

Adams Chapter Update

A publication of the Adams Chapter of Trout Unlimited • Traverse City, Michigan • www.tctrout.com

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Better weather is here, the banquet is over, bills have been paid and grants have been distributed... now we can get down to the business of fishing; taking the opportunity to enjoy this great area where we live. My favorite stretch of stream is still running a bit high, but that hasn't kept the caddis from popping and brookies from hitting. There have been quite a few people on the stream, even mid-week.

The 13th annual banquet netted the Chapter over \$12,000. We had about 50 fewer attendees and that lowered last year's net by, the expected, \$100 per person. Even with this lowered intake, we'll still be able to make 2010 grants in the same amount as this year... thanks to our tight-fisted treasurer and thanks to you all. This year we will distribute nearly \$15,000. You will be supporting 7 organizations with supporting membership contributions, providing 5 river-specific grants and funding two youth programs. River grants went to projects on the Manistee, Boardman (2), Betsie, and AuSable system. Those at the banquet walked away with armloads of prizes, artwork, fishing gear and other goodies... thanks to our generous local merchants, guides and underwriters. Even with the tough economic times, our loyal supporters came through. Remember to support those who support your Chapter. Having said

that, we have over 300 members and (1) there's no reason that we can't sell 200 seats to a banquet, (2) no reason why more underwriting support isn't being provided to your local Chapter... when all of the money goes to the rivers that we enjoy. I encourage all of us to plan ahead for next year... contact your employer, your friends... consider support from your own business. We all enjoy shopping for a bargain at the banquet (although I didn't need another rod), but remember that the real purpose is raising funds to support our local restoration, protection and conservation partners... and we – and the next generation – reap the benefits streamside.

Please check out our website – tctrout.org – for Chapter events and news. Remember to mark your calendars for: June 24th and our outdoor meeting at the CCC Bridge, on the Manistee. Gabe will bring the grill and food, you bring a beverage. We'll eat, relax, and then fish. August 26th we'll meet at Ranch Rudolf, on the Boardman. Food will be available at the bar and, after a short meeting, more fishing. September 18-20, the Adams Chapter will have the historic WaWaSum Lodge on the AuSable. Everyone is welcome and the more that attend, the less the nightly cost. Check out the website for information and contact Jeff Alandt for reservations.

First Cast: In past years, this program has offered youngsters a chance to learn about trout fishing, fly tying and conservation

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ethics. We're in need of volunteers to continue this educational effort. The program runs weekly during the summer and ends with a kid's fishing outing. It won't take up too much of your time and you'll be teaching the next generation of Chapter members. Contact Jack Murray for more information.

I hope to see you at one of our summer meetings and wish you many wonderful days in our beautiful woods and waters.



City Engineer Comes Up With Unique Solution

By: Steve Largent, Stream Committee Chair



The City replaces the culvert at the mouth of Kids Creek which includes a unique baffle design that provides critical darting cover for younger age-class fish.

a natural stream bottom. They suggested blocking sea lampreys in other ways.

Frustrated and at his wits end, Lodge called me for some advice and perspective. I explained that younger age-class fish need “darting cover” to move upstream against the strong current. Darting cover is formed by rocks and logs which disrupts the current providing areas of rest. In most cases culverts do not have this type of cover and therefore block the younger fish that are not strong enough to swim the length of the culvert against the strong current. In rare cases, project designers will oversize the culvert then bury it at least 18” below the natural streambed. The bottom of the culvert then fills in with sediment and/or gravel. Large rocks are then placed in the bottom to provide the required darting cover and a more natural stream bottom.

Burying the culvert was not an option because of high voltage electrical lines buried in the project area and potential contamination issues from an old gas station that once was located where the Flower Station now sits. With a better understanding Lodge went to work and came up with a unique design that involves anchoring aluminum angle pieces that point at about a 45 degree angle downstream. The aluminum pieces alternate from side to side every 30 feet or so and reach a couple feet short of the center of the culvert. This influences the current from side to side. Behind the aluminum angles, Lodge plans to place 6” thick flag stone to provide for a greater area of refuge or darting cover.

City of Traverse City Engineer Tim Lodge was faced with the huge task of replacing the crumbling concrete culvert at the mouth of Kids Creek near the Flower Station across from North Peak Brewery. He thought he designed a sound plan that included a sea lamprey barrier, but the design met resistance from the MDEQ and MDNR Fisheries who wanted an open bottom culvert to provide for a

It will be interesting to see how well Lodge's unique design works and may very well be something that could be used on many other crossings in the future. Nevertheless, kudos to City Engineer Tim Lodge for thinking so creatively. Always remember, *when in doubt, error on the side of trout.*

July 18th – Summer Work Bee

Saturday, July 18th is the only date being scheduled for a work bee this summer. With TU's 50th Anniversary hoopla scheduled for late August and a busy summer otherwise, it was decided to focus on one work bee. Anyone interested in participating is asked to contact Stream Committee Chair, Steve Largent to sign-up.

