



TU Western Driftless Hotline

Editorial by Carl Berberich

Eleven environmental groups petition EPA on nitrate pollution in Southeast Minnesota

Minnesota Trout Unlimited has joined with ten other environmental groups to petition the federal EPA. This is because of the nitrate pollution in drinking water has reached crisis proportions in southeast Minnesota, and it's time for the feds to step in. They are asking the Environmental Protection Agency to take emergency action under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. State and local regulators have failed to lower dangerous nitrate levels in groundwater with voluntary measures that aim to curb pollution from farms. The Southeast Minnesota's groundwater is particularly vulnerable to nitrate pollution because of the many sinkholes and fractures in the porous limestone underlying the region. An article from the online news source Bluestem Prairie can be found [here](#). Additionally, the *Clean Water Coalition is Hosting "Resource in Crisis"* by Caroline van Schaik of Minnesota Izaak Walton League on *page 10*, highlighting a free program by the Coalition on May 22 in Lewiston, MN. This is an important program that will describes the issues in detail, and hopefully can point to solutions.

Who won the Bamboo flyrod?

Looks like Mike Melford won the Root River Rod Co.'s donated flyrod to the Hiawatha TU Chapter on April 22 drawing. Here is a picture of him picking up his new bamboo flyrod at the RRRCo in Lanesboro.



Where are all the insects this spring?

Are people noticing the lack of stream insects in southeast MN? I've been hearing from lots of flyfisher-people talking about the complete lack of most mayfly hatches, or the very small caddis hatches compared to previous years. I think we need to research this. Is it pesticides? If so the MPCA needs to investigate and put a stop to whatever is causing it.



Highway Cleanup by HTU

There were 10 of us working on the highway clean up this year near the Parsley Bridge Rest stop on Hwy 52. And we had hotdogs and brats when we finished thanks to Jim Nielson. There are a variety of flowers found also in the highway's right-of-way. Here is a picture of a trout lily that was blossoming. This has been the 30th anniversary of this project, and we are still making it happen.



Hiawatha TU May 1 Meeting

By John Weiss, HTU Board member

Melissa Wagner, area DNR fisheries supervisor in Lanesboro, spoke in person at 125 Live at 7 p.m. May 1. Her topic was DRIFTLESS TROUT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT. About a dozen members were there in person or online.

She covered a lot of areas and over-all, I was impressed at how many things are going on to improve our streams and fishing. And that doesn't include all the studies Doug Dieterman is doing.

Here are some highlights:

- She pointed to a graphic showing the number of trout in Gribben Creek, a small stream east of Lanesboro. It showed the number of adults fluctuating quite a bit but the number of young of the year was really wild, bouncing dramatically. "There are those cycles that occur," she said. But that's normal and even good. "We can't have record year classes year after year," she said. But she did note that the number of trout 12 inches or longer has been going up over the years.
- They manage for three species and people don't agree on which is the best and which the DNR should manage for.
- The number of brown trout fingerlings stocked is around 380,000 but the DNR would like to see that lowered even more and maybe change which streams get the fish. They shock Camp, Duschee and Wisel each spring to check on how fingerlings are doing. They shock on the edges where the little fish live, and they are checked for length. This helps show the DNR how many should be stocked overall. Spring flooding and snowmelt really dictates survival of the little trout. An entire year class can be wiped out with the wrong conditions.
- The new Minnesota Driftless brook trout will be stocked in August. They are a new strain that was developed to replace Minnesota Wild. The new ones are made up of eggs and milt from three places where brook trout show no DNA from any outside source. All other brookies have some DNA from hatcheries outside the state. The hope is that the new strain will be stronger and more resilient than existing fish.
- The DNR is working to bring back slimy sculpins. The presence of the funny looking fish and brook trout are the best indicators of how good a stream is. The DNR uses Index of Biotic Integrity as a way to measure just how good water is - the presence of certain fish indicates the water is great but if there are only suckers and bullheads, the water is rated poor.
- Getting more easements is a high priority. "We have a lot of streams without a single easement on it," Wagner said. But if they could get more, it would spread out the pressure.
- The DNR wants to have more good stiles on eased waters and is asking anglers to please let her know where any need work, or where a stile is no longer needed because a fence is



down - that stile can be moved to a place that needs one. Email her at melissa.wager@state.mn.us. The hardest thing they do is keep up with maintenance on easements and vegetation management. Again, if you see any place that needs work, contact her.

