



## PILGRIM RIVER TROUT GET NEW ROOF OVER THEIR HEADS CCCTU crew pins log structures to bottom

By Bill Deepphouse

CCCTU members once again teamed up to improve trout habitat in the Pilgrim River in central Houghton County. The Pilgrim is a relatively short stream, only about 10 or 11 miles in length. It flows into Portage Lake and supports runs of anadromous salmonids.

Flowing through forested land for its entire length, the river maintains cool water temperatures necessary for brook, brown and rainbow trout to thrive. Bottom substrate contains abundant gravels for spawning and food production. However, high runoff flows from heavy annual snowfall as well as irregular summer downpours have removed much in-stream cover and caused some bank erosion.

A 1999 CCCTU project in this same area repaired two eroding banks, built several brush bundles to narrow and deepen sections of the river and added large woody debris in the form of variable length logs pinned to the bottom with five foot long pieces of half-inch steel rod. The Michigan DNR-Fisheries Division also assisted by constructing a sediment trap to capture eroding sediment.

During the summer of 2002, CCCTU members, friends and volunteers worked on seven consecutive Tuesday evenings from July 23 to September 3. We usually met about 5:30 pm and worked until 7:30 or 8 pm. A total of 125 hours was spent in this effort, mostly placing and pinning logs to the river bottom for trout cover. Four-inch spacer blocks kept the logs off the bottom. We pinned a total of about 20 logs during the project. Several logs were cabled to trees on the bank as they were too large in diameter to bore a hole through for steel rod.

John Ollila worked with logger Roger Howell to cut mostly dead trees to 8'-16' lengths and place them along more than a quarter mile of river on Ollila's land. Several large, live aspen were also cut and placed in the river. Our crew then rolled the logs or latched onto them with the five cant hooks we used to muscle them into place for pinning.

Although there is no public land on the Pilgrim River, the Ollila family has always allowed the angling public to use their property



CCCTU members can't wait to sink their cant hooks into new log structure on the Pilgrim, about 30 feet downstream from the project site sign. Left side of log, front to rear: Jim Finley, Bob Hudson, John Ollila; right side of log, front-to-rear, Ray Weglarz, Bill Deepphouse and Jim Savera. Photo by Tom Whittaker.

over the years. CCCTU member John Ollila originally conceived the stream restoration project in 1999 and the work we accomplished in 2002 only improved the section of stream we initially worked on. We are grateful to John and his father, Leonard, for generously sharing this wonderful resource, making it available to area trout fishermen and women.

We plan to continue the project in 2003, both on the Ollila property as well as downstream stretches, which are enrolled in the Commercial Forest Reserve (CFR) program. This program allows public use of such lands for hunting and fishing by foot only - no motorized use. The Forestland Group owns this land. CCCTU board member Shawn Hagan is the Director of Forest Operations in the Great Lakes Region for The Forestland Group and he has granted us permission to continue stream improvement work on the Pilgrim where it flows through their property.

We encourage other CCCTU members to join us in these weekly work projects. There is much camaraderie and getting to know fellow members better, plus we are improving the resource at the same time. Stream restoration is thirsty work and we have been known to repair to the B&B afterwards for refreshments.

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# MY HEART BELONGS TO BETTY

By Tom Tippet

The "Betty McNault" is my favorite fly and is probably the most popular fly in the Upper Peninsula for brook trout. It is a version of the Trude Royal Coachman. I was first introduced to "Betty" as a beginner flyfisher in Ishpeming, where this variation of the Trude Royal Coachman was created.

The "Betty" can be tied as a streamer or dry fly depending on the type and amount of hackle used. When fished as a dry fly and it begins to drag, you can pull it under and retrieve it as you would a streamer. Fished as a streamer, you can cast it up and across or quarter it downstream. You'll get most of your strikes during the swing. It's a great small stream fly, ideal for the Gratiot and Trap Rock rivers. When you're brushed in or in tight quarters and can't cast effectively, put it on a leaf, float it down to your intended spot, pull it off and be ready for the strike.

I have also used the "Betty" effectively on Lost Lake, trolling it deep. Since I'm not a dry fly fisher, it is the first fly I'll start with whether there is a hatch on or not. I carry all sizes from a 2 through 14. Tie yourself a few and give the "Betty" a try. You just may be surprised as to how effective it is.



