

TROUT UNLIMITED MINNESOTA

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Fishing the Temporary Normal
Artist Profile: Charlie Forbes
Tying the Puterbaugh Caddis Variant
Youth Series: Wacko Macros
Shorecasting for Kamloops Rainbow Trout
Riverkeepers: A Call to Action

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ON THE COVER

Abigail Crider releases a hefty brook trout. Micah Crider photo. Check out Micah's article on page 16 on fishing in the time of COVID-19.

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- Shorecasting for Kamloops
- MNTU Education Update
- Youth Series: Wacko Macros
- Graced by Waters Book Review
- Adding a Fighting Butt to a Fly Rod

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MINNESOTA COUNCIL UPDATE

MEET THE NEW COUNCIL CHAIR

By Brent Notbohm, Minnesota Council of TU Chair

Let me introduce myself: My name is Brent and I love fly fishing. And I mean I really love fly fishing. Maybe love isn't even the right word. I have an enduring passion for fly fishing, but that sounds pretty hokey and cliché. Some would probably say fly fishing is my obsession or addiction, though I'm completely in denial of the negative connotations of those words. So to keep it simple, let's just say I love it; which is one of the reasons I now find myself serving as the Chair of the MNTU State Council. The other reason involves disclosing a little more about myself.

About 10 years ago, I joined TU thinking that I should do my part to protect and conserve the coldwater fisheries I so enjoyed. I had no intention of getting involved in any meaningful way, I simply wanted to become a better angler and thought a \$35-per-year membership was worthwhile if it generated a couple of new fishing hot spots. Little did I know that TU would change my life. It's true that I have become a better fly angler since joining TU, but that is not the change I mean. Rather, through TU

I have met some of the very best people I have known in my entire life. I was looking for more fish when I joined TU and, to my great personal benefit, I found more friendship.

I share this with you because, as a leader, I think it's important for members to have an understanding of my values. I love fish and I love people—sometimes one more than the other, depending on which is biting. Caring about TU, its mission, and its people has motivated me to play a leadership role; first as the Gitche Gumee Chapter president and now as the MNTU State Council Chair. I serve to do my part to advance the cause of the organization. I have done this in various leadership roles during my 19-year career as a faculty member at the University of Wisconsin-Superior, and I will do everything I can to do the same for MNTU. I believe if you really care about something, you're obligated to do what you can to make it better. I'm truly grateful to know and work with such a tremendous group of TU members who share these values.



This is all to say that I very much look forward to the work ahead. Along the way, I hope to get to know many more of you across the great state of Minnesota. Maybe we'll even have the opportunity to walk a trout stream together and benefit from the tremendous work MNTU does to protect and conserve our coldwater fisheries. Until then, please take care during this challenging period in our world and I hope you all are able to do a little fishing (with proper social distancing, of course)!

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WATCH OUT FOR DAME'S ROCKET ALONG DRIFTLESS TROUT STREAMS. THOUGH STUNNING, IT'S A DOMINATING INVASIVE IN WETLAND AREAS AND IS CLOSELY RELATED TO GARLIC MUSTARD.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CHALLENGES TO COMMUNITY

By John Lenczewski, MNTU Executive Director

Our grassroots base of active members is what sets Trout Unlimited apart from many of our partners in the environmental and conservation community. Whether it is helping on a habitat project, lending a hand at one of our outdoor education field days, writing legislators, or mentoring a new angler, members volunteering their time provide much of the horse power to protect, restore, reconnect and sustain our local fisheries. This work does not happen in a vacuum, but in partnerships and communities. TU is increasingly embracing its role in building healthy communities which support healthy watersheds.

2020 has brought serious challenges to our TU community and the broader communities in which we live, work and play. The arrival of the novel coronavirus in March has disrupted how we go about conservation work. Essentially all volunteer workdays have been cancelled since that time and we still are not sure precisely how and when we can resume them safely. The shared meal and

socializing, which is an integral part of workdays, is about building a stronger sense of community. Our outdoor education program has worked mightily to overcome schools' shifts to virtual learning and maintain a sense of community despite the physical distancing. Chapter gatherings have been put on hold or gone online. These challenges will remain with us for some time. But by keeping our communities safe through this crisis we'll emerge to press forward toward our goal of healthy waters close to home.

Over the past few weeks another crisis has shaken our communities, as citizens in Minneapolis, St. Paul, and other cities and towns around the state, have taken to the streets to call for justice and opportunity for everyone in the community, especially people of color. While we are a conservation organization, years ago we recognized that to sustain trout waters over the long haul, we need to broaden public interest in waters and increase the diversity of our membership. Our



outdoor education program and summer fishing clinics, which have deliberately targeted urban schools and city lakes, is but a small step. We need to do more. Interest in chasing trout depends upon a certain degree of economic means and security which many currently lack. Changes which lead to greater stability and economic opportunity for everyone in our community will increase the odds that our conservation message will resonate with an ever larger share of the population.



MNTU'S EDUCATION PROGRAM SUPERVISOR RECEIVES A HANDOFF OF TROUT FINGERLINGS FROM A TEACHER DURING THEIR SCHOOL'S LIVE VIRTUAL TROUT RELEASE. STUDENTS AND FAMILIES WATCHING ALSO LEARNED ABOUT BROWN'S CREEK AS A HABITAT FOR THEIR TROUT AND HOW TO CAPTURE AND IDENTIFY AQUATIC MACROINVERTEBRATES.

EDITOR'S ANGLE

SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES AND CONSERVATION

By Jade Thomason, Editor

As many of you know, I am one of the managers of the Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo on behalf of MN Trout Unlimited. In March, COVID-19 was rapidly unfolding before our eyes and we were at the beginning of what we now know to be an ongoing global pandemic. The decision to cancel the Expo was agonizing for organizers, volunteers, vendors and would-be attendees. The event for some is like a family reunion, and for others the largest revenue opportunity of the year.

March feels like years ago, as the world is now a different place. But the cancellation was only the beginning of an incredibly challenging year for our local small businesses. Check out the advertisement section in this issue and make an effort to support these Expo vendors this season. Local businesses donate to MNTU each year, and now more than ever is the time to return that support and ensure that these fixtures of our community emerge

on the other side of this pandemic.

Conservation has also been hit hard by the storm that has been 2020. The Expo is MNTU's largest fundraising event of the year, and it's a massive blow to our organization's annual budget to lose this important event. We recognize that this is a financially challenging time for many, but, if you have the means, please consider donating to help keep our conservation and education programs running. You can always donate online via mntu.org, but also keep an eye out for our annual fundraising letter to be arriving in mailboxes soon.

While this season has brought most in-person TU meetings to a halt, there's been an impressive effort made to remain connected as a community. Our TIC educators quickly created quality e-learning content for their students, chapter board meetings moved to Zoom and WebEx, and TCTU even had a suc-



cessful social media photo contest. I've been inspired by the initiative taken by everyone to physically distance but remain socially close.

Stay healthy this summer and visit your local trout neighbors. They may not be following CDC mask guidelines but we'll give them a free pass.



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ADDING A FIGHTING BUTT TO A FLY ROD

DIY INSTRUCTIONS

By Jason Swingen

Turn your regular fly rod into the ultimate Great Lakes steelheading rod with this simple modification. I've said in my previous articles on steelhead equipment that the perfect fly fishing rod is a 10' 7wt. This is the perfect weight for our 20 to 30-inch steelhead, and at 10' you can fish nearly every skinny riffle or wide pool found on the Great Lakes tributaries. The downside of having an extra long rod is that they can be slightly more tip heavy.

The rod I decided to modify was a 10' 7wt Redington Vice (currently on sale!), which is my dedicated steelhead rod. The Vice is a fantastic fast-action fly rod, this is partially due to its 10' length and durable build. It can be very tip heavy, however, and can be tiring after a full day of steelheading. Adding a fighting butt to this rod has added a small amount of weight behind the reel and has really helped to balance out the rod.

In addition to creating a better balance, adding a fighting butt to your fly rod can greatly improve versatility and allow you to easily switch to a shooting head system. This allows you to make a multitude of two-handed spey casts to throw streamers, as well as giving you the extra power to throw those big double-fly nymph rigs upstream. You will be able to make giant mends in order to obtain a drag-free drift in the toughest of water currents. And if that isn't enough, having an extended handle will give you more leverage when fighting that fish of a lifetime.

This is also a great modification for a 9-11 wt musky rod. It allows you to anchor the extended fighting butt into your forearm for increased casting power when throwing those bulky doubles, as well as giving you more leverage when you figure-eight your fly at the boat edge. Disclaimer: Modifying your fly rod will void its warranty. Modify your fly rod at your own risk.

I would not recommend this on a high-end rod. Especially if you are planning on sending it in for any warranty repair in the future. There is obviously a small amount of risk when modifying any equipment. Changing the leverage point on a high modulus fly rod can cause the bending point under load to shift, causing the rod to break.

If you are aware of the benefits and risks and ready to get started building a more useful fly rod, then let's go!



THE SMALL ORIGINAL FIGHTING BUTT ON A FLY ROD NEXT TO THE NEW BUTT TO BE ADDED.

What You'll Need

- Fly Rod
- 5-Minute Epoxy
- Painter's Tape
- Fishing Rod Blank or Small Metal Rod
- Utility Knife
- Sandpaper
- Drill
- Cork



Step 1: Make the Handle

You have a couple of options for materials when making your fighting butt. For this project, I cut off the end of an old broken shore rod, but you can also glue individual cork rings and an end cap together to get the same result.

Step 2: Sand the Handle to Shape

The benefit of doing this yourself is that you get to decide the exact handle shape and length that you would like. I made this fighting butt 2.25" long and shaped it to be thicker at the end with a slight bulge towards the reel seat for a better grip and easier two-handed casting.

Start with a coarse 60 to 100-grit sandpaper to make the initial shape of the handle. Then step down to a 150-grit, or finer, for the finishing touches.





Step 3: Remove the Old End and Prepare the Extension

This is the scariest part of the process: cutting the cork fighting butt off of your rod. If your rod already has a small fighting butt then the rod blank will extend past the reel seat. You can cut the blank off flush, but I would recommend simply cutting the old cork away from the blank.

In order to add structure and rigidity to the handle, you will need to lengthen the current blank so it extends into your longer fighting butt. Use a section of an old rod blank or buy a cheap or broken blank at a local rod building supplier. You will want a section that is small enough to fit inside the rod blank, but as large as possible to maintain rigidity.



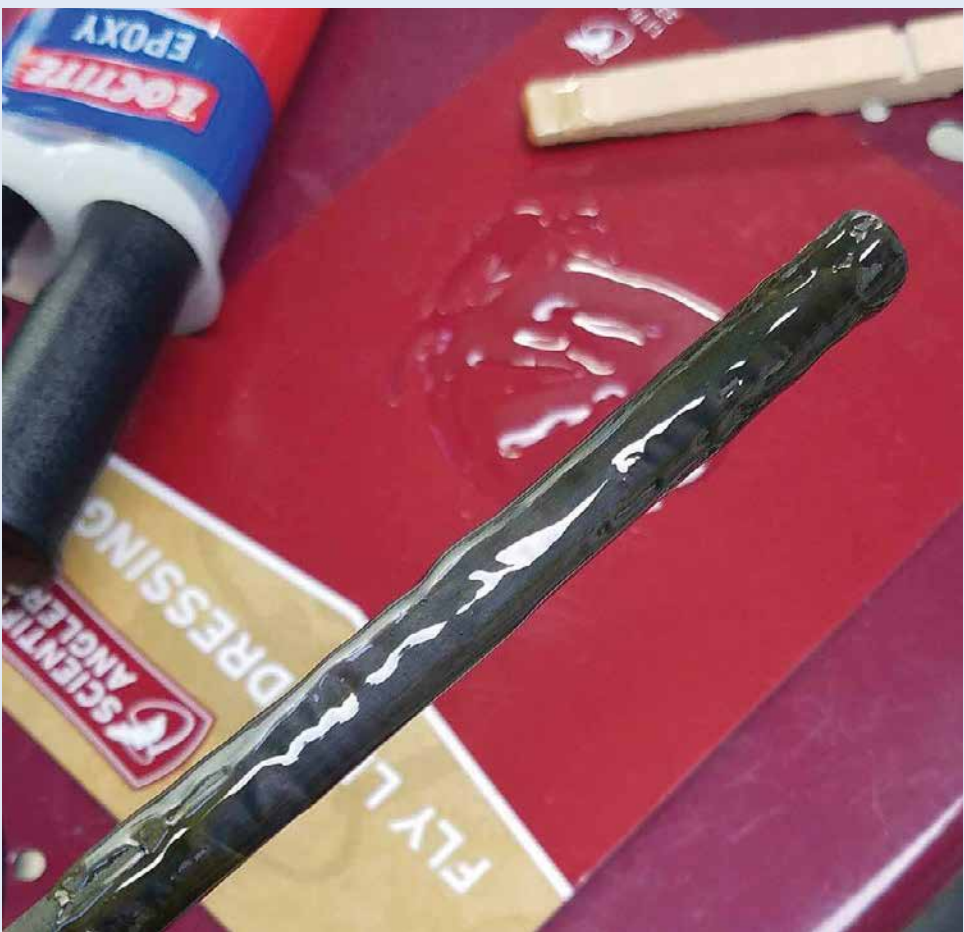
Step 5: Test the Fit

Insert the blank into the end of your rod. Make sure that the new handle will fit over the new extended rod blank and will allow for a flush fit against the reel seat.



