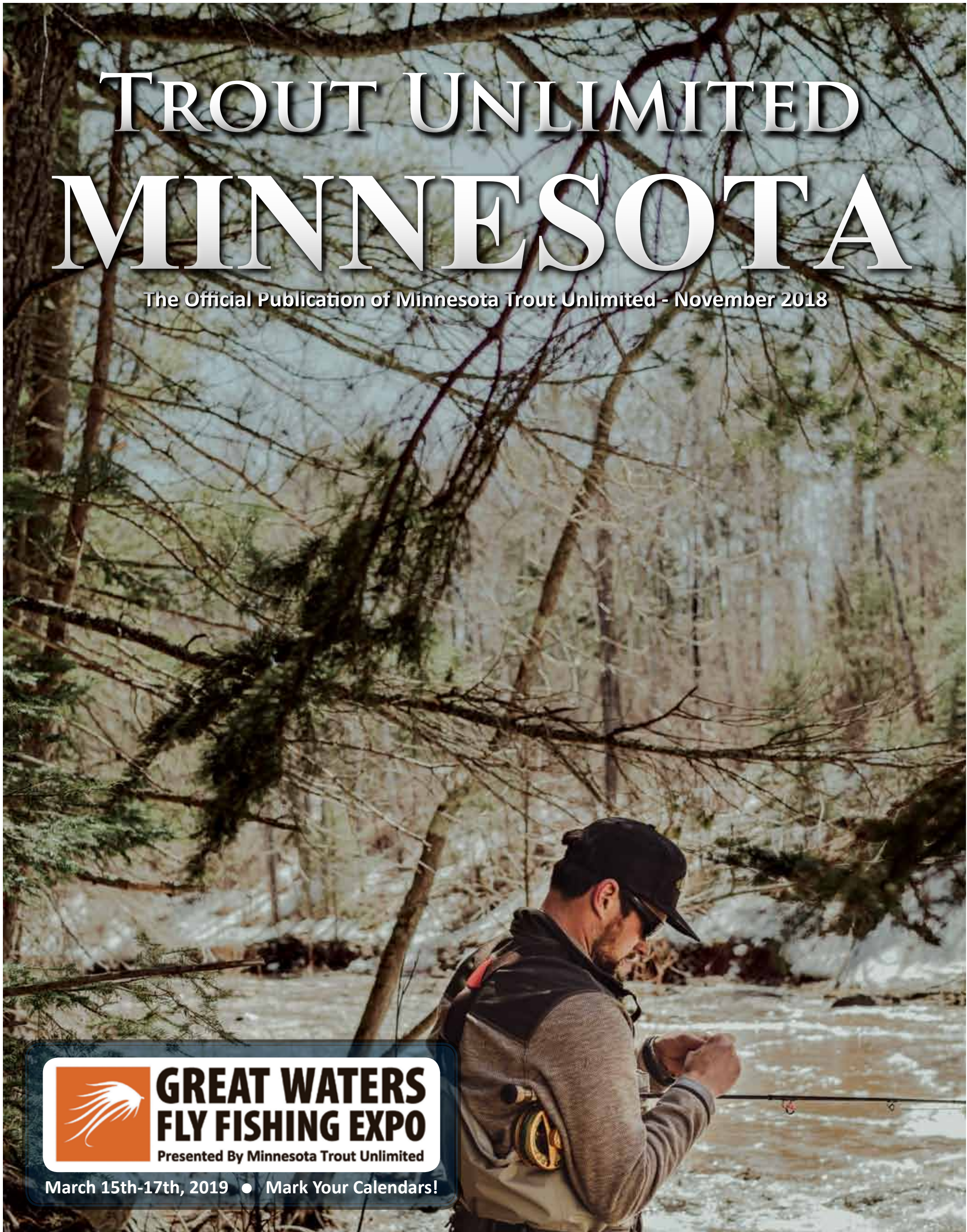


TROUT UNLIMITED MINNESOTA

The Official Publication of Minnesota Trout Unlimited - November 2018



 **GREAT WATERS
FLY FISHING EXPO**
Presented By Minnesota Trout Unlimited
March 15th-17th, 2019 • Mark Your Calendars!

Shore Fishing Lake Superior
Artist Profile: Josh DeSmit
Key to Macroinvertebrates
Fishing Newburg Creek
Tying the Prince Nymph
Dry Fly Hatch Chart

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P.O. Box 845
Chanhasen, MN 55317-0845

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ON THE COVER

Josh DeSmit ties up before fishing the North Shore's Sucker River, hoping Lake Superior steelhead have arrived on their spring spawning run. Read more about Josh in our first artist profile on pages 4 and 5. Photo by Kelley DeSmit.

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- Lake Superior Shore Fishing
- Fishing Newburg Creek
- All About Trout Youth Series
- Macroinvertebrate ID
- Trolling the Web

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MINNESOTA COUNCIL UPDATE

TU's Annual National Meeting

By Steve Carlton, Minnesota Council Chair

It's been a busy couple weeks for me and Trout Unlimited in Minnesota. A few weeks back, the MNTU Executive Director, John Lenczewski, and I attended the Trout Unlimited National Meeting in fire ravaged Redding, California. You may remember that the Carr Fire and the Delta Fire played havoc on that region. On our drive up to fish the McCloud River, we drove up Highway 5 and through the area where the Delta Fire was still smoldering. Those two fires were the largest in California history, one after the other very close to each other. I really enjoy the TU National meetings. I get to learn about all the wonderful things that TU is doing all over the country to protect trout, salmon and the watersheds they inhabit. Minnesota TU was highlighted again for the

work we do from the North Shore to our southern border. On September 29th, the Fall State Council Meeting was held up on the North Shore where it is traditionally held at the end of the fishing season. After the productive meeting, we got to chase some steelhead (chinook salmon and big brown trout for me).

I hope you all had the chance to get out fishing this season. It's been another odd weather year. There were some nasty storms that tore through the Driftless Region. It was nice to see many of our habitat projects hold up through the flooding. TU continues to learn and adapt from these weather events. Thank you to all the volunteers who continue to help Trout Unlimited in our mission. Thank you to all of you that attend our



fundraising banquets and those that pledge to support our mission on Give-to-the-Max Day on November 15th. And a special thank you to our partners at the Minnesota DNR who help make fulfilling our mission possible.

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VOLUNTEERS AND THE MN DNR WORK ON SEEDING PRAIRIE GRASS ON THE SOUTH BRANCH OF THE VERMILLION RIVER

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A Good Excuse to Get Out on the Water

By John Lenczewski, MNTU Executive Director

In late October I stopped by our Trout Brook restoration project near Miesville to see how the habitat work was faring. Numerous wild brook trout, and a few browns, had already been digging spawning redds in the gravel which our restoration work had exposed. By narrowing the stream's width, we enabled the stream to naturally flush excess sand which the wide, degraded channel had allowed to accumulate. The change from sand (biologically speaking an underwater desert) to gravel and cobble has been dramatic.

On the hike back from watching spawning trout I got to thinking how the roles available for volunteers have also changed. A decade ago we mostly built "lunker structures" to install in streambanks. While we still utilize these structures based upon the site conditions and land use, we have added more tools to the tool box and asked volunteers to take

on new roles. Workdays now are just as likely to involve removing stands of invasive buckthorn, planting and caging trees in the north, staking down erosion blankets, spraying invasive plants, or reseeding areas. As MNTU and the chapters restore more degraded habitat each year (more than 70 miles of streams since 2009!), We are asking volunteers to take on another equally important role: that of stream monitor.

Trout habitat work, especially streambank work, is increasingly subject to more severe flooding. Project bank sloping means most floods quickly release their energy on the floodplains, rather than in the stream channel. Still, stronger and more frequent flooding means some spots will occasionally need maintenance. Regular inspections of all projects are key. And this is where trout anglers can step up. We are renewing our call for lots of volunteers to break up



this "grueling" task of exploring a new (or old favorite) piece of trout water. Population sampling with a fishing rod is strongly encouraged, as is spending a few bucks in the rural communities. Please help TU step up its game, by fishing one segment of improved habitat in 2019. Please see the box on page 18 for details on how to sign up and help.



THE WALK BACK AFTER A LONG DAY ON THE WATER IS AN EXPERIENCE TO BE TREASURED ALONGSIDE THE FISH CAUGHT. READ MORE IN MICAH CRIDER'S ARTICLE ON PAGE 6.

EDITOR'S ANGLE

Planning Your 2019 Season and a New Hatch Chart

By Carl Haensel, Editor

As the first snows of winter begin to fall in northern Minnesota, and the brook and brown trout spawn on clean gravels around the state, anglers like myself start thinking of spring. As I dream of the first green blades of grass along the creeks in the spring, I plan out the flies that I will need for the next season. I know that I'll need nymphs in the late winter, when the trout lay deep in pools. Later, I'll want midges and black stoneflies, then caddisflies as the waters warm and the hatches begin. Heavy streamers and woolly buggers will be useful as the streams swell and discolor from heavy spring rains. Mayflies of all sizes and shapes will fill my boxes as flowers bloom and greenery returns in earnest to Minnesota. When summer comes, grasshoppers will be available, and the brown trout excited.

It takes time to plan out and tie these flies, and in this issue of the newsletter we've got a hatch chart to help your planning on page 15. If you're new to the insects found in streams and rivers around the state, check out the key to identifying them found on page 12. It's set up for you to remove and take along the stream, and it's got great kids information on the back about trout that we have in Minnesota for younger anglers.

If you're fortunate to have plenty of time to tie flies for yourself, and maybe a bit of extra time, our mentorship program needs donated flies to help get new anglers on the water. Contact Tim Hemsstad, listed on page 18 to learn more and donate. Good luck tying flies and making lures this winter, I hope to see some of you on the trout streams next spring.



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JOSH DESMIT

A Regional Fishing Artist Profile

By Ben Nelson • Photos by Kelley DeSmit • Art by Josh DeSmit

Josh and Kelley DeSmit race into their waders. Each second tingles with urgency. While they hop and scramble, their 16-month-old daughter Elouise is relatively unsupervised. She tips and toddles around an otherwise empty gravel parking lot. In an instant, Elouise finds and tries to eat a cigarette butt then spills a container of blackberries into the gravel. Her steps are disjointed robotic movements. She stumbles and falls. Josh picks her up with a smile. “Elouise, do you want to go fishing?”

“Ya!” She replies, bouncing her blond curls. Elouise smiles with three teeth. Her blue eyes sparkle.

Josh DeSmit is a fly fishing artist from Minneapolis. He carries a pencil and sketch pad in his waders. They are as accessible as tippet. His fly box holds stoneflies and streamers with an artist’s attention to composition, feathers and fur in perfect proportion.

Kelley wears a baby carrier backpack over her waders. Josh wiggles Elouise into it. Elouise yanks on her mom’s hair. She removes Kelley’s hair clip; it is replaced; she removes it again. Kelley switches to a ball cap. Somewhere in the hustle rods are rigged. The fishing pack is loaded with Cheerios and cardboard baby books. The DeSmit family is ready. They walk toward the North Shore’s Sucker River together.

“My dad used to carry me around in one of these,” Josh says, referring to the baby backpack, “He would haul me everywhere: fishing, bird hunting.” Josh and his parents would escape Minneapolis to the family cabin in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. “We had an old Jeep CJ5. We’d go down dirt roads and across bridges, get stuck.” Josh and his dad would walk up brook trout streams together, one fishing from each side of the stream.

Josh and Kelley began dating in 2010. Josh taught Kelley to cast and mend line, to tie knots and to read water. He introduced her to trout and bugs and to the unnamed family water in the UP. Josh proposed there.

Kelley has taught Josh to slow down.



JOSH DESMIT CASTS FOR STEELHEAD ON THE SUCKER RIVER ON THE MINNESOTA NORTH SHORE.



“GRAND TETON” ORIGINALLY A COMMISSIONED SKETCH FOR A SUBSEQUENT TATTOO DESIGN. THIS PIECE WAS MEANT TO BE ICONIC. AN IMAGE COLLAGE PACKED TIGHTLY WITH SIMPLE YET EFFECTIVE LINES AND COLORS. 11”X14” PEN AND INK, WATERCOLOR MARKER, SHARPIE ON PAPER, 2017

“It’s way better to stay in one productive place than to pound the whole river,” Josh says, “We can watch each other, really get to know each other. No cell service, no distractions. It’s our family time.”

Now Kelley sits with her face in the sun on the bank of the river. Elouise is asleep on her back. A pacifier hangs from Kelley’s shoulder. Kelley’s hands twist a camera lens. She squints to watch Josh cast. He’s standing under a cedar looping line toward a tailout. Sunlight brightens the green cedar boughs. Reflections flash off the water. It’s a beautiful run, but Kelley doubts if it holds fish. “Josh wants everything to be so pretty,” she says, “I have to remind him to fish with his head, not his heart.”

Josh can’t help it. “Art is just something I need to do,” he says, “It’s how I need to interpret my experiences.” He de-

scribes his art as an emotional outlet. It’s a passion. “I would make art even if I wasn’t showing it to others.”

Josh has always been that way. His mom says he was an easy kid, good at playing alone. All he needed was a box of crayons. School art projects were his favorite. Minneapolis urban elements, the art of skateboards and box cars, stayed with him. He’d doodle in graffiti letters and styles. Josh majored in art and played hockey at Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin. He studied print making. He experimented with method and media.

DeSmit graduated from Lawrence and dedicated himself to his art. He dodged the typical career path. “I worked mundane jobs on purpose, to go home and be creative.” He took the summer of 2013 off from standard employment to make art for three months. His work was noticed. He gained exposure. He gained momentum. In 2015, DeSmit quit his warehouse job, loaded up his truck and headed west. He traveled through Colorado. He crashed with friends, slept in his truck, fished and painted. “The art version of a trout bum.” DeSmit connected with the fly fishing community. His style evolved. He developed a process that is his own.

DeSmit brings his sketches from the field to the studio. He distills them into bold lines and shapes. “It allows me to focus on the most important part of something,” DeSmit explains, “It is a form simplified into something beautiful and recognizable.” Color, texture and detail are layered over each other. DeSmit

paints with stencils, markers and acrylics, spray paint and brush strokes.

