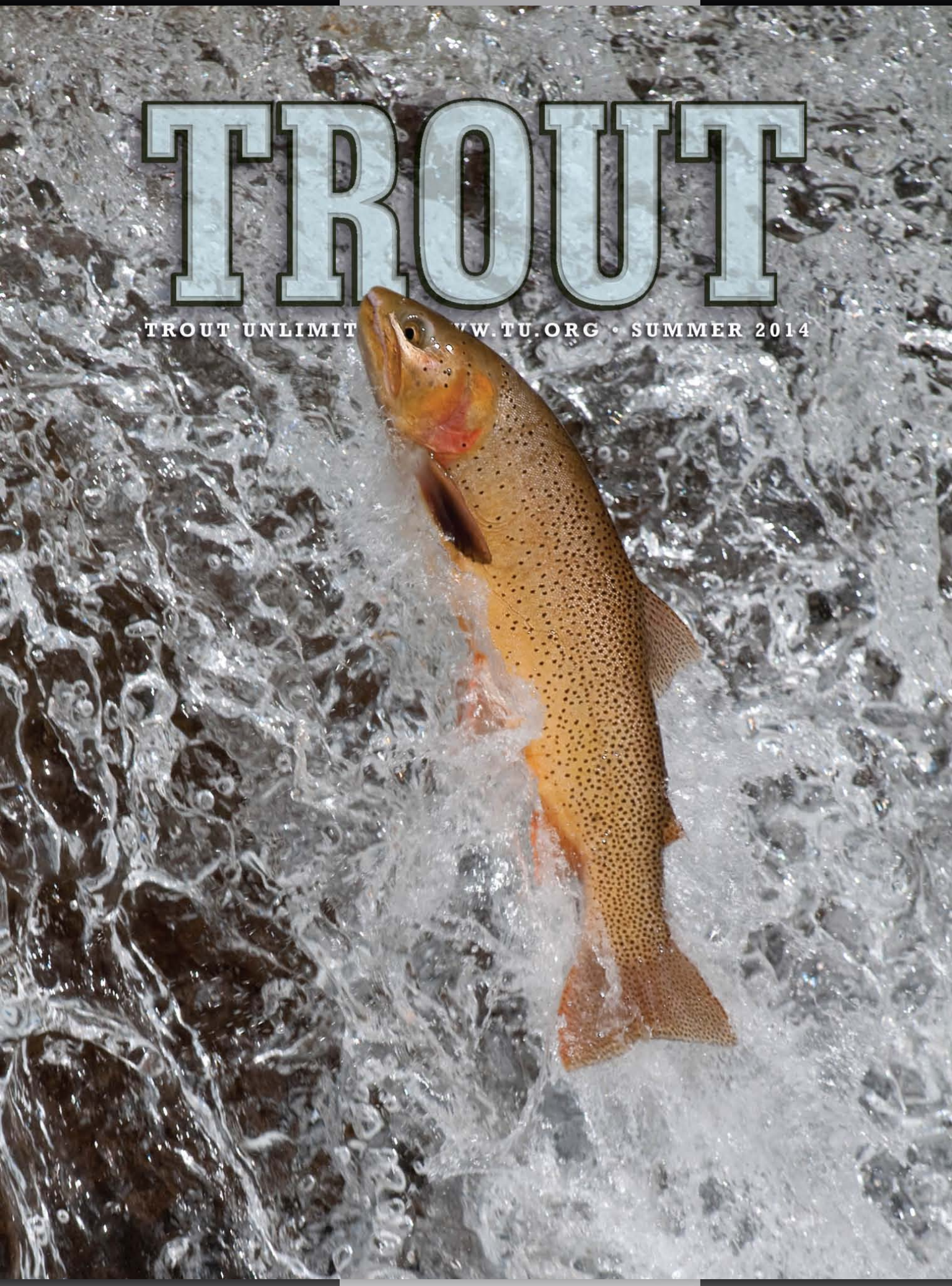
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TROUT

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From the President

[Chris Wood]

Building *Community* in a Fractured World

Three words define what it means to be a Trout Unlimited member: conservation, fishing and community. Conservation is at the core of what we do. And fishing is our passion. Community is something we build—stream by stream, project by project, relationship by relationship.

On April 20, it was Scot Feltrinelli's turn. Feltrinelli, 50, a member of the Canandaigua Chapter, and a TU-Endorsed Business guide with Ontario Fly Outfitters, convinced the town of Webster, New York, to make a section of Four Mile Creek "catch and release." He then worked to improve public access, led stream clean-ups, and worked with Boy Scouts to build trails, informational kiosks and park benches.

A few weeks before, I learned from Brian Burns about the Ray Neirle chapter's interest (okay, obsession) to save Mason's Run in New Jersey. In Burns' book, *Saving Mason's Run*, he recounted how the creek holds the southernmost native brook trout in New Jersey. He and the Ray Neirle chapter, working with their state agency partners, saved the creek by working with the company that was redesigning the land around it as a golf course. New Jersey is the most urbanized state in the country, and the fact that TU members were able to help save Mason's Run is downright remarkable.

The most recent of these reminders came in the shape of Ron Lasko's, *A Tale of Two Rivers*, a book about salter brook trout in the Quashnet and the Mashpee rivers. The R.I./Mass. council, local chapters and state agencies have been stalwarts in drawing attention to, and recovering sea-run brook trout.

One of the TU volunteer leaders of the salter recovery in Massachusetts is a guy named Warren Winders. A year ago, I sent him a note thanking him for his work to recover salters in a coastal river named Red Brook. Warren wrote back: "Trout Unlimited gave me Red Brook and all of the lessons and friends that have come with it. The brook, the trout, the lessons and the people drive a shared passion. It's a wonderful gift to all of us."

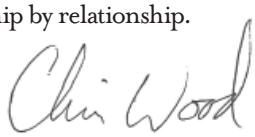
Most remarkable about these stories is the diverse array of partners involved: state fish and game agencies, federal agencies, departments of environmental protection, land use commissions, the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, churches, local construction companies, town councils, zoning boards, car dealers, chambers of commerce, community social clubs, grazing associations, energy companies, golf courses and so on.

This old-fashioned idea of building community is what many of you do, day in and day out. We do it so often, we don't think twice of it. But it is so important, so vital to maintaining the connective tissue of this country—all of it helps to build community in a fractured world.

You hear it all the time—community is failing, falling, dying. More subdivisions without sidewalks. Fewer baseball fields and hoops courts. More screen time. Fewer bowling leagues. More TV per day. Less trust. Throw all that out the window!

Because every time we host a veterans' fishing outing, or spend a Saturday morning teaching kids to fish, or introducing novice anglers to casting, we are building community. Every barbeque we host, every Fly Fishing Film Tour event that we host, every stream clean-up and tree-planting, is a chance to connect the head of the local chamber of commerce with a guide who is worried about a commercial subdivision's runoff.

Yeah, we are saving Mason's Run, but more importantly, we are also making America a better place—stream by stream, project by project, relationship by relationship.



TROUT

SUMMER 2014 • VOLUME 56 • NUMBER 3

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To conserve, protect and restore North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.

Trout (ISSN 0041-3364) is published four times a year in January, April, July and October by Trout Unlimited as a service to its members. Annual individual membership for U.S. residents is $35, $40US for residents of Canada and $55US for residents of all other countries. TU offers 10 different membership categories. Join or renew online at www.tu.org.

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From the Editor

[Kirk Deeter]

"We shall not cease from exploration; And the end of all our exploring; Will be to arrive where we started; And know the place for the first time." –T.S. Eliot

I learned to fly fish in Baldwin, Michigan. In truth, my motives were to impress the parents of a girl I was dating. She came from a family steeped in trout-fishing tradition, and I knew wasn't going to make the cut unless I attempted to assimilate. So I gave it a whirl. And *this* is what happened. My wife, Sarah, and I have now been married for 25 years. Fishing for trout (and writing stories) has led me to places I might not have otherwise imagined—to Tierra del Fuego in Argentina, above the Arctic Circle in Russia, to Alaska, and throughout the United States. But the home waters still haunt me and captivate me more than any others. Even as I was in the jungle of Guyana chasing arapaimas on the fly, I found my mind drifting to little brown trout on the Baldwin. I hope you don't ever lose the connection with your home water. It's the most important you will ever know, and it will leave the deepest impression on your soul, no matter where you fish. TU is the organization that keeps these home waters alive. There is no greater cause for an angler, and no greater adventure, than knowing that your children, and theirs, will someday have an opportunity to experience the waters that defined your own angling spirit.

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Coldwater Conservation Fund

The Coldwater Conservation Fund, or "CCF," was founded over 20 years ago to support Trout Unlimited's effort to keep every aspect of its conservation work grounded in science. The CCF supports that science work to this day, and provides seed funding for new initiatives and ongoing support for established conservation programs across the country and in Alaska.

To find out more about the Coldwater Conservation Fund and what you can do for TU, please visit www.tu.org/ccf, or contact Anderson Smith at asmith@tu.org.

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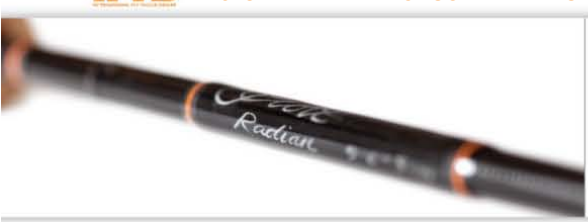

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Our Contributors

Hal Herring is contributing editor at *Field & Stream* magazine, and co-writes the Conservationist blog on that magazine's website, www.fieldandstream.com. He has covered conservation and the environment for a variety of national publications for almost 20 years, and lives with his wife and children in Augusta, Montana, on the windy side of the Rockies.

Louis Cahill, who shot the "Intermezzo" image for this issue, is an acclaimed commercial photographer based in Atlanta, Georgia. Since turning his lenses on fly fishing (he also builds bamboo rods), he has created a diverse array of compelling shots for a variety of outdoor publications and websites. He is a regular contributor to *TROUT*. Please check out his work at www.louiscahill.com.

Although **Kirk Deeter** is now the editor of *TROUT*, this issue includes his first story in this magazine in several years. Also an editor-at-large for *Field & Stream*, he has contributed to *WIRED*, *Garden & Gun* and *The New York Times*, and he co-authored *The Little Red Book of Fly Fishing* with the late Charlie Meyers. He and his family live in Pine Junction, Colorado.

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Photo: barryandcathybeck.com

Our Readers Write

I have to tell you that the cover of your Spring edition of *TROUT* magazine was the best I have ever seen! Not just of *TROUT* magazine, but of any fly fishing magazine I have seen (and, believe me I have seen a lot). Hats off to Tim Romano (but mostly Mabel) for an amazing photo. Ready at the right place at the right time! What a cutie.

And Kirk, I love the idea of the TU Magazine doing product reviews. I get a bit leery of typical fly-fishing magazines doing gear reviews. Can't help but believe they are influenced by advertisers. Hopefully, we will get the straight skinny from TU. Thanks for a great magazine and all the work you guys do on behalf of such a worthy cause.

Paul Kleiber
Stonefly Society 48

Being a new lifetime member of TU, I found the recent cover of the TU magazine interesting as well as the Umpqua River article. My grandson was at the Umpqua 3 years ago wondering where the steelhead were! Great river and great sport.

Larry Sykes

I have to say I am thoroughly impressed with the new layout and content design of *TROUT* magazine! Amazing work. Trout fishing is definitely art, but its mostly fishing, and I appreciate the new look, the exciting ads, and good content about projects, conservation and fishing! Thank you to all the staff that make *TROUT* magazine… a premier publication!

Brian M. Williams

The editor responds: *Heartfelt thanks for the many notes we received on the last cover. To be honest, that was a leap of faith. We've counted over 40 overwhelmingly positive responses, and one that wasn't so sure, but "not against it." The point we're trying to make is that, while TU is certainly about science and conservation (so we try to bring you the most credible information on those topics), and we know that most of us just plain love trout fishing, we're also about family and community, as those things motivate us to be stewards of resources. Yes, we will stay true to the base when it comes to the straight skinny on product reviews, and no, I cannot put Mabel on the cover of every issue. We're back to spectacular fish shots… for now.*

Your Letters:
Readers are invited to submit letters on anything that appears in *Trout*. We may edit submissions for clarity or length. Send letters to:

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National Leadership Conference

Trout Unlimited's 2014 National Leadership Conference will be held September 5 and 6 in Santa Fe, New Mexico, at the Eldorado Hotel & Spa, 309 West San Francisco Street, Santa, Fe, NM 87501. This will be the twelfth annual meeting of the National Leadership Council.

The local TU members will host fishing trips on September 3 on some of the region's finest rivers and streams. September 4 will feature an on-site workshop to explore and study multiple factors affecting wild and native trout, including effects of fire, floods, invasive species, and climate change in general in the Valles Caldera National Preserve area. September 5 and 6 are reserved for the Annual Meeting of Members and meeting of the National Leadership Council and TU's conservation awards ceremony. For an agenda and registration information, see www.tu.org/annualmeeting2014.

Notice of Annual Meeting

Saturday, September 6, 2014
8:30 a.m. in Santa Fe, New Mexico

Notice is hereby given to the members of Trout Unlimited, a Michigan non-profit corporation, that, pursuant to the provisions of the bylaws, the 55th Annual Meeting of Members will be held at the New Mexico History Museum, 113 Lincoln Avenue, Santa Fe, New Mexico, to elect trustees and to take up any other business that comes properly before the meeting. Beginning July 14, members can obtain the 2014 proxy at www.tu.org or through the mail by calling (703) 522-0200.

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RIGHT: JEREMIE HOLLMAN, INSET: JAMES NELSON

Yellowstone Cutthroats are Rebounding

New data from Yellowstone Lake has both biologists and anglers smiling this summer—efforts to remove non-native lake trout from the lake's waters are paying off.

First, data is showing an uptick in the numbers of juvenile Yellowstone cutthroat trout in the lake. Cutthroats are the primary food base for the exotic lake trout that are native to the Great Lakes, but not to the waters of Yellowstone. Second, despite the most robust effort ever to remove lakers in 2013, the catch rate was almost identical to the 2012 results—over both summers, the National Park Service and its netting contractors removed about 300,000 lake trout. This indicates that the removal efforts are working and that native cutthroat trout might be rebounding after a population crash in the early 2000s.

TU's work on the lake is entirely volunteer-driven. Chapter and state council leaders from Wyoming, Idaho and Montana have raised nearly $1 million—including a grant from the state of Wyoming this year—to buy telemetry equipment that allows scientists to gather data on lake trout migration and spawning in the lake. Using that data, the Park Service directs net placement, which has, as noted, been hugely successful.

It's not a cheap proposition, but with help from TU and other conservation partners like the Yellowstone Park Foundation and the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, the costs to American taxpayers is much less than it would be if the Park Service were footing the bill for the entire $3 million annual project on its own. And, as TU Senior Scientist Jack Williams noted recently, the costs are highest during this initial phase, where stopping the growth of the lake trout population via netting is vital. Eventually, he explained, other less-expensive methods will likely be employed, including finding innovative ways to target lake trout and their eggs and fry on their shallow-water spawning beds.

And, he noted, the end justifies the means. It's all about saving Yellowstone's native fish and returning balance to one of the most iconic ecosystems—not to mention one of the most storied trout fishing destinations—on the planet.

"The Yellowstone native cutthroats are as integral to Yellowstone's larger ecosystem as bison and grizzlies," Williams said. "And they're one of the most significant populations of native trout in the world. If we can't save them here, in our flagship national park, where can we save them?"

—Chris Hunt

GRANT COLLIER

A Major Victory for Fraser River

The Fraser is on the brink. The river, beloved by generations of anglers, has been hammered by years of water diversions to the Front Range that take 60 percent of its annual flows and have left trout habitat degraded—and Denver plans to take even more water under its Moffat Project.

So it was a major victory when TU announced in March an agreement with Denver Water and local officials on a mitigation plan to protect and restore the Fraser, a key tributary of the Upper Colorado River.

"This package of protections and enhancements, if adopted in the final Moffat Project permit, gives us the best opportunity to keep the Fraser River and its outstanding trout fishery healthy far into the future," said Mely Whiting, counsel for Trout Unlimited.

Under the agreement, years in the making, TU and a team of stakeholders will monitor and assess stream health based on parameters including water temperature, aquatic life and riparian health—and Denver Water will be required to use committed resources to improve existing conditions and address habitat problems that may arise.

"The Fraser is the lifeblood of our community," said Kirk Klancke, president of TU's Colorado River Headwaters chapter in Fraser and a longtime advocate for the river. "I'm gratified that this agreement keeps our home waters healthy and flowing."

Still ahead: TU must work to ensure the agreement is incorporated into the final federal permitting of the Moffat Project, expected in early 2015. *—Randy Scholfield*

Growing the Sport... Creating More Conservationist Anglers

As any fly angler can tell you, one of the greatest things about fly fishing is that you never stop learning. We always want to cast farther and more accurately. We always want to know more about the bugs fish eat and how to imitate them on the water. We want to be master casters, blue ribbon entomologists, awesome ichthyologists and home-grown authorities on the hydrology of our home water—or any other water for that matter. There's always something new to learn.

The good news is that there's always someplace where you can learn, and there's always someone willing to teach you. But not one does it better than Mack Martin and his staff at Atlanta Fly Fishing School in Cumming, Georgia. Thousands of people from all over the world have chosen Atlanta Fly Fishing School, a TU Gold Level Business member, to improve their casting and angling skills. And year after year, they keep coming back for more.

