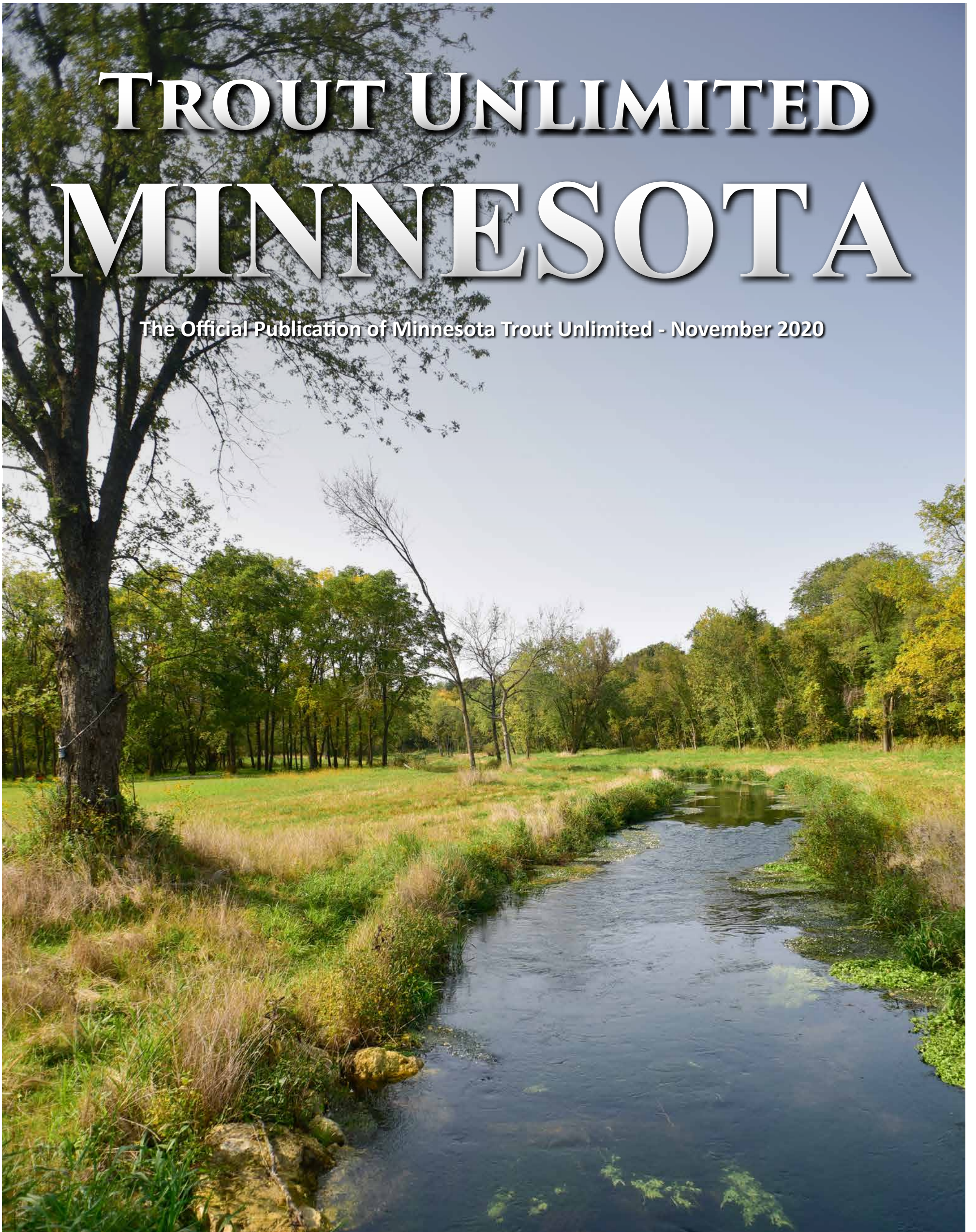


TROUT UNLIMITED MINNESOTA

The Official Publication of Minnesota Trout Unlimited - November 2020



Responsible Mining: A Roadmap
Artist Profile: Lloyd Hautajarvi
Tying the Opal X-Caddis
Youth Series: A Superior Fish Tale
The Gear You Need for Swinging
The Classic Sporting Art of Bob White

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EDITOR'S ANGLE

EXPLORING NEW FISHING OPPORTUNITIES

By Jade Thomason, Editor

As the afternoon light grows shorter and the sun slips lower in the sky, we know that we're wrapping up another season of fishing in Minnesota. This September my husband and I welcomed a new addition to our family. Our daughter Maeve was born during a strange and dark time for our country, but has brought such light to our life. She has already assisted in netting three steelhead over in Wisconsin and it seems she's a natural. She's ready for more fishing when spring returns.

While travel to far off destinations has been limited for all of us over this last fishing season, there have been increasing chances to learn about new places to fish in the region and around the country. Local TU chapters in Minnesota have been hosting Zoom meetings that can be attended virtually, with local experts and DNR staff presenting about habitat improvement, stream conditions, fishing opportunities and more. Look for further

meetings in the coming months. In addition, TU chapters around the country have been offering similar opportunities. The chance to see programming from distant locations is exciting and invigorating. From steelhead on the West Coast to small brook trout in Appalachia, the option to learn about fishing around the country has never been so easy. Keep an eye on the options available at www.tu.org and on their social media to see when key programming is highlighted.

Often, these programs are interactive, with the chance to directly ask or write questions for presenters to answer about the waters, techniques, or issues in question. While fishing destinations are a big draw for anglers to tune in to other TU chapter presentations, they also offer MNTU members a window into conservation efforts around the country. Learning different techniques used to address issues in other locations can help us better conserve our home waters.



As this programming becomes available this winter, please reach out and share with chapter leadership ideas that you glean. Our strategic plan initiative, highlighted on page 3 by Brent Notbohm can benefit from the input.



WINNING YOUTH ESSAY CONTEST WRITER WILLIAM GUTHRIE, AGE 12, CASTS OUT INTO A LAKE IN SEARCH OF A WILLING FISH. READ WILLIAM'S ESSAY ON PAGE 10.

ON THE COVER

Trout Run flows through a long reach of habitat improvement created by Minnesota Trout Unlimited east of Chatfield in the Driftless. John Weiss photo.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Responsible Mining <i>by John Lenczewski</i>	page 4
The Stream Guardians of Garvin Brook <i>by Mark Reisetter</i>	page 6
Tying the Opal X-Caddis <i>by Paul Johnson</i>	page 7
Artist Profile: Lloyd Hautajarvi <i>by Ben Nelson</i>	page 8
Youth Essay Contest Winners.....	page 10
MNTU Education Update <i>by Amber Taylor</i>	page 11
Back to the Beginner's Mind <i>by Hiroto Hiyashi</i>	page 12
A Superior Fish Tale <i>by Evan Griggs</i>	page 13
The Gear You Need to Swing <i>by Jason Swingen</i>	page 14
The Pink Squirrel Parachute <i>by Scott Hanson</i>	page 16
Portrait of a Trout Stamp Artist <i>by Bob Luck</i>	page 17
Fishing with a Friend <i>by Linda Griggs</i>	page 17
The Classic Sporting Art of Bob White <i>by John Hunt</i>	page 20
MNTU at Eagle Ridge Academy <i>by Sri Guntipally</i>	page 21
As the Stars Move: Poplar River <i>by Larry Gavin</i>	page 23



MNTIC STUDENTS FROM MILTONA SCIENCE MAGNET SCHOOL LINE UP ON A BRIDGE OVER SPRUCE CREEK. THEY LEARNED ABOUT THE BROWN TROUT STOCKING PROJECT FROM MN DNR FISHERIES STAFF BEFORE HELPING TO CARRY BUCKETS OF TROUT TO THE CREEK FOR RELEASE.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ANGLERS, ACCESS AND LESSONS FROM OUR CHILDHOOD

By John Lenczewski, MNTU Executive Director

Since the 1980s I have fished the Brule River in northern Wisconsin for fall run steelhead. Even by the early 80s, decades of anglers had already worn well defined paths along its forested banks allowing anglers to quickly jump between major pools and runs, thereby bypassing long stretches of shallow or featureless water. Much of the land along the banks of the river between the Town of Brule and Lake Superior is state forest land and provides great public access for anglers. However, the river also flows through private property with no formal access easements. Fortunately, until now, nearly all landowners have allowed anglers to use the well-worn paths to reach prime water. Some, like the Weber Family, even allow anglers to walk their long driveway to access stretches of river far from any legal access points on public land. "Private property" signs are rare and typically not accompanied by a "keep out" message. In other words, we Brule steelheaders have had it pretty darn good.

This fall I observed a couple alarming developments, which I hope do not become a serious trend. In two different stretches landowners for the first time have posted "Private Property" and "No Trespassing" signs. At one location the landowners are actively evicting anglers found using paths they have trod for decades. The landowners told me that they have had "a lot of problems" this

spring and fall and simply had enough. They even recruited their neighbor to post his adjoining stretch. While anglers can legally wade down from a distant access point, they must stay in the river and some spots are too deep to wade. With these new postings, we have lost any practical access here. The other landowner reports that some anglers are ignoring their polite signs directing anglers to stick to the established paths and crossing points, and instead boldly strut within a few feet of their home. Two anglers in their mid-20s to mid-30s when asked to return to the established paths even cursed the owner and insisted they had a right to walk the riverbanks. The landowner is a longtime steelheader, but after these encounters, he is talking about posting all of his land.

It seems that during the face-to-face encounters many anglers are being disrespectful at best. Admittedly, the Brule River angling community could do a better job of signage at parking areas, telling anglers when that stretch has private property and informing them that access is only by the good graces of the landowners. Yet it seems that something more than mere ignorance is at work here. The landowners report that politely informing anglers has sometimes been met by rude behavior. A sense of angler entitlement and lack of respect for the landowners' rights marked these encounters. Robert Fulghum's essay



"All I Really Need to Know I learned in Kindergarten" comes to mind. The landowners obviously learned how to share, but some anglers apparently slept through class and never learned to treat others with respect and clean up their messes.

More anglers are taking up the sport and need education about access laws. The fact is that a majority of Minnesota trout waters flow through private land where bank access depends upon the good will of the owners. Better signage will help. But we are likely to encounter some anglers who will need you to politely remind them to respect private landowners' rights. If we do not help educate them on the spot we will surely see more great fishing areas become off limits.



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MINNESOTA COUNCIL UPDATE

PLANNING AND GROWTH FOR THE FUTURE OF MNTU

By Brent Notbohm, Minnesota Council of TU Chair

With all that's happening in our world, spending time outdoors has truly been a saving grace for so many of us. I personally don't know how I would have survived the last eight months had I not been able to fish. We Minnesotans are incredibly fortunate to have so many lakes, rivers and streams where we can seek refuge from the misery of this global pandemic, if only for a few hours.

It's been a challenging time for us all, no doubt, but also for those very safe havens of the natural world we seek out. With fishing license sales, state park usage, Boundary Waters permits and the like way up, people are escaping into the woods in record numbers; many for the first time. Unfortunately, not all who walk a trail, paddle a canoe or cast a line understand the limitations of our natural resources. Clean water and the fish that inhabit it are finite resources that organizations like TU have spent decades trying to protect and preserve. I've heard reports this summer of abuses—the illegal harvesting of brown trout on the Vermillion River and of steelhead smolts on the North Shore, for example—and witnessed for myself trash left at campsites in the BWCA and live trees being unnecessarily cut down. Clearly, we can do a better job of educating the public

about conservationism and of ethics like "leave no trace" and "catch and release." This is all to say that one of the revelations of the COVID-19 pandemic is the need to even better conserve, protect and restore our precious natural resources!

Don't get me wrong, more people enjoying the great outdoors is a good thing—an increase in the number of people who appreciate what nature has to offer will lead to an increase in the number of people committed to protecting it. At least it should if we do our part to advocate on behalf of the natural world. In other words, the work of MNTU is now more important than ever!

Which brings me to an important initiative launched this summer—MNTU is developing a new strategic plan! Our last strategic plan, which officially ended in 2013, transformed this incredible organization. Accomplishments initiated by that plan include: an exponential increase in habitat work, a stronger presence at the State Capital advocating on behalf of MNTU, the publication of this awesome newsletter, and the creation of our highly successful education program. Much has changed since that plan, including new challenges, such as proposed sulfide mining in Minnesota and the rising consequences of climate



change. Internally, MNTU's extraordinary growth over the last decade reveals the need to expand our efforts in fundraising, membership recruitment and staffing so that we can sustain our accomplishments and continue our success.

As we develop a new four-year strategic plan, we want your input! Please share your priorities and ideas with your chapter leaders and/or regional vice-chairs. An organization such as ours is only strong because of its active and engaged members. We look forward to hearing from you! These are challenging times, but the necessity of our work continues! Please, be safe and take care!

www.mntu.org

RESPONSIBLE MINING

A ROADMAP FOR MINING OF CRITICAL MINERALS AND SULFIDE ORE DEPOSITS

By John Lenczewski, MNTU Executive Director

For the past ten years the possibility of a new type of mining in northeast Minnesota has consumed the energies of environmentalists, conservationists, businesses, agencies, and politicians at all levels of government. The debate about whether, where and how to permit the mining of precious metals from sulfide ore deposits, which can generate fundamentally different pollution than iron mining, rages on. Can “sulfide mining” be done responsibly in northeast Minnesota? A recent report by Trout Unlimited and coalition partners on “critical minerals” offers a framework for answering this question.

Sulfide Mining Differs from Iron Mining

Polymet Mining and Twin Metals Minnesota are proposing to operate copper-nickel mines in hard rock formations composed of sulfide ores. These are not Minnesota’s traditional iron ore and taconite mines, but a new type of toxic producing mine which would extract minerals from sulfide ores. The character of the rock in which iron is mined is very different from sulfide bearing rock. Iron ore is mined from iron oxide deposits which are chemically inert and non-toxic. In contrast, the sulfide ores from which copper, nickel, cobalt, and other nonferrous metals are proposed to be mined are unstable when unearthed. When sulfides are exposed to water and oxygen they react to produce sulfuric acid and poison the water. The potential for sulfuric acid drainage to pollute our waterways, lakes and groundwater is what has Minnesota Trout Unlimited and thoughtful anglers and citizens very concerned.

Critical Minerals

In August 2020 Trout Unlimited, National Wildlife Federation and Backcountry Hunters & Anglers released their *Critical Minerals Report: A Conservation Perspective*, in response to the Trump Administration’s push to develop and implement a “Federal Strategy to Ensure Secure and Reliable Supplies of Critical Minerals.” Find the TU report online: www.tu.org/critical-minerals-report-conservation-perspective The Commerce Dept. report can be found at: www.commerce.gov/sites/default/files/2020-01/Critical_Minerals_Strategy_Final.pdf Since these minerals are found in the same sulfide ores as copper and nickel, their extraction raises the same issues. Strategies to avoid and minimize impacts to trout and salmon habitats across the country are thus applicable in northern Minnesota and the Great Lakes basin.

What are Critical Minerals?

Critical minerals are those defined by Executive Order 13817 as non-fuel minerals essential to the economic and national security of the nation, the supply chains of which are vulnerable to disruption. These 56 minerals and metals include recognizable ones like titanium, aluminum, helium, lithium, and cobalt, and dozens of obscure ones. As TU notes:



ACID MINE DRAINAGE IN RED MOUNTAIN CREEK NORTH OF SILVERTON, COLORADO.

