



News and Views from Wisconsin Trout Unlimited

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 56
Stevens Point, WI

Wisconsin Tru

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Winter

0000014184 033 MI 11 10059
MITCHELL G BERT
12321 NORTH BERRY
DE PERE WI 54115

Natural Resources Board approves 1991 trout fishing regulations

Figure 1. Counties with trout harvest restrictions proposed for January 1 through May 3, 1991 due to the drought.

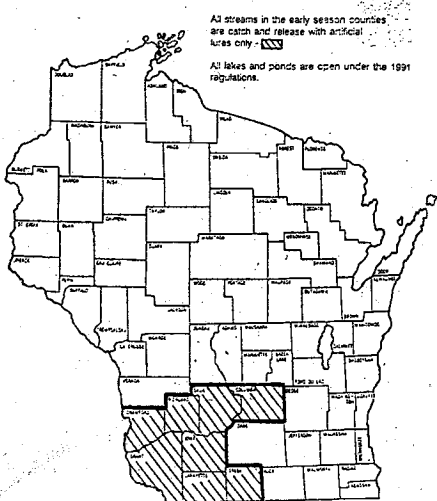
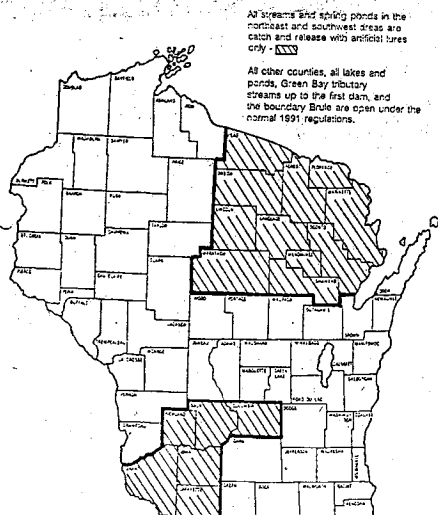


Figure 2. Counties with trout harvest restrictions proposed for May 4 through September 30, 1991 due to the drought.



Acting on the advice of Department of Natural Resources fish managers, the Natural Resources Board approved an emergency rule at its December meeting to restrict the "early trout season" in eight southwestern Wisconsin counties (Columbia, Crawford, Grant, Green, Iowa, Lafayette, Richland and Sauk) to a "catch-and-release" season, with only artificial flies and lures permitted for trout angling.

In addition, staff received approval from the Board to take to public hearings a "permanent rule" that would restrict the inland trout fishing season in 11 northeast Wisconsin counties (Florence, Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto, Oneida, Shawano and Vilas) and six southwest Wisconsin counties (Columbia, Grant, Iowa, Lafayette, Richland and Sauk) to the same restrictions (artificials only, "catch-and-release") as those applied to the early trout season.

The early trout season would run from January 1 - May 3, and the regular trout fishing season would go from May 4 - September 30. Stocked trout lakes would not be subject to the emergency and/or permanent rules, but would rather be governed by the new inland trout fishing regulations.

Fish managers proposed these rules to the Board, because trout populations in those areas (Northeast and Southwest) have not recovered from the debilitating effects of the drought that

ran from late 1986 through the first half of 1990 in Wisconsin. And, despite above-normal precipitation throughout most of the state this past year, streamflows and groundwater levels have not yet returned to normal.

The DNR feels that the standing stocks of trout in counties where restrictions were applied last year will need extra protection to insure that enough fish of spawning age will be present this year and next to allow stream trout numbers to return to normal (see article starting on page 6 that addresses this topic). The new inland trout fishing regulations are even deemed too liberal, especially in Northeastern Wisconsin, to allow any legal possession of trout to take place in 1991.

In seeking a "permanent rule" for the regular trout fishing season, DNR reacted to wishes of Board members and legislators who have been unhappy with recent staff requests for a number of "emergency rules" on resource matters. The "emergency rule" will take effect immediately, but the permanent rule" must go to a series of public hearings and then back to staff for revision before being presented in final form to the Board for action prior to the opening of the regular fishing season.

Some differences between this year's and last year's proposals for West Central and Southwest Wisconsin exist. Buffalo, Jackson, La Crosse, Monroe, Trempealeau and Vernon counties, which were restricted to "catch-and-release", artificials-only in 1990, will be open in 1991 under the new fishing rules from May 4-September 30. Columbia County, which had no special restrictions in 1990, would be restricted by the rule to "catch-and-release," artificials only throughout the entire season, as fish managers have noted a steady decline in trout numbers in county streams and wish to reverse that trend.

The rest of the state would be open to trout fishing as it was in 1990 under the new trout fishing regulations.

At press time, locations and times for the public hearings on the "permanent rule" were not set, and interested trout anglers are advised to read their local paper's outdoor reports for information on the hearing to be held in their area. Written comments on the permanent rule proposal will carry equal weight with oral testimony and can be sent to: Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Fish Management, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI. 53707.

State Council Banquet scheduled for Jan. 26

As noted in the previous issues of Wisconsin Trout, the 7th Wisconsin T.U. State Council Conservation Awards Banquet is set for Saturday, January 26, at the Paper Valley Hotel & Conference in downtown Appleton.

Awards will be presented to deserving individuals and groups for their past efforts on behalf of the Council and coldwater resource conservation, and many door prizes, raffle items and auction pieces will go to lucky winners.

Proceeds from the banquet will be used by the Council to fund its opera-

tions in 1991 and to support coldwater resource research and habitat work.

Cocktails will start at 5:00 p.m. with a dinner of roast sirloin of beef served at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25, and can be ordered by using the order form on the back of this issue.

Tickets should be ordered in advance, as only a very limited number of tickets will be sold at the door. The Wisconsin T.U. State Council hopes to see you on January 26 at the Paper Valley Hotel!

From the Chairman

It's hard for me to believe that it has been two years since I was elected Chairman of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited. It seems as if I've just started and now it's time to turn the chairmanship over to someone else.

These two years have been a real education for me. I've learned a lot about how Trout Unlimited works and I've confirmed my belief that the local chapter is the most important level of our organization. I've also learned a lot about the people who make Trout Unlimited what it is today and I would like to thank all of you for your help and understanding.

In this final column of "From the Chairman" that I will write, I would like to ask you to support the proposed Department of Natural Resources rule NR-103. This rule would establish water quality standards for wetlands in Wisconsin.

There seems to be a new-found awareness of the importance of preserving our vanishing wetlands. Wetlands are important because they help prevent floods, are a natural filter for pollutants and sediments, help replen-

ish groundwater and stabilize stream flows.

These water quality standards would enable DNR to consistently evaluate wetland use and provide the authority required to issue water quality certifications for wetland activities regulated under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Obviously, this would have a positive impact on the cold water resources of Wisconsin.

Thanks again for everything.



Dick Kraus

Lodging for Council Banquet listed

The following hotels and prices are listed here for those folks wishing to stay overnight in Appleton after the State Council Banquet on January 26:

Paper Valley Hotel: Single room (\$66). Call (414) 733-8000.
Woodfield Suites: Single room (\$49.95). Extra \$10 for each additional person in the room. Call (414) 734-9231.

Amora Villa: Single person room (\$44); double room (\$55). Call (414)

735-2733.

Super 8 Motel: One person (\$34.88); two people (\$41.88). Call (414) 731-0880.

Exel Inn: Single person (\$28.95); two people (\$33.95). Call (414) 733-5551.

All the lodging places listed here, plus many others, are right on College Avenue in Appleton, which leads right to the Paper Valley Hotel.

Editorial comment by Mitch Bent

Wisconsin's fish managers deserve better pay!

Sometime in 1990, it came to my attention, via a letter from Fred Young of Roscoe, Illinois, a past-president of the Blackhawk T.U. Chapter, that Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources fisheries personnel were not being adequately compensated salary-wise with regard to their peers in other states.

I didn't react to the letter right away, just merely printed it in a past issue of Wisconsin Trout. But, after I got to thinking about it some, I began to do some chatting with fish managers and collecting some data on relative salaries of fish managers around the country.

What I heard and what I discovered made my blood boil! Wisconsin's DNR fish managers are getting the shaft!!

Data from the American Fisheries Society showed that Wisconsin's fish managers have been stuck somewhere in the middle of the pack with regard to comparative financial compensation. Since 1977, when the AFS study first began, Wisconsin has ranked anywhere from 21st to 27th in fish manager salary ranges.

Given the private sector's oft-heard complaints about "public employees" and "state bureaucrats", the above information may not immediately bring crocodile tears to anyone's eyes. We all supposedly hate paying any taxes, and anyone who goes into the profession of fish management knows what he or she is getting into and shouldn't complain, right?

Horse hooley!! Let's remember one important thing: you get what you pay for. And, here in Wisconsin, as far as anglers are concerned, we've been getting a bargain for a long time. And it is especially true of trout anglers.

Wisconsin's coldwater resource habitat work and its companion research efforts are usually rated *numero uno* in the nation. Not only that, our fish managers' habitat improvement and research work is being copied by fishery teams at the international level—Canada, the Soviet Union and the "Down Under" lands of Australia and New Zealand. For this, you'd think our fish managers would be compensated financially in such a way as to reflect this work.

