



2022/2023 CONSERVATION & EDUCATION PROGRAMS

CONSERVATION PROGRAM:

Traverse Valley Creek: We are beginning a partnership with a Trout Unlimited Chapter in the northern section of the Wisconsin Driftless Area. We budgeted **\$6,000** for the Traverse Valley Creek habitat improvement. Traverse Valley Creek, near Whitehall, Wisconsin is in Northern Trempealeau County and is an important Brook Trout stream. The Clear Waters Trout Unlimited Chapter asked for our assistance in making the necessary match for the National Fish Habitat Partnership Grant and the Conservation Committee and Board agreed to do so.

Dam Removal Projects: We budgeted **\$3,000** for dam removal projects including a contribution to the funding match for the proposed Power Falls Dam near River Falls, Wisconsin.

Timber Coulee Creek: This stream improvement project is moving forward after a delay last year. We budgeted **\$2,000** for this project in Vernon County, Wisconsin. Our chapter has a long history of projects in this part of the Wisconsin Driftless Area.

Sparta Wisconsin Area Projects: We continue with our partnership with Monroe County Land Conservation Department. Last we contributed funds to their Stream Crossing Assessment Project. We will contribute funds again this year which should conclude the assessment. **\$2,000** is budgeted for that as well easement signage and other projects.



Northeast Iowa Projects: We are once again partnering with the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation to obtain land acquisitions along the South Pine Creek which will then be turned over to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Money is also budgeted to assist with the fight over the proposed CAFO (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation) proposed for the headwaters of Bloody Run Creek in Northeastern Iowa. **\$2,000** has been set aside for both items.

Annual TUDARE Contribution: Without TUDARE, many of the projects that occur in the Driftless Area of Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, and Illinois would not happen. Our **\$1,500** contribution helps with TUDARE's administrative costs.

Coldwater River Monitoring: There is money in the budget this year for new Coldwater River Monitoring equipment. The new equipment will have Dissolved Oxygen Sensors that were not included in prior generations of these monitors. We have **\$1,200** budgeted for our Coldwater River Monitoring.

Dowagiac River: We have also included funding in the amount of **\$1,000** for various Dowagiac River projects. Since the Dowagiac Dam in Niles, Michigan has been removed, opportunities for future projects there are being reviewed.

Other Projects: \$1,000 has been budgeted for other projects that may arise. Past years' projects included items such as research projects on Coaster Brook Trout along Lake Superior or Grayling in Michigan.



TUDARE Conference/Other TU Conferences: As we return to more in-person conferences, we included **\$600** to pay for attendances at these educational seminars and conferences.

Stream Temperature Monitoring : \$500 has been set aside to pay for the replacement of lost sensors and to upgrade to blue tooth capable sensors in both Illinois and Michigan.

Other Trout Unlimited Chapter Partners: The Board thought it is only fair to offer to pay or help pay for a piece of equipment that will be used by Southeast Wisconsin (one of our TU Chapter partners) and us during workdays that we are invited to participate. **\$500** has been budgeted for this item(s).

Of course we will be scheduling various workdays to let our members put some sweat into what the mission of our organization is all about. **Total amount budgeted for our Conservation Program is \$21,300.**

EDUCATION PROGRAM:

We must mention what we have planned in our Education Program. We are proud of our **Trout in the Classroom Program**. It is the largest and most successful in the state. This program continues to grow each year. Our goal is to set up a new school each new school year, while maintaining existing schools.



Our **Summer Youth Fly Fishing Program** continues to educate scores of teens each summer. There are five sessions scheduled for 2022, one per month. This is a great way to teach the next generation about fly fishing.

Our Chapter is pleased to announce that we are partnering with Girl Scouts to hold our first **Stream Girls** session on June 11 with another set for later in the year. In this program, girls use investigation of a stream as a vehicle to further STEM education (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) along with Reading and Art (hence the extension of "STEM" to "STREAM"). Trout Unlimited volunteers lead the Girl Scouts in observing a stream, collecting flow data, sampling macroinvertebrates (aka aquatic bugs), fly tying, and fly casting. Time is also allowed to give the girls a chance to intimately explore their natural surroundings and record their thoughts, feelings, and observations in their handbooks. This program is successful in other states, and we are happy to be part of this effort.

The return of the **Illinois Council of Trout Unlimited's Youth Camp:** After a two-year hiatus, this youth camp is scheduled for the week of July 24th. Our chapter makes a donation to help defray some of the expenses associated with the camp.

The total amount budgeted for our Education Program is \$6,750.