“Critical minerals are found extensively in everyday life. They’re in the car you drive, the cell phone you scroll through, wind turbines and solar panels generating electricity, and the television giving you a weather forecast and the news each morning. They’re used in airplanes, precision guided missiles and submarines. Importantly, they are also vital components for renewable energy technologies that can help address climate change and its associated consequences for fish and wildlife habitat. They are, as their name implies, critical to the national and economic security of the United States. But their extraction and production comes with impacts.”

The Impetus to Develop the Report

In December 2017, President Trump issued Executive Order 13817, which directed the Commerce Department to develop a report that includes: (1) a strategy to reduce the Nation’s reliance on critical minerals; (2) an assessment of progress toward developing critical minerals recycling and reprocessing technologies, and technological alternatives to critical minerals; (3) options for accessing and developing critical minerals through trade with allies; (4) a plan to improve mapping and data access to support private sector exploration of critical minerals; and (5) recommendations to streamline permitting and review processes related to leases, and increase discovery, mining and refining of critical minerals. The last item in particular caught TU’s attention.

In June 2019 the Commerce Department issued its report which included ways to develop critical mineral recycling and reprocessing (a good thing), but also recommendations to “streamline” permitting to develop extraction leases. As TU observed:

“Of specific note to anglers, hunters and outdoor recreationists of all stripes, the report included 61 recommendations, including calls to action affecting public lands and watersheds. These include

revising public land planning processes, streamlining environmental reviews, and seeking recommendations to reduce ‘unnecessary’ impacts that protected public lands like wilderness areas and National Monuments have on mining.”

Trout Unlimited recognized the complexity of the issue and the need to offer a thoughtful framework for collaborative solutions to avoid or minimize impacts to trout and salmon watersheds and wild, roadless places.

Acknowledging the Need for Critical Minerals and Some Mining

This is a complex issue and everyone should review the very readable *Critical Minerals Report: A Conservation Perspective*. At the risk of oversimplifying, TU, NWF and BHA concluded that:

- We do need critical minerals, especially as key components of renewable energy development/storage.
- Critical minerals are therefore vital to mitigating climate change.

• We cannot solely mine our way out of supply chain challenges—we need to reduce demand and recycle first.

• After using the best efforts to reduce demand and increase recycling, the U.S. still will need to develop some new mines.

• *If done strategically and responsibly*, mining critical minerals (and all minerals) can be done in a way at appropriate locations that protect vital habitat and treasured natural resources.

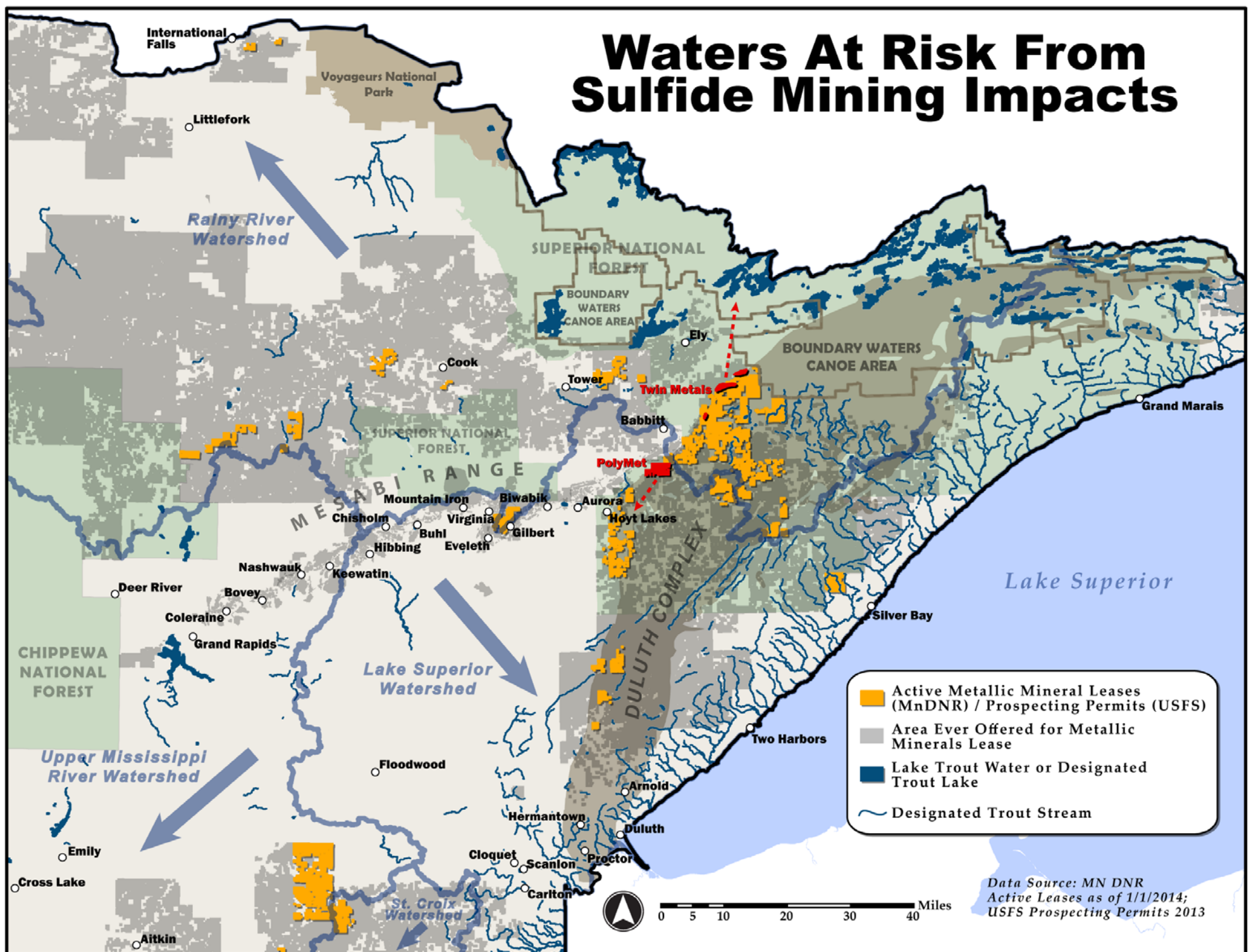
Coldwater Resources at Risk

TU used a team of experts to map and identify areas of critical mineral deposits with a nexus to important fish and wildlife habitats and protected public lands. They concluded that of the known critical mineral deposits, half are within coldwater trout and salmon habitat! And one in ten are located in currently protected wilderness areas and Forest Service roadless areas. “This analysis also means that half of the known deposits are not within coldwater habitat, provid-



THE AUTHOR WITH A HEALTHY BWCW BROOK TROUT.

Waters At Risk From Sulfide Mining Impacts



ing an opportunity to consider developing these resources while avoiding high-value locations.” In the report is a link to a map-based search tool you can use to see where trout and salmon habitat could be at risk. The February 2014 edition of this newspaper contained a map of northern Minnesota trout waters at risk, produced by our frequent partner, the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy. Since the locations of potential threats have changed little in the past seven years, and no one has made new coldwater streams or lakes since the glaciers receded, the map remains accurate and is reprinted above.

Tenets for Responsible Critical Minerals Development

Drawing on decades of involvement in protecting public lands and roadless areas, participating in public resource planning and permitting review processes, and helping to reclaim abandoned mines, TU offers 12 tenets for responsible development of critical minerals:

1. Before seeking new sources of raw materials, prioritize and fully utilize alternatives, such as recycling, substitutes to critical minerals, reprocessing old mine waste piles and ash material, and engineering advancements to reduce use and need for new mines.
2. Evaluate critical mineral mine site proposals on public land through transparent, effective and predictable public processes—ones that include public land users, affected communities and indigenous tribes, as well as appropriate state and local governments and other stakeholders.

3. Avoid and minimize critical mineral development impacts to important fish and wildlife habitat, including focusing operations on landscapes that already have established infrastructure.

4. Encourage federal and state policies that support responsible critical minerals mining and avoid impacts to special places, recreational assets and high quality fish and wildlife habitat. Where impacts are unavoidable, effects must be mitigated including through the use of compensatory mitigation.

5. Ensure that environmental safeguards, such as the National Environmental Policy Act and current public land protections, are not circumvented, repealed or weakened for the purposes of developing critical minerals.

6. Utilize the best available science to map critical mineral resources, identify key fish and wildlife habitat, and develop avoidance and mitigation strategies.

7. Where critical minerals are a byproduct of other mining objectives, enforce all applicable laws—including those that govern non-critical minerals—to ensure uniformity of policy.

8. To be considered “critical,” minerals should be subject to import vulnerability, not just import reliance. Supplies from some allies may be part of secure supply chains, even if those minerals are imported.

9. Some places are simply too special or sensitive to mine. Where other values are deemed more important and risks

too high, critical mineral mine proposals should not be approved.

10. Allocate a portion of the revenues generated from mineral development on public lands, including critical minerals, to offset expenses for mitigation and abandoned mine reclamation.

11. Develop new policies in formalized collaboration with all affected stakeholders, including hunters and anglers, tribes, outdoor recreation interests, labor, manufacturers and the mining industry.

12. Seek to build enduring trust, transparency, and partnership with all stakeholders and impacted communities, which should result in more responsible mining projects, and reduced community opposition.

Application to Northeast Minnesota

Copper, nickel and gold are not on the critical minerals list. Yet, efforts to extract them from the sulfide ore formations can have the same impacts and raise the same concerns. If followed, the tenets can avoid and minimize impacts to trout and salmon habitats in northern Minnesota and the Great Lakes basin. The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness is highlighted as one place “simply too special or sensitive to mine” (tenet 9). The watersheds “upstream” of the BWCAW are extremely water-rich and the risks high.

Thirteenth Tenet for MN?

Minnesota Trout Unlimited believes that all mining projects, including in sulfide ore bodies, must have adequate protections to prevent pollution and proper

financial safeguards to ensure any future pollution will be fully remediated. While the tenth tenet gets at this financial aspect, it may not go far enough in water rich Minnesota. It is important that the state receive a significant up front, cash damage deposit before operations begin. The actual impacts of a mine may be far greater if the financial resources are not adequate or not controlled solely by state regulatory agencies. If funds are too small or their expenditure delayed, the responsiveness or thoroughness of corrective measures can be compromised and lead to impacts larger. We cannot assume that the State will have independent financial resources available to address environmental impacts if financial assurances prove to be inadequate. If project proposers truly pay all costs of a mine operation, including after mining ceases, we suspect mining companies will choose other sites further away from sensitive water resources.

Can “Sulfide Mining” be Done Responsibly in Northeast Minnesota?

If the tenets above are implemented, the chances of avoiding and minimizing impacts to trout, steelhead and salmon habitats in the Lake Superior and Boundary Waters watersheds are good. The challenge is translating this roadmap into specific state policies and permit recommendations. Several partners with greater resources than MNTU have been doing a great job leading the fight to protect our northern waters from mine pollution. We hope to increase our participation on these issues. We encourage individual TU members to follow and comment on sulfide mining proposals using MN DNR and MPCA websites.

WIN-CRES TROUT UNLIMITED THE STREAM GUARDIANS OF GARVIN BROOK

By Mark Reisetter



ABOVE: JAPANESE KNOTWEED PLANTS ARE EXTREMELY INVASIVE. NOTE THE BAMBOO-LIKE SHOOTS IN THE PHOTO ON THE RIGHT.
BELOW: A LARGE JAPANESE KNOTWEED PLANT ENGULFING A REGULATIONS SIGN.

Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum* or *Fallopia japonica*) is an invasive perennial that is threatening Garvin Brook, a trout stream near Stockton, Minnesota. Japanese knotweed is on the MN Department of Agriculture's Control List for Prohibited Noxious Weeds, which means no transportation, propagation, or sale of it is allowed. A few years before it was discovered on Garvin Brook in 2016, members of the Winona area Win-Cres Chapter of Trout Unlimited had heard of the way this plant had engulfed 27 acres along Paint Creek in Iowa's Allamakee County. The North Bear Chapter of TU in Iowa had undertaken a multi-year approach to see if they could eradicate its dense thickets from the Paint Creek watershed.

Japanese knotweed (JK) grows fast, reaching up to ten feet tall, with bamboo-like shoots that grow closely together as they outcompete native vegetation. It can aggressively spread by sending out its roots and rhizomes more than 30 feet, and the real kicker is that any piece of the plant, even as small as 1/2 an inch, can be washed down the riparian corridor, sprout roots, and start a new colony.

Win-Cres President Chuck Shepard coordinated with Christina Basch, MN Department of Agriculture's Noxious Weed

Specialist, to get the necessary approval for an herbicide application. Basch expressed her thanks for our group stepping up again to apply the herbicide, especially since funds for invasives were not available to the department this year because of the pandemic. The most effective time to treat Japanese Knotweed with an herbicide is after it sets its flower, and before the first frost. The plant at this stage starts sending energy down to its roots, and the herbicide will hopefully destroy the rhizomes.

A crew of eight Win-Cres members met at Farmer's Park on Tuesday, September 15, and formed two teams of four. Each team had one member with a backpack sprayer and three "spotters" to locate JK plants. Starting at Farmer's Park, the teams covered over a mile of stream, ending up at the angler's parking lot which is along Highway 14. The upper mile of the stream through Farmer's Park is clear of JK.

Win-Cres Stream Improvement Chair John Weaver carried one sprayer, and Neal Mundahl carried the other. Spotters were Roger Berg, Jim Clark, Paul Girtler, Dave Schulz, Chuck Shepard, and Tom Stoa.

The Win-Cres Chapter of Trout Unlim-

ited has a history of working on Garvin Brook that goes back several decades on several fronts. After the damage caused by the mega-flood of August, 2007, and since the passing of the Legacy Amendment in 2008, four habitat improvement projects covering about three miles of Garvin Brook have been completed, and Win-Cres has played a large role in that work. In recent years, after the chapter purchased a brush hog, crews from Win-Cres led by Mike Jeresek have been mowing angling paths along the improved stretches of Garvin Brook

(as well as along other streams) to make it easier for anglers to navigate through the wild parsnip and tall ragweed. With its commitment four years ago to combat one of Garvin Brook's latest threats, namely, the infestation of the invasive Japanese knotweed, Win-Cres has really become a stream guardian for these "home waters."

Editor's Note: Mark Reisetter serves as the Southern MN Vice Chair for Minnesota Trout Unlimited. He is a retired fly fishing guide and Win-Cres Chapter board member.



JOHN WEAVER AND TOM STOA WORK TO REMOVE JAPANESE KNOTWEED. JOHN SPRAYS WHILE TOM SPOTS.



FLY TYING

WITH LAUGHING TROUT FLY FISHING

By Paul Johnson



The Opal X-Caddis (Improved)

When I first started tying flies, Dennis Potter would highlight different fly patterns in the Midwest Fly Fishing Magazine. It was in one of those editions that I was introduced to his Opal X-Caddis. Mr. Potter would just clip the head of the fly off as you would with a standard Elk Hair Caddis. I took his pattern and added the brown rooster hackle for the collar and the Improved Opal X-Caddis was finished. I think that this fly just has the perfect profile. Wouldn't any self-respecting fish want to eat this fly?

Paul Johnson
Laughing Trout Fly Fishing
Paulwaconia@gmail.com

Materials List

Hook:	#14 Dry Fly Hook
Thread:	14/0 Dark Brown
Shuck:	Amber Zelon
Abdomen:	Opal Tinsel, Medium
Wing:	Bleached Deer Hair
Thorax:	Mahogany Superfine Dubbing
Collar:	Brown Rooster Hackle

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please feel to contact me.



