I cheated. That’s right, I cheated today. I went smallmouth bass fishing on the Mississippi. It was chilly and very windy, but we landed a bunch of smallies and I got a northern. I’ve had a decent year so far: bonefishing, trout fishing and now I finally dragged my drift boat out to chase some bass. I am an equal opportunity fisherman...I just don’t get invited to go walleye fishing anymore. I think my family thinks that I only fish for trout now.

Welcome to another wonderful edition of Trout Unlimited Minnesota. MNTU continues to stay very active protecting our rivers and streams. I hope you all were able to attend the Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo in March. Carl and Jade put on another great show that continues to grow year after year. This edition of the newsletter is loaded with everything you need to know about trout in Minnesota and what we are doing to protect them and their watersheds. You will also find stories on TU partnerships, youth education, fly tying tips, and ways for you, YES, YOU to get involved in Trout Unlimited. Be sure to take a look at the new project mapping on the website too.

Thank you to all of those who volunteer. Protecting our resources takes an active group.

A big crowd came out to work on Eagle Creek early this April and remove invasive buckthorn. Thanks to all the volunteers that worked hard to improve this Twin Cities metro trout stream!
FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Legislative Outcomes

By John Lenczewski, MNTU Executive Director

This year’s state legislative session was as unpredictable as any in the past decade. It did not help that rather than one omnibus bill per each subject matter area (agriculture, environment, etc.) Legislative leaders created an “omnibus-omnibus” bill that was jammed with policy changes. Then things moved very slowly in the last weeks, only to have unrelated, unvetted amendments added at the last minute. All this made it difficult to identify a clear target and messaging for members to make directed calls.

Most of the policies harmful to watersheds, groundwater and coldwater fisheries were tucked into this mega bill. Working with partners, we got the groundwater pumping and other provisions removed. However, enough bad policy remained in the 900+ page bill that we believed Governor Dayton would veto it. He did. In the end, conservationists and environmentalists settled for some delays in supplemental agency funding in return for blocking very destructive policy changes.

Another large bill containing both traditional bonding appropriations and appropriations from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) was a mixed bag. It funds some DNR projects and MNTU’s new outdoor education program grant, but it also raids funds constitutionally dedicated for environmental projects and uses them to pay the debt service on wastewater infrastructure projects. We and many partners called for line item vetoes of those appropriations whichransack the ENRTF funds. The Governor kept us guessing until May 27th, when he signed the bill without the requested vetoes.

One unmitigated success was the passage of the Legacy funding bill. This bill contains the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council’s recommended funding to enable MNTU and its chapters to restore habitat on another dozen project sites around the state!

I am looking forward to trading slacks and jacket for work gloves and waders. I hope to see you on a habitat project site this summer, whether along the Vermilion, Hay, Kadunce, Garvin, or any number of other streams.


gamefishing

EDITOR’S ANGLE

Planting Trees to Keep Our Fishing Great

By Carl Haensel, Editor

As much as spring means fishing time to me, it means tree planting time as well. Here in the north woods of Minnesota, ensuring that our trout streams are in good shape and carry lots of cold water is just as much about having quality forests as it is about habitat in the stream.

To keep our stream-side riparian forests healthy we often need to plant trees. Over 100 years ago, logging in the north woods took many of our long-lived pines and cedars. A burgeoning population of white-tailed deer has prevented their natural recovery for most of the rest of the time since then. To help bring back our forests, Minnesota Trout Unlimited has worked for years to plant many thousands of trees along streams throughout northeast Minnesota. This spring is no different, and we’ve already got many trees in the ground. More are coming however, and the ones that have been planted need maintenance and occasional help. If you’re interested in playing a role, we need summertime volunteers in the north, as well as throughout the state on projects around Minnesota. Check out the chapter news for more details in the back of this issue, and feel free to contact your local chapter president in the column at the right, or our state executive director John Lenczewski to get on our habitat volunteer list.

I hope that you get a chance to lend a hand this year as well as spend plenty of time out on Minnesota’s streams, rivers and lakes throughout the summer.
Lake Trout in the Boundary Waters

Catching Lake Trout, Appreciating the Wilderness & Conservation Issues

By Lukas Leaf

There was barely time to start setting camp when we heard the classic “fish on!” from across the point that was to be our home for the first two days in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area & Wilderness. I immediately smiled to myself. My friends and I have been taking annual trips for Minnesota spring fishing opener ritually for the last fifteen years and I knew when I heard those words that we were home. As I made my way with excitement to the palisade where Lee was fishing, I couldn’t help but feel a sense of contentment and gratification. I grabbed the net and with one fell swoop our crew had a lake trout for dinner ready for the stringer. It’s moments like these that can be described but only truly understood in that precious moment.

The Boundary Waters is a special place, filled with the wonders of the North-woods and an awe-inspiring landscape shaped by glacial movements millennia ago. At nearly 1.1 million acres, the Boundary Waters spreads across the northeastern tip of Minnesota. It is a vast boreal forest consisting of interconnected lakes, streams, wetlands and aquifers that provide some of the best fishing the world has to offer. These glacial movements bored out over a thousand lakes. More than a hundred of those lakes are deep, clear, cold, well-oxygenated and hold our native species of lake trout. Anglers from far and wide come to northern Minnesota for a chance to battle one of the most exciting pound-for-pound fish to hit their lure. Although the average size is around 2-3 pounds, there are absolute monsters to be found. A member of our crew on a trip last spring landed a 37-inch, 17lb laker that made the rest of the fish from our trip look like minnows.

It is a matter of time of year, strategy and technique. All of which, with a little experience, are quite easy to master. It is a matter of time of year, strategy and technique. All of which, with a little experience, are quite easy to master.
Conservation Issues and Current Mining Threats

The Boundary Waters was first designated as a wilderness under the Wilderness Act of 1964. In 1978, the Boundary Waters Canoe Area & Wilderness Act expanded the wilderness area to the nearly 1.1 million acres that it is today. The 1978 Act also established a Boundary Waters Canoe Area Mining Protection Area along the access corridors into the wilderness and banned mineral development within the Wilderness and the Mining Protection Area. Today, the Boundary Waters is the most visited wilderness in our nation with over 150,000 annual visitors seeking the amazing backcountry experience that it has to offer. The three million-acre Superior National Forest, which includes the Boundary Waters, contains 20% of all the fresh water in the 193 million-acre National Forest System. Downstream from the Boundary Waters are Voyageurs National Park, Rainy Lake, and Lake of the Woods, which provide some of Minnesota’s best hunting and fishing experiences. The Boundary Waters truly is a woods, which provide some of Minnesota’s best hunting and fishing experiences. The Boundary Waters truly is a place. For my friends and me it is a place for reflection and a way to get away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. These are the true backcountry experiences that we all seek as hunters and anglers. Nature has a special way of rewarding us and the Boundary Waters is no exception. The Boundary Waters and its watershed must be protected. It is up to us to defend our public lands, waters and sporting heritage.

