

# TROUT UNLIMITED MINNESOTA

The Official Publication of Minnesota Trout Unlimited - February 2016

## Hay Creek - A Success Story

Ice Fishing for Trout

NEW SE Minnesota Book Just Released

Fly Fishing Film and Video Competition

The Lost Metro Trout Streams

Expo Program Information

The Whitewater River Fish Kill

Copyright 2016 Minnesota Trout Unlimited - No Portion of this publication may be reproduced without written permission of Minnesota Trout Unlimited.



**GREAT WATERS  
FLY FISHING EXPO**

Presented By Minnesota Trout Unlimited

March 18th-20th, 2016 • See Ad on Page 17

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 281  
ROCHESTER, MN

Minnesota Trout Unlimited  
P.O. Box 845  
Chanassen, MN 55317-0845

## ON THE COVER

A wild North Shore steelhead comes to net. Steelhead will be running in less than two months, make plans to visit the North Shore this spring. Attend the Great Waters Expo to learn how to participate in the latest steelhead genetic research. Cheri Henderson photo.

## IN THIS ISSUE

- More "Lost Trout Streams"
- New SE MN book review
- Great Waters Expo programs
- Plan to volunteer in 2016
- And much more!

## JOIN TU TODAY!

Want to subscribe to this newsletter? See the back page for details or visit [www.tu.org](http://www.tu.org) to join Trout Unlimited!

Trout Unlimited Minnesota is the official publication of Minnesota Trout Unlimited. Issues are distributed to all members of Minnesota Trout Unlimited chapters. Subscriptions are available by joining Trout Unlimited. See the back page for further details.

Copyright © 2016 Minnesota Trout Unlimited. No Portion of this publication may be reproduced without written permission from Minnesota Trout Unlimited.

Advertising rate sheet available on request. Send all editorial and advertising correspondence or other inquiries to the editor:

Carl Haensel  
2067 E. Pioneer Rd  
Duluth, MN 55804  
[carlhaensel@hotmail.com](mailto:carlhaensel@hotmail.com)

Send address changes to:

Trout Unlimited, 1550 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA, 22209.

# MINNESOTA COUNCIL UPDATE

## Here Comes The Expo!

By JP Little, Minnesota Council Chair

Welcome to the 2016 winter Minnesota Trout Unlimited statewide newsletter. This big, bountiful, glorious edition is coming out in advance of the 2016 Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo, which for the first time is going to be operated by the Minnesota Council. More accurately, it is being planned and will be operated by our esteemed editor Carl Haensel and co-operator Jade Thomason. But for the first time ever, MNTU may be able to call the Expo a source of revenue for conservation work. Much more on this in other articles in this newsletter.

As the days grow longer and we start the steady trek toward spring, chapters across the state are already planning what stream projects will be done over the next couple of years. The request

for Lessard-Sams project dollars is due in May, and we will again have the opportunity to improve miles of streams across Minnesota.

John Hunt, our National Leadership Council (NLC) representative, has agreed to step in as the new council treasurer to replace outgoing treasurer Don Eckenrode. With this move, John stepped down as Vice Chair, Central. Mark Johnson, past President in the Twin Cities, has agreed to step into that role. We now are in need of locating a new council secretary, as Glenn Barth is stepping down after years of service. Anyone in the state with an interest in stepping forward and getting involved with the Minnesota Council can contact me directly at [jpittle999@gmail.com](mailto:jpittle999@gmail.com). I'd like to again thank Don for his many



years of service, as well as Glenn over the last decade on the Minnesota Council.

Tight Lines!

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

An Unsolved Mystery in the Whitewater Valley.....	page 4
Restoring & Fishing Hay Creek.....	page 6
Expo Conservation Programs.....	page 10
Winter Trout Through the Ice.....	page 11
Fly Tying - The Double Wing Trude.....	page 13
Book Review - Fly-fishing SE Minnesota.....	page 15
Women's Fly Fishing Programs.....	page 16
Twin Cities Lost Trout Streams.....	page 18
Trout Unlimited - Connecting Us With Rivers.....	page 20
Trolling the Web.....	page 21
Fly Fishing Film & Video Contest.....	page 21
MNTU Chapter News.....	page 22
Reeling It In.....	page 24



THIS BULL BUFFALO STARES DOWN AT VISITORS IN THE HAY CREEK SALOON. LEARN ABOUT THE HISTORY OF HAY CREEK, THE CHALLENGES IT HAS FACED AND WHERE TO START YOUR FISHING ADVENTURES ON PAGE 6.

# FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## Fighting The Threats To Our Trout Streams

By John Lenczewski, MNTU Executive Director

Last month I attended the DNR Fisheries Roundtable where conservationist James Martin talked about factors squeezing conservation in the 21st century. What most stuck with me was his statement that, “You don’t get the natural resource future that you deserve; you get what you fight for.”

I doubt any of us got into trout fishing because we are looking for a fight, other than with fish on the end of our line. My own childhood fascination with the fishing and trout evolved into a wonderful ride into fly fishing, fly tying, and travel to the beautiful places, near and far, which trout and steelhead inhabit. While I was aware of conservation issues, both from my father as well as from a steady diet of articles in Field & Stream and other magazines, I joined Trout Unlimited in high school primarily to learn where to find more and larger trout and how to catch them. Even now on any given day I still would prefer to just be fishing, fly-tying, or packing the vehicle for the next fishing trip. However, like any observant trout angler it was not long before I saw the degradation of

trout streams and decline of trout fisheries. Eventually, I began to find time to send a letter or make a phone call, to fight for my future fishing.

TU members and readers of this newsletter are all at different places along a similar spectrum – from just gaining knowledge to become better anglers or fly tiers, to learning local waters, to awareness of conservation issues, to carving out time for conservation work. There is no right or wrong path or pace. Eventually most of us realize the truth captured in James Martin’s statement, that we only get the natural resource future we fight for.

In January we discovered that the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) has been lobbying state agencies to reduce the water quality standards for the trout reaches in the watershed. While the draft management plan is otherwise good, this one aspect of the plan would have undermined years of good work by TCTU, its partners and many watershed volunteers. This good work deserves to be supported and expanded upon via protection as



class 2A trout waters, yet water quality standards would have been lowered had many members not responded quickly and fought for the river. Within days of being alerted to this threat, more than 150 of you contacted the JPO. And roughly 30 members attended the public hearing on January 26, where the JPO announced that due to the flood of TU comments it would correct this mistake. Those of us at that Farmington meeting wanted to be at TCTU’s previous scheduled, concurrent meeting covering fishing how to and where to. I want to thank each of you and all the comment writers for making this conservation fight a priority. I hope the fish show you their appreciation this summer.

Tight lines, John



### MNTU CONNECTIONS

**Executive Director**  
John Lenczewski  
jlenczewski@comcast.net  
612-670-1629  
www.mntu.org

**Minnesota Council Chair**  
JP Little  
jplittle999@gmail.com

**TU MN Newsletter Editor**  
Carl Haensel  
editor@mntu.org  
218-525-2381

**TU MN Newsletter Copy Editor**  
Jade Thomason  
jade@greatwatersflyexpo.com

**Gitche Gumee Chapter**  
Jon Aspie, President  
jmaspie@gmail.com  
218-724-5014

**Headwaters Chapter**  
Bob Wagner, President  
bob@riverwooddesign.net  
218-586-2798

**Hiawatha Chapter**  
Phil Pankow, President  
pankow.phil0615@gmail.com  
www.hiawathatu.org

**Mid-Minnesota Chapter**  
Micah Barrett, President  
mab83\_2002@yahoo.com

**Twin Cities Chapter**  
Dean Campbell, President  
dean@twincitiestu.org  
612-564-TCTU  
www.twincitiestu.org

**Waybinahbe Chapter**  
Rod Prusi, President  
draftsman60@yahoo.com

**Win-Cres Chapter**  
Joe Lepley, President  
wincresttroutunlimited@gmail.com  
www.wincrestu.org

www.mntu.org



A MASSIVE FEMALE BROWN TROUT CAUGHT IN SE MN IN JANUARY OF 2016. LEARN THE DETAILS ON PAGE 21.

## EDITOR’S ANGLE

### Expanded Offerings from MNTU

By Carl Haensel, Editor

Many new things are afoot at MNTU these days, and we are pleased to bring our members and readers our largest issue in recent years. We hope that you enjoy exploring the history of Hay Creek, the challenges of the Whitewater valley and everything in between. As you explore the newsletter and the new content, we invite you to provide feedback to us on what you’re interested in seeing in upcoming issues. From how-to articles on fly tying and casting to the biology of mayflies, we’ve got lots of different articles in store, and we would love to hear from you as we plan more.

For those of you that are writers and photographers, drop me a line if you’re interested in contributing to the newsletter in any way, and check out the annual MNTU photo contest on page 12. You never know, you could be the lucky individual with their photo on the cover of the June 2016 issue and a new box of flies in their vest!

As we get closer to spring, remember to mark the Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo on your calendars. Check out the ad on page 17 for more information. We hope to see you in March at the Expo!



# AN UNSOLVED MYSTERY IN THE WHITEWATER VALLEY

## The 2015 Whitewater River Fish Kill

By B.J. Johnson

**M**onday, July 27, 2015. Whitewater Valley, Southeastern Minnesota: It was a scorcher of a summer day, 90 degrees, with an oppressively high dew point. Given the steamy air, the forecast for strong evening thunderstorms was not a surprise.

But what followed the rain certainly was.

The storm rolled in after midnight, early on July 28. In just a few hours, a drench-

ing rain dumped between 1 and 2.5 inches of precipitation into the Whitewater Valley. The intense but brief storm splattered rain onto the forests, bluffs and farm fields surrounding the valley. It gushed downhill collecting sand, silt, bugs and more. The gully-washer funneled that debris into the streams of the watershed, which rose rapidly. The silty water clouded the streams into a brownish tint, the trout angler's dreaded "chocolate milk."

trout in that long section of the stream, had perished.

Finding the cause of a fish kill isn't always easy. It's especially difficult on trout streams, where the current quickly washes away clues and evidence. Still, the likely suspects are well known. They range from "natural causes" (disease, change in water temperature or oxygen levels) to manmade causes (industrial chemical spills or agricultural chemicals



IT IS ESTIMATED THAT OVER 10,000 FISH WERE KILLED IN THE SOUTH BRANCH OF THE WHITEWATER RIVER. MN DNR PHOTO

and agriculture by-products).

The South Branch kill was likely the result of a brief but highly toxic pollutant load coursing down the stream. It was localized to a portion of the South Branch, with no fish mortality in the Middle or North Branches of the Whitewater. It created (at least briefly) an incredibly long dead zone on one of Minnesota's most well-known, blue ribbon trout streams, and it cried out for answers. What caused such a dramatic and massive fish kill?

Three state agencies launched investigations: The DNR, Department of Agriculture, and the Pollution Control Agency. Soon the three banded together to pursue a "unified response."

### Fish Kill on a Blue Ribbon Stream

The first alarm was raised on July 30. An angler spotted dead fish floating downstream and littering the shorelines of the South Branch. Department of Natural Resources (DNR) fishery staffers from Lanesboro and the Crystal Springs Hatchery soon reported a massive fish kill. At least 6.5 miles of the South Branch were affected, from the Crystal Springs Hatchery upstream to Bethany Drive, near Altura. It was later estimated that between 9,000 and 10,000 fish, including most of the brown and rainbow

the start, based on lost time. The first anglers to spot the fish kill drove to the Crystal Springs Hatchery the afternoon of Wednesday, July 29. Staff weren't on duty at the hatchery at that time, and the anglers weren't aware there were other options to report a fish kill. By the time the DNR was made aware of the kill on July 30, at least 18 hours had passed from the time of the heavy rains. That was more than enough time for water-based evidence to be miles downstream, dispersed and diluted. The trout carcasses that weren't already consumed by scavengers were rotting into mush, reducing their value for scientific testing. All of which contributed to the "No Answers" official report.

Still, the report ticked through a series of likely suspects in the kill, and eliminated each as causes or indicated there was no evidence to definitively prove they killed the fish. Discounted as causes were:

- Disease in the fish population.
- Illegal dumping or leakage of hazardous chemicals.
- Effluent discharge from local wastewater treatment plants.
- Any substances related to a local limestone quarry.
- Metals, like Copper Sulfate, used as a bactericide on cattle.
- Manure. Manure-spreading helps fertilize farm fields, but manure can also carry high concentrations of ammonia, chemicals or metals.
- Fungicides, herbicides or pesticides. Farmers use these chemicals to protect their significant investments and maximize crop yields.

### Likely Suspects

Two items on the list deserve special attention: old fashioned manure and a newly introduced fungicide.

The state's report mentions manure applications on two farms in the area of the kill. On one farm, liquid manure was applied on July 27, just prior to the kill. At the second farm, manure was applied on a "daily / weekly basis" starting May 23 and continuing up to the time of the deadly event.

With one exception, the amount of manure applied was "consistent (with) or below" state regulations (the single excessive application was reported to Winona County). The report did not name manure as a cause of the kill. But Paul Wotzka, a professional hydrologist and resident of the Whitewater Watershed takes exception with the amount of manure-as-fertilizer allowed by the state. "Those applications were horrifically large," he said. Manure runoff, he said, may have caused or contributed to the fish kill.

The use of fungicides may be an even greater concern, though the report said fungicides "were not suspected" as a cause.

Northern corn leaf blight is a fungal infection of corn, especially common in fields where corn is grown year after year, with no crop rotation. Corn blight reduces yields, and thus income, for farmers. Chemical fungicides are used to prevent blight. One new variety of fungicide, Priaxor, had been sprayed from helicopters in the immediate area prior to the storm.

Jeff Broberg lives three miles from the South Branch of the Whitewater. He is a geologist, an environmentalist, and president of the Minnesota Trout Association. He believes aerial spraying of corn fungicides has a strong potential for being the cause of the South Branch kill. "This stuff is incredibly toxic to aquatic life," he said. He noted that California and New York have restrictions governing the use of Priaxor. In New York, the product cannot be aerially applied within 100 feet of aquatic habitats (this requirement is not in place in Minnesota). The New York Department of Environmental Conservation initiated a review of the product in 2014 based on "concerns that the use of this product may potentially impact groundwater" and sensitive aquifers. As a result, it limited the areas in which the fungicide can be used in New York.

Priaxor's label warns users it should not be applied within 48 hours of expected rainfall, due to the danger of the chemical being washed into lakes and streams. Broberg claims some local residents saw helicopters spraying something (it's unclear if it was fungicide or not) as late as Monday, July 27, despite the forecast for rain that evening.

The Priaxor label also indicates a risk associated with aerial spraying during warm weather. "...High temperatures increase the evaporation of spray droplets and therefore, the likelihood of spray drift." In other words, the chemical can spread to a larger area than intended when sprayed during hot weather like the 90-degree temperatures in the valley preceding the kill.

The state's "unified response" report found no evidence that fungicides caused the fish kill. But Wotzka is suspicious. "There are so few chemicals out there that will kill a stream from top to bottom," he said. "This is one of them."

Broberg is also concerned with potential long-term negative effects of fungicides on trout populations.

Priaxor Xemium Brand Fungicide® was first registered for use in Minnesota in 2012, according to the state Department of Agriculture. Prior to 2012, the DNR counted between 1,600 and 1,700 brown trout per mile on the South Branch.

*An Unsolved Mystery in the Whitewater Valley continued on page 14*



# Mend

PROVISIONS

HATCH

SIMMS



patagonia

ORVIS  
ROD AND TACKLE

2719 EAST 42<sup>ND</sup> STREET MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55406

MENDPROVISIONS.COM • 612-724-4272 • INFO@MENDPROVISIONS.COM

# HAY CREEK - A SUCCESS STORY

## This Stream Has a Story to Tell

By Dan Callahan

Hay Creek, a medium-sized trout stream near Red Wing, Minnesota, has some history behind it.