Step 1. Insert the hook into your vise. Start the thread at the 2/3rd mark on your hook and wrap a smooth thread base.



Step 2. Tie in a length of amber Zelon on top of the hook shank. Take care so it does not spin around to the side of the hook. Trim to roughly one hook gap in length.



Step 3. Tie in a length of opal tinsel.



Step 4. Wrap the tinsel forward to the 2/3rd mark on your hook. Secure with your tying thread and clip off the excess.



Step 5. Clean and stack a small clump of deer hair. Tie it in on your hook at the 2/3rd mark. The tips should go to the bend. Clip the butt ends clean.



Step 6. With your tying thread, cover up the remaining butt ends of the deer hair.



Step 7. Tie in a brown rooster hackle feather.



Step 8. Form a very thin dubbing noodle on your tying thread.



Step 9. Wrap the dubbing noodle to form a smooth tapered head.



Step 10. Make three full turns of the hackle, moving forward with each wrap. Secure with your tying thread. Clip the excess and whip finish. Go fish!



A WILD BROWN TROUT THAT FELL FOR A CADDIS PATTERN.

HABITAT HELPERS NEEDED

We need volunteers to assist with maintenance inspections of completed projects, as well as numerous hands-on tasks on 2020 projects. To volunteer or receive information on opportunities to help with inspections and/or hands-on work, send an email to: monitor@mntu.org List "inspection" or "habitat help" in the subject line and tell us what type of things or specific streams you might want to help with. Please provide a phone number; we will not use your information for other purposes.

LLOYD HAUTAJARVI

A REGIONAL FISHING ARTIST PROFILE

By Ben Nelson • Photos by Kelley DeSmit



LLOYD HAUTAJARVI WITH ANOTHER HANDCRAFTED MASTERPIECE. YOU NEED TO HOLD AN LDH LANDING NET TO APPRECIATE ITS ARTISTRY. VISIT WWW.LDHNETS.COM TO LEARN HOW TO GET YOUR HANDS ON ONE.

“You’re looking at thirty years of extras and rejects,” says Lloyd Hautajarvi.

Lloyd is sitting on a table saw, legs crossed, inches from the blade. Behind him wooden strips bent into hoops hang from the wood shop wall. Lumber leans against another wall. C-clamps fill bins. A system of duct work passes overhead. It reaches the band saw, the pneumatic drum sander, the oscillating spindle sander, the planer, the jointer, and terminates in the dust collector. Lloyd wears a canvas apron over shorts and a t-shirt. He is fit and grey. He listens and speaks carefully. When the air compressor runs, Lloyd pauses, holds a finger in the air and waits for it to finish.

“When I got out of the Air Force,” Lloyd says, “I was still single. I moved back in with the folks here in Duluth. One of my brothers had made a landing net in shop class. It was still in the basement. I took it to Jim’s Bait and got new netting for it. You’re too young to remember Jim’s Bait. It was up by the Copper Top Church, steelheading headquarters. I used that net for many years, got married, found a job, all that monkey business.”

“I wanted to get into woodworking.” Inspired by his brother’s project and a love for fly fishing, Lloyd wanted to make landing nets. But how? He had no experience or instruction. “There was no information,” Lloyd says. “You just think ‘How am I going to do this?’” Lloyd figured it out. He traced the shape of another net-maker’s hoop on paper.

“I made the forms, built the net.

8 Now I had the process. But I

didn’t want to copy him. I burned those forms.”

“I started in the basement with a patient wife. It was noisy. It was dusty. I made my first net in 1983, the wading net. Then somebody wanted a float tube net, a longer handle. Then somebody wanted a smaller net, the brook trout net. Then I wanted a steelhead net. Then somebody wanted a steelhead net like his dad’s: the old aluminum tube with a flattening of the hoop on top. He wanted three nets, one for himself and each of his two boys. We used two pieces of walnut with sumac stuck between, the same way the customer’s father had made them decades earlier. One lady from Chicago wanted a musky net.” LDH landing nets have been sold in fly shops and fly fishing expos. Lloyd and his wife Lori built the wood shop in 1999. A website, ldhnets.com, was created. Hautajarvi has sold nets in Australia and the UK, South Korea, South Africa and the South of France. “I’ve got a guy in Pisa, Italy. He’s bought two or three nets. He wants to chase marble trout. I contacted him this spring, ‘Tell me about this coronavirus thing.’ He wrote me a horrific tale.” Lloyd stays in contact with many of his customers. He’s fished with them on the Brule and the Yellowstone. “I feel like I could go to any of those places and make a phone call and go fishing. I sit there in my lazy boy at night and I could be conversing about nets or fishing with someone anywhere in the world.”

Hautajarvi picks a heavy metal duct off the shop floor. It’s built to hold water over a Coleman two-burner stove. Water boils and softens thin strips of wood. The

wood loses rigidity in the heat. “They’re noodles,” he says. Lloyd clamps three flexible strips to a hoop form, an ovoid frame fixed to backing board. A few days later he glues the three strips together with a handle to create a strong laminated structure. “People have broken them. Usually it’s because they slid down the hill at Bachelor’s.”

“When I was a kid I would see that figured wood in the shotgun stocks at the sporting goods store downtown. I could no more afford them than the man in the moon,” Lloyd says. Now, he builds his net handles with the same detail. Hautajarvi cuts his handles from hardwood of atypical, dynamic grain patterns. Lloyd moves around the shop with a spray bottle and a rag. There is a spring in his step. He picks up a rough-cut block, sprays it and wipes it with the rag highlighting the grain. “Curly lumber, lines crossing the grain. You’re looking at edge grain and end grain. Everything is convoluted.” Lloyd finds and sprays another piece. “Quilted maple, it looks like a 3-D topo map of a mountain range. You have to cut these logs in the proper orientation. I cut for figure. I don’t cut for yield.” Lloyd keeps rolling. “Birdseye maple, one maple tree out of one thousand might have birdseye, then one out of one thousand with birdseye might be dynamic. I’m going for dynamic.” Lloyd digs through a pile of lumber, “This is spalted maple. It’s part of the decay process. If you catch it, you can use it. If it goes too far, it’s rotten.” He reaches to the back of a shelf and pulls out a block of black wood. It’s as heavy as stone. “This is Gabon Ebony. I got away from the tropical stuff because there is so much cool

stuff locally. Some of this tropical stuff won’t even float. That’s not a handy feature in a net!” Lloyd could go on for hours. “Cherry burl, ash burl, walnut, I like them all. I call them gems of the forest. You open these things up and finish them and they’re just beautiful.” Lloyd takes a finished net off his display rack. It has a long handle with markers laid into it, spaced at precise intervals for measuring fish. “This one has mother of pearl. You’ll know how long the fish is then you add two inches when you tell your friend.”

Lloyd and Lori were once on a fly fishing trip to the Driftless Area, poking around a fly shop in Romance, Wisconsin. Lloyd asked the fly shop owner if he knew of a local saw mill. The proprietor thought about it and said, “Watch the shop.” He left Lloyd and Lori in charge of the register and went to the bar down the street. He came back with a hand-drawn map. Lloyd and Lori found the sawmill and collected a pile of cherry and walnut.

“Do you happen to have any burls?” Lloyd asked.

“Out by the burn pile. A guy was going to buy it. Now it’s been there a year.”

“There was this giant white ash burl,” Lloyd says. He had already filled his truck with fishing gear and lumber. He couldn’t take the burl whole. “I said ‘If you cut it for me I’ll buy it.’ Now I was at his mercy. We got it in his saw. It was a horizontal band saw mill, geared for big stuff. It had an operator’s cab like a semi truck. He makes a cut, then another. Then we see it. Metal! The bane of the sawyer!” A bullet was lodged in the wood. We had cut a cross-section through the shell. The burl emanated from that pocket. I still regret using that burl. My God was it gorgeous.”

“There is a beautiful birch burl in town. I’ve been watching it grow for 25 years,” Lloyd says. Then he slips. He discloses the location of the burl. If published, his competition, the bowl turners, could beat him to the burl. Hautajarvi immediately recognizes his mistake and in all seriousness, requests confidentiality.

LDH landing nets are fit with traditional knotless nylon netting. “I’ve been using these net bags since 1983,” Lloyd says. “Imported nets with plastic bags are heavier, even though the frame is made of carbon fiber. I took my postal scale down to the fly shop and weighed them, mine are up to eight ounces lighter. People like plastic bags because everyone is tandem nymphing. I’ve resolved that by going to factory barbless hooks and I am extremely happy with them, especially on steelhead. Do I lose some fish? Yes. I lost some fish on barbed hooks too.”

“There is no data that a plastic bag is easier on a fish than a knotless nylon net,” Lloyd says. “I fish with a partner and bring the fish in quickly. If you get the net wet, and keep the fish in the water, it’s fine. Meanwhile they’re getting their grip and grin.”

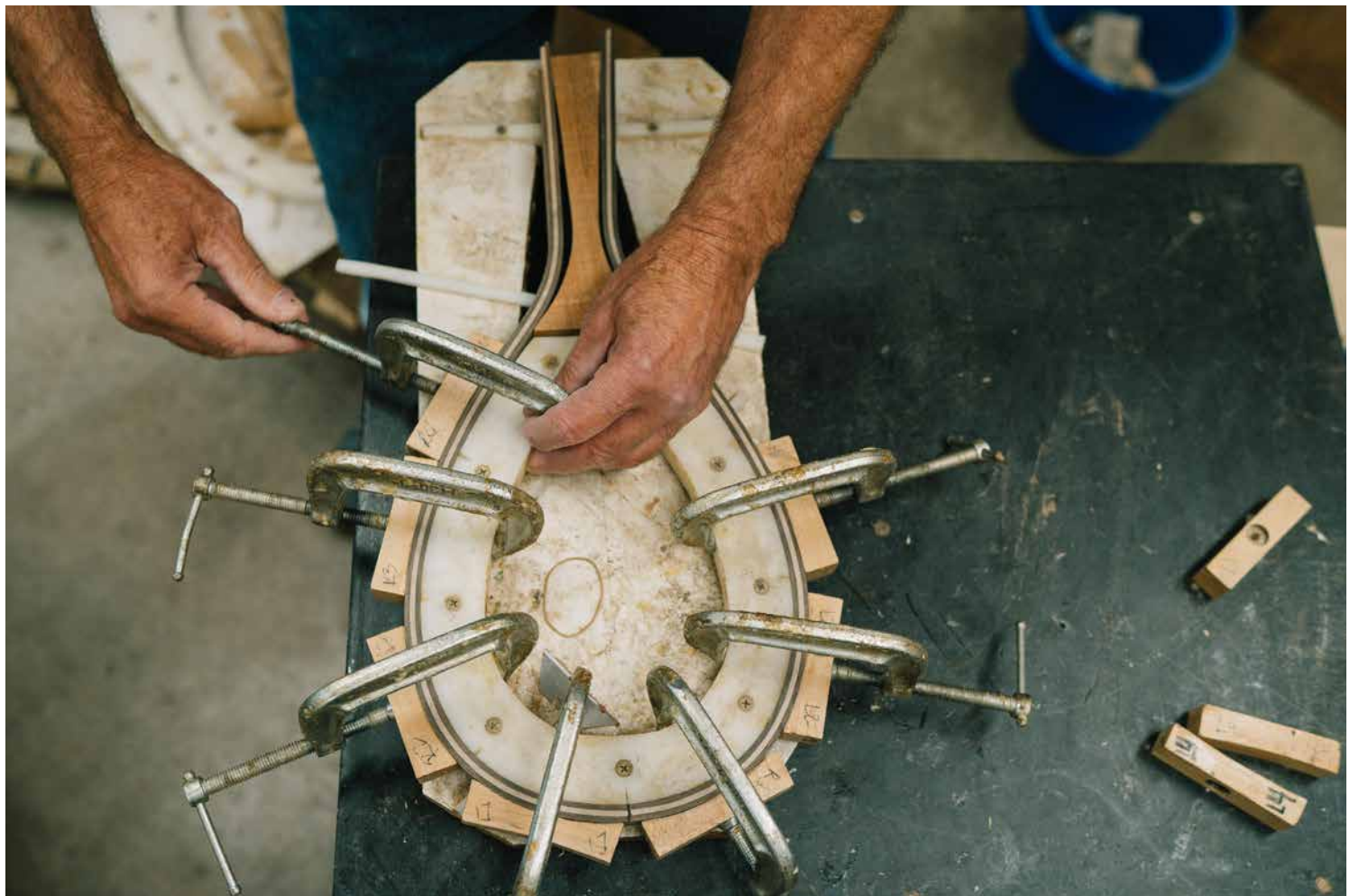
Lloyd illustrates his point with a story. He was fishing the Brule and was fighting a nice fish. A stranger, a young guy, came by and asked Lloyd if he'd like a hand. "Sure," Lloyd said. Then he noticed that his helper didn't have a net.

"I never carry a net," the man said.

"He intended to tail the fish," Lloyd explains. "Fine." Except when the fish came in the young man mishandled it and ended up with the fish against his chest, giving it a bear hug. In the end it didn't matter much, Lloyd saw that it was a coho. He would have brought it home for the grill anyway. "My point being, there were fish scales everywhere."

Lloyd gets his net bags in Duluth. "Two miles away. Up on Arnold Road. Duluth Net Company, used to be Christiansen Nets. If they go out of business tomorrow, I'll go out of business tomorrow. Wonderful people. They've been taking care of me for 35 years."

This past summer, Lloyd welcomed his friend Damian Wilmot to the shop. Damian is a fishing guide on the Brule and together they have restored two historic Joe Lucius canoes. One hundred years old, twenty feet long and one hundred seventy pounds, "These boats were an early attempt to build a canoe out of something other than birch bark," Lloyd says. A captain's chair in the bow moves fore and aft for trim. One inch piping through the hull draws water for a live well. "The keel is made of white pine. It's seven inches wide. Think of a typical keel, what is it, 1.5 inches?" Lloyd suspects white pine was chosen because it expands in water and tightens the boat.



THE TOOLS OF THE TRADE. HOOP FORMS AND C-CLAMPS HOLD STEAM BENT STRIPS AS THEY BECOME A LANDING NET.

And it was available in 18-foot planks. "The hull is white cedar, it's light and decay resistant." The ribs are white oak, chosen for their strength and pliability after steam. "Not every wood is amenable to steam bending." The curved bow and stern stemboards are tamarack knees. These curved pieces are not steam bent. Tamarack knees are cut from the swamp tree where the trunk swoops out to its roots. "It's a very hard wood, the cut never crosses the grain. They never rot."

"Guys made a living cutting knees," Damian says. "It would have been an occupation. Purveyor of fine knees."

The first canoe was crushed when a boat-house collapsed. Two decades of deterioration later, Damian got the dilapidated boat. "I said I'm going to fill it with dirt and plant flowers in it." Damian nods at Lloyd and says, "This genius said we ought to fix it up."

"The center was caved in. It had a sway back," Lloyd says. "32 of the 33 ribs were fractured, screws pulled through the side, planking was rotten, the bottom of the boat caved in at least four, if not six inches. There was a lot of looking at it and head scratching." Lloyd and Damian spent two winters in the shop restoring that boat. "Damian [a citizen of Wisconsin] was almost able to buy a Minnesota fishing license because of it."

The partners made cardboard hull templates from a similar boat and cut plywood forms. They put the decimated boat on saw horses. "We used two by eights to create a strong back then

strapped the boat between plywood forms and the strong back. There was a month of forming, tightening and hitting it with a rubber mallet. We steamed and replaced every rib. Then we flipped it over and replaced the broken planking."

