

A long history of caring for Black Earth Creek



CROSS PLAINS-BERRY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Millpond circa 1900.



DENNIS FRANKE

Creating the new stream channel 2013.



HANNA FRANKE

For over 65 years WDNR has managed the trout fishery.



ANDY MORTON

Black Earth Creek is a Class 1 Trout Fishery.

Changes over time

Black Earth Creek, as it winds back and forth, may look natural now, but it has seen great change over the last 150 years. Once the site of a mill, built in the mid 1800's, the stream at this site was flooded with a millpond, and then channelized over 50 years ago. In 2013 the Village of Cross Plains and WDNR created a new winding stream channel to provide improved stream habitat and a more natural setting for the park.

Now this area has healthy habitat with a robust trout population and is heavily used by spawning trout every fall. The channel restoration project took several years of planning

and engineering, funding from a variety of public and private sources, and extensive public input. Given the work and dollars invested to improve this stream section, its continued care and protection into the future is important.

Stream management legacy —past and future

Since the 1950's several million dollars have been invested over the years to restore and protect the stream with pollution control projects, habitat improvement, and land acquisition.

Black Earth Creek is a Class 1 Trout Fishery* and is Outstanding Resource Water (highest water quality level)—one of a handful of streams in this region that have this designation. Threats to the stream, such as the New Zealand mudsnail and nonpoint source pollution, remain. If the water quality and outstanding trout fishery are to be maintained into the future, it will need continued stewardship and protection.

*Class 1: natural reproduction and survival of wild trout in sufficient numbers to use the available habitat and sustain the fishery without stocking.



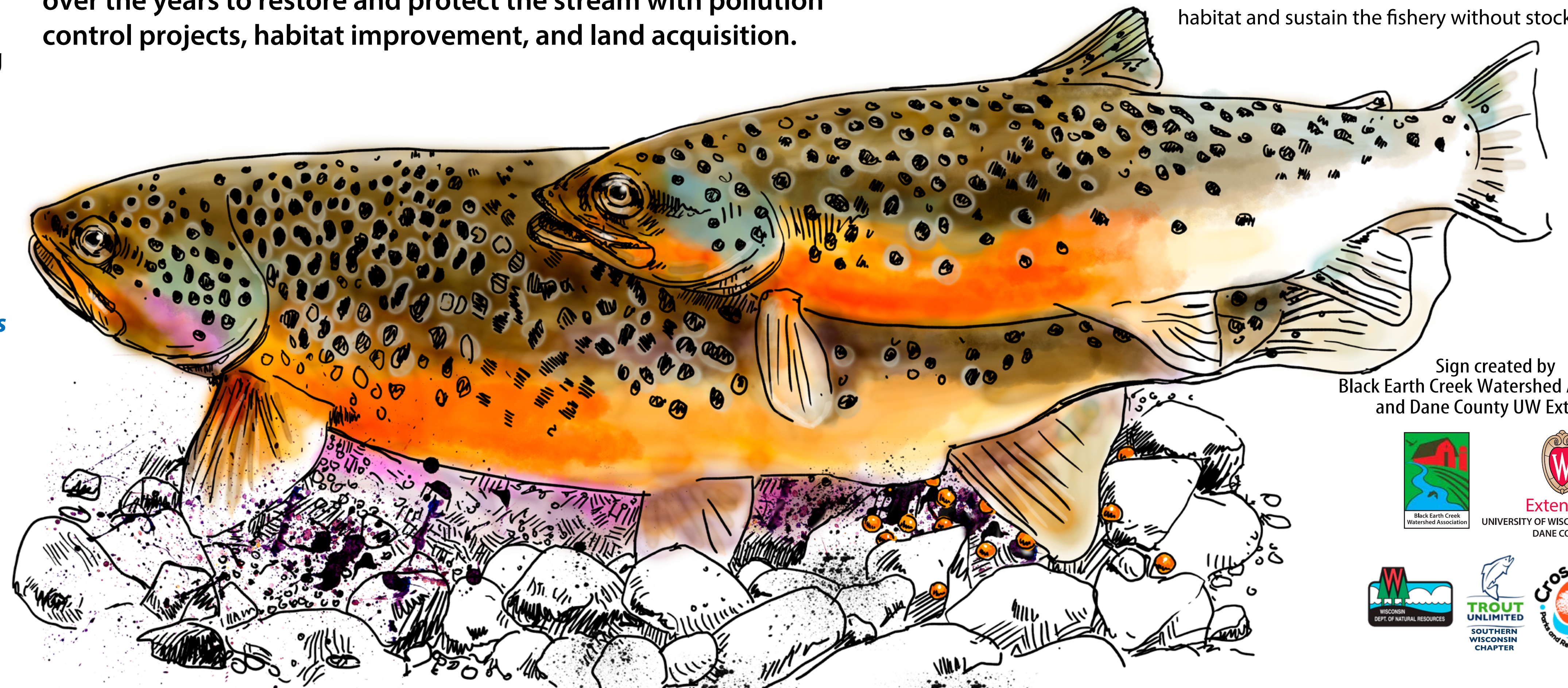
DENNIS FRANKE

Trout nests (redds) can be seen in the Village Park in late fall.

Brown trout spawn here in the fall and help populate the entire stream. As females lay their eggs, males fertilize the eggs as they settle into the cleaned gravel nests, called redds.



Scan this code to learn more or go to the BECWA website. www.becwa.org



COX & CO.

Sign created by Black Earth Creek Watershed Association and Dane County UW Extension



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