

Hannibal Bolton, USF&WS Chief, Visits the Keweenaw and Coaster Country

By Jim Junttila



Hannibal Bolton takes a deep breath of pristine Coaster Country air while touring CCCTU stocking and electroshock sites on the Gratiot River.

Hannibal Bolton, Chief, Division of Fish & Wildlife Management and Habitat Restoration, USF&WS, was making a presentation to the Outdoor Writers of America when I asked what was being planned for the coaster recovery in Lake Superior. Hannibal's eyes lit up and I knew we had a kindred spirit in our corner.

Turns out Hannibal had once worked at the Ashland, WI, office of USF&WS, and coaster brook trout were near and dear to his heart. He was intimately familiar with the Lake Superior watershed and this neck of the woods, although he'd been long gone and working in Washington DC these days. I invited him up for a chance to reconnect with an area he loved and to take an up-close and personal tour of Coaster Country and CCCTU's efforts to restore this magnificent fish.

Bill Deepphouse and I guided Hannibal on a whirlwind tour of the Keweenaw and the Gratiot River, focus stream for CCCTU's ongoing research by Dr. Casey Huckins, Michigan Tech, and Michigan DNR Fisheries.

We waded the mouth of the Gratiot and upstream stocking and electroshocking sites. Other rivers on the Coaster Connection tour included the Tobacco, Big and Little Betsy, Traverse, Traprock, Big and Little Silver, Pilgrim, and McGunn's Creek, giving Hannibal a perspective of the Keweenaw watershed.

Meetings with Casey Huckins at Michigan

Tech, Steve Albee, Bill Deepphouse and other CCCTU board members, covered TU's collaborative partnerships with Tech, Michigan DNR, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, USF&WS and others involved in the Lake Superior Coaster Brook Trout Initiative.

We are currently exploring continued research and recovery strategies and alternative avenues of funding for the Coaster Recovery Initiative. The topic is on the agenda for the 134th Annual Conference of American Fisheries Society in Madison, WI, August 22-26. For more information, visit www.afsmadison2004.org. To learn more about coaster brook trout, check out the Spring 2004 Coaster Connection newsletter at www.tu.org/conservation/coaster_newsletter.asp or contact Todd Breiby, TU Midwest Office, Madison, WI, tbreiby@tu.org, 608-255-0361.



Above: Bill and Hannibal discuss coaster spawning habitat near the mouth of Little Silver River on Lake Superior.

Below: Bill Deepphouse and Hannibal Bolton discuss the potential of the mouth of the Tobacco River on Lake Superior as a possible site for future coaster plantings.

Photos by Jim Junttila



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Trout Unlimited Sponsors Women's Fly Fishing Day June 12

The Copper Country Chapter of Trout Unlimited sponsored a free Women's Fly Fishing Day on Saturday, June 12, at Chassell Centennial Park. This event is an introductory experience for women 18 or older interested in learning how to fly fish.



TU fly casting instructors Denise Marth and Ray Weglarz take a breather between double hauls at Women's Flyfishing Day, Chassell. Photo by Jim Junttila

The presentation covered awareness of fish habitat, rods, reels, equipment, techniques, fly tying and casting demonstrations and lessons. Rods, reels and flies were provided. Some of the women present brought their own equipment. A picnic lunch was catered.

"We scheduled Women's Fly Fishing Day to coincide with Michigan Free Fishing Weekend, June 12-13, so no license was required," said Denise Marth, event coordinator, instructor and fly fisher.

Trout Unlimited volunteers conducted morning and afternoon fly casting instruction sessions with a picnic lunch in between, including a fly tying demonstration and workshop.

"Women can learn the basic skills in a short time," said Ray Weglarz, TU member who has taught fly fishing and fly tying for 25 years. "It takes rhythm, coordination and grace to flycast, something women often seem to learn quicker than men," he added.

"Our last Women's Fly Fishing Day was a great success and a lot of fun, too," Marth enthused. "Everyone who participated learned a lot. Several women even caught fish, got the bug, and have become active flyfishers and TU members . . . that's what we like to see."

For more information, contact Denise Marth at 906-334-2736 or denisemarth@hotmail.com.

Calumet High School Students to Attend TU Youth River Fishing Camp July 11-15

By Paul Sulisz

Two lucky Calumet High School students are looking forward to the time of their lives July 11-15, thanks to an educational outreach sponsorship by CCCTU. James Benson and Drew Walsh were selected to attend the camp, valued at \$285 each, for the quality of their essays on the topic.

