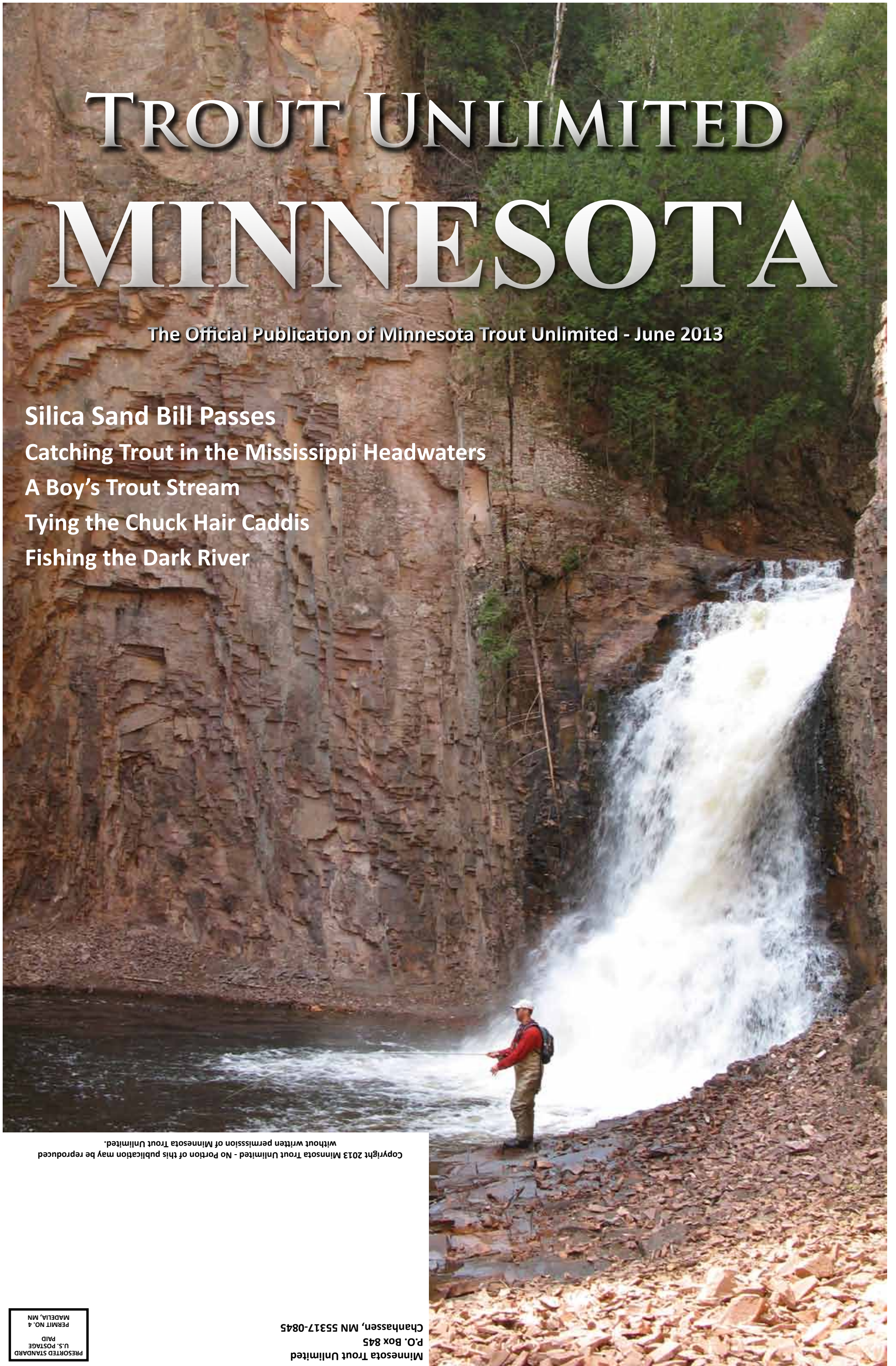


TROUT UNLIMITED MINNESOTA

The Official Publication of Minnesota Trout Unlimited - June 2013

Silica Sand Bill Passes
Catching Trout in the Mississippi Headwaters
A Boy's Trout Stream
Tying the Chuck Hair Caddis
Fishing the Dark River



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TROUT UNLIMITED MINNESOTA

The Voice of MNTU

ON THE COVER

An angler fishes below a waterfall on the Devil Track River near Grand Marais, Minnesota.

IN THIS ISSUE

- Get the details on where to find rainbow and brook trout in Northern MN.
- Learn how to tie a great new caddisfly pattern.
- A great book review highlighting the work of Tom Waters.
- Silica Sand Mining Update
- Updates on summertime habitat improvement and educational efforts around Minnesota.
- And Much More!

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Enjoy the Diverse Fisheries You Help Protect and Restore

By John Lencewski, MNTU Executive Director

The contrast between this issue's cover photo of North Shore steelheading and last issue's shot of Driftless area trout angling reminds us of the diverse coldwater fisheries Minnesota has to offer. I write this as the Memorial Day weekend approaches and am weighing whether to chase brook trout in northern Minnesota, browns in the southeast spring creeks, rainbows in trout lakes, heritage lake trout in the shallows of Boundary Waters lakes, steelhead in North Shore rivers, or elect to be surprised by several species off Lake Superior river mouths. It is likely I will have done several by the time you receive this issue, and hopefully you will have too.

Before heading out to recharge my batteries following the legislative session, I

want to thank all of you who made a call or sent a message to your legislators and Governor Dayton. You helped turn the tide in favor of protecting Driftless area trout streams from needless harm from an emerging silica sand mining industry. I hope this newsletter finds you having just returned from catching many wild trout in those picturesque valleys.

As the summer begins, please consider incorporating a few hours of rewarding work on a habitat project into a fishing outing to a new stream. The late spring and frequent high water have already thrown off work calendars, so please use the chapter contacts listed on page 3 or regularly visit www.mntu.org or chapter websites for updated calendars. Thank you again for helping conserve our coldwater fisheries and watersheds.



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EDITOR'S ANGLE

Time to Get on the Water

By Carl Haensel



As the seasons begin to slowly shift here outside my window along the Sucker River, I know it's time to spend the longer days that we have now on the water. For me that means many things, but relative to trout there are two - fishing and habitat improvement. As you page through our summer issue, you'll find tempting stories to lure you out on the water to cast, as well as opportunities to get out and participate on the ground in restoring our streams, rivers, lakes and forests around Minnesota. If you've never fished an area, summertime is the time to contact another TU chapter, learn some good spots to fish and have the chance to drop in and help out on a habitat improvement project or education program. From

North of Grand Marais to SE Minnesota there are TU projects and programs that you can get involved with this year.

As we work to make this newsletter effort sustainable, please take the opportunity to donate directly to MNTU. You'll find a form on the back cover, and with it you can help fund what we think is the best way to connect our volunteers, members, and all those who care about our trout waters. As always, make sure to take the time to support our advertisers and let them know that you saw their ad here in MNTU.

Good luck fishing this season and send us your photos for upcoming issues!

MINNESOTA COUNCIL UPDATE



Moving Forward

By JP Little, Minnesota Council Chair

Welcome to the 2013 summer Trout Unlimited statewide newsletter. I want to again thank Carl and Cindy Haensel for agreeing to serve as editor and layout designer of a product that will help get the message of Trout Unlimited out more broadly across the state of Minnesota. We received a lot of very positive feedback on the spring edition of the newsletter.

In May 2012, we were able to secure further state funding for cold water habitat work. Direct from www.mntu.org:

“On Tuesday May 1, Governor Mark Dayton signed into law a bill containing an appropriation of \$2.1 million to enable the Minnesota Council and seven chapters of Trout Unlimited to continue enhancing and restoring in-stream, riparian and lake habitats around the State. The bill, Senate File 2493, appropriates proceeds of a constitutionally dedicated sales tax approved by Minnesota voters in November 2008. This fourth appropriation from the Outdoor Heritage Fund will be used by Minnesota Trout Unlimited chapters and members to improve

habitat on thirteen streams and lakes. Habitat will be restored or improved on six northern Minnesota trout waters, two Twin Cities metropolitan area streams and five streams in the Driftless area of southeast Minnesota.

