



TU Western Driftless Hotline



Editorial by Carl Berberich

Wild Parsnip Is out there

The wild parsnip plant is really out there now. It has been flowering in the last week. If you don't know about the plant, it is an invasive plant that grows in road ditches and streamside too. The bigger plants (6 foot+) are usually found streamside. These plants are very poisonous to touch. Touching this plant and being exposed to sunlight gives you a blistering rash similar to poison ivy. Currently it is mostly found in southeast Minnesota. This is considered by the state of Minnesota as a 'Prohibited Control Noxious Weed' that must be controlled on all lands within the state. To see the Noxious list go to <https://www.mda.state.mn.us/plants-insects/minnesota-noxious-weed-list>. There are five categories.



The TCTU Chapter is having a wild parsnip removal event July 9 on the South Branch of the Vermillion River. Details can be found here <https://tu.myeventscenter.com/event/Habitat-Day-South-Branch-Vermillion-River-Ama-95700>. Getting rid of these invasive poisonous plants is important.

I was just recently looking at the beaver dams on the upper Mill Creek near Chatfield. It was almost impossible to get near the stream due to the amount wild parsnip growing there.

The Drought is over in Southeastern Minnesota

After having some violent storms this past week, I decide to check out the streams. It looks like many of the beaver dams were blown out. Many of the streams had lots of mud flowing too from the rain events.



Mill Creek beaver dam



Camp Creek



Trout Run

Hiawatha TU May Members Meeting

By John Weiss, HTU Board member

First, I'm planning a Midsummer Evenings get together July 15 at the South Branch Whitewater River. I'll make brats and hot dogs and will have chips and some kind of other food. Maybe watermelon. BYOB. You will be asked to sign up in a few weeks. Maybe we can get there early and have a fishing contest for a few hours - biggest fish wins.

Second, there is a good chance Hiawatha TU will be at the National Izaak Walton League event celebrating 100th anniversary of founding of the Upper Mississippi National Wildlife and Fish Refuge Aug. 17 or 18 at Prairie Island north of Winona. We will have fly rods there and will help teach people to fly fish. State TU will probably have a table too and maybe we could demonstrate WiseH2O. We will see. I will be gone that weekend, the only one I don't have open all summer. I will get more information as we get closer.

Keep the dates open.

Win-Cres Happenings

By Mark Reisetter Win-Cres Board member

Win-Cres will once again have a booth at the Winona County Fair on July 10 - 14 in St. Charles. Roger Berg has the schedule of time slots for people to sign up to represent TU at the fair.

Dusty Hoffman reported that TU members removed around 2 1/4 miles of barbed wire and fence posts along Little Pickwick Creek, and that Jim Melander's crew from the Lanesboro Fisheries Office will be mowing along Rush Creek above the Ahrensfield confluence.

Chuck Shepard reported that his Japanese knotweed injections along Garvin Brook have been very effective, and that he has mailed other streamside property owners on Garvin that TU would be willing to treat JK infestations that have been located on their property.

Neal Mundahl reported that the MNTU Advisory Committee had not met, but that John Lenczewski had sent out a positive report on the recent legislative session that has ended. The Lessard-Samms Fund through the Outdoor Heritage Council and now the Legislature has approved a \$2.9 million funding for MNTU stream improvement projects for 2024.

I will add that on a negative note, the new MNTU request for a grant to fund our educational programs from the LCCMR Committee was not approved, but that current funding is good through next year.

The Win-Cres board's next meeting will be August 7.

TCTU June News

By Bob Luck, President of TCTU

I spent four days last week in the southwest corner of Wisconsin (aka the Eastern Driftless), hoping to tempt some trout into hitting a cicada imitation. The periodical cicada hatch only happens every 17 years, and I'll be pushing 80 the next time it happens, so I figured now or never. Unfortunately, it was a bust. I heard some cicadas in the trees but I didn't see any near the water, and the spooky Driftless trout were not interested in a big foam dry that plopped into the water. If you want to catch fish on cicadas, I recommend going after bass or carp in Illinois. Fortunately for those of us who like to throw big dry flies at trout, the Hexes are starting to appear in Northern Minnesota and Wisconsin. There may even be some activity at the mouths of Driftless streams. If you do know of a Hex hatch locally, send me an encrypted message on Telegram. I had low expectations for the cicadas going into the trip, because I had called a guide in Madison who warned me that he had seen no cicada activity. Another case study in the importance of local knowledge.

