

# TROUT UNLIMITED MINNESOTA

The Official Publication of Minnesota Trout Unlimited - August 2016

## Fishing Our Habitat - Garvin Brook

A Successful Great Waters Expo!

Book Review - Covered Waters

2017 Fly Fishing Film Showcase Details

More Lost Metro Trout Streams

The Photo Issue - Photo Contest Winners!

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## GREAT WATERS FLY FISHING EXPO

Presented By Minnesota Trout Unlimited

March 17th-19th, 2017 • Details Inside

## ON THE COVER

Photo contest winner Dan Callahan with a section of Nass Creek, aka “Unnamed #4” one of the Lost Trout Streams of Burnsville. Dan has won the “Minnesota Waters” category and also is the overall winner. Find other winners on page 6.

## IN THIS ISSUE

- More “Lost Trout Streams”
- Photo Contest Winners!
- Fishing Garvin Brook
- Funding for New Habitat Work
- And much more!

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# MINNESOTA COUNCIL UPDATE

## Summertime on the Water

By JP Little, Minnesota Council Chair

Welcome to the 2016 summer Minnesota Trout Unlimited statewide newsletter. Summer has broken out all over the great state of Minnesota, and tis the season to enjoy our many, many miles of trout streams. From Southeast to Central to the North Shore, we have countless opportunities to chase trout and wild steelhead.

There are also many opportunities to participate in rehabilitation projects on those trout streams throughout the year, although projects are in full gear across the state as you read this. There are a number of articles in this newsletter that

call out those opportunities to join in the fun.

I would like to thank Dean Campbell, President of the Twin Cities chapter, for agreeing to serve as State Council Secretary for the next year. We are still in need of a long-term solution for that role – please contact me at [jplittle999@gmail.com](mailto:jplittle999@gmail.com) if you would be interested.

Tight Lines!



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STUDENTS IN THE TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM PROGRAM EXAMINE AQUATIC MACROINVERTEBRATES AS A PART OF THE ALL-SCHOOL SUMMIT HELD THIS PAST SPRING. LEARN MORE ON PAGE 11.

# FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## Wishing for a Goldilocks Flood

By John Lenczewski, MNTU Executive Director

Earlier this summer I visited a habitat project in southeast Minnesota which MNTU had completed the year before. I found myself wishing for a good flood.

“A good flood?” you may ask. “I thought floods were bad?”

Truly severe floods, the “100 year events” you hear about, damage human structures and can tear apart stream channels. However, more average floods, the type that occur every other year or so, are essential for moving the sediments that every stream must transport. In Southeast Minnesota, where silt and sand can build up in the absence of high water events, the benefits of an average flood are obvious. Long reaches, which have been gradually filling with silt and sand, burying spawning gravel and smoothing insect habitat can be transformed to gravel and cobble-bottomed streams

where trout and bugs quickly thrive. The damage to streams from average floods is the result of decades of human activities which buried valley floors in sediment. Our habitat projects open up and reconnect streams to their floodplains so that the stress of flooding quickly dissipates rather than tearing apart stream banks and in-stream habitat.

Our projects create cover habitat for low and moderate flows. But just as important, they are also designed to manage flood water, which scientists call “channel forming flows,” in such a way that sediment is moved through and sorted out in ways beneficial to trout. MNTU designs for the benefits of an average flood. On the flipside, restored stream banks are vulnerable until vegetation establishes roots to hold soil. We don’t want too much water too soon.

The native grasses on the stream I vis-



ited were doing very well, but this small stream had not experienced high water since before the project. Silt covered the gravel and cobble and the rock vanes built to scour out pools, had been idle. I found myself wishing for a “Goldilocks flood.”

I am happy to report that the flood has since come, scouring out pools and transporting the silt and sand away. The wild trout are beginning to thrive amongst the gravel and cobble bottom.

Tight lines.



A WILD STEELHEAD IS READY TO RELEASE ON THE NORTH SHORE. BOB WAGNER GIVES THANKS ON PAGE 11.

## EDITOR'S ANGLE

### Summertime Explorations

By Carl Haensel, Editor

I hope this newsletter issue finds you at home for only a brief time between summertime fishing trips. Summer as a fishing guide is a time of adventure, exploration and time on the water. I relish the opportunity to reconnect with old waters that I’ve known in the past, and to explore new locations around NE MN and around the country. It seems on almost every day that there are trout waiting somewhere, just around the bend, ready for a fly to be laid behind their personal boulder or at the edge of the log jam where they live. On the longest days of the summer, I go to sleep dreaming of these perfect lies, and wake up just a few hours later to cast to them again.

For MNTU, summer is the time when most of our habitat work and research projects occur. The temperature proj-

ect on the North Shore has been moving forward, though we always need more volunteers. Consider stopping on the shore between fishing trips to help out. Read more about it in the chapter news section. Other habitat projects around the state are always in need of a helping hand. Contact the local chapter president if you are interested in getting involved today. We’re always happy to hear from traveling anglers as well, and are happy to provide local tips regarding streams and rivers that are fishing well.

May the streams flow cold and clear, and the trout rise up to meet your flies as they land softly on the water as our summer eventually fades into early autumn.

Good luck fishing!



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# FISHING OUR HABITAT WORK: GARVIN BROOK

## Fishing & Restoring a SE MN Gem

By Mark Reisetter

Garvin Brook has long been an extremely productive brook and brown trout fishery, far exceeding what might be expected, given its small size, high visibility, easy roadside angling access, and proximity to the population center of Winona. After heavy rains, it becomes an even more valuable resource, as it is one of the first streams to clear up for quality fly fishing!

Garvin Brook gets its name from H. C. Garvin, a Winona flour magnate who, along with his wife, Louise, donated a sizeable tract of land to Winona County in 1925 near the headwaters of this beautiful spring creek. With that newly acquired parcel, Winona County created “Farmers Park,” the entrance of which is located near the twin stone arches, circa 1882, which carry the railroad over Winona County Road 120 and Peterson Creek, a small tributary of Garvin Brook. Farmers Park remains a much-used picnicking and family gathering location to this day. The August 2007 flood ravaged this valley, almost totally destroying Farmers Park, ripping up the corridor. On its way to join Rollingstone Creek and the Mississippi River, over ten miles downstream, it flooded Stockton and much of Minnesota City.

The Trout Unlimited Habitat Improvement Project, originally slated for 2012, finally began in June of 2014. Previously, the section of Garvin Brook that runs through Farmers Park had been worked on by the MNDNR in 2008, led by Brian Nerbonne, the



HAPPY ANGLERS ALONG A RECENTLY IMPROVED REACH OF GARVIN BROOK

current MNDNR Stream Habitat Consultant.

The Win-Cres Chapter of TU selected the 6,355-foot (1.2 mile) stretch of Garvin Brook that runs along U.S. Highway 14, between the high railroad trestle at the upstream end and the railroad bridge on the downstream end, partially

because of the high public exposure this work would receive. In the MNDNR Fisheries “Trout Angling” map booklet, this work is shown on Map 8, on pages 20-21. There, you will also see that the entire improved reach is a special regulations stretch that is restricted to artificial lures or flies only, and has a protected slot for all trout 12” to 16”.

This portion of Garvin Brook became braided in several areas after the 2007 flood. Channels of the stream, with previous HI work from 25 years ago, were abandoned. Five large pools, the biggest being 540’ long and 50’ wide, were created by the flood; the pools reduced flow and created shallow water, which tended to warm the stream in the summer, and freeze it in the winter. Garvin Brook also had some highly erodible, vertical mud banks that had to be sloped. The flood, in exposing so much bare rock and soil, also created opportunities for invasive plants, such as garlic mustard and the hardy Japanese knotweed, to flourish and out-compete the natives in the disturbed ground.

A challenge in the design process was the fact that the riparian corridor is unusually tight because of the manmade “dikes” on both sides of the stream, namely the highway and railroad beds. The project’s onsite work was a solid collaboration between the MNDNR Fisheries Habitat Crew from Lanesboro, specifically Fisheries Specialist Steve Erickson and his main equipment operators, Rex Bearbower and Blake Lee, and Win-Cres TU. In addition to the stream work, the fisheries crew also constructed two snake hibernacula (one made from rocks, the other from logs), and two depressions adjacent to the stream for frogs and turtles.

An angler’s parking lot off of Highway 14 was constructed about halfway in the project reach on state forest land, at TU’s suggestion. Dave Svien, before he retired as MNDNR Forester in the Lewiston office, prepared the necessary paperwork for MNDOT. When approval was granted, the Lanesboro Fisheries crew constructed the lot and access ramp, several years before the actual project began.

TU also installed a water quality monitoring station before the project began, just below the mid-point as the stream comes close to the highway. In addition to measuring air temperatures and rainfall amounts, the monitor also measures dissolved oxygen, stream temperature, and helps determine the stage-discharge relationship for the stream.

My preferred method to fish the stretch is to park in the angler’s parking lot, walk down to the lower end, and begin fishing back upstream. The walk down to the lower end (on the Wachholz property) is worth it because a couple of the holes at the lower end are often quite generous.

When you get back upstream, directly opposite the parking lot, perhaps the deepest hole abuts the railroad, and its embedded skyhooks are placed about 5 to 6-feet below the surface. I usually fish two or three bends above that point, and then return to the truck. I drive up to Winona County Road 120 and park by the double gates next to the stream. From there, I walk downstream as far as I think my remaining time allows, and fish back up. Some anglers fish up from the parking lot and then walk back down the highway, but,



A HEALTHY BROWN TROUT FROM GARVIN BROOK

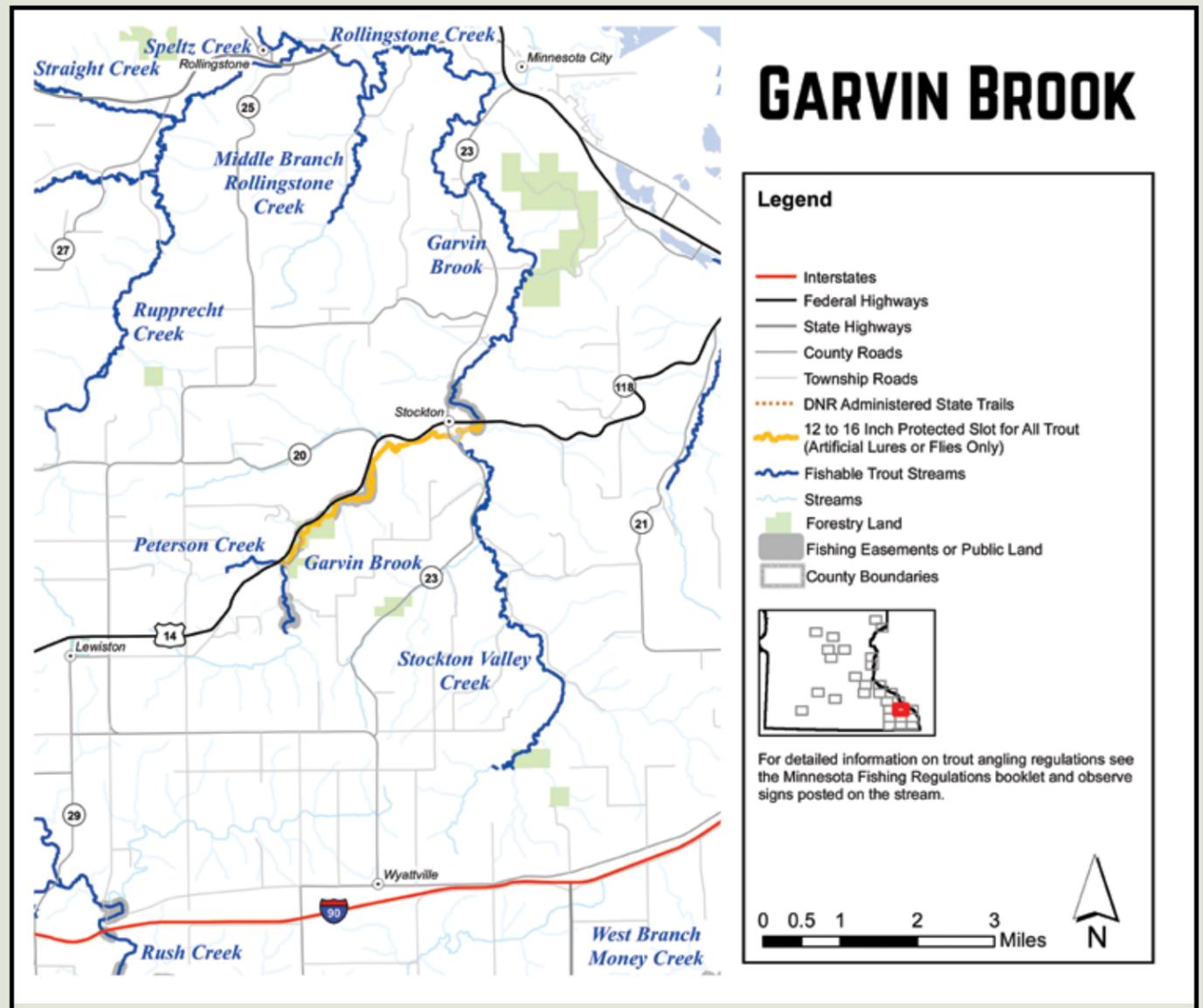
really the “roads” that were built to deliver the rock to the stream are still discernable and provide solid footing in a fairly direct line, which allows one to avoid walking a busy thoroughfare.

