



On the Rise

NEWSLETTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED'S WOMEN'S INITIATIVE

August 2016



In our April and June Issues of On the Rise, we first dove into the updated descriptions of the four essential leadership roles of the TU Women's Initiative — Chapter and Council Coordinator, Regional Ambassador, and NLC WI Workgroup Chair and then immersed ourselves in the Women's Initiative Best Practices. This issue rises with people, programs, and events—riffing with the health and strength of several tributaries of TU's stream of engagement! Heather Hodson, featured in the mosaic above is the subject of our first story below ...

Women's Leadership On The Rise!

Heather Hodson works hard to play even harder. If she's not traveling the country in search of a new water to fish, saving lives as a Critical Care RN, hosting women outings throughout the northwest, teaching Women's Fly Fishing 101 classes or finding time to get a trail run in; you'll probably spot her on one of the many rivers in the northwest sharing her love for the sport of fly fishing with anyone willing to learn. Heather founded Spokane Women on the Fly (SWOTF), a women's fly fishing group for the women of the Northwest, in March 2014. She hosts at least one weekend women's outing a month and customizes private lessons for anglers with her new "Heather Hodson Guide Service". Heather's passion for conservation, energy for getting women involved in fly fishing, enthusiasm for living life and thinking outside the box is infectious.

In June 2015, SWOTF became affiliated with the local Spokane Falls Chapter of Trout Unlimited (TU). Seeing the success between the merge of SWOTF

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WI RESOURCES

VISIT WWW.TU.ORG/WOMEN

Interested in starting or growing a Women's Initiative in your state or chapter? The WI resources online can help get you started!

From example invitations, to event planning documents with step-by-step guides—you'll find a host of support and tools.

JOIN US ONLINE

"JOIN" OUR FACEBOOK GROUP

Nearly 900 TU members and leaders, anglers and more have joined our Facebook group for lively discussions and to share information, ideas and support.

Like us today:

- 1) Go to www.facebook.com
- 2) Search for "Women of Trout Unlimited" or use direct link facebook.com/groups/48497943543
- 3) Click "Join" and start talking!

CONTACT US

The Women's Initiative of TU is made up of women like you who care about our rivers and streams, are passionate about mentoring the next generation and enjoy getting out to fish as often as they can. Don't hesitate to reach out to us for help, advice or support!

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kerri.russell@cox.net
(479) 640-8319

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Find a Women's Initiative member in your state by contacting one of us, or visiting our resource page online at www.tu.org/women

RECRUIT MORE WOMEN INTO TU

Did you know that you can help us continue to grow and shape the face of TU by recruiting women like you to join us?

It's easy to do, and even better, [the women you recruit can join for HALF-PRICE! \(\\$17.50\)](#)

Simply send your fishing friends and gal pals to www.tu.org/intro where they can join online today.

Along with helping us grow our presence in TU, your local chapter will also receive a \$15 rebate for every new lady angler you sign up!

From the Co-CHAIR

Recasting, Refreshing: WI Summertime!

Hope you all are enjoying your summer and spending time in a river casting a line!

We relaunched our Diversity/Women Survey in hopes of increasing the number of responses. This survey is open to ALL TU members. National TU is offering incentives. Please advertise this survey through your chapters and councils. We are very excited about this survey and plan to use the results to develop a new strategic plan for the workgroup. You can access the survey at: www.Surveymonkey.com/r/TU16WIsurvey or go to the TU website and search for Women In TU survey.



The TU Annual Meeting is looking out to be stellar event in Bozeman, MT during September 29-Oct 2, 2016. The WI NLC Workgroup is pleased to offer a Brunch on Sunday, October 2nd, with hosted fishing that afternoon. We are excited to be able to offer a venue for people interested in or involved in the Women's Initiative and to have an opportunity to meet, mingle, and network. If you are going to the Annual Meeting, please make plans to attend the Brunch on Sunday. More information will be sent out to the membership soon.

Our next WI Conference Call will be Thursday, August 18 at 8 pm EST. All are invited to listen in. Call in information is 866-740-1260, access code: 2829092. We look forward from hearing from you!

Have a great rest of your summer and early Fall! Tightlines!