If you are looking for some expert local knowledge or new to fly fishing, hire a guide! If you can't afford one, or even if you can, we have some great programs this summer to get you started on the water, these include:

Meet-a-Stream on August 10 and September 9. Join MNTU education specialist and longtime fly angler, Evan Griggs, at his favorite MNTU habitat project sites. Tour the project site to see how habitat work benefits the stream. Learn about stream ecology by sampling macroinvertebrates to determine water quality and see what the trout are eating. Then we'll practice our fly fishing skills, like casting and knot tying, before heading out to try and catch some trout.

Introduction to Fly Fishing on July 25 (on dry land). This evening session will include Invertebrates (what trout feed on), fly tying (you will tie your own fly), a lesson on fly rod casting and a review of what equipment is necessary for fly fishing.

TCTU Adventures. A weekend or day trip with a group of TCTU anglers to a nearby hotspot. All skill levels welcome, and some of the experienced anglers pitch in to coach the newbies. No events are currently on the calendar, but it is likely we will get one on the calendar soon. We just finished up a weekend trip to Preston.

Check out the TCTU calendar at <https://www.twincitiestu.org/events.html> for details and registration information on all of these events.



My consolation prize in SW Wisconsin took a nymph from an undercut bank. It was quite a battle with a 13 foot Tenkara rod

Flyfishing Women of Minnesota Update

By Hillary Pennella, Chair FFWNMN

Lake Phalen Event By Sally Noll, Past Chair FFWNMN

After a busy spring of education for FFWNMN members, we have moved into practicing what was learned along with some socializing. A second such event was a “Fishing Around Town”



held at Lake Phalen on the evening of May 23. A nice little sand point on the lakeshore had a string of fly-fishing women practicing their casting and catching some crappie and sunfish. A few squeaks and screams were heard when bites were missed, or a fish was brought in! A bit of a challenge that night (actually more than one, such as swimming dogs and wading children!), was the wind but everyone needs to learn to cast in the wind whether you like it or not!! Weeds were not too thick, just enough to hold some fish!! Members traded rods and reels to get the feel of a different set up. Fishing around town events are a great way to get familiar with other members and maybe get a tip or two at the same time. We will continue to host these outings throughout the summer.

Viroqua Fishing Trip By Hillary Pennella, Chair FFWNMN

Our club hosted an annual outing to Viroqua, WI in the heart of the Wisconsin Driftless! We had over 16 women come together to visit the area and fish for the weekend. One of my favorite aspects of this event is that we have a variety of women attend, from beginner to advanced, and those who are experienced fishing the area to those whose first time it was attending the event. I am constantly impressed by the willingness of all to build camaraderie on this trip and bring their passion to share with one another.

Trip highlights included breaking up into small groups to explore the spring creeks in the region.

There were multiple fishing groups in the area (ours included), but the vast options of fishing access never cease to disappoint, and we were able to find plenty of water and avoid the crowds. There were brook trout, brown trout, and an impressive array of creek chubs/suckers caught throughout the weekend. There were even a few ladies who landed their first fish on the trip! It was a great opportunity to see some of the women put together the skills we’ve been working on throughout the spring at our Fly Fishing 101’s and Streamside Clinics into action on the water.



For more information about Fly Fishing Women of MN and becoming a member, visit our website at

<https://flyfishingwomenmn.com/>



Iowa Driftless Chapter

By Mike Rogers, President

The Driftless Chapter was able to partner with the Oneota Community Food Co-Op and their “Round-It-Up” program for a second straight year where all proceeds will go towards NEIA Coldwater conservation. The chapter is extremely grateful and thankful for another year of partnership.



Stream Etiquette

By Paul Krolak, HTU Board member

Every spring, the Hiawatha Chapter teaches a Rochester Community Ed class called ‘Intro to Fly Fishing’. One of the subjects we always discuss is stream etiquette.

We talk about ‘high holing’ and ‘low holing’ - jumping in above or below someone who’s already on the stream fishing. We discuss how you should give a wide berth when hiking past someone who’s fishing - although if you’re up against a bluff that can be difficult. Walking slowly and quietly isn’t just polite - you hopefully don’t spook the fish the other person worked hard to get close to.

