



## From the President

There's not much to report this month but I would like to wish everyone a wonderful holiday season. Be sure to join us for our annual Christmas Party. There will be a wine tasting again this year from Apollo Liquor as well as a pot luck dinner, drawings and prizes. Bring your favorite dish to pass.

**Please note the time change of 7:00 pm for the start of the party.** Family and friends are welcome to join us for this evening of festive fun!



## HIAWATHA TU BOARD

### PRESIDENT

Scott Steffens  
scott@mntu.org  
507-398-2500

### TREASURER

John Stoeckel  
johnstoeckel@gmail.com  
507-261-9220

### PAST PRESIDENTS

Randy Brock  
randy@mntu.org  
507-287-6101

Frank Angelotti  
fangelotti@aol.com  
507-289-1688

### WEBMASTER

Chad Christenson  
chad@mntu.org

### MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

Ray Ricketts  
wudcanu@yahoo.com  
507-282-2666

### YOUTH & EDUCATION

Scott Steffens

### HTU BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

Marlene Huston  
mjkhuston@gmail.com  
507-208-5013

Michael Goin  
mikegoin@ymail.com  
507-993-1160

Phil Pankow, NTLC liaison  
shellyandphil@charter.net  
507-634-4815

Carl Berberich  
berberic@q.com

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Ray Ricketts / Deb Angelotti

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# “Troubled Waters” Film a Hit!

Couldn't attend the screening? Watch online.

“Troubled Waters” is a documentary film that explores the unintended consequences of commercial agriculture and urban runoff on the health of the Mississippi River and the “Dead Zone” in the Gulf of Mexico. Beginning with struggling fishermen in the Gulf, the film travels upstream to highlight the sources of agricultural and urban runoff that impact the health of the river, its ecosystem and the communities that call the Mississippi River home.



Friends of the Mississippi River and partners at the Land Stewardship Project, the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy and the Twin Cities Daily Planet hosted a public screening of the film October 25th at the Parkway Theater in Minneapolis. About 400 folks attended the event, which was followed by a community dialog with a panel of experts on water quality and agriculture.

The film garnered a good deal of media attention after the Twin Cities Daily Planet reported that the University of Minnesota had attempted to embargo the documentary. After Friends of the Mississippi River and many other river advocates and funders weighed in, the U of M reversed its decision. Since then, the film has played to sold-out crowds at the Bell Museum and the Parkway theaters in Minneapolis in addition to airing on Twin Cities Public Television (tpt).

Courtesy of TPT, “Troubled Waters” is now immediately available for on-demand viewing online at [http://www.mnvideovault.org/mpml/player\\_embed.php?vid\\_id=20943&select\\_index=0](http://www.mnvideovault.org/mpml/player_embed.php?vid_id=20943&select_index=0)



## UP COMING EVENTS/ MEETINGS

### MEETINGS

#### Monday, December 6th

7 pm at Izaak Walton Cabin

#### Annual Christmas Party

Bring your family for an evening of food, fun and Christmas Cheer!

#### Monday, January 3rd

Wayne Bartz. Subject TBD

#### Monday, February 7th

Randy Binder, Lake City DNR.

Overview of their region stream conditions following the 2010 weather (ie flooding) impact

#### Monday, March 7th

Scott Sorensen, Stone Harbor Wilderness Supply. Grand Marias.

Tenkara rods and fishing techniques

#### Monday, April 4th

TBD

### BOARD MEETINGS

#### 2nd Monday of the Month

7pm at Gander Mountain

Board Meetings are open to the public

# You're Invited

to the **Hiawatha Chapter of Trout Unlimited**

# Christmas Party!

**Monday, December 6th, 7:00 pm**

**at the Izaak Walton Lodge, Rochester**

*Featuring* **Wine Tasting**  
from Apollo Liquor



# Ask the MNDNR Fisheries Biologist

How are angling easements acquired and what can I do as an angler to encourage landowners to sell an easement?

Angling easements are part of the MNDNR Fisheries Aquatic Management Area (AMA) program. Some of the first angling easements sold in southeast Minnesota date back to the early 1960's. Currently, MNDNR Lanesboro and Lake City Fisheries offices manage approximately 250 miles of trout stream angling easements in the southeast. There are also several miles of warmwater angling easements.

Lanesboro Area Fisheries maintains an angling easement acquisition list of those streams where angling easements should be pursued when funds and willing sellers become available. This list is created using information contained in stream management plans and fisheries assessment reports.