This is the third consecutive year CCCTU has sponsored local students to attend the Youth River Conservation & Fishing Camp, at the Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center on Higgins Lake near Roscommon.

Hosted by the Kalamazoo Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited, the camp is made possible through the effort and contributions of Michigan Trout Unlimited Chapters and their volunteers, Michigan Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Division, the staff at Hartwick Pines State Park, Anglers of the AuSable, Upper Manistee River Restoration Council, Kalkaska and Calhoun County Conservation Districts, and the Crawford County Transportation Authority.

The four-day camp is designed to educate 12-16 year old boys and girls about the importance of becoming responsible fishers, stewards and conservationists, and protecting our coldwater resources. Campers learn how a watershed works, and how we use our land can effect the health of our streams, our trout and ourselves.

Campers discuss river restoration and complete a hands-on stream improvement project. Students are introduced to the art of fly fishing and fly tying as well as spinner making. Lecture topics include river dynamics, habitat improvement, insect identification, and water quality problems and solutions. Students are taken canoeing and fishing on the AuSable and Manistee Rivers.

Benson and Walsh will appear as guests at a future CCCTU meeting to share their experiences with us. For more information, contact Paul Sulisz, 483-0758, psulisz@pasty.com.



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Thanks for the media

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Second Annual KBIC Youth Fishing Derby June 26

By Denise Marth

The Natural Resources Department of Keweenaw Bay Indian Community will host their 2nd Annual Youth Fishing Derby on Saturday, June 26, 2004. The event will be held in the Sand Point area near Baraga and is supported by several collaborative partners including Copper Country Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

The objective of the event is to introduce area kids to fishing and provide them with equipment, lessons, mentoring and support from experienced fishermen.

Kids fish for bass, bluegills, and trout in a stocked pond. Casting contests and other fun, fishing-related games make this a popular, memorable event and every kid goes home with prizes. This was the first time fishing for many of the younger kids who were thrilled to



Here fishy fishy fishy! Baraga County kids enjoy catching bluegill, bass and trout at the second annual KBIC Kids Fishing Derby. Photo by Denise Marth.

receive a free rod, reel and tackle kit of their own.

Last year's successful event attracted several hundred people with 97 kids receiving free fishing rods. TU

members wishing to volunteer as mentors for this youth outreach project should contact Denise Marth, 906-334-2736 or denisemarth@hotmail.com

New CCCTU Board Members Elected

By Bill Leder

Four new board members were elected at the February 12, 2004 meeting.

Don Kreher is entering his third season of flyfishing. Along with his decision to take up flyfishing, Don resolved to fish only with flies he tied himself, so he learned fly tying. Hence, the Copper Country Chapter Trout Unlimited fly tying club was born and meets monthly at his house in Houghton. Don has conducted three classes in which he has taught ten kids the basics of fly tying. He can be reached at 487-6778 or kreher@mtu.edu.

Gale Jamsen, a 12-year resident of Eagle Harbor and a Copper Harbor native, worked for 25 years on wildlife and fisheries projects as a statistician with the Michigan DNR. During 1997-98 he served in the Peace Corps in the Ukraine, assigned to Synevyr National Park where he provided technical assistance and environmental education. Contact him at 482-3156, or gajamsen@yahoo.com.

Bill Leder grew up in downstate Allen Park. He began flyfishing on lakes in southern Michigan at age ten. Bill graduated from Michigan Tech in 1968. He semi-retired and moved with his wife to Houghton in March 2003. Bill's trout fly-fishing experience is mostly in Colorado, northern California, and British Columbia. While living in California he was a member of the Diablo Valley Fly-Fishing Club. Contact Bill at 482-0158, bleder@lealiott.com.

Nick Enz grew up fishing in the flatlands of Kansas for largemouth bass and bluegill, and has only recently called the Copper Country his home. He received his B.A. in Music

Education from Bethel College in North Newton, KS, and is currently involved in a variety of local music education projects. Nick has always found a deep satisfaction in nature and enjoys a variety of outdoor activities including backpacking, bicycling, and of course, fishing. Involvement in all of these activities has given him a deep, hands-on appreciation of the delicate environment in which we live. He embraces TU's mission of conservation and is eager to share his ideas and become more actively involved in the preservation of the environment. He can be reached at nick_enz@yahoo.com.