Kerri Russell
NLC WI Workgroup Co-Chair
WI Council Chair - Arkansas

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Women's Leadership On the Rise!

and the Spokane Falls Chapter, Heather decided to joined the TU team. She was appointed the Washington State Women's Initiative Council Chair in January 2016 and recently accepted the role as the WI Western Regional Ambassador. Within these different roles, Heather's primary focus will continue to advocate for the environment and well being of our local fisheries by getting more women involved into the organization. In doing so she will support other women leaders within TU within the Western United States.

Submitted by Kerri Russell

Tips from Trout Chicks of Arkansas

Submitted by Sara Thorne, WI Chair for Chapter 698

Trout Chicks; that is what we call ourselves and we are the Women's Initiative group for the Arkansas' White River TU Chapter # 698 in Mountain Home, Arkansas.

group and are not required to be Trout Unlimited members, but we encourage that they learn about TU and what we do in hopes that they will join. I send a note to the ladies on the



The 2nd Tuesday of each month, an intimate group of 6 to 8 ladies gather at the local TU endorsed fly shop, Dally's Ozark Fly Fisher to share knowledge about fly fishing and fly tying. Snacks and wine are defiantly not turned down. The ladies enjoy these small, informal groups.

Ladies from other volunteer groups were invited to join the Trout Chicks

Weekly Membership Report I get from TU whose memberships are soon to lapse or have lapsed. Two "successes" came from this. One old member renewed, got involved and brought a new member into the group.

We had a fly fishing focused yard sale with items Dally's Fly Shop needed to "repurpose" and from fly fishers

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Upcoming Women Initiative Events

Brooks, Browns, Bows, and Brews

NJ/NY Women's Initiative

Monday, August 1st

Catskill Fly Fishing Center & Museum, NY

Contact: Kelly Buchta /

buchtake@hotmail.com

SWTU 2nd annual Family Workday

August (Date & Location TBA)

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Contact: Henry Koltz /

hek@sdelaw.com

Meet Fly Girl Starr Nolan

Casting Carolinas Founder

Brookside Guide

Wednesday, August 10th at 6:30 PM

Bass Pro Shop, Concord Mills Mall, NC

Contact: Linda Hickie /

womenonthefly@yahoo.com

TU Cutthroat Chapter

Ladies Fishing on the Fly

Thursday, Aug. 11th -Saturday, Aug. 13th

South Denver, CO

Contact: Cyndy Scholz /

cyndyscholz@msn.com

SWOTF/TU Women's Day

Saturday, August 13th

Edmonds, Washington

Contact: Heather Hodson /

northwestflygirl@gmail.com

Women's 101 Fly Fishing Class

Sunday, August 14th

Lake Lehow, Southwest Denver

Contact: Geri Reffel (West Denver TU) /

greffel@yahoo.com

Lying and Tying Session

Wednesday, August 17th at 5:30 PM

Bass Pro Shop, Concord Mills Mall, NC

Contact: Linda Hickie /

womenonthefly@yahoo.com

Spring Creek Women Anglers

Meeting for Fishing Outings

Sunday, August 28 at 6:00 PM

State College, Pennsylvania

Contact: Diane / dmb490@gmail.com

Contact: Kandy Weader /

kweader@comcast.net

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... Upcoming Women Initiative Events

**Picnic & Streamside Fishing
Davidson River**

Saturday, September 10th
Pisgah National Forest, NC
Contact: Linda Hickle /
womenonthefly@yahoo.com

Guided Steelhead/Salmon Trip

Saturday, Sept. 24th-Tuesday, Sept. 27th
Klickitat River, Washington
Contact: Heather Hodson /
northwestflygirl@gmail.com

**Spring Creek Women Anglers
Meeting for Fishing Outings**

Sunday, September 25th at 2:00 PM
State College, Pennsylvania
Contact: Diane / dmb490@gmail.com
Contact: Kandy Weader /
kweader@comcast.net

2016 TU Annual Meeting

Friday, Sept. 29th-Sunday, Oct. 2nd
Bozeman, Montana
Contact: Women's Initiative

Women's Initiative Brunch

Sunday, October 2nd
Bozeman, Montana
Contact: TU's Women's Initiative
Leadership, information on left side of
page 2

who donated unused items out in front of the fly shop for four hours on a Saturday morning. Two hours with 5 ladies, we made grab bags with spools of thread, tinsel, carded chenille, tools, etc and priced all other items. The yard sale grossed us \$1,017.00 with the only expenses being (1) classified ad in the newspaper of \$24.00 and printing flyer of which I put 2 on one page. Steve Dally spread the word in his blog for the fly shop, Community News sections in the paper and radio stations. There are enough good items left over and adding to it over the next few months, we plan another one in October.

