

# TROUT UNLIMITED MINNESOTA

The Official Publication of Minnesota Trout Unlimited - November 2013

**Managing Forests for Trout**  
**Habitat Work - Before and After in SE MN**  
**Regional Book Roundup**  
**Silica Sand Mining Update**  
**Anglers Abroad - Lake Michigan Salmon**

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ON THE COVER

Hay Creek flows through a pasture during the winter trout season near Redwing, Minnesota.

IN THIS ISSUE

- Why trees might be a trout's best friend.
- The latest updates on habitat work in SE MN.
- The top books you need to have to find local trout.
- Silica Sand Mining Update
- Updates on chapter programs and efforts around Minnesota.
- And Much More!

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FROM THE  
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Enjoy the Diverse Fisheries You Help Protect and Restore

By John Lenczewski, MNTU Executive Director

I hope many of you have had an opportunity to help on a habitat project this season and get in some quality fishing time with friends and family. The summer screamed right by and both the summer work season and statewide trout season are behind us. This year's weather and water levels were a challenge for scheduling work days and some work had to be postponed to next spring. Please take a minute to contact your local chapter and get on its list of stream work volunteers. Just letting them know now that you might be interested in helping this winter or next year will help them get out the word when volunteer opportunities spring up or work dates change unexpectedly.

As important as our habitat restoration and enhancement work is, our efforts to educate legislators, the administration,

state agencies, and the public concerning the needs of, and threats to, our coldwater fisheries is at least as important. Protecting the clean, cold water vital to sustaining our fisheries depends upon continual education and advocacy work by all of you. Our advocacy efforts around the silica sand mining issue really brought home to me just how much we trout anglers incorrectly assume others know about how trout streams work. I want to thank all of you who make the effort to educate your neighbors, coworkers and friends. My hope is that this newsletter keeps you informed and provides you with contacts and links to more information.

If you would like to get on our list serve for more frequent, timely updates and alerts on threats to coldwater fisheries in Minnesota and the region, please



send an email to me at:  
[jlenczewski@comcast.net](mailto:jlenczewski@comcast.net)

Thank you for helping conserve and protect our coldwater fisheries and watersheds.

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EDITOR'S ANGLE

Thinking of Spring - Already

By Carl Haensel



The beginning of winter finds me already planning for next spring's fishing forays. The season is barely done here in Northern Minnesota, yet I can't wait to hit the water in the springtime again. The winter will bring planning, fly tying and trips to the winter season in SE MN in just over a month. It will be cold, but I know the trout will be waiting.

Our chapters statewide were busy this season with many miles of streams worked on, and some work on lakes up in the NE region as well.

As you plan for next season and look over all the good memories that were made on the water this season, take a couple of minutes and drop me a line via

email. We would love to get your pictures, stories, anecdotes and tales to use in the newsletter this next season. For those of you tying up some great new patterns, send a recipe and a photo or two for us to consider - as long as it's not your secret pattern! If you've got a tall tale to make up, send it our way as well.

Thanks to all the people that have helped make this first season of a renewed TU newsletter a success. I look forward to another print issue hitting the press in early February, so keep your eyes open and check your mailboxes around then.



# MINNESOTA COUNCIL UPDATE

## Moving Forward

By JP Little, Minnesota Council Chair

Welcome to the 2013 fall Minnesota Trout Unlimited statewide newsletter. As anticipated in my last column, the “round 5” funding recommended by the Lessard Council was appropriated by the Minnesota Legislature. Minnesota TU has been entrusted with \$2.47M for cold-water resource projects. Teams across the state have been rocking all summer using funds from previous rounds of funding. Stream work has been done on over 30 miles over the last 5 years, with no end in sight. You’ll hear about much of that stream work in other articles in this edition of the newsletter.

The first two editions of the revitalized statewide newsletter were put out on paper, and were very well received. However, funding constraints are dictating that this edition go out electroni-

cally. As things stand today (financially) we have enough annual operating funds in the Minnesota Council to put out two hardcopy editions of the newsletter each year.

My most important job as Council Chair is to review and sign contracts with the local contractors and suppliers doing much of the work on these large scale construction projects. Our Executive Director, John Lenczewski continues to build our relationship with the Lessard Council and Legislature and secure grants for “on the ground” projects across the state. It is very impressive to watch. Thank you John!!

One other bit of very good news – the chapters across the state recognize the value and importance of having an Executive Director in place (pretty un-

common across the U.S.), and the fundraising done by the chapters is now significantly funding the role of part time Executive Director. We are now raising plenty of money to do the very important stream projects via the Lessard Council and Legislature, and we need the statewide coordination that John provides.

Lastly, new blood on the Minnesota Council is always welcomed and needed to keep moving Trout Unlimited forward in the state of Minnesota. If, as you read this, you would like to get involved please contact me at [jp.little@surescripts.com](mailto:jp.little@surescripts.com). I’d be glad to buy you lunch and figure how your skills could best be put to use!

Tight Lines!



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## AT FIRST GLANCE

Looking Forward to Our Next Issue



A NORTH SHORE COASTER BROOK TROUT SAMPLED BY A TU MEMBER DURING ELECTROFISHING WITH THE DNR THIS FALL NEAR GRAND MARAIS. LOOK FOR AN UPCOMING ARTICLE IN FEBRUARY TO HIGHLIGHT THE CHALLENGES, ISSUES AND RECENT DETAILS THAT WE’VE LEARNED FROM SURVEY WORK ON THE NORTH SHORE.