As Win-Cres used eight of the leftover skyhooks from the Pine Creek project, there are some bank hide structures, along with some “cribs” that were also installed. Don’t overlook the areas where the grasses provide some overhang, as well. Some great depth along this stretch was also created, so be careful not to go over your chest waders in a few of the deeper holes. In truth, much of this stretch can be fished from the banks.

Bank stabilization was ensured in numerous spots by implanting root wads, which right now can make fishing difficult in a few locations. On the flip side, those areas will grow some fish. Over time, these obstructions will be worn down and become less noticeable. A friend of mine had a 16 inch trout wrap his tippet around a submerged root and it never came to net, but the memory of the encounter lingers comfortably.

Garvin Brook has always had great caddis hatches, and throughout the summer, the magical evening hour before dusk can really be amazing. Since the habitat work, the terrestrial action has been greatly improved because of the openness and the grasses. Late summer into the fall brings phenomenal grasshopper fishing.

The fishing in Garvin Brook is good, and it’s only going to get better because of the great collaboration of



MN DNR Fisheries and Forestry, MN TU, Win-Cres TU, TU DARE, TU National, WSU, the Winona County SWCD and Federal Farm dollars, the Stockton-Rollingsstone-Minnesota City Watershed District, MNDOT, the LSOHC, our MN legislature, and most importantly, the important landowners. This project is

ongoing, as funds to support work on the next stretch from the railroad bridge downstream have been approved. The project on Garvin Brook should continue through the Oevering property, as it meanders its way toward Stockton along scenic U.S. Highway 14.

*Editor’s Note: Contact the Win-Cres chapter of MNTU to get involved with ongoing work along Garvin Brook, and contact the author, fishing guide Mark Reisetter, to learn the secrets of this excellent trout stream in SE MN. Find his contact information and ad on the back cover of this publication.*



AN ANGLER FISHES A RUN ALONG GARVIN BROOK OVER 6 FEET DEEP.



A WELL-DESIGNED NEW PARKING AREA ALONG GARVIN BROOK PROVIDES CONVENIENT ANGLER ACCESS TO SOME OF THE BEST REACHES OF THE STREAM.



THE MN DNR HAS CONSTRUCTED MORE THAN JUST TROUT HABITAT ALONG GARVIN BROOK. THIS DEPRESSION PROVIDES COVER FOR AMPHIBIANS AND TURTLES IN THE FLOODPLAIN OF THE CREEK.

# 2016 PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

Congratulations to the Winners!

This season was the third year for the MNTU Newsletter photo contest. It was a great success and has grown by leaps and bounds this season yet again. Thanks to the large number of contestants that sent a wide variety of photos from around the state. A selection of winning photos are presented on this page. If your photo was not used here, keep an eye for it in future newsletters or on the web site or our Facebook page.

## Rules from the 2016 Contest:

- Photos must be shot in Minnesota
- Photos should fall into a category:
  - Minnesota Waters
  - Trout, Salmon & Steelhead
  - Family Fishing
- Photos must include a trout, salmon or steelhead, **OR** a water body that they inhabit.
- Photos were to be submitted by May 15th, 2016. Top entries in each category are published in this issue of the MNTU Newsletter.

- All photos submitted must be sent in \*.jpg format at their original resolution to the Editor at: editor@mntu.org
- There is an entry limit of three photos per individual. Please include the name of the photographer and the location the photo was taken in the submission.
- Submission of photos gives MNTU the right to publish photos in the MNTU newsletter, and in online media.

## Prizes

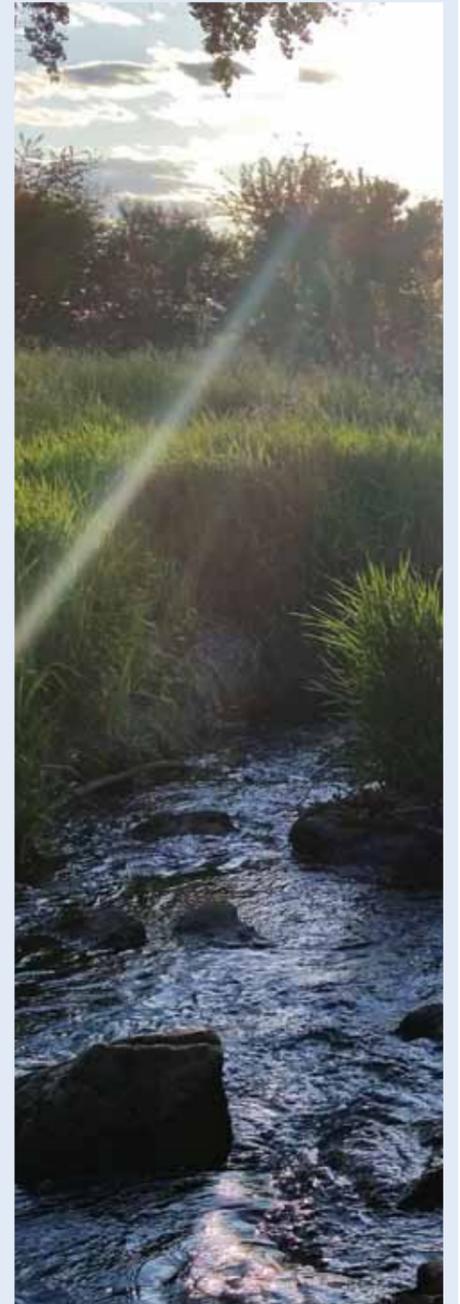
The winner in each category receives a box of a dozen flies ready to catch trout this season. The overall winner receives a wooden-handled trout net.

Plan to take lots of photos when you're out fishing this year for next season!



### HONORABLE MENTION - TROUT, SALMON & STEELHEAD

WINTER RAINBOW TROUT  
ECHO LAKE, LAKE COUNTY, MN  
PHOTO BY JOE WOLFF



### OVERALL WINNER MINNESOTA WATERS

NAAS CREEK - DAKOTA COUNTY  
PHOTO BY DAN CALLAHAN  
SEE PAGE 2 & COVER FOR INFO



### HONORABLE MENTION - MINNESOTA WATERS

SOUTH BRANCH WHITEWATER RIVER, WINONA COUNTY, MN  
PHOTO BY GARY GRABKO



### FIRST PLACE - FAMILY FISHING

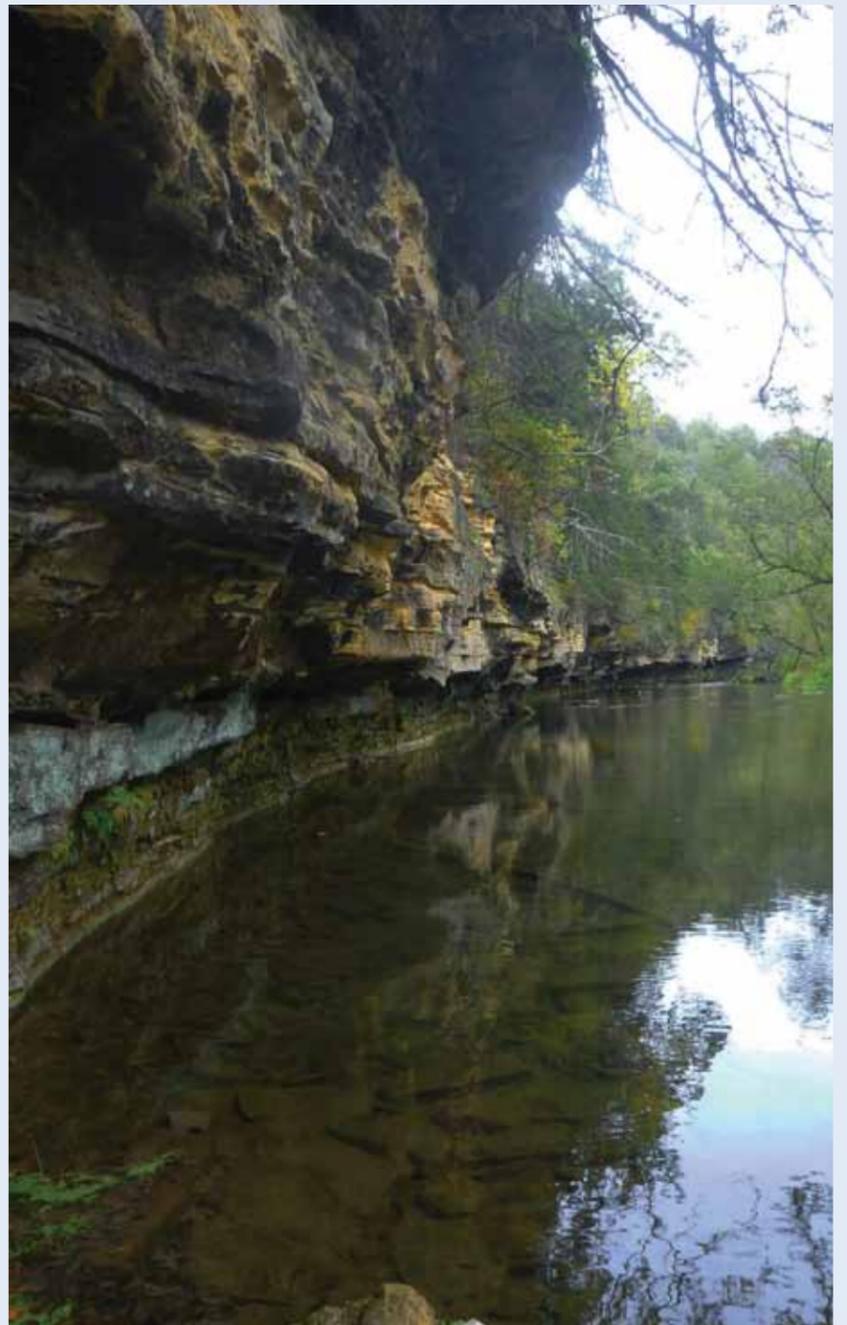
CLEARWATER RIVER, BELTRAMI COUNTY, MN  
PHOTO BY STEVE YOUNG



**FIRST PLACE - TROUT, SALMON & STEELHEAD**  
BROWN TROUT RELEASE - HOUSTON COUNTY, MN  
PHOTO BY BRIAN SCHUMACHER



**SECOND PLACE - TROUT, SALMON & STEELHEAD**  
NORTH SHORE STEELHEAD  
FLUTE REED RIVER, COOK COUNTY, MN  
PHOTO BY JOHN VANGSNES



**SECOND PLACE - MINNESOTA WATERS**  
CLIFF POOL  
HOUSTON COUNTY, MN  
PHOTO BY BRIAN SCHUMACHER

# CARING FOR THE BOUNDARY WATERS

By Piper Hawkins-Donlin

Spring in the North Country: chickadees sing their sweet tune; white-throated sparrows whistle their clear “oh sweet Canada Canada Canada;” warblers flit through the cool understory; the sunlight illuminates the damp mossy bank of the stream. It’s a perfect day for fishing. Anyone who has fly fished the rivers and streams of the Boundary Waters has a favorite memory of these exciting, early spring trips. Though for the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in northeastern Minnesota to stay an ideal destination for remote fishing, it needs anglers like you and me to speak up. Those future memories are being threatened.

Sportsmen and women across the country have come together to form Sportsmen for the Boundary Waters due to the risks posed by sulfide-ore copper mining operations proposed on the edge of the wilderness. Sulfide-ore copper mining is a risky type of mining with a track record of serious water contamination. With this type of mining, the interconnected lakes and rivers of the Boundary Waters, home to brook trout, lake trout, walleye, bass, pike, and panfish, would face an uncertain future.

For those of us who answer the call of the wilderness, it’s a risk we cannot take. There is too much at stake, and too many memories left to create. Few have captured the magic of the Boundary Waters Wilderness and the vivid memories of a fishing trip up there better than Sigurd Olson. Olson spent 30 years guiding canoe trips in the Boundary Waters Wilderness and Canada’s Quetico Provincial Park. His connection to this part of the state led him to fight for its protection in the 1960s and 1970s, when the battle to create the Wilderness was raging. In his quintessentially Minnesotan classic, *A Singing Wilderness*, Olson detailed the phenology of the Northwoods, starting in spring, and working his way through the seasons. His writings have influenced generations of Minnesotans, inspiring a connection to the uniquely magnificent wilderness located on our



A WILDERNESS WATERFALL IN THE BWCAW. PHOTO CREDIT BRIAN OKEEFE

lurking in the depths, it’s a familiar story.

