

Spring 2005 Edition

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## Deephouse Receives Michigan Trout Unlimited Award

By Bill Leder

HOUGHTON — Bill Deephouse has received the "Order of the Caddis," a prestigious award bestowed annually by the Michigan Council of Trout Unlimited to recognize the most active, effective, and valued members of the state wide organization. Deephouse is the 18th individual to be inducted into this elite "Hall of Fame" for volunteer conservationists.

Deephouse, a 1963 biological sciences masters graduate of Michigan Technological University, has been involved in a wide range of sport fishing activities in the UP for over 35 years. He was an avid outdoor sportsman while a student at Michigan Tech, completed a professional career with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and has been an energetic volunteer with Trout Unlimited (TU). He was part of a group of ten persons who founded the Copper Country Chapter of TU in 1998. For six years he served on the board of directors, including a three-year term as president.

Steve Albee, immediate past president, said, "Bill has worked tirelessly for years on many projects including youth education, introducing fly fishing to women, stream restoration, and initiatives aimed at reestablishing self-sustaining populations of native Coaster Brook Trout along the south shore of Lake Superior." Deephouse recently completed service as chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee providing guidance to the MDNR on appropriate uses of the 6,200 acres of Keweenaw County land that recently became public.

Rich Bowman, Executive Director of the Michigan Council said of Bill, "He has been a tireless advocate for scientifically based coldwater fisheries management and restoration. The Michigan Council of Trout Unlimited is widely regarded as one of the most effective state TU's in the nation, and



Bill Deephouse

that reputation is based upon the unselfish work of volunteers like Bill Deephouse."

TU's mission is to conserve, protect and restore North America's trout and salmon fisheries and their watersheds. There are 125,000 members in 500 chapters nationwide. The organization was formed in 1959 in Grayling, Michigan. The Copper Country Chapter meets at 7:00 pm on the second Thursday of the month at the Ramada Inn in Hancock.

# CCCTU's Sphere of Interest

By Steve Albee

Does anyone know what our chapter's sphere of interest is? That question drew some long looks from your board of directors, where I tried it on them a few months ago. I have to admit that question would have had me scratching my head if I hadn't run across a map that pointed it out to me. I found it in one of the many file folders our unofficial chapter archivist and historian, Bill Deephouse, passed on to me. After examining it for some time, some faded conversations from 1997 and 1998 about chapter boundaries faintly resounded in my ears.

Being one not to enjoy an unquestioned life, my first questions were why and how did this sphere of interest get determined? To obtain some answers I turned to the fount of our chapter's institutional memory, Ray Weglarz and Bill Deephouse, our past chapter presidents.

The answer to my first question involved Trout Unlimited National. It seems they want each chapter to have a geographic area to call home territory or

a "sphere of interest." Therefore, to get designated as an official chapter, we needed a sphere of interest.

To answer my second question, as to how the boundaries were determined, I learned T.U. uses zip codes. This probably makes sense in the urban areas, but I am not so sure it works in rural areas like our Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Since neither Ray nor Bill could add anything as to how zip codes worked for CCCTU, I then moved to more understandable criteria, watersheds.

Ray and Bill both confirmed that they had discussed watershed boundaries with regard to a Copper Country Chapter. They somehow wanted to include the Ontonagon (on the west), the Huron (on the east), and the Sturgeon (on the south). This allowed for the inclusion of most of Baraga County, most of Houghton County, the eastern third of Ontonagon County, and all of Keweenaw County, which includes Isle Royale. A pretty good representation of what we understand to be the Copper Country!

So we have a sphere of interest. So what! Well, for one thing, and probably

the most important, we know in this geographic area there are quite a few sports clubs, conservation organizations, and environmental groups looking after the landscape and its natural resources. While CCCTU is a river and stream oriented group, we frequently share common interests on specific issues with these other entities. We have in the past, and will continue in the future, to work together to accomplish our common objectives.

More specifically, I have brought this topic to your attention because of a new column, A Featured River, we are introducing in this issue of One More Cast. In this column we plan to periodically feature one of the rivers in our sphere of interest. We've been blessed with some real good ones. Our goal is to improve the angling experience of you, our members. To that end, we will be providing useful background information about these streams without divulging anyone's secrets.

We hope, when asked, that you will share with our readers what makes a particular stream special to you!



## Official Newsletter of the Copper Country Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Published quarterly or whenever we get around to it.

