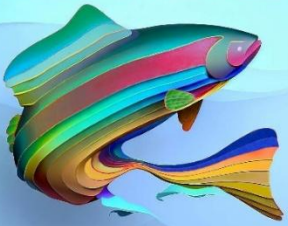


WINCHESTER  
TROUT UNLIMITED

CHAPTER #638

**Celebrating  
25 Years of  
Lateral Lines**

# Lateral Lines

The Monthly Magazine of Winchester Trout Unlimited  
Chapter #638

Determine to use humor for uplifting, healing, and loving purposes. -- Anonymous

February 2025

Volume 30, Number 2

## Winchester TU Meeting

Thursday, 6 February 2025, 7:00 PM  
Rachel's Kitchen, Shenandoah Lodge,  
Lake Frederick, VA

## Winchester TU Priority Waters Meeting

Thursday, 6 February 2025, 6:00 PM  
Rachel's Kitchen, Shenandoah Lodge,  
Lake Frederick, VA

## Project Healing Waters Monthly meeting

Wednesday, 12 February 2025  
Agenda to be announced later  
RSVP Required

## BarFly

The next Winchester TU BarFly  
Wednesday, 19 February 2025  
7:00 PM at Escutcheon Brewing Co.  
142 W. Commercial Street, Winchester

For complete calendars, please see  
Page 10 for Winchester Project Healing Waters  
and  
Page 17 for Winchester Trout Unlimited



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

## Rapidan River Fish Passage Project awarded \$7.9 Million NOAA Grant



article  
by Jeff Poole with thanks  
to Shawn Young and  
Mike Collins

Photos courtesy of  
American Climate Partners

For more than two centuries, a dam across the Rapidan River in Central Virginia was an economic imperative -- a structural edifice that propelled manufacturing and commerce by altering the river's flow.

But five years ago, the dam's current stewards -- the nonprofit American Climate Partners (ACP) -- began considering the aging dam's viability in the modern marketplace. After all, it had been nearly 60 years since the dam powered a milling operation in this rural community, and a more recent, 10-year hydropower effort proved financially unsuccessful.

With a mix of public and private partners, ACP launched the Rapidan Institute to lead a comprehensive river restoration study to evaluate the contemporary utility of the 88-year-old concrete dam and the potential environmental and economic benefits of altering it.

In May, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced a \$7.9 million grant funding the results of that study: the Rapidan Fish Passage Project.

**“Rapidan River Fish Passage Project” continues on the next page.**

Editor's Note: We at LATERAL LINES thank Jeff Poole and colleagues Shawn Young and Mike Collins for giving us permission to run this story about the American Climate Partners and the Rapidan River Fish Passage Project.



## Rapidan River Fish Passage Project -- continued

The Rapidan project is one of more than 45 projects receiving nearly \$240 million to reopen migratory pathways and restore access to healthy habitat for fish nationwide through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act.

The project would remove all or part of the Rapidan Mill dam and restore habitat along the Rapidan River in the lower Chesapeake Bay watershed. Removing the dam would open more than 500 miles -- and as many as 1,000 miles -- of habitat for American shad, river herring, and other migratory fish.

“Rapidan, Orange County, and Culpeper County are going to be ground-zero for restoration of the shad population in the Mid-Atlantic,” ACP Executive Director Michael Collins suggested. Before dams and river pollution, American shad were the most valuable and important fishery in the Chesapeake Bay, and the Rapidan Mill dam has been identified as the top practicable dam removal project in the Bay’s basin. “This is a project of national significance.”

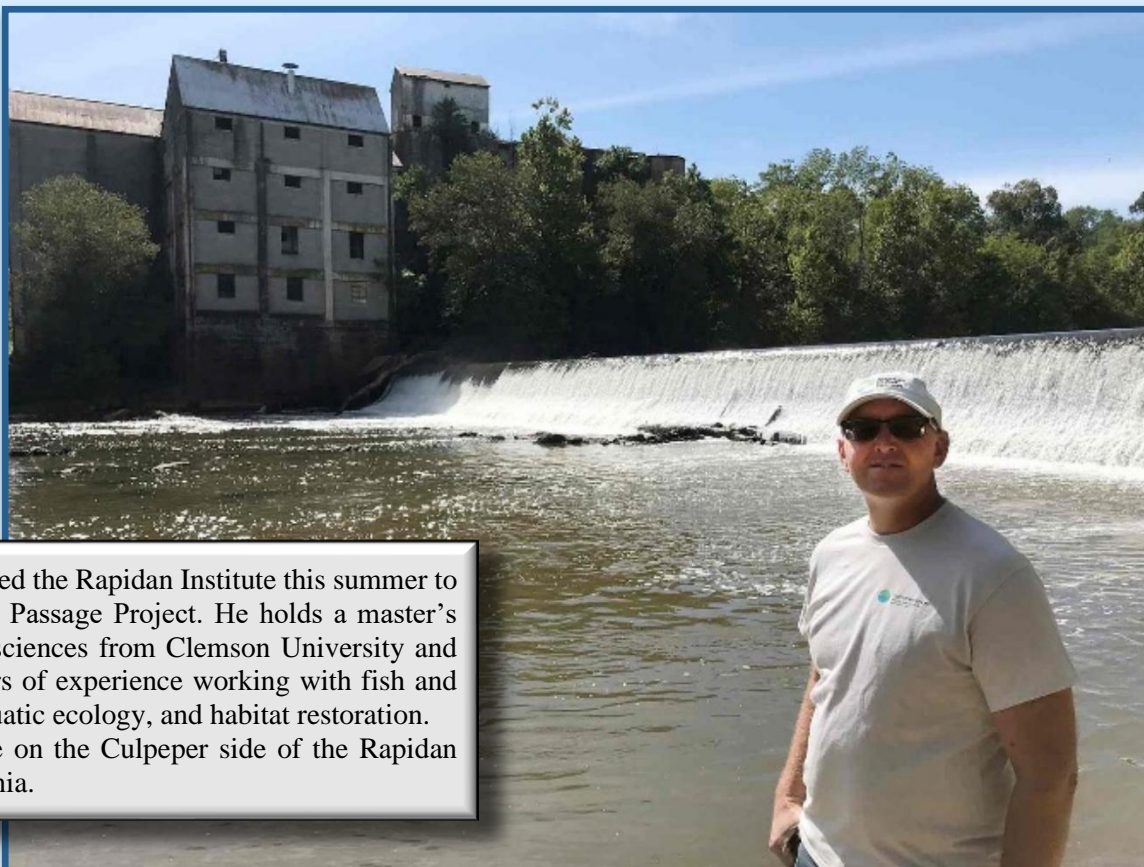
Collins said the idea for the project originated in ACP’s popular and successful StreamSweepers program.



“StreamSweepers is a river remediation program and after you get a river cleaned up, the next question is, ‘What do you do to restore the wildlife and biology that are part of the river system?’ It didn’t take long to realize that dams are probably the single greatest impediment to the restoration of American shad in the Mid-Atlantic and so we began to ask ourselves, ‘how important is this dam to that fishery?’”