"We used \$700 worth of bronze hardware," Lloyd says. "We would have made \$1.40 per hour if we sold the canoe at market value. If we could have sold the canoe at market value."

"We figured out how to make a small fortune in canoe restoration," Damian says. "Start with a big one!" They laugh. "You look at any guy who's making a good living in fishing, he's got a rich wife."

And what about the landing net business? Is it a lucrative financial enterprise? "Trust me," says Lloyd. "There is no money in net-making." No, it seems there's much more.

Editor's Note: Ben Nelson is a physician in Duluth. He lives there with his wife and three children.



LEFT: HAUTAJARVI IS RETIRED FROM HIS "PESKY DAY JOB" AS AN ELECTRICIAN AND CAN FISH ALMOST ANY TIME HE WANTS. HE JOKES AND CALLS SATURDAYS ON THE BRULE AMATEUR DAY. LLOYD HAS PLENTY TO LAUGH ABOUT.

RIGHT: SCIENCE DOESN'T COMPLETELY UNDERSTAND THE NATURE OF BURLS. THEY ARE A BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY. THEIR HIGHLY FIGURED DYNAMIC GRAIN PATTERNS ARE USED IN LDH LANDING NETS AND SET THEM APART.



YOUTH ESSAY CONTEST

IF I WAS A FISH...

Minnesota Trout Unlimited's education program announced their second youth essay contest this fall, and received entries from around the state. Students participating in the Trout in the Classroom program had the opportunity to write about the topic "If I was a fish..." Students took many directions in their essays, exploring what it would be like to live life underwater, and the many adventures and dangers that they could face there. The top two winners are presented below.

Future essay contests are planned to give more students the opportunity to write about Minnesota's fisheries and natural environment. If you are aware of students that are in grades 4-12 that would be interested in participating in the next essay contest, send an email to Amber Taylor MNTU Education Program Supervisor at education@mntu.org. Winners have a chance at cool gear from MNTU and the opportunity to be published here in the official newsletter of Minnesota Trout Unlimited. Look for upcoming contest information to arrive soon..

1st Place William Guthrie, 12 Big Lake, MN

If I were a fish, I would be a yellow perch.

While swiftly darting about in the pristine water finding food was my goal. Due to my lack of success, I decided to move to the reeds in the deeper water. Suddenly I found myself face to face with a vicious northern pike. I darted for the shallow water I came from with the pike at my tail. It was gaining fast because of its first burst of speed. A school of bluegills caught my attention as well as the pike's. Darting to the bluegills was my chance for escape, so I took it. Under the school I swam, and the pike lost me.

I skidded around a giant water bug just in case it got any funny ideas about attacking me.

If it did, I probably could fend it off, but it would hurt.

Deciding to be safe, I cruised towards the sound of humans splashing on a beach.

I scanned for food but all I found was a few cheese crumbs. Devouring those cheese crumbs helped satisfy my hunger a little bit but I was still ravenous.

With a stroke of luck, I saw a worm

just dangling there in the water. Hungrily I snatched the worm and I felt like a lightning bolt just struck me. A yank from the palate of my mouth stunned me but I quickly recovered. No matter how hard I fought the pull it kept bringing me closer to the shore.

I lunged towards a fallen log with no avail.

When I was just a few feet from the shore I got lifted out of the water and a human was staring at me.

The human who caught me asked the human with him a question that I could not understand but it sounded like this "Hey Joe is this one big enough to keep?"

The other man just shook his head, so they tossed me back. I floated in a daze for a few minutes confused why they freed me. Deciding that it did not matter why, I swam away.

Exhaustion seeped through every bone in my body as I made it to the fishing dock that I called home.

I slipped under the dock just as the sun's glow faded.

It may have been a tiresome day but at least I learned never to bite a worm that floats.



FIRST PLACE WINNER WILLIAM GUTHRIE, AGE 12, FROM BIG LAKE.

2nd Place Sharon Niu, 10 Plymouth, MN

The first thing I could remember was a glowing wall of orange. Yes, my grandchild. Orange. The most beautiful of colors. It is the color of life, for a dignified fish. Hush, now. As I was saying, as I gazed at the glowing, warm wall around me, I felt a sudden urge to go explore the outside world. Struggling out of my egg, I glimpsed boulders, and mountains of sand. Fields of silt, and forests of duckweed. Oh, stop snickering! It was true. Go outside if you don't believe me.

...
You see?

...
Never mind.

...
Anyway, that was when I was a small, young Adriatic trout. As I grew, I met many dangers. Hooked, pointed bits of metal were plunged into my home at daily intervals. Huge, fur-covered fins

of some sort swiped at us viciously, tearing away the lives of many young trout. Sometimes even a toothed snout flew from the world above, looking to swallow us whole.

...
Ah. You're scared.

...
Yes, dear. Many of my friends and family were caught by those... er, predators. It was heartbreaking, living there back then. But you are lucky. You are living in a safe lake, too wide and deep for anything to harm you. Your grandfather and I, along with the rest of the fish that happened to be migrating at the same as us, decided to take the trail down river, swimming until we found a safe place. Right here. There are still dangers here, though. Those hooks I mentioned? They still appear when we are asleep. Maybe you will migrate again, someday.

...
Oh, you're tired?

...
Yes, dear. Goodnight.



SECOND PLACE WINNER SHARON NIU, AGE 10, FROM PLYMOUTH.

This summer may have presented challenges for getting people together in groups, but Minnesota Trout Unlimited's fishing skills instructors were still able to safely conduct 23 youth and family fishing programs throughout the metro area. We worked closely with partners that were able to keep our programs on their calendar, and networked with groups of homeschool families to set up new ones. Almost 200 youth and adults learned how to cast, set up a rod, tie knots, bait hooks, and of course, fish! In addition to fishing skills programs, MNTU educators, with support from the MN DNR, filmed three youth series videos this summer: "Intro to Fly Fishing," "How to Fly Fish a Trout Stream," and "How to Choose a Fly and Macroinvertebrate Identification." All of them can be found on Minnesota Trout Unlimited's YouTube channel in addition to "Intro to Fly Tying" and "MN Fish Identification" videos.

Trout in the Classroom has moved forward into the 2020-2021 school year, and over 40 teachers are still excitedly integrating MNTIC into their curriculum, with some tanks set up in their home classrooms and others at school. Given the chaos in getting this year started and the unpredictability of what is to come, it is fantastic how many teachers are choosing to participate, 20 of them brand new to the program.

It has been a busy and fun fall field day season! Throughout September and October, MNTU educators got students into waders so they could more closely explore their local watersheds, looking under rocks and partnering up for the "kick net dance" to expose and catch whatever aquatic insects and other creatures they could stir up. Students used dichotomous keys to identify what they found and



FISH ON! VIDEOGRAPHER BEAU MEIER CAPTURES FOOTAGE AS MNTU'S EVAN GRIGGS HOOKS A SUNFISH ALONG THE SHORES OF LAKE HARRIET AS PART OF A VIDEO INTRODUCING THE BASICS TO NEW FLY ANGLERS.

learned about insects as biotic indicators of the health of an aquatic ecosystem. Our education team also packed up and transported coolers of aquatic insects to schools whose students were unable to leave, and in November will conduct virtual lessons with students at schools in e-learning settings. Fifth graders at one new school in Miltona had the opportunity this fall to assist with a DNR trout stocking project in Spruce Creek, a few miles from their school. They helped carry buckets and net brown trout into the creek, and will continue to assist MN DNR area fisheries staff with their creek studies this spring and summer.

In order to further engage with TIC schools through in-person and virtual lessons, as well as to build educational content for the program this year, I am running a TIC tank in my home office and Evan Griggs, MNTU's Environmental Education Specialist, is housing a variety of awesome aquatic insects. The trout and insects will be used as a platform for teacher trainings, lessons, and social media pictures and videos, teaching about life cycles, habitat, and more. Follow what's happening with the MNTU Education program this year on Instagram and Facebook.

Do you want to help transport rainbow trout eggs to schools on December 3rd? If so, contact me at mntu.education@gmail.com for more information! Additional volunteer opportunities to assist MNTU educators with programs will exist throughout the winter and spring. Contact Evan Griggs, tic.mntu@gmail.com, about helping with programs.

Visit our website at www.mntu.com/trout-in-the-classroom to learn more about MNTIC and other ways to get involved.



LEFT: AN EXCITED YOUNG MAN PROUDLY HOLDS UP A FISH HE CAUGHT OUT OF LAKE ELMO THIS SUMMER DURING ONE OF MNTU'S FISHING SKILLS PROGRAMS. RIGHT: MNTIC STUDENTS FROM A NEW SCHOOL IN SLEEPY EYE TAKING CLOSER LOOKS AT THE AQUATIC MACROINVERTEBRATES THEY FOUND IN SPRING CREEK THIS FALL. THEY ARE USING DICHO TOMOUS KEYS TO IDENTIFY THE INSECTS AND ARE LEARNING ABOUT WATER QUALITY.

BACK TO THE BEGINNER'S MIND

REFLECTIONS FROM A SUMMER ON THE WATER

By Hiroto Hiyashi

Jefferson Lake, deep in the pine and aspen covered mountains of Colorado, is the space where I learned about fishing.

I think many of us who develop a passion for fishing have memories that mark the point when it became a part of our lives. I remember the early weekend mornings with my dad casting flies in water as clear as Lake Superior. The trout we caught were healthy, beautiful, and as bright as rainbow skies sparkling with life as we held them in the water. When they were ready to swim, we would step back, watching them glide into the current, their bodies melting back into stone and moss. Sitting at a desk in school, my mind would drift back to the weekend, and I could still imagine the smell of minty pine sap or the peppery smell of juniper trees that surrounded Jefferson Lake.

Even after spending time in these wonderful mountains, I grew curious about the fabled "land of ten thousand lakes." I read articles detailing the fishing opportunities that covered Minnesota, and I often daydreamed about what it must be like to fish there. Back then, I was trout spoiled. There seemed to be so many of them that they felt common, predictable, and I found myself wanting more variety in my waters. I longed for the excitement of reeling in a fish not knowing what it might be.

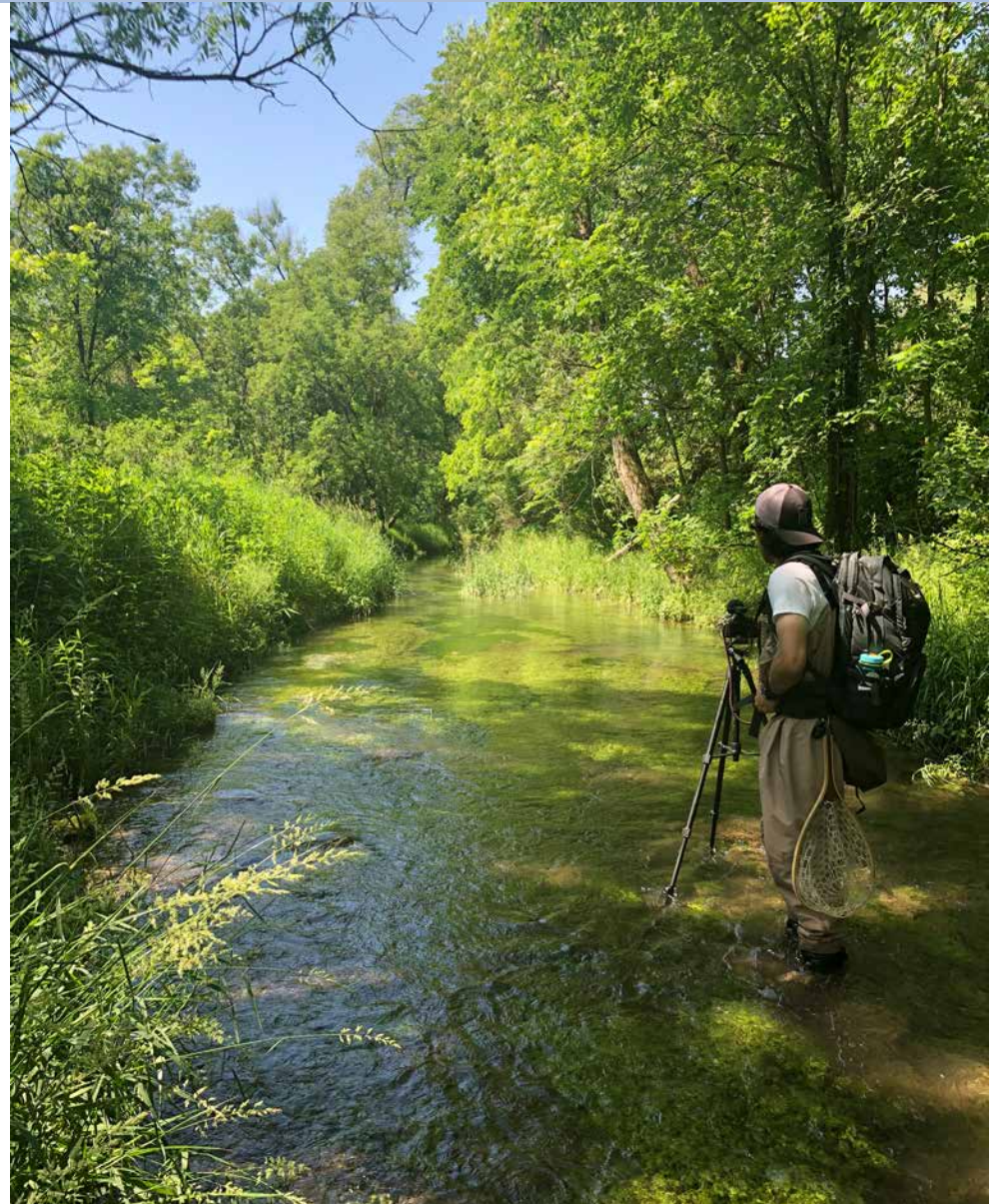
This summer, I was fortunate to have a position with Minnesota Trout Unlimited as a Fishing Skills Instructor and had the opportunity to bring fishing to the lives of families around the Twin Cities. I was surprised to find that the fishing routine that happened to me in Colorado happens to those who live in Minnesota as well. Many anglers in Minnesota craved trout fishing, marveled at their unique beauty, and pined for the experi-

ence of catching them. They were weary of "snaky, smelly, and toothy" northern pike. The bass were plentiful, just like the trout I had in my home waters, and many people spent their lives catching them and had grown used to it. At the same time, family and friends back home expressed their desire to be with me, fishing for the largemouth bass and northern pike that would elude us in the mountains.

My position this summer gave me the chance to take many kids fishing for the first time, and their reactions have reminded me of something vital: It's easy to be desensitized to wonder. The kids that came to my events had not been introduced to the magic I experienced in my youth and arrived with their eyes wide without any preconceptions. I watched with happiness as the kids caught fish with a fresh, boundless energy and their smiles and shouts of joy were unrestrained and free. I could see my younger self in their eyes.

The kids reminded me that there is love throughout the process of handling hooks or pausing at the calls of loons echoing over the water. I have learned from them that when I head to the lake, I should do so as if I have never been fishing in my life. That beginner's mindset makes me experience my time on the water with a pure sense of appreciation. Whether I'm deep in the woods of the Rocky Mountains or standing on the end of a crowded pier in the middle of the Twin Cities, I remind myself that fishing isn't just to catch the newest fish or the biggest fish. In fact, a lot of the time it's not about catching fish at all. The innocence that the kids brought to my programs reminded me that there is always magic in the fishing experience.

