TROUT UNLIMITED MINISOTA

The Official Publication of Minnesota Trout Unlimited - November 2019



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A Month as a Trout Bum

Regional Artist Profile: Jake Keeler

Ice Fishing for Lake Trout

Youth Series: The Trout Life Cycle
Tying the Purple Prince Charming

Trout Stream Designation Changes

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TROUT UNLIMITED MINNESOTA

The Voice of MNTU

ON THE COVER

Pete Koski fishes to wild trout on a productive section of Hay Creek. Photo by Mike Riemer.

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Please call 1-800-834-2419 or email trout@tu.org to update your contact information.

MINNESOTA COUNCIL UPDATE

Trout on Tap Garage Sale

By Steve Carlton, Minnesota Council of TU Chair

here are 20-foot waves on Lake Superior today. Some people say "That's good steelhead weather." It sounds more like a night for tying steelhead flies to me. Not much time is left to get up north. The end of the Wisconsin season is November 15, but I'm hoping to get in another few days on the Bois Brule River.

This winter I'm really looking forward to the "Trout on Tap Winter Garage Sale" that MNTU is planning this January. A detailed ad is on page 23 of this newsletter. I've wanted to put on one of these events for years, and I think it will be a great social event and fundraiser for MNTU.

Over the years, fishing gear gets acquired and much of it isn't used as it once was. Looking in my garage, I've got plenty of gear that's in good shape, that could use a good new home. I'm hoping that someone could get it out on the water more often, and catch a few more trout than I have with it recently. If you have pre-owned trout fishing equipment you would like to part with, please plan to get a table on January 25 at Able Seedhouse & Brewery.

Maybe you are just getting into fly fishing and need quality gear, but don't want to make a big investment. This event is for you! There will also be plenty of MNTU volunteers who can answer questions about gear and how it might



work for you. We'll also have the opportunity for you to tie some flies, or just hang out and grab a beer with friends on a cold winter day.

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SIXTH-GRADERS FROM UPPER MISSISSIPPI ACADEMY WADE THROUGH MINNEHAHA CREEK ON THE HUNT FOR AQUATIC MACROINVERTEBRATES.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Brook Trout Resilience

By John Lenczewski, MNTU Executive Director

Tor the past year, Minnesota TU d has been working closely with the land protection community to combine habitat restoration with targeted land protection. This is targeted in a small group of southeast Minnesota watersheds which hold remnant populations of native brook trout unique to southeast MN.

Prior to European settlement, native brook trout inhabited all of the current coldwater trout streams in southeast MN, and almost certainly additional streams which have not recovered from degradation in the 1800s and early 1900s. Over thousands of years, brook trout evolved at the edge of their species range in the unique conditions found in this corner of the state. During the mid-1800s, logging and intense agriculture degraded trout streams and, by the late 1800s, it was presumed that most native brook trout populations had been wiped out. Stockings of eastern strain brook trout

and brown trout were begun to provide fishable populations. Since then, land use has improved and most trout stocking has ceased as wild, self-sustaining trout populations have flourished. Given the historic stream degradation, years of stockings of eastern-origin brook trout, and abundant brown trout populations, it had been assumed, as late as the 1990s, that Minnesota's native brook trout were extinct.

This assumption began to crumble following genetic research on brook trout in the late 1990s, funded in part by an Embrace-A-Stream grant from Trout Unlimited. Primarily aimed at "coaster" brook trout in Lake Superior, we pushed to include samples from southeast MN. Genetic testing methods were more limited then and could only hint at native brook trout resilience. Recent genetic research by the MNDNR and University of Minnesota has revealed that remnant populations of brook trout unique to



southeast MN have persisted in a small number of streams. The resilience of these truly native populations in the face of genetic swamping by eastern hatchery plants is amazing.

The trend of increasing spring flows in southeast MN has created conditions favorable to preserving and expanding the range and resilience of these native populations. Targeted work with our partners at the Minnesota Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy, and Trust for Public Land Work with allow us to do just that.



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EDITOR'S ANGLE

Design Your Own Volunteer Experience

By Jade Thomason, Editor

▲in southeast Minnesota. In two days my husband and I photographed 15 trout waters and it was a splendid task to be required to do. Much of the streams we could only fish for a few moments, but the value and diversity of each was quickly apparent. Many of these waters have also had habitat improved by MNTU in the past, and it was eye-opening to see so many years of effort paying off in a myriad of ways. Needless to say, it was difficult to peel ourselves away from rising and eager trout to move on to the next watershed. We will be back to visit the trout in these streams as soon as we can.

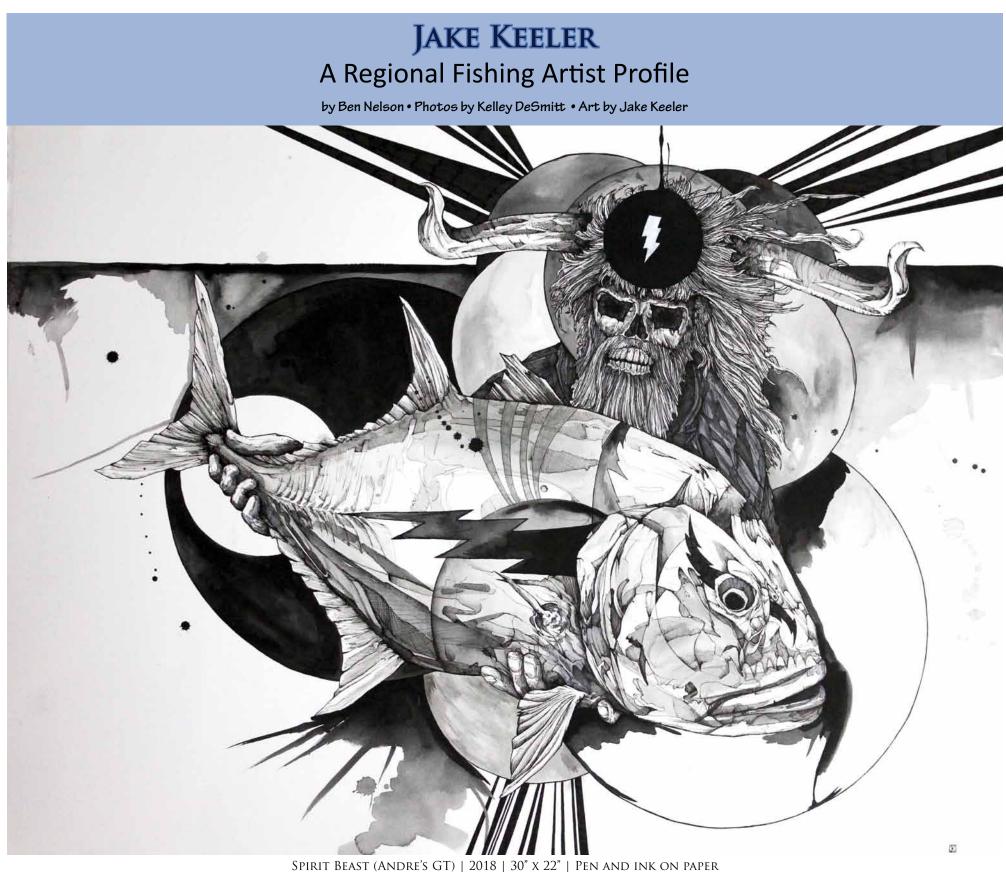
Mike Riemer spent much more time than us in September out photographing Minnesota trout streams. Mike contacted MNTU with a proposal to use a month-long work sabbatical to volunteer

had the recent joy this fall of hav- for MNTU. He explored many habitating a trout stream photo assignment improved sections of Minnesota trout waters and shot photos of the habitat sites and the fishing available. His background as a photographer and his passion for fly fishing were well suited for this unique volunteer task. Check out Mike's two articles on pages 8 and 18 of this newsletter. At the end of the month he also hosted a successful stream cleanup along Amity Creek in Duluth. A huge thanks is due to Mike for his effort this September and his initiative in reaching out to MNTU.

> Do you have free time you would be interested in volunteering for MNTU? Contact your local chapter president, Northern MN Vice Chair, Carl Haensel, or MNTU's executive director, John Lenczewski for ideas on how you can get involved. All of the contact information needed is in the right column of this page. MNTU is a volunteer-supported



organization and there will always be room for your particular skill set. I also would be interested in hearing about how you got involved with MNTU this season. Contact me if you would be interested in writing or providing photography for this publication, we are always looking for new contributors!



"Dude. You need to trust your instincts," says Jake Keeler. Jake is a few sips into a beer and a conversation about his passions: art and fly fishing. He's just getting warm. He sets down his drink, allowing him to talk with his hands. "It's deliberate. You have to go find them. They won't find you. I'm doing something very deliberate." Jake makes eye contact. He speaks like it matters. "And when it comes together, that's going to stay with me. I'm going to remember that." Keeler begins to describe fishing a cold, wet spring day in the Twin Cities. He knew the river would be high. He didn't care. He needed to get out.

"My friend and I were poking around some flooded water in the metro, not far from my home in Eagan," Jake says. They read currents and eddies, watching patterns in bubbles, the way water slides over rocks. "We weren't finding much, and then we came upon some really good looking water. Flooded grass, knee/thigh deep." Keeler senses something. He ties steel tippet and a streamer onto his leader. "It looked fishy. It looked like a perfect spot for a pike to chase wayward baitfish." Jake steps into the water, pulls line from his reel and casts toward submerged grass. Jake strips line and the water erupts. His reel spins, his rod bends. Thirty inches of teeth and tail come to the surface. Jake lands the pike and releases it. The pike slides back into

the current, back to the darkness. Keeler stands in the water. He about drawing pike.

"The energy ebbs and flows," says Jake. "I'm inspired by the season." In the summer, Keeler will have pike, walleye, carp and smallmouth on his mind and on the page. He's thinking and drawing steelhead in the shoulder seasons. "The more I fish, the more I want to draw. They feed off each other."

"When I make one of those pieces, and people respond like I want them to, to be understood, that's a pretty amazing feeling," Keeler says. "At the end of the day, whether I intend to or not, I use these as a vehicle to communicate with people. If I could put it in words I would just write it. I can't communicate it in other ways. I want some openness to it. The best art, music, are just guideposts to help you come to your own conclusions. The viewer makes the art their own. You feel something. There is a vibe. These are small cues to help you go somewhere. Hopefully the journey is a fun one."

Keeler's journey started in Central Minnesota, outside of St. Cloud. "My dad was a hardcore fisherman. We'd fish the Mississippi for walleye and bass. As a kid that's all I wanted to do," Jake recalls. "I would pedal off with my fishing rod and be gone until supper." Jake would dig in ponds, finding creatures from another world. He'd catch snakes and salamanders. "Not a lot of things

breathes, he smiles. He starts to think have that sense of wonder and creativity," he says, "an unknown world."

> Jake's grandfather, mother, and brother are artists. "My family has always had a positive influence on my work. Primarily through support, but also in their own artistic endeavors, which have always been inspired by the natural world," Keeler says. He has formal training: an undergraduate art degree from Macalester College and a Masters of Fine Art from the University of Wisconsin. Jake met his wife, Lucretia (also an art major), at Macalester. They were married after college. They have an eleven-yearold son named Arlo.

> Jake started drawing fish eight years ago. "It clicked. I'd been a lifetime fisherman. Of course I should be doing this. I loved it," he says. Jake practiced the forms, then introduced humans and characters into his work. "I'm an experiential learner. I need to dive in, fail, repeat. It's like a good caster. How do they make it look so smooth? They practice a lot." Over time, he's taught his hand the form of fish and skulls. "Now it's instinctual, either instinct or muscle memory." Keeler creates illustrative paintings and drawings. His work is informed by graffiti, fantasy art, poster art and album art. He studies a narrow subject matter. "I find much more satisfaction in focusing and being deliberate with fewer pursuits, versus spreading my attention, time and energy across a wide-swath of activities.

