



2022 October Newsletter



Southeast TU MN Hotline

Editorial by Carl Berberich

Get Out and VOTE!

Yes, your vote does count. On Election Day Nov. 8, we vote for our local, state, and federal candidates. So please, vote for candidates that have your values rather than just a party vote. You might be surprised.

Late Fall & Winter Fishing Options

Where to go fishing in the fall? Well, in SE Minnesota we now are in the *City and Park* Catch and Release season that started on Oct 15 for Whitewater, Beaver Creek, and Forestville State Parks, and the five SE MN towns with trout streams in their city limits: Lanesboro, Preston, Spring Valley, Rushford, and Chatfield. But what if you are willing to drive farther, or want to fish in a wider area? Most Wisconsin inland streams close Oct 15, so that’s not an option.

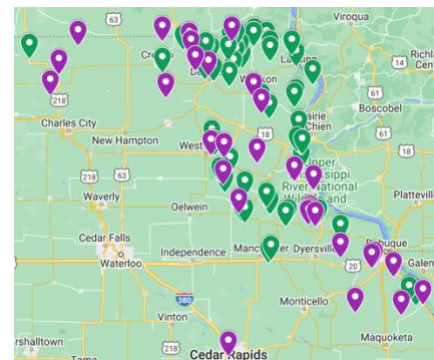


Well, there is always Iowa. Iowa has a continuous open trout fishing season with some Catch and Release areas and some artificial lure only areas. So, it is very good to know the [regulations](#) when and where you go fishing in Iowa.

In Iowa, the state owns the water, however on small streams, the landowner owns the banks and the stream bottoms. This means, in non-public areas, stream fishing by wading requires landowner permission. However there are plenty of trout streams running through Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) in Iowa, such as [North Bear Creek](#) in Winneshiek County. These WMAs are primarily for hunting AND fishing, and there are lots of duck, pheasant and deer hunting done in the fall in Iowa. Iowa does require wearing blaze orange when hunting deer, pheasant, quail, gray partridge, and ruffed grouse.

Wild Trout in Iowa?

Iowa calls their trout streams that have natural reproduction, [Wild Trout Streams](#). Click on the map (on the right) for Go-To viewing on a webpage map that shows these streams and allows routing to these locations (this map is new and was made for our members). There are over 50 Wild Streams in Iowa’s northeast Driftless area (indicated by the green pins). Many of these streams are located within [Iowa’s WMAs](#) which allow public access. Since these WMAs also have public bird and deer hunting, so *be observant* when fishing there in the fall. Additionally, Iowa has [Put and Grow Trout Streams](#) (some indicated by the purple pins). Their locations from the Iowa DNR website are much harder to determine and require landowner permission when fishing because they are only on private land.



Expanded Fishing Reports

With this information, we are now expanding our newsletter’s **Trout Fishing Reports** to also include Iowa streams. The report for Iowa is being done by the President of the Iowa Driftless Chapter of TU, Mike Rogers, guide at [Bear Creek Anglers](#). We are also getting a MN fishing report from the [Root River Rod Co.](#) located in Lanesboro MN. With these we should be able to get lots of good upcoming fishing advice for the coming months.

HTU Members Meeting on Oct 3

By John Weiss, HTU Board member

Photos by John Weiss

In 2009, Michael Melford was sent to Bristol Bay, Alaska, to document with photos the incredible sockeye salmon fishery and the threat from the proposed Pebble Mine.

As a National Geographic photographer, he tried to be neutral. “I was not taking sides until day 3,” he told about 30 people Oct. 3. “I was trying to be objective until it was impossible to be objective about it.” The occasion was the monthly meeting of Hiawatha Trout Unlimited (the talk also attracted many photographers).

He saw the incredible fishery, that it was well managed so fish could be taken without harming the resource but that runoff from the mine, proposed in the bay’s watershed, would be disastrous. The sights of Alaska were addictive, he said. When there, eating and sleeping are optional.

In a 2010 story, Melford used his photos, and the accompanying story, to tell the world about the threat to the fantastic fishery.