New CCCTU board members from left: Gale Jamsen, Bill Leder, Nick Enz, Rod Aho, Don Kreher. (Editor's Note: Rod Aho has since resigned from the board). Photo by Donna Finley

Coaster Connection Goes On-Line

By Steve Albee

MADISON, WI As Copper Country Chapter TU members and friends, you are all probably well aware that your chapter is an active partner in the ongoing Coaster Brook Trout (CBT) restoration program in the Lake Superior basin.

If you are unaware of this fact, and this assumption takes you by surprise, the following news release from Todd Breiby, TU Coaster Brook Trout Program Coordinator, Midwest Office, Madison, WI, will help bring you up to speed on this subject.

National Trout Unlimited (TU) and 26 other organizations and agencies are involved in the coaster rehabilitation effort, which combines research, protection, and reintroduction programs for this once prolific but now imperiled fish species.

National TU has launched a website, www.tu.org/conservation/coaster/asp, that does a beautiful job of combining comprehensive information on the coaster restoration effort. A highlight of the site is a directory of researchers, resource managers, and advocates working on the Lake Superior Coaster Brook Trout Initiative.



TU member and coaster researcher Darren Kramer holds a slab coaster he caught and released in the Salmon Trout River. Photo courtesy of Darren Kramer.

Also, a new quarterly newsletter, Coaster Connection, premiered in March 2004, detailing basin-wide advocacy efforts. Recent and past newsletters will be available on the TU

coaster website. For more information, contact Todd Briebby (608-255-0361), tbriebby@tu.org.

Gone Fishin': CCCTU Suspends Meetings for Summer; Next meeting September 9

By Donna Finley

As you know, we usually suspend our general membership meetings for June, July and August to get in a little fishing, enjoy the evening hatch, and work on stream restoration, fisheries habitat, community outreach and fundraising projects. This summer is no exception. Our regular monthly meetings will resume on September 9. *Don't miss our Summer Social at Twin Lakes State Park, Saturday, August 14.*

CCCTU would like to thank the Ramada Inn Waterfront, Hancock, for making their meeting rooms available to us. Join us at 7 pm the second Thursday of every month as CCCTU strives to feature informative speakers discussing outdoor, fisheries and conservation topics of interest to Copper Country fishermen and women.

Speakers and programs you've either enjoyed or missed over the past months include Rich Bowman,

Executive Director, Michigan Council Trout Unlimited; Terry Morse, USF&WS, Marquette, gave an excellent presentation on the lamprey program in Lake Superior and the Great Lakes; Dr. Ted Bornhorst, professor of Geology at Michigan Tech; Mike Donofrio, Fisheries Biologist & Natural Resources Director, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community; George Madison, Fisheries Supervisor, MDNR West Lake Superior Management Unit; Bruce Petersen, Natural Resources Conservation Unit, Torch Lake Remediation Project.

As always, we like to hear from our members. If you have an idea for particular speakers or programs you would like to see at Trout Unlimited, contact Bill Leder, 482-0158, bleder@leaelliott.com, or Donna Finley, 482-1430, dmfinley@earthlink.net. As a courtesy, we try to book our speakers at least 30 days in advance.

California Leech

By Ray Weglarz

Over the past decade, the California Leech has become my favorite streamer/leech pattern and has accounted for more big fish than any other pattern. I got the fly from my brother Gary who got it from an old gent running a seasonal fly shop on Idaho's Henry's Lake. The guy caught many rainbow and cutthroat more than 30 inches each year, and this was one of his most successful patterns.

The original brown color scheme is still my favorite but I also tie the fly in black and white. The black is sometimes better for brookies and the white seems to work better for browns. The fly is also effective for bass and walleye. I have landed some monsters on large tungsten cone head Californias and full sink lines.

Recipe:

Hook: Teimco (TMC) 5262, 2X long and 2X stout sizes 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10

Thread: 3/0 olive or to match body/tail

Tail: Olive/brown marabou, 2-3 plumes extending past body length of hook shank

Body: Krystal Seal or equivalent, olive/brown

Flash: Lime Crystal Flash, 4-10 strands in tail and 4-10 strands at head of hook

Weight: Fly may be tied unweighted for shallower waters and weighted with cone/bead for deeper fishing. I am sold on Tungsten Cone Heads from Cold Spring Anglers to get the fly down to the fish quickly.

