

# TROUT UNLIMITED MINNESOTA

The Official Publication of Minnesota Trout Unlimited - June 2014

**Fishing Our Habitat Work**  
**Exploring the Straight River**

**MNTU Photo Contest Results!**

**Tying the Adams Cripple**

**Book Review - Brook Trout**

**Hook Removal 101**

**A Memorable Day on Rush Creek**

**Minnesota's Water Law**

**And Lots More!**

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## ON THE COVER

South Branch of the Root River in Fillmore County, MN. Photo by overall winner of the 2014 MNTU photo contest Twin Cities Chapter member Keith Randa. Look for more winning photos on page 6.

## IN THIS ISSUE

- Habitat Improvement on the Straight River.
- How to tie the Adams Cripple with Paul Johnson.
- Winners of the MNTU Photo Contest
- Minnesota's Water Law
- Updates on habitat improvement and educational efforts around Minnesota.
- And Much More!

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# MINNESOTA COUNCIL UPDATE

## Explore Our State Trout Waters

By JP Little, Minnesota Council Chair

Welcome to the 2014 spring Minnesota Trout Unlimited statewide newsletter. As we sit on the cusp of legislative approval of yet another round of Lessard funding my message in this newsletter is a bit different than in previous newsletters. The message is – get out there and explore our state trout waters.

We've got over 1200 miles in NE Minnesota and over 1000 miles in SE Minnesota and summer is the time to get out and find your own little slice of heaven. Also, of the roughly 10,000 lakes in Minnesota around 200 lakes provide everything trout need to survive and carry over from year to year, most in northern Minnesota. There are many choices on how, when and where to wet a line.

I'm guessing most who read this newsletter have had their share of magical days fishing to a pod of fish taking blue wing olives. Or finding a stream alive with fish ready and willing to hammer a streamer, or take a bead head nymph with abandon. Pack up a cooler with some "troutin" sandwiches, your favorite beverages and get out and do some exploring.

We have over 30 miles of great streams that have been improved working in conjunction with the DNR over the last 5 years. The fishing in the state of Minnesota is probably as good as or better than any time in our history, certainly modern history. There is plenty of elbow room and trout out there – get out and explore!



Tight Lines!

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Fishing Our Habitat Improvement- The Straight River....	page 4
MNTU Photo Contest.....	page 6
A Memorable Day on Rush Creek.....	page 7
Book Review - Brook Trout.....	page 7
Fish Hook Removal 101.....	page 8
Management Success on Stony Brook.....	page 8
Tying the Adams Cripple.....	page 9
Mid-Minnesota Chapter Renewal.....	page 9
News from TU National.....	page 11
Minnesota's Water Law.....	page 12
Stewart River Watershed Conservation.....	page 13
MNTU Chapter News.....	page 14
ReelingItIn.....	page 16



LEARNING THE BASICS OF FLYTYING AT THE SECOND MINNAQUA YOUTH AND ADULT FLY-FISHING WEEKEND, HELD THIS SPRING IN LANESBORO, MN

# FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## Growth

By John Lenczewski, MNTU Executive Director

As I write this in late May the truck is packed for an excursion to plant trees which will restore shade to an important North Shore river. Actually the truck has not been unpacked following a long holiday weekend on the North Shore pursuing vestiges of the late steelhead run. I had escaped a day or two early with my college age sons to camp, fish, sample local cafes, soak in the big lake and pick a few interesting rocks. We ran into a couple folks whom I expect to see planting trees this week and it brought back memories of past tree plantings on other North Shore rivers such as the Amity, French, Sucker and Knife. While I have helped on several Knife River plantings over the years, I had to think of a planting nearly 15 years ago, when Mark, who was too young to bust the invasive canary grass sod, had a ball exploring a stretch of the West Branch of the Knife. He spent the morning rolling stones, collecting aquatic bugs, chasing juvenile steelhead

and brookies, generally getting wet and dirty, and collecting a few special rocks. It also reminded me of a similar late season steelhead trip with Mark a couple years back which culminated in a tree planting on MNTU's Sucker River project. I doubt he or I will ever forget how happy the black flies were to welcome us to their unseasonable streamside party. Catching a sight of a prized rock he collected from the canyon of a favorite steelhead river on that trip brings it all back. The trees and the boys have been growing well. I think the link between good fishing, conservation work and good times is being made. I encourage all of you to consider planning a fishing/ exploring trip around a TU volunteer opportunity this summer - and bring the kids, or even the neighbor kids along, whatever their age. Contact your TU chapter or MNTU to get on the project e mail list, since the late spring has made work calendars hard to set before this newsletter goes to print.



See you on the water!

John



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A TROPHY STRAIGHT RIVER BROWN TROUT. LOOK TO OUR STRAIGHT RIVER ARTICLE TO LEARN THE DETAILS

## EDITOR'S ANGLE

### Fishing Around The State

By Carl Haensel, Editor

As the the mayfly hatches begin in earnest here in Northern Minnesota, our trout streams are full to the brim with water. It looks to be a good year for the fish to grow large, vibrant and healthy. I hope that when you read this you are returning from a day afield on your local stream, with stories of rising trout, mayflies in the air and a sunset glowing through the trees. Maybe the big fish were biting, but if they were not, I hope that your day on the water was magical just because you were on a Minnesota trout stream.

If you are able this season, take the time to contact your local chapter, see some of our habitat work in progress and lend a hand. Each and every chapter can use

your involvement. Send us your photos, write us your stories and share your experiences in the field. Those recollections are what we thrive on. We want to hear from you, our thousands of members, to help lead us forward as we plan our habitat work in the coming seasons. Minnesota TU is a reflection of its members, and it is your stories that bring our organization to life. A special thanks goes to all those who submitted photos to MNTU for publication in our annual photo contest. Check out the winners in this newsletter and look for other photos in future issues or online.

Good luck fishing this season!



# FISHING OUR HABITAT IMPROVEMENT: THE STRAIGHT RIVER

By Bob Wagner



A HEALTHY BROWN TROUT FROM THE STRAIGHT RIVER

The name Willard Peterson does appear as a contest winner on official records of trophy brook and brown trout. Starting in 1924 names and locations were recorded by Fullers Tackle Shop annual big fish contest in Park Rapids, including an 8 lb 9 oz brown caught in 1951 on the Straight River. In that same year on the same river a young man named Willard Peterson made the final adjustments to the log and boulders he carefully positioned on the river bank. He wasn't thinking this hard work might earn him the coveted Sigurd Olson award (which it did) or trigger the Minnesota DNR to hire him after retirement to do habitat work. Dr. Willard Peterson simply knew big brown trout preferred protected cover because that's where he always caught them. According to his son Joel, from age 10 and every summer thereafter he and his two brothers were always hauling logs, repairing river banks, building cover structures, and of course fishing for big trout with their father on the Straight. The major river repair and habitat work successfully accomplished in the last seven years still relates back to Dr. Willard Peterson and the \$100,000 trust fund he established for the Straight River through the Minnesota Council of TU. This commitment, love, and sacrifice by private individuals is an integral part of the story of the Straight River that flows like the river itself.

I would like to acknowledge and thank Doug Kingsley and Mike Kelly from the Park Rapids DNR fisheries office. They supplied most of the river facts and data contained in this article. Their help, along with Joel Peterson and John Lenczewski, was critical to devel-

oping and sharing this unique story.

The Straight River is 18.1 (GPS measurement) miles long and its headwaters at Straight Lake is located 10 miles west of Park Rapids. The entire watershed including Straight Lake Creek is 52,765 acres. The river flows southeasterly meeting the Fish Hook River just south of Park Rapids. The geology is that of a glacial outwash sand plain. Most of this land is agricultural, irrigated by center pivots which we will briefly discuss later.

Of immediate interest to trout anglers is that 63% of the river's length has public access and/or DNR owned easements. Also important to anglers is that 8 of the 9 road crossings have angling easements adjacent to them. Like many streams in Minnesota, the Straight River transitioned from brook trout to a mixed fishery of browns and rainbows in the time between 1947 and 1970. By 1976 it had become primarily a brown trout river. In the late 1980's the decision was made to manage the Straight as a naturalized brown trout river and stocking was discontinued in 1991. Cold water discharges from the surrounding underlying aquifer cool the river and permit this wild population of brown trout to exist and flourish.

While the fisheries were changing, historic logging and other poor land use activities over the past century left habitat between the two roads located 3 and 5 miles west of Park Rapids severely degraded. These activities left the river channel overly wide so that this low gradient river could no longer move its sediment load. Reduced base flows from increased withdrawal of groundwater

likely contributed to the inability to flush sediment in this wider channel. The result was an overly wide and shallow channel which warmed the water and provided little trout habitat. The DNR

and TU agreed that the river channel needed to be narrowed and deepened. A plan was devised to carefully place entire mature Jack pines in strategic locations in the channel to capture sediment, narrow the channel and allow vegetation to become established in newly filled areas. It was hoped that the narrowed channel and trees would scour a deeper channel, especially near the ends of the tree structures.