It’s not a new question. For more than 250 years, Rapidan-area residents and their upstream neighbors have weighed the benefits of damming the river for economic benefits against ecological advantage -- so much so that colonial legislators even addressed the issue in 1759 noting that mill (and dam) owners needed to provide a fish passageway at least 10 feet wide over dams to provide access for migrating fish.

Over time, economic interests prevailed -- which was good news for local farmers and merchants, but not for shad, which historically had been plentiful throughout the inland rivers and streams of the Mid-Atlantic.



Dr. Shawn Young joined the Rapidan Institute this summer to lead the Rapidan Fish Passage Project. He holds a master’s and PhD in fisheries sciences from Clemson University and has more than 30 years of experience working with fish and aquatic organisms, aquatic ecology, and habitat restoration.

He is pictured here on the Culpeper side of the Rapidan River in Central Virginia.

The 11-foot high, 12-foot-deep, and 200-foot wide concrete Rapidan Mill dam blocks migrating shad, river herring, striped bass, eels, and other fish from native spawning and rearing grounds upstream. Specifically, American shad, hickory shad, alewife and blueback herring are migratory species that spend most of their lives in saltwater, but must return to freshwater to spawn. For the eels, it’s all about free access to rearing habitat since they are spawned in the Sargasso Sea and then find their way into freshwater systems to grow for up to 20 years before returning to the ocean to complete their life cycle.

“A healthy river requires a healthy fishery, and, by extension, a healthy Chesapeake Bay requires a healthy Rapidan River,” Collins notes.

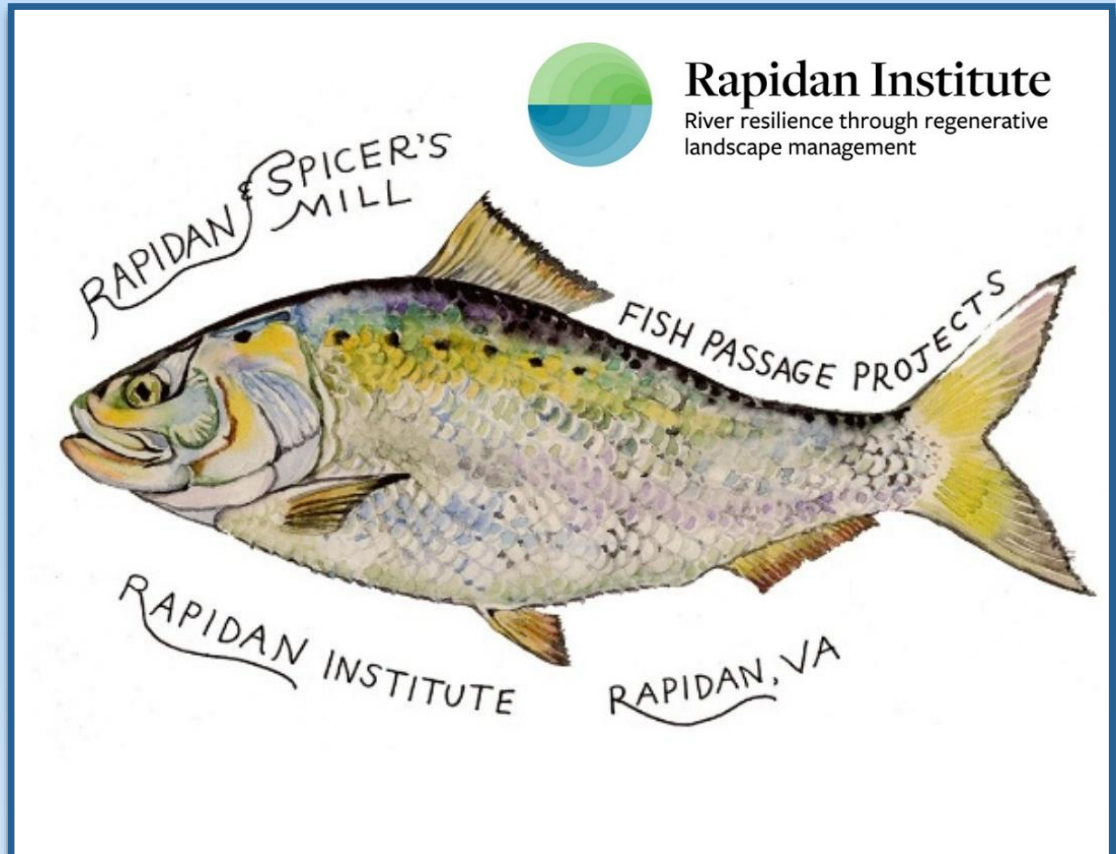
**“Rapidan River Fish Passage Project” continues on the next page.**



## Rapidan River Fish Passage Project -- continued

The Rapidan meanders from its headwaters in the Blue Ridge Mountains through the Virginia Piedmont, connecting various streams, creeks, and tributaries before emptying into the Rappahannock River west of Fredericksburg. The Rappahannock widens as it wanders eastward to the Chesapeake Bay.

“Shad are the foundation of the food chain in the Rapidan and essential to a healthy river and surrounding habitat. Removing the dam (or part of the dam) will open an area where these fish haven’t been able to go for more than 200 years,” Collins said.



Still, Collins, who has a background in historic preservation, appreciates the challenge of improving the river’s habitat and eco-system by altering a defining community characteristic.

“I don’t think those things have to be mutually exclusive. The fact that there’s been a mill and dam here for more than 200 years is not lost on us and, working with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and a preservation consultant, we’ll do everything practicable and reasonable to preserve that history. It’s possible we may be able to save parts of the dam while creating the fish passage. That’s just one of many studies we’ll be doing over the next 12 to 18 months.”

Earlier efforts to accommodate migratory fish passage have met with limited success. A small fish ladder adjacent to the mill is ineffective for shad and other species that migrate collectively as a school. Additionally, shad migrate primarily during periods of moderate to high-water flow, best achieved by a freely flowing Rapidan.

The \$7.9 million grant application divides the project into five phases over four years. During the first year, ACP and its contractor -- Ecotone, LLC -- will refine data, studies and analysis of site conditions, resources, opportunities, and constraints in advance of project design. As part of the preliminary project studies, ACP will engage with adjacent landowners, stakeholders, and the community through public outreach efforts. No demolition, construction, or restoration will occur during the first year while studies are completed.

ACP also has partnered with the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) for assistance with preliminary work regarding sediment and fisheries sampling. DWR has been monitoring migrating fish in the Rappahannock River system for decades and will track the progress of migratory fish expansion once a free-flowing Rapidan River is restored.



**American  
Climate  
Partners**

Rural resilience through environmental restoration

American Climate Partners is an entrepreneurial 501(c)(3) organization working since 2006 to restore the health of people, communities, and ecosystems. It designs, creates, and manages projects, programs, and businesses for rural America to provide natural solutions to restore climate and biodiversity. It is headquartered in the Rapidan Mill in Central Virginia.

The balance of the project -- and the bulk of the funding -- will be implementation of the approved design including site preparation and safety, dam removal, mill bank stabilization, riverbank stabilization, and restoration above and below the dam.

ACP already has taken the first substantial step in the project by appointing Dr. Shawn Young as Director of the Rapidan Institute and project lead.

