

## The Stonycreek Fly Box



Flies tied by Randy Buchanan, Len Lichvar and Frank Bendick

Top to bottom L to R: Yellow Cahill, Blue Wing Olive, Gray Caddis, Stonycreek Stonefly, Olive Soft Hackle, Beadhead Brown Hackle Peacock, Beadhead Hard Body Bi-hackle, Prince Nymph, Olive/Black Woolly Buzzer, Golden Stonefly Nymph, Amber Stonefly Nymph



## Trout Unlimited

The Mountain Laurel Chapter of Trout Unlimited is a volunteer group working to preserve the coldwater resource in Cambria, Somerset and Bedford counties. Membership meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at Gander Mountain in Richland. Meetings are open to the public. Trout Unlimited supports and works with the Stonycreek-Conemaugh River Improvement Project (SCRIP). The 16 member volunteer board of directors of SCRIP works to abate the abandoned mine drainage (AMD) in the Stonycreek and Little Conemaugh watersheds.

## SCRIP



The Stonycreek-Conemaugh River Improvement Project is a coalition of grass-roots groups and local resource agencies working to restore and promote the Upper Conemaugh watershed. The watershed covers the Stonycreek River, the Little Conemaugh River and the Conemaugh River in Somerset and Cambria Counties.

## Updates

For additional information on the Stonycreek River consult the books *Pennsylvania Trout Streams and their Hatches, Revised Edition* by Charles Meck and *Mid Atlantic Budget Angler* by Ann McIntosh. Also see "Fisheries of the Stonycreek and Upper Conemaugh Basin" produced by SCRIP. The Stonycreek River was also featured on national television on TUTV and copies in DVD format are available by contacting MLTU.



## Websites

Mountain Laurel Chapter Trout Unlimited  
<http://www.mltu.org>

SCRIP  
<http://scrip.pa-conservation.org>

Somerset Conservation District  
<http://somersetcd.pacd.org>

The Stonycreek--Stonycreek Quemahoning Initiative  
<http://www.thestonycreek.com>

**This publication is dedicated to the memory of Lester McNutt, a MLTU member, sportsman and active conservationist from Somerset County.**

## Join TU

Please begin my membership to Trout Unlimited at the rate I have checked below.

I understand my dues payment entitles me to all regular membership benefits.

Name:

Address:

Telephone (Day):

(Evening):

Occupation:

Chapter # 040 - Mountain Laurel

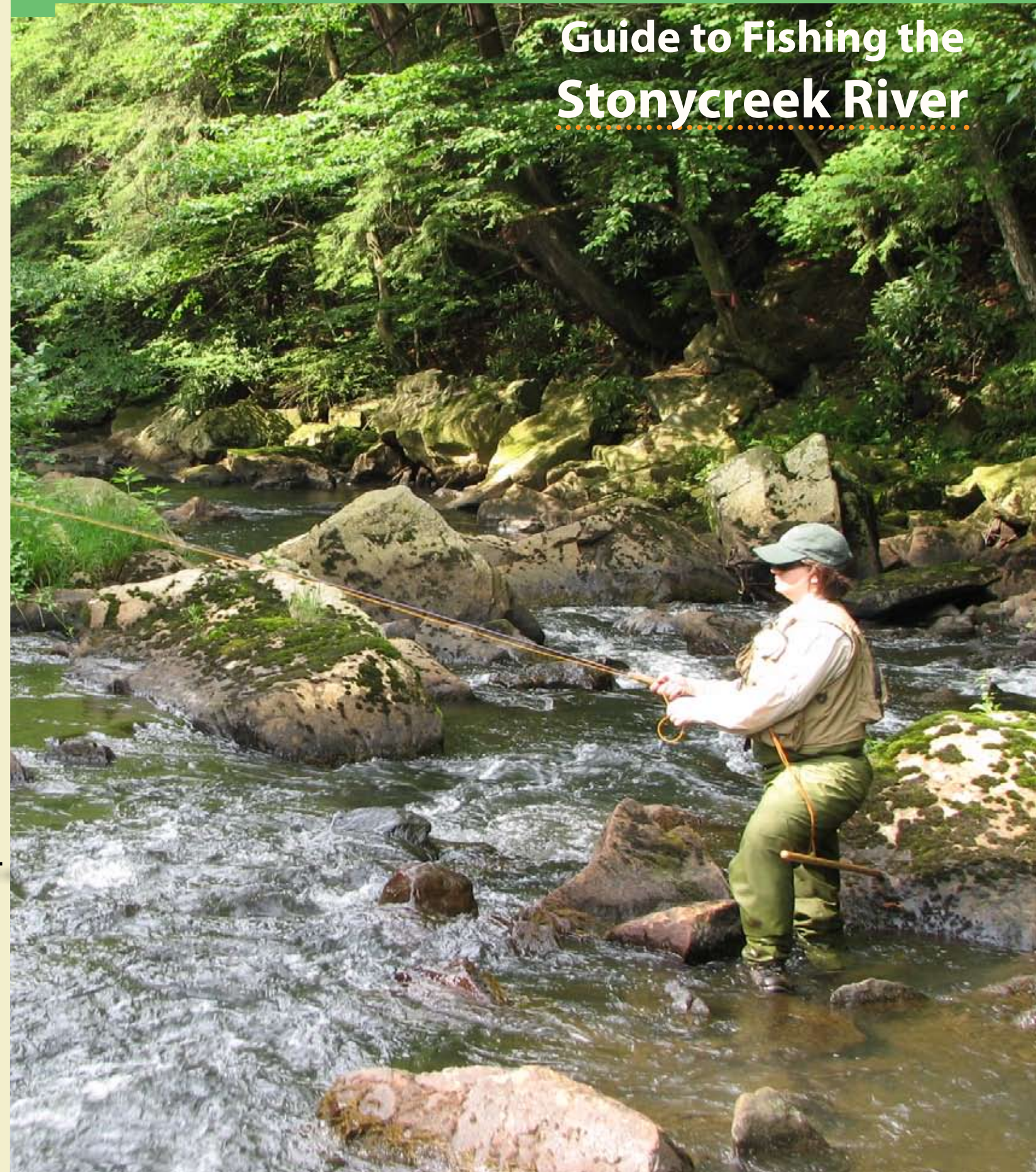
|  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth/Student (under 18).....\$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Century.....\$175        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior.....\$20                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Business.....\$200       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regular.....\$35                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Conservator...\$350      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family.....\$50                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Life*.....\$750          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor.....\$100                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family Life*....\$850    |
|  | * No further dues for Life or Family Life Members |