I always strive to achieve a certain degree of greatness with whatever I put my mind, time and energy towards. Doesn't always happen, but the drive is there."

A friend from Africa commissioned Keeler to paint a piece commemorating his giant trevally. Keeler was almost finished and was sure his friend would like the art. But to Jake, it was only OK. It was good but not good enough. He sent an apology and started over.

Jake approaches fishing with the same intensity. Year after year, Jake returns to the same rivers, the same sections of rivers. He wants to know how the runs and the riffles change with season and depth. He wants to know them completely. He wants to know about the boulder below the surface and the bugs by month. A mid-sized river in Wisconsin is his latest obsession. "It's small enough to wade but big enough to fish all day. It's great for smallmouth in the summer. You can catch huge brown trout at night." Jake wants to know every inch of it. "If you've spent a lot of time on the water you'll know - fish this bank, swing that run. The flow is right, the temp is right. That knowledge resides in you. You can't get it from a book."

"A lot of people value nature," Jake says. "Fly fishing connects people to nature, intimately. There's gravity in that moment, imitating a mayfly. Tying a tiny bug that most people wouldn't notice.





Left: Waders and water bring out Jake Keeler's inner teenager. Right: Distortion Pedal Speyer $\mid 2017 \mid 18" \times 24" \mid$ Pen and ink on wood panel

And they're only right here, they aren't in the lake over there. They weren't here earlier. You participate, become a part of the ecosystem, part of nature. That interaction is so intense. I am part of the landscape right now."

In 2016, Keeler became a more active environmentalist. "I have a responsibility as an angler," Jake says. "I can't just use the resource and expect it to take care of itself. I can't expect others to pick up the slack." As the federal government deregulated industry, Keeler asked what he could do. "I can't always join projects to clear buckthorn on the Vermillion River, but I can contribute in a way that works for me. I can sell my art." Jake has been donating at least 30 percent of his

sales to clean water charities like Trout Unlimited, efforts that protect places like the Boundary Waters and Bristol Bay. "We need to stay focused on conservation and environmental issues. Do the small things. Some of it is really fun. It feels good."

Jake has worked in the brewing industry for 15 years. He is the vice president of marketing for BSG, a large ingredients supplier. He works on a five block campus; he travels around the world. Keeler finds similarities between brewing beer and fly fishing. "Both are a combination of art and science. Fly fishing is very technical. You are trying to predict a fish's behavior, using water clarity, bugs, barometer. The flies we tie are art.

And in brewing, your mash regimen, the design of the mash tun, steeping milled grains--there's massive amounts of science. I get to work with something so technical that can be enjoyed as such a basic experience."

Jake keeps a special photo of his father. It was taken on a day they spent bass fishing together on Lake Minnetonka. The smile on his dad's face is timeless, it could be a child's. One of Jake's favorite things now is fishing with his own child, Arlo. They cast 3-weights over a local lake and catch sunfish off the surface. "It's something that can be shared with a kid and a grown person. That's something special," Jake says.

Keeler and his friends have been making fall steelhead trips to Wisconsin's Bois Brule river for years. Everybody brings something. One guy's wife always makes lasagne. Jake brings the beer. He might buy a few six packs for the trip, something good and easy. He might also plan weeks ahead, spend hours, and brew something personal. "Usually something hoppy, about 6 percent." Jake ties his own flies too. "I'll use my flies to a fault. I tied it, I'm going to keep using it until I catch a fish." Jake knows that both the home-brewed beer and the home-tied flies are a risk. They might not work out, but when they do, it is more satisfying.

"I've gotten older, anglers go through phases, now it's about a good



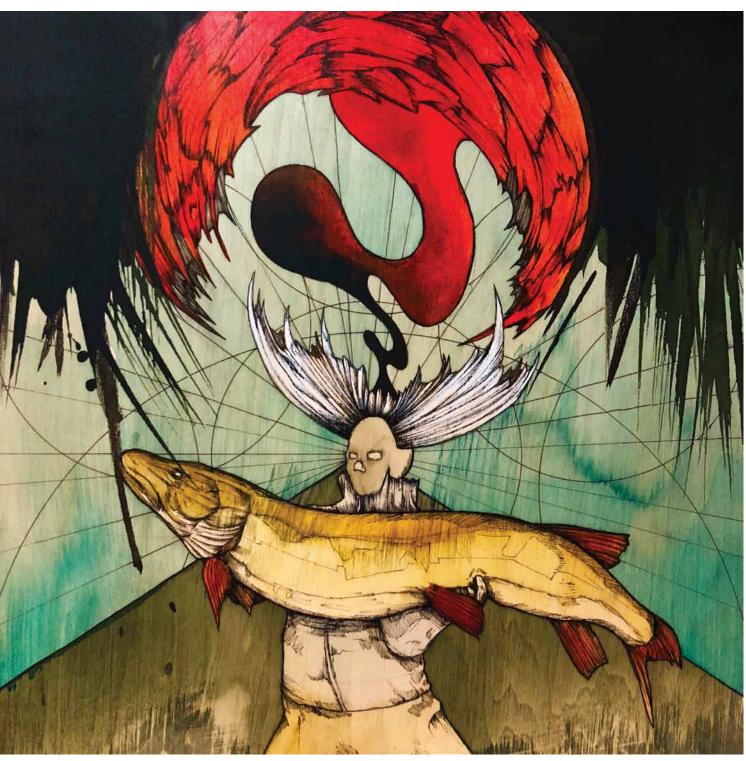
FROM VICE TO BOX TO TIPPET, JAKE KEELER PREPARES TO SWIM A STREAMER.

experience," Keeler explains. "We keep gentlemen's hours. We might not get to the river until ten. We might leave before dark." They fish their favorite runs. They don't always catch fish, but they will leave the river happy. And then they'll play cards. "Fly fishing is a vehicle for experience. I think of new anglers, wearing flat-brimmed hats with stickers on their trucks, I hope they find that. I'm seeing more pictures of landscapes or animals they run into rather than a grip and grin. That's good."

Jake thinks back to the pike he caught this spring, "It was a good fish; what made it special is that my instincts told me right where to find it. That's a satisfying feeling when 30-plus years of fishing turns into a sixth sense and helps put you on fish. It was the exact experience I was looking for that day. I think that's when I feel the most connected to the natural world. At 42, I get the same giddy excitement with fishing that I had when I was ten. I think that sense of wonder, discovery, and connection to the natural world never leaves you, it can evolve and change with time, but it's always there under the surface." Jake pauses, he smiles. "And art is the same way. As a kid I would draw a dragon. Now I can still draw a dragon. Or maybe it's a musky."

See more of Jake Keeler's artwork at 20acrecarcass.com, on Instagram @Jake-Keeler and on facebook @JakeKeelerArt.

Ben Nelson is a physician in Duluth, Minnesota. He lives there with his wife and three children.



Four Horsemen: War | 2018 | 12" x 12" | Pen and ink on wood panel





FLY TYING

With Laughing Trout Fly Fishing

By Paul Johnson



Purple Prince Charming

Bead:

Several years ago, I came across a fly pattern called the Prince Charming. It was kind of a cool-looking fly tied with an olive body and a short marabou tail. I tied a few up and they looked okay, but just OK. I decided that I really did not like the marabou tail, so I switched that to Zelon. While I was at it, I changed the body to purple. With those changes, the Purple Prince Charming was complete.

The fly is really just a modified Prince Nymph and fishes well all season. I think the greatest strength of the fly is the collar tied with standard dry fly hackle. The collar seems to hold some air bubbles in the water. The collar is also the greatest weakness in the fly. It always seems that after catching a handful of fish, they chew threw the hackle and it comes loose, even with a couple wraps of tying thread.

The fly catches fish, but isn't super durable? I think I will go with catching fish!

If you have any questions about any of the patterns that we feature here in our newsletter, please feel free to contact me.

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



Hook: Scud hook

Size 14-16

Purple Uni 8/0 or 6/0 Thread:

> Gold, Brass or Tung sten, Sized to Match

> > Hook

Wing: White Goose Biots Tail: Mayfly Brown Zelon

Purple Sexi Legs, Span Abdomen:

> Flex, Dubbing or Fly Tyers Dungeon Purple

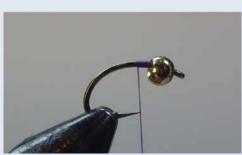
Bug Legs

Ribbing: Gold Wire, Size Brassie

Collar: Brown or Grizzly

Rooster Hackle





Step 1. Insert bead on the hook and place the hook in your vise. Start your tying thread behind the bead.



Step 2. Tie in the Zelon behind the bead and secure on top of the hook back around the bend of the hook. Clip off excess Zelon to form a shuck about a half hook-gap in length.



Tie in a length of wire from the bead back around the bend of the hook.



At the bend of the hook, tie in a length of stretchy floss, securing it with your tying thread from the bend of the hook up to the bead. Be sure to keep your wraps as smooth as pos-



Palmer the stretchy floss in touching turns from the bend of the hook up to the bead. Secure with your tying thread right behind the bead. Clip off excess.



Step 6.

Counter wrap the wire with even spacing from the bend of the hook to the bead. Secure with your thread and clip the excess.



Strip two goose biots and clip the butt ends. From the two biots into a "V" and tie in on top of the hook, right behind the bead.



Clip off the excess ends of the biots and secure with your tying thread. Take care to cover all of the white of the biots.



Prepare a rooster hackle by closely trimming a small section of barbs off of the stem. Tie in the hackle where you tied in the goose biots.



Step 10.

Palmer the hackle in three or four touching turns, moving towards the bead. Clip off the excess hackle feather. Whip finish directly behind the bead.



Go fish!

A MONTH AS A TROUT BUM

A September Spent Fly Fishing

by Mike Riemer



Left: I spotted this brown feeding enthusiastically while well downstream. It hammered the hopper as soon as it hit the water. Right: Fall colors were creeping into the foliage as I fished for brookies on this small creek on Minnesota's North Shore.

s members of Minnesota Trout a non-profit that deals with either bicy-Unlimited, my suspicion is that Amany of you have shared a common daydream of mine: to live life as trout bum, free of the requirements and stresses of our normal lives. Unchained from our desks, phones, computer screens, and the plethora of meetings that yield few (if any) outcomes during our 40-hour-plus work weeks. Free to roam; just a map, packed cooler, and a drive away from fishing whenever and wherever we want.

That's just the situation I found myself in this past September.

I work for Quality Bicycle Products, a bicycle parts distributor located in Bloomington, Minnesota. I've been with the company for over 26 years, which should tell you that I feel very fortunate to work there. Over the years, I've had a range of positions within the company but for 15 of the last 16, I was the marketing manager for one of the bicycle brands owned by QBP, Salsa Cycles.

Those 15 years were fantastic, but I must confess that the workload was pretty tough. Rough enough that there was no way I could take advantage of one of the benefits the business offers: a month-long sabbatical for every ten years worked.

That all changed about a year ago when my position changed to that of Content Marketing Manager & Storyteller. Suddenly, much of the pressure I'd felt for a decade-plus was removed, and I began to think about taking one of the sabbaticals I had earned.

Each sabbatical proposal needs to include some action and benefit to cling, social, or environmental concerns. I contacted MNTU board member Carl Haensel, pitched the concept, and came to an agreement that involved doing some photography for the organization, writing an article or two, and helping host a stream cleanup session.

