



On The Reel

PINE RIVER AREA CHAPTER

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings all and thanks to our many supporters who contributed to another successful banquet this year. We will continue to do our best to deserve your support in the future.

The chapter is really concentrating on the Pine River this year. Those of us who have taken part in the habitat mapping are having a great time learning much more about our local river. We are seeing parts of the river that a number of us have never seen before and with the mapping regimen we are making observations we may never have made in the past. We have seen some impressive bank stabilization that was done in the 1990's. It is "rock solid" and vegetation is abundant.

We are seeing some eroding banks and the effect of the erosion stretches downstream considerably. Sand is obviously a problem in the river, but we have seen considerable natural flushing. Some of the spring high water events have dumped sand far enough up the banks that it won't get back into the river. Some long stretches are sand covered only to a depth of an inch or less. A small change in the flows in some places would do much to improve most of these sites.

The mapping project will continue into next year and more volunteers are needed to fully accomplish it. If you would like to learn more about the Pine River (or rivers in general) contact chapter Sec. John Zakrajsek. And we have other projects such as fly tying, youth events, hands on restoration and improvement work, and fish sampling. Join us, get involved!

The chapter's annual meeting will be held at the Carl T. Johnson Center in Cadillac on Oct. 8, 2011. The Michigan Council executive director, Dr. Bryan Burroughs will be our featured speaker. In addition to sharing his knowledge of the Pine, he will also address such topics and "Fracking" and the Pigeon River dam removal process.

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Up Coming Events

ANNUAL MEETING October 8TH. 2011

Our annual meeting will be held at the Carl T. Johnson Center. Bryan Burroughs' Executive Director of Michigan Trout Unlimited will be our speaker.

MORE TO FOLLOW

PINE RIVER RIVER KEEPERS PROGRAM

Our chapter is using a standard protocols for river habitat mapping, that is intended to be used to increase the amount of habitat data available for the Pine river. Several volunteers have been trained to provide standard protocols for mapping the Pine river habitat.

The river habitat mapping procedure is designed to address several objectives:

- Provide comprehensive habitat data for entire Pine river.
- Provide the best information possible to prioritize conservation, protection, and restoration of our coldwater river.
- Provide consistent methods for evaluating and quantifying in-stream habitat.



Photos of volunteers mapping a section of the Pine River (Photos by Terry Tatrchuk Vice President)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our Pine river chapter of Trout Unlimited is looking for volunteers who would like to join us in our River Keepers mapping of the Pine river. Volunteers do not have to be Trout Unlimited members to participate. Training will be provided. Please E-mail Denny Douglas d2upnorth2@core.com

Ask the MDNR Fisheries Biologist

QUESTION: What is the progress of the Manistee River Hodenpyl Reach Brown Trout Strain Comparison Study Update.

In the spring of 2010, the DNR stocked 10,000 Wild Rose strain brown trout and 10,000 Sturgeon River strain brown trout into the Manistee River at the Woodpecker Creek access site, just downstream of Hodenpyl Dam. The Wild Rose brown trout were marked with a right ventral fin clip, and the Sturgeon River brown trout were marked with a left ventral fin clip. In October, DNR Fisheries crews in electrofishing boats conducted a two-day fish survey on the Hodenpyl Reach of the Manistee River. In that survey, population estimates for both strains of brown trout were generated, in addition to a population estimate for unmarked brown trout. Unmarked brown trout are either naturally reproduced or those stocked in previous years. The population estimates were as follows:

	<u>Unmarked</u>	<u>Sturgeon River</u>	<u>Wild Rose</u>
#/acre	17	8	1
Lb/acre	5.86	1.65	0.59

The unmarked brown trout ranged from 4 to 26 inches in length, averaging 9.2 inches. The Sturgeon River brown trout ranged from 6 to 10 inches in length, averaging 8.0 inches. The Wild Rose brown trout ranged from 8 to 13 inches in length, averaging 10.1 inches.

So what does it all mean? While the Sturgeon River brown trout were much more numerous in the survey, they also averaged over two inches smaller than their Wild Rose counterparts. This is not surprising, since they are stocked at a smaller size. The Sturgeon River brown trout are very difficult to raise in the hatchery, due to their “wild” nature. Very few of the Sturgeon River brown trout reached “keeper” size (10” on that reach), while many of the Wild Rose brown trout did reach 10 inches and could have been kept by anglers. That could account for the smaller number of Wild Rose brown trout caught in the survey.