Bill Leder, Editor & Publicist

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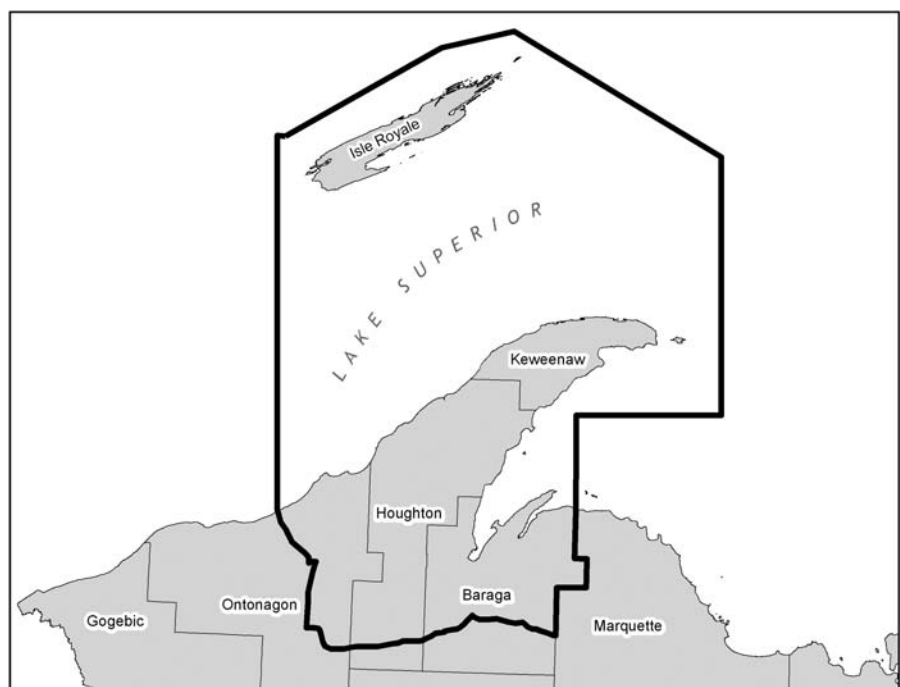
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## Trout Unlimited Copper Country Chapter Sphere of Interest

Located in Michigan's Upper Peninsula



Sphere of Interest

# CCCTU Supports Sixth Annual Lake Superior Youth Symposium

During its December meeting the CCCTU board of directors voted to contribute \$500 to help fund transportation for local middle and high school students and teachers to attend the 2005 Lake Superior Youth Symposium. Joan Schumaker Chadde, Education Program Coordinator for the Western Upper Peninsula Center for Science, Mathematics & Environment, has provided the following background.

The 2005 Lake Superior Youth Symposium will take place Thursday, May 12 through Sunday, May 15 in Thunder Bay, Ontario, hosted by Sir Winston Churchill Collegiate and Vocational Institute (a high school). Thunder Bay is located 200 miles north of Duluth, MN.

This Sixth Biennial Lake Superior Youth Symposium for grades 7-12 students and teachers has been held every two years since 1995. Once again, students from Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Ontario will come together as stewards of the Lake Superior watershed. Participants will listen to keynote speakers talking about issues and events impacting on the watershed. They will attend workshops dealing with topics like waste audits, landfill management, climate change, exotic species, water sampling, timber management, environmental sustainability, and more.

Field trips have been designed in order to visit unique locations around the Thunder Bay area where experts will facilitate new learning experiences such as touring: the Thunder Bay Harbor; a grain elevator; a paper mill; Fort William Historical Park; the arctic micro climate at Ouimet Canyon; a fish hatchery; the Mission Marsh; the Williams Bog; Conservation Authority projects; climbing 450 meters up the Sleeping Giant; the Kingfisher Outdoor Education facility; a managed forest; alternative energy projects; alternative housing designs; an award winning landfill; university and college environmental programs/facilities; and much more.

Arts and cultural connections are an important part of the conference and will be represented by exhibitions of literary works; artistic works; musical performances; films; and dramatic productions. A dance will bring the whole group together to celebrate the lake and their conference participation on the Saturday night.

The location of the symposium every two years circles Lake Superior, alternating between Wisconsin, Ontario, Minnesota, and Michigan and

is hosted by local educational institutions. This will be the second time the conference has visited Ontario (White Pines Collegiate in Sault Ste. Marie hosted the symposium in 1997). 95% of past student delegates indicated a desire to attend the next conference. Churchill High School students have attended the past three symposiums.

