Winchester Trout Unlimited
Chapter # 638

Lateral Lines

Winchester TU Newsletter

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From the Prez

by Stan Ikonen

The Prez is currently “outreaching” at the TU Tri-State Fishing & Conservation Camp, so his words of wisdom will be heard by all attendees at the July chapter meeting on Thursday the 7th.

And speaking of that meeting, Capt. Ed Lawrence will be our special guest speaker -- Ed runs a shallow water, light tackle, fly fishing guide service called “Speckulater Charters” out of Gloucester VA [www.speckulatercharters.com]. He fishes the beautiful estuarine waters of the Chesapeake Bay's Middle Peninsula and Northern Neck, and is very knowledgeable about the speckled trout in these waters and this fishery. He has lived in Gloucester Co. since 1971, spending the first 11 years working at the VA Institute of Marine Science as a field technician, operating their boats and learning these waters. His love of fishing the area started at this time and continues to grow today.

The meeting will start at 7:00 PM at the Gander Mountain Store in Winchester, and Capt. Ed will give a presentation/slideshow about this type of fishing followed by a tying demo on two flys that he uses often.

Dinner at IJ Canns at 5:30 PM, 3111 Valley Ave, Winchester, VA 22602
Meeting at 7 PM in the Lodge at Gander Mountain, 160 Commonwealth Ct, Winchester, VA 22602

Chapel Run

by Bud Nagelvoort

Chapel Run Update

As several CR stalwarts are aware, three weeks ago a microburst struck in the vicinity of Ellerslie Farm and caused the annihilation of a giant sycamore, a big limb off another sycamore, and the collapse of a big box elder limb, all in a stretch just upstream of Red Tire V and downstream from Christmas Tree V. The big syc took out the telephone pole on the south side of the stream.

Consequently, on four or five occasions since there have been crews of one, two and three members attacking the mess.

At this time the channel has been essentially cleared except for the area just above Old Feeder V where the main trunk of the big syc landed on top of the V. Terry's big saw has been hard at work there. The 30' x 12' circumference long stem while still hanging on to the side of the bank above the stream is about

ready to descend into shallow water and help to fill the silty, backwater behind the wing dams there. that segment of wood probably weighs ten tons.

Needless to say, there are many bank protection logs growing out of the mess. Most of the smaller segments have already been cabled to spaces next to the banks behind the big logs below Christmas Tree V placed two years ago from the previous syc catastrophes caused by trunk fire damage and wind. Dave and Bill have found excitement away from home in tackling this challenge along with Terry and yours truly. As Bill has suggested, it is a nice switch from moving rocks.

Which leads to exciting news! I hauled a load of rocks from the Perry quarry on June 30th to the north side of the stream just below Christmas Tree V to top the bank protection logs and hold them in place. While turning around at the old rock dump at Rockpile V where Patrick Bell had cleaned up the old dump a few weeks ago, I discovered, you guessed it, Bill, a wonderful assortment of giant boulders muscled by Patrick and his big Bobcat into the edge of the woods along the stream. They are ready to be diving-boarded or dragged by heavy cable down the bank and into place.

Fish. Fish are what this is all about, right? I'm exploring with Greenspring Hatchery in PA the possibility of getting some more big browns to stock in the segment from Sycamore Root to Rainbow Bend including particularly the long, deep new channel below Christmas Tree and the newly created deep cover from the bridge to the dam.

In doing so, I'm thinking the feeder at McAllister II is still in a good location, but the feeder at the dam needs to be moved up to Bluebell V. Mark, are you listening? [*Editors note: there's no one here by that name……..*]

There has been no sighting of the Otter since we've been working in his previous territory these past three weeks, so I'm hoping he has departed. As you may be aware, I am eternally optimistic by nature.

Chapel Run Work Session July 9th

We'll plan on a 7:30 AM starting time because of the hot weather or even earlier if that is the consensus at the meeting.

Think big. Big chain saw, big pulley system, big 6 ton come-along, big logs to cut and move, big boulders to size up.

BYOWater. "Off" and soda provided.

Trout in the Classroom

by Mark Zimmerman

Hopefully, the brookies in Redbud Run are growing, and we're looking forward to another great TIC year in 2011/2012. We received our grant monies from the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund, and we'll be ordering some new/replacement equipment soon.

Entomology

by Carl Rettenberger

This is the final article on benthic macro invertebrate which you are likely to encounter on your trips in pursuit of the wary trout. Like Alderflies, Hellgrammites, Dobsonflies and Fishflies are of the Order: Megaloptera but are in the Family:Corydalidae not Sialidae. You may notice that Alderflies fold their wings back, "tent wise" like the Caddisfly, but their wings are more transparent and most Alderflies are larger than the normal Caddisfly.