Well, guess again, sweetheart! Fish managers in neighboring Michigan average ten grand a year more than their counterparts here. But, that isn't the worst. Fish managers in Alabama and Mississippi were averaging more salary than Wisconsin's fish managers as of 1987. Think of that: Mississippi fish managers get more for keeping track of hog bass (er, make that "hawg bayess") than our fish managers do for carrying out some of the premier habitat and research work on trout, small-mouth bass, muskellunge, walleye and northern pike, perch and Great Lakes salmonid strains.

And that's not even part of it. I was told by one fish manager (name not to be mentioned) that he, a longtime department employee with a great deal of educational background in his professional field, was earning eight thousand dollars a year LESS than the conservation warden in his office. The warden's educational background consisted of 240 hours of class time.

This is not to knock the wardens' pay by any means; they put their lives on the line quite often. If you don't believe me, just ask Oconto County warden Bob Goerlinger of Mountain, who was almost killed this year in the line of duty.

But, it is absolutely wrong to have experienced fish managers receiving

such paltry financial compensation relative to wardens and also relative to their peers in other states. Yes, the wardens did a good job this past year in keeping things comparatively calm at the landing sites in northern Wisconsin between Chippewa tribal spearfishers and treaty protesters.

However, it is the fish managers, like those in the north, who have to really deal with the nuts and bolts of the harvest quotas and resources demands between the sport anglers and tribal spearfishers all year. Did they not perform commendably, too? I submit that they did.

The cynic might say, "Well, if they don't feel that they're earning enough, they should quit and find a new job!"

Unfortunately, that is what is happening. Morale is low among Wisconsin's fish managers. Some good ones have left for other states or agencies where their talents are appreciated more in the form of better financial compensation. Others are nearing retirement and looking forward to it much more than they ever expected.

And, who will replace these people? Will we be able to get the "cream of the crop"? State DNR administrators and budget personnel appear to take the attitude that "there are plenty of people applying for these jobs, so we won't worry about seeking commensurate salary compensation for the fish managers."

Oh, really? Guess again. Wisconsin recently completed a six-month search for the position of Director of the Bureau of Fish Management when Lee Kern, a 25-year veteran of DNR fish management, assumed the role in August, 1990. Having known Lee for a long time, I can't think of anyone better qualified to run the Bureau. He's a no-nonsense guy who will stick to his guns and fight for the resource.

You might think that the search for that position would have resulted in applications from across the nation for such a prestigious job. Hah! There were five applications for the post, and all were from Madison DNR staffers.

I have it on good authority that upper level Madison DNR bureaucrats made calls to former colleagues in other states to get them to apply. When told of the salary for the job, these people just laughed at the callers. They could lose \$15,000 to \$20,000 by taking the post. Forget it, they said.

And so it goes throughout the ranks of Wisconsin's DNR fisheries personnel. And it seems to be getting worse. More recent statistics aren't available, but it has been said that Wisconsin now is down to about 33rd in ranking insofar as fishery manager compensation is concerned. Iowa, Delaware, Georgia, Wyoming, Illinois, South Carolina, Minnesota and New Jersey are all going to look much better to the best and brightest of the graduates of fishery management programs from the nation's colleges and universities. Oh, and let's not forget Mississippi!

Despite the fact that Governor Thompson has called for state hiring freezes, etc., in the wake of reports that our economy is not as rosy as he said it was during the recent gubernatorial campaign, we need to press for better salary compensation for our DNR fish managers. We've been living in a dream world for too long. We've taken for granted the outstanding efforts and innovative work that our fish managers do for us.

And many of these people, the ones who've made Wisconsin's fishery program the shining star in the nation, are near retirement, as I stated before. If we want to continue to be number one, if we want to lead rather than follow, we'd better wake up and smell the roses, and reward our fish managers properly.

Or, if we want to settle for second-rate, we can do that, too. We can take the leftovers from university fishery programs and pay them the mediocre wages that current Wisconsin fish managers get.

And, as I also said before, we will get what we pay for.



Mitch Bent

Letter to the Editor

A taxing situation???

Editor Wisconsin Trout:

It's been said that two things to avoid in casual conversation are politics and religion, so I guess I'm taking a bit of personal risk engaging in the subject of taxation here. However, it's a risk I'm willing to take, because I have a feeling that there is a tax which is often overlooked and heavily-needed—a tax that could bring realistic, long-lasting benefits, especially to those of us who love the outdoors, and to all who like to eat, breathe and drink.

As much as I dislike taxes, I also dislike the ongoing destruction of our priceless environment. I have fished enough, camped enough and generally spent enough time out-of-doors to appreciate what we have on this planet. Other planets are deemed by scientists to be lifeless, but life on ours flourishes.

Astronauts who have orbited the Earth repeatedly remarked at the intense beauty of this place—a stark contrast to lifelessness elsewhere. But, it seems that we take this for granted. Have we ever stopped to realize that without this special place there might just be nothing—with no one around to even know the difference?

I don't think I have to spend many words telling my T.U. friends just how unique and delicate nature is: the sound of a whipporwill, the twinkle of fireflies at night and the beauty of the first snowfall. Each of us can envision the sights and sounds of past experiences that are special to us.

But how often do we put it into perspective? Have you ever stopped to consider how perfectly balanced and delicate Nature is? Are you aware that individual species are disappearing from the Earth forever at an alarming rate? How often do we notice the destruction of the planet through human exploitation of the environment? Does any of this have value?

It seems that mankind has regarded the natural resources and the raw materials of Earth as being basically "free". Air, water, land and minerals are all around us. From the beginning, it has been a matter of getting there first to claim the resource in question.

But you don't need a Ph.D. in environmental science to notice the problems these attitudes spawn. Our landfills are overfilled beyond capacity, we are infatuated with plastics and polyfoam, we burn far more fuel than we need to and we spill precious oil into delicate oceans and wetlands.

The list of destruction could go on. Unfortunately, little of it seems to be associated with a dollar value. Okay, I guess the Exxon Valdez in Alaska

drew some attention, and dollars did enter the equation. But that seems to be the exception.

So, to the point. Since we're all accustomed to paying taxes, and since taxes are often focused (i.e., Social Security taxes for elderly needs, property taxes for education and community needs), it seems to me that we could derive great benefits from a tax focused on the environment.

More specifically, why not a landfill tax on such items as disposable diapers and newspapers? Why not a substantial tax on energy (the recent extra nickel-a-gallon on gasoline is piddly at best!)? Why not a tax on the use of water itself and a tax on emissions that pollute the air? Such taxes would discourage the exploitation of the environment while providing for its preservation.

And what could we do with these revenues? Why not put them to work at researching and documenting environmental problems, funding environmental education, increasing recycling efforts, restoring damaged areas or promoting other environmentally positive programs?

Please don't get me wrong, I'm not a tax proponent. I dislike taxes as much as the next person. But we must place the right incentives in the right places if the system is to work. Resources should not be considered "free" just because they are readily available.

If I pollute your air or water, it should come with a price. Right now, the price is too often just the loss of the resource. This planet is not only delicate, but limited.

And it boggles my mind that some who love to hunt and fish would place so little value on their sport that they would complain about license fee increases. If anything, they should be fighting mad that these fees did not increase much more.

It also boggles my mind that there are many business executives—some of whom I am well aware—who run businesses that pollute excessively, yet the executive in question is himself an avid outdoorsman. Doesn't it concern him that his own business is destroying that which he is working for in his own life?

I could go on, but I suspect my point is clear by now. Since squirrels, trees and trout do not carry price tags, I think it's time we attach one to them ourselves.

Sincerely,
Lee Snyder
521 Silverwood
Neenah, WI 54956

Letters to the Editor

Reader objects to Council stand on Trout Stamp increase

Editor, Wisconsin Trout:

As a long-time member of Trout Unlimited, I write to object to the action taken by our State Council in opposing the increase in the charge for the Wisconsin Inland Trout Stamp and for proposing a substantially lesser increase. I think a little review of history will help show that the Council's action was ill-advised.

Some of us had been pressing since the early 1970's for the adoption of a trout stamp for inland trout fishing in Wisconsin. I had been paying \$5.00 then for an Iowa trout stamp. It became apparent that there was no way that we would get the necessary trout habitat improvement without such an additional source of revenue specifically earmarked for that purpose.

We continued our efforts when I went on the Natural Resources Board in 1975, and shortly thereafter we were able to "sneak" a trout stamp requirement for inland trout anglers into the next budget so that in 1978 Wisconsin did actually require a trout stamp of inland anglers.

Unfortunately, to get our foot in the door, we had to settle for a \$2.50 stamp, but we were able to make sure that the proceeds went for trout habitat improvement, which produces natural trout on a long-term basis, rather than

"wasting" money on put-and-take hatchery plantings in marginal trout streams.

Shortly after Wisconsin adopted its trout stamp, some of our friends from the newly-formed Win-Cres Chapter across the Mississippi River in Minnesota asked for advice on how Minnesota could adopt such a program. We gave them copies of all of the Wisconsin statutes and regulations, and within two years, Minnesota had a trout stamp, which started right out at \$5.00.

Since 1977, I have been urging the Department to increase the cost of the Wisconsin Inland Trout Stamp. Six years ago, we finally got a meager raise to \$3.25. In the meantime, Iowa had increased the cost of its stamp to \$8.00.