And that brings us to the present, me typing this article up in mid-October for you to read in mid-November, sharing some of my thoughts and observations from my radical sabbatical: a September spent living the life as a trout bum.

1. Fish the Way You Like to Fish

I am unabashedly a dry fly fisherman and I'm not going to apologize for it. Regardless of the season or weather on the day, I will start with a dry fly on the end of my tippet. If and when it becomes apparent that my dry flies are of no interest, I will switch to a streamer (most likely swung downstream). I've had no shortage of folks tell me that I'm passing by fish by not nymphing, but I knew that before they told me. It's just the way I like to fish. I'm actually pretty sure they are passing by fish even when they are nymphing, but I won't waste time telling them that.

My "dry fly first" philosophy might have something to do with the fact that I spent my first two years fly fishing using a tenand-a-half-foot tenkara rod. Apologies if I surprised you and made you spit out your coffee.

Personally, I feel tenkara is the perfect way to enter into fly fishing. It forces you to get closer to the fish, which means really learning where fish lie, and approaching with stealth. It reinforces the concept of getting good drifts, is great for high sticking with nymphs, and allows for extremely delicate presentations of dry flies. I still remember a brown that came entirely out of the water to intercept my still-airborne, tenkara-cast caddis fly as it gently floated downward on a beautiful spring day.

Tenkara firmed up my belief that good presentation is the most important thing in fly fishing. In my mind, presentation decidedly sits out in front of matching the hatch. In fact, precisely matching the hatch doesn't even make my list.

I prefer to work hard to be stealthy, identifying the spots I think fish probably lie. Then selecting a fly that gets close in size and color as to any on the water or in the air, or choosing a versatile pattern like a Griffith's Gnat, Blue Wing Olive, or foam ant, then making a nice cast and doing my best to present the fly naturally. But, hey: that's just me. I encourage you to fish the way you like to fish.

2. September Is My Favorite Month to

One of my favorite things about fly fishing is that it brings you a closer appreciation of the seasons, or even of certain months. Unless you are one of those fortunate to live on a trout stream, you spend the first and last part of your fishing day driving to and from the stream. You witness the changes in the land as the snow melts, frozen fields thaw, are prepared and planted. The angle of the sun changes and temperatures warm. Greenery erupts and crops grow. Insects suddenly abound and hay bales sprout overnight. Eventually, flowers dry up, leaves change colors and fall to the ground. Then, the miraculous cycle re-

Fish go from slumber-ish and unmoving to enthusiastic, to cautious and moody, and eventually become eager eaters (as if they know the long cold winter is coming once again). Perhaps those tiny brains comprehend a bit more than we give them credit for?

Within those major seasonal changes are the varied temperatures and conditions that each of those individual days can possibly offer. Being out there, thighdeep in the moving water, soaking in the sunlight or hiding from the wind and rain under a cinched hood, brings you a closer understanding of the days, months, and seasons. It brings you closer to being part of the natural world.

There are so many reasons why September is my favorite month to fly fish. The temperatures are typically conducive to good fishing without the mean-spirited heat that July and August sometimes present. The landscape has reached its most colorful of the year, with all the varied shades, hues and saturations found in the last of the blooming flowers and plants going to seed.

The insects are busy accomplishing their increasingly important tasks. The day is long enough to make you feel satisfied after a full day on the water, but without the "overly-dehydrated I'm wrecked" feeling that the heat of summer often brings. The sky starts to soften at dusk giving you warning to start the long walk out, and, if fortunate, you'll sometimes spot a rising fish along the way for a few last casts. Often, a fog rolls down the river as the cool of the evening arrives, an effect that I feel typically shuts off the bite.

To me, September brings a feeling that everything is slowing down, and something about that just feels right.

3. Hoppers. Need I Say More?

This past September offered me the opportunity to fish hoppers more than I ever had before. A few observations: Hopper color kinda sorta matters sometimes maybe. To me, it seems that the profile of the bug is of far more importance.

Imagine how many midges a trout has to eat to add up to a single hopper. Yup, I'd want to eat the hopper too!

On the smallest Driftless-style water with plenty of snag-able vegetation all around me, I used a very short 5-foot leader in 4x (next year I'm curious to try 3x). This tight quarters fishing demanded a highly-angled, upward back cast and, at times, I would focus on almost driving my hopper into the water, creating a clearly audible plop. Often, those over-dramatized presentations would create the fiercest takes, almost as if the sound of the hopper hitting the water was a trigger the fish couldn't resist.

The first shot is the most important. In my opinion, if a fish comes for your hopper but doesn't take, don't waste time taking multiple shots trying to lure it back in. Almost all my best hopper takes were the first cast to a fish (or more accurately, to where I thought there might be a fish). That hopper (or the hopper plop) turned them on and they immediately engaged as if they were frightened another fish would get to it first. If you do miss a hookset and want to take another shot, I suggest just hanging out for five or ten minutes without casting in hopes the fish forgets and goes back to its normal behavior.

4. We Are Blessed With Wadable Water

Admittedly, I've only done two fishing river floats, but I am so thankful for all the wadable water we have to fish. To me, wading is an essential part of fishing. Standing in a river or stream, with the water literally flowing around youwell, something special happens. You become part of the river, part of nature. The water pulls away time and stress, relaxing you and easing the mind, perhaps even healing the soul.

5. Go Fish New Water

It is really easy to find yourself fishing the same places, or the same rivers and streams, time and time again, but going to fish new water can help make you a better angler. Don't get me wrong, I have my favorite spots that I love to fish, but hitting new water during my sabbatical was a great reminder on starting fresh. Reading the water, finding the correct approach, and even having fish reject flies that I have confidence in normally, increased the challenge and properly humbled me.

Each new location was a new puzzle to solve and when I would succeed, I would often find that the fish were "right where they were supposed to be."

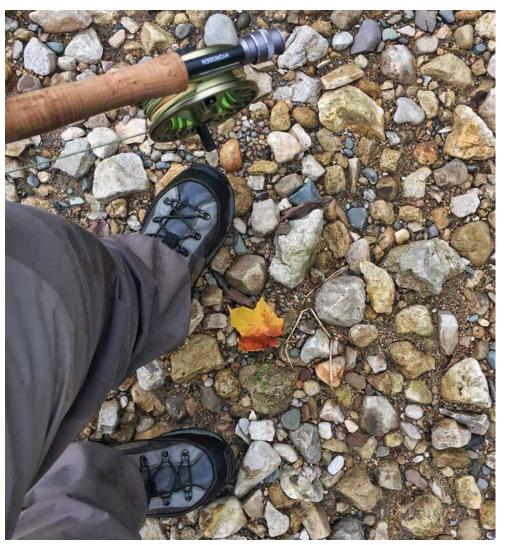
A side benefit of incorporating new water into some of your forays is that the fish in your favorite areas receive a little less pressure, and a little less pressure helps them become bigger fish. I'm guessing none of us are going to argue against bigger fish.

If you're looking for new water to fish, here's a tip: Go to the MNTU website page and click on the Projects tab, and a map will open with dots showing projects all around the state. Zooming in will reveal even more dots. Clicking on a dot will give you the option to zoom-in to the precise area where MNTU has done habitat work. Odds are you will discover some trout water you never even knew existed if you just spend some time poking around on the site.

Personally, I'm giving myself a goal of increasing the new water I fish next year. It'll add a bit of adventure on those days and help me further hone my skills.



A BEAUTIFUL CAMOUFLAGED BROOK TROUT RETURNED TO ITS AMAZINGLY COLORFUL STREAM BED.



KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN TO ALL THE BEAUTY AROUND YOU NEXT TIME YOU'RE ON THE RIVER. IT IS ALL AROUND US.

6. Ask Not What MNTU Can Do For My goal is to help contribute to MNTU **You** on a quarterly basis. I figure it is the least

Since you are reading this, most likely preserve and pro you are either a member of MNTU or fishing for trout.

This sabbatical encouraged me to reach out and become a volunteer, offering up my skills. I encourage you to consider doing the same. My goal is to help contribute to MNTU on a quarterly basis. I figure it is the least I can do for an organization helping to preserve and protect one of my passions, fishing for trout.

Mike 'Kid' Riemer is the Content Marketing Manager & Storyteller for Salsa Cycles. He lives in Richfield, Minnesota. Find him on Instagram @RiemDawg_Fly_Factory

SELECT POETRY

By Larry Gavin

Driving from Willow to Bee Creek

Cows amble down the middle Of the road in front of me, Pasture to pasture. I drive from one stream To another, slowly, trying not To kick up dust, trying not to rush these great Beasts. They deserve time. Their Mighty flanks shift back and forth; The radio warns of bombing runs Cancelled in Iran. In Spain, a cork shortage I wish the news could Not reach me today, but like the endless chain Of thoughts, always in my head, I can't turn the radio Off. I take comfort: In moving water, in speckled sunlight, In the quiet lowing of cows; The dry flies in my chest pocket, And in all those impulses in the world I Will never understand.

Larry Gavin is a poet from Faribault, Minnesota. He is the author of five books of poetry. His newest, A Fragile Shelter: New and Selected Poems, is available in 2019 from Red Dragonfly Press. www.redragonflypress.org





MNTU EDUCATION UPDATE

By Amber Taylor, MNTU Education Program Supervisor



LEFT: STUDENTS FROM HIDDEN OAKS MIDDLE SCHOOL WORK WITH A KICK NET TO STIR UP AND CATCH INSECTS ALONG THE BOTTOM OF THE CREDIT RIVER.

MIDDLE: MARK NEMETH, WITH MN DNR FISHERIES, ASSISTING MIDDLE SCHOOLERS AS THEY ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY AQUATIC INSECTS.

RIGHT: AN EIGHTH-GRADER BRAVELY HOLDS A WATER SCORPION SHE CAUGHT IN A BODY OF WATER NEARBY HER SCHOOL.

ord has gotten out about MN-TU's Trout in the Classroom (TIC) program and teachers from all over the state are learning about this fantastic educational opportunity! Last spring, 15 very enthusiastic teachers were added to the Trout in the Classroom community, for a total of 38 schools and two nature centers participating this year. New schools are located in Chisholm, Proctor, Cloquet, Crosslake, White Bear Lake, Lakeland, St. Paul, Minnetonka, Burnsville, Savage, Prior Lake, and Rochester. As I write this, there are already 25 excited teachers looking to bring TIC into their schools for the 2020-2021 school year, and I anticipate that list will continue to grow!

In August, the school year started off with 32 new and returning TIC teachers coming together for a workshop at Belwin Nature Conservancy. They engaged in a variety of outdoor educational activities and learned from each other about implementing TIC in their classroom activities and curriculum. Thank you to Belwin for providing a beautiful space for our teachers to come together for a fun day of learning! They also have a

TIC tank and regularly incorporate it into their educational programming with hundreds of students each year.

Fall field-day season kept the MNTU education team busy leading and assisting with outdoor educational experiences across the state. More than 2,000 students learned about aquatic macroinvertebrates as bioindicators, played games, and engaged in a variety of lessons about watersheds and water quality. Some teachers are also bringing their students on fishing trips and visits to nearby hatcheries. Thank you to our growing group of like-minded partner organizations, including Washington Conservation District, Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District, Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District, MN DNR fisheries staff, Fly Fishing Women of Minnesota, and Belwin Nature Conservancy, for providing support and assistance with Trout in the Classroom field

A highlight for me this fall was assisting with a field day for Century High School and Riverside Elementary in Rochester. These teachers work together to plan their TIC activities and the high school

seniors become Trout in the Classroom buddies with the 5th graders. Using dichotomous keys, they helped to identify (and even hold) live fish and aquatic macroinvertebrates caught right from the creek flowing behind Riverside! Other activities that day included fly casting and fly tying. These students will visit hatcheries, go fishing, and continue to learn from each other through the school year. It was an incredible thing to watch as those high schoolers took on the teaching role for these younger students and had fun doing it!