It was the first place close to the Twin Cities to offer a winter catch-and-release season, back in the late 1980s. Now the winter season extends to the rest of the streams from Goodhue County and south, until April 16, when the regular season opens.

It was the first place we heard about the dangers posed to Minnesota trout streams from unregulated silica frac sand mining, leading to legislation that protects all trout streams in the Paleozoic bedrock areas of southeastern Minnesota.

It was the first place the Twin Cities Trout Unlimited (TCTU) chapter started doing major stream restoration work. Since 2008, we've restored six miles of Hay Creek. Together with the other six chapters of Minnesota Trout Unlimited, we've now restored more than 40 miles of trout streams across the state, with more on the slate this summer.



DR WILLIAM SWENEY FIRST FISHED HAY CREEK IN 1854

It was the first place that a fly fishing physician from Red Wing did NOT fish when he arrived back in the '50s. He wanted to save it, like dessert.

Years later, Dr. William Wilson Sweney wrote why he wanted to wait:

*"In my various tramps through the country, when I struck a stream at a ford or ripple, it was not uncommon thing to see dozens of trout rushing and tumbling over each other in their haste to reach their hiding places in deep water."*

*On Hay Creek I have thus frightened off a shallow ripple more than fifty pounds of the fish at one time, and though I always carry an ample supply of fishing tackle with me, I never wet a line in that stream until 1854.*

*This I consider the greatest instance of self-denial and resistance of temptation on record.*

*I could cite many cases where better men, probably, have signally failed, and where the restraining influence should have been much stronger.*

*The reason why I did not gratify my natural instincts was the opposing one, and true sportsman maxim, never to kill what you cannot make use of; and, also, I am too great a lover of the gentle art [of fly fishing] to hasten the extinction, through a mere wantonness, of a creature that has so largely contributed to my pleasure and happiness."*

Dr. Sweney was a founder of the city of Red Wing. The 1878 edition of The History of Goodhue County describes him as "...a gentleman of education, large observation and diversified experience." He was born in 1818, and moved to Minnesota in 1850, to practice medicine in St. Paul with the only other medical doctor in the state at the time. He moved his family to the Red Wing trading post in 1852.

*"Among the first items of information I obtained from the Indians was that the small spring brooks contained an abundance of trout, and the equally gratifying intelligence that they never used them as an article of food; in fact, their religious notions 'tabooed' their use.*

*From the name they gave the speckled beauties, I would infer they considered them too bad to eat. Hogal-wichasta-sni (literally, wicked-man-fish) is not suggestive of high appreciation among the Indian community. They really believed some malign influence resided in the fish."*

Trout stream destroyers, who have taken on Trout Unlimited protectors over the years, might believe that malign influence is still at work. I'll be aligned with the wicked-man-fish every time.

### Hay Creek Today

Hay Creek is a major tributary to the MPCA's Mississippi River-Lake Pepin Watershed. Hay drains more than 30,000 acres of mostly farmland, though as you get closer to Red Wing, residential development, and then urban development, add their burdens.

If you love watershed information, you can get more details online: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/wq-ws3-07040001b.pdf>

Hay Creek gathers waters from many small tributaries and springs as it carves down into a steep valley before rolling into the river bottoms, just southeast of Bench Street, upstream of downtown Red Wing. The limestone-softened springs keep Hay Creek cold enough for trout.

You need to head upstream about six miles on Highway 58 to get to the good trout water.

Brown trout are the creek's bread and butter fish, if you will. The DNR fisheries surveys show there was a booming

hatch of browns in 2010, and inconsistent reproduction since then. However, they've documented much better numbers and sizes of fish in areas where we've done habitat improvement work. There's a trophy trout stretch where you have to fish with only artificial flies or lures, and throw back any trout between 12 and 16 inches.

Not coincidentally, the slot-limit is on a four-mile stretch that Twin Cities Trout Unlimited members did all their early stream restoration work, upstream of the tiny hamlet of Hay Creek. (See map.)

The fishing upstream is on privately-owned land, on which the owners have sold angling easements to the DNR. So if you see one of those landowners while fishing that stretch, thank him or her. When you park on the side of the road or in the little turnouts, don't block any driveways, farm roads, access or gates. Leave any gates as you find them. They were open, or closed, for a reason.

There is no public fishing in the gap in the map between the upstream ease-

[http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/maps/state\\_forests/cmp00040.pdf](http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/maps/state_forests/cmp00040.pdf)

Statewide regulations apply during the regular stream trout season, which means you have to buy a trout stamp and have it listed on your license. The limit is five trout, with only one over 16 inches. You can catch-and-keep from April 16 to September 14 this year, followed by catch-and-release fishing until October 15. After that, put away your rod until New Year's Day 2017.

### Where & How to Fish

The MNDNR has just published its new booklet and online version of "Trout Angling Opportunities in Southern and Central Minnesota". You'll find the good area of Hay Creek is shown on Map 13. Online, it's [http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/maps/trout\\_streams/south-2015/map13.pdf](http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/maps/trout_streams/south-2015/map13.pdf)

Bob Trevis' new book, *Fly Fishing for Trout in Southeast Minnesota....A*



AN ANGLER FISHES HAY CREEK. PHOTO BY FLEMING PHOTOGRAPHY.

ments and the rest of the creek that's open to the public, downstream of the town of Hay Creek. That downstream portion is the lower two miles on which we've done restoration work, in the DNR's Hay Creek Management Unit of the Richard J. Dorer State Forest.

It caters to horse riders, so you'll be parking near trailers in some of the areas. The DNR has an excellent trail system that runs along stretches of Hay Creek. A detailed map showing the trails and parking areas of the unit is online:

*Troutchaser's Guide* is built around these stream maps as well. As a fishing guide for 30 years, Bob knows better than I do where to fish, and that includes Hay Creek. He kindly allowed us to use an excerpt from his book. There is more about fishing another part of Hay Creek that is not included here. Buy the book!

*"Hay offers almost 16 miles of trout water, much of it prime fishing. Hay is usually accessed by going west of Red Wing on State Highway 58 for six miles*

or so. Some Twin Cities anglers head east of US Highway 52 on State 50 at Hampton and go thru Miesville, home of the semi-pro Miesville Mudhens, to get to Red Wing. Warning – the speed limit is 35, and enforced!

In the town of Hay Creek you can get a burger at the old Dressen's Saloon (now Haycreek Valley Campground and Saloon), and then you can head north on Hay Creek Trail and access portions of Hay Creek in the state forest area.

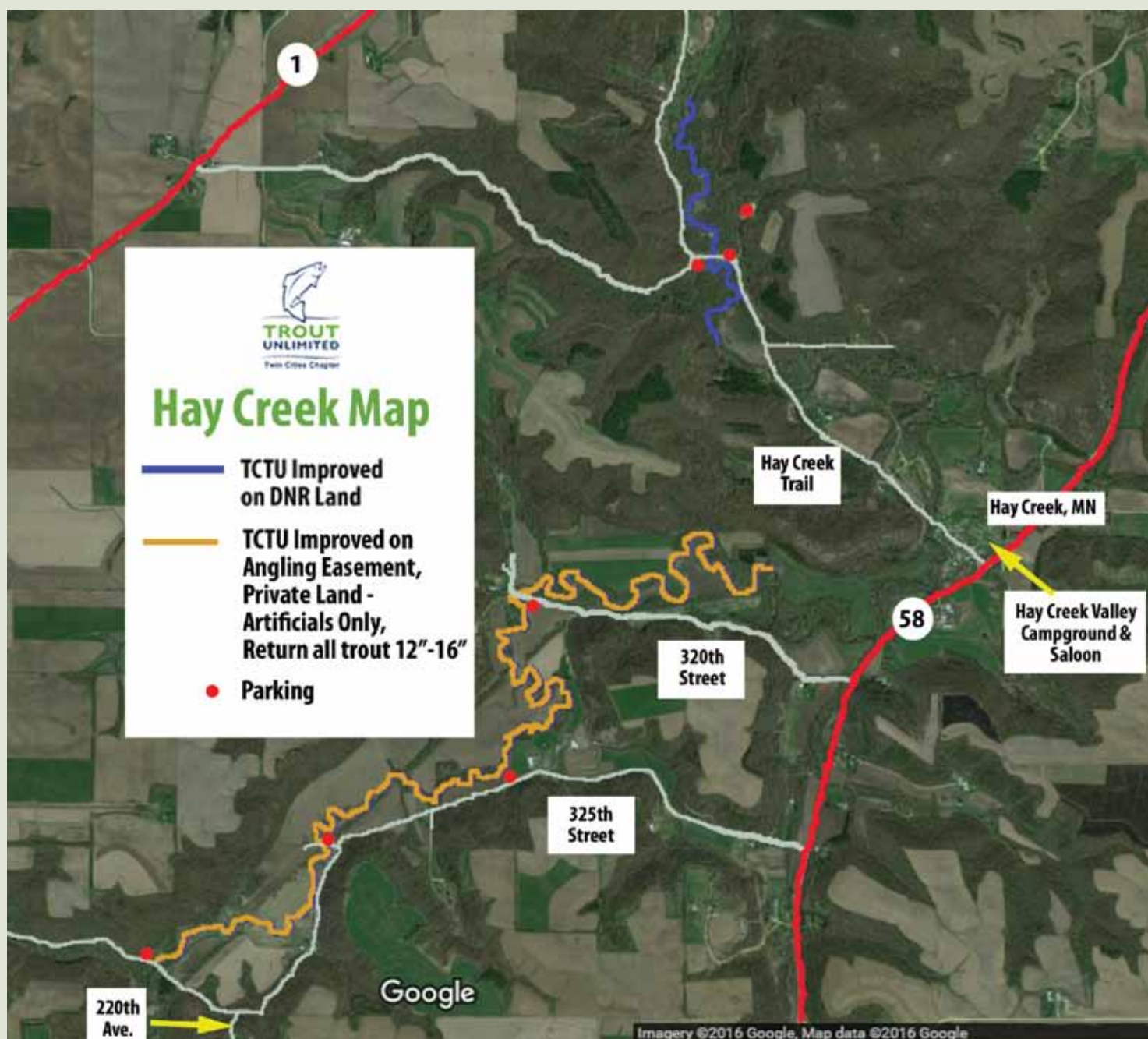
Most fly anglers instead head west of the saloon on Hwy. 58 to 320th St. Way and proceed to the slab bridge crossing. You can park on the right or left before you get to the bridge crossing and fish upstream or downstream...

"Much of this area has had HI [Habitat Improvement] work done, some as far back as 1976, and some as recently as 2013-2015. Width varies, but most of Hay is 30 feet or less in width, although this is not hip boot water. The trout are educated, and it's artificial lures or flies only. Proximity to the Twin Cities makes it a favorite of winter anglers."

"...Another option is to go a bit further south and west on Hwy. 58 to 325th St. and follow 325th to the first dead-end road and a bridge. Access here (upstream or downstream) is public, but the weeds – including wild parsnip – can be very annoying after June 1st. There is a small cabin near the creek; please respect their privacy, and the outhouse is not for your use!

Weekend use of Hay can make the water very crowded; if you find 4 or 5 cars here, and there were 4 to 5 cars on 320th, it's probably best to head to another watershed.

If you were to continue on 325th St. for another half-mile, you would come to yet another bridge crossing where you can make your own parking spot. Downstream of the bridge is the upper reach of the public access area, but you may want to stay in the water walking downstream for a few hundred yards, rather than fight the shoreline trees and brush. You'll know when you get to the



HIGHLIGHTED AREAS ON THE MAP HAVE BEEN IMPROVED RECENTLY BY THE TWIN CITIES CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED. MANY OTHER SECTIONS OF HAY CREEK ARE FISHABLE. CHECK MN DNR MAPS FOR MORE INFORMATION.

and on-shore is the biggest headache, but not insurmountable. As with most trout streams, mid-summer's hot days are best for a fish-early or fish-late approach.

What to use? Turn over some rocks to see the appropriate nymphs or caddis larvae to match. Consider dropper rigs or trailing midges behind larger weighted nymphs. SMALL indicators if you need to use them - these fish have seen enough Thingamabobbers!

For hatches, check the spider webs in

drops south into the Hay Creek valley. Quick investigation by several TU members revealed that sand, not oil, was the company's target. The first frac sand mine proposed in southeast Minnesota was to be located just about one mile from Hay Creek.

Energy companies want this type of round, hard, quartzite, silica sand grains to mix into a special slurry. They inject this juice into the ground, propping open the fractures they've made in bedrock, so that oil and gas can seep out and be pumped up to the surface in places like North Dakota.

Tony Nelson, TCTU Habitat Chair, and MNTU Executive Director John Lenczewski, were central participants in the initial community meeting organized to address this new threat.

We had learned from the horror stories in Wisconsin. Massive groundwater pumping was going on, so miners could reach sand below the normal groundwater table. They also were using groundwater to wash and sort the sand.

The pumping was intercepting cold groundwater headed for trout stream springs. In some cases, the groundwater was used once in processing the sand. Then, much warmer, water was allowed to flow downhill until it reached ditches leading to trout streams, which were already warmer because their groundwater supplies had been intercepted.

Trout streams are nothing without their cold groundwater flows.

Tony and John educated a packed

room of people on how to properly use environmental review processes, and pledged TU's support for the fight ahead.

The "Save the Bluffs" group was born.

Patrick O'Neill was a key player. His family owns the historic, red-brick building that is the headquarters for the Hay Creek Valley Campground and Old Western Saloon.

German immigrant Albert Burkard constructed the building in the 1870s, along with a hotel that is now gone. The building became a general store, then fell idle. The Dressen family bought it in 1967 and opened the Saloon, along with a few campsites.

The O'Neills bought the place in 1977. They added a restaurant and campsites, now numbering more than 100. Some accommodate campers who bring their horses to ride on a DNR trail nearby.

It's the main business in Hay Creek, featuring a camp store, delicious burgers, cold beer, and an authentic, stuffed buffalo head that glowers down at you from the wall above the bar.

When I first met Pat, it was April 2013, opening day of the trout season.

John Lenczewski had invited Minnesota DNR Commissioner Tom Landwehr, and his son Hunter, to fish the stretches of Hay Creek that TCTU members had improved.

Besides showing off the great partnership between the DNR and MNTU, John wanted to talk about protecting such an important asset from the dangers of excessive



A WINTERTIME HAY CREEK BROWN TROUT

upper end of some HI work, since you will hear plunge pools. Again, this former pasture is quite weedy, but is often worth the hassle. Immediately upstream of the bridge is not eased water."

I asked Bob if he would share some advice on what to use while fishing. He replied:

"Hay should fish well from January 1 to the spring melt. After the melt, good until late June - then the shoreline weeds take over in many areas.

Nymphs or attractors should work well and hoppers in the pasture sections come August. Vegetation in-stream

shoreline vegetation, and choose flies of the same size and color. I could write another book on "Tactics and Flies, by the Fortnight", but that's probably two years away!

There you have it, everything you need to fish Hay Creek."

### Frac Sand Dangers

All the work Trout Unlimited members put into restoring Hay Creek was jeopardized in 2011.

In March 2011, we learned that a Texas oil company had purchased the long slope where Hwy 58 from Red Wing

# HAY CREEK - A SUCCESS STORY

## Continued

groundwater pumping associated with frac sand mining.

By this time, MNTU had spent many hundreds of hours working with the DNR, legislators, geologists, the Save the Bluffs group and others to craft a bill at the state capitol that would restrict frac sand mining within one mile of any trout stream in southeast Minnesota. The bill was gaining momentum. The fishing trip was strategically timed to garner media attention and increase public support for action.

MNTU had worked closely with State Senator Matt Schmit of Red Wing to craft the one-mile setback legislation. He grew up fishing for trout in Hay Creek. Matt joined Pat O'Neill and Commissioner Landwehr for interviews that day.