Step 7: Glue the New Fighting Butt onto the Rod

Mix up another batch of two-part epoxy and coat the new rod blank and painter's tape. Slide your new fighting butt onto your rod and apply firm pressure. Epoxy will get pushed out from between the fighting butt and your reel seat. Make sure you wipe any epoxy off the threads and fighting butt. As an extra precaution you can put painter's tape over your reel seat and fighting butt.



Step 4: Mix the Glue

If your rod blank is too small to fit snugly, you can wrap painter's tape around the blank until it fits tightly into the rod blank. Mix up the two-part, 5-minute epoxy and coat the section of rod blank.



Step 6: Add Tape for a Snug Fit

Wrap painter's tape around the new extended blank to build it up in order to fit snugly into the new fighting butt.



Step 8: Admire Your Work and Go Fishing

You're done! Admire your work and hit the water with your new workhorse of a fly rod!

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

ADDRESSING THE IMPACTS OF CULVERTS ON TROUT STREAMS

By John Lenczewski

Followers of Trout Unlimited's work know that poorly placed or maintained culverts are a major threat to native trout populations in the West. What some may not realize is that road crossing and culverts are also harming many of Minnesota's wild trout and steelhead populations. This summer Minnesota TU is increasing efforts to replace harmful culverts and reconnect vital trout habitat.

Roads are essential for our society and are used by anglers to access trout streams. Yet culverts and bridges, as well as the elevated roadway approaches, often can negatively impact trout and other aquatic resources. The largest impacts of stream crossings fall into two large groups: those involving interference with the movement of sediment and those which block the movement of trout and other aquatic organisms.

Roads as Dams

Roads typically cross streams at perpendicular angles and the roadway approaches on both sides of the culvert are typically built up across the entire width of the floodplain at elevations well above major floods. In effect, the elevated roadway running across a valley is a dam across the stream and its floodplain. Since road authorities and users do not want to detour around flooded roads, roadbeds across the floodplains are typically built well above all but the largest floods. The relatively small opening provided by the culvert backs up flood waters only temporarily, but it often prevents sediments from moving naturally down the stream valley. Most culverts in place today were designed only with the objective of moving water under a road, with little consideration given to the stream's hydrology, sediment transport, movement of woody material, or fish movements.

Consequences of Blocking Sediment

Every stream and river must move sediment as well as water. Floods provide the power to move large sediment, including large gravel and even boulders. Undersized culverts act like dams, causing the water velocity upstream of the roadway to drop and the sediment to deposit. This fills in the pools and runs (the trout habitat) above the culvert, sometimes for long distances. It also causes excessive amounts of sediment to drop, raising the surrounding floodplain. This in turn causes more erosion at moderate flows as the stream cuts into these new, unstable banks. In short, poorly sized or placed culverts cause areas above the crossing to become shallower and unstable.

Immediately below an undersized or improperly placed culvert a deep pool is often scoured by the concentrated blast from the culvert. While these deep spots attract both fish and anglers, the concentrated flood flows do far more—causing severe bank erosion and instability downstream.

In recent years, great effort has gone into incorporating understand-

ings of streams' natural processes into culvert designs. New road projects and culvert replacements on existing roads now strive to match the width, elevation and slope of the culvert with that of the natural channel to minimize or eliminate the impact of the road on the stream's geomorphology. This allows sediment (from silt to cobble) and large wood to pass through the culvert unimpeded. Hydrologic modeling is also done to ensure that the culvert is large enough to handle large flood flows. Importantly, the size, width, elevation and slope of the culvert is designed to remove any barriers to fish passage.

Trout Movement

It is easy to grasp the importance of seasonal movement to steelhead populations when one sees dramatic photographs of steelhead jumping North Shore waterfalls to reach spawning areas. Less widely appreciated is the importance of seasonal movements by brook trout and brown trout. Yet robust stream trout fisheries, especially outside the spring-fed streams of southeast Minnesota, depend upon seasonal movement of trout throughout interconnected habitat.

Recent research demonstrates that long-range movement by brook trout is common. Wild brook trout often move considerable distances in summer to reach thermal refuges of cold ground water, or die trying. Sometimes a relatively small area with spring flow can seasonally draw trout from long distances for a week, a month, or longer, when water temperatures elsewhere in the system become lethal. Once waters cool in September trout disperse again throughout the system for active feeding and reproduction.

Other areas in a watershed, including small tributaries, may provide better spawning conditions which adult trout migrate to in cool fall conditions. Small "young-of-year" trout quickly disperse in the spring to populate available habitat throughout a system, even into reaches where the spawning habitat is limited and may at first blush appear marginal as year-round habitat. Young fish will move into tributaries and upstream reaches for feeding and growth until warm water drives them to move again, this time to cooler reaches.

Adult trout often migrate downstream each winter to warmer reaches with deeper pools to feed on the minnow species, which are more prevalent where summer water temperatures are warmer. These trout will move back to cooler reaches in the heat of summer, but the ability to feed and grow in these downstream reaches for half the year is vital to ensuring the largest, most robust population. The larger the trout population and larger the area of connected habitat it can utilize, the more likely it will be to survive and thrive over the years. In short, the ability of trout to move upstream and downstream of core population areas ensures the largest, most resilient population. Habitat connectivity may prove essential to the long-term persistence of



LOOKING UPSTREAM ON A NEMADJI RIVER TRIBUTARY TOWARD A ROAD WITH AN UNDERSIZED CULVERT. THE MASSIVE SIZE OF THIS ROADWAY/DAM BUILT ACROSS THE VALLEY IS VISIBLE. THE CULVERT CONSTRICTS FLOOD FLOWS, CREATING A MASSIVE "FIRE HOSE" EFFECT, BLOWING OUT THE BANKS IN THE FOREGROUND.

brook trout as our climate warms or we experience drought.

Culverts as Barriers

Although many northern watersheds are forested and lightly developed, extensive networks of roads have resulted in a large number of poorly designed or maintained stream crossings which block the movement of brook trout at critical times of the year. We know trout move considerable distances to reach cold water during hot summer conditions, spawning areas in the fall, and deep pool habitat for wintering. But perched and collapsed culverts act as dams, blocking access at crucial times.

Perched Culverts

Culverts which are too small, placed too high, or set at too steep a slope, will quickly scour out a deep pool immediately downstream. As repeated high water events scour down and lower the streambed, the bottom of the culvert is left "perched" above the water during

lower flows. Once this happens, the trout downstream are prevented from moving upstream to cold water refuges and spawning areas.

This fragmentation and loss of habitat connectivity are some of the greatest threats to sustaining wild brook trout populations. Research indicates the scope and impact of this habitat fragmentation will grow as climate and water temperatures warm.

MNTU is working with the DNR Finland Area Fisheries Office, the local Soil & Water Conservation District and other partners to replace the worst culverts in the Baptism River watershed. Partners have identified 55 problem crossings in this watershed and developed criteria to prioritize replacements. Those barriers which are blocking access to the largest number of miles of connected coldwater habitat will be top priorities for replacement. Some construction may begin as early as this July.



TOP: PERCHED CULVERTS PREVENT BROOK TROUT IN THE BAPTISM RIVER FROM ACCESSING 30 MILES OF GOOD HABITAT. PHOTO COURTESY OF FINLAND AREA FISHERIES OFFICE.

BOTTOM: A "NEW GENERATION" CROSSING ON THE SPLIT ROCK RIVER. THE BOTTOMLESS CULVERT IS BURIED HALFWAY INTO THE STREAMBED AND NATURAL SUBSTRATES EXTEND THROUGHOUT THE CULVERT.



FLY TYING

WITH LAUGHING TROUT FLY FISHING

By Paul Johnson



The Puterbaugh Caddis Variant

Like many of you, I am always looking for new fly patterns to tie. I follow a few tyers on Instagram and other social media sites. One fly tyer that I put at the top of the list is Tim Flagler from Tightline Productions.

Earlier this year, Midcurrent featured Tim tying the Puterbaugh Caddis Variant. I knew right away that this was a fly pattern that had to be in my caddis box. It floats well enough that you can tie on a small dropper off of it.

I did change up the front hackle from what Tim demonstrated. I like the look of the smaller, dark brown hackle. I think it makes the fly look a little neater.

It's all about tying good looking flies, isn't it? If you have any questions, please contact me.

Paul Johnson
Laughing Trout Fly Fishing
Paulwaconia@gmail.com

Materials List

Hook:	#14 Dry Fly Hook
Thread:	14/0 Dark Brown
Back:	2mm Tan Foam
Abdomen:	Tan Superfine Dubbing
Wing:	Bleached Deer Hair
Thorax:	Mahogany Brown Superfine Dubbing
Collar:	Brown Rooster Hackle



Step 1.
Insert hook into your vise and start thread just behind the eye. Wrap a smooth thread base to the bend and return it to the 2/3 mark of the hook.



Step 2.
Form a smooth dubbing noodle on your thread with the tan dubbing.



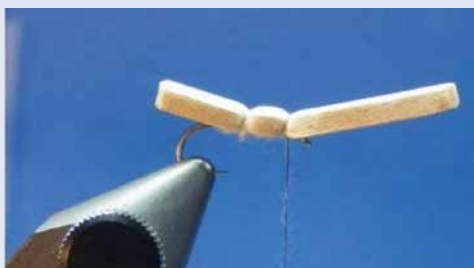
Step 3.
Wrap the dubbing noodle back to the bend of the hook and return your thread to the hook point.



Step 4.
Cut a thin strip of foam and trim the back edges to round the corners.



Step 5.
Tie in the foam with three wraps of your thread.



Step 6.
Lift the foam and continue wrapping the dubbing noodle to the 2/3 mark on your hook. Secure the foam with three tight wraps of thread.



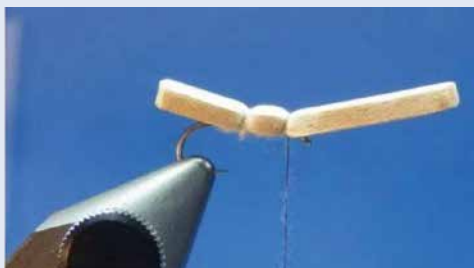
Step 7.
Lift the foam and trim it off at a shallow angle behind the hook eye.



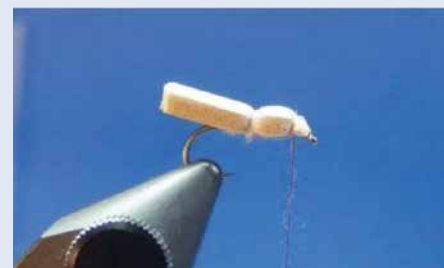
Step 8.
Tie down the foam with your thread.



Step 9.
Clean and stack a small clump of deer hair. Tie it in at the 2/3 mark. Trim the butt ends closely.



Step 10.
Tie down the butt ends with your thread.



Step 11.
Tie in your hackle.



Step 12.
Form a very slight dubbing noodle with the mahogany dubbing.



Step 13.
Wrap the dubbing noodle to form a smooth head. The dubbing helps hold the hackle in place as you wrap it forward.



Step 14.
Make three wraps of your hackle moving forward to the eye. Secure with your tying thread and clip the excess. Whip finish. Go fish!