Recently, the Department of the Interior reinstated two expired mineral leases to Twin Metals MN right near the edge of the Boundary Waters. A few weeks later, Twin Metals released a plan to move its proposed mining operations even closer to the Boundary Waters, locating a proposed industrial concentration facility on the banks of Birch Lake. The Forest Service is currently conducting an Environmental Assessment to determine the impacts that copper-nickel mining, including acid mine drainage, would have on the public lands, fish, and wildlife of the Boundary Waters and downstream lands and waters. The reinstatement of the leases to Twin Metals MN ignores the Forest Service’s decision in 2016 to withhold renewal of these leases and its application for a 20 year mineral withdrawal of lands surrounding the Boundary Waters. The Boundary Waters is an amazing place. For my friends and me it is a place for reflection and a way to get away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. These are the true backcountry experiences that we all seek as hunters and anglers. Nature has a special way of rewarding us and the Boundary Waters is no exception. The Boundary Waters and its watershed must be protected. It is up to us to defend our public lands, waters and sporting heritage.

Editor’s Note: Lukas Leaf is the National Sporting Director for Sportsmen for the Boundary Waters, a non-profit group working on conservation issues in and around the BWCAW. For more information, visit www.sportsmenfortheboundarywaters.org or contact Lukas Leaf at lukas@sportsmenfortheboundarywaters.org

to hole, laughing out loud as the lake trout slammed our lures. In the end, all four of us were able to head home with a couple fillets. This was a nice reward for our hard work. I generally don’t take fish home from the Boundary Waters, but this seemed like a special occasion. My wife and I enjoyed a dinner of fresh lake trout the very night that I got home. A reminder of the trip I had just taken and a small way to share the amazing experience with her.

Some eating-sized boundary waters lake trout caught through the ice in the winter (left) and destined for the frying pan (right)

Leaves at lukas@sportsmenfortheboundarywaters.org or contact Lukas Leaf at lukas@sportsmenfortheboundarywaters.org
I’m going to take a break, so you can cast now,” I said. “And yes, I know you’ll probably catch a big one.” This had happened so often when my husband and I fished together that it had become a running joke—every time I decided to take a break, he ended up hooking into a big fish and I was left empty-handed.

We were currently wading upstream taking turns casting a river that was known for holding large brown trout. Sure enough, a couple casts in he hooked into a fat, colorful 18” brown trout. In the Driftless region, this was a nice fish. “Shoot, I’m sorry!” He laughed. “I guess it’s your turn again.” We continued upstream and reached a deep, slow corner. I began casting and drifting my articulated streamer along the edge, and after a few minutes, I felt a light tap. A couple casts later I felt another hit again—it was taunting me. I threw my streamer in again, felt a third hit, and set the hook—my line took off fast and hard. The fish boiled up to the top of the water and we got our first glimpse. My husband made the universal grunting sound that means “this is a big fish” and grabbed for the net…

But First, Let’s Rewind a Few Years

I vividly remember the day I officially switched to the fly rod for two reasons. My husband started fly fishing a year before me, but we only had one rod, so I was still using spinning gear. On this particular day, we were on the river and came across two other fly anglers. At some point while chatting, one of them turned to me and asked “Why aren’t you fly fishing?” I don’t think he meant it in a rude way—honestly, he was probably just encouraging me to give it a try—but it was burned in my mind. Why wasn’t I fly fishing?

The second reason I remember the day I officially switched to the fly rod is a little ironic. We were wading back at the end of a day of fishing, and I happened to look down in the water at the branches of a fallen tree and noticed one of the “sticks” was bright yellow. I reached down and pulled out an old Eagle Claw fiberglass rod with an old plastic reel. We asked around to see if anyone had lost the rod, but never found the owner. I started using that rod every time we went out fishing, until finally, I caught my first little brown trout on a dry fly—the fish was hooked, and so was I. My husband quickly realized I had every intention of sticking to fly fishing and purchased a decent setup for me. (Also, if you’re the owner of that missing Eagle Claw and can tell me where you lost it, I’m happy to return it!).

Fly Fishing Really is a Community

It was also around this time that we began to get more involved in the community of fly anglers—both locally and online. In the local Driftless and Twin Cities area, we attended numerous events to learn more and started to connect with other fly anglers. While the majority of the them were male, they were always encouraging towards me and never cared when I would tag along with the group on fishing excursions.

Online, we also started to meet like-minded people, both in the further regions of the Midwest and across the country. One of the coolest aspects of social media has been the ability to connect and interact with other like-minded individuals fishing different regions.

Recently Orvis, one of the largest leaders in the fly fishing retail industry, launched an initiative called 50/50 On the Water. This program was created to encourage more women to join the sport and to promote the women who have already paved the way.

In December 2017, the New York Times wrote a trending article highlighting the fact that women are the fastest growing demographic in fly fishing, a previously male-dominated sport. Women now make up about 31 percent of the 6.5 million Americans who fly-fish, according to the article.

We’re getting close and momentum is gaining—the industry is more open than ever before towards women and from my personal experience, the fly fishing community throughout Minnesota and Wisconsin has been very welcoming and encouraging towards me.

I have recently been able to meet, and fish with, several other ladies in the area who share my passion for fly fishing and want to help grow the community of women anglers throughout the region. Some have been inspired and taught by the men in their lives, while others have taught themselves. It’s encouraging to see other women who are also passionate about fly fishing, and I look forward to continuing to get to know them and hope to meet many more!

I will continue to encourage any women out there who are interested, to give it a shot! It can be intimidating, but in my experience, people are more than happy to share their knowledge, offer tips and tricks or take you out on the water with them. Nobody has this sport completely figured out—there’s always more to learn—this is both the challenge and draw that comes with fly fishing.

What Draws Me To The Water

Over the course of the next few years, fly fishing began to consume the majority of our lives that was not spent at the office working. It is a delicate and intricate sport that requires patience and attention to detail.

I’m drawn to the water because there is always a new technique to learn, a different species of fish to catch, and more beautiful places to explore. In addition, fly fishing has given me a new appreciation for the environment. I realized I am lucky to have the Driftless and beyond as my playground—it was only fair that I helped maintain them.

I’ve been fortunate to be a part of a very welcoming community of fly anglers, and a supportive husband who is thrilled that I enjoy fishing. Our quality time together is spent on the water, and “date nights” in the summer usually mean taking turns casting a new stretch of a stream after we get off work.

Fast Forward to the Big One

… My husband made the universal grunting sound that means “this is a big fish” and grabbed for the net.

He scooped up the hefty, colored-up male brown trout and gave me an aggressive fist pump. This was officially the largest and most rewarding fish I had caught on the fly to date.

I lifted the fish out of the water long enough for a few photos, then released him back into the dark hole he came from. This was just a couple weeks ago, and I’m still riding the high from that fish (see photo above).

