

Hiawatha

TROUT UNLIMITED

Hot Line



DECEMBER 2011

A Monthly Publication of the Hiawatha Chapter of Trout Unlimited



From the President

As we all look forward to this festive season of Christmas, we must open our hearts to those among us who are going through hard times. I just found out one of our long standing members, Gary Sobotta, is having trouble with a heart valve which will soon lead to surgery. Our prayers are with you Gary. Get well soon.

It's been a very busy year for our chapter. In January, I attended the DNR Round Table – a get together of interested people to guide the DNR's priorities for the coming year. In March, Hiawatha had a very successful Spring Fund-raiser Banquet with over 150 attendees. I think everyone had a good time. In March, we conducted two Community Ed. Fly Fishing classes taught by Marlene Huston and Mike Carpenter, with help from several chapter members. We were able to bring 10 people into this sport (obsession) we love so much. April was the Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo and the opportunity to meet with other TU chapters and exchange ideas and fish stories. Near the end of April, we assisted the Win-Cres Chapter of TU with a Vets day at the park in Lanesboro. About a dozen vets braved a cold, rainy day to learn and practice fishing for trout. In June, Pheasants Forever, Twin Cities TU, and Hiawatha TU teamed up for a weekend of teaching youth about the outdoors through the TUNE (The Ultimate Natural Experience) camp. This was three days working with kids in the outdoors at Eagle Bluff. I really believe we had the youths' complete attention for all three days. This is an experience that I would really like Hiawatha Chapter to become more involved with in the future. In June, Frank Angelotti and I went to the Coon Creek Trout Fest in Wisconsin – a one day event put on by the Coolie Region TU Chapter. Trout Fest had music, booths, and presentations about trout fishing. There was a great turn out for this "first time" event, unhampered by a short rain in the early afternoon. In early September, HTU held the 2nd annual Driftless Rendezvous at Whitewater State Park. We were able to reserve the group camp for a weekend of good food, good fishing, and good fun. We had mini workshops on fly tying, casting, bug collecting and 'first time fishing' – several kids caught their first trout that weekend.

On Monday, December 5, we will be holding our annual Hiawatha TU Christmas Party at the Isaac Walton Cabin, 937- 7th Ave NE. We will have good food, great conversation, free gifts and a chance for some great prizes. Please join us at 6:30 that evening!! At the Party, we will have tickets available for the 2012 Spring Fundraiser Banquet. And so the circle continues.....

I would especially like to thank all the people involved with Hiawatha Chapter for another great year. Thanks for allowing me to be your President.

Scott A. Steffens

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Meet New Members

Please join me in welcoming the new members of Hiawatha Trout Unlimited to our chapter...

Kip Andersen (Faribault), Richard Bhend (Rochester), Keith Blomstrom (Fairmont), David Brust (Northfield), George Ehrhart (Albert Lea), Richard Felt (Rochester), Lee Fleming (Rochester), Steven Hill (Rochester), Randall Huston (Rochester), David Lee (Faribault), Quintin Lhose (Chatfield), David Susag (Lanesboro), Brent Taylor (Rochester), Patrick Taylor (Stewartville), Wayne Vogt (Rochester).



Please take the opportunity and time to greet them at our chapter meetings at the Isaac Walton Cabin and introduce them to other chapter members. Let them know how active we are in SE MN and that they are welcome to join us on the stream, either conserving our resources or enjoying pursuing the 'fish of our labors'.

Phil Pankow
HTU Membership

TU DARE Stream Visits

Duke Welter and Jeff Hastings (TUDARE) hosted about 35 TU, DNR, and NRCS persons from the MN, WI, IA, and IL Driftless Region to a day long tour of HI streams in MN and WI. I suggested that they visit the recent work done on Pickwick Creek and the work completed a year earlier at the Prigge site on Trout Run.