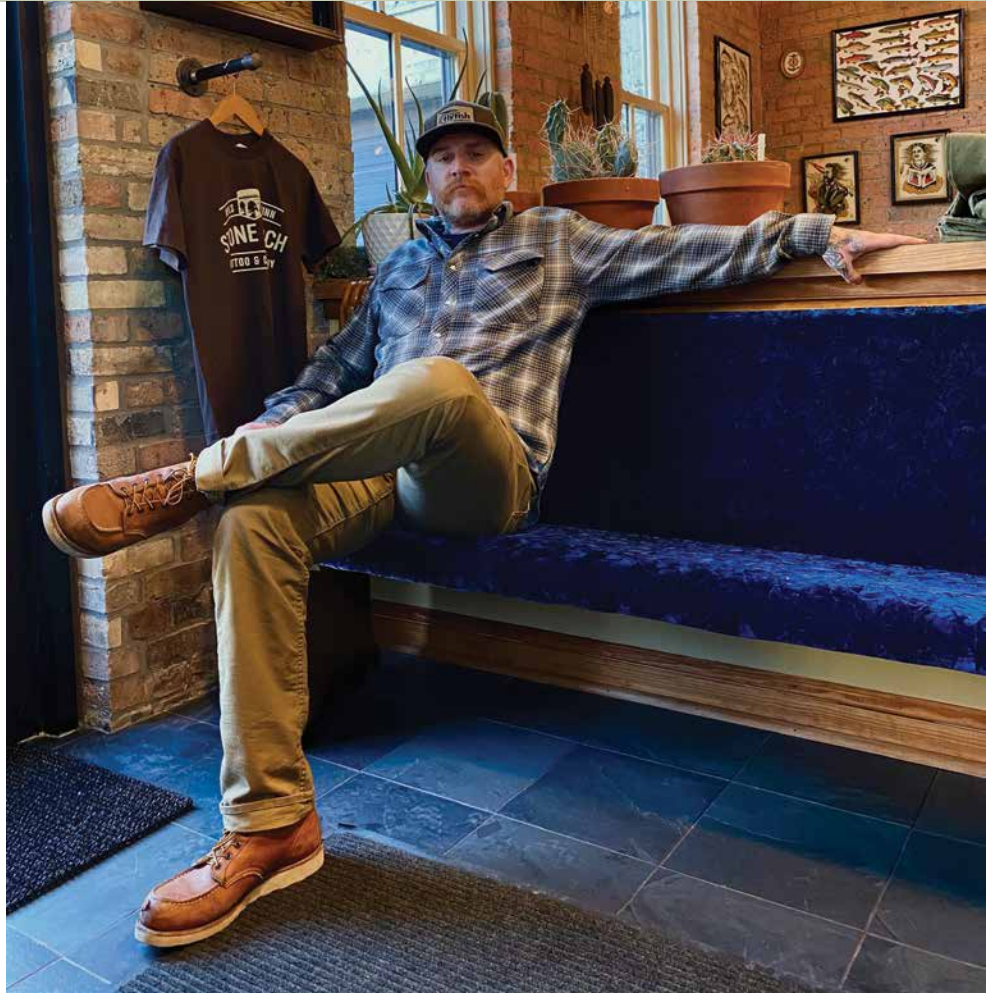
HABITAT HELPERS NEEDED

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

CHARLIE FORBES

A REGIONAL FISHING ARTIST PROFILE

By Ben Nelson • Art by Charlie Forbes



LEFT: MEMORIES SEALED AND HEALED. ART TO LAST A LIFETIME.

RIGHT: CHARLIE FORBES IN STONE ARCH TATTOO. THE SHOP IS OPEN AND CHARLIE'S READY FOR YOU. GIVE HIM A CALL.

If you shook hands with Charlie Forbes, back when we used to do that, you'd notice the backs of his hands are covered in tattoos. Ink extends over his wrists and under the cuffs of his black hooded sweatshirt. Tattoos come above his collar and up his neck. A black baseball hat covers Charlie's forehead and a thick red mustache covers his lip. But none of this, not even a medical mask, can hide Charlie's grin or his laughter, both as noticeable as his tattoos, and both of which come often. Charlie Forbes is a MN fly fishing artist, primarily a tattoo artist, specializing in fish and fishing tattoos. Today Charlie is sitting in the morning sun, inside Stone Arch Tattoo and Company in Minneapolis. He's talking about 1998, the year he finished high school in Minnesota, moved to Arizona, and earned an apprenticeship at a tattoo parlor.

"It was a different time," Charlie says. "The apprenticeship, the tattooists were demanding. There was no state licensing, no HR. 'You're going to wear girls' roller-skates for a month because we want you to.' It was straight hazing. I had to cut the toes out of the skates. My feet wouldn't fit."

Charlie's tattoo apprenticeship started with making needles. "Everyday I'd go to the shop and I'd get a list every night. I'd have to solder needles for the tattoo artists' appointments the next day. I screwed up lots of times early on. After three months I could make needles in my sleep."

"Then I was made to make 100 sheets of flash. No. Actually 60 sheets. But it felt like 100." Tattoo flash is a page of tattoo design images that hang on tattoo parlor walls or fill catalogues. "They were from this book, *Sailor Jerry's Tattoo Flash*. I did everything in the book. That took me almost a year to do. I had to draw the images in my own

style, sketch it out, line it, then watercolor it. Watercolor painting is the closest to tattooing. It's super unforgiving. You blend the colors like how you approach a tattoo. My boss wanted me to get better."

"At night we'd go out. Then I was one of the guys. They'd pay for my food and drinks, everything. They wanted me to have the best time. But when we were back at the shop it was a different story. The days were grueling. I had to wear a gorilla costume in the Arizona summer," Charlie shakes his head. "I didn't want to do it. I had to. I wanted to be a tattooer."

"It started up slowly," Charlie recalls, "I tattooed my friends, anybody I could get. My brother has a bunch of bad tattoos I've done on him." The guys at the shop helped Charlie find clients too. "They'd say, 'You can get a tattoo from me, or Charlie the apprentice can do it for 20 bucks, he needs to buy everybody a case of beer tonight so you might as well get it from him.'"

Charlie developed a traditional Americana style of tattooing. "Solid clear lines encapsulating solid bright colors; tattoos that look like tattoos. They stand the test of time. Bold will hold. Traditional style has always had a place. That was my upbringing. I've always stuck to that but honed my own style."

After Scottsdale Charlie moved around the country. "I lived the tattoo troubadour lifestyle for a while," he says. "I lived in hotels. I worked at so many tattoo shops and conventions. I've always worked with other artists like a cooperative. I've fed off of so many people, so many things. I'm constantly taking pictures in the wild, of architecture."

"I lived on Frank Lloyd Wright Boulevard in Arizona—which was horrible

because every time I wrote my address," Forbes laughs and pantomimes slowly addressing an envelope, "F... R... A..." Wright designed an architecture school down the street. Charlie spent time there and was inspired by the architect. "It's how he approached everything. The lunch room is five feet tall because people should be sitting down close together, the piano needs to be here for the best sound, this chair needs to be by the window because it goes with that plant outside. How things fit in his mind, compartmentalized into a whole." Forbes applies the same concepts of space and arrangement to tattoo design. "Size, body symmetry, placement, proportion, I utilize the shape of the body, the shape of the tattoo. Picture a heart on the top of the shoulder."

Forbes returned to Minnesota in 2006 and has been tattooing here since. "It's 100 percent custom tattooing for sure. If somebody gets a tattoo it's theirs and only theirs. People come in and give me a laundry list of their ideas. A lot of people bring in references. We talk about the tattoo they want. I enjoy that a lot, the preliminary process. It's fun to mesh ideas, to work with people to create something cool. It's all positive, it's gratifying. I take it super seriously. This will be on your body forever. If you get a tattoo on your knee you have to look at it every time you take a dump."

"Tattoos are very personal. It's their grandfather's signature. They remember this time their dad tied on a Lazy Ike and took them fishing in a row boat. It can be therapy for people, to memorialize a lost loved one, to shed a layer off their conscious, healing through a tattoo."

"Even traumatic experiences," Charlie continues. "I had a client, a giant, a six-foot-six Viking Commander. He was in prison for 11 years. He had a huge Nazi tattoo on his abdomen, the SS bolts. He

said, 'I had to get this to survive. I hate it. I can't take my shirt off. It's eating me up. I'm not a racist.'" Charlie covered the Nazi tattoo with a traditional-style eagle and dragon. "Full custom. The end result of his coverup was perfect and completely camouflaged his tattoo mistake. No one can see what's underneath at all. Forgive, forget and move on to be a better person and have a better life. I was extremely happy to be a part of that transformation."

Charlie remembers another client who was injured in a motorcycle accident. "She said her lower leg was rung out like a towel. Obliterating the bones, etc. Compound fracture. They used a skin graft from her hip to her lower leg. The scar was about ten inches in length by five inches wide and about an inch or two deep, one of those scars where you can see tendons moving while walking. Extreme injury. She hadn't worn shorts or a dress in years. I covered the scar with a koi fish. The shoulders and side of the fish tattoo covered the deepest portion of the scar giving the fish an overall 3D appearance. She looked at herself in the mirror and said 'We're going to go buy a dress right now!'"

"I love talking to people," Charlie says. "I can talk all day. The weird stuff, I get deep with clients. Or I talk about fluff, funny stories. The humor and hilarity is awesome."

Forbes met his wife Molly at a tattoo shop. "I tattooed her. She's the first girl I've ever asked out from the tattoo shop, but I couldn't pass it up. She was too hot," Charlie pauses, "And nice... and smart." Charlie and Molly have been married eleven years. They have a nine year old daughter named Finley and a six year old son named Liam. Together, Charlie and Molly practice lapidary, the study of cutting and polishing rocks.

“I’m a huge agate hunter,” Forbes says. “I go to gravel pits. I’ve befriended pit managers. I bring the kids which is great. They have younger eyes and are closer to the ground.” Forbes has a lapidary lab in his basement. “I take slabs of rock and cut and polish them for Molly. She makes them into jewelry. It’s cool because my wife and I can do it together. I do one side. She bosses me around to make rocks for her, which is cool.” Charlie found and sold a two-and-a-half-pound agate and used the money to purchase an Airstream trailer.

“It smells like Grandma’s basement,” he says. Molly and Charlie have replaced the Airstream’s front couch with a custom horseshoe bench and telescopic table. “I have a buddy that does upholstery, he made the cushions. Seven adults can sit and play cards. There are two twin beds in the back for the kids.”

The Forbes family takes the Airstream on a two to three week road trip every year. “It’s phenomenal. It’s my favorite time of the year,” Charlie says. They’ve ferried the Airstream over Lake Superior to Madeline Island. They’ve pulled the Airstream to the U.P. of Michigan.

On one Airstream trip they were evacuated from forest fires in Glacier National Park. They traveled through the Tetons to Yellowstone, the Big Horns and Devils Tower. On the way home, Charlie took the family rock hunting in an abandoned gold mine in the Black Hills. “You can find tourmaline, lepidolite, mica and gold!” He hiked the family up a narrow trail. They passed the old processing building. At the top of the hill is the mine. “The Indiana Jones cart system is still there. There are signs: ‘Unsafe. Stay out of mine.’ Molly was NOT down. ‘This is terrifying,’ she said. ‘We are going to die in this thing. We’ll be killed by bats or bears.’ I gave her a flashlight.” Charlie planned to have a picnic in the mine. Inside, they found a gymnasium-sized great-room. “A little crack in the ceiling lets in light. There are carts and rocks and iron bars. It was 85-degrees outside and 50 in the mine. We’re looking at the ground and see a hole fifty feet deep.” They left the mine, but the memories haven’t left them. “Out of that whole trip, North Dakota, Montana, fishing the Gallatin, Yellowstone, that mine is what the kids remember the most and still talk about today.”

This winter Charlie opened Stone Arch Tattoo and Company. He renovated an industrial building in St. Anthony where his father, grandfather, and great-grandfather worked. “My great-grandfather bought this building in the 1930s. My grandfather grew up in this building. My family has been entrenched here for four generations.” Charlie and his friends did most of the restoration themselves. “Framework, sheetrock, tiling, flooring, and trim work. When we pulled the ancient sheetrock off the wall someone had screen painted ‘A CAMEL CAN GO 8 DAYS WITHOUT A DRINK. BUT WHO IN HELL WANTS TO BE A CAMEL?’ We had a few days at the end that all my fly fishing buddies came and helped make the final push to open. Painting. Cleaning. Setting up stations. Hanging paintings and hanging my dang moose!”

“I’m starting small. I’m in the shallow



INK ISN’T WHERE THE ART ENDS. CHARLIE ALSO WORKS IN WATERCOLOR, PAINT, AND RESIN, IS A LAPIDARIST, AND CAN EVEN-BUILD A BOTANICAL AQUARIUM FOR YOU.

end, I’m wading to the deep end, easing into it.” Forbes eventually sees a full book of tattooers here. “And tattooing is just one avenue. I want to have retail, event space, art shows.” Charlie shows his watercolor paintings and resin work, most of which is fish-related, at five or six shows in a typical year.

Charlie also hopes his shop can be a launch pad for clean water conservation. He’s in cahoots with Pig Farm Ink, an organization dedicated to tattooing, river cleaning and partying, not necessarily in that order. Charlie plans to work with his local Trout Unlimited chapter on clean water projects too. “I want to collaborate with other conservation groups. I’ve written to The Nature Conservancy and contacted Friends of the Mississippi River. I want to be my own entity for river clean-up. I’m reaching out to society, getting people involved, local bartenders and waitresses and graphic artists, I want to impact kids and people from all walks of life. I want everyone to understand the need to go clean the park. As a small business I want to inspire other business owners.”

Charlie doesn’t need to go far to find water. Stone Arch Tattoo is just a block from the Mississippi River. “I can literally put my waders on, walk to the bridge and be in the water. The fishing is phenomenal. Catfish, gar, buffalo head, musky, sturgeon, pike, smallies and everything in between, this specific stretch of water has the most species of fish in Minnesota.”

This morning it’s too cold to fish. Charlie arrived at Stone Arch Tattoo early. He’s doing paperwork and drawing. Tattoo flash, amethyst geode, and a diplodocus egg decorate the shop. Mounted fish and game look down from the walls. He’s expecting his friend John to stop by, they’re working on an idea for a new tattoo. Charlie and John have been fishing buddies for years. They met at an introduction to fly fishing course at Bob Mitchell’s Fly Shop in Lake Elmo.