“Life changes. My art is changing,” Josh says. He is exploring phases of transition, middle grounds. “It’s not point A or point B, it’s what pops up in between. It’s the adventure, the experience, the joy that comes about you.” DeSmit’s take on sporting art has earned national attention and resonates with viewers.

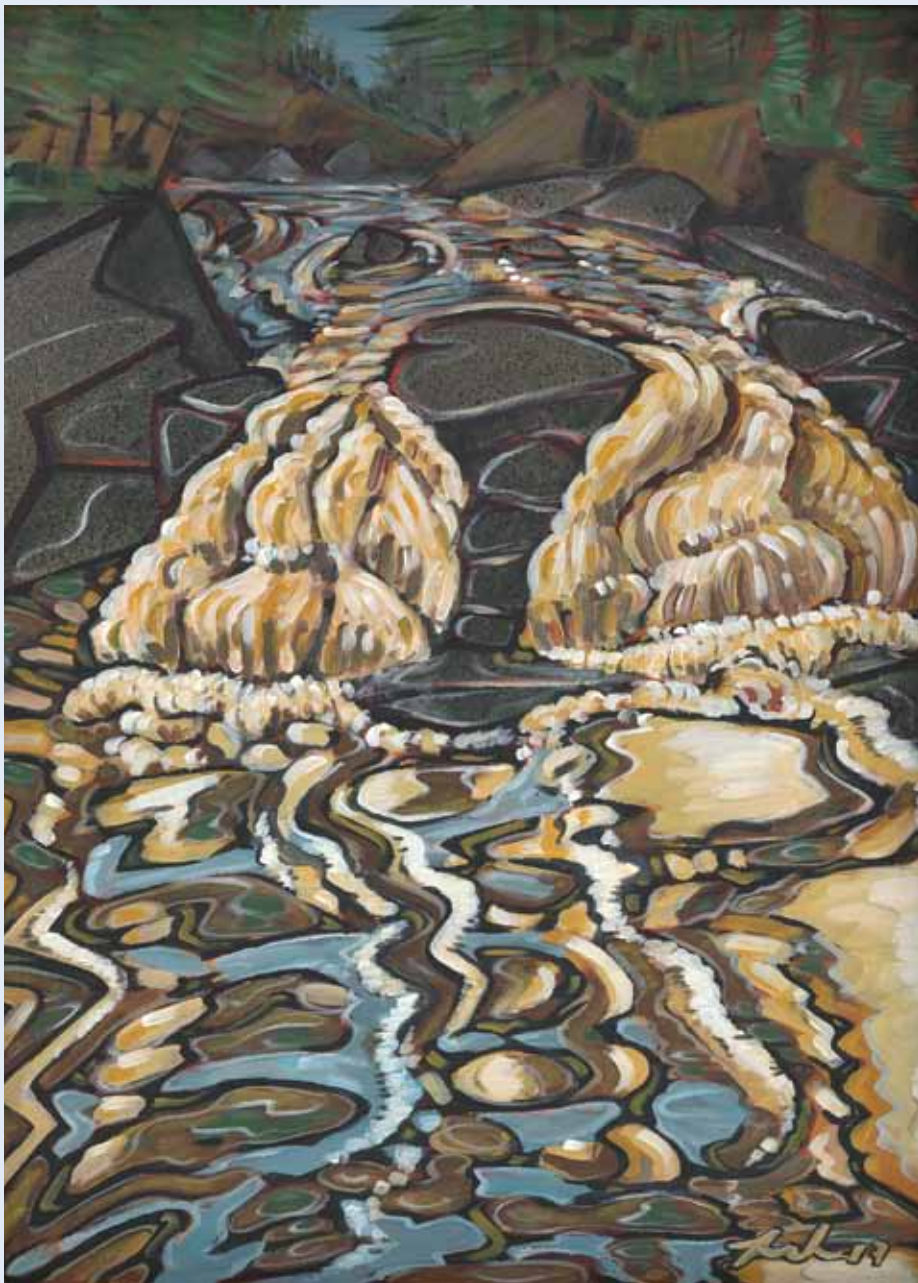
“Everyone has their side hustle. I’ve got four,” Josh says. He is home with Elouise for part of the week. He coaches high school hockey. He works at a print shop. He’s guiding smallmouth trips on the Mississippi. His art lives in the middle ground. “I paint after bedtime. I’ll squeeze in a half hour during Elouise’s nap.” Josh and Kelley work together in the evenings, Josh painting, Kelley editing photos. “We bounce ideas off each other. It’s important time. It’s our studio time.”

Today Josh looks at the river. A stonefly dries its wings. Elouise begins to stir. Josh shifts focus. He and Kelley look for a safe, cliffless place to unbuckle and release Elouise. She’s due for a snack. She’ll want to stretch her legs. It occurs to Josh and Kelley that they’ve left the diapers in the car. They don’t need one yet but it’s inevitable. They look at each other and shrug. They smile and reel in. They move down the path, back towards the car, together.

See more of Josh DeSmit’s work at joshdesmitart.com, on Instagram @joshdesmitart, and on Facebook: facebook.com/joshdesmitart1



"WYDAHO II." "AFTER FILMING FOR REDINGTON'S FIND YOUR WATER SERIES, I WAS COMMISSIONED TO CREATE A WORK REFLECTIVE OF THAT EXPERIENCE. I ENDED UP MAKING SOMETHING THAT LOOKED TRADITIONAL IN IMAGERY, BUT DIPPED IN CANDY. THE WESTERN PILGRIMAGE IS A STORIED PART OF FLY FISHING, WITH BIG TROUT JUMPING AND EATING DRY FLIES. MY EXPERIENCE STARTED WITH THOSE NOTIONS, BUT THE EXCESSIVE HIKING, CAMARADERIE, AND EFFORT OF FILMING SEEMED SO SUGAR-ON-TOP. SOMETHING EXTRA. IT WAS LIKE COVERING COTTON CANDY WITH CARAMEL." 20"x30" ACRYLIC, SPRAY PAINT, PAINT PEN ON CANVAS, 2017.



"THE STEWART CHUTES." THE SECOND PIECE CONCEIVED FROM A QUICK DAY TRIP FROM MINNEAPOLIS TO SEVERAL NORTH SHORE STREAMS ON A SUNNY, MAY MONDAY. THE MILKY RIVERS, REDS AND BLACKS OF ROCK, AND GREENS OF CEDARS AND PINES ALL EXISTING, CHUNKED TOGETHER TO FORM HARSH, HECTIC, AND LOVELY LANDSCAPES. 18"x24" ACRYLIC, SPRAY PAINT ON CANVAS, 2017.



JOSH DESMIT TIES UP BEFORE FISHING THE NORTH SHORE'S SUCKER RIVER, HOPING LAKE SUPERIOR STEELHEAD HAVE ARRIVED ON THEIR SPRING SPAWNING RUN.

A WALK THROUGH THE SEASONS

The Journey Back From Our Time Afield

By Micah Crider

Every fly angler has done it: parked at the stream fully intending to be back before dark and home by the time they promised their significant other. They quickly find they have lost track of time and the distance between them and their starting point. As they swiftly make their way downstream, climbing over fallen trees they had fished hours before, and wading through deep holes, pulling up their waders in an attempt to keep the cold water from making its way in, they can't help but think, "How did I make it this far?"

The answer is simple and easily understood for those that have fallen victim to what I call the "curse of the next bend." The symptoms of this curse include thinking that the next bend is superior to the one you're currently standing in and will produce that big fish you were after, or the fear that turning back one hole too early will result in missing out on a memorable catch. Side effects may also include continuous optimism, countless stream miles put on wading boots, an occasional lunker and finding yourself shockingly far away from where you started.

The result of this curse is usually a long, and sometimes dark, walk back.

Some of these walks are more enjoyable than others, but I've started to realize they are not a burden, but rather, all part of the experience. Whether it be alone, with time to quietly reflect on the day, or with fellow fishermen and good conversation, every walk is unique.

Walking back during a Driftless Area winter can be miserably cold. The crunching snow beneath your boots builds up with each step. Knee-deep snow drifts make every step a chore and the sub-freezing air challenges both your body and gear. But where the snow makes the walk back difficult, it also offsets with non-existent bushes, high grass, nettles and bugs. Your surroundings are quiet; signs of life aren't as evident as they will be in a few months, but the lack of life only highlights the beauty of what is. Little things are noticed on a winter walk that may not be seen during different seasons. If you dress for the cold, retracing your footprints during a return walk in the winter is often one of the most peaceful walks of the year.

During the spring and summer months, a late-setting sun allows for perpetually longer days, resulting in longer walks accompanied by dreaded mosquitoes. If you decide to make your return after dark, you better plan on covering all exposed skin and bringing a headlamp to light your path and illuminate spiders dangling from overhanging branches. Afternoons and evenings can be muggy, but thick waders can be exchanged for thin wet-wading pants, which do a good job of keeping you cool. Unfortunately, they don't offer protection from sting-



ing nettles that seem to be everywhere. Snow drifts and frozen boots from just a few months earlier are no longer an issue, but mud and unexpected rain storms keep things interesting.

Early mornings or late evening outings are often a good compromise for the summer heat and can result in some of the most beautiful streamside walks. The lack of life during the winter has completely changed—wildlife is a common sight and most often a welcome one, unless it's an angry beaver slapping its tail in warning as you wade across the stream. Regardless, these months offer some of the best fishing and everyone knows, a long hike back is easier after a

day full of success.

There isn't much to complain about a walk back during autumn months. The temps and humidity have dropped, foliage that previously made walking difficult is beginning to fade, leaves start to show their vibrant colors, and there are very few bugs! As plant life starts to die, animals become more active preparing for the oncoming cold. Squirrels scurry around frantically finding and burying acorns, bucks are in search of their doe, migratory birds are flying south, fish are putting the feed bag on in anticipation of winter, and anxious hunters and anglers are out in search of these creatures. Nights come earlier in the fall and so do

the walks back from the stream, leaving less time for anglers to truly enjoy the beauty. On the surface, this seems like a bummer, but maybe this is part of what makes fishing in autumn so special.

Something that makes Minnesota such a unique place is the drastic changing of the seasons. And so, even as my favorite season comes to an end, part of me is looking forward to frozen boots, peaceful quiet, and hot coffee to warm me up at the truck after a long, cold walk back.



FLY TYING

With Laughing Trout Fly Fishing

By Paul Johnson



Prince Nymph

The Prince Nymph is right at the top of my favorite nymph patterns. It is a fly that I would not hesitate to fish in any season.

Tying the Prince Nymph can be a little frustrating at times working with the goose biots that form both the tail and the wings on the fly. The tail always seems to want to twist around the hook shank and it is difficult to get the wings tied in straight.

I have made a small change to how I tie in the hackle collar on my Prince Nymphs. All the other instructions for this fly show that you tie in the collar followed by the biot wings. The problem I have always had with this

is that it takes 72 wraps of tying thread to cover up the butt ends of the biots. I just have never liked how that looks. So I started tying in the biots, after which I make one and a half wraps of the hackle. That does a good job of covering up the butt ends of the biots. I just think this little change makes the fly look a little neater and cleaner. I also think that the fish like how it looks!

If you should have any questions about tying the Prince Nymph, please feel to give me a call or send out an email.

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



Step 1.
Place bead on hook and insert into your vice. Start your thread behind the bead and lay a thread base back to the bend of the hook



Step 2.
Clip off two goose biots. Place the biots back-to-back, so they splay out. Tie in at the bend of the hook. They should be about the length of the hook shank.



Step 3.
Keep a tight hold on the biots so they do not twist around the hook shank, and secure with your tying thread.



Step 4.
Tie in a length of wire at the bend of the hook.



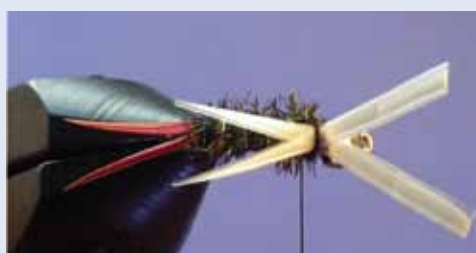
Step 5.
Tie in four or five peacock herl strands at the bend of the hook.



Step 6.
Palmer the peacock herl forward to the bead. Secure with your tying thread and clip the excess.



Step 7.
Counter wrap the wire forward with evenly spaced wraps to the bead. Secure with your tying thread and clip the excess.



Step 8.
Clip two white goose biots, form them into a "v" and tie them in on top of the hook, directly behind the bead. Clip the excess.



Step 9.
Tie in a rooster hackle feather directly behind the bead.



Step 10.
Make one or two turns of the rooster hackle to form a small collar. Secure with your tying thread and clip the excess. Whip finish.

Materials List

- Hook: Nymph, 14 -18
- Bead: Optional Gold, Brass or Tungsten. Sized to match hook.
- Thread: 8/0 or 6/0 Uni Red or Dark Brown
- Tail: Dark Brown Goose Biots
- Abdomen: Peacock Herl
- Ribbing: Gold Wire, Size Brassie
- Wing: White Goose Biots
- Legs: Brown Rooster Hackle or Brown Hen Hackle

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A WILD STEELHEAD READY FOR RELEASE

FISHING OUR HABITAT IMPROVEMENT

Newburg Creek

By Carl Berberich



LEFT: NEWBURG CREEK AFTER WORK WAS COMPLETED AND PRAIRIE PLANTED. RIGHT: BANK EROSION PRIOR TO WORK.

Newburg Creek is truly a gem of a stream. Most trout-fishing people would have overlooked it, if not for the 2015 project the Hiawatha Chapter and MN Trout Unlimited did, using an Outdoor Heritage grant. This was an extremely wooded little stream choked full of downed wood, with raw dirt banks up to 6' tall. With the stream varying in width from 2' to 10' (averaging 3-4') and with many reaches having less than 6" water depths, it was not a stream that attracted many people to try and fish it. But it does have one thing very unique: brook trout. Yes, this little stream, about a mile long from its spring to its mouth on Wisel Creek, has brook trout, and half of it has fishing easement.

