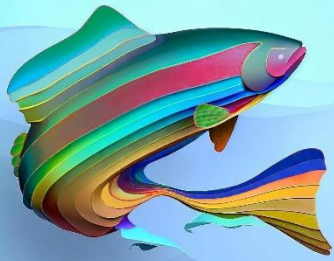


**WINCHESTER
TROUT UNLIMITED**

CHAPTER #638

2025 Marks the 30th Year of Lateral Lines

**The Monthly Magazine of Winchester Trout Unlimited
Chapter #638**

In the depth of winter ... there lay an invincible summer. - Albert Camus

January 2025
Volume 30, Number 1
Winchester TU Meeting

Thursday, 2 January 2025

7:00 PM

 Rachel's Kitchen, Shenandoah Lodge,
Lake Frederick, VA

Project Healing Waters Monthly meeting

Wednesday, 8 January 2025

Agenda to be announced later

RSVP Required

BarFly

The next Winchester TU BarFly

Wednesday, 15 January 2025

7:00 PM at Escutcheon Brewing Co.

142 W. Commercial Street, Winchester

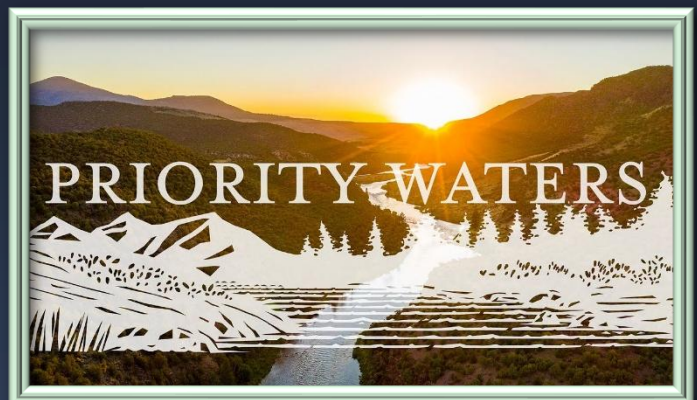
**For complete calendars, please see
Page 3 for Winchester Project Healing Waters
and
Page 9 for Winchester Trout Unlimited**

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

Winchester TU Priority Waters Team Marks Progress



The Priority Waters groups met via **zoom** December 5 and addressed several key needs for its next stage of field activities. This **zoom** featured the addition of an important new advisor, Zack Mondrey, hydrologist with the George Washington & Jefferson National Forest (NF).

One of the key focuses of field efforts will be to document all barriers and crossings on both Little Passage Creek and Mill Run. The goal here is to identify (and remedy, if possible) those sites that may pose constraints on Brook Trout movement.

Team leader Michael Makufka, already trained and certified to assess barriers/crossings per NF guidelines, will have to be present for each site visitation until such time additional members receive training. The group discussed possible purchase of additional field measurement equipment (the Chapter has authorized up to \$200 for such apparatus); Makufka suggested borrowing Virginia DWR gear in the interim (in response to their offer) until we have a better assessment of long term equipment needs.

Tedd Gimber has researched data loggers and recommended Tidbit brand temperature loggers. Zack Mondrey noted he had used these temperature loggers in the past and confirmed their accuracy and ease of use. Zack also volunteered to help the team in choosing sites for logger placement. Drew Patterson requested Mike Makufka establish a budget for all known expenses for the committee to share with the chapter Board, and Mike noted he could do so.

Tedd Gimber has volunteered to generate some field site maps of the streams for use in future meetings. Dave Juth pledged to set up a special Google drive for the committee.

The group agreed to a tentative field trip for Saturday, 18 January, with specifics to be determined later. In a subsequent email, Zack Mondrey confirmed he could do a mid-week field trip the following week.

The group thanked Luke Robins for setting up the **zoom** on his personal account.





EST. PROJECT 2005
HEALING WATERS

NEW T-SHIRT FOR WINCHESTER PROJECT HEALING WATERS

by Wayne White

Jake's Bait and Tackle in Winchester is selling a new T-shirt designed specifically for Winchester Healing Waters to help support the local program. The T-shirt is \$23.99, and \$2.00 of each sale will be donated to PHW.