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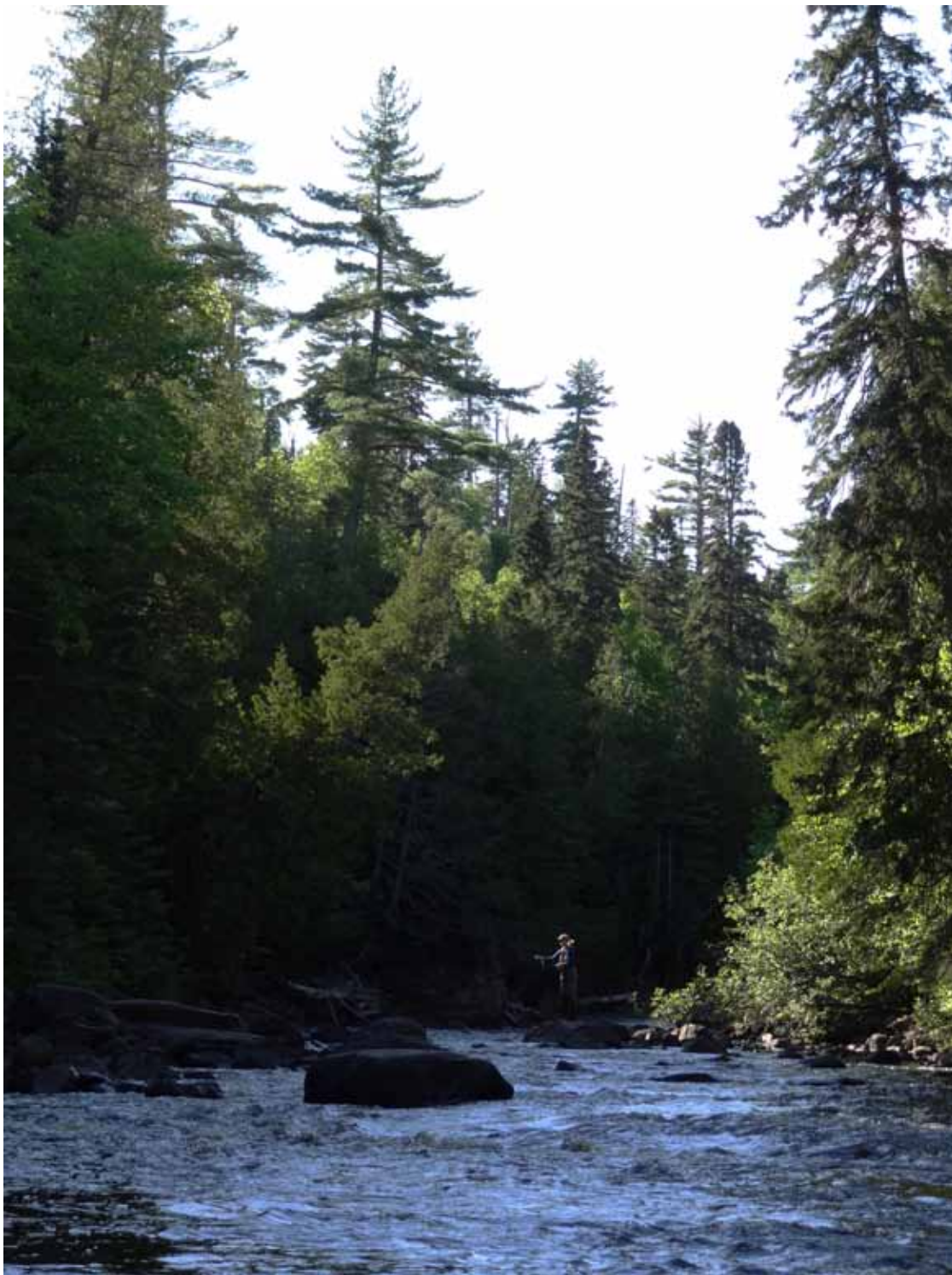
# MANAGING FORESTS FOR TROUT

## Northern Minnesota's Trout Need Old Trees

By Jade Thomason

It's been said that trout are made of trees. There's even an excellent children's book by that title. In Minnesota, forests show their greatest benefits for trout in the northern part of the state. There, streams with less spring flow are dependent on the many qualities of the forest to retain the ability to support trout.

In northern Minnesota, the state of the forest in the entire watershed of a stream plays a large role for its trout. If too much harvest occurs, research has clearly shown that increased flooding takes place. Unnaturally high flows can destabilize stream channels, cause loss of streamside trees and much more. While the entire watershed of a trout stream is important, the riparian area is the most crucial part. It is the buffer zone between the stream ecosystem and the surrounding land. Riparian are often some of the most productive habitat and are influenced by both the aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems nearby. Vegetation in the riparian area and also the riparian management zone (RMZ) serve as a last line of defense against pollutants and also help prevent erosion and the accompanying sedimentation. The size and structure of the RMZ needed is dependent on stream size and topography. In northern Minnesota we often use an approximation of ten times the average width of a stream. Thus, the RMZ of a 10 foot wide trout stream might be 100 feet from the bank on each side.



OLD GROWTH FOREST ALONG THE MANITOU RIVER IN NE MN

### In-Stream Habitat

When riparian trees fall into a stream they provide a whole host of new benefits to trout. Logjams and large-woody debris create necessary habitat for both fish and their invertebrate prey. To get these positive benefits a forest needs to produce trees large enough to not be transported easily by the stream. In some cases in northern Minnesota, this takes trees fifty feet tall or greater. Large woody debris is more frequently provided by old-growth riparian forest and it can create some of the deepest pools. Debris in streams can create deep pools by encouraging scouring at high flows and constant swirling eddies at most flow levels. These pools are essential habitat for fish because they provide maximum food access while requiring minimum energy expenditure. The depth of the pools is essential for survival in low-flow periods in both winter and summer. When other parts of the stream freeze these pools can be the only areas that allow fish to survive. Deep pools also allow for coexistence of multiple age-classes and species of fish. The individuals can layer in the stream at varying depths and all use the habitat with minimized risk of predation. Protection from terrestrial predators is another large benefit of deeper pools. This type of habitat is particularly lacking in streams that do not have naturally occurring large boulders to create pools and holding water.

### Challenges our Streams Face

#### Sedimentation and Nutrient Input

Sedimentation and erosion are often named as the largest threats to streams due to their ability to lower the carrying capacity for trout. Sedimentation fills in deep pools that are crucial holding water for fish. Habitat for aquatic macroinvertebrates that make up a large part of a trout's diet is diminished with added

sediment. Fine sediment can negatively change the composition of the streambed by covering suitable gravel habitat where they live. Macroinvertebrates can also be pushed off of their holding places by drifting sediment and be subject to higher levels of mortality. Aside from a lowered food supply, gravel that is necessary for trout spawning can be buried by fine sediment as well.

Deep-rooted vegetation is important to help hold soil to the bank while also stopping sediment originating from elsewhere in the watershed from entering the stream. Logged soils can become hydrophobic (less able to absorb water) and easily eroded in heavy rains. The bank can become less stable in these events and large areas can cave in and change the morphology of the stream. Properly managed riparian forest soils can absorb surface water readily and release it more slowly to

streams and underground aquifers. Slower inputs of water decrease flow flood-peaks and help maintain the stability of the stream. During this process tree roots can also capture excess nutrients such as phosphorous and nitrogen before they wash into the stream. Non-point source pollution (pollution that can't be pinpointed to a single source) is particularly difficult to keep out of streams without a proper forest buffer.

