



# National Trout Learning Center

Minnesota's Trout Fishing Capital  
Preston, MN

## NTLC Newsletter Fall 2010

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National Trout Learning Center, 120 St Anthony St, Preston, MN, 55965

[www.nationaltroutlearningcenter.org](http://www.nationaltroutlearningcenter.org), [info@nationaltroutlearningcenter.org](mailto:info@nationaltroutlearningcenter.org) (507)765-4700

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## Our First Season

The National Trout Learning Center (NTLC) is wrapping up its first season. Our new organization established its temporary quarters, 120 St. Anthony St. S., on the town square in Preston, Minnesota in April, 2010, after a frenetic month of cleaning, renovating and moving. The NTLC welcomed over 640 visitors from all over the country from Maine to Alaska. Most came from Minnesota, Iowa, and Wisconsin, and it was nice to visit and see how everyone enjoys trout fishing and sharing ideas about cold-water conservation. We have had a great response from all of our visitors this summer and want to thank every one of you for spending time with us.

During the summer months the NTLC hosted a few events that encompassed fly fishing and stream ecology. In May we began with a "soft opening" during Preston's annual Trout Days celebration. This was our first day of being open and we detailed what the trout center will provide to the Preston community. Many people support our efforts to be the leading source of information in all disciplines related to trout and the cold-water resource. Your continuing support will help us develop and shape the NTLC toward its goals and mission.

In mid-June we held our Grand Opening weekend. We kicked off with the Preston Progressive Feast, an annual event sponsored by the Preston Area Chamber of Commerce. This event welcomes town residents and visitors to local businesses to visit with store owners and to enjoy a snack provided by business owners. The NTLC provided smoked trout and trout spread with crackers. The spread was a big hit and everyone loved it. The Progressive Feast is a great way to promote the local businesses and fosters a connection between the customers and business.

Please see [Our First Season](#) on page 2

## Winter Workshop Series

With the Minnesota trout season over, the NTLC wants to keep the activity level high during this "off-season". The center is planning to hold a winter lecture series highlighting topics related to trout and the Driftless region. The sessions are free, but donations will be welcomed.

One of the topics will be fly tying, combining instruction with hands-on practice. This activity seems to be popular during the winter months for fly fisherman. This is the time to fill fly boxes with all the important flies for the upcoming season. This session will cover topics ranging from fly-tying basics to advanced fly-tying techniques. The amount of time spent on each topic will depend upon the skill level of the group. The NTLC will provide tying vises and materials.

The workshop series may also include film screenings with discussions to follow. One of

Please see [Winter Workshop Series](#) on page 3



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*To keep activity levels high during the off-season at the trout center we will host several activities this winter.*

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## Migration Celebration at the National Eagle Center



The National Trout Learning Center has been invited to participate in the “Migration Celebration” themed event by the National Eagle Center. The NTLC will sponsor a guest speaker with expertise in fish migration, specifically trout. This event is timely because wildlife will be migrating in preparation for the winter season. Many trout species migrate each fall or winter to spawn in the headwaters of creeks and rivers. The “Migration Celebration” event at the National Eagle Center will be the first three weekends of November (November 6-7, 13-14, 20-21 2010). Please refer to the National Eagle Center website for more details about their center and activities at [www.nationaleaglecenter.org](http://www.nationaleaglecenter.org).

### *Our First Season* from page 1

*“The National Trout Learning Center has welcomed over 640 visitors in 5 months!”*

The Grand Opening was the biggest event of the year for the NTLC. We had a full schedule of activities for everyone. The day started with a ribbon cutting ceremony and words from the Chamber of Commerce and Mayor, Kurt Reicks. Following was a donor recognition for all of the donors that contributed items and time to the NTLC. We are very grateful to these donors for their help in establishing the trout center as it is today.



At mid-day the NTLC set aside time to honor Mel Haugstad and recognize him in the NTLC Wall of Fame. Mel contributed 33 years to the Minnesota DNR and focused all of his efforts on the management of Southeast Minnesota trout streams. Although Mel is retired, he still is a true advocate of trout and trout fishing. His informational records and newspaper clippings over the years show this. The NTLC was lucky enough to be given documentation of some of Mel’s decades of research and articles and even the first trout stream map of SE Minnesota. Mel’s donations to the trout center are on display on the Wall of Fame. Jeff Broberg, a local geologist with Mcghie and Betts, Rochester, MN, and Steve Klotz, the Lanesboro DNR Area Fisheries Manager, spoke about and highlighted Mel’s many accomplishments in the success of SE MN trout resources over the last 40 years. The NTLC is grateful to have Mel’s support and we all owe him a thank you for his rehabilitation and stewardship of our trout streams.

Following the Wall of Fame recognition, people were invited to participate in a few fly fishing demonstration sessions held by the Lew Jewitt Chapter of the Federation of Fly Fishers. We scheduled three on-going sessions of fly casting, fly tying, and knot tying at the Root River Valley Trail Head by the river. All of the sessions were well attended with people from all skill levels. It is great to see new people get into the sport of trout fishing because it can be a very rewarding experience and become a lifelong passion.

Since the Grand Opening fly casting session was so well attended, the NTLC decided to have another casting session instructed by the Federation of Fly Fishers in July. This session was scheduled during the Fillmore County Fair and we had a lot of youth come to our activity to try and fly cast. Both the kids and adults loved this event.