This event not only provided us revenue to continue support the Women in TU, but gave us an opportunity to network with members and prospects.



Join the Movement!

**Become a Women's Initiative Coordinator
for Your Chapter or Council!**

(Yes— men are welcome to serve as

Women's Initiative Coordinators and Officers, too!)

www.tu.org/women

Fresh Summer Programs: STREAM Girls and Summer on the Fly

By Tara Granke / Headwaters Youth Program Coordinator

Trout Unlimited's Headwaters Youth Program exists so that the next generation will be ready, willing, and able to continue TU's 50 year legacy of conservation and fly fishing into the future. Plain and simple. Our programs are designed to foster a sense of respect for the natural world and en-

gage young people in hands-on learning and angling on their home waters and beyond. We serve young people aged pre-K all the way through college which allows for a wide range of programs. This continuum of programs is called the Stream of Engagement, and it was developed to keep young peo-

ple engaged with TU into adulthood. Whether it's through a Summer Trout Camp or Academy, Trout/Salmon/Steelhead in the Classroom, or TU Costa 5 Rivers college club, chapters and councils across the country have

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been bringing these programs to life for some time – and they’ve been doing a fine job of it, too.



So what’s the latest in the world of TU Youth Education?

Two exciting new programs have grown over the past few years and we are excited to share them with the TU community. They are STREAM Girls and Summer on the Fly.

Each program is unique but they have a lot in common, too. Both have great potential to exponentially increase the number of young people introduced to the sport of fly fishing, both draw on community and industry partnerships to grow TU’s impact, and both share a common goal: to get fly rods into the hands of thousands of children annually and foster a conservation mindset.

Girls in the Watershed

The missions of the Scouts and TU also have a lot in common and in 2002, the Boy Scouts of America established the Fly Fishing Merit Badge. Since then, TU volunteers have generously given their time as counselors for the badge. Working with the Scouts makes a lot of sense. You’ve got a captive audience that genuinely wants to learn and they need guides to teach them. Until now, we’ve been mostly missing out on the other half of the Scouts – the GIRL Scouts! STREAM Girls answers that call.

STREAM Girls teaches science, technology, recreation, engineering, art, and math (STREAM) through investigative learning. Eight core activities are completed over multiple

days and at the end, the girls leave with a shiny new patch, courage and confidence in STREAM activities, and a big smile. The Scouts learn about their watershed through a self-driven stream walk, macroinvertebrate sampling, fly tying, fly casting, journaling, and fishing. The program was developed by TU staff and volunteers (shout out to Heidi Oberstadt!) in partnership with the Girl Scouts, and has been successfully piloted with two troops so far. STREAM Girls is for pre-teen and teenaged girls, and it comes at a time in their lives when a positive, single-sex learning environment can be life-changing in so far as building confidence in often male-dominated fields.

A fly Fishing Primer; Summer on the Fly

Now, think of the success of archery in summer camps. TU Summer on the Fly does the same for fly fishing by making things fast, affordable, and easy for summer camps. The camps are provided with a complete set of equipment to introduce kids to the sport. A key partner in this effort, Temple Fork Outfitters (TFO), provides much of this gear below cost. Also included in this package are instructional videos and training materials as well as age-appropriate and regionally relevant TU literature.

Another critical partner of ours in this effort, the American Camp Association (ACA), reports that there are about 7,000 overnight camps and about 5,000 day camps in the U.S., for a total of more than 12,000 camps. These camps are attended each year by more than 11 million children and adults. Implementing a fly-fishing program at even a fraction of these camps has huge implications and would exponentially increase TU’s outreach to youth.

Currently Summer on the Fly is being expanded in western North Carolina and Maine, two hubs for the summer camp community. Additionally, individual camps in Wyoming, South Carolina, and Indiana have joined the program. TU chapters can offer help during the onboarding process for camp staff by hosting training clinics for college-aged counselors and year-round staff. For many camps that do not have prior experience with fly fishing, this training clinic is imperative to the program’s success. Because most

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camps have returning staff each year, the hope is that after a couple of trainings, camps will be able to sustain the program into the future. The first ever train-the-trainer event was a huge success thanks to the Maine Council of TU and Winona Camps in Bridgton, ME. Similar trainings will be needed as the program grows.