It’s rewarding to see the personal growth I’ve made fly fishing and how much I’ve learned, and I’m looking forward to continuing the journey.
In Part 1 we explained that every stream is a balance of stream flow (energy), sediment transport, stream slope and sediment size. To maintain good in-stream habitat we need to design projects to handle the energy of stream flow. A primary step on every project is to lower and slope back stream banks to allow high flows quicker access to the stream’s floodplain and reduce water’s erosive stress (erosive energy) on the outer bends.

Altering a bank’s shape is the first step to reduce the erosive force of water acting on the bank. But with this alone we cannot eliminate all erosive forces on stream banks, only reduce them. Instead we take additional steps to further reduce erosive energy on outer bends. Methods and materials are tailored to each site based on a hydraulic assessment of energy levels. Streams or stream segments with higher energy levels, notably those with steeper slopes or very high flows, may require that we secure the bottom or “toe” the bank slopes with rock and other techniques.

Why toe wood?
In many locations bank shaping reduces sheer stress (ability to erode soil) to levels where the bank can be held in place by the root systems of live vegetation. Vegetation is Nature’s erosion control, to dissipate the energy of water and reduce its ability to erode soil. To accomplish this, we often need to use woody material and/or biodegradable erosion control netting to hold banks and soils in place for 3 to 5 years until the root systems of live vegetation become well established and can continually secure the bank into the future.

What is toe wood?
Toe wood is a collection of woody material placed at the bottom or “toe” of a stream bank to both resist and dissipate the erosive energy of water hitting the bank. Often times we create a terrace or “bench” in front of what was a vertical cutbank. The bench consists of a bottom layer of logs, branches, brush, roots and soil. Root wads placed below the water line are sometimes incorporated to provide large trout habitat and additional roughness (to dissipate more energy).
Congratulations to the Winners!

This season was the fifth year for the MNTU Newsletter photo contest. We continue to get many entries, and with the advent of better and better smart phones and mobile devices, lots of you are shooting. Keep it up! Thanks to the great contestants that sent a wide variety of photos from around the state. A selection of winning photos are presented on this page. If your photo was not used here, keep an eye for it in future newsletters, on the website, our Facebook page or at the Expo in 2019.

The Rules of the 2018 Contest Were:

• 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, 2018.
• All photos submitted must be sent in *.jpg format at their original resolution to the Editor at: mntueditor@gmail.com
• There is a entry limit of three photos per individual. Please include the name of the photographer and the location the photo was taken in the submission.
• Submission of photos gives MNTU the right to publish photos in the MNTU newsletter and in online media.

2018 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 an official Minnesota Trout Unlimited T-shirt with the 2018 design and an official MNTU hat.

OVERALL WINNER
Family Fishing
Dream Catch
Lake Superior - Lake County
Photo by Beth Dayton
See page 2 & cover for info

First Place - Trout, Salmon & Steelhead
North Shore Steelhead Details
Stewart River, Lake County
Photo by Jason Swingen

Overall Winner
Family Fishing
Dream Catch
Lake Superior - Lake County
Photo by Beth Dayton
See page 2 & cover for info

Third Place - MN Waters
Opening Day
Eagle Creek, Scott County
Photo by Dan Callahan

Third Place - Trout, Salmon & Steelhead
An Introduction
Trout Brook, Dakota County
Photo by Tim Hemstad

First Place - Trout, Salmon & Steelhead
North Shore Steelhead Details
Stewart River, Lake County
Photo by Jason Swingen

Overall Winner
Family Fishing
Dream Catch
Lake Superior - Lake County
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Third Place - MN Waters
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Third Place - Trout, Salmon & Steelhead
An Introduction
Trout Brook, Dakota County
Photo by Tim Hemstad
**FIRST PLACE - MN WATERS**

**Fish On**
South Branch of the Root River - Fillmore County
Photo by Marty Johnson

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**SECOND PLACE - MN WATERS**

South Branch Whitewater River, Winona County
Photo by Craig Passow

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**SECOND PLACE - TROUT, SALMON & STEELHEAD**

29 Inch Hen
Baptism River, Lake County
Photo by Cheri Henderson
In the last edition of Trout Unlimited Minnesota, there was an article on fishing Garvin Brook. The article also highlighted some of the great work that the Win-Cres Chapter is doing to continue to improve our trout habitat. In the article, Win-Cres mentioned that the Shop Vac has been a great fly pattern on Garvin Brook. With that, I thought maybe you would enjoy a step-by-step tying instruction for the fly.

From my understanding, the Shop Vac was created by Craig Matthews at Blue Ribbon Flies in West Yellowstone. I do like to add a collar of either peacock herl or peacock dubbing to the fly. I think it cleans it up a little. I wonder if the fish care? This pattern has proven to be pretty effective this spring for several members of Laughing Trout. Tie some up and give it a try. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Paul Johnson
Laughing Trout Fly Fishing
Paulwaconia@gmail.com
952-334-4688

**Materials List**

- **Hook:** Scud, 14 - 18
- **Bead:** Gold Tungsten or Brass
- **Thread:** Uni 8/0 Dark Brown
- **Abdomen:** Pheasant Tail
- **Ribbing:** Gold Wire, Brassie
- **Wing:** White Zelon
- **Thorax:** Peacock Herl or Peacock Dubbing

**Step-by-Step Tying Instructions**

**Step 1.** Put the bead on the hook and insert the hook into your vise.

**Step 2.** Start your tying thread at the 3/4 mark and lay a thread base down the bend of the hook.

**Step 3.** At the back of the hook, tie in a length of wire.

**Step 4.** At the back of the hook, tie in your pheasant tail fibers.

**Step 5.** Secure the pheasant tail with your tying thread and advance your thread to the 3/4 mark.

**Step 6.** Wrap the pheasant tail forward to the 3/4 mark on your hook. Secure with your tying thread and clip the excess.

**Step 7.** Counter wrap the wire forward, with even-spaced wraps to form the rib of the fly. Secure with your tying thread and clip the excess.

**Step 8.** At the 3/4 mark on your hook, tie in a length of white zelon to form the wing.

**Step 9.** Clip the wing to about 1/2 the length of the hook shank.

**Step 10.** At the 3/4 mark on your hook, tie in several peacock herl fibers.

**Step 11.** Make several wraps of the peacock to form the collar on the fly. Secure with your tying thread and clip the excess. Whip finish & go fish!
I t's nerve-wracking: two days of work and nothing to show for it. What was I doing, or not doing? Frustration was mounting and it was time to change my routine. As I would find out, it all came down to my long strip.

The learning curve is huge in the transition from trout streams to salt flats. A few days in salt water is worth ten practicing in any park. Beyond the double haul, there are so many basics to learn: the environment, fish behavior and of course, just exactly how to bring one of these beauties up to admire.