Finally, when our DNR has now proposed a Trout Stamp of \$7.00, Wisconsin T.U., which ought to be in the leadership for carrying the fight for such an increase, is proposing that the increase in stamp cost be limited to \$5.25! Considering that our T.U. members are the truly dedicated trout anglers in Wisconsin, such action is incredible! Five dollars and twenty-five cents reduced by inflation to 1978 numbers brings the real dollar value about back to where we started.

Put \$7.00 in perspective: it will buy you enough gasoline to drive you to

your favorite trout stream two or three times. It will buy you almost a 12-pack of premium beer. My Lord, only \$7.00 for the privilege of fishing trout in Wisconsin's wonderful streams for five months of the year! What a bargain!

It may well be that when DNR's budget goes through the legislative process, there will be some pressure from others to reduce the \$7.00 fee to something less, and perhaps a compromise will eventually have to be accepted. But T.U. should not be leading that fight (to lower the fee increase), but rather, it should be accepting a reduction to \$5.50 or \$6.00 very grudgingly, and even then only if

it proves to be necessary to get an increase passed.

It is still difficult for me to believe that our State Council has done what it did. I'll bet that our friends Dick Hemp and John Lawton are screaming at us from their graves for the Council's actions. I urge the Council to reconsider its action. I hope it is not too late to undo the harm already done.

Very truly yours,
Daniel Flaherty

205 Fifth Ave. South
Suite 621, Exchange Building
P.O. Box 1626
LaCrosse, WI 54601

Word of praise

Editor, Wisconsin Trout:

I just read the fall issues of Wisconsin Trout again for the fourth or fifth time, and I wanted to let you know that it was superb. You've really managed to do a class job with that publication.

Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,
Jerry Ludon, Outdoor Editor
Racine Journal Times
5695 Alvin Howe Rd.
Burlington, WI 53105

And on another topic...

Editor, Wisconsin Trout:

This letter is on a different aspect of Wisconsin's trout stamped program.

When we first succeeded in getting Wisconsin adopt the trout stamp requirement for inland trout anglers, and made sure that all stamp revenues were earmarked strictly for trout habitat improvement, we had an understanding with the DNR that the Department would still devote the usual share of its budget from the sale of fishing licenses to Wisconsin's trout fishing program. It was feared, of course, that since there was now a specific source of funds to help the stream trout fishery in Wisconsin, the "old" funds that had been devoted to that purpose would be diverted to other programs.

While I remained on the Natural Resources Board, I made the Department show, each budget time, that they were adhering to their promise. After I left the Board, we still had John Lawton and Dick Hemp on the NRB to see that the promise remained fulfilled. After they left the Board (and since passed

on), I didn't know if anybody else was enforcing that pledge.

To that end, I wrote DNR Secretary Besadny in May of 1990, and received his response dated June 4, 1990. I think Wisconsin T.U. members will be pleased to know that that pledge is still being fulfilled. I think most members would be even more pleased if the Inland Trout Stamp fee were raised to the proposed \$7.00 level to make sure that even more trout stream improvements take place.

I know that despite the tremendous progress we have made in that area, we still have simply scratched the surface and there are literally dozens and dozens of potential or marginal trout streams in this area that could be returned to Class I status if the necessary funds were available.


Very truly yours,
Daniel Flaherty
205 Fifth Ave. South
Suite 621, Exchange Building
P.O. Box 1626
LaCrosse, WI 54601

FOR SALE DICK HEMP'S FLY ROD

Bamboo, Orvis "Midge" near-mint condition with original wraps. 3-5/8 oz., 7 1/2 feet, 5 wt. line, H.E.G., walnut-polished aluminum reel seat, two section w/extra tip. \$475.

Tom Lawin, Rt. 3, Box 280,
Bloomer, WI 54724.
(715) 288-6588 nights
800-236-4004 days.

The Sporting Goods & Fly Shop



Bob Oldale Parker-Hale 118 S. Broadway
Doug Campbell Rifles & De Pere, WI 54115
 Shotguns
 (414) 336-4427
 Cortland Fly Fishing Pro-Shop

ADVERTISE TODAY IN 'WISCONSIN TROUT'

EXAMPLE:
This Size Ad--
2 col. by 2 Inch--\$20.00
(\$5.00 Column Inch)

Make Check Payable to Wisconsin Trout
Send to Mitch Bent, Editor
1282 Monterey Tr.
DePere, WI 54115

ADVERTISING RATES:
\$5.00 per column inch

Up to 10 column inches: \$5.00/inch
11-24 column inches (24 inches = 1/4 page): \$4.50/inch
25-48 column inches (48 inches = 1/2 page): \$4.00/inch
49-96 column inches: \$3.50/inch

Wisconsin Trout

is published four times per year by Wisconsin Trout Unlimited. Publication dates are the first weeks of January, April, July, and October. Deadlines for articles and ads for those dates are the 15th of December, March, June, and September, respectively. Contributions are welcomed and encouraged. Submit articles and non-returnable photo prints to the editor for consideration.

Send all Stories and all Editorial Comment to:

Mitch Bent - Editor

414-336-4983 Days or Evenings

1282 Monterey Tr. - De Pere, WI 54115

Mailed free to members. Send change of address to Trout Unlimited, 501 Church St. NE, Vienna, VA 22180.

WISCONSIN STATE COUNCIL OFFICERS

Richard Kraus - Chairman; Steve Born - Vice Chairman; Len Cederholm - Secretary; Mitch Bent - Treasurer

Wisconsin Trout Stream

By Andy Morton

Winding through the hilly farm country just west of Wisconsin's state capital, is a natural treasure. Amidst grazing cattle and cornfields in the shadow of rapidly expanding metropolitan Madison, flows what Trout magazine calls one of America's top 100 trout streams. Black Earth Creek is a beautiful, classic, spring-fed trout stream. Seldom noticed by passers-by, it will test your angling skills and yield memorable recreation.

Black Earth Creek has its origins in springs that bubble from beneath the remnants of the last glacier. Ten thousand years ago, the glacier stopped a little west of present-day Madison, providing the geological setting that makes Black Earth Creek so special.

From the glacier's terminal moraine, between Madison and Cross Plains, the stream flows northwest to the Wisconsin River. Rolling hills, steep ridges and a meandering valley provide a pastoral scene that delights bicyclist, bird-watchers and hikers, as well as anglers.

The springs feeding Black Earth Creek maintain a constant flow of

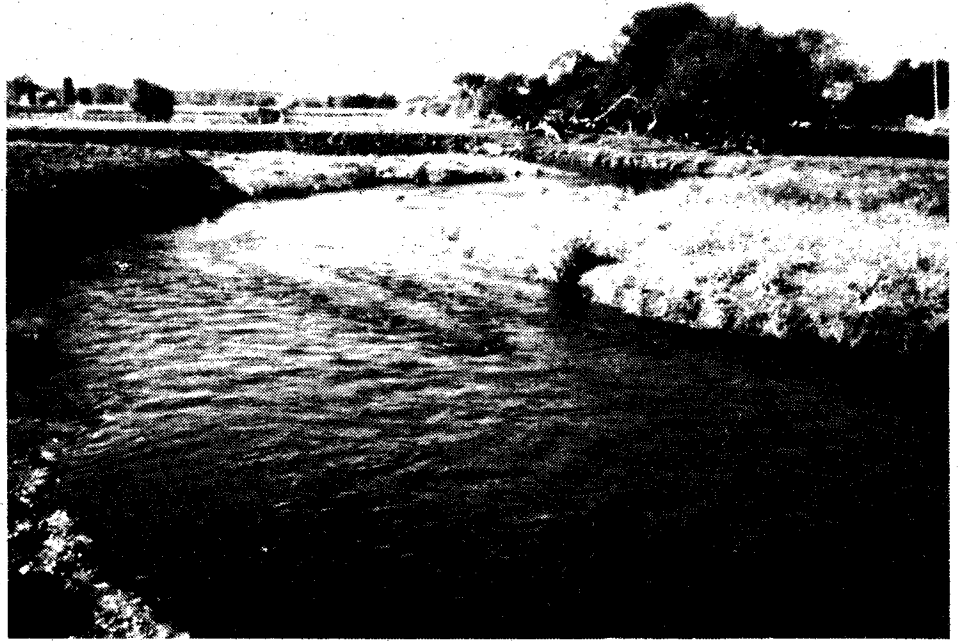
MAJOR HATCHES	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP
MAYFLIES					
Hendrickson					
Blue-Winged Olive					
Tiny Blue-Winged Olive					
Hexagenia					
CADDIS FLIES					
Little Black Caddis					
Tan/Olive Caddis					
MIDGES					

clear, cold, high-quality water. The stream's waters are high in alkalinity as a result of flowing through limestone bedrock.