Tying Instructions: If weighted, put cone head on and attach hook to vise securely. Start thread at head of hook. Select 2-3 plumes of marabou with soft stems. Tie in just behind eye of



hook and wrap securely to tail end of hook so marabou extends from end of hook the length of hook shank. Tie in crystal flash to blend with marabou tail. Trim crystal flash to length of tail. Form large dubbing loop, 5 inches long for size 2 fly. Wax dubbing loop and place Krystal Seal fibers length of loop and spin loop to form dubbing. Wrap dubbing to cover 4/5 of hook shank, leaving generous area for head/eye. Tie in crystal flash fibers at head of hook and secure them so they stick upwards and backwards from eye of hook at 45-degree angle. The crystal flash will bend downwards along hook shank when the fly is stripped, and bounce upwards when fly is stopped, an important part of the fly's appeal. When I tie the fly in black, I use red crystal flash in the tail and for the head winds. When I tie the fly in white, I use a pearlescent crystal flash. Good fishing! —Ray

CCCTU Fly Tiers Mentor 4-H Kids Through Fly Tying and Project Fish

By Don Kreher

The CCCTU fly tying group meets once a month from November to April, for a social evening of fly tying and the exchange of ideas.

This year Lou Owens entertained us with his knowledge of wet flies, Jim Finley taught us how to tie the A.P. nymph, and I taught how to tie an extended body grasshopper.

This year we welcomed newcomers, Jeremy Shannon and Nick Enz. Jeremy is an expert at spinning deer hair and constructing pike flies. Nick has been teaching the Project F.I.S.H. curriculum as an after school program in Calumet.

I was able to attend a Project F.I.S.H. workshop in Tustin, MI. Project F.I.S.H. stands for Friends Involved in Sportfishing Heritage. It is a national mentoring program with the goal of introducing kids to sportfishing. It covers 5 aspects of fishing: Tackle

Crafting, Aquatic Ecology, Mixed Creel, Angling Skills, and People and Fish. I was most interested in Tackle Crafting, and was able to share my experiences teaching kids the art of fly tying.

Last winter at 4-H Spring Discovery I volunteered to teach fly tying and was pleased to instruct kids in the Mohawk Keweenaw Cool Cats 4-H Club and in the Toivola Country Clovers 4-H Club. I also hope to run another summer program for kids this year.

Panfish are great for kids to catch on the fly. Sunfish, crappie, bluegill and largemouth bass are all willing biters. My favorite panfish fly is the Marabou Damsel nymph. It works great when there are dragonflies and damselflies on the water. You can cast with either a fly rod or with your spinning rod by adding a float about 2 feet above the fly. A picture and recipe follows:



Marabou Damsel Nymph

Hook: Eagle Claw 202A Aberdeen Light wire, size 6-10.

Thread: Black.

Eyes: Silver or black plastic bead chain.

Tail: Yellow Marabou.

Body: Thin wrapped yellow Marabou.

Rib: Clear v-rib.

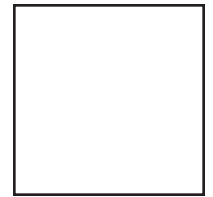
Wing case: Turkey.

Thorax: Thick wrapped yellow marabou.



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NEXT MEETING: Thursday, September 9 — 7pm
Ramada Inn, Hancock Waterfront.
Program to be announced.

One for the Money: CCCTU Seeks Treasurer

Among the hardest jobs in any organization is treasurer. At least the hardest to get people to volunteer for. As everybody knows, Tom Suchenek has done a helluva job as our one and only treasurer since this chapter started, and deserves a standing ovation for his long service. He continues to do the job until somebody else is willing to take it over.

With 100-some members, there oughta be somebody willing to step up and volunteer for treasurer. If you'd like to be the one for our money, please contact Steve Albee, president, salbee@up.net, 482-2615, or Donna Finley, secretary, dmfinley@earthlink.net, 482-1430. Ask not what TU can do for you, but what you can do for TU.

TU Summer Social Slated For Twin Lakes August 14

By Bill Leder

A warm summer afternoon, a cool lake breeze, good food and drink, and lots of fish stories. What more could you ask for? How about a refreshing swim? Games and prizes? Plans are underway for a summer social to be held at Twin Lakes State Park on Saturday, August 14. In addition to good food and stimulating conversation, the park provides opportunities to try your luck with some fishing. Bring your boat and motor, canoe, kayak or float tube, or just wade the shoreline. Plans are being hatched for casting contests, fun, games, 50/50 drawings and activities for the whole family. This event will replace what would be the 5th Annual CCCTU Conservation Banquet, usually held in March. For more information or to volunteer for the summer picnic committee, contact Shawn Hagan, 288-3380, shawn@forestlandgroup.com.