**Marls Mindset**

We arrive and I begin asking, What is this place? Miles of shallow clear water, snake-like mangrove roots, muddy bottom in places, sand in others. It's navigable by flats boat with a small engine and pole in those really shallow spots. Wade-able by bare feet at times, light-weight wading boots in others. Worn coral shelves demand shoes with tough bottoms or salt boots. The wind affects water levels much more so than tide. When it blows from the east, it can mean skinny water and exposed mangrove roots with fish evicted from their homes. This is Abaco in early November, 2017 and these are The Marls.

Then, what are these fish? Permit, bonefish, barracuda are just some of the sought-after sport fish that inhabit these waters. This trip the target is bonefish that, according to Guide Paul, are the seventh fastest fish in the world and pound-for-pound the fastest. They're mentioned in the same breath as the mighty deep water sailfish, tuna and black marlin. Their sleek, keenly curved bodies glide along the bottom while their black tails wiggle above the surface. This gets your heart pounding as it's a sure sign that the ghosts are here.

**“Ten Things Have to Go Right”**

We see them, now what? As my friend Chip explained, bonefishing is almost harder than going hunting – ten things have to go right before you find the fish, and then ten more things have to go right after you find them. At least when you bow hunt, you reach a point where you just release the arrow.

Standing on the boat with my virgin eight-weight Sage HD Salt and Hatch reel, my Rio fly line is pooled on a mat with foamy spikes below my feet to keep the gusts from blowing it all over the place. I've false casted enough line to get the beast on the reel. Success – no barbless hook wasn't going anywhere.

**The Shift to Salt Eyes**

Now, where are these fish? How do I see them? My trout-trained eyes learn to focus on different movement, subtle color changes on the bottom, then sprite-like dashes as bonefish dart from feeding place to feeding place, rooting up tasty crustaceans. After feeding, they leave behind a faint light grey slick from where they had plucked a shrimp, worm or crab from the bottom. While this slick might be a giveaway to a school's location, it certainly doesn't promise fish. According to Guide Travis, the mark can linger in the water for hours.

Then, there's tailing. This is the stuff of legends. Bonefish in skinny water slipping along the bottom while their black tails wiggling above the surface. This gets your heart pounding as it's a sure sign that the ghosts are here.

The winds are ripping. They were a good 20 plus knots on the best day of this five-day hunt. For this beginner with the double haul, it seemed I had been thrown into the frying pan. While the winds play heavily into casting technique, they also determine fishing locations. Poling upwind is quite exhausting, so on most days, I found myself with the wind to my right while casting to nine, ten, eleven o'clock. Yes, I needed every advantage.

Then I hear the magic words: “Ten o’clock, 30 feet.” An inner voice screams, “Let’s do this this time.” I drop the fly, get some line out there then land a decent cast. Too short. I pick it up with a bit of finesse so as not to spook these three ghosts. I recast to 11 o’clock and hear “strip, strip, strip, wait … LONG STRIP.” This time, I made sure that barbless hook wasn’t going anywhere in those gummy lips. I lift the fly rod and guide the line with my left hand to get the beast on the reel. Success – no tangles. She’s zipping out there, looking for some way to rid herself of her captor. The reel is just singing. The fly rod butt firmly against my forearm while I search for the crank with my left.

The tension lightens a bit and I test this fish’s interest in coming for a visit. I find out she’s ready to play. So the game begins. Reel, reel, reel … tension again and the bonefish takes off back toward the mangroves, then turns again. I coax her back to less tangled waters and the fish comes closer, closer and sees the boat. My reel sings again and the fish seems to rocket even farther than its jaunt to the mangroves.

Finally, after another round of hide and seek, I sense we’re ready to have a quick look at this beauty. I begin reeling again until my hand is on the leader and my first bonefish is landed. Big smiles quickly follow from the guide, my flats partner and of course the angler. I finally get to see this ghost and admire my playmate.

Beyond silvery sides and a camo back, traces of iridescent burgundy and purple decorate its tail. Caught in the light, the bonefish shimmers in a suit of baby blue and light pink. While these colors might be soft, this fish is not soft fighter. I sense it’s ready to fight another day and I release this fish of the flats back to its hunting grounds.

Fist pounds, high fives and then the adrenaline rush begins to subside. The reality of what just happens settles in. I thank the guide for putting me on my first bonefish and my flats boat partner for the nudge to keep reeling. Then I hear, “Maybe next time, don’t long strip so hard.” An inner voice chuckles.

**The Best Fish May Be The One Not Caught**

The first two days on the water resulted in a huge learning curve. No matter how much I practiced casting or pretended I was on the bow of a flats boat, there’s nothing like life as the greatest teacher. The two days prior, I had multiple fish on. One broke off, the rest quickly shook the hook. The end of day two arrived with a bruised ego. After I embarrassingly explained my experiences to the seasoned anglers at the lodge, Patrick offered to help me practice the hook set. A resounding “yes” poured out of my mouth. It was crystal clear I needed to get this right.

By the lights of the porch and the crackle of a campfire, I pretended to catch fish after fish with my eyes closed. I tested the heart line strength. I learned that I needed to really set the hook with a good strong strip. Putting my ego in check and a little self-compassion for this novice turned my game around.

As much as I’d like to have been a natural at fly fishing, it just hasn’t happened that way for me. Work and life limits my time on the water. I’ve been told a million ways how to catch a fish, cast a fly rod. Each of those million ways is valid and helpful – no matter how much I wanted the coaching or not.

Fly fishing is the epitome of the pursuit of excellence – operative word being “pursuit.” It doesn’t ensure you’re always going to see what’s at the end of the hook, or even get one on the line. Each fish is different and requires a unique set of skills that seem to arise with experience and eventually, like second-nature in the moment. And, who says that the best fish is the one caught? Perhaps those that broke off or shook the hook are even greater, challenging us to learn more, rewarding us of the value of humility and the joy of pursuit.
The sun was out, but a face-biting north wind was chewing on my cheeks. I shoved my hands in my pockets and hunched my shoulders against the cold as I walked across the parking lot to a few men standing by an enclosed trailer. The trailer is stuffed with equipment for our Twin Cities Trout Unlimited (TCTU) chapter stream restoration projects.

It was 16 degrees F; stupidly cold for the metro area on Saturday, April 7, 2018. Snow still covered the ground. “Man, it’s cold. Do you think anybody is going to show up?” I asked Tony Nelson and Fred Bertschinger, the volunteers leading our “spring” work day on Eagle Creek, in the south metro city of Savage. “They always do,” Tony laughed, “We’ve never had to cancel a work day.” 55 enthusiastic people arrived to prove him right, and to prove the passion TCTU members have for our mission. The national TU organization chartered our chapter to carry out the mission: “To conserve, protect and restore North America’s coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.”

On Eagle Creek that Saturday, we volunteers worked in teams of chain sawyers, brush dragger and stump sprayers, clearing invasive, non-native brush.

