

Southeast TU MN Hotline

Editorial by Carl Berberich

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Minnesota

Trout Unlimited

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The end of Trout-In-the-Classroom (TIC) program for Minnesota??? What??? Say it isn't so.

I sure was surprised when reading an email from John Lenczewski of MNTU this spring (May 12) asking for TU members to call their state legislature Senate members for support of the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) projects. This was because, the Republican controlled Senate was passing its own version of the LCCMR appropriation bill. However, the Senate substituted many projects never seen originally by the LCCMR. This resulted in that MNTU's outdoor education program (and others) had been removed from the bill. Regardless, the bill was not passed for multiple reasons. So even with a \$9 billion budget surplus, the MN Legislature could not get their work done and the session ran out of time. Wow! And when Gov Waltz asked for a special session to work on some of these items, the State Senate said 'No'. What's going on here?

Not passing this bill resulted in the loss of funding for our state-wide TIC program in schools. What a disaster! It had been in about 60-70 schools statewide. The TIC program has been a very important program in MN headed up by Amber Taylor. As part of a broader watershed education program, it teaches what a coldwater stream is, and the variety of macro-invertebrates and trout species that live there and their requirements. Students raise trout in an aquarium and release them in the spring. They do hands-on science during fall and spring field days. So, the important part of this program is that it teaches a very practical application of what would usually be theoretical topics, which then makes it a very interesting class for students.

TCTU, with the MNTU state council, and Amber Taylor just recently, decided to be inventive and create Plan B to keep a basic program running. This new plan would cap the program at the current 72 schools (nine schools in the SE region of MN) for the 2022-2023 school year. Amber's work on the program would include contacting the schools, sourcing eggs, getting wildlife permits, organizing DNR pathology lab testing, and providing some basic teacher training and support. It would not include any classroom visits, participation in trout releases, or any coordination of TU volunteers. This is very much not the full-time position she had done, but just a part-time program that can still function with-in the current existing program for schools.

To meet the goals of the new program, the TCTU Chapter has committed \$10,000 towards the total, with another \$10,000 from the MNTU State Council. The Win-Cres Chapter donated \$1500, and HTU has promised \$2000, for this program. I am unaware at this time, what the other two chapters in MN have promised. But this really looks a lot better than the complete end of the TIC program in Minnesota. Hurrah!! It looks like Minnesota's TIC Program will happen this fall.... But we will have to wait and see!

Additionally, we've been working with John Lenczewski, Mark Reisetter, Jeff Broberg, and others about the **fish kill on the upper Rush Creek** that was reported on July 25. John L. will lead a statewide Zoom meeting on August 30 at 7 pm to present what we know so far, review other recent fish kills, explain how the state regulates agricultural practices, and what we can do.

Fish Kill on Rush Creek

By Mark Reisetter, Win-Cres Board member
Photos by Carl Berberich

On Monday evening, July 25, John Weaver of Lewiston went south of town a couple of miles for an evening of trout fishing on upper Rush Creek. He was near the Interstate 90 bridge when he noticed a couple dead trout. As he proceeded upstream, he counted 50 dead trout within about the next 100 yards.

John, who is on the Win-Cres TU Chapter's board of directors, didn't have the phone number of the Minnesota State Duty Officer with him, so it was after 9:00 p.m. when he got home that he dialed (800) 422-0798 to report the fish kill.

Some of the dead trout that John spotted were up in the grass, indicating that the kill occurred during the recent high-water event two days earlier on Saturday, July 23.



John didn't have any glass containers with him to take a water sample right away, but perhaps it would have been too late anyway by then, to capture any toxic chemicals.

Representatives from the MN DNR, MN PCA, and MN Dept. of Ag. were on site the following morning, using the angler's parking lot just off County Road 29 as their staging area. Two tributaries join right below this parking lot, and from what some have heard, the toxic agent seems to have come from the tributary on the south.

On that Tuesday morning, dead fish were seen all along the stretches of Rush Creek that lie above the Interstate bridge. I stopped in at Enterprise by the Gale Rasmussen residence to make sure they were aware of the event, talking with a grandson, as Gale wasn't home. Later in the day, Gale called me to tell me that all the riffles near his place were filled with dead fish. That's when Carl Berberich, who happened to be sitting next to me on our front porch, went down to take some photos. Later that evening, Gale texted me the photo that his upstream neighbor

Robert Meyer had taken of the dead, 27-inch brown trout that he had found floating on his property.



“A picture is worth a thousand words” is an old adage that certainly applies to the



reporting of this fish kill. Meyer’s photo, as of Aug 22, has been viewed on the MNTU Facebook page by 32,926 concerned people.

