



On The Reel

PINE RIVER AREA CHAPTER

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Another year has passed for the Pine River Area Chapter of Trout Unlimited. For me, the year seems to run from the first Saturday in May till the next first Saturday in May. The chapter's fund raiser starts and ends our activities for the year.

I'm heartened to say that our fund raiser was successful again this year. While numbers were down, the generosity of our supporters/donors came through again! This makes me believe that we are doing the things that garner that support.

The chapter continues to support a yearly clean out of a sand trap on the Pine, and with partners , supports the Pine River Watershed Restoration Committee. Last year we became involved with a "RiverKeepers" program sponsored by Michigan T.U. We conducted electroshocking fish surveys on tributaries to the Pine River. Most of these tribs haven't been sampled for 30 years, and one had never been sampled by the DNRE. More sampling will occur this year and into the future with a back-pack shocking unit purchased by Michigan T.U. for use by participating chapters. The Pine River Chapter was a major contributor to this equipment purchase.

Continuing our involvement with the "RiverKeepers" program, we purchased & placed temperature monitoring devices in tributaries to the Pine River. We will be checking these devices throughout the summer and downloading the data this fall. This info will be shared with the DNRE who have been helpful and supportive of this effort.

The chapter will again support a two day youth event with Schmidt Outfitters in Wellston. This is a free intro to fly fishing seminar hosted by Schmidt Outfitters. The attendees are provided instruction by professional fishing guides, certified casting instruction and lunch is provided by the Pine River Area Chapter of T. U. This will take place Aug. 7th and 8th this year.

During Feb. of this year, we held free fly tying classes at the Carl T. Johnson Hunting and Fishing Center in Cadillac. We will be doing so again this coming Feb., every Wed. evening. We also conducted fly tying classes/demos for the Ag. Students at the Career Tech. Center in Cadillac for the past two years. We are getting requests for casting lessons and may add that to our activities list this year.

As will be seen elsewhere in this newsletter, we plan to go electronic with future newsletters and are establishing a website. I really believe that this will help put us in better contact with our general membership and increase involvement. It will also be a savings for the chapter.

I'm convinced that the chapter's activities are important to our local watershed. They are also fun to do. Get involved! Denny Douglas

In This Issue: *From the President *Up Coming events *Ask the MDNR Biologist
*Banquet * Thoughts from the stream *News letter changes * New Web Site *Sponsors & Donors
*Asian Carp update

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Up Coming Events

THIRD ANNUAL FLY FISHING SCHOOL

It's working, kind of. We are starting to see young people fly fishing on our area streams and rivers. We need more, a lot more, but it's a start.

Last year we had 2 sessions where nearly 30 kids were taught the rudiments of fly fishing at Schmidt Outfitters in Wellston. Each day- a little history, a little practice with knots and flies in the class room and a lot of casting practice on the pond. At the end everyone caught bluegills from the pond and a lucky teen received a donated guided day on the Manistee River with an adult. A generous donor is giving a fly rod, reel and line to a teen drawn from each class in our 2010 session.

This year we are ready for more kids-perhaps 50 or 60. The day camps are scheduled for August 7 and 8. They start at 9 AM and last until 3 PM. Everything is provided including rods, reels, flies and lunch. All the teen needs is transportation. Ray Schmidt, his guides and Pine River TU members provide the education and mentoring. And it's free and getting famous. Last year we had kids from as far as Ann Arbor and Chicago attend.

Call Schmidt Outfitters at 231.848.4191 to register. See if you can get your child, grandchild, or a kid in the neighborhood interested. Girls do really well with this class. We need more young people involved in this sport. Chuck Dumanois

SEDIMENT BASIN DISCUSSION

We have been invited to a "sediment basin discussion" on Wednesday June 16th at the Traverse Area District Library Community Room, 610 Woodmere Ave. Traverse City, Michigan. The DNRE and Forest Service have been invited along with many other "partners" in conservation.

Ask the MDNR Fisheries Biologist

QUESTION: What is the objective of tagging trout in the Manistee River?

From 2010 through 2015, DNRE Fisheries Division will be conducting a brown trout strain comparison study on the reach of the Manistee River below Hodenpyl Dam. During that time, DNRE will stock 10,000 Sturgeon River strain brown trout and 10,000 Wild Rose strain brown trout annually. The Sturgeon River brown trout will be marked with a left ventral clip, while the Wild Rose brown trout will be marked with a right ventral fin clip. Each fall from 2010 through 2015, DNRE will conduct an electrofishing survey of the Manistee River to study the growth and survival of each strain of brown trout.

The Sturgeon River strain of brown trout was developed from the Sturgeon River, near Wolverine. The Sturgeon River was chosen because it has a genetically solid population of brown trout. In addition, Sturgeon River brown trout have two distinct life histories. Some of them live their entire lives in the stream environment of the Sturgeon River. However, some of them migrate downstream to Mullett Lake, where they live for a few years and grow to a large size. They then return to Sturgeon River as adults to spawn. The fact that these fish can obviously thrive in multiple habitats was a major factor in their selection. Due to their "wild" nature, Sturgeon River brown trout are more difficult to raise in the hatchery. They are flighty and do not take pellet food as readily as domestic trout strains. Because of this, they do not grow well in the hatchery, and consequently are much smaller at stocking than domesticated trout strains.