It was so cold, I was concerned the liquid herbicide in the backpack tanks would freeze before we sprayed the buckthorn stumps, to keep them from growing back. I thought, “The weather could not be more ridiculous for this time of year.” Mother Nature laughed and said, “Here, hold my beer.”

She hit us with the record-breaking Trout Opener Blizzard of 2018 the next Saturday: White-out conditions, a foot of blowing and drifting snow, and no travel advised.

A text showed up on my phone early that morning. “Alright, dude. Are we seriously doing this thing?” asked Martin Ludden. He and another TCTU member, Kevin Weir, were supposed to fish the opener with me on Eagle Creek. “Highways in your neck of the woods look treacherous.”

I checked the Google Maps app. It was a web of red; all roads choked with traffic. Little car accident icons decorated the 22-mile-route Martin would have to drive from St. Paul to Eagle Creek. I called and cajoled him, “C’mon, it’ll be an adventure!”

Two hours later, I pulled in behind their four-wheel-drives and parked in a snow drift by the creek. Both lift gates were up, shielding Kevin and Martin from the drift by the creek. Both lift gates were up, shielding Kevin and Martin from the blasts of snow and ice pellets as they geared up for the worst trout fishing opener weather, ever.

I joked that it was TCTU’s fault. Our winter fundraising banquet had been scheduled for February 24th, but we had rescheduled it for April 14th. Old Man Winter had decided to follow us. We split up and fished.

The only thing we caught was media coverage. Three local TV station stories documented the freaks—err, the hardy Trout Unlimited members— who didn’t let the weather stop them from celebrating the fishing opener.

Their stories also mentioned how our volunteers are celebrating the 25th anniversary of our fight to save Eagle Creek, the last trout stream in Scott County.

In 1993, urban development was encroaching on the stream. Plans for Eagle Creek had been given preliminary approval without an environmental review. We alerted the state which stopped development until a review could be completed.

The City of Savage was put in charge of doing the review of its own plans and approved them. The DNR criticized the plan in its comments, but did not use its power to object to the adequacy of the environmental review, or call for a more complete Environmental Impact Statement.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is a state agency. It has many divisions, both literally and figuratively. According to several DNR employees at the time, who asked me not to use their names for fear of retribution, there were deep divisions about what to do about Eagle Creek.

Staff in the Ecological Services Division saw value in protecting and restoring the native prairie, woods, wetlands, and wildlife habitat as an asset for the metro area. Fisheries staff believed the creek was worth saving, since we had lost so many metro trout streams already to urban development.

But others in the agency said it was too late. Had the DNR acted earlier, and bought land from the original farm families, it would have been much cheaper than now, when a developer owned the west branch and had platted houses. The DNR decision makers deemed buying land there as a waste of money. The same money could be used to buy more land, on better trout streams, in southeastern Minnesota.

It was a lost cause, and not worth fighting anymore. I was one of the volunteers on the TCTU board at the time. Our next meeting was contentious. Chapter president Elliott Olson said, “We haven’t lost, until we quit.”

Up until this point we had always been DNR cheerleaders, not oversuers. Some longtime board members said we should agree with the DNR, and stop fighting. If we came out publicly against the city’s plan and said the DNR was wrong about the value of Eagle Creek, they worried it would antagonize people and hurt our relationship with the agency. Nonetheless, on a split vote, the majority agreed to keep fighting. We decided it was time for TCTU to start acting like the citizen-led, independent, watch-dog, environmental protection organization that we really were if we wanted to accomplish our mission.

We accepted that the developer’s land on the west branch of Eagle Creek was already platted for houses and that, at best, we could hope to buy more land from...
them to widen the protective corridor. The east branch was a different story. It was surrounded by a 160-acre, idled farm, which had been in Katherine McCune’s family since they homesteaded in the 1850s. McCune told me that she had turned down repeated offers from developers to buy her land. She also knew the city’s development plan showed an industrial office/business park on her property. “I don’t want to sell my land for a business park,” she told me on the phone in 1993, “I want to sell my farm for a state park.” She had to sell her farm to somebody.

City tax assessments against her land were more than $100,000. Interest was piling up every year she couldn’t pay them off. She was an unfortunate victim of leapfrog development. The city had installed sewer and water services along Highway 13 past her farm to serve urban development popping up farther away. Whether she wanted to develop her farm or not, she now had access to city services, and her land could be rezoned for urban development.

Urban development destroyed trout fisheries in Nine Mile Creek in Bloomingdale, Nine Mile Creek, the Vermillion, Trout Brook, and elsewhere. He’s the one leading our restoration work on Eagle Creek.

DNR trout habitat specialist. He’s the one who helped McCune tell me that it was a bad idea to strip protections from the Naas Creek, a trout stream in Burnsville.

The DNR also is a state government agency subject to political pressure at all levels. We can’t know what pressures are placed on employees, or how they might act if they think it’s what upper management or a powerful special interest might want.

Many DNR employees were happy the agency lost a court battle with TCTU and the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy (MCEA) in the 1990s. The court ruled the DNR must protect trout stream tributaries the same as they do trout streams themselves.

One example is Mark Nemeth. He is a DNR trout habitat specialist. He’s the one leading our restoration work on Eagle Creek, the Vermillion, Trout Brook, and elsewhere. He’s the one who helped gather the hard data that we needed to convince a different faction of the DNR that it was a bad idea to strip protections from the Naas Creek, a trout stream in Burnsville.

The DNR and city also bought more land to complete the corridor on the main stem of Eagle Creek. The first state Aquatic Management Area (AMA) in the state was established there. Now, AMA’s dot Minnesota, protecting large areas of land around high-value waters, including the Vermillion River.

DNR scientists and other staff are high-ly dedicated, well-educated, profession-al people who have made it their life’s work to manage and protect Minnesota’s natural resources. We can’t thank them enough for all they do for us. We are happy we have their expertise to rely on, and happy that many volunteer with us as TCTU members.
Trout Unlimited, many friends, family and the fly fishing community lost two incredible friends recently. Brian Schumacher and Janet Veit lost their lives while fly fishing in Iceland together on May 20, 2018.

Among his many passions, Brian was a writer, photographer and fly fishing guide who was a member, and on the board, of the Win-Cres Chapter of TU in SE MN. He shared his joy for fly fishing, volunteered and contributed time and money to help improve and preserve the cold-water fisheries of The Driftless area he grew up in. He also worked in the Gunderson Health System in Lacrosse for 25 years as a histologist helping others to battle cancer. He was a friend to all who met him and mentor to many anglers and hunters.