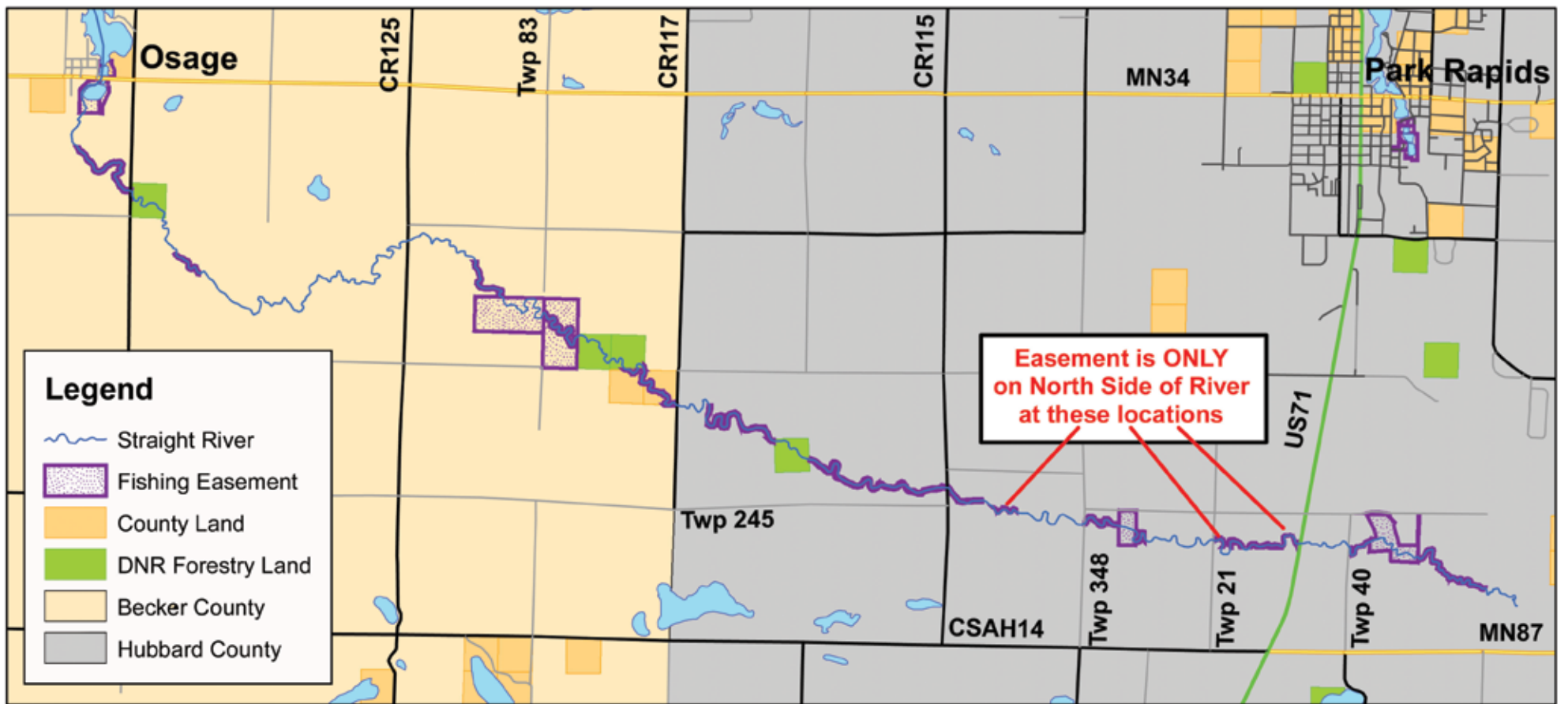
Due to the shallow boggy nature of the adjacent land, the most efficient and cost effective means to place these large trees in the channel was by helicopter. Two initial "tree drops" were done in 2006 and 2007, when 15 tree clusters were placed in a 2,900 foot reach. The DNR evaluated their effectiveness and determined that more trees and larger clusters of them were needed to make them more effective.

In 2009 Minnesota TU wrote a grant for "Lessard" funding, paired with monies from MNTU's Straight River Fund, to extend the work. Following careful survey, design, and planning in 2011, more than 100 large jack pines were lowered into predetermined locations along one mile of river. Some went to augment the earlier structures. MNTU worked closely with DNR Fisheries, Ecological & Water Resources and Forestry divisions and local landowners. More than 25 log structures, each using 3 or 4 whole trees (weighing 800 - 1200+ pounds each)



THE HELICOPTER CREW CARRYING A TREE TO THE STRAIGHT RIVER

# Straight River Fishing Easement Map



0 0.5 1 Miles

**Please treat landowners and their properties with respect.  
Fishing easements are for fishing access only.  
Easements are on both banks unless noted otherwise.**



VOLUNTEERS WORKING ON THE STRAIGHT RIVER

were carefully placed by a skilled helicopter operator and teams on the ground and in the river muck. TU volunteers and DNR staff then anchored the trees in place with long wooden stakes. I was fortunate enough to be among the volunteers.

Sitting in a canoe and watching the helicopter fly by with a large mature pine and skillfully position it in the river with help from DNR forestry's Helitac crew gave me a great feeling of pride to be involved with Trout Unlimited. I can't help but think Doc Peterson is smiling down on the great success of this project and the fact his gift to Minnesota TU was used along with Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund dollars to make this happen.

The great news for trout anglers and the river is that the tree structures are working well. They have already begun to capture sediment, narrow the channel, restore a more natural meander pattern, and deepen the channel to create better fish habitat and lower water temperatures. For example, the average channel width at bankfull flows has been reduced in the upper portion of the project area from 97 feet to 49 feet. An even better fact is that the brown trout are responding. Fishery assessments have shown dramatic improvements throughout the mile long project reach. 2012 sampling showed increases across the board with 2 to 7 times as many fish sampled per 100 feet of river, and average lengths increased by 0.5 to 3.0 inches. Especially exciting is that fourteen trophy brown trout over 20" in length were sampled in just the upper half of the project area.

Does this mean you can go to the Straight and catch lots of trout plus a real trophy? We all wish it was that simple. Catching trout usually depends on a person's skill and knowledge of both the fish and the river. Your best chance to catch a trophy on the Straight is during the large "hex" mayfly hatch that usually occurs in the middle to the end of June and after sunset. You can find hatches of March Browns, Brown Drakes, Baetis, Sulfurs and Trico's often sparse but worth the effort. I have even experienced an overcast midday when a simple purple woolly bugger brought a big brown up to dance. It is a beautiful river that is easier to float than it is to wade. We ask you remember to limit your catch and always limit your kill, a trophy fish deserves to live.

Habitat project partners included DNR Fisheries – Park Rapids, DNR Ecological & Water Resources, DNR Forestry

**THE STRAIGHT RIVER  
CONTINUED ON PAGE 10**



RECENTLY INSTALLED HABITAT IMPROVEMENT FROM ABOVE

# MNTU PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

This season we launched a new photo contest for our MNTU Newsletter. Thanks to all the contestants that emailed a wide variety of photos from trout, salmon and steelhead waters around the state. A selection of winning photos are presented on this page.

## Rules from the 2014 Contest:

- Photos must be shot in Minnesota
- Photos should fall into a category:
  - Minnesota Waters
  - Trout, Salmon & Steelhead
  - Family Fishing
- Photos must include a trout, salmon or steelhead, **OR** a water body that they inhabit.
- Photos were to be submitted by May 15th, 2014. Top entries in each category will be published in the June issue of the MNTU Newsletter.

- All photos submitted must be sent in \*.jpg format at their original resolution to the Editor at: carlhaensel@hotmail.com.

There is an entry limit of three photos per individual. Please include the name of the photographer and the location the photo was taken in the submission.

- Submission of photos gives MNTU the right to publish photos in the MNTU newsletter, and in online media.

## Prizes

The winner in each category are receiving a box of a dozen flies ready to catch trout this season. The overall winner will receive a handmade wooden handled trout net.

Look for next season's photo contest and take lots of photos when you're out fishing this year!