A web site will be active soon and can be accessed from: <http://swclinux.lhbe.edu.on.ca>

For more information or to be put on a contact list for registration, contact Doug Jones at: [dougyjones@shaw.ca](mailto:dougyjones@shaw.ca) or (807) 345-7671 (home) or (807) 473-8100 (school). A detailed program is available.

The Western UP Center is a partnership of Copper Country and Gogebic-Ontonagon Intermediate School Districts and Michigan Technological University, serving 21 school districts and the communities of Houghton, Baraga, Gogebic, Ontonagon and Keweenaw Counties.

CCCTU is pleased to be able to support such a worthwhile activity. Personal contributions would be greatly appreciated.

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## Dr. Jill Leonard on Coaster Brook Trout

HANCOCK — CCCTU wishes to express its sincere appreciation to Jill Leonard, Assistant Professor of Biology at Northern Michigan University, for coming to the Copper Country and making an excellent presentation titled, "Coaster Brook Trout and the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore." Through the work of her Fish Biology Laboratory at NMU, substantial research is underway to help unravel the mysterious coaster. Dr. Leonard's presentation, given on February 10, focused on streams and Lake Superior waters in the Pictured Rocks area.



Dr. Jill Leonard

# Some Thoughts about Learning to Tie Flies

By Bill Leder

I suppose my interest in fly tying is rooted in family history. My father tied flies a long time ago. I have his fly tying vise that dates to the late 1930s. It's quite low-tech compared to a modern vise, but it gets the job done all the same. My father lived in New York City, an unlikely place for a fly fisherman. I remember his stories of taking the train upstate with friends to fish the Neversink River.

So it was with eager anticipation that I signed up last fall for Don Kreher's beginning fly tying class. Nels Christopherson and I were the students. We met for three consecutive Thursday evenings, tying four or five flies during each class. I had often wondered how complicated flies were tied. They seemed very mysterious. Don is a master teacher who combines technical know-how with a great amount of patience. He really enjoys

tying, and his enthusiasm was contagious. (The patience part was especially important for me as I tried to replicate his steps in an all-to-often clumsy manner.)

Some of my creations looked really bad, more like Frankenstein's monster than an insect. Others were okay, but Don assured me that they all would catch fish. How durable these first attempts will be is a question that will have to wait until next spring. By the end of the last class, we had tied a wide range of streamers, nymphs, and dries. And of course we tied the foam spider featured in the last issue of *One More Cast*.

I now have most of the basic equipment and a beginning supply of materials. I found that it's very important to have a good task lamp, especially for older guys like me. Basic

skills and techniques are learned in the classes. It's important to hone the skills by practicing, which is a good activity on long winter evenings. Besides accumulating a good supply of flies at low cost compared to buying them, tying will make you a better fisher. You will have a wide range of types and sizes in your arsenal. And your increased knowledge of insect anatomy will enable you to match the hatch with more accuracy.

I'm anxious for next spring and to experience the thrill of catching my first fish on a fly that I tied.

If you would like to learn fly tying, please contact Don. The cost is \$5.00 per session to cover materials, which is very reasonable. It's also a good opportunity to get better acquainted with some of your fellow CCCTU members.

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## It's All About Timing

By Jim Baker

Fly fishing for trout is often all about the details. Having the right line, the right leader, the right fly, and the right cast can often be the difference between a hooked fish and a spooked fish. In addition to all of these details, the right time of year and even the right time of day often determine the amount and size of fish ready to be caught.

I've been fishing the hex hatch on the Manistee River in lower Michigan for almost 20 years. Just fitting it in with all the other trips of the short summer is a chore. On top of that, monitoring spring runoff conditions and following water temperatures to time the hatch as close as possible makes scheduling the trip an exercise in good planning, good luck, and a bit of clairvoyance. Some years we time it right and it becomes a great fishing trip. Other years we miss it and wind up with a good camping trip and a nightly swim.

When you hit the hatch, it's pretty easy. Hex flies mostly come out at night. So, we sleep late in the morning, prepare our gear in the afternoon, and head out fishing late

in the evening; rinse and repeat. Night fishing has advantages. We run short, heavy leaders, and use big ugly flies, a contrast to day fishing where leader diameter and fly aesthetics can be crucial.