Trout streams attract a lot of tourism to Southeast Minnesota. While mining companies were touting temporary new jobs and economic benefits, they tried to minimize the negative impacts, such as hundreds of sand trucks on local two-lane highways, the removal of bluffs, and health concerns over silica dust—in addition to excessive groundwater pumping affecting neighboring water wells and trout streams.

Pat O'Neill told reporters, "Our business is tourism based. People come here to fish, or to bike or ride horses on the DNR trail. People come here for the scenic beauty, the bluffs and hills and creek. We're worried that's all going to be threatened by the frac sand mining."

An intense legislative session followed. Pat traveled to St. Paul a number of times to testify alongside MNTU at the state capitol.

Educating lawmakers about this issue eventually led to landmark legislation, giving the DNR new authority to regulate, and, where warranted, prohibit frac sand mining within one mile of any Southeast Minnesota trout stream or tributary.

While not the outright ban on frac sand mining near trout streams that MNTU sought, it requires a special DNR permit which the DNR has authority to deny, based upon possible impacts to the streams or the network of subterranean channels which carry cold groundwater to a stream's feeder

springs. These cold springs are what define Hay Creek and the other fertile, cold, limestone streams in southeast Minnesota as "spring creeks".

However, the regulations have never been tested.

Oil prices have dropped, and frac sand is no longer highly desired. The land for the proposed Hay Creek frac sand mine is up for sale, cheap. Pat told me in late January, "I think even if they had succeeded in opening,

they probably would have shut down right away because there's no demand."

If the mine had opened, "It would have been ugly," Pat said. "Traffic is already terrible on Highway 58, and sand trucks would have made it even worse. This is a unique area with clean, cold water and trout. Frac sand mining would have ruined it."



TOP: IT LOOKS NATURAL, BUT INVASIVE TREES AND ERODED BANKS MADE THE WATER WIDE, SHALLOW, SILTY AND DEVOID OF GOOD AQUATIC HABITAT. MIDDLE AND BOTTOM: MAJOR RESHAPING OF BANKS AND NARROWING THE CHANNEL DEEPENS THE STREAM TO FLUSH OUT SEDIMENT AND RESTORE GRAVEL BOTTOM. THE PROJECTS LOOK ROUGH FOR A FEW DAYS, BUT WITHIN WEEKS, THE RESTORATION WORK IS STABILIZED, AND THE BENEFITS WILL LAST FOR YEARS.

The law, which MNTU helped pass in May 2013, appears to be working. No new mines have been proposed within a mile of Hay Creek or any other southeast trout stream. However, if demand rebounds, the law may face its first real challenge. When that day comes, TU and its partners in the Hay Creek community will be ready to protect this amazing stream and valley.

### The Restoration of Hay Creek

If I ever achieved my dream of owning a chunk of land along a trout stream where I could build a retirement cabin, I'm not sure that I would look for a plot that had a public fishing easement on it.

Lucky for us, Dean and Catherine Rebuffoni did.

The last part of the public angling easement on the map, north and downstream of 320th St, is their land. It encompasses

covering the hell out of any story.

They bought the land from the Stumpf family in 1990, with the permanent DNR conservation easement already in place. I asked him in an email why he did it.

He answered, "Three reasons: (1) to protect, enhance, and restore a tract of rural land and water in the stewardship tradition of Aldo Leopold, (2) to have a country get-away (my wife Catherine and I live in Minneapolis and we built a cabin at Hay Creek), (3) as a long-term investment for our two sons and their families."

He seldom fishes for the trout finning in his stretch of stream. He has more pressing issues to deal with.

"I would rather be practicing land and water stewardship or just observing fish and wildlife -- grubbing out buckthorn or cutting boxelder, for example, building brush piles for rabbits, walking through our prairie, watching birds, or watching trout feeding in Hay Creek," he wrote. "Cathy and I also watch for a big snapping turtle that lives in our stretch of the creek."

His most memorable trout didn't come from Hay Creek. It came from his childhood.

"It was a brookie from Kabekona Creek in northern Minnesota. It was only eight inches long, but it was my first trout and I caught it on a fly rod," Rebuffoni said. "My father was with me that day and I've never forgotten the experience."

When TCTU members approached the Rebuffoni's about doing some stream restoration work on their land, they agreed, convinced by our good reputation, which meshed with the stewardship goals that Dean and Cathy had set. They've been members of TU for about five years now.

"We couldn't achieve those goals without the help of TU, the DNR and other conservation agencies. Also, a big shout-out to Pheasants Forever, whose volunteers help maintain our 10 acres of prairie plantings along Hay Creek." Pheasants Forever volunteers are trained at prescribed burning. Native prairie needs periodic fire to renew and beat back competition from trees. When European settlers stopped frequent wildfires, forests took over in many areas.

When I joined TU back in 1989, the conventional wisdom was that our trout streams needed the shade of trees to stay cool. Trees were good. That turned out to be untrue in places where prairie grasses originally dominated, and the water was largely spring-fed, cold groundwater.

Shallow rooted trees like box elder, and the doomed ash trees now on the emerald borer beetles' menu, will grow big and then collapse into the streams. I thought that woody cover in a stream was good, which it is, in some cases. Up north it's very important.

a mile-and-a half of Hay Creek.

This isn't the only thing Dean has done for the environment. He was the lead environmental reporter at the Star Tribune newspaper for decades. He started writing in 1970, the year of the first Earth Day, at the St. Louis Globe Democrat and retired in 1998 at the STrib, leaving a trail of awesome stories.

I was producing environmental coverage at WCCO-TV Channel 4 in the 1990s, and he would beat me time and again on stories. He was just so solid in his sourcing, research, writing and dedication to





TCTU VOLUNTEERS BUILDING SKYHOOK STRUCTURES FOR USE ON HAY CREEK

Now more than ever, stream restoration is a case-specific prescription which takes into account the pre-settlement ecological conditions, the slope of the stream, the watershed, etc. On Hay Creek, impenetrable log jams had spread out the stream into water that was six inches deep and 20 feet wide, which actually warmed the water.

The shifting, sandy bottom couldn't support aquatic vegetation and covered up natural streambed gravel. In gravel, insects thrive and serve as fish food. In gravel, trout lay their eggs to be oxygenated by flowing water. The eggs don't hatch if they get buried in silt or sand.

The log jams and toppled trees were catastrophic to the creek in high flooding. Water washed fallen trees downstream, launching them into banks and diverting flood water to carve out even wider corners, undermining tall banks of dirt, which eventually would collapse into the stream, adding more silt.

The prescription was to narrow the channel, increase the velocity so it could carry away the sand, expose the natural gravel once again and deepen it.

The creek, in high-erosion mode, sported sheer, 10-foot-tall banks of black dirt on outside bends in some areas. If the creek flooded, all that extra

energy would carve farther under those banks and topple them into the water. The cure was to knock down those banks and reslope them to be gradual—make the surrounding banks more like a dinner plate's gradual upturning edges, instead of the steep sides of a



HAY CREEK LANDOWNER DEAN REBUFFONI

Take a look at the photo to the right of a restored prairie section of Hay Creek, photographed by TCTU habitat chair Tony Nelson, just days after a 10 inch rain hit the valley in 2012. Not a bit of damage.

Native prairie grasses have deep roots



A TOE WOOD INSTALLATION ON THE VERMILLION RIVER, DEMONSTRATING SOME OF THE METHODS USED ON HAY CREEK

that grow thickly together, anchoring the soil against erosion much better than the shallow roots of box elders. Overhead bank cover can be key to trout growth. An osprey can't swim under a bank and grab a fish.

energy would carve farther under those banks and topple them into the water. The cure was to knock down those banks and reslope them to be gradual—make the surrounding banks more like a dinner plate's gradual upturning edges, instead of the steep sides of a

that grow thickly together, anchoring the soil against erosion much better than the shallow roots of box elders. Overhead bank cover can be key to trout growth. An osprey can't swim under a bank and grab a fish.

We've built wooden versions of undercut banks. First came "lunker structures". Think of a two pallet sandwich, with upright pieces of wood holding them apart about a foot or so. Worked okay, but the posts meant you could never drift a fly or lure under it without getting tangled and having to break off.

The improved version, and the last ones we made for Hay Creek, are called "sky-hooks". They are cantilevered, with a double stack of wood only on the back side and weighted, so the top side of the wooden sandwich can jut out like an awning.

Heavy limestone rock is then put on top, to anchor the skyhooks. Then dirt is pushed over the top and re-seeded, creating a deep, dark, outside bend, a big trout hide-hole.

This is the area we held our free fly fishing clinics for TU members in 2015. You can watch a cool video of one of the clinics on our website's Hay Creek page, at [www.twincityestu.org](http://www.twincityestu.org).

It is important that skyhooks be set low enough, so that if a big flood carries fallen trees down the channel they do not lodge under the skyhook and rip apart the work. Restoration experts have also learned to harvest the invasive trees and incorporate them into banks to protect the outside bends from everyday erosion and strong water in floods, which are becoming more frequent.

When we started stream restoration in 2008 through about 2010, the typical

we hope, for years. However, to restore the stream to that condition, requires ripping it up.

It's horrifying to look at if you haven't been educated to recognize terrible (but natural-looking streams) and don't understand the serious surgery required to undo years of damage from human development's increased stormwater runoff and neglect. The cliché about needing to crack some eggs to make an omelet is not a bad comparison.

Rebuffoni said, "As a reporter, I had witnessed several environmental-restoration projects and knew that, while under construction, they can resemble combat zones.

"But I also had seen how attractive the finished projects were, and knew of their positive results for fish and wildlife."

Tom Lane, a TCTU member who led many of the restoration projects on Hay Creek, said that doing the early work was labor intensive. "But it was a really neat way to do the projects, and I think the work we're doing is holding up well."

Restoration methods on Hay Creek, like MNTU projects statewide, have evolved based upon new research. We now consult with engineers to design the restoration project and work with contractors using heavy equipment to do the massive, but efficient, restoration construction.

There is still the need for hand-work by TU volunteers on projects, however.



A STABLE BANK WITH PRAIRIE GRASSES AFTER A 10 INCH RAINFALL IN 2012

way to armor the outside bends was with quarried blocks of limestone, which held things in place, while the prairie grass established itself. But it can look unnatural for a long time.

More recently, the DNR has preferred we use "toe wood", which looks less out of place, and serves as a transitional bank armor.

You take out a big invasive tree, leave about 15 feet of trunk, and then bury it into the bank with the trunk on its side, perpendicular to the stream. The root ball faces out into the water, as a shield protecting the bank.

After a few years, the wood will rot and wash away, the prairie grass will be established and the banks will be stable,

Clearing pre-project invasive brush, working in areas too tight or sensitive to use heavy equipment, re-seeding and planting when projects are largely done, and following up to control invasive plants are all necessary.

Dean Rebuffoni says when he looks out his window at Hay Creek, he thinks of how fortunate his family is to have this land along a wonderful trout stream.

"It's a gem of a trout stream, and it deserves the strongest possible protection and perpetual T.L.C. (Tender Loving Care)," he said.

Dr. Sweney must have thought that same thing back in 1854.

# GREAT WATERS FLYFISHING EXPO CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

March 18-20 • Century College • White Bear Lake, MN

## Friday March 18th – 4:00 pm

### Agricultural Threats and the Fish Kill in the Whitewater River

A heavy rainstorm in July of 2015 brought death to a large portion of the South Branch of the Whitewater River in Southeast Minnesota. Learn about the still unsolved mystery that caused it, and discuss ways that we can work toward preventing future fish kills around Minnesota.

## Saturday March 19th – 11:00 am AND Sunday March 20th – 2:00 pm

### Restoration of the Kinnickinnic River Through Dam Removal

Join the Friends of the Kinni for a discussion about the restoration of the Kinnickinnic River through dam removal currently being considered in the City of River Falls, WI. During this discussion, the documentary short film “The Dam Decision” produced by UWRF student Sydney Howell will be screened and a question and answer session with Friends of the Kinni spokesperson Michael Page will follow. The Friends of the Kinni is a grassroots citizens group who love the Kinnickinnic River and want to see it flowing freely through the City of River Falls. They have been working in cooperation with the City of River Falls as a stakeholder organization throughout the FERC relicensing process and now in the Kinnickinnic River Corridor planning process.

## Saturday March 19th – 2:00 pm

### Lake Superior Steelhead Management in MN: Attend to Participate in a New Steelhead Genetic Study!

Get the latest details from the MN DNR’s new 2016 Fisheries Management Plan for the Minnesota Waters of Lake Superior (LSMP) straight from DNR Migratory Fish Specialist Nick Peterson. Nick will be discussing salmonids, including steelhead, and providing details of how steelhead will be managed over the next 10 years by the MN DNR. Included in this management will be an exciting new opportunity for anglers to participate in a steelhead genetic research study. The study will involve scale sampling from angler caught-and-released fish. Plan to attend to learn how to participate in the study and to sign up to help out the wild steelhead of Lake Superior.

## Saturday March 19th – 3:00 pm

### Current Issues in Trout Conservation

Learn about the top challenges that our trout waters around Minnesota are facing and how you can get involved to help. Meet MNTU executive director John Lenczewski and hear about our efforts to preserve trout habitat and fishing opportunities around Minnesota for the next generation. The timeliest issues will be covered and simple actions that you can take to help will be provided. Threats to groundwater laws, trout stream designations, proper mapping of stream buffers and other issues will be covered based on urgency. Check the Expo and MNTU webpages for updates as March 19th approaches.



MARCH 19 6PM

## GREAT WATERS FLY FISHING EXPO

3401 CENTURY AVENUE N, WHITE BEAR LAKE

APRIL 20 5:30PM

## MEND PROVISIONS

2719 E 42ND ST, MINNEAPOLIS

MAY 17 5:30PM

## STEEL TOE BREWING

4848 W 35TH ST, ST. LOUIS PARK

[FACEBOOK.COM/TROUTONTAP](https://www.facebook.com/troutontap)



## Lewiston Area Trout Guides



[WWW.MINNESOTATROUT.COM](http://WWW.MINNESOTATROUT.COM)

165 Whispering Pines Ct.  
Lewiston, MN 55952

Phone: (507) 523-2557, cell (507) 951-1243

[guide@minnesotatrou.com](mailto:guide@minnesotatrou.com)

[www.facebook.com/minnesotatrou](https://www.facebook.com/minnesotatrou)

Contact Guide

**J. Mark Reisetter**

50 Trout Streams within 20 miles of home!


138 West Main  
Perham, MN 56573  
218-346-3871 or 218-640-3163  
email: [front20outfitters@arvig.net](mailto:front20outfitters@arvig.net)

Fly Shop &  
Fly Fishing Guide Service  
Trout Fishing Guide Service  
Fishing & Lodging Packages  
Fly Casting Classes  
Fly Tying Classes

Visit our website for more information:  
[www.front20outfitters.com](http://www.front20outfitters.com)

Find us on Facebook

**NAMEBINI**



**Guided Flyfishing  
Northern MN & WI**

Trout  
Steelhead  
Smallmouth  
Northern Pike  
Drift Boat Trips

**Carl Haensel**  
218-525-2381  
WWW.NAMEBINI.COM

**LakeLady**  
CUSTOM-CRAFTED FISHING RODS

**Bold • Innovative • Imaginative**

18 Years of Professional Craftsmanship - Fishing Rods As Individual As You Are  
www.lakeladyrods.com - rodbuilder@lakeladyrods.com - 218-562-4512



KRIS KRISTUFEK  
OWNER, LAKE LADY  
CUSTOM-CRAFTED  
FISHING RODS

*passion*  
FOR PERFECTION

KRIS KRISTUFEK IS A CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL ROD BUILDER  
AND A MEMBER OF THE CUSTOM ROD BUILDERS GUILD

## WINTER TROUT THROUGH THE ICE

By Doug Harthan

Ice fishing for trout in Minnesota provides us with another great opportunity to chase one of my favorite fish. When we think of ice fishing for trout, most of us would tend to think of northeast Minnesota, but there are a number of opportunities throughout the state. Trout are stocked in both designated trout lakes that are managed specifically for trout, and into lakes that

I will share with you some of the things that have worked for me. During winter in the lake that I fish, the trout seem to be in the upper part of the water column and I usually do not fish very deep. Anywhere from 5 feet down to 15 or so feet is where I will start jigging and sometimes set a dead stick as well. The particular lake that I fish is not a designated trout lake so we can use minnows



A FLASHER STYLE DEPTH FINDER IS OFTEN KEY TO FINDING FISH IN WINTER

of baits in the winter including small minnows, wax worms, and even power bait. I like using a small jigging lure with a crappie minnow and will jig it regularly with pauses. At times I may use a dead stick with a plain small hook and a minnow or wax worm on it and sometimes they will take the dead stick bait

after they have come in to the jigged bait. Jigging Rapalas and spoons will work as well; I use a little heavier line when using spoons and Rapalas so be prepared to use different presentations until you find the one the fish want on that particular day.