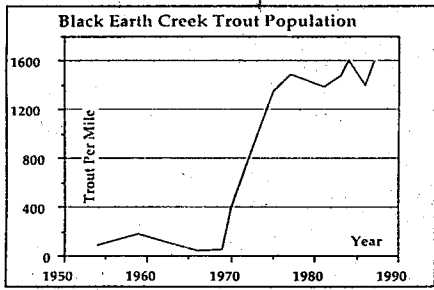
This chemical property spurs the growth of lush plant life and abundant aquatic organisms, providing shelter and food for trout. The cold, fertile water supports a flourishing trout population. With more than 1,600 trout per mile, the creek's wild brown trout population ranks among the best in the state. Big trout--some over 20 inches--are caught every year.

Although still stocked with rainbow trout in the lower reaches, Black Earth Creek has changed dramatically from the low-production stocked fishery of the 1950's to the highly productive naturally-reproducing brown trout fishery of today. This wild fishery gained additional protection in 1990 through the adoption of special fishing regulations designed to limit the harvest of fish, while providing maximum opportunities for anglers to enjoy this trophy fishery.

Starting in 1990, a "special regulation" section on the Black Earth Creek was established from South Valley Road downstream to Park Street. Only



Before and after photos of stream improvement work by Southern Wisconsin T.U. chapter on Black Earth Creek where it flows through the Joe Zander farm.



DNR fish manager Scot Stewart holds nice brown trout captured in the Zander farm habitat improvement section.

artificial lures and flies are permitted for trout fishing, and anglers are limited to three trout per day, only one of which may be a brown trout. Size limits are nine inches on brook and rainbow trout and 20 inches on browns. The remainder of Black Earth Creek is a Type III stream, i.e., three trout per day, nine inch size limit on all trout.

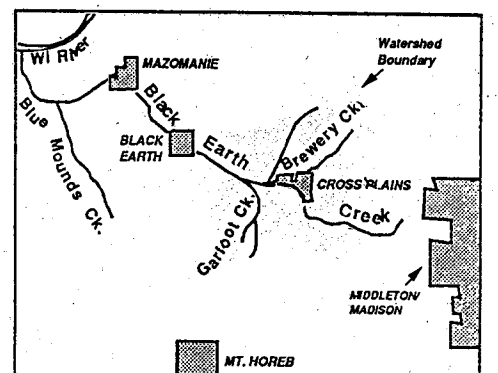
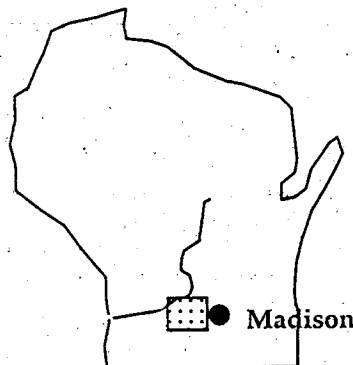
The fine fishery in Black Earth Creek didn't just happen. It is the result of a long history of concern by individuals, groups and governmental agencies that cared about the condition of the resource.

The first stream habitat improvement project was carried out by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in the late 1940s and 1950s. Over the years, the creek has benefitted from a variety of state-sponsored measures, including land acquisition, mill dam removal, water pollution control and livestock control. Many studies laid the foundation for action, and in

1985, recognizing the value of this special resource and threats to water quality, the state selected Black Earth Creek for a priority watershed project. This project, which involves local landowners and communities, makes funds available to limit pollution caused by non-point sources such as runoff from construction sites and feedlots.

Conservation groups have been involved in the protection of Black Earth Creek for a long time. The Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited, in cooperation with private landowners, has carried out many projects vital to the well-being of the creek. Cooperation here is essential, as much of the land bordering the stream is privately owned.

Black Earth Creek is an exceptional resource that continues to demand special protection. Animal waste and sediment runoff, accidental discharges from municipal sewage treatment plants, leakage from landfills, and



Profile: Black Earth Creek



Southern Wisconsin T.U. chapter members build "lunker structures" for Zander farm project on Black Earth Creek.

other problems stemming from the unrelenting urbanization of the watershed place the creek's health in peril. In particular, special attention must be given to protecting the headwater springs that are the lifeblood of Black Earth Creek.

Anglers who come to visit Black Earth Creek and fish for trout should be forewarned that these wild spring creek trout are wary. Come prepared to wade like a heron, slip quietly among the watercress and maybe spend some time

on your hands and knees in pursuit of the selective Black Earth Creek trout.

Like other renowned spring creeks, Black Earth Creek supports abundant insect life (mayflies, caddis-flies, midges) and crustaceans (scuds, sow-bugs) which provide a plentiful food supply for trout. Notable hatches include: the little black caddis and Hendrickson mayfly in the upper reaches in May; the tan caddis throughout the stream in May and June; and, in the more silty stretches, the giant *Hexagenia* mayfly in June and

July.

Throughout the summer and fall, terrestrial imitations--grasshoppers, crickets, small ants and black beetles--are effective. Weighted scuds, sow-bugs, leeches and nymph imitations such as a Hare's Ear are good choices all during the season. Small lures and spinners are also productive.

As we use and enjoy this resource, though, each of us as individuals has an obligation to help take care of Black Earth Creek--to act as stewards of the creek and to share in the responsibility

for its protection. There is great angling pressure on this vulnerable fishery, and trout anglers should consider limiting their take.

Carefully releasing trout allows the fine population of brown trout to be maintained. Observing courteous stream etiquette and using common sense will enrich everybody's experience and help to ensure a quality fishing experience for both fellow anglers and for your next day of trout fishing on Black Earth Creek.

BLACK EARTH CREEK PROTECTION "History of TU'S INVOLVEMENT"

The Southern Wisconsin Chapter of TU has had a long history of involvement in the protection and management of Black Earth Creek. It all started as annual stream clean-ups, appearing at public meetings, and monitoring the health of the stream under the "Water Watcher" program. Presently, the chapter has been directly involved in managing stream improvement projects in association with the Department of Natural Resources and the Dane County Land Conservation Department. Below are the recent major projects and when they were accomplished.

1982--An easement was acquired by TU on the Ken Zander farm, the streambank was fenced, and cattle access was restricted.

1984--Dan Ripp's farm was also fenced, and streambank easement was acquired.

1985--Rapleal Ripp's farm was fenced, and an easement was acquired.

1986--Priority Watershed Project begins. TU played a key role in selection of Black Earth Creek for this project.

1987--Marvin Meinholz farm was fenced, and an easement was acquired. TU also contributed to funding a streambank protection demonstration project.

1988--Lunker structures were installed on Ken Zander's land as part of a priority watershed demonstration project.

1989--Rapleal Ripp's streambank protection work was done, and additional streambank work was done on Ken Zander's farm.

1990--Streambank protection work, including installation of Lunker structures, as done on the Ken Olson farm.

Final beaver management plan approved

The Natural Resources Board approved at its November 15, 1990, the Beaver Management Plan that had been put together by Department of Natural Resources staff and participating interest groups.

The plan was devised to attempt to deal with the problems of overpopulation of beaver in most areas of the state while still maintaining the beaver as part of the state's overall wildlife population.

As approved, the plan differs little from the draft plan that was headlined in the Summer, 1990, issue of *Wisconsin Trout*. As shown on the map, the state would be divided up into four zones with varying intensities of beaver management.

Zone A in Northwest Wisconsin would have a beaver trapping season running from October 20 - March 15. Having the largest number of beaver trappers in the state, Zone A was determined not to need an extra-long season or subsidized trapping incentives to control beaver numbers.

Zone B in Northeast Wisconsin, the area of most complaints about beaver damage to trout streams, roads, forests and private property, would have a regular beaver trapping season from October 20 - April 30. Subsidized trapping (\$10 per beaver) would be authorized from March 16 - April 30 in order to encourage greater beaver trapping activity in periods when access to beaver areas is not normally a limiting factor. The subsidy policy will be reviewed annually and adjusted as deemed appropriate.

Subsidized beaver trappers in Zone B must sign and carry an "agreement to participate" in order to receive the subsidy.

The only change between Zones A and B from the draft plan is the bound-

ary between A and B. The boundary was moved westward to Highway 13 (as shown on the map) to allow a more definitive demarcation line from the original "county lines" proposal using the western edges of Vilas, Oneida and Lincoln counties as the Zone boundary.

Zone C, encompassing the rest of the state except for the Mississippi River Zone, would be an area of more localized beaver control and, in some cases, an area of promotion of beaver numbers to allegedly enhance waterfowl populations through subsidized promotion of beaver flowages on non-trout waters.

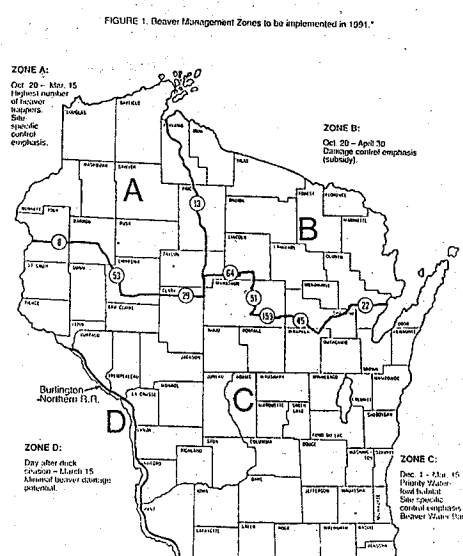
The season in Zone C would run from December 1 - March 15, with no trapping subsidy authorized. The department would begin a trial program of paying landowners to allow beaver on their lands to promote the existence of waterfowl flowages. Two possible trial areas for this plan are the western end Zone C counties of Barron, Dunn, Polk and St. Croix, and the southeastern Zone C counties of Dodge, Fond du Lac and other Lake Winnebago counties.