- She showed the map of the number of reported spills from 1961 to this year; that could be milk, gasoline and manure. But not all resulted in fish kills.
- The area is seeing many more drift boats so the DNR is looking at adding more accesses for them. One that is now open is right below the Lanesboro Dam.
- They are looking at designating a lot more water as trout water. The project uses temperature loggers to know if the water is cool enough year round to hold trout. Vaughn Snook, assistant supervisor, says the designated waters could be revealed later this summer.

* Finally, the Lanesboro Fishing Day will be June 7, 8 and 9 this year at Sylvan Pond in Lanesboro. The DNR stocks extra brook trout for those, such the elderly, who don't have easy access to fishing. Hiawatha TU helps by providing food for the DNR workers.

Iowa Driftless Chapter

By Mike Rogers, President of Driftless Chapter



As Iowa's annual budget plans have recently changed to not support the monitoring of our water qualities, it is now more important than ever for us as outdoors people and conservationists to man the frontlines to gather and document our water qualities moving forward. Please see details of this event/opportunity below, and this same info as well as registration can be found by clicking the following link-- [Water Quality Monitoring Training: Sat, Jun 10, 2023 \(myeventscenter.com\)](https://www.myeventscenter.com) If you have any questions before

registering, please contact Tom Rhoads at trrhoads@gmail.com.

OVERVIEW

Recently the State of Iowa legislature passed an annual budget that removed all funding for water quality monitoring in the State. Without funding, water quality monitoring will be left to citizen scientists. At this training event attendees will learn how to perform water quality monitoring testing and report their findings using the WiseH2O smart phone app.

The event will be held in two parts; part one will be in a class room setting held in the City of Decorah, Iowa public library where we will go over the equipment, how to use the smart phone app, and review the water quality sampling and testing techniques. Part two will be held on the water where participants will put what they learned in the classroom setting into practice. Before leaving the event, each participant will sign a pledge and pick a cold water trout stream to monitor for the year. During the year participants will need to make four different water quality observations - one in each season (Summer, Fall, Winter, and Spring).

All water quality testing kits will be provided at the event. Attendees only need to dress appropriately for the weather and activity. Participants should expect to get into the water during the field portion of the water quality testing; so please wear appropriate shoes and clothes. Everyone attending the event will be required to provide their name, address, and email address so communication can be continued throughout the year.

Please help out and join this hugely important effort!

Win-Cres TU May 3 Meeting Notes

By Mark Reisetter Win-Cres Board member

Mike Jeresek attended the May 3 board meeting to review the successful Goodhue Fishing Day. Mike shared that there were 59 Goodhue students grades 6-12 that attended the day's event. The following guides worked with students: Rich Abts, Carl Berberich, Larry Boehm, Jim Clark, Jeff Copley, Mike Ebner, Lou George, Jim Granum, Mike Jeresek, Eric Nelso, Toni Ponsilett, Jim Reinhardt, Dave Schulz, Dave Shaffer, Tom Stevens. Thanks to Robbie Ebner, Goodhue teacher and coach, for providing an opportunity for Win-Cres to be a part of this day.

Roger Berg shared that Win-Cres will have a booth at the July 12-16 Winona County Fair held at St. Charles. Volunteers will be needed to work the booth and should notify Roger of their availability.

The April 19 Stihl brushing provided an opportunity for Win-Cres to view the operation of various Stihl equipment used to remove trees and brush. Win-Cres was given a \$1500 grant to be used to purchase a piece of equipment. Stihl also gave Win-Cres a professional style brush saw and 2 sets of chaps. Dave Shaffer after reviewing the pro and cons of various equipment pieces will provide that information to Win-Cres for a decision. Thank you to the 23 Stihl employees and 15 Win-Cres members for a successful day.

The DNR has indicated that there will not be a need for Win-Cres to help make any lunger structures this summer.