The new appropriation becomes available in July and will fund 2013 field work on these trout waters: Boys Lake, Kimball Lake and Mink Lake in Cook County; a trout stream in Cook County; Camp Creek in Fillmore County; East Indian Creek in Wabasha County; Garvin Brook, Rush and Pine Creeks in Winona County; Hay Creek in Goodhue County; Mill Creek in Olmsted County; Stewart River in Lake County and the Vermillion River in Dakota County.”

Many of these projects will be done this summer. We are also awaiting the governor’s signature this month on an additional \$2.4 million appropriation bill. With this wonderful news, comes a challenge: all projects require volunteers to help with work in the field. You may notice that the majority of projects are in

SE MN and on the North Shore. We have dedicated volunteers who have been working on projects for the last three rounds of grants, and we could use more volunteers to step forward. If you have never been involved in stream work, it is very gratifying. If you have an interest in participating in a TU project please step forward – and recruit a friend (or four). I can already see a couple vans streaming out of the Twin Cities to spend a weekend on stream work (throw in some fishing too) in SE MN.

I’ll close by repeating something I said in the last newsletter: The heart of any great volunteer organization is its people. If you are not yet involved with the MN Council or your local chapter please consider sharing your skills and passion to meet the challenges and opportunities in front of Trout Unlimited.

Tight Lines!

OUR READERS WRITE

Comments, Questions and More

We received many gracious comments regarding our previous newsletter and interest in a number of the articles. We welcome all commentary and may choose to publish some that we find may be interesting, useful, or informative to readers.

Travers Corners

When I received my copy of the Trout Unlimited Minnesota newsletter I could hardly believe my eyes. On page 6 there

is a wonderful book review of Scott Waldie’s “Travers Corners” trilogy of books. Scott was a dear friend. It was a pleasure to have been able to collaborate with him on a fund raising mission for a non profit organization called the Ruby Habitat Foundation in which we created a very special and very limited edition of books. Details about this project are enclosed.

Gregor Campbell

Gregor - Thanks for taking the time to write. We encourage all those who are interested in the project and in helping support the Ruby Habitat Foundation to check it out online. The web address as provided by you is:

www.rubyhabitat.org

- The Editor

LET’S GET TOGETHER IN HABITAT WORK!

By Ray Ricketts

This year brings all Minnesota TU chapters a challenge to start thinking ‘statewide’ in terms of stream habitat improvement.

For the past several years, Lessard-Sams funding has made southeast MN habitat improvement efforts a successful endeavor. In years past, the Hiawatha Chapter would raise the funds to do a stream segment, then hold a workday to build structures. The following weekend would be dedicated to ‘working on the stream’ to complete perhaps a quarter mile of improvement. Now, we still meet to build the structures, but a year’s efforts to improve three to four miles of stream on an equal number of projects can mean workdays three or more weekends in a couple of months. That quickly takes a toll -- and it doesn’t take long before the available volunteer pool starts to dwindle.

How do we overcome this sense of ‘burnout’? What is needed to ensure that we maintain our sense of ownership of

future HI projects?

Here in southeast Minnesota we have a coldwater trout fishing resource unmatched in most of the United States. Sixteen, eighteen, and twenty inch brown trout can be found in limestone spring-fed streams that are only 15-20 feet wide. Streams typically support many hundreds of trout per mile, with truly world class fishing opportunities.

Hiawatha TU invites other chapters and members to our area. We are asking other chapters and members in Minnesota that are excited about and appreciate these Driftless area resources to consider spending a weekend helping on a project. What if a work weekend was two days: one a work day and the other an opportunity to join HTU chapter members on the stream to enjoy the fruits of our earlier labors? What if we were to provide a few flies that work in this area as well as an opportunity to show off some of the ‘hidey holes’ that might

just hold one of those fish? We hope this will entice TU’ers from around MN and the region to come to our area and claim a sense of ownership on one of the many improvement projects. We also recognize all groups that work on a project on signage when it’s completed. That could include your chapter.

Sharing work on SE streams we all fish will ensure this remains premier trout fishing destinations for generations to come. We have 20 more years to make these kind of improvements. With your help can we take this goal from improving 3 miles per year to doing ten, twelve, or more miles? If so, we can really make an impact on providing for the future of coldwater fishing in Minnesota. We welcome other ideas and want members and chapters from around the state to get involved in this rewarding HI work.

Contact Ray Ricketts at wudcanu@yahoo.com.

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TROUT FISHING THE HEADWATERS

Fishing Opportunities in the Headwaters of the Mississippi River

By Bob Wagner

Looking to catch some good trout up north? Eleven streams and thirteen lakes in the Headwaters TU chapter area provide abundant and exciting trout fishing opportunities in North Central Minnesota. From a radius of Bemidji at the center, the Red Lake Reservation to the north, Park Rapids to the south, west to Bagley and east to Cass Lake there are a lot of opportunities to explore.

Starting in the north, the Red Lake Indian Reservation is one of Minnesota's best kept secrets for trophy rainbows and brook trout in pristine secluded lakes. During eight separate trips over the past 5 years I've caught rainbow trout averaging over 16 inches with 2 over 20 inches on each trip, plus brook trout over 2 lbs.

Pat Brown, Red Lake Fisheries Manager, explained their program started stocking 4 lakes with Rainbow and Brook trout in 1987 plus one additional lake with only Lake Trout that average 6-8 lbs. All five lakes are small deep, cold, spring fed gems. They have done very well at growing gorgeous, fat, chrome rainbows. I have been most successful with sink tip lines using an articulating leech pattern. One point to remember is that you have to hire an Indian guide to fish on the Reservation. My last six trips have been with the same guide, Darwin Sumner, which I recommend and whose contact information is found at the end of the article

In Bemidji, Fisheries Specialist Tony Strander is working hard at protecting and improving the following streams and lakes. Tony has also been a key resource advocate for our TU sponsored Trout in the classroom and 5th grade fishing program. There are a number of good fishing opportunities near Bemidji:

- Necktie River: This river originates about four miles south of Bemidji, flowing over 10 miles into Steamboat Lake. The Necktie has natural reproducing brook trout.
- Sucker Brook: This is another success story with natural reproduction brook trout.
- Clearwater River: The river is about 15 miles NW of Bemidji by Pine-wood. It has a handicapped trail and multiple fishing sites off Co. Rd #22. There are six miles of managed trout water on a river system over 100 miles long. It is stocked with catchable rainbow trout.
- South Branch of the Battle River: Located north of Bemidji and 4 miles west of Kelliher, this creek is stocked with catchable rainbows.

All four of these streams are mostly wooded with typical northwoods mix of Pine and Hardwoods. These streams are not large but beautiful with little fishing pressure. Information about the exact locations, parking and fishing access sites can be found online at:

www.dnr.state.mn.us/areas/fisheries/bemidji/index.html

Use the above link to access the MN DNR Lake Finder for more information on the following four lakes:

- Benjamin Lake: Northeast of Bemidji and just south of Blackduck, this lake is stocked with rainbows and browns. There's a great picnic park and small beach on the north side with a fishing pier and boat ramp on the south side.
- Deep Lake: This lake near Clearbrook is stocked with catchable rainbows and is close to the Clearwater River if you want to try both the same day.