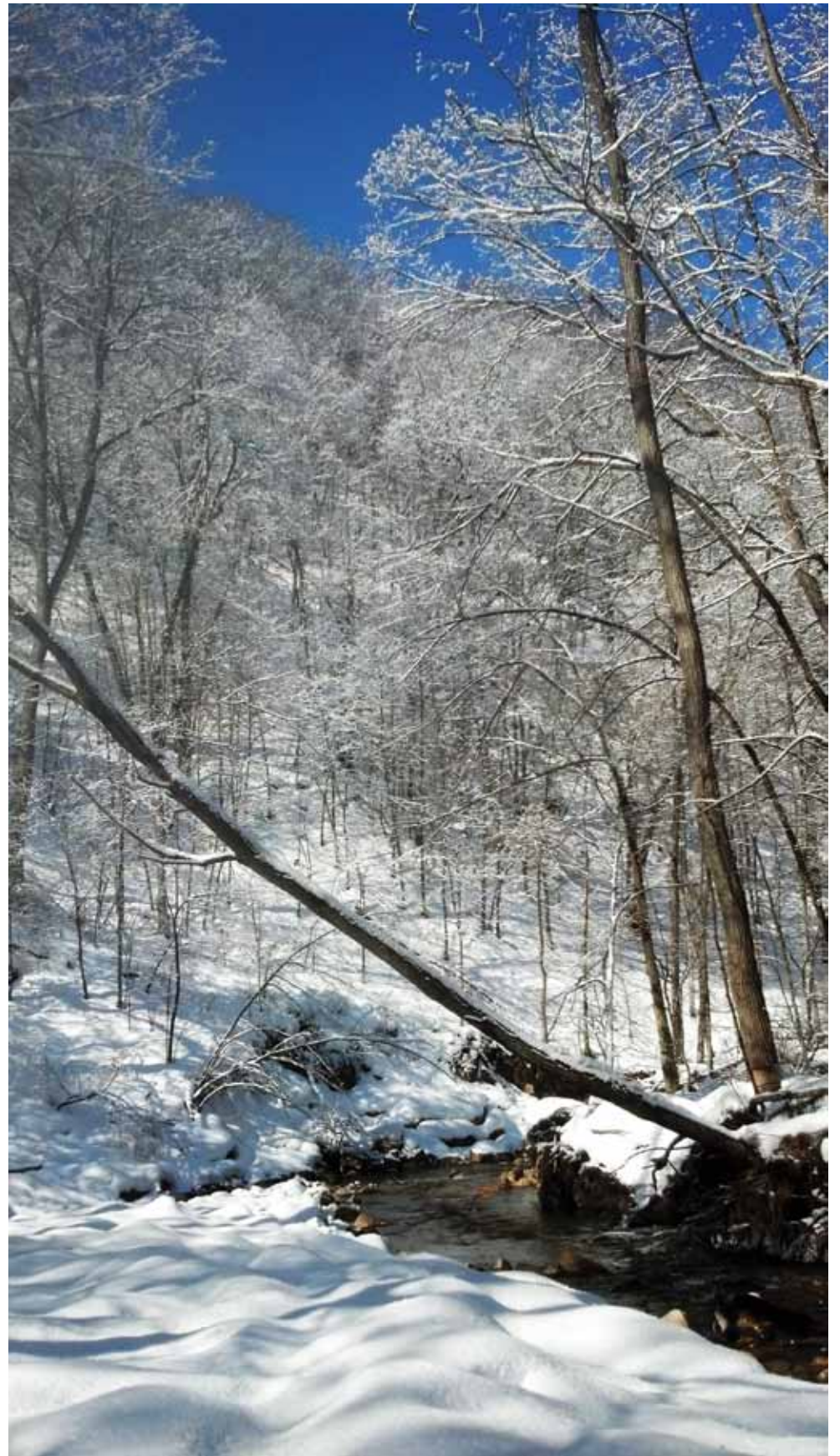
## FIRST PLACE - TROUT SALMON & STEELHEAD

BIRTHDAY BROWN TROUT  
BEAVER CREEK, HOUSTON COUNTY, MN  
PHOTO BY BRIAN SCHUMACHER



## FIRST PLACE - FAMILY FISHING

EVEN THE SMALL ONES ARE FUN  
SUCKER RIVER, ST LOUIS COUNTY, MN  
PHOTO BY VAL WAGNER WITH LAURA WAGNER



## SECOND PLACE - MINNESOTA WATERS

BEAVER CREEK STATE PARK  
BEAVER CREEK, HOUSTON COUNTY, MN  
PHOTO BY BRIAN SCHUMACHER

**FIRST PLACE & OVERALL WINNER**  
**MINNESOTA WATERS**  
**COVER PHOTO - THIS ISSUE**  
SOUTH BRANCH OF THE ROOT RIVER, FILLMORE COUNTY, MN  
PHOTO BY KEITH RANDA



## HONORABLE MENTION - MINNESOTA WATERS

CALLAHAN'S CORNER  
EAGLE CREEK, SCOTT COUNTY, MN  
PHOTO BY DAN CALLAHAN

# A MEMORABLE DAY ON RUSH CREEK

By Mark Reisetter

*"In every species of fish I've angled for, it is the ones that have got away that thrill me the most, the ones that keep fresh in my memory. So I say it is good to lose fish. If we didn't, much of the thrill of angling would be gone."*

Ray Bergman (1891-1967)

I have witnessed the event only three times in a span of over forty years while fly fishing the streams of Southeast Minnesota. The first time it happened, my buddy Gene and I had hiked into a remote spot on Rush Creek to enjoy an outing together on a beautiful summer afternoon. Often when we fished together, we would separate with a plan to meet at quitting time near the point of separation. That day, however, we were "trading" fish as we worked upstream together. Catch a fish, and then it was your buddy's turn.

As we approached the "Willow Pool," the luck of the draw was with Gene, so I was hanging back as he approached the riffle at the lower end of the pool. "Fish on!" Gene started stripping in line, bringing in the small brown that had hit his "fluttering" caddis. As I began to unhook the fly from the keeper on my rod, I heard Gene's "Whoa!" I looked up to see Gene's rod bent and him feeding line out. I looked upstream and then quickly walked upstream on the bank to see what was up.

This "Willow Pool" was the same location where thirty years before, Bruce had returned to camp on opening day with his broken rod, and revealed where it was that a monster brown had broken things up and escaped into the root wad of this gnarled, weeping willow.

Years later on a spring day while trailing our Golden Retriever as we approached this pool, I noticed that Buddy had spooked a baby wood duck from the high grass along the bank, sending it skittering across the water. As Buddy was obeying my quick command to "Heel," I noticed the duckling disappear from the surface in a swirl. I ran up near the spot and noticed the water was only about two feet deep there, but that no mud had been disturbed from the bottom. I concluded the predator must have been a trout, rather than a snapping turtle.



## Lewiston Area Trout Guides



Contact Guide

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# BROOK TROUT



A Thorough Look at North  
America's Great Native Trout—  
Its History, Biology, and  
Angling Possibilities

NICK KARAS

## BROOK TROUT

### Book Review

By John Hunt

From the earliest years of European settlement, North America's coldwater fisheries drew the attention of both the common man and the gentleman. And while the "king of fish", the Atlantic salmon, was familiar to immigrant anglers, a colorful newcomer was also encountered across a wide variety of streams, rivers, ponds, and lakes. This diversity of habitat led to many names for the previously unknown fish, including brook trout, speckled trout, mountain trout, salter, and coaster.

Perhaps the best summary of our 400-year love/hate relationship with this native charr is the late Nick Karas' appropriately titled book, "Brook Trout". Karas, who served as outdoors editor for a New York City-area newspaper for more than 20 years, jumps right into the subject by recounting details of the two fish which share, albeit unofficially, the world-record for largest brook trout caught on hook-and-line. Tradition holds that the first fish was caught in 1827 by Daniel Webster (a distant relative of Noah Webster of dictionary fame). The second was caught in 1916 by Dr. John William Cook in the Nipigon River of Ontario. Both fish are said to have weighed 14.5 pounds. Karas provides the available details of both fish tales, well salted with the rumors and traditions that have grown up alongside the facts.

Suitably introduced, the author then steps back and lays out the biological history of the brookie, touching on everything from geographic distribution, the "subspecies vs. strain" debate, and the migratory tendencies of the fish. For a Minnesota angler, this table-setting offers a glimpse at what a unique and well-adapted fish the brook trout was for the undeveloped upper Great

Lakes and upper Mississippi River valley.

Much of the rest of the book centers around the destinations of early American anglers. Starting with what he calls the "cradle of American trout fishing" on Manhattan Island, Karas follows the development of sportfishing for trout out to Long Island, then progressively further afield to the Catskills, the Adirondacks, and Maine's Rangeley Lakes. From Maine, the author leaps to the Great Lakes (a bit to my disappointment) and heads straight to the Nipigon region. For each locale, Karas' narrative is built around the interesting people and, oftentimes, exclusive angling clubs that played prominent roles in promoting the fishing (and sometimes overfishing) of the respective regions' streams and lakes.

Karas moves to conclusion by sharing his assessment of the current state of brook trout fishing, both in North America and elsewhere. He recommends several watersheds for those in search of truly large brook trout (think LaBatts and Loonies and you will be on the correct side of the border), and includes a state-by-state, province-by-province run down of the current distribution of brook trout. Although this section of the book is becoming a bit dated, it still represents a useful source for the enterprising vacation planner. Finally, if you are so inclined, don't pass up perusing the book's bibliography, as it includes references to a number of historical written sources that provide documentation of early trout fishing in America.

In assembling "Brook Trout", Nick Karas pays homage to a jewel of North America's sportfishing tradition.