“I have always believed that fishing for brook trout is a spiritual thing and that those who engage in it sooner or later are touched with its magic,” writes Olson. “All trout fishermen, even the most sophisticated of the dry-fly purists, are boys at heart, with a boy’s wonder and joy in a stream, the feel of it, the sounds, and the sense of being a part of its life and movement.”

Olson fought hard to keep this Wilderness protected for the next generation of anglers. Like many of us, Olson found the challenges of remote fishing to be inspiring and empowering. “Every place is a challenge, and finally I come to the big pool where the creek almost disappears beneath a pine stump,” he wrote. “There the water is very deep below the twisted roots, deep enough to hold a monster. The worm starts down quickly, goes out of sight, and then circles slowly around in the eddy underneath.”

Today, the Boundary Waters remain as a testament to Sigurd Olson’s dedication



THE BWCAW IS HOME BOTH TO BROOK TROUT AND SOME OF THE BEST NATIVE LAKE TROUT FISHING IN THE CONTINENTAL US. ADAM STEINHILBER PHOTO.

headwaters and there come to a perfect pool, dark as ebony and shaded by a huge branching spruce,” Olson writes. “It is a hard place to fish, for the bank is high, but immediately there is a flash of flame and out comes the prettiest trout of the day, dark with a crimson belly stripe, a trout sheltered from the bright rays of the sun.”

Despite the fact that Olson fished these streams nearly one hundred years ago, his words still ring true; our kids can fish the same spot for the elusive trout. Yet those precious lakes and streams are threatened by sulfide-ore copper mining proposed just miles from the South Kawishiwi River. This type of mining has never been undertaken in the state of Minnesota, and has never been done anywhere in the country without causing irreparable harm to wildlife and the waters. The Boundary Waters watershed is a rich and unique ecosystem, and one of the few truly pristine world-class fishing destinations. Sigurd Olson made it his life’s goal to instill in us a respect for our beloved canoe country, and worked endlessly to defend it for future generations. It is our turn to protect the legacy he left us. Take action at:

[SportsmenfortheBoundaryWaters.org](http://SportsmenfortheBoundaryWaters.org)

## About the Author

Piper Hawkins-Donlin

With deep roots in the Minnesota conservation movement, Piper grew up with a passion for preserving, restoring and exploring Minnesota’s wild places. Her grandfather, Art Hawkins, was a waterfowl biologist who studied under conservation legend, Aldo Leopold. His unique insight into hunting, fishing, and conservation greatly influenced Piper’s upbringing, and encouraged her to follow in his footsteps. She holds a degree in Environmental Science and Management from the University of Minnesota. Piper is the Sporting Outreach Coordinator for the Boundary Waters Trust and Sportsmen for the Boundary Waters.

*Editor’s note: The BWCAW is also the stronghold of Minnesota’s native lake trout. MNTU believes that the protection of water quality and hydrology in BWCAW watersheds is paramount. All proposed activities, including any proposed mining activities, must be scrutinized to ensure that they will keep all surface and groundwater clean and safe, and not increase levels of mercury contamination in fish. See the article in our February 2014 newsletter outlining the dangers associated in mining sulfide ore bodies.*



A WILD BROOK TROUT. PHOTO CREDIT CRAIG MOORHEAD

northern border.

In “Grandmother Trout,” from *A Singing Wilderness*, Olson relives a memory of fishing for brook trout as a 12-year old boy. He recalls the smell of the stream, the feel of a small fish in hand, and the rapturous admiration of a brook trout’s colors. For many of us who have spent a spring day fishing the banks of Northern

Minnesota’s small streams, imagining what giants are

and devotion to the Wilderness. He and many other anglers have shown over the years that there is a value to conserving wild places. Speaking up for this quiet place and sharing it with the next generation is key to its survival. Pollution would devastate the interconnected waterways that spawn the fish that inspire us to the chase each year.

“Toward midafternoon, after fishing a mile upstream, I reach the spring-fed



# FLY TYING

## With Laughing Trout Fly Fishing



By Paul Johnson

**A**re you a fan of the Saturday morning fishing shows? Well, I'm not much of a fan either. I am always yelling at them to put the fish back in the water. They are all running around in \$60,000.00 boats, holding the fish out of the water for minutes on end while they try and sell me \$9.00 crank baits. This little nymph is a complete opposite of a \$9.00 crank bait.

The Basic Pheasant Tail costs only pennies to tie and, best of all, they catch fish. I will typically tie it on a size 18 nymph hook. The fly uses some pheasant tail fibers, gold wire and peacock dubbing. I really like the Wapsi Super Bright dubbing. I use

the same dubbing on a number of my flies.

I will use the fly as a dropper in a double nymph rig or even use it as a dropper under a dry fly.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Try one out on your next fishing trip, or maybe a dozen.

### Basic Pheasant Tail

#### Materials List

- Hook Nymph Hook, size 14-18 (my favorite size is 18)
- Thread 8/0 Brown
- Tail 5 or 6 Pheasant Tail Fibers
- Ribbing Gold Wire size small
- Abdomen Pheasant Tail
- Thorax Peacock Dubbing



#### Tying Instructions:



**Step 1.** Insert the hook into your vise and start your tying thread at the 3/4 mark and lay a thread base back to the bend of the hook. For this fly I'm using a Dai-Riki #070 nymph hook, size 18. For the thread, I have Montana Fly Company 8/0 in Dark Brown



**Step 2.** At the bend of the hook, tie in a small clump of pheasant tail fibers. Here I used six fibers. Secure with only two tight wraps of thread. The tail should be about the hook shank in length.



**Step 3.** Tie in a length of wire at the bend of the hook. Secure with only two tight wraps of thread.



**Step 4.** Lift the butt ends of the pheasant tail fibers and wrap the wire down to the shank of the hook, advancing your tying thread to the 3/4 mark on your hook.



**Step 5.** Wrap the pheasant tail fibers forward in touching turns to the 3/4 mark. Secure with your tying thread and clip the excess.



**Step 6.** Counter wrap the wire forward with evenly spaced wraps to the 3/4 mark. Secure with your tying thread and clip the excess.



**Step 7.** Form a small, thin dubbing noodle with the peacock dubbing.



**Step 8.** Form the thorax of the fly with the dubbing and whip finish. Go fish!

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# FUNDING FOR STATEWIDE HABITAT PROJECTS

By John Lenczewski

On May 31, 2016 Governor Dayton signed into law the Legacy Funding bill which contains an appropriation enabling Minnesota Trout Unlimited and its chapters to continue restoring and enhancing habitat in more trout streams around the State. The appropriation becomes available in July 2016, and will fund construction primarily in 2017 and 2018. Here is a brief summary of funded projects:

## Keene Creek (St. Louis County)

Keene Creek is one of Duluth's top brook trout fisheries, despite decades of impacts to this "urban" trout stream. Keene Creek was hammered by a historically severe flood in June 2012 which decimated brook trout habitat and left the stream channel unstable. Keene begins in Hermantown and flows south through a forested park and enters Duluth above Skyline Drive. It then tumbles down the hillside in a series of pools and runs before it enters the St. Louis River near Grassy Point. The Gitche Gume Chapter will concentrate effort here, beginning with a 1,500' reach in the Hermantown park stretch where groundwater inputs ensure good reproduction and survival in the heat of August. The project will stabilize the channel and increase the amount of deep pool habitat and overhead cover using large logs and boulders.

## Stewart River (Lake County)

The Stewart River, located outside Two Harbors, MN, is known for its productive wild steelhead fishery, but also supports a wild brook trout fishery in its cooler headwaters. The project is a continuation of the watershed-scale restoration effort which MNTU began here in 2014. Several in-stream projects have been completed, as well as several miles of riparian plantings to restore canopy to lower water temperatures. This project will restore another steelhead nursery area on the Little Stewart River damaged by the 2012 flood, creating a stable, properly functioning stream channel, with deep pools and woody cover which provide habitat for steelhead, brook trout and other aquatic organisms.

## Clearwater River (Beltrami County)

The Clearwater River is a popular trout stream located northwest of Bemidji, MN and utilized by students from the Headwaters Chapter's Trout in the Classroom program. The project is located within a contiguous 7 mile stretch of publicly accessible trout water. The project is located on the site of an old logging splash dam, and has been heavily grazed with no cattle exclusion from the river. The stream banks have been denuded and trampled down, and the channel is overly wide and braided. The shallow, silt-filled channel warms the river, covers substrates essential for food production and spawning, and lacks pool habitat. Initial work involves installation of exclusion fencing to keep cattle out of the riparian corridor, to allow vegetation to become reestablished, provide channel stability, shading, future inputs of woody cover, and to intercept runoff from the pasture. Several bank erosion "hot spots" may be treated

with wood inputs to provide greater overhead cover and woody habitat.

## Little Rock Creek (Benton County)

Little Rock Creek is one of a handful of trout streams remaining in the St. Cloud area. It suffers from a high sand bedload, reduced base flow and an overly wide stream channel which results in the accumulation of sand deposits throughout much of the channel. Several badly eroding streambanks also contribute large amounts of sand and sediment. Earlier work by the Mid-Minnesota Chapter has improved portions of the stream, but the channel needs to be narrowed further in order to flush more sand from the channel and expose the gravel and cobble substrate necessary for trout spawning, food production and young of the year trout habitat. Wide, shallow conditions are contributing to increased water temperatures. TU volunteers will continue work with the DNR placing brush mats and bundles in the stream channel to further narrow the channel throughout the reach. Local contractors will also be hired to stabilize the worst bank erosion sites using woody material, which also provides cover and encourages scouring of deeper holes for large trout.

## Eagle Creek (Scott County)

Eagle Creek originates as two branches - the west (main) branch in Shakopee, MN and the east branch in Savage, MN - which converge in Savage and flow into the Minnesota River. The stream has a small self-sustaining population of wild brown trout and has not been stocked since 1978. The channel is wide, shallow and dominated with sandy substrate. The primary factors limiting trout abundance are limited spawning habitat

be placed by volunteers from the Twin Cities Chapter to narrow the channel, increasing depth and cover for fish. Cross veins and riffles will be placed to direct stream flow and increase spawning areas.

## Southeast MN Projects

The three projects described below share a legacy of degraded habitat due to agricultural practices of the past century. The following example is typical of how and why we improve habitat along trout streams in this ecological region:

Decades of erosion have led to wider, shallower and warmer streams, and left a legacy of excessive streamside sediments which continually re-erode and cover in-stream habitat, food production areas and spawning habitat. Shallow rooted invasive trees often have taken over the riparian corridors, out-competing native vegetation which better secures soils, and reducing energy inputs to the stream. Projects remove invasive trees and grade steep, eroding banks with machinery to remove sediments. Importantly, this reconnects the stream to its floodplain.

Eroding banks are sloped back to a more gradual 3 to 1 slope and toe anchored to curb erosion. Where feasible, more sediments are removed (at 10 to 1 slope) to recreate "bankfull" terraces. Banks are then seeded with deep rooted grasses to secure soils within the entire corridor and keep them from eroding in high water. The sloped banks allow floodwaters to quickly spread out into the floodplain and slow down, reducing the destructive impact of a flood.

Overhead cover habitat is created both by increasing the stream's depth through narrowing the channel or installing rock

before settlement and land use practices altered the more stable flows which had gradually created and maintained them. The streams will flow faster, deeper and cooler, and provide vital overhead cover.

## West Indian Creek (Wabasha County)

West Indian Creek is tributary to the Zumbro River, located east of Zumbro Falls, MN and northwest of Plainview, MN. The project site is located a couple miles upstream of the segment recently improved by Hiawatha Chapter near the Whippoorwill Campground. The upper end of the project site contains shallow pools, some high, eroding banks, and long stretches of overly wide, shallow channel filling with silt. Habitat conditions worsen moving downstream - with higher eroding banks and many shallow rooted, invasive box elders. The deposition of eroded sediment here has widened and braided the channel, and left too few deep pools. The project will incorporate some existing (old) habitat improvement structures and improve their function, narrow the channel in places, remove braids, repair and slope eroding banks, and remove invasive trees to allow deeper-rooted grasses to become established.

