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
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!

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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 jplittle999@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!

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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

L

ast month I attended the DNR Fisheries Roundtable where con-
servationist 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 fish-
ing 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 ty-
ing, and travel to the beautiful places, near and far, which trout and steelhead inhabit. While I was aware of conserva-
tion 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. Howev-
er, like any observant trout angler it was not long before I saw the degradation of trout streams and decline of trout fish-

ery. 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 sim-
ilar spectrum – from just gaining knowl-
edge 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 lobb-

ying state agencies to reduce the water quality standards for the trout reaches in the watershed. While the draft manage-

ment plan is otherwise good, this one aspect of the plan would have under-
minded years of good work by TCTU, its partners and many watershed volunteers. This good work deserves to be support-
ed 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 sched-

uled, concurrent meeting covering fish-

ing how to and where to. I want to thank each of you and all the comment writ-
ers for making this conservation fight a priority. I hope the fish show you their appreciation this summer.

Tight lines, John

M

any 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!
excluding most of the brown and rainbow—that between 9,000 and 10,000 fish, in Springs Hatchery upstream to Bethany kill. At least 6.5 miles of the South from Lanesboro and the Crystal Springs.

The first alarm was raised on July 30. An 

Fish Kill on a Blue Ribbon Stream

The first alarm was raised on July 30. An angler spotted dead fish floating down the Whitewater Valley. An Unsolved Mystery in the Whitewater Valley: The 2015 Whitewater River Fish Kill

By B.J. Johnson

The storm rolled in after midnight, early on July 28. In just a few hours, a drenching rain dumped between 1 and 2.5 inches of precipitation into the White-water 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.”

After the storm, the temperature and dew point fell, and the next few days were in the low 80s, dry and pleasant. There was every reason to believe the high water would recede, the streams would clear, and the trout of the Whitewater Valley would soon be on the rise again.

Except that didn’t happen on the South Branch of the Whitewater River.

Fish Kill on a Blue Ribbon Stream

The first alarm was raised on July 30. An angler spotted dead fish floating down-stream and littering the shorelines of the South Branch. Department of Natural Resources (DNR) fishery staffs 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 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). 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.”

In December 2015, the agencies delivered a report titled “South Branch Whitewater River Unified Fish Kill Response.” The 367-page report was highly detailed but glaringly inconclusive about what killed the fish. The state agencies announced that “Scientific analysis of available evidence was unable to draw a clear conclusion as to the cause of this fish kill; as a combination of biological, chemical, and environmental conditions may have led to this event.” Stated more simply, the state’s experts had conceded, “We just don’t know” what caused the kill.

Likely Suspects

The investigation was hampered from 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 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-spraying 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.

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 Wicora 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, Priaxon, 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 biologist, 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.

“Such a storm could make an aquatic event,” he said. He noted that California and New York have restrictions governing the use of Priaxon. 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 reviewed 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 it can be used in New York.

Priaxon’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 Priaxon 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.

Priaxon 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
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 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.

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 trout, I infer they considered them too bad to eat. Hogal-wachasta-un (literally, wicked-man-fish) is not suggestive of high appreciation among the Indian community. They really believed some malign influence resided in the fish. “

stream trout destroyers, who have taken 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.

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.

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 fisher- ies surveys show there was a booming hatch of browns in 2010, and inconsis- tent 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!

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_stre ms/south-2015/map13.pdf Bob Trevis’ new book, Fly Fishing for Trout in Southeast Minnesota...A 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...
portions of Hay Creek in the state for- north on Hay Creek Trail and access and Saloon), and then you can head (now Haycreek Valley Campground a burger at the old Dressen’ s Saloon). In the town of Hay Creek you can get to Red Wing. Warning – the speed of the semi-pro Miesville Mudhens, to Hampton and go thru Miesville, home or so. Some Twin Cities anglers 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 32th St and follow 32th to the first dead-end road and a bridge. Access here (up-stream 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 wa- ter very crowded; if you find 4 or 5 cars here, and there were 4 to 5 cars on 32th, it’s probably best to head to another watershed. If you were to continue on 32th 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 upper end of some HI work, since you will hear plunge pools. Again, this for- mer pasture is quite weedy, but is often worth the hassle. Immediately upstream of the bridge is not easement water.”

I asked Bob if he would share some ad- vice 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 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 ap- proach.

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 weight- ed nymphs. SMALL indicators if you need to use them - these fish have seen enough Thingamabobbers! For hatches, check the spider webs in

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.

Hay Creek Map

A WINTERTIME HAY CREEK BROWN TROUT

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Hay Creek Map

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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’Neils bought the place in 1977. They added a restaurant and campsite, 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 Minneso- ta 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 partner- ship between the DNR and MNTU, John wanted to talk about protecting such an important asset from the dangers of excessive...
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. Senator Matt Schmit of Red Wing to MNTU had worked closely with State

To garner media attention and increase public support for action. He grew up fishing for trout in Hay Creek. Matt joined Pat O’Neil 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’Neil 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.”