This past year, new CCCTU board member, Tim Schulz, joined me for the trip. About three days into the trip the fishing was ok, but not great. It was around noon, and Tim was talking to his wife on a cell phone about spending a little more time on the river and hoping that the bugs would pick up later in the week. While talking and surveying the river, he saw a nice brown cruising near the far bank. Since Tim was occupied talking to his wife, I grabbed a rod and headed to the river. I still had the 4 foot 10 lb leader and a big ugly fly on from the previous night and thought about changing them but was feeling lazy. I rationalized that it was the middle of the day, and on this river, big fish often don't take flies in the middle of the day; so this fish could either refuse the leader and fly that I had on, or refuse what I would spend another ten minutes to put on.

So I went into the river with the short heavy leader and the big ugly fly, and gave it a shot. To my amazement, the fish took the fly on the second cast, and before her release, she measured to 23 inches, my biggest Manistee Brown.

We hadn't timed the hatch so well that year, but the timing worked out well for me in a different way. I had a spotter who was occupied with one of the few things in life that comes before fish, and I had time to get to the river before the fish moved on. Tim's timing wasn't quite as good, but I think he was happy for me, at least a little. Hopefully I can return the favor next time.



My 23 Inch Brown Trout

# A Featured River: The Gratiot River and its Watershed

By Steve Albee

The Gratiot River and its watershed are found in the southwest quadrant of Keweenaw County, Michigan. The headwaters of the river originate in the rugged hills of the Keweenaw Upland (the Copper Range), in the Bruneau Creek U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) quadrangle. In this quadrangle, elevations range from 1,100 to 1,500 feet above sea level at their maximums. As a point of reference, Lake Superior's mean datum elevation is 602 feet above sea level.

The Gratiot's main channel begins at Horseshoe Pond and then twists its way some 17.2 miles before discharging into Lake Superior. The Gratiot, its main channel and tributaries, cover 33.4 miles within this beautiful and scenic watershed. The watershed itself is linear but compact in shape, measuring 10.8 miles in length from the Copper Range hills to the Lake Superior shoreline. At its widest part, it is 3.3 miles in width. A perimeter of 29.8 miles encompasses a watershed of 18.5 square miles or

11,859 acres.

The Gratiot is known as a good, traditional fishery in the Copper Country. The river is very scenic, and it affords anglers good access to the stream. The upper portion is a good brook trout stream, but brook trout can be found throughout the river. The lower reach below the Upper Falls hosts excellent steelhead runs in the spring and coho salmon in the fall.

Upstream from the highway (M-26/US-41) the river serves as a nursery area for naturally reared brook trout. To complement these native resident brook trout, the Michigan DNR has been stocking yearling brook trout annually. Historically these trout plants have taken place just west of Cliff Drive, but more recently they have been at No Name Pond.

The lower reach of the Gratiot from the Upper Falls to its mouth has been one of the demonstration areas along the south shore of the big lake for the

Lake Superior Coaster Brook Trout Restoration Initiative. Between 1999 and 2004, 180,000 Coaster Brook Trout fingerlings were released in this area of the Gratiot. For more information on stocking see CCCTU newsletter, One More Cast, December 2004 issue.

From Horseshoe Pond to Highway M-26/US-41, the waterway is small and flanked with dense brush. By the time it reaches the highway, it varies from 10 to 20 feet wide and is still overhung with tag alder, and the streambed contains many rocks. During the summer the flow can be reduced to a tickle, yet resident brook trout can still be found.

On the west side of Cliff Drive the watershed offers good conditions for macro-invertebrates (e.g., caddisflies, mayflies, and stoneflies) along with good habitat for brook trout such as undercut banks, and lots of woody debris. Compacted rock rubble and boulders constitute more than half the stream bottom, with sand and gravel furnishing the remainder.

This slick-running, rocky river is a torrent during snow-melt and spring rains. Wading anglers should use extreme caution. It contains a lot of small pocket water and is difficult to fish all the way down to Five Mile Point Road. Below the big rock bluff along Cliff Drive, the river tumbles and turns crazy.

*Continued on page 7*

## Copper Country Chapter Wins Clean Water Award

(From the *Daily Mining Gazette*, February 3, 2005)

The chapter recently received the Michigan Outdoor Writers Association's 2005 Clean Waters



Jim Baker shows award to members

Award at MOWA's winter meeting in Sault Ste. Marie. The award, presented since 1983, honors volunteer groups working to preserve and protect water and encouraging others to improve the environment and the future of outdoor recreation.