**Betty is fit to be tied.**

Directions: Hooks--For streamers use Mustad 3665A (6XL) or 79580 (4XL) in sizes 2-10. For dry flies use Mustad 94840 or equivalent in sizes 10-14. Thread: Black 6/0 or 8/0. Tail: Golden Pheasant Tippet's Body: Peacock herl and red floss, divide into approximately 1/3's. This does not apply when tying larger streamers. Wing: White polar bear hair, goat hair, calf tail or bucktail. Hackle: Rhode Island Red (brown). For streamers, use India dry fly or hen hackle. For dry flies, use high quality such as Metz necks. Tight lines, Tom Tippet. Wanna talk tying? E-Mail me at [tmtippet@bignet.net](mailto:tmtippet@bignet.net)

## CCCTU SENDING TWO LUCKY STUDENTS TO YOUTH RIVER FISHING CAMP

By Jim Junttila

CCCTU is sponsoring two area students to attend the 2003 Youth River Conservation & Fishing Camp, July 13-17, at the Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center on Higgins Lake in the heart of the northern lower peninsula's trout country.

Hosted by Kalamazoo Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited, the four-day camp is designed to educate boys and girls 13-16 about the importance of becoming stewards and conservationists and protecting our coldwater resources.

Campers learn how a watershed works and how we choose to use our land can effect the health of our streams, our trout and ourselves. Other classes, workshops and projects include stream restoration, hands-on stream improvement sessions, collecting and identifying insects that are trout food and learning what they can tell us about water quality and stream habitat.

Other activities are fly casting, spinner making, knot tying, wading safety, hatches and strategies. There will be a field trip to Hartwick Pines, one of the tallest stands of timber in Michigan, and fishing trips on the AuSable and Manistee Rivers.

Applications are available through select teachers and counselors at area high schools. Applicants must write a one-page essay indicating their interest in fishing, conservation and the outdoors, and why they would like to attend this camp. Deadline for completed applications is April 15, 2003.

For more information, contact Bill Deephouse, 482-6607, email [riverkpr@up.net](mailto:riverkpr@up.net).



## CCCTU SPONSORS THREE AREA STUDENTS TO LAKE SUPERIOR YOUTH SYMPOSIUM

By Jim Junttila

CCCTU is sponsoring three area students to attend the 5th Biennial Lake Superior Youth Symposium, April 24-27, 2003, at Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute, Northland College, Ashland, Wisconsin.

Themed "Embracing an Inland Sea: Living in Community around Lake Superior," the symposium is for students and teachers grades 8-12 in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan and Ontario, who live in or care about the watersheds and communities of Lake Superior and the Great Lakes.

CCCTU first participated in the symposium at Michigan Tech in May 2001 and sponsored two area students. Bill Deephouse, Jim Junttila and Ray Weglarz participated as classroom presenters and field trip guides.

The symposium is an outstanding event designed to inform, inspire and motivate students and teachers to become stewards of Lake Superior. The goal is to increase understanding of challenging environmental and scientific issues, enhance appreciation for the diverse natural, cultural and historical resources of the Lake Superior region, and encourage participants to build on their symposium experience in their schools and communities after the event.

Symposium participants will attend presentations and field trips on wetland ecology, renewable energy, sustainable food production, wildlife ecology, forestry and water quality, Native American culture and land ethic, geology, fishery restoration, folk art, nature writing and photography.

Registration deadline is March 21. For more information, contact Joan Chadde, Western UP Center for Science, Math & Environmental Education, 487-3341 or email [jchadde@mtu.edu](mailto:jchadde@mtu.edu).

# NOBODY LEAVES PICNIC AT SALMON TROUT LODGE HUNGRY OR THIRSTY

By Jim Junttila

Saturday, September 7 was a perfectly sunny, 80-degree shorts and flip-flops kinda day, made to order for the annual CCCTU picnic, yet shrouded in mystery. We were booked at the luxurious Salmon Trout Lodge, a beautiful, remote fish camp-from-a-previous-life kinda place.



Thanks to the picnic committee and TU board member and our gracious host, Nels Christopherson, this picnic had "Good time Charlie" written all over it. You didn't have to walk very far to talk fishin or find something fishy going on, and it seemed like there was always an ice chest fulla cold refreshments nearby to lubricate the conversation.



Bill Lehtinen and Vici Burrows fired up the grill and barbequed some mighty tasty chicken, brats, hot dogs and hamburgers. The potluck picnic was made even tastier by the culinary contributions of members. Many thanks to all those who brought so much good food.

Kids of all ages frolicked about the sprawling, manicured grounds overlooking beautiful Salmon Trout Lake, disappearing behind woodpiles, into the woods, and enjoying tours of the lodge. A lotta friendly conversation-minded people drifted through, and nobody left hungry, thirsty or depressed.

Special thanks to Nels Christopherson, who let everyone pretty much run wild and do whatever they wanted. Show of hands if you want the picnic back out at Salmon Trout Lodge again this summer.

Photos by Jim Junttila.