This special T-shirt is a one-time offer and features Dan Soper's original artwork of a Brook Trout that Charles "Doc" Smith caught. The Brookie is prominently displayed on the back under a banner, "Shenandoah National Park". This beautiful native Trout represents the Northern Shenandoah Valley and the Winchester program well.

T-shirts are available at Jake's Bait and Tackle, 234 Ezra Lane, Suite 3, Winchester.

Many thanks to Jared Mounts and Jennifer Myers for designing and promoting this unique T-shirt. A very special thanks to Dan for donating his original artwork. More of his creations are at Runs and Riffles Art on Facebook and Instagram @runs_and_riffles_art.



Top: Winchester Healing Waters T-Shirt featuring the artwork of Dan Soper.

photo courtesy of Jake's Bait and Tackle

Left: The Brookie that will be on the back of the t-shirt sold at Jake's Bait and Tackle as a fundraiser for the Winchester Healing Waters program.

photo courtesy of Jake's Bait and Tackle

Right: Watercolor artist, Dan Soper (l) presents Charles "Doc" Smith (r) with his rendition of the Brookie that Doc caught.

photo courtesy of Jake's Bait and Tackle



WINCHESTER PHW PLANS A FULL SLATE OF EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES FOR 2025



The Winchester Project Healing Waters program has a full slate of events and activities planned to kick off the New Year. The program will hold its first meeting on Wednesday, 8 January 2025, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM at the Shenandoah Lodge, Lake Frederick. This meeting will include fly-tying and knot-tying, an indoor casting clinic, and a presentation on finding fish in streams.

Already in its third year of operation, the Winchester program continues to grow in the number of participants and volunteers. The following fly-fishing activities and events for our veterans' ongoing education and skill development are tentatively scheduled for 2025 and are subject to change.

January

- 8 Jan -- Monthly Meeting
- 10-11 Jan -- Virginia Fly-Fishing and Wine Festival, and the
Beyond the Cast – Women's Fly-Fishing Symposium, Dozwell, Virginia
- 11, 18, and 25 Jan -- Rod Building Classes at Jake's Bait and Tackle, Winchester
- 25 Jan -- Fly-Tying at Jake's

February

- 1 Feb -- Rod Building Class at Jake's Bait and Tackle
- 8 Feb -- Rapidan TU Chapter Fly-Fishing Show, Warrenton, Virginia
- 12 Feb -- Monthly Meeting
- 15 and 22 Feb -- Fly Tying at Jake's Bait and Tackle

March

- 12 Mar -- Monthly Meeting
- 15 and 22 Mar -- Fly-Tying at Jake's
- 29 Mar -- PHW Fly-Tying Marathon at the USMC Museum, Quantico

April

- 9 Apr -- Monthly Meeting
- 11-13 and 16-18 Apr -- Virginia Region Wild Trout Trips, Shenandoah National Park
- 11-13 Apr -- Fishing Outing at Virginia Elks Youth Camp with Fredericksburg PHW
- 26 Apr -- Fishing Outing at Leetown Fish Hatchery, WVA

May

- 7-9 May -- Virginia Regional Fishing Outing -- Back Creek, Bath County
- 14 May -- Monthly Meeting
- 17 May -- PHW Beaver Creek (Ottobine, Virginia) Invitational Fishing Outing
- 28 May -- Day Fishing Outing at Rose River Farm (Syria, Va)

Additional information and updates about these activities and events will be published in Lateral Lines at <https://winchestertu.org/>. Updates and post-activity information will be posted on Facebook at **Winchester Project Healing Waters**.

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



photo by Danielle Bailey

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Bud on the Run:

The next workday is set for **Saturday, 11 January 2025** at **10:00 AM** weather permitting.

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

by Bud Nagelvoort

Not much to report for December since the weather along with Christmas activities kept us from bending and scraping to complete the elimination of the odd reverse flow challenging our intellectual capabilities. At the same time, the movement of our now available bank protection logs into place could not be achieved.

However, the weather gods promise to be kind in January (Do you trust them?) so the next work session is scheduled for 11 January 2025 at 10:00 AM (or should I say 10:15 to allow for the usual bagel bonanza.).

I can report the acquisition of four more 6' steel fence posts from Lowe's using aluminum cans so we have the necessary six for the log installations if Bill's power winch is available on the 11th.