Janet was a TU member, passionate conservationist and animal advocate and lover. She was on track to become the first female fly fishing guide for The Driftless Fly Fishing Co. in Preston, MN. She taught others and shared her passion for fly fishing at Becoming an Outdoors Woman Fly Fishing classes at Whitewater State Park. Janet mentored other women and was a member of The Fly Fishing Women of Minnesota. Janet was a loved veterinarian at Hillside Animal Hospital in La Crosse, WI and gave loving care to many pets and their owners over her career. They loved their own family of pets including two dogs, Angus and Dora, and two cats, Nigel and Cassie. Their pets have been adopted by loving homes.

These incredible people will always be remembered by those who knew them, and their legacy will be carried forever by those who loved them, along the cold, clear streams of Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Editors Note: Strong supporters of MNTU, both Brian and Janet provided photos to this publication over the last few years, just one among the many ways they worked to benefit the conservation world.
You’re talented, right? At something? Or, maybe you want to get better at something, and would appreciate a chance to try your skills in a low-risk situation.

Welcome to Trout Unlimited, your personal-growth playground. The people involved with the six Minnesota chapters are volunteers. That means you can’t get fired, and we’re excited to have you around.

I wanted to get more experience doing social media. So I volunteered to help with communications in the TCTU chapter. Our communications committee has plenty of seating available, including for writers who’d like to contribute to this newsletter. Or maybe you like to shoot photos and video and tell stories. We’d also love to have web developers and IT gurus and SEO specialists and digital marketers join in.

I would rather die than try to do math. However, we need treasurers and people to help with things like check-in and check-out at fundraisers, filling out our annual report to the TU national organization, and keeping tabs on expenses and reimbursements.

Maybe you sell for a living. We could use your amazing skills, because we need to make our case to donors and foundations and our fellow members. The case may be for fundraising, but it might also be your persuasive skills at convincing a state lawmaker that our position on an issue is the right one.

Do you like to read, or research? We have a committee for that. A lot of development proposals affect trout streams, so it’s nice to have someone who adopts a stream from the comfort of their chair.

You could sign up to monitor city council and planning commission meetings in various cities, and check their online agendas and meeting minutes to see if anything affecting the Vermillion River, for example, came up.

We also could use your skills when it comes to environmental issues, because we need to read environmental reviews and submit comments.

Have skills at Customer Relationship Management software or databases? We have about 2,000 members of TCTU, and we’d like to do a better job of learning about their skills and talents, and telling them about things we do that they might like to do.

We also want to do a better job of keeping track of our stream restoration volunteers to help them grow into greater leadership roles so we can do more habitat projects. We’d like to do more landowner outreach and recognition.

We could use your help if you’re an event planner. Project manager. Fundraiser. Lawyer. Marketer. 

al manager. Maybe you do something that we haven’t even thought of doing, but you think it would be really valuable to move our mission forward. The best way to get involved is to send an email to your local chapter president or the MNTU executive director. They are listed on page 3.

If all else fails, drop me a line and I’ll get you connected to someone: dan@twincitiestu.org.
Our Minnesota weather has finally made the change from winter to a very brief spring and into summer. MNTU quickly wrapping up its outdoor education program for the 2017-2018 school year.

This winter, we helped start three different outdoor fishing clubs in St. Paul schools working with the St. Paul Police department’s PAL (Police Activities League) program. This has been a great partnership for teaching high school students about ice fishing and the students have been very helpful in passing their knowledge onto others at additional outdoor education and recreational events. Together we have been able to introduce over 1,100 students and families to this great Minnesota winter pastime.

On March 9th, we held our annual Student Summit involving more than 400 students from across the metro area. Thanks are in order to Inver Hills Community College who, once again, donated the space for us to hold this great event and enabled us to introduce the students to over 30 different professionals in the natural resources and outdoor recreation fields. Late spring was focused on final classroom visits where students learned about groundwater using the DNR’s new groundwater model. Students were able to see and understand how groundwater moves and affects all of us throughout Minnesota.

Of course, the highlight of this trout-raising education program is the release day! This spring we had nearly 700 students out on release days and we were able to add 2,000 rainbow trout to the Vermillion River in Farmington and 630 browns to Miller Creek outside of Lake City, MN. Beside releasing their beloved trout, students learned about stream monitoring, soil science, groundwater, birds of the riparian zones, pollinators, stream habitat and watersheds. All in all, during the 2017-2018 school year we reached more than 7,000 kids with some aspect of the program, teaching them about local waters, fish and the need to protect watersheds.

MNTU’s education program has been funded by an Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund grant, which ends on June 30. We would like to thank all of the teachers who have worked to incorporate this wonderful program into their school curriculum and the hundreds of volunteers who have given so much time, energy, and resources to make this program work. Many thanks are also due to the career professionals that helped out on field days and our annual Summit. Without all of them we would not have been able to accomplish so much and introduce the thousands of MN students to natural resource careers, groundwater, healthy water systems, wetland ecology and fish habitat. Over the past three years we’ve shared our knowledge and passions with more than 16,000 students and parents. We hope to expand upon this during the next three years of MNTU’s program.
Trolling the Web: The Minnesota Spring Inventory

By Dan Callahan

I try to pass along interesting trout fishing related resources I run across in my incessant search of some place to fish that no one else knows about.

The Deep State of Fishing

One of the most useful online resources you might use when trying to find a cold spot on a hot day is the Minnesota Spring Inventory (MSI). It has a really detailed map of springs and seeps all over the state.

In some cases, geologist extraordinaire Greg Brick has stopped by to verify the springs for the DNR, and has uploaded a picture, as well as his estimate of flow from the spring. He talked to a New Ulm newspaper about springs he had discovered recently, coincidentally on the same property as a DNR office.

As far as helping you find fish on marginal trout streams, I’d note where the springs are, and head to a spot just downstream when the water is getting warmer than trout prefer. What interests me more is when I see a bunch of springs on a stream that isn’t a state-designated trout stream.

I imagine I’m standing on such a stream, catching trout and thinking, “Huh, I guess nobody told the trout this wasn’t a trout stream.” I’ve used Google Maps to virtually fly over these streams. Then I’ve used Google Street View to peer over a bridge crossing, to see how big the water is. Then I might have actually gone there and caught fish.

So if you aren’t fishing hard, or are, and need a break, find a cool spring, snap a picture, fill out the description on your phone through the DNR’s MSI app, and boom: You are a spring source. You can find the website by searching for “Minnesota Spring Inventory,” or type in the link at https://arcgis.dnr.state.mn.us/gis/CitizenSprings/

Including MNTU in Your Estate Planning

A ny loss in a family is challenging. It’s much easier to delay answering uncomfortable questions such as “What happens to my assets and my loved ones when I or my partner dies?” So it’s no surprise that roughly half of Americans don’t have a will, and even fewer have an estate plan. While it is a hard subject to discuss, an estate plan goes much further than a will. Not only does it deal with the distribution of assets and legacy wishes, but it may help you and your heirs pay substantially less in taxes, fees, and court costs, as well as benefit the people and causes that you care about.

