



## Fly-Fishing West Virginia

Author: Mike Schoby

If other places exist where you can catch smallmouth, largemouth, browns, and rainbows all in one stream I have yet to see them!

Fishing Journal Entry - June 19th

"Caught a half dozen nice sized browns (12"-14"), A large rainbow (20"), a small rainbow (12"), a red eye, a 1.5 pound smallmouth, a bluegill and two largemouth bass."



At first this journal entry doesn't make much sense. In fact, it appears to be wrong, either that or the angler was doing a lot of traveling to catch that kind of diversity of fish. But the journal entry is correct and I

can attest to it, as it is mine. In fact, what even makes it more interesting is that the "bag" was from one mountain stream, in one day of fishing - with no more traveling then walking about a mile of bank, casting flies into pockets of shaded water.

The place was West Virginia, which until that day, I never really gave much thought to from a sportsman's perspective. I mean what did they really have to offer? I searched the recesses of my brain for anything I heard about West Virginia over the years, I had to admit I was stumped. Coal Mines, Loretta Lynn and the movie Deliverance were all that came

to mind (and I was wrong on the last two counts). But by the time I left West Virginia, the only question in my mind was what *didn't* it offer!

Before readers start thinking I can go to distant states and simply lambaste trout, I should mention I was fishing under the tutelage of Appalachian Guide Service owner and head guide, Darrin Corn (304)

536-2536.

What he didn't know about the rivers of the Appalachian Mountains, wasn't really worth knowing. Without his advice and knowledge the fishing I experienced surely would not have been as



memorable.

The morning was surprisingly cool and fog shrouded the water in a cottony white blanket that made the blades of grass drip with dew as we arrived at the stream.

There were a few sporadic rises as I waded into position below the first good looking pool, but not enough to solely fish a dry, besides I couldn't figure out what the fish were taking as white and dark brown mayflies were alternatively floating past me.

I settled on a size 14 March Brown and then ran a

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size 16 Flash Back nymph on an 18 - inch dropper. I hadn't made a half dozen casts when the dry shot under the surface. Instinctively raising the rod tip, I was immediately rewarded with a jumping brown trout about 12 inches in length. After a short fight, I unhooked the fish and slipped him back into the water.

The morning slipped by in such a fashion until, the sun broke through and dappled the water with broken diffused light from the dense deciduous canopy. The activity of the morning receded with the encroachment of the sun and we worked our way downstream to find another pocket of active trout.

Around the next bend, a heavily foliated tree leaned over the water, reaching almost half way across the stream. Underneath its shady sanctuary, I could see the forms of trout, some large, some small; sipping spent mayflies from the surface film.

Tying on my best spent - wing spinner impression, I soaked it in floatant, squeezed it off and tentatively made a side cast underneath the overhanging brush. The fly landed and settled into the surface film. It drifted right towards the lie of a heavily feeding fish, around 16-inches long. Thanking my luck, I mended and allowed the fly to continue its drift. When it still had about a foot to go, I saw a dark swirl underneath the fly and I set the hook. A brown trout possibly four-inches in length came out of the water splashing and generally disrupting the pool. I quickly stripped him in, but it was too late - the hole was shot from his commotion.

Moving further downstream I found a slower moving section that resembled more of a beaver pond than a trout stream. Several damselflies were skimming over the pool and the raucous splashes were the telltale sign of the feeding activity. I tied on a crippled damsel adult and was immediately into a 12-inch brown. A couple of casts later a terrific explosion erupted where the fly had once been. Straining my rod, I was happily surprised to strip in a nice largemouth. If the freak incident with the largemouth was-

n't enough - out of the same hole, I pulled in another, as well as a chunky bluegill on the third cast. Fun as it all was, and nothing against warm water species, I was here to catch trout, and smallmouth so I moved back upstream to a dark cool hole I had fished earlier in the morning.

The midday heat was now becoming uncomfortably oppressive and I sought the deepest, darkest pool to ply my wares. I tied on a heavily weighted #2 brown crawdad and chucked it towards the far side bank. After counting to ten while allowing the fly to slowly roll downstream in the current, I began a rapid jerk retrieve with short pauses in between.

Deep down in the dark pool I saw a yellow-gold flash and an instant later felt the tug of a solid fish. At the hook set, the line streaked towards the surface and the bronze-backed smallie erupted into the air and tail-walked across the pool. While he never left the small pool, like a similar sized trout would have likely done, he battled to the end in short hard tugs punctuated by leaping acrobatics. After a good tussle, I slipped the fly from the bass's mouth and released him back into his shaded sanctuary.