I'll try to remember the usual update on the schedule by midnight on the 10th.

So, ice free lines and no snow and even a little sunshine on the 11th please -----



Above: Winchester TU began to work on erosion control on the upper section of Redbud Run in 2015. This photo by Bud Nagelvoort from 7 February 2015 shows the work party (from left to right) Jim Stonestreet, Dave VanBenschoten, Terry Lay, and Drew Patterson. Note: The old Tacoma, the older cooler, and even older wheel barrow are still in use in 2025!

Below: Heavily eroded banks and a stream clogged with eroded soil and silt filled the stream bed, reducing the possibility that fish could find suitable areas to build their redds. Photos by Bud Nagelvoort 2015



Barbara's Books

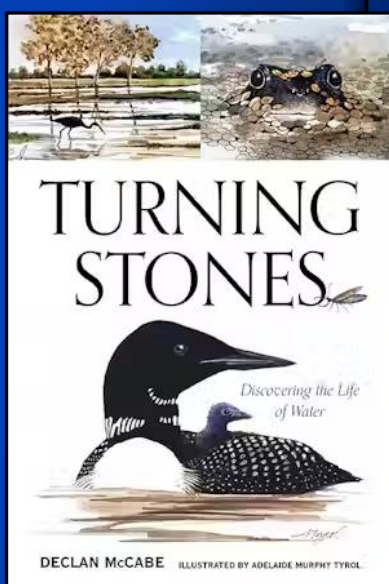
Compiled by Barbara Gamble

Turning Stones: Discovering the Life of Water

Author: Declan McCabe
Paperback: 240 pages
ISBN-10: 1684751837
ISBN-13: 978-1684751839
Publisher: W. W. Down East Books
Publication Date: 1 June 2024

For focus, exercise, and pleasant distraction, scientist Declan McCabe takes frequent walks along Vermont's Winooski River. The brief trips provide solitude, grounding, and an opportunity to explore. Slowing down, and observing carefully, reveals diverse life in unexpected places. Each patch of soil, each fallen tree, and every puddle of standing water is a microcosm of life to be appreciated. **Turning Stones** is a careful look at the mysteries and life that can be found in a river if you just take the time to look.

The more than 50 short essays gathered in this volume provide an astounding look at the rich diversity of life that depends on water. McCabe looks at the unique chemistry of water that makes it essential for all life. He examines a range of life form and looks to the future at ways to preserve clean water for the next generation and beyond.



Declan McCabe is an aquatic ecologist and professor of biology at Saint Michael's College in Vermont. His job is to clearly communicate fascinating and complex biology to entry-level students, and he has translated that skill into a successful career as an outreach specialist to high-school audiences. He is a columnist for *Northern Woodlands Magazine* and a regular contributor to a syndicated natural history series called *The Outside Story*, and an occasional contributor to *Connecticut Woodlands Magazine*. He lives in South Burlington, Vermont.

Alongside your collection of John Gierach, Lefty Kreh, Lee Wulff, and Tom Rosenbauer classics, make room for **Turning Stones**. -- Champlain Valley Trout Unlimited. "Last Cast - A Genial companion" *Stream Lines, CVTU Newsletter*, Summer 2024

Sources: amazon.com and the publishers

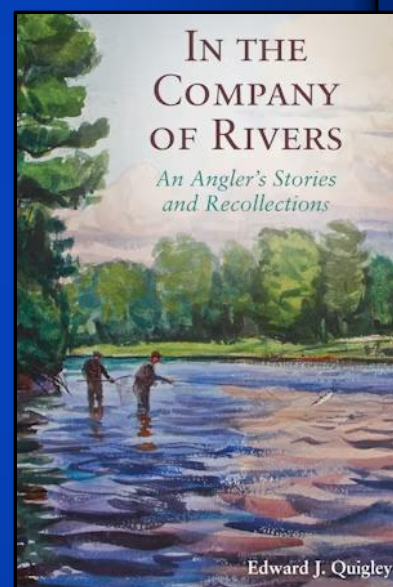
In the Company of Rivers: An Angler's Stories and Recollections

Author: Ed Quigley
Paperback: 272 pages
ISBN-10: 1628736917
ISBN-13: 978-1628736915
Publisher: Skyhorse
Publication Date: 13 May 2024

In this charming collection of fly-fishing short stories, readers will discover that fly fishing can lead to many places. Experience the various journeys taken by the author to places like remote Labrador, Alaska, Scotland, Ireland, and the Florida Keys. Enter a miniscule Pepsi shack on the Catawba in the Carolinas; squeeze into a tackle shop no bigger than a rooster's nest on Forty-Second Street in New York City; find yourself on Kettle Creek in Pennsylvania's Forbidden Lands.