## Wisel Creek (Fillmore County)

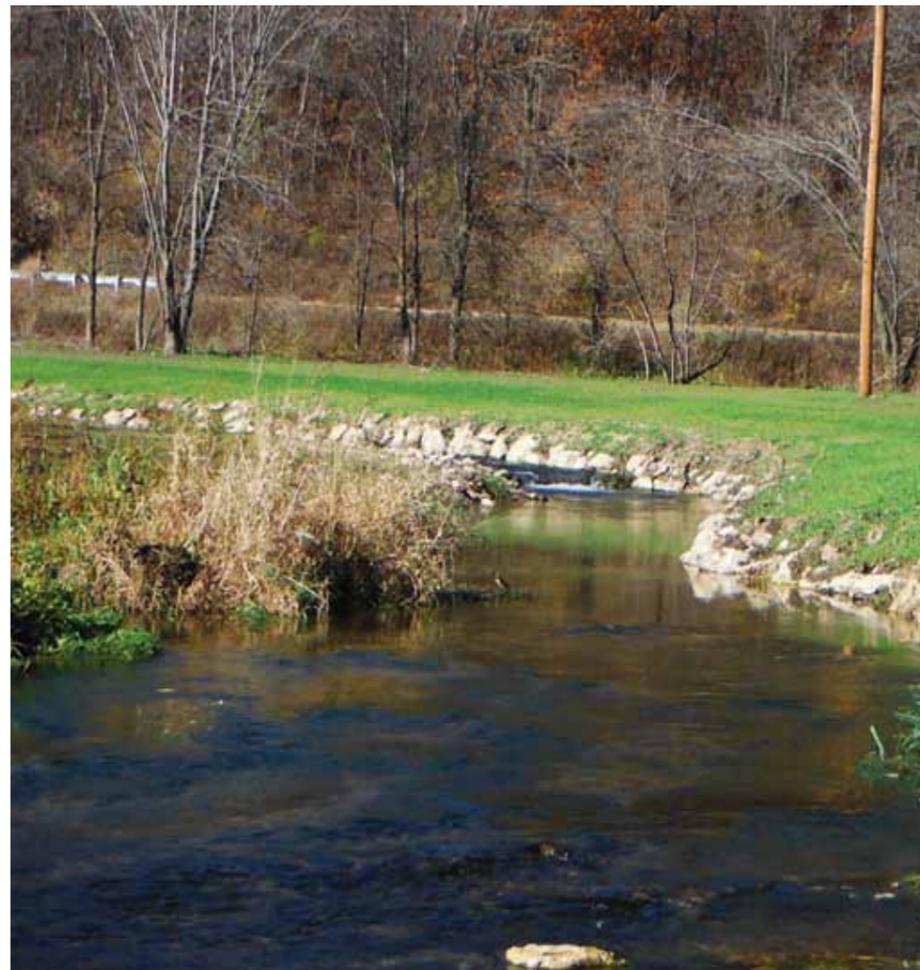
Wisel Creek is an important fishery which enters into a high quality section of the South Fork of the Root River southeast of Preston, MN. The project reach near "Chickentown" will connect miles of quality habitat and is a resilient complex of streams. MNTU's recent brook trout focused project on Newburg Creek is located a few miles upstream. The habitat enhancement methods described in the agricultural area example above will be used on approximately 7,000 feet of stream. The Hiawatha Chapter will coordinate work and volunteers.

## Money Creek (Winona County)

Money Creek is located in a small secluded valley just a few miles south of Interstate 90 near Witoka, MN. Money Creek faces the typical degradation described in the agricultural area example, and the habitat enhancement methods described above will be used. The Win-Cres Chapter will coordinate work and volunteers.

## Statewide riparian corridor maintenance:

MNTU also secured funds to enable TU chapters to target work on their priority home waters. Many stream corridors are being choked by shallow-rooted, invasive trees which are severely limiting macroinvertebrate (food) production and trout abundance. Many streams with good groundwater input need only the removal of this detrimental canopy to enable the reestablishment of deeply rooted riparian grasses, gradual narrowing of the channel, and beneficial sunlight to reach streams and trigger the food production cycle. The DNR is developing a prioritized list of stream corridors needing only vegetation treatments. Funding can cover tools, materials and added labor (in addition to volunteer labor) to conduct tree cutting, brushing, controlled burns, spraying of invasive plants, and more.



A HABITAT-IMPROVED REACH OF GARVIN BROOK SPARKLES IN THE SUNLIGHT, THIS NEXT SEASON WILL BRING HABITAT WORK TO THOUSANDS OF FEET OF STREAMS AND RIVERS AROUND THE STATE.

and shortage of deeper pools. This project will improve approximately 1,000 feet of the East Branch. Coir logs, brush bundles, and toe wood revetments will

weir plunge pools, and by placing cover structures in select stream banks. These log or wooden structures help recreate the undercut banks which had existed

# A GIFT AND A DANCE

By Bob Wagner

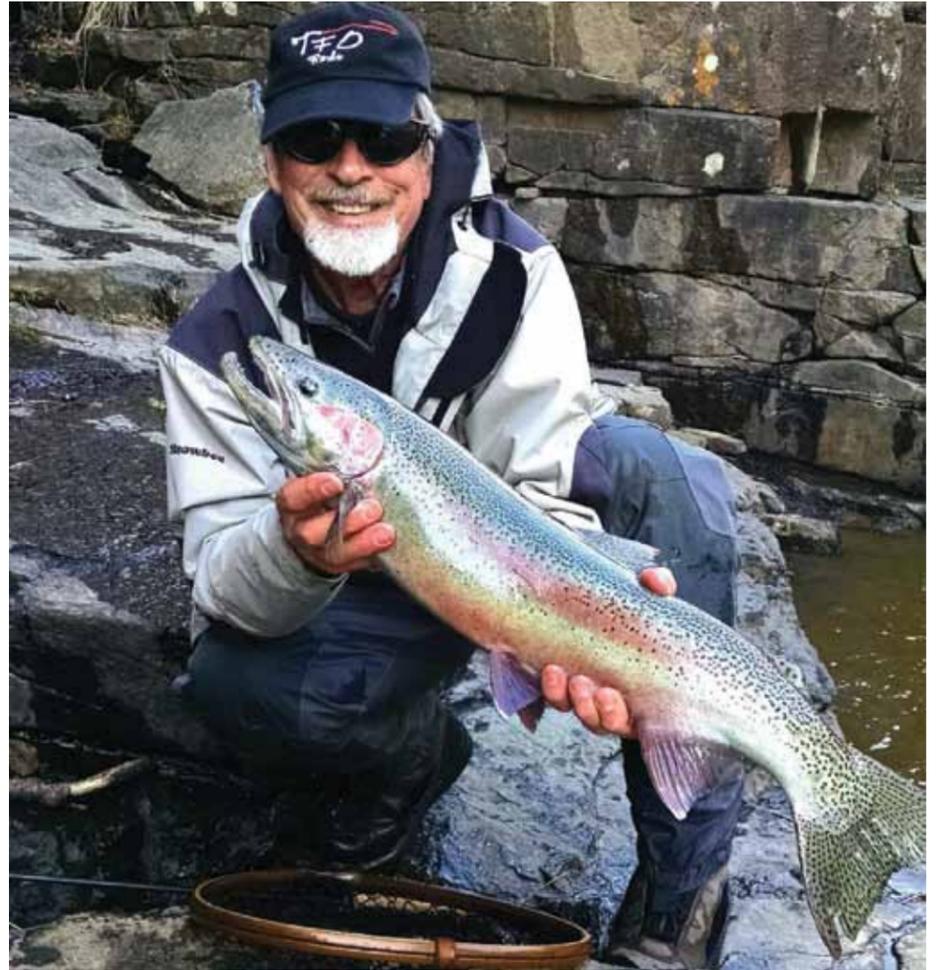
It might be hard to picture the North Shore as a gift. Call it instead a grand resource, the world's largest fresh water sea, or God's gift to fly fishers. Call it the Sawtooth Range of brook trout heaven, 2700 miles of shoreline, or a waterfall-wilderness symbiosis. Or maybe call it a steelhead's secret wish. If I were a steelhead, my wish would be to live naturalized in a designated catch and release wild fishery. Home truly is the North Shore.

restore, conserve and protect coldwater fisheries and educate people. Anglers also can join LSSA (Lake Superior Steelhead Association). Both of these groups are working hard to improve the dance. Of course you're already a member of TU... so bring in new members! The North Shore gift needs to be shared and the fish need more advocates. There's lots of room on the dance floor and I hope to see you there!

Whatever you or fish might think about the shore and the lake, to me it's a gift with a dance. A gift that has blessed my wife and I. We have danced with dozens of steelie partners this spring and released them to dance again with another partner. This spring was an exceptional year for dancing with steelies. I recall my social dance class at Mounds View High School and I remember one aspect of the class was thanking your partner at the end of the dance, regardless if you stepped on each others toes (which happened a lot). But how exactly does an angler thank a fish? Obviously a great way to thank a fish is to do something positive for its habitat, its home, or its survival. Yes, join TU and you can help



HOOKED UP AND DANCING WITH BAMBOO ON THE NORTH SHORE



BOB WAGNER AND A SPRINGTIME DANCE PARTNER

# TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM UPDATE

By Benji Kohn

Trout in the Classroom (TIC), which is a component of our broader educational venture "Connecting Students with Watersheds through Hands-On Learning" has had a great season! From releasing trout in the Vermillion and Whitewater watersheds, to teaching students to cast, to exploring aquatic macroinvertebrates it has been busy. The season was capped by a summit that was held this spring in St. Paul, MN with hundreds of students and educators attending. Another season is almost upon us, with educator trainings about to take place and MNTU gearing up for an exciting fall of fishing, education, trout rearing and much more! We remain grateful and thankful for the funding from Minnesota's Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) that made all of this possible. Check out some of the photos from our successful first year!



FINGERLING RAINBOW TROUT FROM TIC READY TO BE RELEASED



A RAINBOW TROUT WAITS TO SWIM INTO THE VERMILLION RIVER



STUDENTS OBSERVING MACROINVERTEBRATES IN A TABLETOP AQUARIUM



A STUDENT GENTLY HOLDS A RAINBOW TROUT READY TO BE RELEASED



STUDENTS LEARN THE FINER POINTS OF CASTING ON THE LAWN WITH SPIN FISHING EQUIPMENT IN ST. PAUL, MN

# INVASIVE SPECIES - THREATS TO OUR STREAMS

By Dan Callahan



**A**s trouters, we are observant of nature. One way to help our streams is to work with nature and avoid spreading invasive species.

Invasives can cause negative effects in several ways. They can be so virulent that they displace or reduce native plants, this can change habitat, which, in turn, affects native insects and animals. Eurasian watermilfoil, zebra mussels, and carp are three examples of aquatic invasives.

Non-native species aren't all bad. We rely on them in gardens and landscaping, and in fishing. Brown trout originated across the Atlantic in Europe. Brook trout are native to Minnesota. Browns will outcompete brookies (and eat them), so brown trout are bad if you're trying to preserve native brookies. Even native species can cause problems, in certain contexts. Boxelder trees on southern Minnesota trout streams are "weedy" and not very strong. Their roots don't hold streambank soils as well as prairie plants do, and often the trees collapse the banks.

Whether non-native or native, the issue revolves around species "escaping." My lily-of-the valley flowers, which spread from underground roots, have escaped their railroad tie enclosure, and are popping up through my asphalt driveway. An ivy that my wife carefully planted to fill in a shady planting spot in our rock garden has escaped into the edge of my oak woods. I was in a panic when I discovered it, so I blasted it with Roundup last year.



INJURY RESULTING FROM CONTACT WITH WILD PARSNIP AND SUBSEQUENT SUN EXPOSURE

This spring I found it down the hill, beyond my 'perimeter'. It's getting away. I feel like I'm trying to contain a zombie apocalypse. Learn more below about actions you can take as an angler to make a difference.

A DENSE STAND OF NON-NATIVE GARLIC MUSTARD ALONG THE PATH TO A METRO AREA TROUT STREAM.

## Earthworm Issues

Did you know that you're supposed to put your leftover worms and night-crawlers in the garbage? All Minnesota earthworms came from Europe or Asia. At least seven species are invading our hardwood forests and eating up all the leaf litter on the ground, which is causing the loss of tree seedlings, wildflowers and ferns, according to U of M researchers. The 'hot zones' have spread from water public access sites. How did they get here, and why are they a problem? See the U's really interesting web page for more information: <http://www.extension.umn.edu/garden/insects/find/european-earthworms-in-minnesota/>

## Garlic Mustard

Garlic mustard is public enemy number one in my woods. It crowds out native vegetation, and along with buckthorn, changes our riparian woodlands. I'm staying on top of it, hitting it early in the spring before other plants come up.

But I keep seeing it in new areas, even in my yard, because I've been unknowingly spreading the seeds via the dirt on my boots. The same thing has happened along our trout streams. You can see it on the lower Kinnickinnic River, in the state park below River Falls, growing along the angler pathways and heading off into the woods. Stopping the spread of garlic mustard is easy if you take a few basic precautions.

## Help Fight Invasives with These Basic Steps

- Learn what invasives look like. A couple of common invasives are below.
- Keep a wire barbecue brush in your car, so when you are done fishing, you can brush off the bottom of your boots or waders to remove all mud, dirt, and the seeds you are inadvertently carrying. Also brush off your clothes, and especially your pants cuffs.
- When you get home, wash off your boots to remove all the mud you

didn't get out with the brush.

- Volunteer with us when we're doing invasive removal days along trout streams. We've cleared out more than a mile of buckthorn on the Vermillion River east of Farmington.

