

Wild Rivers Tribune

WILD RIVERS CHAPTER



TROUT UNLIMITED



JANUARY 2025

Chapter Report

By John Simonson, Chapter President

This is going to be a busy year across the WRTU Chapter area. Late last year we adopted the White River State Fishery Area in Bayfield County and completed our Embrace a Stream for Mosquito Brook in Sawyer County. I have just signed the application to adopt the Clam River State Fishery Area in Burnett County. We have donated \$2500 to the Great Lakes Trout Unlimited to help with fish passage issues on tributaries to the Brule River. During the Spring / Summer this year we will help with volunteers to restore habitat on the Marengo River and the creek after Johnson Springs' dam is removed in the Chequamegon Nicolet National Forest.



WRTU Chapter is working hard to protect, restore and improve entire cold water watersheds across Northwest Wisconsin. Although we have few urbanization or agriculture issues across our area, we cannot sit back and take it for granted. To preserve our wonderful cold water ecosystems for future generations we need to stay aggressive. This is a call for local volunteers (both TU members and non-members) to help us with these important projects.

To remind everyone, the WRTU Chapter board members are all volunteers, and put in countless hours. We exist through volunteer support and donations to the chapter. All donations made to us through our website (WRTU.ORG) or our fundraising events stays local to help with our local Northwest Wisconsin projects.

I am working with the board to improve communication with our members and local communities. For the first time, we are developing a WRTU Chapter podcast. I think we all know podcasts have become extremely popular and you can listen to them at your leisure from anywhere. Podcasts are also a great way to help inform everyone about important topics. You can listen to them on your phone, laptop, or computer, while at home or while driving somewhere. Stay tuned!

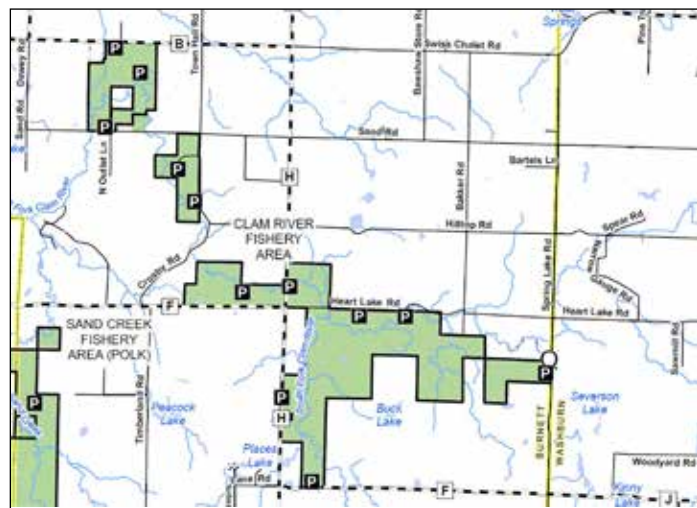
WRTU Adopts the Clam River State Fishery Area

By John Simonson

After Larry Mann, Ken Benoit, and myself walked parts of the Clam River State Fishery Area in Burnett County we all agreed this wonderful trout stream needed some serious work. We then met over Zoom with Craig Roberts and Jeremiah Fisk from the WI-DNR to discuss how WRTU Chapter could help the WI DNR to improve the Clam River State Fishery Area.

The meeting was great and WRTU Chapter decided to adopt the Clam River State Fishery Area. Some of the work we will be doing is restoring fishermen's access by brushing certain sections of the Clam River. We will also be helping the WI-DNR to remove fallen trees and brush in certain areas due to the heavy snowfall in 2021. Other work will be helping the WI-DNR add root balls into the stream to improve aquatic insect and trout habitat. Also, in late Fall with help from local volunteers we will identify and monitor trout redds.

WRTU Chapter has committed to donate to the WI-DNR Clam Lake State Fishery Area in Burnett County a minimum of \$3000 per year and at least 100 hours of volunteer labor. Whether you are a local TU Member or not, we will be looking for a your help. If you are interested in donating money or volunteering to help with workday projects please contact us at: tu.wildrivers@gmail.com, or Ken Benoit, troutster80@gmail.com, or Larry Mann, larry.mann2014@gmail.com.