By the end of the day, being impressed with West Virginia became increasingly easier. The creek was, by western standards, devoid of people. The fish were as numerous as they were diverse, and best of all, there were several other, equally impressive streams within a few miles of where I was staying in the town of Lewisburg.

For the traveling angler, especially one accompanied by a family, Lewisburg is a perfect fishing getaway. A charming antebellum town, the streets are lined with quaint shops and magnificent homes. For the duration of my stay I called The General Lewis Inn home, and nicer lodgings, while on a fishing trip, I have never experienced. The General Lewis Inn dates back over 150 years and is entirely furnished in period items, which added a historic, yet comfortable feel to the entire trip. As for side attractions to the fishing,

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Lewisburg was not left lacking and offered many stores, shops and restaurants for visitors to enjoy.

After my pleasant stay, I departed for Charleston to the waiting plane that would eventually lead me back home. Along the road, I encountered a billboard that decreed the state's Motto "Wild and Wonderful West Virginia." I wonder if the slogan writers know how right they are.

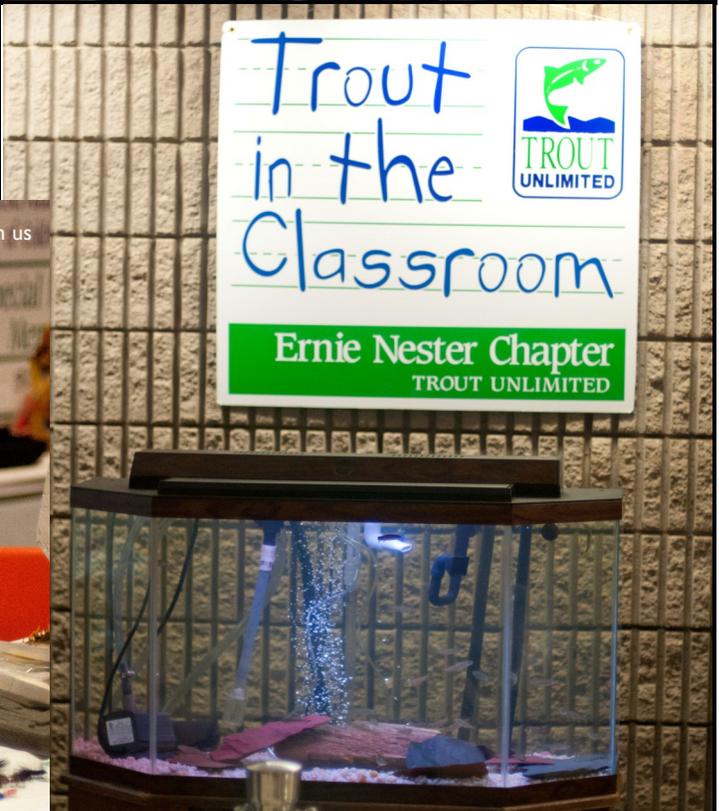
## 2015 HUNT AND FISH SHOW CHARLESTON CIVIC CENTER



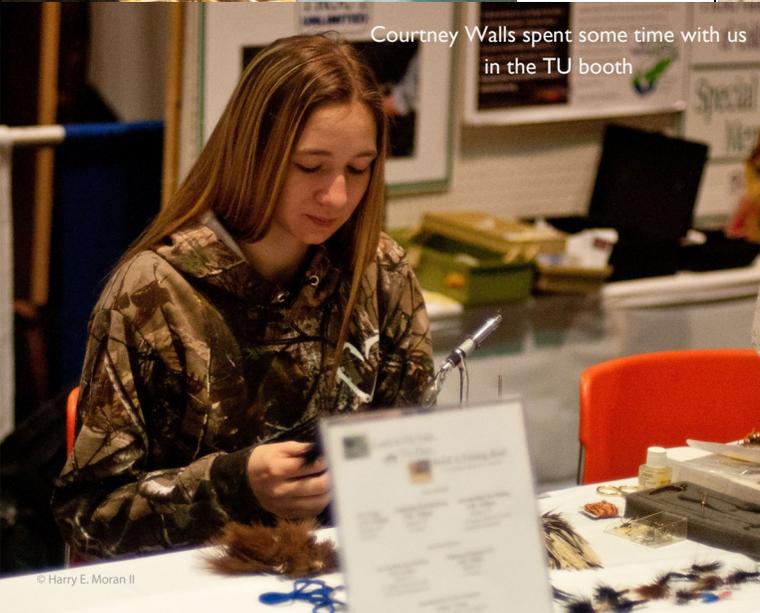
Rod Wingrove of Parkersburg, this years raffle winner, purchased \$5 worth of tickets on Saturday. Behind the counter is Joe Means of Spring Hill Rod and Gun presenting Rod his new Remington.