We'd like to start doing wild parsnip removal, but this is tricky stuff. Getting plant juice on your skin doesn't immediately cause a burning sensation. But it turns into a serious chemical burn when it gets hit by sunlight, because the sun's ultraviolet light activates it. (See photo below). And unlike poison ivy's oil, it's not as easy to wash off. Be careful if you work to remove it.

Check out the DNR's website with all the resources you need to ID invasives, and prevent their spread. You can learn how to eradicate them and where you can report an invasion in a natural area, so the DNR or another agency can respond.

Here's the link: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/index.html>



# 2017 FLY FISHING FILM AND VIDEO SHOWCASE

## At the Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo

March 18th, 2017

*Presented by Minnesota Trout Unlimited*

DETAILS AT [WWW.GREATWATERSFLYEXPO.COM](http://WWW.GREATWATERSFLYEXPO.COM)

## FINDING NAAS CREEK - THE LOST STREAM

### An Addendum to the Lost Trout Streams of Burnsville

By Dan Callahan

On the MNDNR web page for Unnamed Stream #4, under access, it says: "There is no legal access to this stream. Access would require hiking nearly a mile down the railroad tracks west from Nichols (sic) Road. Railroad tracks are private property and persons walking them are guilty of trespass."

The article is correct about trespass. But there is legal, public access, on wildlife refuge property. It's just not marked on any map that I've ever seen. DNR fisheries people didn't even know about it.

This "secret" entrance to the Minnesota Valley Wildlife Refuge is to the left of a house at 3104 Hayes Drive in Burnsville, hiding in plain sight in the well-mown lawn between the two houses. The only clue is a curb cut, and two small signs on posts near green utility boxes, announcing this 10 foot wide strip of lawn is actually refuge property. There is no parking lot. There isn't even parking allowed on the street in front of it. I park around

the corner on Cambridge Court, and walk back to entrance.

While not maintained like most access points, it is clearly defined. Even though it looks like you're walking onto someone's private land, you're not.

Once you get past the backyards, look down the hill into the woods, and you'll see the brown gate with a refuge sign. The gate blocks vehicle access to the old road the Naas family built down the bluff to their trout ponds. It's extremely overgrown, and you have to pick your way around, or under, blown down trees. The infestation of invasive garlic mustard plants is the worst I have ever seen. Make sure when you get back to your car, you brush off your boot soles so you don't transport any of the tiny seeds home, or to your next trout stream. Because there are no maps, I've used Dakota County's Interactive GIS map aerial photos to navigate around, or Google Maps (use the Google Maps Lite version to get the March 2016 aerial photos. The regular Google Earth interface just shows a smeary, three-year-old rendi-



THE WELL HIDDEN ENTRANCE TO THE TRAIL TO NAAS CREEK

tion).

It's best to explore the riverbottoms before mid-June. There is lot of giant reed canary grass you can get lost in. You're also going to walk through wetlands and across boggy, spring areas, so wear at least hipsters. There are extensive wet, boggy areas in the headwaters. But you

can stay to the left (west) edge of the ponds, along the woods, then angle north through the ankle-deep wetland to the railroad trestle and Lower Naas Creek.

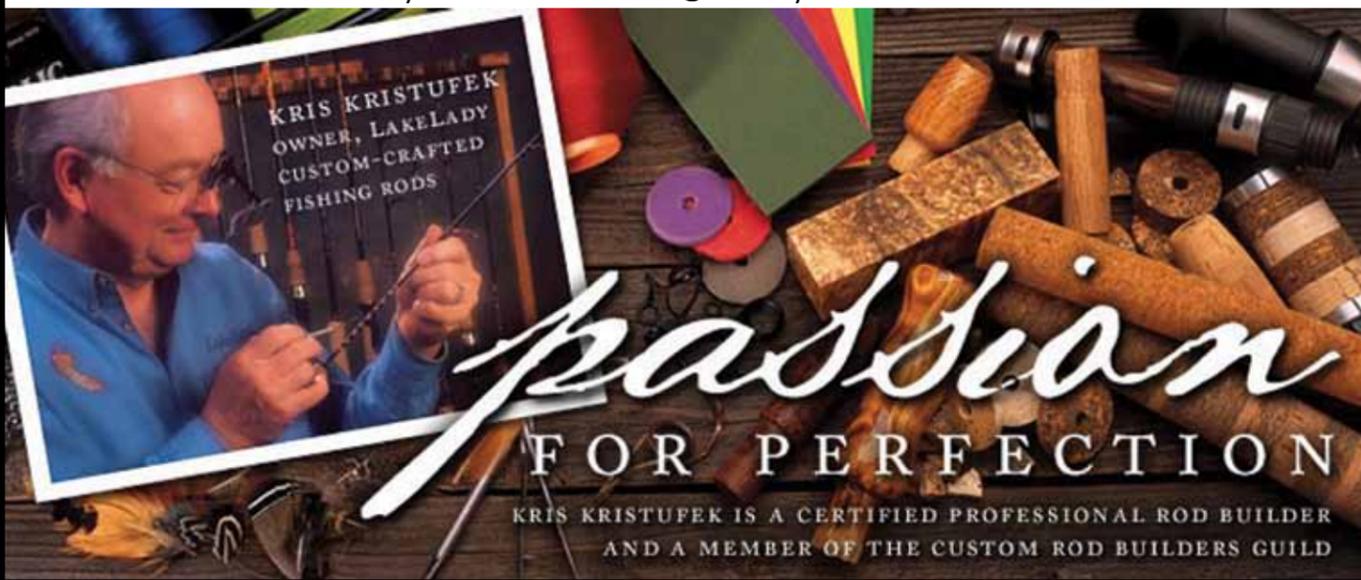
Let us know if you visit and if you happen to catch any trout. New information is important!

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## NEW FLY SHOP!

Anglers headed north to the Arrowhead in NE MN should stop in Grand Marais, MN and check out the latest offerings from a brand new fly shop, Fly Box and Company. Check them out online today:

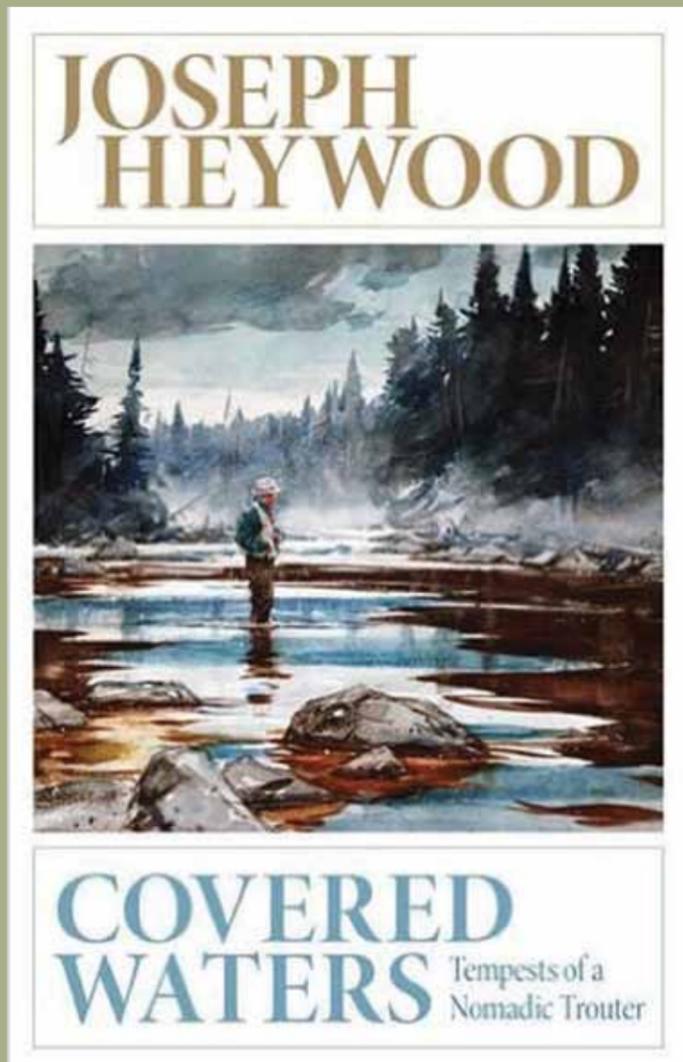
[www.flyboxmn.com](http://www.flyboxmn.com)



# COVERED WATERS

## Book Review

By John Hunt



If you are like me, a decision to read a particular book can rise from many sources. It can stem from a friend's recommendation, perhaps a catchy title or book cover, or maybe an intriguing review. In the case of Joseph Heywood's "Covered Waters – Tempests of a Nomadic Trout", it was a combination of reasons. The title first caught my eye on the library bookshelf amidst others of the same genre, but the brief synopsis provided on the back cover that included references to Michigan's U.P., the U.S. Air Force Strategic Air Command, and strip fishing in France seemed too good to pass up.

I read the 2015 version of the book, which I found out in the introduction is an update of the original that was first published in 2003. The synopsis on the cover did not disappoint. Raised in a military family, Heywood's roots range from New York to the Deep South, and eventually to Michigan's U.P. In the book, his musings are organized roughly by decade, with a section dedicated to the 60's, another to the 70's and 80's, and a final section called "Ending the Century". Within each section, separate chapters provide the author's reflections on his state of mind during specific occasions of life.

Not infrequently, Heywood's reflections crystallize around fishing. After college at Michigan State, he put down roots in the southwest corner of the Wolverine State, and the waters he describes fishing throughout the book will be familiar to readers that have fished both north and south of the Mackinac Bridge. There are recollections of more than 20 years of annual

treks to "fish camp" on the Pere Marquette, of fishing the hex hatch with Bob Linsenman, and of searching for Volker's "Frenchman's Pond".

Heywood covers a lot of ground, both geographically and figuratively, and I appreciated his commentary on coaching youth sports. In one instance, he recounts how a goalie in a squirt-level hockey game looks beyond the 5 goals he allowed in a game, telling his dad, "Yeah, Dad...but I stopped five others, and in practice I didn't stop any!" One chapter consists of excerpts from the journal the author kept while on active duty in the USAF, flying air support during the Vietnam War. As someone raised after the war concluded, I found his firsthand account of the contrast between the intensity and futility of the action sobering. Heywood also candidly shares his apprehension of returning to the river after a series of strokes that could have ended his life. I especially enjoyed the chapter that describes his adventures in tagging along as an observer with several game wardens in the U.P., and his observations of how the conservation ethic is (or in some cases is not) conferred from one generation to the next.

All in all, I found "Covered Waters" a very entertaining book. As in real life, the fish are not always big and life doesn't always turn out as hoped. Heywood reminds us, however, that it is friends and family that are the foundations of the experiences that form the memories of life.

# 2017 FLY EXPO UNVEILED

## New, Larger Location in St. Paul!

By Jade Thomason



A BUSY EXHIBITOR BOOTH AT THE GREAT WATERS FLY FISHING EXPO

This past March, Minnesota Trout Unlimited managed the Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo for the first time. First off, on behalf of expo management, I would like to thank all of the volunteers, exhibitors, presenters and attendees who participated in the 2016 expo. A special thanks to Baird Helgeson and his family for their support and assistance in making the transition to MNTU management. We appreciate all of the effort that the Helgeson family has put in over the years and look forward to continuing Tom's legacy in the future. The change in management and venue could have been a trying and rocky process, but due to the unending positivity and flexibility of all of those involved it was a tremendously enjoyable and successful event. This year we had many new additions to the event including new exhibitors, over a dozen new speakers and food trucks offering diverse eating options. This next year we plan to continue to strive to have new and exciting components as well as continuing the elements that have worked so well in the past.

In 2017 we will move the expo to Hamline University in St. Paul, MN. This new venue is centrally located within the Twin Cities metro area, easily accessible via the freeway system, and, most importantly, gives us the space we need for the expo to grow. We are gaining thousands of square feet of exhibit space which will allow for more exhibitors to attend as well as an expanded fly casting area complete with seating for demonstration viewing. Hamline also offers larger and more conveniently located presentation space as well as access to a large swimming pool which we will be using for in-

door spey casting demonstrations!

A brand new aspect of the 2016 Expo was our Fly Fishing Film and Video Event. We screened local film submissions from across the Midwest and gave away rousing prizes to talented recipients during a fun evening event. This took place on the Saturday evening of the expo and will continue in 2017. We are seeking short films and videos that showcase fly fishing in the Upper Midwest. Shoot some video of your experience of connecting with the water, hooking the big one, or that day when all the fish were rising. We will begin taking submissions in the coming months so keep an eye out on the expo social media pages for announcements. Specific guidelines, examples of prizes and contest rules can be found on the expo website.

Minnesota Trout Unlimited has always participated in the Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo and over the years has introduced thousands to the organization and conservation ethic we strongly hold. Management of the event this past season brought increased engagement and interest in MNTU and we are looking forward to coming years of creating resource advocates. A continuing theme we would like to express is that we are very open to any ideas, concepts and suggestions for the expo. Send us an email or call us any time with ideas for the venue, organization, programming, exhibitors, brands you would like represented, or any other thoughts.