Needless to say, the tour day was snowy, cold, and raw. Not necessarily a day to be standing out in the open looking at a stream. The only difference from it being a similar day during the fishing season was the lack of a rod, reel, and flies. However, the weather produced a hatch of BWO on all the streams we visited so the trout were doing their best to put on a good show for their audience. Steve Klotz (MN DNR) was on board so we were able to answer all the questions raised about the HI program in MN – what had been done before Lessard-Sams, what has taken place over the past few years, and what we saw as a possible outlook for improvement and trout fishing in SE MN in the near future. There was considerable interest from the out-of-state people in the MN OHC program. There was also a great deal of interest in how the DNR was managing the farming 'set back' problem – all the states apparently have this problem given the price of corn. Some discussion came up over the increasing price of farmland. IL and IA were seeing it due to corn prices, MN is seeing it due to sand mining interests in the SE.

After lunch, we went to WI to tour the recent work done on Coon Creek east of La Crosse. This is not a stream like we've been working in MN – it's more like a small river and pointed out several of the problems associated with larger water projects. There is no bank hide structure work done on Coon Creek in the form of lunkers or skyhooks. All the structure work is in-stream woody and rock structure and a lot of embedded root wads. They had problems with soil disposal, so after taking the box elders and buckthorn out, they did what sloping was possible (mostly 1:3) and left the soil bermed back from the creek bank as far as feasible. The stream work and natural scouring has taken the stream from a 4' deep channel to it now being an 8' channel in many places. Now it's

UP COMING EVENTS/ MEETINGS

MEETINGS

Monday, December 5th
HTU Christmas Party, 6:00 pm at the Izaak Walton Lodge.

BOARD MEETINGS

2nd Monday
7:00 pm at Gander Mountain
Board Meetings are open to the public

UP COMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE

You will want to mark your calendar for these events in 2012:

March 10, 2012
Annual Spring Fundraising Banquet,
Rochester International Event Center.

March 24, 2012 weekend
Great Waters Expo, Blaine, MN

September 14-16, 2012
Driftless Rendezvous, Whitewater
State Park Group Camp.



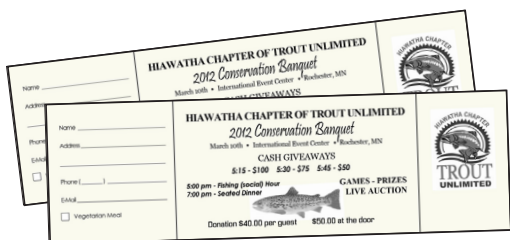
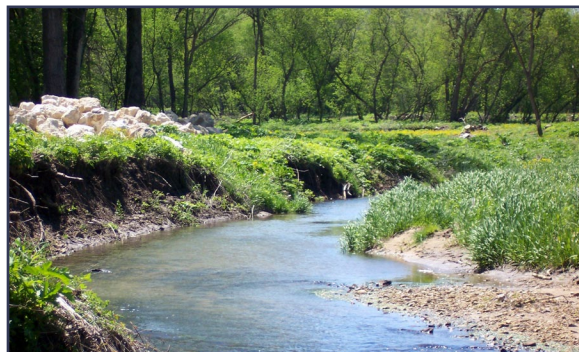
too deep to do electroshocking unless they can get a barge with a boom to get down into those deep pools. However, their angler's reports indicate there are a large number of browns in the 'over 20 inch range', so the fishing is rated very good.

The next visit was to the Little La Crosse, near Sparta. This project is more like what we are doing with Pickwick, et al. They have made use of 'in stream' lunker structures – embedded into the weir – that seems to be working quite well. Looking at the before and after (one side upstream of a bridge; the other, downstream) shows that they have major problems with brush, trees, and debris on these streams. Is it due to the warmer weather? Not any good answers. The water temps seem to be supporting both brook and brown trout, but they do have some reaches that have good walleye populations right in with the browns.

I was interested in the broad range of funding and volunteer work that they rely on to get projects done. They have even gone to the Amish community (a heavy user of the trout streams in their local areas) and gotten them to adopt a stream and become actively involved in the volunteer work needed to make a successful project. Also, they promote their conservation work in the high schools and get volunteer support for a project from the science and ag students – a good way to develop future land and stream stewardship.

Over all, it was a pretty informative day with lots of interest in both the MN and WI projects. TUDARE is planning to do more of these field trips in the future. I'd recommend taking the time to attend and see what other chapters and agencies are doing.