We also talk about fishing easements, what is and isn’t allowed, and that when choosing where to park, don’t block field entrances, don’t leave closed gates open, and what legal access means. Easements, of course, are for privately held land, and we should always be respectful of the landowners and the legal terms of the easement.

A number of groups, guides, and fly shops run fly fishing classes, and do stream-side and in-stream instruction. For the most part - these happen in state or city parks. Groups like the Goodhue HS Fishing Club meet up in a city park, but then disperse out over a wide area to fish in small groups. But occasionally I hear of a group pulling up at a bridge abutting a fishing easement, with about a dozen folks rigging up and heading down to the stream to get their fly fishing class experience.

I think if I were the landowner - or someone fishing there - and a fishing class of 12 people showed up - I’d be justifiably irked. While there are a few easements with unique clauses (like allowing birding) - fishing easements are for fishing, not picnics, group gatherings, mushroom or ginger foraging, or providing an outdoor recreation experience for your dog. For the dozen-member fishing class - please go to a park. There are a number of very suitable places to hold such events.

A few Saturdays back I fished our recent project on the South Branch of the Whitewater, upstream from Crystal Springs. I arrived to find an empty parking area, but when I came back a few hours later, there were several groups of people fishing and - a first for me on the SBWW - a whole flotilla of kayaks laid out by the snowmobile bridge, getting ready launch.

I get that floating a small stream in a kayak is fun - but had I been downstream nymphing a nice riffle when a long string of kayaks paddled through I'd have been pretty annoyed. One or two? Probably not. Six? On a stream that's pretty small and tight? A group that size should think about their impact a little more and choose a stream reach more suitable for a group of that size.

Etiquette and limiting your impact are part of being a good citizen, and part of sharing limited resources that belong to everyone - not just you.

Beyond the Driftless: Colorado

By Jason Rieke



As summer approached this year, my wife Macy and I thought it would be a fun idea to be like the cool kids and go on a [Babymoon](#) trip. We are due with our first in September, and early June lined up to be at a point in pregnancy where we figured we could still camp out and do some somewhat challenging hikes. Macy had never been to Estes Park or [Rocky Mountain National Park](#) before. On the other hand, I had the fortune of living in Estes and working in the park for 3 summers after college. I couldn't think of a better place to take our last road trip as a family of 2 and we had a great time.

Headed West:

I am always a sucker for a captivating western road trip. When planning this one, we thought through the drive and added some fun stops along the way. The first day we left Rochester mid-morning, stopped at [Blue Mounds State Park](#) to stretch our legs out, and finished the day arriving in Wall, SD in the afternoon. We spent some time at the infamous [Wall Drug](#) and then found a cool campsite along the "[Badlands Wall](#)" at the [Badlands Boondocking area](#). The next morning

we woke up and continued our way to Colorado, taking a detour through [Spearfish Canyon](#) and the northern [Black Hills](#). We then traveled down the scenic HWY 85 through eastern Wyoming.

Colorado:

We crossed into Colorado and spent our second night of the trip car camping in a dispersed camping area along a forest service road south of Estes Park. In the morning, we went back into town and I showed Macy around. We stopped at the [YMCA of the Rockies](#) and swung by [Sasquatch Fly Fishing](#) to say hi and see how things were going. Unfortunately, I didn't get to see my former boss, old coworkers, or my cousin (who now works for Sasquatch) as they were all out of town on a fishing trip. We did however get to spend that evening grilling and hanging out with some of my other close Estes Park friends whom I had met through church.

We left Estes the next morning and headed into Rocky Mountain National Park. Being a Sunday morning, we stopped at the Glacier Gorge amphitheater and attended a pleasant church service put on by [ACMNP](#). After that, we packed our fishing gear into backpacks and hopped into a shuttle bus that took us up the mountain to a trailhead. Three miles, 1,000' elevation gain, and a snowfield later, and we were on the banks of [The Loch](#), one of the park's 147 beautiful lakes. We rested on the shore and watched as [Greenback Cutthroat Trout](#) cruised around, rising sporadically to tiny midges. While sitting there, I tied on a [Parachute Adams](#) for Macy and she landed her first cutthroat before we had even put our waders on.

We spent the next few hours wading through the ice-cold lake, enjoying the views and solitude, and sight casting to cruising fish. I had been very excited to share an alpine lake experience like this with Macy and it was one that we'll always remember!