Jim Baker, President of CCCTU, said the chapter appreciates the honor. "I think people are excited with the recognition and energized that people are noticing the things that we're doing," he said.

MOWA considers anywhere from Gen to 100 projects per year. What stuck out the most for Clean Waters Award chairperson Linda Gallagher was the work with the lake Superior coaster brook trout. "To bring that back, or even try to, is really a fantastic effort," she said.

## A Few Notes About TU Dues

*From Gloria Strieter,  
CCCTU Treasurer*

TU dues should be renewed direct to TU National by snail mail or online at [tu.org](http://tu.org). This is a change from renewing dues locally. Annual dues are \$35 until age 62, when they decrease to \$20. Please contact me with any questions. [strieter@pasty.com](mailto:strieter@pasty.com) 296-9422

# A Shift in Natural Resources Management Perspective Ecosystem Management in Michigan

By Ann Wilson with the MDNR

(George Madison with the MDNR and Steve Albee contributed to this article.)

Michigan's natural resources are not separate phenomena, but rather are parts of an ecosystem. An ecosystem is composed of the non-living environment (e.g., topography, climate, geology, soil, hydrology) and all living organisms (e.g., plants, animals, microorganisms, and humans) occupying a given area. An ecosystem not only contains all these components, but also includes all the processes, functions, and interactions that bind these components together (e.g., nutrient cycles and energy flows).

The ecosystem concept views the earth's biosphere as a giant ecosystem that operates as a series of interconnected subsystems of different sizes that reside inside one another. They are nested together like a child's toy, the larger ones encompassing the smaller ones. These nested ecosystems are interconnected, and their boundaries are never closed. Rather, they are open all the time to the transfer of energy and materials to and from each other. This open boundary concept is important, for it must be remembered that the exchange of energy and materials with its surroundings is an important aspect of an ecosystem's operation.

Historically ecosystems have been defined as small homogeneous areas. Today, with the emphasis on ecosystem management, there is a need to recognize ecosystems on a broader scale. The results are natural landscape units that can be identified and mapped over wide areas (large regional geographic areas) or at local levels (small units such as rocky knolls, small marsh-filled depressions, or stands of trees).

Ecosystem management is a type of natural resource management or treatment that ensures consideration of the relationship among all living organisms (including human), their non-living environment, as well as the processes and interactions among them. Said somewhat differently, ecosystem

management is a planning approach of viewing the situation as a whole.

Michigan's Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has historically been organized into program divisions such as Wildlife, Fisheries, Forest Management, and so on, for both planning and field efforts. This formal organizational scheme works reasonably well for agencies and bureaucrats. In the real world, however, nature tends to operate along less formal lines that don't link well with human-based organizational themes. Resource management issues can also feature implications that involve multiple DNR divisions. This ecosystem planning approach helps dissolve the rigid lines of organizational structure, and features localized resource planning by the entire array of resource management disciplines.

The DNR has recognized the need to move from management by systems emphasizing individual species or commodity production to systems that recognize the importance of resource sustainability, ecological functions, the protection of biological diversity and the importance of humans as landscape components. In 1997 the DNR initiated an internal ecosystem management process known as Joint Ventures (JVs), which began the process.

The JV established its primary goals as those of developing management strategies aimed at protecting and enhancing sustainable natural resources to provide for: 1) ecosystem health, 2) economic benefit, and 3) societal values. It further identified three levels of organization within the DNR to carry out ecosystem management:

The Statewide Council made up of key leaders in the DNR, which set goals, objectives, and priorities for ecosystem planning.

Eco-Unit Teams to plan and coordinate the management of ecosystem management principles. There will be at least four, including two

in the U.P., one in the northern L.P., and at least one in the southern L.P.

Management Units that will be responsible for the implementation of the ecosystem plans.

What has transpired in Michigan thus far to achieve these goals? An Eco-Unit Team was first formed in the Eastern U.P. and began the groundbreaking work to establish a process by which to bring the term "ecosystem management" to life. Soon after the EUP Team was up and running, a team was formed in the Northern Lower Peninsula, and it too began to strategize a means to effectively set in motion the same concept. Most recently, a team has been established in the western U.P., and a team or teams in the southern U.P. are pending.

It also needs to be emphasized that the public will play an integral role in the establishment of goals and objectives for these teams. Already, numerous public meetings have taken place, more are being planned, and the teams are always open to input.