On the day before that hard rainfall that killed so many fish and invertebrates in upper Rush Creek, residents of Lewiston were closing their house windows because of a heavy manure smell wafting into town on a breeze from the southwest, indicating the probability that a liquid manure application had been made on fields in the watershed upstream of the fish kill. Enterprise residents had also reported that aerial spraying of crops by helicopter had also been observed in that area prior to that Saturday rain.

In recent years, aerial “crop dusting” has become pretty commonplace here in the driftless. A fungicide usually from the Strobilurin or Triazole fungicide groups is sprayed around the time that the corn has tasseled. Those fungicides are known to be toxic to aquatic life.

Minnesota DNR Fish Hatchery Tour Meeting at Lanesboro

By John Weiss, HTU Board member

Photos by John Weiss

LANESBORO — On Aug. 1, a warm, sunny evening, Scott Sindelar gave about 20 of us a tour of the recently renovated Lanesboro Fish Hatchery. It wasn't expanded but its main building, which was really old and having major structural issues, was replaced and a degassing tour added. Also, many of the electrical and plumbing systems were replaced, he said.

Here are some of the key statistics:

- Total cost, around \$5 million. There are six people working there, including Scott.
- Of all the fish, the southeast gets about 15,000 pounds of rainbows as yearlings and about 330,000 brown fingerlings.



- The hatchery itself is nearly a century old and was built there, where a mill had been, because it has a constant flow of cold, pure water. Well, for a while, there were problems with debris in it from sinkholes but a dye-tracing study found the source and landowners worked with the DNR to take care of them.

- It was found to have a 10,000-gallon-per-minute flow and it fed into nearby Duschee Creek. Above the spring, a lot of cattle in the water pretty much made it sucker water. But below, it had a good trout population (the headwaters of Duschee was also good for trout).

- It produced 300,000 browns for stocking in 1926, the second year it was in production (a dam failure the first year wiped out that year's fish).

- An original building at the spring is getting a check-up from an architect.

- They average about 5,000 gallons per minute now. The lowest flow was 3,5000 and it's about 4,200 now.

- They produce rainbows and browns for the region, as well as across the state. All browns



are now stocked as fingerlings (about 250 to the pound) while most rainbows, which don't reproduce in the wild, are stocked big enough to keep. It's hard to tell a hatchery brown from a wild brown because they grow up in the stream, not the hatchery.

- Browns are naturally better at staying hidden, while rainbows will come up to look for food.

- When they incubate the eggs, they run 4 gallons per minute at 48 degrees, meaning oxygen is great and it's close to saturation at 10-11 ppm. Ph is 7-7.5 so it's harder water with more chemicals. "It's really difficult to raise fish in soft water," he said. "This is ideal for trout." They have to keep close tabs on them, "it's like babysitting."
- The spring water has nitrogen in it, so it's degassed.

- The strain of browns is called Plymouth Browns from the East Coast and brood stock was taken from Beaver and Trout Run streams.



- Browns begin to spawn right after Labor Day and rainbows about a month later. But spring is the busiest time because they have to take fish all over the state, beginning in the southwest part and working their way up to the Arrowhead. In all, about 100,000 pounds of fish are sent statewide to lakes and streams. "We are at the limit of what our water can support," he said.

- It all, they stock about 120,000 pounds per year.
- They don't select brood stock for any particular trait, unlike in the wild when some traits might stand out, so they have more genetic variability in the hatchery.

- They have about 225 4-year-old rainbow brood stock, 700 3-year-olds and about 1,000 2-year-olds. Rainbows produce about 4,000 eggs per fish while browns only 3,000 eggs. There are about twice as many brown brood stock because they have lower fecundity.



- When the eggs hatch after about a month, they are taken to the main building where they are fed. Uneaten feed and waste is scraped off and clarified in a pond. Clarified water goes to Duschee. The waste is recycled, going to a farmer for fertilizer.
- The young stay in the big room until April and they go to intermediate raceways.
- They get close to a pound of fish per pound of special food. They are fed high-protein meal.
- The hatchery gets orders a few years in advance, but they are maxed out.



Garvin Brook - Anglers Path Mowing Project

By Dave Shaffer, Win-Cres Board member

Photo by Dave Shaffer

The hoppers and crickets are hopping on Garvin Brook. We know this because the Trout Unlimited mowing crew was out cutting a fresh angler path on nearly two miles of the stream on Aug. 17.

It was the third mowing and probably the last on that stream for the season. The path is on a stretch parallel to Hwy. 14 west of Stockton.

Volunteers Jim Granum, Alan Lundstrom, Neal Mundahl and myself, knocked down the mature weed growth — and stirred up some terrestrials — using the Win-Cres Chapter's walk-behind brush-cutting mower. The mowing crew is planning to return to Rush Creek, where volunteers clear 2 miles of paths above and below the Ahrensfield Creek tributary.

Please consider joining this great volunteer effort next summer. With enough dedicated volunteers, we could consider paths on additional streams. Contact Win-Cres board member and mowing coordinator Dave Shaffer at dshaffer1000@gmail.com to learn more.



