by Ron Clevenger

Top: The Brookie eggs go into Mike Wolfe’s cold-water aquarium at Orchard View Elementary School.

Above right: Matthew Jackson carefully places the Brookie eggs into the hatching basket of the Shenandoah Valley Discovery Museum.

Above: The white eggs are non-viable and were removed immediately from the hatching basket.

Right: The Brookie eggs slide into the hatching basket of Daniel Morgan Middle School’s Eric Cornish.



ANGLER REFLECTIONS



A Fishy Tale

article and photos by Nick Brognano

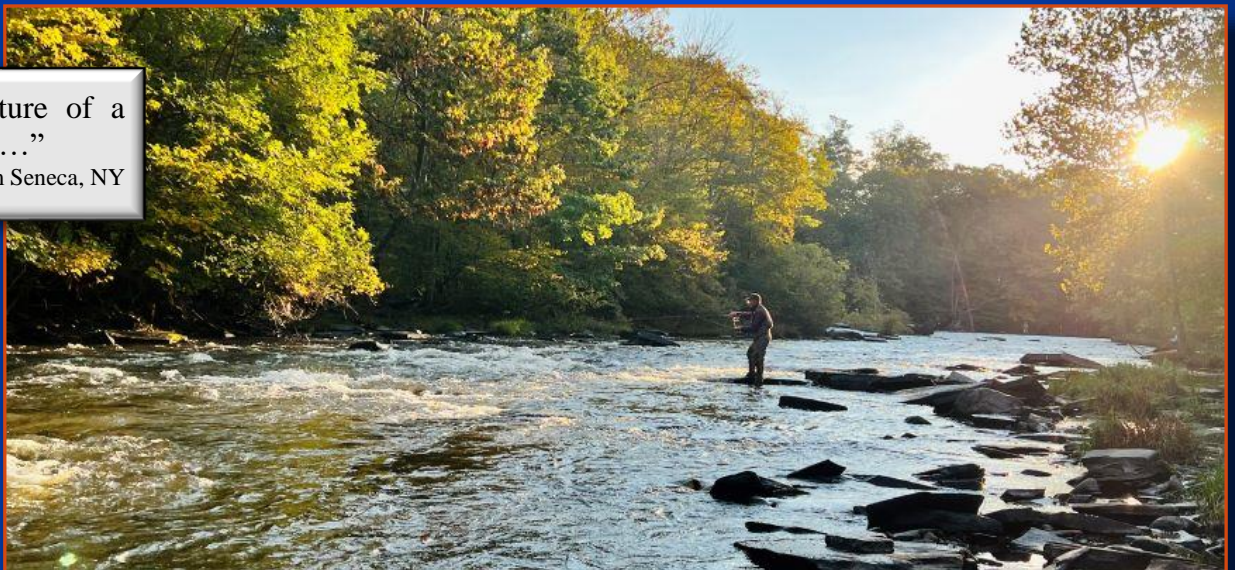
It is that time of year when anglers, like migrating geese, return to old habitat. The cool weather and colder water draw fish and fishermen together and lifelong stories of angler skill and fish survival are born. This October, like many previous Octobers, the annual ritual took place at the Salmon River in Pulaski, N. Y. Elmer, as always, drove his big black diesel truck while Fred and I rode in carefree comfort enjoying the long ride north. This was Fred's first trip to Salmon River. Several months ago, we flooded Fred's mind with exciting tales of Salmon fishing where the Pontifex Maximus King Salmon has been known to destroy rods, reels, and fishermen's egos. I am sure he had heard it all before, but good stories are worth retelling. Elmer and I told him it can take forever, and we mean forever, to land a King so be well prepared."

Fred, the wise, may have overreacted to all our yarns because on his waders he installed a clever front-end emergency zipper running from chin to crouch for reasons we can only imagine. I have seen hunting dogs relieve themselves and continue hunting but never witnessed a fisherman doing it while trying to land a fish. The use of the word "forever" was an obvious exaggeration but serious Fred, the wise, evidently swallowed it all, hook, line, and sinker.

We arrived at noon and immediately hit the river. We saw a bunch of fishermen but did not hear the exhilarating words, "Fish On." Fred and I slowly and cautiously walked down the well-known wooden "42 steps to Paradise" which ends at the river's edge. This man-made steep stairway also has a motorized fish carrier attached to it. It is a true-life saver in transporting fish uphill. Rich, our temporary landlord, built this wonder for guest and friends.