THE AUTHOR WITH A TYPICAL RAINBOW TROUT FROM THE RED LAKE RESERVATION

- Long Lake: Just northwest of Itasca State Park this lake is a picture perfect setting of giant pines with a camp ground and boat access.
- Island Lake: Located in Clearwater county this lake is stocked with catchable size browns and rainbows.
- Kabekona River: Head 15 miles south of Bemidji to find this natural reproducing brook trout water. Over twelve miles of river nested in a picturesque valley offer a good chance to catch a brookie over 12 inches. Ongoing TU chapter projects are working to enhance and protect this river.
- Bungashing Creek: Located 8 miles south of Bemidji, new easements

Doug Kingsley is the Area Fisheries Supervisor located in the Park Rapids area. Along with Fisheries Specialist Mike Kelly they have been great to work with on multiple TU fisheries projects. They are responsible for the Trout Management of the following 6 streams and 4 lakes:

- Straight River: Located west of Park Rapids this premier river has 17 miles of natural reproducing brown trout water. You have a good chance of catching one over 20 inches. A detailed map of fishing easements is on the web site.

have been obtained (see the dnr web site). No trout are stocked but smaller brook trout are available.

- Upper Straight Creek: This small stream is located northwest of Park Rapids and feeds the Straight River system. No map is available on the website, contact DNR fisheries for information.
- Cat River: Found in Wadena County, this stream is stocked with brook trout.
- Cold Creek: In northern Hubbard County, this is a small brook trout stream.

Trout lakes in the Park Rapids area include:

- Newman Lake: Located 5 miles southwest of Bemidji off of Cty Road #3, this lake has a good access
- Crappie Lake: Found in the Paul Bunyan State Forest, this lake is a walk in only experience.
- Blacksmith: This 38 acre lake is regularly stocked with rainbow trout fingerlings.
- Blue Lake: A larger water north of Park Rapids, this 324 acre lake has good public access.

For complete information, maps, location, access and etc on the above 10 Trout fishing opportunities go to:

www.dnr.state.mn.us/areas/fisheries/parkrapids/index.html

Trout Unlimited Headwaters Chapter 642 welcomes and encourages you to take advantage of these great trout fishing lakes and streams next time you're in North Central Minnesota. If you would like more information, or would like to get involved with projects that the chapter has on these waters contact Bob Wagner at 218-586-2798 or 218-766-7757.

FOR INFORMATION REGARDING FISHING THE RED LAKE RESERVATION CONTACT:

DARWIN SUMNER
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TYING THE CHUCK HAIR CADDIS

An Effective Caddisfly Pattern for Southeast Minnesota

By Frank Angelotti

I'm definitely a caddis fisherman. I would say I catch more than half of my trout on caddis imitations. The simple reason is that caddis flies are abundant on just about any trout water I fish and particularly on the driftless streams of SE MN. Unlike mayflies, which have a very brief existence in their winged adult forms, caddis flies can live happily in their adult stage for weeks. Once they start emerging in April, there are adult Caddis flies present on our SE MN streams throughout most of the season. Either that or the trout have fond memories of the last emergence. An adult caddis makes a good searching pattern even when there is nothing at all on the water. An added bonus is that one can very effectively fish adult caddis imitations as a sloppy poorly casting fly fisher. Slap them down on the water, drag them, swing them, cast them sidearm and skip them across the water's surface. These tactics can be deadly as adult caddis are very dynamic insects. I swear that fish sometimes come right out of the water to take them. I have never seen this fly for sale in a shop so if you subscribe to the theory that showing the fish something they haven't seen will help entice them, then this pattern is for you. The fly tying magic in

it. Without a doubt, it has the greatest inclination to crowd the eye of any fly pattern I tie. I like to tie it on TMC 101 dry fly hooks because it is a little easier for me to keep material out of the straight

in a mood to savage the orange pattern. Attach your thread (color to match the body) to the hook and dub a body starting just in front of where the hook starts to bend forward to the 50% or 60% point

in point sloping downward to a point just behind the eye of the hook. Try to leave room behind the eye so as not to crowd it and don't make this slope too abrupt or it will be difficult to wrap the hackle collar over it. Now take the tiniest drop-let of head cement (I use Loctite super glue) and spread it over the slope created by the trimmed butt ends. Wind the tying thread up this slope back to the wing tie in point, creating a smooth foundation for the hackle collar. For hackle I like a variegated feather like barred ginger, grizzly or cree if you have it. Tie in the hackle feather just at the wing tie in point and wind 3-5 turns of hackle forward to the hook eye. Tie off the hackle and finish the head. There you have it with all my hard earned tying se-



A FLOCK OF CHUCK HAIR CADDIS



DUBBING THE HOOK



APPLYING THE CHUCK



TYING ON HACKLE



THE FINISHED PRODUCT

woodchuck guard hair is twofold. First it is enticingly variegated from its white tips to its dark brown base. Second, it is extremely water resistant, making it an ideal material for tying a dry fly. It is one of those special natural materials that is unique. The chuck hair caddis is a simple fly, consisting of a dubbed body, woodchuck guard hair wing and hackle collar but there are some tricks to tying

eye featured by this hook. However any dry fly hook will do. I like size 16 in olive, cinnamon, green and yellow. There are smaller black and charcoal caddis that hatch early in the SE MN season in sizes 18 and 20. I also tie lighter shades with bleached woodchuck wings in yellow, cream and orange sizes 16 and 14. I cannot recall encountering any orange caddis in SE MN but sometimes trout are

on the hook shaft. If you dub the body farther forward, you will be laying the foundation for crowding the eye of the hook. Next trim off a clump of woodchuck guard hairs approximately the size of a wooden matchstick. Clean out all the under fur that you can. This can be used for dubbing material if you save it. Stack the clump of guard hairs and tie them in just in front of the dubbed body with roughly four tight wraps of thread. The wing should be approximately as long as the shank of the hook. Now here is the secret to properly attaching the slippery chuck hair. Note that this procedure was documented by the late great Dick Talleur so this is not my invention. I just applied it here. Divide the butt ends of hair evenly into three clumps. Lift the first clump up and take two turns of thread underneath it. Repeat this with the other two clumps. Note that on the last clump you will be taking two turns around the bare hook shank. At the end of this procedure your thread should be positioned at the front of the fly near the eye. Now trim the butt ends of the hair in a slope from the wing tie

crets. For years I suffered with chuck hair wings that gradually fell out and spun around the shank until I discovered the little trick to locking in the slippery hair. I hope you give the chuck hair caddis a try and that you have as much good luck fishing with it as I have.



MATERIALS FOR THE FLY, INCLUDING HACKLE, DUBBING, AND WOODCHUCK FUR

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A BOY'S TROUT STREAM

By Harry L Peterson

Most Fishers have a home stream: the stream they go to first, or on certain days, or with special friends. Usually it is close, accessible, and friendly. They have favorite, secret places on those streams, although they may not be so secret and others probably know about them. My boyhood home stream in the late 1940s and early 1950s was Minnesota's Miller Creek.

Actually, it was my only stream because it was close to home. It had brook trout—a beautiful fish whose decisions about what might be good to eat are not always discriminating and whose approach to eating is sometimes described as “eager.” Brook trout are usually not hard to catch, even for a boy fishing with a casting rod and worms. Brook trout and boys are made for each other, although that would probably not be the perspective of the trout.

In the Midwest—although we like to think we are at least as evolved as those who live on the coasts—flies came late for most us. We started out as worm fishers. I have concluded that worm fishermen are fly fishermen in the larval form. Thus, although I have fished with flies for more than thirty years that is not how my friends and I began what has become, for some of us, an obsession.

Miller Creek begins northeast of the Duluth Airport and flows into St. Louis Bay in Lake Superior about 10 miles



BROOKIES, MAYFLY, AND A SENSE OF WONDER. 2009.

FULL-COLOR WOODBLOCK PRINT BY BETSY BOWEN. FROM AN EDITION OF 250. IMAGE COURTESY OF BETSY BOWEN. [HTTP://WOODCUT.COM/](http://WOODCUT.COM/)

nine, would sometimes hitch a ride with strangers down Miller Trunk Highway when we did not walk to the stream. That was not advisable then or now, but I never had any problems and met some people I would never have encountered otherwise. A few of them did not drive well, a few drove too fast, a couple had been drinking, and one of them tried to convert me to his religion. I did not tell my mother.