According to Paul Krolak, Hiawatha TU Habitat Coordinator, the design objectives for the project were to remove the high, easily eroded banks, reconnect the stream with its flood plain, reduce the channel width, and increase habitat density. Bank heights and bank slopes were carefully designed with sediment transport and flood flow in mind. The design team also elected to forgo overhead cover constructs, like lunkers or skyhooks, as their failure rate is pretty high in high-gradient flashy streams, and because they might favor brown over brook trout. Instead, 'toe wood' - a layered log, root wad and branch complex - was installed in a number of spots to provide cover habitat for fish and other aquatic life, and to protect the bank from high flood currents. Even in 3'-wide Newburg, the structure was dug four or more feet below the water's surface, and the wood extends 10 or more feet back into the bank. Like all streams in our area, sometimes a big storm parks over the valley and as much as 8" of rain may fall in a day or so. Newburg has weathered several such storms since the completion of the project. The toe wood complexes have come through without any damage. And the fish love them. We know because fishing success does not lie.

Located in Fillmore County and roughly 15 miles south of the town of Rushford, this trout stream has truly metamorphosed into a stream worth

exploring. The habitat project has really improved this trout stream. But watch out and do not overdo it. This stream has no special regulations. Due to its small size, it could easily be over-fished if we don't practice catch and release.

Cedar Valley Rd. runs north from the little village of Newburg and is parallel to the stream. 156th St, just off of Cedar Valley Road, crosses the stream upstream from its mouth on Wisel Creek. DNR maps show that the fishing easements start at the mouth and run upstream about halfway up its total length. The section above the bridge on the stream is the most easily accessed. The landowner, Jon Duhachek usually has a small path parallel with, but set away from, the stream. His place is known for the tall wild-flowers growing in the meadow during the summer. The native prairie plantings ensure that even in the middle of summer, this stream is pleasantly fishable. The next property upstream is a pasture. There is a fence separating the two with a crossing stile. This pasture is another easily fished

property in all seasons. Upstream of the pasture is the end of the easement. There are some places to fish upstream, but that requires getting access permission.

Small streams like this are easily fished with dry flies for early season mayflies starting with the BWOs in April, and standard nymph patterns like pheasant tail nymphs. Summer dry-fly boxes must always include caddisfly patterns, size #16 and #18. Late summers should also include small hoppers, crickets, and ant patterns. My favorite fall pattern is an olive and partridge soft hackle in size #14 or #16, swung downstream.

Brook trout are not too particular about what they eat; however, they are easily spooked. Keep very low, and do not walk around trying to see into the stream, just fish every hole as if there are fish in it. Fish it slowly and keep moving on. I find it unusual to catch more than one fish per pool. Once one is caught the others know what is going on and hide. Another way to fish a small stream is to stand (or kneel) away from the edge, up

to a dozen feet away. This prevents spooked fish. This technique works best on the turns in a stream where you have more viewable water in which to cast. Another way to prevent spooking fish, is to land any fish caught far upstream or downstream from where you are fishing. Preferably around a corner. Out of sight makes a difference.

One interesting trait about fishing a small narrow stream is the casting, whether upstream or downstream. If there are gusting winds it can be amusing, and frustrating at the same time. It definitely is challenging, when you can't get your fly line and fly to land on the water due to sudden gusting side winds. So, when you are standing and looking at a straight section 30' long but 3' wide, with a gusty wind, you might need to slow down and wait for the wind to quit before attempting the cast. I certainly lose enough flies on the stream banks, because I don't want to retrieve them and spook the fish.

As far as wading goes on this stream,

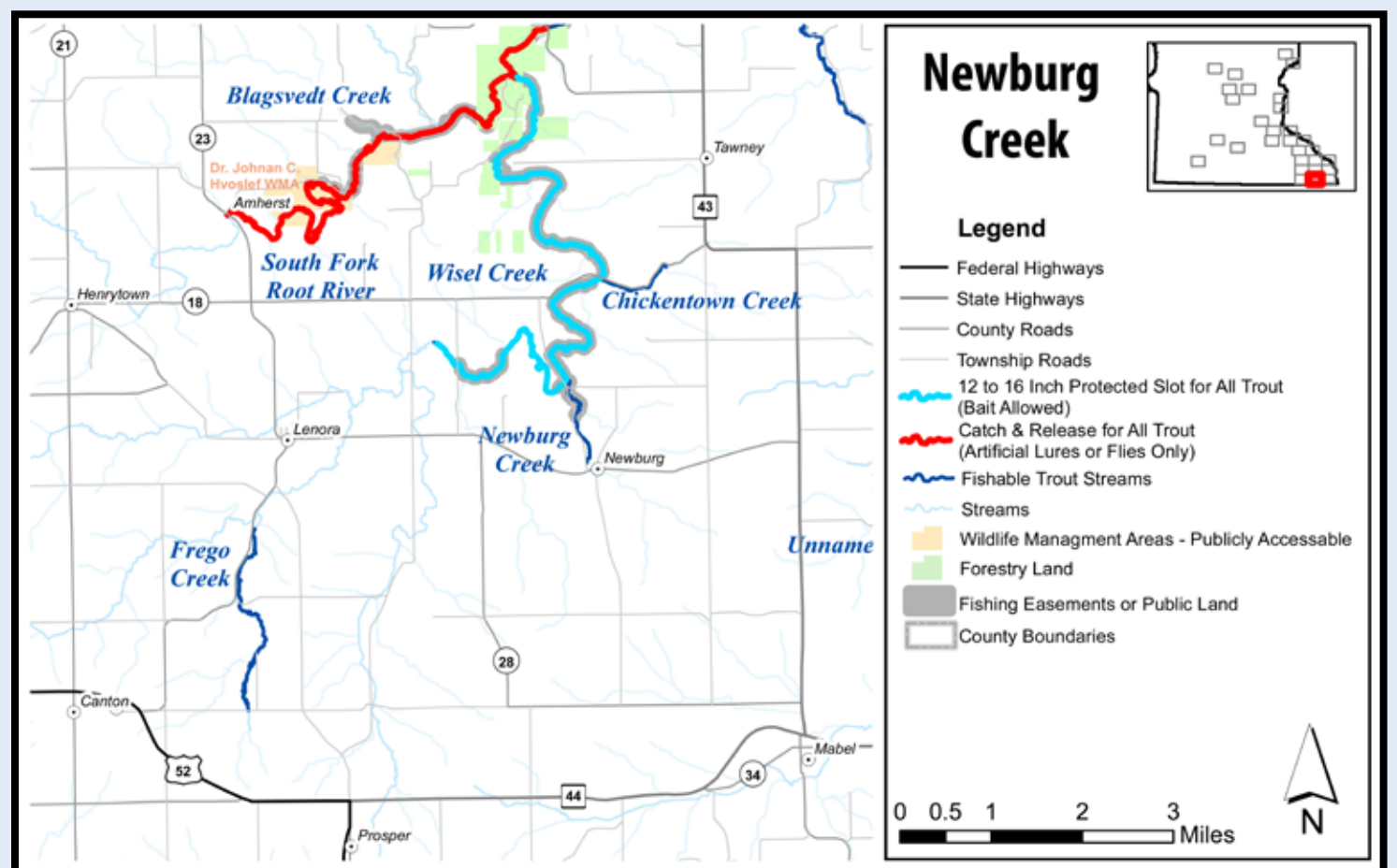


THE AUTHOR HOOKED UP THIS FALL ON A PRODUCTIVE REACH OF NEWBURG CREEK IN SE MINNESOTA

you don't need chest waders, especially in the summer. The maximum depth is around two feet in all but the deepest parts of pools, so hip boots or wet wading will get you almost everywhere. There is even a walking bridge across the stream on the Duhachek property. You really won't be standing much in this stream fishing, only crossing it.

There are a few reasons why Newburg Creek is getting extra notice in 2018. The first issue is because of its smaller size. This past year, Minnesota received a lot of rainfall, and the southeast has received plenty. All of the larger streams have been overflowing multiple times due to large rainfall events since last April. This clouds and muddies the streams. Throwing nymphs, soft-hackles and streamers have been the go-to flies for when this happens. But when you want to throw dry flies, you need to find clearer streams. Headwaters streams provide this, and Newburg is one of these. These streams are the first to clear up and generally do not get as turbid as the larger streams. Not to say that this stream never floods, it just clears up in a few days, in contrast to Wisel just downstream. Wisel can take a couple of weeks to clear after a single rainfall. The stream habitat project on Newburg has worked extremely well this year.

Another new thing on Newburg is an Airbnb rental that started up in November 2018. Jon Duhachek has built a new home creek-side and is sharing this via Airbnb. Find "Thistle Ridge



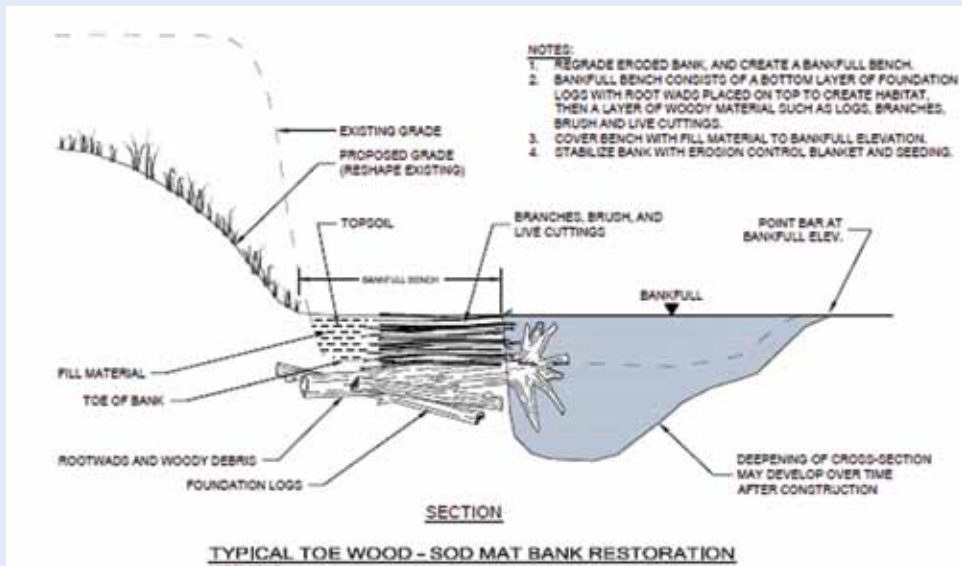
B&B" at "www.airbnb.com" (also check out the ad on page 18). Jon says "Thistle Ridge B&B is open year round for those die-hard trout fishers. Nestled in Cedar Valley with a 1/4 mile of Newburg Creek on the property and many more trout streams just minutes away. Enjoy your stay in a private suite with full bath and kitchen. Relax and enjoy panoramic views from your own deck overlooking the valley and stream." I think that having an Airbnb rental is a truly 21st century feature in this very 19th century Amish area. There are about a dozen

trout streams within 10 miles of this location, including the South Fork of the Root River, Wisel, and Gribben Creek. Having a go-to trout stream in questionable weather, such as Newburg Creek or other nearby topnotch SE Minnesota trout streams, can make a dependable fishing trip, even when you have a distance to travel.

One discouraging item that could transform this little gem: A proposed hog-confinement facility to be built a mile from Newburg Creek. The corporation Catalpa LLC has requested a permit from the MPCA. This project could have two barns, a composting building, and an over eight million-gallon manure pit that will be cleaned out twice a year and will be injected or broadcast onto numerous fields around the area and stream. One field is less than 600' away and a protected tributary to Newburg Creek is adjacent to another field. An additional concern is the limestone karst geology that is known for its sinkholes. Geologists predict that sinkholes are created by an accumulation of water or liquids on the surface, which percolate through the limestone and eventually create a sinkhole. Accidental releasing of up to eight million gallons of hog manure into a newly developed sinkhole, or allowing it to percolate through the

limestone could contaminate the water aquifer which would contaminate everyone's drinking water. Local concerned citizens from Mable, MN (3.5 miles away) have requested an EIS by the MPCA to investigate the proposed corporate hog confinement lot by Catalpa LLC. Due to unresolved questions, the Newburg Township board voted and approved a one-year moratorium on new feedlots over 500 animal units. This, hopefully, will make the MPCA do a thorough investigation on this issue. About five years ago a nearby one million-gallon manure pit collapsed spilling 500,000 gallons of raw manure downstream into Wisel Creek and then into the Root River. There were no penalties or fines given. The MPCA said that Fillmore County awarded the permit, and that the construction was improper. Evidently, the construction inspection by the county did not happen appropriately.

Next year we are planning to restore habitat on Wisel Creek about 1.5 miles below the confluence of Newburg Creek. So, keep your eye out for the future of Newburg Creek, Wisel Creek and the community around it. They may need all of our help.



ROOTWADS PROVIDE GREAT TROUT COVER ON MANY BENDS OF NEWBURG CREEK. NOTE THAT ROOTWADS ARE NOW PLACED LOWER THAN IN PAST YEARS. THIS ALLOWS TREE TRUNKS TO REMAIN BELOW THE WATER LINE DURING LOW BASE FLOW CONDITIONS AND HAVE GREATER DURABILITY.



A DEEP REACH OF NEWBURG CREEK AFTER COMPLETED HABITAT WORK



A NICE NEWBURG BROOKIE



PRAIRIE ALONG THE CREEK

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LOTIC LOVE

Restoration of the Heart Through Fly Fishing

By Alyssa Nelson

My heart quickens as you tightly wrap around my frame. My knees begin to ache from the pressure of the rocks against my bones. Rain falls from the sky and I feel your presence against me. I take pleasure in your embrace every time. You release the wildness within me. Transforming the beautifully unknown into the beautifully tangible. I wake up thinking of the way you move through the land and I crave to stand near you always.

Many come to you to produce life, and they recognize that when they are with you we are all connected to one another by a force greater than all of us. A connection spanning the entire web of life symbolizing freedom and opportunity. I only wish to know your secrets. Tell me how you change this earth? How does it feel to move with such power and grace?

All of my senses are needed to persevere your company and at times it is all consuming. At night I muse over your wildness; mossy rocks, alder brush and willow shaded riffles. The kingfishers and thrushes bow to your profound beauty.

Underneath the cottonwood trees you confessed and told me stories of past lovers who left you broken and weak. You told me of days where you felt toxic waste flowing through you and thought you would die. As you embrace me I can feel the dark turbid water and jagged rocks in the small of your back. I promise to carry the bottom debris upon my shoulders. You are unlike any other, in the way you erase my past and force me to continuously change.