Ray



The 2012 Spring Fundraiser Banquet is just around the corner! March 10th is just 3 months away and, if history repeats itself, that will seem to be just a few weekends away! The next three months will be a flurry of setting up and making the final banquet arrangements with the International Event Center, contacting prospective donors for both cash and item donations, deciding which raffle or auction the various items should be offered in, and answering questions about prices and tickets..... TICKETS?

This year banquet tickets will be available starting December 5th at the Christmas Party. The cost per ticket has been reduced to \$40 for advance sale and on the Hiawatha Chapter web site, and \$50 at the door. Sponsor packages will remain at \$200 and will include a 'thank you' gift and a package of the various raffle tickets. The web site will allow you to pay for your ticket(s) by credit card or PayPal.

HTU Chapter Board of Director members will be selling banquet tickets, so you can refer to the BOD listing on the first page of this newsletter for a phone number or email to contact a Board member for your tickets. Another option – shortly after the first of the year we'll send an announcement that you can go online at <http://hiawathatu.org> to reserve your tickets.

2011 was a banner year for our banquet – both in number of attendees and the funds raised for chapter projects. Let's work together to make this year even better.

You're Invited

to the **Hiawatha Chapter of Trout Unlimited**

Christmas Party!

Monday, December 5th, 7:00 pm
at the Izaak Walton Lodge, Rochester

Featuring Wine Tasting from Apollo Liquor



Ask the MN DNR Fisheries Biologist?

Q. What is allowed and not allowed within a state angling easement?

First, a state angling easement is considered a type of Aquatic Management Area (AMA). AMAs are acquired and managed by DNR Fisheries to conserve, protect and enhance Minnesota's aquatic and riparian habitats.

"Easement AMAs" are the type we are discussing here and allow anglers access along the trout stream corridors via permanent easements acquired from landowners.

Most angling easements (Easement AMAs) in Minnesota are 66 feet from stream center to the left and right for a total width of 132 feet. There are several that are somewhat smaller in width that were acquired in the 1970's and 1980's. There is also what we call "double wide" easements. These are in areas that are too wide to accommodate the entire stream channel in a single 132 ft wide corridor. As you probably guessed these easements are 264 ft wide (132 ft x 2).

A useful link to read the specific language within a state statute, rule or law is <https://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/>

Use the search column on the left of the screen. Pick whether it is a statute, rule, or law, and type in the number. Examples pertaining to this discussion:

State Statute 86A.05 Subd. 14. Aquatic management areas. (a) Aquatic management areas may be established to protect, develop, and manage lakes, rivers, stream, and adjacent wetlands and lands that are critical for fish and other aquatic life, for water quality, and for their intrinsic biological value, public fishing, or other compatible outdoor recreational uses.

State Rule 6270.0200 Subp. 4. Easement aquatic management areas. Angler access is permitted on easement aquatic management areas. Other prohibited and permitted activities are described in easement rights purchased from the landowner. Activities other than angling are permitted only when identified on signs posted at access points.

There are two other types of AMAs as well. "General Use AMAs" allow angling, hunting, trapping, and other light-use activities. "Restricted use AMAs" do not allow hunting or trapping but do allow angling and other light-use activities.

At the last HTU chapter meeting, Vaughn Snook, DNR Fisheries in Lanesboro, said that the data from the 2011 population counts would be posted on the DNR website. That site address is: http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/areas/fisheries/lanesboro/2011_trout_population_assessments.pdf

Also, research papers on brook and brown trout in SE MN area that were referred to by John Hoxmeier, DNR Fisheries in Lake City are available at: http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/areas/fisheries/lanesboro/troutresearch_proj.html

FLY TYING AT



Fly tying for this winter will begin Saturday, Dec 10, at 9am in the fly fishing area at Gander Mountain. This year's format will be a bit different than in the past – the first hour will be fly tying lessons offered by various members of Hiawatha Chapter. Dec 10 will be Pheasant Tail and variations; Dec 17 will be Woolly Buggers and variations. The patterns will be posted at the door as you enter GM. If you've not tied before; if you have, but want to see how others do it; if you have ideas for variations – all are welcome!

After the first hour, the morning will be an open tie – just like in years past. So join us at the Mountain, bring your fishing stories from this year. (We've heard the old ones and the first liar doesn't stand a chance!) Enjoy a morning with like minded people of all ages.

See you there.....





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