Return completed form and payment to:  
1745 Regal Drive, Johnstown, PA

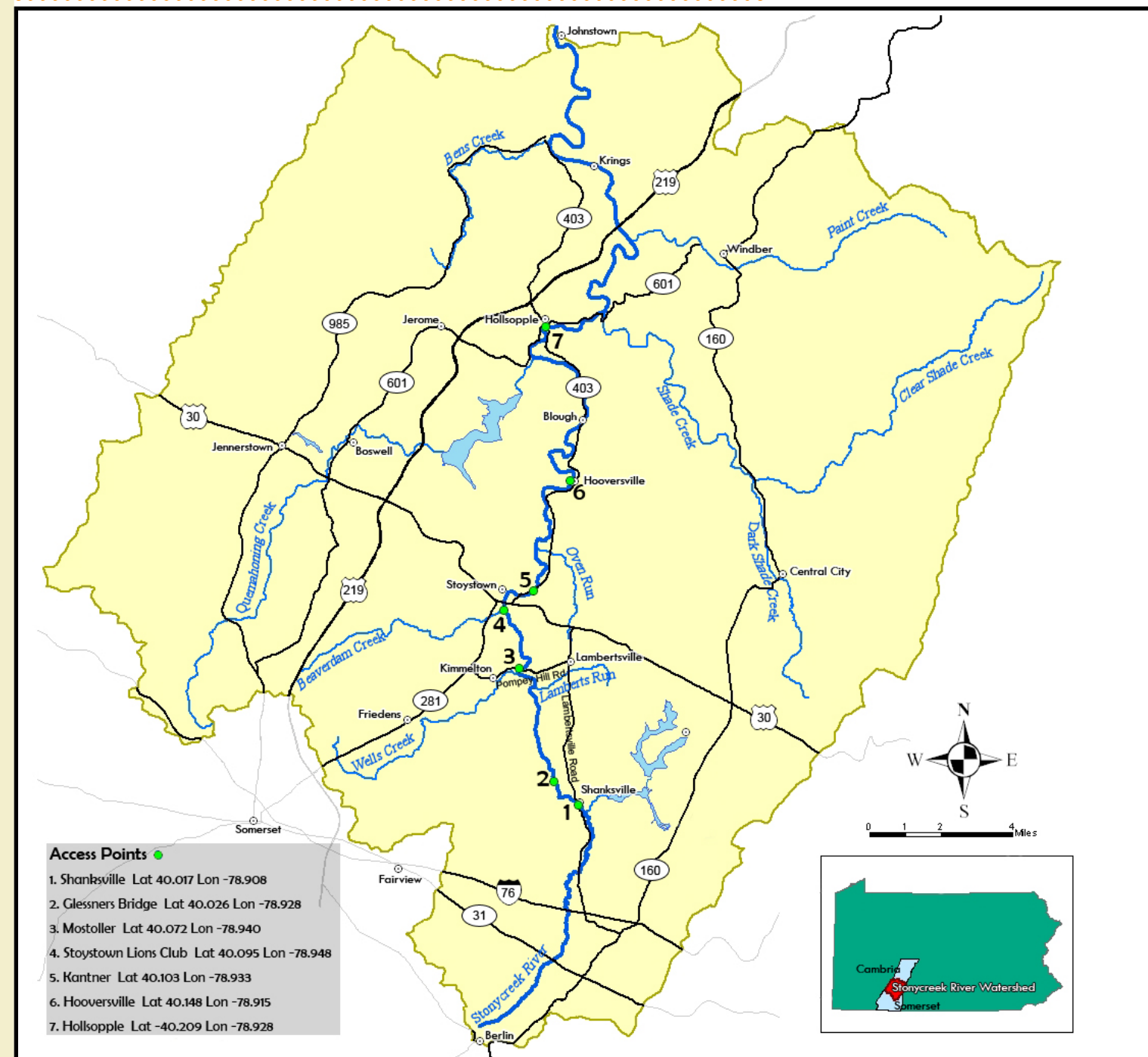


Mountain Laurel Chapter  
of Trout Unlimited

# Guide to Fishing the Stonycreek River



# The Stonycreek River Watershed



The Stonycreek River originates at Pius Spring in Berlin, Somerset County and ends at the convergence with the Little Conemaugh River at the Point in Johnstown, Cambria County. The Stonycreek has benefitted from abandoned mine drainage (AMD) abatement projects that have expanded the recreational fishery from the upper gorge to the middle reaches of the watershed, including a number of the tributaries.

The upper gorge begins at Glessner Covered Bridge and extends downstream for six miles and contains remote and rugged, but beautiful and fishable freestone trout water. The Stonycreek River, upstream of Shanksville, has been stocked with catchable size trout consistently since 1983 by the PA Fish and Boat Commission along with assistance

from various area sportsmen's groups. The upper gorge from Glessner's Bridge downstream is now managed under the fingerling stocking program exclusively. The combination of regulation size fish and fingerlings stockings in addition to an ever increasing food base provide year round fishing opportunities for holdover brook, brown and rainbow trout.

Stockings from local groups and sportsmen's clubs at Hooversville and Hollsopple has enhanced the trout fishery from Kantner downstream to the confluence of Shade and Paint Creeks, where AMD pollution reduces the water quality. Angling for cool and warmwater fish is now developing just outside and within the city limits of Johnstown.

## Access

The ability to access the river is limited, especially through the most productive sections of the upper gorge. Access to the river lies from the village of Shanksville upstream where roads parallel most of the water. Just downstream of Shanksville is Glessner's Covered Bridge located along Covered Bridge Road. This is the access point at the beginning of the upper gorge. Approximately four miles downstream lies a bridge at Mostoller along Pompey Hill Road near the village of Kimmelton. Another point of entry can be found at the Stoystown Lions



Community Park just off Route 30 at Stoystown. Access to the middle section of the river can be found at the Turkeyfoot Bridge at Kantner and within the Boroughs of Hooversville and Benson/Hollsopple.