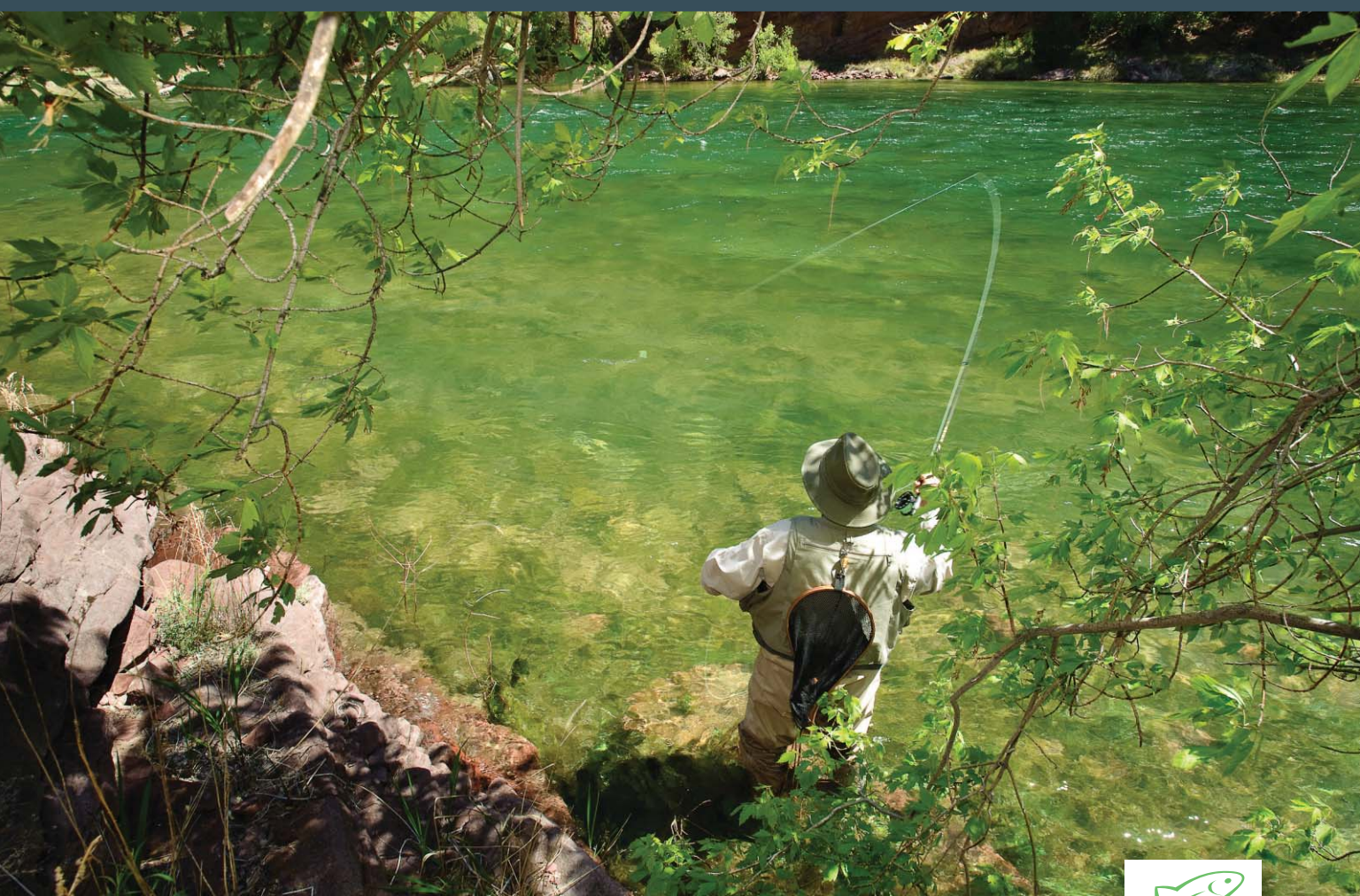
The Atlanta Fly Fishing School is not only for beginners, but it is the perfect place for anyone to start. It's a five-hour school that covers everything you need to know to get started from scratch. While it's designed for newbies, it is equally valuable for the seasoned fisherman who wants to brush up on the basics. Everyone enjoys this comfortable, relaxed class that allows you to learn at your own pace. It makes learning fly-fishing fun.

Their Fly Casting School is grounded in the basics and a perfect place for beginners, yet is a very comprehensive casting class covering 20 specialty casts. The class starts with a classroom "chalk talk" on mechanics. Then it's out to the water for hands-on instruction. This class is comprehensive enough to advance anglers of all levels to greater expertise and enjoyment in fishing.

If you're worried about this being all about time in the classroom, you can relax. AFFS has onsite outdoor facilities to make it real. Personal instruction is also available. But most of all, when you're at AFFS, you're with fellow TU members who have dedicated their life's work to making fishing better for all of us. www.atlantaflyfishingschool.com. –*Walt Gasson*

"My legacy is leaving the river better than when I fished it."

—Larry Finch, Stream Guardian



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TROUT UNLIMITED

MATT GUYMON

Becoming an Amateur Entomologist

BY ROBERT "THE BUG GUY" YOUNGHANZ

I often tell clients and customers that fly fishing is a science. Except on rare occasions, luck plays very little into a productive day on the water. As an aquatic entomologist, the most gratifying aspect of my work is by far the opportunity I am given to enlighten fly anglers on the relationship between what trout eat and the flies we use to mimic these food sources. The complex relationships between aquatic environments, fish and insects are truly ineffable. Enabling anglers to better comprehend these relationships, which are by their very nature rife with both mystery and complexity, is truly rewarding.

In every season, I conduct streamside field courses where enthusiastic students roll up their sleeves and do some serious bug collecting. Watching the eyes of my students, no matter their age, light up with absolute amazement when they gaze upon their first tray of specimens collected from the river is about as cool as it gets. I am always surprised at the diversity of the students that attend my seminars. In a single class, it is not uncommon to have the first time fly-fisher, the seasoned veteran and even guides all intently collecting insects together in the river. This just proves my point that it is never too early, nor is it too late, for anglers to become comfortable with the topic of entomology.

Having a basic understanding of aquatic invertebrates and their lifecycles is the very fulcrum and possibly the most essential cog in the wheel when it comes to the sport, yet ironically, it is often the biggest blind spot for most anglers. Fly fishers are happy to hone their rigging, casting, presentation, and even tying skills, while quietly avoiding, often for years, the elephant in the room, which is knowing what the trout are actually eating and what their food really looks and acts like.

There are myriad reasons why anglers avoid learning about bugs. The explanation I hear the most often is that a Woolly Bugger, a Parachute Adams and a Pheasant Tail work just fine for almost all fly-fishing situations and therefore learning fancy Latin names of bugs is highbrow, overkill and a waste of time. I would be the first person to agree that one could certainly fool countless fish on those three iconic patterns, but over time, most anglers realize that their fly fishing experience as well as their confidence on the water can be greatly enhanced by being able

Pocket Water

to, at a minimum, separate various aquatic orders at streamside and know the fundamental differences between a nymph, larva, pupa, emerger, adult, spinner, etc. Once you are comfortable with knowing your various bugs, you can create separate fly boxes for mayflies, stoneflies, caddisflies, midges and terrestrials, with patterns that not only represent these individual groups but also the various stages of their lifecycles. Doing this will make you more efficient while on the water and help tremendously when trying to more accurately "match the hatch" or other food sources you might collect during a survey.

For those that dismiss the importance of learning a bit of scientific nomenclature as it relates to trout foods, pick up a copy of, Dave Whitlock's *Guide to Aquatic Trout Foods*, Gary Lafontaine's *Caddisflies* or *Selective Trout* by Doug Swisher and Carl Richards. These are just a few definitive publications on the topic of aquatic entomology that are geared specifically for the fly fisher and they do not shy away from tackling the topic with intensive scientific process and terminology.

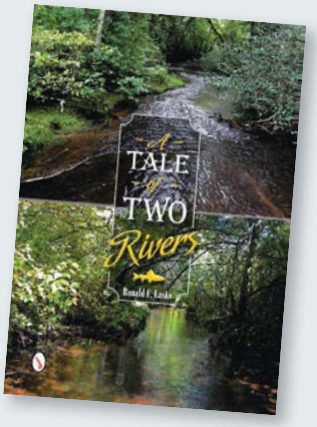
We can own the top-of-the-line rods and reels, waders and boots and carry thousands of flies with us to the water, yet if we have little or no idea what foods are available to trout, what they are eating or what is hatching when we get there, such tools of the trade are useless. I speak with countless anglers that have no idea whatsoever what the files in their boxes are even supposed to represent. The good news is that with just a few basic and inexpensive items, such as a landing net seine, a small vial filled with alcohol, a pair of hemostats, a streamside guide and a DVD, you'll be on your way to becoming the amateur entomologist you were born to be.

Robert Younghanz, a.k.a "The Bug Guy," is an internationally-known fly-fishing guide and instructor. Check out Robert's best-selling DVD: The Bug Guy: Entomology For The Flyfisher *and www.the-bug-guy.com*

FOR YOUR LIBRARY

A Tale of Two Rivers

(Lasko, Shiffler Publishing 2013)



Ron Lasko is a romantic—a fly fishing soul who draws from the past to enjoy the fishing of the present. And that's appropriate, because there aren't many of these writers left these days. Too often, authors of "guide books" and "how-to" books focus on the minutia … the precise detail that must be employed while fishing a river or a stream. While the information might be valuable, reading and soaking it up can be a slog.

Not so with Lasko's new book, A *Tale of Two Rivers* (Shiffler Publisher, 2013). Yes, I suppose you could call this a "guide book," but that's a short sell. Lasko's book is truly a labor of love. He writes from the shores of Quashnet and the Mashpee rivers on Cape Cod from every seasonal angle imaginable, all with the intent of sharing the story of a nearly lost American treasure—the sea run brook trout, or salters.

There was a time when these stunning char were found in streams and estuaries from New Jersey north to Labrador. Today, in the United States, these fish are so very rare that they swim dependably only in these two rivers Lasko profiles in his heirloom-quality book that's fit for any angler's library.

This, of course, begs the question: Why share with the world the tools needed to catch one of the most rare native fish in America? The answer is simple in my mind—perhaps because I've faced similar questions as I've revealed "secrets" to readers here in Idaho. If we don't talk about the beauty of the craft and the majesty of the places special fish swim, we're not doing the craft any favors, and we're certainly not giving the fish their due. Salter brook trout occupy a prominent spot in the growth of a fledgling nation, but it was that growth that landed this unique coldwater fish in its present predicament—nearly gone, but heartily hanging on in the two rivers Lasko profiles.

"Picture a native Wampoanoag netting herring to smoke and preserve food for his tribe; a pilgrim planning dams and mills to grind corn and wheat, not realizing the centuries of damage his actions would cause to the fishery," Lasko writes in the book's preface. "Or a farmer clearing a cedar wetland to develop a cranberry bog, ignorant that he was causing the loss of cool headwater springs that the trout depended on along with other wildlife."

Our nation's progress—from coast to coast—has had a profound impact on the trout and salmon that once swam unimpeded from the sea to the headwaters to spawn and grow. Lasko—like all conscientious anglers—understands those impacts and preaches a corrective tack in order to protect the best of what's left. And in doing so, he's produced a truly lovely book, complete with color photographs of the fish and the rivers he so clearly loves. And, for those of us who might like to chase salters one day, he's included detailed color photos of prominent fly patterns (some are truly beautiful and conjure up images of those classic Atlantic salmon patterns those of us in the West rarely see) that work for salters on the Quashmet and Mashpee rivers—he's given us the keys to the salter castle so we, too, may come to appreciate these rare fish and the need to keep them safe.

And that's a no-brainer, of course. Long live the salter—and thanks to Ron Lasko for reminding us that they're still hanging on, awaiting our flies and in need of our protection.

–Chris Hunt

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Pocket Water

GEAR PICKS... BY TU ANGLERS, FOR TU ANGLERS

Women's Fit Siren-Marilyn Waders by Redington

Every year or so as I was growing up, my dad used to take my brother, sister and me to Outdoor Outfitters to make sure we were sufficiently "geared-up" for the season. My brother and sister are a good bit younger than me; however, we always headed to the same section, "Kids Hunting and Fishing." When the kids' sizes no longer worked, padding was the name of the game. On a cold day, I'd be decked out in two chamois shirts, some type of rain gear with the sleeves rolled up, and two or even three pairs of socks to keep my waders from slipping off. Even into my early twenties, I was wearing exceptionally goofy and awkward waders, made for either a kid or an adult man. In the kids' waders, I couldn't squat down to land my fish. In the adult men's waders, I'd be tripping all over myself. I'm happy to report that those days are long gone as more and more vendors create women's specific hunting and fishing gear and clothing.

The Redington Marilyn Fit Siren waders I've been fishing in this spring and summer are one such women's option. The waders are designed thoughtfully to cater to a woman's body and include a higher than usual chest allowing for deep wading. The material is lightweight, easily packable, and dries off quickly. After a spring and summer of heavy use, I'm confident the waders are also as durable and reliable as any wader out there. Although a huge improvement over my awkward wading days in the past, the sizing options weren't the best. I'm 5'6" and have a size nine foot. In order to get the stocking feet to fit, I had to order a size "tall," meaning that the legs have a bit more fabric than would be ideal. Despite the sizing challenges, I have not experienced any chafing or signs of wear on the waders. I'll be in these waders for number of years to come. **$219.95**

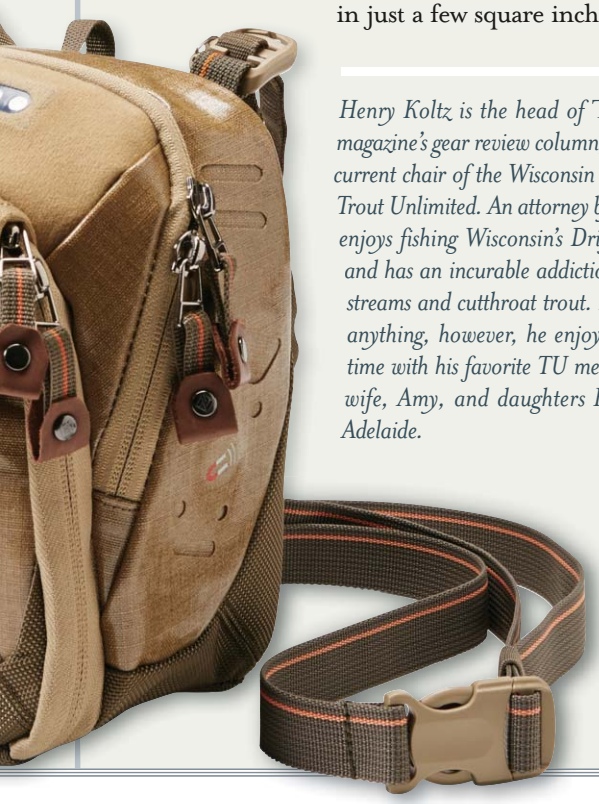
Beverly Smith, TU's Director of Volunteer Operations, oversees the day-to-day operations of TU's volunteer program including supporting 36 state councils and 376 local chapters across the country. She grew up in Charleston, S.C. and now lives with her husband and daughter in northwest Wyoming.

The Eddie Bauer Adventurer Fishing Chest Pack

Seemingly simple items set this pack apart from others… magnets. A powerful front magnet area is great for holding flies while tying on tippet, and side-mounted magnets work great to secure metallic tools and prevent them from swinging and becoming tangled.

The pack's main compartment is large enough to hold two modestly-sized fly boxes, and has a separate netted area which worked well to hold a spare leader and floatant. The front pocket of the pack holds a foam fly patch (with another magnet) and folds down 90° to create a working area. The front pocket also featured an internal elastic strap that worked well to lock in a small tube of sunscreen and would likely do the same for a small container of bug spray or gink.

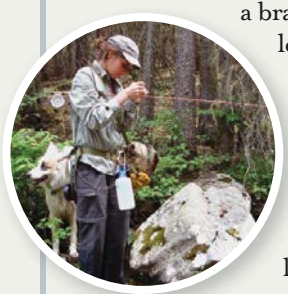
The neck strap was comfortable and unnoticeable even after a day of fishing, and the pack's chest strap held it firmly in place. The only drawback is the lack of a net connection point on the back of the neck strap. In sum, this is a nicely priced, highly functional chest pack that provides the functionality of a bulky vest in just a few square inches. **$80**



Henry Koltz is the head of TROUT *magazine's gear review column, and is the current chair of the Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited. An attorney by trade, he enjoys fishing Wisconsin's Driftless Area and has an incurable addiction to small streams and cutthroat trout. More than anything, however, he enjoys spending time with his favorite TU members—his wife, Amy, and daughters Hallie and Adelaide.*

Classic 18-ounce Klean Kanteen

One of the many ironies of angling is that more days than not, we return from a day spent surrounded by water, severely dehydrated. There are many excuses: the excess weight of carrying a bottle, forgetfulness and general hassle. You'll catch up with a big glass of H_2O before the adult beverage that's waiting at home in the fridge. Right? But that's not how it works, or at least not how it should. From my experience and observation, you're a more effectual angler when you're well hydrated and not in a brain desert of delusions, seeing dead leaves as trout rising to your dries (I know for a fact, yes this happens).



I've carried the 18 oz. Classic style Klean Kanteen with me for a while now. On carp flats, small streams, into meetings at work. The bottle is naturally BPA free and being stainless steel, doesn't need any inside coatings against material toxins. It's extremely durable (I've put it through the wringer, I'm clumsy) and doesn't latch to odors as plastics are prone to. The "sport" design silicone spout option on the bottle I carry is convenient to open and use and is also BPA free. These are all great features. In addition, carrying a reusable water bottle is good for the environment and watersheds, as it decreases the amount of plastics discarded in landfills and in and along waterways. Klean Kanteen provides many size and design options, and you certainly won't regret feeling better about your choices on the water and off. **$18.95**

Erin Block is TROUT *magazine's editor-at-large, and an author of the acclaimed book,* The View from Coal Creek, *as well as content curator for the popular fly-fishing website MidCurrent.com.*

Watersheds

[BY CHRISTOPHER CAMUTO]

Generations

BIOLOGISTS CALL IT *RECRUITMENT*, THE successful rearing of a new generation of a species, literally *new growth*, the natural replacement of one generation by the next. This is, of course, nature's way of ensuring the survival of species over time, a process rooted in the mystery of biology itself. We anglers occasionally stumble across the stark beauty of this process. In autumn we might have the chance to watch a female brook trout lay over on its side and laboriously fan the gravel of a redd, as strange an effort as you will ever see in nature. If we're patient and willing to give up fishing for an hour, we may see her lay a cloud of eggs just upstream of the sandy oval as a male trout quivers alongside, fertilizing the eggs cast to the fortunes of a mountain stream.

Eventually the forces of natural selection winnow those thousands of fertilized eggs to the small schools of olive trout fry that fill sheltered niches of shallow water. This is perhaps the most encouraging sight on any stream, the trout of the next generation. Occasionally, we catch a juvenile brookie whose diminutive size and thumbprint parr marks declare it to be a near-graduate into biological maturity. Left to their own processes, trout streams effortlessly recruit generation after generation of wild trout.