John walks through the shop doors in ponytailed hair and a Camel cigarettes sweatshirt. Charlie greets him with a smile. It isn’t long before they are laughing about fishing stories and misadventures they’ve shared. “700 acres and a private spring-fed creek, it was like Jurassic Park! Our hostess was in her eighties. She had her dead cats taxidermied, mounted in baskets all around the house.” There were pin-up fishing pictures of her too. “She was smoking hot in the 40s, Miss America in waders.” They tell stories of small-town bars filled with smoke and Montana guides racing down gravel roads, late night tattoos and the chaos of muskies on streamers. Between laughs Charlie leans back in his chair. He looks up and says, “These are memories I’ll always have.”

Some things don’t fade. Some things last forever.

To see more of Charlie Forbes’s work follow him on instagram at @charlie_forbes_tattoo or @stonearchtattoo and on facebook @stonearchtattoo. Check out his art and merchandise at stonearchtattoo.bigcartel.com. You can visit him at Stone Arch Tattoo and Company at 129 6th Ave SE, Minneapolis, MN. (612) 518-5902. And if you or your organization is interested in collaborating on a conservation project, email Charlie at stonearchtattoo@gmail.com.

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



FORBES FLASHES FISH FLASH. CAN YOU IDENTIFY THEM ALL? HOW MANY HAVE YOU CAUGHT?

YOUTH ESSAY CONTEST

WHY IS FISHING SPECIAL TO YOU?

1st Place
Danny Hankey, 11
Robbinsdale, MN
SEA school of Engineering and Arts
5th Grade

When I caught my first fish I was so excited. It was a sunfish but I had to start somewhere. I was at my cabin in Wisconsin and we have all kinds of fish in my lake. That's when I started to go fishing with my grandpa, my dad, my uncle Matt, uncle Johnny and sometimes with my cousins. Fishing is important to me because that's when I get to spend the time with my favorite people—it's so fun because we have fishing contests and my uncle Matt makes jokes. Sometimes they're funny but sometimes they make no sense at all.

Also, I love to catch fish. I've only caught sunfish, perch, bass, bluegills, crappies, and walleye. I really want to catch a northern next because my cousin Claire caught one. I also want to catch a musky too because I have only seen a tail of one from a far distance and I have seen them in photos. Every year I go to the Minnesota State Fair and my grandpa and I always look for a musky in the fish area where they swim around, but we never find them.

One time when I went to visit my cousin in college, we stopped half way and went to my dad's friend's house and we went fishing. My dad's friend caught a northern, my sister caught a crappie, and my dad caught a bass. They put the fish in the livewell and when we got back they put them in a box in the water by the dock. My dad and I were wondering what it was and his friend said it was a fish box. My dad said we should build a fish box at our cabin. So we made one with some broken screen doors and some old wood. Now when we catch fish, we put them in the fish box next to the dock and it's interesting to see their behavior. Once we caught five bass, two sunfish and one northern, and the bass surrounded the sunfish to protect them from the northern. It was very cool. We also sometimes feed the fish minnows, then let them go after a day or two. To sum it up, I have had a lot of great memories fishing and plan to fish for a very long time and create many more memories.

2nd Place
Lexi Halligan, 11
Lonsdale, MN
Most Holy Redeemer School
6th Grade

Did you know fishing started 40,000 years ago? Why is fishing special to you? Fishing is special to me because it is a fun bonding time with my family, you are always learning something, and the excitement of catching a fish.

The first thing that makes fishing special to me is that it is a fun bonding time with my family. This is special to me because we are having fun in nature and spending time with each other as we are fishing. This year we have been doing a lot of trout and walleye fishing. We are newer to trout fishing and we are learning things every time we go as a family. I also have been teaching my little brother how to cast better and bait his hooks. This means a lot to me and my brother. I can say I taught my brother how to cast and bait hooks, and my brother can say he is a better caster and better at baiting his hooks because of his big sister.

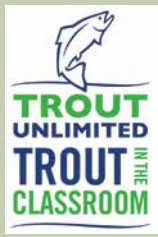
The second thing that makes fishing special to me is that you are always learning something. This is special to me because you are getting more knowledgeable and learning new techniques. Learning new things about fishing is a good thing as it makes you a better fisherman/fisherman. If you are new to a certain kind of fishing you are going to want to research and start doing different techniques until you find the right one. Using different fishing lures, bait, and techniques make you more advanced with the fishing style you choose.

The last thing that makes fishing special to me is the excitement of catching a fish. This is special to me because it is a boost of confidence and it is always fun to catch a fish. No matter the size of the fish it always gives me excitement. Catching a fish always makes you feel good, knowing that you are using the right bait, lures, techniques, and location.

In conclusion, fishing is special to me because it is a fun bonding time with my family, you are always learning something, and the excitement of catching a fish. What are some things that make fishing special to you?



FIRST AND SECOND PLACE WINNERS OF THE TIC YOUTH ESSAY CONTEST, DANNY HANKEY AND LEXI HALLIGAN, POSE WITH THEIR AWESOME CATCHES.



MNTU EDUCATION UPDATE

JUNE 2020

By Amber Taylor, MNTU Education Program Supervisor



This year's MN Trout in the Classroom program certainly had its challenges, from fungus outbreaks and school closures, to the many inevitable bumps in the road that come along with a rapidly expanding education program. Over the last few weeks, I have spoken with 20 excited new teachers looking forward to joining the MNTIC community in the 2020-2021 school year. If everything goes as we all hope and students are back in schools next year, the program will run in almost 60 schools throughout the state.

Regardless of how the program culminated this spring, students had a variety of engaging, educational, and hands-on learning experiences throughout the year. From January to March, our small team of educators and dedicated volunteers provided classroom and after school activities for over 1,800 students before schools were closed. They learned about fish ID using dichotomous keys and 3D fish mounts, tied San Juan Worm and Woolly Bugger flies, and designed trout habitats using lessons about previous MNTU restoration projects as a guide. A DNR fisheries employee even did a dissection demonstration with our new school in Cloquet as a part of their life science lesson on fish biology.

It was a fun year for students that participated in the test pilot year of Trout Club! This year, clubs met a few times each month after school to do additional TIC activities, such as fly tying and casting practice. One group got out with their families and tried some ice fishing on a lake near their school. The clubs' spring fishing outings were cancelled along with school closures, but we look forward to getting students out on the water throughout the 2020-2021 school year.

We are working to develop this component of TIC for passionate students that want to further their involvement with the program outside of the classroom and regular school day.

Spring releases were quiet without the buzz of student excitement that usually accompanies these events. Teachers released their trout with small groups of school staff or with their own families, many taking videos to share with their students. One school planned an entire "Trout E-Week" full of lessons and activities related to the TIC program. They even held a farewell parade for students and their families to give a wave to the trout before they were transported to Brown's Creek.

Teachers remained dedicated to caring for their trout and connecting with students once schools closed. One used it as an opportunity to run the eight-mile round trip to and from her school each morning, and a few took their entire 75-gallon tank and chiller setup home. A high school student, who led the program at her school this year, kept her remaining trout fingerlings in a leaky, 25-gallon tank sitting in a bathtub at her house for over a month. She performed daily water changes to keep the fish alive until she was approved by the DNR pathology lab to release into the Vermillion River.

The education team developed TIC related e-lessons to support our teachers and have been working to further engage with the MNTU community through mini lessons on social media. "Watershed Wednesdays" and "Fishy Fridays" are short, educational videos answering questions about trout ecology, fish biology, and watersheds through visiting places around the metro, like the head-



HAPPY AND HEALTHY RAINBOW TROUT FINGERLINGS AWAIT THEIR TURN TO BE RELEASED IN THE VERMILLION RIVER.

waters of Eagle Creek to teach about aquifers and springs. Follow our Instagram and Facebook pages to check out the fun and maybe learn something new!

The volunteer program continues to develop and more people around the state are getting involved to support MNTU's education program. This year, before schools were closed in March, over 150 volunteer hours went into assisting with field days, classroom activities, and delivering eggs to schools. An additional volunteer opportunity next year will be as Trout Club leaders. Interested volunteers will be trained to lead activities and fishing trips with a small group of students. Volunteers are an essential component of our success and can fill a variety of needs for our education program! Please check the MNTIC website or contact Evan, tic@mntu.org, for more

information.

MNTU's metro area summer fishing skills program schedule has been changing, but many of them are still on the calendar and June cancellations are in the process of being rescheduled for later in the summer. We will keep our website updated and make announcements on social media with locations and how to register! All programs will be limited to eight participants and follow the MNDHS Guidance for Social Distancing in Youth and Student Programs. Email Amber, education@mntu.org, with any questions.

Amber Taylor
MNTU Education Program Supervisor
education@mntu.org



LEFT: A TIC STUDENT FROM ST. JUDE OF THE LAKE ELEMENTARY SHARES HER RAINBOW TROUT WATERCOLOR PAINTING DURING "E-TROUT" ACTIVITY WEEK THIS SPRING. RIGHT: A STUDENT USES WHAT HE LEARNED ABOUT READING THE COLORS ON THIS SONAR EQUIPMENT TO TRY CATCHING SOME FISH DURING A TROUT CLUB ICE FISHING PROGRAM ON LAKE ELMO. STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES HAD FUN, MANY ICE FISHING FOR THE FIRST TIME.



YOUTH AND FAMILY FISHING PROGRAMS

2020 TWIN CITIES METRO OPPORTUNITIES

MN Trout Unlimited will be offering Youth and Family Fishing Programs throughout the Twin Cities metro area this summer. Join us for a few hours of fun, learning, and meeting other anglers! Both spin and fly fishing programs will cover the basics, including how to set up a rod, cast like a pro, and take fish off your hook.

- All equipment is provided.
- Participants over 16 years old will need to buy a MN fishing license.
- The program dates may change with cancellations, additions, and changes in schedules. Check our website for an updated list and links for registration information.
- All programs will be limited to eight participants and follow the MNDHS Guidance for Social Distancing in Youth and Student Programs.
- Email Amber Taylor with questions: education@mntu.org

Date	Time	Location	Program	Registration Partner
Saturday, June 6	10:00am – 12:00pm 1:00pm – 3:00pm	Big Marine Park Reserve “Explore Your Parks”	Family - Spin	Washington County Parks
Saturday, June 20	10:00am – 12:00pm	Cottage Grove Ravine Park	Family - Fly	Washington County Parks
Saturday, June 27	10:00am – 12:00pm	Bertram Chain of Lakes Park	Youth - Spin	Wright County Parks and Rec
Tuesday, July 7	10:00am – 12:00pm	Lake Elmo Park Reserve	Youth - Spin	Washington County Parks
Saturday, July 11	10:00am – 12:00pm	Shady Oak Beach Park	Family - Spin	Minnetonka Parks and Rec
Saturday, July 11	2:00pm – 4:00pm	Thompson Lake Reg Park	Family - Spin	Dakota County Parks
Thursday, July 16	6:00pm – 8:00pm	Lebanon Hills Reg Park @ Holland Lake	Family - Spin	Dakota County Parks
Saturday, July 18	10:00am – 12:00pm	Bertram Chain of Lakes Park	Family - Spin	Wright County Parks and Rec
Tuesday, July 21	10:00am – 12:00pm	Sunset Pond Park	Youth - Spin	Burnsville Parks and Rec
Thursday, July 23	10:00am – 12:00pm	Sunset Pond Park	Youth - Spin	Burnsville Parks and Rec
Saturday, July 25	6:00pm – 8:00pm	Square Lake Park	Family - Spin	Washington County Parks
Saturday, Aug 1	10:00am – 12:00pm	Miesville Ravine Park Reserve “Explore a Trout Stream”	Family - Fly	Dakota County Parks
Thursday, Aug 13	6:00pm – 8:00pm	Cottage Grove Ravine Park	Family - Fly	Washington County Parks
Saturday, Aug 15	10:00am – 12:00pm	Shady Oak Beach Park	Family - Spin	Minnetonka Parks and Rec



WACKO MACROS

YOUTH SERIES

By Evan Griggs, MNTU Environmental Education Specialist



THE MAYFLY NYMPHS THAT YOU MIGHT FIND IN YOUR LOCAL STREAM WILL EVENTUALLY TRANSFORM INTO ADULTS LIKE THE ONE SHOWN ON THE RIGHT.

Studying the life cycles of underwater creatures is kind of like watching an alien sci-fi movie. Here's a summary of the movie: We zoom in on a bunch of tiny creatures crawling around on rocks and plants on the bottom of the river. The water is like a never-ending hurricane in the atmosphere of a far away planet. If the creatures let go of the rock they'll get swept away—forever. Sometimes they'll live down there for years, eating algae and other tiny creatures. Until one day, they float to the edge of their atmosphere! Only a few will survive floating through the hurricane and make it to the edge. Once they break through the atmosphere, they pop out of their skin, grow wings and fly away into outer space. But they'll only live for a little while longer, and before they die they have to find a mate and carry on their species. Sounds like a pretty crazy movie right? Well, it's not sci-fi, it's nature!