"He took a picture of a lonely fisherman..."

photo by Tim from Seneca, NY



My excitement slowly faded to frustration as I failed to get a strike while the guy to my left hooked up several times. The tall fellow then walked across and fished directly opposite me. He proceeded to add insult to injury as he hooked onto more fish. "Why does this often happen to me?" I asked myself. Fred was nearby and didn't have much luck either. Elmer had taken off to fish his favorite spot but also failed to hook onto any fish. It was a disappointing half day of fishing for the three of us. Were we too early for the Salmon run?

We were up early the next day and were among the first customers at the local Dunkin Donut shop. With coffee in hand, we drove to the Douglaston Salmon Run (DSR) parking lot to get our passes to fish this private stretch of the river. The good thing about this stretch is that there are far fewer fishermen. The bad thing about it is the price charged to fish it. While standing in line to get our passes Elmer noticed two young women dressed to fish and standing in line with their husbands. Elmer quietly asked one of the husbands, "How did you get your wife out here?" The husband quickly whispered into Elmer's ear, "I told her I was taking her to the mall." We all had a nice laugh at that answer. It is always good practice to ask questions. There is much to learn from others.

With passes in hand, we marched off to our old spot on the DSR. I was the first to reach "Coho Hole" because I took a short cut. Fred and Elmer took the long and leisurely route. I quickly hooked onto a handsome Coho. He leapt high out of the water, looking at me as if to say hello, only to be followed by a quick goodbye. He was on for about 15 seconds before breaking off. While I occasionally hooked onto fish none stayed on. Meanwhile upstream to my right stood Fred with a bent rod. He was fighting his first Salmon River fish.

He must have timed the struggle because he said the contest lasted 8 minutes before the fish broke off. It is disappointing yet well-known and accepted that most hooked Salmon get away.

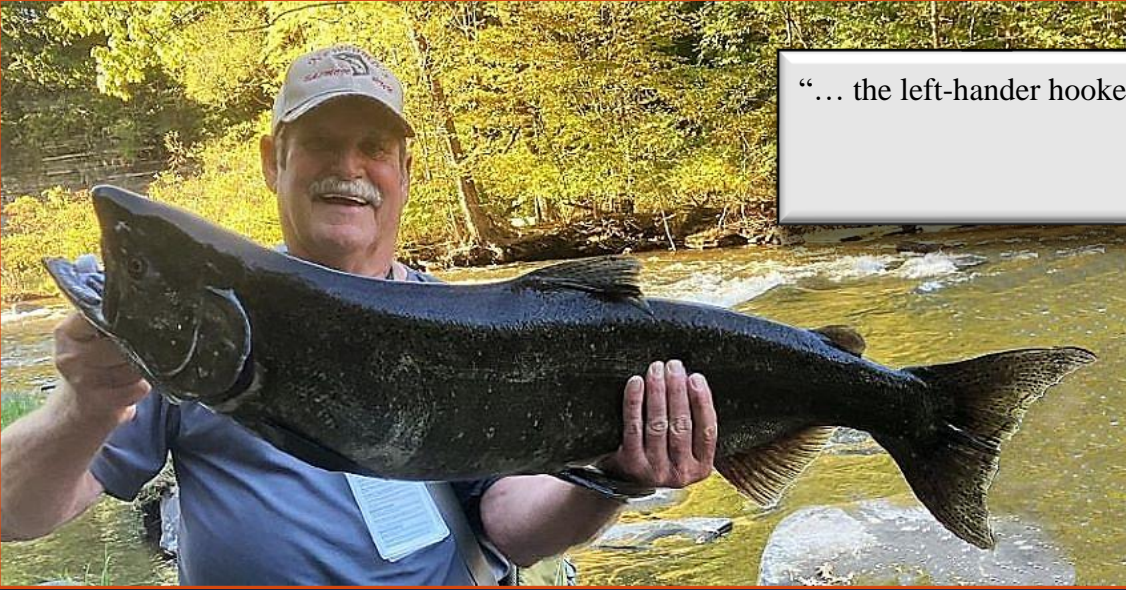
Eight minutes is long enough, however, to get a full appreciation of what it feels like to hook onto a King Salmon. Obviously, eight minutes is not "forever" so the zipper remained zipped. We later noticed a DSR camera installed and cleverly hidden in a nearby tree. If that Salmon had stayed on "forever" unzipped Fred would have made Fox News and possibly some jail time. Earlier Fred had landed a nice Brown Trout that if caught anywhere else would have been a prize, but this is King Salmon territory where size expectations run high. A second Salmon hit Fred's line but escaped before Fred could count to ten.

