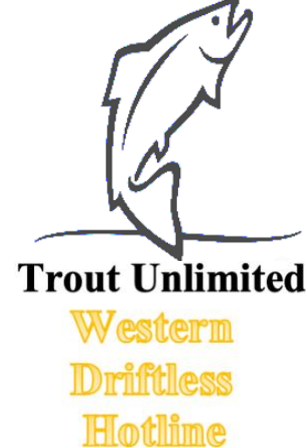




TU Western Driftless Hotline



Editorial by Carl Berberich

Assistant Director for MNTU

With all the trout stream project work that our Minnesota state Trout Unlimited Council is doing and also with education programs and conservation advocacy and development issues, the state council is looking to hire an Assistant Director. This person will be working directly with our Executive Director John Lenczewski. There is link outlining the job description and the position requirements including how to apply found here <https://twincitiestu.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a423c1f059368fce4e1171d94&id=34cb11e4a4&e=d02c023dcd>

Climate Change Effects

We are really seeing the effect of climate this summer. And this heat is affecting our weather patterns. In the Minnesota SE, we are really having a drought. We normally are one of the wettest parts of the state, but not this year. This is affecting stream temperatures, making the larger streams like the South Branch of the Root quite warm. Don Parsons, one of our stream monitoring people, found it to be at 68 degrees 2 weeks ago. This was above Forestville SP. When it gets that warm it can be detrimental for stream trout. I fished Mill Creek in Chatfield on August 17. The stream temp was at 64.5 degrees. That's a little high but not terrible. Fishing was good because there were lots and lots of hoppers in the tall grass, and the fish were feeding on them. So... it's a good idea to monitor the temp of the stream you are fishing on, because it can be harmful to catch and release fish when it gets to 68 degrees and above.

OktoberFish TCTU Fundraiser

The Twin Cities TU chapter is having an Oct 25 fundraiser called OktoberFish.

- Special Guest Presentation by *world-famous* author and guide [Carl Haensel](#)
- Delicious dinner catered by the *world-famous* [Route 47 Pub & Grub](#)
- Beverages by the *world-famous* [Forgotten Star Brewing Co.](#)
- Door prizes, volunteer recognition and tall tales
- 100% of proceeds will benefit Minnesota's *world-famous* [Youth Education & Outreach](#) programs.

Details and tickets can be found here <https://twincitiestu.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a423c1f059368fce4e1171d94&id=4d8ca1df9c&e=d02c023dcd>

Hiawatha TU

By John Weiss, HTU Board member

WITOKA — My 13-year-old grandson Anthony came with me to Cedar Valley Creek Aug. 17 and he was allowed to hold in his hand what I hope will be a great part of the future of trout fishing in this region.



Travis Viker pours a bucket with Minnesota Driftless brook trout into Cedar Valley Creek

Travis Viker, a Department of Natural Resources fisheries technician from Lanesboro, had transported about 3,500 parrs (fingerlings) of the new Minnesota Driftless brook trout strain to the creek near Witoka for stocking. The little fish are the culmination of big effort of more than a decade of DNR work deciphering genetics and then developing the strain in the Peterson State Fish Hatchery.

If I'm lucky and can get Anthony into trout fishing (he lives out of state) he and I might have a chance to catch some of them. Or we can catch Driftless brookies in many more streams because they were stocked in 12 streams this time. They could be stocked in many more streams in the future.

A brief history: This region a few centuries ago, had only brook trout in the myriad spring-fed streams. Along

came Europeans and their poor land-use; streams were polluted, and it's no longer known if any native fish survived. But Europeans also brought in brook trout from hatcheries from other states as well as browns. Later, the DNR would bring in rainbows to be reared for catch-and-keep fishing.

Maybe 15 years ago, two DNR officials looked into records of where brook trout were known to swim and paper records of where they were released. They found several streams had brookies but no record of them being stocked. Maybe the paper trail is missing, maybe the fish moved. But curious DNR fisheries officials used modern genetics and found that most fish could be traced back to hatcheries. BUT there are three pods, called genetic management units, that had no known outside genetics. They can't be called native, so they are called heritage.