Gordy and I would begin our fishing as the stream went under the Miller Trunk Highway. The water was clear and cold throughout the stream, but it was deeper on either side of the bridge. We didn't have any waders, so we fished from the bank. Worms were our bait. We did not have any flies, and had neither the fishing equipment nor the skill to use them if we had. In truth, we didn't even know anyone who had fly-fishing equipment. That all seemed exotic and far away, certainly far away from Hermantown,

our community. Everyone we knew fished for walleye and northern pike in the many lakes in the area, as we did when we did not go to Miller Creek.

We knew about such fancy equipment, though, because we read about it in *Outdoor Life* and *Field & Stream*. The cover story on those magazines seemed to invariably feature a picture of a charging bear and a terrified hunter who had

only one shot to bring it down, according to the pages inside. (Or maybe it was just that those were the cover stories that were the most memorable.) The back of the magazine featured a full-page ad for Eveready batteries. The ad was always a story about some guys camping or hunting and getting lost or hurt. They needed the batteries for their flashlight to last through the night or they would not be found and would surely die. Just as the hunter on the cover of the magazine



MILLER CREEK, OCTOBER 2012.

HARRY L. PETERSON PHOTO FROM

always shot the bear, that flashlight always lasted an amazingly long time. In each issue, both the bear hunter and the lost campers survived.

Gordy and I read the stories inside the magazines about exotic adventures in Canada and other places we could only dream about. We also read the ads, the most exciting being an ad for a Pflueger Supreme casting reel, the top of the line from that company. I think it cost about \$35 in the late 1940s, a huge sum of money for young boys—but maybe we could get one when we were adults. The Pflueger Company, I note, still uses the Supreme model designation for several of its reels, no doubt taking advantage of

the lure of that label for older customers buying for their grandchildren. Now, however, those reels are spinning reels—just another of the many things about which Gordy and I knew nothing.

We caught some brook trout in Miller Creek. They were always beautiful and invariably small, and we would bring them home for our mothers to cook. Once, and only once, in the spring when the water was high and roily, I caught a 12-inch brook trout, just in front of the bridge. Although it was an enormous fish, in my excitement I almost pulled it over my shoulder as I yanked it from the water. Usually, though, it was Gordy who caught the most fish and the biggest fish. He was a real outdoorsman who had his own trapline for ermine (although we knew them as weasel). I would walk the traplines with him through the woods, harvesting the occasional catch and helping him reset his traps.

Gordy did not exceed me in persistence, however. When fishing, I did not give up. On one occasion, while fishing alone, I was gone so long that my mother came to the stream to retrieve me. After all, it was dinner time. But the fish were biting and biting hard. These were not trout but chubs, and they loved the worm. The mosquitoes were so thick that I had to breathe through my nose so I would not swallow them. There was a mosquito cloud around not only my head, but also around my mother, who was patiently waiting at the side of the road. Many chubs later, she persuaded me to leave, and we walked home.

Duluth, although only a few miles



THE AUTHOR AS A YOUNG TEEN WITH THE FISHING ROD HE USED ON MILLER CREEK. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR.

downstream. I lived just off the Miller Trunk Highway on Arrowhead Road, about a mile and a half from the stream. When I visited it a few years ago and measured the distance from my home to the stream, I was amazed how close it was.

It was far enough away that my best friend Gordon Engberg and I, from the age of

Creek are now far greater than any threat that two young boys ever posed to its trout population. A stream that flowed almost entirely through rural fields and woods now winds near and through residential and commercial development. Parts of the stream have been straightened, and another section goes through a pipe on its way to Lake Superior. Its neighbors include Kohl's, Target, and JCPenney, as well as a shopping mall. The commercial and residential growth in the watershed and the importance of that little stream to the area is revealed in the names of the businesses: Miller Garden Center, Miller Lawn and Landscaping, Miller Creek Townhomes, Miller Creek Medical Center, and Miller Hill Mall.

Residential and commercial development means more houses with fertilized lawns, more roads, and more parking lots. The increasing presence of concrete and asphalt, salt from the nearby roads, and the removal

of shrubs and trees along the stream have deteriorated the water quality, increased erosion, and raised the stream temperature. There are fewer trout.

There are people who care about Miller Creek today, just as two young boys did more than sixty years ago. To fix something, you first need to understand

Miller Creek be successful? Will it be there for future generations to fish? I don't know. The development and commercial pressures are great. It will take continued support to provide restoration and monitoring. It will also require the careful attention of local people who



GORDY ENGBERG IN AN UNDATED SCHOOL PHOTO. PHOTO COURTESY OF DARLENE ENGBERG AKEY.

love Miller Creek and consider it their home stream. It will be worth it. Trout streams are not cheap, but they are precious, and no one is making them anymore.

My family moved from northern Minnesota in 1952 when I was twelve. My friend Gordy Engberg drowned in 1960 at the age of twenty, when his boat capsized while he was duck hunting on Rice Lake.

I took up fly fishing more than thirty years ago and have lived near and fished some of the best trout-fishing streams in this country and, occasionally, other countries. The fish are bigger; the equipment is modern and far superior to what I used in my youth.

Still, I miss Miller Creek when I think of that huge 12-inch brook trout and when, on visits, I drive over that bridge on Miller Trunk Highway. And I miss Gordy.



GORDY ENGBERG AT AGE ELEVEN WITH HIS BROTHERS (JERRY, AGE NINE, AND KEN, AGE THREE). PHOTO COURTESY OF DARLENE ENGBERG AKEY.

it. The DNR describes Miller Creek as perhaps the most studied stream in the Duluth area. People have learned from those studies and are acting on what they have learned to try to save the stream.

Will efforts to salvage and restore

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Harry L. Peterson, shown here at age eleven with a snowshoe rabbit, is an active fly fisher who ties flies, makes rods, and collects fly-fishing books. He is president emeritus of Western State College of Colorado and was a college and university administrator for more than thirty years in Wisconsin, Idaho, Minnesota, and Colorado—all states with good trout streams. Peterson received his PhD in educational policy studies from the University of Wisconsin—Madison. When he is not fishing near his cabin in southwestern Wisconsin, home to many spring creeks, he continues to be active professionally and provides counsel to college and university presidents. He is author of *Leading a Small College or University: A Conversation That Never Ends* (Atwood Publishing, 2008). Peterson welcomes correspondence from readers and can be reached at hpeterson@tds.net.

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SILICA SAND MINING UPDATE

Legislature gives DNR authority to restrict silica sand mining within one mile of trout streams!

By John Lencewski, MNTU Executive Director

After several months of hard work by Minnesota Trout Unlimited members, many partners, and several legislative champions, the Minnesota Legislature on May 18 passed legislation placing restrictions on silica sand mining activity in the Driftless area of Minnesota. Significantly, the legislation gives the Minnesota DNR authority to restrict silica sand mining activity proposed within one mile of southeast Minnesota trout streams, by prohibiting this activity within these areas unless the DNR issues a special permit. A DNR permit can be issued only after a comprehensive hydrogeologic study of the area is performed and the results utilized by the DNR to develop setbacks from trout streams, springs, water tables and other hydrogeologic features. Governor Dayton is expected to sign the bill, H.F. 976, before Memorial Day. Vigilance and encouragement of the DNR by engaged anglers and citizens will be needed to provide the continued public support essential to ensure it can exercise this new authority in such a way as to protect of our world-class trout fisheries in southeast Minnesota.