As the program grows in Minnesota, steps are being taken to better support TIC teachers. Our wonderful equipment supply store, New Wave Aquaria, is putting together a manual and how-to videos in order to assist teachers with equipment set up, maintenance, and troubleshooting. Additional resources include a guide on caring for their trout, lessons and activities to support their TIC learning objectives, and a MNTU TIC Google group in which teachers can quickly and easily communicate with each other throughout the year! Copies of MNTU newsletters are being provided to teachers and used for reading comprehension and lessons in social studies, history, fishing, art, water ecology, and more.

The fun and learning didn't stop at the end of the 2018-2019 TIC school year! This summer, MNTU partnered with various parks and recreation departments in order to lead fishing skills programs throughout the metro area. Partners included Ramsey, Washington, Carver, Dakota, and Wright counties, as well as the cities of Burnsville, Eden Prairie, and Minnetonka. Led and implemented by two MNTU fishing skills educators, these spin and fly fishing programs were a hit! More than 700 people, ranging in age from 5-70, participated, many fishing for the first time.

Interested in assisting with Trout in the Classroom or MNTU fishing skills programs? Please visit our website for a description of opportunities that exist to get involved and contact information to learn more.

Amber Taylor
MNTU Education Program Supervisor
education@mntu.org



Left: Fifth-graders from Willow Lane Elementary had a blast exploring Brown's Creek in Waders!

Right: Century High school seniors teach a Riverside Elementary Fifth-grader how to use a dichotomous key in order to identify aquatic macroinvertebrates caught out of Bear Creek in Rochester.

WILL MPCA CHANGES HELP OR HURT TROUT?

Trout Stream Regulatory Adjustments

By John Lenczewski

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is in the process of changing the rules governing which water quality standards, coldwater or warm water, apply to many streams currently classified as cold trout waters. The proposed changes would effectively lower protections for the 135 miles of streams in the state by reclassifying them from coldwater (Class 2A) to warm water (Class 2B). On the other hand, the reclassification would increase protections for 112 miles of stream by reclassifying them from warm water to coldwater (2A). What is going on here? Should trout and steelhead anglers and environmentalists be concerned?

DNR's Designated Trout Streams and Lakes

In Minnesota, authority to regulate activities that can impact the health of trout fisheries is divided between several state agencies, with most of the responsibility given to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). The DNR has, for many years, maintained a list of streams and lakes which are managed for trout. These "designated trout streams" and "designated trout lakes" are listed in Minnesota Rules 6264.0050. Over time, the state legislature has enacted a number of important restrictions and protections for designated trout streams (DTS) that are found nowhere else in statute or rules. These include a setback permit for silica sand mining near any DTS in southeast MN, greater scrutiny and sustainability standards for extracting groundwater connected to a DTS, vegetative buffer requirements for small headwater streams designated as DTS, and additional Best Management Practice requirements for timber harvest near a DTS.

MPCA's Role in Protecting Trout **Streams**

With passage of the federal Clean Water Act in 1972, the MPCA was given the task of developing water quality standards to protect "beneficial uses" such as aquatic life and recreation framework requires the state to classify waters for beneficial uses, develop water quality standards to protect those uses, and adopt antidegradation policies to maintain and protect existing beneficial uses. The MPCA classifies most surface waters as Class 2, which means they are protected for aquatic life and recreational beneficial use. But, within Class 2, there are four subclasses, including coldwater (2A) and cool or warm water (2B) classifications.

Why We Care: Coldwater (2A) protections are greater than those for cool/warm water.

It matters whether a stream is classified for Class 2A coldwater use, rather than 2B cool/warm water use, because the state has more stringent

water quality standards for 2A waters. For example, discharges to 2A waters must have at least 7 parts-per-million (ppm) of dissolved oxygen, versus only 5 ppm for 2B waters. In addition, 2A streams must have lower turbidity levels than 2B waters (10 units versus 25 units), and discharges must cause no material increase in water temperatures of 2A streams, versus permitting a 5-degree temperature increase in 2B waters.

MPCA 2A Coldwater Classifications in the Past

Until now, the MPCA has relied on the DNR's lists of designated trout stream and lakes when assigning the 2A coldwater classification. Streams and lakes on the DNR's designated trout water lists were classified 2A coldwater, and all others were classified 2B cool/warm water by default. In other words, the MPCA just adopted the DNR's lists without modification. However, there are many bona fide trout streams, with wild, naturally-reproducing trout populations, which the DNR has chosen not to protect with a "designated trout stream" designation. This failure of the DNR to protect these fisheries for present and future generations is very problematic, but is an article for another day. What is encouraging is that the MPCA is committed to looking beyond the DNR lists and extending Class 2A protections to these unlisted trout streams by re-classifying them from warm water to coldwater 2A.

Amendment of Rule Language to Extend 2A Protections Neglected by the

The current MPCA rule, Minnesota Rule 7050.0420, gives the 2A coldwater classification only to trout waters listed on the DNR's designated trout lake and trout stream lists found in Minnesota Rule 6264.0050. The MPCA is proposing rule changes to allow extension of the Class 2A designation to trout streams and stream segments not on the DNR

There is a wealth of information on this proposed rule change at the MPCA website: www.pca.state.mn.us/water/wqsdesignated-use

(i.e., fishability). The Clean Water Act The most useful documents on this page

- Dual Notice of Intent to Adopt Rules - Class 2 and Class 7 Use Designations (wq-rule4-21d)
- Statement of Need and Reasonableness (SONAR) for Proposed Rules (wq-rule4-21f)
- Amendments to Aquatic Life (Class 2) Use Designations (wq-rule4-

The MPCA claims that it needs to alter the language of Minnesota Rule 7050.0420 to allow extension of the Class 2A designation to trout streams and stream segments not on the DNR list. MNTU agrees that the MPCA should reclassify Class 2B waters as coldwater (Class 2A) when reliable scientific evidence supports the addition. However, MNTU is concerned because the proposed lan-



NATURALLY REPRODUCING BROWN TROUT IN SOME SE STREAMS LEFT UNPRO-TECTED BY THE DNR WILL GAIN PROTECTIONS VIA MPCA RULE CHANGES.

guage appears to go much farther. The language changes are detailed on page 18 of the Amendments to Aquatic Life (Class 2) Use Designations (wq-rule4-21a). MNTU will remain engaged in the rulemaking process to tighten up this language. Written comments by concerned anglers and conservations are due November 7, 2019.

Proposed Changes from Coldwater to Warm Water!

In addition to change described above, the MPCA also proposes to change the use designations for 187 stream segments and four lakes. On the positive side, the MPCA would upgrade the classification of 34 segments from warm water to coldwater. On the negative side, the MPCA would remove 2A protections from 31 stream segments totaling 135 miles! Many of these changes may be justified because there is solid evidence demonstrating that the stream segment never was a coldwater one. However, for other stream segments there is evidence that the segment was cold enough to have a naturally-reproducing trout population since the effective date of the Clean Water Act (November 29, 1975). Under the Clean Water Act, if a stream had an existing coldwater fishery of "use" at any time after November 1975, but degradation has caused its collapse, the MPCA must devise a plan to restore

Potential Concerns

Although the MPCA may have the best stream segments are not protected with intentions in proposing language and use designation changes, Trout Unlimited is concerned that the specific language proposed may have unintended consequences and that the agency may not be following a rigorous enough process in decisions to remove Class 2A designations. MNTU is in the process of drafting official comments and may request a contested case hearing. Potential concerns include:

- Some downgrades to Class 2B are proposed without demonstrating that the current absence of trout or coldwater organisms is not the result of 40 years of degradation and neglect.
- 2. MPCA appears to be moving the goalposts and shifting the burden to anglers. For 40 years, the MPCA has pro-

claimed that 2A streams are coldwater streams. Over this time, it has neglected to document any "existing use" different from the designated use. It is suddenly reversing itself based upon the current condition, and demanding anglers now prove that MPCA's designations were correct. We believe the MPCA must clearly demonstrate its designations were incorrect (and that current conditions are not the result of degradation).

- Failure to notify the public in plain English that it is reducing the protection levels of 31 stream segments by changing their coldwater designations. Ambiguous and technical distinctions leave the average reader with the misimpression that there will be no negative consequences for many stream segments.
- The new rules appear to create new definitions and heightened criteria. There are easier ways to allow the MPCA to add new Class 2A waters without creating potential problems for retaining 2A status where MPCA failed to document uses for decades.
- The MPCA's process of carving up adjoining segments used by trout, and declaring some to be warm water segments ignores fish biology and entire life cycle needs of mobile trout. A coldwater fishery will be diminished, and even lost, if all key Class 2A water quality standards.
- The current process used by agency work groups to downgrade coldwater streams to warm water classification excludes stakeholders, such as trout anglers, from viewing all data early in the process before institutional and rulemaking momentum builds.

While it is too early to declare the sky is falling, MNTU will continue to analyze and comment throughout the rulemaking process. Stay tuned.

Editor's Note: John Lenczewski is the executive director of MNTU. Interested in engaging with the topic of the new MPCA rules? John can be contacted at jlenczewski@comcast.net Send an email with "MPCA Rulemaking" in the subject.



THE TROUT LIFE CYCLE

Youth Series

By Evan Griggs, MNTU Environmental Education Specialist



ike many other organisms in nature, trout go through different stages of development during their life cycle.

Spawning: In Minnesota, brook, lake, and brown trout spawn in the fall. Rainbow trout and steelhead mostly spawn in the spring. Trout will go through physical changes before spawning season. Males will grow a hooked lower jaw called a kype. Males and females both develop vibrant colors. Female trout use their tail to dig a nest in the gravel of shallow, fast-moving areas of streams. These nests are called redds. Males will try to impress females by fighting each other and performing mating dances. Once a female is ready, she will deposit the eggs into the redd and the male trout will fertilize the eggs with milt. The female covers the eggs in a layer of gravel and the eggs are left unattended. Trout can spawn multiple times throughout their life, unlike salmon which die after spawning.

Eggs: One female trout can lay 1,000 or more eggs! It takes around a month for the eggs to hatch, depending on water temperature. For the first half of egg development, they are in the "green egg stage." During this stage, trout eggs are very fragile, soft, and easily damaged. About halfway through their development, the eggs turn clear pink or orange and tiny black eyes will appear as two little dots. This stage is called the "eyed egg stage" and will last up to two or three weeks.

Alevin: The eyed eggs will hatch into alevin or sac-fry. These tiny trout can't swim yet, so they stay in the redd and gain nutrients from the yolk sac that is still attached to their belly. They will stay in the nest for up to two or three weeks feeding off their yolk sac. As their yolk sac shrinks,

they begin to look more fish-like with tiny scales and fins.

Fry: Once the yolk sac is gone, the fry swim up to the surface of the water and take a big gulp of air to fill their swim bladders. Trout use this special organ to float in the water. Fry swim near the surface and hunt for tiny prey, called zooplankton. They will resemble very small minnows and don't have any markings like an adult trout yet.

Fingerlings and Parr: Once the fry grow to be 2-5 inches long, they are called fingerlings. Fingerlings are big and strong enough to start eating aquatic insects. They may even eat their smaller siblings! When a fingerling develops large, vertical dark markings on its sides, they are called parr. These parr marks help them camouflage from predators like birds and larger fish.