#### Temperature

Riparian zone trees provide necessary shading to keep streams colder in the summer. Streams that do not have significant enough spring flow to support trout in all weather conditions benefit the most from riparian shading. Extreme warmth affects fish productivity and survival in many northern Minnesota watersheds. More consistent temperatures lead to a higher fish carrying capacity in streams. For any number of reasons, whether low spring flow or warmer tributary inputs, some reaches of stream hover on the edge of suitable temperature for trout. Tree shading can make the difference between a stream that holds trout and one where no trout exist.

### The Future of Forest Management in Minnesota

Historically, most of the watersheds of northern Minnesota's trout streams have been logged. Riparian corridors were harvested and woody debris was even removed from some locations to make log passage easier. In the roughly 100 years since this initial harvest, forests have regrown in most places. The importance of stream-surrounding forests and the woody debris associated with them have thankfully been proven numerous times. Greater attention is being given to the protection of these areas. If riparian forests and entire watersheds are managed more carefully, we hope to have trout streams flowing through our forests for generations to come.

Minnesota Trout Unlimited works regularly with county, state and federal partners to provide input, labor, funding and project assistance to help manage our forests for all users, including trout.

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# HABITAT IMPROVEMENT SE MN UPDATE

By Phil Pankow

In July, during the annual TUNE youth camp at the Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center, I talked with Carl Haensel at length about fishing, weather, trout water, flies, and habitat improvement (HI) work being done in Southeast Minnesota by the Hiawatha Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Carl asked if I would be willing to write an article about some of the HI work that we had

good deal of self-scouring already taking place.

HTU and TUDARE hosted a field day on Cold Spring Brook for County SWCD and NRCS representatives and area landowners and found them to be an interested audience. Their comments and feedback were positive and several landowners were interested in how to obtain an angling easement on their

property. Once the project is finished, we might consider a follow-up field day to give people a better idea of the total work done on this stream.

Habitat work has just been completed on a mile segment of Mill Creek. This work has narrowed the stream to facilitate better sediment scouring and created bank hide structure primarily using root wads and other woody debris with some

skyhook structures installed. This is a new approach to HI work in this part of SE MN and will provide the angler with a very different and more complex angling experience.

This has been a two month construction project that is the second in a series of four segments on Mill Creek. When completed, the work will join with the HI work that the MN DNR did in Chat-



MILL CREEK'S ERODING BANK BEFORE THE HABITAT IMPROVEMENT



THE SAME BANK AFTER THE HABITAT IMPROVEMENT

been doing. I was ecstatic to share and here is the article based on my conversation with Carl.

With funding support from the MN legislature and the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage program, HTU has been able to build weirs, sky hooks, vanes, pools and riffles and other structures to cool the temperature of the water, create better oxygen quality, and improve the quality of life for the trout and macro invertebrates that inhabit these waters. Why is this important? Trout live in an ever moving and changing environment. They seek specific temperatures, places to hide from predators, food sources to replace energy spent constantly swimming, and clean water to be able to live and reproduce.

HTU has many projects this year we have completed as well as some that are still in progress. Ray Ricketts, HTU's HI project coordinator, has provided the rundown of the projects completed and those still in progress.

Work is nearly complete on Cold Spring Brook. The upper portion near the county bridge and the middle segment have a few additions left, but otherwise work is complete. The lower segment near MN60 has seen some HI work; however, Wabasha County plans to make major changes to the MN60/county road intersection, so construction work will have to be coordinated with them for 2014.

Funding will allow us to do habitat improvement on the DNR's reference reach -- 1300 feet of stream between the middle section and the lower part of the project. This addition will make this portion of the stream one continuous project except for the short uneased segment just below the county bridge. There have been several reports of good fishing on the new work, but time will be the best judge of fishing quality. The water temperature below the feeder spring was 54 degrees with clean water with a



A FINISHED 2013 SECTION OF HABITAT IMPROVEMENT

field several years ago. The next segment is currently being designed and construction should start next year.

The Camp Creek design is just beginning with plans to improve the mile segment from the Maust/Tomashek property line to just below the confluence with the Root River. This segment parallels the bike trail and in addition to the HI work, plans are to add and improve the handicap access points along the trail. Design of the project will take place over the next several months with construction work hopefully starting next Spring.

Requests for design bids for the last segment of Pine Creek have been sent to qualified firms and their bids are pending. This should allow us to see the work on Pine Creek completed in the 2014 construction period. The work will complete work from School Road down to the county bridge.

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# ANGLERS ABROAD

## Lake Michigan Salmon

By Carl Haensel



Looking for a good place to find some over-sized fish next season? Want some fish that you can bring home to eat as well? Try wandering over to the Lake Michigan shoreline in Wisconsin.

Though it's rarely a wilderness experience, steelhead in the spring and chinook and coho salmon in the fall can be found in abundance. Rivers hold fish all the way from south of Milwaukee to the Michigan line. Late in the fall you can find good steelhead fishing as the rivers rise with autumn rains. Get to the river early and find a good spot, and you might just hook the largest brown trout of your life as well. If you visit the Michigan Shore at the right time, you might also be able to help out some of the local Wisconsin Trout Unlimited chapters in the area. They've all got a good internet presence, with the Green Bay, Lakeshore and Southeast chapters being closest to the action. Learn more about Wisconsin Trout Unlimited at [www.wisconsintrout.org](http://www.wisconsintrout.org)

A HARD DAY'S WORK, READY TO BE FILLETED AND SMOKED







KEWAUNEE RIVER, WISCONSIN. LOW WATER MEANS THE SALMON ARE IN THE POOLS.



THE AUTHOR WITH A NICE FISH TO HAND NEAR MANITOWOC, WISCONSIN

Minnesota Trout Unlimited’s members fish not only in Minnesota, but all around the region and beyond. Look for this photographic feature to explore a trout, salmon or steelhead destination that has both fishing and conservation opportunities for our members to experience, explore, and get involved in.

Have ideas of what area you would like profiled? Have some great shots from a trip you’d like to share? Contact the Editor.

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# SILICA SAND MINING UPDATE

## Public comments needed on standards and criteria for silica sand mining activity

By John Lenczewski, MNTU Executive Director

In May 2013 the Minnesota Legislature directed the Environmental Quality Board to develop model standards and criteria for mining, processing, and transporting silica sand by October 1, 2013. The standards and criteria are intended to assist local governments in their development of local ordinances. The deadline was very short,

It has a very small staff, and most work is done by staff from the participating agencies.