Three basic protections were sought for SE MN

In the March 2013 issue of this newsletter, I outlined the potential for industrial silica sand mining to disrupt groundwater flows to springs and trout streams, and waste huge volumes of our groundwater. I explained Minnesota Trout Unlimited's belief that this new type of activity in southeast Minnesota need not cause significant harm if it is restricted to appropriate locations and methods. Finally, I outlined the reasons why

Minnesota Trout Unlimited members and leaders supported the enactment of three basic protections which geologists and hydrologists indicate are needed to protect the groundwater, springs and trout fisheries in southeast Minnesota's Driftless area. Those proposed restrictions, which were carried in Senate File 796, were:

1. Silica sand mines may not be located within one mile of any spring, trout stream, or perennial tributary of a trout stream (so that subsurface flows to springs and trout streams are not disrupted);
2. Mining of silica sand may not be conducted within 25 feet of the water table (to prevent removal of groundwater through construction dewatering); and
3. No more than 1 million gallons per year of groundwater may be pumped from any single site for washing, sorting or processing industrial silica sand (thereby directing new businesses to readily available alternatives).

These uniform prohibi-

tions did not become law, but the DNR was given authority to regulate silica sand mining and can impose these same restrictions through permitting.

Current lack of DNR authority will be remedied

All of Minnesota's water resources, whether lakes, rivers, streams or groundwater, are state resources owned by all citizens. The same is true for our fisheries resources. The DNR and other state agencies are appropriately charged with protecting these state resources. However, there are significant gaps in legislative grants of regulatory authority to the agency essential to adequately protect these resources. Amazingly, the DNR currently has no authority to keep silica sand mining activity away from springs, trout streams and groundwater tables.

many permits, and the unfounded inferences that these permits ensure the protection of water and fisheries resources, are mere smokescreens. The fact is that if someone wants to mine or quarry right next to a spring or trout stream the state agencies currently cannot stop them. This is why the DNR strongly supported the science-based minimum setbacks proposed by Sen. Schmit and supported by MNTU members. While the uniform minimum setbacks did not survive the legislative process, H.F. 976 now gives the DNR authority to say "no" and to establish protective setbacks necessary to protect coldwater resources.

Review not a substitute for substantive regulation

A hurdle to securing authority for

it is of limited value unless the governmental entities best able to understand and consistently apply the information gathered (in this case the DNR) possess authority to restrict activity to prevent negative impacts. Until now the DNR has lacked authority to create necessary setbacks from trout streams, springs and groundwater tables.

Thankfully, efforts to obscure the lack of substantive DNR regulation with offers of more process (environmental review) did not sway thoughtful legislators, including Sen. Matt Schmit, Rep. Rick Hansen, and Rep. Jean Wagenius.

The Legislative journey Senate Game and Fish bill

In March the three restrictions described above were added to the Senate Game & Fish bill (S. 796) during the policy committee hearing process. On April 23 we learned that several senators on a finance subcommittee (Environment, Economic Development and Agriculture Division) had decided they did not care for any restrictions on any type of mining. At this point the MNDNR and Governor Dayton realized that they needed to take a public position on these provisions. On April 24 DNR Commissioner Tom Landwehr took the rare step of personally appearing and testifying in strong support of the restrictions. Despite his excellent testimony and others' efforts, a majority of committee members turned a deaf ear and removed the provisions via an oral amendment. On April 30 an effort was made to restore these protections in the full Finance Committee, but the motioned failed on

a 10 to 11 vote. MNTU then sent out more action alerts, wrote op-eds, and redoubled efforts to educate senators and the public in preparation for a planned Senate floor amendment to restore these protections. That floor amendment was never offered, since members' calls and e mails provided the pressure needed forge a compromise which will become law.

Compromise: Authority to regulate instead of uniform prohibitions

Opponents of uniform state restrictions to protect southeast trout fisheries realized the tide had turned and Senator Schmit's floor amendment had the votes to pass. However, since the House Game & Fish bill contained no similar provisions, a compromise was needed to ensure something meaningful could pass both bodies by other means. Politics has been described as the art of the possible. Ultimately, obtaining authority for the DNR to determine protective setbacks



CONSERVING OUR BLUFFS AND WATERSHEDS IS VITAL TO PROTECTING OUR VALUABLE TROUT STREAMS LIKE HOUSTON COUNTY'S BEAVER CREEK

It can ask a local government to protect these state resources, but it cannot require them or the project proposer to do so. The DNR has no recourse in the all too frequent instances where its pleas are ignored. The DNR can only regulate activities through permitting, yet none of the three DNR permits which might possibly apply to a silica sand mining operation - water appropriation (pumping), modification of the bed of a trout stream, and taking of sensitive species - can be used to restrict risky or destructive activity next to these sensitive resources. The water appropriation permitting process allows the agency to consider how much groundwater will be pumped from large aquifers, but these permits cannot be used to prevent mining operations from locating next to springs and trout streams, and permanently interrupting the flow of vital groundwater.

Claims by some industry representatives that the industry already must obtain

the DNR was the persistent myth that environmental review and existing permitting processes can ensure adequate protection from poorly sited silica sand mines. Lobbyists were eager to steer public discourse to talk of how environmental review, hydrologic studies, and the development of model ordinances would take good care of things. This obscures the lack of substantive regulation and perpetuates a fundamental lack of understanding about environmental review. All environmental review is just that, review. It is not regulation. While environmental worksheets can assemble useful information for regulators, they are not regulatory documents. Environmental review can provide information to local units of government, but local politicians are not required to, and often do not, follow the DNR's recommendations for protecting state resources.

Environmental review can be time consuming and expensive, but in the end

in each instance (as opposed to uniform prohibitions) was the only achievement possible this session. Thanks to the strong leadership of Rep. Rick Hansen and Rep. Jean Wagenius, this grant of permitting authority to the DNR was carried into the Omnibus Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance and Policy Bill, H.F. 976.

Key outcome: Authority to restrict activity near trout streams

HF 976 prohibits silica sand mining within one mile of Driftless area trout streams unless the DNR issues a permit. Before the DNR can issue a permit it must require the project proposer to do a hydrogeologic evaluation and collect any other information necessary to assess potential impacts to hydrogeologic features. The DNR must identify appropriate setbacks from designated trout streams, springs, and other hydrogeologic features (such as water tables) and any other restrictions necessary to protect trout stream water quantity, quality, and habitat. See Article 4, Section 66 of HF 976. This provision gives the DNR authority to say “no” to sand mining activity which could harm coldwater resources. The DNR Commissioner has repeatedly said that the agency supports a one mile exclusion zone near (setback from) trout streams and springs, as well as a prohibition against mining within 25 feet of the groundwater table. We expect the DNR to stick to these conservative setbacks, which it has testified are the appropriate setbacks for protecting the world-class fisheries in this area.

The agency indicated that it preferred that the three uniform protections advanced by Sen. Schmit be enacted. In addition to the obvious advantage in terms of providing businesses with certainty, we suspect the DNR does not relish the likelihood that some individuals will ignore the warning flags and stubbornly pursue projects in these sensitive areas. Given the pressure which some individuals are likely to exert on the DNR, anglers and citizens will need to remain vigilant and encourage the agency not to retreat from these protections.

Other provisions

HF 976 contains several other provisions laying the groundwork for future regulation of the emerging silica sand mining industry. These include:

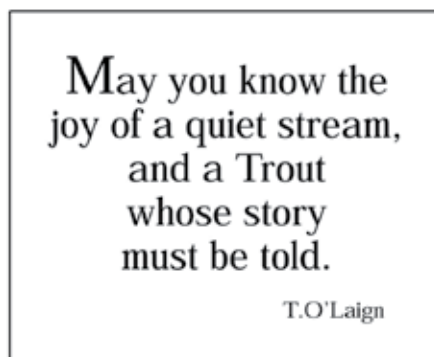
- Environmental Quality Board will develop model standards and criteria for mining, processing, and transporting silica sand, which local units of governments may use to develop ordinances (Art. 4, Section 91); and
- Establishment of a technical advisory team to provide local units of government, at their request, with assistance with ordinance development, zoning, environmental review and permitting, monitoring, or other issues (Art. 4, Section 91)
- Directs EQB to review and update mandatory environmental review categories for silica sand activity (Art. 4, Section 105);
- Creates new interim mandatory EAW categories for mines of 20 acres or more and processing facilities capable of storing more than 7,500 tons of silica sand or processing more than 200,000 tons of silica sand per year (Art. 4, Section 92);
- Adds requirements to contents

of EAWs (Art. 4, Section 92);

- Allows local governments to extend local moratoria an additional year (Art. 4, Section 106);
- Grants rulemaking authority for particulate emissions (MPCA), mine reclamation (DNR), and air quality health-based value for silica sand (MDH) (Art. 4, Section 105);
- Establishes a library of local ordinances adopted (Art. 4, Section 93);
- Provides \$1 million to the EQB to lead the interagency team providing technical assistance regarding the mining, transport and processing of silica sand, and to develop model standards and criteria.