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 near trout streams 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 Rebuffonis 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 TUF for about five years now.

“We couldn’t achieve those goals with 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.

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.

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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 “skyhooks”. 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 jet 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 hidey-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.twincitiestu.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 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 “tote 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 URF 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.
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 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 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 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.
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 an entry limit of three photos per individual. Please include the name of the photographer and the location the photo was taken in the submission.

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

**Prizes**
The winner in each category 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 website and Facebook page and in promotion for next season’s Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo.

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

**Share Your Best Fishing Photos and Win!**

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**Guided Steelhead and Trout Fly Fishing**

Scott Thorpe
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www.scottthorpeflyfishing.com
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 trout stream protection work group. 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.

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.

Double Wing Trude

Materials List

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

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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 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 being 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
An Unsolved Mystery in the Whitewater Valley continued from page 4

While there is no direct, proven “cause-and-effect” relationship between fungi-cides 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 Reisseter, 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 Benja-min, 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 po-tential stocking of rainbow trout (which don’t naturally reproduce in the White-water). The DNR has no plans to change regulations or require catch-and-release on the South Branch.

Minnesota State Rep. Rick Hansen re-cently 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, Agricul-ture, and Natural Resources, the Minne-sota Pollution Control Agency, and the University of Minnesota’s Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology to develop a protocol consist-ing of steps that state agencies must take when responding to a notification of a fish kill. The protocol would be devel-oped by October 2016, reviewed by an administrative law judge and go into ef-fect by spring 2017. You can find the legislation, HF 2409, on the House’s website. (see right).

Minnesota Trout Unlimited met with Rep. Hansen a number of times before the bill was filed and our executive di-rector, John Lenczewski, is currently working to help secure Senate authors for a companion bill.

“Developing a uniform protocol to en-sure 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.

The State of Minnesota operates a 24/7 resource known as the “Min-ne-sota 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 in-cident immediately to local authorities or the State of Minnesota Duty Officer any ac-tivity or scenario related to potential en-vironmental damage on Minnesota trout streams (see right).

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

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“A land, ethic, then, reflects the existence of an ecologi-cal 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

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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.
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. Find the book for sale now on the author’s website at www.troutchasers.net.

Welcome to Minnesota’s Trout Capital on the South Branch of the Bois Brule River
ur goal is to provide a fun, informal and comprehen-
sive hands-on experience that builds confidence and skill in fly fish-
ing. Designed for beginners to learn basic skills and knowledge of equip-
ment such as rods, tippets, clothing, fishing techniques, flies and on the wa-
ter 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 uti-
lize best practice techniques in cast-
ing, 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 wa-
ter, from trout to pike, musky to sun-
fish… all on a fly!) We look forward to sharing this adven-
ture with you. Fee: $85 and space is
limited.

Fee includes 3 meals, usage of equip-
mant, 9 hours of instruction, including
on the water fishing, and flies to take
home to begin your adventure! Lodg-
ing is on your own and there are many options in Bemidji that we can recom-

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

By Jade Thomason

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.

Women in Fly Fishing Panel

Connect at the Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo

By 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 in-
struction and practice, Lake Bemidji
12:00-1:00pm, Gourmet picnic lunch
1:00-2:00pm, Break

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Expo, March 18th-20th.

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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.

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Women’s Introductory
Fly Fishing Retreat
An Almost Gourmet Experience - June 10th & 11th, 2016

By Val Wagner

5. The use of strike indicators would quickly split the movement into “bobber v.
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
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
tout 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) al-
ready 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 destina-
tion for many of you: Montana. Mon-
tana historically has been one of the
most progressive states when it comes to
ting more than to lock up the land into
private fiefdoms while likely still letting
us by Theodore Roosevelt that is now
public access. Why, Montana had, until
very recently, a law within its Constitu-
tion that prohibited corporate campaign
contributions to elections. On the heels
of that revision is an influx of out-of-
states 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 genera-
tions. 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 pro-
gress. The truth is simple, a small percent-
age of the population would love noth-
ing more than to lock up the land into
private fields while likely still letting
outdoorsmen and woman, sup-
port 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

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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 Aili, 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 cedars. It emerges to flow in a ditch along the tracks until it joins a significant damage and erosion.

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 unnamed 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 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 beliefs 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 to Bloomington. There are gravelly, riffles now online, thanks to the University 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 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 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.
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 ref- uge, not often visited, and not that im- portant 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 Fish- eries, literally any map that shows streams in this area—and you will see the same blue line representing Cedar- bridge 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 un- der 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 Wa- ters 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 dis- appear 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 an- swered.