Well, I hope you enjoyed these articles and maybe even learned something about the food that your prey needs for survival – I know I have.

Alderflies

Classification

Order: Megaloptera; **Family**: Sialidae; **Subfamily**: Sialinae; **Genus**: Sialis.

Lifecycle

All alderflies have a lifecycle that includes a complete metamorphosis with only the larval stage being aquatic. Commonly, in late spring and early summer (May/June for species *Sialis lutaria* and *S. fuliginosa*, *S. mohri* and *S. vegans*) adults can be found amongst, or otherwise close to, bank side vegetation of ponds, lakes, reservoirs and slower reaches of streams and rivers. Here the female lays her

eggs on plants overhanging the water or on emergent vegetation. A single female will lay many hundreds of eggs in a neat cluster. *S. lutaria* and *S. fuliginosa* lay up to two thousand eggs.

Upon hatching, usually a week or two after the eggs are laid, the young larvae crawl or drop into the water where they seek out a substrate of decaying vegetation and other detritus. Concealed in their lentic habitat, many species living in burrows, the larvae develop through as many as 11 instars reaching the end of their final instar after a period of between 9 months and just under 3 years. *S. lutaria* and *S. fuliginosa*mature in around 23 months. In spring, mature larvae crawl from the water onto dry land where they pupate in damp earth, under rocks and plant litter. Pupation takes a few weeks, after which the next generation of alderflies emerge.

Distribution

While alderflies are distributed across all the continents they are most common in regions with temperate climates. Species in Euope include *Sialis lutaria* and *S. fuliginosa* both of which are very common. In the UK these species populate typical habitat throughout. There are 23 species of alderfly in North America, two are *S. vegans* and *S. mohri*. North American alderflies are most densely distributed in the central and eastern states. Australian species include *Stenosialis australiensis*, and*Austrosialis ignicollis*; distribution is concentrated in the east.

Identification

The adult alderfly averages 10-20mm in length (head to tip of abdomen) with a wingspan of 22-34mm. Its overall colouration is black or dark brown. It has four translucent dark grey or brown hairless wings with distinct dark veins; at rest these are held over the body tent fashion, not unlike a caddis. The alderfly has a broad head similar in diameter to its thorax and abdomen. Either side of the head is one small eye. The alderfly lacks any ocelli a characteristic that distinguishes it from the dobsonflies (Order: Megaloptera, Family: Corydalidae, Genus: Corydalinae) which have three. The antennae of the alderfly extend from the front of the head just above the mouth parts; they are segmented and similar in length to the abdomen. Adult alderflies may be distinguished from the stoneflies by complete absence of tail elements.

Alderfly larvae average 17mm in length though commonly reach 25mm. They are more or less dark brown in colour on their dorsal surface, and cream coloured on their ventral surface. The larvae are more or less cigar shaped, with a head as broad as the thorax, and with pronounced pincer-like jaws. The thorax and abdomen are segmented. The head and thorax are heavily sclerotized while the abdomen is relatively soft. Abdominal sections 1-7 carry two segmented lateral breathing filaments (one at either side), while the caudal section carries a single tapered axial filament. The breathing filaments are fringed with small hairs. Alderfly larvae may be distinguished from the dobsonfly and caddisfly larvae by the absence of anal hooks.

Fishing opportunities

At all times alderfly larvae may be vulnerable to predators as they leave their burrows in search of prey. However, in the few weeks prior to migration they become more active, crawling amongst the detritus,

preying upon other insects. Before they are secure in their pupal chambers, this activity and the final migratory passage from water to dry land, a journey sometimes spanning hundreds of metres, especially exposes them to predation. In the UK, throat pump and stomach samples show that trout are amongst the predators that take advantage of this stage in the alderfly's lifecycle and some fish feed selectively on alderfly larvae at this time. From early spring, fishing an artificial larvae in the slower reaches of rivers and streams can prove very effective. Fishing the margins of ponds, lakes and reservoirs can also prove very effective, though if fishing while afloat don't neglect the water beyond the bank angler's casting range.

Sexually mature alderflies often emerge from their pupal cases under cover of darkness, whereupon males and females seek one another out. Mating takes place with the insects clinging to foliage and other plant structure, or on the ground away from the water. Aided by their characteristic weak flying and with the help of a strong breeze, during their nuptial activities some flies may fall onto the water. Where numbers of swamped flies are large enough, fish will key in on them as prey items. Though this scenario is considered uncommon in the UK, in other countries, including the US, falls of alderflies that attract the fishes attention occur more frequently, making the presentation of a suitable artificial a worthwhile tactic. And hey, never say never UK anglers, keep your eyes open late spring and if you do come across that odd fish that's put alderflies on the menu, a dark **elk hair caddis** or a spent caddis pattern should deceive your quarry.