"Angler Reflections" continues on the next page.

ANGLER REFLECTIONS – CONTINUED

Elmer hadn't hooked onto anything so in my self-acknowledged benevolence I waved him over to fish my spot. I intuitively knew there were fish in it, but I wasn't having any luck. Within a few minutes, by chance and change, the left-hander hooked onto a 20-pound Coho. Fred and I put our poles away and watched a 20-minute fight between a big fish and a big man. Neither combatant would move. Elmer didn't move his size 16 boots an inch. The big stubborn fish fought the same way and simply sat there. When it did move it would swim in small circles while Elmer, now beginning to tire, held on with both hands.

This fish wasn't exhibiting any signs of panic whatsoever. A couple of times it would swim close to the shoreline only to slowly turn around and swim back into stronger current. Finally, the fish reluctantly surrendered. Some fishermen like to kiss a Bass on the lips. Unlike Bass, Salmon have big, pointed teeth so lip kissing is too risky.



“... the left-hander hooked onto a 20-pound Coho.”
photo by DSR river guide



Elmer then proceeded to land two more Coho out of the same hole that I so foolishly surrendered. You can imagine how I felt. The first day it was the tall stranger standing next to me who embarrassed me and today it was my long-term fishing buddy. I wanted to shed tears on someone's shoulder.

“As you can see these two photos, it is a lot safer to kiss a Salmon's tail, and it is far less disgusting.”

photo (l) by Nick Brognano of product display
photo (r) by DSR river guide

The last day of fishing was at the same productive hole. To no one's surprise, I arrived first hoping to catch a sleep-over Salmon. Not until Elmer came over to try his luck did anything happen. He hooked a Salmon, but it soon got off. Shortly after it had run off, I noticed a dark spot in the water and flung the fly I had earlier purchased.

He hit, and I was having a ball with a back-and-forth fight until I was able to land it. Someone took a picture of me struggling to hold the fish before releasing it. Fred then came up and tried his luck at this lucky hole. In his efforts Fred slipped, stumbled, and fell. Very few fishermen escape one or more Salmon River baptisms, and this was Fred's first. He got wet but thankfully not hurt.

Later, I thought I had gotten something for nothing when I found a premier walking staff and a pair of expensive Eddie Bauer sunglasses lying at the water's bottom. When I presented my find to Elmer, he said they were his. Unfortunately, he had just purchased a new pair of sunglasses to replace the lost one. I asked for a reward, but unsurprisingly he conveniently played deaf.

“Angler Reflections” continues on the next page.

ANGLER REFLECTIONS – CONTINUED

There was a short time when Fred and Emer deserted me and took a long break. I continued to fish. I was persistent and focused on what I was doing, which was a monotonous, continuous drift and lift movement with the long fly rod. At some point a young fisherman from Seneca, NY, named Tim appeared and approached me. He said he was downstream and noticed me standing all alone. He took a picture of a lonely fisherman and showed it to me. What a nice thing to have done and I told him so. I thanked him for his thoughtfulness, and we talked a little. Often fishermen are friendly types frequently willing to share advice and offer their lucky fly, but this was the first time a fellow angler took a photo of me and not a picture of a prized fish. I intend to have the paragon framed and placed in front of my laudable fly-tying vise.



“I latched into a monster.”
photo by fellow angler named Zach

Shortly after the photo take it began to rain, and I latched onto a monster.

I subconsciously heard a loud clash of cymbals and an equally loud call of trumpets as the big guy wasted no time taking off downstream. Even with a tight drag set the fly line still shot out and all I could see was the tenuous white backing on my reel. I couldn't break off because I would have lost everything, so I decided to hang on and give chase.

The King ran a good 300 yards to my left. What gravitas, both fish and fisherman. With the eight-weight rod held high I cautiously danced along the top of the rocks retrieving my line as I went. The current was too fast and the fish too strong and I was losing the battle.