A June snowfield at 10,000' On the shore of The Loch Macy with a beautiful Greenback

After hiking back to the trailhead, we drove up and over [Trail Ridge Road](#) and took in the amazing views. We spent our fourth night of the trip at [Timber Creek Campground](#) on the west side of the park. From our campsite, we saw at least 4 different moose including a mother/calf combo and a small bull. You don't see that every day in the driftless!

Headed Home:

Our days out west were coming to an end and over the next two days we made our way back to Minnesota. We traveled through Wyoming and then cut into the Black Hills near Newcastle, WY where we spent our fifth and final night in another dispersed camping area along a forest service road near Custer, SD. The next day we rolled back into Rochester.

Macy and I both value taking trips like this. They are a great way to experience God's magnificent creation, to rest and disconnect from the work world, and to catch a few fish along the way. And now that we are blessed to be expecting our first kid in a few months the memory of trips like these will be passed down to the next generation. There were many moments throughout our trip that reminded me of the following song lyrics:

"I thought hey, Imma tell our kids about this someday" - Song: [Angels](#) by The National Parks

Fly of The Month: Stubby Chubby

By Lance Prado, HTU Board member



Stubby Chubby terrestrial hopper pattern. This is one terrestrial that is a must have for anyone looking to catch more fish on top with a terrestrial. This is a fairly simple tie. This fly floats very well and can handle hanging nymphs from it but you will not need to. Watch the video and don't forget to subscribe.

Ingredients:

Size 10-14 Stubby T Hook

1MM Foam

Ice Dubbing color of your choice

UTC 140 Thread

Glow Bright Floss

Small Life Flex for the Legs

White and Orange EP Fiber

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FG8CDa4i6b4&t=10s>

Monthly Fishing Reports

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

With lots of rain in the recent weeks, streams are up and fishing very well! We have been seeing a good variety of mayflies. Yellow sallies size 10-14, PMDs Size 14-16, March Browns Size 14-18, and even a few big Golden Stoneflies size 10-6. We had a great Brown Drake hatch this year and that is almost over now. With rain predicted streamers will be very effective with murky water and bigger nymphs like a size 12 prince or copper john and streamers like Dungeons and Leeches. Terrestrials are out and the fish are keying in on them and it has been a blast seeing those explosive takes. The Grass/Weeds are high and hanging over the bank so it's perfect for hopper fishing right now. We recommend the Stubby Chubby, Mimic Hopper and Hippy Stomper for terrestrials. All flies available at Root River Rod Co in Lanesboro MN.

Decorah IA: [Bear Creek Anglers](#)

NE Iowa has seen a much more promising Spring/early Summer compared to recent years. Water levels remain at a good level and seem to continue improving as rainfall keeps coming. We've had only a few days of unfishable water conditions and overly hot days to fish. Dry Flies—continue to look for caddis hatches throughout the Summer, but we are really starting to move into terrestrial season.

- Elk Hair Caddis—size 14-16 in various colors—grey/tan/olive/orange
- Beetle Patterns—any beetle sizes 12-16 (hippie stompers are a favorite)
- Grasshoppers—smaller chubbies in sizes -12-14 (see Root River Rod Co. video on Youtube or visit their shop for the Stubby Chubby)

Emergers/Soft Hackles—we fish soft hackles and emergers most months of the year, and before/during the caddis hatches they can be very effective.

- Any partridge soft hackle pattern—Partridge and orange patterns in sizes 14-18 are a favorite fished in tandem with a nymph, or also behind an Elk Hair Caddis.
- Caddis pupae/emergers in sizes 14-18

Nymphs—when bug/top water activity is not present, look to nymph fish

- Pheasant tail, prince nymph, blowtorch, caddis larvae/cased-caddis, perdigon, Higa's S.O.S., pink squirrels—the biggest thing is having your sizes and depths at the right place. Think sizes 14-16 for these nymphs and then look to find the proper depth.



Streamers—with the rain continuing to come, look to fish dark colored streamers/buggers when the water is overly murky.

Upcoming Events Schedule:

Hiawatha TU Members Meeting: July 15 at South Branch of Whitewater River above Crystal Springs, 6 pm

Driftless TU Chapter Meeting: No scheduled Meetings until September

WinCres TU Chapter Meeting: August 7

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>

Fly Fishing Women of Minnesota Website: <https://flyfishingwomenmn.com/>

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