A training for volunteers to monitor a local stream is scheduled for May 20 at St. Mary's University in Winona. The free course will run from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. To register contact Caroline van Schaik at caroline.ikesumri@gmail.com

The Whitewater Vets Fly Fishing Retreat has been rescheduled for September 16, 2023.

Thank you to Judy Shepard, Klaus Friedl, Dave Schulz, Roger Berg, Bruce Fuller, Neal Mundahl, and Tom Stevens for picking up trash along Hwy 61.

The next Win-Cres Board meeting will be June 14 with a location to be determined.

Win-Cres has just learned that they will receive a bequest from the estate of Joe Lepley. Details are unknown at this time.

Win-Cres TU & Goodhue Fishing Club

By Robby Ebner Goodhue Public School Fishing Club Leader & 6-8 Social Studies Teacher



On a fifty-degree, beautiful Friday morning, sixty eager anglers from the Goodhue Fishing Club took to the streams in the Rushford area.

They were guided and mentored by nearly twenty volunteers from both WinCrest and Hiawatha T.U Chapters. Anglers ranged from first-timers to 5-year veterans in this partnership between WinCrest T.U. and Goodhue Fishing Club. The Goodhue Fishing Club consists of students in grades 6-12 in Goodhue, Minnesota. The event first started in 2018 with 28 students and 10 volunteers and has grown in size to its current state. The current partnership consists of a here-and-there event. T.U members come to Goodhue and teach multiple skills at the Goodhue School, then those same anglers come down to Rushford a few weeks later for a field experience. However, due to an April snowstorm, the event in Goodhue had to be canceled this year.



One of the more impressive outcomes of this event is the interest among young lady anglers. Over 15 lady anglers took part in the event, which is an increase from the first event which only consisted of two. Fun was had by all, and this partnership has become a much sought-after event for both the Goodhue Fishing Club and Trout Unlimited Chapters. Veteran anglers mentoring these new anglers have helped not only promote a love for fishing but also a love for conservation and anything trout related.

TCTU and The Studio film

By Bob Luck: President TCTU



Some may remember [this 2019 video](#) where neither TCTU board member Scot Simmons, nor his son Cooper, could contain their excitement as Cooper landed his first fish on a dry fly. There was a huge outpouring of positivity after this video was posted, which strengthened Scot's bond with the greater fly-fishing community. It also gave his mind an opportunity to heal from years of mental health struggles.

"Being recognized for doing good, not just about angling but also as a black man, father, role model and overall human... that's what that moment on that creek did," explained Scot.

"I'm healing mentally and emotionally, and the creek has helped me grow and value things in a way that I had never done before. The more time I spend on the creek, the more I'm able to separate and distance myself further and further from what will always be in my past."

[Now streaming on YouTube](#), the new original film "The Studio" from Trout Unlimited highlights Scot's path to creating a better life for himself and others by finding his equilibrium through fly fishing.

Gasoline Leak in Elgin MN

By Dave Shaffer, Win-Cres Board Member

Gasoline spreading underground from leaky pipes at a Cenex station in Elgin, Minn., got into tap water and a southeast Minnesota trout stream, state regulators say.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency on May 3 accused the station owners or employees of repeatedly pressing a reset button on leak-detection equipment so that gas could be sold, rather than checking for a leak. Up to 10,000 gallons of fuel leaked underground, state officials say. No fish were reported killed on the North Branch of the Whitewater River as a result of the leak in early 2022. Officials believe gasoline seeped into the trout stream via storm sewers and a dry tributary. Petroleum fumes also were noticed in some building basements and tap water, triggering state remediation steps such as activated-carbon water filtration.

Contractors for the MPCA removed the gas station's underground fuel pipes — two had holes, one of them dime-sized— along with 3,127 tons of contaminated soil and 4,500 gallons of gasoline, the MPCA said in a [filing in Olmsted County District Court](#).

The state is seeking civil penalties and costs. At least \$1.1 million has been spent on the problem so far, not including MPCA staff time, an agency official said.

Station manager Gurpreet Kaur denied that anyone intentionally ignored leak detectors. She said the system was reset only once or twice and that a pump service company was called to check the system, resulting in a new part being installed in December 2021. The first hint of a leak came the following March, when residents detected petroleum in storm sewers, she said.

