



Lateral Lines

Volume 13, Issue 2

March 2008

Newsletter for the Winchester Chapter of Trout Unlimited

www.winchestertu.org

March Chapter Activities:

Thursday, Mar. 6th

6:30 PM – BYOD (Bring Your Own Dinner), social time and fish story/lie-telling-session

7:00 PM – Chapter Meeting

**Location: Gander Mountain Store Winchester, VA
251 Commonwealth Ct
Winchester, VA 22602
(540) 868-9312**

For up to date Meeting information and directions go to: <http://www.winchestertu.org/Meetings.htm>

Saturday Mar. 15th

Chapel Run work session: 9am-12pm

New Website:

Winchester TU has a new and improved website for our chapter www.winchestertu.org. You can find info on all the issue that our chapter is currently involved. Issues like Redbud Run, Trout in the Classroom, and other info regarding chapter meetings and work sessions. You will also be able to find all the old and new issues of the newsletter. We have a few pictures of fish and Chapel Run work sessions. Currently there is a forum for fishing reports and Trout in the Classroom, but we are currently moving this forum from a free hosting site to our new site soon.

The new forum will be better and have a calendar that will have all the upcoming chapter events listed. We will also have a new photo gallery that anyone can upload photos and create custom galleries for everyone to see. Everyone will be able to comment and vote on all the photos as well. Please check the site out often because we are still fine tuning all of the content. If you see something or don't see something that you think would be useful please sent an e-mail to the webmaster @ Charlie@winchestertu.org.

Trout in the Classroom

By Mark Zimmerman

The brook trout fingerling at Frederick County Middle School and James Wood and Millbrook High Schools are doing well and growing nicely. The largest fry are close to 3 inches long, with plump bellies and prominent parr marks. The stream bed rocks from Redbud Run seem to have stabilized the tank environment at James Wood, and we've now transferred two batches of fish from FCMS to JWHS (a total of about 35 trout).

When we transferred the second batch of fish, we had an interesting demonstration of the effect of tank environment on coloration -- the first batch of fingerlings, which had been in the tank at JWHS for about 3 weeks, were much darker in appearance than the fish that we put in last week, even though they were all about the same size. Most of the Batch One fish had very dark parr marks, while the Batch Two's had lighter marks and a more tan-ish coloration. The tank at JWHS is in a classroom which opens to an interior hallway, and there are no windows at all, just fluorescent lights. At FCMS, the classroom has an outward-facing wall which is entirely windowed, and there is a lot of natural sunlight. We suspect that the differences in coloration are due to exposure, or lack thereof, to sunlight - we'll see how long it takes the Batch Two fish to change and match the Batch One gang.

8th Annual Virginia Fly Fishing Festival

By Mark Zimmerman

Make plans now to attend the 8th Annual Virginia Fly Fishing Festival on April 19-20, 2008. Held on the banks of the South River in Waynesboro, the Virginia Fly Fishing Festival is the largest fly fishing event in the state and draws anglers from across the Mid-Atlantic. Here's where you can learn all the latest techniques and gear and then walk right over to the river and try them for yourself.

The highlight of the weekend is the Festival VIP Dinner, where this year's recipient of the Virginia Fly Angler of the Year Award will be announced. Tickets for the dinner are \$35 apiece and sell out well in advance of the festival. Last year many attendees also enjoyed small group casting classes with Bob Clouser, which are back again, so don't miss out. The \$75 fee includes admission to the festival.

Noted fly anglers from across the mid-Atlantic will speak and demonstrate fly casting at the 2008 event, including Bob Clouser, King Montgomery (2005 Virginia Fly Angler of the Year), Dusty Wissmath, Capt. Brian Shumaker, Capt. Gary DuBiel, and festival artist Bill Bolin. Also, Beau Beasley, author of "Fly Fishing Virginia: A No Nonsense Guide to Top Waters," will officially release his book to the public. Beau will be speaking and autographing copies of his

book.

The festival will again host its very popular "On the Water Instructional Tent" captain. Cory Routh, a noted kayaking expert, will offer classes on how to manage and outfit your kayak for fly fishing. Also, take a spin down the South River on one of Hog Island Boat Works latest water crafts. Between demonstrations and lectures, sample fine wines from eight of Virginia's noted wineries (tasting included with festival admission) while you listen to live riverside music.

Daily admission to the festival is \$12 per person, or \$20 for a weekend pass. The festival runs from 9 AM-5 PM on Saturday and Sunday. For more information about the festival, or to buy festival t-shirts and advanced tickets, visit www.vaflyfishingfestival.org.

