

Southeast TU MN Hotline

Editorial by Carl Berberich

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Minnesota

Trout Unlimited

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Fall is approaching, and this means the fishing seasons are changing. In the southeast the Catch and Keep season ended on Sept. 14. The Catch and Release season then begins in the southeast and ends on Oct 15. Then, after Oct 15, the Catch and Release season only continues within these Minnesota state parks:

- Beaver Creek Valley (East Beaver Creek);
- Forestville (Forestville Creek, Canfield Creek, South Branch Root River)
- Whitewater (Middle Branch Whitewater River, Trout Run Creek).

Also, within city boundaries of the trout streams in the following cities of the SE

- Chatfield,
- Lanesboro,
- Preston,
- Rushford,
- Spring Valley

This last Park and City Catch and Release season continues to April 14, 2023. Also, Minnesota's Winter Catch and Release in the southeast streams starts on Jan 1, 2023, to April 15, 2023, which opens all the trout streams in the SE.

In other news, I just read grad student Avery Schnaser's and Dr. Neal Mundahl's technical paper (available on MNTU's [Facebook](#) page) which describes the Garvin Brook's trout recovery from the fish kill that happened in July of 2019. It appears that whatever the agents were in the stream that caused the fish kill, they did not affect, or had minimal effect on, the insect population even though a variety of fish species died. This allowed for the rapid recovery (2+ years) of the trout population, from migration into the affected area and the natural reproduction which occurred there. This fast recovery is attributed to the fact that there existed a sufficient food-base (insects) for these fish. Without this existing food base, the recovery would have taken a much longer time. So, no stocking of trout in the Garvin Brook's fish kill area was used.

On the Rush Creek fish kill the estimated fish kill (2500) is seen as almost twice the number vs. Garvin Brook (1440) and covered a longer stream corridor distance than on Garvin Brook. These two issues will have an effect on the Rush Creek's recovery time. However, Rush Creek's insect population in the affected area is also currently seen to be relatively unaffected by the fish kill as per the DNR. With the insect population at its near full potential on Rush Creek, the DNR currently believes that the stream will not require stream stocking at this time. That is definitely some good news.

I recently read an interesting article on Apple News from the Washington Post. The title is "[The World's Oldest Winged Insect Is in Trouble. How Frightened Should We Be?](#)" by Robert O'Harrow Jr. This article is about all the varieties of mayflies that are disappearing across the whole country. The article talks about many studies and quotes many experts on this issue. Even the prolific Hexagenia's population (Upper Mississippi) has been significantly reduced. There are [links to many scientific papers](#) in this article, but there is no one cause defined. The reasons

actually sound a lot like our fish kill issues in Minnesota. The article states *“The evidence compiled by the researchers suggests the main culprits behind the Hexagenia decline are humans: our pesticides; the way we treat our sewage; the fertilizers we use on crops and lawns; how we build and spread. The byproducts of so much of what we do leaches into freshwater and fouls it.”*

I think this really is a very scary issue, and sounds a lot like the DDT issues of the 50’s and 60’s. Without analysis followed by prevention methods to stop the extermination of insects, things do look bleak. I sure noticed the lack, or reduction of some mayfly hatches this spring. Where will this stop?

Win-Cres TU Chapter News Report

By Mark Reisetter Win-Cres Board member

The Win-Cres Chapter of Trout Unlimited mourns the passing of Joe Lepley. Joe was our immediate past president who presided over our chapter during a time that saw us moving from a chapter about ready to disband to one being very productive and involved in this exciting era of being a TUEr in Minnesota.

Joe was a Notre Dame grad whose day job was as a Winona Middle School teacher. Joe first planted the seed in 1997 for a student exchange program that has grown into a beautiful relationship that continues to thrive with Winona’s sister-city Misato, Japan. Each year about 25 students from Winona travel to Misato in April, and every October about the same number of Misato students travel to Winona.

Joseph Dale Lepley (1952-2022) will be sadly missed.