Pebble has one of the world’s greatest deposits of copper and gold, which is why a large foreign mining company wanted to dig out the ore and transport it to the bay. But the bay also has the world’s largest run of sockeye salmon. What’s also great about the run is that the fish run up into many feeder streams and rivers, some barely big enough for them to get through, he said. If fish in one of the streams have a bad year because it’s too high or whatever, others make up for it. The result has been record catches, rising

to about 71 million pounds in 2021 and 64 million in 2018. Overall, it’s a sustainable \$2 billion fishery, he said. Half the world’s salmon come from Bristol Bay, he said.

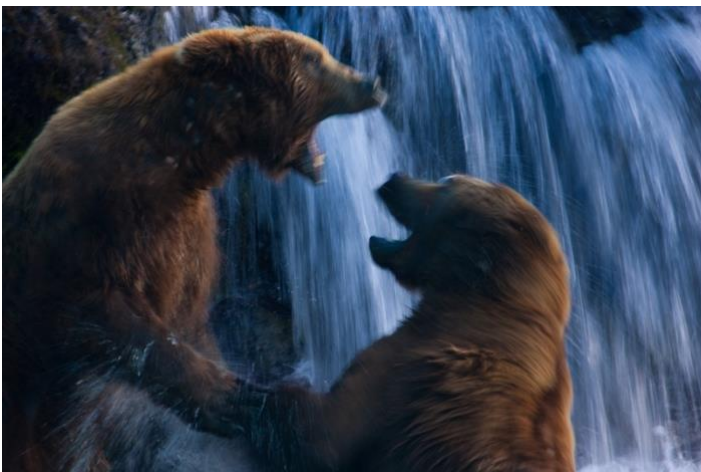
The fish come in with the tide in July, are netted or sometimes caught by sport anglers using roe for bait, he said. “They are all cookie cutters, they are almost all the same size,” Melford said, each around 10 to 12 pounds. They are netted in smaller ships, processed in bigger ones and quickly flash frozen, then taken around the world. Natives also net the fish as they have done for millennia, drying them as they have for millennia.



The bay also has king salmon, which can grow much larger, but that fishery is declining, he said.

Building the Pebble Mine, however, was a huge threat. “If there is an accident at the mine site, it’s the end of the fishery,” Melford said. An accident of some kind is almost assured, and the waste would leak into the ground water, he said. “I’m not against mining but I am against it in the wrong place,” he said.

To try to stop the proposed Northern Dynasty mine, an unusual coalition of natives, sport fishing and commercial fishing groups lobbied Washington D.C. agencies to stop it. The story helped get an outcry because it was favorably received. But the mine also was pushing its case. “In the end, sometimes money wins and it looked like that was going to happen,” he said. But the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency shot it down. When the Trump Administration came into power, it put the project back on the front burner, but the U.S. Corps of Engineers again said it would violate the Clean Water Act.



Northern Dynasty has again appealed the case and the EPA ruling is expected by Dec. 2. “Very soon we are going to hear if the EPA will put one more nail in the coffin,” he said.

YouTube of Mike's presentation: <https://youtu.be/-Cm68w7D9N8>



Veteran's Retreat at Whitewater SP

By Sara Holger: Lead Interpretive Naturalist | Division Parks and Trails MNDNR



Veterans Family Camp rigging the rods

During a beautiful fall weekend this past September, several military veterans, along with a few of their family members, enjoyed a flyfishing getaway at Whitewater State Park. The event was made possible with funds and support from the Disabled American Veterans of Minnesota (DAV), Olmsted County Veterans Services and the Friends of Whitewater State Park.

As a naturalist at Whitewater State Park, I'm happy to be able to help veterans engage with nature in a deeply profound way. For many veterans, fly fishing is extremely therapeutic, even life changing. Organizations such as Project Healing Waters have been established across the country, helping veterans recover from the trauma

of war through the meditative practice of fly fishing.

As part of an oral history project for Whitewater State Park, I interviewed a Vietnam veteran and former trout fishing guide. He told me fly fishing helps him recalibrate his internal rhythm and to clear his mind of worries and regrets. He also mentioned fly fishing takes him to some of the most beautiful places in the world!

For those participating in the flyfishing camp at Whitewater, being immersed in the scenic beauty of the park is healing in itself. The camaraderie between participants and volunteers recharges the soul. Veterans not only learn skills such as casting and fly tying, but they also develop a powerful ability to focus, calm their minds and bodies, breathe gently, and flow with the rhythm of the cast. The sounds of the moving water, the feel of the sun and the wind, the smell of the river and the forest...these sensory aspects of trout fishing are extremely therapeutic as well.



