

of insects and arthropods. These factors lead to fat, healthy, and abundant trout.

Spring creeks, coming mostly from underground, also run at a constant temperature and flow, meaning less stress to a trout during its lifetime, again a benefit for fit and healthy trout. We are lucky enough to have more than 200 miles of this prime trout water here in Vernon County. It is a joke amongst many local fishing guides that you can throw a dart at a county map, and if it hits a creek, there are probably trout in it. Much of this water is easily accessible to the public thanks to many landowners and a hard-working DNR. This easy access is something unheard of most anywhere else in the United States.

But there is another force beyond the phenomenal trout fishing opportunities that made the decision for Mat and his wife to put down roots here easier — the value placed on family and community.

The incredible fishing did make Vernon County a no-brainer choice as far as the fly shop and guide service business was concerned, but what impressed the Wagners most when visiting and moving here was how well people got along.

Mat commented, “There is a true community in this

area, one which supports local businesses and local residents unlike any other place we had ever known. We were hoping to find a nice place to settle, and with its caring and thoughtful citizens, safe cities, and beautiful scenery, Vernon County and Viroqua turned out to be our Utopia.”

The Driftless Angler fly shop, outfitter, and guide service opened its doors on February 20 of this year. Feel free to drop by at any time, take a look around, and meet Mat and his family. They are always happy to welcome anglers of any skill level, from people who have fly fished their entire life to people who have never heard about fly fishing and are just curious. You will find some of the best information, knowledge, and equipment available. Their friendly and courteous staff and guides will point you in the right direction so that you too can take advantage of the premier fly-fishing opportunities throughout the area. The Driftless Angler looks forward to seeing you!

You can find the Driftless Angler at 106 S. Main St. in Viroqua. You can also get more information by calling them at 608-637-8779, e-mailing them at info@driftlessangler.com, or visiting their web site at www.driftlessangler.com. ■