How to get involved

Both of these programs start with building a relationship with a Girls Scouts troop or summer camp. If you would like to bring one of these programs to your region, and either already have a relationship with one of these community partners or are interested in cultivating one, contact Franklin Tate or Tara Granke and we will help you navigate the initial steps to get going. There are many youth programs you or your chapter can get involved with.



Please visit: www.tu.org/headwaters to learn more.

Tara Granke ... and friends!



TU Cutthroat Chapter Ladies Fishing on the Fly

The Trout Unlimited Cutthroat Chapter (south Denver region) runs two ladies fly fishing clinics for the Highlands Ranch Community Association, called "Ladies Fishing on the Fly". Chapter member, Cyndy Scholz, is the organizer for the clinics, and members of the chapter volunteer to help teach.

The first clinic was held on May 5-7, 2016. The second clinic will be on August 11-13, 2016.

The first two nights (Thursday and Friday) of the clinic are held at the Highlands Ranch, Colorado Eastridge Recreation Center. The ladies learn about what is fly fishing, where to fish, equipment, waders, knots, bugs, safety, rigging, and casting. Volunteer members (both ladies and men) from the TU chapter help to teach the various topics.



On Saturday, the group learns to fish at a local lake, Lake Lehow. This is a private lake, owned by Denver Water, and is used by Colorado Parks and Wildlife for free fishing events. The ladies rig up and hit the water with fishing buddy volunteers from the TU Cutthroat Chapter. Trout, bass, and bluegill fish were caught at the first clinic.

The ladies all received complimentary memberships to Trout

Unlimited with the hope participants would continue to fish and join TU!

Mimi Epling of the Highlands Ranch Community Association made a \$150 donation. Cyndy Scholz presented the check at the

May Chapter meeting.

All are looking forward to the next clinic starting on August 11, 2016.

Cyndy Gal Scholz | TU Cutthroat Chapter

Family Membership Upgrade Extended Through October!

TU's current Free Family Membership Upgrade has been extended through October at www.tu.org/familymembership, a single, regular membership can be upgraded for free, allowing each family member to be listed on the local chapter roster and each to create a unique profile to engage in TU's online community, join discussion groups, access mem-



Our girls look forward to connecting with nature through fly fishing via TU's "Summer on the Fly" program at Wyonegonic Camp for Girls in Denmark, ME. Learn more: SummerontheFly.org or call 828.398.0178

ber-only content such as the digital version of Trout Magazine, and more.

This is TU's opportunity to welcome everyone in your family! Join me, and hundreds of other families who have now made TU part of their family as well.

Stefan J. Jackson—sjackson@tu.org
TU Diversity Consultant

ALL MEMBER DIVERSITY SURVEY FOCUSED ON *WOMEN AT TU* REMAINS OPEN!

TU is now offering all survey-takers an opportunity to be entered into a drawing for a fly fishing package including a 9ft 5 wt Sage TCX rod, Vedavoo sling pak, LifeStraw water bottle, TU hat, and TU license plate holder. All previously taken surveys are eligible and will be included in the drawing. For complete rules: <http://www.tu.org/2016-survey-contest-official-rules>

Please help us ensure a robust and diverse response to our survey focused on women at TU – yes, **all members, any gender**, are being asked to take it – by [clicking here to take this women's diversity survey](#), and by [sharing this survey link](#) with your member network.

A little more than five years ago, Trout Unlimited conducted a similar survey of female members seeking guidance on how we were serving them as members, engaging them as leaders and providing them opportunities to be active participants in our community – at all levels of the organization.



Since that time, and with significant effort from hundreds of volunteers across the country, TU's Women's Initiative has grown – and so have the number of female members and female leaders.

We re-launched this **survey for ALL MEMBERS** with three distinct goals:

- Highlight the history and success of the Women's Initiative, determine how broadly it is known and gauge if members feel that attitudes have changed for the better since it first started.

- Compare and analyze responses from the original survey to determine perceived and real changes in TU over the past five years.

- Discover what drives female members to join TU, why they stay, how well they are received locally and if they would consider serving as a local level leader.

Thank you for all you do to make TU a more open and inclusive community.

Visit www.tu.org/women for more resources and ideas.