Once we have a willing landowner, the person responsible for angling easement acquisition in the MNDNR Lanesboro or Lake City Fisheries office, measures stream footage and acreage. These measurements are used to give the landowner an estimate of the easement value. Values are calculated at \$5/stream foot plus an additional amount per acre for the easement corridor. This value varies by township and is set annually by the MN Department of Revenue. On average, a 132 ft wide easement corridor (this is standard corridor size) is approximately \$15/stream foot.

When the landowner(s) determine that this is something they would like to proceed with, we forward a copy of the deed to MNDNR Division of Lands & Minerals staff for acreage verification. Meanwhile the landowner is given a Landowner Bill of Rights letter for signature and completes a Landowner Disclosure form.

All paperwork is submitted for review and approval by the Area Fisheries Supervisor, Regional Fisheries Manager, and the Regional Management Team. The acquisition materials are then sent to a Real Estate Specialist in MNDNR Division of Lands & Minerals where the remaining documentation is completed. The entire process typically requires 6 to 9 months.

Notification is sent to the Fisheries office once the landowner has been paid and the state owns the angling easement. Signs are posted immediately with the addition of any stiles needed. The easement is given a final inspection as to its condition where photos and GPS are used to document the details.

Some of the important points we make clear to the landowner are:

- 1) There is a high payment per acre because it is based on acreage plus stream footage.
- 2) Landowner maintains control of property regarding everything but angling. Hunting, trapping, hiking, camping, etc. are not allowed via the angling easement unless by permission.
- 3) The angling public is restricted to the easement area (typically a 132 ft wide corridor centered on the stream channel).
- 4) MNDNR has access via existing roads for fisheries management work. If no road is available, a mutually agreed upon location is determined.
- 5) Angling easements open up the possibility of habitat improvement being completed in the specific area.
- 6) MNDNR angling easements are perpetual and remain with the property forever.
- 7) Payments for the angling easement are considered taxable income.
- 8) Angling easement area may be fenced with livestock water access and crossing areas if final easement language provides for this.
- 9) All existing tillage must be set back in accordance with the county shoreland standards and no new tillage will be allowed in the easement corridor.

We would prefer anglers notify the Area Fisheries Office if they are made aware of a landowner that may be interested in selling an angling easement.

## Tom Helgeson, fly-fishing editor, passes

The publisher of Midwest Fly Fishing magazine, who lived in Minneapolis, was passionate about the environment -- and the downtrodden.

Tom Helgeson, a journalist turned fly-fisherman who became one of the Midwest's most prominent spokesmen for the sport and for conservation, died Friday of complications from lung cancer. He was 71.

Helgeson, who lived in Minneapolis, was the editor and publisher of Midwest Fly Fishing, a magazine that covered the fly-fishing community in 14 states.

"He developed Midwest Fly Fishing into what I consider the preeminent regional publication on fly-fishing anywhere in the country," said Duke Welter, of Eau Claire, Wis., past vice chairman of the national board of trustees of Trout Unlimited, a conservation group. He said the magazine gave one a "transcendent feeling" about fly-fishing.

Helgeson also owned the Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo, which held annual expositions in both Minneapolis and Chicago. "He was a great conservationist, and his Fly Fishing Expo reflected his interest in clean water and habitat conservation," said C.B. Bylander, outreach chief for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' fish and wildlife division.

Helgeson was raised in Redwood Falls, Minn. He graduated from St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minn., and served three years in the Marine Corps.

He went to work at the Minneapolis Star in 1967, rising to deputy managing editor in 1979.

David Nimmer, former managing editor at the Star, recalled the period when Helgeson edited the paper's Saturday magazine. "He found people who could be living out of the mainstream of society and loved to find what made them tick and do profiles of them," Nimmer said. Helgeson held part-time editing jobs at the St. Paul Pioneer Press from 1982 to 1987.

After leaving the Star, he operated Bright Waters, a fly-fishing shop, for 10 years, and led fly-fishing schools that traveled to the Midwest and West, as well as fishing trips to Alaska.



*Tom, you're dry wit and sarcasm never failed to make me laugh and your encouragement on conservation was invaluable. Thank you for being a friend and thank you for inspiring us all. To your family my thoughts and prayers go out to you may you find some comfort in knowing how many people's lives Tom touched and made better.*

*Kevin Biegler*

*His prose was poetic, his concerns prophetic. A heart so true as everyone knew. We lost a great friend, but all things end. Our memories are whole, while God has a new soul. Goodbye Buddy.*

*Elliott Olson*

*Tom always donated to our Trout Unlimited banquet and causes and worked hard to further the cause of conservation in Minnesota. Tom was a dear friend to many, and I regret that I didn't get to know him better. If I'm ever as lucky to leave behind the kind of legacy that Tom has left, I'll know that I've made a great difference in this world. I'll miss you Tom.*

*Randy Brock*





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