Juvenile and Adults: Juvenile trout will lose their parr marks and develop all the colors and markings of an adult fish, but they cannot spawn yet. It usually takes three years for a trout to become an adult and start spawning. On average in the wild, adult trout are between 6-16 inches and live for three to six years. A few trout can live for much longer and can grow to huge sizes. Minnesota's state record trout are: Brook trout --6lbs, 24 inches, brown trout -- 16lbs, 31 3/8 inches, rainbow trout (steelhead) -- 16 lbs, 33 inches, and lake trout -- 43 lbs.

If you find yourself by a trout stream this fall, look for redds in shallow, fast water. They look like a small, clean patch of gravel. You may even see trout doing their mating dance and going round and round in circles together.



LOOK FOR THE SMALL BLACK DOTS ON THESE TROUT EGGS FROM THE 2019 TIC PROGRAM. THIS STATE OF EGG IS REFERRED TO AS "EYED" BECAUSE THOSE DOTS ARE INDEED TINY TROUT EYES.



AFTER HATCHING, THE NEXT LIFE STAGE OF TROUT AND SALMON IS THE ALEVIN, OR SAC-FRY. NOTE THE LARGE EGG SAC ON THESE SMALL ALEVIN.



THESE SMALL TROUT FRY FROM THE BEMIDJI TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM PROGRAM ARE FREE SWIMMING AND STARTING TO SHOW PARR MARKINGS.



THIS WILD ADULT MINNESOTA STEELHEAD, A TYPE OF RAINBOW TROUT, SHOWS HOW BIG SOME TROUT CAN GET IN OUR STATE.



THE GREY VERTICAL BARS ON THIS YOUNG RAINBOW TROUT FIN-GERLING ARE CALLED "PARR MARKINGS."

BOOK REVIEW

Catching Yellowstone's Wild Trout - A Fly Fishing History and Guide

By John Hunt

uthor Chris Hunt, no relation, should be a familiar name to TU members. Hunt, based in Idaho Falls, Idaho, serves as national digital director for Trout Unlimited and frequently contributes material to the TU website and magazine. In his 2019 book *Catching Yellowstone's Wild Trout*, Hunt has assembled a concise overview of the fishing opportunities available in our first national park.

To my chagrin, I must admit that I have never been to Yellowstone National Park (YNP). Family commitments and scarce vacation time have conspired against me. My introduction to and education about YNP has therefore come entirely via a variety of books, magazines, and, more recently, blogs. I am familiar with the names of many of the most popular rivers, streams, and lakes of the park, but would need a good old-fashioned map to really get off the beaten path and find some of the angling solitude that can be found in Yellowstone.

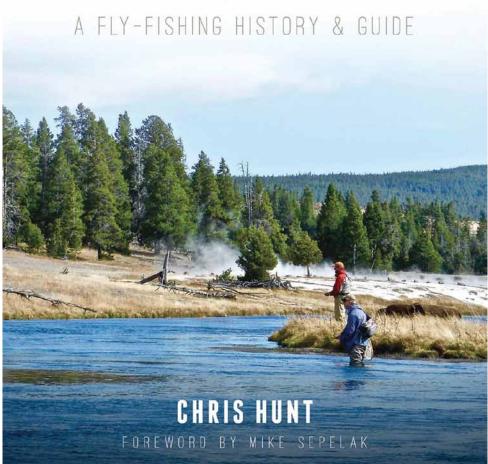
Hunt's book does an excellent job setting the stage for the transformation of YNP from the smoking, steaming "Colter's Hell" of pre-European discovery to the angling and tourist mecca the park has become. And while the stories of non-native fish stocking and its negative impact on native species have been well documented elsewhere, Hunt adds context and depth to the story by providing details on current efforts by the National Park Service and others (including TU) to correct some of these past misdeeds

in the interest of ecological restoration.

The length of this book is fairly brief (107 page flips on my e-reader), but between the opening history on the park and a closing note on public lands in America, the author organizes his thoughts by fish species. Three varieties of cutthroat are covered, as are grayling, rainbows, browns, brookies, and the villain of this story, lake trout. For each species, Hunt spells out a handful of park streams (or lakes as appropriate) that are well known to be home to that particular fish, as well as recommended fly patterns and time of season. He also adds a secondary list of other potential destinations for the motivated angler. Helpfully, Hunt also provides a few notes regarding access, fishability, hiking difficulty, and the potential for crowds and/or grizzly bears for these off-the-beaten path locations.

Throughout the book, the author also sprinkles his own reflections and experiences fishing many of the waters described. Color photos are occasionally sprinkled into the text, but maps are mostly non-existent. Hunt is careful to remind the reader (multiple times actually) to be mindful of the park's fishing regulations, closed seasons, etc. I am not sure that this book alone would be enough to plan an extended fishing trip to YNP, but given the author's familiarity with the park, it would be a great cross-check on other resources that provide more information on hiking trails, accommodations, and area guides.

CATCHING YELLOWSTONE'S Wild Trout



John Hunt is the author of "Fly Fishing Minnesota's Trout Lakes." Check out more of his book reviews at mntu.org/newsletter

INCLUDING MNTU IN YOUR ESTATE PLANNING

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. We've included specific bequest language below for usage with individual or 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, the sum of (dollar amount)/ or percentage of (__%)/ residue of my estate to be used at the discretion of its governing board."

Specific:

"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, pres-

ently 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 using this process: jlenczewski@comcast.net or at 612-670-1629.



WIN-CRES CHAPTER BAMBOO ROD RAFFLE

Readers still have time to purchase a Win-Cres chapter raffle ticket (\$10) for the fine 8' 5 wt. bamboo fly rod fashioned by expert builder Steve Sobieniak of Root River Rod Co. The drawing is Nov. 23 at the Win-Cres Game Feed Fundraiser.

If you are interested in tickets, they are \$10. Send cash, check or money order to Jim Clark at 391 Dresser Drive, Winona, MN 55987. There are two choices. If you are satisfied with an electronic notification of your ticket number, provide an email address, we will communicate the number and put the stub in the drawing. If you require a hard copy,



signify that and one will be mailed to you. Requests must be received by 11/15/2019. One does not have to be present to win. Tickets may also be obtained by stopping at Root River Rod Co. in Lanesboro. MN regulations require ticket purchasers to be at least 18 years old.

Steve has also offered that if a person buys 10 tickets or more, and that person wins, he will throw in a guided day trip in SE MN. This is a deal you can't refuse!

FROZEN FLY FILM FESTIVAL- BEMIDJI

Hand-tied Flies, Craft Beer & Catered Nosh Sponsoring Conservation & Education for Youth & Adults

Tuesday, December 3rd Bemidji Brewing Company

Join us for a fun evening showcasing videos of fly fishing. This is a fundraiser for all of TU Chapter 642's programs. TU642 proudly boasts having the longest continuously running Trout in the Classroom program in Minnesota. Thirteen years with a presence in three school districts and five classrooms. Our fifth-grade afterschool fly tying, casting and fishing program is passing 17 years, as well as a middle school program prior. TU642 also lays claim to the longest running youth fly fishing program in the state. We have taken more than 700 fifth-graders fly fishing, with former participants now returning as adults to mentor today's youth! Other programs include free community fly tying evenings, women's fly fishing retreats, Get Hooked on Fly Fishing, and our annual Pike Hunt.

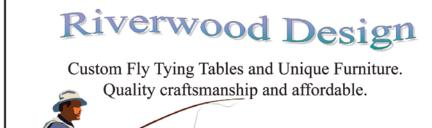
Enjoy craft beers or sodas along with snacks and hors d'oeuvres. Revel in videos of fly fishing at the time of year you may be stoking the wood stove! Receive swag and door prizes of EQUAL or GREATER value than the price of admission (You can't lose there!) Plus, have the additional opportunity to support this TU642 fundraising effort through raffles and silent auctions of lots of cool stuff!

How does TU642 benefit? The dollars raised by this, our largest fundraising event, not only support all of the activities listed above, but permit greater outreach to support TU projects, classroom and community education, and access to fishing and outdoor activity. Who could ask for more?

Would you like your fly fishing video shown? Submit your video to TU642 by November 1 for consideration to mntu642@gmail.com Please refer to guidelines for submitting videos to the Great Waters Film Showcase when considering submission to the TU642 FFFF, more information on these guidelines at www.greatwatersflyexpo.com

Only 80 tickets are available. Please contact us at mntu642@gmail.com as soon as possible to reserve your seat!





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ICE FISHING FOR LAKE TROUT

Lake Superior and Beyond

By Jason Swingen



The author with a nice lake trout from Lake Superior. These fish can take long hours to acquire, but the take and fight are worth it.

onto the largest freshwater lake in Lethe world, targeting a fish that can be in water as shallow as 2 feet or deeper than 200. But, if you gear up with the right equipment, use the right techniques, and focus on a few simple tips, you can catch one of the most exciting fish through the ice: The lake trout.

It's not every year that Lake Superior freezes over. So when it does, you should make sure to take advantage of it. If the ice doesn't form near Duluth, there are still often opportunities to fish near the Apostle Islands, or many of the lake trout-inhabited inland lakes in northern Minnesota.

Fishing for lake trout, or "lakers,"

t can be intimidating to venture out can be similar to targeting species like musky or steelhead. You usually won't pull them in one after another, but all it takes is one on the end of your line, and all of the time spent on the water (or ice) is suddenly worth it.

> The first lake trout I had ever caught also happens to be my most memorable. Not only because it was my first or the biggest one I've caught to this day, but mostly due to how surprised I was at how powerful these fish truly are. I had spent two whole days on the water trying to catch one of these crazy fish that I was, for some reason, obsessed with (even though I had never seen one in person before). Halfway through my third day I was starting to day-dream, slowly lifting

my rod and letting my little white tube jig fall back down onto the lake floor 80 feet below, wondering if I was using too thick of leader, or using the right color, or if I remembered to turn the lights off... When I lifted my rod yet another time, it Let's go over the equipment and felt like I was snagged on a log. All of a sudden my reel started screaming! After nearly a 10-minute fight, I had finally gained enough ground to pull the fish up to where I could see it through the extremely clear Lake Superior water. I was only able to get a short glimpse before it must have seen the light and shot down back to the bottom of the lake and I had to start the battle again. After another five intense minutes, I was able to get the fish up through the hole and finally get a good look at the creature I had been

searching for: a 3-foot long Lake Superior lake trout that I could barely fit through the hole.

Enough with my lake trout stories. techniques so that you can have your own story about catching a lake trout through the ice!

Catching lakers is a whole different world than catching walleye and panfish. Not only will you need to upsize your equipment, but you'll also often need to use different tactics to get them to bite. But before we get into techniques, let's cover the basic equipment you'll need to get started.

Although you could land a smaller lake trout on a walleye rod, it can be worth investing in a heavy action rod at least 32" long. Generally, these rods aren't that expensive and you can pick one up for fairly cheap. If you are targeting lake trout (especially in Lake Superior) you have the potential of catching a giant that could weigh 30 pounds or more, and you don't want to lose a trophy just because you didn't have the right equipment.

You can use either a spinning rod or a baitcaster. Each has its pros and cons. Spinning setups are more popular, cheaper and generally will have a better drag. The number one benefit of using a baitcasting rod and reel is that they reduce line-twist, which can be compounded when you are fishing in more than 100 feet of water.