### Public Outcry Over Weak First Attempt

On Wednesday September 18, 2013 the Environmental Quality Board met to

experts to be sufficient. The result was that the weak draft was leading some local governments to adopt inadequate protections for water, air, dwellings, etc.

The EQB's agenda and the draft document are contained in the Board packet for 9-18-13 on the EQB's website at

### Written Comments and Additional Information

More details can be found on the EQB's website at: <http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/>

EQB staff can be reached at:  
Environmental Quality Board



and the extremely weak first effort which was presented to the EQB on September 18, 2013 was rejected by the public and the Board. The EQB directed staff to reset the process and this time include citizen input. If you value trout fishing in southeast Minnesota, now is the time to speak up.

The Environmental Quality Board consists of a Governor's representative (the board chair), nine state agency heads (including DNR, PCA, and BWSR) and five citizen members. Its mission is to lead Minnesota environmental policy by responding to key issues, providing appropriate review and coordination, serving as a public forum and developing long-range strategies to enhance Minnesota's environmental quality.

WATERSHED STABILITY IS KEY TO PROTECTING AND RESTORING STREAMS LIKE HOUSTON COUNTY'S WINNEBAGO CREEK, WHERE BANKS IN SOME AREAS ARE ALREADY ON THE VERGE OF COLLAPSE

consider draft model standards and criteria for mining, processing, and transporting silica sand developed by its small staff. EQB staff rushed a very weak draft in time for the EQB meeting, but it amounted to little more than an inventory of existing rules and approaches for other activities which might be applied to silica sand mining. The public voiced its disappointment and strongly objected to the document being released as a "draft". The concern expressed by several local government officials was that local governing bodies were already pulling back from adopting tough restrictions on the basis that the weak standards in the draft document were deemed by state agency

this link: <http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/documents/>

To its credit, the EQB was responsive to citizens' concerns and amended the staff recommendation. The EQB decided to re-title the document to reflect that it is merely an inventory of existing rules and standards for other activities, and not a true draft of model standards and criteria. They also decided to enlist public input in earnest and essentially re-start the drafting process. There was chorus of objections at the hearing when a staffer suggested the public should have a limited rule in rulemaking.

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Additional details will be posted on the MNTU blog in the near future at [www.mntu.org](http://www.mntu.org) Related documents are posted on the website's silica sand mining page found under the "major threats" tab. To get on a list serve for updates and action alerts on the silica sand mining issue please send an e mail to John Lencze-



DNR outlines permit application process for proposals to mine silica sand within one mile of SE trout streams; needs your support

In May 2013 the Minnesota Legislature gave the Minnesota DNR authority to restrict silica sand mining activity proposed within one mile of southeast Minnesota trout streams. Legislation prohibits this activity within one mile of designated trout streams unless the DNR issues a special permit. The DNR is not required to issue a “silica sand mining trout stream setback permit” where the mining activity would harm trout stream water quantity, quality, or habitat. However, the DNR will face pressure to permit this activity and therefore needs your vocal encouragement to set tough setbacks and even deny permits when the appropriate setback is more than a mile from the trout stream.

Background Information

Three Prohibitions Supported by the DNR During Original Legislation

In the March 2013 issue of this newsletter, we outlined three basic protections which geologists and hydrologists indicate are needed to protect the groundwater, springs and trout fisheries in southeast Minnesota. Those restrictions were:

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

The DNR strongly supported these science-based minimum setbacks, and DNR Commissioner Tom Landwehr took the rare step of personally appearing twice and testifying in strong support of the restrictions. These uniform minimum setbacks did not become law, but the DNR was given authority to establish protective setbacks necessary to protect coldwater resources on a case by case basis.

DNR Has Authority To Permit Or Deny Mining Activity Near Trout Streams

The new law, found in Minnesota Laws 2013, Chapter 114, Article 4, Section 66, provides:

[103G.217] DRIFTLESS AREA WATER RESOURCES.

(a) Groundwater discharge from natural springs and seepage areas in the driftless area of Minnesota, corresponding to the area of the state contained within the boundaries of the Department of Natural

Resources Paleozoic Plateau Ecological Section, is vital to sustaining the cold-water aquatic ecosystems in the region, as well as the recreational, commercial, agricultural, environmental, aesthetic, and economic well-being of the region.

(b) Within the boundaries of the Department of Natural Resources Paleozoic Plateau Ecological Section, no excavation or mining of silica sand, including, but not limited to, digging, excavating, mining, drilling, blasting, tunneling, dredging, stripping, or shafting, may occur within one mile of a designated trout stream as listed in Minnesota Rules unless a silica sand mining trout stream setback permit has been issued by the commissioner.

(c) Before issuing a permit under this section, the commissioner shall:

(1) require a project proposer to do a hydrogeological evaluation and collect any other information necessary to assess potential impacts to hydrogeological features, including private and public drinking water supply wells; and

(2) identify appropriate setbacks from designated trout streams, springs, and other hydrogeologic features and any other restrictions necessary to protect trout stream water quantity, quality, and habitat.

(d) The commissioner may assess the project proposer fees to cover the reasonable costs of duties performed under this section.

*It is important to note that the DNR is not required to issue such a permit to mine sand if the appropriate setback is greater than one mile from the stream. In other words, the DNR may deny (indeed, must deny) a permit request to mine where that denial and restriction is necessary to protect trout stream water quantity, quality, or habitat. If the appropriate setback necessary to protect trout stream water quantity, quality, or habitat is more than one mile away from a designated trout stream, then the permit must be denied. In August 2013 the DNR established the process for applying for a silica sand mining trout stream setback permit.*