I discovered the truth through a com- bination of slogging through the bot- tomlands, 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 under the powerline easement corridor from Xcel Energy’s Black Dog power plant to the other side of Highway 13. The major stream- bed below the culvert always has a low base flow of water running through it suggesting that groundwater is leaking 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 im- pacts to the forest floor.

Where Cedarbridge Creek should hit the tracks, as shown on old aerial photo- graphs, there is no stream. But there is a mound of rip rap rock boulders and con- crete panels armoring the side of the rail- road 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 Cedar- bridge Creek was supposed to be run- ning. 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”, Mari- anne told me.

But where did the water go after that?

A check of stormwater records uncov- ered that the City of Burnsville decided to take the creek out of its outlet channel and put it into a pipe to deal with mas- sive 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 storm- water ponds to hold water and release it slowly to surrounding water bodies well after a storm.

Walking along the creek I could see con- firmation of what I saw on paper. Street gutters in the surrounding neighborhood run directly into short pipes that drop down into the ravine, outlets 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 stormwa- ter 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 inves- tigating 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
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 Vermilion River, northeast projects on the Sucker and Shatt 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.

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 valley 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 as a double, 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 acclimated 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 Winnebago 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 its 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 delivery systems suffer. TU’s river and stream work benefits a multitude of fish, animal and plant species, both warm and cold water oriented.

There have been volumes written on the magical and spiritual connections to rivers and streams. 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 through Michigan’s intermediate waters, 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 also wanted Thoreau would be pleased TU is concerned and connecting people to rivers.

**Connecting with Rivers**

**Observations on Trout Unlimited’s Role**

*By Bob Wagner*

Connecting with rivers helps people from one generation to the next through family stories. Rivers connect people from one generation to another. You perform a good deed and so it goes. You perform a good deed and someone else will follow you to another good deed and so it goes. 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 oriented.

By Phil Pankow

**We are all volunteers**

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, way back in 1980, 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 wanted 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 nonprofit 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.
TROLLING THE WEB
 Writers, Bloggers and More From the Internet
 By Dan Callahan

My 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@twincitiesstu.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

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.

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

Driftless Angler Fly Shop
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/

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 binolbohm@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
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 day, 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, take the opportunity to restore North Shore streams on Saturday looking for cool-water input, fish the evening and Sunday morning while exploring nearby camping areas.

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 your only second favorite fly fishing event 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.

Hiawatha Chapter

Every Saturday until the end of March we meet for open tying in the second floor conference room at School's 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 Izak Walton League Cabin in Rochester, Minnesota. Details and speaker T.B.A.

March 18th-20th is the Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo presented by Minneosta Trout Unlimited (MNTU). If you haven’t been to one of these fantastic events in past years, I’ll allow you to try 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.

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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 Stander, DNR Bemidji. Mike and Tony will present the latest updates on trout streams and lakes from the big brownies 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 downtown 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 of our regional artists. With questions call Bob Wagner 218-766-7757.

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

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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) 241-8570.

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MichaBArrett

Twin Cities Chapter

Vermilion River Progress

Work to restore 4000 feet of the South Branch of the Vermilion 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 buckthorn and ash prior work were safely burned by DNR in early January in a snow-covered field. The Vermilion 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.twinciti.esu.org for volunteer opportunities and progress updates on the Vermilion.

Advocacy

Buckthorn isn’t the only threat to this

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MichaBarrett

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Advocacy

Buckthorn isn’t the only threat to this
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 of linking these plans 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: Vermilion 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.flyfilmfestival.com) in Surly Brewery’s Scheid Hall. Event and ticket information will be posted soon on our chapter website, 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 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.
- Streamkeepers: We need volunteers to help us identify restored streams areas that need attention due to storm damage or for other reasons.
- Garden Club: We need volunteers to help us plant trees and shrubs in the community.
- Habitat: We need volunteers to help us plant trees and shrubs in the community.

If you can help us with any of these volunteer activities, or are interested in becoming the next TCTU Treasurer, please email your contact info to info@twincitiestu.org.

Interested in getting involved in our habitat work? Contact Tony Nelson at 952-486-2282 or 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.

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 Juresek has turned over the chair to John Weaver, a science teacher at the Winona Middle School. Pete Wees 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 at 6:00 pm at Holzinger Lodge, Winona, MN.
Wendy C. Kirkman, Executive Director, MN Trout Unlimited (MN Trout Unlimited)

*5500 W. Chadwick Drive, Chanhassen, Minnesota 55317, Phone: 952-229-8000, Fax: 952-229-8001*

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Healthy streams benefit everyone, not just anglers.

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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.

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**Wader Patriots**

By Corky McManus

1. 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 Prys 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 back the river back’ ” Nah – it just the morning of the opening day of trout fishing season. But it gets one to wondering…

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

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