Not merely a travel book of fly-fishing locales, **In the Company of Rivers** is also infused with the fragrance of Montecristos, the plummy sweetness of vintage port, and the distinctive sizzle of sirloins on a Coleman stove.

Readers will also encounter such unique characters as Mr. Earp, a 100 percent West Virginian and 50 percent Cherokee, and Mr. Cotter, the archetypal New York cop turned fly-fishing gentleman.



A unique portrayal of the fly-fishing world, **In the Company of Rivers** will have you laughing throughout the entirety of its pages.

Ed Quigley is a freelance writer whose work has appeared on the Op-Ed pages of the *Chicago Tribune*, the *New York Times*, the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, and the *Wall Street Journal*. He lives in Lansdale, Pennsylvania.

Sources: amazon.com and the publishers



Winchester TU Monthly "BarFly" Events Wednesday, 15 January 2025 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 Unlimited and to tie fishing flies.

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

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



ANGLER REFLECTIONS



Who is smarter, Fish or Fisherman?

by Nick Brognano

As foolish as this question is, I bet every fisherman has felt outsmarted by a fish more than a few times. I have been told that a fish has a brain the size of a dime. That can't be because today I caught a fish about two inches in length which means he was all brains and yet he got hooked. I need someone to explain all of this because if a brain size is relative to body size who has the bigger brain man or fish? It is possible the size doesn't really matter, and it is what part you use and how you use it.

Before you answer the above titled question, give some thought to how much you have invested in your quest to catch a fish. Aha! Are you with the alleged higher level of intelligence embarrassed? We all should be at least a little humiliated. Let's admit it, in any forum with all the evidence displayed (rods, reels, lures, flies, fly-tying paraphernalia, nets, boats, trailers, fish finders, etc., etc.) in front of a group of common folks, your IQ would take a hard hit.

Mr. Trout needs no advocate since it is really a case of "Ipso Facto," i.e., the facts speak for themselves, or something close to that.



Above: "Mr. Trout is not interested in an Adams . . ."
photo courtesy of Carl Rettenberger

Right: "I carry so many Elk Hair Caddis that I could feed an army of Trout."
photo by Burr Tupper

At this point you may be asking yourself what brought about this strange query? It all began last week when I was fishing for Trout using my favorite four-weight rod and an assortment of flies. The Trout were there at the far bank and they were rising on a regular basis. My confidence soared. It should have been easy picking, but it was far from it. It was then while standing in water for way too long and way too deep when the question presently being discussed struck me and my mind ran amuck.

There I stood, in high water risking my life in an environment highly favorable to the pursued who is drawing me deeper and deeper by teasing me with inviting slurps and ripples. I got up very early this morning, drove a long way to get here, and these fish have most likely been leisurely hanging around this spot since before I hit the road to get here. After a while it dawned on me that Mr. Trout is not interested in an Adams' Irresistible snack. Ok, I'll try something different.

I carry so many Elk Hair Caddis that I could feed an army of Trout. The caddis is a favorite Trout treat and is hugely successful in tricking them. I flung my fly rod and landed the caddis a little upstream of the last rise. I did this several times without results. I even rested the dry at several other spots on the stream hoping I would wake up a less intelligent Trout but had no luck. The Royal Coachman, Pheasant Tail nymph, Woolly Bugger, Zudbug and several other flies all failed. I was about to explode with frustration. After all, this stuff wasn't made in China and it all looked real enough. I know if someone placed a nice puffy cream puff in front of me, I would pounce on it, why don't Trout behave the same way?