“They are putting this all on us,” said Kaur, who is the spouse of one of the owners accused in the civil case. “We did not ignore it — no one would. We lost money,” she added, referring to the gasoline lost underground.

Dan Broton, a senior advisor to the MPCA commissioner, said measures have been taken to keep petroleum out of the sewer system and stream. Yet some risk remains from petroleum that has spread out underground in a “plume.”

“Because the petroleum plume is not yet stable, ground and surface waters are at risk as the plume moves or expands with varying seasonal groundwater levels,” the civil complaint said.



Lanesboro, MN: Stream Access Improvements

By Dave Shaffer, Win-Cres Board Member

Photo by Luke Pfeffer

Anglers who fish the South Branch of the Root River in Lanesboro will find improved access just below the city's historic dam.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources in April added rock to protect the riverside walkway where many anglers like to fish, regraded banks, and improved the launch site.

Now, anyone with a kayak, canoe, drift boat or other small craft should have an easier time getting on the river. It's classified as a pedestrian access, not a full boat launch, but is a big improvement over the old access.

The project was a cooperative effort of the DNR Parks and Trails Division and the City of Lanesboro. The earthmoving work was done by the DNR Fisheries habitat crew based in Lanesboro, which has heavy equipment and experience with stream bank projects.

Jim Melander, supervisor of the habitat crew, said it may return in the fall for additional bank work just downstream.

Separately, Minnesota Trout Unlimited has applied for Legacy Amendment funding to restore trout habitat from the dam downstream approximately 3,000 feet to the end of city-owned land.

The project also would remove invasive box elders, convert eroding banks to low

benches and improve angler access to a stretch that now is treacherous. MNTU will coordinate the project with the City and DNR. If approved, the work would be done in 2024 or 2025.



TU Fisheries Science and WISEH20

By John Weiss, HTU Board member

Dan Dauwalter, TU fisheries science director of national TU, spoke to the Hiawatha Chapter of TU via ZOOM April 3 at 125 Live.

Science in the past has been at a very high level but now, they are trying to bring it down to more local levels such as how brook trout are doing in the SE.

One thing he talked about was WiseH20 that Hiawatha, Twin Cities and Kiap-TU-Wish chapters are using to monitor stream health. This is actually the beginning of a broad landscape assessment, and this citizens science is part of that. It's more of a coarse screening tool and also has an educational component. Kiap-Tu-Wish began it, and it now has more than 1,000 readings since 2019. The goal is more than 1,700 by the end of this summer and 2,500 by end of 2024. "The data are valuable," he said.

Besides water quality, TU also learns about problems such as dams, erosion, cattle in stream etc. It's more baseline data.

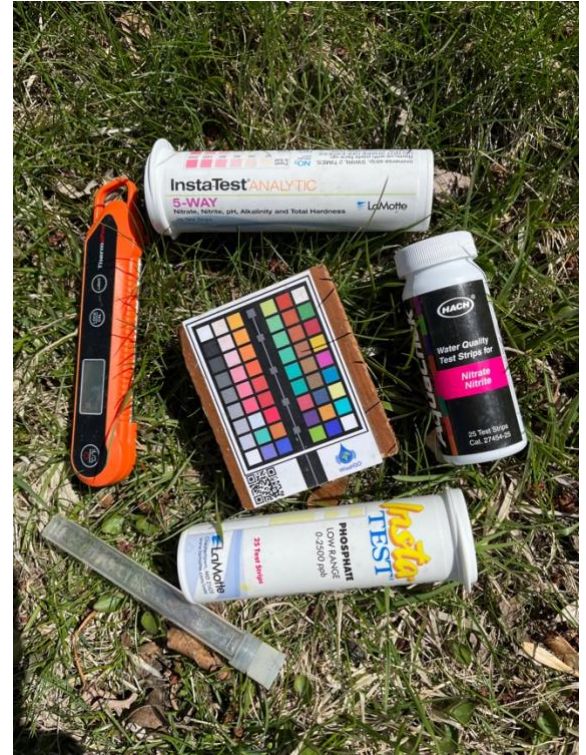
Another part could be a GPS-based index for the Driftless. They hope to go to many road crossings to see if perched culverts are stopping the free movement of trout, especially brook trout. TU is pushing to increase the numbers of brookies from here east (we are at the western edge of brookies' range).