Silica Sand continued on page 11



TRADE MARK

**STONE HARBOR**

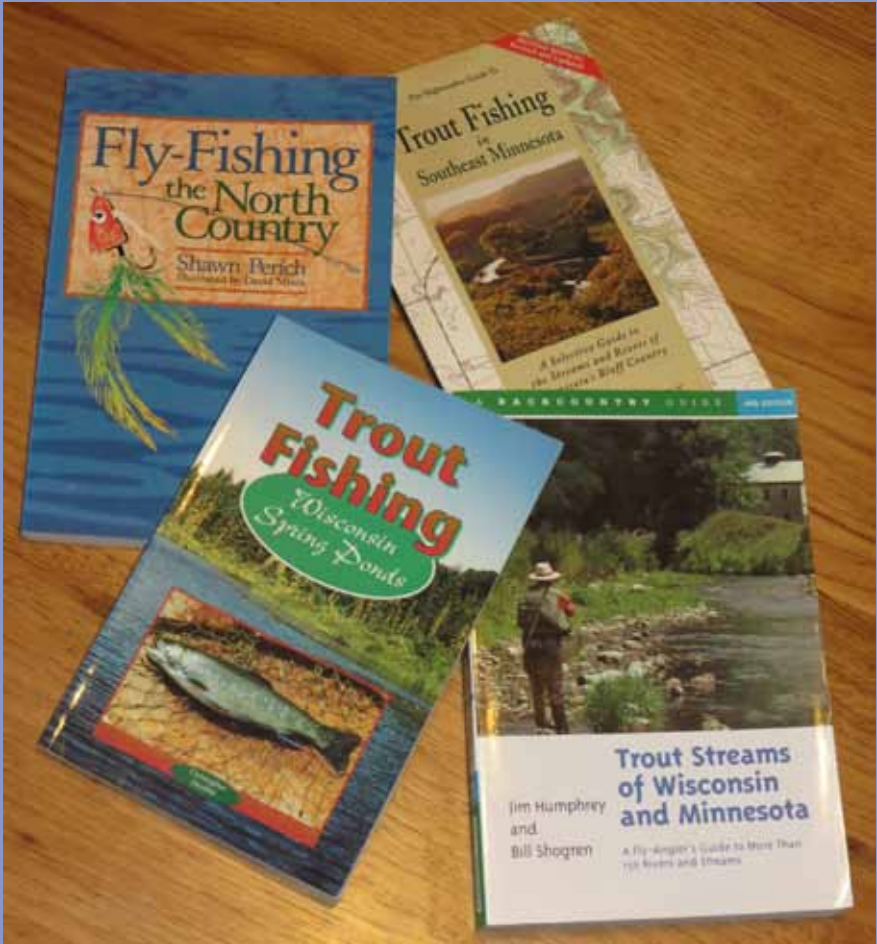
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# REGIONAL FISHING

## FINDING FISH AROUND THE UPPER MIDWEST

### Book Review

By John Hunt

If truth be told, my introduction to fly-fishing came around the same time “the movie” was released back in 1992. Robert Redford’s adaptation of Norman Maclean’s novella “A River Runs Through It” had been filmed in part along the river near the family cabin of my new bride. When we made our first visit to the cabin as a married couple that summer, I caught my first trout on a fly and was hooked, no pun intended.

I returned to Minnesota ready to pursue my new pastime with energy and vigor. Over the next several years, I devoured as many regional books on the topic as I could find. Many of the titles are likely familiar to the readers of this newsletter. Trout Fishing in Southeast Minnesota (John van Vliet, 1992 and 1998). Iowa Trout Streams (Jene Hughes, 1994 and 2000). Fly Fishing the North Country (Shawn Perich, 1995). Upper Midwest Flies that Catch Trout (Ross Mueller, 1995). Wisconsin and Minnesota Trout Streams: A Fly Angler’s Guide (Humphrey and Shogren, 1995). Trout Fishing Wisconsin Spring Ponds (Christopher Deubler, 1996). Exploring Wisconsin Trout Streams – The Angler’s Guide (Steve Born, et al., 1997).

Each book reflected its author(s) in unique ways. John van Vliet’s book took the reader on a tour of Minnesota’s Driftless region and gave us pointers on how and where to fish, along with enough geography and history to almost put the reader on the stream. Shawn Perich went beyond just trout and provided a primer on chasing bass, panfish, and even pike and walleye in Minnesota’s Ar-

rowhead. As its name would suggest, Ross Mueller’s missive focused more on the flies than the fish or the streams, giving sufficient detail and direction for the enterprising fly tier to make his or her own.

Of all the books I acquired or read during that initial phase of my fly fishing “career”, however, it was the title by Bill Shogren and Jim Humphrey that I found myself returning to time after time. Perhaps it was because Bill and Jim were active members of the Twin Cities chapter when I first joined TU and I was able to meet them and learn from them first hand at monthly meetings. Always patient and willing to teach and share, Bill and Jim’s passion for fishing was matched only by their passion for the trout themselves. When I sat down to write this piece, I realized their book was missing from my bookshelf. I can only surmise that I loaned it out to someone looking for a comprehensive introduction to upper Midwest trout fishing and it hasn’t made it back to me yet.

Beyond this brief list of regional titles I could add several others dealing with the Black Hills or Michigan or the Canadian shoreline of Lake Superior. In the Midwest we are blessed to be within easy driving distance of countless miles of trout streams and hundreds of trout lakes. And while I always enjoy a chance to cast a fly in places more famous or well-known, it is reassuring to know that we continue to have so many gems in our own backyards.





# MNTU CHAPTER NEWS

## Gitchee Gumee Chapter

The Gitchee Gummee Chapter has been active this fall wrapping up this season's projects. Projects from this summer include two reaches on the Sucker River, and completed work at the



SLOPING THE BANK ON THE LOWER SUCKER RIVER PROJECT

outlet of Kimball Lake. Work was also done on Kimball Creek.

Chapter volunteer coordinator Gary Meier was instrumental in coordinating the assistance that the chapter and other volunteers provided to the MN DNR to conduct fisheries work on the North Shore this fall. Work consisted of electrofishing for coaster brook trout in streams from near Duluth almost to Grand Portage. Coasters up to 21 inches were sampled. Further details will be available in the next newsletter.

The chapter has meeting dates scheduled for December 12. Our December meeting will feature a presentation on fishing for lake trout in the BWCAW. Learn how to catch lakies on both fly-fishing and spinning tackle, and get some of the secret spots to fish for them. Our January 9th meeting will be a wintertime flytying meeting featuring local patterns that will catch trout throughout the northland. Meetings begin at 7PM and are held at the Hartley Nature Center in Duluth.

Carl Haensel

## Hiawatha Chapter

With the fishing season over, it's time to evaluate what we've done this year and what we still can do with the little time we have left in 2013. One of the very best things I've seen is the volunteer commitment by the members and friends of this chapter. This truly is what



HIAWATHA TROUT UNLIMITED (HTU) RECEIVED TU NATIONAL'S SILVER TROUT AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN HABITAT IMPROVEMENT (HI) WORK WE'VE DONE IN SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA.

are here in the Southeast. How often do those members get to participate in our activities or enjoy the incredible streams we have here? For events in 2014, we have the evening monthly meetings, the annual banquet on April 5, habitat work days, and the Driftless Rendezvous

of assistance would be for car-pooling information. This could be for either fishing trips on their own, or for Chapter events. For example, with 21 members from each of the Mankato and Northfield areas, if someone wants to travel to Southeastern Minnesota to fish for a day, or to attend a habitat work day, car-pooling makes sense. This type of trip could add up to well over 200-300 miles round trip. To make this happen, we would first need to know if members want this. Would all members please contact me by email if you want to participate? We can see if we can get this to happen for 2014.

