

Trout Unlimited Mad River Chapter #477

2024/2025 Accomplishments Report

(4/1/2024-3/31/2025)

Working Collaboratively to Protect, Reconnect and Restore Ohio's cold water fisheries and their watersheds

Thanks to all the TU Mad River Chapter members and other volunteers for donating 2258 hours of their time.

PROTECT	Conducted trail clearings and honey suckle removal at the Martin property, Riley River Play Reserve (Clark County Parks), Pimtown Rd., Watson's, St Rt 29/296, and US 36 in Champaign County. Cleared 4 logjams, 3 down trees and a beaver dam to open flow and limit bank erosion.
PROTECT	Continued working to establish the Adopt-A-Bridge/Stream Watch Program and identify volunteers for each of the bridge and access areas. We still need a few more volunteers with the goal to address litter at 18 bridge and access areas on the Mad River. 2024 Annual Mad River Cleanup prepared, organized and conducted on September 21 with TUMR members and community volunteers. Cleanup was across all 18 access point along the Mad River from West Liberty to Mad River Gorge, Ohio. Total of 30 volunteers participated in the cleanup each donating approximatly 3 hours of their time for the cleanup.
PROTECT	Conducted 4 stream water quality monitoring events at locations within the Mad River Watershed.
PROTECT	Worked with watershed groups, including the Grand, Ashtabula and Conneaut Partnership, Rocky River Watershed Council, and other organizations and agencies, related to protecting Ohio's steelhead and trout fisheries, as well as the Ohio native brook trout. Attended the ODNR-DOW Trout and Steelhead Summit. Reviewed and provided comments on the Protection Plan for the Native Ohio Brook Trout.
PROTECT	Supported Mad River watershed protection in coordination with State and local agencies and organizations, as well as local communities and landowners, including litter cleanup, honeysuckle removal, parking lot improvements, along with litter signs and trout handling signs. Installed trout handling signs in seven locations. Continued working with Urbana Materials and ODOT, in addressing issues at U.S. Route 36 access on the Mad River. Coordinated with ODNR-DOW on the Mad River brown trout programs. Coordinated with Ohio EPA on the 2023 Stream Survey of Mad River.
PROTECT	Continued involvement with national TU workgroups, including the Great Lakes work group. Also, supported TU on national issues in coordination with Ohio TU NLC rep., Matt Misicka. Continued working with TU Ohio State Council on state priority waters and other Ohio Steelhead and trout streams. Presented the Ohio Priority Waters presentation five times to TU Chapters and other organizations.
RECONNECT	Continued to evaluate opportunities to protect Mad River headwaters and potential spawning areas. Continued to discuss the groundwater component of the Mad River and need to evalute opportunities for establishing ground water monitoring in the Mad River watershed with relevant stakeholders. Working on identifying wetlands, fens and springs in the Mad River watershed, that discharge groundwater to surface water and find options on protecting them.
RESTORE	Assisted the Village of West Liberty and its consultant, Burgess & Niple, in developing a nine element, non-point source plan for the Headwaters of the Mad River. The plan was approved by Ohio EPA.
RESTORE	Assisted TU Clearfork Chapter and the City of Wooster on activities related to restoration of Apple Creek including the Embrace-a-Stream Grant. A nine element non-point source plan has been approved by Ohio EPA and a pre-plan for restoration of Apple Creek has been completed but they are looking for funding.
RESTORE	Continued evaluating potential impacts from flooding on section 2 of the "In-stream Habitat Improvement Project" on over 300 feet of the Mad River downstream of the Pimtown Road bridge. Conducted repairs on section 1 and 2 of the in-stream habitat improvement projects at Pimtown Road. Continued planning and moved material into the area for additional in-stream habitat improvement projectson Section 3.