Veterans Camp practice casting

This was our 3rd veterans fly fishing event hosted at Whitewater. These camps would not be possible without the generous support of the veterans' organizations and the amazing volunteers who share their knowledge and time. The Win-Cres Trout Unlimited Chapter assembled fly boxes for each veteran with hand-tied flies made during chapter gatherings.

Volunteers from both the Win-Cres and Hiawatha Trout Unlimited chapters helped teach casting, fly tying and guided participants out on streams. Every veteran received their own fly rod and reel to keep.



As participants head home and enhance their flyfishing skills, hopefully some of them will return to Whitewater State Park to share their love of fly fishing with future veterans who might find healing out on the trout streams.



Land Stewardship Project and Rush Creek Fish Kill

By Carl Berberich

In some interesting news about the recent fish kill on the upper Rush Creek, actions by a Land Stewardship Project group requesting information from Gov Walz about this fish kill (mostly from many residents of Winona County where the fish kill happened), and asking for future assistance by Gov. Tim Walz, generated the following information in an email from the LSP.

“The action generated 2 news stories: KARE 11 covered it ([link to the TV story](#)) and the [Rochester Post Bulletin](#) wrote an article!

After that, the Governor’s staff reached out to us to meet and hear more, and last week a group of about a dozen of us did an initial meeting with two members of the Governor’s staff. We communicated to them clearly that 1) we want clear answers on the cause of this fish kill, including looking at if and how pollution from the largest factory farms may have contributed and 2) we want to keep working together to prevent future problems.

The Governor’s staff did not have any answers for us yet on the fish kill, but did commit to meeting with us when the investigation wraps up to discuss the findings. We also asked them to come in-person to Winona County to meet with LSP members about what the Governor’s priorities are for clean water – they gave us a tentative yes to this and we will be following up this week to formally invite them to come in-person when they are available, likely in November or December.”



This is a very important step into getting answers relating to at least some of the fish kills that have been occurring in a very small location in Winona County of SE MN and addressing the concerns of many.

Trout-in-the Classroom Event

By Bob Luck, President TCTU

There are over a million kids under age 18 in Minnesota. We believe that all of those kids should learn about Trout! The Twin Cities Chapter will be holding two fund raising events this month to raise funds to support Trout in the Classroom and other Youth Education programs.

If you happen to be near St. Paul on October 25th, consider attending [Oktoberfest](#), a fun night at the Summit Brewery.

TCTU is also holding an online [Silent Auction](#), and they will ship stuff anywhere in the State! Items include guided trips, gear, flies and more esoteric items like a Youth Bow, Minnesota United Tickets, or Grass-fed beef raised on Hay Creek!

To learn more or register, please click on [Oktoberfish](#) or [Silent Auction](#) links.



Thanks for your support of Youth Education.

Steve Sobieniak Obituary

By Dave Shaffer

Lanesboro fly shop owner Steve Sobieniak, a conservationist who donated his hand-crafted bamboo fly rods to Trout Unlimited chapters, died Sept. 22 after a year-long battle with cancer. He was 67.

Steve greeted thousands of anglers with a smile and helpful fishing advice at the Root River Rod. Co., the full-service fly shop he founded in a historic Lanesboro storefront 5½ years ago. He was known for his kindness, integrity and generosity. He also was a nationally known maker of cane fly rods. It took weeks to construct each rod, but Steve made time to build and donate rods to TU chapters for fundraising. His last rod – finished in the late stages of his illness with help from friends – will be raffled by the Hiawatha Chapter in coming months.



Steve was born and raised in upstate New York and learned to fly fish from his father. Steve and his wife Vicki McKinney settled in the Twin Cities' western suburbs in the 1980s. His work as an artisan carpenter appeared in the Parade of Homes and on the TV show *Hometime*. His love of woodworking and fly fishing dovetailed into cane rod building. At 60, he and Vicki moved to Lanesboro to open Root River Rod Co. His workshop in a back room drew anglers from around the country to see Steve's rods or to discuss antique rods that he collected, studied, and sold. He once told a reporter that decades from now, anglers perhaps would be discussing and casting fly rods that he built. "I hope they say, 'This guy really knew what he was doing,'" he told the Rochester Post-Bulletin.