# FISH HOOK REMOVAL 101

## What to Do When Things Go Wrong on the Water

By Cynthia Haensel, MD

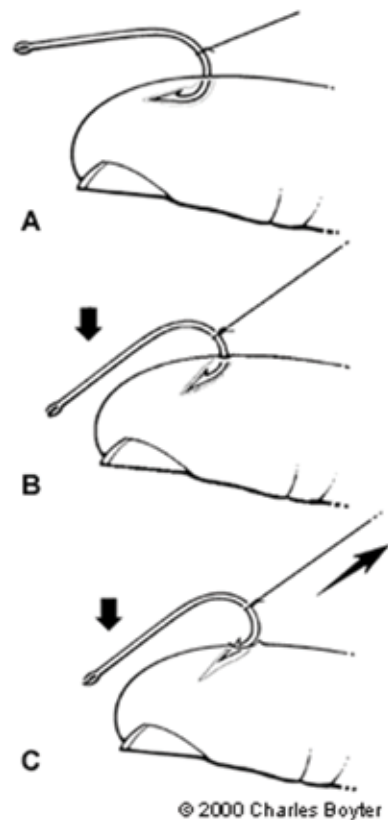
### String Yank Technique

The string-yank technique is a highly effective hook removal technique. It is commonly performed in the field and is believed to be the least traumatic because it creates no new wounds unlike the advance and cut technique that many anglers are familiar with. It may be used to remove any size fishhook but generally works best when removing fishhooks of small and medium size. This technique also works well for deeply embedded fishhooks, but cannot be performed on parts of the body that are not fixed (e.g., earlobe, eye) – seek professional medical attention for these areas.

Step A: Wrap fishing line around the midpoint of the bend of the hook. Stabilize the body part against a flat surface.

Step B: Depress the fishhook along the eye/shank to disengage the barb

Step C: A firm, quick jerk is then applied parallel to the shank while continuing to exert pressure on the eye/shank of the fishhook. The fishhook may come out with significant velocity so bystanders should remain out of the line of flight.



© 2000 Charles Boyter  
STRING YANK TECHNIQUE  
GRAPHIC COURTESY OF THE AAFP

### Prevention

Fishing is a fun activity that allows people of all ages to enjoy the outdoors. Keep in mind, however, that safety should always come first.

- Carry your rod in an upright position.
- Always secure your hook when not fishing.
- When casting, stay clear of other people and objects, like trees.
- Handle hooks and fish carefully. Keep hooks pointed away from you and others.

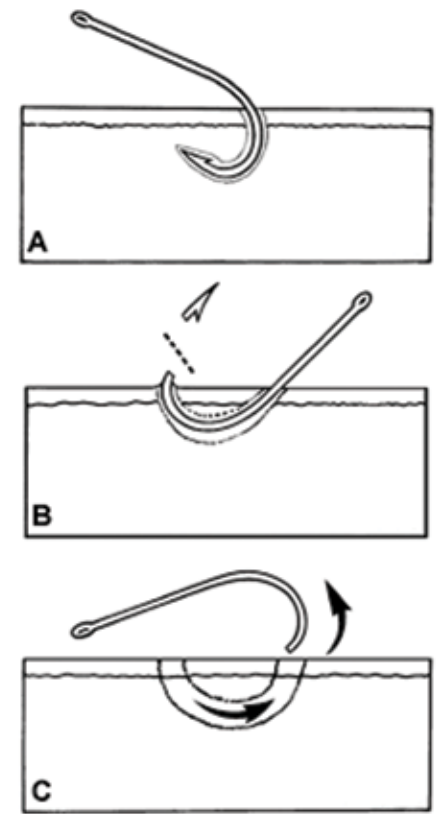
### Advance and Cut Technique

The traditional advance and cut method does cause additional trauma to the surrounding tissue, but as a last resort is almost always successful. This technique is best used in cases where the point of the hook is already near the surface of the skin.

Step A: Using a forceps, advance the point of the hook through the skin

Step B: Cut off the point, including the barb.

Step C: Back the hook out of the skin.



© 2000 Charles Boyter

ADVANCE AND CUT TECHNIQUE  
GRAPHIC COURTESY OF THE AAFP

### Post Removal Wound Care

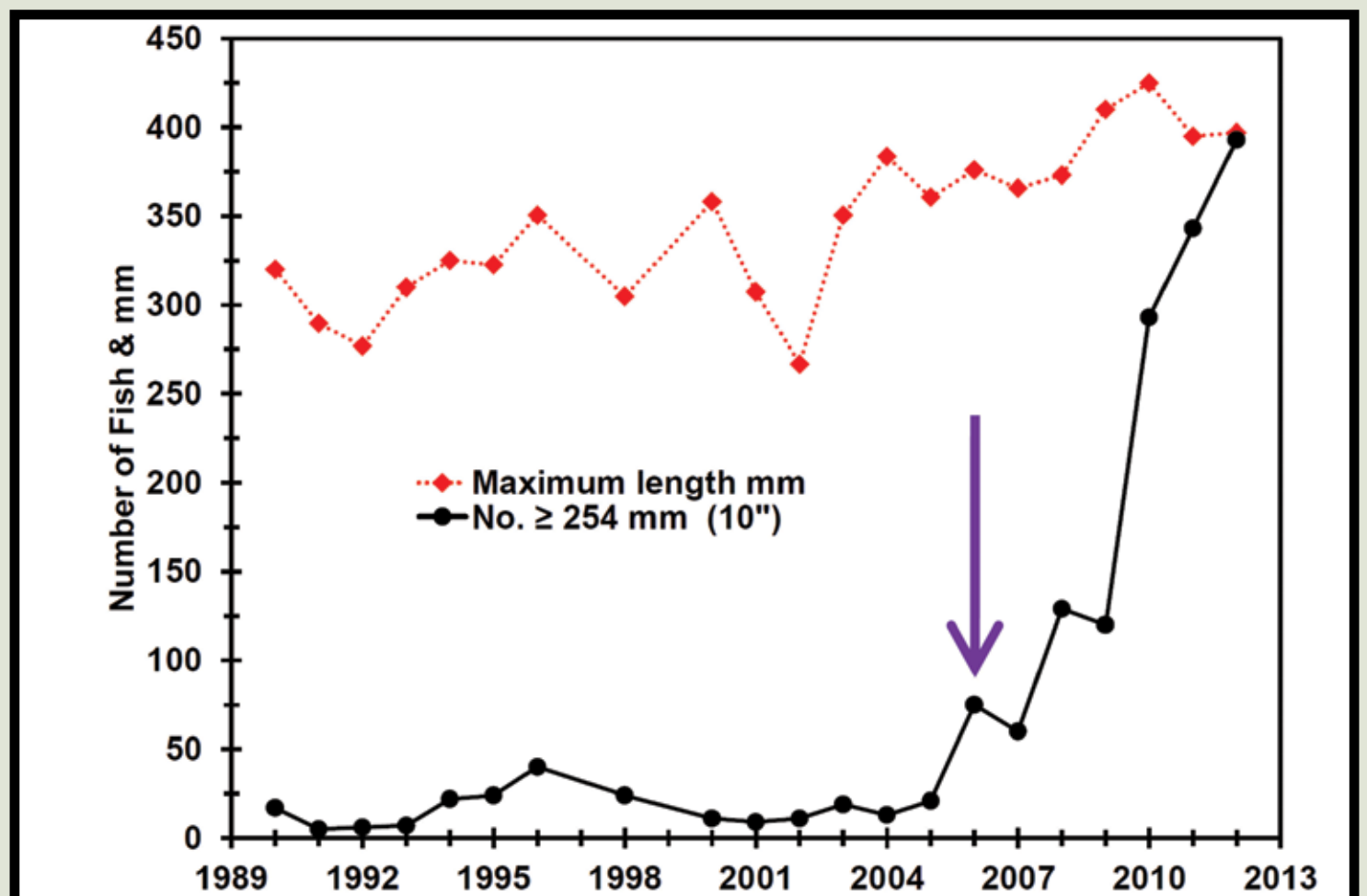
Wash the area with soap and water, apply antibiotic ointment and cover with a bandage. Make sure your tetanus shot is up to date within the last 10 years. Watch for signs of infection – such as redness, increasing pain, or drainage from the wound.

# MANAGEMENT SUCCESS ON STONEY BROOK

By Carl Haensel

For those who have not explored the small, trout stream called Stoney Brook in central Minnesota, it is a shaded brook trout stream that flows into Upper Gull Lake northwest of Brainerd. Full of rocky riffles and runs, it averages only about 22 feet in width. Certainly it is not a “destination” stream like some of our other waters like the South Branch of the Root, the Straight River, or the many streams of the North Shore. Regardless, the Minnesota DNR has put forth tremendous effort in the past few years on the stream, including habitat improvement and special regulations prohibiting the harvest of brook trout. These regulations, first implemented in 2006, have been extremely successful in retaining quality brook trout in the stream as well as significantly increasing their average size. The numbers in the graph at right clearly show the success.

Well documented and sampled regularly for nearly 25 years, this stream provides anglers and TU members in Minnesota a clear picture of the potential some of our central and northern streams can provide us with when carefully and closely managed.