A handful of Minnesota Driftless fingerlings.

The DNR took eggs and milt from those fish and mixed them in the Peterson hatchery to create Minnesota Driftless. What is hoped is that they will have something special about them, something more suited to this region that they will take over from the outside fish. One time, when heritage fish were put into a stream with other brookies, later genetics found only heritage. They have something special about them.

When Viker and I watched the fish after they were stocked, we both noticed they adapted to the stream instantly. Instead of being a bit dazed like other fingerlings, they quickly found little places to hide near or under rocks. When I moved too quickly when trying to take their picture, they instantly spooked.

It should be fun fishing for the Driftless when they grow. Maybe Anthony will be with me.



The fingerlings a few minutes after being released.

Win-Cres TU May 3 Meeting Notes

By Mark Reisetter Win-Cres Board member

A summary of Win-Cres Secretary Tom Stevens's minutes of the August 9 Board Meeting: Roger Berg reported on Win-Cres' presence at the July 12-16 Winona County Fair. Those board members who worked at the booth shared their support of our involvement in future fairs as a means of outreach to the public.

Dave Schulz reported on the upcoming (Saturday, September 16) Whitewater Vets Fly Fishing event. Dave will send out an email to Win-Cres and Hiawatha TU members regarding the event and the need for volunteers.

On August 10, Dave Shaffer and 3 helpers mowed along Garvin Brook.

The Win-Cres Chapter received a substantial bequest from the estate of past president Joe Lepley. The chapter is moving to establish a \$32,000 endowment with the Winona Community Foundation.

If the Win-Cres TU Chapter were ever to dissolve, the annual Endowment distribution would go to MNTU. A thank you to treasurer Tom Stoa for his thorough research and reporting on the various options for Win-Cres regarding this generous bequest. The Win-Cres Board of Officers wants to acknowledge Joe Lepley's generous bequest. Bruce Fuller will begin the process of honoring Joe by looking into the possibility of putting a memorial bench in Winona's Lake Park.

Win-Cres plans to use Sobieski Lodge rather than Holzinger Lodge for all future general meetings due to accessibility and ease of internet access. Our general meeting dates for the

remainder of 2023 and future dates for 2024 are as follows: October 25, December 6, January 24, February 28, and March 27. There are no general meetings during December.

The Board decided to use the unused portion (\$418) of the Stihl grant to purchase a gas chainsaw from M&M Lawn & Leisure in Rushford.

Iowa Driftless Chapter

By Mike Rogers, President



On August 2nd, two of our members were able to attend the installation of the educational Little Paint project sign at the Little Paint Campground. This sign educates readers on the stream restoration efforts that were completed with the help of our chapter as well as the State Lands Water Quality Grant Program, Driftless Flyathlon, Iowa's Coldwater Conservancy, Trout and Salmon Foundation, and Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association. I attached a couple of pictures, and below is a link to a cool video the DNR put together about the Little Paint Creek project.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jjpvPYCDKC4>

****Saturday, August 19**, Pulpit Rock Brewing Company in Decorah, celebrated their 8-year anniversary with the release of their new beer, EIGHT, which they donated a portion of proceeds to our chapter. First off, a huge thanks to the folks at Pulpit Rock Brewing Co. who reached out to us about this opportunity. The beer bottle and glassware showed a super cool brook trout on the label. We encouraged everyone to join them in the celebration and to pick up one of these cool bottles! Limit TBD and First Come, First Serve!

On September 9th, the Iowa DNR and TUDARE will be hosting a conservation workday on Saturday, **September 9, 2023 at the [Decorah Fish Hatchery in Decorah, Iowa](#)**. The primary focus of the workday will be to build about 25

bankhides/LUNKERS to be installed as part of the North Bear and Patterson Creek habitat improvement projects we've previously discussed.

The shop will be opening up at 8am that day to get started and might work into the early afternoon, but that will depend on how quickly the hides get



built. Volunteers will be handling rough sawn lumber so please dress accordingly and bring leather gloves. We will work rain or shine since the shop will be available if we need to work inside. Come and help as long as you'd like. If you will be coming to volunteer, please RSVP by responding, and please fill out the attached volunteer form and return it with your RSVP email.

