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# Lateral Lines

Volume 12, Issue 8

October 2007

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Newsletter for the Winchester Chapter of Trout Unlimited

[www.vctu.org/winchester](http://www.vctu.org/winchester)

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## October Chapter Activities:

Thursday, Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>

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

**7:00 PM – Chapter Meeting**

Directions: the OakCrest Realty offices are on Valley Avenue, between W. Jubal Early Dr. and Cedar Creek Grade

Saturday Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>

**Chapel Run work session: 9am-12pm**

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## Trout in the Classroom

By Mark Zimmerman

The TIC Team has kicked into high gear, and we've now set up aquariums in three schools – Frederick County Middle, Sherando High, and James Wood High. As expected, our first tank was the most challenging, for a number of reasons, including the fact that it was our initial attempt at putting all the pieces together.

Jerry Casey, Charlie Loudermilk and Mark Zimmerman arrived at FCMS at about 10:30 AM, which was the beginning of 7<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher George Nichols' planning period, to find

that the 55 gallon tank which George wanted to use for raising trout was already filled with water, rocks, and decorative plastic plants. After removing the plants, we began unpacking all the equipment and placing it into the tank – and moving it around, and taking it out, and putting it back in again, getting water all over the floor at each step. The 45-minute planning period passed quickly, and we had barely started getting the key components in place when in poured the next class of kids. Fortunately, we were working in the back of the room, so George could go on with his lecture while we whispered to each other, still mopping up the floor at every turn. But we plodded on, and successfully finished as that class period ended and the next group of students took their place.

The second tank, at Sherando, was much easier to put together – it was empty to start with, which we now know makes a huge difference in how easily the components can be assembled. In addition, since we were working with an Ag Sciences class and the students were involved with a variety of projects, we had helpers who cleaned the tank, washed the filter parts, and transported 5 gallon buckets of water to fill the tank. Jerry and Mark were joined by Fred Boyer, and we got everything together in about an hour and a quarter.

On Thursday, the Gang of Four went to James Wood High to set up the third tank in a biology class. Class was in session again, but we had an empty tank to work with, so we figured “no sweat”. Right after we started, the teacher asked if it was alright if he turned down the lights so the kids could see the overhead projector slides he was using, which meant that this time we got to set up in the dark, whispering again. But we’re a precision drill team by now, and we got the entire tank set up and filled in under an hour!

We’ve got a fourth tank to assemble next week at Millbrook High, and possibly a fifth at Clarke County High if we can purchase the necessary equipment. Brook trout eggs should be ready for pick up at the DGIF Paint Bank hatchery during the week of October 8<sup>th</sup>, so it won’t be long before the aquariums are populated.

As some of you already know, a good friend of several chapter members passed away late last week after a long battle with cancer. Charles “Chuck” Stanton lived in the area for 30+ years, and was a teacher during the early part of his career. Although he wasn’t a fly fisherman or a member of TU, Chuck loved to fish and very much enjoyed the outdoors -- canoeing, camping, growing flowers, and just walking about appreciating the beauty of nature. He was an environmentalist, and he maintained a deep caring about kids and education.

Chuck became aware of our TIC project a few months ago, and he was intrigued and highly supportive. Our chapter has established the Chuck Stanton Memorial Fund to help raise monies for expanding our TIC program into all the middle and high schools in Frederick and Clarke counties, and we’ve already received our first donation in Chuck’s honor. If you would like to make a contribution to this fund, please contact either our Treasurer, Stan Ikonen ([texfinn@hughes.net](mailto:texfinn@hughes.net); 540-955-2747), or Mark Zimmerman ([mbzimmerman@comcast.net](mailto:mbzimmerman@comcast.net); 540-722-4914).

## Chapel Run Update

By Bud Nagelvoort

Both feeders are now in good operation and should provide a steady supply of pellets through the fall and winter. The old feeder, now at Sycamore Root, is set to eject at 10 AM and 4 PM, the new one at noon just above the dam. Don't have any reports of successful fishing although Mark had one of the browns take his dry fly along the edge of the logs just downstream from the foot bridge.