**“Rapidan River Fish Passage Project”  
continues on the next page.**

## Rapidan River Fish Passage Project -- continued

For 30 years, Young has worked with varying agencies and academics, scientists, and stakeholders on fish passage, aquaculture, environmental, and habitat restoration projects. With a master's degree and a doctorate in fisheries sciences from Clemson University, Young brings a background of applied research and field implementation to the Rapidan project.

Having spent his career working in habitat restoration and fish population restoration and recovery, Young has worked the last 13 years in the Pacific Northwest where communities weighed the effects of dam removal in favor of healthier salmon populations.



Rapidan Mill and Dam  
from the State Rt. 615  
(Rapidan Road) bridge

“Salmon is another fish of major historical importance that was in decline. Dam removal was very controversial for a long time, but people said, ‘we don’t want to lose these fish.’ Now, dam removals in that area are accelerating and there are instances where the salmon are migrating through the project areas almost simultaneously to crews tearing out the concrete.”

A similar experience closer to home has Rapidan Fish Passage Project organizers optimistic about the impact of the upcoming project. In 2004, when the Embrey Dam was removed from the Rappahannock River downstream from the Rapidan Mill dam, DWR fisheries’ biologists documented hundreds of Hickory Shad and even some American Shad migrating through the rubble even before the dam was completely removed.

That experience and other dam removal success stories throughout Virginia illustrate the opportunity for the Rapidan Fish Passage Project to develop a more modern balance between the natural and human coexistence in the area.

“The fish populations have been in decline for a long time, but they were historically critical to the survival of Indigenous peoples, colonial settlers, and early Americans. It was no accident people settled and lived here. American shad, striped bass, river herring, eels are important not only because they go out to the bay and are eaten by other fish, but also because they’re essential to the mussels and other amphibians and organisms in fresh water rivers and streams. Those other organisms have their own histories and strategies for survival that rely on the shad and other fish. Dams and other obstacles over the years have blocked that dynamic and are one of the leading causes for fish population declines.”

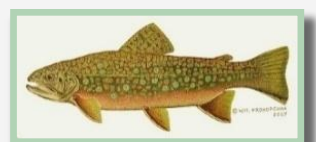
However, removing structures that no longer stimulate active economic activity can both improve the ecosystem and yield residual economic benefits through recreation, Young suggests. Whereas the dam once was an essential element in maximizing the economic impact of the river, removing it may be the modern equivalent. In that case, the natural and human worlds both benefit, he says.

“These structures, these places are historic. They’re part of the fabric of the community. We understand that and it’s important. Shad, stripers, herring, eel have also been part of that history. It’s difficult to say which is more important -- the natural or human history -- they’re both important and intertwined, but they’re starting to separate. These dams were vitally important in earlier times, but they’re not anymore. We need to change the paradigm of absolute and complete control of something to a more sustainable middle ground. Dam removal is an effective and affordable way to do that.”

Achieving that “middle ground” may be less quantifiable, but more intrinsically valuable.

“Professionally, we think this could make a huge difference. That’s why we’re pursuing it,” Young explains. “Everybody knows nature is not that healthy now. Fish populations have been declining and continue to decline. But just knowing that the rivers and the fish populations are healthy -- even for those who don’t fish or eat fish -- it helps to know that the fish are there and are healthier. It provides optimism. Removing the dam is a minor part, really, but add the benefit to the Rapidan and the Rappahannock and put it together with what folks are doing on the James, and the York rivers and the impact is significant on one of the most historically productive ecosystems in the world.”

For additional information on ACP and the Rapidan Fish Passage Project, visit [americanclimatepartners.org](http://americanclimatepartners.org) or contact Dr. Shawn Young at [shawn@americanclimatepartners.org](mailto:shawn@americanclimatepartners.org).



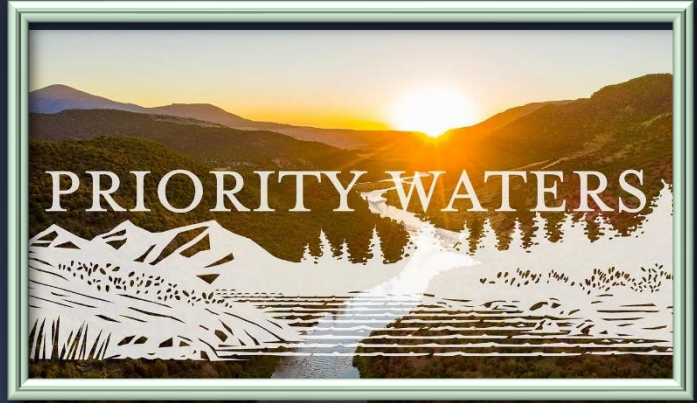


# Winchester TU

## Priority Waters

### Report:

## 9 January 2025



The 9 January 2025 Zoom meeting for the Priority Waters team was a productive one. Eight team members participated, as well as Forest Service fisheries biologist, Dawn Kirk.

Team Leader, Mike Makufka, called the group to order and commenced discussion about the need for new equipment for one of the group's first field initiatives, barrier assessment. All agreed with Mike's view that two new sets of assessment measuring gear should be acquired. While Mike M. is currently the only team member trained in formal barrier assessment technique, others will be able to take training and achieve certification at a future Forest Service training. One of the vital first steps in addressing the ecological needs of both Little Passage Creek and Mill Run at Veach's Gap is developing accurate and up-to-date information on stream barriers that may pose significant problems to native Brook Trout movement.

The team will also acquire five HOBO Tidbit data loggers for monitoring water temperatures. The current plan is to deploy two units at Mill Run, one near the mouth of the stream and one further upstream (possibly near a spring). The three loggers for Little Passage will be arrayed at an existing Forest Service sample site, and in the headwaters above Strasburg Reservoir. The third site will be determined later. Mike Makufka noted to the group that Dawn Kirk had provided him with the Forest Service monitoring sites for the two streams, and that Tedd Gimber could add those sites to the project maps. Tedd is assembling for the group.

The group discussed and agreed that quarterly monitoring of stream pH and Dissolved Oxygen at the National Forest sites would be essential for the overall project and Mike M. shared that he would approach the chapter Board with a funding request to secure the necessary testing apparatus. Since equipment placement will likely require access to portions of the Forest that are seasonally gated, Mike M. and Dawn Kirk agreed to approach the District Forester's office to arrange for necessary access.

Mike Makufka indicated he would share the detailed data sets Dawn had provided with Tedd Gimber so that he could incorporate information to the project maps he is assembling for the shared Google Drive (a project site Dave Juth had created expressly for the team).

Mike also advised the group that Zach Mondry, Forest Service hydrologist, hopes to make a site visit sometime in late January, if conditions permit (as of the third week of January, favorable weather remains elusive). He also queried if the group would like to see the Priority waters efforts linked on the chapter's web page — there was a consensus this could be valuable to overall project success.

Team leader Makufka concluded the Zoom gathering by adding that he is spearheading development of a calendar of workdays and meetings for the team, and that this calendar can be incorporated into the overall chapter calendar. He added that the strategic project plan is nearing completion and will include an implementation strategy as well as timelines and goals.

The Priority Waters team's next meeting will be at 6:00 p.m., Thursday, 6 February 2025, at Shenandoah Lodge, prior to the regular Winchester Chapter monthly meeting at 7:00.