The department will need to seek outside funding to implement this program, which is designed to mesh with the *North American Waterfowl Management Plan* to promote waterfowl (especially duck) numbers continent-wide.

Zone D, the Mississippi River Zone, will have a trapping season on beaver from the day after the close of the duck hunting season through March 15. This will avoid conflicts between beaver trappers and duck hunters, according to the plan's statement.

For further information on the Final Beaver Management Plan, call **Chuck Pils**, Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI. 53707.

The first implementation of the plan



for Zones A, B and C will be in 1991.

In addition, Wisconsin T.U. stressed that the rule should explicitly state that "recognized fishery habitat management practices" would not be affected by NR 103. Concern exists that the rule could be interpreted to disallow many of the habitat improvement techniques (bank cover, wing deflectors, spring pond dredging) currently used in coldwater resource management.

Both proponents and opponents of the rule expressed concern over the vagueness of several terms in the rule ("significant impact", for example) in

the rule and a lack of specific standards available for public scrutiny.

Despite the overwhelming public support for NR 103 generated at the public hearings, conservationists are distressed to learn that rule opponents, mainly development interests, cranberry growers and muck farmers, are, to some extent, seemingly trying to bypass the public hearing process and are messing letter-writing campaigns to Natural Resources Board members and the governor in an attempt to delay a decision on NR 103.

For those concerned about loss of wetlands and who wish to express their opinions about timely adoption of DNR 103, listed below are names and addresses of members of the Natural Resources Board who will decide the fate of the rule:

Pete Helland//Box 410/Wisconsin Dells/WI./53965

Tom Lavin//Rt. 3 Box 280/Bloomer/WI./54724

Herb Behnke//Rt. 4 Box 68/Shawano/WI./54166

Helen Jacobs//2220 E. Newberry Blvd./Milwaukee/WI./53214

Neal Schneider//Box 71/Janesville/WI./53545

Donald O'Melia//Box 797/Rhineland/WI./54501

Connie Pukaite//11453 Riverland Rd./Mequon/WI./53092

State Council elections in January, 1991

The Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited will hold elections at its annual meeting on Saturday, January 26, 1991, for the following positions: Chairman; Vice-Chairman; Secretary; Treasurer; and elected Na-

tional Delegate. Nominations of individuals for any of these positions should be submitted to either: Mitchell Bent, 1282 Monterey Trail, De Pere, WI 54115, or Richard Wachowski, 310 Water Street, Eau Claire, WI 54703.

One year later--

Have our trout waters rec

A year ago, we published a story in *Wisconsin Trout* about the effects that the terrible drought of the late 1980's had on the coldwater resources of Wisconsin. Particularly, we focused on the situations in Southwestern and Northeastern Wisconsin, the two areas of the state that were hardest hit by the prolonged period of little or no precipitation.

Now, one year later, we are again looking at those two areas to see if things have improved. Precipitation in Wisconsin during 1990 was much above average, which has given hope that both groundwater and surface water levels are getting back to normal. The Natural Resources Board, the governing body of the Department of Natural Resources, helped things, too, by wisely closing inland trout fishing in Northeastern Wisconsin in 1990 and restricting it in Southwestern Wisconsin to "catch-and-release", artificial-only fishing.

Have we made any progress in this past year? What are trout populations like now? Well, as usual, the best answers came from those who deal with the resource on a daily basis--our DNR fish managers. Here are their answers to questions about trout populations, water levels (surface and ground), spawning potential for 1990, year classes, etc.

Southwest and West Central Wisconsin

Jim Talley (Buffalo, Clark, Jackson and Trempealeau counties): "Our 1990 surface waters levels are anywhere from 20 to 50 percent higher this year than last year, and now are about the same as the long-term average. Rainfall was not evenly distributed in my area, with Buffalo, Trempealeau and portions of western Jackson counties getting the most rain. Groundwater levels are recovering, and are probably a little less than the long-term average."

"Our stream surveys show a range of variability in trout populations. Some of the class I trout waters show excellent young-of-the-year and recovering adult populations. In other streams, year classes are missing. In most cases, conditions are good for this year's spawning. Hopefully, where no reproduction exists (such as in some of the class II waters), carryover of stocked trout will occur."

"Surveys show that our stocked class II trout streams had very good survival of stocked fish from April through August, with good growth occurring. Over-winter survival (which has been lacking the last couple of years) may now occur with the improved water conditions."

"Fishing pressure dropped substantially with the 'catch-and-release' season. Nearly all the comments I received about the 'catch-and-release' season indicated that the anglers didn't like it, and would have preferred a closed season. Illegal trout angling was not significant in 1990."

"I have recommended an open season for 1991 trout fishing. Although populations are not up to pre-drought levels, they are responding well in most cases. Hopefully, the new inland trout fishing regulations will allow a continued positive response in trout numbers. Many of our stocked class II and II streams remain unaffected, since the fishing is primarily put-and-take."

"In order for the trout populations in my area to improve, the new regulations must be followed and probably more restraint must be shown by anglers as to killing large numbers of

trout throughout the season. Some streams where the trout, primarily brook trout, have responded well to the lack of fishing pressure the last two years will probably be cropped back considerably when the season opens. We can show that some streams, without fishing pressure, are capable of producing 14-16 inch brook trout in fair numbers."

Gene Van Dyck (Dodgeville area): "Some of the surface water levels appear to be coming up, but a large number still appear to be near record lows. Overall at this time, surface water levels must be considered very low."

"The last United States Geological Survey (USGS) report showed that groundwater levels are at or near record lows. However, another quarterly report is due out soon. A number of permanent streams have dry sections where the flowing water disappears into the stream bed."

"As far as trout population surveys go, we've found that weak and medium streams have no, or virtually no, trout in them. The good-to-excellent trout streams have good populations of medium-sized trout because of the 'No-kill' regulations ordered in 1990. Trout are basically confined to the high quality reaches of these streams. The last two year classes of trout are totally missing from our trout streams."

"Two extraordinary spring floods and a mammoth summer flood make evaluation of the condition of stocked trout impossible. Except for the Grant and Little Grant Rivers south of Highway 18 and a couple of good class II streams south of that line, we did little or no stocking of trout in 1990 because of a lack of water. North of Highway 18 in Grant County, we did our normal stocking of trout in the bigger streams but did none in the small streams that were dried up."

"In Lafayette County, we discontinued stocking for two years. In Richland and Sauk counties, we did not stock small streams, but we did stock the remainder of the trout streams at about normal levels."

"Because of the emergency 'catch-and-release', artificial-only, restrictions imposed by the Natural Resources Board in 1990 on Southwestern Wisconsin trout waters, the overall fishing pressure dropped. On a few of the 'excellent' streams, the fishing pressure remained moderate to high (Castle Rock creek is a good example). The public wanted the resource protected. Very little illegal activity or kill was observed."

"Regarding a trout fishing season for 1991, I will recommend the following for a 1991 season:

- 1) A No Kill trout fishing season in Southwest Wisconsin;
- 2) The season should open January 1, 1991;
- 3) We retain the 'artificial only' restriction;
- 4) That we aggressively monitor the situation to allow us to adjust regulations as necessary."

"Of interest, the trout populations we found in 1990 seemed a product of drought and floods. They were what we anticipated and expected, based upon water quality, etc. The significance of this is that: a) the 'No Kill' fishing did not appear to depress populations below the weather-related limitations; b) a fair number of people did use the 'No Kill' fishery; and c) the people using the 'No Kill' fishery reported some of the highest-quality fishing experiences and best fishing every."

Dave Vetrano (Crawford and Vernon counties, Coulee region): "As far

as surface water levels go, most streams have recovered to near-normal levels. Groundwater levels are not what they should be, though."

"Regarding trout population surveys, our work shows that most streams have experienced poor reproduction the past few years, as was expected, and poor year-class survival. Percent decreases in young-of-the-year and one-year-and-older fish for certain streams surveyed are, respectively: Bohemian Valley Creek (La Crosse County) - 68.3/31.0; Spring Coulee Creek (Vernon County, class I brown trout stream) - 76.0/18.0; Timber Coulee Creek (Vernon County, treatment zone) - 92.4/16.5; Timber Coulee Creek (Vernon County, reference zone) - 89.8/37.7. All comparisons are between stream shocking surveys in 1989 and 1990."

"We are currently involved in a study looking at the survival rates of wild trout versus hatchery-raised trout. We stocked equal numbers of wild and hatchery brook trout in 10 area streams in 1989. Preliminary data indicate that survival of wild stock brook trout is many times better than that of hatchery raised brook trout. The wild strain of trout came from eggs we took from wild brook trout in Chippewa County. We hatched the eggs in a 'mini-hatchery' and raised about 8500 brook trout fingerlings. The trout were raised in a raceway and fed pellet diet from an auto-feeder."

"Fishing pressure was down substantially on streams in my area, which was designated a 'catch-and-release', artificial-only trout fishing area by emergency order of the Natural Resources Board. Those who did trout fish said that they had good trips."