To find lakes that have been stocked with trout in your area, go to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources web page at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/index.html>. Once here, choose the Lake Finder tab, click the stocking report species button, click on trout and click generate report. This will give you the counties where lakes and streams have been stocked with trout by the DNR. From here you can identify those that you may want to try. More remote and difficult lakes to access will usually result in fewer fishermen, but not necessarily more fish.

So if you're looking for a new challenge this winter give trout fishing a try, I think you'll enjoy it.

*Editors Note: Doug Harthan is the owner of Front 20 Outfitters based in Perham Minnesota. Find their ad on the opposite page.*



PORTABLE SHELTERS ALLOW FOR MOBILITY AND COMFORT WHILE ICE FISHING

are managed for other species as well. It is important to read the regulations before fishing, because live minnows are not allowed when fishing designated stream trout lakes. In addition to this, a trout stamp is needed when fishing designated stream trout lakes or whenever in possession of trout. Some of the lakes are closed to winter fishing as well. Trout taken from the clear cold waters of these stocked stream trout lakes are excellent table fare, a downright blast to catch and easy for the young fisherman to enjoy as well.

There are many techniques and presentations that will catch winter trout and

and have two lines if we choose to do so, but remember if fishing a designated trout lake you are only allowed one line and live minnows are prohibited. Due to the cold temperatures of the water in the winter, we have caught fish in water depths from 12 feet to over 70 feet so you may need to move around until you find fish. Depending on the lake composition, fish may or may not be relating to underwater structure, making it more difficult to key-in on certain spots. For rigging, I like to use a fluorocarbon line of 4-pound test or less. I feel the fish are less likely to notice it as much and it tends to be more abrasion resistant. I will use and have caught trout on a variety



A YOUNG ANGLER WITH A NICE RAINBOW TROUT

# MNTU 2016 PHOTO CONTEST

Share Your Best Fishing Photos and Win!

This is the official announcement of the third season of the MNTU photo contest. Send in your entries early and prepare to use your new flies this season!

## Rules of the 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 must be submitted by May 15th, 2016. 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:

editor@mntu.org

There is a 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

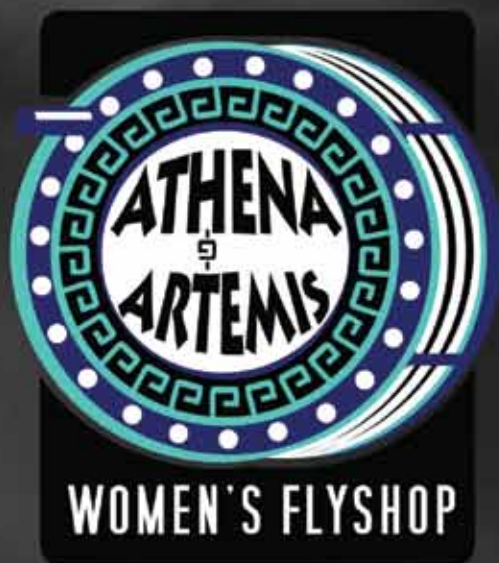
The winner in each category will receive a box of a dozen flies ready to catch trout this season. The overall winner will receive a handmade, wooden-handled trout net.

Share this announcement with your friends near and wide, we welcome submissions from MNTU members and non-members alike. Photos from the contest will be used in the upcoming June 2016 issue of *Trout Unlimited Minnesota* and will be highlighted on the MNTU web site and Facebook page and in promotion for next season's Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo.

Questions? Contact the newsletter editor at: editor@mntu.org.



THE MIDDLE BRANCH OF THE WHITWATER RIVER IN WINTER



## A NEW WAY TO SHOP FOR GEAR

A FOR-WOMEN-BY-WOMEN  
FLYSHOP AND COMMUNITY.

[www.WomensFlyshop.com](http://www.WomensFlyshop.com)

CONTACT: [Geri@womensflyshop.com](mailto:Geri@womensflyshop.com)

## SUPERIOR FLY ANGLER

Featuring Sage, Simms, Rio,  
Scientific Angler  
Ross Reels,  
Redington and More!

### SHOP HOURS

Tues-Fri 10-6

Sat 9-5

Closed Sun & Monday

310 Belknap St - Superior, WI 54880

[www.superiorflyangler.com](http://www.superiorflyangler.com)

(715) 395-9520

Guided Steelhead and Trout  
Fly Fishing

**Scott Thorpe**

612.669.9601

[www.scottthorpeflyfishing.com](http://www.scottthorpeflyfishing.com)



# FLY TYING

## With Laughing Trout Fly Fishing

By Paul Johnson



I have had the good fortune to make an annual trip to Yellowstone National Park for the past 10 years or so. On one of my early fishing trips to the Park, my daughter Holly and I hired Walter Wiese from Parks Fly Shop in Gardiner to guide us for a day. Walter spent most of the day working with and fishing with Holly. He would come and check on me every time I was resting my spot. Ok, every time I was trying to untangle my leader, tippet and flies! It was a great day. Holly learned so much and it was so much fun watching her fish.

Holly caught a lot of fish that day. Most of her fish were caught on a prototype fly that Walter was working on. That fly is now his Synth Double Wing available at Parks Fly Shop.

The trouble was that Walter only had a couple of the flies, so he could not sell me any. They had some of the materials, but not all of them available back at the shop. Later that night, I tried to duplicate the fly from memory and with the materials I had with me for us to use the next day. My attempt didn't end up exactly like Walter's, but it has proven to be a fish catcher ever since.

This is the first fly I will tie on when I get to Yellowstone. It floats very well, even with a tungsten bead head nymph tied on as a dropper. The fly is also very easy to see with the white wing, even in all the fast and broken water that I like to fish in the Park.

Thanks, Walter and thanks, Holly.

### Double Wing Trude

#### Materials List

- Hook
  - Thread
  - Shuck
  - Abdomen
  - Rib
  - Underwing
  - Overwing
  - Collar
- Dry Fly Hook, size 10 to 14  
 Uni Dark Brown size 6/0  
 Amber Z Yarn  
 Peacock or black Antron Dubbing  
 Grizzly Rooster Hackle  
 Bleached Cow Elk  
 White Montana Fly Widows Web  
 Brown Rooster Hackle



#### Tying Instructions:



Step 1. Insert the hook in your vise. Start the tying thread at the 2/3 point and lay a thread base to the bend of the hook.



Step 2. Tie in a length of Amber Z yarn. Trim the shuck to about the hook gap in length.



Step 3. Tie in the Grizzly Hackle at the bend of the hook.



Step 4. Form a dubbing noodle several inches long.



Step 5. Wrap the dubbing noodle forward to form the abdomen of the fly.



Step 6. Palmer the Grizzly Hackle forward with evenly spaced wraps to the 2/3 point. Secure with your tying thread and clip the excess.



Step 7. Clean and stack a clump of elk hair and tie in at the 2/3 point. The wing should extend to the end of the hook shank. Clip the butt ends and wrap tightly.



Step 8. Tie in a length of Widow's Web for the overwing. Trim at an angle slightly longer than the elk hair wing. Trim the excess and wrap smoothly.



Step 9. Tie in a brown rooster hackle feather at the base of the wing.



Step 10. Form a short dubbing noodle on your tying thread.



Step 11. Wrap the dubbing noodle to even out the hill created from tying in the wings.



Step 12. Palmer the brown hackle forward in 3 or 4 touching turns to just behind the eye of the hook. Clip the excess. Whip finish.

## TROUT STREAM PROTECTIONS TO BE DROPPED!

### TU Work Group Needed!

The DNR and MPCA are considering removing protections from forty or more trout streams. While some streams may never have supported trout beyond put & take stockings and can be dropped, others supported naturally reproducing trout until recent degradation. We urgently need members from around the state to help analyze available data to

ensure bona fide trout streams do not lose protections due to overlooked or poorly interpreted data, unsupported assumptions, bureaucratic pressure to reduce perceived workloads, or impatience.

To learn more or join the team, please email MNTU executive director John Lenczewski at [jlenczewski@comast.net](mailto:jlenczewski@comast.net) and put "Stream protection work group"

in the subject line.

All trout anglers will be able to help this spring by providing firsthand information on whether or when trout were found in these streams. The information gathering campaign kicks off at the Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo in mid-March. The MNTU website will also be updated with information on what streams are be-

ing considered for designation changes and how you, your relatives and neighbors can help document Minnesota's historic trout fisheries.

Look for more information online at:

[www.mntu.org](http://www.mntu.org)

# T.U.N.E. CAMP

## The Ultimate Nature Experience

**Bigger & Better 4 Day Camp!**

**June 23-26, 2016 • Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center • Lanesboro, MN**

**Fly Fishing**

**Shooting Sports**

**High Ropes Course**

**Tie Your Own Flies**

**Archery Target Range**

**Canoeing**

**Meet a Raptor**

**Explore Your Career Path**

**Pheasant Ecology**

**Wetland Biology**

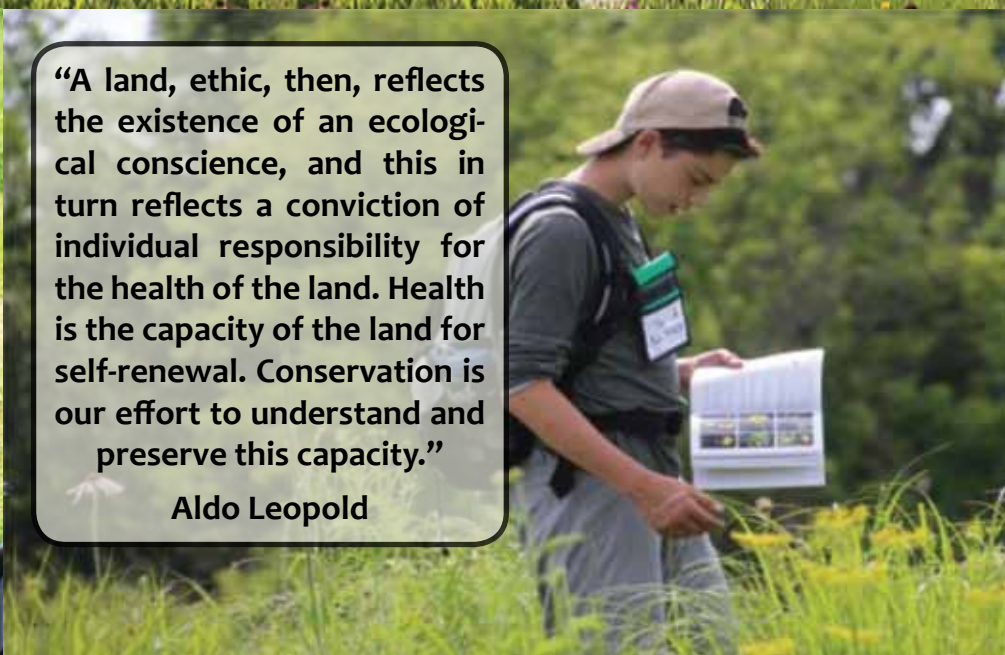
**Outdoor Survival and Orienteering**

**And Lots More!**



**"A land, ethic, then, reflects the existence of an ecological conscience, and this in turn reflects a conviction of individual responsibility for the health of the land. Health is the capacity of the land for self-renewal. Conservation is our effort to understand and preserve this capacity."**

**Aldo Leopold**



**Learn More and Register Today!**

**Registration Deadline: June 1st**

**www.tunecamp.info • 651-773-2000 • contact@tunecamp.info**



### *An Unsolved Mystery in the Whitewater Valley continued from page 4*

While there is no direct, proven "cause-and-effect" relationship between fungicides or other chemicals and trout numbers, since 2012, brown-trout-per-mile on the South Branch have declined each year -- in 2013 less than 800 per mile, in 2014 approximately 500, and in 2015 about 400 or so. Following the July 2015 fish kill, there were about 65 brown trout per mile in the South Branch.

"Many farmers asked me about the kill," Broberg said. "They don't want to intentionally do anything that would harm our streams."

Mark Reisetter, a respected area fishing guide, echoed that: "We've got good-hearted farmers down here," he said, "but they're in a position where they need to use chemicals to compete."

### **The Road Ahead**

The strong, locally reproducing brown trout population will rebound, the DNR believes. "It may take a couple of years, but with reproduction and migration, the stream will recover," said Ron Benjamin, Lanesboro Area Fisheries Supervisor for the DNR. Allowing the wild brown trout to reclaim the

South Branch -- vs. stocking hatchery-bred brown trout fingerlings -- will yield fish with hardier genetics, he said. No decision has yet been made on the potential stocking of rainbow trout (which don't naturally reproduce in the Whitewater). The DNR has no plans to change regulations or require catch-and-release on the South Branch.

Minnesota State Rep. Rick Hansen recently filed a bill regarding fish kills, which will be formally introduced when the 2016 Minnesota Legislative session begins in March. The bill would require the state departments of Health, Agriculture, and Natural Resources, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and the University of Minnesota's Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology to develop a protocol consisting of steps that state agencies must take when responding to a notification of a fish kill. The protocol would be developed by October 2016, reviewed by an administrative law judge and go into effect by spring 2017. You can find the legislation, HF 2409, on the House's website: <http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/>

Minnesota Trout Unlimited met with Rep. Hansen a number of times before the bill was filed and our executive director, John Lenczewski, is currently

working to help secure Senate authors for a companion bill.

"Developing a uniform protocol to ensure a rapid response which gathers the right types of information, and shares it with all scientists, is essential if we are to learn what is causing these fish kills," Lenczewski said. "We need to be able to document what is causing these fish kills as a first step to changing management practices and regulations so fish kills are prevented in the future." MNTU is also working to engage all angling groups, since this bill covers all fish kills, of all species, statewide.

Minnesota Trout Unlimited and the Minnesota Trout Association encourage anglers to report to local authorities or the State of Minnesota Duty Officer any activity or scenario related to potential environmental damage on Minnesota trout streams (see right).

"That used to be one of my favorite stretches," Reisetter said. "I've caught and released 18-inch brown trout there. Now, it may take four or five years before we see trout of that size in the South Branch."

### **See Something? Do Something!**

**The mystery of the 2015 Whitewater fish kill may have been solved if the kill was reported more quickly.**

**The State of Minnesota operates a 24/7 resource known as the "Minnesota Duty Officer" available to citizens and local governments for reporting of:**

- **Hazardous materials incidents**
- **Pipeline leaks or breaks**
- **Hazardous substances released into the air**

**Anglers who witness a fish kill or other serious event on Minnesota trout streams should report the incident immediately to local authorities and/or to the state Duty Officer.**

**651-649-5451  
1-800-422-0798  
TDD: 1-800-627-3529  
Satellite Phone: 1-254-543-6490**

*Editors Note: B.J. Johnson is a Twin Cities-based freelance writer, and the publisher of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Reader. He can be reached at: [BWCAReader@gmail.com](mailto:BWCAReader@gmail.com).*

# FLY-FISHING FOR TROUT IN SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA

## Book Review

By John Hunt

In "Fly-Fishing for Trout in Southeast Minnesota – a Troutchaser's Guide", author Bob Trevis has produced a new, highly personalized resource for anglers. In doing so, he offers a fresh spin on southeast Minnesota's Driftless Area. Trevis opens his guide paying homage to two of his mentors, Dr. Tom Waters and Tom Helgeson, acknowledging the impact both men had on him and on Minnesota trout streams. Trevis then sets the stage for what he hopes to accomplish with his book, and offers a useful background on the state of stream access and fishing regulations in southeast Minnesota.