## Bud on the Run:

**The next workday is set for Saturday, 8 February 2025 at 10:00 AM weather permitting.**

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

by Bud Nagelvoort

My truck has only 160,000 gentle miles on it and should last as long as I do. It easily made it back and forth to Winchester today including navigating my driveway on the way and on the way back without a hitch. I just need to keep it and me from running out of gas. The clutch has always been a challenge for people with unusually short legs. (I don't mean to point this out related to anyone in particular even if they can do a lively fox trot.)

By the way, I had a conflict on Saturday, 1 February, and did not plan on a Redbud work session accordingly. How's that for an article for the newsletter? Brief and to the point as a lovely reflection of my intellect

Tight lines and singing reels ---  
Bud





EST. PROJECT 2005  
HEALING WATERS

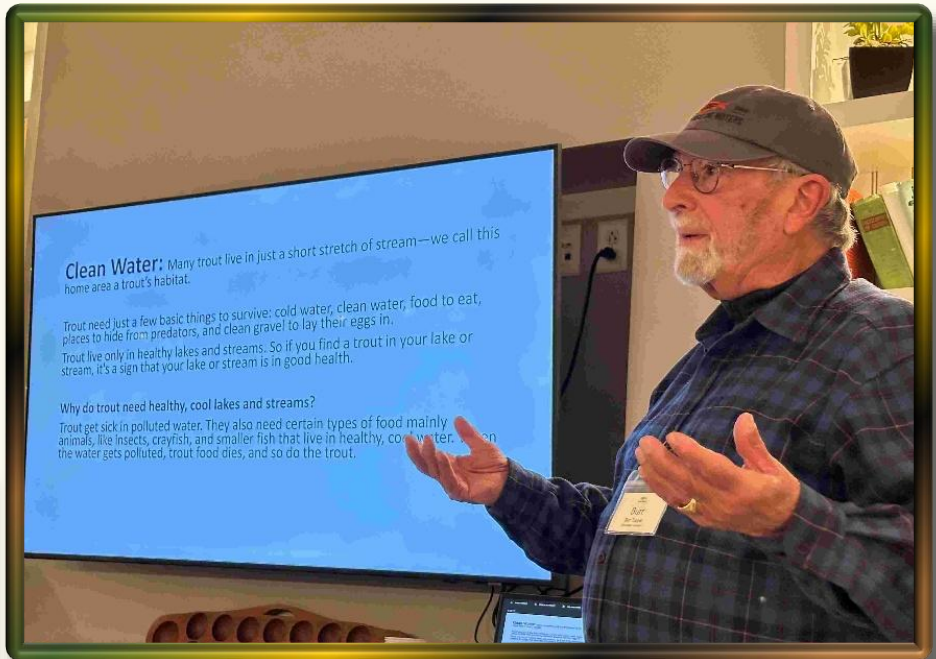
# WINCHESTER HEALING WATERS KICKS OFF 2025 WITH A BUSY JANUARY

by Wayne White

Winchester Healing Waters began the New Year with a very busy January. In addition to the regular monthly meeting, Veterans participated in rod-building classes and additional fly-tying classes and attended the Virginia Fly-Fishing and Wine Festival.

## MONTHLY MEETINGS, NEW APPROACH

In an attempt to offer more training classes this year at the Wednesday monthly meetings, Veterans and volunteers had their choice of fly-tying, an educational presentation, and an indoor casting clinic at the January meeting. This is a new approach for regular meetings in the winter months.



**Right:** Burr Tupper talks about water conditions in his “Locating Fish” presentation.

photo by Wayne White

At the 8 January meeting, Burr Tupper presented an informative discussion on locating trout in streams and how to properly present flies to fish-feeding locations. Burr focused on the basics of approaching the stream, reading the water, and watching for feeding patterns. He described some simple and helpful hints on tactics, techniques, and procedures when fishing different streams with varying flows and conditions. Participants and volunteers were provided with those slides the next day.

Dave Harrelson led another fly-tying session, focusing on techniques to create a productive stone fly nymph. This fly is another classic bug of this year’s “building the fly box” program approach for fly tying. In addition to pattern recipes, Dave and Phil Stevens are organizing materials for participants to have at home to continue tying on their own time.



As part of this year’s train-the-trainer clinics, Jackson Dierberg and Jim White used the Shenandoah Lodge event room during the meeting as an indoor casting area, providing program volunteers with tips on teaching fly casting. The session focused on teaching basic casting techniques and making consistent, constructive corrections that effectively improve an individual’s casting form. The event room is convenient for casting training until the weather permits returning to the lawn on the backside of the lodge.

**Left:** Jackson Dierberg (r) gives volunteer Ken Seroka some tips on instructing the proper pickup to start a back cast.

photo by Wayne White

“Winchester PHW” continues on the next page.





EST. PROJECT 2005  
HEALING WATERS

## WINCHESTER HEALING WATERS – CONTINUED

### 2025 VIRGINIA FLY-FISHING AND WINE FESTIVAL WOMEN'S SYMPOSIUM

Winchester participant Christina Nelson attended the Women's Symposium "Beyond the Cast" as part of the 24th Annual Virginia Fly Fishing & Wine Festival, January 10 through 11 at The Meadow Events Park. This was the second year a Winchester women veteran represented the Virginia region at this event held for only its second year.

"Beyond the Cast Women's Fly Fishing Symposium" offered a wide variety of intermediate to advanced fly-fishing programming developed specifically for women and taught by experts nationwide. Classes were taught by women and designed for women fly anglers.



Classes this year included *DUN* magazine's Jen Ripple on the history of women in fly fishing, Orvis legend Rom Rosenbauer on prospecting for Trout and how to find fish even when "nothing" is going on, USA Women's Fly-Fishing Team member Julie Mattson on rigging and nymphing, and casting instructor (and professional entomologist) Callie Freeman on "Bugs 101."

The forum was a wealth of fly-fishing information for Christina and a great experience overall. Besides enjoying the information and learning from the classes, particularly Callie Freeman's bug class, the event provided new opportunities to connect with other women anglers.

The number of women taking up fly fishing has grown significantly. Trout Unlimited and other fly-fishing organizations have recently witnessed substantial growth in membership. However, women do not have the number of other female fly anglers with whom to connect.

**Top Right:** Christina (r) meets with Josh Miller, a member of Fly-Fishing Team USA and coach for the Fly-Fishing USA Youth Team on the exhibit floor at the Virginia Fly Fishing and Wine Festival. Josh runs Trout Yeah, a guide service out of Pittsburgh, PA.

**Above Left:** Christina (r) talks with Cade Bailey, owner of Dead Drift Fishing and Winchester PHW Volunteer, about his latest fly creations he tied during the VA FF and Wine Festival.

both photos by Christian Nelson

"The number of women learning to fly fishing is growing," Christina said, "but as we learned in the classes at the forum, they are not staying with the sport because there aren't many groups for them to fish with. Trying to find other women to fish with is difficult. And women fishing by themselves is not safe."

Through those discussions, Christina found a group among the symposium attendees organizing a contact list to plan fishing trips. "For me, the symposium was a great way to connect with these other women fly anglers," she noted. "We're looking forward to getting out on the water and using some of the information we learned."