THE NUMBER OF BROOK TROUT ≥ 254MM (10") AND THE MAXIMUM LENGTH BROOK TROUT CAPTURED IN THE FIRST ELECTROFISHING RUN IN THE FOUR SAMPLING STATIONS IN STONEY BROOK FROM 1990 THROUGH 2011. ARROW INDICATES START OF BROOK TROUT HARVEST RESTRICTION IN 2006. (GRAPHIC COURTESY OF MN DNR)



# FLY TYING

## With Laughing Trout Fly Fishing

By Paul Johnson

### Adams Cripple

Hook: Dry Fly Hook Size 14 -18  
 Thread: 8/0 Black Uni or 14/0 Black Griffiths  
 Shuck: Mayfly Brown Zelon  
 Abdomen: Montana Fly Wonderwrap Gray or Adams Gray Superfine Dubbing  
 Wing: White Widows Web or White Zelon  
 Collar: Brown and Grizzly Rooster Hackle

#### Tying Instructions:

1. Start Thread at 2/3 point. Lay a base of thread and return to the 2/3 point.
2. Tie in a small bundle of Zelon to form the shuck and wrap back to the bend of the hook.
3. Clip the shuck to about 1/2 to 2/3 the length of the hook shank.
4. At the bend, tie in a length of Wonderwrap and secure with thread to the 2/3 point.
5. Palmer the Wonderwrap forward with touching turns and secure at the 2/3 point.
6. Tie in clump of Widows Web on top of the hook extending forward over the eye of the hook.
7. Lift the Widows Web and make a small dam with tying thread to hold the wing upright.
8. Clip the butt ends of the Widows Web, leaving a small tuft.
9. Tie in the Grizzly and Brown Rooster Hackle just behind the wing at the original tie in point.
10. Make 2 wraps behind the wing and 1 wrap in front of the wing.



11. Secure the hackle with your tying thread and clip the remaining hackle fibers off.
12. Make a small head with tying thread.
13. Whip finish.

An excellent fly that is much easier to tie than the parachute adams, this generic fly will work well throughout the region.

# MID-MINNESOTA CHAPTER RENEWAL

By Micah Barrett

Like an old Salmo trutta (don't worry, I had to Google it too) a TU chapter can sometimes be quite a challenge to bring to the surface after a lengthy stay at depth. Sometimes you have to treat your presentation very delicately to gain notice, and other times you just have to splash that mouse pattern out there to get the attention you are looking for. Either way you need to be patient and not give up. Every chapter will go through lower interest and attendance cycles. It is important to keep bringing in youth and energy to our chapters to extend our passion and presence in preserving what is rightfully the home of the trout.

Mid-Minnesota is often overlooked as a haven for trout, but it has resources

to conserve and protect just as any other chapter as is shown in the captions. The Mid-Minnesota chapter is now trying to gain momentum and traction on its attendance and the future is bright thanks to a newly elected and youthful board. Resurrecting chapters takes a lot of work. Everybody needs a break from time to time which is why it is so important for every chapter to continue to bring in new blood, energy, passion and youth. Gaps in chapter activity lead to gaps in the conservation of our coldwater resources. It isn't a specific number of streams or high fish counts that keep chapters going. It is energy and passion towards the resources that we do have. Always be conscious of this within your own chapters and keep those lines tight to the next generation.



LITTLE ROCK CREEK



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"If people don't occasionally walk away from you shaking their heads, you're doing something wrong." - John Gierach



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# THE STRAIGHT RIVER

Continued from page 7

Pre-project - Oct 2010

3 months after project-Sept 2011



DROPPED TREES MAKING A BIG DIFFERENCE JUST 3 MONTHS AFTER COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT



GATHERING DATA ON AN ELECTROFISHED TROUT



ANOTHER HEFTY BROWN FROM THE STRAIGHT RIVER

(including its Helitac Team), Minnesota TU (Minnesota Council), Minnesota TU's Straight River Committee (which includes two of Doc Peterson's sons), Headwaters Chapter TU, and TU members from neighboring chapters. Special thanks are due to Straight River Committee leaders Dallas Hudson, John Sorenson and Dave Kollman. Minnesota TU successfully wrote another Outdoor Heritage Fund ("Lessard") grant to do still more of this channel restoration and trout habitat improvement work. These new funds will become available on July 1. These state funds, along with Doc Peterson's gift to MNTU, will fund another tree drop project in summer 2015.

We cannot forget the private landowners who cherish the river and grant access to the rest of us. One shining example is that of Dick Frantes, a longtime TU member from the Twin Cities, who loved and preserved a beau-

tiful 80 acre parcel with the Straight running through it. After Dick's passing, his daughter Janette sacrificed money and time to preserve her father's legacy for the benefit of all of us. She could have easily sold the property to a developer, but she knew her father wanted the DNR to acquire the land and keep it wild. When the DNR process dragged on and her financial situation threatened to scuttle her dream of protecting the property, she turned to TU for help. In 2009 the Minnesota Council purchased a real estate option to see her through until the land was purchased by the DNR. We all owe her our deep gratitude for her dedication and persistence in preserving this little slice of heaven.

Like most of our trout streams, there are ongoing threats and concerns. Perhaps the biggest concern for the Straight River is the maintenance of groundwater flows which keep this amazing river cool

enough to support trout. Appropriations of groundwater from the Straight River's aquifer for irrigating potatoes began to skyrocket in the 1990s. Minnesota TU fought many battles in the 90s to force state agencies to look at the cumulative impact of increasing irrigation. A settlement MNTU forged with a large producer was used to fund development by the DNR of a groundwater model for determining how increased withdrawals would affect the trout fishery. The DNR has documented that increased groundwater appropriations from the Straight River's aquifer have negatively impact-

ed the trout fishery. Research is continuing in an attempt to determine what level of water withdrawals could occur while maintaining suitable water temperatures in the Straight during low summer flows. The Straight should benefit from being one of the DNR's pilot groundwater management areas [see the article in this issue on groundwater appropriation].

If you visit the river give a word of thanks to past fellow anglers like Peterson and Frantes. Their contribution lives on keeping the Straight wild, clean, cold and clear



ELECTROFISHING THE STRAIGHT RIVER

# NEWS FROM TU NATIONAL

## Critical Focus Areas

By Steve Carlton

It's been a busy couple weeks for the National Leadership Council and especially for the subcommittees that I sit on. The Administrative subcommittee position that I hold is called "New Initiatives." I'd compare it to the ways and means committee in congress. We determine the direction of TU's Conservation Agenda. The National Conservation Agenda expresses the highest conservation priorities of the organization. TU's National Leadership Council is required to "...develop and amend... the National Conservation Agenda and set priorities among issues included in that agenda" by the corporations bylaws. These priorities include both long-term priorities, and more immediate conservation action-items called Critical Focus Areas. The current CFAs are listed below.

Critical Focus Areas may be selected whenever high probability targets of opportunity for immediate progress can be identified and resourced. Specific objectives and timelines are explicit in selection. NCA items retain their higher priority standing. The number of CFA is restricted to no more than eight. More than eight might spread our efforts too thin.

The New Initiatives work group of the NLC manages the selection process. It conducts yearly reviews of ongoing CFA, usually at NLC annual meetings. Throughout the year it prepares recommendations for adding, changing or deleting CFAs. Recommendations must be approved by a majority vote of a quorum of the NLC.

The selection process is time-sensitive. The goal is to provide NLC members with well-considered CFA recommendations in time for them to get objective decisions and to avoid last-minute subjective debates. So from now until the TU Annual Meeting, we hold regular conference calls to debate and rank the proposals to the Critical Focus Areas.

Any TU member in good standing may submit a proposal for a new CFA through their council. After it has been approved by a sponsoring TU council, it should be forwarded electronically, along with a council letter of endorsement, to the New Initiatives work group by the council's NLC representative not later than July 15th for consideration at the Annual Meeting. The proposal should include the following

1. Title - A short title for the CFA.
2. Issue - A description of the issue and its ramifications.
3. Objective - An explanation of the specific objective expected to be achieved.

If you would like to propose a new item to the CFA, please contact your chapter leadership. They will assist you in getting the proposal submitted.

The New Initiatives work group will base its recommendations on the status of current CFA's and the potential for list 'vacancies', as well as the relative priority of the list of eight. It may refer proposals to other NLC work groups for input on selection recommendations if it identifies synergies and/or conflicts among National Conservation Agenda priorities.

### CRITICAL FOCUS AREAS for 2014

- Pebble Mine, Alaska
- Yellowstone National Park native fish conservation (Working well)
- Gas & oil development including, but not limited to, withdrawal, distribution, sand mining, and waste management. (MN Issue)
- Upper Colorado water withdrawal (Successful, will be replaced in 2014)
- Clean Water Act (MN Issue)
- State & Federal natural resource funding (MN Issue)
- Good Samaritan fix via legislation or administration
- Hard rock mining issues (MN Issue)

I know of 2 pending proposals that might replace the open spot or might replace one of the current CFAs depending on the priorities of TU and the measurability of the results. For instance, Kill the Pebble Mine and it's a TU victory. The Colorado Water Withdrawal was a big TU victory. Enough water will be left in the river for fish to survive. But how do you measure the effectiveness of Good Samaritan Legislation? The Clean Water Act and its effectiveness could go on in perpetuity. I won't name the pending proposals until it becomes public and other proposals have the time to come forward before the Trout Unlimited Annual Meeting where they will be voted on.