Your spirit is rare, preferring to meander through untamed spaces and to be surrounded by living interactions amongst plants, ani-



THE AUTHOR WADES THROUGH A NORTHERN MINNESOTA STREAM. PHOTO BY DAVID COWARDIN

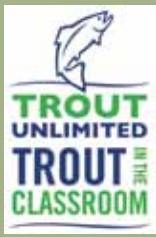
mals, and microorganisms. I am yours for life if you will have me? Let my soul tether to yours? Not in possession, but in mutual regard for one another.

Prior to meeting you I went through moments where I thought being a woman was a curse. In protest as a young girl I was a feral tomboy deviating from traditional gender roles. As I ripened into a young woman the confidence and resilience was splintered by the fairy tale narrative I believed. It took dismantling lies and mistakes to rise from the patriarchal storm. When I stand by you now, confidence is born and your spring-fed coolness gives me a steady mind. I will endure any patronizing comments that wish to devalue the tenderness I have

for you, and I will do so with such brave confidence should anyone doubt me. You have reminded me that underneath all of the rubble, magic was always there.

You have consistently taught me how to be patient, and in this moment when you pushed me to my knees I was not being patient. I only wanted to experience the wild creature that lived inside of you. Which you have shown me many a morning and evening. When I close my eyes I can smell you and I long for it with the intensity of a trout rise after a mayfly hatch. At times it feels like my mind is a wildfire in dry grass with thoughts of you and only diminishing when I embrace you in my hands.

I climb from my knees and feel cool water tracing the outline of my back slide down my waders. The left knee sore from the impact. In this moment I give my soul to you in this solitary adventure. Saturated with anticipation of what is to come. You lead me around the bend and yet again expose your wild knowing to me. When life no longer physically fills me, bury me beside you where the tamaracks and cedars grow. There I will lay forever to be reborn through you. For now let what we give each other flow freely wild river. In exchange I will nurture you and inspire others to celebrate you.



ALL ABOUT TROUT

Youth Series: The Four Species of Trout that Live in Minnesota

By Evan Griggs, MNTU Environmental Education Specialist · Photos by Jade Thomason & Cheri Henderson



We are pretty lucky here in Minnesota. Not only do we have 10,000 lakes, we also have thousands of miles of rivers and streams. Living in some of those lakes and streams are special natural treasures: trout! It's important to know about trout. Trout need very clean and cold water to live. Many lakes and rivers in Minnesota do not have trout. You can find most of our trout streams along the North Shore of Lake Superior and the southeastern corner called the Driftless Region. If you go fishing for trout, you are going to a special place! Trout are predators and they love to eat bugs, small fish, and even mice! Trout are good predators because they are fast, have very good eyesight, and even have teeth on their tongue! Trout have small, smooth scales and are very slimy. Their slime helps them stay healthy and protects their scales. You can catch four different species of trout in Minnesota: lake trout, brook trout, brown trout, and rainbow trout.

Lake trout have always lived in, or are native to, Minnesota. You can only catch them in the deepest, coldest, and cleanest lakes in northern Minnesota. They can grow really big! They love to eat other fish. Their favorite fish to eat are called cisco. Lake trout have a dark green body with lots of white squiggles and spots.

Brook trout are also native to Minnesota. Today you will find them in the start, or headwaters, of many trout streams on the North Shore and Driftless Region. Some of the smallest, coldest, and cleanest streams are full of them! They usually don't grow very big. They typically stay between 8-10 inches long. Even though they are small, they are fun to catch and are very beautiful fish! Brook trout have a dark green body with a bright red stomach and fins. Their bodies are covered in bright yellow, red, and blue spots. On their backs they have yellow squiggles called "vermiculation."

Brown trout are not native in Minnesota. Settlers from Europe brought them here in the late 1800's to catch and eat. They live mostly in streams in the Driftless region. They can get bigger than brook trout and can live in slightly less cold and clean streams. Brown trout love to eat bugs and small fish. The biggest ones will even eat mice and other small trout! They have golden brown bodies, with dark spots and a few red or blue spots mixed in.

Rainbow trout are also not native to Minnesota. They originally came from the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific Coast. In the Driftless region, rainbow trout are put in a few streams by the DNR for you to catch! These fish are raised in a farm called a hatchery. The rainbow trout on the North Shore are special. These are called steelhead. They grow up in a river, then swim out to Lake Superior to eat a lot and get big, then they swim back to the same river to spawn. Steelhead can do this migration multiple times. Rainbow trout have light green and silvery bodies with lots of dark spots. Down the middle of their sides is a bright pink stripe.

Going trout fishing is like going on a treasure hunt! I hope you find all four species we have in Minnesota some day. Your trout fishing adventures may not always be easy, but the reward will be worth it.



A LAKE TROUT CAUGHT IN NORTHERN MINNESOTA IN THE BOUNDARY WATERS CANOE AREA WILDERNESS



A BROOK TROUT CAUGHT IN A STREAM ON THE NORTH SHORE OF LAKE SUPERIOR



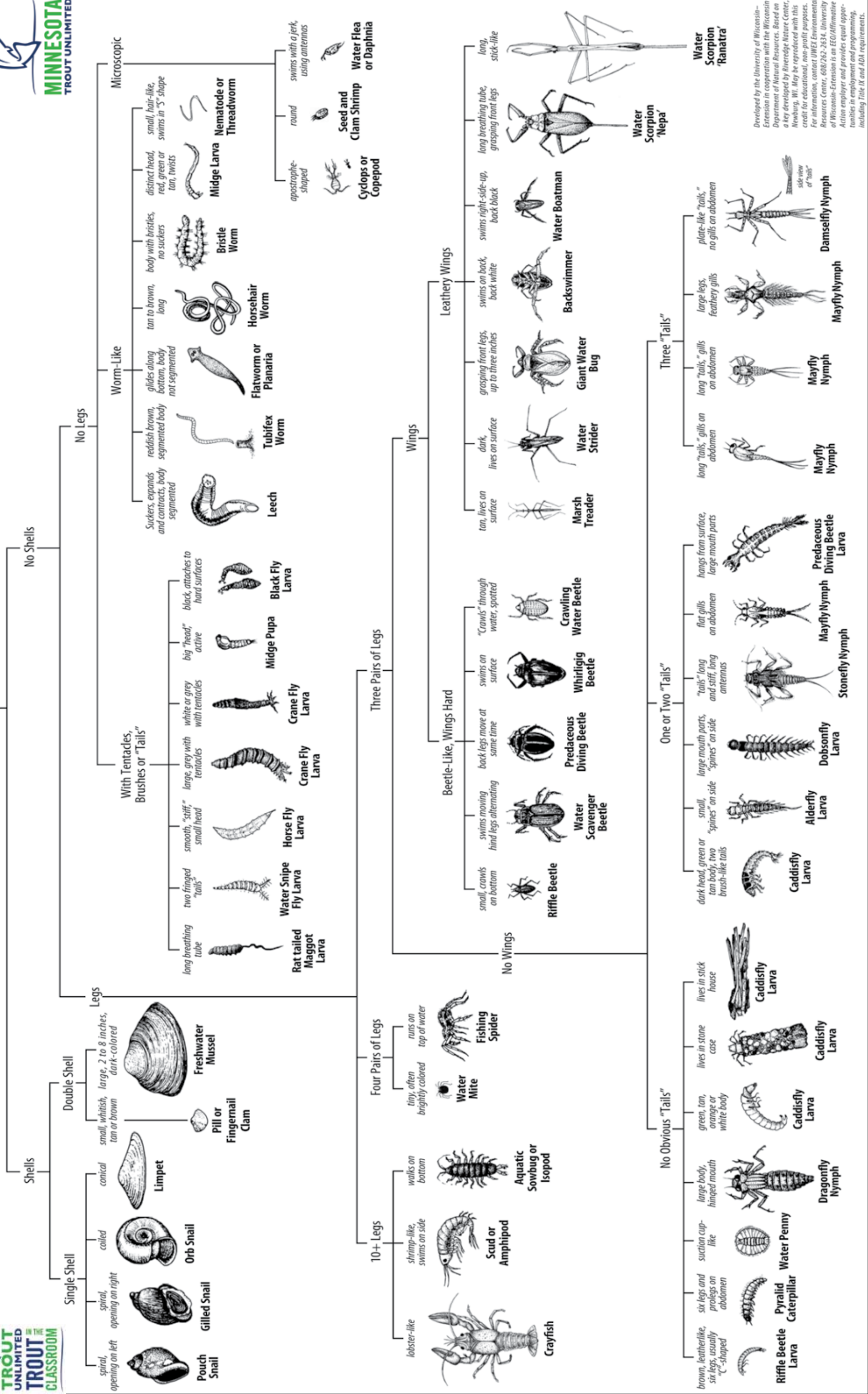
A WILD BROWN TROUT FROM A SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA STREAM IN THE DRIFTLESS AREA



A WILD STEELHEAD (RAINBOW TROUT) CAUGHT IN A STREAM ON THE NORTH SHORE OF LAKE SUPERIOR

Key to Macroinvertebrate Life in Rivers and Streams

(Sizes of illustrations are not proportional.)



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MINNESOTA FLY FISHING HATCH CHART

By Carl Haensel

Finding the perfect fly when trout are rising in front of you can be a challenge. Start the process off right by having a good idea of what will be hatching from your favorite trout stream or lake before you even leave your house. Different trout stream insects hatch throughout the year with significant regularity. While there can be variability, these patterns repeat themselves from year to year. If you learn the rhythms on your home water, it can help you around the state and across the region. On average, the date ranges listed here are centered around the northern Driftless Region. From south to north in Minnesota, hatch times can vary by a week or two. Rogue hatches occur frequently, so don't be surprised if you find blue winged olives on a warm winter day in the Driftless, or the occasional Hex mayfly in August up north. Also, these charts are just a small portion of the biological diversity in Minnesota. In caddisflies alone, Minnesota contains at least 277 species within 21 families and 75 genera - an amazing multitude to consider. If you've got observations that you'd like to share with us, feel free to email them to editor@mntu.org. Use the charts below for a rough idea of what will be hatching when, and if you're new to trout fishing, use the key on the opposite page to explore some of the types of invertebrates that we find in our streams. Remember that you don't always need to be able to name something to imitate it. Observation is the best way to improve your fishing success. If the trout in your local stream are eating little brown bugs about the size of your thumbnail, then tie on something that looks sort of like that - and have a great day out on the water!



An adult *Hexagenia limbata* mayfly, or "Hex," rests on the cork handle of a fly rod. See below for details on when they hatch each year in Minnesota.

Mayflies

Common Name	Genus & Species	Dates	Time of Day	Water Type	Fly Size	Dry Fly	Nymph
Blue Wing Olive	<i>Baetis</i> spp., <i>Ephemerella</i> <i>lata/attenuata</i>	March 20-Oct 15	Afternoon-Evening	Slow-Medium	14-20	Blue Winged Olive	Pheasant Tail, Dark Pheasant Tail
Hendrickson	<i>Ephemerella</i> <i>subvaria</i>	April 7-June 7	Afternoon	Medium	12-14	Dark Hendrickson, Adams, Red Quill	Dark Hare's Ear, Pheasant Tail, Wiggle Nymph
Mahogany or Iron Blue Dun	<i>P. adoptiva</i> <i>E. deficiens</i>	April 10-July 12	Afternoon	Medium	14-18	Blue Dun, Adams, Slatewinged Mahogany Dun	Hare's Ear, Pheasant Tail, Mahogany Dun Nymph
Slate Drake	<i>Isonychia bicolor</i>	May 15-July 10	Afternoon-Evening	Med-Fast	12-14	Adams	Dark Hare's Ear
March Brown	<i>Stenacron vicarium</i>	May 15-July 5	Evening	Med-Fast	10-12	March Brown, Adams Parachute	Dark Hare's Ear
Light Hendrickson or Pale Evening Dun	<i>Ephemerella invaria/rotunda</i>	May 15-June 25	Afternoon	Med-Fast	14-16	Light Hendrickson, Pale Evening Dun, Light Cahill,	Dark Hare's Ear, Soft Hackle Hare's Ear
Sulphur	<i>Ephemerella dorothea</i>	May 20-July 7	Afternoon-Evening	Med-Fast	16-18	Pale Evening Dun, Light Cahill, Yellow Ext-Body Comparadun	Sulphur Emerger, Hare's Ear, Pheasant Tail
Grey Fox	<i>Stenacron fuscum</i>	May 20-June 22	Evening	Med-Fast	10-12	Grey Fox, Adams	Hare's Ear
Brown Drake	<i>Ephemerella simulans</i>	May 28-June 25	Late Evening	Med-Fast	8-10	Brown Drake	Articulated Burrowing Nymph
Tiny Blue Wing Olive	<i>Pseudocloeon anoka</i>	June 1- Oct 5	Afternoon-Evening	Slow-Medium	20-24	Blue Winged Olive	Pheasant Tail
Pale Evening Dun	<i>Epeorus vitrea</i>	June 1-July 25	Afternoon-Evening	Medium	14-16	Pale Evening Dun, Light Hendrickson	Hare's Ear
Hex	<i>Hexagenia limbata</i>	June 15-Aug 1	Evening-Night	Slow	4-8	Hexagenia, Yellow Hex Wulff	3x Hare's Ear, Wiggle Nymph
Green Drake	<i>Hexagenia atrocaudata</i>	July 4-Aug 18	Afternoon-Evening	Slow-Medium	6-10	Green Drake, Olive Comparadun	Articulated Burrowing Nymph
Trico	<i>Tricorythodes stygiatus</i>	July 10-Sept 30	Morning Hatch, Spinners Following	Slow	18-24	Trico Dun, Trico Spinner	Dark Pheasant Tail, Trico Spinner
White Wulff	<i>Ephoron leukon</i>	July 15-Sept 25	Evening	Medium	12-14	White Wulff	Wiggle Nymph
Slate Drake	<i>Isonychia herperi</i>	July 25-Sep 25	Aft-Evening	Medium	12-14	Slate Drake Dun	Mahogany Dun Nymph

