



Hiawatha *Hot Line*

TROUT UNLIMITED



January 2007

"...to conserve, protect, and restore Southeast Minnesota's trout fisheries and their watersheds"

Happy New Year!

There are developing issues in the world of coldwater conservation this New Year and there is a need for community-wide involvement. These issues are where we will focus the subjects of our monthly meetings over the next few months. Hiawatha Trout Unlimited is teaming up with Minnesota Trout Association to bring a conservation forum to Rochester. We are working at bringing you experts to speak about our resources, our geology, our climate, and how developments in agriculture and changes in our climate will affect not only our coldwater resource for trout, but drinking water for our children's children and our quality of life in Southeast Minnesota. As many of you know, an ethanol plant is in the works for Eyota and this has been the source of much concern and many questions. The development of biofuels is a very popular topic these days and we will make sure this is addressed in-depth over the next few months. There are plans for not just one more local ethanol plant, but a total of 5 along Highway 14 from Claremont to Winona through the heart of Minnesota's Driftless Area. **Join us for the kick-off for these community forums at the Izaak Walton Cabin in NE Rochester on Monday, January 8th at 7pm.**

Planning for the banquet will also be underway soon. The first meeting for organizing our April 21st Conservation banquet will be held at the Radisson in downtown Rochester on Monday, January 15th at 7pm. We could use your help on the planning committee, so if you'd like to help us out please contact Randy Brock at randy@mntu.org or just show up on the 15th.

We at Hiawatha TU wish you all the best in 2007 and thank you for your support of our precious resource.

Be sure to visit our website for news and upcoming events.

www.mntu.org

Upcoming Meetings

January 8th:

Community Forum
Kick-Off (at the Izaak Walton Cabin)

February 5th:

Southeast Minnesota Conservation Forum:
Location and speaker to be announced soon

All HTU Meetings are held at the Izaak Walton Cabin in NE Rochester and begin at 7pm. Check the map below for directions

Monthly Meeting Location



Re-establish the Clean Water Act!

Each year, millions of Americans visit wetland areas to hunt, canoe and birdwatch. Without Congressional action, we will be unable to reestablish protection to drinking water, recreational waters, and the waters which are so important and precious to fish, wildlife, and conservationists. Without this bill, streams, ponds, wetlands will continue to endure unregulated wastewater discharges and other destructive impacts. Unless we act quickly to protect the nation's wetlands, they may be lost forever. Congressman Oberstar's has proposed an initiative to restore the 1972 Clean Water Act to its original intended purpose. Call or write your congressmen to support Congressman Oberstar's re-establishment of the Clean Water Act! Find your congressperson at "<http://www.house.gov/writerep/>" and senator at "[## 2007 Restoration Project

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Holding with its strong tradition, the Hiawatha Chapter is planning to do another stream restoration project on Trout Run Creek in 2007. The project will be approximately 3,000 feet in length and will start at the Lohman Bridge (first bridge upstream from Bucksnot Dam) and go downstream past the brand new log cabin several hundred feet.

This project will improve overhead cover habitat for all sizes of trout and increase the population of large trout. Other benefits will include improved natural reproduction of brown trout and invertebrate habitat throughout the restored reach.

This will be another cooperative effort with the Minnesota DNR, TUDARE, Minnesota Trout Association, Twin Cities TU, Win-Cres TU and landowners along the stream. More details will follow as they become available.

Hiawatha TU on the web

Be sure to check out the latest news on the Hiawatha Chapter and other Minnesota TU information at

www.mntu.org

Stop by the message board to talk fishing or offer up any questions or concerns you have about local TU. MNTU.org is maintained by Hiawatha TU.

2007 Conservation Banquet, April 21st

Planning of the HTU Conservation banquet will begin in January. Volunteering on the banquet committee is a great opportunity for you to get to meet some of the board members of HTU and to give back to our coldwater resources. Contact any Hiawatha Chapter board member if you are able to help us organize the Spring Conservation banquet.

Hiawatha TU Board

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Winter Trout Season

The Southeast Minnesota winter stream trout season opened on January 1st. Rain and snow made for muddy waters on opening day in the Whitewater area but conditions should improve quickly.

The winter season runs from January 1st through March 31st and only Catch-and-Release fishing is legal. Barbless hooks are required and fishing is only allowed in posted sections. There are tips on winter trout season available on our website at <http://www.mntu.org>.

Please release trout quickly and avoid wading as much as possible.

TU Interactive

I know, I know, it's "website" this, and "website" that, but I thought I'd mention it just a bit more...and that's just the way things are these days. We might as well embrace our technologies and make them work for us as much as possible.

You can renew your TU membership, or join for the first time (at a discount I might add), quickly and easily at MNTU.org. Just click on the "join" icon on the top-right of the page.

Have you heard of TU DARE? It's the Trout Unlimited Driftless Area Restoration Effort. It is an ambitious endeavor to restore and protect the coldwater streams and watersheds of this unique region. You can read all about it on national TU's website. We've linked to it at MNTU.org

Stories

I would like to begin highlighting the writing of some of our local anglers in this newsletter every month. If you've got a trout or fishing related story to tell, fiction or non-fiction, please submit it to me at randy@mntu.org. I can't pay you for it, but I can highlight your tales in our newsletter for the enjoyment of your fellow angler/conservationist.

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