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# WILL MINNESOTA'S WATER USE LAW ENSURE THE SURVIVAL OF OUR TROUT STREAMS?

## Understanding the basics of water appropriation law and new groundwater sustainability requirements

By John Lenczewski

For decades Trout Unlimited members have battled with our state agencies to get them to restrict water withdrawals from trout streams and the aquifers which sustain them. The MNDNR for many years interpreted (misinterpreted, in our opinion) state law in such a way that it refused to deny new permits to withdraw groundwater, even when the cumulative impact of existing withdrawals indicated the new withdrawal would negatively impact nearby trout fisheries. In 2010, the Minnesota Legislature passed groundwater sustainability requirements which will remedy this problem, provided we can prevent shortsighted attempts to roll them back.

### *Why every trout anglers should care*

Clean, cold water is a fundamental prerequisite for trout fisheries. The steady flow of cold groundwater is the lifeblood of our coldwater fisheries. Due to the cooling effect of the earth, groundwater issues from springs and seeps at consistently cold temperatures. This cold spring water is the lifeblood of our trout streams. Without the stable base flow of cold groundwater Minnesota trout fisheries will disappear. No cold groundwater; no trout. It is that basic. While this connection is obvious in southern Minnesota, even northeast Minnesota streams, which we used to assume were adequately cooled by climate, depend upon cold groundwater inputs during low summer flow conditions. In short, all of our remaining trout stream fisheries depend upon groundwater. Applications to pump groundwater are growing rapidly, as is pressure to remove the sustainability requirements which protect trout fisheries.

This article, part one of two, will explore how Minnesota regulates the removal of surface and groundwater, recent changes designed to ensure long term sustainability and efforts to manage groundwater in areas where current withdrawals are near sustainability thresholds. Our fall issue will overview recent, and likely to be renewed, attempts to rollback recent advances in groundwater management and permitting and explain how you can help protect groundwater vital to our trout fisheries.

### *Minnesota's "riparian rights" doctrine versus Western water law*

You have all seen articles in Trout magazine describing TU's struggles in Western states to keep adequate amounts of water (minimum flows or base flow) in trout rivers. These battles typically involve allocating surface waters in the dry West. Western water law follows the doctrine of "prior appropriation", commonly described as a "first in time, first in right" approach. Under this legal doctrine, people have a "right" to use water flowing past (or under) their property based upon the date they or

the preceding landowner began using the water. Users with the earliest claim to water use can take all of their original allotment of water, even if junior users (those with later claims) end up with no water in drought years. At the risk of oversimplifying, available water is allocated by giving the oldest user (first in time) his/her full allocation of water, the next oldest user his/her full allocation, and so on until all available water is used up. Later or "junior" claim holders are not entitled to any water if those with earlier or "senior" claims exhaust it all.

Minnesota, by contrast, follows a "riparian rights" doctrine which gives all riparian land owners a share of water. If a person owns land abutting a surface water source or located above a ground water source (aquifer) they have the right to take water for domestic and agricultural purposes, provided they do not unreasonably interfere with another downstream user or affect the ecosystem. Minnesota law essentially provides that amounts up to 10,000 gallons per day and totaling no more than 1 million gallons per year are a reasonable minimum to which every riparian owner is entitled. Since this is a riparian landowner's "right", no permit is required for this level of use, whether it is pumped from an aquifer or pulled from a surface water, including from a trout stream! Greater amounts can also be withdrawn as a "permitted use".

### *Water appropriation permits & Use of surface waters*

State water appropriation law makes few distinctions between surface waters (lake, streams, etc.) and groundwater. However, one important distinction is that the DNR will not issue permits to withdraw water from designated trout streams. Minnesota Statute §103G.285, subdivision 5 has prohibited water ap-

propriations from designated trout streams since June 1977, except for temporary appropriations, which are limited to a two-year duration. Many of you will recall that the DNR's failure to follow this law was at the center of the controversy involving Lutsen Mountains Corporation's pumping from the Poplar River. In 2011 Minnesota TU led the public information and lobbying campaign which ultimately led to construction of an alternative water source (from Lake Superior) which will result in an end to appropriations from the Poplar River later this year.

### *Use of groundwater: new groundwater sustainability requirements*

Over the past decade or so there has been a growing awareness that Minnesota's groundwater is not unlimited and that in some areas we may already be withdrawing more groundwater than the aquifers can sustain. Fortunately, legislative leaders who shared this awareness acted in early 2010 to add groundwater sustainability requirements into state water appropriation law. The most significant changes, were:

1. Establishing a sustainability standard and requiring that the DNR issue permits for appropriation from groundwater "only if the commissioner determines that the groundwater use is sustainable to supply the needs of future generations and the proposed use will not harm ecosystems, degrade water, or reduce water levels beyond the reach of public water supply and private domestic wells." (Minnesota Statutes §103G.287, subdivision 5)

2. Making the link between groundwater and surface waters. Groundwater appropriations that have potential impacts

to surface waters are now subject to applicable provisions in section 103G.285. (Minnesota Statutes §103G.287, subdivision 2) Since 103G.285 prohibits appropriations from trout streams, this provision effectively prohibits groundwater appropriations which will have a negative impact on trout stream fisheries.

3. Giving the DNR authority to designate groundwater management areas and limit total annual water appropriations within these areas. (Minnesota Statutes §103G.287, subdivision 4) In 2013 the Legislature also gave the DNR authority within these designated groundwater management areas to require permits for smaller users - those using less than 10,000 gallons per day or 1 million gallons per year and water suppliers serving less than 25 persons for domestic purposes. (Minnesota Statutes §103G.287, subdivision 4(b))

### *Cumulative effects of existing appropriations*

Perhaps the greatest difference between the pre-sustainability standard and post-sustainability standard eras is that the DNR has clearer authority to consider not only the individual permit application itself, but also the cumulative effects of the existing set of appropriation permits in an area, when considering whether and under what conditions to issue a new permit. This was a source of strong contention between the DNR and Minnesota TU for many years. We are delighted they have clearer authority to deny permits when a new appropriation would negatively impact trout waters or exceed the aquifer's sustainability threshold.

### *Priority of permitted uses*



THE STRAIGHT RIVER NEAR PARK RAPIDS, MN IS DIRECTLY IMPACTED BY WATER WITHDRAWAL

# STEWART RIVER WATERSHED CONSERVATION

By Forrest Johnson

State law prioritizes water appropriation and use as follows:

1. Domestic water supply
2. Consumptive use less than 10,000 gallons per day
3. Agricultural irrigation and processing
4. Power production
5. Consumptive use (other than categories 3 or 4 above) more than 10,000 gallons per day
6. Non-essential uses

To date these priorities have mattered little, since few water appropriation permits have been denied, and no existing groundwater appropriation permits have been suspended based upon exceedence of sustainability thresholds. The fact is that the DNR is only now beginning to determine what the threshold of sustainability is for each aquifer. The DNR may very soon face the first real exercise in allocating permitted groundwater use based upon these priority categories. It may soon face the challenge of restricting an existing category 6 use to ensure water is available to meet a new request for a category 1 use.

## ***Pilot groundwater management areas***

The DNR is developing three pilot groundwater management areas plans, located in North and East Metro, the Straight River area (near Park Rapids, MN) and the Bonanza Valley (south of Sauk Centre, MN). The purpose of the three pilot planning projects is to learn how to effectively create and establish GWMA's in other places facing groundwater management challenges. They will explore with stakeholders what is a fair way to "re-allocate" available groundwater to existing and prospective permit holders based upon the statutory use categories. Of great interest to Trout Unlimited members is the Straight River Groundwater Management Area which supplies the cold water vital to sustaining this renowned trout fishery. The Straight River GWMA process will help improve DNR groundwater appropriation decisions and help groundwater users in this area better understand and plan for future development. As the DNR begins the difficult task of working with current and prospective permit holders to ensure withdrawals are at sustainable levels there will be increased attempts to circumvent or undermine new sustainable water use laws.

## ***Threats on the horizon***

During the 2014 Legislative session Minnesota TU quietly worked to turn aside several attempts to gut the sustainability requirement and render the groundwater management areas ("GWMAS") useless as tools for trying to intelligently manage groundwater for long term sustainability. In addition, bills were introduced to remove trout stream designation to thwart the intent of the law. (See the March 11, 2014 MNTU blog "Shoot the canaries" and other schemes to undermine enlightened groundwater management.) We expect these assaults upon trout waters and sustainable management of public resources will be renewed next legislative session. Trout anglers must remain vigilant. The second part of this article (in our Fall 2014 issue) will explore these threats more closely and explain how you can make the difference to protect our trout waters.