Perhaps the first regional guide to take advantage of the full slate of resources available on the Minnesota DNR's website, the book next moves sequentially through maps 1 through 18 of the DNR's trout angling opportunities maps. Trevis highlights a handful of streams within each map area, drawing from his first-hand familiarity with the waters he mentions. He offers suggestions for driving, parking, and wading, along with occasional pieces of local or regional history. The book contains frequent color photos, which serve to accentuate or reinforce a key message from the adjacent text.

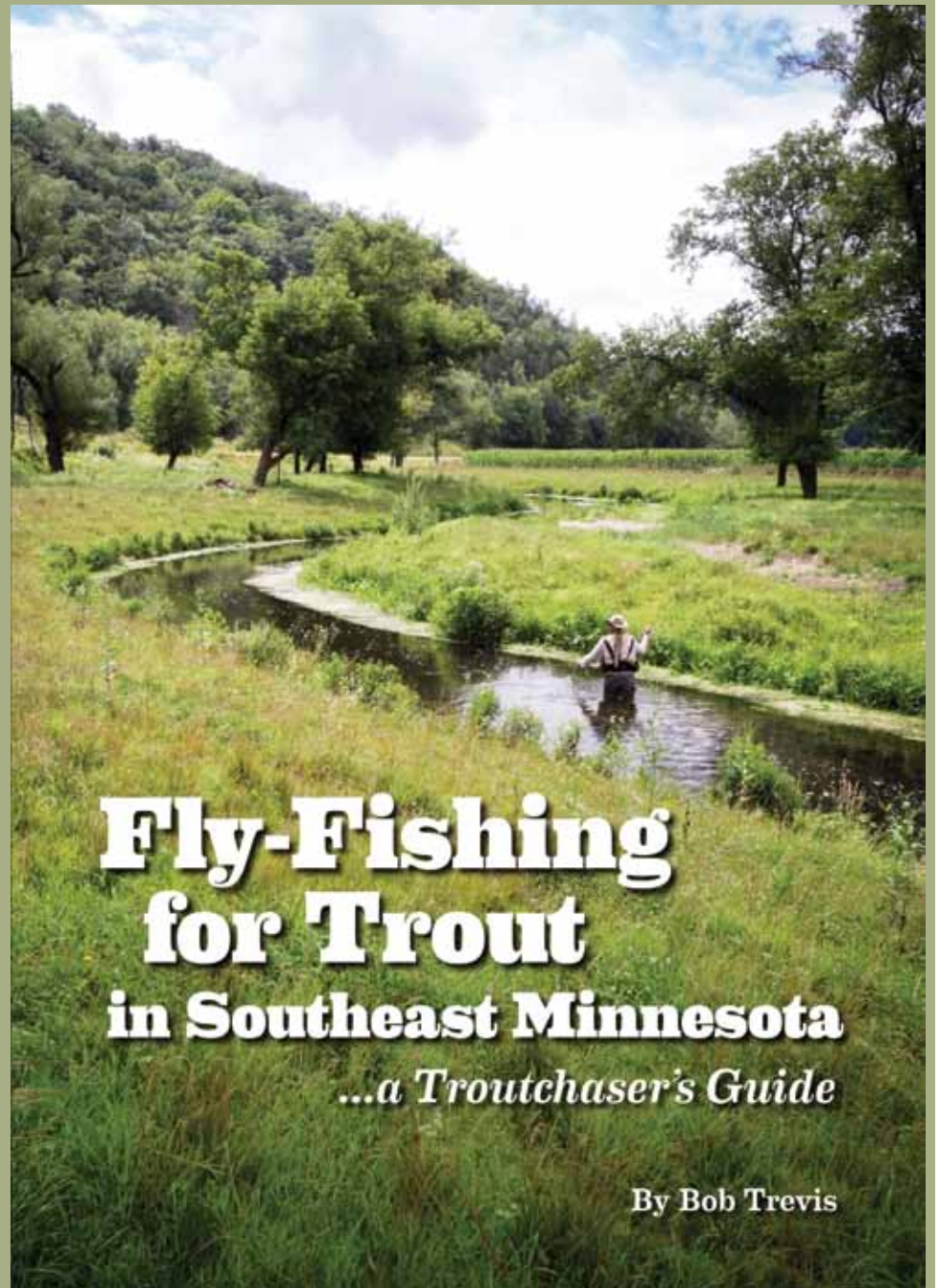
The typeface of the book places some stream names in italics. I found that this approach caused my eye to scan the page looking for a familiar locale, only to retreat back to the top of the

page so as to not skip over the details of that paragraph. The guide is also interspersed with a variety of fishing and outdoor quotations from writers such as Mark Twain and John Muir, along with other wry fishing proverbs. Trevis goes out of his way to call out stream sections that have had habitat improvement implemented by the DNR or TU. But unlike some guidebooks, he is also not afraid to mention a stream or two where he did not find success.

After completion of the map-by-map trek from the Iowa border up to the Twin Cities metro area, Trevis steps back and offers an organized primer on Driftless Area hatches and the flies that match them. He also includes a short foray into winter trout fishing (the stream variety, not through the ice), providing a basic explanation of what fishing Minnesota's "off-season" can be like.

I appreciated the author's clear message that respect for private property rights and a little common courtesy go a long way toward preserving good relationships with landowners, as well as his recognition of TU and many other groups made up of people that are passionate about trout or trout fishing. The groups mentioned share many of the same goals, and our membership lists are likely cross-pollinated with people that belong to multiple organizations.

The short chapters on area guides and the town-by-town listing of food and



lodging options near the end of the book are likely helpful for the angler new to the sport or area, but have the potential to become dated. The final several chapters offer a good synopsis of other books that might interest the reader, online resources, and a handy index of trout waters keyed to the DNR trout maps.

All in all, Bob Trevis' Troutchaser's Guide is a worthy addition to the long line of titles written about Minnesota's Driftless Areas streams.

*Editors Note: Interested anglers and potential readers should plan to attend the Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo to see author Bob Trevis speak on his work and fishing throughout Southeast Minnesota. Find more information on the expo website at [www.greatwatersflyexpo.com](http://www.greatwatersflyexpo.com). Find the book for sale now on the author's website at [www.troutchasers.net](http://www.troutchasers.net)*

**THE DRIFTLESS FLY FISHING COMPANY**  
WORLD HEADQUARTERS  
"WE KNOW WHERE THEY LIVE!"

- ♦ Guided Trips ♦ Gear & Tackle
  - ♦ Kayak & Canoe Rental and Shuttle Service
  - ♦ Flies for Area Streams
  - ♦ Fly Fishing Lessons
- ♦ Local Info ♦ Wader Repair
  - ♦ Kayak & Canoe Sales
  - ♦ Fly shop now open!

**BOOK YOUR 2016 GUIDED TRIPS**  
Call or Email Mel today  
**507-327-4276**  
[melvin@minnesotaflyfishing.com](mailto:melvin@minnesotaflyfishing.com)

Information & store hours at  
[www.minnesotaflyfishing.com](http://www.minnesotaflyfishing.com)

**JACKSON** **ORVIS**  
Authorized Dealer

208 St. Paul St SW, Preston

Photo Credit Brian Schumacher

**Riverwood Design**  
Custom Fly Tying Tables and Unique Furniture.  
Quality craftsmanship and affordable.

**Bob & Val Wagner**  
Bemidji, MN  
218-586-2798 or 218-766-7757  
[www.riverwooddesign.net](http://www.riverwooddesign.net)

**Fly Tying Tables**  
Custom, Traditional, Portable and  
Traveling Tyers Case  
Fish Relief Carvings  
Original North Woods Gift Ideas

*\*10% of purchase from this ad will go to your designated chapter*

# WOMEN'S INTRODUCTORY FLY FISHING RETREAT

An Almost Gourmet Experience - June 10th & 11th, 2016

By Val Wagner

Our goal is to provide a fun, informal and comprehensive hands-on experience that builds confidence and skill in fly fishing. Designed for beginners to learn basic skills and knowledge of equipment such as rods, tippets, clothing, fishing techniques, flies and on the water fishing. This workshop is all about you and your needs and will progress at your level to maximize your enjoyment and success in fly fishing.

My husband and I will draw on over 60 years of teaching experience to utilize best practice techniques in casting, catching fish and tying your own flies. Simply put, we love fly fishing. We love its history, art and most of all catching the fish. (Any fish on any water, from trout to pike, musky to sunfish... all on a fly!)

We look forward to sharing this adventure with you. Fee: \$85 and space is limited.

Fee includes 3 meals, usage of equipment, 9 hours of instruction, including on the water fishing, and flies to take home to begin your adventure! Lodging is on your own and there are many options in Bemidji that we can recommend.



INSTRUCTOR VAL WAGNER

## Program Schedule

### Friday:

5:30-6:30pm, Social hour with wine & cheese at the Garden Grill and Pub.  
6:30-7:00pm, House special pizza  
7:00-9:00pm, Intro to fly fishing and equipment

### Saturday:

9:30am-12:00pm, Waterfront casting instruction and practice, Lake Bemidji  
12:00-1:00pm, Gourmet picnic lunch  
1:00-2:00pm, Break

2:30-6:00pm, Fishing and casting, River House  
6:00pm-7:00pm, Social hour and meal  
7:00pm-9:00pm, Fishing, fly tying, or socializing, your choice.

Sponsored by  
Headwaters TU & Riverwood Design  
June 10-11, 2016, Bemidji, MN

For more info: call Riverwood Design at 218-766-7757 or stop by the Riverwood Design booth at the Great Waters Fly Expo, March 18th-20th.

*Wader Patriots*  
Continued from the back page

5. The use of strike indicators would quickly split the movement into "bobber v.s. non bobber" camps.

4. Leaky waders. The leak wouldn't stop anyone but at the end of the day the smell in confined spaces would cause an instant abandonment of the compound.

3. The landowner would show up and point out that this is ridiculous and we'd have to leave. All of us wanting to come back again and fish ... would graciously leave.

2. Once the hatch started, the mighty band of "fishertarians" would instantly disband, hiding from one another which fly they are tying on, and never to be seen until after the last fish rose.

1. As stated before, onlookers wouldn't be able to tell the difference between the movement and Opening Day.

In all seriousness, the main reason it wouldn't work is two-fold. First, getting trout anglers together on issues is like herding cats. The very nature of the sport breeds and appeals to independence and that's a good thing. Secondly, the water (technically at least in many states) already belongs to us all of us.

And here comes the flying "Yeahbut." The real take-away from all of this is that we need to be very conscious that the attack on the idea of 'public lands' and access to those lands (and waters) is under a very real assault.

Take for instance one popular destination for many of you: Montana. Montana historically has been one of the most progressive states when it comes to things like labor laws, land use, and public access. Why, Montana had, until very recently, a law within its Constitution that prohibited corporate campaign contributions to elections. On the heels of that revision is an influx of out-of-staters moving into and spending money on elections, many with the sole purpose of locking the public out of the land, and, of course, the rivers and streams.

As the West was settled, the concept of public lands being available to all was introduced as a means of preserving American Heritage for future generations. It is an amazing legacy gifted to us by Theodore Roosevelt that is now being pushed by the wayside under the guise of 'liberty and freedom' and progress. The truth is simple, a small percentage of the population would love nothing more than to lock up the land into private fiefdoms while likely still letting you, the outdoorsman and woman, support their lifestyle via taxpayer funded subsidies. The real question is whether or not you are going to sit by and let it happen. They are betting you'll be too distracted or distractable with a resulting 'yes'. Don't forget to pack the snacks.

*Author's Footnote: After the outline and composition of this writing things came to a head in Oregon. Right or wrong, someone lost their life, and I want the readers to know that in no way have I attempted to make light of that loss ... as Americans we are and can be better than*

# WOMEN IN FLY FISHING PANEL

Connect at the Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo

By Jade Thomason

This year the Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo will be hosting a panel discussion providing insight and expertise regarding women in fly fishing. Geri Meyer, guide and owner of the Driftless Angler in Viroqua, WI and Athena and Artemis, will lead this discussion. Geri works tirelessly to engage and involve women in the sport of fly fishing and her shop, Athena and Artemis, is a unique for-women-by-women fly shop. The other prestigious industry professionals that will complete the panel include Kim Ferrie, Simms/Hatch rep and co-owner of Dry Fly Sales, Jen Ripple, editor of Dun

Magazine, Wendy Williamson, muskie guide and co-owner of the Hayward Fly Fishing Company, and Marlene Huston, certified casting instructor and member of the Fly Fishing Women of Minnesota. These women represent the various facets of fly fishing and will be available to provide insights, share anecdotes and answer any and all questions regarding fly fishing in a relaxed and casual environment.

This panel showcases the rise of women in fly fishing and brings forth the abundance of knowledge and community available for women interested in be-

coming involved with the sport. This is an excellent opportunity for women who are interested but may not know where to begin. It can be your starting network of friends to fish with, share stories to, or ask questions. Afterward you can stop by these women's various booths to learn more about this growing community. The panel will take place on Saturday, March 19th at 4:00pm at the Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo. More information on the expo and a full schedule of programs can be found at:

[www.greatwatersflyexpo.com](http://www.greatwatersflyexpo.com)



GERI MEYER



KIM FERRIE



JEN RIPPLE





# GREAT WATERS FLY FISHING EXPO

Presented By Minnesota Trout Unlimited



# MARCH 18-20, 2016

CENTURY COLLEGE - WHITE BEAR LAKE, MN

PROCEEDS SUPPORT MN TROUT UNLIMITED

## FEATURING:

- DREAM FLY FISHING DESTINATIONS
- LEARN TO FISH MIDWEST TROUT STREAMS
- WOMEN'S FLY FISHING PROGRAMS
- FLY CASTING & TYING DEMONSTRATIONS
- CONSERVATION PROGRAMS
- WARMWATER FLY FISHING SECRETS
- FLY FISHING FOR BASS, MUSKIES AND PIKE
- KIDS 12 AND UNDER ADMITTED FREE!

FLYSHOPS • GUIDES • ART  
 2016 GEAR • EXOTIC TRAVEL  
 MIDWEST FISHING SECRETS  
 FOOD TRUCKS • FREE PARKING

## LEARN TO FLY CAST FREE

FROM THE  
 INTERNATIONAL  
 FEDERATION OF  
 FLY FISHERS



DOZENS OF PROGRAMS • EXPERT SPEAKERS

## FEATURING KIRK DEETER & CHARLIE CRAVEN

## 2016 FLY FISHING FILM AND VIDEO CONTEST

*Presented by Minnesota Trout Unlimited*

March 19th, 2016 - Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo

Local Beer on Tap • Midwest Films • Catered Hors d'Oeuvres • 6PM-10PM

Submit Your Video by February 26th • Tickets Available Online



REDINGTON



BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW: [WWW.GREATWATERSFLYEXPO.COM](http://WWW.GREATWATERSFLYEXPO.COM)

3401 CENTURY AVENUE NORTH, WHITE BEAR LAKE, MN 55110



# TWIN CITIES LOST TROUT STREAMS

## The Streams of Burnsville and Eagan - Part Two, Who Moved My Trout Stream?

By Dan Callahan

In Part 1 of the “Forgotten Trout Streams of Burnsville and Eagan,” published in the November newsletter, the history of a creek known by the DNR as “Unnamed #4” was investigated. It had been dammed, altered and run as a private trout farm for paying patrons to fish by the Blick family. Marianne Naas and her daughter Alix, the last surviving Blick family members to be involved in the farm, were interviewed and offered a fascinating history of Unnamed #4. This creek, along with two others called Unnamed #7 and Black Dog Creek, are slated to be removed from the DNR’s Designated Trout Stream (DTS) list. Their paths and histories are nebulous as they interact with storm water, the nearby railroad and developments that have sprung up over the years.