Speaking of volunteering, I don't think we have ever had such a large membership on our Board. Currently we also have four committees. They are the Newsletter Committee, the Education Committee, the Habitat Committee, and the Banquet Committee. When volunteering for committees, you don't have to be a Board member, and there are no terms. With all the additional work we are now doing, it would be very nice to get some new members helping out. This help demonstrates a real show of support for the Chapter, and lets you meet like-minded people with very similar interests. Send me an email if you would consider helping out in some small way. Thanks for making this chapter such a success.

Carl Berberich



A FINISHED ROCK VEIN ON THE LOWER SUCKER RIVER PROJECT.

we are about and is the heart and soul of Trout Unlimited (TU). I thank you very much for the opportunity to be part of this. I certainly did not know this before I started volunteering for TU, and never expected anything like it either.

But, who is Hiawatha TU? Our Chapter is now at 450 members. Over 50% live within 20 miles of Rochester and 65% live in what is recognized as Southeastern Minnesota. That means that 35%, or 157 members, do not live locally in the Southeast, and the streams

scheduled at Whitewater State Park on September 12-14. The remote members are on their own to decide on whether to come to these events. I know that it is a large commitment for this kind of travel. One of the strengths of a group is the sharing of tasks. Some call this volunteering, but we all benefit by this. One of the questions that I'm asking of the remote members is this: Would they like assistance if/when they want to visit the Southeast Driftless region? One type

## Lewiston Area Trout Guides



Contact Guide

J. Mark Reisetter

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DNR’s proposed permit application process

In August 2013 the DNR outlined the process for applying for a silica sand

taining a permit. The August 1 fact-sheet is no exception. Minnesota Trout Unlimited believes that the DNR under the present Administration and Commissioner will exercise this new permitting authority cautiously. However, vigilance and encouragement of the DNR by

quantity, quality, or habitat is greater than one mile, then an application proposing to mine entirely within this area should be denied. The DNR’s guidance document could make this clear to potential applicants.

Your Vocal Support of a Conservative Approach is Needed

The uniform minimum restrictions on silica sand mining near southeast Minnesota trout streams did not become law, in part because some legislators believed that it is possible that there are a few locations within one mile of a trout stream where this activity could occur if done properly. Undoubtedly some individuals will ignore the warning flags and stubbornly pursue projects in these sensitive areas. Given the pressure which some individuals and large businesses are likely to exert on the DNR, anglers and citizens must remain vigilant and encourage the agency not to retreat from the cautious approach embodied in the setbacks which it has endorsed. Please take a few minutes to call or write the DNR and let it know that you expect it to resolve any doubts concerning appropriate setbacks in each instance in favor of ensuring the protection and productivity of the world-class trout fisheries in this southeast Minnesota.

DNR Contact information

The DNR Contact for Silica Sand Mining Trout Stream Setback Permit is: Tom Hovey, Department of Natural Resources, 500 Lafayette Road, Box 32, St. Paul, MN 55155-4032  
Phone number: 651-259-5654  
e-mail: tom.hovey@state.mn.us

Additional Information can be found at:  
Silica Sand Rulemaking Webpage: [http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/rules/silica\\_sand.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/rules/silica_sand.html)

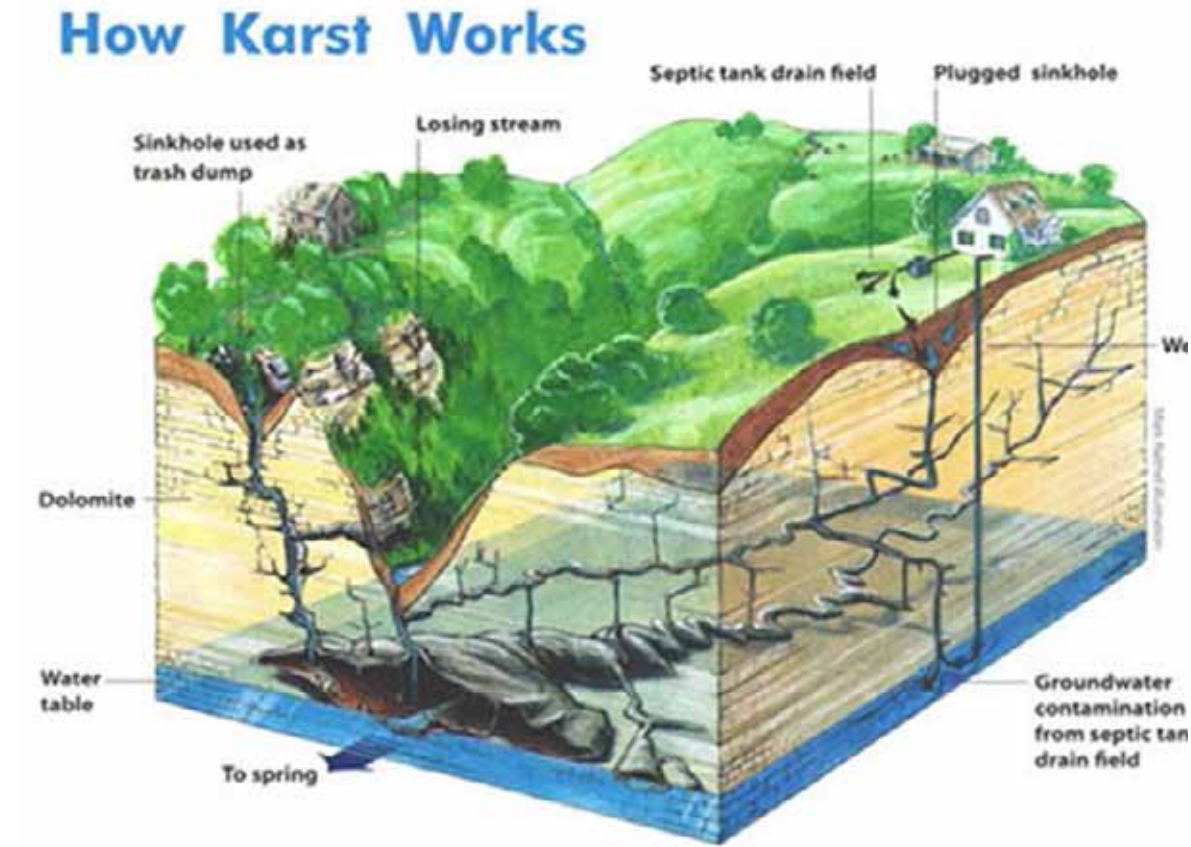
DNR Silica Sand FAQ: [http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lands\\_minerals/silicasand.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lands_minerals/silicasand.html)

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

To get on a list serve for updates and action alerts on the silica sand mining issue please send an e mail to John Lenczewski at [jlenczewski@comcast.net](mailto:jlenczewski@comcast.net)



This diagram illustrates the underground water channels which carry cold groundwater to springs and trout streams.



mining trout stream setback permit in a factsheet designed to provide guidance to potential applicants. The document is available online for review. The background information for it is below.