These creatures that live underwater, have no bones in their body, and we can see with our eyes are called aquatic macroinvertebrates (or just "macros" for short). It's important to study macros because they can tell us about water cleanliness. Some species can't survive if there is pollution in the water (scientists call this "low tolerance"). Others can live in very high levels of pollution ("high tolerance"). Knowing which

macros are living in the water tells us how healthy the ecosystem is in general, making these bugs indicator species.

Most of the macros found underwater are in a nymph or larva stage of development. Some go through a metamorphosis to change between life stages. Others grow slowly, molting many times before becoming an adult. Most macros eat algae and other vegetation, though some are predators. There are three groups, called "orders," of macros we commonly look for in trout streams (and other water bodies) that tell us the water is very clean: stoneflies, mayflies, and caddisflies.

Stoneflies are very ancient insects. They were alive even before the dinosaurs. Stonefly nymphs are recognizable by their long narrow bodies with an exoskeleton, two tails, and feathery gills by their legs. They will be nymphs underwater for one to three years. Unlike the other orders, stonefly nymphs crawl onto dry land to hatch into an adult. Adult stoneflies have long wings that lay flat over their back. They will land on vegetation near the water and will live there for a few days to weeks. To attract mates, they will drum their bodies against the vegetation. The female will fly and skid over the water to lay the eggs.

Mayfly nymphs look similar to stone-

flies, but they have three tails and gills along their abdomens. The nymphs will live underwater for one year. To change into adults, mayflies go through two phases. The first is when nymphs swim to the surface, hatch out of their skin and fly away to nearby vegetation. They are called a "dun" in this first phase. Within a day they may change again into the second phase with clear wings, called a "spinner." As adults, they have wings that stand straight up and three long tails. Once they become spinners, they will fly into a large swarm to mate. After mating, the females will land on the water to lay their eggs.

Caddis larva are a lot like underwater caterpillars. They have soft green bodies with a brown or black head. As larvae, many caddis carry their homes on their backs. Using a sticky silk they produce, they attach sand, pebbles, sticks, and other materials together to make a tube or purse-shaped case. Caddis live on rocks and graze on algae and other vegetation. They will live underwater for up to a year. Similar to butterflies and moths, caddis will turn their case into a cocoon. A pupa will form wings and legs, then hatch from the cocoon and quickly swim to the surface to become a flying adult. Adult caddis look similar to small moths, with wings that form a tent shape over their abdomens. They will land on nearby vegetation and mate.

Females will lay eggs near the edge of the water.

If you're interested in exploring the sci-fi realm of macros, here's an easy way you can do it! First, you will need to find a pond or stream near you and make sure you can easily access the water. The simplest way to catch a lot of macros is by using a leaf pack trap. Here's how to make and use this trap: You'll need a mesh bag that onions or oranges come in. Fill the bag with dry, dead leaves and tie the end closed.

Then bring the trap to the water body you'll be studying. Place the bag in the water so it is fully submerged and well secured to the bottom. Make sure it is not floating or swaying in the current. It's helpful to tie it off to a rock or log with some twine. Leave your trap in the water for at least one week to allow time for the leaves to become soaked and macros to start eating them.

Once you retrieve your trap, carefully open it and look on all the leaves for any macros. Once you find a macro, use your fingers or a plastic spoon to scoop them into a plastic tub with some water in it so you can see them better.

Judging by the macros you find, try to identify whether the water quality is good, fair, or poor using a biotic index.



CADDIS LOOK LIKE UNDERWATER CATERpillars AS LARVA AND SMALL MOTHS AS ADULTS.

SHORE CASTING FOR WINTER KAMLOOPS RAINBOW TROUT

By Benjamin Lake and Jordan Wolf

The truck door slams shut. The plastic “click” of neoprene wader suspenders buckling into place temporarily breaks the early morning silence. Rod in hand, the fly fisher begins carefully navigating the frozen rocks and glazed shoreline of Lake Superior. The goal is simple: to reach a promising solid granite outcropping. The cold, crisp air of pre-dawn February adds a bite to each breath. Each plume of expired air becomes visible as a dragon's breath vapor before dissipating into the cold morning air. A tepid winter sun crests the horizon, tendrils of sunlight teasing the cold, nearly-frozen water. The angler, having reached the promising granite rock sticking 20 feet out from the shoreline, pauses to gaze at the freshwater. The surface is glass smooth, and the water is crystal clear. Today, Lake Superior is in a good mood.

Stripping out running line, the fly fisher begins the cast. Back, forward, back, forward, shoot. The line darts out, and a tight loop carries the fly forward, gently landing on the clear, glass-like water, sending miniscule waves rippling outward. Immediately, the size 10 Woolly Bugger sinks into the depths of Lake Superior. The angler slowly retrieves the line with short strips. The sound of line gently running through fingers is the only human noise on the frozen, isolated shore. With the line retrieved, the angler shoots another cast, and another. As with all truly enjoyable hobbies, the perception of time has been abandoned, replaced with other more imperative observations: the ebb and flow of the waves rolling onto the frozen shoreline, and the rhythmic clicking of the reel as more running line is pulled free. Back, forward, back, forward, shoot.

The angler casts again. SPLASH! A thrashing strike breaks through the glass. *Oncorhynchus mykiss kamloops*, the mighty Kamloops rainbow trout, makes its presence known. Immediately the line goes taut, the hook is set, and the angler instinctively tightens their grip on the rod. The Kamloops, realizing something isn't right, releases a burst of energy and shreds line from the reel as it makes a mad dash up the coastline. The angler plays the looper, fine-tuning

the drag and applying counter pressure. A 26-inch creature of sheer muscle is on the end of the line, determined to break free. The chase is on. The angler's only thoughts are landing this magnificent northern Minnesotan treasure. Slowly, meticulously, the angler reels in the trout, carefully adjusting the pressure and angle of the rod. Too much pressure and the line can break. Too little pressure and the fish can spit the hook. Pressure and angle are crucial. The fish is close now, within 10 feet. A flash of chrome with dark olive spots reveals itself. Freeing one hand, the angler grabs the comically large mesh net strapped to the backpack, lifts the rod straight up, and scoops the Kamloops into the net. Once the fish is landed, the net doesn't seem so large anymore.

The angler takes a moment to appreciate what hours of analyzing topographic maps, listening to fishing reports from fly shops, burning through a tank of gas, and hundreds of casts finally result in: a Kamloops rainbow trout. Every piece of the process is worth it for that one moment. A spotted treasure from Lake Superior, and a wild-harvested meal for the angler's family. A quick gill slash and the looper is ethically dispatched.

The chase has finished, and reality sets in once again. Untangling the end of the tippet, the angler is ready for another cast.

Back forward, back forward, shoot.

With the right gear, the right equipment, and a little know-how, winter shore fishing for Kamloops rainbow trout is a rewarding experience an angler can pursue on the shores of Lake Superior.

Gear: For a spinning setup, use 8' 6" to 10' 6" shore casting rods. Either medium or medium-fast action tip (personal preference). Four to eight-pound monofilament line to a larger-arbor spinning reel. Four-pound is usually adequate and cuts down on water line visibility. Several 2/5 to 3/4 oz traditional casting spoons in a variety of colors. This past spring, the hot colors were yellow/orange and steel/



BENJAMIN LAKE HOLDING A KAMLOOPS RAINBOW TROUT CAUGHT OFF THE SHORE OF LAKE SUPERIOR, EARLY FEBRUARY 2020.

light blue.

Alternatively, one of the most popular methods to catch Kamloops is the traditional wax worm and bobber setup. A longer, lighter action rod tends to pair well with this method, as the added rod length allows for more rod loading, which translates to farther casts with less weight (compared to casting spoons). Suspend a waxworm on a hook three feet below your bobber indicator and wait for the tug.

Fly Fishing Setup: 6-8 wt, 9' fly rod and reel. Weight-forward intermediate sink-tip line, with a 9' 2-4X leader attached. Tip: Distance over depth. Most spin-casting anglers are using bobbers with their bait suspended three feet below the surface as the “tried and true” method for Kamloops. Fish can be seen along the shoreline 50 to 80 feet out, with the best depth just slightly below subsurface (three to five feet). For this reason, an intermediate sink-tip line can help get the fly down into that three to five foot depth sweet spot.

Flies: Jim Polluck's Superior X-Legs, size 8-10. Waxworm patterns, size 14-16. Ray Schmidt's Steelhead Woolly Bugger patterns (and variations in black and olive), size 8-10.

Tip: Dress for winter weather and bring polarized sunglasses! A thick pair of neoprene waders gives the option for shallow shore wading, which can give you additional feet of backcast distance, and opens up a lot more accessible water.

When prepared well, loopers can provide some excellent filets that can feed the family. A personal favorite recipe:

Oven-baked Kamloops Rainbow Trout

Ingredients

- Kamloops Trout Filets
- Rosemary
- Garlic
- Ground Pepper
- Lemon Juice
- 1/2 Stick of Butter

Instructions

- Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Grab an oven pan and line the bottom with tin foil, followed by a light coating of olive oil.
- Toss the filets on the pan, and season with rosemary, garlic, ground pepper, and lemon. Before throwing the filets in the oven, cover the entire top of the pan with tin foil.

- Bake for 12 to 13 minutes, or until the filets start to become flaky. While the filets are in the oven, prep a half stick of melted butter on the stovetop.

- Remove the top piece of tinfoil from the filets, and set the oven to broil for two minutes (this adds a nice crispy outer layer).

- Pull the filets out of the oven, apply a thin layer of melted butter to each filet, top off with a pinch of dill, and enjoy!

Editor's Note: Ben Lake and Jordan Wolf are lifelong Duluth residents. In their free time, they can be found stream wading for steelhead, river floating for smallmouth bass, and trekking to remote corners of the state in pursuit of brook trout. Off the water, they both enjoy hunting, climbing, and backpacking.



RAY SCHMIDT'S STEELHEAD WOOLLY BUGGER (SIZE 10).

KAMLOOPS MANAGEMENT UPDATE

CHANGES ON THE NORTH SHORE

By Jade Thomason

Prospective Kamloops anglers should note that significant changes have taken place in the rainbow trout management programs for the North Shore. The Kamloops fishery has been a fixture of North Shore angling for many years and has fostered devotees. Unfortunately, predictions that Kamloops genetics were infiltrating and compromising the wild North Shore steelhead population were proven to be true after years of research.

Nick Peterson and others at the MN DNR published excellent research on the subject with the help of crowd-sourced genetic material collected by anglers. It was determined that the Kamloops strain of rainbow trout, previously believed to rarely reproduce in Minnesota, had instead been creating offspring in our Lake Superior tributaries, even pairing up with wild steelhead. The viability of

young with Kamloops genetics is significantly reduced as compared to our wild steelhead. Left unchecked, the influence of Kamloops could cause significant damage. In light of this information, the decision was made to cease Kamloops stocking to ensure the integrity and reproductive success of our unique wild steelhead fishery. Kamloops still ply the streams and river mouths of the North Shore at this time and will likely remain for a few more years. All remaining fish are over roughly 24 inches in size and would make a fine dinner for successful anglers.

The MN DNR also has begun a new stocking program of steelhead produced from wild North Shore fish. These steelhead, currently swimming the lake at 18 to 20 inches in size and with a clipped adipose fin, will likely begin appearing in streams and river mouths beginning

next season. They have been stocked in the Lester and French River watersheds and are unlikely to stray significantly from the lower North Shore. While these fish could be kept, one potential benefit is that reproduction of these fish could bolster our steelhead population while maintaining local genetics.

No other additional steelhead or rainbow trout stocking is taking place currently in the Minnesota tributaries to Lake Superior. MNTU and the Gitche Gumee Chapter will closely monitor the changes in our spring steelhead over the coming years, especially with the lack of fry stocking in mid-shore watersheds. Local chapter members always are ready to take the time to catch a few fish, all in the name of science and management, of course.

The Kamloops fishing opportunities will

be missed, including by many members of MNTU. The joy of shore fishing as described in Ben Lake and Jordan Wolf's article is something worth experiencing on chilly winter and spring days. Even once the Kamloops are entirely gone, the North Shore will continue to produce steelhead, coho salmon and even lake trout with many of these same angling methods. Also keep an eye out for our native coaster brook trout on your shore fishing adventures, there have been increased sightings this season. Get in contact with Nick Peterson at the MN DNR if you are interested in participating in the coaster brook trout genetic study happening now.

Stay tuned for additional updates on rainbow trout management in Minnesota's Lake Superior tributaries, and the work we do to improve and sustain these highly valued fisheries.