Trout streams, of course, recruit anglers as well as trout, and have been doing so for centuries. The founding book of modern angling, Izaak Walton's *The Compleat Angler,* is a literary recruitment of long-standing influence. It was cast in the form of a dialogue partly for literary and historical reasons, but also because fishing lends itself to the give and take of the most informal kinds of teaching. Setting a good example, Walton and Charles Cotton taught with gentle persistence. They knew that on a trout stream simply pointing to something worth noticing—that dimple of a rise, that dark fan of current, that insect husk on an alder branch—served to unlock the pleasures of fly fishing to a prospective angler. And they knew that the pleasure of angling would lead to caring about rivers and fish. All that was needed was to let the initiate's "inquiring, searching, observing wit" take over along with the "large measure of hope and patience" Walton identified as the key talents of the successful angler.

Since Walton's and Cotton's time, trout fishing has lent itself to being passed on easily from one generation to the next. The book's teacherly habits took hold and rippled on. Across centuries of enormous historical change from the 17th century, rivers continued to recruit anglers as surely as they recruited trout. The transmission of angling practices from England to America went on naturally, without any plan or program. Recreational angling not much different than the sport of Walton and Cotton quietly persisted through decades and centuries as a beguiling form of cultural continuity that easily survived all the changes history could throw at it.

In our own time, environmental changes came to be a critical part of that history, and the birth of Trout Unlimited was a consequence of those environmental changes. The recruitment of anglers to angling took on a new dimension in the latter half of the 20th century. In the 1960s and 1970s, many of us participated in the early struggles to establish clean air and clean water standards, to encourage more rigorous protection of watershed ecology on our National Forests, to restore habitat and extirpated species in our National Parks, to curtail the practice of stocking hatchery fish over wild trout, to remove unnecessary dams from rivers.

In a sense, troubled trout streams and threatened wild trout populations were recruiting new ideas in the middle of the 20th century—the ideas at the heart of TU's mission. Unpolluted, free-flowing rivers and wild trout populations lead us to the values of preserving and restoring wild trout habitat as surely as they lead us to the pleasures of angling. Trout

Trout haven't evolved any in the centuries since Walton and Cotton. We have. In the latter half of the 20th century anglers themselves became part of the ecology of trout streams. So what about the next 50 years?

STEPHANIE GOULD

haven't evolved any in the centuries since Walton and Cotton. We have. In the latter half of the 20th century anglers themselves became part of the ecology of trout streams. So what about the next 50 years?

One of the advantages of teaching at a university is to always have the cutting edge of the next generation at hand, its energy and expectations the living fabric of any worthwhile campus, the challenging foil of any seminar, workshop or conversation. I've lost track of generational names—the branding of the young as Millennials or Gen-Xers or Gen-Ys—but sometime during the last decade or so we began teaching a generation of young men and women who were never *not* aware of the environment as the fundamental background issue of human affairs. They came of age in a historical moment when sustainability, in all its guises, is assumed to be the work of the day.

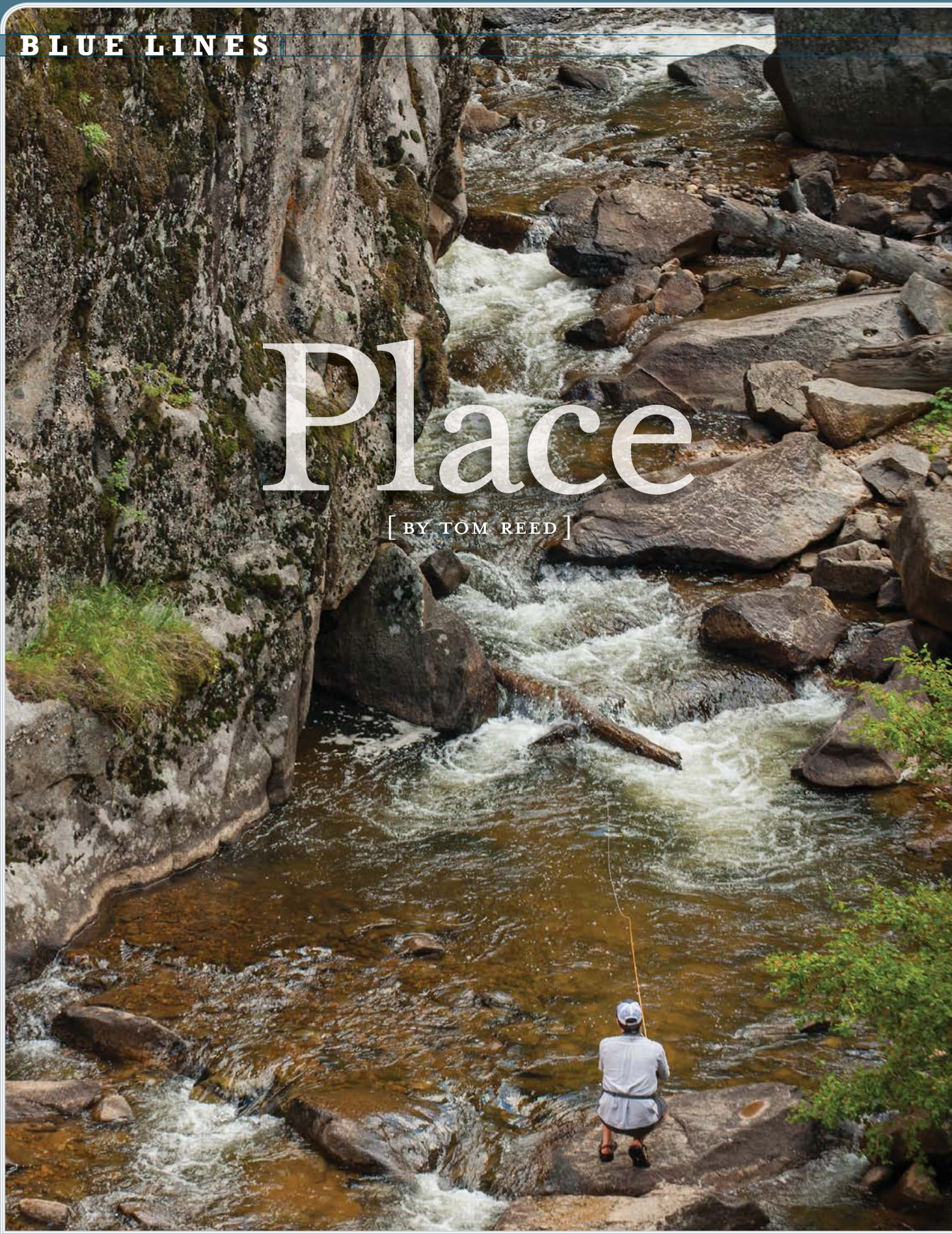
If, for example, I offer a course in environmental writing at Bucknell University, I end up with a seminar room of students of wonderfully diverse interests and academic specializations: not only the biology, chemistry and environmental studies majors one would expect, but accounting, business management and international studies students, as well as a film studies major, a photographer and a poet. Unified by their interest in the environment, this generation seems eager to begin problem-solving environmental issues from a variety of perspectives.

Psychology students interested in nature-deficit disorder in children rub elbows with management students working on business models for health-care providers in third-world countries; science students engaged in puzzling out stream-water chemistry issues in the Susquehanna River work alongside students concerned with sustainable ecotourism in Nepal. Students who want to write about acid mine drainage and trout streams work with students writing about the cultural value of greenways. This generation of students understands that sustainability is not jargon, or a slogan, but rather the central issue of their historical moment, a moment the ideal of protecting sustainable coldwater fisheries helped create. We ought to recruit their "inquiring, searching, observing wit" to our cause.

Wit's End
Wolftree Farm

Place

[BY TOM REED]



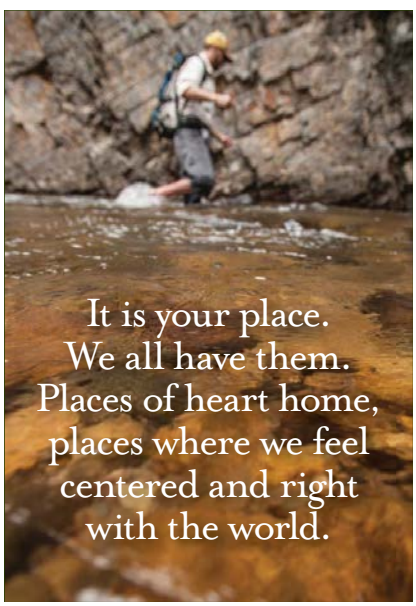
In winter, or in that come-on-get-here-already time that is fickle spring, or in the thickness of summer's bake, you think of it. You think of it at night when you can't sleep. You think of it at the office and on the commute home. It is not a haunting or even a taunting. More of a call, a beckon, an invitation written in water and fin, soil and sky, green and blue, cobble and boulder.

It is your place. We all have them. Places of heart home, places where we feel centered and right with the world. An oxbow bend on the big river, where a brown trout you have been trying to catch for a decade suspends in deep water. A tangled skip-hop creek where casts are one-time-only wrist-flips and brook trout flit in tannin water, fully aware that they swim the edge between eating and being eaten, predator and prey. A canyon of rattlesnakes and poison ivy, high limestone, chest-deep pools, wild rainbows and browns. A tiny stream in the middle of the city, a greenway and a bike path and even some fish right there in the concrete jungle that you can cast to while a child goes weaving past giggling the joy of her first ride without training wheels.

If you are lucky, you have more than one of these places. But one is enough. Perhaps, too, you only have been here once but that once was enough, for you stood in cold water and you cast to rising trout and everything was just so. Just perfect. And at that moment when you were there, you were all there. All in. There was nothing else. No thoughts of checkbooks and interest rates, no nag of mortgages and college loans begging payment. Just the now. Just the water and the rod and the fly and the fish rising and falling. The sound of water and bird and feel of sky and leaf. You were there and the distractions were not. There.

It may also be a place visited and revisited. So much it feels like an old friend, a familiar home. It feels like yours even if you don't own it. Private even if it is public. Feels right.

A small creek joining a larger creek. This is where I park the truck, drop the tailgate. Cold water meeting cold water, the small creek threading off to the southwest, then west, then south again. The rattle and shake of the road dribbles out of the bones. Sit quiet. Listen, watch. A turkey vulture wheels. A family of violet-backed swallows peels apart the sky, spinning and slicing and turning. A few casts on the big creek, at the marriage of the two. Attempts without enthusiasm. Just limbering up the rod.



Walk up the old jeep road, fly rod casting a razor shadow. The road is overgrown, unused. Maybe it was never a jeep road. Maybe a wagon road. Where the stream bends away from the mainstem, up between the sagebrush hills I will find trout. They've been there before, in mind and in memory and in fact. Real and imagined.

The first cast brings a rise and the light rod bends to fish and the fight is quick then over. Released. An eight-inch rainbow. The stream meanders in meadow, crowded close by willow, squeezed between sod and sky, sagebrush hills in all directions and just a hint—blue and white and far and high away—of mountain where the stream is spawned.

Walk on. Catch and cast. The rainbows now are crossed with cutthroat, bearing the white edged fins of their mixed blood with under-jaw cutthroat slashes. All are in the 8- to 10-inch range, but when I elbow-and-knee it beneath a willow shadowing a particularly deep pool, there is a bigger one, moving in shadow and sunlight, in and out of vision. A momma trout. Maybe 16 inches.

I flip the humpy I'm using into the current, let it bob where slow meets fast, that visible line of translucence. The fly bends and the tippet casts a quick shadow on the bottom of the pool and the trout rises, looks, then drops. Changes its mind, flits upward and takes. The rod bends to its weight and there is a shake of head and tail and muscled body and a run to one end of the pool, then the other, then to hand. A cutthroat. The hook is unpinned and with one flip of fin, it is gone. Somewhere. But still in my mind.

And it is here that I realize that "the place" is not really a place at all, but a state of mind. An essence of being in the moment, of focusing only on fish and flow and current and fly. Nothing is behind or ahead. It is all right here and right now, this place, this being.

Tom Reed works for Trout Unlimited from his home near Pony, Montana. He is the author of *Blue Lines, A Fishing Life*. For more, email him at treed@tu.org or visit www.tomreedbooks.com

PHOTOS BY TIM ROMANO

AARON PETERSON

The Kickapoo Weed Slide

By Kirk Deeter

I have always thought that the practice of guarding "secret fly-fishing spots" is a bit shady, and when it comes to intentionally spreading misinformation… well that's just plain dirty.

But somehow, it all makes perfect sense in Wisconsin.

Although I was raised in the Badger State, it took a recent angling jaunt into the heart of the Driftless Area to bring that into focus. My fishing partner (we'll call him "Jon" for the sake of this story) promised to show me things I did not expect: big, willing brown trout slurping terrestrials, and in small creeks no less… flossy strands of water meandering through dairy cow pastures that even the most open-minded Montanan would consider non-navigable ditches.

Wriggling into stale GORE-TEX at the cabin that morning with a dozen other anglers—a common "pre-launch" scenario, replete with the distinct combo-aroma of bug spray, sunscreen, fly floatant, black coffee and mud—someone (I forget who) asked: "Where you guys goin' today?"

Jon muttered, "Upper Giraffe Creek."

I scratched my head. (I'd studied the topo maps, and did not recall seeing any blue line with a moniker lifted from the Serengeti.) Other eyes rolled. And yet, the weird thing was, a handful nodded in complete acceptance and understanding. The "inner sanctum" went about straightening leaders, spinning flies on tippet and so forth. They knew the deal.

And so Jon drove me along a twisting two-lane, then pulled off on a berm. He parked his SUV, and we soon waddled over an electric fence (use the cork to push the top wire down… it's hot!). We marched straight through the pasture, then found the water, where I proceeded to unfurl one sloppy, slushy cast after another until an apparently suicidal trout decided to eat a red Copper John I'd suspended in desperation below my favorite hopper pattern.

"This water is too tinted, we should move on," Jon (who had already caught a few) coaxed. I agreed.

"Where are we going next?" I asked. He told me the real name, I think, though I forget what it was. (Actually, I didn't forget, but by then, I understood and appreciated

why it might be good to keep some of this stuff under wraps.)

So we kicked down the road a spell, pulled over, and climbed into another ditch with a creek that, in younger days, I could have leapt over, even in waders. (I'm pretty sure.)

Here, the water was clear, and the stream meandered perfectly, making large J-shaped hooks and whorls. And there were deep, greenish pools, and dark, undercut banks, guarded by weeping grasses.

"Tie on a pink one," Jon coached.

So I did tie on a hot-pink Chernobyl Ant-looking thing (on 5X), even though, in my experience, pink flies were novelties, and they only worked really well after I was lucky enough to catch a fish or two. When they get bit enough, and wear brown trout teeth marks, and become tattered, pink flies look like bubble gum on a hook. If bubble gum floated, I would use that instead.

Jon tied on a pink fly also.

We traded shots.

I went first, and dropped a sharp cast (I'd switched rods) into an obvious feeding lane, and the bubble gum fly subsequently got chomped by a 12-inch brown. Then Jon did the same. Then I did the same again. Then we moved upstream.

At that point, Jon hurled a cast at a cut bank, and his fly grabbed a blade of thick grass. He gave it a twitch, and the fly sprung free, plopping gently, almost intentionally, into the dark water below. And within the time it would take you to hum the first bar of the "Beer Barrel Polka," a 17-inch brown trout stuck his snout up, and clamped down on that fly. The eat was as audible as the lid of a jewelry box slamming shut.

"Holy cow!" I said, only I didn't say "cow." "There *are* big fish in here!"

Jon just smiled as he fought that fish to hand, and then gingerly released his trout.

It went on like that for the entire afternoon. Trading shots. Turning fish. Hooking up. But oddly enough, the biggest browns consistently ate those ugly pink flies only after we'd snag them in the brush, then flick the rod, ever so gently, to cause them to plop in the waters below the undercuts. It was, in retrospect, my best dry-fly day, anywhere, in years.

"That's a technique!" I said, after Jon hooked another fish that way. "We should give that a name!"

"And we could even write about it, and maybe a big-time fishing magazine would make a story on it!" Jon laughed.

"We'll call it the 'weed slide,'" I suggested. "The 'Kickapoo Weed Slide,' knowing full-well that the Kickapoo River was miles away from where we were *really* fishing.

Now… I find it funny, to say the least, how the same anglers who intentionally shun attention for their favorite waters are also the first in line to get their names in print for having twisted up some funky fly pattern, or having conjured up some "revolutionary" technique for catching fish on flies, even though the game has essentially been exactly the same for generations. (I am pretty sure, for example, that Isaak Walton did the "Stafford Slide" now and then.)

Of course, Jon and I aren't that type. Not normally.