When I was helping the kids notice the things that were happening around us,



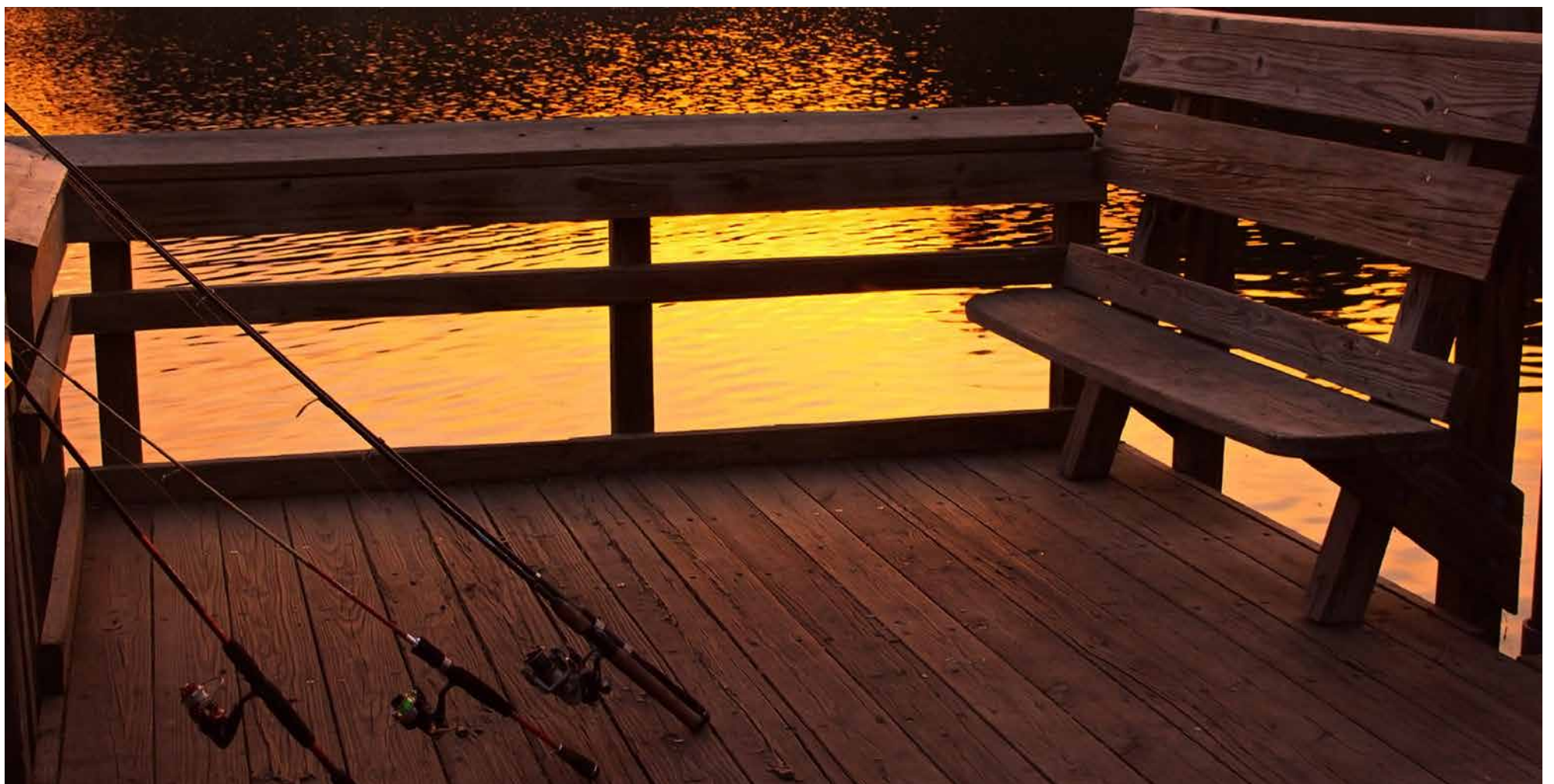
THE AUTHOR SETS UP HIS CAMERA IN EAST INDIAN CREEK TO FILM FOOTAGE FOR EDUCATIONAL VIDEOS ABOUT TROUT HABITAT AND RESTORATION.

I was reminded of the things that drew me to fishing in the first place. I felt their excitement when they watched a largemouth bass cruise its way below the dock and clamored to the edge to try and catch it. I felt their wonder when holding a fish, staring at it reverently in their hands afraid to hurt it yet not willing to let it go. I remember gasping with the kids when an eagle flew by and again when a giant snapping turtle surfaced next to the dock, his shell spiked and studded with prehistoric grace. These

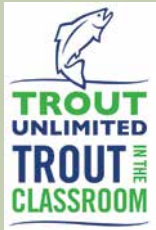
were the moments that I got to share with the kids.

Fishing brings the world into focus, allowing us the opportunity to learn something, fail at something, and persist, all the while experiencing the hum of life as it unfolds around us.

Editor's Note: Hiroto Hiyashi served as a seasonal fishing skills instructor in the summer of 2020 for Minnesota Trout Unlimited.



FISHING RODS REST ON A DOCK AFTER AN EVENING FISHING SKILLS PROGRAM THIS SUMMER ON A TWIN CITIES AREA LAKE. PROGRAMS WERE FULL OF NEW ANGLERS AND PROVIDED A GREAT WAY FOR FAMILIES TO HAVE SAFE, FUN, AND RELAXING OUTDOOR EXPERIENCES WHILE LEARNING SOMETHING NEW.



A SUPERIOR FISH TALE

YOUTH SERIES

By Evan Griggs, MNTU Environmental Education Specialist • Photos by Jade Thomason



Lake Superior is one of the biggest, deepest, coldest lakes in the world--which makes it the perfect habitat for trout and salmon! The lake is home to many species of trout and salmon today, which anglers enjoy catching. But the story of the lake and its fish is not a simple one. Over the last 150 years, Lake Superior has become a classic example of how people impact the natural world, both positively and negatively.

Large brook trout (called coaster brook trout) and lake trout have always lived in the lake and historically had very large populations. These fish can live for a long time and grow very slowly. Beginning in the 1800s, commercial fishing, negative effects from logging, and the invasion of sea lampreys caused their populations to plummet. By the 1950s and 60s, their populations were so low that the Department of Natural Resources started stocking hatchery-raised fish into the lake to recover fish populations. Today lake trout numbers have rebounded greatly with this help. All lake trout in Lake Superior's Minnesota waters are now naturally reproducing. Coaster brook trout stocking was not very effective. There is still a small naturally reproducing population and through continuing conservation efforts their numbers are increasing.

Other species of trout and salmon were later stocked to create more fishing opportunities. The earliest introduced species of trout were brown and steelhead rainbow trout in the 1890s. In Lake Superior, browns and steelhead can grow very large and they are now naturally reproducing. Due to overfishing and habitat conditions, steelhead numbers became very low by the 1980s. (Noticing a pattern here?) To help bring back the steelhead population in the 1990s, strict fishing regulations were put in



A NATIVE COASTER BROOK TROUT THAT WAS CAUGHT IN A TRIBUTARY TO LAKE SUPERIOR IN MINNESOTA.

place so all wild steelhead now have to be released. In the 1970s, the DNR also started stocking Kamloops rainbow trout to take some harvest pressure off of the wild steelhead.

Between the 1960s and 80s, many different salmon species were stocked into the lake. The most successful species, though never formally introduced in Minnesota, is the pink salmon. Pink salmon were first stocked in the Current River in Ontario, Canada in 1956. They are now naturally reproducing and you can see them spawning in North Shore streams in the fall. Other species that were stocked are coho, chinook, and Atlantic salmon. These species were very

successful at first because of the high number of baitfish, called smelt, and the low populations of lake trout. As lake trout populations increased, smelt numbers declined, and so did the number of salmon. You can still find small numbers of naturally reproducing coho and chinook salmon, but they are not stocked anymore. Atlantic salmon were only stocked for a short time, as it became too expensive to raise them. Anglers also had challenges finding them when they returned to rivers on the North Shore.

As you can see, people have had a complicated past with the fishery in Lake Superior. Priorities have shifted over the years from over-consumption and su-

perfluous fixes to real science-based solutions. Thanks to strong advocacy and conservation efforts from anglers, government agencies and others, fisheries in the lake continue to rebound from historic low levels. People have prioritized protecting and preserving habitat, as well as the natural and native fish populations. Doing so will lead to a stronger future for Lake Superior, its fish, and future generations.

What patterns do you notice in the history of the fishery? What do you think the future of Lake Superior trout and salmon should look like?



A KAYAKER PADDLES TOWARD SPLIT ROCK LIGHTHOUSE ON A CALM MORNING ON LAKE SUPERIOR. ONLY CAREFUL, RESPONSIBLE FISH MANAGEMENT WILL ENSURE THE FUTURE OF TROUT AND SALMON IN THE LARGEST LAKE IN THE WORLD.

THE GEAR YOU NEED TO SWING

CHOOSING EQUIPMENT FOR FISHING ON GREAT LAKES TRIBUTARIES

By Jason Swingen

If you do a search for the perfect swinging rod or swinging gear you'll most likely find a bunch of information about fishing big West Coast rivers. A rod that works out there can work in the Great Lakes area, but it may not be the best solution. Rivers in the Midwest, like the Bois Brule in northern Wisconsin and tributaries on the North Shore of Lake Superior are not as big, don't have as high of flows, and the fish generally aren't as large as on the West Coast. This means that you will be able to use shorter two-handed rods and lighter lines to swing. Instead of going over every option of rod, reel, and shooting head setup, I will cover the most common setups used in the Great Lakes tributaries and let you custom fit your combo for how you like to fish. Make sure you have the rest of the essential fly fishing gear for Great Lakes steelhead before we cover the gear you will need to dive into the swinging game.

It can be extremely confusing trying to rig up a swinging rod. The length, power, and extra handle of two-handed rods complicate the proprietary weight system, so you can no longer simply pair an 8wt line to an 8wt rod. Instead, weight shooting head systems are measured in grains. So we are no longer talking about an imaginary weight, but instead talking about an actual grain weight of a shooting head and sink-tip. If that isn't confusing enough, you also need to decide what strength running line to use, what types of sink-tips you should have, as well as a vast assortment of flies to use.

Don't worry though, I'm here to try and sort through all the new jargon, explain how to build your perfect swinging setup, and get you out on the water and hooked up to a giant steelhead! I have a couple examples below with a complete list of my current setup, and my recommendation for the perfect budget setup.

The Eight Pieces of Gear You Will Need to Swing

Other than the basic steelhead gear you should have, this is everything you need to get started swinging flies for steelhead.

Rod

You can use nearly any type of fly rod to swing. Single-handed or two-handed, 9-foot or 13-foot. They will all work, but if you are going to primarily swing for Great Lakes migratory fish, you will want an 11-foot 7wt two-handed switch rod (a two-handed rod that allows for spey casting as well as overhand casting). A 7wt will allow you to throw nearly any size streamer and should handle any anadromous fish in the Midwest (except for maybe a king salmon). Eleven feet is the sweet spot for rod length. The longer your rod, the less effort you will need to put into your casts, but going too long can hinder fishing in tighter quarters. So if you are just getting started, get what is proven to work in 95% of the



THE FLIES, ROD, REEL AND LINE COMPONENTS THAT ARE AT THE HEART OF AN EFFECTIVE SETUP FOR SWINGING ON GREAT LAKES TRIBUTARIES.

Great Lakes tributaries: an 11-foot 7wt. Here are a couple of great switch rod options:

Budget Options (under \$300): Redington Dually, Echo Swing
Midrange Options (\$300-\$550): Redington Chromer, Echo Compact Spey, Loop Evotec, TFO Axiom 2 Switch
High-End Option (\$550 and over): Sage X Switch

Reel

The most important factors when picking out a reel are weight, line capacity, and a fully enclosed spool.

Weight

You don't need to skimp on weight, and I don't necessarily mean weight as in the size of reel (7-9wt), but in how much the reel weighs. Often a reel on the heavier side will balance out your 11-foot rod better than a lighter one. It can be tiring and out-right frustrating to hold the end of your rod tip up all day long. Each rod balances differently though, and a rod with a down-locking reel seat will often balance better with a lighter reel than one with an up-locking reel seat and longer bottom handle. If you have a 7wt switch rod get at least a 7wt reel, possibly going up to 9 or 10wt reel will help balance your rod.

Arbor Size

Mid-arbor reels are ideal for shooting head-style line setups. They allow you to add a decent amount of backing behind your running line, shooting head, sink-tips, and leader, while still allowing for somewhat quick line retrieval.

Enclosed Spool

Running line is much smaller in diameter than your typical fly line. Having an enclosed spool will keep your running line from passing in between your reel and spool which can cause your it to kink and weaken or, even worse, get stuck while you are fighting a fish. Spey reels are always built this way, but you can pick up a standard fly reel with an

enclosed spool for not much more than a standard reel. Each of the following reels are fully enclosed except for the budget options. Enclosed reels are not a deal-breaker, but will give you a little extra peace-of-mind.

Click and Pawl Reels

Many spey reels are built with a click and pawl and do not have a drag system (like the Orvis Battenkill). There is no particular advantage to these reels except that they are louder, "objectively cooler," and more exciting when you catch a fish and have to worry about palming the reel to create drag. They are great options, but if you are new to swinging it is better to stick with a reel with an actual working drag system.

Budget Options (under \$150): Redington Behemoth, Echo Bravo
Midrange Options (\$150-\$250): Loop Q, Lamson Liquid HD, Orvis Battenkill
High-End Option (\$250 and over): Sage Spey

Backing

Your standard 20- or 30-lb backing will work just fine. Just make sure you use backing that is heavier than the heaviest leader you think you'll ever use. If you are going to fish for king salmon and may tie on a 20-lb leader, you should have backing that is at least 20 lbs. Fill your reel up with at least 100 yards of backing, then add more to make sure your spool is full when the rest of your shooting head system is tied on. If a fish takes you over 100 yards into your backing, you have more problems than simply running out of backing.

Budget Option: Magreel Backing
Midrange Option: RIO Backing

Running Line

Instead of a weight-forward fly line that has a skinnier back end to allow the line to shoot out of your rod, a shooting head system is broken into separate parts: The shooting head is the weight-forward part of your line and the running line takes the place of the skinnier section of fly

line that you hold onto. The skinnier running line is what allows the shooting head to, well... shoot out of the fly rod and across the river.

There is some give and take when it comes to running line. The skinnier the line the further you can cast, but it also makes it difficult to hold onto in the cold months when you will be using it. Alternately, a thicker line is easier to handle, but will not allow for casting quite as far. You don't want to go too light, however, because you do not want to break your running line (especially if there is a fish on the other end). Having thicker line also causes drag on your guides as you cast and will help to straighten out your shooting head at the end of your cast. Having running line that is too light will allow you to cast further, but your shooting head will land in a clump. Generally, 30 to 50-lb running line is used for the majority of setups in the Great Lakes.

OPST's Lazer line is more expensive than regular mono (which you can use), but it will last for years, shoots well, and doesn't tangle.

You should spool up at least 30 to 40 yards of shooting line on your reel.

Budget Option: Berkley Big Game
Midrange Option: OPST Lazer Line

Shooting Head

There are two general categories of shooting heads: Scandi and Skagit. As Great Lakes steelheaders, we are more interested in the latter. Although somewhat similar in idea, Scandi and Skagit vary greatly in use, techniques, and applications. Since Skagit is the more popular version, the rest of my gear recommendations will be based on a Skagit style head.