The fate of these trout streams is tied to the years of development around them. You know some of the story about Unnamed #4.

The middle of Black Dog Creek, along with a couple other small streams and their tributaries, was buried by the same Cedar Avenue construction project that bulldozed Marianne’s first house. Black Dog Creek’s headwaters are cut off, confined to the west side of the freeway.

The freeway cut off streams on the other side too. Harnack Creek’s headwaters are confined to the east side.

Harnack starts from a small boiling spring pond surrounded by yellow caution tape, put up by a neighbor who warns people not to step into the quicksand, where you’ll fall so deep it’s over your head.

Harnack runs down the slope, under the Union Pacific railroad, and past the flashing electronic billboard you see when driving north on the freeway to Bloomington. There are gravelly, foot-deep undercut banks, and narrow, instream beaver dams that cause the creek to fall several feet in spots, blocking any upstream migration of fish. It eventually dives under Nicols Road through a culvert, and emerges to occupy the severed lower extremity of Black Dog Creek.

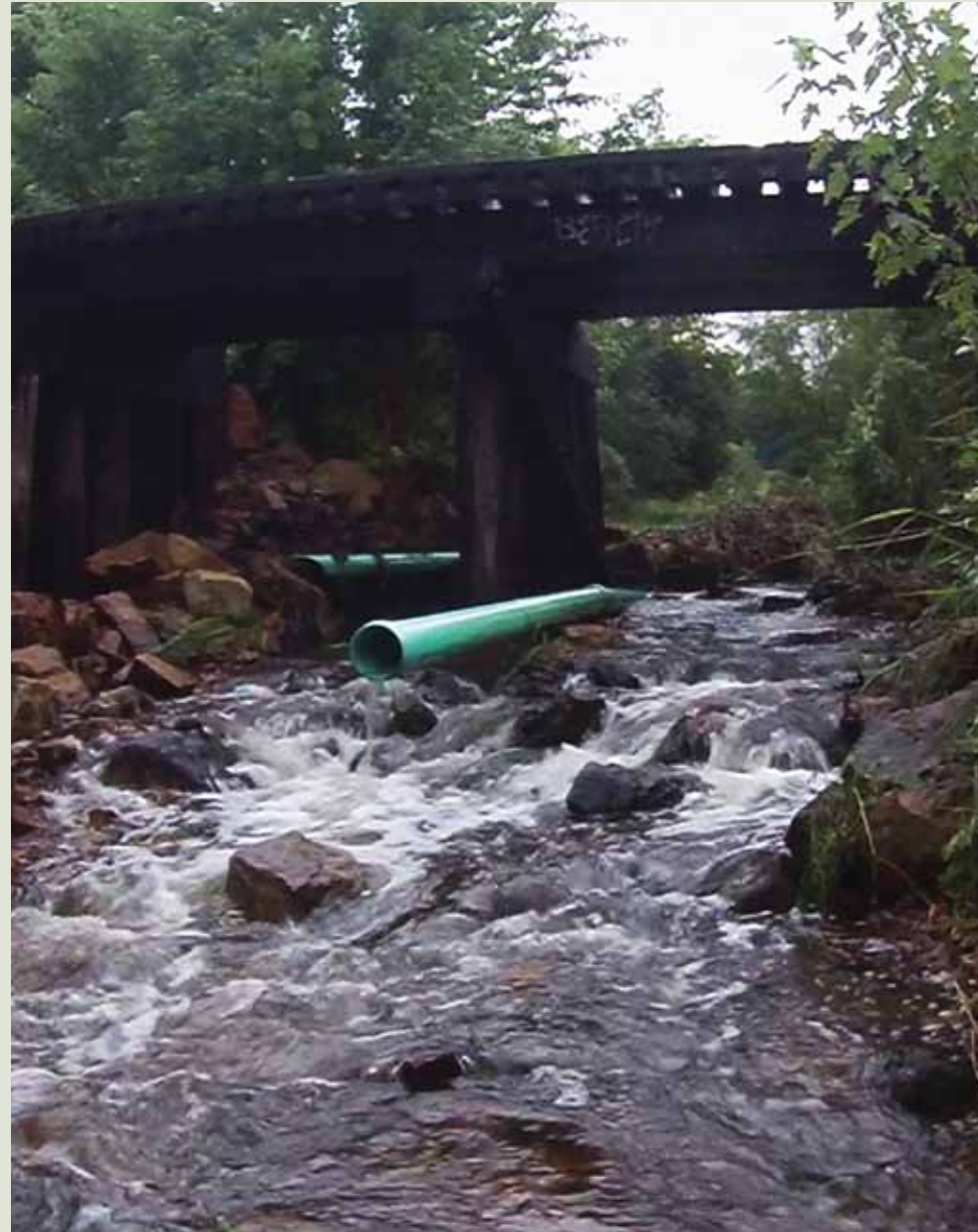
The remaining “Dead Stream Flowing” is in Burnsville, listed as Unnamed #7.

Unnamed #7 is not only unnamed, it’s missing. There is uncertainty about which of the many streams in the area is the one originally put on the DTS list as Unnamed #7. Descriptions from DNR Fisheries stream surveys don’t match, and where it’s supposed to be, according to current DNR GIS maps, there is no stream crossing under the railroad tracks.

Part of the problem is that there has been so much development, ditching, piping, and other alterations over the

last 50 years that it takes serious detective work to figure things out.

The DNR records show that some of these streams were given different ID



UNNAMED #4 FLOWS BELOW ONE OF THE FEW REMAINING OPENINGS IN THE RAILROAD TRACKS. CHANGES IN STREAM COURSES MADE OVER THE DECADES BY THE RAILROAD HAVE MADE STREAM IDENTIFICATION CHALLENGING. THE GREEN PIPES IN THE PHOTO ARE DESIGNED TO THWART BEAVERS FROM CONSTRUCTING DAMS IN THE BRIDGE LOCATION.

numbers, and the numbering system was changed. But everyone seems to agree that Unnamed #4 is correctly identified, especially after seeing a 1959 newspaper article.

Both names appear together on fisheries surveys for the creek, and the DNR uses both names online. The believed locations of the streams also are shown on Map 17 of the DNR’s “Guide to Trout Angling Opportunities in Southern Minnesota”.

I say believed locations, because the map truly is not accurate, for a number of solid reasons.

The Union Pacific railroad plays a major role in the stream identification problem. The railroad runs parallel to the river about halfway up the slope between Black Dog Lake and the bluff. All the streams run down from the bluff and smack into the railroad bed, which acts as a dam. Streams have to find a way under the tracks to reach the lake or the Minnesota River. If there isn’t an opening, the water runs easterly or westerly in a ditch along the tracks until it joins a stream that still has an opening to reach the other side.

This railroad track opened in 1865. Since then, railroad owners have had continuous, unchallenged property rights and broad legal authority to deter-

construction, completed in 1980, changed a number of streams reaching Black Dog Lake and the river.

Imagine you are working for the DNR and need to do a trout stream survey of Unnamed #7. You’ve never visited before, and the trout stream identification process happened before the new Cedar Avenue Bridge construction. The stream hasn’t been surveyed for years. This is happening during the deep dark days before GPS and broad availability of many years of aerial photographs, and before better information exchange between agencies and local governments.

Based on the old written description, you walk along the railroad tracks west of Nicols Road, counting the unnamed streams coming out from under the railroad tracks.

What you don’t know, is that since your DNR map was made, the railroad has closed some culvert crossings. Cedar Avenue’s construction has changed things and the construction of Xcel Energy’s Black Dog Power Plant also has affected the streams. The City of Burnsville also has made changes to its stormwater system.

So you walk, and when you reach what you think is Unnamed #7, you do your survey. But you passed Unnamed #7 a long time ago, not knowing it had been blocked by the railroad years before. It looked like just a tributary to another stream.

I wonder if that might have happened to Unnamed #7. Could the longest stream in the area, the one running through Burnsville’s Cedarbridge Park, be the original Unnamed #7?

Because there is no stream at the spot currently shown as Unnamed #7, which is much farther west on the DNR’s GIS map.

We went looking for the Death Row streams with DNR Trout Habitat Specialist Mark Nemeth, who volunteered to help get some current data before any decisions are made. He was putting temperature loggers in every stream that looked viable, along the tracks.

There was no stream crossing under the tracks where the map said Unnamed #7 should be.

The nearest stream we could find was so shallow and diffuse, you couldn’t even completely submerge a temperature logger in it.

It seems unlikely that this short watercourse was ever worthy of protection as a trout stream, compared to the size of the unnamed creek running through the City of Burnsville’s Cedarbridge Park. I’m calling it Cedarbridge Creek from now on, for ease of identification.

of Minnesota, it appears the railroad has done away with several stream crossings in this area over the years. Photos go back to 1937.

As I mentioned, Cedar Avenue’s new



THE POTENTIAL UNNAMED #7, CEDARBRIDGE CREEK, FLOWING ALONG THE RAILROAD TRACKS AND CAUSING SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE AND EROSION.

But how could maps be wrong in this age of instant GIS on your phone, and when so many agencies and companies and governments can now share and cross-check information?

This is a remote area in the wildlife refuge, not often visited, and not that important to most map makers. Everyone assumes the person or agency giving them the map has correct information. Why would one question it?

If my research is correct, that mentality has led to the stream map in this area being wrong since at least 1971.

Right now, you can go to any map showing Burnsville streams—a USGS topographical map, City of Burnsville map, Dakota County GIS, DNR Fisheries, literally any map that shows streams in this area—and you will see the same blue line representing Cedarbridge Creek.

It is the longest stream of this type in the area. It has a ravine that begins in two very narrow-walled branches, each with a spring at the head. I've walked to them. Springs also join as you head down the ravine.

The maps show the stream running under Hayes Road (yup, saw that when I walked it.) The line then shows the creek going down the rest of the ravine into the densely wooded floodplain forest, running across the river bottoms directly to the railroad tracks and then under the tracks to reach Black Dog Lake.

It is one of only three DNR Public Waters Inventory streams identified on the maps, with Unnamed #4 on its right, and much farther upstream to its left, the missing-in-action Unnamed #7.

I am totally speculating here, but if I take you on a walk west from Unnamed #4, there are two more small streams that reach the tracks, and then you will reach Cedarbridge Creek.

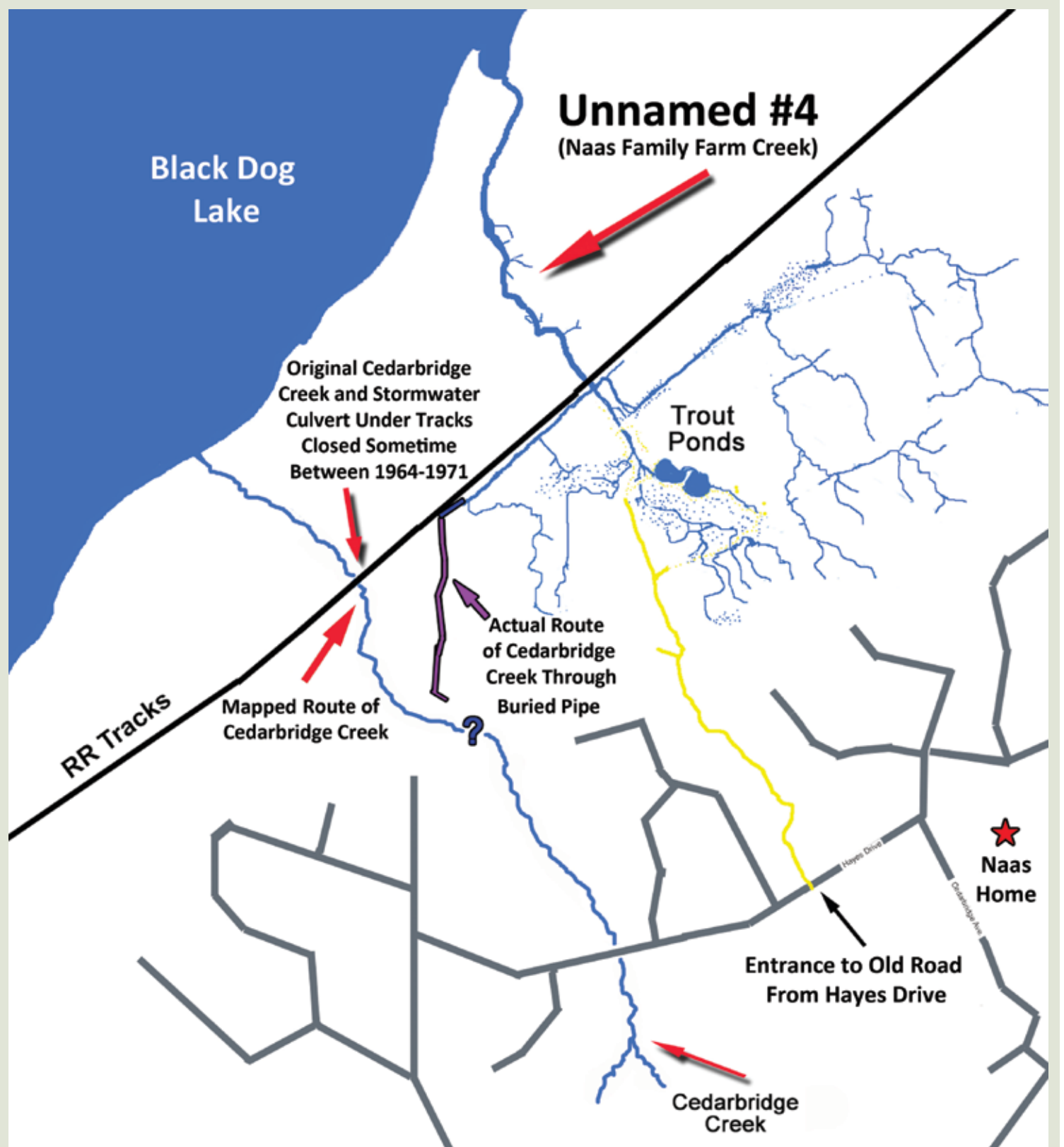
Except that Cedarbridge doesn't run under the tracks where it's supposed to. It's not there.

How could such a major stream disappear when it's on every map?

I asked Marianne, "The creek you used to own, that runs through Cedarbridge Park; it runs down the ravine and then straight under the tracks, right?" "Yes. Why?" "Because it doesn't anymore," I answered.

I discovered the truth through a combination of slogging through the bottomlands, researching the Burnsville city stormwater system, and examining aerial photos.

I walked along the base of the bluff and saw three stormwater pipes. The large, most westerly one turns out to drain a wide area of the neighborhood going all the way back below the powerline easement corridor from Xcel Energy's Black Dog power plant to the other side of Highway 13. The major streambed below the culvert always has a low base flow of water running through it suggesting that groundwater is leaking



THE LOCATION OF CEDARBRIDGE CREEK, UNNAMED #4, THE TROUT PONDS, THE RAILROAD AND OTHER STREAMS AND LOCAL FEATURES IN THE BURNSVILLE AREA

into the system.

The outflow is a bona-fide stream with deeply incised banks that winds until it hits the railroad tracks and then heads east.

Another stormwater outflow appears at the base of the bluff, draining a smaller area of the bluff top neighborhood.

A third small culvert pipe drains just the cul-de-sac above and doesn't seem to have enough flow to cause erosive impacts to the forest floor.

Where Cedarbridge Creek should hit the tracks, as shown on old aerial photographs, there is no stream. But there is a mound of rip rap rock boulders and concrete panels armoring the side of the railroad bed here, suggesting this is where the culvert under the tracks used to be. Walking along the low-running "Tracks Tributary" I eventually saw a low culvert pipe running water into the stream.