Boardman River Dams Project – Update

The City of Traverse City and Grand Traverse County are meeting to decide how the next phase of the Boardman River Dams Project will proceed after deciding in early April to move forward with the removal of the three upper dams on the Boardman River. At a joint meeting on Thursday April 9th, the Grand Traverse County Board of County Commissioners voted to remove Boardman and Sabin dams. At the same meeting, the City Commission directed the City Manager to begin seeking funding for the removal of Brown Bridge Dam. Union Street Dam, for now, will remain as a lake level control structure for Boardman Lake, as well as to block sea lamprey from moving upstream.

The City and County are looking at options that may include forming separate entity that will handle the implementation phase of the project. This includes applying for grants, obtain bids for planning design and engineering services, and, oversee implementation activities. This entity may potentially cover the entire Boardman River Watershed. The exact details need to be worked out, but at minimum, the City and County want the process to be "open to the public and transparent" and balances the economic, social, environmental, and recreational interests of the Boardman River.

In February, the Grand Traverse Band submitted a Stimulus Package grant for a little over 7 million dollars to remove the dams. The City and County were not part of the Band's grant application process since a decision had not been made regarding the fate of the dams. The proposal is pending.

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Great Lakes Fish Passage

Whether to allow Great Lakes fish (salmon & steelhead), and if so, how far, is a hot topic related to the City and County's decision to remove the three upper dams on the Boardman River. MDNR Fisheries has been upfront with their desire to make the Boardman River a top rate steelhead fishery.

Many property owners and Adams Chapter members are against the passage of any Great Lakes fish because of associated negative impacts such as contamination (PCB's) issues, sea lamprey, trampling of the banks, recreational trespass, trash, and the desire to manage the Boardman a top rate brook and brown trout fishery. Complicating the issue is that certain funding to remove the dams is tied to fish passage.

Since the Boardman River system will receive a "jolt" when the dams are removed, it's been suggested to take the time, while the system stabilizes, to develop a sound fisheries plan that takes everything into consideration. Contact Steve Largent for more information.



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The Adams Chapter wishes to thank each and every donor to our banquet. The money, services, or items donated will go directly to improving coldwater fisheries in our region. If you were accidentally not acknowledged, please forgive us and let us know. We will give you a special mention in our next newsletter.

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Pat is a year-round, globetrotting
flyfishing outfitter and destination host.
He spends November-February hosting
trips in New Zealand and then bolts to
Australia and Honduras, before returning
to his native Michigan for the Steelhead
fishing in March and April.

Contact Patrick Moore
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SUMMER 2009 CALENDAR

June 24

Outdoor Meeting on the Manistee

6 p.m., C.C.C. Bridge

August 18

Boardman River Dams Tour

Sponsored by the Adams Chapter as an option during T.U. National
50th Anniversary in Traverse City

August 26

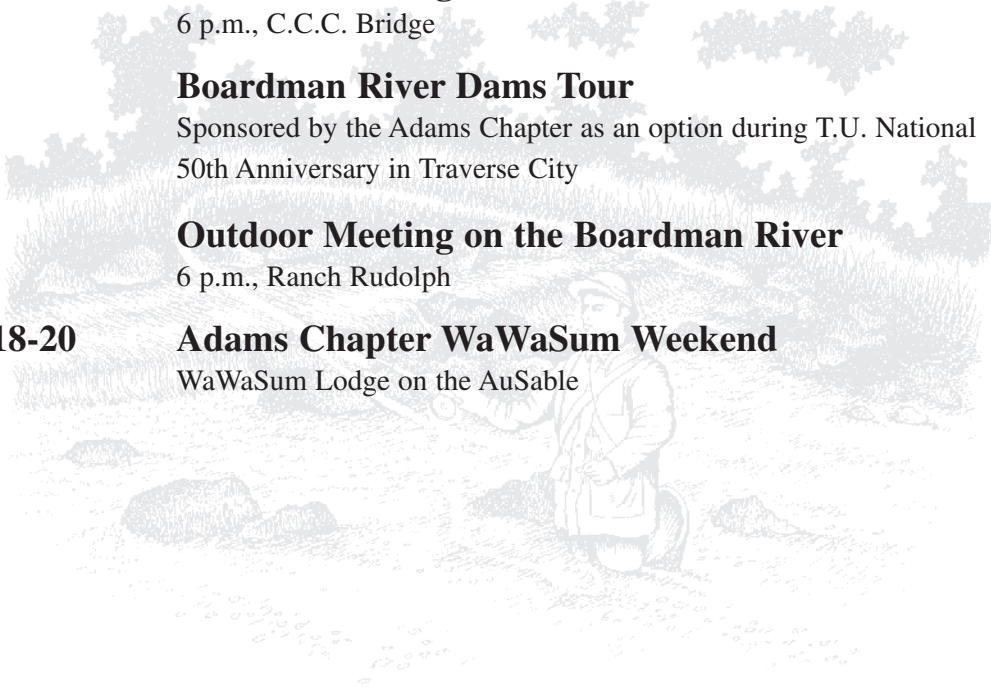
Outdoor Meeting on the Boardman River

6 p.m., Ranch Rudolph

September 18-20

Adams Chapter WaWaSum Weekend

WaWaSum Lodge on the AuSable



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