



From the President

Hi All,

The weather has finally cooperated and we've been able to finish the Mill Creek improvement project. This year will go down in history as the largest combined mileage Hiawatha TU has been able to complete: 3.1 miles on the

Middle Branch, over a half mile on Trout Run, and over a half mile on Mill Creek. Thanks to Habitat Solutions for their outstanding work, and thanks to the many volunteers who came together to help make it happen.

We had our first meeting of the fall at the Izaak Walton Cabin in October. George Spangler and Cathy Emerson made a presentation about the National Trout Learning Center — what has happened to date, and its plans for the future. A lot of information was presented, and I think it's exciting to have this Center so close to Rochester. I mentioned last month that I had asked Phil Pankow to act as our chapter liaison to the NTLC.

I've been concerned with the recent trend of fewer and fewer people attending our chapter meetings. Please help me understand why this is and what I can do to turn this around. If you have any thoughts on this, and any suggestions of what I might do to spark interest in HTU meetings, email me at scott@mntu.org. All the board of director email address are included in this newsletter.

The Board has been making plans for the annual Christmas Party at the Izaak Walton Cabin for December 6. Please note that date on your calendar. We will start the evening at 6pm with a pot luck dinner, drawings, prizes, and seasonal festivities. Bring your favorite dish to pass.

Also, mark your calendars for March 12, 2011. This will be the date for our Spring banquet at the Doubletree Hotel. More detail will follow over the next several months. If you would like to be a part of the banquet 'planning and doing' committee, just let a board member know. We'd like to have your help and ideas.

For the past several years I have enjoyed being a participant in the winter trout fishing scene. I hope to see you on the stream, fishing in the snow.

Scott

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Ray Ricketts / Deb Angelotti

In This Issue:



- Presidents Message
- Up Coming Meetings and Events
- Mill Creek Improvement
- Ask the MNDNR Fisheries Biologist

MILL CREEK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

After a month of 'stop and go' weather, the habitat improvement on Mill Creek has been completed. This project, a little over a half mile in length, was started in August with volunteer help from the Chatfield Sportsman's Club, Win-Cres TU, and Hiawatha TU. Under expected conditions, the HI project would have taken three weeks, at most. However, after nearly 10 inches of rain and many weeks of delay, work was resumed in mid-September, and completed in early October. During that month, Mill Creek became a torrent of mud, silt, trees, and debris on several occasions.

"With all these very abnormal rain fall events, the water table is now so high it will be lucky if it dries out enough for us to work enough days to finish Mill this year.", was the comment of Tom Dornack following the rain in mid-September. When the rain stopped and the Creek level dropped, even though a large quantity of the work already done and seeded required some repair, the damage was surprisingly light. In fact, the major issue on Mill Creek was soil deposition, not erosion. The addition of up to six inches of silt required much of the seeded areas to be redone.



UP COMING EVENTS/ MEETINGS

MEETINGS

Monday, November 1st

7 pm at Izaak Walton Cabin

Subject: Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage -- process and status

Ray Ricketts/ Carl Berberich

Monday, December 6th

6pm at Izaak Walton Cabin

Annual Christmas Party

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

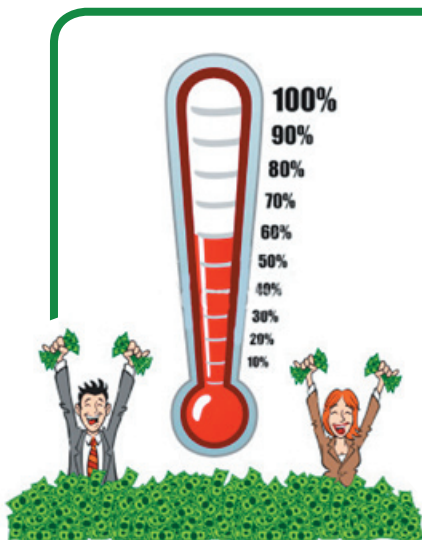


BOARD MEETINGS

2nd Monday of the Month

7pm at Gander Mountain

Board Meetings are open to the public



Some businesses will match your contribution to Trout Unlimited since it is used for habitat and conservation purposes; IBM is one of those companies. So take this opportunity to see if your employer will match what you give, then increase your donation to TU by letting your employer know.

Also, you can ask that your United Fund pledge be sent to Hiawatha Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

Just two more ways you can help support the trout populations in SE MN.

Hiawatha TU Account Balance as of 10/5/2010

Think Checking	\$	1,526.18
Think MM		30,013.63
Bulk USPS		234.45
Cash Box		263.53
Subtotal		32,037.79
Keefe Reserve		-10,000.00
TOTAL	\$	22,037.79

Ask the MNDNR Fisheries Biologist

What factors does MNDNR Lanesboro Fisheries Office consider in selecting stream reaches for habitat improvement priority?

The trout stream habitat improvement program in southeast Minnesota began in 1946. Today MNDNR trout stream habitat improvement continues with a dedicated crew, heavy equipment purchased specifically for stream work, and a list of cooperative partners that include Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Natural Resource Conservation Service, watershed groups, and Trout Unlimited. Over this history, habitat improvement methods and objectives have evolved when new information regarding trout habitat requirements, watershed science, and fluvial geomorphology is discovered. With the addition of new methods and understanding, objectives for trout stream habitat improvement projects become more targeted to better perform a specific fisheries management action (see Figure 1.)

Development of a priority list of stream reaches for habitat improvement begins with the identification that habitat is a limiting factor. Habitat is not always the primary limiting factor. As can be seen in Figure 1, this is determined from the wealth of information

Figure 1. Hierarchical process of southeast Minnesota trout stream management.



contained in each stream file (Inventory of Trout Stream information). This is where experience and education of fisheries staff can pull necessary details out from the copious amounts of information gathered and contained in MNDNR files. The next filter requires the project to be on MNDNR public angling easements. After this the details become very diverse. Questions are asked such as: 1) will the project have a positive impact on stream process and function, 2) will the project have a positive impact on the recreational value of the reach, 3) is the project technically feasible, 4) is there potential for wild trout management, 5) will the project require a large amount of maintenance after completion, 6) what is the level of previous investment in the stream and watershed, 7) can funding be secured through various sources, 8) how well does the project fit into the current strategy of providing a range of angling opportunities within southeast Minnesota, 9) how compatible is the project with other important MNDNR resource management objectives within southeast Minnesota, 10) will there be any community interest generated by the project, 11) will the project generate any controversy and opposition, 12) how does the project fit within the context of future resource management trends within southeast Minnesota and other MNDNR disciplinary goals.

The MNDNR Lanesboro Fisheries office periodically updates our habitat improvement priority list as activities and focus shift during the year. Each year this office has provided Trout Unlimited with a list of projects best fitted for this cooperative project venue. The MNDNR Lanesboro Fisheries Habitat Improvement crew, one of only two dedicated fisheries construction crews in the state, completes projects from this list in addition to projects for other divisions (Forestry, Parks, Trails & Waterways, etc.) in southeast Minnesota each year.



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