Probably a dozen fish have made it through the worst of the hot, dry weather. Big Boy is still hanging out at his favorite location, but has been spooked three times further downstream, totally unexpected in relatively shallow and exposed areas in the stream although areas that are fully shaded. The strong conjecture is that he sits and waits for crayfish, of which there are many. ----  
--twenty one minutes on 4X ----- I'm still dreaming about it-----.

Had a three man crew on the 8th and rocked in the bank ends of most of the rest of the constrictors above High Dam. Moving rocks at 90 degrees is the toughest part of our efforts. Bill and Robert joined me in the exercise.

I was able to finish up the rock work up there by mid-month. On the 26th Dave and Fred and I dragged two twenty foot tulip poplar logs down a hill at the west edge of Ellerslie to the stream just above Red Tire V. After digging out two old steel fence posts by the white stables we tied in the two logs along the edge of the undercut banks on the south side and then ran slanted boards from the logs into the stream bed mostly under the banks leaving probably two feet of cover. The banks there will continue to flake off and fill in over the boards, but leave maybe two foot depth of water where big fish can be out of sight.

For the next work session we still need to tie in one more bank log with boards at the upper end of this latest structure to complete about 50 feet of continuous bank protection/cover. A couple short wing dams from the north bank along with the hard marl at several locations in the stream bed will speed up the flow enough to flush out the silt and optimize the structure. We have a sycamore log by the old rock pile (what's left of it) that will work out good there and we'll also use almost all of the rest of the sweet gum boards.

The old rock pile has about ten boulders in it that we'll try to locate to help keep the new structure in place. Kind of sorry to see the 20 tons finally disappear. But don't feel too sad. Just happened to have a chat with the earth mover at the construction site in Berryville for the new town/county/library building. You want to see limestone? It's a mother lode. And the manager wants as much rock as we can handle removed from the site. It may need to be hauled in my truck, but old betsy is used to it. Will try to get the construction guys to bring us a twenty ton load later this year when they're ready to clean it all up.

So Oct. 6 is the next work session. 9-12. Temp delightful in the 60s so no excuses. Come early and fish for a couple hours. It may not be broad daylight at 7, but big browns have the ability to see in very limited light, you know ----

## Redbud Update

By Bud Nagelvoort

Larry Mohn told me on Sept. 27th that he had just completed a two week Rosgen stream morphology course in Colorado and is ready to have his engineer determine what needs to be done at the DGIF Redbud property. When depends on confirmation that Frederick County won't be taking water from Semples spring.. From what he can tell the County has given up, but he needs a withdrawal of the permit application before proceeding.

Jim Lawrence has talked with Winchester to get approval for TU to remove the culvert crossing and install a waterer on the north pasture, but hasn't confirmed their OK. We'll submit an Embrace-A-Stream grant application this fall for about \$4,000 to pay for the work. After that it will be spring and we should have Brooktrout fingerlings to stock near the two big springs and also at the DGIF property. That will be uniquely exciting!

## **Other News and Info**

### **On the Fly**

By: Carl A. Rettenberger

### **Fly Fishing Alaska, 2007**

Well friends it's been a while since I contributed to the newsletter, not that I haven't been fishing twice a week, just that I haven't had anything new to write about. I figured that you were all getting tired of hearing about my local trips so I waited until I had something new to write about and the following is just that. I hope you enjoy reading about it as much I did experiencing it.

Planning for this trip began *a while back* when I was ten years old, and dreamed of the day I could go to Alaska to hunt for big game. Well, since that time, my desire to kill has long passed, and I am more then content to fly fish for, and catch and release game fish. More recently, the countdown began in May at 135 days and ended on August 14<sup>th</sup> when I boarded the plane at Dulles for Denver.

The trip organizer was Bob Matalon, who resides in Crested Butte, Colorado, near Jack McAllister's summer home. Jack McAllister was gracious enough to invite me to join him on this trip, for which I will be eternally grateful. Other members of the group were Jeff Neumann, Bob's right hand, John Bradburn and his son Jim, George Reinhardt and his son Alex and Dave Inouye.

