

## Madmen Chapter #477

# 2019/2020 Accomplishments Report

(10/1/2018-03/31/2020)

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

NOTE: Thanks to all the TU Madmen Chapter members and other volunteers for donating 3475 hours of their time.

#### **PROTECT**

- Continued working to establish the Adopt-A-Bridge/Stream Watch Program and identify volunteers to post on the web site. Conducted two inclusive river cleanups covering over 22 miles of the Mad River, as well as the parking areas located at each access point. These cleanups remove over a ton of debris each year. The spring cleanup, led by Scott Smallwood, was very successful and included members from TU Madmen, area fly fishing clubs, as well as Ron Lewis of Trophy Trout Hunter and Katie Johnstone working with the woman's group and Mad River Outfitters (MRO) at the Watson property parking area. Brian Flechsig, owner of MRO, helped with the cleanup and provided funding to assist Birch Bark Canoe Livery with disposal costs.
- Conducted trail clearings at U.S. Route 36, State Routes 29/296, and Pimtown Road in Champaign County. Supported log jam removals by ODNR below State Routes 29/296 and Pimtown Road. Provided support for 2 logjam removals on the Watson property, 1 on the Detwiler property and 1 below the Dallas Road crossing.
- 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 U.S. Route 36 access on the Mad River. Coordinated with ODNR-DOW on Ohio's steelhead and trout programs.
- Conducted 3 stream monitoring events at 6 locations within the Mad River Watershed. Three other scheduled events were cancelled due to unusually high flood events.
- 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.
- Continued involvement with national TU workgroups, including the Great Lakes workgroup, 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**

- Evaluated potential impacts from flooding on section 2 of the "In-stream Habitat Improvement Project" on over 300 feet of the Mad River downstream of the Pimtown Road bridge. Work on the original project 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**

- Distributed four electronic issues of the new *Mad River Drift* newsletter to over 900 of our Chapter members who have granted us permission to e-mail directly.
- Planned and participated in TU Ohio State Council meetings.
- Conducted 5 TU Madmen Chapter Board meetings. Held the first 2 quarterly membership meetings. Previously the Chapter did not have Membership meetings other than the Annual Meeting. We intend to possibly expand to a monthly schedule of membership meetings if/when the quarterly meetings prove to be successful.
- Emailed notices of the 2019 Annual Meeting to over 900 of our Chapter members and mailed notices for the 2019 Annual Meeting to over 600 members with no or bad e-mail addresses. We solicited their updated e-mail addresses and/or requested that we be allowed to contact them via email to improve communications. This effort did not result in a significant increase in usable e-mail addresses.
- Planned and conducted the 2019 Madmen Chapter Annual Meeting in Urbana. Planned and marketed the 2020 Annual Meeting Gala at Simon Kenton Inn.
- 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 and 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.
- There were 22 meetings of our Gallipolis Chapter of TU Teens. Shannon Mayes, teacher and coordinator for the Gallipolis TU Teen Fly Fishing Club, conducted fly fishing instruction and outings for students at Gallia Academy Middle School. 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, a trip to the Manistee River in Michigan, and a trip to WV to fish the Red Shaver’s Fork of the Cheat River. Some students attended a week-long fly fishing camp in VA and/or attended the TU Madmen Chapter 2019 Annual Meeting. Students also volunteered civic duty hours by participating in cleanup activities of Gallipolis City Park, the French Art Colony Gallery in Gallipolis, and several sections along the Ohio River.
- Women’s Outreach Initiative. Last May, the TU Madmen Chapter brought Katie Johnstone on board to be the Women’s Outreach Coordinator, a position new to the organization. Since May, Katie has been actively trying to meet and recruit new women to the chapter. She started a Facebook group for women in the chapter to interact with each other, setup a Mailchimp account for outreach, and held a few events. The events included a social event to learn about fishing the Mad River, fly tying events, and the Orvis 50/50 on the Water Film Tour. Katie also presented at the Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing show to spread the word about the Chapter in hopes to recruit more women.
- Helped sponsor 2 Fly Fishing Film Tours (F3T) in Columbus. Continued support of the Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing (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 the other Ohio TU Chapters, Buckeye United Fly Fishers, Central Ohio Fly Fishers, Miami Valley Fly Fishers and other area fly fishing clubs, conservation groups and like-minded organizations.
- Continued to improve communications and public relations with maintenance and improvements to the [www.tumadmen.org](http://www.tumadmen.org) website, a TU Madmen Facebook page and sending electronic messages to chapter members using Mailchimp. Also, worked with TU National to update our chapter information on the national TU website.
- Continued outreach through participation at events such as the Buckeye United Fly Fishers-Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show, F3T Film Festival, Orvis 50/50 on the Water Film Tour, etc.