So which strain is better? It is too early to make that call. To tell the full story, more years of study are required. The paired plants with fin clipped fish from each strain will continue for four more years, as will the October electrofishing surveys.

Mark Tonello
Fisheries Management Biologist
Central Lake Michigan Management Unit
Michigan Department of Natural Resources

August Youth Event Class at Schmidt Outfitters

Another successful class: For 2011



Photos by Terry Tatrchuk Vice President

Get involved – Volunteer

We dedicate ourselves to presenting timely and informative news concerning local conservation, restoration and related topics. We also organize various outings, have educational programs and Conservation work. As volunteers, the results from our activities are both fun and satisfying. If you share our passions for conservation, then please consider joining and participating in Trout Unlimited.

GO TO OUR WEB SITE TO JOIN: <http://www.pineriverareatu.org/>

THOUGHTS FROM THE STREAM

Famous Spring Creeks

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times”; nope not a review of a Charles Dickens book, but a look at fishing spring creeks. It’s amazing how 100 yards of a river can be the source of both ends of the pleasure scale. Spring creeks are streams or rivers with a single water source from the ground. The water maintains a fairly constant cool temperature and flow year round and the insects and trout love it.

The fish are tough, really tough - basically the PHDs of salmonids. They see fishermen and flies every day and probably several times a day. They know what an extra ripple on the water means or movement in front of a leafy background - someone wants to put a hook in their lip. They know what is edible every hour of the day and that it can change every 5 minutes. They know what food looks like when it emerges and how it looks riding on the water. They know real food doesn’t cause waves (drag) and isn’t attached to monofilament. And sometimes they refuse naturals because they are bent the wrong way or to drive fly fishermen nuts.

But they are catchable. Efforts must be made for the fisherman to stay low blending with the background and fish from the banks. If you have to wade, move very slowly to avoid waves. Study, really study, what the fish are eating and what stage it is and then duplicate it with your fly. When in doubt go smaller. Use a much longer leader and a longer, finer tippet than usual. Be prepared to cast the fly 1-2 inches from the bank and a drag free drift is a must. And be prepared to deal with fish that have run into the weeds after you hook them.

Exceptions-there are some. These fish sometimes go bonkers for terrestrials - the Chernobyl Ant or weird hoppers or stone flies. Go figure. They often will eat a soft hackle quite different from the bug d'jour, usually because it looks buggy and they have never seen anything similar.

Catching a fish on a spring creek is hard and catching a lot of fish is unlikely. Success is like passing a really tough test - the best of times. Failure or rejection may be perceived as the worst of times at the moment but it still beats working. And you likely didn't hear the phone ring.

Chuck Dumanois, MD

PINE RIVER CHAPTER BYLAWS REVISED

New changes to our chapter's bylaws to meet standards set by TUNA have been made. New bylaws are available at our Web Site <http://www.pineriverareatu.org/> Bylaws will be voted on at our October 8, 2011 annual meeting.

PINE RIVER STRATEGIC PLAN

Our Pine river board has made up strategic plan for planning purposes. Please review at our Web Site <http://www.pineriverareatu.org/>

NEWS LETTER CHANGES

The Pine River Area Chapter is currently in the process of improving our Newsletter and keeping it more up to date. We plan to put out a newsletter every three months. The cost is expensive to produce and mail. So we plan to email, if you would prefer to have it mailed please send your name and address to Bob Rought at tutrut@yahoo.com If you change your email address go to TUNA and change your profile. Using email will help improve communication and save a lot of paper and costs. Thank you in advance.

SEND US YOUR SUGGESTIONS

We would like our newsletter filled with plenty of useful content. If you would like to see something added, or have a suggestion on how to improve the content, feel free to email to Bob Rought at tutrut@yahoo.com

Website

Bob Rought tutrut@yahoo.com is our webmaster of the Chapter's new website. The site is still in the developmental stages, and new pages and information will be available as the site develops. The address is <http://www.pineriverareatu.org/>

Join Trout Unlimited



Trout Unlimited is America's leading coldwater conservation organization. Our hope is that clean, cold, fishable water exists for generations to come, but we can't do it without the support of committed anglers and conservationists like you.

Join TU today and you'll receive a year of membership benefits, including four issues of the award-winning *Trout* magazine, your 16-month color fishing calendar (mailed in late summer), the official TU member card, a car decal and a TU sticker. **GO TO OUR WEB SITE TO JOIN:** <http://www.pineriverareatu.org/>

Asian Carp

For more up dated information on Asian Carp go to www.michigantu.org web site.

**TROUT MAKE
GOOD
NEIGHBORS**