We floated the North Fork of the Goodnews River in Southwestern Alaska, from its headwaters at Goodnews Lake in the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge, down to the fishing village of Goodnews, located on Goodnews Bay, a distance of approximately sixty miles. The trip down river was made in three 16 foot rubber rafts, in which we stored all our gear and carried three people per craft. The Goodnews is a beautiful river, crystal clear with a sand and gravel bottom making wading quite easy. It varies in width from approximately the size of north fork of the Shenandoah near the Route 81 bridge to the main stem at the Route 7 bridge. The country along the river is absolutely beautiful with its majestic mountains at its headwaters and lowlands near the bay.

As you will see, the weather was less than beautiful all week long, but good equipment and an abundance of fish made it more then tolerable. We caught a lot of fish as we drifted each day to

our evening camp site, but most fish were caught as we waded and fished the sloughs on the downstream ends of the numerous sand and gravel bars. All of our camps were on the sand and gravel bars making setting up camp an easy matter.

Mosquitoes were not a serious problem, but I can't say the same about the "*no seeums*". These little pests have the propensity of raising large welts long after they have dined on your exposed areas. A good mesh netting head cover is a must along with 100 percent deets.

The Goodnews was full of Chinooks (Kings), Sockeyes (Reds), Dolly Vardens, Rainbows, some Chums, some Grayling, some Lake Trout and towards the end of our float Coho or Silvers. We figured we were about a week early for the peak Silver run but had no shortage of fish as it were. We saw migrating, spawning, dying and dead fish from the time we set down at Goodnews Lake until we took out at Goodnews Bay. The Fish Commission people I spoke with said that it was an exceptionally good year for Kings, and judging by what I saw, I would definitely say that were true. The river bottom was literally littered with spawning redds from top to bottom in any area suitable for spawning. It looked like the bottom had been hit by a B-52 bombing raid.

The Chinooks, Sockeyes and Chums I caught were late arrivals and in pretty good shape, although not fresh by any means. I mouth hooked all of them but they attacked my fly not so much as to eat it, but more to protect their redds. The takes were hard and you knew immediately you had a fish on. I did not target any spawning fish, but it's impossible to avoid them when you are casting blind.

The Dolly's were all located below the spawning fish, so as to dine on any and all eggs that didn't make it to the redds. Their take could be soft or vicious depending on each individual fish.

The Rainbows were below spawning fish and along the banks in the usual places one finds rainbows. We didn't really target Rainbows. But rather took what came along while we searched for Silvers. I'm sure there are some really big bows, should one devote the time to find them. They hit hard and fought with reckless abandon.

The Cohos were just making their spawning run and most of the ones we caught were bright chrome and in excellent shape. We found most of them resting in sloughs where the current was minimal and they could catch their breath before making the next run up river. We fished the seams and the take was either subtle or violent depending on the particular fish.

We all used different types of flies and like usual I had some of everything, but wound up fishing only a few. My favorites turned out to be Popsicles, Pixie's Revenge, Bunnys, and Crystal Egg Sucking Bugger. The most popular color was fuchsia and florescent orange or a mix of both. Hook sizes varied from 2/0 to size 4's.

Good equipment is an absolute must. Not only fishing equipment but also waders, wading boots, and rain jackets. I took my light insolated underwear, heavy socks and a warm jacket and made use of all of them. We camped out every night so I brought a good cot, mattress and down filled sleeping bag. I took two eight weights and found that weight rod to be perfect, although they were bent double more then once. I also took two large arbor reels with cork disc drags. This is not a place for cheap reels with click drags. These fish will destroy a reel on their long runs. Finally I took two dry bags, one large and the other magnum to store my gear as we floated each day. What we didn't need during the day or at night remand in the dry bags.

After all that here's the tale of my trip.