Could this be the outflow of Cedarbridge Creek?

I pushed my way back to the bluff and climbed into the ravine where Cedarbridge Creek was supposed to be running.

There was an impounded pond. It turns out it's not that new. A 1956 aerial photo shows the Naas family

dammed it.

"We used to go ice skating on it", Marianne told me.

But where did the water go after that?

A check of stormwater records uncovered that the City of Burnsville decided to take the creek out of its outlet channel and put it into a pipe to deal with massive erosion problems caused by flash flooding.

The city's stormwater system in the area was designed in the 1960s, before the modern wisdom of building rain gardens and infiltration swales, or at least stormwater ponds to hold water and release it slowly to surrounding water bodies well after a storm.

Walking along the creek I could see confirmation of what I saw on paper. Street gutters in the surrounding neighborhood run directly into short pipes that drop down into the ravine, outletting above the banks of Cedarbridge Creek.

And, since there no longer is a culvert or bridge allowing Cedarbridge Creek to run under the railroad tracks and into Black Dog Lake, all of the stormwater in Cedarbridge Creek and all the stormwater for the other areas of Burnsville that feed the bluff bottom pipes combine into the "Tracks Tributary" that can't find a way under the tracks, so it just keeps going east until it finds a stream that still

has an opening to follow under the tracks.

Unnamed #4.

Based on the aerials, it looks like the railroad bed opening that allowed all the Burnsville stormwater runoff, and Cedarbridge Creek, to reach Black Dog Lake was closed sometime between 1964 and 1971. No one updated the maps.

So the number of unnamed streams that emerge from under the tracks, going west from Nicols Road, is not the same as it used to be, possibly leading to the misidentification of Unnamed #7.

*Editors Note: This article serves as part two of a three part series investigating these Burnsville and Eagan streams and how they have changed over time. Look for the next installment in the June MNTU Newsletter to learn more about these stream systems and the challenges they face. Interested readers can find the first installment in the December 2015 MNTU Newsletter or online at [www.mntu.org](http://www.mntu.org)*

# CONNECTING WITH RIVERS

## Observations on Trout Unlimited's Role

By Bob Wagner

This newsletter has painted an important picture of our statewide restoration projects through “fishing our habitat” articles. The picture of volunteers connecting with rivers through restoration work has been painted in many places and in many ways. A broad image has been created by the Driftless Area’s Pine Creek, the Twin Cities’ Eagle Creek and Vermillion River, northeast projects on the Sucker and Stuart Rivers and the north central’s helicopter tree drops on the Straight River. Understand this is a partial list of recent projects; TU has a long and rich history of habitat work.



A WALK ALONG A FAVORITE RIVER

Rivers connect visually with the vast majority of people. Rivers, streams and creeks have that attracting, fluid flow, and dancing, sparkling water that catches and holds the eye. One of my real joys and learning opportunities has come in volunteer work through TU with rivers. I have to admit I’ve been intrigued by rivers for over 50

years. Serving on the Headwaters Board has increased my knowledge and awareness of streams and rivers, which has, in turn, enriched my life. In learning more about flowing water, I started to realize Minnesota is not just the land of 10,000 lakes, but also 92,000 miles of rivers and streams. When you look at a map, the lakes stand out because of their size, but where, and in what health, would lakes be without rivers? The Mississippi alone runs 681 miles within the borders of our state. Can you imagine the expansive and connected watershed of those 681 miles if that river wasn’t there? The Minnesota River is 370 miles long. The BWCA is one of the world’s largest wilderness areas accessible by canoe because of rivers and streams. What would the BWCA be without 292 miles of the Rainy River, Kawishiwi or dozens of other rivers? All of the great walleye lakes in Minnesota including Mille Lacs, Upper and Lower Red, Leech, Cass and Winnie all have hundreds and hundreds of miles of rivers flowing in and out. The southeast Driftless Area is all about rivers, including the 142 miles of the Root and the Zumbro’s 112 miles.

My wife and I did 65 canoe races mostly on rivers over a twenty-year period. I was the crazy impulsive one but fortunately, she also has a competitive side. Our biggest challenge and learning experience was a 400-mile, 10-day race on the Red River from Fargo/Moorhead to Winnipeg. When you spend 10 days on a river you have a lot of time to think and be acculturated into understanding what that river is all about. Can you imagine northwest Minnesota and northeast North Dakota without the Red River? Or, for that matter, without Lake Winnipeg and all the connected water trails to Hudson Bay? I don’t think we can imagine it because it’s almost too bleak, too dry and too lifeless. Even though the Red River is turbid, full of red clay silts and we have ditched, tiled and drained its headwaters, it still flows north as the lifeblood artery of the entire region.

Thank God Mother Nature is resilient. Rivers deserve our deepest respect, gratitude, commitment and protection. Rivers are the main arteries of Planet Earth. When the earth’s arteries are restricted or blocked, the earth’s environment and



ON THE WATER, CONNECTING WITH THE TURTLE RIVER

corresponding habitats for plants and animals suffer. Rivers have a history, a specific identity, and characteristics of size, flow rates, color, load carrying capacity, morphology, sound and feel. Rivers connect people from one generation to the next through family stories. Though it’s a bit dark, people live and die, but rivers keep flowing and connecting people generation to generation.

Switch rod, spey rod, single-hand, East Coast to West Coast, Gulf States to Alaska, Europe to Kamchatka, Chili to New Zealand: it’s all about rivers. Rivers are the one main connecting link to all of fly fishing. Rivers are not just the liquid medium that holds fish. Rivers are the connecting link to our watersheds. In Minnesota, our 92,000 miles of rivers play a major important role in our watersheds and water cycle. No water, no life.

But rivers do even more. Streams and rivers can teach us our place and purpose to the land and to each other. Obviously, rivers are an important connection to fishing. They help connect parents to children. In fishing, they’re part of establishing history by connecting families to families. Many families like ours have a traditional gathering for the opening of fishing. In our family, for the last 40 years, the Turtle River has played a key role in the physical connection of making this happen. In the custom of our Native American brothers, I need to say “thank you” to the Turtle River. The Turtle River has given my family an abundance of fun and a richness of resources.

Another important lesson rivers teach us comes through in our TU conservation, protection and restoration work. We’ve seen that these rivers run both warm and cold. A lot of good trout rivers will also have warm water sections that provide important habitats for fish species other than trout. Therefore, when TU restores and improves a section of “double duty” rivers, we’re really getting double the bang for our buck. TU’s river and stream work benefits a multitude of fish, animal and plant species, both warm and cold water orientated.

There have been volumes written on the magical and spiritual connections to streams and rivers. Suffice it to say, for many of us, flowing water relaxes the body and soothes the soul. Part of that magic has often been credited to great works of art, poetry, music and literature. Finally, speaking of great literature, 150 years ago after paddling a week on the Merrimac River, Henry Thoreau wrote the following, “Whether you live by the seaside or lake or river, or even a prairie, all need to be concerned with the matter of fish.” I think Thoreau would be pleased TU is concerned and connecting people to rivers.

# WE ARE ALL VOLUNTEERS

By Phil Pankow

Trout Unlimited is a volunteer-based organization and I hope to encourage everyone to expand their minds as to other ways you can get involved. For the last 25 years or better, Hiawatha Trout Unlimited (HTU) has been involved in the Senior Fishing Day in Lanesboro, Minnesota. My wife and I have been involved for about six years and have helped to organize the day and feed the helpers from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Fisheries in Lanesboro and Chester Daniels and his family. Chet and his family have been involved for many years and they are the reason this annual event has kept going. We contact many senior living places in Southeast Minnesota and set up a day of fishing and provide assistance and equipment with the help of the

DNR. It’s a wonderful event and gives many folks a day to look forward to.

We all have ideas waiting to be discovered. Get together with your local chapters at monthly meetings or events and talk to the board members and ask if there are ways for you to be a part of a bigger picture. Part of why I became involved with my local HTU chapter back in 2010 was because I wanted to be part of something bigger than myself. I wanted to help keep streams, creeks, and rivers flowing clean and healthy, but I also wanted to help raise awareness to groups and individuals that maybe don’t fish, but still affect the health of streams and rivers. I also want these groups and individuals to understand why I am involved and get their support as well. The

more involved you are and the more you show that enthusiasm to others, the more involved they will want to become or support you in yours.

The point I am making is that you should think more broadly. Look at other non-profit organizations that might want to do a joint event like a senior fishing day, or church groups, civic groups, or youth groups looking for a way to get outdoors, the list goes on. The more you get involved, the more others will. It’s contagious.

Like I said, at the end of the day, we are all volunteers and one good deed leads to another. You perform a good deed and someone else will follow you to another good deed and so it goes.



SHELLY PANKOW VOLUNTEERING AT A FISHING EVENT

# TROLLING THE WEB

## Writers, Bloggers and More From the Internet

By Dan Callahan

**M**y friend John Hunt, a book author himself, frequently reviews new books for Trout Unlimited Minnesota (see his review of *Fly Fishing for Trout in Southeast Minnesota* elsewhere).

We're blessed with many local authors, and not just in books. You can catch fine Minnesota and Driftless Area trout-fishing writing on the web. Unlike a book, there doesn't have to be an end. Bloggers constantly add more material, and often it's fresh from the stream.

So I'll try to write something for each issue, reviewing bloggers and websites worth your while. Please send your favorite to me: [dan@twincitiestu.org](mailto:dan@twincitiestu.org). Let me know what you like about it, and if I may use your name, so we can share the love here.

**Fishing and Thinking in Minnesota**  
[fishingandthinking.blogspot.com](http://fishingandthinking.blogspot.com)

First off, the fish. You might have seen this photo forwarded through the world elsewhere, but it was Wendy Berrell who posted it: A silvery, 30-inch female brown trout that he says he caught

and released on New Year's Day, on an undisclosed stream in southeastern Minnesota. I know enough about him to know that he is telling the truth.



THE 30-INCH BROWN TROUT FROM SE MINNESOTA ON NEW YEAR'S DAY

His writing is outstanding, as is his photography, which you can click on to see at full size. He publicly reveals only that he lives in the Zumbro Basin in southeastern Minnesota.

His musings echo the contemplative thoughts I've had while on fishing trips, and the memories I've creeded and taken home: The travel time together with friends, the fishing, and the talking after the fishing is done.

Throw in the observations of a dad wishing to gift his two boys with the experience of chasing trout on the fly, and (fatuous writing warning!) it feels kind of like just after the sun goes down when you are in a deep trout stream valley,

when sound, colder air, and light is settling down for the night. Very calming. Besides blogging, he's also an author of a book of poems, *Bottom Right Corner*. No rhymes, just outdoor/fishing/hunting-themed poetry: Find it available online at [www.reddragonflypress.org](http://www.reddragonflypress.org)

**Driftless Angler Fly Shop**  
[www.driftlessangler.com/blog](http://www.driftlessangler.com/blog)

You can also get to the blog by going

to the home page and clicking on the Fishing Report tab. Fresh, almost daily dispatches from the streams on weather, water conditions, and what is working, from flies to techniques. Direct from the flymeisters of Viroqua, Wisconsin. They often include photos to illustrate their points. The web page has great fish photos, a local streams guide with a fly hatch chart, and info on what you can gain from a non-virtual visit to the fly shop.

**Adrift**  
[www.trustlabor.com/adrift/](http://www.trustlabor.com/adrift/)

Andy Weaverling of Minneapolis is a creative triple-threat of writing, photography and video. He creates beautiful videos, though not for several years now. Shooting in the field, and editing, is exhausting. I've been doing those chores since 1982, so I know. So, be kind and enjoy what the chef has delivered to your plate already. He writes entertaining feature-length articles, and perky blog posts. He recently shared that his writer's block, paired with his wish to finish the year strong, fishing, reduced his output of late, but he was back in the game in January. Well worth the wait.

## 2016 FLY FISHING FILM AND VIDEO CONTEST

March 19th, 2016 • 6PM-10PM

*Presented by Minnesota Trout Unlimited*

### RESERVE YOUR SEAT - BOOK YOUR TICKETS TODAY!

Films • Local Beer only \$3 • Great Food • Prizes • Exclusive Raffle Items • Limited Seating

#### CONTENT

We are seeking short films and videos that showcase fly fishing in the upper Midwest. Share your experiences of connecting with the water, hooking the big one, or that day when all the fish were rising. We encourage entries that display creativity, adventure, exploration and wise resource use.

#### PRIZES

- New Simms ADL Jacket
- Guided driftboat trip from Scott Struif of the Fly Angler
- Wetterlings splitting axe from Mend Provisions
- \$50 Gift Certificate to the Fly Angler
- More prizes to be announced as the event approaches.

#### SUBMISSIONS

- Must be 2-6 minutes long
- Must portray fly fishing in MN, IA, MI, or WI, any species of fish may be included
- Must contain no copyrighted material without permission
- Must be edited (no uncut video) and have a mixed sound track

To have your video considered, send a YouTube or Vimeo link of it to [blnotbohm@hotmail.com](mailto:blnotbohm@hotmail.com) by Friday, February 26th, 2016.

#### SCREENING AT THE EXPO

Selected films and videos will be screened during an evening event on Saturday, March 19th, 2016 at the Great Waters Flyfishing Expo. Tickets to the evening screening and following social are available online now. Look for more information on the Great Waters Expo website:

[www.greatwatersflyexpo.com](http://www.greatwatersflyexpo.com)



# MNTU CHAPTER NEWS

## Gitche Gumee Chapter

### ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Members Meeting of the Gitche Gumee Chapter is scheduled for:

Date: April 14, 2016

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Hartley Nature Center, Duluth  
Program: Annual State of the Steelhead

Plan to come to Hartley on April 14th to learn all about the state of the steelhead fishery in Minnesota. The MN DNR has a new 10-year plan out for management of Lake Superior, and there are changes to the way our steelhead fishery will be managed. With a little luck, anglers will have been out catching fish in the previous days, and we'll be able to trade stories, share flies, and post some big fish photos from both MN & WI.

Our March 10 meeting features fly tying and jig making demonstrations. Learn from veterans. Bring your vise and join in the fun. 7PM at Hartley Nature Center, Duluth.

We continue to need volunteers to help out with the North Shore Trout Stream Temperature Refuge Project. The field survey will continue in 2016, but many more volunteers will be needed to spend a half day or more helping to map the locations of groundwater. We expect to sponsor several combined fishing/survey weekends to concentrate on watersheds in Lake and Cook Counties. Sites with nearby camping will be selected early in the season with plenty of notice to allow volunteers to set aside a weekend or two for camping, fishing and monitoring temperature. Come up on a Friday and fish the evening, take the opportunity to explore North Shore streams on Saturday looking for cool-water input, fish the evening and Sunday morning while enjoying conversations with other fisherfolk. Contact Peder Yurista to sign up and learn more at:

woollybugger@charter.net

We hope to see you next summer on the North Shore.

Jon Aspie

## Hiawatha Chapter

Every Saturday until the end of March we meet for open tying in the second floor conference room at Scheels in Rochester; just ask a manager how to find it. Doors open at 9:30am and we are there until about 12:00pm.

February 1st we will have Rich Enoch at our members meeting talking about fly fishing in the winter for trout. He will cover equipment, flies, clothing, and techniques. Rich is a very experienced fly fisherman of trout in

Southeast Minnesota. He has had a lot of practice lately being he has been retired for some time. In his last five years of work life, Rich helped run We-No-Nah Canoe Co. He has also been the director of the National Trout Center (NTC) in Preston and is now a part of the board of directors. Come and ask questions and listen to Rich cover how to enjoy winter fly fishing.

### ANNUAL MEETING

March 7th is our last Hiawatha Trout Unlimited (HTU) members meeting at the Izaak Walton League Cabin in Rochester, Minnesota. Details and speaker T.B.A.