Win-Cres has been busy tying flies to fill 33 fly boxes that will be given to the U.S. Veterans attending the Veterans Fly Fishing Weekend on September 23-25 hosted by Whitewater State Park and Naturalist Sara Holger. Members have also been signing up to teach fly casting and fly tying for that event.

A few members were able to join Hiawatha in meeting our new TU Driftless Area Program Manager Sara Strassman on September 12 at the SBWW.

The chapter will buy a chainsaw holster to be mounted on our brush hog as requested by our Angler Path Mowing Team headed by Dave Shaffer. Thanks to Dave and his crew for another great year of service, making it easier for anglers to access some of our area’s most popular streams.

Win-Cres’ next general membership meeting will be on October 26 at 6:00 pm at Sobieski Lodge on Winona’s east end.

**Upcoming Hiawatha TU Chapter Meeting:
Oct 3, 2022 at 125 LIVE (125 Elton Hills Dr NW Rochester)**

On Oct 3, Hiawatha Chapter will have a members meeting at 125 Live at 125 Elton Hills Dr NW in Rochester featuring Michael Melford. His topic is *Salmon or Gold: the story of Bristol Bay and Pebble Mine*

He has been published in National Geographic Magazine and by the US Post Office.



West Beaver Creek Habitat Improvement Project Handles 5" Rain Event

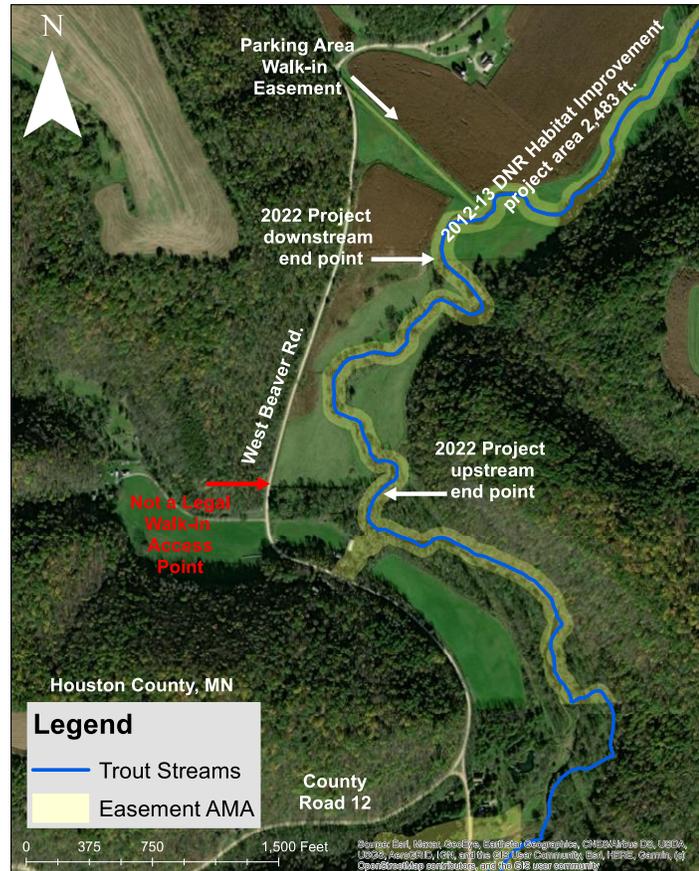
By Dusty Hoffman

Project Manager for SEMN Driftless Area Restoration

This summer Minnesota Trout Unlimited (MNTU) completed a Habitat Improvement (HI) project on a 2,563 ft section of West Beaver Creek in Houston County, adjacent to West Beaver Road. The new MNTU HI project connects to a downstream HI project (2,483 ft) completed by Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in 2012, which contains a walk-in-easement (see map). The entire 2022 HI project area was part of a 1987 HI project the DNR completed to stabilize eroding banks, though HI project techniques from that era have been modified greatly in comparison to HI projects today. Today, there is much more focus on floodplain reconnection, riffle stabilization and grade control, and in-stream overhead cover.