Tuesday 08-14-07:

Took off on United Airlines flight 0701 at 14:50 hours at Dulles International Airport for my flight to Denver, Colorado where I meet Jack upon landing at 18:10 hours. We flew from Denver International Airport to Anchorage International Airport aboard the same aircraft. Takeoff was delayed 45 minutes due to violent thunder storms. We were air born at 20:40 hours and landed in Anchorage at 01:55 on the 15<sup>th</sup>. We stayed the night at the Puffin Inn where I managed a total of 1.5 hours sleep since getting up at 05:00 on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

Wednesday 08-15-07:

We got up to a light drizzle, at 06:15 hours, Pacific Time and went to Gwennie's for a big breakfast of eggs, fried potatoes and caribou sausage. After breakfast John, Jim, Jack and myself drove south down the Seward Highway to the coastal town of Seward, where we spent some time in the Alaska Sea Life Center, which by the way is on the order of Sea World. The weather cleared as we drove south and the sun was shining by the time we reached Seward. We ate lunch at Gwin's in Coopers Landing on the banks of the famous Kenai River. It started raining again as we drove home and neared Anchorage.

Late in the afternoon it cleared back up and we ate dinner at Simons and Seaforts, one of Anchorage's more famous dinning places. I don't really like seafood, but I had halibut stuffed with almonds and crab which was to die for. We spent the second night again at the Puffin Inn.

Thursday 08-16-07:

We got up to sunshine at 05:15 hours, packed and headed to the airport, where we boarded PenAir flight 0251 to Dillingham. We were air born at 08:17 hours and landed in Dillingham at 09:45 hours. When we landed at the small Dillingham airport we switched all of our gear from our travel luggage to dry bags in preparation for our float down the Goodnews. We boarded a 1960 Otter float plan and took off for Goodnews Lake at 12:00 hours. We touched down at 12:35 hours, unloaded the plane, setup and loaded the rafts. The water temperature at the lake was 59degrees (F). I was introduced to my first Sockeyes (Reds) before we went 300 yards down from where we landed. Caught two of them in a riffle, both in the 12 to 15 lb range, strong fish in bright spawning color. Caught and landed two beautiful 18 and 19 inch rainbows as we drifted down river towards our first camp site. We set up our tents and camp in the early evening and had a great dinner. That far north, at that time of the year it doesn't get dark until after 23:00 hours and then its never really dark.

Friday 08-17-07:

Woke up at 06:00 to another beautiful sunny Alaska day. Everybody was still a sleep so I made the camp coffee and headed out to fish. It wasn't long before I was connected to a 22 inch Coho (Silver) who took me for a good ride before I landed him. Latter I was to find out that when compared to the 30 inch monsters I was to catch, this was a relatively small Silver. I lost two other Silvers before we broke camp at 09:30 hours. By the time we stopped for lunch at 14:00 hours I had caught 11 Dolly Vardens ranging in size from 18 to 22 inches and one King Salmon.

I had the King beached but the hook came out and he flipped back into the water before I could measure him. I put him conservatively in the 36 to 40 inch range. I was 12 for 15 at the lunch break. We stopped and setup camp at 19:00 hours and had another fine dinner and of course our Gin and Tonics. The latter being a float tradition. The afternoon yielded 13 more Dolly's and 2 grayling, bringing the days total to 27 fish caught for 42 hooked.

Water temperature was 46 degrees (F).

#### Saturday 08-18-07:

Woke up at 05:30 to a light drizzle and overcast sky. Made camp coffee and fished until we broke camp at 10:15 hours. By our lunch break, I had caught 9 of 14 including a 23 inch lake trout, 26 inch sockeye, 18 inch rainbow and 6 more Dollys. The afternoon yielded 3 Silvers, 3 Sockeyes, 1 King, 1 Rainbow and 2 Dollys. When we made camp in the early evening my total for the day was 18 for 27. It rained off and on all day, hard at night.

Water temperature was 46 degrees (F).

#### Sunday 08-19-07:

Got up at 06:00 hours to a light drizzle and made camp coffee. Broke camp at 10:00 hours and stopped for lunch at 16:00 hours. Setup camp at 20:00 hours. Total for the day 8 Silvers, 1 Rainbow, 1 Sockeye and 1 Dolly (11 for 14).

Water temperature 48 degrees (F).

#### Monday 08-20-07:

Up again at 06:00 hours, made camp coffee to drizzle and rain which persisted all day. Broke camp at 10:30 hours, stopped for lunch at 16:30 hours and set up camp at 18:30 hours.