In August, we scheduled an event with a church youth group from Waterville, Minnesota. We planned for the youth to experience a stream-side learning activity focusing on trout species, cold-water entomology, and our cold-water resource. The kids and adults really enjoyed the activities and were able to watch an electro-fishing demonstration by Steve Klotz of the Lanesboro office of the Minnesota DNR. In addition to the stream-side activity, the group participated in a Japanese fish printing exercise, Gyotaku. This workshop was led by members of the Preston Area Arts Council.

At the trout center we are very pleased with the outcome of the season and want to keep the activity level high, so the center plans to have a winter workshop series starting in November. For more information please read “Winter Workshop Series” in this newsletter.



*NTLC at the Grand Opening.*

## Project GO; After School Program

The NTLC is on track to participate in an after school program, Project Get Outdoors (GO). The program will give Preston area youth an opportunity to get outdoors and be active. The NTLC will set up activities such as fishing, fly rod casting, and nature hikes. These activities will provide the youth with a fun way to learn about their surrounding environment which will help them learn to conserve it. To learn more about Project GO please look at their website; [www.mnprojectgetoutdoors.org](http://www.mnprojectgetoutdoors.org).



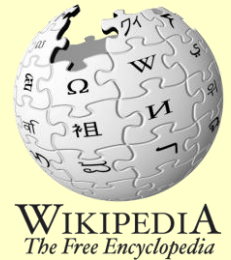
*Winter Workshop Series* from page 1

the films under consideration is the controversial film "Troubled Waters". This film is very provocative in the way it details the impacts of industrial agriculture on the Mississippi River and its route to the Gulf of Mexico. Another upcoming film is about aquatic entomology, "Bugs of the Underworld". The NTLC may also give some lectures relating to the Driftless region and its unique geology. Please check the calendar link on our website, [www.nationaltroutlearningcenter.org](http://www.nationaltroutlearningcenter.org), for these film screenings and other events to be determined.

*The NTLC wants to welcome all youth to get active in the outdoors.*

## Thank You to Our Interns and Volunteers

The NTLC wants to send out a special thank you to the summer interns, Nick Brandvold, Carolyn (Lynn) Fidler, and Mike Oliver, and to the many volunteers that donated their time to the center. With their presence this summer, the NTLC was able to host several interesting events that attracted many visitors to the center.



## Follow Us on Facebook and Twitter

Our interns created both Facebook and Twitter accounts. These sites keep people informed about upcoming events and information about the National Trout Learning Center. Coming soon will be the YouTube channel and a Wikipedia page for the NTLC.



## Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference

The Co-Chair of the NTLC Steering committee, George Spangler, will give a short presentation to scholars and resource managers attending the conference this December. The conference highlights some of the latest information and discoveries regarding fish and wildlife in the Midwest. This year the conference will be held in Minneapolis, and George will present the long-term plan of the NTLC. He will detail the plan of the center to be the "go-to place" for trout and trout related information on the web. The NTLC plans to do this by creating a website where we link credible informational sites to ours. We also want to create a wiki-site so people with credible information can post to it and be able to help others looking for that information. Plans for this website are underway and we are looking for feedback and possible contributors. If you or someone you know wants to help the NTLC build this website please e-mail us at [info@nationaltroutlearningcenter.org](mailto:info@nationaltroutlearningcenter.org).



## NTLC Logo Contest

The National Trout Learning Center was opened in May of 2010. The center is located in the trout fishing capital of Minnesota, Preston. This new center needs a logo to brand itself and form an identity throughout the trout fishing and conservation communities as well as the general public. The NTLC is sponsoring a logo contest in mid-October which will be facilitated through the [logomyway.com](http://logomyway.com) website. Their website engages designers from all over the world, and it also welcomes individual logo design entries through their website. It is free to join the [logomyway.com](http://logomyway.com) website and the NTLC will offer a prize to the winner of the logo contest. The NTLC hopes all of you will participate. Please refer to the [logomyway.com](http://logomyway.com) website to register for the contest and please send any contest questions to the National Trout Learning Center at [info@nationaltroutlearningcenter.org](mailto:info@nationaltroutlearningcenter.org).

## Trout in the Classroom

The NTLC is exploring the educational program sponsored by Trout Unlimited called "Trout in the Classroom". "Trout in the Classroom (TIC) is an environmental education program in which students in grades k-12 . . .

- Raise trout from eggs to fry.
- Monitor tank water quality.
- Engage in stream habitat study.
- Learn to appreciate water resources.
- Begin to foster a conservation ethic.
- Grow to understand ecosystems.

Most programs end the year by releasing their trout in a state-approved stream near

the school or within a nearby watershed.

During the year each teacher tailors the program to fit his or her curricular needs. Therefore, each program is unique. TIC has interdisciplinary applications in science, social studies, mathematics, language arts, fine arts, and physical education." The NTLC sees this program to have many benefits for schools throughout the Driftless Region. For more information about the TIC program refer to their website at [www.troutintheclassroom.org](http://www.troutintheclassroom.org).

Newsletter and Photos by: Nick Brandvold



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"Most anglers spend their lives in making rules for trout, and trout spend theirs in breaking them."  
-George Aston, 1926