Caddisflies

Common Name	Genus & Species	Dates	Time of Day	Water Type	Fly Size	Dry Fly	Nymph
Micro Caddis	<i>Hydroptilia</i> spp.	April 15-Oct 30	Sporadic	Riffles	18-22	Olive Elk Hair, Black Elk Hair	Brassie, Black Midge Pupa
Little Black Caddis	<i>Chimarra</i> spp.	April 15-May 17	Late Morning-Afternoon	Riffles	14-18	Slow Water Caddis, Black Elk Hare	Cream Midge Pupa
Green Caddis	<i>Ceratopsyche slossonae</i>	May 5-Oct 15	All Day	Riffles	14-16	Olive Elk Hair	CDC Emerger Olive, Olive Hare's Ear
American Grannom, Mother's Day Caddis	<i>Brachycentrus</i> spp.	May 5-July 30	Late Morning-Afternoon	Riffles and Runs	12-14	Dark Tan Elk Hair	Soft Hackle Olive, Harrop's Grannom Caddis
Green Rockwork	<i>Rhyacophila fuscua</i>	May 5-June 17	Sporadic	Fast, Rocky Runs	12-16	Olive Elk Hair, Henryville Special, Goddard Caddis	CDC Emerger Olive, Brassie, Olive Hare's Ear
Spotted Sedge	<i>Hydropsyche</i> spp.	May 15-July 30	Early morning-Noon	Riffles and Runs	12-16	Tan Elk Hair	Green caddis larva, tan caddis pupa
Spotted Sedge Caddis	<i>Ceratopsyche bifida</i>	May 15-Sept 30	Afternoon-Evening	Riffles	14-16	Schroeder's Parachute, Tan Elk Hair	CDC Emerger Brown, Brown and Deep Yellow
White Miller	<i>Nectopsyche</i> spp.	July 5- August 27	6PM-Dusk	Quiet Pools	12-14	Schroeder's Parachute, Light Elk Hair	Brassie, Crane Fly Larva

Stoneflies

Common Name	Genus & Species	Dates	Time of Day	Water Type	Fly Size	Dry Fly	Nymph
Winter Stone	<i>Allocaonia</i> spp.	Jan 10-February 29	Midday	Medium-Fast	16-20	Black Elk Hair Caddis, Slow Water Caddis	Black Hare's Ear, Black Copper John
Winter Stone	<i>Paracania angulate</i>	March 10-April 31	Midday	Fast	16-18	Black Elk Hair Caddis	Black Hare's Ear
Giant Stone, Salmonfly	<i>Pteronarcys</i> spp.	April 21-May 20	6PM-After Dark	Moderate-Fast	2-6	Salmonfly, Sofa Pillow, Orange Stimulator	Black or Brown Kaufmann's Stone
Small Black Stone	<i>Nemoura completa</i>	April 21-May 13	Noon-Mid Afternoon	Fast	14-16	Black Stimulator	Early Black Stone
Little Yellow Stone	<i>Isoperla bilineata</i>	May 15-July 15	Sporadic	Slow-Medium	12-14	Yellow Stimulator, Hornberg	Tunghead Stone, Yellow BH Stonefly
Little Yellow Stone	<i>Isoperla signata</i>	May 15-July 10	Morning Onward	Slow-Medium	10-12	Dark Tan Stimulator	Yellow BH Stonefly, Wired Stone
Brown Stone, Steeler Stone	<i>Isogenoides</i> spp.	May 15-July 17	Predawn-2PM	Slow-Medium	8-10	Brown Stimulator, Hornberg	Early Brown Stone, Early Black Stone
Great Brown Stone, Steeler Stone	<i>Acroneuria lycorias</i>	June 1-July 16	Morning Onward	Fast	4-8	Tan Stimulator, Foam Stone	Golden Stone, Yellow BH Stonefly, Wired Stone
Golden Stone	<i>Perlesta placida</i>	July 4-August 4	Dusk Onward	Slow	6-8	Orange Stimulator, Foam Stone	Yellow BH Stonefly, Golden Stone

MNTU EDUCATION UPDATE

By Amber Taylor, MNTU Education Program Supervisor

In August, the 2018-2019 Trout in the Classroom (TIC) program kicked off with a full-day teacher training at Dodge Nature Center. 23 teachers from around Minnesota, some driving from as far as Warba, Duluth, and Owatonna, attended. Throughout the day, teachers worked together and held discussions about the program, including sharing ideas for lessons and activities they could do with their students, caring for the fish, and tank maintenance. They each received continuing education credits, certification for Project Aquatic WILD, as well as their own Aquatic WILD curriculum guide.

This fall has been full of some wonderful outdoor educational experiences for students participating in TIC, from fifth-graders to high school seniors. Rainy, cool weather, muddy trails, and occasional falls in the water didn't stop students from having fun while learning about their local watersheds, water ecology, fish, and aquatic macroinvertebrates.

In Rochester, high school students visited the Lanesboro hatchery, hiked area forests and rivers, and even did some fishing. In Owatonna, third and fifth-graders tried their hand at fly casting and caught insects from their school pond. As a start to their participation in the TIC program, Bemidji area students learned about observing seasonal patterns in nature with Jon Latimer, one of Minnesota's leading phenologists. Students from Kelliher Elementary had the opportunity to share their phenology notes on his northern Minnesota public radio show. Stillwater high school students are continuing a fifteen-year study of Brown's Creek, working with the Washington Conservation District to monitor its water quality.

Lakeville South High School students visited a MNDNR Aquatic Management Area along the Vermillion River and learned about the process of electroshocking and the history of the river and its watershed. Throughout the Twin Cities metro area, near Warba, and in Duluth, students happily donned cold, wet, too-big waders and eagerly splashed into creeks and rivers on the hunt for aquatic macroinvertebrates. Some of the rivers, streams, and forests explored by TIC students this fall include Minnehaha



LAKE ELMO ELEMENTARY STUDENTS SURVEY MACROINVERTEBRATES IN RICE CREEK.

Creek (Minneapolis), Brown's Creek (Stillwater), Vermillion River (Farmington), Le Prairie River (Grand Rapids), Amity Creek (Duluth), Crow River (Rogers), Rice Creek (Fridley), Nine Mile Creek (Bloomington), Whitewater State Park (Altura), and Chester Woods (Rochester).

Now that fall field days have mostly wrapped up, the MNTU education team will shift our focus to assisting teachers with tank set up and planning winter classroom visits, raising their trout, spring field days, and the annual Summit.

In additional education program plans



OBSERVING MACROINVERTEBRATES ON NINE MILE CREEK IN BLOOMINGTON.

for next season, teachers can look forward to a Minnesota-focused curriculum guide for TIC teachers, as well as a locally-focused fish/aquarium support manual.

This year, we have four new teachers and thirty-two tanks in twenty-seven schools and two participating nature centers around Minnesota. The students will be receiving 300 eggs to put in their tanks on December 6 and begin the task of closely monitoring their development, testing the water, and cleaning the tank to ensure their baby trout stay healthy and grow strong for release in the spring. The trout are a platform for teachers to

build upon student understanding of watersheds, water ecology, water quality, the vast connections between them, and the importance of water stewardship. For me, what makes the TIC program exciting and special is that it provides a consistent connection between what students learn during their outdoor experiences and the tiny fish swimming around in front of them each day.

If you are interested in volunteering for field days, classroom activities, fishing skills programs, and other educational experiences this coming winter, spring, and summer, please email me at education@mntu.org.



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BOOK REVIEW: CLOUDBURSTS

By John Hunt

Thomas McGuane has long been one of my favorite authors. McGuane's early life could politely be described as turbulent, mixing early fame, several marriages, and Hollywood. His passion for the outdoors, however, has always been evident in his writing. A Michigan native, the long-time Montana resident has a gift for capturing snapshots of the human experience set in locations that many hunters and anglers can appreciate.

McGuane is now approaching 80 and his latest book, *Cloudbursts*, is a fitting compilation of short stories that draws together many of the author's earlier works with several new pieces. As the pages turn, readers might find themselves anywhere from Montana to the Bahamas, tracing the lives of people experiencing a range of emotions and events. And although I would never describe McGuane's stories as universally uplifting or hopeful, some of the raw, look-in-the-mirror portrayals of life do force personal reflections. Many of the stories in this book seem to uncomfortably just end, leaving the reader hanging without a nice tidy conclusion that is so common in other genres.

A long-time reader of McGuane's works will recognize many, if not most, of these stories. A new reader will be none the wiser and may find *Cloudbursts* a great stepping stone into other titles by the author. Of the forty-five stories included in *Cloudbursts*, here are some of the ones that I found compelling.

Early in the book we have "Partners," the account of a Montana attorney newly minted as a partner as he and a more experienced attorney call on the firm's biggest client, a retired football star.

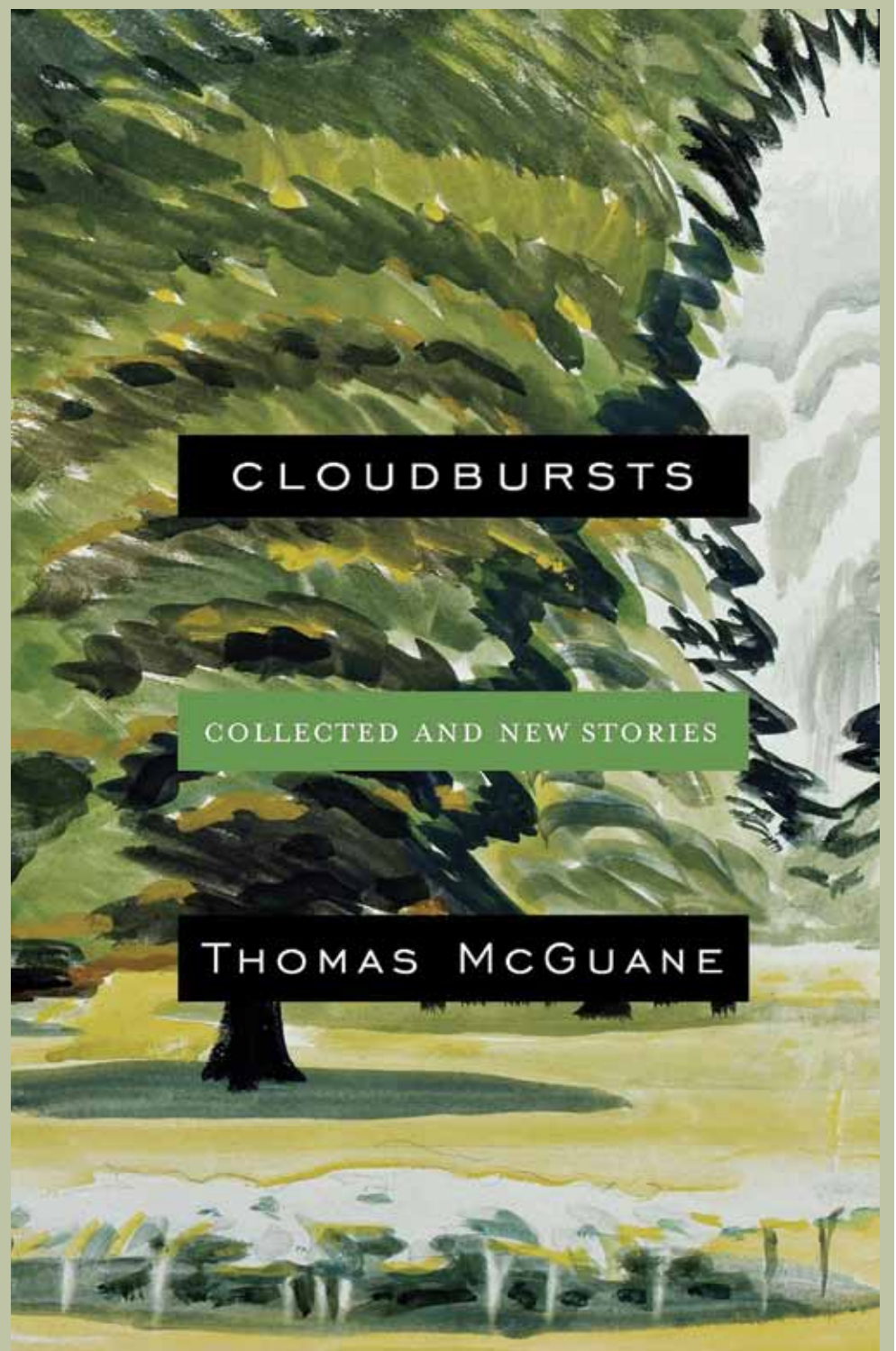
When the client's wife turns out to be a long-lost acquaintance of the younger attorney, what follows is a strange mix of office politics and personal relationships.

In "Canyon Ferry," we are briefly introduced to a father trying to regroup personally and professionally after divorce. He decides to take his young son ice fishing for the first time on the Missouri River reservoir. The two have quite an adventure that buoys the father's hopes that he will be able to maintain an active presence in his son's life despite his ex-wife's remarriage and career change. Reality abruptly turns out differently, and the father is left wondering, "what if?"

"River Camp" is set in Alaska, and tracks the float trip of two long-time friends hoping to leave their problems at home behind, even if just for a time. Under the direction of an underperforming pharmacist-turned-guide, the men get less fishing and more danger than they bargain for.

Finally, there is "Little Bighorn," which follows a young couple on a cross-country trip from Ohio to Boise. Along the way, their plan is to drop in and visit a couple they first met in college that now lives in the Black Hills. The couples' paths have diverged greatly since college, but everyone is expecting to pick up where things left off. Instead, nerves are frayed and the outcome is all but expected.

For the Thomas McGuane fans out there, *Cloudbursts* is not "The Sporting Club" novel of 1969 or the non-fiction "The Longest Silence" of 2000. It is, however, an enjoyable anthology that covers a broad segment of the author's writing palette.



EDITORS NOTE: INTERESTED IN MORE BOOK REVIEWS FROM JOHN HUNT? HEAD ONLINE TO THE TROUT UNLIMITED MINNESOTA ARCHIVES AT WWW.MNTU.ORG. CHECK OUT BACK ISSUES ALL THE WAY TO 2013, WITH LOTS OF GREAT READING IDEAS TO FIND YOUR PERFECT WINTERTIME FIRESIDE BOOK. ALL ISSUES ARE AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD IN PDF FORMAT.

SHORE FISHING LAKE SUPERIOR

by Jason Swingen

If you are like me, you love catching trout and salmon, but waiting through the long winter months for the rivers to break free can have you going stir-crazy. It may be time for you to try out a new type of fishing: shore fishing on the North Shore of Lake Superior! There are great opportunities to catch trout and salmon on the shore starting in the fall and continuing into the spring steelhead run.