Background

Groundwater discharge from natural springs and seeps in southeast Minnesota is vital to sustaining the region’s trout streams and recreational, commercial, agricultural, environmental, aesthetic and economic values. Recognizing this, the 2013 legislature provided DNR permitting authority for any silica sand mining activities that occur within one mile of a designated trout stream.

As a result, the DNR is now developing the process to administer these permits. The permit will require a mine proposer to complete a hydrogeologic evaluation and collect any other information necessary to assess potential impacts to trout streams, springs, seeps, and fens and other hydrogeologic features. Based upon the evaluation, the DNR will identify appropriate setbacks from designated trout streams, springs, and other hydrogeologic features and any other restrictions necessary to these resources.

The DNR intends this permit process to complement other existing regulatory programs and not supplant or duplicate them. The permit process is limited to silica sand mining proposals that occur within a mile of a designated trout stream in the Paleozoic Plateau Ecological Section of Minnesota. This area includes the southeast tip of the state as shown in the adjacent map.

Observations and Suggestions for Improved Guidance

Every guidance document can use a few improvements to better alert would be applicants to their prospects of ob-

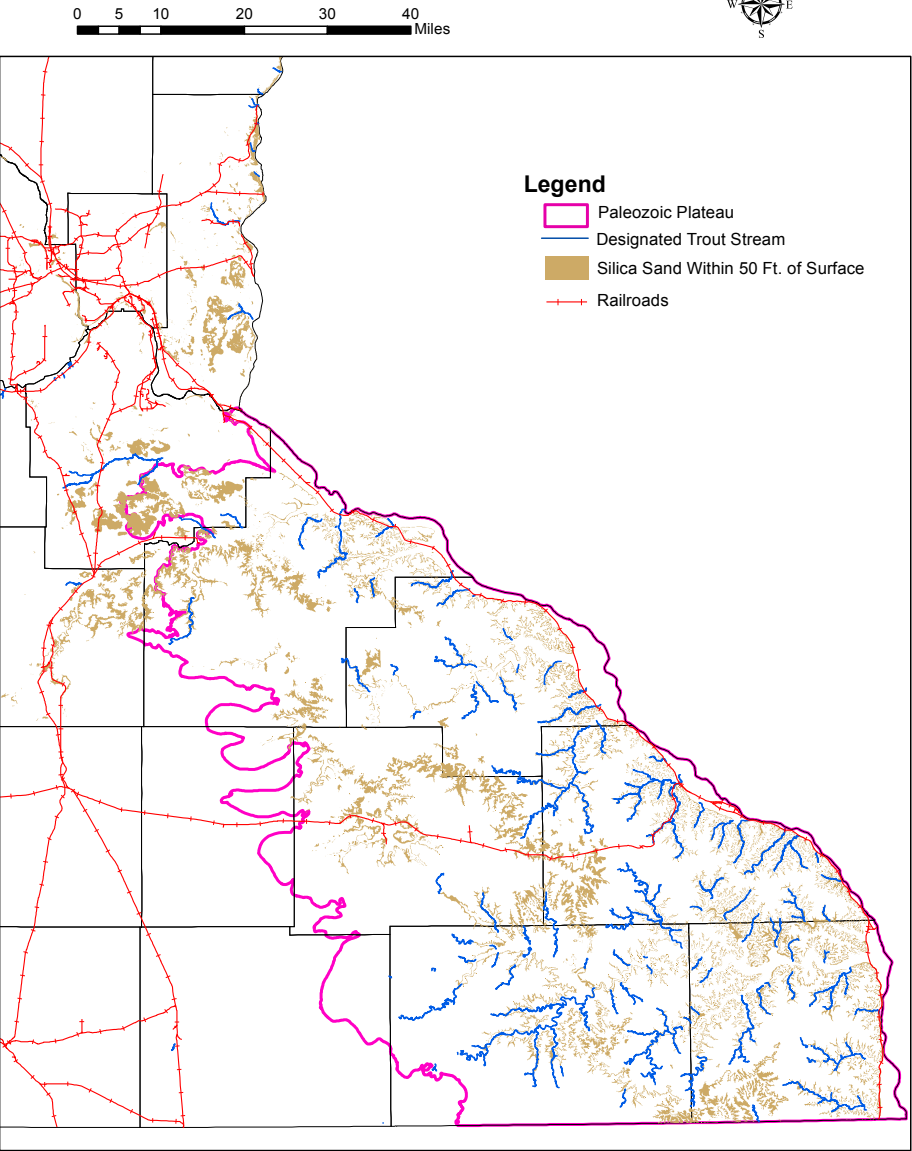
engaged anglers and citizens is needed to provide the visible public support essential to ensure the DNR can act to protect of the world-class trout fisheries in southeast Minnesota.

Minnesota Laws 2013, Chapter 114, Article 4, Section 66 prohibits silica sand

it should at least signal that such a restriction is very likely. For this reason the portions of the guidance document describing Tier 2 proposals should be revised. It is hard to imagine any instance in which allowing mining below the water table and the accompanying pumping

out of millions of gallons of groundwater in relatively close proximity to springs and trout streams would not impact water quantity and quality, and harm nearby trout fisheries. Applicants should be put on notice that appropriate restrictions for Tier 2 proposals are likely mean these operations cannot be sited within one

Silica Sand and SE MN Trout Streams



mining within one mile of Driftless area trout streams unless the DNR issues a permit allowing it. Inherent in this grant of permitting authority is the authority to deny a permit where the proposed activity, despite limitations or restrictions, would harm the resource. If the setback necessary to protect trout stream water



# MNTU CHAPTER NEWS



## Headwaters Chapter

The chapter is pleased to report that membership is up 35 percent since last season. Thanks go to the newsletter, which has seemed to really spur membership growth lately. The annual fall membership meeting will be held on December 3rd. Rod Pierce, a recent fisheries research biologist retiree from the MN DNR will be speaking. One topic will be his recent book on northern pike management. The meeting will be held at the Keg and Cork in downtown Bemidji, one block west of Paul Bunyan and Babe the Blue Ox.

