

FINAL 2018 Accomplishments Report

(10/1/2017-9/30/2018)

Conserving, protecting and restoring Ohio's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds

NOTE: Thanks to all the TU Madmen Chapter members and other volunteers for donating almost 4,000 hours of their time.

PROTECT

- Working to improve the Adopt-A-Bridge/Stream Watch Program and working to identify volunteers and post on the web site. Conducted two inclusive river cleanups covering over 22 miles of Mad River, as well as the parking areas located at each access point. These cleanups remove over a ton of debris each year.
- Supported Mad River watershed protection in coordination with state and local agencies and organizations, as well as local communities and landowners. Worked with Urbana Materials, ODOT and Champaign County Land Preservation Inc., in addressing issues at St. Rt. 36 bridge on Mad River.
- Coordinated with ODNR-Div. of Wildlife on its 4-year Ohio Brown Trout Study and attended follow-up Trout Summits.
- Conducted 4 stream monitoring events at 6 locations within the Mad River Watershed.
- Participated in stream monitoring events with sister TU chapter (Clear Fork River TU) on Apple Creek, Wooster, OH and began discussions with Mohican Fly Fishers for potential monitoring on the Clear Fork.
- Working with watershed groups, including the Grand, Ashtabula and Conneaut Partnership, Rocky River Watershed Council, and other organizations and agencies, related to protecting Ohio's steelhead and trout fisheries, as well as the Ohio native brook trout. Attended the ODNR trout and steelhead summits.
- Involved with national TU workgroups, including the Great Lakes and Responsible Energy workgroups, in an effort to protect cold water fisheries. Also, supporting TU on national issues in coordination with Ohio TU NLC rep. Chris Steffen.

RECONNECT

- Continued to work on establishing ground water monitoring in the Mad River watershed.
- Continued to evaluate opportunities to protect Mad River headwaters and potential spawning areas.

RESTORE

- Completed work on section 2 of the "In-stream Habitat Improvement Project", except for adding additional cobble, on almost 300 feet of Mad River downstream of the Pimtown Road Bridge. Work began the fall of 2017 with obtaining logs and culminated on September 15, 2018 with the cabling of around 300 feet of logs and placement of 65 tons of cobble.

SUSTAIN

- Planned and participated in the TU Ohio State Council Annual Meeting.
- Planned and conducted the Madmen Chapter Annual Meeting in Urbana.
- Continued the “Trout in the Classroom” program in 10 schools of the Mad River watershed area. The schools include the Benjamin Logan School District as well as Graham, West Liberty-Salem.
- Participated in Trout in the classroom releases for Graham, and Benjamin Logan schools, Fairbanks HS, Fairfield HS, Miami Valley CTC, Southdale ES and Northwestern MS. Delivered eggs and shipped eggs to other Ohio schools.
- Participated in “River Days” programs for Graham Elementary by demonstrating river habitat (QHEI) assessment, aquatic insect monitoring, fly casting, trout fishing and the identification of the variety of fishes in the Mad River.
- Board members worked with local cub scouts from Urbana, Ohio enabling them to earn merit badges for fly fishing and fly tying activities.
- Shannon Mayes, teacher and coordinator for the Gallipolis TU Teen Fly Fishing Club, conducted fly fishing instruction and outings for middle school students at Gallia Academy and River Valley. This included fishing trips in Ohio to Raccoon Creek, Hocking River, Clear Creek and Salt Creek, as well as local ponds. There were trips to other states including 2 trips to TN to fish streams in the South Holston area and to WV to fish the Red Shaver’s Fork of the Cheat River. Some students attended a week-long fly fishing camp in VA. There were 22 TU Teen meetings at Gallia Academy and 20 at River Valley. Students also participated in a cleanup in Gallipolis along the Ohio River and the TU Madmen Chapter Annual meeting.
- Helped sponsor the Fly Fishing Film Tour (F3T) in Columbus.
- Continued support of the PHWFF Columbus and Central Ohio program that included *Fly Fishing 101 Basics* and fly tying workshops, 6 fish outings on private and public waters including a combined PHWFF program event at the ODNR Castalia fish hatchery and a third year of a continuing, interactive, fish outing involving vets paired with Columbus Crew SC players. Madmen volunteers contributed or otherwise supported 522 hours of fly-fishing education and recreational activities benefitting veterans with disabilities, including education on TU related conservation and catch and release. In addition, the TU Madmen Chapter underwrote storage locker fees for PHWFF equipment storage as well as loaning fishing equipment on occasion for fish outings.
- Supported and coordinated with other Ohio TU Chapters, fly fishing clubs and conservation groups and organizations.
- Continued to improve communications and public relations with redevelopment of the web site by administrator Mike Isovitsch and created social media websites for Facebook, Google+ and Twitter and added links to the tumadmen.org site as well as a link to our national website, TU.org.
- Continued outreach through participation at events such as the BUFF-Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show, F3T Film Festival etc.