RIVERKEEPERS

A CALL TO ACTION

By Mike Madigan

In the foreword to his book of short stories entitled *The Longest Silence, A Life in Fishing*, Thomas McGuane shared the following insight, which seems particularly relevant today:

"I'm afraid that the best angling is always a respite from burden. Good anglers should lead useful lives and useful lives are marked by struggle, and difficulty, and even pain. Perhaps the agony of simple mortality should be enough. But probably it is not. As they say in South America, everyone knows they are going to die, yet nobody believes it. Human lapses of this kind enable us to fish, fornicate, overeat and bet on the horses. Therefore, bow your back and fish when you can. When you get to the water you will be renewed. Leave as much behind as possible."

We are likely to live with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic for a long time. It has reminded us that we are indeed all mortal and we are all bound together in this complex web of life. How we choose to live our lives and interact with one another has consequences beyond ourselves. The choices we make as individuals and as society as a whole impact others, impact future generations, and impact the environment that surrounds and nurtures us.

During these troubling times, we instinctively seek the solace of family, friends, and nature. En masse, we have sallied forth from our homes to our hiking paths, bikeways, parks and open spaces. As our lives are reordered, priorities come into sharper focus. A native son, Sigurd Olson, said it best:

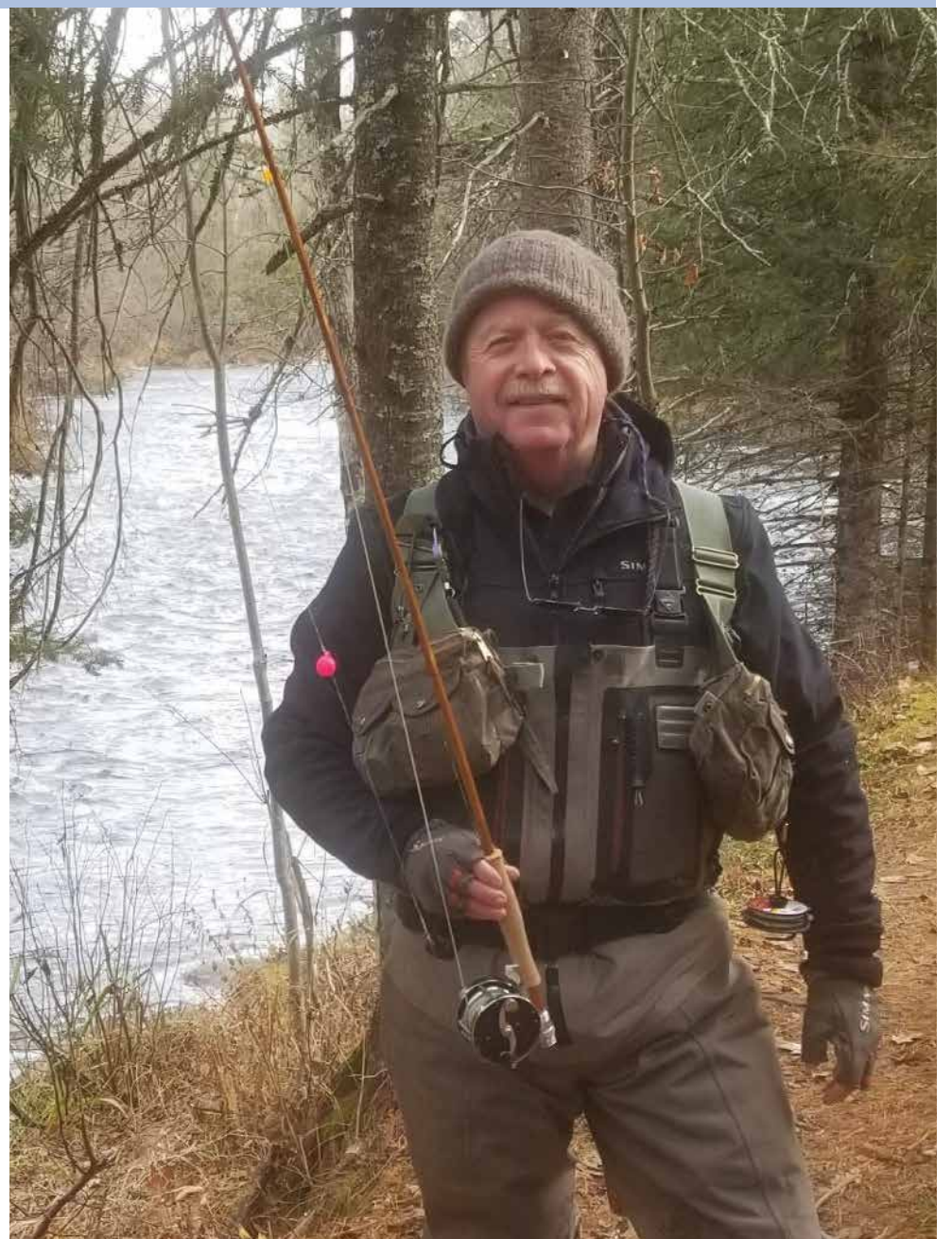
"In the face of our burgeoning population and industrial expansion we can draw courage from the knowledge that in the saving of places of natural beauty

and wildness we are waging a battle for man's spirit. No task is more important, for the wilderness we save today will provide moral and spiritual strength and balance in a world of technology and frenzied speed. Only in a natural environment can man thrive, an environment where there are still places of beauty to go to. The effort to protect man's living space from further desecration is one of the greatest challenges of this age. Wilderness is more than camping or hiking; it is a symbol of a way of life that can nourish the spirit."

In the Upper Midwest, we are surrounded by natural beauty and an abundance of water. In fact, water, to a large degree, defines us in Minnesota. We are the "Land of 10,000 Lakes" and "Sky Blue Waters." Along our rugged North Shore, we border the world's largest freshwater lake by surface area. In our northern boreal forest, we harbor the country's largest canoe wilderness – over one million acres. The state encompasses over 92,000 miles of rivers and streams. And many of those streams nurture healthy coldwater ecosystems in which trout and salmon spawn and thrive. We are fortunate indeed.

So, let's bow our backs, bend our rods, wet our lines, feel the sun and wind on our faces and renew our spirits. We are blessed with an abundance of aquatic treasures: the fast water freestone rivers of the North and South Shores, the meandering limestones of the Driftless Area, the spring ponds, and warmwater fisheries within arms' reach of all of us. Support your local fly shop, outfitter or guide. Enjoy our natural bounty but also heed the call of Thomas McGuane to do your part to protect it.

"We have reached the time in the life of the planet, and humanity's demands



THE AUTHOR ALONG THE BRULE RIVER IN WISCONSIN.

upon it, when every fisherman will have to be a riverkeeper, a steward of marine shallows, a watchman on the high seas. We are beyond having to put back what we have taken out. We must put back more than we take out. We must make holy war on the enemies of aquatic life as we have against gillnetters, polluters, and drainers of wetlands. Otherwise, as you have already learned, these crea-

tures will continue to disappear at an accelerating rate."

Join the fight, support MNTU's advocacy, stay safe, and tight lines!

Editor's Note: Mike Madigan is the treasurer for MNTU. He is a life-long fly fisher who practices law in Minneapolis in his spare time.

FISHING THE TEMPORARY NORMAL

EXPLORING WATERS IN AN UNCERTAIN TIME

By Micah Crider



FISHING HAS AN ALMOST MAGICAL WAY OF TAKING ONE'S MIND OFF DISTRACTIONS AND FORCING IT TO FOCUS ON SOMETHING SPECIFIC.

The “new normal.” I guess that’s what they call the times where we currently find ourselves. As we distance ourselves socially, cancel nearly every event that we have been looking forward to, and see businesses forced to close, some to never re-open, nothing seems “normal.” The past few months have affected everyone, some more than others, but there isn’t a single person in the world that hasn’t been impacted by COVID-19 in some form.

I am one of the fortunate ones that has been able to work from home over the past few months and have found myself beginning to become accustomed to this “new normal,” which, to be frank, is a phrase I’m getting tired of hearing. This isn’t normal. Sure, some things may never go back to the way they were, but we will not be forbidden from attending concerts or weddings or asked to self-quarantine forever. Maybe “temporary normal” is a better way to describe it.

One place that I have found to be very much normal is the river. Fishing has been a saving grace for me and my wife over the past few months. Thankfully in Minnesota, fishing wasn’t on the list of “do-nots,” like it was for some of my friends in other states across the country.

If we followed guidelines put in place, the rivers and streams were still ours to enjoy, and enjoy we have.

From what I’ve heard, the number of fishing license sales in the state of Minnesota has exploded this spring. As people look to areas where they can recreate, fishing has seemed to be a popular choice. And if you’ve been out fishing this spring, you’ve probably noticed streams that you often go to expecting solitude suddenly having vehicles at every pull off. You might think to yourself “Where did all of you come from?!” Certainly, these aren’t all brand new anglers. It’s likely a mix of your “regular” people, your “occasional” people, your “forced to fish local” people, and your “new people” all looking for the same outlet—a sense of normal.

Fishing has an almost magical way of taking one’s mind off distractions and forcing it to focus on something specific. Instead of focusing on all that’s going on in the world, you’re focusing on your drift, hoping a steelhead will be fooled; or maybe you’re focusing on your streamer, waiting for that big brown to show itself and ambush; or maybe you are just taking in the beauty surrounding you. There is so much focused attention

placed on the task at hand, no room is left for outside distractions.

There have been countless days this spring where at the conclusion of my fishing, I am reminded that we are living through a global pandemic, a thought that hadn’t crossed my mind over the course of the past several hours. For that period, things were normal. The trout don’t know the difference. Streams still flow in the same direction, bugs still hatch, and eagles still fly overhead, keeping watch on the valleys below. In some ways, nature’s “temporary normal” has improved, while ours has seemed not to.

There is no doubt the past few months haven’t been ideal. Like many people, you may have had to cancel vacations, fishing trips to new places, or, even worse, been impacted by job loss. I would encourage you to get outside and explore. Even if you aren’t always able to fish, the outdoors has a way of bringing about relaxation and a sense of calm. If you can fish, do it! Please continue to be smart and respect others and the guidelines put in place. If your favorite spot is suddenly everyone else’s favorite spot, maybe it’s time to go explore something new, and if you’re not located near many trout streams, go check out

the local pond, river or creek. We live in Minnesota—chances are there is a body of water with fish living in it that will eat a fly if presented correctly. You may not be able to make all of the fishing trips you had hoped at the beginning of the year, but there is a good chance that you may discover new spots, or species, that you otherwise would have overlooked.

Maybe it’s time to dust off the vise and fill up your fly boxes, learn a new pattern, or tie flies to give to one of the “new people” that have found themselves looking to fishing for an outlet during these times. There are plenty of local fly shops that would be happy to assist you with any gear, or fly tying questions that you may have. Let’s continue to support them, and each other. Everyone has been impacted differently, but we are all feeling it. Be thankful that your passion is one that has been permitted, learn something new about it, and take advantage of time allowed outdoors.

Editor’s Note: Micah Crider is a St. Paul resident and avid fly fisherman. While he may have a desk job in corporate finance, he spends the majority of his free time exploring fisheries across the region and documenting his experiences through photography and writing.



LEFT: ON OUR NOW CROWDED STREAMS, WE ARE ALL LOOKING FOR THE SAME OUTLET: A SENSE OF NORMAL.

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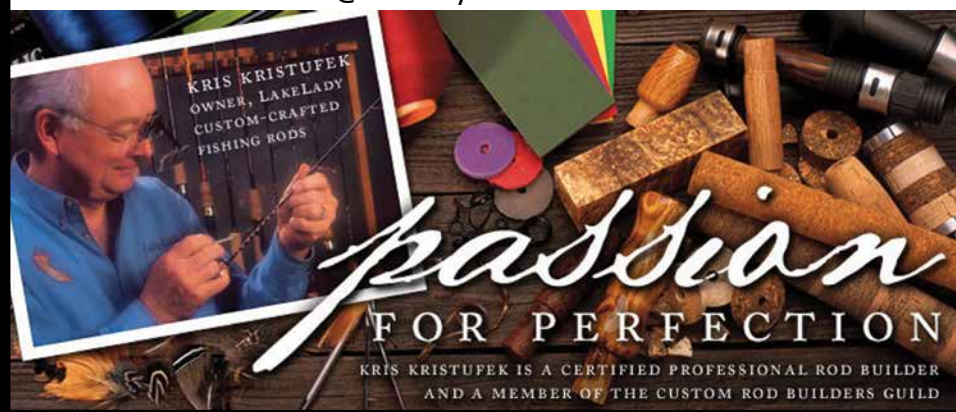
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GRACED BY WATERS

BOOK REVIEW

By John Hunt

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times...” Charles Dickens’ well-known opening to *A Tale of Two Cities* certainly seems to fit these unprecedented times. More time with family, but also with the stress of potential health and job impacts. With “stay-at-home” the reality for so many of us the past couple of months, reading a good book or fishing vicariously through movies available on your favorite streaming service can help pass the time.

Normally I don’t overanalyze a new release by reading everything I can find about it online. Sometimes the author’s name catches my eye, sometimes it is the setting of the story. In the case of *Graced By Waters* by John Dietsch, however, I was intrigued by a press release that described the book as the author’s effort to connect grief and recovery to the writings of Norman Maclean. Dietsch is well qualified to try to make that connection. Some of you might recognize his name as the choreographer of the fishing scenes in the movie “A River Runs Through It.” Dietsch met Maclean as part of his work on the 1992 film, playing an important role in helping to bring elements of the Maclean family story to life on the screen.

