

Madmen Chapter #477

Final 2017 Accomplishments Report

Conserving, protecting and restoring Ohio's cold water fisheries and their watersheds

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 trout stream, as well as the parking areas located at each access point. These cleanups remove over a ton of debris each year.
- Supported watershed protection in coordination with the Mad River Watershed Joint Board and Advisory Group as well as the Scenic Mad River Committee (SMRC).
- Planned and conducted Mad River Watershed Public Forum in Urbana on Oct. 29.
- Coordinated with ODNR-Div. of Wildlife on its 4 year Ohio Brown Trout Study and follow-up fishing survey.
- 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. Attended TU Southeast Regional Meeting in Gatlinburg, TN.

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

- Planning for section 2 of the "In-stream Habitat Improvement Project" on over 200 feet of Mad River below Pimtown Road Bridge

SUSTAIN

- Planned and participated in the TU Ohio State Council Annual Meeting.
- Attended the TU national annual meeting in Bozeman, Montana.
- Planned and conducted the Madmen Chapter Annual Meeting in Urbana.
- Continued the “Trout in the Classroom” program in 10 schools. The schools include the Benjamin Logan School District as well as Graham, West Liberty-Salem, Bellefontaine, Riverside School Districts and Urbana University for 2014-2015.
- Board members worked with local cub scouts from Urbana, Ohio enabling them to earn merit badges for fly fishing and fly tying activities.
- Participated in “River Days” programs for Graham Elementary by demonstrating river habitat (QHE) assessment, aquatic insect monitoring, fly casting, trout fishing and the identification of the variety of fishes in the Mad River.
- Provided fly tying and casting instruction for an afterschool program at Benjamin Logan Elementary Schools.
- Helped sponsor the Fly Fishing Film Tour (F3T) in Columbus.
- 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 42 TU Teen meetings and fishing outings to local lakes and streams as well as trips to Tn., Va. WV. and a 5 day trip to Big Manistee River in Mich. They also conducted a cleanup on the banks of the Ohio River in Gallipolis.
- Presented information on TU and the Madmen Chapter to the Gallipolis TU TEENS
- Continued PHWFF program with the Columbus and Chillicothe VA centers that included 24 *Fly Fishing 101 Basics* workshops on casting, 5 outings on private and public waters including a combined PHWFF program event at the ODNR Castalia fish hatchery and a special interactive outing involving vets paired with Columbus Crew SC players. Madmen volunteers contributed 235 hours to support activities benefitting veterans with disabilities. Activities included education on TU activities including conservation and catch and release. Displayed for PHWFF at 3 events/fundraisers.
- 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 (administered by Kristin Lawson), 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.