"We did get some grumbling from anglers who were opposed to the restrictions because they forbade use of live bait, and we also heard complaints from some anglers who felt that the class III trout streams (put-and-take waters) should have been open."

"Other things we did notice this year was a continuation of heavy predation on trout by herons. In every stream surveyed, beak marks or puncture wounds could be found on trout in all sizes of fish. As would be expected, predation is heaviest in trout streams that have little or no overhead cover for the fish."

"Based on our stream survey findings, the La Crosse DNR area will recommend an open season for the trout fishing season in 1991 under the new inland trout fishing regulatory format. We feel that the new regulations will give adequate protection to area streams."

"With the numbers of adult fish available, the 1991 year class should be a strong one, if no excessive spring flooding occurs. I talked with Bob Hunt (DNR Coldwater Research Team Leader) about opening the season in 1991, and he also feels that we could go with a season under the new regulations without damaging or jeopardizing trout populations."

"If water levels had continued to decline this year, we probably would have gone along with more restrictive regulations. However, according to the 'old-timers', trout numbers have been down before and have always recovered with time. And that was when the size limit was six inches and the creel limit was 10 trout per day."

Northeastern Wisconsin
Lloyd "Duke" Andrews (Forest, Oneida and Vilas counties): "Surface water levels are near-normal, and we

are in better shape this fall (1990) than the past two years. This should improve the spawning opportunities for brown trout, and eventually replenish the groundwater reserves, which will aid brook trout reproduction, though there may be some lag period for the latter species."

"At the start of summer, 1990, we were down two feet in our groundwater levels from normal. As of mid-November, 1990, in the Upper Wisconsin River basin, we are half-a-foot below normal. Hopefully, we have turned the corner in that regard."

"The total number of trout (species combined) in 1990 is down anywhere from 20-73 percent when compared with data from normal precipitation years. The 6.0-7.9 inch size group of trout has declined 45-69 percent. Trout in the 8.0 inch-plus category reveal mixed results, with two of three data sets yielding slight (7 percent) to significant (51 percent) declines, and the third a positive response of 93 percent."

"This latter circumstance is attributed to the unique character of one of the sampling stations, as it is a holding area (refuge) below a major coldwater tributary that concentrates fish during hot weather/low water stress periods. It reflects an atypical situation and is not representative of prevailing circumstances."

"Brook trout stocks under eight inches declined in all streams types irrespective of their groundwater rankings. Brook trout eight inches and up fared better than their smaller counterparts in two of the three systems monitored."

"Streams with poor groundwater rankings saw a decline in brook trout numbers up to 76 percent, while systems with good-to-excellent groundwater rankings revealed trout increases of 123 and 184 percent. Reduced competition from smaller trout, season closure, the ability of older fish to achieve better survival rates and the mitigating effects of groundwater all played a part in those increases."

"Brown trout revealed mixed results as well. In the good groundwater systems, browns eight inches and larger increased 71 percent, with the increase attributed to the unique holding characteristics of the sampling station as discussed earlier. Brown trout numbers also increased in some streams with poor groundwater rankings, and this may be due to substantial reductions in brook trout numbers, which improved chances for brown trout survival. Nevertheless, declines in brown trout numbers outweigh the few positive aspects in the streams surveyed (Elvoy Creek, Brule Creek, Brule River and Deerskin River)."

"Streamflows are, for the most part, optimum at this time, and are as high as I've seen them in recent times. I expect good spawning conditions to exist for trout, and I hope that the egg incubation period will be as good. For brook trout, this will depend on the groundwater circumstances which are not yet at normal levels. I think we have turned the corner and can look forward to population improvements over the next few years--I hope!"

"With the exception of the Peshtigo River, I did not stock any streams in 1990. The Peshtigo received about half its normal allotment of hatchery trout. Our population estimate stations are located on non-stocked, wild trout streams. The data I have on stocked trout in streams reveal that few trout make it beyond the first year, as angler harvest reduces their numbers signific-

Recovered from the drought?

antly, and the strain of hatchery fish we use has difficulty coping with the rigors of stream life."

"During the 1990 trout season closure, neither my office receptionist nor myself received a single complaint about the emergency trout fishing closure. There was disappointment in some instances, but no real problems. The people understood and believed the nature of the problem."

"Wardens received some complaints about illegal trout fishing and followed up on them, but the culprits escaped. The wardens did not encounter significant problems to my knowledge. As always, there are those who will violate by intent as well as by ignorance, thus the need for cops and wardens!"

"The new trout regulations are not sufficient to protect the stocks of trout from angling impact. It is my contention that a 'catch-and-release' season, preferably with artificial lures and flies only, should be instituted in 1991. This strategy will serve to benefit the trout, and it will also provide angling opportunity for those who elect to fish for trout under these types of constraints.

Hooking mortality is a factor that has to be recognized, but it is one that is tolerable and perhaps may even be compensatory in that some natural mortality will occur however we go."

Russ Heizer (northern Oconto and western Florence counties): "Current stream water levels are at or slightly above seasonal norms for this time of year. There is a significant improvement over what we've seen the last several years."

"Groundwater levels have also improved this year over last; however, if a week or so went by without rain, stream levels would begin dropping again. This indicates to me that we haven't fully recharged our groundwater levels yet."

"We conducted a number of trout population surveys in the Marinette area this summer. In comparing results of these investigations with those of the past, brook trout numbers per acre were down 28 percent, but the standing stock (biomass) was up 17 percent, indicating more larger fish were present. This was presumably due to the season closure."

"In our mixed brook and brown trout streams, the average number of brook trout per acre was up 7 percent, while brown trout numbers were down 50 percent. The standing stock of brook

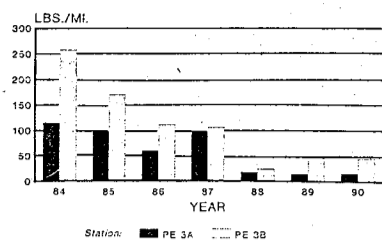
trout in these waters almost doubled while the standing stock of brown trout declined by 19 percent. Again, the season closure resulted in protection of the adult fish as intended."

"In most of our brook trout and mixed brook and brown trout streams, the 1989-1990 year class looks good and should have the trout resources on the road to recovery."

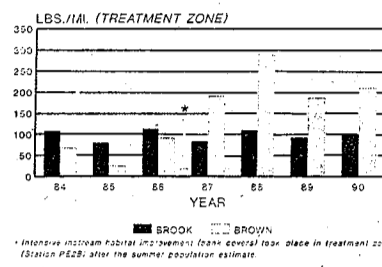
"In our mixed population streams, the increase in brook trout numbers and decline in brown trout numbers suggest that brookies were more adaptable to the drought conditions. Another theory is that we're looking at a long-term trend indicating that brown trout populations throughout Northeast Wisconsin have been declining. For this reason, I think it's important that we continue our monitoring program to document these changes over the next few years."

"As far as holdover success of stocked fish, none of the streams we surveyed were stocked, as they are class I streams with trout populations

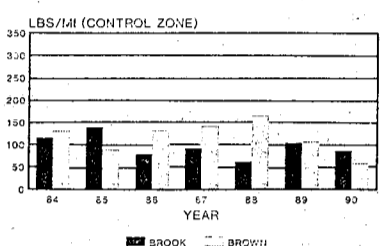
BRULE RIVER, FOREST CO., SUMMER BROOK TROUT POPULATION



ELVOY CREEK, FOREST CO., SUMMER BROOK AND BROWN TROUT POPULATIONS



ELVOY CREEK, FOREST CO., SUMMER BROOK AND BROWN TROUT POPULATION (Sta. PE2A)



totally supported by natural reproduction."

"Overall, I'd say that most of the trout anglers I talked with were very supportive of the trout season closure in 1990. I think most people realized that, with low water levels and warm water temperatures we'd seen over the three-plus years of drought, our trout populations were stressed. With limited trout reproduction and year-class failures in some cases, they knew it was important to restrict or close the trout season to protect the spawning stock for future recovery."

"Although I feel there are streams in my area that could support a trout fishing season in 1991, I also know there are some that would lose what little brook stock they have left if a fishing season were held; that would cause an even longer period of recovery."

"I think the best approach for the Northeastern Wisconsin area is to protect our larger stocks of trout for another year under a 'catch-and-release' fishing season limited to use of artificial lures and flies only. It may be a bitter pill to swallow, but I think the trout resource will reward us with a quicker recovery and an outstanding fishery when the season does open again."