An extremely localized rain event hit the West Beaver Creek Valley on August 24th, 2022. Though online rainfall data reported approximately 3" inches of rainfall, three local landowners reported more than 5" inches of rain in their gauges. A dry run gully that drains directly into the upstream end of the 2022 HI project site had extreme waterflows causing damage at the entry point of the project. Large rock was placed in the dry run channel during the project as a check dam, but

West Beaver Creek Habitat Improvement Project Area 2,563 ft.



Dry-Run downstream of road

the amount of water flowing down the dry run during the storm was able to move large logs, trees, and large rock (dry run pictures). The upstream end of the project received the brunt



Dry-Run upstream of road

of the damage caused by the rain event, mostly due to in-flows from the dry run.

Dry-Run entry to project



Dry-Run pre flood



Overall, the banks, vegetation, and structures of the 2022 HI held up very well through this rain event. Photos of luncker structures and a toe wood bend show

great stability of the structures themselves, and the bank soils being held in place by the vegetation established. Luckily, there had been decent vegetation recruitment prior to the rain event to hold soils in place, but the real saving grace is owed to the floodplain widening aspects of the project.

Dry-Run after flood



Lowering banks and tapering out the floodplain width, allow high-waters room to spread out and dissipate their energy.



Toe wood bend after flood

When waters remain trapped within high banks during high water events, the forces of the high waters erode streambanks bringing in sediment or erode the streambed incising (or digging) the stream deeper, which makes banks even higher.

High water mark and logs



Lunkers after flood



HTU and Win-Cres Members Meeting on the SBWW

By John Weiss, HTU Board member

Photos by John Weiss

On Sept. 12, Sara Strassman stood in a place that makes her happy. “I like working on watersheds,” said the new Driftless Area Program Manager for the Driftless Area Restoration Effort.

She was standing on a snowmobile bridge over the South Branch Whitewater River with the Whitewater Valley as a backdrop speaking to about a dozen members of Hiawatha and Win-Cres TU. A few years ago, that stretch of the river got a major facelift and became a much better stream thanks to a habitat improvement project.



It was the first time she’s met face-to-face with a local TU chapter. It’s her new job after working with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on its Mississippi River team and before that on stream restoration for American Rivers, concentrating on dam removal.

She grew up in Michigan and “grew up playing in streams.” She’s a bait angler. “I love it, my kids love it,” she said. She now lives in La Crosse, Wis. which is central to her job throughout the Driftless area of Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois.

Her job involves setting direction for the Driftless Area for Trout Unlimited, administering the Driftless Area Restoration Effort (a National Fish Habitat Partnership) and managing restoration programs across the Driftless states. The Driftless Area Restoration Effort began in 2004 as an effort to expand watershed restoration funding, partnerships and impact across the four-state area. The DARE program has been a National Fish Habitat Partnership since 2007.

She presented several updates for the Driftless. One of these updates relates to identifying culverts and bridges that may be barriers to fish as well as hazards to flooding. She is collaborating with TU’s science team to work on that barrier inventory, beginning with Wisconsin.



Some other observations:

- The new federal infrastructure bill is going to help all four Driftless states, potentially addressing problematic bridges and culverts.
- A GIS-based analysis will be used to help prioritize brook trout restoration efforts.
- * DARE might keep the hybrid winter conference it used early this year because it allowed many more people to have a chance to hear experts on many topics.

- The Regional Conservation Partner Program that gives money to farmers to help with in-stream projects was recently submitted for renewal. If awarded, States could receive \$200-\$250,000 per year for five years.
- Under the Fish Habitat Partnership between TU and Fish and Wildlife Service, TU will be doing more strategic planning and administer grants, with the next call for proposals this winter.
- WiseH2O, TU's water quality mobile app, will be helpful in filling in data gaps in the Driftless and will help anglers monitor streams while they are out and about. There is a tutorial video on the DARE Facebook page and additional information on the MobileH2O website. There is still time for folks to get in on a September Water Quality Blitz by capturing data in our brook trout streams.
<https://www.mobileh2o.com/driftlessprogram>.