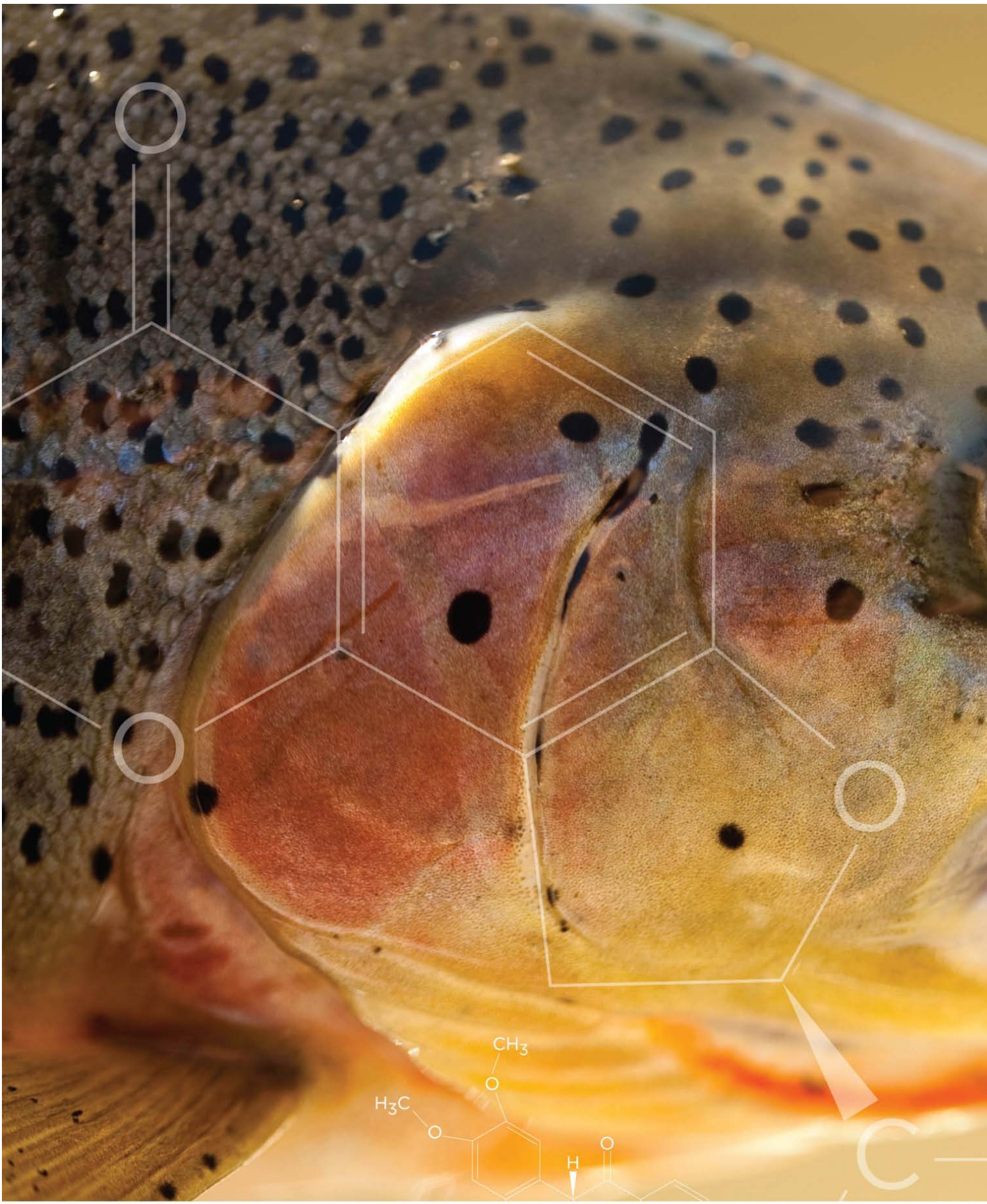
But this revolutionary "Kickapoo Weed Slide" worked so well, I feel obliged to report on it. I still don't feel obligated to say where, exactly, we were using it.

But that's just because we were in Wisconsin.

I wonder if a big-time fly-fishing magazine might still run a story anyway.

Jon hurled a cast at a cut bank, and his fly grabbed a blade of thick grass. He gave it a twitch, and the fly sprung free, plopping gently, almost intentionally, into the dark water below.

PHOTOS BY AARON PETERSON



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Rotenone Reality

BY HAL HERRING

JEREMIE HOLLMAN

"The one process now going on that will take millions of years to correct is the loss of genetic and species diversity by the destruction of natural habitats. This is the folly our descendants are least likely to forgive." – *E.O. Wilson*

There are mysteries in our world: in shadowed forests and high mountain cirques, in the fall and tumble of waters clear as ether and inhabited by fishes colored like the finest gemstones whose lineage was old when we humans first saw them, toting our atlatls and dried sloth meat, ever wary of the sabertooth and dire wolf.

I crouch on the white gravel and cast a smallish Adams into the torrent of the White River, a tributary of the South Fork of the Flathead, deep in the Bob Marshall Wilderness of Montana. The Westslope cutthroats have gone finicky all of a sudden, spooked, maybe, by the bull trout that I can see every once in a while, as a predatory flash in the cold and hyper-aerated whirl. Who knows what inspires cutthroats to eat or not, what ancient clocks of bug hatch, sunlight, barometer, cloud? At the tail of the run there is a splash, a heavy take and the cutthroat is on, a deep-bodied fish of 16 inches or more, a charging liquid weight. At a shoal I land the fish, marveling yet again at the constellations of black spots on lemon, deepening to green. The pink and reds, mountain sunlight distilled and separated like a prism. Why would any creature attain such levels of beauty so far beyond any practical applications, as far as we can know?

TIM ROMANO

Because I am a fisherman, and because fishermen are human beings, I have to create an answer, right or wrong: I believe that we have evolved to perceive beauty in things that are crucial to our own survival. We look upon these magnificent native fish and some very old part of our brain responds. Where that creature can live, it says, the water is pure. The land is healthy. We have traveled from the bondage of the ice age together and where this beauty can thrive, we can thrive as well.

As anyone who has followed the fates of our subspecies of native cutthroat trout, our native rainbows or our Arctic grayling can tell you, they are not thriving. The Westslope cutthroats I take such joy in have disappeared from over 90 percent of their historical range. The behemoth—up to 10 pounds—yellowfin cutthroat of the Arkansas River headwaters in Colorado has long been extinct. The desert rainbows, the Gila trout, the Apache, are confined to the most remote headwaters of streams whose lower reaches now run entirely dry. The Greenback cutthroat, with its huge black spots and spectacular spawning colors, exists in one reach of one creek on the shoulders of Pikes Peak.

The list of species and its particular threat reads like a dirge. We've sucked away native trout waters for irrigation and drinking water supplies, dammed them, bulldozed them into lifeless ditches and canals. Our livestock have grazed once forested streamsides to bare, sun-seared and fast-eroding earth, or wallowed once-abundant springs to crusts of dried mud. In the unique world of our coldwater fisheries and their native dwellers, we've seemed almost eager to heap insult upon insult.

BARRY AND CATHY BECK

Our most ferocious insult has been unintentional, well-meaning, and even beautiful in some of its outcomes. Once upon a time, we knew so little. We had no idea that each of these native trout and grayling species, these spectacular jewels of natural selection, isolated and defined by America's most radical terrain—mountain wall, desert, altitude, extremes of heat and cold—was an irreplaceable thread in the spectacular tapestry of our natural heritage. We thoughtlessly swamped them with simpler, more common genetics, stocking the ever-adaptable rainbow, the elegant brook trout of the eastern forests, the great leopard-spotted predator browns of the Old World, in every suitable and near-suitable waterway. It was our own official version of bucket biology, and an angler who has ever watched a 24-inch brown trout take a dry fly can do naught but celebrate it.

The stocking of exotic trout species has given us some of our most beloved fisheries, not one of which any of us would give up. But a side effect of our success in establishing those big and healthy trout fisheries has been yet another drastic decline in our natives: the rainbows hybridize with the cutthroats, diluting the ancient genetics, with unknown results for long term survival. The browns and brookies out compete the natives, and not because, as some have argued, they are the fittest and most adaptable, but because while the natives struggle in the dwindling, altered habitats, in many cases, we keep stocking their competitors (750 million brookies, rainbows and browns stocked in Colorado alone between 1885 and 1953*), swamping them year after year.

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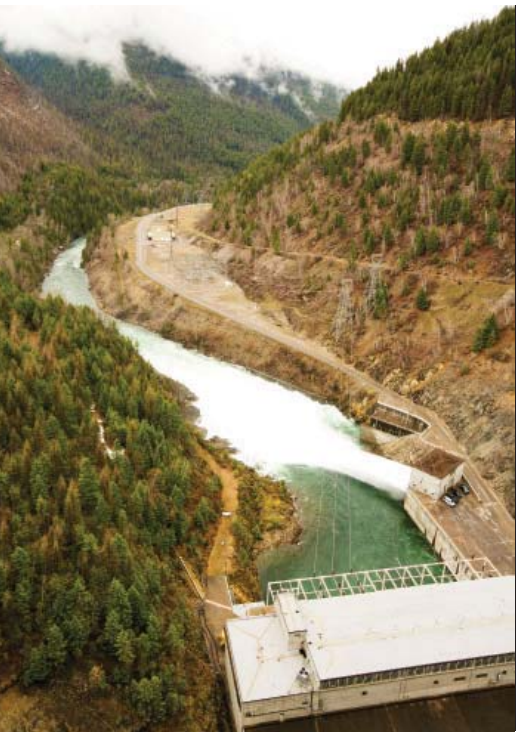
In the last redoubts of our natives, we've made the wise decision to make sure they hold on, thrive and rebuild. That decision involves what seems to most fishermen like a drastic measure: using piscicides, or fish poisons like rotenone (made from chemicals found in legumes and used for centuries by humans from the Amazon to Africa and North America to harvest fish) or antimycin (derived from the Streptomycin bacteria and most commonly used now in the catfish industry) to clear streams of non-native trout, and restore the native fish that belong there. It's a native trout restoration strategy that has been going on for some decades, with dozens of projects now underway from the snowmelt arteries of the South Fork of the Flathead River in Montana (Westslope Cutthroats), to Grayling Creek in Yellowstone National Park (Arctic Grayling, Westslope Cutthroats) to the headwaters of the upper reaches of Comanche Creek in New Mexico (Rio Grande Cutthroat, the state fish of New Mexico, first described by the Spanish explorers in 1538). The controversy (including lawsuits brought by environmental groups) that once surrounded the use of these chemical treatments has dwindled with the irrefutable successes and with the growing understanding among fishermen and the rest of the public that our native fish species will disappear without these fairly drastic efforts on their behalf.

"We will never get people to love chemicals," said Don Skaar, a veteran Montana fisheries biologist who has been in charge of many treatments, and who teaches an annual class on the use of rotenone and antimycin in native trout restoration. "But if we can get people to accept their use as a tool, used carefully and responsibly, that's as far as we need to go."



Skaar says that some of the opposition to chemical use now comes from people who associate such treatments with those done 50 or more years ago. "There was an era where fisheries managers thought you could just go in and create any kind of fishery you wanted if you applied enough toxiphene or rotenone to a river or lake. Better living through chemistry, pre-Silent Spring, Army-style, that kind of thing, just get the job done. They saw it as a way to keep rough fish, or trash fish from competing with trout, and they had very little appreciation for native species that got in the way." Those applications did indeed damage native fish, some of which, like the bonytail chub, or the razorback sucker of the Colorado River, are now listed as endangered. "What we are doing now is the exact opposite of what they did then," Skaar explains, "using those tools in a very specific and careful way to make sure our natives survive."

As Skaar and other fisheries biologists across the West can explain, the treatment of "reaches" (sections of a stream) to clear them of invasives and prepare them for restoring natives involves a fairly long, linear process. First of all, you have to find a reach that has a natural barrier between it and the larger system downstream, where non-natives live. Otherwise, the natives will just continue to be hybridized or outcompeted after they are restored. "Our biggest project now—and when we're finished it will be the largest native trout restoration project of its kind in existence—is on the tributaries of the South Fork of the Flathead (in Montana)," said Skaar, "where, way downstream we have Hungry Horse Dam, which is probably an example of the ultimate barrier."

Most other such projects rely on an impassable waterfall to keep invasives at bay forever. The huge restoration project currently underway on Grayling Creek in Yellowstone National Park is one of those. "Everybody is looking for viable restoration opportunities where you have these existing barriers, because if you have to build a new one, you are stuck with a huge cost, something like $100,000 apiece, and that structure will have to be maintained forever. That brings up a lot of serious questions about budgets, since part of what we are doing is increasing angler opportunity for these native populations. Is that money really well spent? How important is this legacy, compared to what could be produced if that money was used to focus on improving larger, not necessarily native fisheries? So we're always looking for natural barriers, where the costs are very reasonable."

You have to find a reach that has a natural barrier between it and the larger system downstream, where non-natives live. Otherwise, the natives will just continue to be hybridized or outcompeted after they are restored.

After a reach is identified, biologists conduct baseline surveys to determine what lives there and might be harmed by the piscicide treatment. Insects, mollusks and other invertebrates are identified, and special attention is paid to amphibian species. Treatment is scheduled for late summer or fall, when amphibians have completed the aquatic part of their life cycle and will not be

PHOTOS BY JEREMIE HOLLMAN

harmed. At the end of the reach to be treated, fisheries biologists install a drip line, which will allow a steady supply of potassium permanganate to drip into the water and deactivate the rotenone chemical. When all is ready, a similar drip line is set at the head of the reach, to apply the rotenone or antimycin.

"Both chemicals work the same," said Pat Clancy, who began his career as a Montana fisheries biologist in 1982, and worked on one of the most successful Westslope cutthroat restorations ever, on the Cherry Creek watershed, a tributary of the famed Madison River. "They interrupt a chemical process in the cells that generates energy, so the cells die and the fish expires."

Cherry Creek has a natural barrier—an impassable, 25-foot-tall waterfall—and had been stocked willy-nilly over the decades with Yellowstone cutthroats, brook trout and rainbows. The Cherry Creek restoration project was years in the making—with studies beginning around 1997, and the first treatments taking place in 2003 and continuing on though most of the next decade. The project persisted through some serious strife. A small flurry of lawsuits brought the work to a halt, one brought by the mayor of the town of Three Forks, which lies on the Madison almost 25 miles downstream of the mouth of Cherry Creek. The lawsuits argued that the rotenone and antimycin treatments were pollutants that violated the Clean Water Act. One of the cases went all the way to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals before being dismissed. "And then, in 2010," Clancy said, "after all of that, we were running one of the final treatments on the lower creek, and we did not use the potassium permanganate (used to neutralize piscicides) that day." The chemical killed fish for about three

miles far below the planned treatment reach. "There were dead and sick fish floating out of Cherry Creek and down into the Madison. The public got very angry. Yes, they did."

Now, however, Cherry Creek serves as a model, and as proof of just how effective the use of piscicides can be in restoring (or in this case creating, because as far as anyone knows, there were no fish above the big waterfalls in pre-settlement days) a thriving native trout fishery. "We have a pure Westslope cutthroat fishery there," Clancy said, "over 60 miles of water, with all age classes of fish, naturally reproducing, some of them in the 12" to 15" range."

And Clancy and his crew, seasoned veterans, are working on restoration projects across southwest Montana. "We're on Ruby Creek South of Ennis, up in the Centennials, and we're working with the Park on the big project on Grayling Creek. What was so controversial seems pretty common now, because it works, and because it is important, in that no one wants to see the Westslope cutthroat listed as endangered, with all the restrictions that would bring." Primarily, though, Clancy wants fishermen to remember, "Yes, these fish are a part of Montana's natural heritage, and yes, they are superbly adapted to these waters in ways that non-natives might not be, giving them the best chance for long term survival, drought, fire, flood. But our goal has always been very pragmatic: we want to recover these populations so that anglers can fish for them, enjoy them and eventually harvest some of them."

Our goal has always been very pragmatic: we want to recover these populations so that anglers can fish for them, enjoy them and eventually harvest some of them.

The restoration of our native coldwater fish through treatment and restocking will always be a sharply focused, limited endeavor, because there are so few watersheds that fit the practical criteria for these projects. It will never be a large-scale effort, never be a threat to the rise of that big German brown or that bull-shouldered rainbow chasing down the San Juan worm. As Don Skaar noted wryly, "Believe me, nobody is proposing any poisoning of trout on the Madison or the Yellowstone Rivers to try and bring back the natives."

But where it is possible, where we have the opportunity to steward and protect a fellow traveler through time and our own voracious manipulations of water and land, we are doing so. Nobody knows what lies in store for any of us: greenback cutthroat, or Apache trout or humans. What trials of ice and fire and shifting terrain may yet lie before us, new versions of the trials that, 70,000 years ago, isolated these strange and beautiful fish and set them off in so many bizarre adaptations of color, shape, habits? The only thing certain is that the vast engine of genetic diversity is the one power most likely to weather the storms, whatever they may be.

JEREMIE HOLLMAN

*http://green.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/09/25/rare-trout-survives-in-just-one-stream-dna-reveals/?_php=true&_type=blogs&_r=0

Intermezzo

LOUIS CAHILL

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Bad Boyfriend

By Mike Sepelak

Forgive me, Dani. I knew he was trouble.

I should have known better. That he'd steal you away, spend your money, leave you breathless. But I introduced you to him anyway. How did I not see that you'd fall for him? That you'd fall for him hard.

Sure, you asked about him first, but that's no excuse for what I've done. He'd already caught your eye. While you were out in those southeastern woodlands, restoring those pretty little Appalachian streams, learning to love the surroundings, you saw him. But, when you asked, I still should have turned you away. Pretended that I didn't know him. And I should never have helped with that whippy little fiberglass rig. You said it was just for an alternate sampling method, or some credibility with the locals, but deep down inside I knew that it was only about getting close to him.

It happened so fast. Seems like just yesterday you called me, excited about catching your first Virginia rainbow. Next thing I know, you're with him, sending grip-and-grins from Colorado. Big time trout water. You're even talking about the big one that jumped and spit the fly, telling *the-one-that-got-away* stories like an old hand. He put you up to that, I'm certain. He's sweeping you off your feet like a swift, tumbling current on worn Vibram soles.

But before this infatuation goes any further, there are a few things you need to know.

He's moody. He'll stand you up two, three times in a row. Skunk you bad. And just when you're ready to toss him out he gives you a day that makes your head spin. He keeps stringing you along so you never know where you stand. Tomorrow, he says. Tomorrow will be epic. And you believe him.

He'll dress you up in ways you could never have imagined. Gaudy. Belts and rubber and big boots. Show you off to his friends.

And you can forget about a ring. You'll get knots, instead. Bright baubles will slide onto Mustads and Gammies, but not on your finger. His sparkle is saved for his streamers.

Your cold season getaways to sun and sand with parasol-laced fruity drinks are over. He has other plans. Instead, you'll find yourself waist deep in slate green northern melt, swinging 'til your arms ache for nothing but chrome-bright promises. Your bathing suit on the beach will be traded for five layers of wool, fleece and Gore-Tex. And you'll still be freezing; the only exotic prospect to look forward to will be a warm PBR. And campground bathrooms…

And just so you know, he treats his men friends just as badly. I'd really rather not talk about it.

In the end, he'll get under your skin and you'll find yourself thinking of him constantly. Every waterway you pass, no matter how big or how small, will bring him to mind. You'll drift away at work, at play, in your dreams, to be with him. It's scary.

I beg you. Dump the bum. He's no good. He'll consume you. He'll demean you. He'll take you to far away places and rain on you. He'll make you buy him stuff. **Lots** of stuff. That 5-weight is just the beginning. He'll change your life and chase away your friends; at least those whom he's not already seduced.

Oh yes. There are others. There will always be others.