Upcoming Chapter Events

Below is a brief overview for some of the WRTU Chapter upcoming events for 2025:

Fly Tying for WRTU Chapter Expo

Date: March 15, 2025

Location: Sawmill Saloon, Seeley

Time: Noon – 4:00pm

Contact: John Simonson

WRTU Chapter 2025 Expo & Fundraiser

Date: April 5, 2025

Location: Flat Creek Lodge, Hayward

Time: Noon – 5:00pm

Contact: John Simonson & Larry Mann

Cookout on the White River

Date: TBD

Location: parking area on the South Fork of the White River, Bayfield County

Time: TBD

Contact: John Simonson

Workdays on the Clam River

Dates: TBD

Location: Clam River State Fishery Area, Burnett County

Times: TBD

Contact: Ken Benoit

White River State Fishery Area Tree Planting

Date: TBD

Location: WI-DNR Parking Area

Time: TBD

Contact: John Simonson

Namekagon River Spring Cleanup

Date: TBD

Location: TBD

Time: TBD

Contact: Larry Mann & Wendy Williamson

WRTU Booth at Hayward Flea Market

Date: Memorial Weekend (exact date TBD)

Location: Hayward Sports Center

Contact: John Simonson

Kids Fishing Day

Date: TBD

Location: Great Lakes Visitor Center, Ashland

Contact: William Heart & Bob Traczyk

WRTU Summer Gathering & Cookout

Date: TBD

Location: Larsen Rd Landing, Namekagon River

Contact: Larry Mann & Bob Traczyk

Brule Family Fun Day

Date: TBD

Location: Brule River Hatchery

Contact: John Simonson

WI-DNR Buckthorn Removal

Date: TBD

Location: White River State Fishery Area, Delta

Contact: John Simonson

WRTU Chapter Adopts the White River State Fishery Area

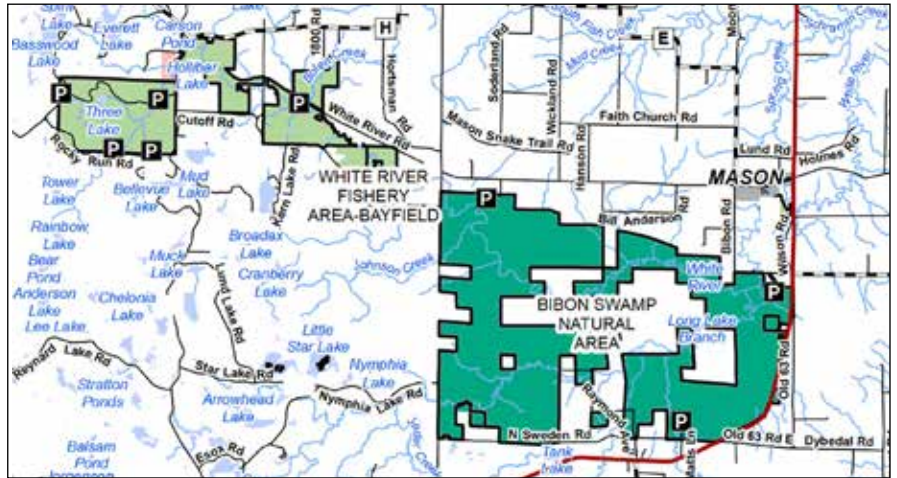
By John Simonson

WRTU Chapter officially adopted the White River State Fishery Area in Bayfield County last December with WI-DNR approval. We will be working closely with Nate Thomas and Logan Culter (WI-DNR fishery biologist) to preserve and protect the stream as well as the habitat. Some of the projects we have slated for 2025 are tree planting, buckthorn removal, brushing, and tracking trout movement throughout the White River watershed with the use of pit-tags and fin coloring.

We also want to bring awareness to the amazing history in the area. The South Fork of the White River, just below the town of Delta in Bayfield County, was once the largest private trout hatchery in Wisconsin. The loggers of the late nineteenth century had dammed the South Fork River and made it into an enormous lake. In the early twentieth century a group of private investors acquired the 1600-acre property, and they formed the Namagosh Club. Later the property was acquired again and became the Delta Brook Trout Company, with the main building by the new South Fork River bridge. They raised brown, brook and rainbow trout in the seven ponds, the largest was called Spring Lake. The Delta Brook Trout Company raised over one million trout per year and sold trout to restaurants in Chicago. They also had rental cabins, a motel, horse stable, raised chickens and had their own airstrip within the property. In 1961 the WI-DNR acquired the property and two years later removed all the dams. They restored the South Fork of the White River and dredged the silt that had accumulated in the ponds. Today there is little evidence of the Delta Brook Trout Company, other than the roads that are now used as hiking trails.

The WRTU Chapter is committed to helping the WI-DNR protect and preserve the White River State Fishery Area. The chapter has committed to donating a minimum of \$3000 per year to the WI-DNR and many volunteer hours over the next three years. I hope we can get your help either through donations or volunteering to help us.

If you want to be notified of upcoming work in the White River State Fishery area please send an email to: tu.wildrivers@gmail.com or john@wiflyfisher.com or you can text me at 920-212-0185.