Scandi

Scandi heads work well for the tributaries in Scandinavia where there are fewer trees, the water is much wider, shallower, and often clearer. Scandi heads

are much longer (30-40ft) and are typically used with long 13- to 15-foot (or longer) spey rods. A cast known as a "touch and go" cast allows for extreme distances, but the long, skinnier head doesn't allow for the sink-tips or large flies which are often used when fishing the Great Lakes tributaries.

Skagit

Skagit heads are ideal for fishing migratory steelhead and browns in the Midwest. Skagit heads are far more compact at 15 to 25ft. Compared to Scandi heads, they are easier to cast, and allow you to throw heavy sink-tips as well as large flies.

There are many different brands of Skagit heads these days, each with their own pros and cons. One of the most popular brands is the OPST Commando head. If you want to go a little deeper into the differences in Skagit heads there is a great article from Hatch Magazine, find it on their website.

Budget Option (under \$20): Aventik Shooting Head

Midrange Options (\$50-\$60): OPST Commando Head, Airflo Skagit Scout, Orvis Mission Skagit

Scandi Options (\$50-\$60): Scientific Anglers Scandi, Airflo Scandi Long

The most important factor to consider when getting a shooting head is matching it up with your rod. You need to have the right amount of weight to load the rod and turn that energy into a forward cast. If you are using an 11-foot 7wt rod, depending on the action and power of the rod, a head with a grain weight anywhere between 350 and 400 grains should work. OPST is extremely helpful at getting you the right grain weight head for your rod. Call OPST or find their grain weight chart online.

Sink-Tips

Skagit heads aren't meant to have a leader tied directly to them. No matter what Skagit head you buy, you will need to add a tip to the front of it. There are a handful of different brands you can choose from, but the best options, in my opinion, are from RIO and OPST.

You can buy a larger section of T8, T11, or T14 sinking line and build your own sink-tips by cutting down to length. This is the cheapest option, but you will need to be able to tie your own loops at the end of each tip.

Midrange Options (\$25/tip): OPST Sink-Tips, RIO Sink-Tips, RIO's iMow Tip Kit (6 tips)

RIO's Mow tips are all 10 feet in length with different lengths of sinking line integrated into the tip. They also make iMow tips that start with an intermediate section instead of floating, and have also recently come out with a multi-density tip with three different sink rates built into each tip.

I would recommend getting at least two tips when starting out. Either a Run and Bucket from OPST, or a 5-foot float/5-foot sink and 10-foot sink from RIO.

Example: If you are using a 300 to 400 grain head with an 11-foot 7wt rod you will want to use the medium Mow or iMow heads or the 168 grain Commando Tips.

Ten-foot PolyLeaders and VersiLeaders can also work, but are better suited for lighter fishing applications.

Leader

Your leader may change depending on water clarity and what type of sink-tip you are using. However, the majority of the time you will want a 3- to 5-foot section of 10- to 15-lb monofilament. If you are fishing heavier sink-tips, a shorter leader will keep your fly down, but if you are fishing shallower runs with a lighter sink-tip or the water is extremely clear you will want to tie on a longer and lighter leader. You don't need to overthink it too much. Just pick up a mini spool of 12-lb Maxima Ultra-green, and you will be covered for most situations. Since the fish usually come up from behind a swung fly, you don't need to worry as much about using up your expensive fluorocarbon line. Using monofilament for a leader can be beneficial since the vicious strikes can be somewhat absorbed by a leader with a little more stretch like a mono leader.



THE AUTHOR WITH A GREAT LAKES TRIBUTARY STEELHEAD CAUGHT ON THE SWING.

Don't Ruin Your Sink-Tips

To make a loop-to-loop connection from my sink-tip to my leader, I like to tie a short section (less than a foot) of 25-lb pound mono using a non-slip mono loop knot. The heavier line will not cut through your sink-tip's end loop like a lighter 12-lb mono will. Next connect your 12-lb leader to the heavier section using an ant swivel or blood knot.

Flies

Sorry, there aren't going to be a ton of secrets divulged here. That may seem like a generic statement to keep my favorite flies to myself, but honestly, the best fly you can use is the one you have the most confidence in. I understand that it can be difficult if you are just starting out, but you don't necessarily have to begin filling up a new box full of swinging flies. Although after you start swinging, filling a box or two with swinging flies is the next natural step (and part of the fun).

It is a good idea to start out with a fly that you can cast. You aren't going to catch a fish if the fly you have is too heavy or bulky to cast effectively. Start with a Woolly Bugger, Slumbuster, Muddler

Minnor, or Egg-Sucking Leech. It can be easy to get caught up in the hype, that swinging flies automatically means you need to tie on a giant intruder, but using smaller flies will make it easier to catch more fish, and eventually, you can start experimenting with bigger and more intricate intruders.

For choosing colors, I use the same basic color selection system as any type of fishing. On dark days or in dirty water use a darker fly, and on a bright day or in clear water use a brighter, more natural fly. Eventually, you will find flies that work for you and give you confidence.

Yes, certain patterns will outfish others, but they can change day to day, and none of that is important if you aren't getting your fly in front of a fish and presenting it in a way that entices a fish to eat.

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



THE AUTHOR SPEY CASTS ON THE BRULE RIVER IN WISCONSIN. MIDWEST STREAMS ARE SMALLER THAN THOSE ON THE WEST COAST AND REQUIRE A DIFFERENT GEAR SETUP FOR SWINGING.

THE PINK SQUIRREL PARACHUTE

By Scott Hanson

Hot spots are everywhere on flies these days. I can't go 30 seconds without seeing the latest and greatest hot spot fly on Facebook, Instagram, MySpace, or any other of my favorite social media apps. Scuds with bright pink hot spots, mayflies with chartreuse hot spots, caddis flies with neon orange hot spots. I've even seen a Woolly Bugger with a hot spot!

Well, I've never been one to stand up to societal pressure, so I figured I might as well join in on the hot spot parade. Enter my Pink Squirrel Parachute, or PSP for short. Just like its namesake, the ubiquitous Pink Squirrel nymph, it's got a bright pink hot spot right up there in the front. Not really sure what the trout think is going on with a bright pink spot on the front of the fly, but something in their pea-sized brain must like it.

My PSP is pretty much exactly like the Pink Squirrel, only there is a post and parachute hackle instead of a brass bead and lead wire. Everything else is the same: Krystal Flash for the tail, copper wire for the rib, squirrel fur for the abdomen, and pink fur for the thorax. I like to tie it on a curved hook, so that the back end of the fly hangs down below the water's surface, like a vulnerable mayfly or caddis fly. The fly in the photo was tied on an Umpqua U202, but a Tiemco 2487 or 2457 would be a good option, as well

as a Firehole 317 or 320. Pretty much every hook manufacturer makes a suitable hook.

I like to use pink Para Post for the post material. I looked for just the right hackle color for a long time, and I finally came up with a combination of two colors that goes great with the squirrel fur. I use a medium dun and a grizzly that's been dyed medium ginger.

Tie up a few and see what you think. Or, if you don't tie, they are available at your favorite western Wisconsin-based fly shop, tied by yours truly. Let me know if you catch any fish with them!

Pink Squirrel Parachute (PSP)

Hook: Tiemco 2487 or equivalent, Size 16
Thread: 8/0 Tan
Post: Pink Para Post
Hackle: Medium Dun and Grizzly Dyed Medium Ginger
Tail: Krystal Flash, UV Pearl
Rib: Copper Wire, size Brassie
Abdomen: Fox Squirrel fur
Thorax: Sow-Scud dubbing, Bighorn Pink

Editor's Note: Scott Hanson has been tying flies and fly fishing for over 35 years. He also ties commercially for local fly shops and has authored dozens of fly tying articles for regional and national publications. Check out his blog at www.theriffle.blogspot.com



INCLUDING MNTU IN YOUR ESTATE PLANNING

Any 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

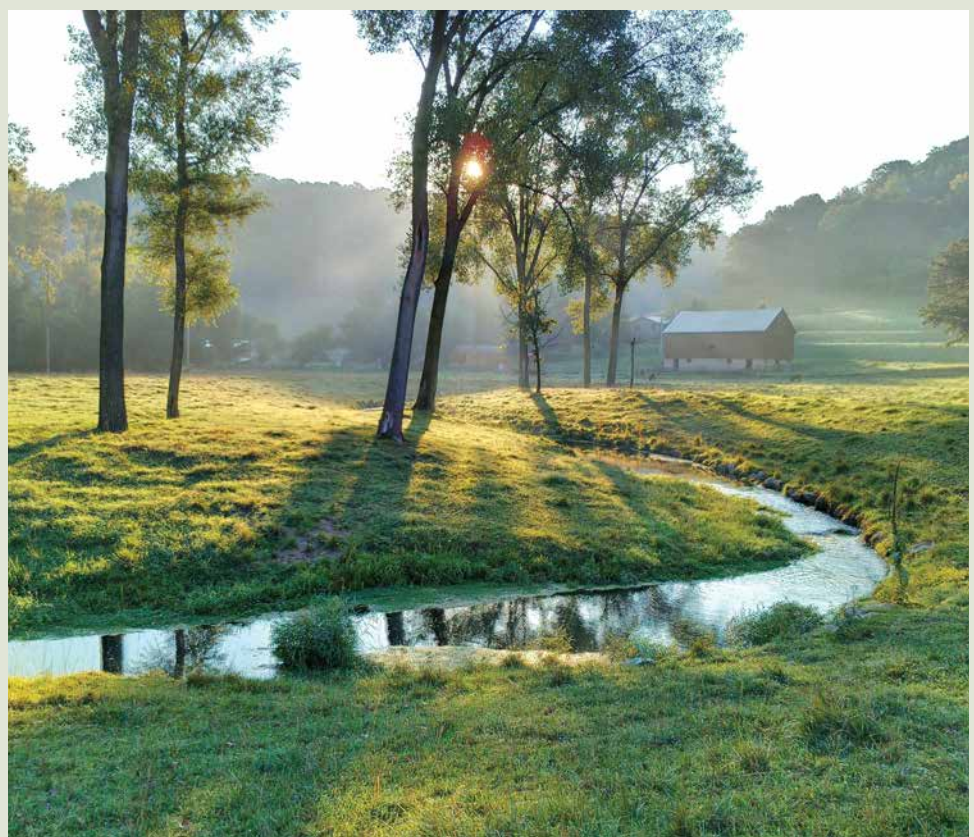
The official bequest language for Minnesota Trout Unlimited is:

Unrestricted General Legacy:

"I give Minnesota Trout Unlimited, a Minnesota non-profit corporation, presently at P.O. Box 845, Chanhassen, MN 55317-0845, 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 P.O. Box 845, Chanhassen, MN 55317-0845, my (specific personal property item(s) and/or real property located at _____) to be used at the discretion of its governing board."



Gift of Residuary Estate:

"All the rest, residue and remainder of my estate, both real and personal, and wherever situated, I give, devise and bequeath to Minnesota Trout Unlimited, a Minnesota non-profit corporation, presently at P.O. Box 845, Chanhassen, MN 55317-0845 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 612-670-1629.

PORTRAIT OF A TROUT STAMP ARTIST

By Bob Luck

At the request of anglers, Minnesota began to require purchase of a trout stamp in 1982. By statute, 90% of the revenue from trout stamp sales must go into a trout and salmon management account to be used for habitat, rearing, easement purchase and research. For the last five years, trout stamp sales have set records, raising over \$1 million per year to support our coldwater species. The trout stamp program also gives artists a chance to showcase their work. The DNR holds a yearly contest for the trout stamp image, open to all Minnesota residents. The 2021 winner is TU member Stephen Hamrick of Lakeville. Steve is the only five-time winner of the trout stamp contest, and one of only two artists to have won all five DNR stamp contests. A professional wildlife artist, Steve is a passionate conservationist who donates much of his work to TU and other conservation organizations. Following is an (edited) interview with Steve:

How did you become a wildlife artist?

"My Dad was an outdoorsman who took me hunting and fishing all the time when I was a kid. My mom was "artsy"—she always had a crayon or marker ready for me to draw something. I took a lot of art classes in high school and really enjoyed them, but when it came time to go to college, I decided to get practical and pursued a double major in Business and Biology at Gustavus. But I continued to paint as a hobby and happened to attend a wildlife art show around 1980, which I thought was the coolest event I'd ever been to. I started taking my work to galleries and wildlife shows, and my love of art and biology came together in a career as a wildlife artist."

What are your favorite subjects?

"Anything alive is interesting to me but I prefer wild subjects and habitats. I have a special affection for wild turkeys because we have a long family tradition of hunting for them in southeast Minnesota."

Tell us about the 2021 Trout Stamp

"I was making a wood carving of one of those fat brown trout you find in the more fertile Minnesota streams. I figured it might make a good subject for a trout stamp, so I created a painting of it. If you look closely, you can see some of the forage species that trout thrive on: a mayfly nymph, a stonefly nymph, a scud, and a few caddis tubes. I thought about adding a terrestrial insect but decided that would make the painting too busy."

Five trout stamps! What have you done with all the money you've earned?

"Very funny. Winners receive no prize money, although the publicity does help my business a bit."

I understand you recently joined the board of the Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission...



THIS PORTRAIT OF A BROWN TROUT IS THE WINNING ENTRY IN THE 2021 MN TROUT STAMP CONTEST.

"I was fishing the Vermillion last year and the water was flooded and unfishable due to a construction project in Farmington. I thought "Can they really do that?" And when I got home I hopped onto the website of the Vermillion River Watershed to do a little research. While there, I clicked on a link to join the planning commission. I didn't really expect anything to happen, but I got an email a few months ago requesting me to come to the next board meeting. I'm looking forward to getting involved with protecting the Vermillion."

Lightning round!

Who's your favorite wildlife artist (besides yourself)?

"Ron Van Gilder."

Favorite food?

"Venison."

If you were a trout, what kind of trout would you want to be?

"A coaster brookie."

Your blood type?

"No clue."

Do you fish graphite, glass or bamboo?

"Usually a fine action graphite rod, but I sometimes use a #5/6 glass rod when fishing with some weight."

Next spring when you buy your fishing license, you may consider shelling out an extra seventy-five cents to get the actual picture of the stamp, along with the validation. Meanwhile, if you are interested in seeing more of Steve's art, please check out his website at www.stephenphamrick.com

Editor's Note: Bob Luck is on the board of the Twin Cities chapter of Trout Unlimited.

SELECT POETRY

By Linda Griggs

Fishing with a Friend

When I go fishing with a friend
The connection winds us around streams' bends
And as we talk our true voices sing
To the tune of the trickling waters' cool ring

Leapfrog fishing the grassy cut banks
Throwing little black caddis, hoppers, and ants
Hoping, watching for the fish to take glance
While we are wading in a slow drifting trance

Hearing a whistle, a big one's been caught
Netting the fish without second thought
Getting the camera, a picture to share
But not too revealing so no one knows where

Unleashing the trout its body aglow
And watching it swim to the waters below
Feeling satisfied at the catch and release
As the fish moves away to find a new peace

The day has been good we've hiked a long way
Walking back to the car with little to say
Our minds and our bodies no longer adrift
But floating in awe of nature's true gifts

Telling stories of trout seen and not caught
Telling stories of dark pools and knots
Having a sandwich, a beer, and a break
Thinking there's nothing our friendship can't take.

Linda Griggs has been fly fishing for approximately 20 years primarily in the Driftless Region of SE Minnesota. She is a member of the Win-Cres Chapter of Trout Unlimited.