His fly shop pioneered guided drift-boat fishing on the North and South branches of the Root River. The shop spurred interest in the area's 200 miles of publicly accessible small trout streams, helping anglers from the Twin Cities and beyond to explore the bluff country with rod and reel. His shop also offered tools and materials for fly tiers. Steve's vision endures in the fly shop. It is now owned and operated by his daughter, Alayna Sobieniak, who learned to fly fish from her father, and her partner Lance Prado, who has been the shop's head guide and had been managing the retail business. Lance serves on the Hiawatha chapter board of directors.

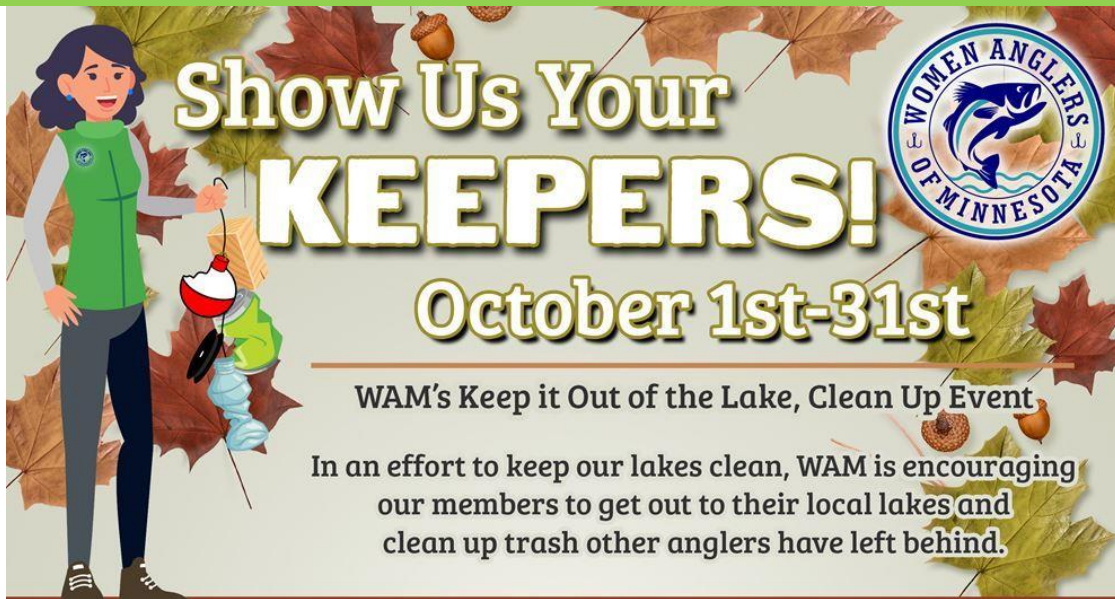
Steve helped lead annual river cleanups, and he loved everything to do with fishing, including angling history and fly tying. He invented a fly called the Metolius Caddis, named after an Oregon river. He traveled widely to fish famous waters. He also loved skiing, scuba diving, skateboarding and wakeboarding. In 2014 he climbed Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa.

He is survived by Vicki, his wife of 37 years, two daughters, three grandchildren, his mother, three sisters and five nieces and nephews. A son, Brady, preceded him in death. His memorial service was held Oct. 8 at Camp Creek Farm overlooking a trout stream near Preston.

Memorials may be made on Steve's [GoFundMe page](#).

Fall 2022 Show Us Your Keepers Conservation Clean-Up Event

By Women Anglers Of Minnesota (WAM)



WAM's Keep it Out of the Lake, Clean Up Event

In an effort to keep our lakes clean, WAM is encouraging our members to get out to their local lakes and clean up trash other anglers have left behind.

WE WILL BE AWARDING THREE \$25 WAM LOGO STORE GIFT CARDS TO THREE LUCKY PARTICIPANTS! WINNERS WILL BE SELECTED BASED ON A RANDOM DRAWING, AND THE MORE YOU PARTICIPATE, THE MORE ENTRIES YOU GET INTO THE DRAWING!