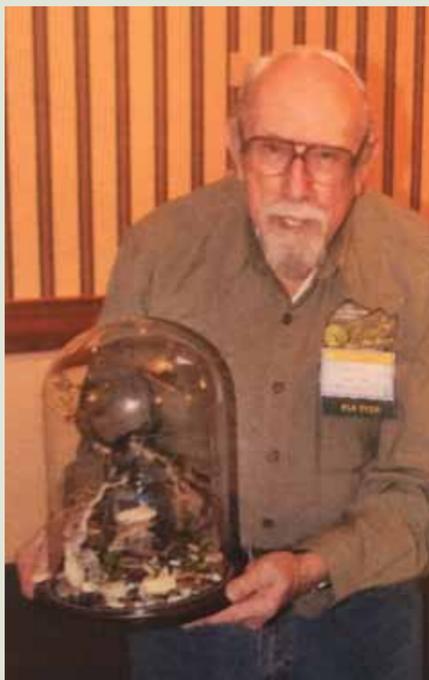
Email: [info@greatwatersflyexpo.com](mailto:info@greatwatersflyexpo.com)  
Phone: 612-562-9242

# AN EXCEPTIONAL ANGLER AND A SIGNIFICANT DONATION!

By Mark Reisetter

Recently, an email arrived in my inbox informing me that Whitewater State Park's Naturalist, Sara Holger, had passed along my name and contact information. The email went on to say that the correspondent's uncle had been a life-long fly fisherman and fly tier, and because their uncle now had Alzheimer's and could no longer use his collection of fishing equipment, they were looking to donate some fly rods to the local State Park. They knew that some of the equipment was more valuable, and since I was a member of Trout Unlimited, they also wondered if the collection's value could partially be used in fundraising for TU, a cause their uncle would wholeheartedly support.

When Jim and Barb Daily invited me into their living room in Chatfield, MN, the next week, I was greeted by an array of metal tubes and rods that was breathtaking. I quickly saw that Barb's uncle had been a collector, indeed, and a collector with fine taste. At first glance, I saw a number of Sage, Loomis, Scott, and Winston rods; upon a closer inspection, I saw a Jim Payne and a Harry Boyd bamboo rod as well. About two hours later, we had made three groups of rods: a stack of rods that would serve WWSP in their endeavors to get people fly fishing; a second group of rods that were too heavy for Driftless streams, were not of great value, and/or with condition issues; and a third group of twenty-eight rods that TU would definitely be interested in. Then they told me their kitchen table had a bunch of fly reels they hoped I could look over.



EARL A. STANEK POSES WITH HIS EXQUISITE FLYTYING MASTERPIECE THAT RAISED OVER \$14,000

Most of the finer reels I saw (including Loop, Fin-Nor, and Scientific Angler) were larger reels used when their uncle fished for tarpon, bonefish, salmon, or steelhead; but there were a bunch of smaller reels very suitable for the rods that WWSP was going to get.

But who is this uncle? That, I came to find out, is the real story. Earl A. Stanek is widely-known and highly

regarded in the fly fishing and fly tying world, as well as a V.I.P. in the history of Minnesota's contributions to the sport!

Earl was born and raised in Winona, MN, graduating from Winona High in 1947. He began trout fishing in the many spring creeks of Southeast Minnesota in the mid-1940s. When he began his schooling at Dunwoody, he partially



A FEW RODS FROM THE VAST COLLECTION OF ANGLER EARL A. STANEK

funded his education by commercially tying flies. He was paid 35 cents a dozen, which cured him of ever wanting to continue in that profession!

He enlisted in the Navy, then got his formal education and became an engineer for 3M in 1957, where he worked for over 30 years. It was at 3M that he got back into fly fishing and fly tying. He was even able to spend 15% of his time at work with a project of his choice. With this portion of his time, Earl chose to work as an engineering consultant with the 3M Leisure Time Products Group, led by the legendary Lew Jewett as Project Manager.

When 3M acquired the Scientific Anglers fly line business from the Leon L. Martuch family, Jewett, who wanted to develop a high quality fly reel to complete the SA package, sent Earl on a fishing trip for Washington State Steelhead with Leon Martuch to evaluate a number of reels being offered by the SA inventors. None of those reels measured up to Jewett's expectations, so he asked Earl to design the fly reel that became the 3M/Scientific Anglers "System Two." Earlier, when 3M had purchased the Phillipson Fly Rod Company in Denver, CO, Jewett had sent Earl out to learn the basic process and machinery needed to manufacture glass and graphite fly rods. Earl made several trips with Bill Phillipson to buy new steel rod mandrels, and new rod wrapping machines. Then, when 3M made the decision to move the production process to New Richmond, WI, Earl re-established the fly rod production line at the new plant.

Earl never married, perhaps because he was too busy fishing. When he retired from 3M in late 1988 as a Corporate Engineer – Tape Division, he bought a travel trailer, and, for eight years, led the life of total, mobile, retirement fly fishing. Each year, he would follow his established route, spending four months in

the Montana Rockies, three months on the White River at Cotter, AR, and five months in the Florida Keys, fishing during the week and tying flies on the weekends.

In late 1996, he purchased his home overlooking the White River in Cotter, AR, where Win-Cres TU'er Mike

Jersek visited him on a fishing trip. Earl and his fly rods have traveled the world; he could double haul and shoot a 75-foot cast for Tarpon, and did so in



JIM AND BARB DAILY REACHED OUT TO MNTU TO DONATE PARTS OF EARL'S COLLECTION OF FISHING GEAR TO HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR MNTU.

Florida, Costa Rica, Yucatan, Belize, and Venezuela. He considered bonefish "the greatest fly rod fish of all fish" and Earl fished for these annually in Florida, fourteen times in the Bahamas, and numerous times in Belize.

Earl was a pioneer in his exploratory trips, many of them with fellow 3M engineer David Johnson. They fished the Babine and Dean Rivers in Northern British Columbia in 1968, 1969, and 1971—long before they were known destinations. Earl's fly rods have caught large brook trout in the Minipi River and Goose Bay, Labrador. How about Atlantic salmon near Murmansk, Russia? Or sea run browns in Tierra del Fuego? Earl traveled to Australia and New Zealand numerous times, as well as Alaska, Chile, Argentina, and Brazil. At last count, the number of fishing trips Earl has taken to exotic places is 60.

Earl was also a renowned fly tier, and created numerous fly art objects, such as the glass dome he's holding in the attached photo, which raised over \$14,000

for the IFFF. Previously, Earl's family donated his extensive tying equipment and materials to his fly tying group in Cotter, Arkansas. In 2010, Earl received the Lew Jewett Memorial Life Award from the IFFF.

Jim and Barb Daily have seen the good work of MN TU with the stream habitat improvement work on nearby Mill Creek, and know that Uncle Earl would be pleased that his valuable collection of rods and reels is going to support our organization, and thereby benefiting the sport that was the lifelong passion of Earl A. Stanek.

*Editor's Note: The fly rod and reel collection of Earl A. Stanek will be available at Trout Unlimited Chapter Banquets and Fundraisers around the state, spread out over the next few years. Plan to attend your local banquets and look for rods and reels from Earl's collection. You can own a fine piece of angling merchandise, and a remarkable piece of Minnesota Angling History—while, at the same time, supporting our phenomenal cold-water fishery!*

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# THE LOST TROUT STREAMS OF BURNSVILLE

## Part Three

By Dan Callahan



*This is the third and last chapter on the Lost Trout Streams of Burnsville and Eagan.*

There are four small streams in Burnsville and Eagan on the official state Designated Trout Stream (DTS) list. They all originate from coldwater springs at the base of the Minnesota River bluffs. In Burnsville, Unnamed #4 and Unnamed #7 flow north through the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge into Black Dog Lake, which flows to the Minnesota River. In Eagan, Harnack (aka Black Dog Creek) and Kennealy flow north through Fort Snelling State Park and eventually reach the Minnesota River.

All but Kennealy are on the DNR's metaphorical Death Row. The DNR last year proposed dropping the three from the DTS, removing protections. In paperwork, DNR officials argued the streams currently had no trout in them, and they were small and "unfishable." We (Twin Cities TU and MNTU) argued that the DNR was jumping the gun. These streams used to have trout in them when the DNR stocked them. They haven't been stocked in years, and in the case of Unnamed #4, the DNR had filed a restoration plan in the early 2000s, but never followed through. Recent temperature and fisheries survey data was lacking too.

In Part 1, I wrote about discovering that Unnamed #4 actually used to be the Cedar Hills Trout Farm in Burnsville in the late 1950s and early 1960s. I even found the 88-year-old owner, Marianne Naas, who showed me newspaper articles and photos of its hey-day. Since then, it is "Unnamed #4" no more to me. I call this little watery

jewel Naas Creek, to honor the family, and because it gives this beautiful little stream a personality. Death Row-sitters deserve more than just a number. As for it being "unfishable", I've talked to multiple people who claim to have caught trout in it. And I fished it just fine in mid-May, though I didn't catch anything. I don't catch trout in a lot of places that I've seen plenty of fish while on DNR electrofishing surveys. It is an excellent candidate for restoration since the land it flows through is permanently protected, like the similar spring creek we've recently restored on the Refuge near the Mall of America, Hust Creek.

Last year, DNR Trout Habitat Specialist Mark Nemeth offered to help us gather temperature data on Naas and the other streams on Death Row. In the spring he put in loggers to record temps every 15 minutes. He pulled them last fall though not very easily. Mark had to dig through the debris from a high bank that collapsed into the stream, right on top of his Lower Naas Creek logger. He used a metal detector. The first two times, he found only an old railroad spike. The third time, he came up with the logger and its crucial evidence. Mark told me recently the preliminary data from that logger shows the temperature on the main stem of Naas Creek, below where the City of Burnsville's stormwater from River Hills runs into it, has rose above 72 degrees during summer thunderstorms. 72 is considered the threshold for a trout stream designation.

He says his Upper Naas Creek logger, upstream of the stormwater inflow, also spiked above 72 at times, but not during stormwater events. Instead it was during the sunniest hot summer days. The logger monitored the stream after it flowed

out of two big stagnating old trout ponds, dammed by beavers. The temperature findings on Naas Creek, though discouraging, are not a trout stream-killer.

Eagle Creek in Savage and the Vermillion River east of Highway 52 support trout, even though some logger locations in those streams record summer temps spiking above 75 degrees. During these hot times, the trout aren't swimming next to the logger. They're taking refuge in cooler, groundwater-fed areas, upstream or downstream from the sampling point. On the Vermillion, they go up into spring tributaries like the South Branch of the Vermillion River, and into South Creek, in Lakeville. Trout could find the same kind of refuge on Naas Creek, if we breach the pond. Breaching would narrow the creek and cool it. Breaching also would allow trout to move upstream into spring tributaries that have been inaccessible since the Naas family dammed the trout ponds 60 years ago.

I was amazed by how much habitat there is in these seemingly-small rills. From a typical surface photography angle, I shot a watercress-choked tributary that didn't seem to have any habitat. But when I put my GoPro camera underwater, a mini water world opened up. I noticed how sparkling clear the water is. No sediment, just this pristine, rocky bottom, which is an insect factory and spawning area. I also noticed the watercress created extensive overhead cover for small fish to hide under. By the way, it turns out watercress is actually a non-native invasive species that spreads across the surface of cold springs. This is fine for tiny trout, but not great for aquatic vegetation that doesn't appreciate watercress blotting out the sun. Even further by the way, I read on the web that this is the same kind

of watercress you can buy in a store—but eating this free meal from your trout stream might lead to a Giardia parasite infection (aka Beaver Fever). When the description of symptoms includes "explosive diarrhea", I'll stick to the store-bought stuff. Back on topic: So, after learning so many cool things about this stream—its history, and its potential—I think the DNR should return to pushing for restoration, not premature declaration that the trout stream is dead. Moreover, because Naas is protected entirely within the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, there isn't any pressure coming from a developer to get rid of the trout stream designation, so they can build something incompatible. However, removing the trout stream designation would relieve the City of Burnsville from its responsibility to stop thermally polluting Lower Naas Creek with excessively warm summer stormwater.

Minnesota rules protect trout streams with a thermal water quality standard that says a discharge cannot materially increase the stream's temperature. "Materially" is a disputable term. In 1994, water temperature monitoring on Eagle Creek showed that the city's conversion of a spring-fed tributary into large stormwater pond for new development was "materially increasing" the temperature of the main stem of Eagle Creek, below the tributary's inflow. The city decided the best way to mitigate it was to divert the tributary away from Eagle Creek. Thanks to the Lower Naas Creek logging data, we appear to have documented that Burnsville's stormwater inflow from Cedarbridge Creek is materially increasing the temperature of Naas, making it too warm for the stream's existing design-



THE UNDERWATER WORLD OF A NAAS CREEK TRIBUTARY

nated use: a trout stream.