I was about to give up hope of landing this big guy when a young fisherman named Zack saw it all. The monster got too close to him and with my permission he captured the Salmon. Oh, to be young and nimble again. Zack and I agreed the fish was a solid 20 pounds and it was just as worn out as I was. Zack took a picture of me holding the fish before releasing it. “Happiness lies in the joy of achievement and the thrill of creative effort.” I saw this quote written on a bathroom wall somewhere and thought it was most fitting there and here. Fighting and capturing the strong Salmon is a big part of what fishing is all about. It is never forgotten. It is a tale that will never grow old and keeps all anglers young at heart.

Unfortunately, this year we were too early to catch the Salmon run but were lucky enough to hook onto some and land a few. We quit fishing early on our last day to visit the impressive fish hatchery in nearby Altmar. Thousands of big Salmon were stacked up waiting in line to enter the hatchery where their eggs and sperm would be released and stored. We calculated some fish to be over 4 feet long. Watching those powerful giants leap out of the water to climb over fish ladders was mesmerizing. It was also a melancholy moment all they wanted to do is give birth. I wondered if they knew they would not survive it. I thought it strange how mother nature in action can be very cruel and beautiful at the same time.

Our last meal before heading home was what it has been for the past several years, peppers and sausage with fresh Italian bread and of course, some wine. My oldest brother, Jim, delivers this delicious meal without charge. He won't accept a dime.

We left early the next morning, maybe a little too early. The plan was to be out by 5:00 AM but we left a little after 3:00 AM because that is the time I was awakened by two unstealthily old men in a rush. One was going in and one was coming out of the bathroom. My makeshift bed was next to the beaten path to the bathroom. I woke up suddenly thinking I had overslept and quickly got dressed. By that time Elmer was wide awake sitting on the side of his bed. I was able to persuade him to leave early. Fred was lying in bed and not as wide awake but reluctantly agreed to leave.

On the drive home we did not discuss plans for next year. There is no need to because, like Salmon, the plan is always the same.



Winchester TU Fish With a Member Winchester Fish-WAM is back

Join us Wed. Dec. 11th & Thurs. Dec. 12th, 2024, for Winchester Trout Unlimited Fish with a Member outing at [Harmon's Cabin, WV](#).

Visit www.wvlogcabins.com to review cabin descriptions and availability and then call 800-436-6254 to reserve your 2-night, mid-week stay and receive a 10% discount when you tell them you are with Winchester TU!

December is the perfect month to fish for Trophy Trout on this stunning 300-acre private resort bordering the Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area and Dolly Sods Wilderness. A special Trout stocking in early December is sure to provide exceptional fishing with Trout averages 2 to 3 pounds, and many 4 to 6 pounds. Cabins are available with 1 or 2 bedrooms or consider sharing the cost of a 3 or 4 bedroom cabin with a group of friends.

Harman's provide rustic-luxe spa cabins perfect for every member of the family, including non-fishing types, with brand-new communal redwood saunas, infrared saunas, steam, and rain showers or reconnect with nature from the private hot tub on your cabin deck.

Burr and I have already reserved cabin #11 and we hope to see you there!

Sincerely,
Mary Weiss, Winchester TU Membership Chair
Winchestertu638@gmail.com



Photo courtesy of
Harmons Cabins

Virginia Council Trout Unlimited (VCTU) News Win a Fly-Fishing Trip to "The Outpost" on the Upper Nushagak River, Alaska



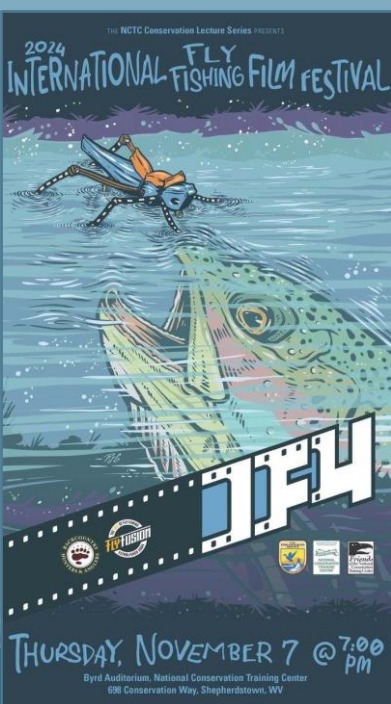
The Virginia Trout Unlimited Council is offering a fly-fishing trip to raise funds that will be donated to the Virginia TU chapters for their outreach, education, and conservation efforts.

Go to www.virginiatu.org for more information.

Or go to

<https://go.tulocalevents.org/vctu2024fundraiser/Campaign/Details>

Or use this QR code with your mobile phone to buy your raffle tickets.