Four years ago, my friend Ben sent me a text saying we should try shore fishing on Lake Superior. At first, I was skeptical that we would catch any fish from shore on the world's largest freshwater lake, but I was willing to entertain the idea. Ben came up the next morning and we tried fishing for whatever we could catch. Just as the sun started to rise, Ben hooked a fish. Every few seconds we could see it jumping out of the water in the first rays of sunlight coming across the lake. At that point, I knew I was hooked.

By the end of this article you will have way more knowledge about shore fishing than I had starting out, including a good idea of what species you can expect to catch, when and where to target them, and all the equipment, flies, and tackle you will need to have a great day on the shore.

Species of Fish in Lake Superior

There are many species of fish in Lake Superior that you can catch from shore. The most popular fish targeted by shore anglers are steelhead, Kamloops rainbow trout (also called "loopers") and coho salmon.

Equipment

You can use nearly any type of fishing rod. However, if you want to increase your chances of catching and landing a fish, then it is a good idea to buy a dedicated shore rod. Having a long rod (10-12ft) will allow you to cast further and get better hooksets. It is also important to have a rod with large guides that won't freeze up in the winter.

You'll also want to pair your shore rod with a reel that has a large arbor, large line capacity, and a smooth drag. You can get away with any 200 size spinning reel, but the larger 300 to 400 sizes are ideal. These larger reels often have a better drag and hold more line.



A PREFERRED BOBBER TYPE FOR ONE OF THE MOST COMMON METHODS OF SHORE FISHING. HEAVILY-WEIGHTED BOBBERS HELP WHEN CASTING SMALL FLIES LONG DISTANCES.



THE AUTHOR WITH A WILD STEELHEAD FROM THE SHORE OF LAKE SUPERIOR.

The majority of shore anglers use 4-8 lb monofilament. Monofilament is cheap, it floats (which is ideal for bobber fishing), and has enough stretch to soften some of the violent head shakes and rolls of the bigger fish you will be catching. Tying on a swivel and fluorocarbon leader can also be a good idea especially when the water is extremely clear.

Along with your typical fishing gear, don't forget your ice cleats, head-lamp, sunglasses, and a long-handled net. It can get bitterly cold and icy on the shore, so dress like you are going ice fishing.

Techniques

There are many different ways to catch fish on the shore, including bobber fishing, casting spoons, and bottom-rigging. You can pick a certain technique or try them all and see which one catches the most fish.

Bobber Fishing

Bobber fishing is one of the most common ways to catch salmon and steelhead from shore. Heavily weighted bobbers allow you to launch your fly out to where the fish are feeding. These bobbers come in 3-4 different sizes. You may have to buy a couple of different sizes to see what ones match up the best with your rod. Rigging for bobber fishing is fairly simple, just peg your casting bobber onto your line two to four feet from the end of your line and tie on a fly or looper bug. Just like trout fishing on a river, you need to be quick with your hooksets. Since these bobbers are bigger than a typical strike indicator, they don't always drop completely below the water. If you notice any odd wobbles or erratic movement of your bobber, set the hook!

Looper Bugs are a great fly to use when fishing for coho salmon and Kamloops (looper) rainbow trout and steelhead on the North Shore of Lake Superior. You

can buy them in many of the local shops, but they are also very easy to tie. All you need is a jig hook and a couple of different materials including marabou, flashabou, dubbing, and rubber legs. If you can tie a woolly bugger, you can tie a Looper Bug. They can be bought or tied in a variety of sizes and color combinations.

Casting Spoons

The first fish I caught from shore was with a casting spoon. I love catching fish with spoons because you are able to feel the fish hit. Once you cast, count down a couple of seconds, then start to reel with a fairly quick and constant retrieve (one to two revolutions per second). Some of



FISHING THE ICY SHORES OF LAKE SUPERIOR IN THE WINTER

I prefer darker colors including black, brown, and purple (especially in muddy or wavy water). Loopers and steelhead will often take a plain Looper Bug, but if you are trying to catch a coho it is best to tip your fly with some meat (like a waxworm or butterworm). Midwinter and muddy water conditions are the best times to bobber fish with Looper Bugs.

If you fly fish or tie your own flies you can use your standard trout flies to fish from shore as well. Stoneflies and nymphs, including the Prince Nymph and Pheasant Tail Nymph, are go-to flies in almost any body of water, including Lake Superior. These flies, tied anywhere from size 6-16 can produce fish. As spring starts warming the water, or if the water is fairly clear, you will want to tie on a fly instead of a Looper Bug.

the most popular spoons are Kastmasters, Lil' Cleos, and Krocodiles. Start with a few 1/4 to 3/4-ounce spoons in orange/gold or blue/silver. Spoons can be a great way to catch fish in the fall, winter, or spring. From my experience, you are most likely to catch lake trout and steelhead in the fall, coho in the winter, and loopers in the spring.

Bottom Rigging

When bottom rigging, you can use a standard sinker or you can try the popular slinky rig (a sinker built out of parachute cord and split-shot).

To get this system rigged up you'll first want to slip your main line through the swivel of the slinky rig. Then tie on another larger swivel. Finally, tie on a two-foot section of leader and your preferred hook. Slipping your line through



LEFT: FISHING THE BIG LAKE CAN BE A GREAT EXCUSE TO WITNESS SPECTACULAR SUNRISES ON BITTERLY COLD MORNINGS. RIGHT: LOOPER BUGS ARE A GREAT FLY TO USE WHEN FISHING FOR COHO SALMON AND KAMLOOPS (LOOPER) RAINBOW TROUT AND STEELHEAD ON THE NORTH SHORE OF LAKE SUPERIOR.

the first swivel will allow a fish to run without it feeling the weight of the sinker or slinky rig. Most anglers will fish this setup with spawn bags, but you can also catch fish with a simple worm. If you fish with a worm, you will either need a worm blower to make the worm float or you will need to add a small float to your leader. After you make your cast, place your rod in a rod holder (which can easily be built by duct taping PVC pipe to a metal rod). After your weight sinks to the bottom, slowly reel in the slack until your rod begins to bend. Late winter and spring are typically the best times to fish with bottom rigs.

Where to Fish

If you can make it down to a public section of shoreline, throw a line in! There are opportunities to fish all the way from Canal Park all the way up the shore into

Canada. Some of the best areas to fish are near river mouths and from break-walls. Just make sure you get to the lake early in the day or stay late. Most of the action happens near dawn and dusk.

Keep an eye on the weather, the big lake can go from crystal clear and dead calm to muddy and crashing waves within a few hours. If the wind has blown hard the waves can make it difficult to drift a bobber or bottom rig. Dead-calm days can make for unnatural presentations when bobber fishing. In the dead of winter, a lack of wind can cause the shore to freeze over, making fishing from shore a frustrating task.

Now you have enough information to get started, just make sure you check out the latest regulations from the MNDNR, then get out there and catch some fish!



A DARK MALE KAMLOOPS RAINBOW TROUT IN THE NET. IDENTIFIABLE BY THE LACK OF AN ADIPOSE FIN ALONG THE BACK OF THE FISH, KAMLOOPS RAINBOWS ARE NO LONGER STOCKED BY THE MNDNR, BUT WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ANGLERS FISHING THE NORTH SHORE FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS AS THEY AGE OUT OF THE POPULATION.

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."

Specific:

"I give Minnesota Trout Unlimited, a Minnesota non-profit corporation, pres-

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."

Gift of Residuary Estate:

"All the rest, residue and remainder of my estate, both real and personal, and wherever situated, I give, devise and bequeath to Minnesota Trout Unlimited, a Minnesota non-profit corporation, pres-

ently at 7201 West 78th Street, Suite 207 Bloomington, MN 55439 to be used at the discretion of its governing board."

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



SELECT POEMS

By Larry Gavin

The Way Life Works

I am surrounded by fishermen waist deep
in chilly water avoiding the occasion of sin.
Occasionally something floats by
A curled duck's feather rides high
on the surface like a thought,
Or a hunk
of wood dislodged from the bank by cows
that need to drink, huge beasts with eyes
that hide a knowing heart, like sunrise
hides the night.

There are the simple wishes
all fishermen share for the union of good
fortune and skill – a momentary bonding
at best, a way to stay connected.

The way a soul clings
to the body at the very end; past
heart beat, past breathing, past the love
of this world; its water and the story
it tells in simple syllables about
the way life works.

Muskrat on Camp Creek

The scent lost to reason
lost to a past that rises like myth.
You are part of earth, sky, and wind,
singing beneath the surface.
Tangled in roots that hold you down
offer sustenance and keep the world
in place. Order it like these words
order the world, on paper, in a mind.
Struggle for air, float effortlessly
there into the bank surprised at midday;
a gift we share: me stuck on the surface
of everything: you loving the deep.

HABITAT HELPERS NEEDED

We need volunteers to assist with maintenance inspections of completed projects, as well as numerous hands-on tasks on 2018 projects. To volunteer or receive information on opportunities to help with inspections and/or hands-on work simply send an email to: monitor@mtu.org List "inspection," "habitat help" or both 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. You can unsubscribe at any time.



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Are you an angler? Do you love to fish and explore our waters around Minnesota? If so, we would love to have you sign up to be a mentor. Meet new people, help teach kids all about fishing, and have a great reason to get out on the water. It doesn't take much to make a big difference. Want to learn how? This is your chance!

- Youth age 11-16 and one parent/guardian are paired with a fly fishing mentor for the summer.
- Basics of casting, fishing, local waters, seasons etc. are covered.
- TU provides rods and donated flies to use for the summer!

For more information check out our website or contact our coordinator:

Tim Hemstad
612-247-1536
fostertheoutdoors@hotmail.com
www.mntu.org



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HABITAT IMPROVEMENT AND BROWN TROUT RESEARCH IN GARVIN BROOK

by Neal Mundahl

Flooding during August 2007 ravaged Garvin Brook in Winona County, destroying most of the trout habitat improvement work that had been done previously on the stream. While the stream continued to support self-sustaining populations of both brown and brook trout, stream banks were severely eroded, former pools were filled with gravel and silt, and LUNKER structures were mostly blown out or filled in. Subsequently, a series of three habitat improvement (HI) projects in 2014, 2017, and 2018 restored trout habitat in Garvin Brook. These HI projects each were designed by a different agency or company, but work on all of them was assisted by volunteers from the Win-Cres Chapter of Trout Unlimited. These HI reaches are proving very popular with anglers, with improved habitat now extending nearly 4 km downstream from Garvin's confluence with Peterson Creek.

Beginning in 2015, my Biology students at Winona State University have been surveying habitat and trout populations within the 2014 and 2017 improved sections. These surveys have been undertaken both as in-class experiences and as senior research projects. Each HI project used slightly different techniques and habitat structures, but all included various types of overhead cover (e.g., LUNKERs, skyhooks, pool logs, rootwads, large wood habitat), large, midchannel cover boulders, rock weirs or drop structures, and bank riprap. All projects were designed to improve habitat for adult trout.

We have been using 2-pass removal sampling to estimate trout numbers in six, 100-meter sections randomly distributed between the 2014 and 2017 HI reaches. With a backpack electrofisher and varying numbers of student netters, we attempt to capture as many fish as possible during two passes through the stream reach. Trout captured during the first electrofishing pass are not released until after the second pass, with the reduced number caught during pass 2 allowing us to estimate actual population size.

We have observed some shifts in brown trout size distributions as HI



SAMPLING A DEEP RUN ON GARVIN BROOK IN WINONA COUNTY, MINNESOTA. A BACKPACK ELECTROFISHING UNIT WAS USED TO SURVEY ALL AGE GROUPS OF BROWN TROUT.

projects have modified the stream habitat to provide more cover and space for adult fish. For example, after the 2017 HI project increased the number and volume of pools, one stream section changed from a population consisting of >80% young-of-year (YOY) trout to one comprised of >50% adult fish. There are still large numbers of YOY trout in the HI reach, but they now appear to be more evenly distributed throughout the stream sections rather than concentrated in a few areas.

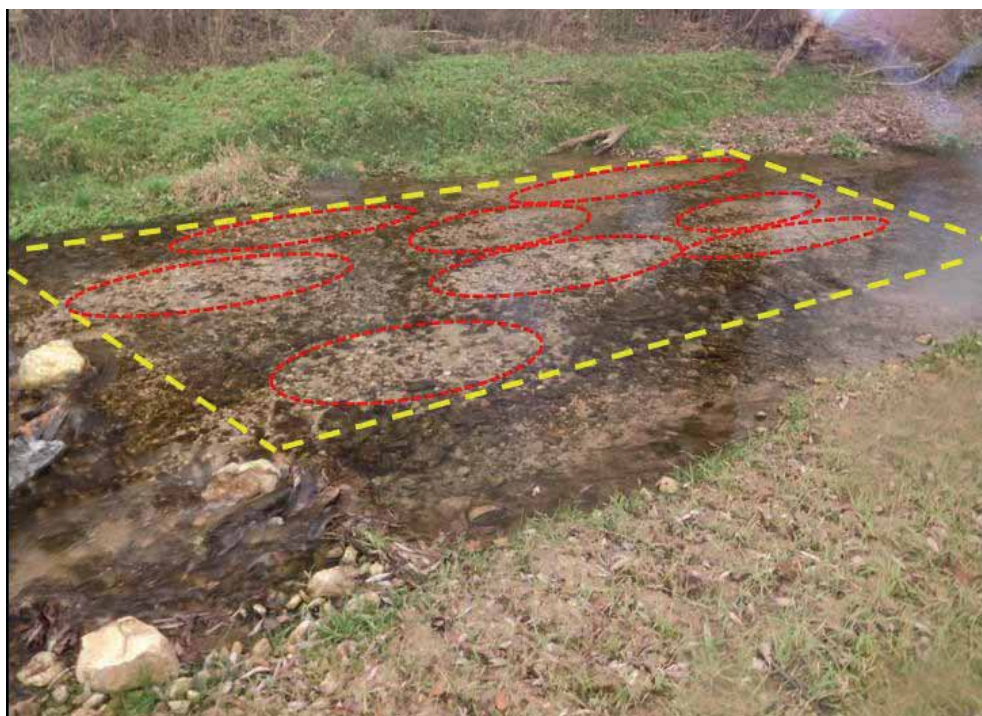
Last fall, Biology major Dylan Lewis found that abundance of adult brown trout in Garvin Brook pool habitats increased when log cover, bank cover, total pool volume, and vegeta-

tion abundance increased, but declined with increased sand and silt in those pools. The largest trout were associated with pools with the most log and bank cover and the greatest volume. Because restored reaches had larger pools with more cover, it was not surprising that these stream sections had larger adult trout than did unimproved reaches.