Total for the day 3 Silvers and 1 Sockeye (4 for 12)

Water temperature 54 degrees (F).

#### Tuesday 08-21-07:

Same old story, got up at 06:00 hours to an overcast sky and made camp coffee. Broke camp at 10:30 hours. Rained off and on all day.

Today's total 15 Dollys, 5 Rainbows including a **tagged 24 inch beauty (see info below)**, 1 Chum or Silverbright Salmon, 1 Sockeye and 6 Silvers. (28 of 32). I have now caught every game fish available in this river at this time of the year. The only salmon I didn't catch was a Pink or Humpback, which only run on even years.

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Sent: Friday, August 31, 2007 6:05 PM  
Subject: Re: Fw: reporting tagged rainbow trout

Hi Carl,

Thanks for your interest in the tagging history of the rainbow trout that you caught in the Goodnews River. The fish (Tag 05613) was originally tagged on July 30, 2005 as part of a mark-recapture experiment conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The fork length of the fish was 471 mm and the original capture location was at river kilometer 13 on the North Fork of the Goodnews River which sounds pretty close to where you caught the fish. The limited amount of movement data that we have on these fish suggests that they don't move much year to year.

The 471 mm converts to 18.54 inches so the 24 inch rainbow grew 4.46 inches in two years.

Wednesday 08-22-07:

Well this is the last full day of fishing and I got up at 06:30 hours to the delightful sound of rain hitting the tent fly, and like usual made the camp coffee. We broke camp at 10:30 hours and stopped for lunch at 16:00 hours. Total catch for the day 9 silvers and 2 rainbows (11 for 12). Cleared up in the late afternoon. According to the long range forecast I looked at before leaving home it's suppose to be sunny tomorrow, we'll see.

Water temperature 50 degrees (F).

Thursday 08-23-07:

Up at 05:30 hours and made camp coffee to an overcast sky, which burned off latter in the morning showing us once again the bright Alaska sunshine. Broke camp at 10:00 hours and headed down river to our pick up point about 6 miles above the village of Goodnews at the beginning of the tidal water. We where meet there by one of the local natives who towed us down river to the Village of Goodnews in an 18 foot aluminum boat. While we were waiting we saw a grizzly, about a quarter mile up river, working the shoreline. This was the only bear I saw although I saw a lot of fresh tracks.

My total on this last day was 5 Silver and another beautiful 22 inch rainbow (6 of 8). I caught all of the Silvers before the rest of the crew stirred from their sleeping bags.

Water temperature 50degrees (F)

We broke down the rafts and loaded our gear aboard the 1960 Otter and all but yours truly boarded a second plane which was a pontooned Goose. I flew co-pilot again aboard the Otter. When we touched down at Dillingham, we switched our gear from the dry bags back into our travel luggage. We rented a truck and went into town, where we all took a long hot shower at the public bath house at the fisherman's wharf.

We boarded PenAir flight 0258 and were air born for Anchorage at 19:10 hours. We departed Anchorage at 23:30 hours aboard United Airlines flight 0700.

Friday 08-24-07:

Upon landing in Denver, I said good bye to Jack who was heading back to Crested Butte and then I boarded United Airlines flight 0902 for Dulles. The flight was delayed 40 minutes at Denver and then twice again at Dulles for air traffic and a piece of equipment on the taxiway. We finally landed at 16:10 local time bringing to an end a wonderful Alaskan adventure.

In conclusion, I would say that if one ever gets the chance to fish Alaska, plan a float trip down the Goodnews River or one of the other numerous rivers. This is the way to see God's Country at its finest and to enjoy the wonders of nature. Leave the lodges and the fishing camps for those who need to sleep in a bed each night and be coddled by a guide. Make sure you take good waders, a good rain jacket warm cloths and a good eight weight fly rod and a reel with a good drag system and of course plenty of flies.

Me, I plan on returning each year from now on, good Lord willing of course.

Till latter, tight lines and singing reels.

## **Chapter Officers**

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Secretary – Charlie Loudermilk

Treasurer and Legislative Liaison – Stan Ikonen

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

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