

Trout Unlimited Madmen Chapter #477

2020/2021 Accomplishments Report

(4/1/2020-3/31/2021)

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

*Thanks to all the TU Madmen Chapter members and other
volunteers for donating **1454** hours of their time.*

PROTECT

Continued working to establish the Adopt-A-Bridge/Stream Watch Program and identify volunteers for each of the bridge and access areas. We still need a few more volunteers with the goal to address litter at 19 bridge and access areas on the Mad River. Conducted trail clearings at U.S. Route 36, State Routes 29/296, and Pimtown Road in Champaign County. Cleared five logjams to open flow and limit bank erosion.

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 one stream water quality monitoring event at six locations within the Mad River Watershed. Three other scheduled events were cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Worked 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.

Continued involvement with national TU workgroups, including the Great Lakes work group. Also, supported 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. Conducted repairs on section 1 and 2 of the in-stream habitat improvement projects at Pimtown Road. Began planning for 2 additional in-stream habitat improvement projects.

SUSTAIN

Distributed four electronic issues of the new *Mad River Drift* newsletter to over 1200 subscribers who have granted us permission to e-mail directly.

Planned and participated in TU Ohio State Council meetings.

Conducted no TU Madmen Chapter Board meetings or quarterly membership meetings due to Covid -19. Previously, the Chapter did not have Membership meetings other than the Annual Meeting. We intend to resume both Board and membership meetings soon, possibly via Zoom or other online service. We will resume in-person meetings as soon as it becomes safe to do so.

Continued the Trout in the Classroom program in 10 schools within the Mad River watershed area from the Benjamin Logan, Graham and West Liberty-Salem School Districts.

Participated in Trout in the Classroom releases for schools in the Graham and Benjamin Logan School Districts – Fairbanks High School, Fairfield High School, Miami Valley Career Training Center, Southdale Elementary School and Northwestern Middle School. 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.

The Gallipolis TU Teens Chapter's activities were impacted by the pandemic but there were still opportunities for socially-distanced outdoor activities. There were four fishing outings on local waters and two clean-up events at the Gallipolis City Park and on the bank of the Ohio River. The numbers of participants at the events were still good and the enthusiasm of youth is still there. All are hopeful that the planned South Holston River trip will take place in July.

Throughout 2020, our Women's Outreach Coordinator found safe ways to hold events so our women's community could continue to grow throughout the pandemic. Katie Johnstone held eight socially-distanced fly fishing meetups, a casting clinic and a river cleanup challenge. Four meetups were held throughout the Columbus area, one was held at the Mad River and two were held at Mohican State Park. There were 8-10 women in attendance at each event. The Mad River meetup also consisted of an hour long casting clinic. Katie also held a DIY river cleanup challenge. This was held through Instagram. Each participant was challenged to clean a local river, post a picture and one person won a raffle prize. Katie teamed up with Scioto Made for the prizes.

Continued supporting the Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing (PHWFF) Columbus and Central Ohio program. However, due to Covid-19, all activities and events were cancelled or postponed indefinitely. Nationally, PHWFF shut-down until further notice. Local activities will resume when the national program starts up again.

Contributed Chapter funds and solicited additional funds from TU Ohio State Council, Buckeye United Fly Fishers, Central Ohio Fly Fishers, and Miami Valley Fly Fishers to assist the State of Ohio with the purchase of the property at the State Routes 29/296 access point on the Mad River. This will insure access to the river at that location in perpetuity. It will also result in monitoring by the State which has so far proven to reduce the amount of trash being dumped at the site.

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 <http://www.tumadmen.org> website, postings on TU Madmen Facebook and Instagram pages, and sending electronic messages to chapter members using Mailchimp. Also worked with TU National to update our chapter information on the TU national website.