FISHING THE CONFLUENCE OF THE LITTLE STEWART AND THE STEWART RIVERS

The Stewart River, and its major feeder stream the Little Stewart, form an important coldwater tributary of Lake Superior. Historic logging practices across much of the watershed have left many stretches of stream in badly degraded conditions without yearround cover and deepwater habitat for trout and salmon. These practices meant high water flows removed logjams, large cover logs (large woody habitat), boulders and gravel from the stream channel and altered the river's hydrology over the past century. A young forest ecosystem has filled in, primarily in the upper half of the river, which is incapable of naturally replacing the missing large logs that provide needed habitat for fish and other aquatic life. Still, the river supports naturally reproducing brook trout above the barrier falls, migratory steelhead, salmon, and coaster brook trout below the barriers. The absence of cover and deep water is a limiting factor in providing a more productive and resilient fishery.

Large woody habitat is infrequent in most reaches of the stream, allowing a further degradation of the stream channel during high water periods. Over the years the river has become more a conduit of water for the entire watershed, a drainage, rather than a living, flowing

river system that holds water far beyond the runoff periods. The impacts of degraded physical habitat on trout and steelhead populations are exacerbated by low flows that further reduce stream depth and cover, and also leads to elevated summer temperatures harmful to coldwater species. A river brimming with water during spring runoff and big rains soon drains nearly dry due to reduced water storage throughout the watershed.

In 2012 Minnesota TU successfully wrote a federal grant to leverage its planned habitat projects and expand its efforts to the watershed scale. The Stewart River Watershed Project got rolling in 2013.

The project aims to improve sections of stream that currently lack deeper pools and overhead cover needed by larger juvenile trout, steelhead and salmon. Bank erosion and channel instability will also be addressed. Trees will be planted in the riparian corridors and native vegetation reestablished. A key component is engagement of the landowners in the watershed, who are the river's keepers. The project aims to bring them together in a discussion of how the habitat work and fishery can be sustained through conservation practices on their lands. We're

all partners in the effort to improve the health of the watershed.

A primary, hands on goal for the project is to directly improve in-stream habitat along more than 2,000 feet of stream in key spawning and nursery areas. Deep pool habitat and overhead cover will be increased through the placement of large pine logs and rock veining. The pine logs with intact root wads will be placed and anchored in the channel and vortex rock weirs placed where site conditions allow. Rock veins and weirs built in the 1950s and 1960s by local Boy Scouts still can be found in the river, having survived the 2012 flood, working to create better habitat after all of these years.

A second goal is to restore long-lived tree species to a mile or more of riparian corridors that lack forest cover. A number of old beaver meadow sites have been noted, primarily on the Little Stewart, where tree plantings should quickly begin increasing shade that will help reduce summer water temperatures, as well as hold rainfall and snow cover on the landscape to slow water flow and recharge groundwater sources.

A third goal is to reach out directly to the people of the Stewart River, the riverkeepers, and get them involved in the efforts to improve the health of watershed. People who live in the watershed have experienced the changes in the river during their lifetimes and the hope is that folks will take ownership and get involved in habitat and conservation projects that could take place on their own properties.

Fourth, at the urging of Minnesota Trout Unlimited, the Minnesota DNR has found funding to identify and prioritize parcels of riparian land for protection through permanent aquatic management and access easements. We hope the project will inform folks about the importance of the watershed and get landowners thinking about participating in the easement program.



STEELHEAD FROM THE STEWART RIVER



# MNTU CHAPTER NEWS



GITCHE GUMEE CHAPTER MEMBERS PLANTING TREES ON THE SUCKER RIVER

## Gitche Gumee Chapter

The Gitche Gumee Chapter has had a great spring season with a wide variety of habitat work taking place. Tree planting has been conducted throughout the Sucker and Stewart River watersheds, with over 5000 trees already in the ground and over 5000 left to go in. Thanks to all the volunteers that helped out with the May 17th planting on the Sucker River at the Ryan Road site. Stewart River work has been spearheaded by Forrest Johnson, with a watershed planting for local landowners taking place on the Little Stewart River on May 31st. Check out some of his writing in this issue regarding the work on the river. We've also had two great interns managing the tree planting, Lawrence Partridge and Josh Mutchler. They will all be continuing to work with local landowners throughout the season. Look for chapter emails regarding upcoming habitat work up and down the shore. We hope to finish our work on the outlet of Kimball Lake this season, and a mid-summer work session is being planned. Contact Carl Haensel if you are interested in getting involved with our work this season!

Carl Haensel

## Hiawatha Chapter

It's Time To Plan for the Hiawatha Trout Unlimited (HTU) Driftless Rendezvous

The 2014 Driftless Rendezvous will be September 12th through

the 14th at the Whitewater State Park (WSP) Group Center Cabins. Cost and details of events are still being finalized, but the prices should be similar to 2012 and 2013. We plan to have another hog roast or big cook out Saturday night. The three-day weekend will include programs for fly casting classes taught by Marlene Huston and other members of the International Federation of Fly Fishers (IFFF); fly fishing classes with a chance to go out with a knowledgeable fly fisherman who can offer techniques and tactics for catching trout; nature hikes with the WSP naturalist; classes by George Spangler of the National Trout Center (NTC) from Preston, MN; two geology hikes teaching about the karst topography of the streams and land of Southeast Minnesota with Jeff Broberg; bug identification; fly tying classes; and much more.

The WSP cabins are set up for singles, married couples and families and will provide you a clean comfortable place to stay with a bathroom and shower house and a dining hall nearby. And the White-water River is less than a stone's throw from the dining hall.

Again, meals and activities are still being worked on, so stay tuned to the Hiawatha Trout Unlimited (HTU) website ([www.hiawathatu.org](http://www.hiawathatu.org)) or newsletter for up to the minute details and costs. Reservation arrangements for the cabins will also be coming.

Every year the HTU Driftless Rendezvous has grown. We plan for this year to be even better than before.

Phil Pankow

## Headwaters Chapter

Trout in the Classroom (TIC): Thanks to Steve Young our two trout in the classroom programs were more than successful. Steve coordinates resource speakers throughout the year plus keeps a weekly watch on equipment and trout progress. The trout passed their disease testing and both 5th grade classrooms are excited to experience the release day set for May 22 on the Clearwater River.

Membership meeting of April 8th: I do believe we set a new attendance record of 41 participants. It could have been that great speaker from the North Shore.

Habitat work is being scheduled for

both the Kabekona cattle crossing and new handicap boardwalk addition on the Clearwater plus bank stabilization with cover structure.

June 17th: Board meeting 6:00pm at Cattails Restaurant. Doug Kingley, Park Rapids Area Fisheries manager wants to discuss the Straight River. Dr. Charles Parson our fly fishing representative on the Straight river groundwater usage committee will also address us. We will debrief the 5th grade fly fishing course.

The fifth grade fly fishing course saw a new record of 54 students. (25 girls and 29 boys) Fifteen TU volunteers came through with great commitment and energy. After 12 years this program continues to grow both in participants and satisfaction TU members receive in sharing our passion of the sport, respect of the resource, and working with youth who are the future of TU.

Our fall membership meeting will probably be the last week in November tentatively around November 25. Mike Kelly, Fisheries specialist from Park Rapids will present the latest survey and prospectus on the Straight River. Stay tuned for final date confirmation and agenda.

Bob Wagner

## Mid-Minnesota Chapter

See Page 9 for information on our renewal of the Mid-Minnesota Chapter!

Make sure to check out our next meeting which will take place on Monday, June 23rd at 6:00 pm at the Rock Creek Coffee House in Sauk Rapids, MN (214 2nd Ave N). The meeting will include a presentation by DNR's Eric Altna on Little Rock Creek – past projects, management and potential projects. Hope to see you there!

Micah Barrett



HEADWATERS CHAPTER YOUTH FLYFISHING PROGRAMMING

# MNTU CHAPTER NEWS



## Twin Cities Chapter

It was a blast meeting two dozen Twin Cities Chapter stream work volunteers on May 3, who grabbed their waders, chainsaws and grilling tools to help the DNR open up one of the newest public trout fishing stretches in the metro area.

Mark Nemeth of the DNR gave everyone an overview of the recently-purchased, 62-acre, South Branch of the Vermillion state Aquatic Management Area and what we needed to do. This stretch has some of the best trout numbers in the watershed, with beautiful habitat.

Watch the video on the TCTU web site to see the team in action, clearing dense thickets of non-native buckthorn trees and invasive box elders choking the rain-swollen stream's banks. Later, they enjoyed the grill skills of Don Eck-enrode and Fred Bertschinger. State Director John Lenczewski also talks about how groundwater pumping is even a bigger issue than habitat improvement.

Volunteers also enjoyed the amazing generosity of accomplished wildlife artist Stephen P. Hamrick of Lakeville. Hamrick donated and SIGNED prints of his Minnesota Trout Stamp art for every person who came to do stream work that day! You can see his work online at [www.sphamrick.com](http://www.sphamrick.com).

The AMA is on the south side of 200th Street East, just west of U.S. Highway 52 in Vermillion Township, east of Farmington and south of Rosemount. The north side of 200th is private property, but if you knock on the landowner's door and ask, he often will grant you access through his land—which is much better than swimming upstream under the bridge. Note: Bridge construction on Hwy. 52 may limit access from it to 200th St. Your best bet is to reach 200th west of this area and drive east until you get to the AMA.