Festival Director Beau Beasley said this year saw the largest turnout of patrons and vendors for the festival, which is the largest event of its kind in the country. Historically, The festival attracts fly anglers and vendors from across the United States and the Mid-Atlantic.

**"Winchester PHW" continues on the next page.**





EST. PROJECT 2005  
HEALING WATERS

# WINCHESTER HEALING WATERS – CONTINUED

## BUILDING YOUR OWN FLY ROD

article and photos by Wayne White

Winchester Veterans Charles “Doc” Smith, Heather Wright, Erwin Casto, and Cole Bradshaw took on the challenge of building a fly rod during four sessions at Jake’s Bait and Tackle in Winchester.

Under the tutelage of volunteer instructors Luke Robins, Jim White, and Phil Stevens, participants learned basic rod-building skills necessary to complete a rod from a kit supplied by Project Healing Waters during sessions held on four consecutive Saturdays beginning in January.

During the first session on 11 Jan, Luke provided an overview of the process and detailed information on the various fly rod pieces and parts. From their rod-building experience, Luke and Phil gave the participants a greater understanding and appreciation of the process.

Jim further explained that the instructions detailed a step-by-step process that included locating and marking the spine of each rod section, winding arbors to fit up the reel seats, and reaming grips in preparation for epoxying them into place.

After discussing rod guide placement, each section was marked, and participants placed the ten guides on each of the four-rod sections. Each rod kit has a spare tip, and those sections were also marked. The next step was to prepare rod guide feet before wrapping the guide onto the rod blank. Luke demonstrated the wrapping of a rod guide. Each participant left the first session with their rod, a wrapper setup, and the necessary thread and tools to begin wrapping guides at home.

Doc, Heather, Cole, and Erwin returned to Jake’s on Saturday, 18 Jan, with their rods and having wrapped the guides at home. Luke and Jim inspected the group’s homework and made some adjustments. The Veterans then prepared the rods for setting up the reel seat and grip with epoxy. According to Luke, the group learned the initial skills quickly, as evidenced by the excellent installation of the ten guides.



**Above:** Luke Robins (r) checks Doc’s spacing for his guides before correcting a wrap.

**Left:** Jim White (r) checks Heather’s epoxy mix before she prepares the rod for the handle placement.

“Winchester PHW”  
continues on the next  
page.





EST. PROJECT 2005  
HEALING WATERS

## BUILDING YOUR OWN FLY ROD – CONTINUED



**Above:** Cole Bradshaw (l) gets some extra help from Luke, adjusting the thread tension while correcting a guide wrap.

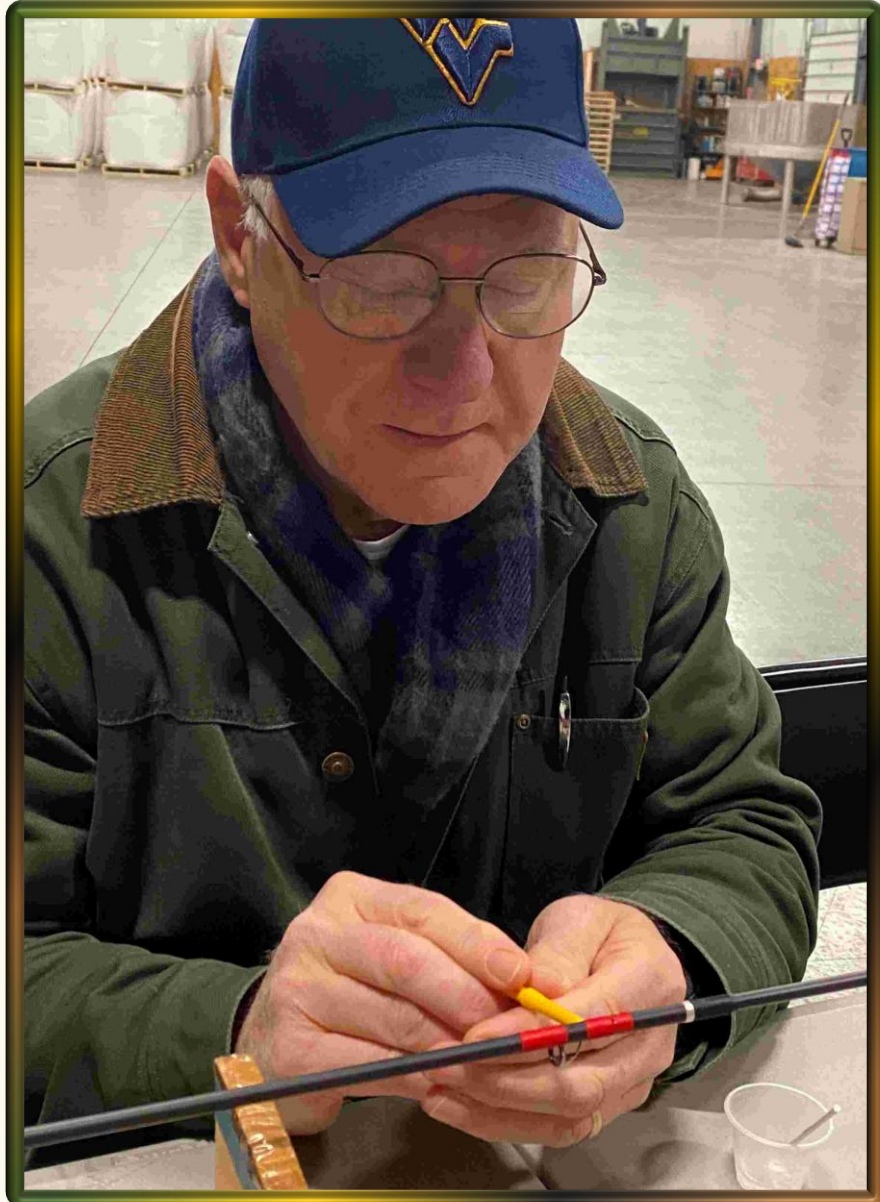
**Right:** Erwin carefully applies the first coat of epoxy to the guides on his rod.

During session three on 25 Jan, the group began applying the Flex-coat to the guide wraps. After the Flex-coat application, the rods were placed on the rod turners for 24 hours to set up. Participants repeated the same process during session four on 1 Feb.

Since participants finished the rods before the deadline for this edition of Lateral Lines, photos of the new rods will be featured next month. Jim, Luke, and the new rod builders will present the rods and discuss the process at the monthly meeting on 12 February.

According to Jim, the rod building not only gives participants a new rod, but they now have the required skills necessary to continue building rods as a hobby. As Luke also noted, "catching a fish on a rod that you built is a great feeling!"

We want to thank *Jake's Bait and Tackle* for supporting this class and providing the space and time to allow the completion of these rods.





# WINCHESTER PROGRAM UPDATE FEBRUARY 2025



EST. PROJECT 2005  
**HEALING WATERS**

The Winchester Project Healing Waters program will hold its monthly meeting on Wednesday, February 12, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm, at the Shenandoah Lodge, Lake Frederick. This meeting will include fly-tying, a casting clinic, a presentation on rod building and the Women's Symposium at the recent Virginia Fly-Fishing and Wine Festival.