Other provisions improve groundwater monitoring, analysis, management and permitting efforts generally, but those are the subject of future article on water appropriation statewide. The text of HF 976 can be found on the state’s legislative website at: https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/text.php?number=HF976&version=0&session=1s88&session_year=2013&session_number=0&type=ccr

While we did not succeed in securing uniform setbacks from trout streams and springs, we did secure authority for the DNR to restrict silica sand mining activity proposed within one mile of Driftless area trout streams. At last the DNR will have the authority and ability to say “no” to poor site selection and methods which threaten coldwater fisheries. This good outcome is the result of months of hard work by many individuals, especially legislative champions Sen. Matt Schmit, Rep. Rick Hansen, and Rep. Jean Wagenius. Vocal support by the DNR and Governor Mark Dayton in the last 4 weeks was also instrumental in securing permitting authority near trout streams. And of course none of this would have been possible without the calls and letters of TU members, friends, anglers and Driftless area residents.

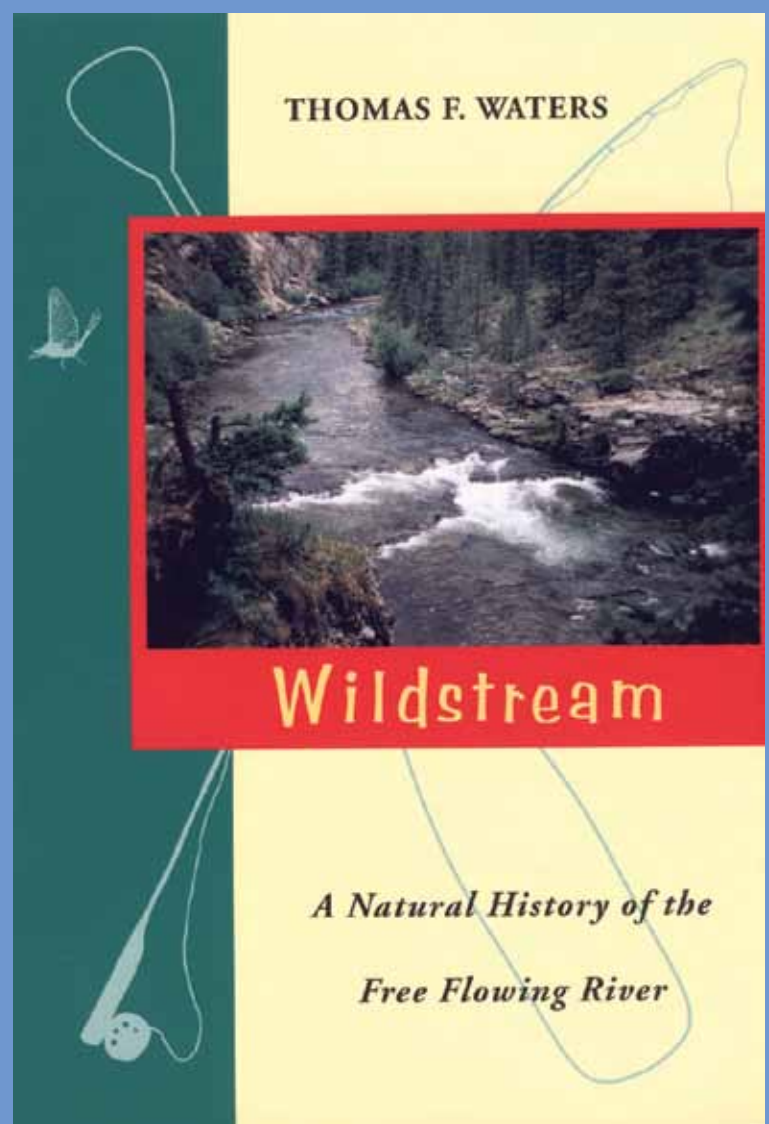


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WILDSTREAM

A NATURAL HISTORY OF THE FREEFLOWING RIVER

Book Review

By John Hunt

I first met Dr. Tom Waters at a Twin Cities TU meeting in the early 90’s. I was a relatively new TU member at the time, eager to learn and to get involved. I don’t remember what we talked about anymore, but I do remember that our brief conversation spurred me into tracking down a copy of his first book, “The Streams and Rivers of Minnesota”. What I found in that book was a terrific primer on the moving waters of my home state. After quickly devouring that title, I picked up a copy of another of his books, “The Superior North Shore – A Natural History Lake Superior’s Northern Lands and Waters”. Again, Dr. Waters had blended the history of some of his favorite places with the patient teaching and explanation that was one of his unique traits as an author. Both books have since become standard fare for me when I need to unwind or pass some time on a rainy weekend.

In publishing “Wildstream – A Natural History of the Free Flowing River” in 2000, Dr. Waters once again endeavored to provide the average person with a look at the marvelous complexity and synergy that exist in rivers. The book’s target audience is the moderately informed angler or river conservationist. At over 500 pages, however, Wildstream is not a quick read. Organized into six basic sections, it begins by describing how different river forms originate on the landscape and then explains how aquatic systems draw energy and nutrients from their watersheds, and how that balance can be disrupted by

changes in the landscape.

With that foundational information in hand, Dr. Waters continues by providing the reader with a basic understanding of the interrelated biochemical reactions that weave together to support the multi-species food web in a variety of coldwater and warmwater environs. The book moves toward conclusion with a discussion of the variety of game fish we enjoy pursuing in rivers, including trout, salmon, smallmouth, and catfish. The final chapters, presented under the umbrella title of “By Clock and Calendar”, give the reader a snapshot into such diverse topics as daily invertebrate drift and annual salmon migration patterns.

One element of the book that I find particularly enjoyable is the series of brief “RiverSketches” that accompany each of the book’s 25 chapters. With intriguing titles such as “Northwest Passage”, “River Pigs and Log Marks”, and “Fish out of Water”, each RiverSketch provides a more personal dialogue or application of the preceding chapter’s discussion by which the reader can better transfer the subject matter to everyday life. The author closes with a call to action. He writes, “I hear a river singing. Across the country, I hear a murmur rising toward floodtide in a song of river advocacy, like the rising of a rapid’s roar after a downpour.” I’d like to think that MNTU has carried on the legacy of Dr. Tom Waters with as much passion and determination as he himself showed for the rivers that he loved so much.

NEWS FROM TU NATIONAL

The National Leadership Council

By Steve Carlton

As the National Leadership Council-person for Minnesota, I am required to attend the Trout Unlimited National Meeting every year. I've been blessed enough to attend every meeting since 2005. My highlight of the TUNA meeting comes on the Friday morning of the four day meeting. It's the "State of TU" presentation. The attendees get to hear from the Chairman of TU Jon Christianson for a quick business meeting to vote for the Board and Trustees and to conduct other business. Then we get to hear from Hilary Cooley, TU's Chief Financial Officer about the financial shape of TU. But the highlight for me is the report from Chris Wood, TU's President and CEO.

Chris gives a slideshow on TU and all of its successes over the past year. Talk about a grassroots organization, Wow! Every active chapter, state council and regional watershed projects are highlighted and brought to everyone's attention. I'm especially proud of the work Minnesota TU has been able to do since the passage of the Legacy Amendment and the hiring of John Lenczewski as our Executive Director. Our projects are often highlighted during this program as well as in TROUT Magazine.