But the DNR knew that, already. If you Google “DNR unnamed stream #4”, you’ll come to a MNDNR webpage describing it. It says: “Stream #4 is the largest of the designated trout streams in this area, but it is still a small stream. This creek has been compromised repeatedly by urban development in the adjacent headwaters area. Storm water is discharged into the upper reaches of the watershed after routine storm events. These discharges increase the temperature of the creek making it unsuitable for trout for some time after the storm event. No trout were sampled in the last two assessments, and it is unlikely any trout remain in this stream. The stream does have (sic) value in maintaining the unique biota found in the adjacent fen.”

One way to save Naas Creek from the Cedarbridge stormwater inflow is to divert it, like Savage did. Reopen a dedicated culvert under the railroad bed just for Cedarbridge. Then its stormwater would never reach Naas Creek.

I have been told by many different people in government that the railroad does what it wants to do within its right of way, and isn’t very responsive. They did respond one day, when they couldn’t control Nature. John McPhee wrote an awesome book in 1989 called “The Control of Nature”. He featured several essays about ambitious public works projects designed to bend Nature to our will. One of his stories predicted New Orleans would be flooded someday, despite massively expensive flood control projects. It took until 2005, but Hurricane Katrina proved him right.

Cedarbridge Creek had its own little Katrina on August 16, 2015. Four inches of rain fell in just a few hours. It continued raining the next two days. I wondered if Cedarbridge Creek was being overwhelmed by the system that directly shunts water from the streets, through short culvert pipes, into the stream’s narrow valley. I slogged down to the impoundment at the bottom of Cedarbridge’s ravine, and was stunned to see water overflowing the impoundment’s banks, creating a waterfall that was eroding away a huge area of dirt below it. The water was surging back into the stream’s original course—the one it followed before the railroad closed its culvert, the one it followed before the City of Burnsville decided to divert the creek through an underground pipe to deal with this kind of massive erosion.

I followed the flow through the woods

to the tracks. The flooding had washed away tons of rock and soil alongside the tracks. I shot pictures and emailed them to the city staff, who alerted the railroad to the damage. They responded, but not in the way I had hoped. Instead of restoring Cedarbridge Creek’s own culvert at that location, spending a little more money up front to fix years of problems, (and saving Naas Creek at the same time), they stuck with the Control of Nature philosophy: Just pile MORE riprap in that place, armor the tracks some more, and continue sending the polluting stormwater downstream to Naas Creek. It’s not a stellar stream. But heck yeah, we should be breaching dams and opening up fish passage to upper Naas Creek! Now, before you go looking for your pitchfork and torch to storm DNR Headquarters in St. Paul, realize this little trout stream has little fishing value, compared to major streams. The DNR is focusing efforts and money on trout fisheries that provide the most fishing opportunities, such as stocking more rainbows in the Vermillion River. People can take home these hatchery trout for dinner (it’s still catch-and-release only for wild brown trout). The Vermillion has about 19.5 miles of designated trout water. Naas Creek has about 728 feet of reasonably fishable water, according to my Google Maps measuring tool. That’s if you fish from the railroad tracks downstream to the overhead power lines, which lead to Xcel Energy’s Black Dog Plant. Its smokestack dominates the skyline.

I walked along the grassy stream bank under the power line, headed for Black Dog Lake, I noticed the grasses had changed to sedges. With my next step, my left foot plunged through the floating sedge mat, sinking until I was down over my left hip boot. I sat back, and pushed away with my right foot and walking stick until I could scoot back to less shaky ground. Lesson learned: Always have a walking stick down here. There are plenty of fallen branches in the woods to choose from, as you’re walking toward the stream. You should also watch for floating quagmire behind old, breached beaver dams along the creek. Try bouncing up and down on the ground when you get near one. If a lot of the surrounding area bounces with you, head for higher ground.

I learned this lesson about eight years ago, trying to fish behind an old beaver pond on Harnack Creek, the Eagan trout stream on DNR Death Row. I was wearing hip boots, and started walking on the upstream side of the old beaver pond, down toward the dam. The footing was a little shaky, but I figured it was fine, that it would get more solid. Nope. This

time, both feet went through the sedge mat, and I was suddenly sunk up to my waist, and sinking fast, in 20 years of silt that had settled behind this beaver dam. It was getting into my hip boots. “How deep did this slow, thick quicksand go?” I thought. “Nobody knows where I am, and I’m going to sink here. All they’ll find is my tennis shoes along the tracks, where I took them off to put on my hip boots.” Then I remembered some advice I read somewhere about this situation. You’re not supposed to struggle. You’re supposed to spread out your arms and legs and belly flop down, to spread your weight across the top of the mire. So I did.

“God,” I thought, “I hope the people driving by on the Cedar Avenue Bridge can’t see me. I look like an idiot.” So I stretched my arms out in front of me, holding with my nine-foot fly rod sideways with both hands, and pushed it down into the quaky surface, speculating whether I would break it when I pulled myself forward, but it didn’t break, and I was able to lift my legs out behind me as I pulled. So, I just kept pulling myself forward on my belly across the top of the goo like that, until I got close enough to the old dam. Then I lunged across the short stretch of open water behind the dam, grabbed a branch, and pulled myself out. Man I smelled bad. I washed out my shirt in the stream, and put it back on. And then, I went on to catch the biggest brown trout of my life.

No. I went home. So remember to



A FORMER TROUT POND WARMS THE WATER ON NAAS CREEK

grab a sturdy branch as a walking stick when you go exploring these little trout streams in Burnsville and Eagan.

### Going Forward on Naas Creek

Draft results show upper Naas Creek is cold enough to support brook trout. The best improvement will be breaching the old trout ponds that are warming the water by spreading it out. The short length of this spring creek means it won’t be a robust fishery, but certainly a valuable stream to restore native species to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. The DNR decision makers should drop plans to drop this stream from the designated trout streams list. It deserves continued protection.

Monitoring results for lower Naas Creek, below where the City of Burns-

ville’s stormwater system flow joins it, showed instances when the water temperature spiked slightly above brook trout levels. First-hand observations also show that massive erosion results from the stormwater.

The cool thing about trout streams in Minnesota, pun intended, is their coolness is protected. Thermal pollution of trout streams is not allowed.

In 1994 on Eagle Creek in Savage, just up the Minnesota River from Burnsville, studies showed that Savage had ponded a tributary and send stormwater runoff into it, raising water temperatures on Eagle Creek. Rather than redesign expensive changes upstream, Savage avoided the problem by diverted the tributary away from Eagle Creek. Problem solved.

Burnsville had the same idea back in the mid-1960s when it designed the stormwater management system for this area. All urban runoff was piped to flow into an existing, unnamed creek that flowed under the railroad tracks through an opening that had been in place for decades, rolling merrily along until it reached Black Dog Lake. If you look at any map, any GIS system, and talk to just about any official, it looks like that is still the case.

However, now we know that the railroad or someone else closed the undercrossing and filled it in. So stormwater

is managed to flow farther down the tracks, into Naas Creek. This doesn’t impact the upstream areas where we can still put back the brookies. But there is no question this unwelcome stormwater is degrading trout habitat in lower Naas Creek.

The best way to restore lower Naas Creek, is to restore the stormwater culvert that puts the polluted runoff back on its original, intended course.

And as a side benefit, all the maps will be correct again.

*Editor’s Note: Go visit Naas Creek for yourself! Find the directions on how to get to this hidden gem on page 13. Don’t forget to let us know if you happen to catch a trout when you’re there!*



# MNTU CHAPTER NEWS

## Gitche Gumee Chapter

We continue to need volunteers to help out with the North Shore Trout Stream Temperature Refuge Project. The field survey continues through the end of summer 2016, but more volunteers will be needed to spend a half day or more helping to map the locations of groundwater. We expect to sponsor several combined fishing/survey weekends to concentrate on watersheds in Lake and Cook Counties. Sites with nearby camping have been selected to allow volunteers to set aside a weekend or two for camping, fishing and monitoring temperature. Come up on a Friday and fish the evening, take the opportunity to explore North Shore streams on Saturday looking for cool-water input, fish the evening and Sunday morning while enjoying conversations with other fisherfolk. Contact Peder Yurista to sign up and learn more at:

woollybugger@charter.net

We hope to see you this summer on the North Shore.

Jon Aspie

## Hiawatha Chapter

Hiawatha Trout Unlimited (HTU) has had a busy summer. We had our annual Senior Fishing Day in June in Lanesboro, MN. Hiawatha TU, the Department of Natural Resources Fisheries, and Chester Daniels and his family have made this event happen for more than 25 years. In May we helped out the DNR again with MinnAqua a youth/adult fly fishing education weekend. In June T.U.N.E. Camp was held at Eagle Bluff. T.U.N.E. Stands for The Ultimate Nature Experience. July was the International Federation of Fly Fishers (IFFF) fly casting boot camp and much, much more.

Some of our streams have been affected



A YOUNG ANGLER'S FIRST TROUT ON THE CLEARWATER RIVER

by the recent heavy rains, but over all are still doing very good. Our annual fall meetings at the Izaak Walton League Cabin will begin September 12th 2016 through March of 2017. Meetings are on the first Monday of each month except September being the 5th is Labor Day so that meeting will be Sept. 12th. Times and speakers TBA. October we will have our annual chili feed and fly tying night at the Izaak Walton Cabin. The Board of Directors make chili and the chapter provides all the fixings and beverages. I hope as many of you can join us as possible. It's a lot of fun and you can learn some tying skills from some of our very experienced fly tying members. Stay tuned to our web site [www.hiawathatu.org](http://www.hiawathatu.org) for all of the directions and details.

Yours Truly, HTU President

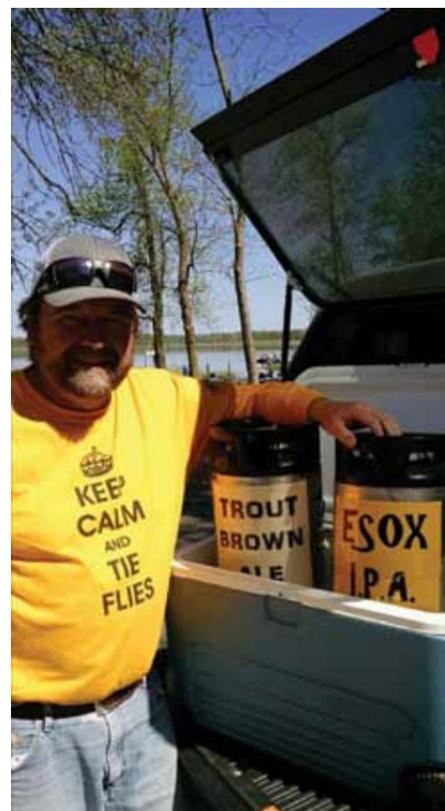
Phil Pankow

## Headwaters Chapter

- Our fall membership meeting will be held on September 20, 5:30-9:30pm at the new C.K. Dudley's Bar and Grill (formerly Cattails). A double feature program including veteran fishing guides offering great fishing adventures to check out right here in Minnesota. Darwin Sumner, Red Lake Native and long-term fishing guide will get you hooked up to big rainbow, brook and lake trout on the unique, intimate ice block lakes of the Red Lake Indian Reservation. Brian Bergeson, author, guide, master tier and fly designer for Montana Fly Company will share some of his latest fly designs and fishing techniques. Brian's experience centers on trout, steelhead, pike and muskies. Brian was born, raised and still lives in Minnesota. Social hour: 5:30pm, dinner 5:45, and 7:10 Program, fly raffle and door prizes.

- We just concluded our super successful second annual Pike Hunt also known as "The Great Esox Slime Event". If you enjoy casting streamers with lots of action this event is for you. Mark your calendars for next year May

26, 2017. Friday night we tie the fly and Saturday we fish the fly and that night we eat the fish. (see photo) We have conducted membership assessments and members want fun, educational group activities and this event fills the bid. We started last year with Brian Bergeson tying one of his beautiful articulated musky flies. This year, as you can see in the photo, we tied a similar fly but with extra select craft fur using some of Brian's techniques. Several members really got into the spirit of this event. Special thanks to John Lueth and Charlie Parson for brewing the Brown trout ale



BEER BREWED ESPECIALLY FOR THE HEADWATERS CHAPTER'S "GREAT ESOX SLIME EVENT"

and Esox IPA. John also contributed a hat and t-shirt fundraiser. Jeff Korbel of Korbel Rods donated tying instruction and the fish fry site, we fed 21 people. Several others brought boats, including a Clacka Craft drift boat, for the drift boat experience, thanks to Keith Behn. Call next year by May 1 to sign up.