Flyfishing Women of Minnesota Update

By Sally Noll, Chair FFWMN



For summer, the club has been focusing on what we call our “Fishing Around Town” events which are late afternoons/evenings or a day trip at a nearby lake or river/stream. Some challenges have been air quality alerts or very hot weather. For July, the “Fishing Around Town” was held at Lake Hiawatha and attended by two brave souls as that day the temperature approached 100 F. While a few bites were noted, it ended up being a good session for practice casting. Earlier in August, a float trip down the Kinni in kayaks was held. Despite some challenging conditions, the crew finished the trip. Thanks to Hillary Pennella and Tanya St. Vincent for organizing this trip! Our next event is Mississippi River fishing from Pike Island at Fort Snelling State Park later in August. Hoping for some pike or



smallmouth bass!! More events are planned for September and October.

On a more serious note, members of the club attended the open house held by the Corps of Engineers in River Falls to obtain public input on a potential environmental restoration project on the Kinnickinnic River. It was a different format type with various stations set up and people at each station to answer questions. It was very informative with more to come.



A Shoutout to Volunteers

By Bob Luck, President of TCTU

If you are reading this newsletter, chances are that you have volunteered for TU. Maybe you worked on a habitat project, taught kids how to fish, or contacted a legislator about groundwater contamination. Or maybe you did all of those! Volunteers are the beating heart of TU. Lately, we have had some outstanding and “unconventional” volunteers:

- A sound engineer helped us fix the Zoom audio for our chapter meetings.
- A photographer set up a professional video system for the meetings...and donated a camera.
- Our latest find is graphic designer [Jeff Kaphingst](#). Check out the cool flyer he created for our Oktoberfish fundraiser. Thanks, Jeff!

If you have a special hobby or talent that you think might help TU, please contact your chapter. Your skills may be needed.

Speaking of Oktoberfish, if you will be in the Twin Cities on October 25th, please sign up! This is our largest fundraiser of the year, and all proceeds benefit Youth Education programs in Minnesota. Even if you can't make the event, please consider a donation. You can find the event details and ticketing/donation page [here](#), or you can show off your technology skills and point your phone at the QR code in the flyer.



Wed. October 25, 2023
6:00pm - 9:00pm
Forgotten Star Brewery

SILENT AUCTION
FOOD: ROUTE 47/65 PUB CATERING
BEVERAGES: BY FORGOTTEN STAR BREWERY

GUEST SPEAKER
CARL HAENSEL
AUTHOR AND FISHING GUIDE

ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT TCTU'S
YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS

SCAN TO REGISTER



Mowing program and Japanese Knotweed

By Dave Shaffer

Win-Cres volunteers re-mowed the angler path along Garvin Brook in August, improving access to the small, productive trout stream near Stockton, Minn. The stretch, along US 14, has been the subject of habitat improvement in past years, but the banks are dominated by tall weeds after mid-summer.

Volunteers Neal Mundahl, John Weaver, Dave Shaffer and Dan Brown used the chapter's brush cutting mower to clear the angler path. Dan was welcomed as the latest volunteer on the mowing crew.

The crew spotted more Japanese Knotweed and moved the angler path to avoid it. A contractor for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is expected to treat knotweed this fall in the hope of halting its spread on Garvin Brook. Win-Cres takes precautions to avoid spreading invasive plants by cleaning its equipment after each use. The mowing program is on hiatus while the brush cutter undergoes repairs.



Veteran's Fly-Fishing Retreat

By Dave Schulz Win-Cres VP

The 3rd annual Veteran's Fly-Fishing Retreat at Whitewater State Park is fast approaching. This year the format will be different than past retreats. The first was for women veterans, the second for families of veterans; both being overnight weekend long events. September 16th will be a one-day retreat with no overnight stay and a limit of 15 participants. We are pleased to say that all 15 slots are filled with a waiting list. Four of the fifteen are women veterans. Below is the proposed itinerary for the day.