2008 TU Tri-State Conservation & Fishing Camp for High School Youth

By Mark Zimmerman

About two dozen high school students who want to combine their enthusiasm for trout fishing with their commitment to become conservationists will gather June 22 - 27 at the fourth annual Trout Unlimited Tri-State Conservation and Fishing Camp to be held at Graves' Mountain Lodge. "The camp is located on the Rose River," says TU's Paul Kearney, who is the camp's founding director. Rising in Shenandoah National Park, the headwaters hold strong populations of wild brook trout, Virginia's state fish. But, as the Rose comes out of the park, the river's gradient decreases. It becomes less shaded, its water warms, and rainbow trout become dominant. "The camp is located where the Rose transitions from one ecology to another," Kearney says. "That's what makes Graves' Mountain such a great location for conservation and fishing camp."

Teachers are drawn from federal and state conservation agencies, the ranks of professional fly fishing guides, companies actively involved in conservation and fishing, and Trout Unlimited. TU councils in Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia, and the National Capital Chapter in Washington, DC, created the camp in order to introduce young people to the union between environmental stewardship and fishing. Campers will study stream mechanics and hydrology, water and air quality, and vertebrate and insect populations. They'll also learn how to use fly and spinning tackle to catch fish and how to tie the flies that imitate the insects found in Shenandoah National Park's trout streams.

Graves' Mountain Lodge, an old-time mountain resort that's been in the same family since the 1750s, provides accommodations and meals for campers. "They share bedrooms with private baths and eat the same home-cooked meals that the lodge serves full-paying guests," Kearney says. "When it comes to summer camps for kids, this is really first class, but at one third the price charged by most private summer camps."

Tuition for the 2008 camp is \$550, and generous donors have created a pool of financial assistance for youngsters who are motivated to become conservationists, but who might not be able to afford the camp. In addition, campers who do not have their own fly or spinning tackle will be given a set for free as part of the camp.

Applications for the 2008 camp are now being accepted. If you know of a potential camper, please encourage them to apply early - there was a waiting list last year. More information about the camp and applications for admission can be found on the web at www.tucamp.org. It can also be obtained by contacting Paul Kearney at 540/229-0563 (kearney@tucamp.org) or George Gaines at 202/904-3547 (gaines@tucamp.org).

Our chapter will again provide tuition for at least one camper - if you would like to make a donation to the fund, please contact Treasurer Stan Ikonen (540-955-2747; texfinn@hughes.net) or Mark Zimmerman (540-722-4914; mbzimmerman@comcast.net).

Chapel Run Update

By Bud Nagelvoort

As of this date our nice rainbows stocked on January 7 are doing well. At least 10 of the 21 are hanging around and hungry. They are big, healthy fish and don't like to be attached to a hook. So far they seem to like #14 BH Prince nymphs, but I suppose in their uneducated state they will take most anything once. Any suggestions related to the large numbers of caddis casings everywhere on the stream bed? The enclosed big larvae ought to be attractive, but does anyone expect these hatchery fish would know what to do with them? And when should we expect them to emerge?

Keep in mind that you need to contact Mark Zimmerman for a permit and let him know when you want to fish so he can give you open dates. mpzimmerman@comcast.net The requirement for getting a permit is TU membership and participating in a work session one time for fishing one time and progressing up to a year-long permit after participating in four work sessions. Catch-and-Release flies only, barbless hooks.

Also have in mind that the two feeders are set to discharge at 4 and 4:05 PM so the fish may not be hungry later in the day. We'll consider changing the settings as the season progresses if evening fishing is more popular than earlier in the day.

And a suggestion about wading in the stream: try to wade where the stream bed is hard so as to minimize stirring up silt. Some places, as at Christmas tree, it is impossible to wade without sinking into silt below the pool where you need to stand to cast. Some time we'll try to remedy the situation there by narrowing the channel, but it is messy right now. Below and at Rainbow Bend you will want to stay on the bank to cast because the channel is narrow and silty.

We'll try to post a map on the web site shortly so you will know where to park and where the sites are I've mentioned above.

As of February 27th an Agricultural Stewardship Act complaint has been submitted to the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) related to cattle in the stream at Briggs Spring, about a half mile upstream from our mile of stream at Ellerslie Farm. The stream banks are badly eroding there from cattle access and during warmer weather the cattle like to stand in the stream where they grind up the stream bed, both problems contributing to the excess silt at Ellerslie. We may have an investigation of the problem on March 5th if VDACS can arrange to meet the landowner there on that day. If the complaint is found to have

merit the local Soil and Water Conservation District will prepare a Plan to correct the problems which the landowner will be required to follow or be subject to a daily fine. Stay tuned.