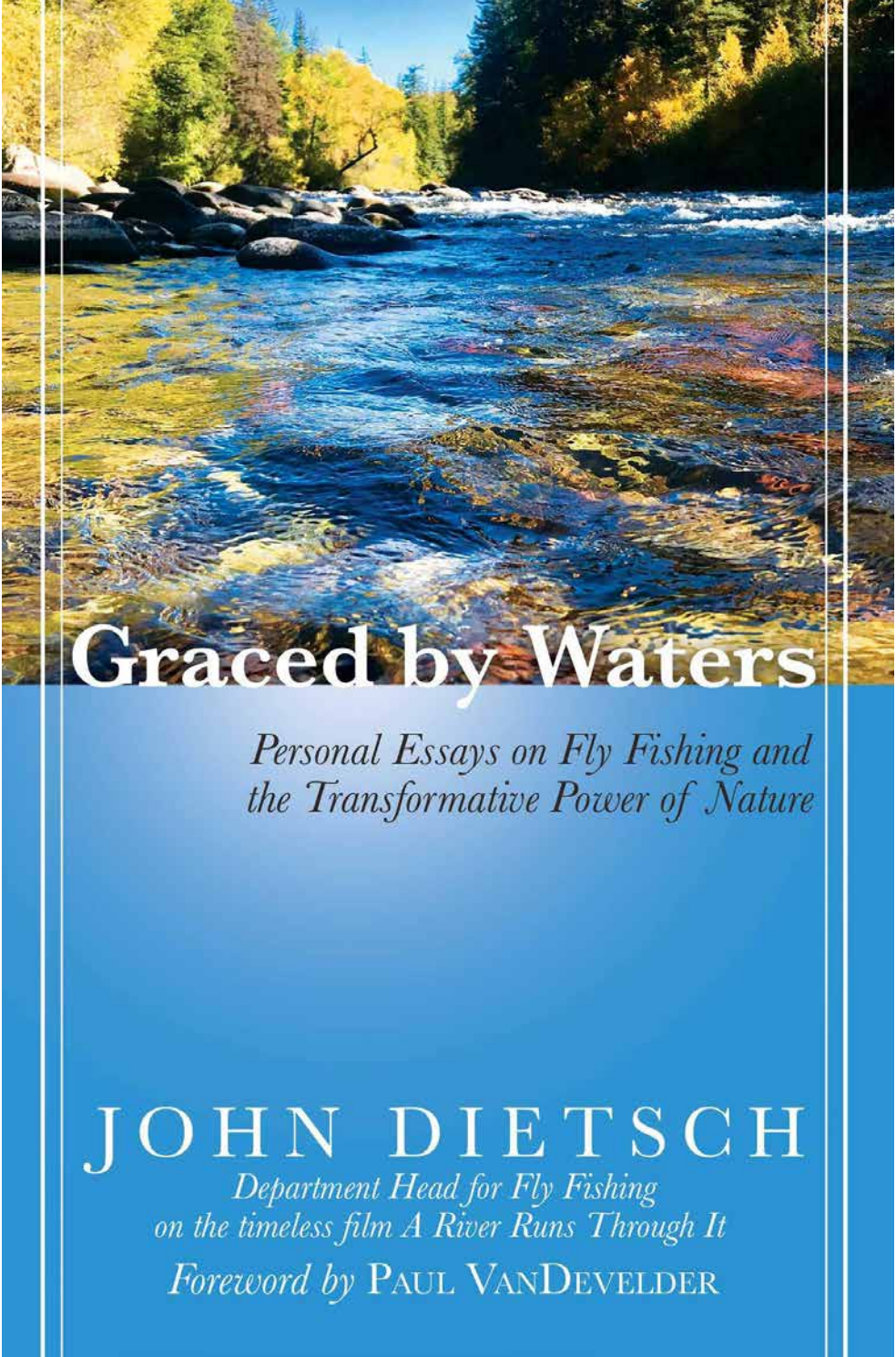
Dietsch’s book is organized into five chapters with each chapter consisting of five essays, but the essays could easily be called chapters themselves. By calling them essays the author has greater latitude to group them into themes such as “Addicted to Waters,” “Reading the Water of Soul,” and “Of Loss, Love, and

Obsession” without the absolute need to have a strong transition from one chapter to the next. Within each essay the author recounts personal moments of success, sadness, jealousy, joy and loss, connecting his capacity to process the palette of human emotion to his desire and ability to spend time on the water in pursuit of trout.

Faith turns out to be a key element of the author’s written journey. Dietsch admits in the preface that he did not set out to use the word “God” in the book, but he is transparent in the preface in stating that given his own faith background he struggled with using a less “religious” noun. Despite the spiritual overtones that can be found throughout the book, the author quotes an eclectic list of people, including American authors Henry David Thoreau and Maya Angelou, Nigerian poet Ben Okri, and other notables such as Colin Powell and Albert Einstein.

Graced By Waters provides a poignant perspective on one man’s experience living and fishing in the western United States and his acknowledgment of the comfort that can be found in such places. I was pleasantly surprised at how thought-provoking some of the author’s reflections turned out to be for my own life.

And in case you are still looking for a fishing-themed movie to kill some time, you might want to check out “Salmon Fishing in Yemen.” A little quirky, but something to take your mind off how much you need a haircut right now.



INCLUDING MNTU IN YOUR ESTATE PLANNING

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

Including MNTU in your estate plans not only helps to provide for future programmatic and organizational security, it can take many different forms to balance your financial and philanthropic goals. Drafting these documents may seem like a daunting task at first, until you realize all the good that comes from having them. A gift in your will or living trust lets you make a meaningful gift to MNTU with ease and be flexible in your commitment. You can give cash, specific property

or a percentage of your estate, with restrictions or without. Because your gift doesn’t come to MNTU until after your lifetime, you can change your mind at any time. To make sure your will accomplishes your goals according to your wishes, we recommend that you obtain the professional counsel of an attorney who specializes in estate planning. We’ve included specific bequest language below for usage with individual or estate planning.

Bequest Language

The official bequest language for Minnesota Trout Unlimited is:

Unrestricted General Legacy:

“I give Minnesota Trout Unlimited, a Minnesota non-profit corporation, presently at 7201 West 78th Street, Suite 207 Bloomington, MN 55439, the sum of (dollar amount)/ or percentage of (___%)/ residue of my estate to be used at the discretion of its governing board.”

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ently at 7201 West 78th Street, Suite 207 Bloomington, MN 55439, my (specific personal property item(s) and/or real property located at _____) to be used at the discretion of its governing board.”

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The information above is not intended as legal or tax advice. For such advice, please consult an attorney or tax advisor. Contact our executive director, John Lenczewski, with any questions, or for assistance with estate planning, using this language or using this process: jlenczewski@comcast.net or at 612-670-1629.



MANY VOICES

ONE MESSAGE

By Bob Wagner

It's not sexy to talk about. It's dominated by older white males, it's full of hypocrisy, half truths, corruption, and financial self interest, and is often destructive to our natural resources and environment. Politics. As many of you know, I prefer writing about and discussing fly fishing. Reluctantly, I'm compelled to share the following thoughts, which are mostly quotes, because I care deeply about fly fishing and the environment that supports it. Realize that by the time you read this, the fall elections are only four months away and we need to seriously consider the consequences of climate change on our natural resources. Tied into this defining issue is the Clean Water Act, pollution control regulations, and the protection of the national forests and wilderness areas that safe guard the major watersheds feeding our cherished rivers and streams. Yes, I'm preaching to the choir, however sometimes the choir needs to sing a lot louder. The following includes some past and present voices in the "choir" and what, why and how we can all sing louder.

This article is not intended to bash one political party over another, and not all members of either party always agree with the majority. However, there is a major difference in the acceptance and support for climate change action by one party and the denying and derailing of it by the other. Facts are facts and I don't believe in falsifying truths by the simple label of "fake news." The following quotes are from three past prominent figures: Tom Helgeson, Senator Paul Wellstone, and water research scientist Eville Gorham. Also included are the current voices of various fly fishers and authors, all aimed at guiding us to action this November.

Tom Helgeson was the founding father of the Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo and the editor of Midwest Fly Fishing magazine. In fall of 2002, he wrote an article regarding the late Senator Paul Wellstone. I remembered this article because of its political perspective and relevance for today, even though it was written some 18 years ago. Tom expressed the grief and tragedy of the senator, his wife and daughter's deaths in a plane crash just two weeks prior. Tom wrote "Environmentalists especially were stricken by the loss of a close ally. Senator Wellstone was a friend of the environment, a passionate defender of the sanctity of wilderness, he fought for the clean air and water that those of us who fly fish know deeply about. I surround myself with a clear philosophical buffer when it comes to politics, I must confess at times cynicism is part of that buffer. Paul Wellstone drew me and others out of our buffers. His death and the memory of his work and dedication challenge us to think more profoundly about who we are and how and where we live. We need to be grateful for those in public life who are defenders of the natural world, wetlands, forests and our rivers, lakes, and streams. Let it remind you also that a fervent and welcoming community await as you look for ways to contribute and fight the good fight.

You can call that community anything you like—Trout Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, Federation of Fly Fishers, Lake Superior Steelhead Association or Friends of the BWCA, the important point is join."

I know Tom was concerned about climate change as a major threat to our natural resources. Tom wrote in his May 2003 magazine column "We need to be vigilant. The death of our rivers is only a manure spill or a sprawl of \$400,000 homes away. Those of us who have been around a while need to get back to the front lines."

In our current political environment, I think we can clearly see where the front line is. Deke Arndt, Chief Climate Monitor for NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) states "We are on track to blow past temperature targets set by the Paris Agreement, which is meant to help countries reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the effects of climate change. The Arctic is warming 3x faster than the rest of the planet, this can trigger a vicious cycle, ice melt means more water, more water contributes to more warming and more rain, record breaking floods, more habitat destruction to fish and wildlife, reduced yields for farmers and is dangerous to public health. Rain patterns have already changed in much of the country."

Eville Gorham, PhD (water chemistry research) is credited for discovering acid rain in 1950, and connecting sulfur pollution and burned fossil fuels to this phenomenon. His research contributed to the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty of 1963. Eville taught in the Ecology Department of the University of Minnesota and testified before Congress, was on White House Council of Environmental Quality, and influenced Congress to pass laws for power plants to burn low sulfur coal. He also studied northern Minnesota's Red Lake peat lands and how they store massive amounts of carbon. He stated "If they dry out due to changing weather conditions, they will release billions of tons of carbon into the atmosphere. We know what we have to do to reduce CO2 emissions to the atmosphere, but for repairing damaged ecosystems we are babes in the woods. We don't understand enough about nature."

We the choir need to push for a science-based plan attacking climate change. 2019 was the hottest year on record, according to data from NASA and NOAA. Robust greenhouse gas emissions are causing global warming to continue unabated. John Lenczewski, MNTU Executive Director, concluded in this publication February 2019 "We all must lend support to measures that halt and hopefully reverse climate change trends." I'm sure we all agree, but unfortunately when the majority of one political party is reluctant to acknowledge that climate change is real and the current administration has pulled us out of international planning, we need to step up, speak up and sing louder.



TOM HELGESON FISHES THE RUSH RIVER IN WISCONSIN. BAIRD HELGESON PHOTO.

A massive lobby effort is attacking climate change reversal efforts because the fossil fuel industry, corporate America, big agriculture, and others don't want regulations cutting into their profits. Don't be fooled by the rhetoric that some scientists believe in climate change and some scientists don't. Over 97% of credited published climate scientists agree climate warming trends over the past century are extreme and likely due to human activity. Also, the majority of all leading scientific organizations worldwide have released statements endorsing action on climate change. We need to realize it's more than climate change, it's the current administration's disregard for conservation and our natural resources. The president and chief executive officer of TU, Chris Wood, wrote in his column in Trout magazine's fall issue 2019, "The Trump administration has proposed weakening the protection of small headwater streams from the Clean Water Act." Small headwater streams are the foundation of larger healthy watersheds. This action is a potential disaster for

coldwater fisheries.

Why sing louder, why get on what Tom Helgeson called the "front lines?" Because 40 million Americans did not vote in the 2016 presidential election. The final reason is that we only get the resource quality we are willing to work for. If a stream needs habitat repair, you get in, get your hands dirty and fix it. The same is true for lack of political policy, lack of political will and poor destructive political policy. Get in and fix it. Your version of singing louder may be talking to someone or making one call every day. Send a simple text message about what you care about! Ask them to vote for a healthy sustainable environment, clean water and clean air. Encourage everyone to vote. By singing louder we can and will make a difference.