The participants can bring their own equipment, or it will be furnished on site. We present each participant with a box of flies tied by TU members and friends. We could use and welcome more flies to complete the boxes for this event. They can be delivered or sent to Dave Schulz, 214 E. 5th St., Winona, MN 55987.

Some volunteers have already stepped forward, but to provide meaningful experience, more are needed for fly tying, rigging gear, casting instruction and onstream guidance. One-on-one fishing experience for each participant would be great. Meals will be provided. If you can help, please contact me, Dave Schulz at milsch@hbc.com. I will be out of the country August 28-September 11 but will be monitoring emails.

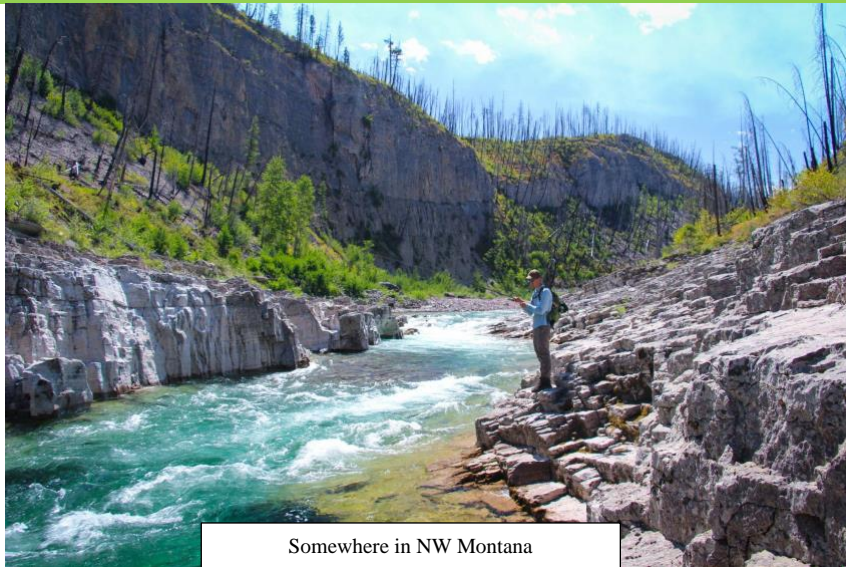
8 – 8:30 am	Check-In/Breakfast/Welcome at Whitewater Visitor Center
8:30 – 9:30 am	Trout Fishing Basics presentation (habitat, habits, equipment, etc.)
9:30 – 10:30 am	Stream Walk & Invertebrate Sampling

10:30 am – Noon	Fly Tying
Noon – 12:30 pm	Lunch
12:30 – 1 pm	Veteran Services wellness presentation – suicide prevention
1 – 2 pm	Rigging your set-up and casting practice
2 – 5 pm	Fishing
5 – 5:30 pm	Dinner
5:30 – 6:30 pm	The Healing Forest presentation (Sara)

p.s. I am proud to be a Vietnam veteran myself.

Beyond the Driftless: Backcountry Bull Trout

By Jason Rieke



Somewhere in NW Montana

At the end of last month, a couple of buddies and I spent a week in the Montana/Idaho backcountry on our 5th annual “Schoolyard Bully Tour.” This yearly trip stemmed from a desire to fish for the elusive bull trout and to explore the remote places that searching for them would take you. And over the years, it has taken us to some truly wild places. This year's tour found a way to top the highest highs and lowest lows that we've experienced during any of the previous trips.

Montana:

The first stop of our trip was to head to a secluded river in NW Montana that we have been to before (one of the few places in the state that you can legally target bull trout). This is a place that only has two gravel roads that access it. On our way in, we unknowingly chose incorrectly and ran into a road closure 40 miles down one of the gravel roads. We were only 20 mins from where we had planned to camp but we had to drive back down the first road and take the other, longer road. The detour added 3 hours of travel to our already 20+ hour trip. It was a drag but was certainly worth it. We spent the next two days wade and float fishing through one of the most beautiful places that we have ever been, and we found a few bull trout along the way. It was a great time, and wildfires caused by dry lightning storms that had come through the area during our stay made for some interesting sights on the drive out as well.