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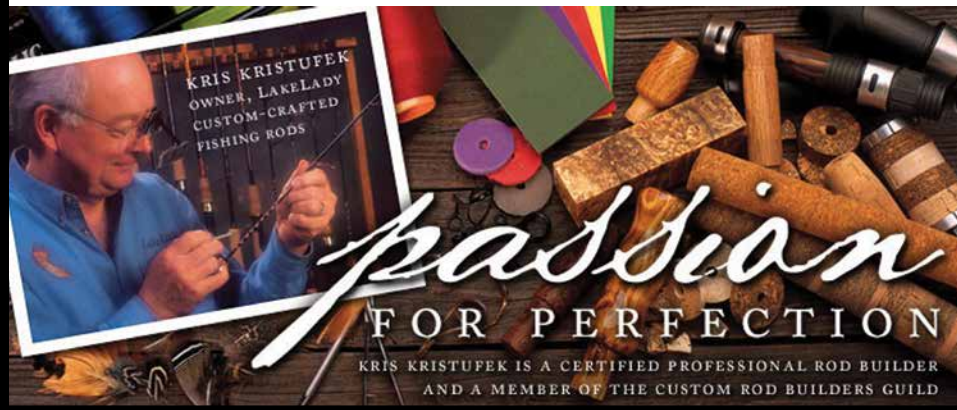
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Join TCTU for an evening of films showing ordinary people doing extraordinary things to protect the environment. In a year when so many of us have taken to local waters for solace and recreation, these films will entertain us and inspire us in our mission to protect and restore cold water habitats. A great event for your family (including non-anglers) to wrap up the Thanksgiving weekend. General Admission for a household is \$15, with an option to include an additional donation. All proceeds will be used for local habitat restoration and educational programs.

When: Saturday, November 28th from 7-9 pm
Register here: <https://qudio.com/event/TwinCitiesTU>

** We have a limited number of complimentary tickets available. If your family is unable to afford a ticket, please contact info@twincitiestu.org*

Selected Films



Place of the Pike
This story highlights the struggle for Ojibwe communities to maintain their identity through treaty reserved rights asserted in 1836.



Hat Creek
An organization of passionate anglers, comes together to bring back an iconic fishery, with an emphasis on wild trout.



Homecoming: A Boundary Waters Story
Joe Fairbanks travels through the Northern Minnesota waters where he learned to paddle as a boy. He reflects on his battle with cancer and draws on the landscape for strength and healing.



Rock-Paper-Fish
Every year, five species of salmon return to the Chilkat River and sustain the Alaskan communities of Haines and Klukwan, , but now a gold rush is underway in the mountains above the river's headwaters.

For a complete list of films, please visit www.wildandscenicfilmfestival.org



THE CLASSIC SPORTING ART OF BOB WHITE

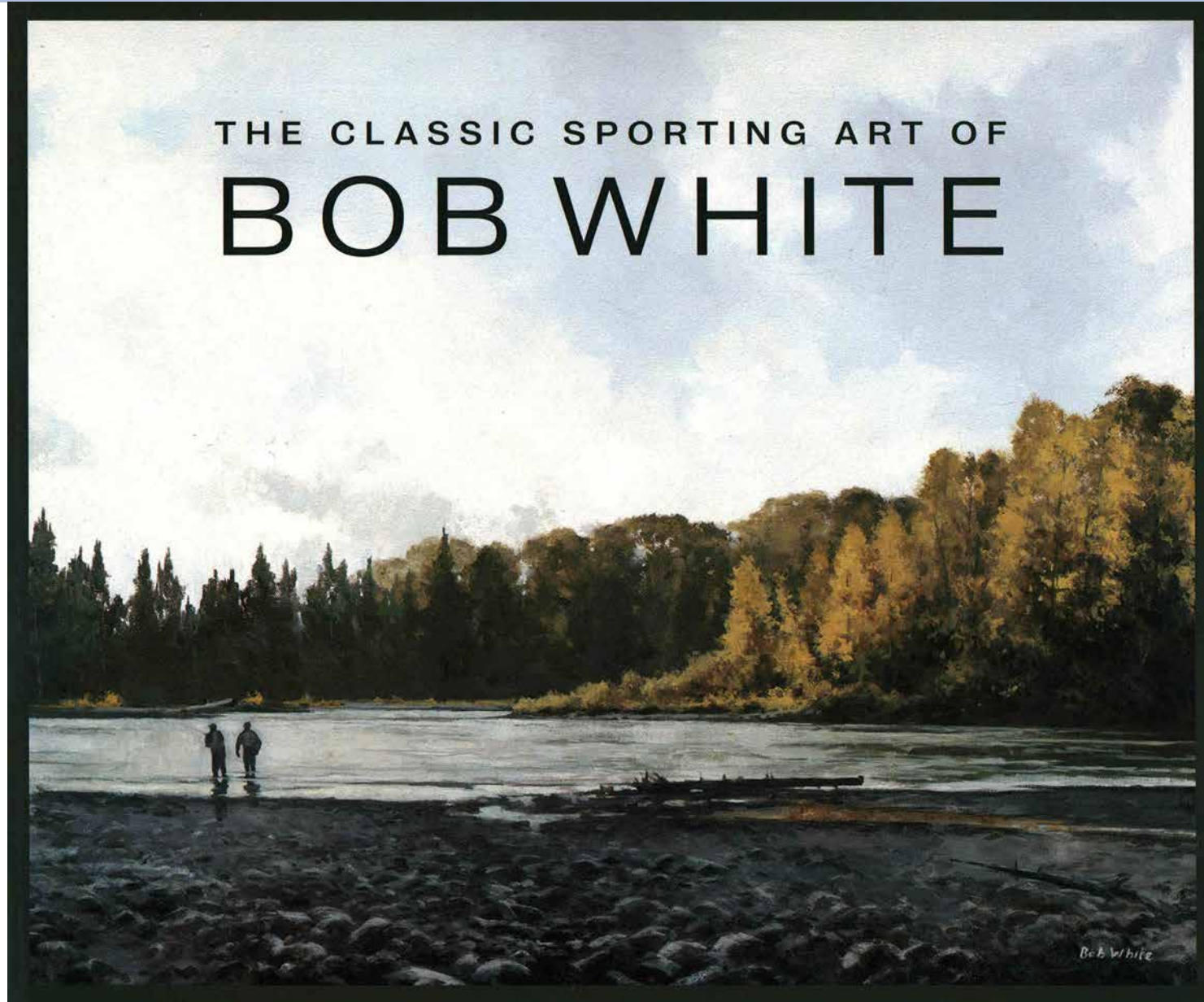
BOOK REVIEW

By John Hunt

As a lifelong hunter and angler, I was raised on the wildlife and sporting art of such well-known artists as Les Kouba, Terry Redlin, and Michael Sieve. With the publication of *The Classic Sporting Art of Bob White*, I can now say that I have a deeper appreciation for the talent of another gifted artist.

I am fairly certain I met Bob briefly once at a Twin Cities TU banquet. A resident of the St. Croix Valley, Bob and his wife have always been tremendous supporters of conservation and there was a stretch during which they donated prints that were included in sponsor packages for the banquet. Until this book, however, I was most familiar with the images Bob created to accompany the John Gierach column at the back of *Fly Rod and Reel* magazine. I knew in general about his years of guiding in Alaska and South America and that his art and writing also appeared in several other industry magazines, but it was Bob White's fly fishing art that I knew best. I was therefore pleased to learn (and see) that he has applied his talents to depicting upland bird and waterfowl hunting scenes as well.

This book is an engaging combination of Bob's artwork and personal reflections on a life spent in the outdoors. His passion for the natural world and his hunting and angling experiences on several continents is evident on every page. I didn't count the exact number, but there are easily over 200 paintings and sketches presented in the book. Nearly every one is accompanied by a short, descriptive passage that provides background for the image or shares a memory when the artist was actually at the locations depicted in the painting. Many are very personal and offer a glimpse into Bob's sense of environmental ethics and stewardship.



There are several elements of Bob White's artwork that are appealing to me. His ability to capture the essence of moving water with its myriad of currents and reflections is one. Another is his mastery of a diverse palette of colors for settings as varied as a Driftless stream in summer, an Alaskan river in the fog, a saltwater flat under full sun, or a Midwestern woodlot in the fall. Finally, his "One Last Look" series depicting various species of trout and char in hand just before release will evoke memories for many people who have had the same

experience. One other unique feature of this book was especially interesting to me. For several paintings, Bob included a series of photos of the pieces in progress, from sketch on canvas to base layer of paint, to completion of the various objects in the back and foregrounds. I found this "look behind the painting" fascinating.

Bob White's artwork is true sporting art. The landscapes and rivers Bob captures would be incomplete without the people and other man-made elements that are

incorporated into many of his paintings. The natural and human elements are both vital pieces of the stories Bob White spins with his brushes and pencils. I am confident that *The Classic Sporting Art of Bob White* will provide many hours of reading enjoyment for anglers, hunters, and conservationists alike.

Editor's Note: John Hunt is a long-time Trout Unlimited volunteer who has served in numerous positions over more than three decades. He has been authoring book reviews for the newsletter since 2013.

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MNTU AT EAGLE RIDGE ACADEMY

TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM MOVES HOME

By Sri Guntipally

It all started two years ago. A couple of my classmates, Mr. Sutton, and I were discussing what service projects we could do in our school. That is when the idea of an aquarium came up. It seemed far-fetched at first, but the more I thought about it, the more I felt that we had to do it.

I thought an aquarium would be a great way to bring the wonder of nature into our building while educating each other about the environment. Fish are such magical creatures and can create a calming effect on students who may feel stressed. So, I decided to start an aquarium club. Having researched the high costs of maintaining an aquarium, I began to search for possible grants to help fund it. That is when I came across MNTIC, and I was beyond excited.

I instantly fell in love with the program. My desire had been to just have fish in our school, but the program would allow us to raise fish from eggs! The idea of seeing the life cycle of trout before our very eyes seemed otherworldly, along with being educational. I was also enthralled by the idea of learning about native fish. It is one thing to care for colorful tropical species from the store, but to care for the fish of this land which we live on, which is our home, is very personal and touching.

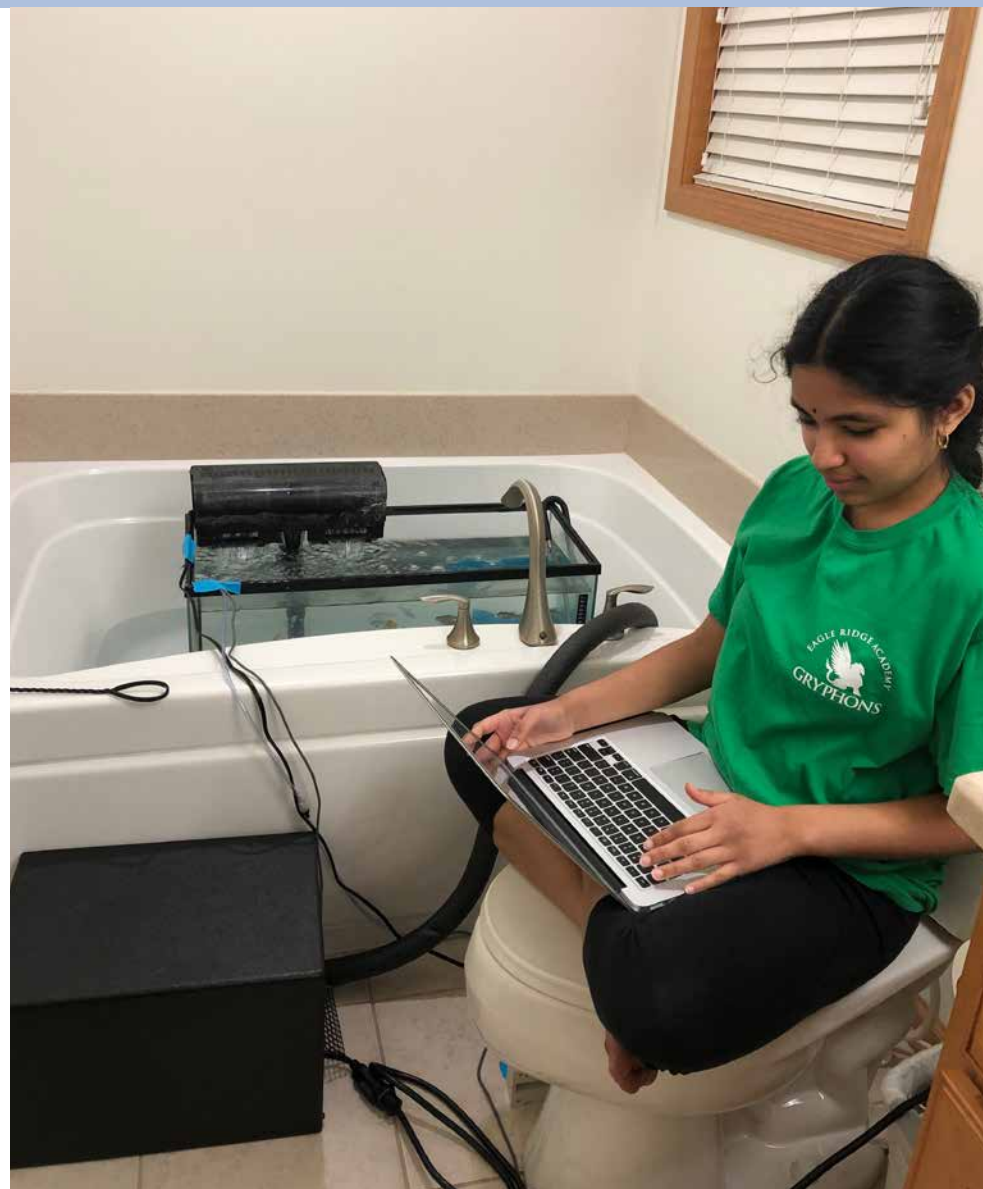
Through this program, I have learned so much, from writing a proposal to obtain approval from the school, organizing details regarding the fall field day for club members, to creating a website (<https://eraaquariuminitiative.wordpress.com>). The best part of this program has been engaging and connecting to students of all ages. We put our aquarium in the commons area near the cafeteria so all the students in our K-12 school could

see it. While mostly upperclassmen were involved in the maintenance of the tank, my favorite part was seeing the excitement and curiosity on the faces of elementary students when they looked at the fish.

Along with the sweet experiences in this program, there were many challenges we had to overcome. As a first time aquarium keeper, it was difficult to understand when to do water changes and how many gallons to change. To ensure the water was cold enough for the tank, my friends and I would fill buckets of water in the kitchen and put them outside. I was never so grateful for freezing MN temperatures until then.

Unlike an aquarium at home for which you can immediately react to combat problems, it would take longer for us to do something for the trout tank. If we realized that something was wrong at the end of the school day, I might have to wait a whole day to do something as I cannot miss class the following morning. Since I do not have access to the building during the weekends and over breaks, I had to coordinate times to come in and check on the fish.

When school shut down because of the pandemic, things got a little crazier. We decided to move the tank to my house so we could more easily keep the fish alive. However, during the transportation, the tank cracked! We had nowhere else to put the fish and no time to order a new tank, so we had to put the tank in our bathtub to collect the leaking water. I conducted water changes everyday to sustain clean and sufficient water levels. The setup was hilarious, but we successfully released about 70 healthy fish a month later.



SRI GUNTIPALLY WORKS BESIDE HER HOME TROUT TANK SETUP.