We completed our most recent trout population surveys of the HI reaches of Garvin Brook this fall. In the six stream sections, we caught and measured 1,036 brown trout. These fish ranged in length from 6 to 42 cm (2.5 to 16.5 inches), with YOY fish comprising 45 to 90% of the population at each site. Trout abundances did not differ between

2014 and 2017 HI reaches, averaging 2,480 YOY and 1,180 adult fish/mile of stream length. The six sections surveyed averaged 15 trout over 12 inches in length, or 241 large trout/mile. Adult trout abundance in the 2017 HI reach was 2 to 3 times higher in 2018 than in either 2015 or 2016.

The MNDNR has monitored a 300-m stream section in the middle of the 2014 HI reach since 1973. Their data often show large, year-to-year fluctuations in abundances of both YOY and adult brown trout, a pattern caused in part by the negative effects of spring and early summer flooding on YOY trout and their consequent failure to recruit to the adult population. These fluctua-



BROWN TROUT SPAWNING REDDS OFTEN WERE CLUSTERED TOGETHER JUST UPSTREAM FROM RIFFLES IN GARVIN BROOK. HERE, 8 REDDS (EACH OUTLINED IN RED) ARE GROUPED TOGETHER IN AN AREA (IN YELLOW) OF ONLY 18 M².



MANY HABITAT IMPROVEMENT STRUCTURES IN GARVIN BROOK, INCLUDING THIS STRUCTURE, WERE DESTROYED BY FLOODING DURING AUGUST 2007.



ALL BROWN TROUT COLLECTED DURING SURVEYS WERE MEASURED FOR TOTAL LENGTH BEFORE BEING RETURNED TO THE STREAM.

tions, in Garvin Brook and other streams in southeastern Minnesota, have made it difficult to statistically evaluate the effects of HI projects on trout abundance.

We also have been documenting brown trout spawning activity each fall within the HI project reaches of Garvin Brook since 2016. We found an average of four spawning redds per 100 meters of stream length within the HI sections. Most redds have been grouped together with other redds in small areas rather than being isolated, and over 40% of redds have been associated with some form of cover (e.g., overhanging terrestrial or aquatic vegetation, logs, boulders). Changes in riparian conditions after HI work was completed appears to have increased the availability of cover

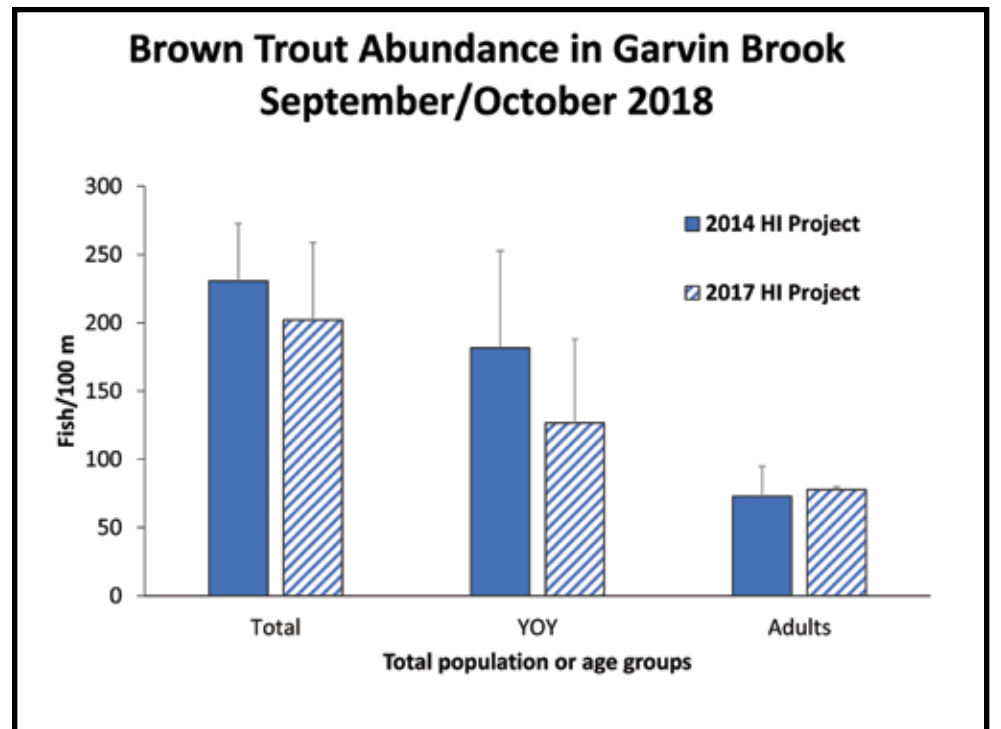
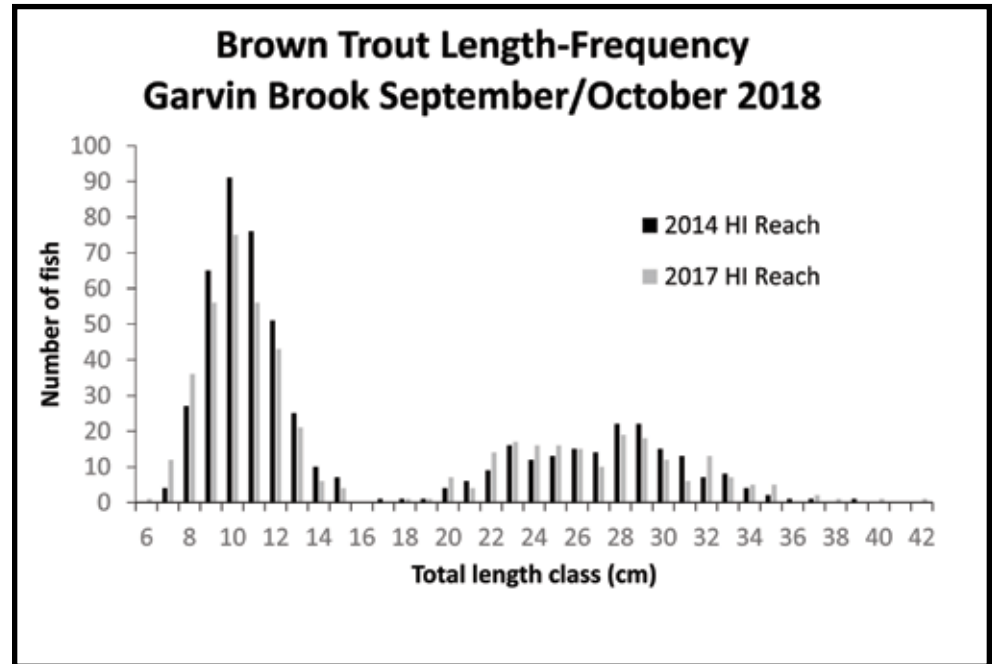
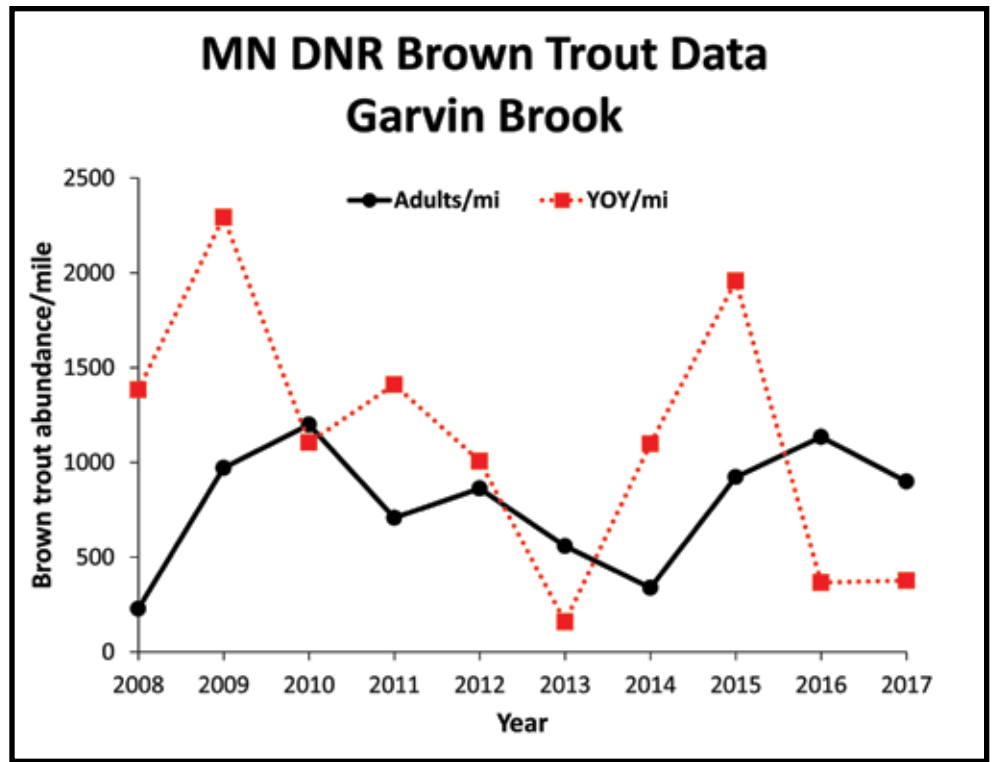
for spawning redds, especially in the 2017 HI reach.

We expect to continue monitoring brown trout in the Garvin Brook HI reaches for many years to come. We also look forward to extending our population surveys to include the 2018 HI reach, which we have not surveyed previously. The newest HI work is much different than the earlier projects because of a higher stream gradient and fewer deep pools, resulting in the use of far fewer skyhooks and more log structures than in the earlier projects. The 2018 HI reach also contained dozens of spawning redds each of the past 2 years, so we anticipate finding many fish in our future surveys.

TOP: ANNUAL FALL SURVEYS (2008 TO 2017) OF BROWN TROUT WITHIN THE 2014 HI REACH OF GARVIN BROOK BY MN DNR-FISHERIES PERSONNEL ILLUSTRATE THE YEAR-TO-YEAR VARIABILITY IN ABUNDANCES OF BOTH YOY AND ADULT FISH. DATA WERE PROVIDED BY VAUGHN SNOOK, ASSISTANT AREA SUPERVISOR, MN DNR-FISHERIES AT LANESBORO.

MIDDLE: THIS LENGTH-FREQUENCY DIAGRAM DEPICTS THE LENGTHS OF ALL 1,036 BROWN TROUT CAPTURED DURING FALL SURVEYS IN GARVIN BROOK. IT CLEARLY SHOWS SIMILAR SIZE DISTRIBUTIONS OF YOY (6 TO 15 CM) AND ADULT (ALL FISH > 16 CM) FISH WITHIN THE TWO HI REACHES SURVEYED DURING 2018.

BOTTOM: BOTH THE 2014 AND 2017 HI PROJECT REACHES OF GARVIN BROOK CONTAINED SIMILAR ABUNDANCES OF BROWN TROUT, WHEN VIEWED IN TOTAL OR WHEN BROKEN INTO YOY AND ADULT AGE GROUPS. THICK BARS ARE AVERAGES OF THE THREE SITES SURVEYED WITHIN EACH HI REACH, AND THIN LINES REPRESENT ONE STANDARD DEVIATION.



TROLLING THE WEB

By Dan Callahan

You can find an amazing array of how-to videos on YouTube and elsewhere. Every time I get stuck on a repair project, a Google search turns up video from some guy who just happens to have made a video about removing the lower unit and replacing the water pump on a 1968 Johnson outboard motor, just like mine. Learning about trout fishing or fly fishing can be daunting, but the people who sell equipment are smart enough to know that if they can help you learn what to do, you might be more likely to buy more gear from them.

Orvis is the big gorilla in the market. A box of treasures opens up if you go to howtoflyfish.orvis.com. You'll find ev-

erything from the very basics about fly fishing, to a series of in-depth lessons on equipment, casting, reading the water, understanding how to fly fish for various species, how to tie flies, etc.

That said, there is no substitute for the face-to-face expertise you can get by walking into any of the locally-owned fly shops in the metro area, including Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop in St. Paul, Mend Provisions in Minneapolis, the Fly Angler in Blaine, and Lund's Fly Shop in River Falls.

You can't ask Orvis, "What flies should I be using now on the Vermillion River?" or, "I'm going to fish for smallmouth on the Mississippi. Any suggestions?"

Plus, they offer classes. It's a huge help to take a class where you can ask questions as you go along. Online, you are stuck with the judgement of the video producer, who decided what he or she thought was the best order of things for you to learn.

All too often, the video assumes you know the terminology.

In the dark days before the Internet, we had these things called books, which occasionally had pictures. For years, I could not figure out what authors meant by "mending your line." It wasn't until I went fishing with people I met through Trout Unlimited, that I understood it meant after letting your line land on the

water, you could flip the middle of it upstream, so the fast current closest to you wouldn't drag your line downstream.

Yes. Go look it up online, and it will make sense.

But I doubt you'll find a tip I got from my very first outing with a TU member: Before you slide your rod pieces together, lubricate the end that's going to go inside the next section by sliding the end alongside the outside of your nose so it picks up some facial oil. Note: Do this on the OUTSIDE of your nose. Maybe I need to make a video.



MNTU CHAPTER NEWS

Gitche Gumee Chapter

Another great season of fishing is winding down in the northeast and members are trying to squeeze in a last trip or two on area rivers and lakes before they freeze up for the winter. Our October meeting was a well-attended fly-tying how-to that gave folks something to work on when the cold does come. We especially appreciated seeing several new faces at the meeting. Please come back! Just as a reminder, our chapter meetings are all open to the public and you need not be a TU member to attend. We've got another great selection of programs for the winter and spring.