End of the road



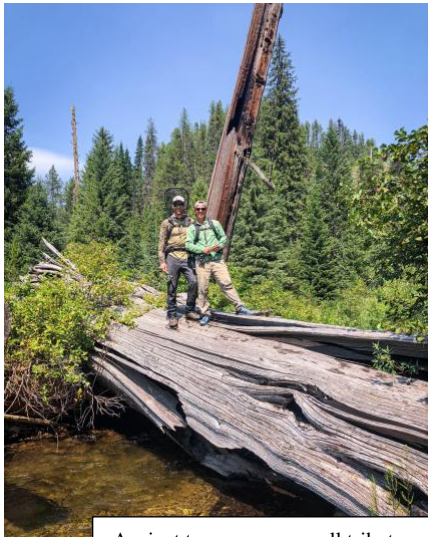
Jack with a nice bull trout



Wildfire in the distance

Idaho:

After our time in NW Montana, we headed south to pick up a buddy in Missoula and then crossed over the mountains into Idaho. We spent the first day fishing spots closer to the roads and doing short hikes back into a few of the tributaries to the main river that we were fishing along. It wasn't too long before we came up to a deep hole with a massive rock in it, and after a few casts, I was hooked up with my first Idaho bull trout. We continued to explore and find a few more smaller bull trout throughout the day, as well as hooking into plenty of nice westslope cutthroat.

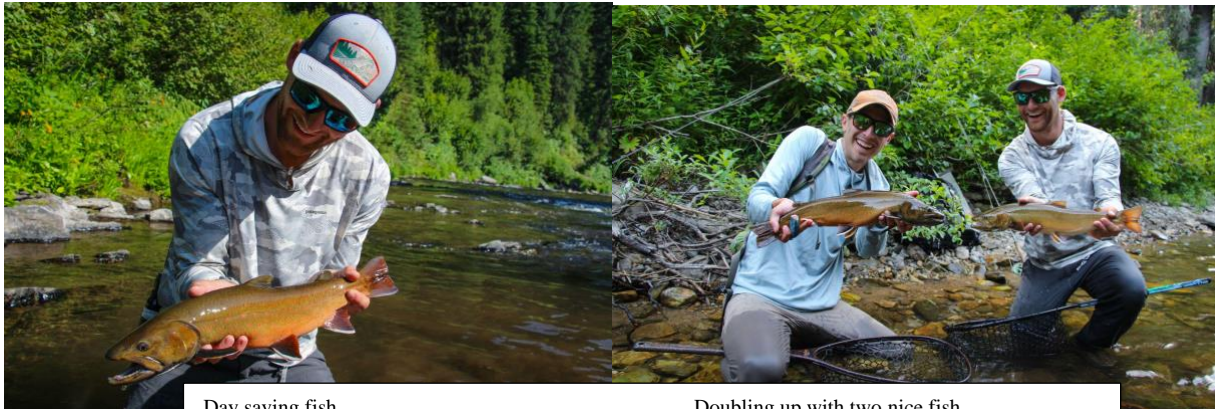


Ancient tree across a small tributary



A healthy backcountry Idaho bull trout

The next morning our day started with a mountain lion running out in front of the truck and bounding up the mountainside above the road we were traveling. It was a cool sighting, and it gave us some energy for the miles we ended up hiking that day. We started at an access point to the headwaters of the main river, and we spent the day hiking up multiple tributaries. In all, we hiked more than 14 miles through rugged country that day. Luckily, the last spot we tried ended up making every mile worth it. Next to an unassuming rock, in fast current, I hooked into what turned out to be the largest bull of the trip. That spot turned out to be the start of a section of water that had fish after fish. We made our way downstream until we found one hole in particular that we could see a pile of fish, and we ended up doubling up in it. By that time, it was around 5pm, and with an hour hike out and an hour drive back to the campsite, we decided to drop a pin on OnX, head out, and come back the next day to explore more.