About the author: Raif Killips is the editor of Fly Fishers' Republic. He's been fly-fishing and tying for over thirty years. His home waters are the clear streams of the Peak District National Park.

Quick Facts

Artificials: **Elk Hair Caddis**, Ombudsman, **Woolly Bugger**, **PTN**.

Tactics: Present an artificial larva on or close to the bottom. Use a slow hand twist or figure eight retrieve. Fish in the weeks prior to pupation in early spring, when the larvae become more active. You can fish a dry fly or waterlogged pattern during the hatch but only expect success when you know for sure the fish are feeding on the adults - just because you can see alderflies on the bank doesn't mean they're on the water or that the fish are feeding on them.

Bibliography:

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Image Credits:

On The Fly

by Carl Rettenberger

I'll be bringing in the videos again for those of you who may want to view them. I would also ask those of you who have already borrowed some of them to return them so that others have a chance to view them.

Rental fees are $2.00 per video for one month, with all proceeds going to the Chapter's treasury.

Here's a list of videos we have available:

Steelheading Made Simple by Jerry Darkes & Brian Flechsig (Fishing the Erie tributaries for steelhead)

Cool Flies for Hot Fish by Jerry Darkes & Brian Flechsig (Tying Steelhead flies for the Erie tributaries)

Steelhead Flies by Jeff "Bear" Andrews

Volume I -The Tying Techniques of Bob Clouser & Lefty Kreh

Volume II -The Tying Techniques of Bob Clouser & Lefty Kreh

Volume I - Fly Tyers Masterclass by Oliver Edwards

Volume II - Fly Tyers Masterclass by Oliver Edwards

Volume III - Fly Tyers Masterclass by Oliver Edwards

Fly Fishing Success -The Fundamentals by Joe Humphreys

A Casting Approach to Dry Fly Tactics in Tight Brush by Joe Humphreys

A Casting Approach to Nymphing Techinques by Joe Humphreys

Tying with Rainy's Float Foam by Rainy Riding

Practical Atlantic Salmon Flies by Dick Talleur

The River Vatnsdalsa, Iceland (Atlantic salmon and brown trout fishing)

Lefty Kreh on Fly Casting (DVD)

Essence of Fly Casting - Volumes I & II by Mel Krieger

Here's a picture from Bill Prokopchak of a size 28 midge pattern that he tied recently – I'd eat it if I was a trout!

Fishing Trips

Fish with a Member (or.....Let's Hook Up Together)

by Fred Boyer

The next chapter fishing trip will be on Saturday, July 23, and we'll float the main stem of the Shenandoah River for smallmouth bass. Meet at the Route 50 bridge at 7:00 AM, and we'll work out drop-off and pick-up vehicles from there. Please contact Fred Boyer at fred@boyersnet.com if you plan on attending.

Other trips planned for the remainder of the year include:

- Aug/Sept-Striper trip to bay?
- Saturday October 8- Chapel Run fishing contest and work day
- Tuesday November 9-Friday November 11-- Steelhead Erie, PA (The date is one week later than in the past two years in hopes of better water.)

Other News

Check out the Cacapon Institute Website

This news item was submitted by Carl Rettenberger, and is included in this newsletter again for purposes of general interest:

Friends,

You need to check out the latest addition to the Cacapon Institute web-site, it's absolutely awesome!! Just click on the links below. And no, even though I'm very familiar with Dumpling Run, I did not ace the test, but I totally enjoyed taking it.

From: **Neil Gillies at CI**
Hello all.

I thought you might like to know that Dumpling Run is about to become famous. It's the first stream to be profiled in our new Virtual Stream Sampler activity at CI's Potomac Highlands Watershed School, an eSchool serving the k-12 and broader environmental education community in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

A Virtual Stream Sampler is a realistic simulation of a volunteer stream assessment. It includes water quality measurements, habitat assessments, and benthic macroinvertebrate collections.

Go to any of the classrooms at http://www.cacaponinstitute.org/e_classroom.htm , click on the BMI poster, and then select A Virtual Stream Sampler to give it a try.

Tim Craddock has been helping review it for us, and he says: "This is a GREAT, GREAT, GREAT activity." I think so too. There is nothing like it anywhere but our eSchool.

Neil

Neil Gillies
Executive Director
Cacapon Institute
PO Box 68
High View, WV 26808
www.cacaponinstitute.org
ngillies@cacaponinstitute.org
tele: 304-856-1385
fax: 304-856-1386

From the Cacapon to the Potomac to the Chesapeake Bay, we protect rivers and watersheds using science and education.

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