Oh, PLEASE, PLEASE, buy some flies. And a raffle ticket, and a stream guide, and membership. And did I mention we have flies for sale?



Courtney Walls spent some time with us in the TU booth



**Ernie Nester Chapter Trout Unlimited**

**Charleston, WV**



Annual Fundraising Banquet

March 10, 2015

**Major Raffle - \$2 per ticket or 6 tickets for \$10**

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize:** 2 nights stay at Elk Springs Resort Lodge and two (2) half day guide service for two people at Elk Spring Resort, Monterville, WV compliments of Lisa & Daron Dean, owners. <https://sites.google.com/site/elkspringsresortwv>

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize:** Half Day Guided float fishing trip on the Cumberland River, Kentucky with guide Michael Wlosinski compliments of Cumberland Drifters Guide Service, Russell County, KY <http://www.kytrout.net>

**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize:** Full Day Rod Passes for 2 at Escatawba Farms, Alleghany County, VA compliments of Derrick Barr, Owner <http://www.escatawba.com>

**4<sup>th</sup> Prize:** Fishpond Lumbar Chest Pack compliments of North Fork Anglers, Cody Wyoming <http://www.northforkanglers.com/>

**5<sup>th</sup> Prize:** 7' – 6" 5 weight Fenwick Fiberglass Fly Rod compliments of Dr. Bobby Kreig

**YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE PRESENT TO WIN THESE TOP PRIZES**



You are cordially invited to attend the
2015 Annual Banquet of the
Ernie Nester Chapter of
Trout Unlimited



The Ernie Nester Chapter of Trout Unlimited will hold its Annual Banquet on the evening of Tuesday, March 10th, 2015, at the Elks Club in Charleston, WV. The evening begins with a social hour starting at 5:45 P.M. Catered dinner will be served from 6:45 – 7:30. There will be a cash bar with wine and beer during the evening.

Please help us extend our reach. Invite family, friends, and business acquaintances to the Banquet.

Our Master of Ceremonies will be Steve Young, Chapter President. Steve will guide us through the evening events. Awards will be presented to individuals and groups in recognition for their service to this past year. Reservations are required, so please fill out and return the reservation form below. Along with bucket raffles and auctions we will have a Special Raffle Drawing with Premium Prizes. Raffle tickets are being sold by chapter members prior to and during the banquet for \$2 each or \$10 for 6. "You are not required to be present to win the special raffle items." Tickets can be obtained at upcoming chapter and board meetings or from Jeff Nelsen. He will gladly meet you to help sell the tickets.

"Friends of ENCTU" sponsorships are available at \$200.00. Included in the sponsorship will be (2) dinner tickets, 20 bucket raffle tickets and a special drawing just for our sponsors.

There will be a variety of trips, equipment, and miscellaneous items to raffle off. Please contact Jeff Nelsen at (304) 768-3933 or email: jeffnelsen@suddenlink.net with interest in selling the special raffle tickets, being a sponsor, providing a raffle prize, helping with banquet or any other questions.

Please notice this reservation form will not be mailed but will be available in the ENCTU February and March newsletters "Trout Lines" and on our website at www.enctu.org . Please print and send in the reservation form below to Tom Moody ( Make checks payable to ENCTU)

----- cut here -----

Please reserve \_\_\_ place (s) for me at the ENCTU Annual Dinner.
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (My name)
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ (1st guest's name)
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ (2nd guest's name)
\_\_\_\_\_ (3rd guest's name)

Amount enclosed at \$30.00 per person: \$\_\_\_\_\_.00 (Make All Checks Payable to ENCTU)

Return by Monday, March 2, 2015 to: Tom Moody
212 Sutherland Drive
South Charleston, WV 25303

If you have any changes to your reservation, please call Tom Moody immediately at (304)744-4083 or email: scpeebod@yahoo.com .



