



North Bear Notebook

October 2014

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 9

The next chapter meeting will be held this **Thursday, October 9**. This month's presentation will feature a showing of *Frac Sand Land*, a 45-minute film that highlights the problems with frac sand mining in the Driftless region.

Silica sand mining in Iowa, as in other locations, threatens our land, water and air. Hilltop removal will change our landscape forever, and large-scale mining operation could dramatically impact our lives in a number of ways.

Among the questions to be considered are: 1) What are the effects on Iowa's water from industrial sand/mining/processing?; 2) What chemicals are used by sand mines and processing plants?; 3) How will the quality of our air and streams be affected?

Learn more by going to:

<http://www.allamakeecountyprotectors.com/about-us>

Following the film there will be a discussion with the filmmaker, and discussion of what the chapter might do to provide support. Screening will begin at 6:30, and the business meeting will follow the presentation. All are welcome to participate in the business meeting.

Felix and Oscar's Address: 4050 Merle Hay Road (immediately north of Sears), Merle Hay Mall. (515) 278-8887. We meet in The Pub section -- Go to end of bar, turn right into private room.

Upcoming Events

October 9
Chapter Meeting
Felix and Oscar's
6:30 p.m.

October 11-13
Pine Springs Rendezvous
Seed Saver's Exchange
See Story Below

October 15
TUDARE Project Tour
TBD
Duke Welter

November 13
Chapter Meeting
Felix and Oscar's
6:30 p.m.

December 11
Chapter Meeting
Felix and Oscar's
6:30 p.m.

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President's Message

I ask members step forward to assist the chapter in implementing its strategic plan.

We need help, in particular, with the following:

Conservation: We need members for our Conservation committee. The committee works to identify opportunities to restore streams, works with agencies to determine when we might assist with their needs, plans and organizes workdays and works to educate members about conservation issues.

Communications: We have an immediate need for someone with Wordpress experience to assist with the website management. We also need a new manager for the newsletter, and are seeking someone interest in learning the (very simple) Mailchimp system. And finally, we're looking for someone who can volunteer 20-40 hours in the next year to help us with some graphic design (brochures and banners).

Membership: Our Membership Committee is in need of a few more members to assist with implementing our new membership processes.

Education and Outreach: We have number of fly fishing 101, fly tying demonstration and other events planned in the coming 8 months. We're looking for additional members who enjoy passing their fishing knowledge on to the public.

Fund Raising: Our chapter has made great strides in fundraising in the past two years, and we're looking to grow again. Our new committee could use a few extra people with business contacts or experience managing basic events.

For questions, comments, and offers to help, contact Bob Bernard, chapter president at 515.494.3434 or bearbernard46@gmail.com

Tight Lines,

Bob Bernard
President, TU North Bear

Pine Springs Rendezvous This Weekend

This weekend we'll be holding the Second Annual Pine Springs Rendezvous at Seed Saver's Exchange.

The Rendezvous is an annual event loosely organized by the state council to celebrate the end of the workday and fair-weather fishing season. The event is held at Seed Saver's Exchange just north of Decorah on Columbus Day weekend each year, and we invite TU members from chapters around the Driftless to come fish Iowa waters for a weekend.

SSE will allow TU members to camp on the farm along Pine Springs Creek on Friday and Saturday. The campground opens Friday night. On Saturday morning we'll have a solid breakfast, followed by a brief workday. This year we'll be tackling some invasive species sites and hand-cutting the path for a new handicapped-accessible trail along the stream. The workday is "lightweight" (volunteers generally need only gloves and a water bottle) and we'll be done by noon. A big lunch will be served, and in the afternoon Iowa TU volunteers will take our out-of-state visitors out to learn some new waters. For those that are interested, SSE will conduct a tour of the restored water on the farm, as well as the farm operations. We'll organize a Saturday evening dinner for the campers.

On Sunday, we'll venture out again to Iowa waters, and we hope to have some of our friends from Minnesota down to guide trips to their (now open until October 15) waters.

If you're interested in attending the event, email Brett Lorenzen (chair@iowatu.org) so that he can pass along head counts for camping and food. Specify how many people will be coming for Saturday, and if camp sites are desired, how many people and tents we need to make room for, and on which nights.

Feel free to put out the word—the more the merrier!

Fall Driftless Project Tour set for Wednesday, October 15

Driftless Project tours have been popular and full-to-capacity each of the past several years. In a comfortable charter bus and several trailing vehicles, we set out from a starting point along the Mississippi and visit project sites in at least two states. Costs are picked up by TUDARE (although contributions to cover expenses are always welcomes) and a sumptuous box lunch is provided.



October 15 is this year's project tour, and this year we will feature projects from the Southern Driftless Area in Iowa and Minnesota. You'll travel with fisheries professionals, project designers, contractors, biologists, engineers, ecologists, landowners and volunteers. It's a great time for dialogue and questions, with the folks who did the project fielding your questions.

The tour will begin in La Crosse. ***We will load up and return to the Sam's Club Parking Lot at the Crossing Meadows Shopping Mall in La Crosse on Highway 53 just south of I-90.*** Expect to see autumn foliage, migrating waterfowl and other birds, and a host of people who are driving the craft of watershed restoration as TUDARE moves into its second decade.

Expect a full day of travel, rain or shine. We should be starting by 9 a.m. and concluding by 5, but as veteran tourers know, it sometimes takes a bit longer.

This year we have an added bonus: TU's Western Watershed staff will be joining us from their staff retreat site at Cedar Valley Resort near Whalan, MN. About 25-30 fisheries professionals will be adding their input as we travel, as they learn about these marvelous spring creeks across the Driftless Area.

All that means you should sign up early because there will be limited space. To sign up or if you have questions, suggestions, contributions or dishes to pass, email or call Jeff Hastings (jhastings@tu.org; 608-606-4158) or Duke Welter (dwelter@tu.org; 608-675-3184).

Comments Due October 20 on Waters of US Rule

Clean water is essential for drinking, swimming, and fishing. We need it for healthy communities, farms, and businesses. Sixty percent of streams and millions of acres of wetlands across the country are not clearly protected from pollution and destruction under the current terms of the Clean Water Act. In fact, one in three Americans get their drinking water from streams that are vulnerable. To ensure clean water in our neighborhood rivers and lakes, we need healthy headwaters upstream.

And the headwaters are where trout spend most of their time.

EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have proposed stronger protections for the clean water vital to all Americans. The "Waters of the US" rule clarifies several recent Supreme Court decisions, and clarifies the waters originally covered by the Act. Despite the fact that the new rule will cover only about 3% more water than the old rule, and farmers are exempt from the vast majority of CWA rules, the agriculture and industry groups have launched an all-out assault on the rule.

It's important that individuals weigh in briefly and let the EPA know they support the rule.

Comment on the proposed rule to protect clean water by October 20, 2014 here.

<http://go.usa.gov/vkYC> You don't need to leave a detailed comment--"I support the proposed rules" is enough, though it's always good to provide some specifics that matter (such as your need for clean water to fish in, and clean streams for the fish themselves).

You can also watch a video on the importance of clean water here. <http://youtu.be/svi9mN4v5lQ>

Take a few minutes and comment on the rule--it matters!



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TROUT UNLIMITED

Conserving, protecting and restoring North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.

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