The Wild Rose strain of brown trout is a domesticated strain that has been raised in hatcheries for many generations. Because of this they are not as genetically sound as wild brown trout. However, they thrive in the hatchery setting, readily taking pellet food and growing to larger sizes. However, their "tame" nature may not benefit them once they are stocked into the wild. Over the years, the performance of Wild Rose strain brown trout in our lakes and streams has been mixed. They have done well in some settings and not so well in others. It will be very interesting to see how these two very different types of brown trout perform compared to each other. This study is being done not only in the Manistee River, but in many different waters around the state. These include Lake Michigan, inland lakes like Bear and Starvation Lakes in Kalkaska County, and other rivers, including the Au Sable River below Mio Dam. Hopefully this study will provide insight to help Fisheries Management Biologists maximize the potential of different waters around the state by stocking the correct strain of brown trout.

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

BANQUET

First of all an extra big thank you goes out to all those who were able to attend the banquet along with everyone that helped with banquet planning, set up, and donations. It is through those that give of their time, labor and money the chapter is able to help with the funding of the cold water conservation issues and projects we support.

This year there were a few less individuals attending than last year but the chapter should end up with about the same amount net funds. Again this shows the super support we have received at every banquet. As usual there were a few glitches and some issues that the board has discussed and are looking to improve on.

The year 2011 will be a special milestone for the chapter as it will mark the 25th year since the chapter was formed. And as we have held a banquet each year, next year's banquet will hold an extra amount of meaning as well. The board has already talked over a few ideas for the live and silent auctions and bucket raffles we think will help make the upcoming banquet something a little more special. As always we welcome any kind of input from chapter members and banquet attendees to help make our future banquets better. As we mentioned at the banquet, donations help make the job of putting on the banquet go a whole lot smoother. To that end, anyone who knows someone willing to donate toward the 2011 banquet please contact a board member, your help will be greatly appreciated.

In the future if you happen to meet any of the banquet donors or patronize their businesses, please tell them thank you helping us out. And again, thank you all for supporting the chapter's fund raising and conservation efforts. Such support is what makes Trout Unlimited a true grass roots organization.
John Zakrajsek



Live Auction Items



2010 BANQUET

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

White River-Branson, Missouri and Arkansas

I have fished the White River tailwaters below dams once or twice a year for the last several years. Decades ago these dams were built to supply energy for the area and neighboring states. The water leaving the dams exits at the bottom creating a stable cold water flow ideal for trout. The major dams are the Table Rock in Branson and the Beaver, Norfolk and Bull Shoals in Arkansas. They are all within about a one hour radius from Branson.

The flows from these dams are dependent on two variables-the need for electricity and controlling reservoir levels following rain storms. And the fishing changes dramatically depending on the flows. Lower flow levels are ideal for wading and really high flows mandate a boat ride. The flows can change daily and sometimes several times a day.

So why fish these rivers? They are literally full of sizable Rainbow trout and fair numbers of Brown trout. The world record Brown (until last year) was from this river system. Most of the fish caught on flies are caught using midge larva and emergers, streamers, crustaceans such as scuds, or San Juan worms. I have caught lots of fish with small soft hackles. 30 to 40 fish days are common.

Branson's about a 13 hour drive from the Cadillac area and there are lots of inexpensive motels and places to stay. The town has a reputation for its country western theaters and is known as the "Las Vegas" for old folks. I suggest a guide for your first rip. Jim Lund (a former Cadillac native and cop, phone - 870.426.1358) or the River Run Outfitters Orvis Shop(phone-417.332.0860) in Branson are excellent sources of information. I always fish with Jim and he is on a first name basis with most of the fish and can find them no matter what the flow is.

The White River is a special year round trout fishery. It has its quirks but the balance favors the rewards. It is a long days drive away, relatively inexpensive and a chance to practice some skills we don't use much in Michigan. Oh yeah, and you will catch a lot of fish.

Chuck Dumanois

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 and also send us your email address to the editor, Bob Rought at tutrut@yahoo.com using email will help improve communication and save a lot of paper. 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 tutrou@yaho.com

Website

Bob Rought tutrou@yaho.com has taken over as 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 addresses is www.pineriverareatu.org

2010 Sponsors & Donors

Backcast Fly Shop, Benozonia, MI
Baird, Cotter & Bishop, Cadillac, MI
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Acknowledgement: We wish to thank the contributors and donors who helped to make our banquet a success. We encourage you to patronize them.

ASIAN CARP FIGHT MOVES CLOSER TO LAKE MICHIGAN

The Little Calumet River east of Chicago, Ill. became the latest place to fight the Asian Carp. May 20, 2010, Biologists dumped about 2,000 gallons of the fish poison Rotenone into the river in an attempt to locate Asian Carp.

John Roger, assistant director of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, said “If there are Asian carp here, we should get confirmation”.

On May 25, 2010 No presence of Asian carp was found. But the results complicates an already divisive issue and raise new questions about what may have triggered positive DNA samples in the first place. Much more work needs to done.

A few U.S. senators from Great Lake states called for a study of building a physical barrier between the Lakes and the Mississippi River watershed that would prevent species from migrating from one system to the other.

In a letter to the Environment and Public Woks Committee, the senators asked Congress to order the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to conduct the analysis.

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

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