### Committed prizes for the 2015 Ernie Nester Chapter of Trout Unlimited as of 2-2-15

1. Bamboo fly rod– 7' 2pc 4/5wt with 2 tip sections w/ custom bag & aluminum tube built and donated by Randy Lemon – live auction
2. Pheasant feathers for door prizes – Larry Orr
3. Handmade small bat with name engraved – Rich Orr
4. Financial Planning Session – Heritage Investment Group – Greg Cox
5. Winterplace Ski Package – Paul Skaggs
6. KVCTU Shirts & Hats
7. ENCTU Shirts and Hats
8. Guided fishing trip with Project Healing Waters for 1 person for 2 nights at Elk Springs – Paul Moore
9. Fly tying Vice and case from Project Healing Waters – Paul Moore
10. New Fly Fishing Books – Harry Moran
11. 2 boxes of flies – Charlie Krepps
12. Fishing Bicycle – Charlie Krepps
13. Fishing Fly embroidered sweat shirts - Paula Clem
14. Bootfoot Gander Mt Waders size 11, landing net, & tackle box with fishing gear- Bruce McClanahan
15. Fly Fishing Book donated by Phil and Paula Clem
16. Cabelas Fly Tying Kit donated by Homer Sweeney
17. Handcrafted wooden Fishing Net and Fly Box donated by Larry Riffie
18. Guided trip on the Cumberland River Tailwaters, KY – Cumberland Outfitters – Mike Sayre
19. 7 1/2' 5wt. Fenwick fiberglass Fly Rod donated by Dr. Bobby Kreig – Larry Orr
20. Cabelas 3 Fork Fly Rod Combo 8' 5wt – 2pc with Prestige Reel and Line – donated by Max Robertson
21. Escatawba Farms – 2 fishing passes for a day – Charlie Krepps
22. 2 night weekend stay in Tucker County at Nelsen Cabin
23. Orvis Safe Passage Sling Pack
24. Orvis Safe Passage Vertical Chest Pack
25. Cabelas 8'-6" 4wt 6pc Stowaway Rod
26. Elk Springs Resort – 2 nights stay at the lodge and two (2) half day guide service for two people
27. 6'-6" 2wt 4 pc handcrafted fly rod built and donated by Jason Butcher with case
28. XL Realtree Camouflage Shirt – donated by Harry Moran.
29. Fishpond Lumbar Pack- donated by North Fork Anglers , a Cody, WY fly shop via Bill Todd
30. Fishing Themed Scented Candle Warmer- Lisa Dean @ Elk Springs
31. Sweatshirt, T shirts, gloves, safety glasses & hats from landscape materials manufacturer
32. Two (2) night stay at Cabin in Kumbrabow State Forest from WV State Parks
33. American Flag – Randy Augustine
34. Angler, The Me Mantel Clock – Randy Augustine
35. Big Deer Thermometer donated by Pile Hardware
36. Big Cardinal Thermometer donated by Pile Hardware
37. All day float fishing trip for 2 on the Bitterroot River, Montana with guide Jim Mitchell plus one night's lodging and a 10% discount off any extra days booked compliments of Montana Hunting and Fishing Adventures, Hamilton, MT
38. Half Day Guided Float Fishing Trip on the New River donated by Bobby Bowers w/ Pro River Outfitters
39. "Xi" Fly Rod Kit 9' 5wt. Limited Edition from Hook and Hackle Company



**"FRIENDS OF ENCTU" SPONSOR**

The Ernie Nester Chapter of Trout Unlimited is currently accepting corporate and individual sponsorship for our 2015 Annual Awards Banquet and Fundraiser to be held March 10th, 2015 at the Charleston Elks Club beginning at 5:45 pm.

The cost to be a sustaining member of our sponsor team is \$200. This includes 2 dinner guests, 20 bucket raffle tickets and **a special raffle prize for just the sponsor participants**. If you are unable to attend the banquet please still consider the opportunity to contribute to the chapter's many activities or visit the web site at [www.enctu.org](http://www.enctu.org). You will still be eligible for the sponsor prize if not present.

Come join us for a casual evening of fun, fishing stories, fundraising for a great cause. Contact Jeff Nelsen at 304-768-3393 (home), 304 -951-2247 (cell) or [jeffnelsen@suddenlink.net](mailto:jeffnelsen@suddenlink.net) for more information.

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SPONSOR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

NAMES OF DINNER GUESTS: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to ENCTU (Ernie Nester Chapter of Trout Unlimited) and mail to Jeff Nelsen, ENCTU Banquet Chair, 1403 Princess Drive, South Charleston, WV 25309



Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing ----The Beckley Program Veterans and the Charleston Program Veterans participated in the January, Charleston Hunt and Fish Show at the Civic Center. The three day event was deemed a success with the donations and the contacts both for volunteers and disable veteran participants.