Over the past few years I have been able to make this same presentation at the Twin Cities Chapter Meeting in October. I hope you all are attending your local chapter meetings. It's the first step in getting more active in your chapter. As you know, TU is a volunteer organization. It would be nothing without its members across the country. It is truly a grassroots organization.

The next time you find yourself cruising the web, please stop by www.tu.org. You can get lost surfing for information on National Issues like Bristol Bay, Climate Change, Protecting Public Lands and other issues affecting all of us. Some of the areas I like to check out are the "Recent Press Releases" and "Latest News". Here you'll find the latest info on national news that affect cold water fisheries.

If local or regional issues are your search du jour, there is plenty of information at tu.org also. "TU in Action" is your starting point. Recent articles in-

clude: Orvis's support for Bristol Bay, dam removal on the Gros Ventre River in Wyoming, and a note from Sportsmen to President Obama: Follow Through on Climate Change. All of these articles and all TROUT Magazines since 2007 are archived on the TU website.

Any TU member can add to the Blog. If you have a story that you think would be fun to share with others, feel free to submit a story to the Blog. I've recently read a great article on Lahontan Cutthroat Trout. A few years back on a ski trip to Lake Tahoe, a friend and I skipped a day of skiing and hired a guide to take us up to Pyramid Lake, just north of Reno. Once you read this story, you too will find a reason to get to Reno for some of the oddest fishing you'll ever see for very large trout. Anglers bring six foot ladders to the edge of the drop-offs and cast from the ladder. I urge you to look this story up. It's the history of the ancient Lahontan Cutthroat and its near extirpation and efforts for its comeback.

In addition to the conservation issues there are links to podcasts and videos. Some videos document TU projects, some are funny and there are links to Youtube Videos...like the infamous Hank Patterson Fishing Guide videos. If you haven't seen the Hank Patterson Videos, please do yourself a favor and spend a few minutes belly-laughing to Your Fishing Guide, Hank Patterson.

And like any good non-profit, on the website you always have the ability to donate to Trout Unlimited. Donate to TU, but remember that your local chapter and Minnesota TU (state council) will not receive any part of this donation. If you'd like to keep your local chapter and Minnesota Trout Unlimited doing all the great advocacy, education and habitat grant writing here in Minnesota and the Midwest you need to make direct donations to them. You'll find a donation form in this newsletter. This newsletter is funded in part by advertisers, so please support them. Check out the Trout Unlimited website and it will make you feel great about your membership in a wonderful organization.



FISHING THE DARK RIVER

Browns, Brooks and Changes in the River

By Rod Prusi

I first fished the Dark River back in 1978 after moving to northern Minnesota from Michigan's Upper Peninsula. I had started fly fishing when I was in high school after watching my father fly fish on our trout outings when I was young. I took some time before I caught my first trout on a fly but it was a 12" Brook trout and I can still see how it came right out of the water and took the fly on the way down.

After moving to the "land of the wall-eye", I was somewhat surprised to hear that there was a trout stream not far from where I was working. After hearing most

the water temperature was considerably colder. There was a natural spring feeding the stream which I knew was there but hadn't paid much attention to before. I landed a fly in a deep hole at the spring and was rewarded with a 12" native brook trout. I had never caught a brookie in the Dark River before that, but now there seemed to be as many brook trout as browns.

I learned that the DNR had been stocking brown trout for years, but after finding that the brook trout were naturally reproducing, had halted the brown stocking program. In the last few years I



A GRAPHITE REPRODUCTION OF A SIXTEEN INCH BROWN TROUT THE AUTHOR CAUGHT FROM THE DARK RIVER

people talk about fishing for walleye and northern pike, one of my coworkers told me that he and his friends would catch brown trout in the river near his home north of Chisholm, Minnesota. This of course got my attention, and after getting directions to the river I found myself hiking into a brushy stream that reminded me of the Black River that my dad and I fished in Michigan.

My first outing yielded just one 14" Brown trout which I caught on a Muddler Minnow (still a favorite of mine on the Dark). I fished about a mile of the stream after work that afternoon and I fell in love with the river and the country around it. Hiking back to my car as darkness settled in I heard the call of a whip-poorwill. I hadn't heard one of these since I was a kid back in the U.P. so the attachment was complete.

For the next 5 years or so I would venture back to the river and occasionally take a friend or two along. We would generally catch fish in the 8 to 12" range but rarely anything bigger.

I moved away from the area for several years, and after returning, I was anxious to get back to the quiet and solitude of the river. On my first trip back I picked up a few browns. When I reached a particular spot in the river I noticed

haven't caught a single brown trout. One of the last ones I caught was in 2007. I have a graphite reproduction of the fish mounted. It was 16" and I also caught one 14" and two brook trout 10" and 12" that day.

A few years ago our chapter assisted the DNR in an electro-shock survey of a section of the river. Over a two day period we were able to log several hundred brook trout in that short section of the river, the largest was 16" with numerous fish in the 10 -14" range. To my knowledge they were all brook trout.

Over the last few years the river has gone through a lot of natural changes due to high water, storms and various other situations, fishing the Dark has been a challenge lately due to blow downs, brushy undergrowth and as always, mosquitoes. It takes determination and patience to fish that same stretch I have worked over the years, and success has varied. Regardless of the effort or the reward, I always get back to my vehicle a much happier person than when I arrived.



Gitche Gumee Chapter

There are numerous habitat projects planned along Minnesota's North Shore this summer. Large projects include two reaches on the Sucker River totaling nearly 3000 feet and preparing for work on the Stewart River. Chapter members will also be doing maintenance on the nearly 7000 trees the chapter has planted in the past two years.

Fish the Hex Hatch

The Arrowhead Fly Fishers will join us on our project on the outlet of Kimball Lake, a designated trout lake. This HI work will coincide with the Fly Fishers' annual Hex Camp, and should offer some great fishing opportunities. A tentative date has been scheduled for Saturday, July 6th. Contact Carl Haensel at carlhaensel@hotmail.com to get involved in stream habitat improvement opportunities this summer.

Carl Haensel

Hiawatha Chapter

Hiawatha Trout Unlimited (HTU) has a lot of habitat improvement (HI) work coming up. Work is to continue on Mill Creek north of Chatfield, Minnesota, and new work is scheduled for Cold Spring Brook near Zumbro Falls, Minnesota.

We also have several programs we have

just completed and many more coming up. HTU recently finished the Rochester Community Education fly fishing class in April and the DNR MinnAqua Adult/Youth mentorship fly fishing weekend at Good Earth Village in Spring Valley Minnesota, was held the weekend of May 3-5. Between several DNR specialists and HTU members and other individuals, many kids and their parents were introduced to the wonderful sport of fly fishing.

Senior Days will be held in Lanesboro, Minnesota, on June 13. For many years HTU, has fed the many volunteers that help seniors fish at the ponds in Sylvan Park in Lanesboro. Another upcoming event is the Coon Valley Trout Fest. More information can be found at www.cooncreektroutfest.com. Rounding out the list is T.U.N.E. Camp at Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center near Lanesboro, Minnesota, June 21-23.

I look back at all the fantastic and knowledgeable fly fishers I've meet over the years that I have spent supporting HTU and cold stream fisheries in Southeast Minnesota. They have been inspirational, open to teaching, and ever involved in their own passion. I haven't enough room to put all the inspirational names of the people that have influenced, guided, and taught me, but you know who you are, and I gratefully thank you all.

To keep our efforts going we are always in need of more volunteers. Visit the chapter website at www.hiawathatu.org to get involved.

Editor, writer, fly fisher and fly tier, and trout nut

Philip N. Pankow

Headwaters Chapter

June Stream Restoration Projects

The Kabekona cattle crossing is progressing thanks to Steve Young's good work. Steve will need help with landscape and rock work. If you can help call Steve 218-243-2574. There are other projects coming up as well in the summer, contact us to get involved.

The Summer Membership meeting-meeting will be held June 11th at the Keg and Cork in downtown Bemidji, located at 310 Beltrami Ave NW.