Including MNTU in your estate plans not only helps to provide for future programmatic and organizational security, it can take many different forms to balance your financial and philanthropic goals. Drafting these documents may seem like a daunting task at first, until you realize all the good that comes from having them. A gift in your will or living trust lets you make a meaningful gift to MNTU with ease and be flexible in your commitment. You can give cash, specific property or a percentage of your estate, with restrictions or without. Because your gift doesn’t come to MNTU until after your lifetime, you can change your mind at any time. To make sure your will accomplishes your goals according to your wishes, we recommend that you obtain the professional counsel of an attorney who specializes in estate planning.

Bequest Language

The official bequest language for Minnesota Trout Unlimited is:

Unrestricted General Legacy:

“I give Minnesota Trout Unlimited, a Minnesota non-profit corporation, presently at 7201 West 78th Street, Suite 207 Bloomington, MN 55439, my (specific personal property item(s) and/or real property located at ________) to be used at the discretion of its governing board.”

Gift of Residuary Estate:

“All the rest, residue and remainder of my estate, both real and personal, and wherever situated, I give, devise and bequeath to Minnesota Trout Unlimited, a Minnesota non-profit corporation, presently at 7201 West 78th Street, Suite 207 Bloomington, MN 55439 to be used at the discretion of its governing board.”

The information above is not intended as legal or tax advice. For such advice, please consult an attorney or tax advisor. Contact our executive director John Lenczewski with any questions or for assistance with estate planning, using this language or this process: jlenczewski@comcast.net or at 612-670-1629
Senior Fishing Day is an event that Hiawatha Trout Unlimited (HTU) has been involved in for nearly 25 years along with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Fisheries Division and the Chester (Chet) Daniels family. Al Bierley, his brother and sometimes other members of his family have been very involved as well. My wife Shelly and I have put on a BBQ for all of the volunteers for the last 6 years. It is an event near to our hearts. Several senior homes will bring staff and residents to Sylvan Park in Lanesboro, MN for a day of fishing. It’s a magical moment to see this elderly crowd act like kids again even for half of a day. This event will take place on Thursday, June 14th in the morning. It’s a great event to be involved in.

There will be several habitat improvement projects going on this summer as well. Our coordinator Paul Krolak will be working with John Lenczewski (MNTU executive director) and contractors to work on existing projects and start new ones.

This summer we will have construction going on Spring Valley Creek and Rush Creek (between the County 25 bridges). The Spring Valley work is a smaller-scale project designed by Melissa Konst and creating a passage barrier to native brook trout. The Rush Creek project this September. Look for more trout to re-colonize the half mile long project this September. For more opportunities to help with more planting in early fall and buckthorn removal in October.

Tree planting on our Kadunce River habitat project is scheduled for June 23. Get on volunteer list for details by emailing jlenczewski@mntu.org

Brent Nctohm

Hiawatha Chapter

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The first phase of our habitat restoration project on upper Chester Creek in Duluth was completed this winter when frozen ground allowed us to work with little impact to the otherwise wet site. The project is located downstream from Arrowhead and Rice Lake Road on a reach which decades ago had been ditched, straightened and directed through two 700 foot long culverts, destroying habitat and creating a passage barrier to native brook trout. We took advantage of frozen ground this winter to re-create a new, meandering channel with lots of instream habitat. On May 19 we held a volunteer work day planting cedars and dogwoods. Despite the wind and threat of rain we had an enjoyable morning planting more than 300 native trees and shrubs.

In July we will begin the second phase of construction, which includes removing the culverts, extending the creation of a new meandering channel past Madison Avenue, and restoring trout pasture. New habitat and cooler water temperatures will be waiting for native brook trout to re-colonize the half mile long project this September. Look for more opportunities to help with more planting in early fall and buckthorn removal in October.

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get more women involved, has been an honor to observe. So, please pass along your congratulations and thanks to Margaret. For those who know her, consider yourself blessed, for she is a true Minnesota treasure and dear friend of TU.

Habitat
As you know, keeping trout streams in good shape requires some elbow grease from time to time. On June 8, our chapter volunteers gathered to help spread seed along the S. Branch of the Vermilion River. On June 16, our chapter plans to clear fallen trees from Hay Creek in Redwing, MN. This is a pretty big job, so please consider coming down to help out in the fun and all-around good-for-a-good-friend! Visit our TCTU website for further details.

Education & Outreach
TCTU helped MNTU’s Trout in the Classroom program have an epic year, including 679 students from the Twin Cities chapter area who released 1,194 rainbows on the Vermillion! In addition, Stillwater students released 600 brook trout on Miller Creek this spring. A big thanks goes out to all the chapter members that assisted with the various TIC events this past year. It is a true partnership with many organizations, agency staff, volunteers, and schools. A big thank you to MNTU and its education program coordinator. Our chapter has been proud to be a part of this unique learning experience and we look forward to working with this program next year.

TCTU kicked off our 2018 Spring/Summer Fly Fishing Excursions with 18 people one evening on the Rush River this spring. A great time was had by all, teaching and catching fish were all part of the fun and the response to this outing was so positive! We plan to hold a few more throughout the summer, so stay tuned and check out our website and Facebook page for further dates and details.

TCTU was invited to take part in the Woodbury Cabella’s Go Outdoors Family Event Weekends in May. We assisted with fly casting and shared information about our chapter and its upcoming opportunities for getting involved in the sport this summer.

Chapter Meetings
A huge thanks go out to Bob Mitchell’s Fly Shop and Mend Provisions Fly Shop for hosting our March & April chapter meetings. We had record attendance this spring and hope to offer fun and educational meetings in a variety of locations to enhance the social-type gatherings. In addition, thanks to Dodge Nature Center for hosting our monthly chapter Board meetings. Look for a calendar of fall meetings on our website this summer.

TCTU Board News
A warm welcome goes out to our newest chapter Board members appointed in early March:

Chris O’Brien has joined the team as our Communications Coordinator. Chris comes with a great deal of background in this arena and many of you met him at our spring banquet, as he presented on some legislative highlights. Chris is working on our website, emails to our chapter members and our Facebook page. He has also agreed to head up our Strategic Planning Group for the chapter. We also welcomed Kelly Kallok to our TCTU team. Kelly is an avid angler who has volunteered to head up our Diversity and Inclusion initiative for the chapter. Kelly has been working with several groups locally and nationally to help involve more youth, families and women to the sport.

Lastly, we welcome Chad Dayton to the board. We are excited that Chad will be assisting on our education team. Chad has a wide array of experiences that will be very helpful to our chapter. Chad has developed educational outreach events throughout the country, as well as some amazing opportunities for MN residents to enjoy the great outdoors! Look for Chad working with these talented individuals and please welcome them if your paths cross this summer.