SUSTAIN	Distributed 4 electronic issues of the new Mad River Drift newsletter to over 1300 subscribers who have granted us permission to e-mail directly.
SUSTAIN	Planned and participated in TU Ohio State Council meetings.
SUSTAIN	Planned and participated in 5 TU Mad River Chapter Board Meetings, including writing and distribution of Meeting Minutes and follow-up
SUSTAIN	Held the 2024 Annual Meeting
SUSTAIN	Sponsored the International Fly Fishing Film Festival at Nocterra Brewing
SUSTAIN	Held fundraising activities (Annual Meeting Raffle, Mad River Chapter fly box and Mad River Chapter hat and patch sales.)
SUSTAIN	Continued the Trout in the Classroom program within the Mad River Chapter area and Noble Local Schools on behalf of the Clearfork Chapter. There are 9 school systems participating in the TIC program within the Madriver TU Chapter. Two of the schools have 3 classes making a total of 13 participating classes. There are 4 high schools, 2 career centers (which are mainly high schoolers), 2 middle schools and 5 elementary schools.;
SUSTAIN	Participated in Trout in the Classroom event for the Graham Local School Districts. Provided fly casting, fly tying and conservation activities for the Benjamin Logan Environmental Club.
SUSTAIN	Delivered and/or shipped eggs to all Chapters for Ohio TIC schools.
SUSTAIN	<p>Over the past year, TU Teens of Gallipolis has actively engaged in conservation efforts, fishing adventures, and community-building activities.</p> <p>Our team participated in three major cleanup projects, demonstrating our commitment to environmental stewardship:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Cleaning up the city park, ensuring it remains a welcoming space for the community. •Restoring the riverbank downtown, improving the health of our local waterway. •Beautifying the grounds of our local French Art Gallery, blending conservation with cultural appreciation. <p>TU Teens of Gallipolis embraced outdoor adventures through various fishing trips, providing hands-on experience in conservation and angling:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •A three-day trip to the West Virginia mountains, where participants fished in pristine waters and learned about local ecosystems. •Monthly local fishing trips, each followed by a shared meal, strengthening our community while refining our fishing skills. •A highlight of the year was fishing small streams for native brook trout, a memorable experience that deepened our appreciation for native species and their habitats. <p>We held 20 regularly scheduled meetings, providing opportunities for learning, planning, and team building. These gatherings allowed members to discuss conservation topics, share fishing experiences, and prepare for upcoming events.</p> <p>Our efforts have gained notable recognition this year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •TU Teens of Gallipolis was featured in two publications: •Ohio Outdoor News, highlighting our impact on local conservation and youth engagement. •A magazine by Ohio University, set to be released this spring, further showcasing our work and mission.
SUSTAIN	Continued to improve communications and public relations with postings on TU Mad River Facebook and Instagram pages, and sending electronic messages to chapter members using Mailchimp.
SUSTAIN	Supported and coordinated with the other Ohio TU Chapters, Buckeye United Fly Fishers, Central Ohio Fly Fishers, Miami Valley Fly Fishers, Land of Legends, Mohican Fly Fishers, Ohio Women on the Fly and other area fly fishing clubs, conservation groups and like-minded organizations.
SUSTAIN	Participated in community outreach at the following events: IF4 Film Festival and the Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show.

SUSTAIN	Successfully completed a comprehensive redesign of the chapter's website, integrating key functionalities such as the TU EventCenter, TU Membership signup, newsletter subscriptions, and local donation/gift processing. Developed a custom interactive map, with an upgraded version currently in progress through a partnership with OnWater. Additionally, initiated the development of a Hatch Chart with fly selection to enhance user engagement and provide valuable fishing insights.
SUSTAIN	Younger Member Outreach- Set up and participated in fly tying nights, focusing on members and non-members 40 years and younger.
SUSTAIN	Women's Outreach - Inconjunction with Ohio Women on the Fly, hosted a women's outing on the Mad River on
SUSTAIN	Continued support of the Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing (PHWFF) Columbus / Central Ohio, and Dayton programs. We've held 68 fly tying, fly fishing, community outreach, and fundraising events with 231 veterans participating.