Editor's Note: Bob Wagner is a Headwaters Chapter board member and has been dedicated to TU for many years. He and his wife, Val, live in Bemidji,

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MNTU CHAPTER NEWS

Gitche Gumee Chapter

Spring finally sprung in late May here in northeastern Minnesota! My name is Brandon Kime, I'm the new president of the Gitche Gumee Chapter. Nice to meet you! I've been part of Trout Unlimited for the last three or four years and am looking forward to growing in this role and continuing to push conservation in our community.

Unfortunately, the COVID pandemic required us to cancel one of our favorite presentations of the spring season: State of the Steelhead. We missed many of you that typically attend this meeting. We hope you didn't wait for us and got out to explore the water this spring.

Our planned spring project work is still on hold. As we learn more about guidelines to take with group functions, we will look to reschedule some of these events.

For some lucky folks, steelhead season started in March. As temperatures warmed in April, the steelhead showed up on cue in our rivers. With a heavy snowpack this past winter in the middle and upper part of the Arrowhead region, the steelhead season has been extended and fish are still being caught. Overall, the spring fishing reports have been good! Lots of new people out on the rivers due to the many restrictions in place.

We encourage you to follow us on Facebook if you're interested in learning more about our club. We share all of the chapter's activities and events on our page. It's also a good way for us to stay connected with you during this time. Find us at Gitche Gumee Trout Unlimited and give us a "like."

Have a great summer. Hope to see you out on the water.

Brandon Kime

Headwaters Chapter

This spring has not been what I expected. Just a couple months ago we were looking forward to the Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo, meeting on a regular basis to tie flies, and socializing without much thought. Just a few short days later and everything came to a standstill. In March COVID-19 changed the way we do everything. I know I'm not alone when saying this either. I'm spending more time at home and getting into the new norm of working from home and meeting via video conferencing. I get excited now when I can see and talk to someone other than my own family. The money I save on gas I'm spending on extra groceries and buying unnecessary items online. I really need to get out

fishing.

COVID-19 has changed, cancelled, or postponed many things in our lives. For TU 642, the Women's Fly Fishing Retreat has been moved to July 10 and 11, 2020. If you are interested or have questions, call Val Wagner at 218-556-7660. Our Trout in the Classroom program ended abruptly in March, but we were able to release the fish into the river with a little help from some students. We couldn't complete our fly tying nights this year either. And we all missed the Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo. The annual Pike Hunt has changed this year as well. Hopefully we will be able to keep the momentum going with our new format. Many of us have familiarized ourselves with having online meetings using various video platforms, and we will likely be having our board meetings using this technology as well. We will get through this if we just take precautions and adjust how we do things.

Passing of a Founder: In April, the Headwaters Chapter lost one of its founding members. Gail Brooks passed away on April 28, 2020 at the age of 94. He learned to love fishing at a young age and took many wonderful trips with his sons, grandsons and close friends across the country. He was an avid fly fisherman and made many of his own flies. He helped teach fly tying to fifth grade students at Northern Elementary School and was one of the founding members of TU Headwaters Chapter 642.

For the full obituary go to www.bemidjipioneer.com/obituaries/obits/6467373-Gail-Brooks

Trout in the Classroom: We had a very successful release day on April 23, 2020 at the Clearwater River and the weather cooperated beautifully. The teachers from Gene Dillon Elementary School had coordinated the inclusion of some students who have been spending the day at school because one of their parents is in the healthcare field. This led to a bit more excitement and energy. Coincidentally, Tony and the DNR also ended up releasing 650 rainbows from the Spire Valley Hatchery so the teachers and students also helped with the release of those fish. With the release of fish at Kelliher, that concludes our release activities for the year.

Pike Hunt: The COVID-19 pandemic has affected everyone in just a few short months. TU 642 is being mindful of social distancing by adapting this year's annual Pike Hunt to try something new. To mark the sixth year of this event, we will observe social distancing guidelines by not having a day fishing followed by a fish-fry gathering. Instead, we are planning to have a fishing tournament-style event that will take place over an eight-week period starting on May 9, 2020 and running through July 4. Our hope is to have a gathering in the fall if social distancing rules allow.

This year's Pike Hunt will allow people to participate in fly fishing for pike



THE PRESIDENT OF THE GITCHE GUMEE CHAPTER, BRANDON KIME, WITH AN UP-AND-COMING YOUNG ANGLER. AFTER NETTING BRANDON'S FISH, SHE WAS HOOKED AND HAS EVEN BEGUN FLY TYING.

while following the Minnesota DNR's safe social distancing rules. We have four categories of fishing, and fans of Fly vs Jerk on YouTube will recognize them. We will give prizes out for the top five combined pike over 26", the single longest pike, the heaviest pike, and the total number of pike (any size counts) in a single day. To keep participants engaged, we are giving out prizes every two weeks. At the end of the event we will give out the final awards where all participants are eligible.

The Pike Hunt is one of TU 642's yearly fundraisers, and we want to continue it this year. If anyone is interested in finding out more information, they can email mntu642@gmail.com or look for information and updates on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/mnheadwatersTU

Kris Williams

Hiawatha Chapter

May was to be our Highway 52 road-side cleanup, but due to the COVID-19 virus, we held off having a gathering of members. We are hopeful we may be able to have it in June, and, of course, social distancing will be observed.

June 1 was to be the first summer stream-side meeting for Hiawatha Trout Unlimited (HTU) and unfortunately due to the pandemic and social distancing, we will not be having any gatherings yet, but will see about having the road-side cleanup.

July 6 will be the next summer event again, depending on if it's safe to do so.

August 3 is slated as the following gathering date, depending upon whether it's safe at that point to have a members meeting.

The June Senior Fishing Day put on by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Fisheries office in Lanesboro and HTU has been canceled due to concerns for the elderly being more at risk for the

virus.

We are looking at having the HTU annual fundraiser this fall which was previously scheduled for April 18. We are hopeful that by this fall we will be able to put on our annual event, but the safety of our members and board members is our first priority. Stayed tuned to the HTU Facebook page for further details. Thank you all for your continued support and diligence in keeping yourselves safe so we can see you all again soon.

Phil Pankow

Twin Cities Chapter

Greetings Anglers!

This spring's fishing season has seen some unusual circumstances in unprecedented times. We are a part of history in a way that no one could have ever imagined. Reflecting back on the past few months, it has been both sad, but hopeful.

COVID-19 has made its mark around the world and continues to do so. It has impacted our families, work, schools, healthcare systems, and plans for habitat restoration, recreation opportunities, social gatherings and fundraising. It has been unfortunate to cancel TCTU events, but know that these decisions have been made to protect the health of individuals across Minnesota and beyond.

As a result, our chapter board has been very focused on ways to reach out and support the angling community. We have a new, incredibly talented communications/special events team that hosted an online late-spring fishing photo contest which was very well received by our TCTU members and the public. We had so much fun seeing the photos from people having a great time on the water. Winners have been announced and will be receiving gift cards from our local fly shops. Thank you to all who took part. We plan to continue creative ways to help our chapter connect with each other as we continue to navi-

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gate the world in its changed status for the time being. Stay tuned for our next fishing contest starting in mid-June. Our committee teams will continue to meet up through the summer (virtually) and we plan to host a Zoom chapter meeting with speaker Gina Quiram in June, so look for this announcement on the TCTU Facebook site.

I want to share that we have received several positive letters and notes of support from members appreciating our newer focus on engaging the chapter and angling community in a variety of ways. Through the generosity of TU's national executive director, many have joined TCTU with a complimentary membership for being a first responder. We welcome all new members and appreciate our current TCTU members as our membership continues to climb past the 2,000 mark.

Looking onward, my hope for all anglers is to connect with nature more as we head into summer. Connect with your families, neighbors and communities in healthy and safe ways. When you can, impart your love of fishing with a youth and share your passion for clean water with others as you support the natural resources that provide these opportunities. Take a break (if you can) from technology and enjoy the outdoors as it unfolds its beauty. This can also be done in your backyard by observing a hummingbird at the feeder, or watching an eagle land in your tree with its fishy-lunch! Mother Nature has provided these gifts and our hope is that you enjoy the summer in a different way.

We look forward to reconnecting this fall (hopefully in person), so until then, stay safe, enjoy the season, get out on the water as much as you can and please share your experiences with us. In these uncertain times, positive stories are just what we all need!

Casting into the future....

Janine Kohn

Win-Cres Chapter

Win-Cres members appreciate living in the Driftless Area more than ever. As the coronavirus sweeps through the nation, we have been largely spared by the infection, though the economic toll is apparent everywhere. We have unparalleled opportunities for social distancing on area streams. A few hours on the water does a lot to relieve stress and put things into perspective.

The spring caddis hatches were the most prolific ever seen by some area anglers, despite the challenges of competing with 20 naturals on every cast. The fish are plentiful, and in good condition. There was no spring flooding, so natural reproduction should be good this year.

We offered fly tying classes for John Weaver's middle school students, an enthusiastic and energetic group. The stay-at-home orders forced cancellation of two outings with Robbie Ebner's Goodhue Fishing Club.

Agribusiness: With an estimated 500,000 Minnesotans drinking water from contaminated wells, the MPCA once again failed to live up to its name. The agency declined to reconsider a prior decision to approve the massive expansion of the Daley Farms milking operation near Lewiston. Only Winona County ordinances keep the expansion at bay. Conservation-minded people need to turn out for the November elections.

Win-Cres is trying to work our way through the new thicket of DNR requirements to do some stream work. At this writing, it is likely that we will be mowing trails again this year (13 miles last summer). We are hopeful that we can remove some of the log piles left on the banks of area streams by last summer's floods, to make some currently unfishable stretches again fishable.

Chuck Shepard



GO FISH! CAUGHT BY HAYDEN KOHN ON A FLY (TENKARA).

SELECT POETRY

By Larry Gavin

The Ghost of Camp Creek

**Insects transect the dawn sky.
Fishing early, an old habit
left over from my youth
when I was impatient to get
to the stream at all.
The song of moving water
coaxes daylight; haunts dreams.
In the water's fog, I see the ghost
of Camp Creek walking away from me
in the dark haze: old and stooped, rod
in his right hand, brimmed gray hat.**

**Same guy I've
called to from my car at dark,
maybe ten times, in the past thirty years,
to offer a beer. Only to have him
dematerialize, fade, disappear into nothing
leaving me to tingle in a cold breeze
and sense the smell of something
decomposing along the roadside ditch,
while thunder unrolls in the west.**

**One morning, last week, about fifty
yards away, he raised his left index
finger to his lips to quiet me, it seemed,
and on the next cast,
I caught a bat. It fluttered to the water
like a nightmare, and when I lifted
the rod it fluttered toward my face
The rod tip acting like the pivot point
of a pendulum until
finally it came unhooked
flying off into the dark.**

**I came unnerved and huddled alone
in the car, dome light on,
waiting for sun-up to shed its light.
Trying to convince myself
I didn't see: all I clearly saw.**

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



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REELING IT IN
DISCOVERING LOCAL TROUT

By Carl Haensel

Outside, the birds are singing in the month of June in northern Minnesota. If you pay attention to them closely, they might just lead you to trout. Author Rudy Senarighi, a north country angler, penned a book, *Listen for the Whitethroats*, about chasing and finding brook trout on Minnesota's North Shore. It's worth reading, but it's also worth noting that you should simply stop and listen for the music inherent in the sounds of summer.

Days outside on the water seem a little more precious this season, and the chance to take an afternoon to poke around a new stream is something that we all should do, and savor. With well over 2,500 miles of trout water in our state, it's fair to say that nobody has ever fished it all—and if they have, they've not stopped to listen for the music.

Micah Crider's article about the "Temporary Normal" on page 16 is worth reading as you consider your time on the water. There's certainly plenty to unpack and consider. For me, I've been thinking about discovering more of my local trout. They swim in small tributaries to rivers like the Sucker, Knife, French and Lester. I'm fortunate to have local trout streams, and sometimes the smaller tributaries have cold water, and maybe even a few more trout, than the warm main stems. Just the Knife River alone has more than 100 miles of flowing water in its watershed to explore. Another local author, Perry Palin, has written about places that might be somewhere

in the Knife watershed in his book *Katz Creek and Other Stories*. Or maybe I'm imagining things when I find similarities in either Perry's or Rudy's descriptions of water that I'm exploring. Either way, both books make for good summertime reading. I've enjoyed the opportunity to discover more local trout.

Like the fair days that come with the month of June, the trout in the streams of Minnesota seem both that they will always be there and that they always have. In the far flung country of the north, it's hard to remember the snow, gray days, or the harsh glare of the low-lying sun in the winter. Similarly, we think that an existence without trout is impossible.

The threats that cause troutless streams and rivers come from many sources. Development, excessive timber harvest, mining, culverts and many other issues threaten our local trout. This publication for years has outlined them, and will continue to fight for our waters. If you find a local stream, cherish it. Stand up for it when a threat comes along. But a good first step is to fish and explore it.

I hope that many of you get a chance to get out and find "new" trout streams this season, and maybe find more water to care about and improve. Take the time to listen to the music of summer along the way, and be thankful for the opportunity that we have in Minnesota to get outside and experience our vast natural resources.



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