Neal Mundahl, Jim Granum and Alan Lundstrom clear a path on Garvin Brook

No Fish Cleaning Signs

By Dave Shaffer, Win-Cres Board member
Photos by Dave Shaffer

A new sign is telling anglers not to clean fish at the “Apple Orchard” access on the South Fork of the Root River. An angler using the access recently cleaned fish and dumped entrails that were gobbled by the landowner's dog.

At the landowner's request, the Win-Cres Chapter installed the No Fish Cleaning sign.

Please respect the landowner, and protect his dog, by cleaning your catch responsibly. This landowner has been good to anglers, allowing parking on land outside the fishing easement.

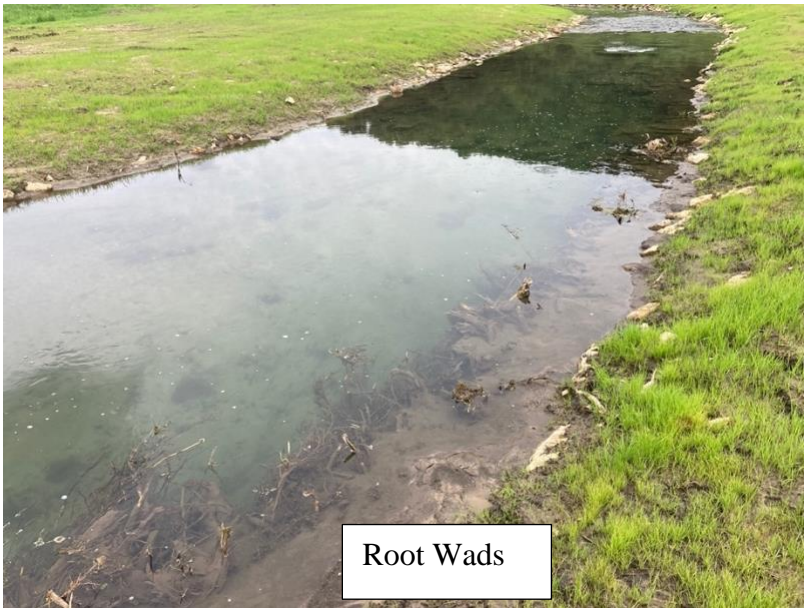


Habitat Improvement Project Update

By Dusty Hoffman
Project Manager for SEMN Driftless Area Restoration

The Habitat Improvement (HI) project on Winnebago Creek began July 5, 2022, on the section of stream upstream of the County Road 5 bridge. Frequent rain events made for great growing conditions of vegetation seeded within the project area, and rains were light enough that work was not delayed much. The project site is approximately 4,500 feet in length, meeting up with a downstream HI project completed by the DNR in the summer of 2021 that stabilized a high eroding bank. The MN Trout Unlimited and DNR projects each included one set of lunger structures, providing overhead cover for trout. Several other overhead structures were included in

the design of the MNTU project including root wads, large over-hang rocks, and pool logs (photos). The initial installation of the HI project was completed on August 5, 2022.



Root Wads



Pool Log

Sections of the HI project site were extremely wide, so channel narrowing was done to help the stream pass sediment that otherwise collected and covered ideal substrate for use by invertebrates and trout spawning. One section measured at over 70 feet wide was narrowed to approximately 20 feet of width (photo). Extra soils removed from high bank areas were either used to fill and narrow the channel or were blended into the face of the bluff. Soil stockpiled on the bluff toe have been placed in a manner that should encourage swallows and king

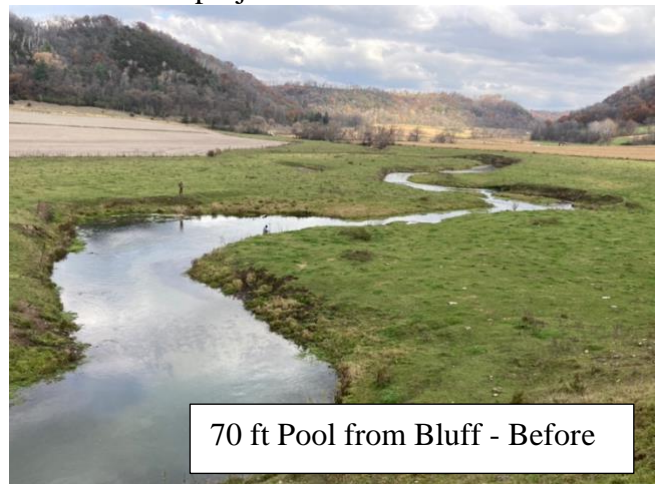


Large over-hang Rocks

fishers to use them for nesting areas, as we have seen on other recent HI projects.