Your standard 200 or 300-size spinning reels that you use for walleye and bass will work great. Having a spool with a large capacity and smooth drag is a



SPINNING OR BAITCASTING REELS ARE BOTH GOOD OPTIONS FOR ICE FISHING FOR LAKE TROUT. BE SURE TO STRENGTH-EN YOUR SETUP FROM THE TYPICAL WALLEYE OR PANFISH RIG, LAKE TROUT TAKE LONG RUNS AND CAN REQUIRE STOUT RODS

must. Spool up your reel with at least will be the most productive, allowing 100 yards of 20-pound braided line. Lake trout can easily pull 100 feet of line out on their long powerful runs. Braid is extremely important and the only line that will allow you to set the hook when you are fishing in deep water. Monofilament line will stretch too much at these depths. It is also beneficial to use braid because you can fit more of it on your spool and it will keep your line from bowing in the cur-

When using a spinning rod especially, make sure you use a high-quality swivel at the end of your braid, then tie on a few feet of 10-20-pound fluorocarbon. Lake Superior has extremely clear water so using a strong, nearly invisible leader is important. If you are using a baitcaster, it's optional to skip the swivel and tie straight to your leader. Then you can use a much longer leader. I prefer to use an FG knot that can easily be reeled through the guides, but an Albright knot is also a good choice for making a braid-to-fluoro connection.

Lake trout are predators and will swim around the lake chasing down smelt and herring, which is why the most popular lures for lake trout are 3-6 inches long and mostly white and flashy. You can catch these fish using different colors, but if you are just starting, it's hard to go wrong with something white. They rely on sight, sound, and smell, so adding some rattles and/or tipping your hook with a chunk of smelt can make a major difference and turn a looker into a taker. Some popular lures include jigging raps, rattling traps, spoons, tube jigs, swimbaits, bucktails, and other similar jigs. One-half to 1 ounce jigs are ideal for fishing in water that is 100 feet or less. If you are fishing in more than 120 feet of water, or there is a heavy current, you'll want to use lures between 1 and 2 ounces. I've also recently had great luck by adding a swim jig head to a Game Changer streamer I tied.

Having a good flasher depth finder is pretty much a necessity when ice fishing for lake trout. Half of the fun comes from the excitement of marking a fish and watching it scream up to your lure. You can use any basic Marcum, Vexilar, or Humminbird unit, but having a graph with a screen that shows history

you to track these fish as they chase you up and down the water column.

I've caught lake trout in water ranging from 60-200 feet and there isn't a single magic depth. I've even been in 160 feet of water and seen one swimming a couple of inches under the ice. To start, you'll want to focus on depths around 80-160 feet. If there is a pile of anglers out fishing, don't get caught up thinking that they are all in the right spot. The best tactic is often to get away from the crowd. Try to not get too comfortable either. If you don't mark any large schools of bait or lake trout within an hour or two, move to a new spot.

Two of the most common techniques used include "pounding the bottom," and "playing keep away." Sometimes simply lifting your jig and letting it free fall to the lake bottom will kick up enough sediment to call in a laker. This can also be a great tactic if you don't have an electronic depth finder. However, the most exciting way to catch lakers is to play keep away. It's important to remember that lake trout do not act like walleye or panfish. So throw all of your previous finessing ice fishing knowledge out the window and resist the temptation to slowly jig above them, hoping that they will slowly swim up and eat. They won't.

Lake trout like to chase and will lose interest if their prey doesn't put up a fight. Keep your lure moving as if it's a fleeing smelt. Fish that show up mid-water column are more active and will chase more readily. If you mark a fish, reel past it at around 2-3 reel revolutions-per-second. They will often immediately start chasing. Don't slow down! If they lose interest, stop and drop your lure past them. If the mark of your lure on your graph stops at the fish and your fishing line goes limp, this means that they grabbed it on the way down. Set the hook hard and hold on!

Now all there is left to do is wait and hope it's cold enough this winter for the big lake to freeze again!

Editor's Note: Jason Swingen is a Gitche Gumee Chapter board member and resides in Duluth. Check out his outdoors blog at www.js-outdoors.com



A SELECTION OF LAKE TROUT JIGS AND SPOONS. WHITE IS A STRONG OPTION FOR LAKE SUPERIOR LAKE TROUT.



SPRING DAYS CAN MAKE FISHING WITHOUT AN ICE SHELTER POSSIBLE. A FISHFINDER, ROD, AND JIGS ARE THE ONLY MATERIALS REQUIRED TO CATCH LAKE TROUT THROUGH THE ICE.



ICE HOUSES DOTTED THE LAKE SUPERIOR NEAR-SHORE ICE THIS PAST WINTER. BE SAFE WHEN FISHING ON THIS OFTEN UNSTABLE ICE AND USE CAREFUL JUDGEMENT WHEN ASSESSING CONDITIONS ON THIS POWERFUL LAKE.

HIPPIE STOMPING HAY CREEK

Homegrown Fishing Stories

By Mike Riemer



PETE KOSKI SLOWLY WORKS HIS WAY UP A RUN THAT LOOKS PROMISING ON HAY CREEK.

n a previous life, I was a professional photographer. In those days, the camera was always close at hand, ready for action. With the camera up to my eye, my fingers would dance over the knobs and dials, making intuitive changes on the fly.

Those days are long past, and I've only occasionally played photographer during the last decade and a half. My sister says, "Once you're a photographer, you'll always be a photographer," and I know what she means, but the reality is that my "eye" (and eyesight) and my fluidity behind the lens aren't what they once were.

Still, the concept of trying to photograph fly fishing for trout was appealing to me, and something I'd never really attempted with any sort of honest effort.

My friend and coworker, Pete Koski, agreed to be my fishing model for the day. I asked him to just fish as he would, and I'd move around as needed, trying to maintain a stealthy position so as not to spook any fish.

We met up early on a weekday morning at the horse trailer lot along Hay Creek, near Red Wing, chatted briefly and decided we'd try to hit a few different sections of the creek that MNTU has done habitat work on over the years. I'm not going to share which exact segments we fished, however. In fact, I heartily encourage all of you to keep any mentions of your locations as vague as possible when socializing your fishing successes or failures; it's better for the fish and the anglers.

I will say that it felt slightly odd to gear up to wade and then leave the rod behind in the vehicle, but I

tography challenge.

Our first stretch of water looked promising, with nice bends, riffles, and the occasional small deep-ish hole, though the water was a bit stained. PK got underway, starting out with a dry-dropper rig. An experienced angler since childhood, Pete has really caught the fly fishing bug this past year. It's a real joy when he stops by my desk at the office, detailing his fishing from the previous weekend, the flies that worked, how he rigged his setups, read the water, and succeeded or failed at landing fish. Pete's an engineer, so let's just say he takes a very analytical approach.

While Pete waded the stream, I worked through the brush. In all honesty, it took exhausting effort and reminded me of wading in a very heavy current, just without water. If there was a convenient way to package thick vegetation, you could probably get rich selling it as exer cise equipment.

For the first few hours, Pete worked through various dry dropper rigs, but we saw no sign of fish. Eventually, just before switching creek sections, a fish took but came off, and we saw one other riser.

A sandwich, some water, and a short drive later, we walked downstream to access our second section of Hay Creek. Feeling more like the dog days of summer than September, things were actually feeling a bit challenging. Bright sunny skies, hot weather, and strong gusty winds were all conspiring against us. The water sometimes looked slow, which made me think it might be too warm, but PK's thermometer proved otherwise: mid-50s.

looked forward to this first fishing pho- In all honesty, we didn't last long in this section. An honest attempt in the promising-looking points of the creek brought no sign of fish, so we walked the gravel road back to our vehicles, chugged water in an attempt to knock back the heat and fend off dehydration, and then headed off to our third section of the day.

> Pulling up to a creekside vantage point, we were excited to see rings from rising fish in a deep pool. Hurriedly, we decided to make our way to a downstream section so that Pete could then fish his way back up to those risers.

> Popping out of the brush along the water, we were pumped to see a beautiful stretch of what looked to be promising water. As Pete methodically worked his way upstream along a fairly fast-moving stretch with a slightly undercut bank, he saw a fish flash at his nymph. A few drifts later, it slashed at his Hippie Stomper but didn't take. Then it was gone, and we decided to move upstream and fish had returned to its feeding lie.

> Not much further upstream, still working the same fast riffle, it finally all came together for the first time of the day. The Hippie Stomper and a good hookset put a nice brown in the net, and as all of you know, it took a potential skunk off the

> As we approached the slow pool just above, success came Pete's way for the second time of the day. I spotted two gently sipping trout, a couple feet apart, just inches off the bank, in the cushion formed by the creek turning downstream into the riffle. Pete removed the dropper and positioned himself to take a shot at the fish that was farthest downstream. The strong gusts of wind added diffi

culty but Pete put the fly right on target, getting a good drift just inches from the fish. The brown eased forward, slurping the rubber-legged hopper imitation as Pete brought the line tight! A bunch of hooting and hollering ensued as Pete fought and landed the fish. We grabbed a few photos and slid the brown back into the water. Dry fly sight fishing at its best!

Amazingly enough, all the action had not scared away the second sipping fish. We saw it resume its feeding, and Pete suddenly handed me his rod and said, "You get this one."

Excited to take a shot, I put my camera gear on the bank and stripped out some line. The gusts were truly difficult to manage, but after a few attempts I finally dropped the fly in the right place, got a gentle mend in to improve the drift, and saw the fish slide forward to take the fly--only to blow my hookset!

That was my one shot of the day, and come back to the spot later to see if the despite "failing," it certainly created a memorable moment for both myself and PK. As odd as it might sound, sometimes the near misses are as fun as the successes.

> Before heading back to our vehicles, Pete retreated to the spot now slightly downstream, where he'd missed the take earlier. Sure enough, that fish (or its friend) was back and had long forgotten its earlier near-mistake. The Hippie Stomper came through once more, bringing one more fish to hand, and ending our day's exploration of Hay Creek.

> Mike 'Kid' Riemer is the Content Marketing Manager & Storyteller for Salsa Cycles. He lives in Richfield, Minnesota. Find him on Instagram @RiemDawg_Fly_Factory





Left: Wild flowers covered the banks, adding even more beauty to the already stunning landscape.

Right: This brown was finally caught by returning to its spot in the stream for a second try after letting it relax for a while.



PK keeps the rod high while landing one of the sippers we'd noticed in the soft edge upstream.





Left: Successfully sight-fishing to a rising fish is pretty much the most fun you can have with a fly rod. **Right**: On this hot day, the Hippie Stomper got the job done on Hay Creek.

SIX RIVERS

Four Weeks, Four States and Beautiful Trout

By Bob Wagner

t started on Minnesota's North Shore at the Manitou River. Having fished North Shore steelhead for 20 years, I'm completely addicted and astonished at the grandeur of Gitche Gumee. Back in Bemidji, John, one of the founding fathers of our TU Headwaters chapter, describes the Manitou as having the look of a northern Ontario trout stream. John should know, as he has fished some of Canada's best and most remote brook trout havens. Area guide Carl Haensel, and other respected authorities, believe that the Manitou deserves special care, such as special regulations, and I agree. My wife and I hiked a mile past almost ancient yellow birch, a visual treat worth the trip alone. The brook trout were as wild and willing to please as the beautiful birches. They readily took a Flashback Pheasant Tail nymph in size 16, but preferred the more natural brown-and-cream color. Their preference seemed to match the clear cold waters of the Manitou. This river sang a song of collaboration with the rock, water, birch, pine, sun and weather. The brook trout is their product, their masterpiece. These, working together over eons of time, shape and mold a river home for the brookie. The Manitou, along with a few hundred other North Shore rivers and tributaries, deserves our respect, appreciation and care. Val and I can't wait to return.

After leaving the Manitou, we headed to Spey Day, an event organized by the LSSA (Lake Superior Steelhead Association) on the Wisconsin Brule River. Spey Day was great and the Brule is always spectacular. Historic and user-friendly are two descriptions that always flood my brain when I wade into the water of the Brule. We fished the upper Brule with bright sun, and willing brook trout took Pass Lake flies just below the surface. A small, but feisty, silver salmon added to the day's excitement. There is absolute joy in holding a light weight (3-5wt) fly rod and hooking small fish.