Day saving fish

Doubling up with two nice fish

We got to the access point later than we had hoped to the next day, and to our surprise, there were a number of other vehicles parked there already. We made the long hike back to where we had found the pod of fish the day before and right as we were descending down the hill to the spot, we could see the white shirt of another fisherman, standing right in the middle of the hole that we knew the fish were in. We sat in frustration for a few minutes, then hiked back up the mountainside and attempted to access the river somewhere else. We tried to get to untouched water and ran into people 3 more times, and after the last time, we ended up hiking out. As we neared our truck, we ran into a forest service guy mounted on a horse and he informed us that this was the most people he had ever seen in the area in the 14 years that he had been working there. What had started out as a day of high hopes had turned into a bust. We couldn't blame the other anglers for finding an awesome spot to fish, but we were bummed to have had it all to ourselves the day before, only to come back to see people in every spot we had found and wanted to check out. With our time out west starting to dwindle and our interest to hike back into another remote area of Idaho all but gone, we hit the road and headed back into Montana.

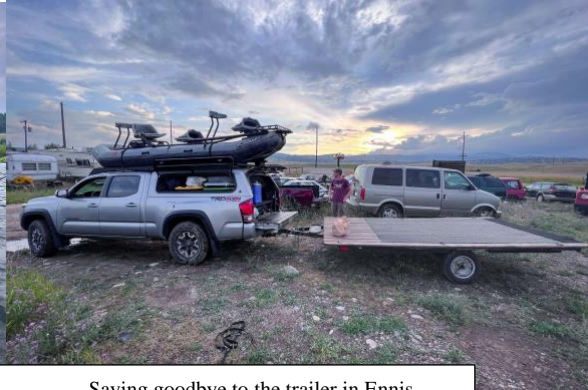
Montana Round 2 - Wobbly Trailer Tire:

Saturday of that week was our last full day out west and we made the most of it by floating a 16-mile stretch of the upper Madison River in SW Montana. This iconic river held up to its reputation and we found a few decent fish throughout the float while enjoying our last day in the mountains. We had made it to the end of the float, all was going well, and we were about to pack everything in the truck and start our drive back to Minnesota when I noticed that one of the trailer tires looked like it was wobbling. On further inspection, the hubcap, axle nut, and all the components of the bearing assembly were completely gone. We were able to lift the trailer up and pull the tire right off the axle spindle... It was 6pm on a Saturday in the middle of nowhere Montana and we weren't quite sure what to do next. I knew that we could strap the raft onto the top of my roof rack and make it back to MN, but what would we do with the trailer if we couldn't fix it? After a couple of trials, we found that the tire rim would somehow ride on the spindle without falling off. Just in case, we jimmy-rigged a tent stake to substitute as a cotter pin to hopefully keep the tire from completely sliding off if it did decide to not ride on the spindle. With our hazards on, we slowly crawled our way into Ennis, MT. When we arrived, the locals directed us to head to see Mike in the junkyard. Unfortunately, Mike didn't have any of the parts we would need to fix the trailer. Waiting a couple days to get the parts wasn't an option for our timeline so Mike graciously offered to take the trailer off of our hands. We backed it into a spot

in his junkyard, tossed the raft on top of the truck, then hit the road. It actually worked out pretty well besides tanking our gas mileage.



Floating the Madison River



Saying goodbye to the trailer in Ennis

At the end of this trip, we felt like we had gone on a roller coaster of highs and lows. We came away with some great stories and even greater memories; a week spent in God's wonderful creation.

Root River Cleanup

By Alayna Sobieniak

Root River Rod Co. of Lanesboro will be hosting its annual Root River cleanup Sunday Sept. 17. Anyone who wishes to participate can meet at 9 a.m. at the fly shop, [116 Parkway Ave. N., Lanesboro](#), where we will have gloves and bags available, but feel free to bring your own. If you have waders, feel free to bring them, but there will be work for those without waders. If you have a grab stick, it can be helpful as well.

We will have some great prizes/giveaways as well as special sales in the shop! This year the river clean-up is in memory of Steve Sobieniak, cane rod builder and founder of RRR Co., who passed away last September. We will also be asking for input and ideas for a memorial kiosk we hope to build in 2024.

Root River Rod Company
LANESBORO, MINNESOTA

ROOT RIVER CLEANUP

JOIN US FOR A GREAT DAY!