Dauwalter also gave us a more national look at trout and also what is being done out west to try to help a few trout species. Right now, 73 percent of trout species are threatened, with introduced non-native fish the biggest threat. Even brook, brown and rainbow trout can squeeze out natives. For example, cutthroats may be only in less than 10 percent of their original range.

The US Fish & Wildlife Service contracted with TU to assess the Apache cutthroats. Given the way temperatures are expected to rise, the trout could be in for a rougher time in part because they have isolated populations. TU looked at ways to quantify habitat and used Landsat satellite data that goes back 50 years to see what streams are like for trout. The data can tell which parts of streams have trees growing along them and which are more bare; that is important out west because they help keep water and fish. Also, they can tell how the land is being grazed.

They looked at areas that were grazed conventionally and other that had rotational grazing, using cowboys to keep cattle away from streams. They also found beaver helped impound water, making the land a sponge, and kept it for when things got much drier in later summer.

Landsat and other tools are making it better for seeing what's happening and making changes. "It's our super super valuable piece of technology," he said. They are creating artificial beaver dams to keep water also help raise the stream beds to connect them with their floodplain.



QUESTIONS

Can we raise the stream beds in the Driftless the same way they are doing it out west?

No, the west and Driftless are very different landscapes. In this region, many streams are more incised, so they need to have their banks sloped back. Also, most of our streams are on private land so we can't do larger projects while out west, much of the land is public.

Around here, they want whole landscapes with better infiltration but out west they want green along the streams themselves. Rotational grazing works out there because if it means more water on the landscape. "It preserves our water for a big win," he said.

What really helped out west was they got buy-in from one rancher and he spread the word to others. "It's word of mouth from your neighbor. It just takes one to move," he said.

Clean Water Coalition to Host "Resource in Crisis"

By Caroline van Schaik of Minnesota Izaak Walton League

The dire impact of contaminated drinking water on human health and regional economics is the focus of a forum on Monday, May 22, 2023, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Lewiston Community Center, 75 Rice St. in Lewiston. The League of Women Voters, Winona is facilitating the program, which is free and open to all.

The program by the Winona County Clean Water Coalition is in response to recent well testing programs that confirmed significant nitrate contamination of rural drinking water. The coalition includes the Minnesota Well Owners Organization (MNWOO), League of Women Voters/Winona County (LWV), Izaak Walton League/Winona Will Dilg chapter, **Trout Unlimited (TU)**, and Land Stewardship Project (LSP).

The just-filed petition seeking intervention by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in nitrate contamination of drinking water in Southeast Minnesota will be explained by the lead petitioner. Other speakers will address the role of karst topography in private well water quality, impaired municipal water sources, water contamination and human health, and the economic driver of clean water in the county and beyond.

Speakers include Paul Wotzka, hydrologist and MNWOO founder, on "Winona County water quality woes: our drinking water "stinks" and our trout streams are sick - what's a resident to do?"; Aleta Borrud, MD., and Masters in Public Health and Epidemiology, on nitrate and other contaminants, "Do dying fish tell us something about the risk to us from our drinking water?"; Monta Hayner, Driftless Fly Fishing Co. guide, on the importance of clean water to the recreation and tourism economy; Lee Stoe, trout fisherman and longtime TU member, on "A Magical Day on Rush Creek;" and Carly Griffith, Water Program director for the Minnesota

A Resource in Crisis

A Free Presentation and Panel on Water Quality in Winona County

All are welcome: Monday, May 22, 2023, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Lewiston Community Center, 75 Rice St. in Lewiston

	Paul Wotzka Hydrologist, organic farmer, co-founder of Minnesota Well Owners Organization		Dr. Aleta Borrud Physician with Masters of Public Health in Epidemiology
	Monta Hayner Fly Fishing Guide and Women's Outreach and Marketing Director, Driftless Fly Fishing Company		Lee Stoe Avid fisherman and long time Trout Unlimited member.