So what does ecosystem management have to do with cold water sport fishing? Here is just one example: A holistic approach can be used to address such problems as the commercial planting of Aspen trees near trout streams. Although such planting activity increases forestland, it may promote beaver dam activity, which deteriorates trout habitat by turning streams into ponds.

Ecosystem management is the future, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources is adopting goals, objectives, and priorities that make it part of Michigan's future.

Michael Koss is the leader of the Western U.P. Eco-Unit Team and can be reached at (906) 346-9201 ext. 14, or by email: [kossm@michigan.gov](mailto:kossm@michigan.gov).



## Gratiot River from page 5

After crossing Five Mile Point Road the river widens to 20 feet and picks up a little more depth. Cover types are noticeably lacking; nevertheless, natural reproduction also occurs here due to the rich macro-invertebrate populations. At the Upper Falls the river widens to 25 feet and contains trout-holding holes to 4 foot. From here to the mouth, prime water for steelhead and coho salmon is present.

The Upper Falls are to be found 2 to 2½ miles upstream from the mouth and are nestled in a 150 foot gorge called "The Conglomerate Hole." To access it, take Five Mile Point Road 2½ miles north of Ahmeek Village to South Farmer's Block Road. Turn left on S. Farmer's Block Road and drive straight ahead. After the pavement ends continue on the two-track dirt road until it ends at a clearing in the woods. It now requires a 200 yard walk down a foot-path over the hill into the gorge.

The Lower Falls are about a mile from the mouth, which is accessible by a two-track county road that begins across from the Ahmeek Cemetery on 5 Mile Point Road. This is the Gratiot River Road, which runs along the southwest side of the river and ends at the Lake Superior shoreline. Here Keweenaw County maintains a park of about 100 acres, which contains the mouth of the Gratiot River, 4,000 feet of shoreline, and 1/3 of a mile of river. The lake shoreline is a good place for surf-fishing for steelhead in the spring and coho in the fall. John Parsons reports that Menominee whitefish is also another species that is sought after along the shoreline here during the spring.

John Parsons, an experienced CCCTU angler, who happens to reside right next to the watershed and fishes the stream regularly, concurred with the assessment that the Gratiot is a great steelhead and coho fishery. While John acknowledges he has fished for brook

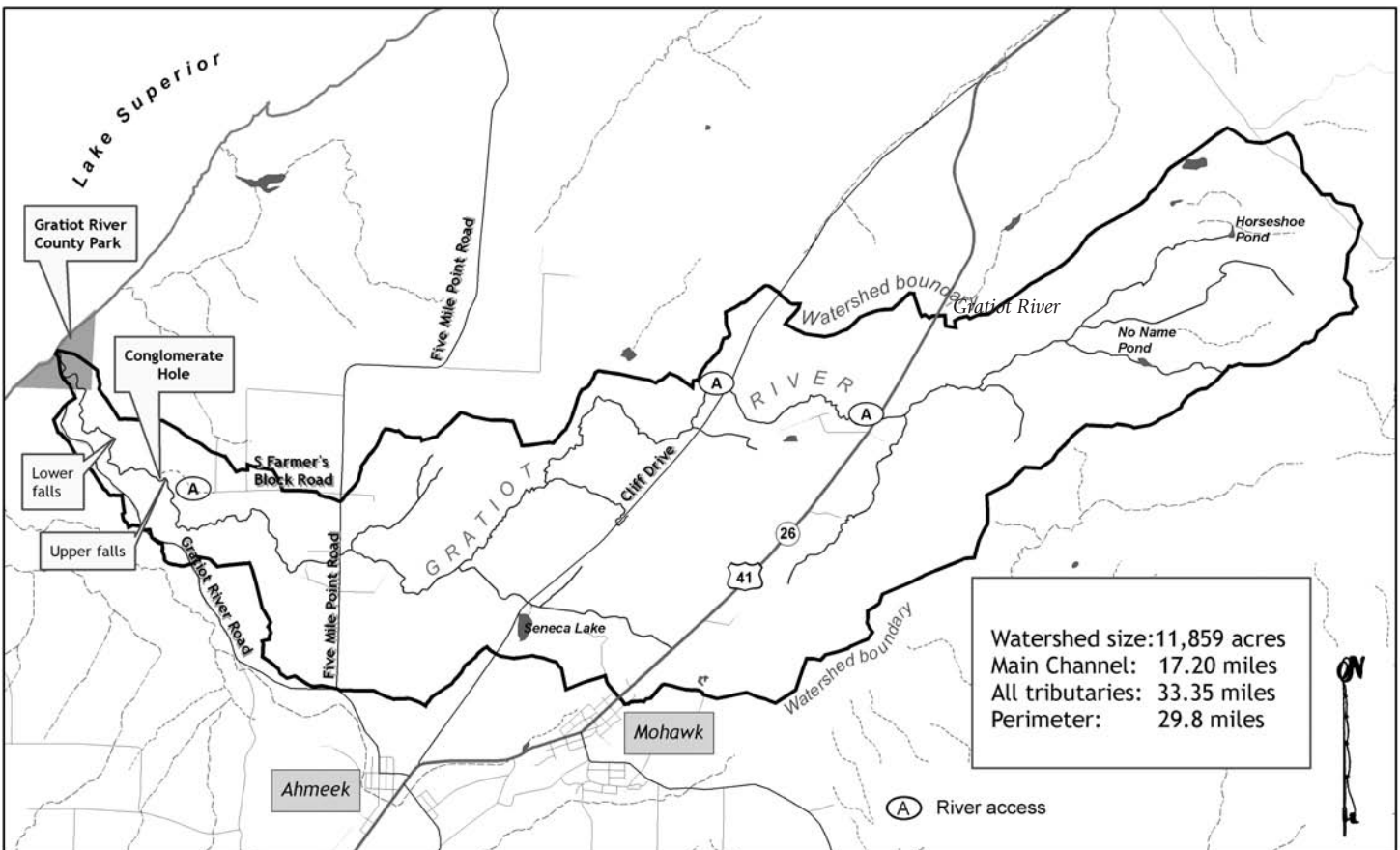
trout in the upper reaches of the stream, he admits he prefers the challenge of the lower reaches both in spring and fall. When asked if he ever caught any brown trout in the Gratiot, he fessed up right away with an enthusiastic "Yes!" But then, he quickly added, "Not many lately!"