There will be a 4:00pm Board meeting, 5:00pm Social and Taco Buffet. Highlights include speaker Dallas Hudson, Straight River Guru, discussing flies and tactics of the famous Straight River Hex Hatch and Big Browns. Plus 7:00 p.m. fly casting demonstrations and practices at nearby Library Park- Special casting games and prizes for kids.

PLEASE R.S.V.P so we can plan accordingly on numbers. Call Bob Wagner 218-586-2798 or 218-766-7757 or email bob@riverwooddesign.net Everyone that R.S.V.P by Monday June 10th will be registered for a special door prize.

Bob Wagner

Twin Cities Chapter

TCTU is beginning the bidding processes on a mile of Hay Creek habitat improvement work for this season. This stretch is downstream of the Hay Creek campground on State Forest land. With the bid process & permitting to complete yet we are looking at a July timeline. Watch the TCTU website for volunteer dates as they become known.

TCTU is looking at additional properties on the Vermillion that are being acquired by the DNR for future work as well as Rice Creek which is south of Northfield & Trout Brook which is a beautiful creek in Miesville Ravine Park adjacent to the Cannon River in southern Dakota county. Trout Brook has a large resident population of native Brook Trout but is a very involved project that will involve local landowners, the county & other partners. Rice & Trout Brook are scheduled to begin in 2014.

Stream Maintenance Team

TCTU would like to sign up a group of volunteers to monitor & do re-seeding & patching on the banks of Hay Creek(4-5 miles), the Vermillion(2.5 miles) & MOA Creek(200 feet). We need a dedicated group of people who can monitor the existing stretches so that the habitat group can work on new stretches of these streams as well as new streams. Here's your chance to help maintain the quality of the streams you are fishing. Bring your kids & shovels, we supply the seed, bring a picnic lunch & your fishing poles & do it on your own schedule...

As always we are looking for volunteers to work with Tony Nelson & Tom Lane to help with the planning and coordination with landowners & the various government agencies. If you are looking to

be part of the Habitat team we welcome any and all members.

Call Tony Nelson at 952-486-2282 or via e-mail Tony@1igprint.com to volunteer or get involved with any of the opportunities listed above.

Tony Nelson

Win-Cres Chapter

Win-Cres has high hopes for completing major Stream Habitat Improvement work on Garvin Brook this summer. Exact work dates have not been set yet, but members who would like to contribute in this meaningful way should check in with Mike Jeresek, Win-Cres stream improvement chair, to get on the work crew notification list, so that when work dates are set, you will receive a notice. Mike Jeresek can be reached at (507) 450-3701 or by e-mail at san@acegroup.cc

Members who are not receiving club e-mails should register their e-mail address with club President Joe Lepley. Joe Lepley can be reached at (608) 323-2339 or by e-mail at jlepley@riverland.org

Our third annual Veterans' Fly Fishing Extravaganza is well into the planning stages again. The date is set for Saturday, August 10, in Lanesboro. Once again, the event will be free to U.S. Military Veterans and their families, offering fly fishing instruction, fly tying instruction, educational displays by the National Trout Center, and a great lunch. Contact Mike Trok, the driving force for this Veterans' event, for more information or to get involved. Mike Trok can be reached at (651) 245-2923 or by e-mail at mwtrok@riverlandcom.net. Visit the chapter web site at www.wincrestu.org for more information

Mark Reisetter

Waybinahbe Chapter

The chapter is please to report that we received the good news that our grant application for work on Matuska's Creek was accepted and we have begun the necessary paperwork to get our project under way in June of this year. We will be contacting contractors for bids on the work and once things are under way we will be photographing the progress. Anyone interested in getting involved in the work should contact the chapter.

As mentioned in the last newsletter our other task is the re-chartering of our Chapter. We have our by-laws updated and will proceed with getting member approval.

Many members have discussed the first Newsletter and were impressed and are looking forward to more. I hope we can receive more input from our members on future issues.

Rod Prusi

BEFORE STEPPING
"The words stop but the meaning keeps going on."

Basho

By Larry Gavin

Let it be the moment before stepping into the water to fish. Flies lined up in a box like days on a calendar. A cigar still unlit waiting: cows, the definition of bliss, graze along the far bank like those things in life we hope to never forget. Be there in that moment. Just before water presses and chills against legs; the gentle pressure of time passing. Wait a moment and study rocks or insects diaphanous as the skin on a girl's wrist, and the sky so blue: and high, and clear, and bright. Let it be the moment before stepping off the bank from solid ground to gravel and sand, and the muck we originally crawled out of, into a new world that contains our better self. And let that world last for our own particular kind of forever.

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We'll assign you to a local chapter. Chapters meet regularly to hear about fishing hot spots, discuss conservation issues, plan work days on their home waters, organize fundraisers, and of course, swap a few fish tales and learn how to tie the latest fly patterns. All members also receive this publication as well as TROUT, TU's national magazine. Other benefits include a 16-month TU calendar, car rental & hotel discounts and more. TU offers a variety of membership categories, please circle your desired level of support below:

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Minnesota TU is the leading voice, your voice, advocating for coldwater fisheries and watersheds in Minnesota and the region. Our effective advocacy work and successful habitat grant writing efforts **cannot continue without your direct financial support of Minnesota TU.** We receive none of the donations raised from TU's direct mail and other fundraising efforts, and the small portion of your membership dues we receive is less than the cost to print and mail this newsletter. We need direct support from you - members and non-members alike - to keep us working effectively for you, your family and your friends. Every dollar of that donation will be used here in Minnesota.

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REELING IT IN

Of Trout, Water and People ...

By Corky McHandle

FRACK ME!

OR

IF THERE IS SAND MINING IN THE FOREST WILL THERE STILL BE A STREAM?

I often hear about how sportsmen and women are the greatest of all conservationists and stewards of the land. The thing is that many of those who state this choose to ignore the lessons from someone considered one of the the greatest conservationists, Theodore Roosevelt. Let's not forget that Teddy wasn't just about Smokey the Bear and National Parks. He also pointed out the dangers of selling our heritage to corporate special interests. We need to remember that corporations are not people. They are most certainly made up of people but ultimately they don't have a collective conscience regarding the natural heritage of our great country and the legacy we pass on to future generations. Well, not unless that conscience is somehow connected to increased profits. Not that being profitable is wrong. The issue is being profitable at any price.

Back in the halls of Frackmania there appears to be a glimmer of hope, and not just in the area of regulations and-controls. One thing that appears to be happening is that not unlike ethanol, the boom in frack sand mining for natural gas extraction may just be busting a bit (see I told you some good old days might be around). At least in Minnesota the deposits may be of limited size that 'margins' won't warrant the effort, at least in some cases. Another bright star is that apparently 'some' of the mining opera-

tions appear to be behaving responsibly in their ability to restore prairie lands in southeast Minnesota.

Kudos to our MNTU Executive Director and others for putting up a valiant fight regarding frack sand mining. This has been another case where we watch billions of potential dollars compete against the intrinsic value and the future legacy of our land and watersheds. Ecological arguments often get shot down as 'silly' environmentalism or anti-capitalistic or even anti-American. The ultimate lesson that needs to be learned is that despite the promise of cheaper energy, neither this (fracking) nor corn based ethanol have delivered that which they have promised so ardently in an effort to get people to surrender to their (industry) concerns.

So in this recent round of threats to our Driftless streams with Midwestern Mountain topping what have you done? Did you write a Congressman or woman? Did you go to a rally at the Capital? Write a personal note? A person may think, 'oh well they're working on it' or 'someone else will go' but if everyone thinks this then guess what? No one does. Recently I read an interesting quote, "Organized greed trumps disorganized democracy every time". Over one hundred years later Teddy Roosevelt's warnings and concerns are more valid than ever. We outdoors people are a shrinking violet of a demographic voice, and are at risk of passing to political oblivion.

Make yourself heard, we do not have time to waste.



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