Southeast Fishing Report

By Root River Rod Co

Lanesboro MN: [Root River Rod Co.](#) is reporting that the Hopper and Tricos have slowed down in the recent week. Nymphing has been very productive using size 16-18 pheasant tails and size 16 Blowtorch. Also, brown size 16 Caddis flies have been productive most of the day and they get better towards the end of the day.



Blowtorch nymph

Looking forward, the guides expect streamers to start working well as the brown trout seem to be showing more color for spawning season and are acting more aggressive. Brown caddis should keep working late in the day and size 18-16 Adams should produce fish. The next month should bring stronger BWO hatches (size 18-20). We will see continued Hopper, Caddis and Midge activity.

Trout-in-the-Classroom State-wide map

By Carl Berberich

So, where are these TIC Schools in Minnesota? Bob Luck, President of TCTU sent me an on-line link to share with members. This [map](#) is quite surprising. The orange markers on the map show existing schools with the program, and the blue markers show new schools with the program. I was quite surprised to see schools near where I live and also schools where I grew up. The reason for sharing the map is get volunteers to help out when we need them. So, watch for when these schools need help. Especially if they are in your neighborhood. It might be fly-tying or fly-fishing or releasing the trout fingerlings in the spring. We will try to keep everyone updated.

Veteran's Retreat at Whitewater State Park

Volunteers needed by Sara Holger

We are looking for volunteers to help teach casting and fly-tying Friday and Saturday evenings and for guides to take folks out fishing on Saturday and Sunday mornings. Please spread the word!

Whitewater State Park

Veterans Fly Fishing Retreats

September 23 – 24 & 24 – 25, 2022

ADULT Retreat (Sept. 23 – 24)

Friday

- Check in (1 pm)
- Practice casting & stream basics (2 – 4 pm)
- Dinner (5 pm)
- Evening Speaker (6 pm)
- Rigging your set up & Fly Tying (7 pm)

Saturday

- Breakfast & check out (7 – 9 am)
- Guided Fishing (all morning)
- Box lunches to go (11 am – Noon)

FAMILY Retreat (Sept. 24 – 25)

Saturday

- Check in (1 pm)
- Practice casting & stream basics (2 - 4 pm)
- Dinner (5 pm)
- Evening Speaker (6 pm)
- Rigging your set up & Fly Tying (7 pm)

Sunday

- Breakfast & check out (7 – 9 am)
- Non-denominational church service (8 am)
- Guided Fishing (all morning)
- Box lunches to go (11 am – Noon)

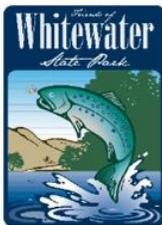
To show our appreciation to military veterans, all meals, lodging, equipment and guided instruction are provided for FREE.

Space is limited. Priority registration for residents of southeast Minnesota.

Register by September 15th at <https://DAVWWFF2022.eventbrite.com>.

For more information contact ashley.laganiere@olmstedcounty.gov.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!



Fly of The Month: Partridge and Orange (soft hackle)

By Carl Berberich



This Partridge and Orange is a classic soft-hackle wetfly that has been around for a very long time and works very well. The fly is considered an attractor type of fly, so the object of the fly is to be highly visible when fished. That's why I like to use a peacock herl thorax, because peacock herl is a visually magic material sub-surface.

Especially on small streams it is really not necessary for the fly to be weighted. This also means that it rarely gets hung up on submerged rocks and so therefore fishes quite easily compared to nymphs. I do like to use a heavy silk material rather than regular thread or floss for the orange body because it retains its color when wet better than most other materials.

The reason that I chose this fly is that I like to fish this fly in the fall. This is because there are fewer aquatic insects hatching or laying eggs or doing things that draw specific attention to them in a group-like way. So, fishing an attractor when not seeing much insect activity can be a fall fishing strategy. With our fall fishing season in the SE being much longer, we can exploit this strategy to its fullest.