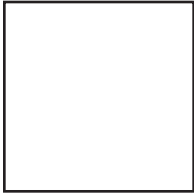
To conclude, whether one is challenging the trout or salmon, hiking the stream bank trails, or just walking on the stony shoreline of Lake Superior, the natural experience of the Gratiot is difficult to dismiss or forget. It should, therefore, come as no surprise that the Gratiot holds a special place in the hearts of CCCTU members as well as many others. It is our hope that all with whom we share the wonder of the Gratiot will remember that it is a fragile stream, one that needs our constant protection and stewardship.

Reference: Hugger, T. and G.W. Barfknecht. *Fish Michigan — 50 Rivers. How To; When To; Where To.* Vol. 1. 1995.



## Gratiot River Watershed Keweenaw County, Michigan





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## UPCOMING CHAPTER MEETINGS

Here is the tentative lineup for upcoming chapter meetings. You won't want to miss these opportunities!

**April** — Dr. Casey Huckins, Associate Professor of Biological Sciences at MTU, with an update on the latest research on Coaster Brook Trout.

**May** — Steve Albee will lead a program including a screening of the video on the previous Pilgrim River Habitat Improvement Project carried out by CCCTU, a discussion about the next phase of work on the Pilgrim, and plans for other summer activities.

These meetings will be held at the Ramada Inn in Hancock, beginning at 7:00 pm.

## Fish Tales Coho Salmon — A Yooper Recipe

By Rick Strieter

*(Editor's note: This is the first in what we hope will become a series of articles contributed by members of CCCTU)*

The first thing you should know is that I am not a fish eater. I do eat tuna fish that comes out of a can. Lobster, shrimp and crawdads are not safe when I'm around. And nothing goes better with a chilled bottle of light white wine as properly prepared squid.

My father, on the other hand, was a big fish eater, except he was of the school that if it's not trout it's trash! (Trash could be eaten in a dire emergency.) With this context I will relate to you my father's favorite recipe for coho salmon.

First you take a good-sized

baking flat and place small strips of hard or soft maple to cover the bottom. Then on this you place a layer of coho filet. You repeat the process of wood and filet. Then bake in a 250-degree oven for three hours.

When finished baking set aside to cool. Then separate the fish from the wood.

Now this next step is very important. Throw the coho away and you have the best kindling there is.



Rick Strieter