So if it's not already too late, Dani, run. Put him in your rearview mirror. Please listen when I tell you…

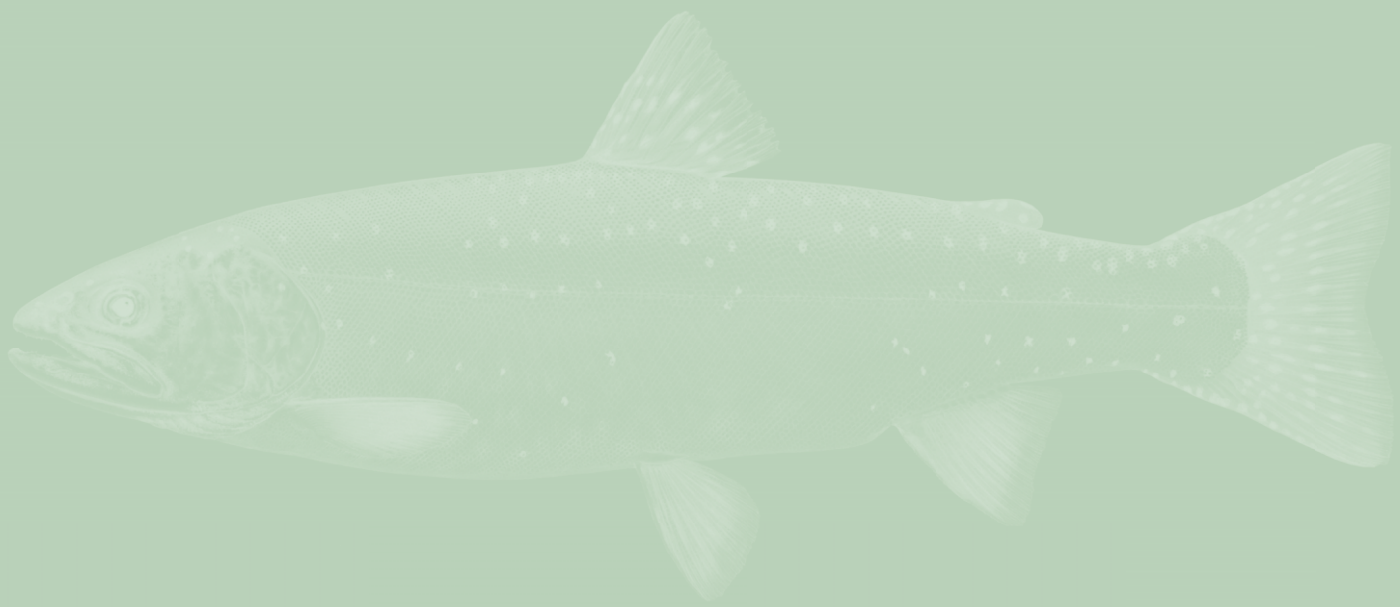
Fly fishing's a bad boyfriend.

Bad.

But then again, sometimes bad can be very, very good.

TIM ROMANO

SAVING ALL THE PIECES... OF TROUT DIVERSITY



BY JACK WILLIAMS

As someone who has worked in fish conservation for more than 40 years, I often have been asked why it is important to save one particular strain of fish or another.

It's an understandable question. We get asked why we need to save those little Bonneville cutthroat trout out along the Nevada-Utah border if we're already protecting those big Bonneville cutthroat trout in the Bear River. Despite their threatened-species status, we have more than 100 populations of Lahontan cutthroat trout scattered across northern Nevada, southeast Oregon and the eastern flank of the Sierra Nevada in California. Do we need to save them all? Why are they important? And if we do need to save them, how should we go about determining which populations are the most important? How should they be prioritized in our "protect, reconnect, restore and sustain" efforts?

I have some answers. It's all about diversity. Normally, when we consider genetics, we are concerned about invading non-native trout and genetic contamination as species hybridize. But we also should be concerned about the diversity of genetics from one population of a specific kind of trout to another of the same kind. Each population has a unique connection to its local habitat, and this connection drives evolution over time toward local adaptation and genetic differentiation. Beyond genetic considerations, there are other important kinds of diversity we should consider as well: life history diversity, geographic diversity and the diversity of habitat types.

The native strain of Pyramid-Lake Lahontans was thought to have been lost, and since the 1950s millions of Lahontan cutthroats from Heenan Lake, a small, high-elevation lake in the Sierra Nevada, have been stocked into Pyramid Lake.

TIM HAWKES

The Story of a Small Stream and a Big Fish

Pilot Peak rises from the desert plains near the Nevada-Utah border. It is arid country, but a few small streams flow down the mountain. In 1977, some "unusual" trout were collected by fishery biologists from one of these small streams. One of the biologists was Don Duff, who then worked for the Bureau of Land Management and now is President of a TU chapter in this same country. Bob Behnke, the "guru" of western native trout, looked at the fish and determined them to be Lahontan cutthroat trout. This posed a dilemma, as the streams drained into the Bonneville Basin, east of the range of the Lahontans.

It turned out these fish were a great find for scientists and anglers alike, because these small cutthroats from Pilot Peak ultimately were identified as the historic strain from Nevada's Pyramid Lake in the heart of the Lahontan Basin. Pyramid Lake is an unusual environment compared to most habitats occupied by Lahontan cutthroat trout. The lake is big, has deep water and harbors abundant schools of tui chubs and other fish that provide a rich forage base for native trout. This combination of habitat and forage is responsible for making the native Lahontan cutthroat trout from Pyramid Lake the largest trout in western North America; fish that are much larger than any of their nearby Lahontan brethren. There is a report of a 62-pound trout taken from the lake in a Paiute Indian fishery in 1916, and in his 1840s surveys of the Great Basin, Col. John C. Fremont described the Pyramid Lake trout thusly: "*Their flavor was excellent—superior in fact to that of any fish I have ever known. They were of extraordinary size—about as large as a Columbia River salmon—generally from two to four feet in length.*"

But this unique population began to crash when, in 1906, Derby Dam was built on their spawning stream, the Truckee River, in 1906. The last spawning run of cutthroat trout from Pyramid Lake was in 1938, a particularly high water year that provided suitable spawning in the channel. The native strain of Pyramid Lake Lahontans was thought to have been lost, and since the 1950s, millions of Lahontan cutthroats from Heenan Lake, a small, high-elevation lake in the Sierra Nevada, have been stocked into Pyramid Lake. Their maximum size in Pyramid Lake seems to peak at about 20 pounds.

Luckily, we now know the fish discovered in Pilot Peak streams had been introduced many years ago from

original Pyramid Lake stock before the loss of that population. Although they didn't grow to monster size on Pilot Peak, they do represent the original Pyramid Lake monster fish. In recent years, the Pilot Peak fish have been reared in a hatchery and released into Pyramid Lake where they have regained their reputation as lunkers. Growth of these fish in Pyramid Lake is nearly a half an inch per month. Anglers now are reaping extraordinary benefits; harvest of record-size Lahontan cutthroat trout in Pyramid Lake—all because the unique strain that evolved in the lake was saved, albeit inadvertently, and now has been returned to its native waters.

Life on the Edge

Many of our western trout still have a broad historical distribution with populations scattered across hundreds of miles. Usually, there is a core area that harbors larger populations in interconnected stream networks as well as smaller populations eking out a living on the outer fringes of the historical range. For example, core populations of Bonneville cutthroat trout are in the Bear and northern Bonneville regions, while smaller populations exist in the desert areas along the Nevada-Utah border. It's a similar story for Rio Grande cutthroat, which have core populations in the high-elevation mountains of the Upper Rio Grande and Pecos drainages and smaller populations further south as far as west Texas.

These peripheral populations that occur out on the fringes of the historical range usually are small and often they have been neglected by managers and anglers in favor of the larger core populations. In 2010, a group of TU scientists led by Dr. Amy Haak published a report on the values and fate of these peripheral populations from a variety of cutthroat trout subspecies across the West. Although all of the cutthroat trout had declined compared to historical levels, the peripheral populations had declined at a much more rapid rate than populations in the core area. Even for the westslope cutthroat trout, which is in better shape than most other forms of western cutthroat, peripheral populations had decreased by 73 percent compared to historical levels while core populations had decreased by only 37 percent. For Bonneville cutthroat, 91 percent of the habitat for peripheral populations had been lost compared to 62 percent losses for core populations.

Comparing the relative conservation value of a peripheral population of trout versus a population from the core of its distribution is tricky business, but we know that many peripheral populations occur in smaller, so-called marginal habitats. These fringe fish often have been subjected to conditions that would be unsuitable for fish from a core population of the same subspecies, and as a result, trout from peripheral populations may have evolved unique genetic characteristics or behavioral adaptations to unusual conditions (for example, high temperature). Because many of these fish have solved tricky problems, they are worth preserving, especially because their unique adaptation may become important to the

AARON OTTO

Anglers now are reaping extraordinary benefits; harvest of record-size Lahontan cutthroat trout in Pyramid Lake—all because the unique strain that evolved in the lake was saved, albeit inadvertently, and now has been returned to its native waters.

survival of the species as a whole in the face of the rapid environmental change that now is occurring across our land.

Making the Connection

Many populations of native trout that exist today are restricted to small streams where they maintain what is known as a "resident type" of life history. Their movement and available habitat are restricted to a single, typically small stream. However, if given a chance, most native trout will develop a migratory life history as well, with some adults spending most of their lives in larger rivers and/or lakes and migrating seasonally to smaller tributary streams to spawn. As we reconnect mainstem creeks to their headwaters, or lakes to their tributaries, trout have the ability to diversify their life history so as to utilize a variety of habitats, with some adults exhibiting a resident lifestyle and others a migratory one. This results in a population comprised of both larger migratory fish that can seek out a wider variety of habitats and are more resistant to loss because of their dispersal ability, larger size and greater fertility and smaller resident fish that are less vulnerable to spawning failure in any given year due to loss of connectivity; giving the population the benefits of both lifestyles.

In the Maggie Creek watershed in northern Nevada, TU has been working with the Bureau of Land Management, mining companies and local ranchers to reconnect portions of the drainage that were isolated by poorly designed culverts that blocked upstream fish movement. In 2005, culverts were replaced with better designs that allow free movement of Lahontan cutthroat trout between Maggie Creek and upstream tributaries. According to Dr. Helen Neville, who leads a monitoring program on Maggie Creek, the reconnection efforts have boosted the cutthroat trout population in the largest tributary to Maggie Creek tenfold, including some much larger migratory-sized adults. While we're still studying movement in the system, we assume it is this ability to express a migratory life history, and move to different habitats to feed or overwinter that has helped this population increase so dramatically.

How to Save all the Pieces

Back in the 1950s, Aldo Leopold, the father of wildlife management, told his colleagues that "To keep every cog and wheel is the first

SPREADING THE RISK OR *NOT* PUTTING ALL OUR EGGS IN ONE BASKET

Think of building the portfolio of a native trout in terms of ensuring variation in existing populations. If we can protect the remaining genetic diversity without getting contamination from non-native trout, restore life history diversity and protect geographic diversity by conserving at least some populations across all the native range, our native trout will have a better chance of survival for long periods of time. Maintaining populations among the different habitat types helps as well. Restoring populations across the entire historical range with some fish in isolated headwater streams, others in interconnected stream networks and still others in lakes and larger rivers provides a hedge against catastrophic loss.

TU scientists are now able to quantify and map remaining diversity within native trout species and compare their existing status to historical condition in order to determine how best to rebalance the portfolio through protection, reconnection, restoration, and reintroduction efforts. The following articles provide the details and examples of how this theory is being applied to native trout management:

Haak, A.L. and J.E. Williams. 2012. Spreading the risk: native trout management in a warmer and less certain future. North American Journal of Fisheries Management 32:387-401.

Haak, A.L. and J.E. Williams. 2013. Using native trout restoration to jumpstart freshwater conservation planning in the Interior West. Journal of Conservation Planning 9:38-52.

precaution of intelligent tinkering." It's good advice that is just as relevant today as it was back then. But how should we go about saving all those pieces? Which populations and habitats are the most important to protect? Such questions are especially difficult to answer because we often lack basic knowledge about genetic diversity in populations or even the understanding of how much habitat is needed to maintain a stream population of trout in the face of increasing drought, floods, and wildfire.

The conservation portfolio approach was developed by TU science staff to quantify remaining levels of genetic, life history and geographic diversity for native trout and compare current diversity to their historical conditions (see box). The idea is not unlike managing a financial portfolio—maintaining diverse investments provide a hedge against loss and uncertainty about future conditions.

The same principle explains why Alaska's Bristol Bay sockeye fishery has maintained its productivity over many decades in the face of changing environmental conditions. The great diversity of sockeye salmon stocks—literally hundreds of separate runs of sockeye that spawn in different streams or sections of streams that empty into Bristol Bay—ensures that under any set of environmental conditions, a certain subset of stocks produce enough adults to support the fishery. As weather or other environmental conditions change, one group of stocks is deleted but another group flourishes. University of Washington scientist Ray Hilborn, who studied the Bristol Bay fishery for many years, refers to this "biocomplexity" as the reason that this fishery has sustained itself over long periods of time and is likely to sustain itself as long as projects such as the proposed Pebble Mine don't mess with the watershed.

The portfolio approach helps ensure that conservation efforts work to maintain all components of trout diversity, an approach that makes TU a much more strategic organization when it comes to spending our conservation dollars. It allows us to know where to focus our protection, reconnection and restoration efforts and explains why this work is so important. I think Aldo Leopold would like that.

Dr. Jack Williams is Trout Unlimited's Senior Scientist and lives in Oregon's Rogue River Valley. He has authored or edited several books on fisheries management and has published more than 150 scientific articles on fisheries and conservation issues. He may be reached at jwilliams@tu.org

The great diversity of sockeye salmon stocks—literally hundreds of separate runs of sockeye that spawn in different streams or sections of streams that empty into Bristol Bay—ensures that under any set of environmental conditions, a certain subset of stocks produce enough adults to support the fishery.

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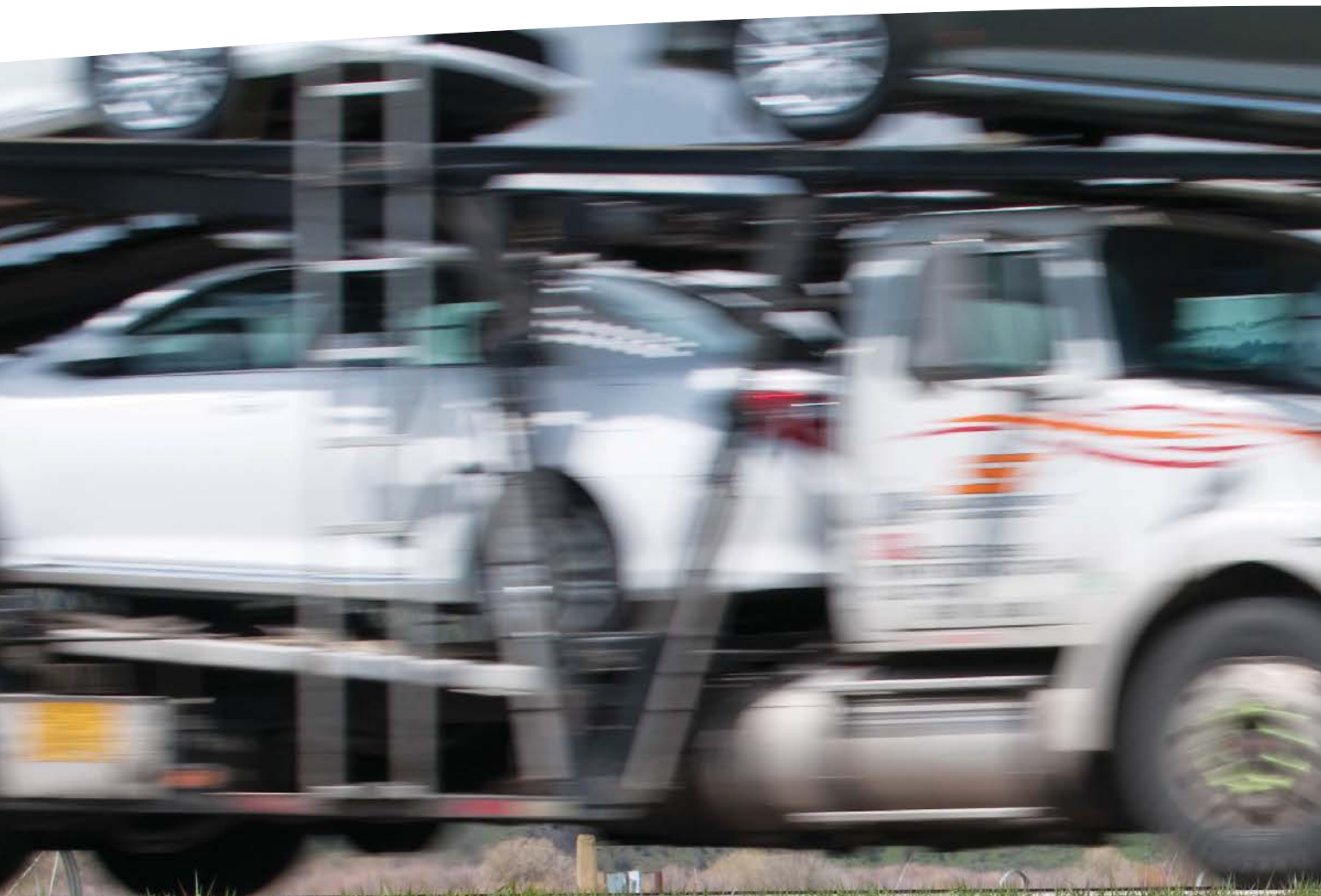


Some of the greatest threats to healthy trout habitat are things many

JAMES NELSON

The Culvert Challenge

of us drive by (or over) every day. The good news... we can fix them.

BY ERIN BLOCK

"The fishes are going up the brooks as they open. They are dispersing themselves through the fields and woods, imparting new life into them."

—Henry David Thoreau, *Journal v.2*, March 20, 1858

Road systems and waterways are both often likened to arteries, and it's no wonder; connecting large and intricate systems of many branches, they are critical for movement of people and goods, fish and wildlife. Pumping life into civilization and land, when they're washed out by thousand-year floods or dried up for sake of green lawns, the dependent body withers, like wildflowers hung upside down by a thread.

It's estimated there are over 3 million miles of roadways in the United States and over 3.5 million of rivers and streams. Of those, over 50 percent are small tributaries and headwaters. Unsurprisingly, many of these are in one way or another affected by road crossings and culverts. New pathways upon old, or side by side; the Platte River, Oregon Trail, Interstate 80, for example—we follow these same ways of movement as we have for hundreds of years, just as game trails became established routes into the high country. For the river, as Edwin Way Teale wrote, "is the original forest highway." We follow the old ways in more ways than we think.