On Thursday November 7 at 7:00 pm join us for the 2024 International Fly-Fishing Film Festival (IF4™) at the National Conservation Training Center.

No tickets or reservations are required. All are welcome!

Doors open at 6:30 PM.

Films begin at 7:00 PM.

Hosted by: The National Conservation Training Center. The *NCTC Conservation Lecture Series* is cosponsored by

The Friends of the NCTC - <http://www.friendsofnctc.org> and

The WV Backcountry Hunters and Anglers:

https://www.backcountryhunters.org/west_virginia

For more information, please contact Mark Madison (304-876-7276)

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WINCHESTER PHW PROGRAM UPDATE – 3 OCTOBER 2024



Status: The program now has **29 active participants** and **41 active volunteers**.
Participants include six women and three Ambassadors (Participant & Volunteer status)

Recent Activities:

11 September – Monthly Meeting

12 September – Winchester PHW and TU Women’s Fly-Fishing Outing at Cool Spring, Shenandoah University River Campus, from 4 to 7 pm. Mary Weiss led the event.

13 September – Fly-tying and Fly-Casting Demo/Competition at Lake Frederick Veterans Association Annual Picnic at Shenandoah Lodge, Lake Frederick, from 11 am to 4 pm.

14 September – Fishing outing at Leetown Trout Hatchery.

17–19 September – Virginia Region River Bound Outing Lebanon, Virginia.
Winchester did not participate.

21 September – Fly-Tying Class at Jake’s Bait and Tackle in Winchester.

26 September – Monthly Joining Community Forces (JCF)/Community Veterans Enterprise Board (CVEB) hosted at Winchester Red Cross. Wayne White represents the Winchester Program as a board member of the CVEB.

Planned Activities

3 November – Beaver Creek Fishing Outing. This is a one-day fishing outing. It is limited to five participants and five volunteer guides.

11 November – Veterans Day at Shenandoah National Park. Information Booth and Fly Casting and Fly-Tying Demonstration at Dickey Ridge Information Center

13 November -- Monthly Meeting.

23 November (T) -- Fly-Tying Class at Jake’s Bait and Tackle in Winchester.

Thanks to the Winchester TU members and all our volunteers for their commitment and support to our mission.

Follow all our program activities news in Lateral Lines at <https://winchestertu.org/>
Follow us on Facebook at Winchester Project Healing Waters

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2024 - 2025 Calendar of Events Winchester Trout Unlimited

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

Thursday, 7 November 2024 – Keep your calendar open

7:00 PM – Winchester TU monthly meeting

Our featured speaker is **Dawn Kirk, Fisheries Biologist USDA Forest Service**

Saturday, 9 November 2024 – Tentative Winchester Trout Unlimited

9:00 AM – Redbud Run restoration work session

Bud will contact the “Redbud Regulars” with details about time and place.

Wednesday, 20 November 2024 – Winchester Trout Unlimited BarFly

7:00 – 9:00 PM – Escutcheon Brewery, Commercial Street, Winchester

Thursday, 5 December 2024

There is no Winchester TU monthly meeting in December.

Saturday, 7 December 2024 – Tentative Winchester Trout Unlimited

9:00 AM – Redbud Run restoration work session

Bud will contact the “Redbud Regulars” with details about time and place.

Wednesday, 18 December 2024 – Winchester Trout Unlimited BarFly

7:00 – 9:00 PM – Escutcheon Brewery, Commercial Street, Winchester

Thursday, 2 January 2025

7:00 PM – Winchester TU monthly meeting

Saturday, 4 January 2025 – Tentative Winchester Trout Unlimited

9:00 AM – Redbud Run restoration work session

Bud will contact the “Redbud Regulars” with details about time and place.

Wednesday, 15 January 2025 – Winchester Trout Unlimited BarFly

7:00 – 9:00 PM – Escutcheon Brewery, Commercial Street, Winchester

Thursday, 6 February 2025

7:00 PM – Winchester TU monthly meeting

Saturday, 8 February 2025 – Tentative Winchester Trout Unlimited

9:00 AM – Redbud Run restoration work session

Bud will contact the “Redbud Regulars” with details about time and place.

Wednesday, 19 February 2025 – Winchester Trout Unlimited BarFly

7:00 – 9:00 PM – Escutcheon Brewery, Commercial Street, Winchester



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.

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