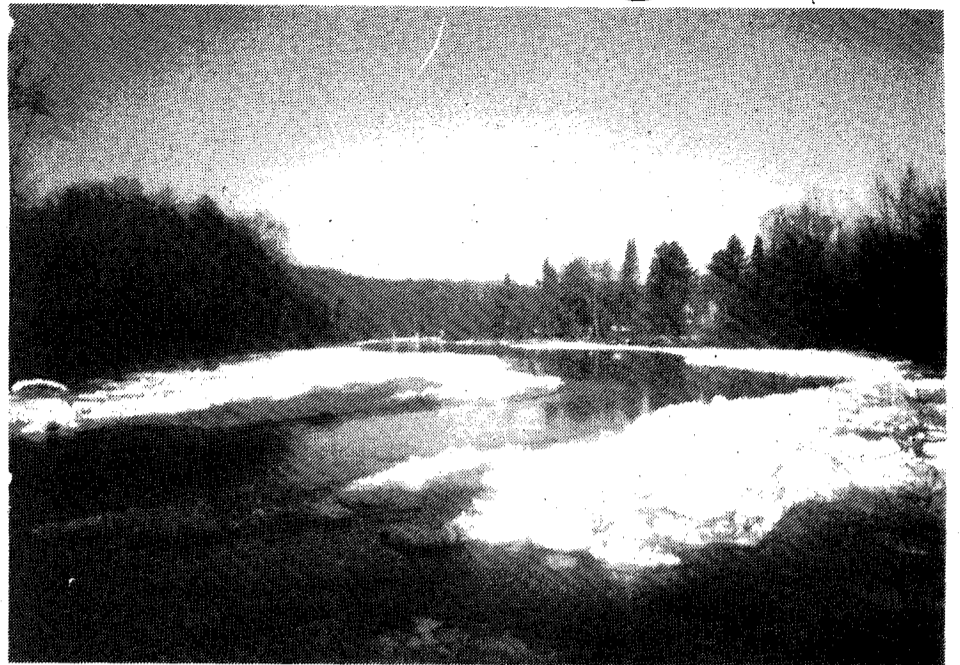
WOODRUFF PRECIPITATION RECORD
15 YEAR AVE. vs. 1986-1990

YEAR	ACTUAL	PRECIP	DEVIATION
1986	31.17"		-1.06"
1987	22.42"		-9.85"
1988	27.06"		-5.21"
1989	21.16"		-11.07"
1990 (10 mos.)	34.84"		+2.61"
TOTAL DEFICIT=			-24.58"

BASED ON 15 YR AVE OF 32.23"

Max Johnson, Al Hauber (Langlade, Lincoln and Marathon counties): "Water levels were up and down, but below average until mid-August. From then on, the surface water levels have been high on average and above normal a considerable part of the time."

"On the other hand, groundwater levels rose only about half-a-foot through the end of August, and were still much below normal. I expect, though, that there will be considerable



Wolf River in Langlade County flows bank-full in December, 1990.

recharge once we catch up on the lag time between rainfall and infiltration."

"Surveying a number of streams, we found a variety of trout population conditions. Except for the segments of good streams that have had habitat improvement work done on them, the

numbers of trout in the streams are still down anywhere from 32 to 99 percent, with an average decline showing at about 65 percent."

"Year classes are missing or greatly reduced. Larger fish are present in greater proportions than before, due to the trout season closure in 1990. Some stream areas having had habitat improvement work done on them showed **unbelievable positive response** to the season closure and good habitat."

"Conditions for trout reproduction in the fall of 1990 looked fair at best. The low groundwater levels and the low level of brood stock were the contributing factors to that situation."

"We only checked one stream that received any amount of stocked hatchery trout this year, that being the East Branch of the Eau Claire north of Antigo. After expanding the data, it appears that 74 percent of the stocked trout survived. Since normal survival rates are somewhere between three and seven percent, the absence of fishing pressure likely accounted for that tremendously higher survival rate."

"The public was great regarding the trout season closure in 1990! We received no serious complaints from trout anglers, though we did get a few from smallmouth bass, panfish and sucker anglers who were accustomed to fishing some of the marginal trout waters for those warmwater species. Many trout anglers told me how much they missed their trout fishing."

"We did get some illegal trout fishing from people who were simply uninformed about the season closure, but intentional illegal trout fishing was uncommon."

"Regarding a trout season for 1991, let me reiterate the famous quote '... It does not rain trout, it rains water!' The trout population needs further protection. A big key is the 1990 reproduction success of brood stock, which won't be known until next year. If we must err, we should do so on the side of the resource."

"I would personally favor having a 'catch-and-release', artificial lures and flies only season in 1991, as I advocated for 1990. This will cut way back on the normal fishing pressure, yet still allow trout angling recreation with a

minimum of trout mortality."

"As I said earlier, the trout fishing public has been great; they knew we had a problem and were willing to sacrifice to protect the resource. Two major issues I've spoken to in the past were solidly reinforced by the trout fishing closure: 1) **habitat** is the key as always; improved areas held more trout and recovered under the closure; and 2) **angler harvest** was having a major impact on larger-sized trout. In all streams surveyed, the bigger-sized fish returned in surprisingly large numbers because no harvest was occurring."

Ross Langhurst, Dean Schoenike (Shawano and southern Oconto counties): "Surface water levels were definitely better in 1990 than 1989, and they have returned to about the long-term average. Groundwater levels are better than in 1989, but they have yet to get back to normal."

"Our stream surveys show that we are missing the last two years of reproduction in most of the streams in our area. We studied parts of the North, Middle and South Branches of the Embarrass River, the West Branch of the Red River in Shawano County and McCaslin Brook in Oconto County. Most showed poor year classes from 1988 and 1989, and the Middle Branch of the Embarrass also showed a poor 1990 year class. Only the McCaslin Brook showed an increase in brook trout numbers when compared with previous sampling. We do expect that the existing brook stock will pull off a successful spawning season, as conditions look good for that."

"As far as stocking of streams went, we only stocked half of our normal quota of trout in streams. The survival of the stocked fish appeared to be less than normal despite the trout fishing closure."

"The public accepted the trout fishing closure in 1990 very well; they were very supportive. We encountered very little illegal trout fishing activity, though some of it was done by people who knew the season was closed."

"As far as a trout fishing season in 1991, we feel that we need another year of closure or 'catch-and-release', because of the missing year classes of 1989 and 1990. The fish spawning now will be the same fish spawning next fall. Nothing is coming up to take their place, so we need to protect our adult stocks of trout."

"We note, too, that the trout that went into the spawning season this past autumn (1990) were much bigger than in previous years. The trout fishing closure definitely protected a lot of fish!"



Wisconsin Trout

Aldo Leopold

The chapter held its annual fall meeting on October 16, 1990. Tom Hasbrouck of Poynette gave a program of his summer '90 trip to Glacier National Park, including an account of backpacking miles in to fish for beautiful cutthroat and golden trout and grayling.

The chapter also supplied refreshments and door prizes for the July 1990, State Council meeting in Stevens Point.

Antigo

The chapter approved up to \$4,000 for the planned dredging of Saul Spring Pond in eastern Langlade County in 1991. At press time, the chapter's banquet for 1991 has not been set. Call Denny Orgeman at (715) 627-7002 for information.

Blackhawk

No report

Central Wisconsin

The chapter notes that it will soon be taking reservations for its 15th annual Fly Fishing School, to be held May 31-June 2. For information, contact Mike Stapleton, Rt. 3 Box 150, Portage, WI 53901 (phone 608-981-2036).

Two workdays were held on the West Branch of the White River in September and October, 1990. The chapter invested 60 man-hours installing 78 half-logs, which brings to 98 the total number of half-logs placed into the West Branch. Over the past few years, a number of workdays have been spent removing streamside brush and downed timber, plus installing brush bundles. Work on this section is nearing completion.

For 1991, the chapter has 10 workdays scheduled, meaning another busy year for Central Wisconsin T.U.

Plans are underway for the chapter's Annual Meeting and Banquet set for March. This will be the 20th anniversary of the chapter, and they plan to "pull out all the stops" in making the event a special one.

Chequamegon

No report

Coulee Region

The chapter spent several days this past summer working on the West Fork of the Kickapoo River in eastern Vernon County. Undercut bank structures and rip-rap were placed under the guidance of DNR fish manager Dave Vetrano, who is coordinating the West Fork project.

In October, the chapter hosted a meeting at Schmidy's Restaurant and heard from Dave Vetrano on pending trout fishing regulations for the 1991 trout season in the Coulee Region and the health of regional trout streams.

Fontinalis

No report

Fox Valley

The chapter planted about 125 trout from nine to 13 inches at the pond in the Gordon Bubolz Nature Preserve on September 22nd. The pond is the site of the chapter's annual "Handicapped fishing" outing. On October 6, chapter members participated in the first-ever Central region "clean-up day" on the Tomorrow River.

At the September chapter meeting,



Central Wisconsin T.U.'ers removing potential stream impediments from West Branch White River.

members were entertained by Dale Peterson, who gave a video showing of his fishing trip to Alaska in the summer of 1990 for salmon and halibut.

The chapter's final workday of the season was on September 15. Members turned out at the Rose Farm to install about 50 brush bundles in the Waupaca River to narrow its width and provide better current and stream depth for trout. Beaver-damaged trees were either removed or "re-positioned" for use as new trout hiding covers.

The chapter's annual banquet will be held on Saturday, April 6th, at the Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton. Jim DeShaney and Gene Weber will co-chair the event.

The chapter's annual dinner meeting was held October 18 at the Forester Club in Appleton. "Mad Dog & Merrill" were the providers of the dinner program, and everyone had an enjoyable time.