In mid-July members of the Headwaters chapter, with help from DNR Fisheries in Park Rapids, spent a day making modifications, repairs, and improve-

and fence project, designed to limit cattle access to the stream, was originally completed by chapter members in 2010. However, high water had damaged the initial crossing, which featured pvc drop-pers suspended below a cable, so a new design was needed. The recent work replaced the cable system with two rock weirs, one above and the other below the area designated



THE HIAWATHA AND WIN-CRES CHAPTERS WORKED TOGETHER THIS SUMMER ON THIS STRETCH OF PINE CREEK THROUGH THE JACOBSON PROPERTY.



GITCHEE GUMMEE CHAPTER MEMBERS AT WORK  
FIXING THE KIMBALL LAKE OUTLET STRUCTURE

ments to a cattle crossing on the Kabekona River near Laporte. The crossing

for cattle to cross the stream. In addition, chapter members were able, with the cooperation of the landowner, to narrow the crossing area by moving a fence line. This will limit the amount of time cattle spend near the stream and expand the amount of protected stream bank.

The chapter is also providing input on Straight River issues, specifically ongoing area water withdrawal problems and the potential of a future pipeline crossing on the river.

Bob Wagner

## Twin Cities Chapter

TCTU had a productive season of habitat work on a number of locations. Look for an upcoming article highlighting some great volunteer effort on Mall of America Creek, where a section of stream has been redone to benefit a native brook trout population. A

large amount of work was done on Hay Creek, where a new portion of stream restoration was completed for 1200 feet at the downstream end of the previous project site.

Preliminary design work was also done for a section downstream of the town of Hay Creek on state forest land. This section is planned for construction next year.

Call Tony Nelson at 952-486-2282 or via e-mail [Tony@ligprint.com](mailto:Tony@ligprint.com) to volunteer or get involved with any of our upcoming volunteer opportunities this next spring.

Tony Nelson

## Win-Cres Chapter

The Win-Cres was busy with another season of habitat improvement this year with work on a wide variety of areas. The Garvin Brook project has experienced some delays due to flooding. Rock is currently being moved in with plans to construct habitat improvement beginning this spring. The chapter also assisted with Pine Creek as shown in the photo above.

If you're interested in getting involved in the chapter, Mike Trok can be reached at (651) 245-2923 or by e-mail at [mwtrok@riverlandcom.net](mailto:mwtrok@riverlandcom.net). Visit the chapter web site at [www.wincrestu.org](http://www.wincrestu.org) for more information

Mark Reisetter

## NEWS FROM TU NATIONAL The National Leadership Council

By Steve Carlton

Trout Unlimited recently released a report on the success of the Driftless Area Restoration Effort, or DARE. Here at Minnesota TU we are pleased to be able counted as the largest contributor and funder of that effort. Our state leaders, local chapters and volunteers have truly helped make the program a success in Minnesota. Kudos and our thanks and appreciation go to Jeff Hastings for his success in helping manage this funding and bringing projects to fruition, along with all of his outreach efforts. Here are some of the details gleaned from the report.

TU DARE is now in its eighth year, and continues its rapid pace of growth. In 2013 the program added more than \$4.5 million in direct stream restoration fund-

ing, helped to coordinate more than \$8M in overall funding for work in coldwater riparian corridors, and by the end of the project season will have completed an additional 12-14 miles of stream restoration across the region. Core project staff, state leadership and members of the Volunteer Steering Committee participated in almost 100 presentations, tours and public events in 2013. Our newsletter and Facebook presence are followed by 500 dedicated volunteers and partners, and grow every month. We end the year with nearly \$10 million in overall funding potential for coldwater watershed projects available for 2014, an additional \$1.25M in current outstanding proposals, and over 8 miles of new projects already planned for next season.



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A NICE NORTH SHORE BROOK TROUT COURTESY OF ANDRES MORANTES

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Email the editor with your photo, your name, the location the photo was taken, and any interesting information regarding the photo. We reserve the right to decline to publish any photos. Emailing the photo to the editor grants MNTU the right to utilize the photo for non-profit purposes.

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Healthy streams benefit everyone, not just anglers.

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

Membership Level	Yearly Dues
Stream Explorer (18 and under)	\$12
Senior (62 or older)	\$20
Regular	\$35
Contributor	\$50
Family	\$55

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# REELING IT IN

## Of Trout, Water and People ...

By Corky McHandle

The last rays of light always set too quickly on the Minnesota trout season. It seems like there will always be time for another cast, time to find another rising fish before the cold hands of winter grip the land again. And then it is done. So now is the no-trout time. The time that we consider what else to do. Some of us travel south. Some of us ice fish. Some dream of saltwater in the Keys or maybe Argentina or New Zealand. They are all dreams that we have from time to time.

I would like to propose that now is the time to get involved in your local TU chapter. We're not distracted by fishing, and that's a big plus. We've got great chapter meetings happening regularly throughout the state. From destinations and flytying to planning of conservation projects, this is the time when we can work together to get ready for the trout of next summer, and how we're going to help them.

### But hey! you say, I'm not ready!

None of us were "ready" when we started volunteering with Trout Unlimited. And your involvement never has to start large, or even ever become large. We at MNTU and the chapters around the state welcome involvement on all levels.

The best way to start out is to attend your local chapter meetings. They often take place at some pretty neat locations, like sporting goods stores, nature centers or clubs. Some even occur where you can get a good dinner. They often have interesting programs that can point out where or how to fish along with current conservation topics.

From there, if you're interested in helping we can work with you on any level. Want to fish more? We need help with youth and other educational programming in the field. Want to eat well? There are outdoor get-togethers, meetings, banquets and more that we need to organize. Interested in getting your boots wet and doing some manual labor? We need volunteers all around the state during the spring, summer and fall to help with habitat projects and surveys. Its a great way to see some good water and learn just where the good holes are- and where the next good holes are going to be!

So amble on down this winter, take a seat at a meeting, relax and have a good time. We hope to see you sometime. If you've got any questions, give any of the contacts for the local chapters on the third page of the newsletter a call or an email. They'd love to hear from you!

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