The water was cold, and I had been standing waist deep in it for some time. I knew if I didn't get to the shore quickly, I would spring a leak of the worst kind, and my waders would likely fill up from the inside and be ruined forever. A Trout doesn't have to be concerned with such a calling. I concluded this is unfair and unequal combat. I deserted the field of battle with my head bowed, defeated, dejected, and demoralized. It was not the first time I might add.

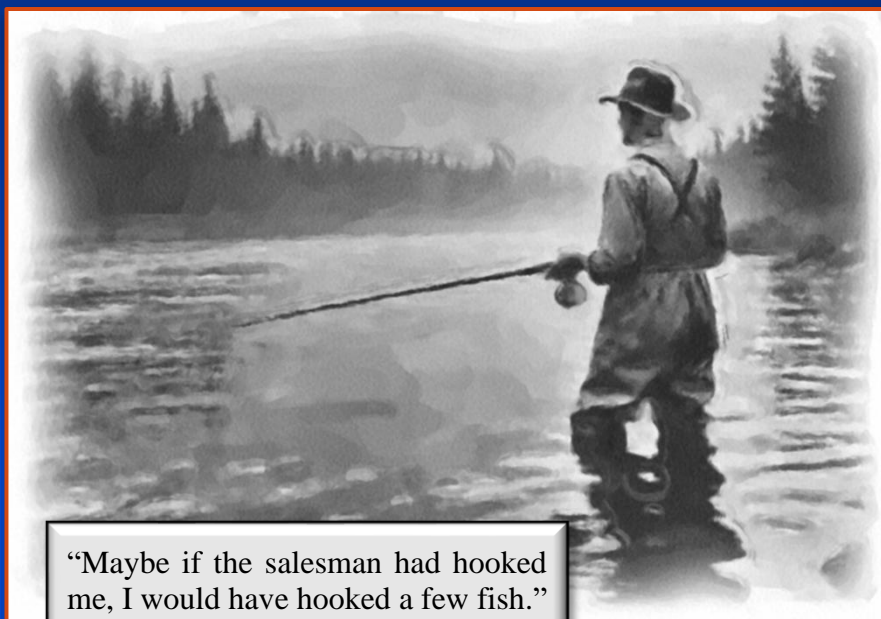


"Angler Reflections" continues on the next page.

ANGLER REFLECTIONS – CONTINUED

In a state of disappointment, I sat on the riverbank staring at an ongoing series of rises. What an embarrassment. Looking at my empty net only added to my sullen state. Even with waders, wading shoes, an “Orvis” rod, and the brain the size of a grapefruit (well at least much bigger than a dime) Trout’s survivor instincts outwitted me again.

Maybe if I had followed the advice of the guy at the fly shop and bought his smorgasbord of recommended flies along with a better fly line, and new reel my luck would have been better. Maybe if the salesman had hooked me, I would have hooked a few fish I thought, but I doubt it.



“Maybe if the salesman had hooked me, I would have hooked a few fish.”
ink wash angler by W.M. Prokopchak 2024

It was a sad and quiet ride home as once again my brain began to sputter. How can this be? After all, I have a degree in higher education, and no fish could achieve what I have done. It was at this point I began thinking of my fishing buddies: one is a retired successful entrepreneur; another is a retired school principal; a third is a practicing physician, yet all have often been outsmarted by Mr. Trout. Suddenly I did not feel alone and that helped a little. Since I am not a quitter, I called my son and asked if he would like to go fishing with me. He said yes.

Early tomorrow we are headed to the same stream and same spot. I intend to capture the same Trout that frustrated me so much. He won’t get away this time because I am taking my five weight and six weight rods as back up. Furthermore, over the objection of my wife, I bought some new stuff advertised as “guarantee” to catch fish.

While I was conversing with the woman of my dreams my mind took its predictable leap back in time when I was young, very young. I drew a comparison of my challenge with Mr. Trout and my adolescent struggle to walk up to Peggy Sue and ask her to dance with me. I remembered I had this monumental moment planned a week in advance.

With a clean face, shiny shoes, pressed pants, shirt, hair combed the popular D A style, how could she refuse me? I was sure to score. The fact that I didn’t know how to dance didn’t matter, I was so google eyed over her. If I don’t step on her toes, it will be ok, I thought. All that happened yesterday and tomorrow the names and characters will be different, but the basic idea will be the same. I still can’t dance of fish much better. As long as I don’t disturb the water too much it will be ok, and I will end up with a Trout dancing at the end of my line. I have learned the results are never known without asking or trying and most importantly never quitting.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

What a top notch newsletter ! Great to see a chapter active in so many different ways and venues. Keep up the good work.