Major dam removal projects have received a lot of attention in the past few years: the Elwha in Washington state, Veazie in Maine, Newbold in Wyoming. They stand as obvious impediments, grand anthropogenic facades of power that end in demolitions—it's exciting. And satisfying, there's no doubt.

In contrast, removal of a metal pipe in a stream that you could jump across is just not as "sexy," or so it's been said. And while it seems it's used to sell everything from food to clothing, gear to conservation, there are few things more intimate or knowable than a small headwater stream. While not as overtly impressive as large rivers with their drift boats, heavy rods and hero-shot fish, these small ones are where things begin—generating the success and health of those big tales and fish downstream.

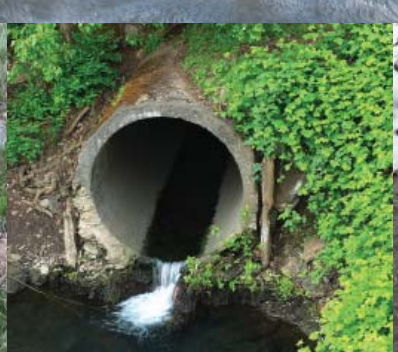
Cutting through montane pines or nestled among Drummond willows through meadows cradled between peaks whose snowpack will still be running off mid-summer, Colorado's small streams are my home waters, the places I know like a lover's body, an old friend, a pencil-lined book on my shelf. These are the places I have memorized; the land where I don't need a map. Here, in skinny water often assumed barren, they incubate the next generation. In their short season they prepare us for the next.

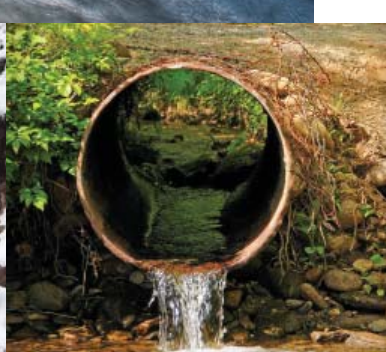
Human interference in stream flow is nothing new; it's ancient, reaching back to the Minoans in Crete, Etruscans in Northern Italy, and the Romans who engineered culverts into road building campaigns across their empire at its height. In 19th and early 20th century United States, the building of roads moved west with the railroad and engineers were advised to "guess at the proper size and double it," ensuring the culvert was large enough for a small boy to enter and clean out. Care was taken over flooding concerns and infrastructure integrity rather than the native inhabitants of the streams. While the paradigm may have shifted in some cases, there are still many outdated culverts intact, blocking upstream/downstream movement of fish.

This movement—upstream and downstream exchange—is fundamental for viable fish populations and is one of

Right: Table Rock Creek in Idaho flows through a corrugated-metal arch culvert installed as a cooperative effort by Trout Unlimited and other entities. The culvert replaced an old culvert that had restricted Yellowstone cutthroat trout in the South Fork of the Snake River from migrating up Table Rock Creek to historical spawning historical areas.

JAMES NELSON





the most pressing conservation issues of our time. And also could be argued, is the most overlooked. Think about how many culverts you pass every day. Count them. On my road alone there are six before I reach the highway and before the small stream that gurgles alongside my road connects with a larger small stream at the junction. Old timers say they both used to hold trout, but now are barren and it comes as no surprise.

The problem presented by culverts, the barrier they impose, is not that they are there (for we can't escape their necessity), but how they are—as when giving advice, critique, criticism, successful reception is all in the delivery. The prevalent corrugated metal piping originally used for economy of time and funds, results in excess water velocity that poses huge challenges to navigation as well as the swimming fitness of certain species (and especially the young), provides insufficient water depth for through travel (specifically in late-season low water) and inevitably degrades movement to an impasse with "hanging" culverts due to erosion.

Salmonid species all use small streams in one way or another—whether moving to higher altitude and cooler water temperatures or seeking food and spawning grounds, small streams are an essential part of their life history. That is, if they can get to them. And for sustainable and productive fisheries to exist, it's fundamental that they do.

Based upon the "restricted movement paradigm," small stream fish were once thought to move very little. However, in the 50 years since the theory was proposed, research has proved otherwise. That in fact, residents of these headwater streams are surprisingly mobile, moving to spawning grounds

Genetic variance is essential for strong, sustainable fisheries, which are essential for good fishing.

Garden Creek in Idaho flows through a corrugated-metal arch culvert installed as a cooperative effort by Trout Unlimited and other entities. The culvert replaced an old culvert that had restricted Yellowstone cutthroat trout in the South Fork of the Snake River from migrating up Garden Creek to historical spawning areas.

PHOTOS BY JAMES NELSON

and gathering in deep pools overwinter. Any observant small stream angler has witnessed this on spring or autumn days when the urgency of reproduction or self-preservation kicks in, and if lucky, they've seen brookies and cutthroats launch themselves over logjams and rockfalls to the next pool upstream.

This kind of movement is critical not only for fish, but health of the stream ecosystem, too; as Thoreau wrote, "imparting new life," bringing nutrients upstream to enter again into the cycle. Culverts impede not only fish passage but also prevent downstream flow of gravel needed for spawning redds, and woody debris that provides rearing habitat, protection from predators, and help in preventing stream bank erosion.

Along with habitat degradation, culverts isolate fish between stream segments. These disconnected populations face inevitable dangers of decreased genetic diversity and increased risk of genetic drift and inbreeding, which has shown to affect fitness, adaptability, and ability to evolve along with environmental change. Without genetic variation or the possibility of natural replacement by migration, these populations will face extinction. Genetic variance is essential for strong, sustainable fisheries, which are essential for good fishing.

Which is what it all condenses to in the end. It's what we're all after: the reward for cleverness and skill in fooling a fish; the weight of a small cutthroat cradled in an open palm; the pleasure in watching spots turn to pebbles, back into the water as only a memory in time of our own life history.

My fishing partner religiously holds that the best things in life begin at the end of dirt roads. Which might very well be true. However, this is where the likeness of roads and water part. For while possibilities are animated come the end of tire tracks—when you have no option but to continue on foot with the world closing in a veil of dust behind you—past a barrier in a small stream, in the forest highway, all you'll likely get is dead water.

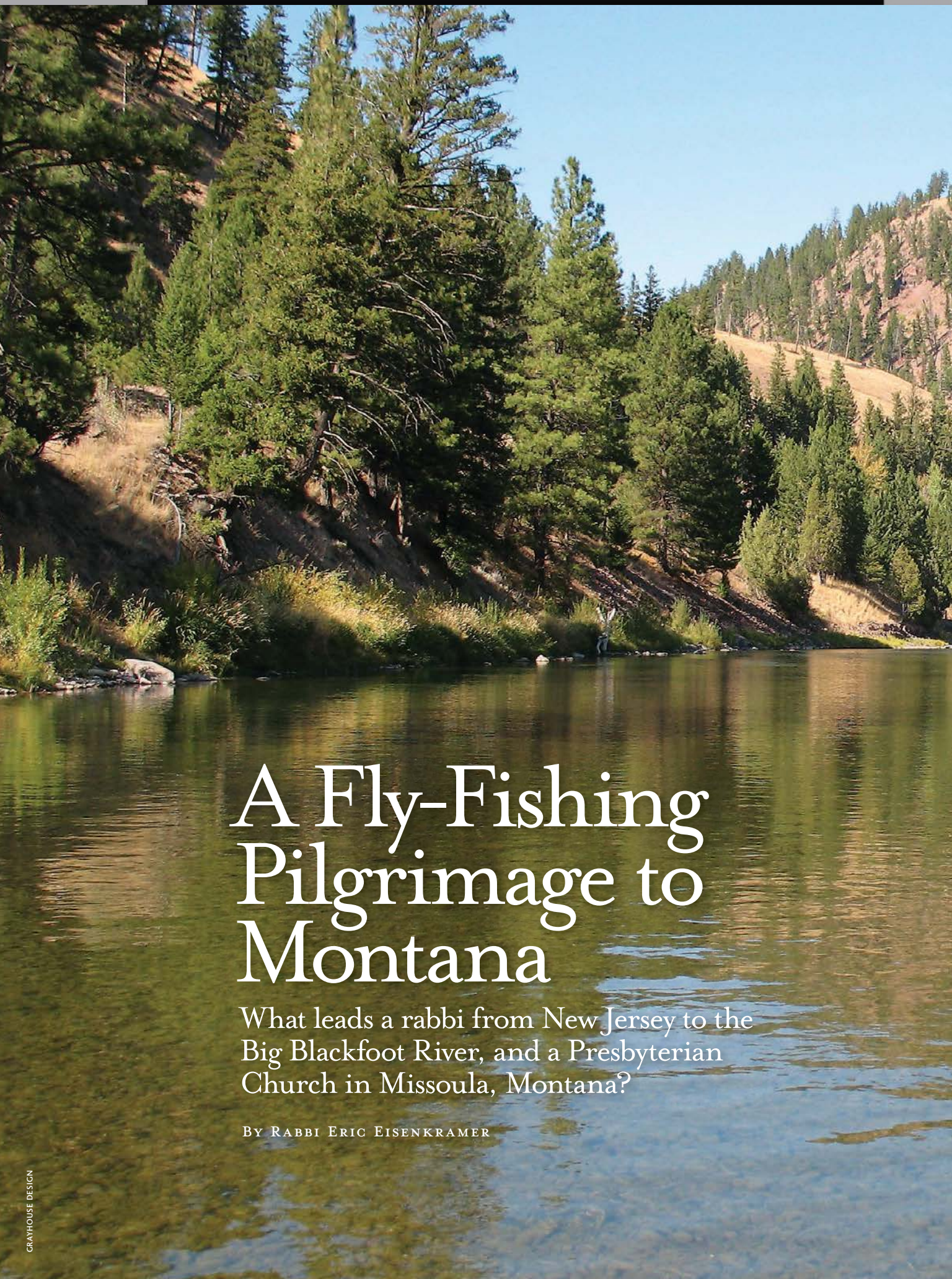
The Orvis-Trout Unlimited 1,000 Miles Campaign

aims to reconnect 1,000 miles of fishable streams through fixing simple yet overlooked obstacles to fish passage: culverts.

Whether outdated, damaged or improperly installed, these barriers to nutrient distribution, fish migration and access to native spawning grounds occur most often on small headwater streams that are necessary to the life history of many coldwater fish species. Retrofitting problem culverts with environmentally sound and fish-friendly replacements is one of the best returns on investments per conservation dollar, as reconnecting spawning habitat improves health of the entire ecosystem, increases fish population (downstream in larger waters, too) and increases angling opportunities throughout the watershed.

Project areas are determined by a list of watersheds throughout the country identified as most in need by TU, and range from Oregon and Montana to New Hampshire and Vermont. By the end of 2014, roughly 330 stream miles will have been (or are being) reconnected and almost 40 culvert projects will be in progress or completed.

For the third year, The Orvis Company has renewed a grant for the 1,000 Miles Campaign to match dollar-for-dollar contributions of up to $90,000, aiming for a total of $180,000 raised in 2014. Visit www.orvis.com/1kmiles for details on how you can help in this important work of reconnecting streams with fish and anglers.



A Fly-Fishing Pilgrimage to Montana

What leads a rabbi from New Jersey to the Big Blackfoot River, and a Presbyterian Church in Missoula, Montana?

By Rabbi Eric Eisenkramer

GRAYHOUSE DESIGN

VOICES
FROM THE
RIVER

GRAYHOUSE DESIGN

When it comes to my bucket list, a fly-fishing trip to Missoula, Montana, was right near the top. As a fly-fishing rabbi, my life is guided by two passions, love of Judaism and love of trout. On Friday nights you will find me leading services and giving sermons to my congregation in New Jersey. But on Thursdays, my day off from the Temple, you are likely to find me in a trout stream, casting to the mysterious and hidden trout of the Northeast. And like many fly fishermen, my passion for fly-fishing was sparked by the story of a reverend and his fly-fishing sons in Missoula, Montana.

When I first saw A *River Runs Through It* over 20 years ago, I was immediately captivated by the beautiful Montana scenery, the grace of the fly-casting and the perfect, shimmering trout. In the Rev. John Maclean, I found a kindred spirit, another member of the cloth who found spiritual renewal not only in a synagogue or church, but also by wading into cold-water streams. I was hooked.

Twenty years after seeing *A River Runs Through It*, I was now headed to Missoula. Like a trout swimming towards a spring, the source of the river, I would explore the rivers of one of my heroes, Rev. John Maclean, and see what spiritual truths, and trout, I could bring to the surface.

I arrived at the Missoulian Angler at 7 a.m. for a half-day float on the Blackfoot River. This world-class fly-fishing river got its name from the Blackfeet Native American Tribe, one of the most powerful Indian tribes who were known as the "Lords of the Plain." Flowing over 120 miles from its source at the Continental Divide to a confluence with the Clark Fork River five miles outside of Missoula, the Blackfoot was the home water of the Maclean family and the inspiration for *A River Runs Through It*.

As our guide Mike began to row us into the river, I was struck by the immensity of the Blackfoot. Most of the rivers I fish on the East Coast are 20 or 30 feet wide with trees on both banks. They are narrow rivers that require tight roll casts. But the Blackfoot stretched broad and deep, and the pine-covered mountains rose in all directions. There was still plenty of room for the achingly blue sky, broken up by a few white puffs of cloud.

Like a trout swimming towards a spring, the source of the river, I would explore the rivers of one of my heroes, Rev. John Maclean, and see what spiritual truths, and trout, I could bring to the surface.

As we headed down the river, Mike pointed out the deep pools that held trout, I luxuriated in a full back cast, sending my fly 30 or 40 feet out, hoping to land it on the surface of the river like a feather landing on the water.

It did not take long for the first fish to rise, and in a few moments, I held a cutthroat trout, so named for the orange or red band that appears on its throat. This was the first "cutt" I had ever landed, and I took a moment to admire its perfect shape, light green coloring, and the bright orange band behind its mouth. Wanting the name "cutthroat" to remain purely theoretical and desiring no harm to come to this beautiful creature, I lowered the trout back into the stream where it swam slowly back into the depths.

Four hours later, we were close to our take-out point. I had caught and released about 10 trout. This was a slow fishing day for the Blackfoot, which had been running low due to the hot summer. But for an East Coast angler

who is happy to bring two or three trout to the net, the Blackfoot was a trout paradise. As we floated the final stretch of the river before pulling ashore, I lifted my fly rod out of the river, took a deep breath and looked around one last time, soaking in the large boulders, the deep, clear water, the mountains and the pines.

After a few more days fishing the Bitterroot River, Rock Creek and others, I was down to my last day in Missoula. But before leaving, there was one more thing I had to do.

South Fifth Street West in Missoula is a typical block—a tree-lined street with well-kept homes and a church on the corner. The red-brick Missoula Presbyterian Church was my destination, where Rev. John Maclean served as pastor beginning in 1909.

It was here at this church, and in the Blackfoot River not far away, that Rev. Maclean taught his sons, Norman and Paul, the love of God, angling and nature, leading Norman to begin his famous book with the line: "In our family, there was no clear line between religion and fly fishing."

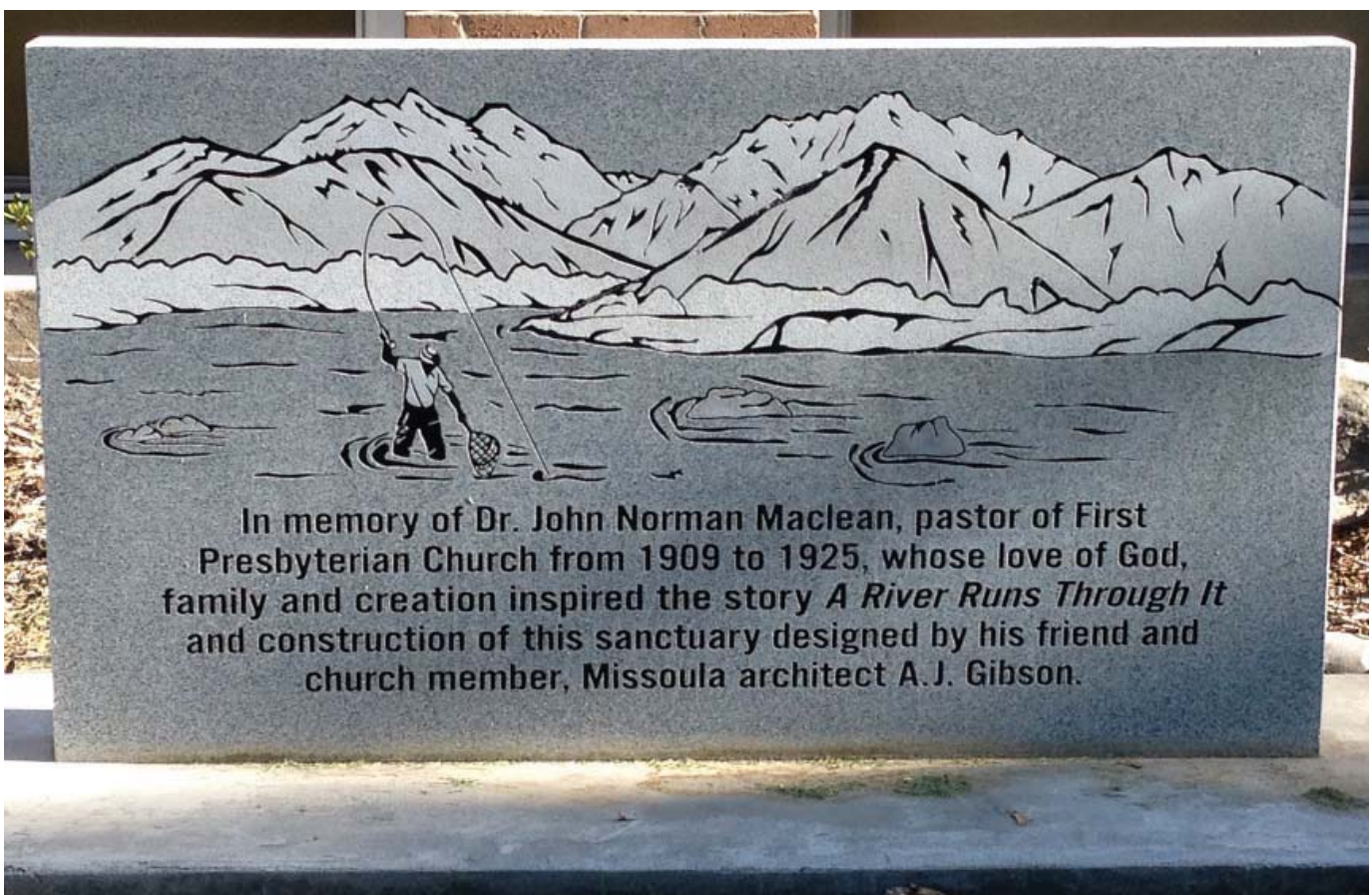
His teachings led me, a rabbi, to wade into cold-water streams and further into the depths of my own soul, seeking wholeness, harmony and peace.