MNTIC has been such a wonderful opportunity to grow. The program has reinforced to me the importance of teamwork, as I never could have done this without the help of all my teachers and club members, especially Mr. Sutton, and my friends, Emily Watson, Dexter Montague, and Alex Burk. While I originally wanted to pursue being a doctor, I now hope to simultaneously study environmental policy. Nature heals and unites in a way nothing can match, and

I hope to share my love with others and serve this earth, our beloved home.

Editor's Note: Sri is a senior at Eagle Ridge Academy in Minnetonka. She brought TIC to her school as a junior last year and leads the program, with some guidance from a teacher. This year, she will be engaging her classmates and younger students in virtual TIC lessons as she cares for the tank at home.

HIAWATHA LEADERSHIP UPDATE

CHANGES AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONTRIBUTE

By Paul Krolak

Recently, Phil Pankow announced that he'll be stepping down from his role as President of the Hiawatha Chapter. We'd like to thank Phil for his many years of service, including his effective terms as President.

Phil won't be going away--he'll continue to be involved in his favorite HTU event--the Senior Citizen Fishing Day held each year at the Lanesboro park ponds, and help with our other events and classes. As soon as conditions allow, I'm sure Phil will be sitting in his usual place at the Saturday morning fly tying sessions at the VFW.

Hiawatha TU is looking for several people to step up and take leadership roles in the chapter. Some time ago, Chris Wood, President and CEO of Trout Unlimited, said TU does these four key things:

We make water cleaner.
We make habitat healthier.
We make fishing better.
We build community and connect communities.

We've all got ability and aptitude to do something on that list. You might be good at organizing, at fundraising, or planning a stream cleanup or chapter meeting. You may just want to help out. TU and MNTU's overall success is built on the foundation of the chapters--and that means someone like you volunteered to help out. You don't have to be an expert at anything, just have a desire to help.

Contact your local chapter and volunteer. For Hiawatha TU, drop an email to our Chapter Secretary, John Weiss, at Weiss239@gmail.com.



OUTGOING HTU CHAPTER PRESIDENT PHIL PANKOW AT HIS TYING TABLE.



MNTU CHAPTER NEWS

Gitche Gumee Chapter

Fall is here and anadromous species of fish are entering the tributaries of Lake Superior on cue. October is always a great month to be on our rivers but earlier periods of cold weather in early September brought fish to our members nets. Certainly not going to complain about having an extended fall fishing season. The COVID-19 pandemic put a wrinkle in our ability to promote community activities this summer. Like many of you, we were limited on what we could/couldn't do as a chapter. However, several of our board members met in August at the Sucker River habitat improvement area. The goal was to produce a video that promoted and provided tips to anyone who would like to volunteer on our TU habitat sites. We hope to have the video on www.mntu.org later this season. Enjoy! Our program season kicked off on October 1 virtually. Carl Haensel and Brent Notbohm provided great content on fishing the North and South Shore Lake Superior Tributaries. They have a wealth of knowledge on fishing our area rivers and provided an excellent presentation to 50+ participants. Best part about it, this was our first time presenting virtually and we didn't crash the network! We will be sure to provide details about our next Zoom presentation on the GGTU Facebook page and our email newsletter. As always, if interested in our coldwater fisheries—we welcome you to consider joining our group. Wishing you a great holiday season and looking forward to 2021!

Brandon Kime

Headwaters Chapter

The summer has been very quiet this year. With the social distancing restrictions in place, we have not had any events this summer or fall. The one bright spot this year has been the continuation of the Trout in the Classroom program. The uncertainty earlier this summer on the delivery method for the 5th graders in our district left us wondering if the program would go forward this winter. Luckily our district was able to have in-person classes this year and the TIC program will be in six classrooms. There are three classrooms at Gene Dillon Elementary, one at Keliher school, and two new teachers at Northome school. We will also be working with the Headwaters Science Center to have a tank this year. There are new guidelines at all districts regarding visitors and face-to-face activities in the classrooms.

Over the summer we tried to do a social distancing pike hunt. We did have some participation throughout the summer, but now that the fall pike fishing is picking up we are looking



THE HIAWATHA CHAPTER HOSTED A STREAMSIDE MEETING THIS FALL LED BY PAUL KROLAK, OUR HABITAT COORDINATOR, ALONG WITH MIKE MAJESKI, PROJECT DESIGNER ON THE MNTU PROJECT ON TROUT RUN.

for more fish pictures. We had a total of 15 participants in the virtual events and have had fish logged at almost 30 inches earlier in the year, but hope to see some larger ones in the next few weeks.

As we look towards the winter and spring, we continue to work within the confines of social distancing. We are currently looking for ways to conduct community fly tying through an online platform or interactive live video conferencing to engage our members. The next question will be if the spring 5th-grade fly tying program will be able to happen this year. We will be sure to follow all guidelines and restrictions by the school district. We are looking forward to next summer and being able to work on restoration projects once again and plan for the next Frozen Fly Film Festival.

Kris Williams

Hiawatha Chapter

With COVID-19 still being prevalent, Hiawatha Trout Unlimited (HTU) has not been having indoor member meetings. But, in an attempt to make sure our members know our chapter is still active, we held two streamside meetings: one in September and another in October. In September on Trout Run Creek near the Dog Patch location, Paul Krolak, Habitat Coordinator, led a streamside member meeting with Mike Majeski, project designer. Paul and Mike explained what features were put instream and how the project was done. It was a beautiful day weather-wise and we had 25 or more people that showed up for the event. In October, John Weiss, the HTU secretary for our chapter, led a tour of our work on the South Branch of the Whitewater with Mike Majeski and Dennis Barth.

Dennis is of Barth Construction, who did the instream work. Again, the weather was good and we had about the same number of people for the walk. These two streamside walks kept our members informed and gave us all a way to meet outdoors with social distancing in mind.

We will not be having any indoor member meetings for the foreseeable future. We are trying our best to promote our chapter this winter by offering either a weekly Zoom fly tying event with a guest tyer or a meeting at the VFW in Rochester. At the VFW we would use the larger room with two people per large table to make sure we socially distance ourselves. More details to come via our member email and our Facebook page. I hope this article finds everyone healthy and ready to have a productive fall and winter.

Phil Pankow

Twin Cities Chapter

Greetings Fellow Anglers! I hope this finds you all staying positive and testing negative!

2020 has been a weird year, to say the least. The benefits of this crazy year have been: more angling time, more time with families, working in your pajamas, connections with nature, not driving as much--thus decreasing our carbon footprint and saving a few dollars in the process by not spending \$\$\$ on the things we sometimes did a lot. With that, sorrow has come to many with the loss of jobs, healthcare professionals and teachers stressed beyond our comprehension, and loss of health and perhaps lives. Please know TCTU cares for all of you and wishes everyone kindness,

health and love as we close this year out and bury it deep in our mind's closets! Here is a brief update about what the TCTU Board has been up to the last few months...

Assistance/feedback to the National office on their strategic planning process: We have jumped into the world of Zoom and hosted two very successful chapter meetings--virtually. Our September speaker was Gina Quiram, MN DNR Restoration/Evaluation Specialist. She presented evaluations on MN stream restoration projects. In October, TJ Debates, East Metro Fisheries Supervisor, discussed stocking and accessibility of metro area lakes and streams.

Both talks were well received and several great questions stemmed from the presentations. It is wonderful to be able to offer this opportunity to our chapter members near and far. In November, we will welcome Vaughn Snook, Assistant Area Supervisor for MN DNR Lanesboro area. Vaughn will discuss a variety of fisheries topics, including stocking of the southeastern streams. Please join us and have a question or two on hand to share with the group.

Speaking of the group, through long and hard discussions with our board, we have decided to postpone the 2020 TCTU Annual Holiday Fish Camp. We debated and decided that everyone's safety was our utmost priority. It is very sad for all of us who have taken part for several years. The learning, experiences, laughs and friendships that have stemmed from our event have been priceless. We will miss all of you, but plan to host the holiday event in 2021 and perhaps some type of fish camp in spring or summer, if the world permits us to do so...until then, keep dreaming of fish and keep that white elephant gift tucked away until next year.

News along the Habitat Trail.....TCTU is happy to announce our donation to the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust in fall of 2020. Our donation will go towards purchasing a 40-acre old-growth forested parcel of land with over 1,500 feet of river frontage in the lower river canyon downstream of River Falls. The land is along the Kinnickinnic River (a river many of our chapter members frequent)! Securing this parcel will enhance public access to the river, increase angler opportunities, protect Rocky Branch Creek, provide space for educational activities and expand recreation.

We look forward to future progress on this project and are so happy the chapter could be part of its efforts.

Tis' that time of the year: Call for nominations! Our annual meeting is in January and we are now taking nominations for board members. Our meeting will be a virtual event, on January 26, 6:00-7:30pm. If you are interested in nominating someone or yourself to have fun on the TCTU Board, please contact Renee Hartwig at: renee.hartwig@twincitiestu.org to discuss the nominations process!

MNTU CHAPTER NEWS



TCTU chapter meetings will take place via Zoom until further notice. Please sign up on Facebook to get notifications or make sure you have updated your email to receive notifications on events and voting at our annual meeting.

We are very excited to announce our Wild and Scenic Family Film Festival on Saturday, November 28, 7:00-9:00pm. It will be \$15 to have the event streamed right to your living room with family and friends (small audience) and your favorite beverage!

We are showing our thanks to the wonderful volunteers, members and friends that have supported Twin Cities TU on its journey of coldwater restoration and educating the public about the importance of this resource and the opportunity of learning. This is where the wonderful adventure comes in! Learn about new lands and how we are fortunate to be able to appreciate the lands and waters this amazing country has to offer and.... everyone has a story to share! Thus, our chapter thought it would be a great opportunity to share some fun and meaningful experiences with you to show our gratitude, so grab your popcorn, Junior Mints and a beverage, sit back and enjoy the show! There might even be some fun door prizes!

Register here: <https://qudio.com/event/TwinCitiesTU>

In closing, the Board of TCTU is so thankful for its members and volunteers that help the group accomplish its mission. Without dedicated supporters like all of you, we could have never accomplished all that we have over the years. We look forward to 2021 and hope that it brings health, personal happiness, new habitat adventures and opportunities for all of us to connect in person once again, until then, stay healthy and enjoy nature and each other to the fullest!

Janine Kohn

Win-Cres Chapter

Thanks to all of those who participated in the September 12 knotweed spraying along Garvin Brook!

Dave Schulz has been working with the Cedar Valley Church Council regarding Win-Cres TU involvement in clearing brush, "widow makers," etc., along Cedar Valley Creek. The council members are supportive of TU's involvement and have indicated their willingness to supply big equipment as needed. The church council is awaiting word from

their insurance company so that work can begin possibly in March of 2021.

Black locust has been found growing along Garvin Brook. Black locust is difficult to control due to its rapid growth and spread. Neal Mundahl suggested that we use loppers to cut stems and then apply Garlon herbicide.

Treasurer Tom Stoa issued a thank you and check for \$100 to the landowner along County Road 25 on Rush Creek for his efforts in mowing an angling path between the two bridges. It was also agreed upon to hire a trapper to trap beaver along Garvin Brook during January and February as there are signs of beaver work in the dog training area, Farmer's Park, and along Highway 14.

Due to COVID-19 issues, Win-Cres held a Zoom general meeting inviting all Win-Cres members to meet with Ron Benjamin, the Area DNR Supervisor from Lanesboro fisheries. Supervisor Benjamin responded to questions as well as shared his thoughts as he looks forward to retirement at the end of 2020. Ron highlighted the opportunities for year-around fishing in our state parks. Catch and release fishing is permissible as long as you have a state permit. Ron also stated that 85% of SE Minnesota streams are not stocked. Ron shared the

work done on Duschee Creek, Little Jordan, Lost Creek, North Branch of Root River, Rush Creek, South Fork of Root River, Maple Creek, Winnebago Creek, and Pine. Ron highlighted work done such as bank stabilization, seeding, sloping banks, removing box elders and cottonwood trees, installing boulder clusters, etc.

Ron suggested that TU advocate for themselves and let decision makers know of our needs and concerns. Ron also suggested that TU members confront and educate other fishermen/women regarding local rules and state laws when a violation is observed. He stressed the importance of needing to create and sustain productive relationships with landowners. When asked how he envisions TU chapters to best work with the DNR to conserve and protect our coldwater fisheries and watersheds, Ron suggested that chapters could assist in building stiles and lunger structures, helping control exotic plants (i.e. Japanese knotweed, black locust, etc.), mowing stream paths to enhance access, and work complementary with the DNR.

Our next Win-Cres Board meeting will be December 9 and our general meeting on December 2.

Mark Reisetter

SELECT POETRY

By Larry Gavin

As the Stars Move: Poplar River

As the stars move
all night against the silent black sky,
the fish track upstream
From the big lake.
Numbered,
but innumerable just
the same. A wave of fish
swimming back in time
The same way starlight looks
back in time.
You and I are charged
with the same energy,
The same light, moving upstream too,
searching. We sing the same song
as the fish sing
homesick but home,
Our native waters.
"Tuck in," I suggest,
"behind this boulder,
and hold on until
the darkness passes."

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 from Red Dragonfly Press. www.reddragonflypress.org

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REELING IT IN

THE LATE FALL TROUT SEASON

By Carl Haensel

The dry leaves of autumn swirl in the wind along the banks of Driftless trout streams in November, the low ebb of the trout fishing season in Minnesota. Migrating ducks and geese wing low through the valleys when cold rains come, followed by closely by early snows, dusting the ridge tops. Yet, in the streams, our wild brook and brown trout are hard at work, in the most vital aspect of their season, the fall spawning ritual.

While most streams may be closed to fishing, it's a beautiful time of year to spend along the water. If your favorite water is closed to fishing currently, it's a fine time to walk it and observe spawning fish. Keep a sharp eye in the riffles and shallows as trout dig oval redds, clearing the rocks to deposit eggs. It can also be a great time to offer local landowners a helping hand as they hurry to prepare for the coldest months of the year. Wood needs to be stacked, trails cleared, and the cold months ahead prepared for. As we race to get ready for winter, people appreciate assistance.

If you're looking for a fishing opportunity, you're still in luck. A handful of streams and rivers are open in the MN DNR's "Town and Park" fall fishing season. From Mill Creek in Chatfield to the broad South Branch of the Root River in Lanesboro, there's an option out there for all anglers to enjoy. I had the opportunity last fall to explore some of the cold, late fall waters after a snowfall and found them enchanting, inviting, and ultimately extremely productive.

Summertime haunts where I had waded through head-high grasses were covered in a blanket of white. The tracks and trails of wintertime anglers had yet to be formed. It was quiet and calm, with only the sound of soft rushing water filling the air.

While often chilly, the waters fish similarly to the upcoming winter season that opens all Driftless waters on January 1. Pack boxes of small nymphs and streamers, and maybe a few midge patterns to try if the weather warms enough to have hatches show up. I love to throw a pair of small nymphs in tandem on a light fly rod, fishing slower, softer water along the edges of deep pools. The browns and rainbows are beginning to group up in the late fall, especially after the browns are done spawning. If you are fortunate to find a few brown trout on spawning redds, make sure to leave them a wide berth and avoid wading nearby. We need all the small trout we can produce to help recruit the next generation of lunkers for our streams and rivers.

At the end of the day last season, I briefly sat down on the bank and reflected, thankful. We are fortunate to have an abundance of trout water in Minnesota, so much so that even on the grayest days of late November, you can find a clean, clear, and open stream that you can cast in. Take solace in that, as the days shorten toward the winter solstice, and the eventual turning of the sun back toward the north to bring another season of life for the trout in the Minnesota Driftless.



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