Join us at a stream this season! We'll be doing more work on the Vermillion, as well as work on Trout Brook in Dakota County's Miesville Ravine Regional

Park; on Rice Creek between Northfield and Dundas; and again on Hay Creek near Red Wing.

When a volunteer work day opportunity comes up, it's often on short notice. Check the website regularly under "news", and check your email. You also can send an email to Tony Nelson ([tony@twincitiestu.org](mailto:tony@twincitiestu.org)) or call him at 952-486-2282 to get on his list of people to call. We could use help calling, too, so step forward and give back to a stream you've enjoyed.

### Chainsaw Training:

We've arranged for a special, free, six-hour chainsaw training workshop for TU members, with the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry in the Twin Cities this summer. The workshop includes four hours of information in the morning, followed by two hours in the afternoon of demonstrations and hands-on training. You really need to have this to be safe, and to recognize when one of your fellow volunteers is being unsafe on a stream project. The trainer is Ed LaFavor. The workshop is limited to the first 15 signed up and will be held on Thursday, July 31 near Farmington, at 8 a.m. All the equipment is provided. To register, contact Dan Callahan: [dan@twincitiestu.org](mailto:dan@twincitiestu.org) or call him at 651-238-2111. Other TU chapters are welcome to attend.

We are accepting donations to fund a controlled burn on older Hay Creek habitat projects planted with prairie grasses. People can send a check for any amount to:

Trout Unlimited Twin Cities Chapter  
P.O. Box 2786  
Minneapolis, MN 55402

Just mention you want the money to be earmarked for sustaining TU Hay Creek improvements.

Check with your company to see if it matches employee charitable donations. Honeywell, Medtronic and others do. Thomson Reuters will match employee donations to Twin Cities Trout Unlimited, dollar for dollar, from \$50 to \$1000.

They also offer 16 hours of paid time off to volunteer per year. Or, instead of an employee making a monetary contribution, one can log 40 hours of volunteering with TU and then apply for Thomson to make a \$1000 grant through Thomson's "Dollars-For-Doers" program. Check with your company's community relations or human resources department.

Dan Callahan

## Win-Cres Chapter

The next Win-Cres chapter work day is Wednesday June 25 beginning at 8:00 a.m. We will be brushing a segment of stream corridor on Pickwick Creek just upstream of recent TU work. We will meet at the Township Rd 6 bridge, located just off Co Hwy 7 a couple miles south of the Pickwick Mill. If questions, call Mike Jeresek at 507-864-2573.

The chapter will again help out with Veteran's Day fishing event in Lanesboro, MN on Saturday August 9. Watch our website for details on how you can help or contact Mike Trok at 651-245-2923.

Construction on our Garvin Brook project begins this month, once the DNR crew can move from its Rush Creek site. Watch our website for updates, or let Mike Jeresek (507-864-2573) know if you would like to be on his call/e mail list of volunteers.

Joe Lepley

## Waybinahbe Chapter

The Chapter held an informational meeting which was open to the public April 11, 2014 at the DNR office in Grand Rapids. Notices were sent to each member and the meeting was posting in the Grand Rapids paper and announced on KAXE radio.

Mr. Jeff Tillma of the DNR provided information on trout fishing opportunities as well as information on possible projects the Chapter could take part in. A small meeting was held which included myself and Kathy Krook the Chapter Secretary/Treasurer.

Our current project of the restoration of Matuska's Creek should be starting some time in June. The contractor will be New Sight Landscaping and Design and we are waiting for information on when they will be scheduling the work to begin.

After the passing of Wayne Hoshal, former chapter president and founder, I was contacted by his widow and she has donated Wayne's collection books on trout and trout fishing. These books were available free of charge to people who attended the meeting and several of the books were taken by those who were there. There are many books remaining and I would be happy to provide a list of those books to people who send me an email: [draftsman60@yahoo.com](mailto:draftsman60@yahoo.com)

If anyone is interested in obtaining a book please contact me to make arrangements for getting the books.

Rod Prusi



### COASTER BROOK TROUT PROJECT DONATION

In our coaster brook trout article in the last issue we neglected to mention that the Cabela's store in Rogers, MN generously donated three pairs of neoprene waders to MNTU for our volunteers to use on the Fall 2013 coaster research project. They said "yes" without hesitation to our plea for assistance. Please thank them for their support of Minnesota TU the next time you stop in.



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# REELING IT IN

## A Thank You Note to My Waders

By Brooke Trout

Dear Waders, I am sending you this note to thank you for all the wonderful places you bring me. Without you I would be left cold and wet. You've brought me places I wouldn't dream of going without you. Just last week I was hiking up the side of a stream only to be forced to cross by a impassable cliff. You were there for me. Then I was able to walk directly up the stream itself when the river was surrounded by towering cliffs on both sides. I even climbed a waterfall and kept going, when your average day hiker would have had to turn back long before. At the end of my journey there was a beautiful falls with a pool of hungry trout ready to eat my dry fly. At high noon there were still shadows on the moss covered walls of the canyon. High above the sky was a brilliant blue. A tall white pine clung to the top of the cliff, it's roots growing down between cracks in the rock to where I stood. After catching a few trout I stepped back, sighed, and took it all in. This place was somewhere I could have complete solitude. A tiny spot that was tough to get to and rarely visited by human-kind,

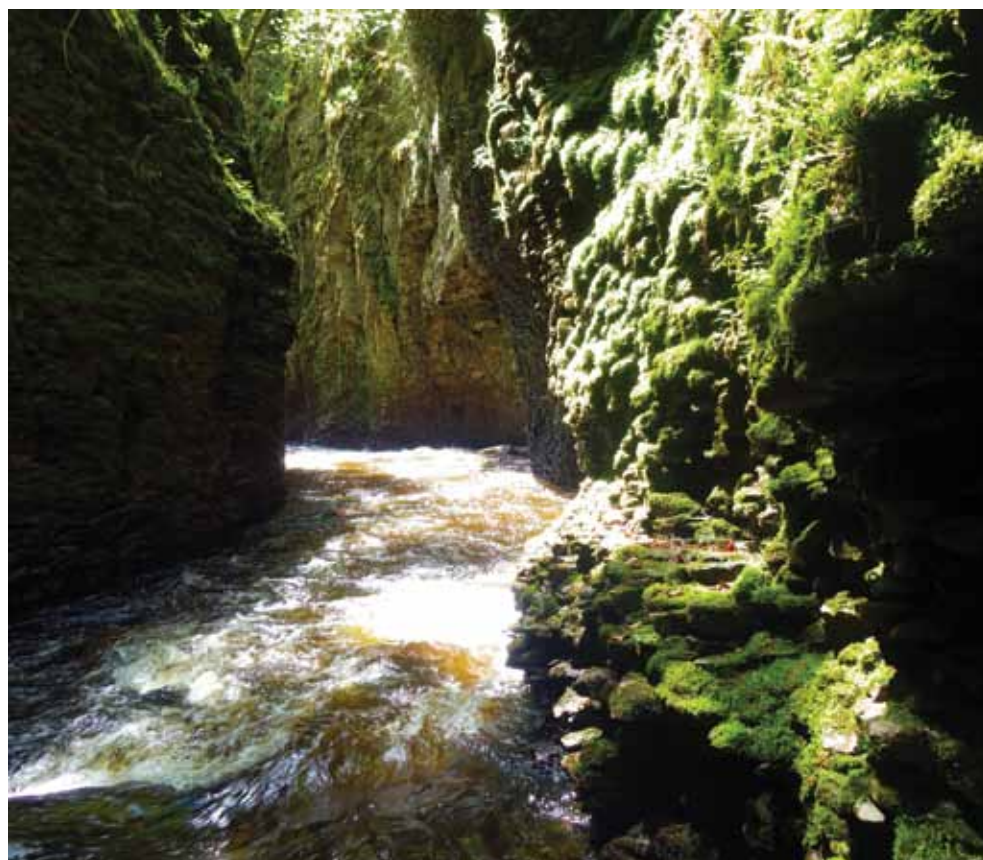
almost completely untouched. It was a magical place I would never have seen if it weren't for you, waders. Thanks!

Forever in your debt,

*Brooke Trout*

As anglers, we get to discover places in Minnesota where only we explore. Going fishing is sometimes about going for a walk where the river is your trail and you hold a long skinny graphite stick to make it look like you have a purpose. Some days the purpose is just to get away from it all and catching a few fish is just a bonus. Being an advocate for trout is being an advocate for these magical places that others never seem to find. We need to preserve the places where we can be alone in the wilderness and watch nature undisturbed go about its business.

These tiny magical spots reachable only by walking up a stream are the end result of watershed preservation and large scale conservation efforts, and they are worth it.



MAGIC ON THE WATER IN A SECRET TROUT STREAM IN MINNESOTA

## Donate to Minnesota Trout Unlimited Efforts

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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