In 2009, on the 100th anniversary of his arrival in Missoula, the First Presbyterian Church dedicated a monument to Rev. Maclean. The monument depicts a fisherman in waters backed by towering mountains. The inscription honors Rev. John Maclean, "whose love of God, family and creation inspired the story *A River Runs Through It.*"

As I stood before the smooth gray stone, I thought about my fly-fishing hero, Rev. Maclean. He preached the gospel of the beauty of creation and fly-fishing. He inspired his son to write a short novella, whose depth of pathos, feeling and beauty inspired millions to pick up a fly rod in search of trout and something more. His teachings led me, a rabbi, to wade into cold-water streams and further into the depths of my own soul, seeking wholeness, harmony and peace.

There was only one way I could think of to thank Rev. John Maclean and his son Norman for the beauty that they added to the world and to my life. When visiting the grave of a loved one, there is a Jewish tradition of placing a small round pebble on the gravestone. In this way, we let our deceased loved ones know that we have paid a visit, as if we left a calling card. Standing before Rev. Maclean's monument, I picked up a small, gray pebble. I placed the small rock on the smooth stone, letting Rev. Maclean know that I was there, that his life had made an impression on me, and that I was grateful.

Rabbi Eric Eisenkramer is the co-author, along with Rev. Michael Attas, of *Fly-Fishing The Sacred Art: Casting a Fly as a Spiritual Practice*. He serves as the Rabbi of Temple B'nai Shalom in East Brunswick, N.J.



Actionline

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Grassroots Spotlight *On-the-ground chapter success stories*

Millers River Chapter Teams Up for Veteran Outreach

MASSACHUSETTS

A collaboration between Project Healing Waters, New England Fly Tiers, Millers River TU Chapter 725 (www.millersriver-tu.org) and Montachusett Veterans Outreach Center (MVOC), is working to help veterans returning to civilian life.

While MVOC is a local non-profit not directly affiliated with the Veterans Administration, and Project Healing Waters has historically offered programs exclusively through the VA, the partnership is proving beneficial for both organizations. The program started with a visit by two MVOC staff, Trudy Dould and Stephen Bassett, to a Millers River TU meeting, chaired by then president (and current instructor in the program), Bill Manser.

The vets of MVOC have participated in all levels of fly fishing, including tying flies, stocking trout, visiting the fly rod fabricating facility of Thomas & Thomas and several guided outings to Millers River and Dunn's Pond. There are summer plans to fish the fabled Catskills of New York State. Thomas & Thomas has even donated one of their rods for a raffle to benefit the program.

Many of the vets have lost their jobs, housing, family and vehicle. And while MVOC can provide a place to live, counseling and employment services, a fly fishing program can do more. Learning how to tie a fly brings concentration as well as patience, and taking it to the river with a guide fosters confidence. It's all part of the healing process. Staying calm and focused on a rising trout is a major accomplishment for a veteran with PTSD. Even when there are no handicaps or physical injuries, modern warriors come back with wounds.

MVOC veterans, with support from TU Chapter 725 and their partners, provide a healing way through the outdoors and back into civilian life after the struggles of military service.

Somerset Fly Fishing Expo Hosts "Future of Women Anglers" Panel

NEW JERSEY

TIM ROMANO

The New Jersey Women's Initiative began in 2012 with the goal of creating events and programs focused on increasing the membership of women in TU. Utilizing the Somerset Fly Fishing show as a tool for recruitment and raising awareness, the first annual Somerset Forum gathered together a variety of women from the fly fishing industry. The two-day forum was comprised of a panel that answered questions from the audience and laid the foundation for bigger events to come.

A year later, the forum grew to reach women from the Northeast to the Mid-Atlantic area. Using a seminar approach, the forum gained momentum and support from the Connecticut and Vermont Women's Initiative chairs, and the second annual Somerset Fly Fishing Women's Forum held in January 2014 proved to be a networking success, with over 90 people attending the two-day event.

Sponsored by New Jersey TU, the forum was moderated by Women's Initiative Coordinators from three states: Kelly E. Buchta (NJ), Jackie Jordan (VT), and Alicea Charamut (CT).

The round table discussion brought together women anglers, guides, outfitters and volunteer staff from TU, Project Healing Waters and Casting for Recovery who shared their views on the future of women anglers. The two sessions offered personal commentary on ways to encourage fellow anglers and continue to provide support for women in a male-dominated industry. Topics ranged from garnering youth interest in the sport to recognizing the influence and achievements of women within the conservation and angling communities. Additional subjects included women specific gear, selecting a guide, and the image of the female angler in advertising.

There is a new day dawning on the water, and the fly-fishing industry is acknowledging the need for quality fishing gear that has the female angler in mind. Across the United States, women are organizing retreats, outings, educational seminars, youth outreach programs and other events to build a community that looks to empower the next generation of anglers and clean water stewards.

Currently, there is a quarterly call for a Women's Initiative chair to assist in promoting leadership roles throughout Chapter and Council levels. In addition, regional meetings have held specialized programs aimed at fostering leadership and continuing the mission of the Women's Initiative program. The future is promising and exciting as women are gaining acceptance and inclusion in the fishing world.

For more information, contact Kerri Russell, NLC WI chair at: kerri.russell@cox.net

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHEROKEE CHAPTER MEMBER LORI PARIS

Kneeling in Front row from the right: USFS Staff: Marcia Carter, Thomas Scott, Andy Balch. Back row from right: Wayne Pike, Gary Garrison, Reed Jennings, Linda Robbins, Allen Robbins, Bob Ross, Rick Hawk, Jerry Whitted, Butch Clendenon, Ed Beaulieu, Preston Stotler.

Sawmill Branch Daylighting Project

TENNESSEE

The temperature was not quite 50 degrees that Saturday morning, April 5, 2014, but the air was calm and the sun was shining during the daylighting project on Sawmill Branch in the Cherokee National Forest. That morning, Cherokee Chapter TU members met with US Forest Service staff to remove vegetation and low hanging tree branches that blocked sunlight or impeded stream flow.

Armed with pole saws, loppers and pruning shears, the group spent the morning clearing approximately a quarter mile of stream. The vegetation was moved up along the bank, away from the water so it could be reclaimed by Mother Nature, and trash and recycling were disposed of properly.

The purpose of daylighting projects is to improve riparian environment. Opening up areas of the stream choked by vegetation enhances water quality, flood mitigation and provides a more desirable habitat for brook trout.

The Sawmill Branch Daylighting Project is one of many community projects that the Cherokee Chapter actively organizes and in which members participate. To learn more about the Cherokee Chapter of Trout Unlimited and other community outreach projects, visit www.outflyfishing.org.

Got big news from your chapter? We want to hear about it.

The Actionline section of *TROUT* provides a perfect forum for exchanging information and sharing successes. Send us a short item—150 to 300 words—describing your project or event, why it was significant and, if possible, how it might benefit other chapters. Send Actionline submissions, plus photos (digital images are preferred), to Samantha Carmichael at scarmichael@tu.org, 1777 North Kent Street, Ste.100, Arlington, VA., 22209, (703) 284-9422.

Wisconsin Council Earns A Trout Unlimited License Plate

On April 16, 2014, Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker signed Assembly Bill 173 into law, creating a "Wisconsin Trout Unlimited" license plate. The bill was authored by Representative Jim Ott of Mequon, and creates a powerful new fundraising vehicle for Wisconsin Trout Unlimited.

Numerous Wisconsin Legislators supported the bill, including Speaker o theWisconsin Assembly Robin Vos (Burlington), Assembly Transportation Committee Chair Keith Ripp (Lodi), Wisconsin Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald (Juneau), Senate Transportation Committee Chair Jerry Petrowski (Marathon), Senator Paul Farrow (Pewaukee), Senator Mike Ellis (Neenah), and numerous others.

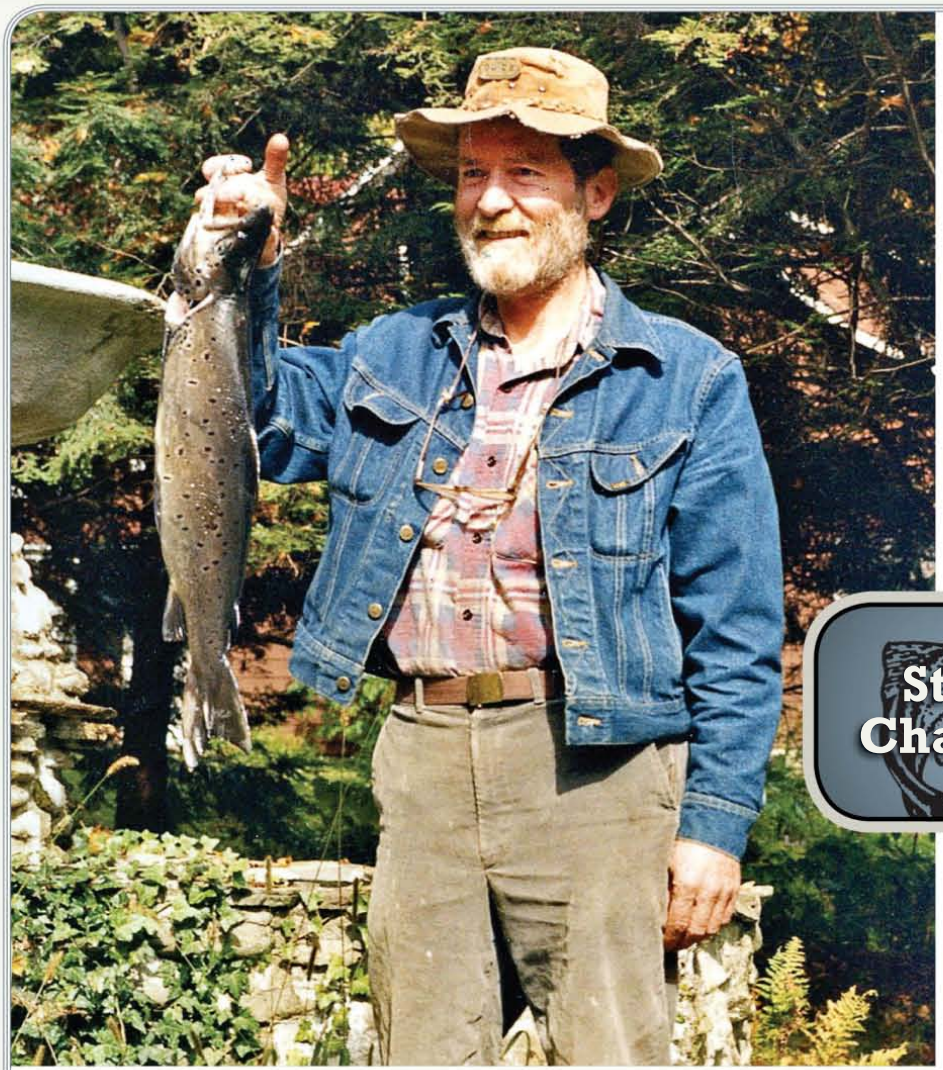
Wisconsin Council Chair Henry Koltz and Brandon Scholz, a member of the Southern Wisconsin Chapter and a partner at The Capitol Group lobbying firm in Madison, led the effort to pass the bill. Central Wisconsin TU's Scott Grady, Green Bay TU's Kim McCarthy, and Southeast Wisconsin TU's Rick Carr and Rich Vetrano also provided significant support.

AB-173 was brought forward in a very competitive legislative session, with little room for bills to be scheduled for hearing in committee, let alone before both houses of the Legislature. Ignoring long odds, and with the assistance of TU's volunteer operations staff, Wisconsin TU's members wrote, called, e-mailed, and met with their legislators in support of the bill. Without such support the bill would not be a reality, and its signature is a testament to the work Wisconsin TU can accomplish when its chapters are organized and work toward a common goal.

The plate will feature both the TU logo and a brook trout design donated by nationally-renowned artist Neal Aspinall.

HEIDI OBERSTADT

LEFT to RIGHT: Ray Weiss, Southeast Wisconsin Chapter of TU; Jennifer Giegerich, Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters; Ryan Augustyn, Staff for Wisconsin Representative Jim Ott; Representative Jim Ott (standing); Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker (sitting, signing); Matt Krueger, Wisconsin River Alliance (with beard); Henry Koltz, current State Council Chair for Wisconsin; Brandon Scholz, Southern Wisconsin TU / The Capitol Group, and Kim McCarthy, Green Bay TU, former State Council Chair for Wisconsin



Stream Champion

Jerry Bartlett Angling Collection

Back in the day, angling instructor and past president of TU's Catskill Chapter, Jerry Bartlett, recorded a daily phone message to update his community about local fishing conditions. His messages were so informative, people from throughout the Northeast would call what became known as the "Esopus Creek Hotline" to learn about turbidity, temperatures and other information relevant to fly fishing and conservation issues surrounding the popular fishing spot.

Almost 20 years after his death, Bartlett's messages live on through a modern resource–the Jerry Bartlett Angling Collection website (www.catskillanglingcollection.org), recently launched by the public library in his adopted hometown of Phoenicia, N.Y.

"Jerry would have been delighted by this website, especially because it will make the information reach an audience beyond anything he could have ever imagined," says Bartlett's widow, Doris.

The Phoenicia Public Library also housed physical items of the Jerry Bartlett Memorial Angling Collection until the building experienced a fire in 2011. Lost treasures from the collection included eight "Match the Hatch" instructional panels created by Bartlett to display photos of 47 aquatic insect species in various life stages, matched with the artificial flies imitating each insect.

Prior to the fire, the collection was located on the second floor of the library in a room referred to as the "Angler's Parlor." The archive boasted more than 800 books about fishing and fly tying–as well as rods and reels, tackle, historical items, artwork and other resources celebrating the traditions of Catskill angling. For more than 15 years the parlor served as a gathering place for lessons, workshops, book signings, and also hosted the local Trout in the Classroom program.

"The Parlor served as an important resource for people looking for one of the best angling collections anywhere," says Chester Karwatowski, president of TU's Ashokan-Pepacton Watershed Chapter.

After the fire, volunteers organized just as they had in 1996 when their donations and hard work established the original collection in Bartlett's memory. However, this time, it was to rebuild what had been lost.

"When Jerry died, the library did not have a section, or even a book, dedicated to angling in the Catskills," says Beth Waterman, a library volunteer and co-founder of the collection, along with Doris Bartlett. "So our tight-knit community transformed that space into a val-

ued resource for local history. Lucky for us, this time around technology made it possible to preserve things not only physically, but virtually as well." Re-creating Bartlett's panels and additional information was three years in the making due to changing technology. Launched in April 2014, the website created by Stephanie Blackman Design and Mark Loete, a professional photographer and fly fishing guide, provides anglers with history and science related to fly fishing in the Catskills.

"The digital version of the Bartlett Collection is fitting because Jerry liked new ways of doing things," adds Doris Bartlett. "He always embraced new ideas and technology–but could have never pictured this. It is incredible."

The Phoenicia Public Library is set to re-open in fall 2014. The grand re-opening of the Jerry Bartlett Angling Collection will follow suit in spring 2015.

The Jerry Bartlett Angling Collection

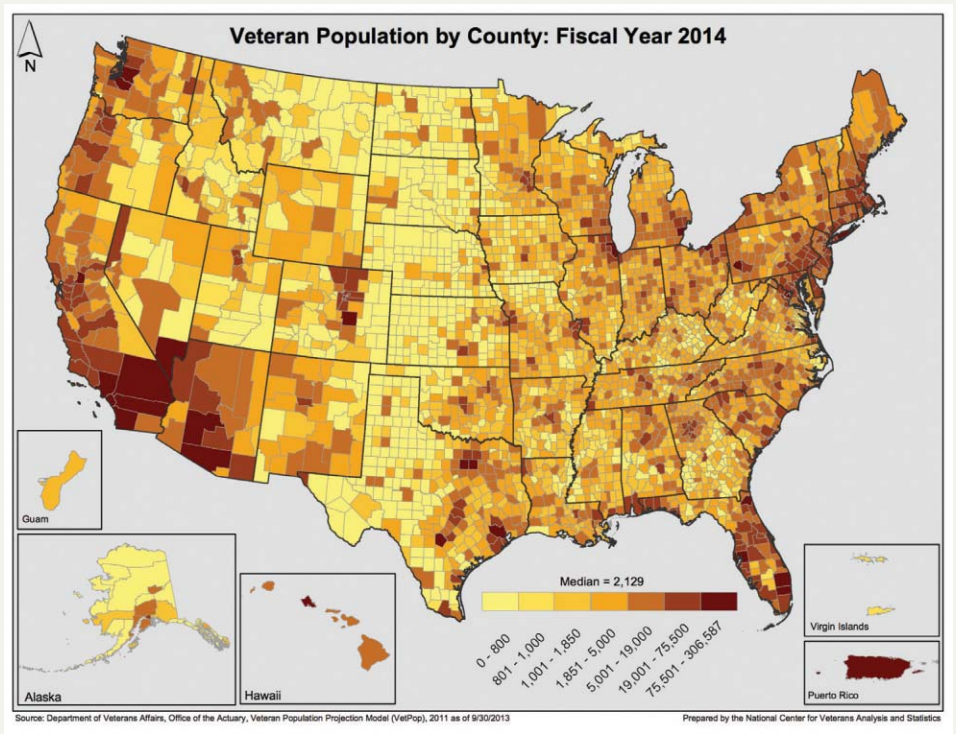
website cross-correlates information transcribed from Bartlett's instructional panels with macro-invertebrate surveys of Esopus Creek conducted by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation from 1995 to 2010 and streamside observations by experienced anglers. The taxonomy also reflects recent changes in the naming and classification of insects brought about by advances in genetic DNA testing. Additional information found on the website includes:

- Listing of 33 insect species favored by Esopus Creek trout arranged by month of their appearance
- A photograph of the nymph and adult phase of each species paired with studio photographs of the artificial flies that best imitate each insect
- Original recipes for artificial flies, provided by fourteen masters of the craft of Catskill-style fly tying

Tools & Tips...