- Our women's initiative fly fishing weekend retreats were held June 10-11 and 24-25. Fourteen ladies had a great time learning, practicing and fishing. Six women caught a fish on the fly rod for the first time which was an "exciting big deal!" Their evaluations were really positive and encouraging. The majority want to come back next year, but more importantly they gained the knowledge, skill and increased confidence they were hoping for. The almost gourmet meals were a hit, and happy hour social time was great to ask questions and share stories. (Which we all know is an important part of fishing.) We plan on doing this next year, so give us a call.

- Two new fundraisers include an Esox hat and a "Stay Calm and Tie Flies" T-shirt. Call if you need one or both.

- TIC update: Our chapter has just completed its ninth successful year of the Trout in the Classroom program at Northern Elementary School near Bemidji.

Fifty-five children from two different classrooms participated in this year's program. On May 24th the students released approximately 85 rainbow and 95 brown trout in the Clearwater River. Interestingly, this year the rainbows grew significantly bigger than the browns and hopefully will have better survival in the river as a result. Thank you Steve Young for all the hours in coordinating this program.

- Thank you to all our committed, dedicated volunteer members who made another 5th grade fly fishing program a success. You guys are amazing; 14 years, 500 5th graders that is something to be proud of.

- Speaking of amazing volunteers, a quick and true story to recognize our most senior volunteer. This spring steelhead fishing on the Knife River I met Andrew Larson, a full time DNR fisheries employee who was conducting creel census. Andrew and I were chatting about our mutual affection for fly fishing (can you imagine that). Andrew was explaining with great delight about a brook trout he had caught the day before. When I said I was from Bemidji, his eyes and mouth sparkled out an enthusiastic "that's where I learned how to fly fish, 20 years ago." It turns out three of our most senior board members, Bob Frazey, Vince Carffaro, and the most senior at 90, Gale Brooks taught a fly fishing class in Andrew's middle school class. Andrew remembered the man and the name, Gale Brooks. Andrew said, "He taught me how to cast and they took us fishing on the Clearwater River." I will never forget the look of enthusiasm and thankfulness on Andrew's face when he recalled the name Gale Brooks. Gale continues to be one of our most consistent, positive volunteers. Including helping this year with our 5th grade fly fishing program in both tying and casting. Gale, Vince and Bob are our three founding fathers, great guys and committed volunteers. Volunteers make a difference.

Bob Wagner

## Mid-Minnesota Chapter

The Mid-Minnesota Chapter is excited to announce that funding has been secured for additional work on Little Rock Creek. Look to hear more about the project and upcoming planning as the year progresses.

For more information on the Mid-Minnesota Chapter and to get involved with the Little Rock Creek project, contact chapter president Micah Barrett at (320) 241-0870.

Micah Barrett

# MNTU CHAPTER NEWS



## Twin Cities Chapter

Twin Cities Chapter has had a very busy spring!

Our board and many members attended and helped staff the Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo which was hosted this year by our MNTU state council. We were able to talk with many attendees about TU's great work in Minnesota and nearly 100 new members joined our ranks!

Our first workday of the year was held on April 2nd at Hay Creek. 25 volunteers removed three beaver dams and a dozen large trees, many of which were in the creek. It was another job well done by our dedicated TCTU volunteers. Watch our website and your email for upcoming opportunities on Hay Creek, the Vermillion, and other projects.

It's been great to see the success that TU's acclaimed "Trout in the Classroom" has had in its first year at ten Minnesota schools. Starting in the fall, kids raise trout from eggs, and study the importance of healthy streams to fish, invertebrates, and the rest of our ecosystem. About 450 of these students met on April 15th at Metro State University to learn more from a dozen natural resource professionals, share each other's work, and try their hand at casting and fly tying. Students finish the school year by releasing the trout fingerlings they raised into local trout streams. It's another way that TU connects with our communities, and especially with the youth who will be the future stewards of our planet.

On April 25th, our chapter hosted about 100 people at Surly Brewing Co. for our first-ever film event, a screening of the 2016 International Fly Fishing Film Festival. The evening began with a social hour of fishy conversation among old and new friends with light appetizers and Surly's great beer selection. The two-hour film consisted of eight segments with a variety of themes, from destination fishing in locations like New Zealand and the Arctic, to closer-to-home sequences such as fly-fishing for muskellunge in Canada and for tuna near San Diego, to more thoughtful segments like the legacy of fishing passed from father to son to grandson shot on the Big-



A HEFTY BROWN TROUT IN THE NET FROM SE MN THIS SPRING

horn River in Montana. Overall it was a great evening, and one that we plan to repeat in the future.

We'll hold our first free public event of the fall on Tuesday, September 27

at 6:30pm at Wood Lake Nature Center in Richfield. Learn about fishing metro area trout streams.

We are happy to announce that our first Fall Fundraising Social is Friday, October 14, at the Eagan Community Center. We have enthusiastic volunteers on our events committee, and welcome you to join us in making this a great event. Watch for more information in your email. If you aren't already receiving regular emails about our upcoming events, like stream work days and fly fishing clinics, subscribe by sending an email to [dan@twincitiestu.org](mailto:dan@twincitiestu.org).

There are many ways for you to get involved! We always need volunteers for habitat work days on Hay Creek, the Vermillion River, and elsewhere. Not your thing? How about connecting with veterans through Project Healing Waters? Helping us organize events like attending state or county fairs to promote TU? Helping with the website, social media and other communications, or monitoring local watershed meetings, development proposals, or environmental reviews? We would love to have your help! We can be reached here: [info@twincitiestu.org](mailto:info@twincitiestu.org) or check out our website at: [www.twincitiestu.org](http://www.twincitiestu.org)

Dean Campbell

## Win-Cres Chapter

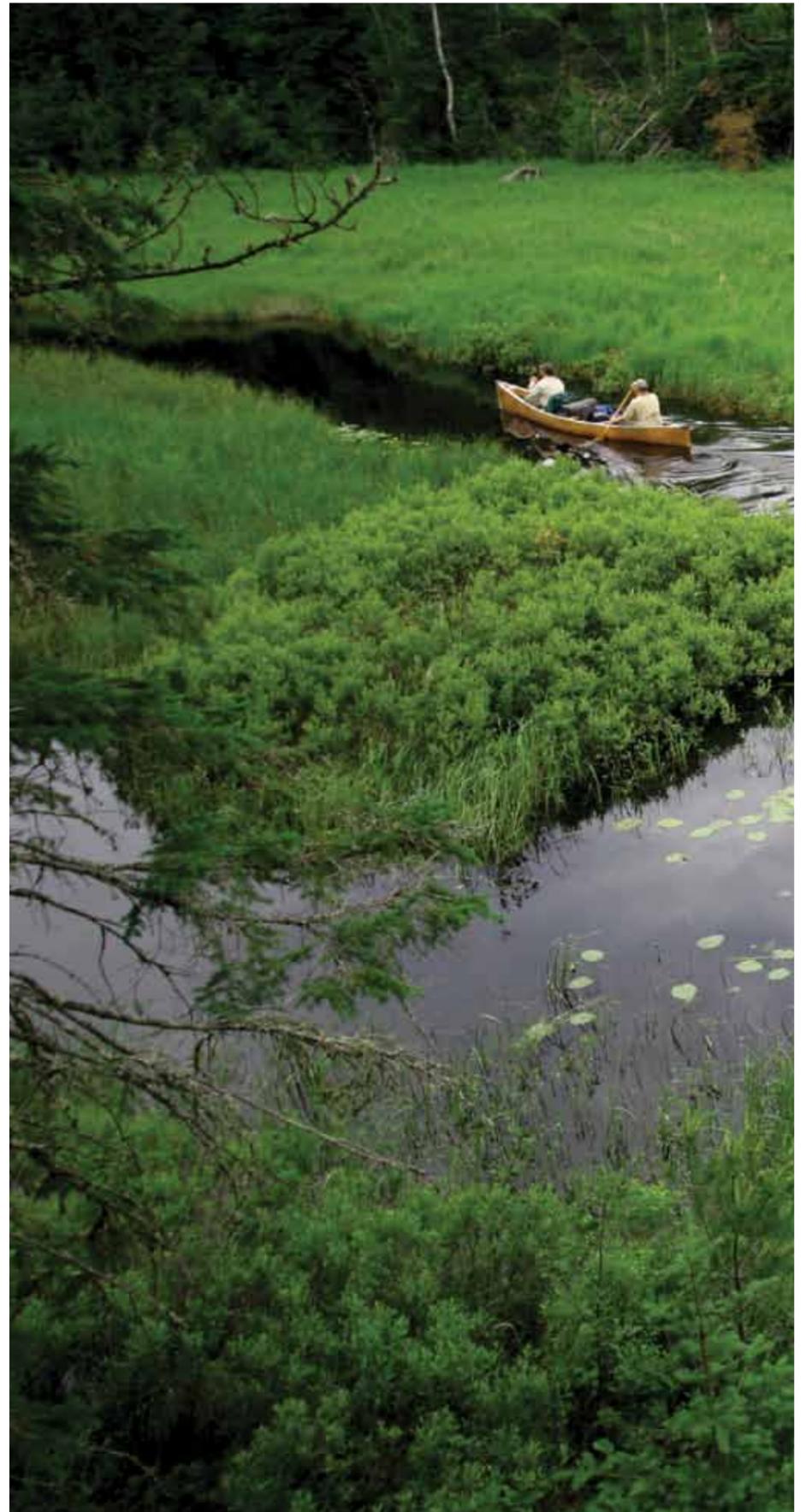
In early April, Win-Cres members cleaned up the highway stretch assigned to the chapter. Members collected several bags of trash along Lake Boulevard overlooking East Lake Winona. In May, two Win-Cres members, Jim Clark and Joe Lepley, helped Mark Reisetter with his fly fishing class at Whitewater State Park. We had a work day on Garvin Brook on May 7 to clear debris from the stream corridor and scout for Japanese knotweed. Eleven members showed up to work. Brats and refreshments were enjoyed after the work. Results of our herbicide spraying last fall are looking very positive. We will need to go back and spray again because the weed is persistent. We worked with Jaime Edwards of the DNR in June to spray

new and old spots where the knotweed is showing up. Jaime says we will be able to use Vanquish once the plants have enough leaf structure to absorb the herbicide.

We worked with Whitewater State Park staff on June 11 for the annual "Take A Kid Fishing" program. Our members volunteer to take kids, and sometimes parents, for an exposure to fishing within the state park's boundary. Also in June, we helped the Lewiston Sportsmen's Club with the fishing aspect of

their outdoor program. Casting instructions were given on June 7. The kids involved in this class had a chance to try their skills the following Tuesday, June 14, on Lake Winona.

Joe Lepley



PADDLERS EXPLORE THE BOUNDARY WATERS CANOE AREA WILDERNESS. READ ABOUT THE BWCAW ON PAGE 8 AND LEARN ABOUT SOME OF THE ISSUES THAT THREATEN OUR NORTHERN WILDERNESS. BRIAN OKEFFE PHOTO.



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## REELING IT IN

### The Smallest Streams

By Sam Troutt

When I began fishing for trout, it was almost by accident. I was a kid with an insatiable appetite for fishing, and I stumbled on to an old trout fishing volume in a dusty corner of the library that mentioned trout fishing in some of the glory years just after WWII. While I consumed the book with gusto and prepared to execute almost every technique available, I was short on locations to fish. With the limited distances available to youth, along with never having caught a trout, I began to scour maps and books to find the closest trout to my parent's home. The "big name" waters of midwest fishing were far away, and though I longed to reach the Kinnickinnic, Whitewater or Root River valleys, they were simply not attainable. I was left with the small, marginal waters. These small streams left a deep imprint on my existence as a trout angler. Success on small streams was not measured in sheer numbers of fish, but often simply if you managed to catch a trout at all. Finding brook trout in a watershed where they had been all but lost to agriculture, logging, beaver dams or development was the fishing challenge I grew up with. Little did I know that there would be locations with streams brimming full of brook trout, and even in some waters in the Rocky Mountains far away, locations where there are so many brook trout that they pose a haz-

ard to the native cutthroat. As I scuffled along those gritty streams of my youth, I grew protective of them. Buffeted by rain, filled with sediment and choked with non-native species, it amazes me that the trout hung on. Today as we face more and more challenges with our suburban streams, it is imperative that we both restore them and continue to fish them. Small metro trout streams like the Vermillion River in Farmington, Browns Creek in Stillwater and Valley Creek in Afton may not have the name recognition of the Madison River in Montana, but they offer something important: The chance to raise another generation of anglers who might just care enough about their local waters to get involved. So take some time this summer to fish a third-rate trout stream. Even if it's just for an hour. Get on the MN DNR web site and find the trout stream closest to you and hit the water. Summertime is for adventure! The streams may not be large, but the adventure just might be. If you find something amazing, get in touch with MNTU. Protecting, restoring and conserving small things that are amazing is what we're all about.

*Editor's Note: Read more about some of our small metro streams in the "Lost Trout Streams of Burnsville" series, concluding in this issue.*

## Donate to Minnesota Trout Unlimited Efforts

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

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