



# Cross Currents

Sept 2009

## September 1 Meeting: Mike Kruse – “Fast Cars, Bad Roads and Marble Trout”

Mike Kruse will tell us about his trip to Europe this spring that included fishing adventures in England and Italy. The September 1 meeting will be held 7 pm at D Rowe’s, located off Forum, just north of the intersection with Nifong. We have a room to ourselves and a nice opportunity for dinner and a drink at this venue. Please join us.



Marble Trout

The Marble Trout, *Salmo trutta marmoratus* or *Salmo marmoratus*, has a geographical distribution restricted to the Po Basin in northern Italy and the Adriatic Basin of Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Albania. It is the largest European salmonid after the Danube Salmon, *Hucho hucho*. It can reach a length of over one metre and weigh over 25 kg.

## TU’s Driftless Area Project Receives \$1.75 Million to Restore Aquatic and Riparian Habitat

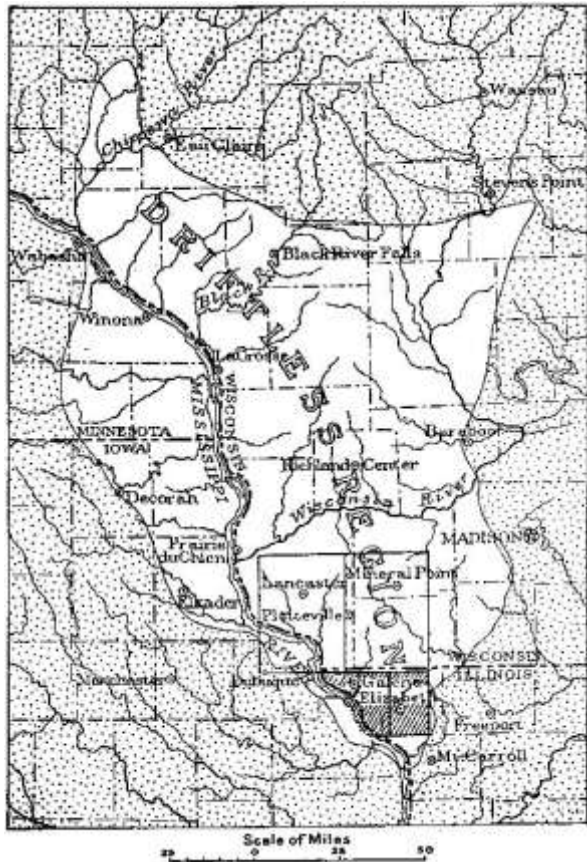
The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative grant will provide funding for stream restoration projects in three states over five years.

Arlington, Va.--Trout Unlimited (TU) was awarded a \$1.75 million grant from the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to continue its restoration work in the Midwest’s Driftless Area, an area that includes parts of southeast Minnesota, southwest Wisconsin and northeast Iowa.

The grant will provide funding for five years for stream bank stabilization throughout the region and will create and improve habitat for trout and other species.

“This grant provides us an incredible opportunity to work together with landowners to achieve our conservation goals,” said Jeff Hastings, TU’s Driftless Area Project Manager. “Stream restoration projects also provide an economic stimulus, improve water quality, increase fish numbers and enhance angling opportunities...it’s a win-win for everyone.”

TU will work with local partners including the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa as well as NRCS and County Conservation Departments in the 42 counties in the Driftless Area. TU chapters will also be instrumental in supplying labor, materials and funding for the projects. 2 Twenty three area TU chapters work in the Driftless Area.



“Through this partnership, we can leverage staff and funds to focus attention on this especially beautiful, and environmentally vulnerable, area of the country,” notes Pat Leavenworth, NRCS State Conservationist for Wisconsin.

NRCS will be taking applications from landowners for conservation practices to address sites with good potential for streambank restoration. Applications will be ranked according to the priorities

identified in the grant, including severity of streambank erosion, potential for high quality habitat for game and non-game species, public access and ability to monitor the site in future years.

Applications are due by July 31, 2009 for this year’s funding. Only selected practices are eligible for these funds, all geared toward improving and protecting streambanks and trout stream habitat.

Additional signups will be announced for future years’ funding. For more information contact Trout Unlimited at (608) 606-4158.

The Driftless Area is a 24,000-square miles area of southwest Wisconsin, southeast Minnesota, northeast Iowa and northwest Illinois. The last glaciers bypassed the Driftless Area, leaving behind more than 4,000 miles of streams and spring creeks that flow through portions of the four states. With its limestone bluffs, fast flowing streams and springs, it is considered a unique national treasure. However, past farming practices in the 1800s and early 1900s led to massive erosion and water quality degradation throughout the region.

Trout Unlimited has been one of the leading organizations working with resource management agencies in efforts to restore streams and rivers in the Driftless Area. In addition to extensive stream restoration work by its volunteers, TU has worked with agencies to integrate planning and build staff capacity for project implementation, worked to raise awareness of the unique resources of the Driftless Area.

## Terrestrial Season in Missouri

The Madame X is an effective fly for late summer and fall trout in Missouri. An example of the Madame X and tying instructions are shown below. Often on Missouri streams a dark version will be more effective than the Western version shown here. To tie the dark version substitute brown rubber legs, dark elk or deer hair, and a dark body. My preference for body materials is peacock herl or Rainy's SHEET Foam in .5 mm thickness in dark olive or black. I cut the foam into narrow strips and wrap it over the base formed by the hair used to form the tail. The foam, and herl for that matter, is rather fragile so a thread overwrap is a good idea.



### Materials:

- Hook: Curved nymph hook (Tiemco 200R for example, 2XL) #6-12
- Tail: Natural deer or elk hair
- Wing/Head: Natural deer or elk hair, tied bullet head style
- Legs: Small white rubber legs
- Body: Sparse light yellow antron & fur dubbing blend

## Tying Steps

- Step 1 ---- Tie in tail and body. Rib with thread.
- Step 2 ---- Tie in underwing.
- Step 3 ---- Tie in overwing pointed forward.
- Step 4 ---- Pull overwing back to form bullet head.
- Step 5 ---- Tie in legs "X" style. A bit of bright yarn tied above the wings can improve the visibility of this low floating fly. Tie off.

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***Cross Currents**, the Mid-Missouri Chapter of Trout Unlimited newsletter, has a circulation of approximately 300. Regular chapter meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month, except for July. The meeting place is **D Rowe's**, located off Forum, just north the intersection with Nifong in Columbia, Missouri. Meeting time 7:00 p.m.*

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