Partridge and Orange – soft-hackle wetfly

Hook: Tiemco #3761 sz 8 – 18 (nymph hook 1X long)

Weight: Optional

Thread: Orange 6/0 or 8/0

Body: Orange Floss or Ovale Pure Silk Floss - Hot Orange, or orange thread

Rib (Optional): Fine gold wire or copper wire

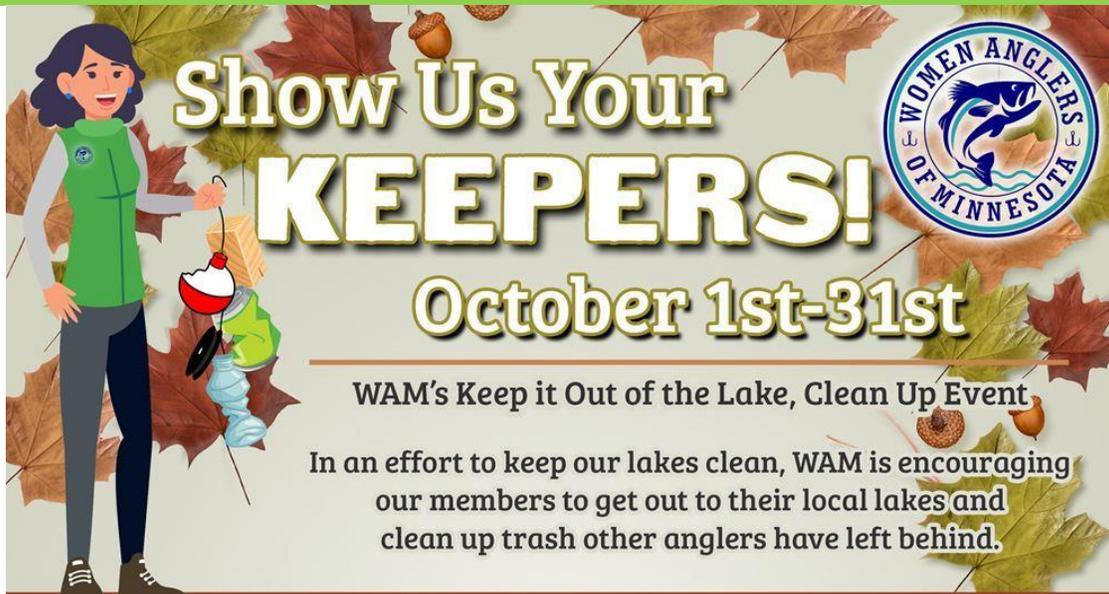
Thorax (Optional): Hare's Mask Dubbing or Peacock herl or orange flash dubbing

Tying video: <https://www.flytyer.com/mastering-the-classic-partridge-orange/>

Or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kYrmElo222s>

Fall 2022 Show Us Your Keepers Conservation Clean-Up Event

By Women Anglers Of Minnesota (WAM)



Show Us Your **KEEPERS!** October 1st-31st

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!

Upcoming Events:

Veteran's Retreat: at Whitewater SP, Sept 23-25 Volunteers needed to teach fly-casting, fly-tying and guided fishing. See flyer for details.

Iowa Driftless Chapter Fundraiser: Oct. 1st starting at noon. 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. The event is from Noon-4pm and the Fairgrounds are off of Montgomery Street right in Decorah. We will be holding the event in the bigger shelter on the grounds, the Danan Lansing Building.

HTU members meeting: Oct 3, 6:30 pm at 125 Live in Rochester Program by Michael Melford covering the Bristol Bay, Alaska gold mining environmental issues to the salmon fishery. This program is open to all.

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](#)

Win-Cres members meeting: Oct 26, 6:00 pm at Sobieski Lodge in Winona

HTU members meeting: Nov 7, 6:30 pm at 125 Live in Rochester. Justin Watkins of the MPCA will present. This program is open to all.

Resources:

[SE Stream Conditions](#)

[State Map Trout Streams](#)

[Southeast Streams](#)

[AMA](#) (Aquatic Management Areas)

[WMA](#) (Wildlife Management Areas)

[State Forest](#) lands

[MN DNR Fish Kills Reporting](#) (DNR site on how to report a fish kill)

[Wisconsin Trout Streams](#)

[SE Minnesota Hatch Chart](#)

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