From the Tackle Box

By Beverly Smith
Director of Volunteer Operations



Find a Veteran

Did you know that within a very short radius of your chapter that there are hundreds, and even thousands, of military veterans? As the map shows, there are veterans across the United States that would benefit from our TU Veterans Service Partnership. During the past year, over 125 TU chapters brought the healing power of being out on the water to thousands of veterans, but there are many more yet to reach.

Whether you choose to partner with Project Healing Waters or another organization, or if you choose to operate independently, we can help you get started with a number of resources:

- **Program Guide**
- **Fly Fishing 101 Course**
- **How to Work With Disabled Anglers**
- **VSP chapter presentation video, "IMAGINE"**
- **Nationwide TU chapter matching with local VA and military facilities**

For details contact TU's Director of the Veterans Service Partnership, Alan Folger, at afolger@tu.org or (828) 290-3730.

Donate Five Favorite Flies: Help Decorate the National Office

If you ever find yourself in the Washington, D.C., area, please stop by the national headquarters. The office recently moved down the road and staff is working to make the office reflect the broad geographic range of TU by capturing the spirit of our grassroots membership base. And your help is needed. Every chapter is invited to submit three to five flies that represent the unique nature of their home waters to help decorate the office. To submit flies, please mail them to: Trout Unlimited, Attn: Volunteer Operations, 1777 N. Kent St., Ste. 100, Arlington, VA 22209, and be sure to include your chapter name, number and other contact information.

calendar

All web conference trainings are held at 8 p.m. EST. Contact Jeff Yates at jyates@tu.org to register.

July 8
Training: Leaders Only Tools Training

July 15
Training: New Chapter Leader Orientation

July 22
Training: New Council Leader Orientation

Aug. 4
Annual Meeting Awards Nominations Due

Sept. 3-7
2014 Annual Meeting in Santa Fe, N.M.

Oct. 1
Annual Financial Reports Open

Oct. 15
Embrace-a-Stream Grant Application Training

Nov.12
Embrace-a-Stream Early Notification Deadline

Nov. 15
Annual Financial Reports Close

Dec. 9
Embrace-a- Stream Final Deadline

New TU Handbook for Stream Temperature Monitoring

Temperature monitoring programs can yield useful data for a number of things: establishing baseline conditions in home waters, tracking seasonal or year-to-year temperature trends, evaluating the effectiveness of local restoration projects and assessing whether a stream or river is in compliance with state water temperature standards. Stream temperature monitoring is relatively easy to do and requires only a small investment by your TU council or chapter.

TU recently developed a short, easy to read Stream Temperature Monitoring Handbook that provides answers to questions such as why, when, and where to monitor stream temperatures, as well as where to purchase equipment, how to deploy it, and how to interpret temperature data once it's retrieved. To download a digital copy of the handbook, visit the Tackle Box at www.tu.org or contact Dan Dauwalter at ddauwalter@tu.org.

Too Many Missing Out

In an effort to better understand what members want from their local chapters, TU has surveyed members in select regions over the past few months. One early and obvious conclusion is that e-mail remains the best, most preferred way to reach members. Members overwhelmingly told us they rely on e-mail to receive important information from their chapters. Unfortunately, most chapters have email addresses for only half of their total membership. This means that as many as half of TU's members are missing out on invitations to such things as chapter events, volunteer opportunities and fishing trips. Chapters can help solve this problem–and reach more of their members–by reminding people of the convenient ways to update contact information. The easiest way to do this is to have members with bad or missing e-mail addresses log on to www.tu.org and check their profile to ensure they have the right e-mail on file. Another easy way to update a member's information is to have them call 1-800-834-2419 or e-mail trout@tu.org and confirm their contact information. The more members we can reach by email, the more we can engage them in important, local activities and events.

Annual Meeting Awards

Nominate your favorite volunteers, projects or partners for TU's annual meeting awards by August 4. Visit the online Tackle Box or contact Nancy Bradley at nbradley@tu.org for nomination forms. Don't miss this chance to honor and recognize outstanding grassroots achievement, and join fellow TU members in honoring the winners this September 3-7 in Santa Fe, NM.

Art of Angling

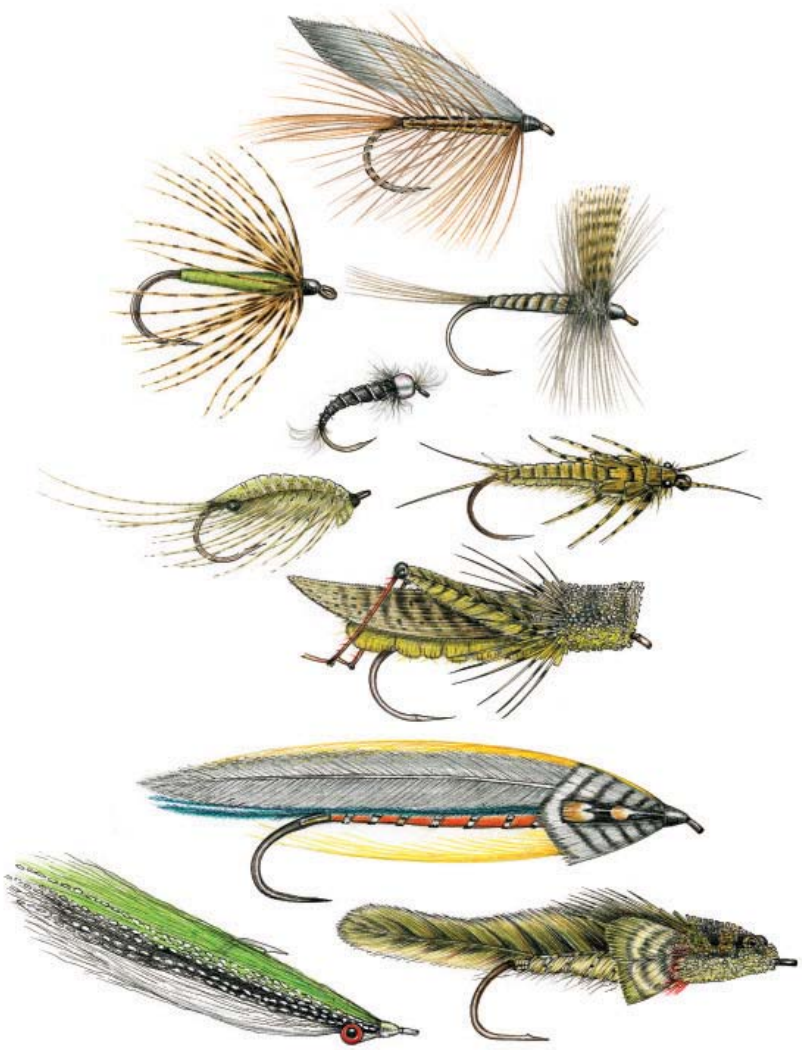
[By Dave Whitlock]

Trout Flies

Trout flies have always been a fascinating mix of practical function, unique sculptural form and hypnotic beauty to me. In the next several articles I'd like to discuss wet flies, dry flies, nymphs, emergers, crustaceans, terrestrials, streamers, bottom dwellers, exciters/attractors and "pseudo flies," and how I see their evolution, from historic, to traditional standards, to new designs. The materials, forms, performances, and effectiveness will receive my analysis, as will their colors and forms through my pens, pencils, and paints.

As you know, most trout flies are imitations of some form of live trout food. I believe the term "fly" evolved from a general British description of insects, much like Americans use the word "bugs." Originally, most trout flies were imitations of *aquatic* insects, both mature and immature. However, as the sport of fly fishing spread and evolved to many places in the world, and as more fly fishing was done throughout all four seasons, fly fishers recognized that trout indeed feed on much more than just aquatic insects. Paralleling this, fly fishers slowly accepted that it was good sport to fish flies not only on the surface, but also throughout the entire water columns of streams and lakes. During my lifetime, in order to reach deeper depths and fish swifter waters, many American trout flies have been gradually tied with heavier and heavier materials. For example, copper wire, bead chain eyes, lead wire, lead eyes and very dense tungsten beads are employed (as well as using split-shot and fast-sinking fly lines) to get these flies down deep. As this "weight race" began, many older fly fishers on both continents strongly objected. I remember Lee Wulff, perhaps the most acclaimed wild trout conservationist, argued that trout and salmon need water depth for sanctuary to survive our fishing efforts. Weighted flies and fly lines have taken much of that away from them. There are still a few trout and salmon waters (mostly in Europe, but also in America) where weighted flies and lines are forbidden. So the simple definition of a fly has changed greatly over time and has gotten much more complex. Lee might be concerned if he were here today to witness how many modern flies are so heavy, they could be cast 60 feet with six-pound spin tackle.

When I was eight years old, I didn't realize it, but I began making fly-like lures when I'd run out of worms, bacon fat, crawfish tails and whatever bait I was able to find for catching bluegill and



bullheads on my cane pole. I'd tie bits of grass, feathers, rubber bands and other odds and ends to my long-shank cricket hooks, using red sewing thread I'd get from my grandmother. By gosh, these crudest of imitations worked pretty well! I've been designing and tying flies ever since, without any lull in my enthusiasm.

Through my teens and early 20s, I continued to create flies that worked for me with what limited tools, materials and instructions I could find in the 1940s and 1950s in Oklahoma. This self-educating process proved to be a minor handicap—and actually a major advantage—during my lifetime as a creative trout fly designer and tier.

One of my first impressions about trout fly tying, after learning about many of the famous trout flies, was that they had to be constructed of only very specific natural animal feathers and hair such as otter, jungle cock and wood duck. I considered these materials to be almost sacred and magical in their ability to imitate live trout foods. Yet my "home-made," unorthodox flies spun with the hair from local rabbits and squirrels I hunted and barnyard rooster feathers would also catch trout… at least in the stocked streams in Missouri state parks and in the Smoky Mountain streams I personally could reach from Oklahoma.

As I matured into my early 30s, I realized a couple of important facts. One, many of these "famous trout flies" had been constructed by early tiers using, like I had, materials that were locally available to them. Second, I could use synthetic materials that would be similar in color, texture and the physical dimensions of the natural materials. Synthetics signaled a departure from traditional materials, and that took some time to be accepted by the majority of older tiers and fly fishers. But these materials became more and more important as the supplies of natural, wild materials around the world dwindled and/or they became unlawful or unethical to collect or sell. Today most naturals are raised or legally hunted specifically for the garment industry or fishing lure market.

Although I still love to tie with natural materials the most, I have extended my fly designing significantly with synthetic hair, furs, foams, silicone, latex, mylars, wires, paints, molding compounds, nylon threads and plastic eyes. I would not want to go back to those limiting days of using only natural materials. I want my designs first to cater to trout, but at the same time, to be attractive to fly fishers as useful and durable artistic sculptures of trout foods.

Today, I don't envy fly-buyers at the dealer or retailer level. There are so many choices of all types of trout flies. How does one choose the best flies? I hope my series will help you to better choose an effective fly to buy or tie for your fly-fishing situation, even if it is an "old standard," and not always just what's new and different. Trout foods don't change every year, so it's not absolutely necessary to reinvent their imitation, although it can be fun to do so. My goal for this new series is to aid *TROUT* magazine readers to more fully understand and value trout flies as functional art forms—whether they were created over the last four centuries, or at home through your own efforts.

Let's see where this takes us!

Dave

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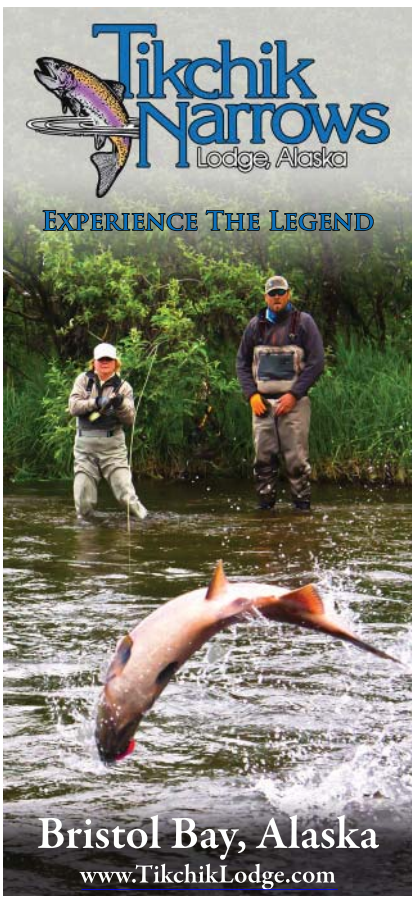
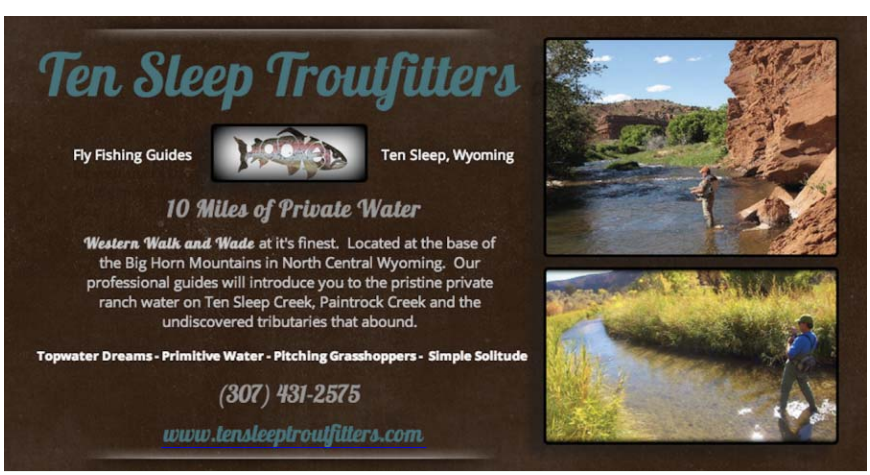




Classics

CREELS

Fish Panniers To Creels: A Catchy Process

BY PAUL BRUUN

Ever wear a creel? It has been nearly 20 years since I last spotted a solitary river fisherman packing a traditional woven creel. He was a Rock Springs old timer who swung wet flies and flipped worms behind a Colorado Spinner on his bamboo fly rod. I had first noticed him in 1974 and every time since, he always frequented the same run. During visits he'd enjoy revealing several fine Snake River cutthroat inside his creel's moist lining of grass and leaves.

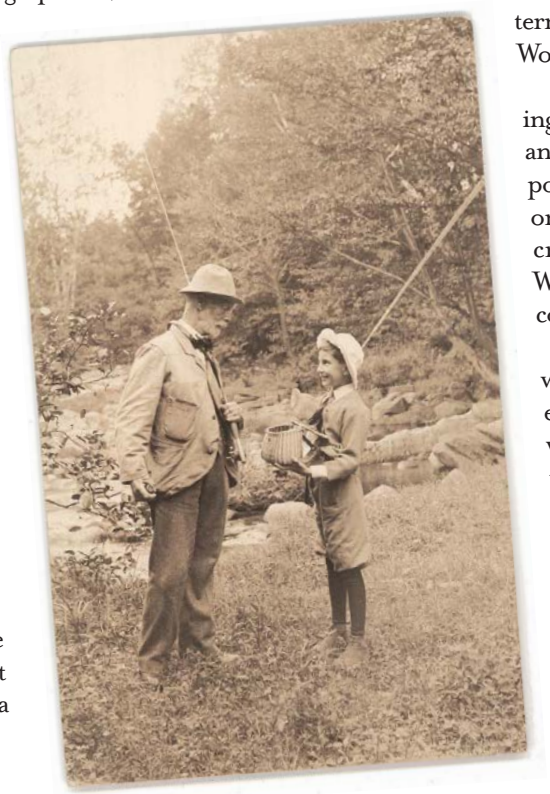
The device was curved to rest easily on his left side by a shoulder and waist strap. Its contents also included a sparse tackle supply and lunch.

Until they caught my eye in L.L. Bean and Cabela's catalogs last winter, I didn't know those wicker and willow branch creels were still made. Despite the prevalent catch-and-release ethic, it's pleasing that some good ideas remain alive.

Willow, wicker, rattan, bamboo, grapevine, birchbark, oak, ash, cedar and leather are just some of the poplar materials utilized for creels during the past hundreds of years. Native southwestern Indians made creels to trade with the whites. Other delicate creel work by Native Americans and Eskimos is today considered extraordinary folk art.

Naturally the term "creel" was too easy for early English flyfishing pioneers. They preferred "fish pannier," which is certainly elegant enough but doesn't exactly roll trippingly off the tongue the way "creel" does.

After examining the well researched and handsomely photographed volume "Art Of The Creel," gifted from co-author and long time friend Hugh Chatham, guilt tore at me immediately for never owning a proper creel.



My first trout tote was a zip-off mesh pocket attached to my fishing vest. River raft guiding necessitated graduation to an Arctic Creel. Functioning like early desert evaporative water bags, that durable flax canvas fish hauler with its washable plastic insert, was often re-chilled via a river dip, insuring our streamside trout lunch entree remained moist and firm. It was another surprise that Denver Tent Co. and other suppliers still provide these particularly practical and reliable relics.

The handiest fishing creel I recall was hanging on the shoulder of a beautiful young cowgirl of about 11 or 12 who arrived to compete in a kids' fly fishing contest sponsored by the Wyoming newspaper that I edited. A brown burlap potato sack was the origin before being shortened, carefully stitched closed and rounded on top as a strap. A roomy round armhole was cut out below. The lower bag forming the creel carried lunch, a terminal tackle collection of Woolly Worms and a rain jacket.

It wasn't a week later while floating the river that I noticed a bank angler casting at the mouth of a popular tributary. He, too, wore one of the customized potato sack creels and was tossing Woolly Worms. Naturally, he was the cowgirl's father!

Several years ago when forwarded E-mails concerning an educational river seminar in which I was involved, continued to lead with “Dear Fish Bag,” an investigation was necessary.

The answer was as you may have guessed. The program director explained that several of her long time associates kiddingly address her as "Fish Bag."

Her real name is Margaret Creel!

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