An 1892 black power pistol was raffled off and the winner was Mr. Larry Jones from Point Pleasant, WV. Mr. Jones is a lifelong member of the Ernie Nester Trout Unlimited Chapter and was very pleased in the phone call announcing his new pistol.

The Programs would like to recognize Mr. Bryan Arthur and Mr. Sam Morton of the Bare Arms Gun and Pawn Store from Mt Hope for their generous donation to PHWFF.

Paul Moore  
Regional Coordinator WV

### FOREST SERVICE ACCEPTING PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR THE ATLANTIC COAST PIPELINE

Public comments are being accepted by the Forest Service until February 13th on allowing Dominion Resources to survey for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline on the Monongahela and Jefferson National Forests in West Virginia. ([www.fs.usda.gov](http://www.fs.usda.gov))

The two Forests are seeking comment on two 42" diameter natural gas pipelines through their lands.

For information related to the pipelines you can "like" Greenbrier Watershed on Facebook, sign up for email alerts by sending an email to [info@greenbrier.org](mailto:info@greenbrier.org). Information and links concerning the proposed pipeline can also be found at [www.mareproject.org](http://www.mareproject.org) and <http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/mnf/landmanagement/projects>

TU National is in the process of preparing a letter providing comments on the special use permit for the MON similar to one sent to the supervisor of the George Washington National Forest in Virginia.



Charleston Program for Project Healing Waters building their rods with Phil Clem, Dave and Marge McCutcheon ENCTU members instructing the veterans.

**GUIDE TO THE  
CATCH AND RELEASE  
TROUT STREAMS  
OF WEST VIRGINIA  
MAPS, TIPS, HATCH CHARTS, LODGING  
INFORMATION.**

**\$10.00 EA. ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT  
ERNIE NESTER CHAPTER**

of

**TROUT UNLIMITED**

**CALL JASON HODGES: 407-547-5447**

**Email: [wvflyfishr@gmail.com](mailto:wvflyfishr@gmail.com)**



The first session of the Chapter's classes are off to a good start with a total of 23 participants in our two classes: Beginning Fly Tying and Beginning Rod Building. The second session will begin on March 19 with Wilderness/Backcountry Fishing in West Virginia, taught by Ed Hayne, and Intermediate Rod Building taught by Marge & David McCutcheon, Jason Butcher and Tom Ranson.

**SECOND SESSION**

<b>Intermediate Rod Building</b>	<b>Wilderness Fishing in WV</b>
<b>6:00 - 9:00pm</b>	<b>6:00 - 9:00pm</b>
March 19	March 13
(5 weeks; must have built one or more fishing rods)	(4 weeks)

**Introduction TO FLY FISHING**

**6:00pm - 9:00pm**

April 6 & April 9 April 13 & April 16

(Two nights a week for 2 weeks)

Note: Fly fishing & fly tying classes also will be presented in Hurricane April 20.

To register or for more information, email [ENCTUClasses@gmail.com](mailto:ENCTUClasses@gmail.com)

Classes are conducted at the Elk Elementary Center, Rt 119 N, 1.5 miles from I-79, Mink Shoals exit. All classes are open to the public. Classes are conducted by the Ernie Nester Chapter of Trout Unlimited in conjunction with the Kanawha County Schools Community Education Program & the Putnam County Parks & Recreation Department. Minimum age: 14 years old or 12 if their parent or relative takes the course too.

\* The registration fee is \$30 for all classes and some classes have supplies & materials fees.

## UPCOMING ENCTU EVENTS

**February 10th**, ENCTU Membership meeting, SCPL 7:00 PM– 9:00 PM please bring your vise and thread and a little material in showing off your favorite fly !! Looking for beginners and seasoned tiers. Great opportunity to talk fishing with Spring just around the Conner !!

**February 27th**, ENCTU Board meeting SCPL, 6:30 Pm– 8:30PM.

**March 10th**, ENCTU Annual Banquet and Awards Ceremony at the Charleston Elks Lodge. This is always a good time and many prizes and sponsors are lined up. Other prizes and guided trips are in the works so please plan on attending.

One of our new Chapter members, John Koch II, who currently is in our beginning fly fishing class, suggested this free, on line fly fishing magazine. He thought it might be of interest to many of our members. You do have to register, but it is free:

[TheNewFlyFisherEzine.com](http://TheNewFlyFisherEzine.com)

### ENCTU Officers

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