WRTU Chapter Expo 2025 – Call for Donations

The WRTU Chapter will once again hold our annual Conservation Expo and Chapter Fundraiser at Flat Creek Lodge in Hayward on April 5th from Noon until 5:00pm. Like in years past we will have numerous state, federal and other conservation organizations there to exhibit and talk to. It gives local people a chance to learn from these conservation organizations what their plans are for the future.

Donations Requested

We will also have our fundraising raffles, silent auctions and live auctions. We are asking members if you have anything you want to donate to our 2025 Expo and fundraising, please contact

John Simonson
Board President
Wild Rivers TU Chapter
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Mobile: 920-212-0185



Wild Rivers Chapter of Trout Unlimited
Conserve, protect, and restore our coldwater trout streams

WRTU EXPO 2024
APRIL 5, 2025
at Flat Creek Lodge, Hayward, WI.
Expo starts at 12:00pm (Noon)

Many Conservation Exhibitors

Fishpond, Scientific Angler, Redington, RIO, SIMMS, St. Croix, Umpqua

Raffles, silent auctions, live auction

Guide Trips, Fly fishing rods & reels, spin fishing equipment
Trout flies, bass flies, fly tying, lures, fishing gear, and much more

See [WRTU.ORG](https://wrtu.org) for more details.





Fantastic Deals



Sale Major Brands

Galloup's "Barely Legal" Streamer Fly

By John Simonson

When it comes to fishing streamer patterns I like marabou. Marabou has great movement in the water, which helps predator fish to spot the streamer imitation. With all the debris in the drift, movement means life, which can signal danger or food.

Kelly Galloup's Barely Legal streamer fly pattern definitely has a lot of movement. It also has proven itself as a killer streamer fly pattern for both large trout and steelhead trout. Tying the Barely Legal streamer pattern does not require a lot of deferent materials or complexity.

The streamer is articulated, with two different hooks, wired together. Other than two different colors of marabou (white & olive), all you need is something like a pearl or white chenille in a medium size. The hooks are your choice. I do like for the front hook Gamakatsu B10S Stinger Hooks in size #4. I prefer a slightly longer, straight eye hook for the back hook (barbless of course). You can also add a conehead in the front if desired.

Rather than give you tying instructions, just go to YouTube and search "Galloup's Barely Legal streamer pattern" or check your local fly shops to buy the pattern.



Mosquito Brook – TU's Embrace A Stream

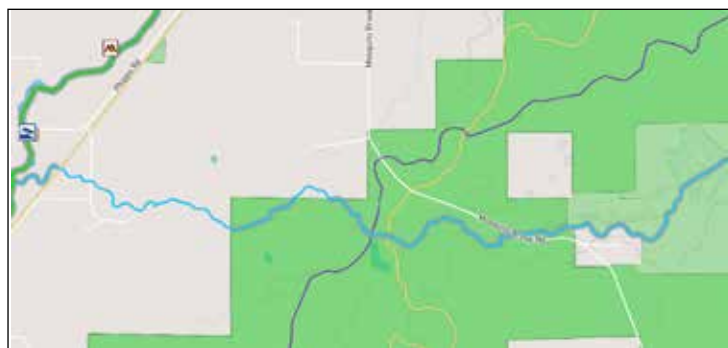
By John Simonson

Wild Rivers TU Chapter has been awarded a TU Embrace a Stream \$5000 Grant for the Mosquito Brook in Sawyer County. The \$5000 will go to purchase equipment to help monitor the watershed and to document the aquatic life within the Mosquito Brook ecosystem.

We will start this year with a Mosquito Brook Watershed Baseline Project to improve our scientific understanding of the stream function and to start building support for this important cold-water resource in the local community. One objective of the Project will be to gain insights into the water quality and thermal regime through macroinvertebrate and temperature monitoring at 6 sites within the Mosquito Brook watershed.

Another objective of the Project will be to gain a better understanding of how trout are using the stream for spawning purposes. Fish sampling with minnow traps in the headwaters will supplement existing WDNR trout surveys downstream.

Wild, native brook trout, and wild naturalized brown trout are both present and appear to be doing well as of 2024. But climate studies project a statewide 67% loss of brook trout habitat and a 30% loss of brown trout habitat due to climate effects over the next 50 years. The over-arching goal is to manage the watershed so the wild trout can continue to sustain a meaningful presence in this system. With the help from Frank Pratt, our WRTU Chapter Vice President, the Wild Rivers TU will start this year working on the long-term goal of creating a Watershed Plan to help conserve wild, self-sustaining trout populations in Mosquito Brook through this century.



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