As part of the continuing fundraiser, Jakes Bait and Tackle still has the new Winchester Healing Waters Program T-shirt available. This special one-time offer features Dan Soper's original artwork of a Brook Trout Charles "Doc Smith" caught. The Brookie is prominently displayed on the back under a banner, "Shenandoah National Park." The T-shirt is \$23.99, and \$2.00 for each sale will be donated to PHW.

The following fly-fishing activities and events, tentatively scheduled for 2025 and subject to change, are for our veterans' ongoing education and skill development.

## February

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

## March

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

## April

- 9 – Monthly Meeting
- 11 - 13 – Virginia Region Wild Trout Trips, Shenandoah National Park
- 11 - 13 Virginia Elks Youth Camp Outing with Fredericksburg PHW
- 26 – PHW Beaver Creek Invitational (Ottobine, Virginia)
- 26 – Fishing Outing at Lake Neff, Izaak Walton, Winchester (T)

## May

- 3 -- Fishing Outing at Lake Neff, Izaak Walton, Winchester (T)
- 7-9 – Virginia Regional Fishing Outing -- Back Creek, Bath County
- 14 – Monthly Meeting
- 17 – Leetown Fishing Outing
- 28 – 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**.

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## Barbara's Books

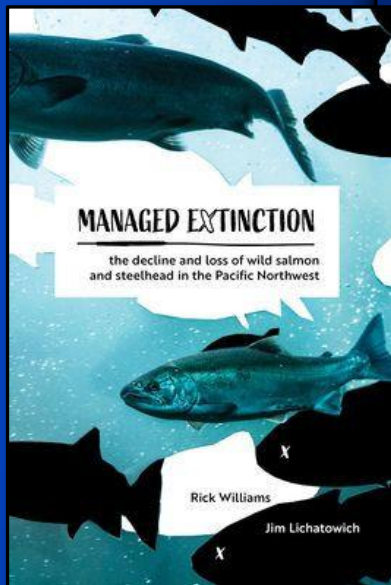
Compiled by Barbara Gamble

### **Managed Extinction: The Decline and Loss of Wild Salmon and Steelhead in the Pacific Northwest**

Authors: Rick Williams and Jim Lichatowich  
 Hardcover: 555 Pages  
 ISBN-10: 0870046497  
 ISBN-13: 978-0870046490  
 Publisher: Caxton Press  
 Publication Date: Standard Edition  
 11 November 2024

**Managed Extinction** describes the decline of wild salmon and steelhead in the Pacific Northwest over the last 150 years. Many populations are presently on the verge of extinction, particularly in Idaho's Snake River Basin. Widespread habitat alteration and mainstem dams on the Columbia and Snake rivers contributed to the decline of salmon and steelhead, but continued reliance on hatchery production to rebuild declining salmon runs rather than conservation measures has resulted in management leading to extinction. Restoration of imperiled upper basin salmon and steelhead populations requires removal of the four Lower Snake River dams, restoration of riverine ecological processes, and development of a new salmon management paradigm that focuses on ecological resilience and stewardship.

"In **Managed Extinction**, fisheries scientists Rick Williams and Jim Lichatowich provide a new vision for management and recovery of imperiled Pacific Northwest salmon and steelhead populations. Using real examples of success along with recent science, the authors show that salmon and steelhead recovery is possible but will require major changes in salmon management.



They present an ecologically based path to rebuild salmon and steelhead populations, including restoration of the Snake River and its irreplaceable spring/summer Chinook and summer steelhead. The well-written and researched book is invaluable and should influence concerned citizens, fisheries managers, and salmon management for years to come." Kurt Beardslee Co-Founder (1989), Executive Director (1991-2023) The Wild Fish Conservancy

Rick Williams is a PhD fisheries ecologist and Affiliated Scholar with the Department of Biology at The College of Idaho. His research and consulting focus on conservation of native steelhead, redband, and cutthroat trout in western North America.

Jim Lichatowich worked on Pacific salmon issues as a researcher, manager, and scientific advisor for more than 50 years. He specialized in the history of salmon management and the life history and status of salmon and steelhead populations, and the development of restoration plans in the Pacific Northwest.

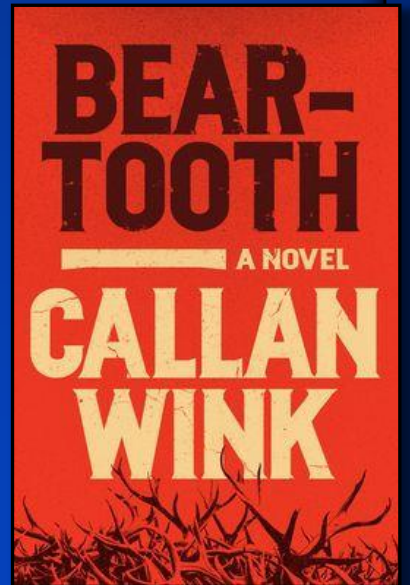
Sources: amazon.com and the publishers

### **Beartooth**

Author: Callan Wink  
 Hardcover: 286 pages  
 ISBN-10: 1954118023  
 ISBN-13: 978-1954118027  
 Publisher: Spiegel & Grau  
 Publication Date: 11 February 2025

In an aging, timber house hand-built into the Absaroka-Beartooth mountains, two brothers are struggling to keep up with their debts. They live off the grid, on the fringe of Yellowstone, surviving off the wild after the death of their father.

Thad, the elder, is more capable of engaging with things like the truck registration, or the medical bills they can't afford from their father's fatal illness, or the tax lien on the cabin their grandfather built, while Hazen is . . . different, more instinctual, deeply in tune with the natural world. Desperate for money, they are approached by a shadowy out-of-towner with a dangerous proposition that will change both of their lives forever.



**Beartooth** is a fast-paced tale with moments of surprising poignancy set in the grandeur of the American West. Evoking the timeless voices of American pastoral storytelling, this is a bracing, masterful novel about survival, revenge, and the bond between brothers.

"Wink, who is a fly-fishing guide on the Yellowstone River when he's not writing beautifully told short stories and novels, is a master craftsman: his dialogue is pitch perfect, his characters breathtakingly real, and the setting so vividly described it that we can feel the mud seeping into our socks and hear the water from the hole in the ceiling plinking into the metal bowl on the floor. A remarkable, memorable novel." —*Booklist*

"Callan Wink's **Beartooth** evokes the breathtaking beauty of Yellowstone in its tense exploration of the complicated love and survival of two brothers." —Shelf Awareness

Callan Wink has been awarded fellowships by the National Endowment for the Arts and Stanford University, where he was a Wallace Stegner Fellow. His stories and essays have been published in the *New Yorker*, *Granta*, *Playboy*, *Men's Journal*, and *The Best American Short Stories*.

He is the author of a novel, *August*, and a collection of short stories, *Dog Run Moon*. He lives in Livingston, Montana, where he is a fly-fishing guide on the Yellowstone River.

Sources: amazon.com and the publishers





# ANGLER REFLECTIONS



## Some Wishes for 2025 (or Recipes for Pie in the Sky)

article and photo by  
Michael Lawler Smith

Early each January people famously make “resolutions” for the New Year. I have arrived at a stage in life where “self-improvement” is likely either a lost cause, or simply the perennial realization I need more roughage in my diet.