Presented By:



Email questions to: CleanWaterCoalitionWinona@gmail.com

Center for Environmental Advocacy (MCEA), on “*The EPA petition to use emergency authority to address the drinking water crisis in southeast Minnesota.*”

The program will include brief presentations and facilitated Q&A along with information tables. For more information, please contact Kelley Stange, CleanWaterCoalitionWinona@gmail.com.

Reflections on “A River Runs Through it”

By Jason Rieke

I recently showed “A River Runs Through It” to my girlfriend Macy. We had just come back from the Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo and with fly fishing on our minds, I suggested we watch the film that put fly fishing on the map in many areas of the country. It had been a couple of years since I had last watched this classic, and it put me on a memory trip that was fun to reflect back on.



The Big Thompson River meandering through Moraine Park in Rocky Mountain National Park

My history with “A River Runs Through It” goes back to the summer of 2018. I had just moved out to Estes Park Colorado to work as a fly-fishing guide for the summer and though I had been fly fishing for a few years, I had not seen the movie up to that point. On a slow day when all of us guides were off for the evening, we gathered in the living room of our guide “Haus” where all 12 of us guides stayed and turned on the movie. The picturesque scenes of the “Big Blackfoot River” and the poetic words of Norman Maclean have stuck with me since.

Evening Experience:

The outfitter that I worked for during my years in Colorado was called Sasquatch Fly Fishing. With Rocky Mountain National Park in its backyard, Sasquatch Fly Fishing focuses on taking people on fly fishing trips to the many small streams and alpine lakes of the park. One of the most popular weekly trips is called the “Evening Experience”. This trip is typically run on Sunday evenings, when the hustle and bustle of the week draws to an end and the park, though heavily trafficked at most other times, is very quiet. The trip is designed for anglers of all levels, and usually contains a group of 2-4 families. The outing would always start with meeting at the lake and gearing up next to the picnic tables - guests putting on their waders/wading boots and guides setting up rods and cracking a few cheesy jokes. Our boss Joe would lead most of these trips, and before we would have people grab a fly rod and walk to the lake, Joe would grab his old copy of “A River Runs Through It” and read through some of the beginning quotes:

“In our family, there was no clear line between religion and fly fishing. We lived at the junction of great trout rivers in western Montana, and our father was a Presbyterian minister and a fly fisherman who tied his own flies and taught others. He told us about Christ's disciples being fishermen, and we were left to assume, as my brother and I did, that all first-class fishermen on

the Sea of Galilee were fly fishermen and that John, the favorite, was a dry-fly fisherman.”
— Norman Maclean, *A River Runs Through It and Other Stories*

After walking to the lake, Joe would lead a casting class for people new to fly fishing and for those that needed a touch-up on their casting skills. During the class he would read another quote from the book:

“Well, until man is redeemed he will always take a fly rod too far back, just as natural man always overswings with an ax or golf club and loses all his power somewhere in the air; only with a rod it’s worse, because the fly often comes so far back it gets caught behind in a bush or rock. When my father said it was an art that ended at two o’clock, he often added, “closer to ten than to two,” meaning that the rod should be taken back only slightly farther than overhead (straight overhead being twelve o’clock).”
— Norman Maclean, *A River Runs Through It and Other Stories*

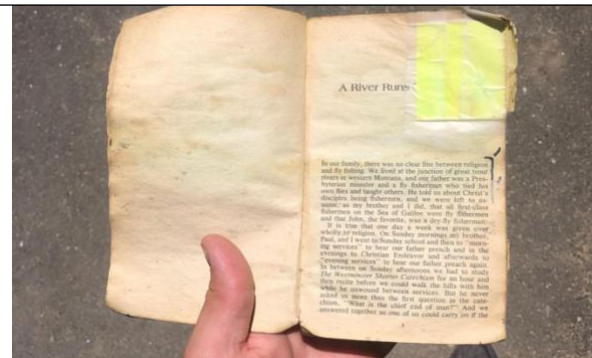
Then the fishing would begin, and the group would get in a half hour of fishing before walking back to the picnic tables to have a dinner of brats, hot dogs, beans, and chips made by a lucky guide who got to stay back and cook while the other guides helped in the casting class. At the end of dinner, before heading back to the lake to finish the night out with fishing, Joe would read a final quote from the book:

“Like many fly fishermen in western Montana where the summer days are almost Arctic in length, I often do not start fishing until the cool of the evening. Then in the Arctic half-light of the canyon, all existence fades to a being with my soul and memories and the sounds of the Big Blackfoot River and a four-count rhythm and the hope that a fish will rise. Eventually, all things merge into one, and a river runs through it. The river was cut by the world’s great flood and runs over rocks from the basement of time. On some of the rocks are timeless raindrops. Under the rocks are the words, and some of the words are theirs. I am haunted by waters..”
— Norman Maclean, *A River Runs Through It and Other Stories*



Joe Croteau reading the elegant words of Norman Maclean during a beautiful evening in Rocky Mountain National Park

Power of Words: Toward the end of my third and final summer of guiding I had the opportunity to be the lead guide on an Evening Experience trip. I had led plenty of trips before, but things felt different with this trip. I knew that my time guiding in Colorado would be coming to an end soon and it felt like the 3 summers of guiding had all led me to this point. I distinctly remember reading through the book during this trip and feeling the weight of a chapter of my life beginning to close up. I am haunted by those waters in Rocky Mountain National Park.



Holding Joe's copy of the book, the pages wrinkled and worn from years of use during fishing trips

What waters haunt you?

Fly of The Month: Stupid Simple Carp Fly

By Lance Prado, HTU Board member

This is a great fly for anyone looking to try their hand at carp fishing and want a fast and effective pattern to catch carp. Click the link to our YouTube channel and don't forget to subscribe. All materials are available in store or online and are listed below. Check out more at Rootriverrodco.com

Hook: Umpqua XS425 BN5X Salt Water Hook Size 6

Thread: Veevus 8/0 Orange

Small Eyes: Nickel Dumbbell Eye

Tail: Pearl Core Braid - Red

Egg: McFlyfoam - Fluorescent Peach



[Stupid Simple Carp Fly](#)

Monthly Fishing Report

Lanesboro MN: [Root River Rod Co](#)

As the weather gets warmer, we are starting to more and more bugs on the water. Olive caddis have been the latest to appear along with mahogany duns. Lots of cream-colored midges are out almost every day. With the recent rain streamer fishing has been fantastic on any stream with a little color in the water. Carp are done with spawning in most places and have been feeding well in the twin cities, Rochester area.

Flies we recommend below.

- Elk Hair Caddis size 18-16 olive or brown
- Parachute Adam's size 18
- Red Quill size 16
- Blow Torch size 16
- Stupid Simple Carp Fly
- Miracle Midge size 20

All flies are available at Root River Rod Co

Decorah IA: [Bear Creek Anglers](#)

Dry bites are consistent on warmer days around 11- noon for caddis, size 16 with bleach or natural elk hair and olive and grey bodies. Other dry activity has been on smaller sized 18-20 Griffiths gnats. Don't forget to throw soft hackles (partridge and orange variations) and also swinging them when surface activity is present but rises seem to be slurps or small disruptions as opposed to full out of water rises. For nymphs we're having success on Pheasant Tail sizes 16-18, green and black as well as red and black Perdigon size 14-18, caddis patterns such as Peeping/Case caddis size 16-18, and small midges such as black, tan and red Zebra Midges size 16-20.

Upcoming Events Schedule:

Clean Water Coalition Hosting “Resource in Crisis”: May 22, 2023 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Lewiston Community Center, 75 Rice St. in Lewiston

Rochester’s Century High School’s TIC Trout Release: May 24 at Whitewater State Park with Bruce Frutiger.

Iowa Driftless Chapter Training: Sat June 10 at 9:00 AM [Water Quality Monitoring Training:](#) City of Decorah Public Library, IA. If you have any questions before registering, please contact Tom Rhoads at ttrhoads@gmail.com.

Resources:

[SE Stream Conditions](#) (MN DNR)

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

[Southeast Streams](#) (MN DNR)

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

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

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

[State Forest](#) (MN lands)

[Driftless 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's Iowa Driftless Stream Map](#)

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

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

TCTU Events: <https://www.twincitiestu.org/events.html>

[2023 MN DNR Driftless Stream Projects Map](#)