## Seasons

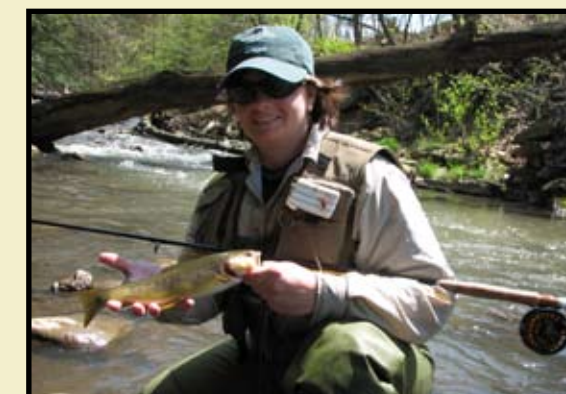
January to April—High water often predominates during this time. Worms, minnows or salmon eggs fished slowly on the bottom is a requirement. There are a few insect hatches at this time and the flyrodder must be content with throwing woolly buggers, streamers and large nymphs with enough weight to get them to the bottom.

May to June—This is prime time on the Stonycreek. Small standard spinners and lures produce well for the spin fisherman. However, this is truly the time for the fly angler to be on the water. Various types of caddisflies in the 14 to 18 size range emerge with frequency. A fine hatch of Yellow Cahill mayflies also emerges during this time. The real excitement for both the fish and the fishermen, however, is the stonefly hatch during the first two weeks in June. Stoneflies, primarily *Paragentina media*, and other similar species emerge in force. Fishing a dead drifted size 6 to 10 brown or olive colored stonefly nymph during this emergence can produce a memorable day on the river. The fish also key in on adult stoneflies as the hatch progresses.

July to December—Throughout late summer and into autumn low water conditions often predominate. However, this is also the time during which the river receives the least pressure from anglers. Autumn brings on emergences on *Isonychia* (slate drakes) and *Baetis* (blue wing olives) mayflies that the trout actively feed on. As long as bait, lure or fly is presented without spooking the fish, this time of year can be the most productive. Bait and lure fishermen should use the lightest pound test possible and the flyrodder should utilize long fine leaders and long casts in order to find success.

## Equipment

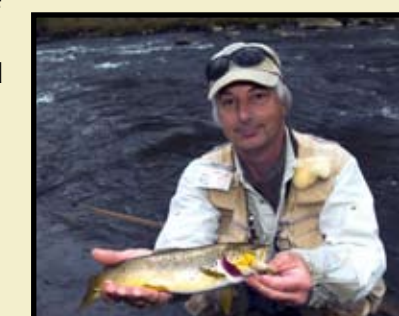
Standard bait casting and spin cast rods of light to medium action function well on the river. Fly rods should be from seven to nine feet long in the four to six weight category. Hip boots are the normal wading gear. However, during periods of high water chest waders can be useful. Regardless, specialized rubber non-felt soled boots or wading shoes are a must. In addition, a wading staff is also highly recommended because of the very slippery and jagged rocks which line the stream bottom.



## Private Property

There is essentially no public land along the Stonycreek River. All property on both banks is owned privately and some areas are marked No Trespassing. Please exercise caution and consideration when planning a trip to the river. Remember to ask permission to cross any property that you are unsure about. Access to the river is made possible by generous and considerate property owners. Access to the river should be considered a privilege and not a right.

## Catch and Release



Although no tackle restrictions, special creel limits or no kill regulations exist on the Stonycreek, Trout Unlimited as well as many who fish and reside along the river strongly support the concept of catch and release angling.

The Stonycreek River provides a unique opportunity to enjoy a wilderness setting and angling opportunities to fish for holdover and maturing fish, as opposed to less pristine areas that are stocked for put and take purposes only. Trout Unlimited asks you to treat the river and its fish with the respect that they deserve so that future generations of anglers can enjoy a quality angling experience.