So, for 2025, I turn my attention to the world around me. What needs improving? Okay, just about everything. But what would I like to see made better?



Remember a former Speaker of the House who served for the decade from 1977 to 1987? He had a famous line: “All politics is local.” A great line, and largely true. Back in the 1990’s, a colleague and I at the National Conservation Training Center “borrowed” and modified it: “All *conservation* is local.”

Alas, the field biologists we were tasked to enlighten on such arcane matters as how to write a news release, or why you shouldn’t slam a door in a reporter’s face, well, they never quite got the notion. Anonymity and media shyness suited our students to a T.

Nevertheless, this instructor fell prey to his own lesson. I think conservation *has* to start locally. And thus, below, I offer my wish list for 2025 — grand achievements that will occur nowhere in this year ahead:

- I would hope to see a focused effort (one that could enlist the Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) to visit and establish some type of cyclic monitoring of *all* the remaining native brook trout waters within Frederick County, VA. Starting in the far north and sweeping to the county’s southwest extreme, the effort would show some TLC for Bear Garden Run (fortunately, a portion of its watershed is protected by conservation easements), and proceed down along the flank of Great North Mountain to benefit the tributaries of Cedar Creek, including Richard’s Run, Duck Run, Laurel Run, and finally the headwaters of Paddy Run. A close perusal of Frederick County “topo” maps shows some enticing little blue squiggles flowing into nearly all of the above waters. Native brook trout present? Perhaps. In some years. But connectivity remains the essential key to keeping these very limited populations viable. Conservation easements could be very helpful, too.

- Wouldn’t it be great if some entity would conduct an inventory of fish species in Abrams Creek? The 25-acre Abrams Creek Wetland Preserve in Winchester is a local jewel of a wetland, justly protected and valued for not only its unique plant community by also for the exceptional diversity of visiting bird life throughout the year. But what do we know of its fishes — especially its original ichthyofauna? Very little. This writer has expended hours searching online leads to an inventory that just may never, ever have been done. True, we cannot go back in time. But, no time like the present to establish a new set of baseline data. Maybe an ad-hoc effort involving DWR and local educational institutions could craft a cooperative endeavor? In the meantime, this writer may reach out to a nearby West Virginia DNR native trout restoration biologist who has completed some remarkable work to restore brook trout in the Cacapon River basin. Perhaps he may work next in the nearby Opequon Creek drainage? If Opequon’s many spring tributaries hold or held natives, is it far-fetched to posit that Abrams may once have hosted them too?

- Finally, wouldn’t it be great, whilst we’re liberally spending DWR’s staff time and money, if its governing board would establish a genuine “two-fer” acquisition up here in Frederick County? How about along that rich riparian zone of Back Creek — where, by the way, the Potomac Conservancy has recognized the stream’s extraordinary ecological importance and now has a strategic land preserve. By “two-fer” I mean acquiring tracts using both Pittman-Robertson (federal aid in wildlife) and Dingell-Johnson (federal aid for sport fish restoration) funds to establish a linear riparian zone Wildlife Management Area. Its future value to Virginia, West Virginia, the Potomac River, and Chesapeake Bay could be exceptional. And how it would warm the hearts of warm-water fly anglers who dote on smaller streams and lesser-sought stream species! They would be endlessly grateful.

But, as I freely grant ... for 2025, it’s “pie in the shy.”



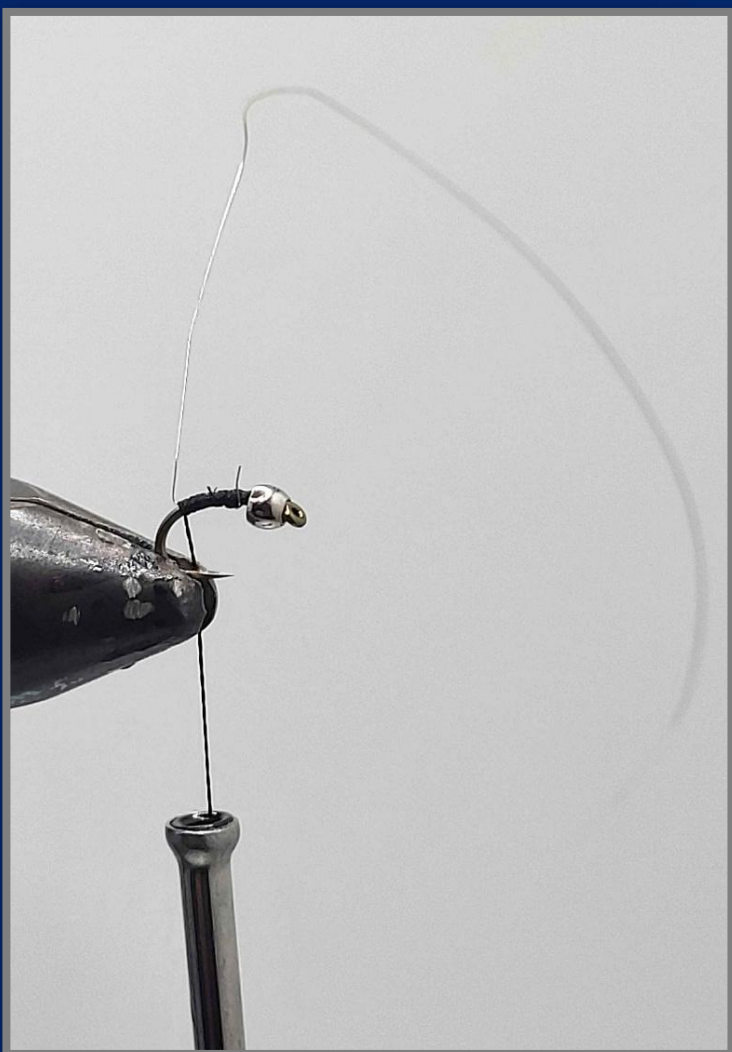


## My Trout Fly Box

### Recommended Winter Trout Flies: The Zebra Midge

Article and photos  
by Burr Tupper

During mid-December Mary and I decided to take a trip to Harmon's cabin on the North Fork of the South Branch of the Potomac in West Virginia. I have fished for both Steelhead and Trout during the Winter in less-than-ideal conditions, but I have to say that this trip was the worst that I have ever been on. Very high and fast water, very cold temperatures, snow, wind gusts of 30-40 miles per hour, and frozen guides on the rods contributed to the lack of caught fish.



And lastly, if you are fishing a streamer in the winter, you don't want to fish it like you do in the fall. Fish are not that active and slow strips with minimal action is required.