March 18th-20th is the Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo presented by Minnesota Trout Unlimited (MNTU). If you haven't been to one of these fantastic events in past years, I'll allow you to cry over a glass of your favorite beverage, but don't miss out this year. I have been to every one of these weekends since they started with Tom Helgeson. It's the only fly fishing show in Minnesota and if we want it to continue, we need to support it. I give you the Indiana Jones reinsurance guarantee.

April 9th is the HTU Annual Spring Conservation Banquet at the Kahler Apache Canadian Honker Event Center. Mark your calendars. After the Fly Fishing Expo, this is my second favorite fly fishing time of the year; let me clarify that, outside of fishing. There will be good food, good fun, and really great auction items and raffles. It's a great way to support your local chapter and hang out with great people.

Phil Pankow

## Headwaters Chapter

Annual Spring membership meeting is set for March 22. Mark your calendars, pull out your cell phones, stop reading and write this down. You don't want to miss this meeting. A special "Kick Start Your Trout Season Presentation" by two fisheries experts, Mike Kelly, DNR Park Rapids and Tony Standera, DNR Bemidji. Mike and Tony will present the latest updates on trout streams and lakes from the big browns on the Straight River to our native brook trout streams. Bring your spouse, kids, neighbors, and friends, all are welcome. You don't have to be a current member of TU. We have the large private dining room reserved at Bemidji's new Four Point Grill and Bar. It is located on Hwy 2 on the west side of Bemidji. Social hour is 5:30-6:00pm and dinner is off of the menu, speaker to follow. We will also have a unique display of fish art featuring three or four regional artists. With questions call Bob Wagner 218-766-7757

- Trout in the Classroom (TIC), one of our most important educational projects,



A TIGER TROUT IN THE NET IN SE MN THIS JANUARY

is in its 8th year of continuing success thanks to 5th grade teachers Jeff Wade and Joe Adams and Steve Young, TU project coordinator. The following report comes from Joe Adams.

500 eggs were successfully received this fall in both classrooms, browns in Wade's room and rainbows in Adam's. A very high hatch rate was recorded by students who all receive a turn at being a TIC technician. A successful transition from sac fry to self-feeding size has occurred and some have been sent in for the annual testing requirement. Students have been making books on the project including the data on temperature units, growth rate projections and life cycle projects. Special DNR fisheries presentations have been given on anatomy of a trout, watershed and habitat needs. Jeff Wade notes it is the first place the kids go when they come into the classroom in the morning. Students develop a real appreciation and respect for the fish.

- Straight River helicopter fourth, and final, tree drop this past summer went well. John Sorensen, TU board and Straight River (SR) committee representative is currently working on expanding SR access sites. Plus John is making final preparations for installing our new brook trout signs.

- Great news on the Clearwater River with fisheries survey reports marking the first significant natural reproduction occurring, as well as decent carryover numbers of browns and rainbows.

- Open and free community fly tying nights are continuing to bring in strong participation and several new beginners. On January 28th we had 18 tiers with two beginners and three high school junior boys who all took our TU fly tying course as 5th graders. It was a great delight to have these 17 yr olds join us after 6 years! It proves fly tying is a real gateway activity to fly fishing and TU involvement. Also thanks to five TU volunteers for helping us run two special fly tying activities at Schoolcraft Charter School serving 50 students. We want to thank the State Council for providing the extra fly tying vises and tools. It really helps these educational efforts.

- Women's initiative coordinators Val

Wagner and Rose Brown are planning a Women's Fly Fishing Retreat June 10-11. See article in this newsletter for further info or call 218-586-2798

Bob Wagner

## Mid-Minnesota Chapter

### ANNUAL MEETING

The Mid-Minnesota Chapter will be hosting their official annual meeting on Tuesday May 24th, 2016 from 5:30-6:30 at the Great River Regional Library in St. Cloud, MN. Plan to attend to learn how to get involved with the chapter and sign up for habitat improvement project opportunities later on this season.

For more information on the Mid-Minnesota Chapter and to get involved with the Little Rock Creek project, contact chapter president Micah Barrett at (320) 241-0870.

Michah Barrett

## Twin Cities Chapter

### Vermillion River Progress

Work to restore 4000 feet of the South Branch of the Vermillion River continued November 21st when about 25 volunteers gathered on a sunny but cool day to clear invasive buckthorn that was choking the riverbanks. Several large piles of cuttings from this and prior work were safely burned by DNR in early January in a snow-covered field. The Vermillion is the closest trout stream to the Twin Cities Metro area and a recent electro-survey revealed a number of large brown trout. Check our website [www.twincitiesestu.org](http://www.twincitiesestu.org) for volunteer opportunities and progress updates on the Vermillion.

### Advocacy

Buckthorn isn't the only threat to this

# MNTU CHAPTER NEWS



trophy trout stream. The recently-issued 10 Year Draft Watershed Management Plan of the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization contained provisions that could have reduced DNR Class 2A cold-water ecosystem protections. A strong showing by TU members at the Tuesday January 26th public hearing in Farmington reinforced the importance these place on the cold water protections to the JPO board, who said they will modify their draft plan to preserve 2A status.

## Upcoming Events

- Annual Fundraising Banquet. It's been decided that TCTU's annual fundraising banquet, traditionally scheduled for February or March, will be held this fall. A firm date will be announced soon.
- Feb. 15th, 6:30PM. Join us for a special "Beer and Book" Membership Meeting at Surly Brewery, 520 Malcolm Avenue SE, Minneapolis. Local author Bob Trevis will share insights from his new book, Fly-Fishing for Trout in Southeast Minnesota... A Troutchaser's Guide.
- Feb. 25th: Trout on Tap. Lake Monster Brewing, 550 Vandalia St #160, St. Paul, MN 55114. Drink beer, talk trout, and meet new friends!
- March 5: Vermillion Work Day (see below)
- March 18-20: The Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo at Century College in White Bear Lake, MN. Sponsored this year by MNTU!
- April 2: Hay Creek Work Day (See below)

## ANNUAL MEETING

- April 25th: TCTU will present a screening of the 2016 International Fly Fishing Film Festival ([www.flyfilmfest.com](http://www.flyfilmfest.com)) in Surly Brewery's Scheid Hall. Event and ticket information will be posted soon on our chapter website, [www.twincitiestu.org](http://www.twincitiestu.org). This meeting will also serve as our Annual Meeting to hold any necessary elections by the membership.

## Volunteer Opportunities

Want to get involved? We always need volunteers to help with a variety of chapter activities. Here are a few upcoming needs:

- Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo: Event volunteers are needed to help at the door, to set up before and take down after the event, and for other needs. Volunteers donating at least three hours are eligible for free admission to the event. Email [info@greatwatersflyexpo.com](mailto:info@greatwatersflyexpo.com) to sign-up.
- Habitat: Restoration of the Vermillion River, Hay Creek, and other streams will continue this year. We always need help with building structures, cutting and clearing brush, seeding re-graded banks, and similar activities. The first TU Vermillion Riverkeepers volunteer work day will be Saturday, March 5, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., followed by us grilling you free lunch. The first TU Hay Creek Streamkeepers volunteer work-day will be Saturday, April 2, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. with a free grilled lunch. Then you can fish, because Hay Creek is open to

catch-and-release fishing now. Go to the events calendar on our website for more details, at [www.twincitiestu.org](http://www.twincitiestu.org)

- Streamkeepers: We need volunteers to help us identify restored stream areas that need attention due to storm damage or for other reasons. Streamkeepers look for these situations whenever they are out fishing. They may, for example, report a bank that has eroded, or identify an area where an invasive plant like wild parsnip has taken hold.

If you can help us with any of these volunteer activities, or are interested in becoming the new TCTU Treasurer, please email your contact info to [info@twincitiestu.org](mailto:info@twincitiestu.org) and let us know what you'd like to do.

Interested in getting involved in our habitat work? Contact Tony Nelson @ 952-486-2282 or [chrisjandtonyg@charter.net](mailto:chrisjandtonyg@charter.net)

Dean Campbell

## Win-Cres Chapter

Win-Cres members have been busy enjoying the winter trout fishing season. As spring approaches, we are looking forward to starting another phase of habitat work on Garvin Brook. The new project will cover an area below the stream improvement project on Garvin that took place two years ago.

We will again help the Lewiston Sportsmen's Club in teaching kids to fish as part of their annual "Kids in the Outdoors" program. Kids in 2nd to 4th grade will learn spin fishing, and older kids will take up a fly rod. A practice session will be held in Lewiston on June 7, with actual fishing taking place on June 14 as we expect to bus around forty youngsters to Lake Winona. We also will help Whitewater State Park staff on June 11 with "Take a Kid Fishing" day. Kids are given the opportunity to fish the Whitewater River for trout.

When the weather warms and plants begin turning green, we will be watching for Japanese knot weed plants on Garvin Brook. We conducted a major spraying project to eradicate as many of those plants as possible last fall. We realize this may be a multi-year project.

After twenty-five years as habitat improvement chair, Mike Jerešek has turned over the chair to John Weaver, a science teacher at the Winona Middle School. Pete Weess and his Winona High School class are participating in MNTU's outdoor education program, which includes the Trout in the Classroom curriculum. The trout eggs have hatched. We will support him and his students as needed.

## ANNUAL MEETING

The annual members meeting of the Win Cres Chapter will be held on Wed., March 23, 2016 6:00 pm  
Holzinger Lodge, Winona, MN

## Bamboo Rod Class

At the Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo

With Larry Donahue

If you've ever wondered what it feels like to hand plane a bamboo strip, or if you ever tried to complete a thin, delicate 3 to 4 turn silk wrap tipping only to have it unravel before your eyes...then you owe it to yourself to take this 2 hour hands-on bamboo rod making class!

Join Larry Sunday afternoon for a fun-filled interactive, hands-on experience you'll be able to translate immediately into your own bamboo rod

making. This class will help to speed up the learning curve in this traditional approach to making a bamboo rod! Walk away with new skills and insight, plus an information packet filled with node layouts, ferrule sizing, a great starting taper and much more. The class is 1pm-3pm on Sunday, March 20th. Cost is \$50.00 Sign up online today, follow the ticket link at:

[www.greatwatersflyexpo.com](http://www.greatwatersflyexpo.com)

**Great Lakes Fly Shop**  
*"The Next Best Place To Be"*

**John C. Fehnel**  
Owner

4426 Regent Street  
Duluth, MN. 55804  
(218) 740-3040  
[lesterriver@aim.com](mailto:lesterriver@aim.com)  
[www.greatlakesflys.com](http://www.greatlakesflys.com)

**BADGER  
TENKARA**

Fish More - Fuss Less

Fixed-Line Fly Rods for  
Trout, Bass, Panfish, & More

Learn about Tenkara and explore our Blog, Trip reports, and Videos:  
[www.badgertenkara.com](http://www.badgertenkara.com)

## TROUT ON TAP

By John Lenczewski

Been wondering what this Trout on Tap thing is all about? It's simple. Fish anywhere, drink locally. No agenda, no members, no RSVPs. Just casual gatherings of anglers who enjoy exploring the local taprooms. Quality angling - trout and steelhead angling - deserves quality beer. These are fun evenings comparing notes with other passionate anglers on tackle, flies, rivers and of course good local beers. It began with the seed of an idea to gather a group of fishing nuts to help me conduct "research" for an "official beer sponsor" of mntu. The explosion of great local taprooms with many differ-

ent styles of good beer convinced us we needed lots of help and lots more time to do this right. And did I mention we are obsessive about trout fishing? Rods, lines, flies, tying tips, rivers, hatches, campsites, roadhouses, destination taprooms, techy gadgets - you name it. Our shared passion and inquisitiveness unite pros and newbs alike. We all share and learn a few tricks. Join us when you can and bring the doubter-friends wondering what this whole trouty, flyfishy thing is all about. Come obsess with other obsessives. Check out the ad on page 10.

Tight lines and cold beer!

# WANT TO GET THIS NEWSLETTER?

THERE ARE NOW **TWO** WAYS!

JOIN MINNESOTA TROUT UNLIMITED



Healthy streams benefit everyone, not just anglers.

We'll assign you to a local MN 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.

Visit [www.tu.org](http://www.tu.org) today to sign up.

## OR SUBSCRIBE!

For those of you who are members in other chapters in other states, or who would like to directly support MNTU's newsletter, we are now welcoming subscribers to the newsletter. Sign up to get three colorful issues annually. Mail in this form today to receive the next issue arriving this summer in June!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Circle one below:

One Year Subscription: \$20

Three Year Subscription: \$55

**Only Checks Are Accepted.**

Mail Completed Forms To:  
Minnesota Trout Unlimited

P.O. Box 845, Chanhassen, Minnesota 55317



## REELING IT IN

### Wader Patriots

By Corky McHandle

When trout anglers think of Oregon they usually wax and wane about that day on the Deschutes or the existentialism and purity of fishing the Metolius. Recently, however, all eyes have been on the Malheur Wildlife refuge. It's an interesting thing, this little incident. It makes one wonder about the never-ending issue of access to rivers for anglers and how that might play out for an angler militia...

I can see it all now: The scene fades to an eerily quiet morning. Through the mist and fog rolling off slowly undulating famous waters of the North Branch of the East fork of Monster Trout Creek, slow dull crunching of gravel under tires begins to emerge from the darkness. Slowly creeping shadows begin to form the coherent images of vehicles. First a Subaru Forester, followed by a Toyota Four Runner and then a few Prius round things out. All adorned with Simms and Montana stickers, the odd YNP auto oval, over there a Fishpond logo, mixed in there are a couple Range Rovers all converging on the covert pre-arranged rendezvous. What is it? A gathering of militant fishermen Hell bent on 'taking their river back'? Nah ... it just the morning of the opening day of trout fishing season. But it gets one to wondering... So here are (in my humble opinion) the top ten reasons (ala David Letterman)

why a fisherman militia would never work.

10. After gearing up no one would be able to agree on who would go upstream or who would go downstream and everyone would congregate at the same favorite spots where they always catch fish.

9. The guy in the brand new SUV and \$700 waders would become the TV spokesperson, instantly destroying the credibility of any claims to being a grassroots organization.

8. Inevitable discussions would lead to a heated debate over which is the best 5 weight rod to use on these Holy waters.

7. That debate would spill over into an all-out argument on how to properly rig for nymphing and which is better: Czech nymphing or French nymphing ... the only benefit here would be that one would now know who the beer drinking anglers are versus the wine drinkers.

6. Speaking of beer and wine ... this group would have arrived with their own snacks and plenty of them, thus eliminating any need for a public appeal and support.

*Wader Patriots  
Continued on page 16*

## 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.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

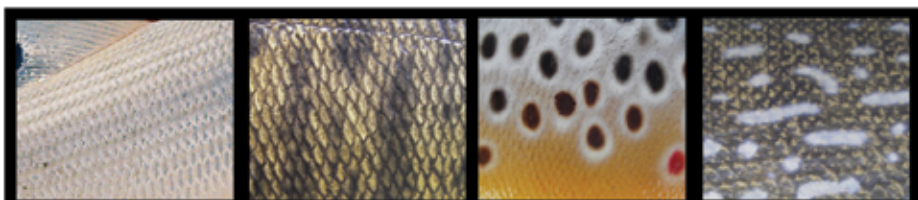
Donation \_\_\_\_\_

**Checks or Credit Cards Are Accepted. Donate online at [www.mntu.org](http://www.mntu.org)**

VISA or Mastercard # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mail Completed Forms To:  
Minnesota Trout Unlimited

P.O. Box 845, Chanhassen, Minnesota 55317



### The Fly Angler

[www.mnflyangler.com](http://www.mnflyangler.com)  
763-572-0717

No matter what you pursue with a fly rod, we have everything you need to get the job done!

fly tying materials / casting classes / hosted trips  
guided fishing / rod building / tying classes

...more info than you can "shake a stick at"  
10091 Central Ave. Blaine, MN 55434