YOU MUST BE IN THE PHOTO TO QUALIFY AND PHOTOS MUST BE POSTED OR SUBMITTED BY OCTOBER 31 AT 7:00 PM. ENTER YOUR PHOTOS BY USING ANY OF THE FOLLOWING METHODS:

 **POST PHOTO TO SHOW US YOUR KEEPERS EVENT PAGE.**

 **POST PHOTO USING THE HASHTAG
#WAMSHOWUSYOURKEEPERS2022**

 **TEXT PHOTO 701.261.2894**

 **EMAIL PHOTO TO MARKETING@WOMENANGLERSMN.COM**

WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AND NOTIFIED BY NOVEMBER 5TH. LET'S HAVE SOME FUN AND CLEAN UP OUR BEAUTIFUL FISHERIES!

Win-Cres TU Chapter Upcoming Meeting

By Mark Reisetter Win-Cres Board member



Win-Cres will hold a general membership meeting on Wednesday, October 26, 6:00 p.m. at Sobieski Lodge at 965 East 7th Street, Winona, MN 55987. General meetings are open to the public.

The meal featuring Moose Chili will be prepared by the Fullers who recently returned from a successful moose hunt near Red Lake, Ontario.

The program will begin at 7:00 pm, featuring Chris and Patty Wigg of rootriverhackle.com.

They will talk about their hackle farm, outside of Lanesboro, and their experience getting into this specialized area of raising chickens for fly tyers and the fly-tying industry. They will also bring some of their products with them.

Monthly Fishing Reports

Lanesboro MN: Root River Rod Co.

Happening Now: Sporadic BWO Hatches (size 20) Parachute Adams have been working well.

Midges size 18-22. Black thread pupae have been catching picky fish! As the water cools down, Scuds and Midges fished in the deeper runs and pools will pick up fish. Try a 18-20 soft hackle black midge underneath a size 14-16 bead head scud!

Streamers! Goldies have been working extremely well in the last few weeks.

Watch out for Redds when wading in the fall!

Decorah IA: Bear Creek Anglers NE IA fishing has been solid with great weather conditions. A bit cold early into fall and also low waters but water temps and fish bite has been consistent and solid. The BWO hatch has been solid. We are having luck on a few BWO patterns and Griffiths Gnats and Adam's mostly in the 16-18 range. For nymphs, my best has been with a small midge pattern (red and black zebra midge size 16-18) and also several streams are showing large amounts of caddis larva in those sizes. It's one of my favorite pattern schemes to fish, being easy to tie and very effective. Other nymphs would be pheasant tails and prince nymphs (love like with a red collar) in size 14-16.



Upcoming Events:

OktoberFish: by TCTU at Summit Brewing Ratskeller: Oct 25, 2022, Fundraising event benefiting [TU Education and Outreach](#) by TCTU. \$25 tickets, all info at [RSVP](#) and Facebook [Details](#)

Win-Cres members meeting: Oct 26, 6:00 pm at Sobieski Lodge in Winona. Root River Hackle will be presenting their fly-tying products.

HTU members meeting: Nov 7 at 7 pm at 125 Live in Rochester. MNTU Chair Brent Notbohm will give a State of the State address and also SE TU Habitat Project Manager Dustan Hoffman will give a Habitat Improvement Review of the SE. The program is open to all.

HTU members meeting: Dec 5 at 5:30-8:30 pm at History Center, 1195 W Circle Dr SW in Rochester. A Christmas potluck. Watch for updates.

HTU members meeting: Jan 9 at 7 pm at 125 Live in Rochester. Justin Watkins of the MPCA will present and the DNR. This program is open to all.

Resources:

[SE Stream Conditions](#) (MN)

[State Map Trout Streams](#) (MN)

[Southeast Streams](#) (MN)

[AMA](#) (MN DNR Aquatic Management Areas)

[WMA](#) (MN DNR Wildlife Management Areas)

[SNA](#) (MN DNR Scientific and Natural Areas)

[State Forest](#) (MN lands)

[SE Minnesota Hatch Chart](#) (Driftless Region)

[MN DNR Fish Kills Reporting](#) (or call 651-649-5451 or 800-422-0798)

[Trout-In-the-Classroom Map](#) (School Locations in MN)

[Wisconsin DNR Trout Streams](#)

[Iowa DNR Driftless Trout Stream Maps](#)

[IA WMA](#) (IA DNR Wildlife Management Areas)

[HTU IA Driftless Go-To Map](#)

HTU Website: <https://hiawatha-tu.org>

TCTU Website: <https://www.twincitiestu.org/>

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