GLOVES AND BAGS PROVIDED
MORE DETAILS TO COME
INCLUDING CONTESTS AND PRIZES!

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 17TH
9:00 AM

ROOT RIVER ROD CO
116 PARKWAY AVE N
LANESBORO, MN
(507) 467-2101

IN MEMORY OF
STEVE SOBIEIAK

Fly of The Month: Stubby Chubby

By Lance Prado, HTU Board member



This fly of the month is one that is perfect for this time of year. Exploring Terrestrial Fly Fishing in the Driftless Area with the Stubby Chubby. The Driftless Area, with its lush landscapes and spring creeks, offers fly anglers a unique opportunity to engage in terrestrial fly fishing. As the warm months roll in, so do an array of land-based insects that become irresistible temptations for hungry trout. Among the myriad of fly patterns available, the "Stubby Chubby" stands out as a reliable and effective choice for targeting these terrestrial morsels. Terrestrial insects such as grasshoppers, ants, beetles, and crickets often find themselves unwittingly floating on the water's surface, making them vulnerable to hungry trout below. This presents an exciting challenge for anglers looking to match the hatch with terrestrial imitations. The Stubby Chubby, a versatile and buoyant fly pattern, has proven its worth in fooling these wary fish time and time again.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FG8CDa4i6b4&t=30s>

Monthly Fishing Reports

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

As we dive into the third week of August, anglers in Southeast Minnesota can expect a mix of fishing opportunities across the region's scenic waterways. Here's a snapshot of what you can anticipate:

- Trout Streams: Trout enthusiasts will find good fishing conditions on the region's renowned limestone streams. With water temperatures remaining relatively cool, early mornings and late afternoons continue to be prime times for trout activity. Dry flies, such as Elk Hair Caddis, Parachute Adams, Hoppers and tricos, are proving successful in imitating hatches. Nymphing with patterns like Hare's Ear and Pheasant Tail is also yielding positive results.

- Warmwater Species: For those targeting warmwater species, rivers are providing action for bass, panfish, and northern pike. Topwater poppers and Streamers are enticing largemouth and smallmouth bass near weed beds and structure.
- River Conditions: River levels are relatively stable, providing favorable conditions for wading and drift boat fishing. While late summer can bring some warm spells, the recent weather has helped maintain water temperatures at comfortable levels for fish.

Decorah IA: [Bear Creek Anglers](#)

Water is low, and many streams aren't fishing well. For the most part, the weather has been mild and stream temps are remaining fishable throughout most days, but water flows and depths are struggling and finding good holes has become more difficult.

Terrestrial patterns in size 12-16 are doing well throughout most days--any beetle or grasshopper pattern will work with orange, purple, and green being most effective typically. Fishing caddis in the evenings is still a great option, and getting out early for the trico's might produce the most fish of your day if you can zone in on the size and look the fish are focused on. Simple, small size 18-20 trico patterns are working most mornings until 8am-10am depending on weather. For nymphs, typical flies such as prince nymphs, pheasant tails, hare's ear, etc. (the normal stuff) should work in sizes 16-18 and midges (tan, black, red zebra midges) size 16-20 are effective if you can find the right depths and work around the underwater vegetation.

Upcoming Events Schedule:

Iowa Driftless Chapter Workday: Sept 9, 2023, at 8:00 am. At the [Decorah Fish Hatchery in Decorah, Iowa](#).

Hiawatha TU Members Meeting: Sept 11, 2023, 7:00pm – Dustan Hoffman DNR Stream Habitat Specialist, and Dr Jennifer Biederman MNTU Statewide habitat program director

Veteran's Fly-fishing Retreat: Sept 16, 2023, at 8:00 am. Whitewater State Park. Volunteers needed for teaching and guiding.

Root River Cleanup: Sept 17, 2023. Meet at 9:00am at the Root River Rod Co. in Lanesboro, MN

MCEA's annual event: Legally Green on the River Oct 1, 2023 1:00 pm [Early Bird tickets are here](#). Leopold's Mississippi Gardens, 9500 W River Rd, Minneapolis

OktoberFish TCTU's fundraiser Oct 25, 2023 Tickets and Details [here](#)

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](#)

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