Chapel Run Work Session March 15th, 9-12 AM

By Bud Nagelvoort

Had to change the work session date from March 8, the regularly scheduled date, to the following Saturday because of a scheduling conflict. 9-12 AM as usual. Three projects are planned if the labor force and time allow.

- At Red Tire, an additional cover log will be installed along the present cover along the north bank, to increase the width of cover. The log is ready and just needs to be wired in.
- At Blue Bell we need to install a short cover log from the V dam, along the sycamore and reaching the upstream end of the bank protection/cover log installed last work session. We also need to place more rock on the bank protection/cover log and try to figure out how to support the log better so it doesn't sink with the weight of the rock. It may require wiring to the two sycamores at either end and installing an anchor in the bank with rebar and wiring the log to the rebar from the midpoint of the log.
- At the dam, we have a log almost ready to be moved into the dam pool to provide cover and bank protection along the south bank of the pool that is eroding quite badly. We'll need to move the log to the north side of the stream and downstream from the dam 50 feet where we can get it into the stream and then into position without damaging the present bank protection/cover on the south side of the stream below the foot bridge. While we've run out of sweet gum boards to drive into the bank from the log to hold rock, we have a source of 3X3 posts we'll try to work into the process. They've come from India as part of packing crates so our site will have international characteristics. Some work will be necessary to disassemble the crate boards and notch them and the log so they'll serve our purpose, but a crow bar and chain saw should make it easy.

Let me know by e-mail or phone if you plan to be there so we'll know how much milk and cookies to provide. bernardc@shentel.net 540 955 4463.

Tight Lines and Singing Reels -----

Redbud Update

By Bud Nagelvoort & Jim Lawrence

National TU's Embrace-A-Stream program awarded the chapter half of its grant request of \$3900 for the removal of the culvert at Fay Spring which has caused backup and resulting excessive siltation of the stream stocked with native brook trout three years ago. Consequently we are looking for additional funding, maybe from the Soil and Water Conservation District, to help pay for the off stream watering system that will be needed north of the present culvert crossing along with some additional fencing and gates. On March 5th a meeting is scheduled at the Soil and Water Conservation District office with all of the parties involved to discuss final details of the project. It will include the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation, the City of Winchester, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, TU and Gary Oates who runs cattle on the battlefield property. We hope to find the needed additional funding, resolve any remaining questions, and complete the project by the time our Trout-in-the-Classroom brook trout fingerlings are ready for stocking in May. Then we'll see how our home grown fish survive the rigors of Redbud Run.

The March 1 clean- up at the DGIF property will be the first in a series of workdays planned for 2008. Contact Jim Lawrence at 667-0761 or JIML@crosslink.net for more information.

Second Annual Riparian Tree Planting:

By Jim Lawrence

On Saturday March 29 from 9:00AM-11:00AM, The Opequon Watershed, Inc., along with Virginia Cooperative Extension, and the Virginia Departments of Conservation and Recreation, Environmental Quality and Forestry will be hosting a tree planting along Sunnyside Run in the Fort Collier Industrial Park. Sunnyside Run is a tributary of Redbud. The event is part of targeted strategy to protect the Redbud Run fishery by implementing best management practices in the upper watershed which is primarily in the Frederick County Urban Development Area. Stay tuned for more details.

Other News and Info

By Bud Nagelvoort

The State TU Council's ICARE Program to restore trout habitat in the I 81 corridor headwater streams is moving ahead with a Summit meeting in Waynesboro on April 18th. Participating will be the major environmental/conservation organizations in the Shenandoah Valley and south along with landowners who have already established conservation easements and/or stream restoration projects on their lands along with representatives of local governments involved with Comprehensive Plans. This is a very long-term and ambitious program designed to accentuate the economic benefits to landowners and local tourism/recreation interests of properly restored and managed coldwater resources.

WANTED / FOR SALE / FOR SWAP

Wanted: Old fiberglass fly rods, any length and line weight. Contact Jay Cohen at jkcohen4@verizon.net.

Chapter Officers

President – Gregg Scott

Vice President- Jerry Casey

Secretary and Webmaster – Charlie Loudermilk

Treasurer and Legislative Liaison – Stan Ikonen

Program Committee – Robert Friedensen (Chair), Tom Fore

Education Committee – Jerry Casey (Chair), Charlie Loudermilk, Mark Zimmerman

Projects Director – Bud Nagelvoort

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