Holiday Fly Tying Social

Learn how to tie flies from one of the northland's best, John Fehnel, owner of the Great Lakes Fly Shop. No vice or materials needed. Also catch up with friends and fellow anglers to talk fishing while we long for the thaw of spring.
When: December 13th at 7 p.m.
Where: The Great Lakes Fly Shop in Duluth

F3T (Fly Fishing Film Tour)

Join us for our third annual screening of the F3T and watch some great films about fly fishing from around the world! You can also win some awesome prizes. Cosponsored by the Arrowhead Fly Fishers. For more information or to buy tickets soon visit the Gitche Gumee Trout Unlimited Facebook page.
When: January 27th at 3 p.m.
Where: Clyde Iron Works in Duluth

WI and MN DNR Updates and Projects

For our annual joint meeting with the Arrowhead Fly Fishers, experts from the Wisconsin and Minnesota DNRs will be discussing a variety of topics related to fishing and habitat.
When: February 19th at 7 p.m.
Where: Clyde Iron Works in Duluth

Arrowhead Stream Trout Fishing and Habitat

Find out about the awesome trout fishing in the northeast and the habitat work MNTU has done over the years to preserve it.
When: March 7th at 7 p.m.
Where: Hartley Nature Center in Duluth

State of the Steelhead

Join us for our annual meeting about the amazing spring run fish and fishing along the North Shore.
When: April 11th at 7 p.m.
Where: Hartley Nature Center in Duluth

Brent Notbohm

Hiawatha Chapter

Paul Krolak, head of our Conservation Committee, is currently working on Habitat Improvement Project plans for Wisel Creek, West Indian Creek, and the South Branch of the Whitewater River. There is also an approved project on Trout Run that will begin construction this spring.

Greg Goodnow, head of our Education Committee and TIC Liaison, has been very busy this fall. Greg has worked to add two Rochester schools to the TIC program. Both Riverside Elementary and John Marshall High School are now setup with 125 gallon aquariums and are ready for eggs. According to Greg, the staff at the schools have demonstrated excellent support for our TIC program. Even the community has joined in the fun as a very talented parent has painted a beautiful trout mural on one of the columns at Riverside.

This summer, HTU conducted a casting clinic and picnic at Mill Creek Park in Chatfield on July 28th. It was great to see so many excellent casting instructors there. HTU has plenty of fly rods to try out if you have not purchased your own yet. Please look for our casting clinic dates for next year and come join the fun.

A handful of HTU members set up a booth in Preston for the "Taste of the Trail" event hosted by the many small towns on the Root River in SE Minnesota. We were there to showcase the recently completed Habitat Improvement Project on the South Branch of the Root River within the Preston city limits. A good number of people came over to ask or comment about the project.

HTU also organized a Demo Day in Preston to give our members a chance to meet some of the local business people who have helped support our fundraising efforts through very generous donations. This was also an opportunity for our members to cast some state-of-the-art fly rods. Mel Hayner, owner of the Driftless Fly Fishing Company in Preston, brought a fine selection of rods to try out. Steve Sobieniak, owner of Root River Rod Company in Lanesboro, brought an amazing selection of exquisite bamboo fly rods to demo. Chris and Patty Wigg, owners of Root River Hackle in Lanesboro, displayed their wide variety of fly tying feather products.

The HTU Christmas Party will be held on December 3rd at the History Center. HTU will also be doing the "Introduction to Fly Fishing" class again with Rochester Community Ed in March and April. Sign up will be through the Winter/Spring catalog which can be accessed online.

Phil Pankow



A HEFTY FLY AND THE OFFICIAL HEADWATERS TU CHAPTER 642 HAT AFTER A LONG DAY ON THE LAKES AROUND BEMIDJI, MN.

Headwaters Chapter

Lots of accomplishments, lots of fun, and it is all thanks to the Headwaters Chapter 642 volunteers! Over this past year, three unique programs have generated over \$3000 for our chapter. First, the Frozen Fly Film Festival at Bemidji Brewing Company where films courtesy of MNTU's Fly Fishing Film and Video Showcase were shown to attendees who couldn't make it to the showing at the Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo. Then in June we had our fourth annual Pike Hunt with 25 participants catching 154 pike. We also had our booth at the Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo with 14 creative volunteers and one generous member donating over 120 books to sell. All three events had important educational components, as well as lots of fun-filled involvement for members. Each event generated significant revenue to fund future education, restoration and conservation for Chapter 642 projects.

Also to be included under accomplishments is the often behind-the-scenes but still massively important work on the future foundation and mission of habitat building and stream restoration work. Thanks to our Restoration Coordinator, John Sorensen, several alder-removal stream projects were coordinated and successfully completed this past year. Plus, additional work such as fencing on Kabekona Creek, more alder brush clearing and new projects on the Straight and Necktie Rivers are in the planning and scheduling stages.

A new bonus benefit to our chapter

members is our fly rod loaner program. Thanks to a MNTU grant program, we have several new fly rod and reel combo kits which, in turn, makes available our old combo kits to utilize as loaners to our new members. So if you, a family member or friend needs gear to borrow, give Bob Wagner a call (218-766-7757). Similar to this program, we have a new Book Lending Library available. Thank you to member Larry Voltz and book contributor Don Buckley for this program.

Fall and winter fly tying nights at the Garden Grill and Pub will be starting at the end of November and include eight determined dates on Thursdays. Events are free and open to the public. November 29, December 13, January 10 & 24, February 7 & 21, and March 7 & 21. We begin setting up at 5:30 pm, will be finished eating at 6:30 and ready to tie. Beginners are welcome and equipment is available if you call Bob Wagner in advance of tying date. Jeff Korbel will continue as our main instructor sharing his master level skills and experience. As in the past, we welcome anyone who would like to share a pattern with the group. A few of Jeff's students, now veteran tiers in their own right, will share the following patterns: Mini Mighty Mouse (Jeff Mardin), McPiken Fly (Jim McCracken), and the Captain and the Chenille Deceiver (John Lueth).

Last but not least we are excited to be adding a third school district in our Trout in the Classroom program. There will be two tanks in Bemidji, one in Northhome and one in Kelliher this year.

Bob Wagner

MNTU CHAPTER NEWS



Twin Cities Chapter

2018 saw a mix of projects for the Twin Cities Chapter. Design and permitting on our next major in-stream habitat restoration project on a 7,200-foot stretch of the South Branch of the Vermillion progressed. Site prep for in-stream construction will begin this winter. Removal of thick stands of invasive buckthorn is essential before the in-stream work can begin. After three or so years of workdays we are getting very close. In the interim, the buckthorn removal has opened up the stream to more sunlight and the trout population has responded enthusiastically.

We began our stream habitat projects in March with a wintery buckthorn removal effort on the South Branch of the Vermillion. We had more than 30 volunteers show up and we cleared another large section along the stream of thick stands of buckthorn, honeysuckle and Siberian elm.

In April, we worked to clear buckthorn on a stretch of Eagle Creek in Savage, MN. Work was preceded by a film interview of board member Dan Callahan by Channel 11 to show the stream and some of the areas we had cleared the year before. A half foot of fresh snow and temperatures in the 20s did not deter 53 volunteers, who again cleared the stream corridor of a lot of buckthorn. On April 12, just before the regular opener, Habitat Chair Tony Nelson, assisted the DNR with one of the trout stockings that occurs during the summer. Catchable rainbow trout were stocked mostly in the habitat project areas that TU has restored on the main stem of the Vermillion River.

On June 8, volunteers groomed and seeded with prairie grasses and plants on the South Branch of the Vermillion, in the area we had cleared in March. A month later, the area was green with new plants which will help reduce run-off while the prairie plants establish themselves along the stream edge.

For a week in August, TCTU had a booth in the Natural Resources building at the Dakota County Fair in Farmington. The booth was manned by a hardy group of volunteers that endured the heat of summer. We introduced visitors to the environmental efforts of Trout Unlimited and our partners at county and city agencies, the numerous stream projects that we have done, and explained the upcoming project plans. We also signed up new members and added 30 locals as volunteers to our growing list of members that are active participants in our stream restoration and maintenance projects. During the last week of August, TU volunteers worked with the DNR to remove downed trees and branches from the Vermillion River, which were blocking the channel and preventing the natural movement of sand through the system. As a result, sand had filled in and widened the stream channel. This not only filled holes and covered food production

areas, but also smothered gravel areas needed for spawning. The effort has already paid off, as much sand has already flushed from the reach, re-exposing gravel areas in time for fall spawning.

On September 15, a dozen volunteers worked with the landowner on Hay Creek in nearly 100-degree heat to clear dozens of trees which a summer wind storm had dumped into the stream. Not the weather we imagined when the workday was scheduled, but we completed a mile of work before retiring to air-conditioned Dressen's for burgers and good conversation.

On October 20, another group of volunteers returned to Hay Creek to clear downed trees from an additional mile of stream. On October 27, we returned to the Vermillion River. Three dozen volunteers cleared some of the last remaining buckthorn along the South Branch.

Our final buckthorn cut and haul on the Vermillion River will be Saturday December 1 from 9 am to noon. Join us to celebrate completion of this phase of the project. Next summer we will need plenty of volunteers to assist with the in-stream work.

Tony Nelson

Win-Cres Chapter

It has been a bittersweet year for our chapter, with a lot going on.

Tragedy: This summer, two of our members drowned in a fishing accident. Brian Schumacher and his wife, Dr. Janet Veit, were caught by current and deep water while fly fishing in Iceland. Janet was a beloved veterinarian in LaCrosse, WI. Brian was an avid trout fisherman and a part-time guide, passing his knowledge and enthusiasm to others. The family requested that Brian's memorials be directed to TU. We plan to place a bench in their honor along a trout stream in the Preston area next spring. We will also use memorial funds to encourage young people who have an interest in trout fishing and the outdoors.

Fishing: In southeast MN, the good old days are now. There are record numbers of 10 - 14" fish in area streams. They can still be spooky, fussy, and downright obstinate at times, but there are a lot of them.

Habitat Work: Win-Cres members put their boots on the ground often this past year. There is ongoing work at Garvin Brook, site of major HI work in the last decade. Led by John Weaver, TU members cut down trees and brush, built in-stream bank structures, mowed an access path, and sprayed the highly invasive Japanese knotweed. Mike Jerešek led groups that cleared and mowed access paths along Garvin, Rush, Diamond, and Hemmingway creeks. It is hard, physical work which

involves chainsaws and a heavy brush hog mower. TU members carry the brush hog at stream crossings. The result is easier access to nearly four miles of prime trout water.

There was HI work on four area streams this summer: Garvin, Cedar Valley, Pickwick, and Rush Creek. The largest project was on lower Rush Creek in southern Winona county, downstream from County Road 25. Working from a DNR design, an area contractor improved a full mile of stream. The techniques were somewhat new to us: narrowing the stream corridor by up to 66% in places, sloping the banks to withstand high water, placing root wads and boulders in the stream. There were no lunger structures or sky hooks. It will be interesting to see how this turns out over the next few years. All of this work was funded by the Legacy Amendment. John Lenczewski, MNTU executive director, has played a key role in securing funding for this work.

Community Engagement: Win-Cres members are looking for more opportunities to engage with the community, particularly young people. This winter we taught fly casting in a series of lessons through the local community education program. In April, we hosted a fishing club from Goodhue, MN, offering lessons and guided fishing in area streams. We have offered fly casting instructions in a variety of public

venues. Marlene Huston, a certified casting instructor, has played a key role in many of these outings.

Agribusiness: This year two area farm operations have applied to increase the size of their herds from a few hundred animals to between 5,000 and 6,000 animals. We are concerned about the volume of manure that will be generated and how it might be spread on the land without damaging area aquifers and fisheries. Both are fragile in our unique Driftless landscape with its karst geology. The first operation is in Newburg Township, Houston County, in the Root River drainage. Thankfully, the township supervisors have established a one year moratorium so that they might consider the environmental impacts. The second operation is in Winona County, in the Whitewater River watershed. The process is just beginning. Win-Cres members are following both closely, raising their voices when needed. Meanwhile, Winona County successfully defended its ban on frac sand mining in court this year. These challenges will never cease.

Final Thoughts: As we venture out in search of trout in streams, rivers, and lakes, we should be mindful of Charley Brooks' adage: "There are old waders and bold waders, but not old, bold waders."

Chuck Shepard



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A STUNNING SECTION OF PRAIRIE ALONG THE RESTORED REACH OF NEWBURG CREEK IN SE MN. READ MORE ABOUT OUR WORK ON THE STREAM ON PAGE 8.

REELING IT IN

Exploring Our Waters

By Sam Troutt

Although I know that it had to be nearly eight months since Daylight Saving Time had moved my springtime clock forward, it's come as a surprise that the season has progressed so quickly. I can't believe that we're already at the point of "winter time" again. It seems to me that these annual changes of the clock mark the real beginning and end of the serious fishing calendar. While some of you may disagree, that's the way I feel, since a fishing day ending in the freezing cold when the sun sets before 5 pm is a rough day. When it's January, and I'm itching to get out and at least cast a line into a spring creek in the Driftless, I'll feel differently. Right now, I just miss the warm air and the mayflies hatching at 9:30 pm on a late June evening. It is, however, the seasonality of our calendar that makes it special. If it existed in a continual, unchanging state of opulent bliss like a May morning along a pasture stream in the Driftless, or the July duskiness of an evening on a trout lake off the Gunflint Trail, Minnesota would not be as special. It is the ephemeral nature of our special places that heightens their importance, and cues us to plan each season to get back to them. The annual trips to the Boundary Waters, to Lanesboro, the Straight River in Park Rapids, and thousands of other places dance in our collective minds, because we must plan our adventures, they can not always be purely left to chance. As you plot and plan your next trip, betting on finding the large trout that are settling into the deepest pools of the North Shore streams for the winter, think about playing a role in keeping an eye on Minnesota's trout waters. We need people who care, and, at the same time, are willing to take a few minutes out of a trip to check on some of the great habitat work that we've done over the past decade throughout the state. Trout Unlimited runs on volunteers of all sorts, and we need a few more people willing to step up and explore our waters to help monitor, record, and ultimately protect our resources. Check out the column from our executive director on page three, and the ad to get volunteers on page 18. And then get back to planning that next trip. It's going to be awesome, and the big trout really are there waiting for all of us. Just take a few minutes to help ensure it stays that way for everybody around the state.

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