## UNO LASSEOES OUTHOUSE IN CCCTU BEACH AND CABIN CLEAN-UP AT MOUTH OF THE GRATIOT.

By Bill Deephouse



Tipping over outhouses, TU style. Uno Issacson lassoed the old outhouse at the mouth of the Gratiot, then pulled it into a clearing with a front end loader where a CCCTU demolition crew broke it up and hauled it away.

On Saturday, September 21, 2002, thirteen Copper Country Chapter members plus a few wives, friends and volunteers assisted in the cleanup of Keweenaw County's newest park at the mouth of the Gratiot River. Don Keith and Frank Stubenrauch, both Keweenaw County Commissioners, plus Frank's son Steve and local businessman Uno Issacson contributed their expertise as well as a dump truck, front-end loader and cutting torches. Although most of the old cabin that had occupied the site since 1964 had been removed by midsummer, there was still

a lot of debris to be cleaned up. Broken glass, remains of the floor joists extending into the sand, an old outhouse, blown down trees, plasterboard, old tin cans and other garbage made for a busy day.

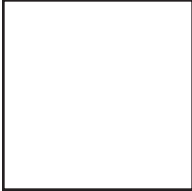
Uno lassoed the outhouse with a long chain and then pulled it into the clearing in order to break it apart and load it into the dump truck. There was a very well built water storage tank constructed out of an old fuel oil tank that sat on top of four lengths of six-inch steel pipe. The base of this

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**NEXT MEETING: Thursday, April 10 — 7pm**  
**Ramada Inn, Hancock Waterfront.**  
 Guest Speaker, Nancy Auer, Dept. of Biological Sciences, Michigan Tech,  
 "Sturgeon Research on the Sturgeon River"

**2003 OFFICERS**  
**Bill Depphouse**  
*President*  
 (906) 482-6607  
 riverkpr@up.net  
**Steve Albee**  
*Vice President*  
 (906) 482-2615  
 salbee@up.net  
**Donna Finley**  
*Secretary*  
 (906) 482-1430  
 jafinley@up.net  
**Thomas P. Suchneck**  
*Treasurer*  
 (906) 487-5483  
 tsuchene@cctsd.k12.mi.us

**Copper Country Chapter**  
**Trout Unlimited**  
 P.O. Box 232  
 Hancock, Michigan 49930



structure was embedded in a thick slab of concrete. Steve Stubenrauch used his cutting torches to dismantle the steel pipes from the base and tank, allowing all of the pieces to be loaded into the dump truck. CCCTU members and friends hand-picked pieces of cabin debris for hours and accumulated quite a pile of it for removal. Old tin cans and other garbage were removed from the nearby woods. A total of four dump truck loads of debris was hauled away to the landfill. At the end of the 9 AM to 3 PM work day, the site was really looking good. We figured that there were about 22 people working on this project for most of the day, representing a volunteer manpower investment of about 176 hours.



*From left: Uno Issacson, Steve Stubenrauch and Mark Stubenrauch cut steel pipe uprights off old water tank at Mouth of the Gratiot clean-up.*

involved with the cleanup. That was how we were able to enjoy soft drinks, chips and excellent sub sandwiches from the Mohawk Sub Shop at lunch. Gloves and other safety items were also purchased with the grant money as well as paying for landfill tipping charges and rental of heavy equipment.

We were able to dovetail this project nicely with a beach cleanup coordinated by CCCTU members John & Jane Griffith of the North Woods Conservancy (NWC) and also members of the Michigan Nature Association

(MNA). Members of MNA scoured about a half-mile of lakeshore on their nature preserve property south of the Gratiot River Park and NWC members took care of several miles of lakeshore north of the park. The CCCTU cabin cleanup crew walked the approximately 4000 feet of frontage contained in the new park. Together the three organizations collected a total of 25 bags of garbage, which amounted to about 225 pounds and resulted in approximately 3.7 miles of cleaned lakeshore. A total of 35 people participated in the beach cleanup from all three organizations. A pretty successful day all around.

**NEW FLY TYING GROUP**  
**LOOKING FOR INTEREST**  
 CCCTU member Don Kreher, Houghton, is starting Copper Country Fly Tiers, an informal group of fly fishermen and tiers interested in learning the art of fly tying. Open to experienced tiers, beginners and novices, men and women alike. For more information, contact Don Kreher, 487-6778, or email kreher@mtu.edu.

It should be mentioned that Steve Albee had assisted Don Keith in successfully applying for a Michigan Department of Environmental Quality grant to governmental organizations involved in river cleanups. Since the old cabin was situated right at the confluence of the river and Lake Superior, it was a perfect project and qualified for \$1046 to offset costs