On the drive home from the Brule we started planning a road trip to see the giant redwoods. We realized that, in total, we could fish six rivers in four weeks and possibly catch trout in all of them. You can always dream, and psychologists tell us dreams are important. This article is all about this dream, (catching trout in all six rivers), actually coming true.

Our next road trip river was the Boise River in Idaho. One of the many unique aspects of the Boise River is that the city of Boise has developed a 35-mile greenbelt along the river. Biking and walking trails; picnic areas; and roads and bridges provide dozens of fishing access points. Our daughter lives in Boise, so we have fished the river successfully in the past, both above the reservoir, on the upper river, and below in town, off of the greenbelt. The Boise empties into the Snake River in the southwest part of the state. The Snake empties into the Columbia and is home to sockeye salmon, chinook salmon and steelhead, which all are born in the fresh waters of Idaho and migrate to the ocean. Chinook salmon swim almost 900 miles from the Pacific to central Idaho's Redfish Lake. That is an amazing journey! It fills me with lasting gratitude to stand next to my wife and daughter in the waters of the Boise and catch beautiful rainbows.

Val suggested, to my delight, that we consider hiring the Payette River guide we met at a Boise fly fishing show. I booked a 12-mile river raft trip om the North Payette River, with Shane out of Cascade Raft and Outfitters. I have met and fished with a lot of guides in five different states, and Shane is one of the best. Shane's custom-built raft is set up for fly fishing. His guiding experience--in Alaska, and on whitewater--makes his services worth every penny. We put in 60 miles north of Boise. This river section is wild, with no visible roads nearby. It has five exciting, but safe, Class III rapids. We were amazed at the scenic beauty, and at the rainbows' size and prolific number. We honestly lost count after 60-some fish and a half-dozen mountain whitefish. Val even caught a legitimate 21" rainbow that she successfully danced to the net. A double nymph indicator rig was used: first fly was a Beadhead Prince in size 12, and the dropper fly was a Rainbow Warrior tungsten beadhead, in size 16.

Our next river stop was the Rogue of Oregon. In 1968, Congress passed the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. It provided lasting preservation under three classifications: Wild, Scenic, and Recreational. An 84-mile section of the Rogue, from Applegate Creek near Grants Pass to Lobster Creek by the coast, is designated by this act. Trey Combs, in his book Steelhead Fly Fishing describes it well: "Fly fishing and the Rogue are nearly synonymous, so easily define each other, that the blending of mystiques has produced an image more powerful here than on any other American river." This statement by Combs is largely due to the legacy of Zane Grey, the famous novelist. Grey first fished the Rogue in 1919. He did his first successful float through today's Wild and Scenic section in 1925. It



VAL WAGNER HOLDS A WILD BROOK TROUT FROM MINNESOTA'S NORTH SHORE.

was a thrill to land one of the most colorful iridescent rainbows I've ever held. It was caught in the upper Rogue, just south of Crater Lake National Park.

northern California, to see the redwoods and hopefully fish the river.

We had never seen redwoods before. After several hikes in two different areas, I have to say President Ronald Reagan, in my opinion, was profoundly wrong. During Reagan's presidency, when he was pushing for We stayed on the Klamath River in more cutting, he said, "When you've seen one redwood you have seen them all." That's like saying when



AN IRIDESCENT RAINBOW TROUT CAUGHT FROM THE ROGUE RIVER IN OREGON.

you have seen one rainbow or steelhead, you have seen them all. Unfortunately, the redwoods, like the steelhead, have been devastated, reduced to less than 5 percent of their original population. Overharvesting and unregulated industrial growth have almost destroyed both. Which reminds me, I hope all of us remember important elections are not far away. But, back to fishing, we did not get to fish the Klamath because there were a dozen or more sea lions cruising the river, chasing and eating the salmon and steelhead. Even the local people were having no success.

The last, but not least, road-trip spot was the Owyhee River in southeast Oregon. This tailwater is known for its big browns. To say it is canyon fishing is an understatement, given the sign warning "look for falling rock next 21 miles"! Canyon fishing has impressive beauty, including clean, cold, clear water with miles and miles of riffles, runs, boulders, bends and pools. As in most western rivers, caddis flies, stoneflies, midges and mayflies abound. There can also be great, but selective, dry fly fishing. Oregon's liberal camping access laws provided plenty of access and dry camping sites, plus there is a state park on Lake Owyhee. The best

fishing is below the dam, as typical of tailwater rivers. It was a bright sunny day with browns visible in several locations working their redds. We made arrangements to meet a friend from Boise who knew the river, and whose fly fishing group just posted a photo of the redds, asking fisherman to not disturb spawning fish. I have never seen so many browns spawning on so many different locations in the same day. Fishing was poor. Our friend and guide thought it was the bright day combined with spawning time. However, I managed to land three fish, one more than 18 inches. They preferred a Beadhead Pheasant Tail in gray-purple mix, size 16.

When you can road trip and fly fish six rivers in four different states in four weeks, life is good!

If you have any questions on access points, gear, or roads, give me a call. As this goes off to the editor, we're headed up to explore the Middle Fork of the Payette. Maybe we can add one more river and, who knows, maybe hit the Bighorn on the way home! Fish on!

Editor's Note: Bob Wagner is the president of the Headwaters Chapter. He resides in Bemidji with his wife, Val.



An 18" Brown trout brought in from the Owyhee River in Oregon.

Commercial Properties for Lease in the Twin Cities

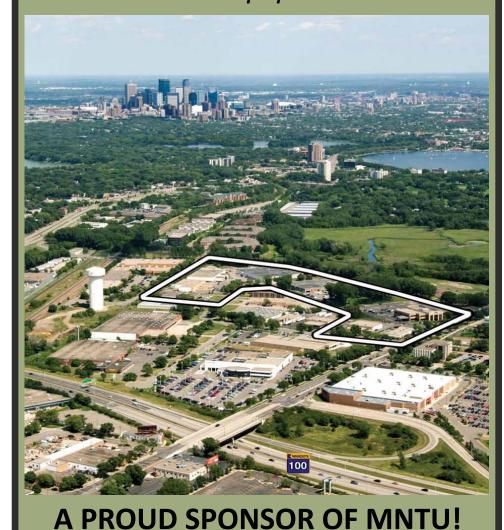


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MNTU CHAPTER NEWS

Gitche Gumee Chapter

Another terrific open water season is wrapping up in northeast Minnesota with approaching snowflakes and frozen lakes. Our first GGTU meeting this fall was one of the most well attended in recent memory, thanks largely to UMDFLY, a student fly fishing group at the University of Minnesota – Duluth. Thanks to all who came to hear about the amazing fall fishing opportunities we have on Minnesota's North Shore and Wisconsin's Brule River.

GGTU chapter meetings are always open to the public and one need not be a TU member to attend. Here are the remaining great programs we are offering this fall, winter, and spring:

Fishing Chequamegon Bay

Learn from one of the region's top guides, Luke Kavajecz, on how to target the smallmouth bass and brown trout of Wisconsin's Chequamegon Bay. Not a program to miss!

When: November 14 at 7 p.m. Where: Hartley Nature Center in Duluth

Fly Tying Holiday Social

Learn how to tie flies from one of the northland's best, John Fehnel, owner of the Great Lakes Fly Shop. No vice or materials needed. Catch up with friends and fellow anglers to talk fishing while we wait for the thaw of spring. Annual GGTU board elections will be held at the beginning of the meeting.

When: December 12 at 7 p.m.

Where: The Great Lakes Fly Shop in Duluth

F3T (Fly Fishing Film Tour)

Join us for our fourth annual screening of the F3T. Watch great films about fly fishing from around the world and win awesome prizes! Cosponsored by the Arrowhead Fly Fishers. Check the GGTU Facebook page soon for information on how to buy tickets.

When: January 26, door open 3 p.m. Where: Clyde Iron Works in Duluth

Projects and Fisheries Management with the WI and MN DNR

Once again, our annual joint meeting with the Arrowhead Fly Fishers will feature experts from the Wisconsin and Minnesota DNR to discuss a variety of topics related to fishing and habitat.

When: February 18 at 7 p.m. Where: Clyde Iron Works in Duluth

Habitat Work and Fishing Opportunities on Minnesota's South Shore of Lake Superior

Not familiar with this coldwater fishery just south of Duluth? Learn about the Blackhoof River and other trout streams in the Nemadji basin, along with the habitat work MNTU has done to preserve and protect them.

When: March 12 at 7 p.m.

Where: Hartley Nature Center in Duluth

State of the Steelhead

Join us for our annual meeting about the amazing spring-run fish and fishing along Minnesota's majestic North Shore. Genetics study updates, North Shore habitat projects, and the latest fishing reports will all be discussed.

When: April 9 at 7 p.m.

Where: Hartley Nature Center in Duluth

Brent Notbohm

Headwaters Chapter

A loaded spring and summer for TU 642 volunteers started with an expanded Trout in the Classroom release day in May. We added an aquatic investigation, observation and data collection project involving 60 students and 12 TU volunteers. Our fifth annual Pike Hunt took place in June. Poor weather conditions didn't damper the fun of 26 fly casters. Special thanks to 18 TU volunteers acting as boat captains, guides, fish fry workers, and more. Fresh spring northern pike are always delicious! Also, our chapter received a special state Hooked on Angling grant. Thanks to two board members' extra time and effort, we received the funding to buy equipment and successfully conducted three Saturday fishing and fly tying events. June was panfish, July was pike and bass, and September was trout. 20 participants and eight volunteers had a rewarding and fun experience, plus important grant goals were accomplished. Chapter 642 was also involved in a Youth Outdoor Experience Day in Alexandria, which will likely continue in the future.

Frozen Fly Film Festival

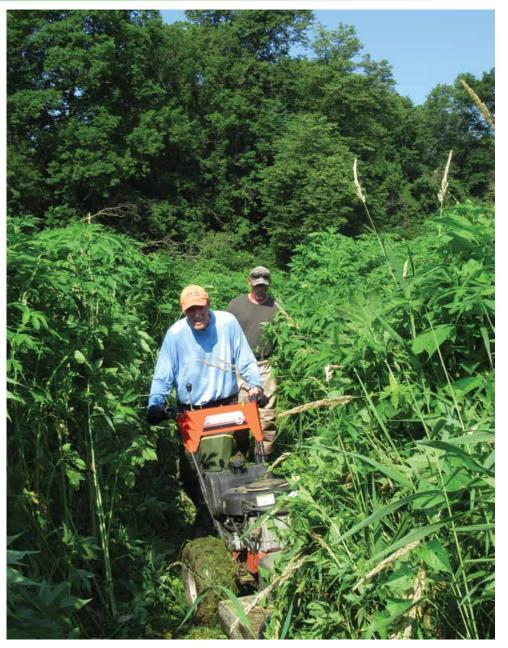
Mark your calendars for Tuesday, December 3 at BBC (Bemidji Brewing Company). We will have the entire taproom for the grand event. The top fly fishing videos from Great Waters Expo, fly fishing gear, flies, equipment, art, and Christmas gift items will be available in bucket raffles, plus door prizes for all. There will be food, beer, and soft drinks. All proceeds go to our regional TU educational programs. See ad printed in newsletter on page 15.

Winter Fly Tying Nights

We are starting the winter season of fly tying nights on Thursday, November 21. Set up is at 5:30 p.m. Order food if you would like. Tying starts at approximately 6:30 p.m. Beginners welcome, however, please call Bob Wagner at 218-766-7757 so we can plan accordingly for equipment and instruction. Pre-set tying dates: Dec. 12, Jan. 2, 16, 30, Feb. 13, 27, and March 12, 26. The TU board may add more dates throughout the year.