**“My Trout Fly Box”  
continues on the next page.**



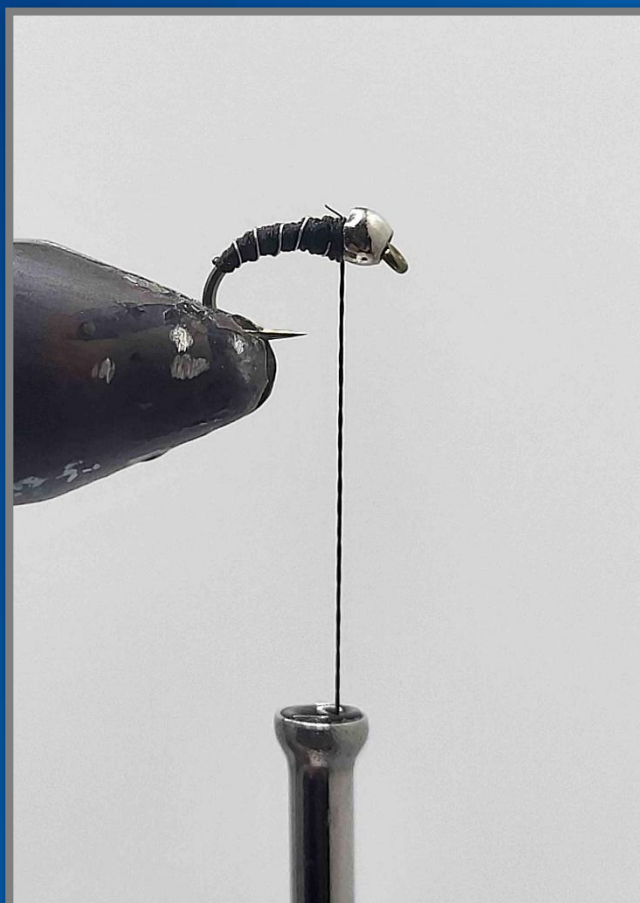
**The Zebra Midge**

However, we were equipped with many of my favorite winter flies that have proven successful in the past. These include: Zebra Midge, Pheasant-Tail Nymph, Rainbow Warrior, Estaz Egg, San Jaun Worm, Woolly Bugger, Parachute Adams, Griffith's Gnat, and small Stone Fly.

When fishing with nymphs in the winter you will want to fish two flies with a strike indicator. You can fish bead or non-bead nymphs depending on the water depth, but fish them with a dropper rig with the dropper being a 18-22 Zebra Midge.

I like a Pheasant Tail and Zebra Midge or Griffith's Gnat and Zebra Midge.

If you are fishing dry flies in the winter, use a dry dropper set up.





## My Trout Fly Box The Zebra Midge -- continued

### Zebra Midge is the go-to winter nymph

The Zebra Midge is a classic winter Trout fly that keeps on giving. It effectively imitates midge larvae which form the main part of the Trout's diet during the winter.

You should have size 18-22 in your box (I don't tie but buy sizes 20-22 as my fingers just don't work on anything smaller than size 18).

I tie them in black and red with tungsten beads with and without peacock herl collars. They are very easy to tie.



### Materials List

- Hook – Size 18-22 nymph or heavy scud hook
- Thread – Black or red
- Tungsten bead -- Silver for Black and gold for red versions
- Ultra wire (Small) – gold for red and silver for black versions
- Dubbing – Your call. Black ice dubbing or Peacock herl

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



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I have gathered my fishing gear together and have the following to donate:

3 fly rods  
1 fly reel  
Multiple flies  
1 fish net  
Miscellaneous fishing tools  
1 antique fly rod and reel  
3 rod travel cases  
1 backpacking fly rod case

I also have:

2 spinning rods and reels  
1 bait casting rod and reel  
1 tackle box with multiple baits  
Miscellaneous fishing gear and line  
Corner rod holder for display

This is the overview of what I would like to donate. If you want to meet and take a look at the gear, let me know a couple times and places that will work for you, and I will see if my schedule matches.

Mike A.  
Frederick Co., VA

Mike, Thanks for your donation of fishing equipment to Winchester TU. Our chapter president, Gene Lewis, has put the stuff you donated into storage for our next fishing-equipment auction.

The Editor







# ACFF 2025

The American Conservation Film Festival is coming **March 6 - 9, 2025**.

Enjoy four unforgettable days featuring 28 inspiring films that share stories of hope, resilience, and the individuals making a difference for our planet.

Experience these stories as they were meant to be seen -- on the big screen (with open captioning) surrounded by a community of passionate and curious individuals.

Engage with filmmakers and hear from special guest speakers, gaining behind-the-scenes insights and expertise.

All conveniently located at the **Frank Arts Center** on the campus of **Shepherd University** in Shepherdstown, WV with **FREE** and easy parking.

Click on this link to make your reservation.

<https://conservationfilmfest.org/>



## Winchester TU Monthly "BarFly" Events Wednesday, 19 February 2025, 7:00 PM Escutcheon Brewery, Commercial St., Winchester, V

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.



Skilled fly tyers Dave (l) and Luke were on hand at the last Winchester TU BarFly to demonstrate fly-tying techniques.

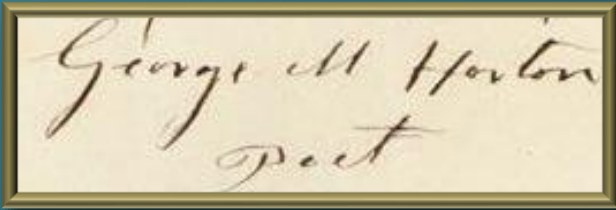




## Poet's Corner: Poems selected for the angler

### Meditation on a Cold, Dark, and Rainy Night

by *George Moses Horton*  
1872-1906  
U.S.A.



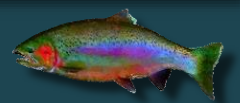
George Moses Horton was an enslaved man living in North Carolina and later in Philadelphia in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. There is no known photo or portrait of him, but there are two known signatures. Here is one of them.

To learn more about George Moses Horton please click on the links below.

[George Moses Horton - Wikipedia](#)

<https://www.npr.org/2017/09/30/554307300/silave-poets-lost-essay-on-individual-influence-resonates-through-centuries>

Sweet on the house top falls the gentle shower,  
When jet black darkness crowns the silent hour,  
When shrill the owlet pours her hollow tone,  
Like some lost child sequester'd and alone,  
When Will's bewildering wisp begins to flare,  
And Philomela breathes her dulcet air,  
'Tis sweet to listen to her nightly tune,  
Deprived of star-light or the smiling moon.  
When deadly winds sweep round the rural shed,  
And tell of strangers lost, without a bed,  
Fond sympathy invokes her dol'rous lay,  
And pleasure steals in sorrow's gloom away,  
Till fost'ring Somnus bids my eyes to close,  
And smiling visions open to repose;  
Still on my soothing couch I lie at ease,  
Still round my chamber flows the whistling breeze,  
Still in the chain of sleep I lie confined,  
To all the threat'ning ills of life resign'd,  
Regardless of the wand'ring elf of night,  
While phantoms break on my immortal sight.  
The thump of morning bids my slumbers end,  
While from a flood of rest I straight ascend,  
When on a busy world I cast my eyes,  
And think of nightly slumbers with surprise.





# 2025 Calendar of Events Winchester Trout Unlimited

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

## Thursday, 6 February 2025

7:00 PM – Winchester TU monthly meeting  
Rachel's Kitchen, Shenandoah Lodge,  
Lake Frederick, VA

## Thursday, 6 February 2025

6:00 PM -- Winchester TU Priority Waters Meeting  
Rachel's Kitchen, Shenandoah Lodge,  
Lake Frederick, VA

## Saturday, 8 Februar 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

## Thursday, 1 May 2025

7:00 PM – Winchester TU monthly meeting

## Saturday, 3 May 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, 21 May 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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