Bill Pierce
VCTU Treasurer



I have a friend who is a fishing guide working out of Altmar & Pulaski, NY on the Salmon River and other local streams west to Niagara Falls area for Browns, Steelhead and Salmon fishing.

The picture (left) is a few of the flies tied and used up there that he sent out and I wondered if you or members had seen or used these before?

You can enlarge the pic for a better view on how the bead is attached to the fly.

Best Wishes for the Holidays.

Rick S.
Winchester, VA



Poet's Corner:

Poems selected for the angler

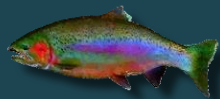
In Winter's Grasp

Adelaide Bridgewater-Hastings
 Circa 1850-1901
 Norwich, England
 Attribution affirmed



Ink wash portrait of Adelaide Bridgewater-Hastings by W.M. Prokopchak ©2023 all rights reserved after the only known photograph of her

Editor's Note: Publication of *The Complete Works of Adelaide Bridgewater-Hastings* is now expected in the spring of 2025.



In winter's grasp, the creek flows cold and clear,
 Its icy breath a whisper in the night,
 Beneath the moon's soft glow, it winds its way,
 Through silent woods where shadows dance and play,
 A silver thread that weaves through frost and fear,
 A song of winter's chill, a pure delight.

The trees stand tall, their branches bare and bright,
 With crystal crowns that shimmer in the light,
 The creek's soft murmur fills the frosty air,
 A gentle lullaby, a tender prayer,
 To winter's beauty, stark and cold, yet dear,
 A symphony of ice, a silent rite.

The snowflakes fall, a dance of pure white,
 They kiss the creek, then vanish out of sight,
 The water's flow, a constant, steady beat,
 A rhythm that no winter's chill can cheat,
 It carves its path, unwavering and clear,
 A testament to time, a quiet might.

The world is hushed, the night is calm and still,
 The creek's soft song a balm for every ill,
 It speaks of peace, of quiet, gentle grace,
 A mirror to the stars, a tranquil place,
 Where one can find a moment free from fear,
 A haven in the cold, a winter's thrill.

The frost adorns the banks with icy lace,
 A delicate, ephemeral embrace,
 The creek flows on, a steady, soothing stream,
 A winter's dream, a poet's perfect theme,
 It whispers secrets only night can hear,
 A melody of snow, a soft, sweet trace.

The moonlight dances on the water's face,
 A silver glow that time cannot erase,
 The creek's soft voice a hymn to winter's reign,
 A song of ice, of snow, of gentle pain,
 It tells a tale of beauty cold and clear,
 A story written in the night's embrace.

The stars above, a glittering array,
 Reflect in waters cold, a bright display,
 The creek flows on, a constant, steady guide,
 Through winter's chill, it does not hide,
 A beacon in the dark, a light sincere,
 A gentle path through winter's night.

In winter's heart, the creek flows pure and bright,
 A song of cold, a hymn to winter's night,
 It speaks of peace, of beauty clear,
 A melody that only night can hear,
 A testament to winter's might,
 A symphony of ice, a pure delight.

2025 Calendar of Events Winchester Trout Unlimited

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

Thursday, 2 January 2025

7:00 PM – Winchester TU monthly meeting

Saturday, 11 January 2025 – Tentative Winchester Trout Unlimited Workday

10:00 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 Workday

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

Thursday, 6 March 2025

7:00 PM – Winchester TU monthly meeting

Saturday, 8 March 2025 – Tentative Winchester Trout Unlimited Workday

9:00 AM – Redbud Run restoration work session

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

Wednesday, 19 March 2025 – Winchester Trout Unlimited BarFly

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

Thursday, 3 April 2025

7:00 PM – Winchester TU monthly meeting

Saturday, 5 April 2025 – Tentative Winchester Trout Unlimited Workday

9:00 AM – Redbud Run restoration work session

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

Wednesday, 16 April 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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Steelhead, Shad, and Brookie end mark artworks © by Bill Prokopchak

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