Fly Fishing Classes

Val and Bob will offer another women's class next summer, as well as another co-ed class. Stay tuned for info. We are always open to questions and comments.



WIN-CRES VOLUNTEERS PUT THEIR BRUSHHOG TO WORK ON GARVIN BROOK AND DIAMOND, HEMINGWAY AND RUSH CREEKS THIS SUMMER.

Hiawatha Chapter

On October 7, Hiawatha Trout Unlimited (HTU) had our members meeting with John Lenczewski, MNTU's executive director, and Ron Benjamin, the DNR area office manager, talking about the health of trout streams in southeast Minnesota. It was held at the VFW in northwest Rochester.

On November 4, HTU will have an Author's Corner. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. It will be held at the Rochester VFW (2775 43rd St. NW). The authors will include John Weiss of the Rochester Post Bulletin, Justin Watkins, Larry Gavin, and James Holden. They will have their books to sell and great stories and poems to share. Please join us.

On December 2, HTU will have the annual Christmas party at the Olmsted History Center. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. HTU will provide the main dish and accompaniments. We ask anyone who attends to bring a dish to share. Anyone whose last name begins A-M are asked to bring a side dish and N-Z to bring a dessert. We will have many great raffle items, great food, and great friends to share it all with. Mark your calendars with location and date. The address of the History Center is 1195 W. Circle Dr.

The next member meeting will be January 6. Speaker TBA. It will be held at the VFW in Rochester.

A Call to Arms

Every few years, HTU looks for new board members to infuse new enthusiasm and fresh ideas into our board of directors. HTU is currently seeking those who want to join a great team that I personally have had the pleasure of calling friends and fellow board members for many years. We are asking for new people to join us on our board as officers, members at-large, and many other roles. We also invite people to join our board to help out with our website and Facebook page, as well as those who enjoy planning and setting up events, like our annual Christmas party and annual fundraiser. It's only a monthly obligation. You will have a great deal of fun and satisfaction knowing you're a part of a dedicated group of people who love our trout streams and the trout that live in them. You will have a say in preserving both for future generations. Please stand up and be recognized. You can contact me, Phil Pankow, current President of HTU, with questions and your interests. Text or call me at 507-273-0934 or email me at: pankow.phil0615@gmail.com

Phil Pankow

Twin Cities Chapter

There has been significant progress on habitat improvement projects in Twin Cities area trout streams this season. Thanks to all of those who volunteered and helped accomplish our habitat goals.

MNTU CHAPTER NEWS



Look for more updates through the winter and let us know if you would like to lend a hand next season. Read our updates on the local habitat projects below and find our upcoming events at the end of this column.

South Branch of the Vermillion: Phase two of habitat restoration of 7200 feet of the South Branch was completed in late August, despite many rain delays. Work included shifting four stream bends away from steep, eroding slopes. Phase three, using hand labor to fine tune channel features, must wait for low flow conditions. In phase one, volunteers cleared buckthorn throughout the riparian corridor. We will need volunteers again to help complete phase three.

New Easements: We are currently working with the DNR to establish three fishing easements with three property owners. One landowner is currently talking to other landowners adjacent to his property to link about 2 miles of additional restorable stream upstream from our completed section. I hope to one day have 4 miles of fishable water between County Road 66 and County Road 50 to the west. This is extremely cold water and the DNR would like to re-stock with native brook trout.

Parsnip Patrol: We recently lost our spray boss and we need to find another. We have the equipment and only need a leader to organize a group of about 4-6 volunteers.

November Chapter Meeting

Tuesday, November 19, 5:30 p.m. to 8

Mentoring: Investing in the future of flyfishing, and changing lives and lifestyles along the way.

The Green Mill, 57 Hamline Ave S, St. Paul, MN 55105

5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. - Dinner and Social Hour (own dime)

6:30pm to 8pm - Guest Speaker: Dan Brown

Winter Fish Camp

Friday to Sunday, November 22-24 We will again be holding a fishing camp at the (heated) cabins in Whitewater State Park. This is a great opportunity to socialize, learn about fishing, and catch some fish in one of the loveliest springfed streams in the U.S. Sign up for the camp via the TCTU Facebook event.

Tony Nelson

Win-Cres Chapter

Climate Change is here in the Driftless Area. We are seeing more big rain events. Our valleys function like large funnels, carrying rain quickly to area streams. We have had intense rains and intense floods this summer. This has had an impact on streams and some of the habitat work. A large project on lower Rush Creek installed late in 2018

was damaged this year and required rework. Lesser impacts were seen on most area streams. A fish kill on upper Garvin was associated with heavy rains. It is still under investigation by the MPCA and other state agencies.

The DNR's approach to habitat work seems to be shifting a bit. After several years of emphasizing the "natural stream" concept, which involves bank shaping, channel narrowing, and the use of locally available materials (mostly logs and root wads), there seems to be the recognition that large rock is necessary to anchor some spots.

Win-Cres' habitat work this summer has consisted mainly of maintaining stream access by mowing. Using a Brushhog purchased with funds from our last banquet, Mike Jeresek led a group of volunteers in mowing 15 miles of stream corridor on Garvin, Diamond, Hemingway, and Rush Creeks. Take a look at the accompanying photo to see what they encountered. Another group, led by John Weaver, poisoned the highly invasive Japanese knotweed along Garvin Brook.

A memorial bench for Brian Schumacher and Janet Viet was placed in the Preston Trailside Park on July 14. Brian and Janet died tragically while fishing in Iceland last year. The site was one of Brian's favorite fishing spots. Nearly 30 people gathered for the dedication.

Engaging the next generation: Win-Cres members sponsored a home-andhome series of events with the Goodhue Fishing Club. In the winter, our members taught skills at Goodhue High School. In April, we guided a bus load of enthusiastic young people on area streams. The club is 70 members strong and has a strong contingent of young women.

Agribusiness: For the moment, no large feedlots are being planned for southeast Minnesota. The Catalpa Ag proposal was denied a permit by the MPCA. The Daley Farms proposal was denied a variance by Winona County. The latter decision is being contested in court. This will be an ongoing saga.

Fishing: I am happy to report the fish have survived the climatic and human drama. The good old days are now. Area streams are full of 10" to 14" fish, with an occasional whopper. They are as spooky as ever.

Fundraising: Win-Cres has two fundraising events: a banquet on Nov. 23 and a bamboo fly rod raffle. Banquet tickets are \$20; Sponsor tickets are \$100 and are accompanied by 50 raffle tickets. The fly rod is built and donated by Steve Sobieniak of the Root River Rod Company. Guests and contributions are welcome. See the accompanying ad on page 15 for contact information on both.

Chuck Shepard

TROUT ON TAP

WINTER GARAGE SALE

Saturday, January 25

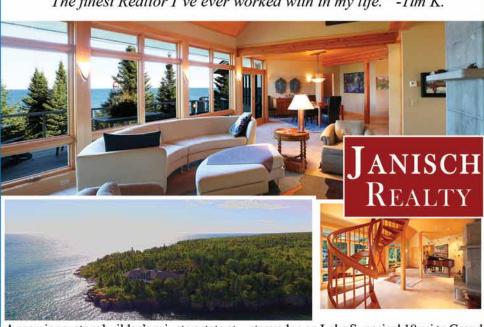
12-3 p.m. Able Seedhouse & Brewery 1121 Quincy St NE, Minneapolis, MN 55413

- Rent a table to sell your gear
- Donate your gear to MNTU to sell
- Contact Dan Callahan to sign up and for information: may.fly@comcast.net
- Open fly tying
- FREE entrance, kids and families welcome!





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NE Minnesota & Lake Superior Lake Vermilion - Ely - Giants Ridge



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Visit www.tu.org today to sign up.

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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 annually. Mail in this form to receive the next issue arriving in February!

			Zip	
Circle one:	1 Year Subscription @ \$20	3 Year Subscription @ \$55		
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Donate to MNTU!

Minnesota TU is the leading voice, your voice, advocating for coldwater fisheries and ${}^{
m I}$ watersheds in Minnesota and the region. Our effective advocacy work, and the work necessary to obtain grants to fund our stream restoration and environmental educaograms, 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 $^{
m I}$ and non-members alike - to keep us working effectively for you, your family and your I

friends. Every dollar of your donation	n will be used here in	Minnesota.		
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REELING IT IN

Landscape Healing

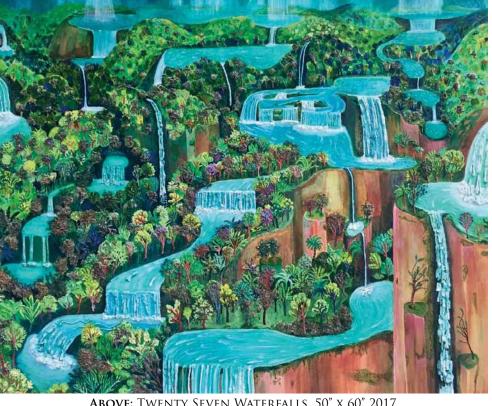
By Hannah Miller • Art by Sophia Heymans

down over a river winding its way with leaps and slides, like an otter, from the highlands to Lake Superior. How pristine the forest, how majestic the hills, how far away, the nearest town! As if painted by a member of the Hudson River School, a dramatic cloud hung across the Sawtooth Mountains. A worry flickered across the serenity. It's already been a wetter than average summer. Would the fish be blinded again by turbid waters, gillful of clay? Would the weave of spruce and cedar fibers hold the scarce soils in another onslaught? What will climate change wash away? My awe at the view gave way to compassion, as it must. We've begun, culturally, to reckon with our role in nature; we're more than a witness outside the frame. It's beautiful, and it's complicated. It begins to rain.

Landscape painting didn't end with the Hudson River School. It didn't even pause for a minute when the Grand Marais Art Colony's plein air class was scheduled during an easel-splintering gale! This must be; we need to evolve our thinking about landscape. We must learn to move with ease through awe and compassion and back. How else will we comprehend our own grief in the face of

ow serene, I thought. I looked climate change-grief, at the least for the loss of predictability and innocence?

> If I started my hike with Thomas Cole in my eyes, as I retrace my steps, the vision is displaced by a vivid, new set of paintings by Minnesota-born Sophia Heymans. In her series, "Post-Human," Sophia seems to sharpen and mature my grief in bright oils. With majesty in scale, this series presents a kind of animistic utopia. The smoke, trees, winds, and waters are her actors and subjects; they seem to greet, reach, dance, and search, inviting the viewer to partake in their wild jubilance. The longer you look, the more the fervor escalates; it's the closest color can come to laughter. Most of us humans think fondly on our own species, but it's hard not to look at these paintings and feel glad for the freedom of expression nature has without us in them. Amid the laughter, the grief is there. What would it take for us to live our way into these paintings? What would it take for nature to greet, reach, and search for us? To throw a confetti of snow to celebrate our coming of age into our role in nature? Grief is about transformation, about re-imagining a role for ourselves in the confusion of change and loss. If we could mature our grief, we might find a way into the frame.



ABOVE: TWENTY SEVEN WATERFALLS, 50" x 60" 2017 PAPER MÂCHÉ, MOSS, STRING, PRAIRIE GRASS SEEDS, BURRS AND OIL ON CANVAS

Top: Should I be Good or Bad Today? 60" x 84" 2017 PAPER MÂCHÉ, MOP STRINGS, PRAIRIE GRASS SEEDS, OIL ON CANVAS SEE MORE OF SOPHIA HEYMANS' ART AT WWW.SOPHIAHEYMANS.COM