

Trout Unlimited Mad River Chapter #477

2025/2026 Accomplishments Report

(4/1/2025-3/31/2026)

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 **2297** hours of their time.

- PROTECT** Conducted trail clearings and honey suckle removal at the Martin property, Pimtown Rd., Watson's, St Rt 29/296, and US 36 in Champaign County. Cleared 2 logjams, 2 down trees to open flow and limit bank erosion. Worked with Logan County Pheasants Forever on removal of invasives on Mac-o-Chee Creek at the Lower Piatt Castle Property. 30 events, 142 volunteers
- 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. 2025 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 32 volunteers participated in the cleanup each donating approximately 5 hours of their time for the cleanup.
- PROTECT** Conducted 3 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. Reviewed and provided comments on implementation of 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, Continued working with landowners in addressing issues at U.S. Route 36 access on the Mad River. Coordinated with ODNR-DOW on the Mad River brown trout program. Coordinated with Ohio EPA on the data and information in 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.
- RECONNECT** Continued to evaluate opportunities to protect Mad River headwaters and potential spawning areas including Heffelfinger Run and Mac-O-Chee Creek. Continued to discuss the groundwater component of the Mad River and need to evaluate 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** Continued assisting the Village of West Liberty in planning potential projects in West Liberty Park based work identified in the Ohio EPA approved nine element, non-point source plan for the Headwaters of the Mad River.
- 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; the City of Wooster has completed some restoration work.
- 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. Worked with Mad Scientist Associates on finalizing the plans for Section 3 (284 ft) restoration at Pimtown Rd. They also helped complete and submit the necessary permits applications to Ohio EPA and the US Army Corps of Engineers, The permit was issued in December 2025. Most of the work has been completed. 17 workdays and 70 volunteers.
- 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 6 TU Mad River Chapter Board Meetings, including writing and distribution of Meeting Minutes and follow-up
SUSTAIN	Held the 2025 Annual Meeting and Mad River Gala at Simon Kenton Inn on April 5, 2025.
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 12 school systems participating in the TIC program within the Mad River TU Chapter. One of the schools has 2 classes and two schools have 3 classes making a total of 17 participating classes. There are 4 high schools, 3 career centers (which are mainly high schoolers), 2 middle schools and 5 elementary schools.;
SUSTAIN	Participated in Trout in the Classroom release events for the Graham Local School District (5/9, 70 kids, 3 hrs plus travel time , 4 volunteers) and Noble Local Schools (5/15, 70 kids, , 2 volunteers, 3 hrs plus travel time). Provided fly casting, and fishing. Also taught fly casting, fly tying and fly fishing with the kids at Logan County Summer Enrichment Academy (6/10, 16 kids, 3 hours plus travel time, 4 volunteers) and Enviro-Camp in Zanesfield (8/7, 20 kids, 3 hrs plus travel time , 6 volunteers)
SUSTAIN	Delivered and/or shipped eggs to all Chapters for Ohio TIC schools.
SUSTAIN	Over the past year, TU Teens of Gallipolis has actively engaged in conservation efforts, fishing adventures, and community-building activities. Our team participated in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 22 weekly meetings (September–April) - Monthly guided fishing outings (April–October) at ponds, creeks, and lakes - Fly tying demos and hands-on fly tying - Community cleanups (Our House museum, French Art Colony, city park/riverfront) - All-girls fishing outing with pizza party - Annual out-of-state fishing trip (South Holston & Watauga Rivers, TN)- - Participation of 24 members
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	Developed a custom interactive river access map, with an enhanced next-generation version currently underway through our partnership with OnWater. Progress is well advanced and remains dependent on OnWater’s development timeline; our team has already provided all required access points and trail data to support completion. In parallel, work continues on the next-generation Hatch Chart, which will expand beyond surface activity to include subsurface fishing, insect lifecycle stages, recommended fly selections, and tying videos to create a more complete educational and angling resource. In March, we also launched the River Monitor, a major new tool that provides users with river gauge information, safe wading guidance, and other key real-time river condition data. Compiling all of the known environmental and biological sampling data to begin creating a larger picture of the stream health.
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 - In conjunction with Ohio Women on the Fly, hosted a women's outing on the Mad River on October 12th; 10
SUSTAIN	Continued support of the Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing (PHWFF) Columbus / Central Ohio, and Dayton programs. Members participated in fly tying, fly fishing, community outreach, and fundraising events.
SUSTAIN	Participated in the Big Walnut Middle School annual service day pairing middle school students with military veterans and experienced fly fishing guides from local fly fishing groups. The event also included student interviews with veterans, creating a meaningful exchange that honored military service.