70 ft pool from Bluff - After



70 ft Pool from Bluff - Before

Fly Tying for Veterans Event

By Brewfly and Win-Cres TU Chapter
Project Manager for SEMN Driftless Area Restoration

Fly Tying at Island City Brewing Co.

Please join us tying flies that will be donated to participants of Whitewater State Park's event in September-
Military Families & Veterans Trout Fishing Retreat

When: The second or third Monday of each month.

August 15, 2022...3rd Monday....6:00-8:00 P.M.

September 19, 2022...3rd Monday....6:00-8:00 P.M.

Where: Island City Brewing Company

65 E Front St. Winona, MN 55987

Phone: 507-961-5015



Hosted by: Win-Cres Trout Unlimited Chapter and Brewfly- A group of fly fishing and fly-tying folks that meet up to share fishing stories while tying flies and sampling some of the area's finest microbrew. We always have plenty of extra tools and materials on hand to share and provide others interested in learning how to tie flies.

Flies Needed

Nymphs: Pheasant Tail, Copper John, BH Hare's Ear, Rubber Legs
Wooly Bugger (black or olive), Pink Squirrel, Orange Scud

Drys: Adams Parachute, Adams Dry, Stimulator, Elk Hair Caddis
Pheasant Tail Emerger, Crickets, Hoppers, Ants, Beetles

Donate Flies by Contacting: Dave Schultz milsch@hbc.com

(507) 459-8484

Organizer- Dustan Hoffman

brewflyfishing@gmail.com

(507) 459-9851

Fly of The Month

Tying and Fishing a Goldilocks Streamer

By Lance Prado and Carl Berberich



Lance Prado of the Root River Rod Co. from Lanesboro, MN ties this fly for fall fishing in the Driftless SE. He says this is an easy fly to tie. Especially if you can tie a Wolly Bugger. Lance says that they have all the materials for tying this fly at the shop for anyone needing anything.

If you don't use streamers, this fly would be an easy one to tie and have in your fly box to use when other things aren't working. It will get you started. For those of you that do use streamers, this is another streamer to add to your arsenal.

Hook: Gamakatsu B10S sz 4, 2

Head: Gold Conehead Bead

Thread: Veevus red 6/0

Tail: Cream colored Marabou

Underbody: Cream colored Marabou

Tail flash: 2 strips of Gold Flashabou strips sz 1/100

Body Hackle: Cream Colored Schlappen

Body: Golden chenille

Gills: Red Dubbing

[Tying Video](#)

Upcoming Events:

MNTU will host a Zoom meeting for all members (and the public) on Tuesday August 30, 2022 from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. to share what we know about this fish kill, since the agencies are very close mouthed. We will also share water quality research results from the Whitewater River, review past fish kills on Garvin Brook, and South Branch Whitewater, overview the current manure management and pesticide/fungicide application rules, and more.

HTU and Win-Cres TU members meeting and intro to Sara Strassman: Sept 12, 5:30 pm on the SBWW at the old bridge above Crystal Springs Hatchery. We'll meet TU-DARE's new leader Sara Strassman and have dinner streamside. Her email address is: Sara.Strassman@tu.org

Fly-Tying, at Island City Brewing 65 E Front St. Winona, MN 55987.

When: The Second Monday of each month.

Sept. 19, 2022.....6:00-8:00 P.M.

Donate flies for Veterans Fly Fishing Retreat at Whitewater State Park

Hosted by: Win-Cres TU and Brewfly

Organizer- Dusty Hoffman brewflyflyfishing@gmail.com (507) 459-9851

Iowa Driftless Chapter Fundraiser: Oct. 1st. Fundraising event at the Winneshiek County Fairgrounds in Decorah, Iowa, with music, food, fly tying, casting, a raffle for a Chris Wasta bamboo rod and other activities. Admission is free. For more information, contact Mike Rogers at tuiadriftless@gmail.com.

Fly Fishing Women of Minnesota: Oct 10-16: join the FFi Upper Midwest Council & FFi Women Connect this Fall for the 2nd annual Minnesota Driftless Rendezvous. At Cedar Valley resort in Whalen, MN

For details and To Register for week-long event:

Contact Monta Hayner

womenconnect.UMC.ffi@gmail.com

612-386-3078

[2021 MN Driftless Rendezvous video](#)

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](#)

Resources:

[SE Stream Conditions](#)

[State Map Trout Streams](#)

[Southeast Streams](#)

[AMA](#) (Aquatic Management Areas)

[WMA](#) (Wildlife Management Areas)

[State Forest land](#)
[MN DNR Fish Kills Reporting](#) (DNR site on how to report a fish kill)
[Wisconsin Trout Streams](#)
[SE Minnesota Hatch Chart](#)
[Iowa DNR Driftless Trout Stream Maps](#)
HTU Website: <https://hiawatha-tu.org>

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