At our Chapter Annual Meeting in May, the TCTU Board decided to postpone our annual elections until later in 2018. The reasoning behind this decision was to take a pause to look toward the future. TCTU has changed over the years and our chapter needs have changed as well. Our hope in doing this is to create a community who understands our mission, wants to get new people involved with the sport. Our chapter has done so many extraordinary things over the years and we look to build upon this foundation to open our organization to new talents, ideas and opportunities. Our chapter board is very excited about this new initiative. In the coming month, we are creating a Strategic Planning Committee, a By-laws Committee, and Nominations Committee. If you have thoughts, suggestions or may want to get involved, please contact the following Committee Team Leaders:

Josh Mancell-By-laws Chair - joshmancellcell@hotmail.com
Chris O’Brien-Strategic Planning Chair - twinstafish@gmail.com
Mark Johnson-Nominations Chair - mjohnson@engagescar.com

Finally, a very special thank-you goes out to The Norling Family for their continued support of our chapter over the years for their generous donations of hand-made, one of a kind, bamboo fly rods. The beauty and artistic quality is like no other. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts and appreciate our unique partnership.

TCTU Summer Dates to Put on Your Calendar:
July Summer Fish Camp at Whitewater State Park-July 15-17h
Please contact: Rob Norjean, TCTU Special Events Coordinator, norjean@comcast.net or Benji Kohn, committee member, benjikohn@hotmail.com

Rush Creek.
A former Rushford student (who was introduced to trout fishing by Mike Jeresek) now teaches in Goodhue. Robbie Ebner brought 25 Goodhue High School fishing club students to Rushford for morning classes on spin fishing, fly casting, fly tying and trout life in a stream. Instruction was provided by Win-Cres members. After morning instruction and a picnic lunch, the students spent a few hours in the afternoon with Win-Cres mentors fishing for trout on local streams.

John Weaver, Winona Middle-School teacher, has used fly rods from the MNTU grant that John Lenzcowski obtained to introduce students to the use of a fly rod. He works with students who normally would not have an opportunity to fish. Marlene Haxton uses some of the fly rods to teach fly casting at several sites in southeastern MN. The fly rods will be used for casting in the park and fishing Lake Winona this summer.

Work days are also being scheduled to once again mow access trails along Rush Creek, Garvin Brook, Hemmingsway Creek, and others, using the chapter’s brush mower.

Chuck Shepard

Win-Cres Chapter
The Win-Cres Chapter has been busy this spring and we look forward to being active during the summer. Two work days were held on Garvin Brook cutting brush and trees to prepare the upper section for habitat improvement (HI) work this summer. The HI work will connect our Phase I project to Farmer’s Park. This work will begin when work on Cedar Valley Creek is completed. We will have two skyhooks to build and assist in seeding when the work is completed. Outdoor Heritage Fund dollars have funded three projects in the past few years on Garvin. This stream will be a very good example of what cooperation between groups can accomplish. After the work on Garvin is completed, HI work will continue on Rush Creek.

“Of all the leaders I have ever worked with in my life,” - Jim K.

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TCTU First Annual Paddle on the St. Croix-Date and Details-TBA
TCTU & Kiap-Tu-Wish TU-Summer Picnic-Date and WI Location-TBA

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TCTU & Kiap-Tu-Wish TU-Summer Picnic-Date and WI Location-TBA

Win-Cres Chapter

The Win-Cres Chapter has been busy this spring and we look forward to being active during the summer. Two work days were held on Garvin Brook cutting brush and trees to prepare the upper section for habitat improvement (HI) work this summer. The HI work will connect our Phase I project to Farmer’s Park. This work will begin when work on Cedar Valley Creek is completed. We will have two skyhooks to build and assist in seeding when the work is completed. Outdoor Heritage Fund dollars have funded three projects in the past few years on Garvin. This stream will be a very good example of what cooperation between groups can accomplish. After the work on Garvin is completed, HI work will continue on Rush Creek.

“Of all the leaders I have ever worked with in my life,” - Jim K.
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Healthy streams benefit everyone, not just anglers.

We'll assign you to a local MN chapter. Chapters meet regularly to hear about fishing hot spots, discuss conservation issues, plan work days on their home waters, organize fundraisers, and of course, swap a few fish tales and learn how to tie the latest fly patterns.

All members also receive this publication as well as TROUT, TU’s national magazine. Other benefits include a 16-month TU calendar, car rental & hotel discounts and more. TU offers a variety of membership categories.

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For those of you who are members of chapters in other states, or who would like to directly support MNTU’s newsletter, we welcome subscribers who would like to receive and support the newsletter. Sign up to get three colorful issues like to receive, and support Minnesota Trout Unlimited’s newsletter. We welcome subscribers who would like to directly support MNTU's newsletter, we welcome subscribers who would like to receive and support the newsletter. Sign up to get three colorful issues.

Dear MNTU Member,

With leaves on the trees and plenty of fishing opportunities available, a lot of you will be hitting the water throughout what Minnesotans like to call the “Road Construction Season.” The few months that allow for maintenance of our highways, and along with warm weather, offer a good shot at fishing our trout streams, rivers and lakes around the state. Good luck to all of you that get out there. With over 60 miles of trout streams that TU has improved in just the past 10 years, there is now more habitat-improved water than most people can fish in a summer, or maybe a few summers. The trick is, how to find this water. Well, for those of you in the know and taking the time to read this, you’re in luck.

**New MNTU Mapping**

MNTU has been hard at work creating a new map, available online at www.mntu.org, that highlights all of our recent work around the state. From big trout rivers to tiny trickles through pastures, they’re on line, and you can zoom in all the way until you can see the cows in the pastures in SE MN, and get a good look at some of the water. You can follow links on the map posts back to pages that describe some of the individual projects, what went on, and when it all took place. Note that all habitat improvement is not equal, and some projects, like the flood debris and log jam projects on the Blackhoof River in Carlton County, may have addressed miles of river, but are not “classic” habitat work. Look for improvements, modifications, more photos and more streams to be added as we move forward with website additions in the future. We hope this information helps you expand your trout fishing options.

If you’ve figured out where you want to head, and you’d like some “in the field” help, remember to check out TroutSpotr, a computer and smartphone web application that provides great access to where publicly fishable land exists throughout the region. 2017.troutspotr.com will take you there, and keep your eyes open for updates as well.

Donate to MNTU!

Minnesota TU is the leading voice, your voice, advocating for coldwater fisheries and watershed in Minnesota and the region. Our effective advocacy work and successful habitat grant writing efforts cannot continue without your direct financial support of Minnesota TU. We receive none of the donations raised from TU’s direct mail and other fundraising efforts, and the small portion of your membership dues we receive is less than the cost to print and mail this newsletter. We need direct support from you - members and non-members alike - to keep us working effectively for you, your family and your friends. Every dollar of your donation will be used here in Minnesota.

Donate online at www.mntu.org

Mail Completed Forms To:
Minnesota Trout Unlimited
P.O. Box 845, Chanhassen, Minnesota 55317