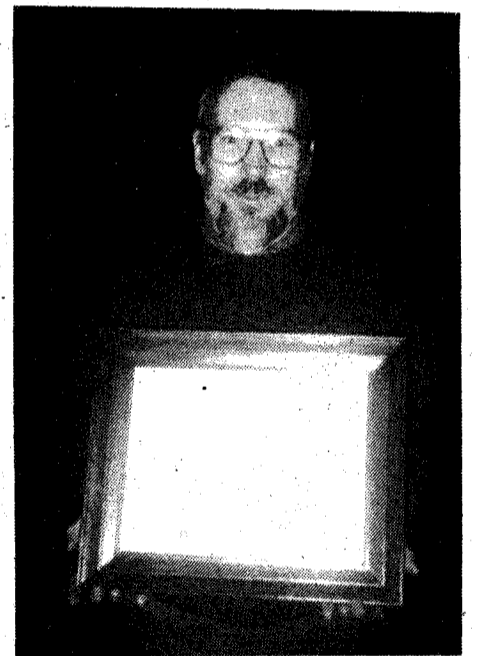
Green Bay

The chapter held two informative meetings in the fall. At the October meeting, Marinette area DNR fish manager Russ Heizer reported to the members on the status of trout waters in the region as they recovered from the three-year drought, and also on the success of beaver trappers hired by Green Bay and Marinette County T.U. chapters to remove beaver and dams from coldwater tributaries in Northeastern Wisconsin.

In November, Lake Michigan Fisheries Unit DNR fish manager George Boronow gave a program to the chapter

on the progress in the construction of the new fish-rearing facility on the Kewaunee River, which will provide salmonids for Lake Michigan's main body of water and its tributary streams.

Chapter members voted to appropriate \$10,000 to assist the DNR in the dredging of Saul Spring Pond in eastern Langlade County for 1991. The chapter also voted to continue its \$500 yearly appropriation to the Yellowstone Fishery Fund for trout habitat work and research in the Yellowstone Park trout waters.



Marinette DNR fish manager Russ Heizer with his "Silver Trout Award" from Green Bay T.U.



Central Wisconsin Chapter members building brush bundle deflector on the west branch of the White River (Waushara County).



A section of the S. Branch of the Paint River after completion of work is shown.

Unlimited Chapter reports

At the chapter dinner meeting in December, awards were presented to individuals for accomplishments on behalf of the chapter and the coldwater resource in 1990. Gene Buckoski was given the Member-of-the-Year Award, Joe Kovich the New Member-of-the-Year Award, Janice Stoychoff received a special Appreciation Certificate, and Marinette area DNR fish manager Russ Heizer received the chapter's prestigious "Silver Trout Award".

Green Bay's 16th annual banquet will be held on Wednesday, Mar. 20, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Green Bay.

Ticket price is \$20, and tickets can be ordered from: Trout Unlimited, 1326 - 14th Ave., Green Bay, WI. 54304, or by calling (414) 499-5307. New wrinkles this year will include a special drawing for a video camcorder.

Kiap-TU-Wish

Chapter members helped stock some 10,500 brown trout fingerlings in the main branch and Race branch of the Willow River. The fingerlings are reared from eggs taken from wild brood stock captured in western Wisconsin, so that they are the closest thing to native trout that may be stocked.

At the November meeting, the chapter hosted a "Heresy Night" by having **Tim Holschlag**, founder and current president of the **Smallmouth Alliance** (a conservation organization dedicated to protecting and enhancing the smallmouth bass fishery of the Midwest) as guest speaker.

The annual chapter dinner meeting was held December 5th at the Hudson House, with **Charlie Johnston** as guest speaker.

Lakeshore

The chapter is busy preparing for its annual banquet to be held **April 6th** at the club **Bil-Mar** in Manitowoc. The chapter will present a fly-tying class in winter, and a fly casting class in spring.

As part of a number of groups participating in the event, Lakeshore T.U. will put on programs at the **Manitowoc Maritime Museum** in an exhibit sponsored by the Federation of Fly Anglers in February. Programs will include steelhead fishing, tackle, fly-tying and casting, and preparation of Lake Michigan fish for eating.

Lakeshore T.U. is also one of many local sportsmen's organizations that will sponsor a yearly banquet where outstanding conservationists from the area will be honored. Members from the chapter will be able to nominate worthy individuals for recognition by the new Manitowoc County conservationist group.

Marinette County

The chapter's beaver trapper sponsored through APHIS (Animal Plant Health Inspection Service) finished the contracted work in early October. Approximate numbers (not yet final) include removal of 75 beaver and 220 beaver dams from **Swede John, Swamp, Camp Five and Eagle Creeks** in Marinette County. The chapter decided at its October, 1990, meeting to contract with APHIS in 1991 to continue the beaver trapping activity.

The chapter approved an appropriation of \$5,000 to be used by the DNR for the dredging of **Sauk Spring Pond** in eastern Langlade County in 1991.

The chapter's annual banquet will be held on **Monday, March 18**, at **The Dome** in Marinette. Tickets are \$20 and can be obtained by calling **Jim Bereza** at (715) 735-5029.

Harry Nohr
No report

Northwoods

The chapter held its Christmas party in lieu of a December meeting at the **Holiday Acres Resort**. Northwoods T.U. is in the process of obtaining cedar logs to be made into fish shelters. The Wisconsin Conservation Corps will construct the shelters this winter and install them next spring in the **Woodboro Springs ponds**, (Oneida County).

The chapter also has arranged with the W.C.C. to install brush bundles in **Noisy Creek** (Oneida County) beginning in April.

Northwoods' annual Conservation Banquet will be held on **Saturday, April 6**.

Oconto River Watershed

The chapter held its second "Members Only - Mini Banquet" on **November 3, 1990**. The event included a **venison dinner**, door prizes, raffles and auctions. The event is a chance for the members to get together and have some fun without a major investment.

Chapter by-laws are also in the process of being updated to provide for an annual audit and for indemnification of officers.

Shawano Area DNR fish manager **Ross Langhurst** was the guest speaker

at the chapter's December, 1990 meeting, and he spoke to the group on the prospects for a trout fishing season in 1991 in the area, any new "special regulations" on trout waters in Oconto County, and on recovery of the trout fishery from the ravages of the drought years of 1987-1989.

Ojibleau
No report

Shaw-Paca

The chapter's main summer, 1990, work focused on re-channeling and stabilizing **Mill Creek** in **Shawano County**. With the help of local contractors, a sand trap was installed in the creek.

The chapter was also actively involved in a beaver trapping program on area streams, with the chapter paying local trappers to remove the dam builders. To date, 87 beaver have been removed, along with many dams. This program will be continued in 1991.

Chapter members participated in scatter-planting of brown trout in the **Red River** in the summer of 1990.

The annual chapter outing was held in late July, 1990, with a trout fishing trip to northwestern Wisconsin, where the trout fishing season was open.

Southeastern Wisconsin

Chapter members were treated to a video presentation on Alaska fishing by **Dale Peterson** of the **Fox Valley Chapter** at their November meeting. Programs for winter include a January presentation by **J. Kevin Barry**, marketing representative for **Herron Reel Company**, on types of fly fishing reels, and a February program by **Jon Apple** on rod building.

Southern Wisconsin

The chapter elected new officers in fall, 1990, as follows: **John Strauss** - president; **Bob Selk** - Vice-president; **Linda Anderson** - Secretary; **Jeff Smith** - Treasurer.

Winter activities will be many for chapter members. The January meeting will be a fly-tying jamboree. On **January 19th**, the chapter's annual "Ice-breaker" will be held (see separate article). The chapter's annual fly-tying class will start in January, also, and run for 10 weeks at two local sites. Free classes are provided for approximately 40 beginning and advanced students.

The chapter's annual "Awards Banquet" will be held in February, and in March the annual "Auction Night", with "Colonel Muskrat" and "Doctor Sausage" presiding, will take place.

Wild Rivers
No report

Wisconsin River Valley
No report

Wolf River

The chapter reports that its annual banquet, held **October 13, 1990**, was its most successful one to date. Proceeds will be used to do work on tributary creeks to the **Wolf River**.

Fox Valley T.U. hosts "Fun Nite"

The **Fox Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited** will host its annual "Fun Nite" on **February 21st**, at **The Forester Club** in **Appleton**. Door prizes, videos, mini-seminars and exhibits will be available. The event is always popular, with over 250 people attending in 1990.

For further information, call **Darrell Toliver** at (414) 731-6180.



Gary Stoychoff, secretary-treasurer of the **Green Bay T.U. chapter**, presents check for \$2,050 to **Dan Morlarity** (center) of the **Ottawa-National Forest** (Upper Michigan) for chapter's share of "Challenge Grant" work on the **South Branch of the Paint River** in **Iron County, Michigan** in 1990.



Terry Retzlaff of the **Nicolet National Forest** checks brush bundles placed in **Forbes Creek** (Oconto County), **August 1990**. **Green Bay T.U.** helped fund the project.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

YES! Please begin my one-year introductory membership in Trout Unlimited at the rate I have checked below. I understand my dues payment entitles me to all regular membership benefits, including a TU decal, personal membership card and quarterly issues of Trout magazine and Action Line resource information.

Name _____ (please print)
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 Telephone _____ Chapter _____ (if known)
 Sponsor _____

Please check membership category:

- Regular membership (\$20) / 3 years (\$50)
- Family membership (\$25) / 3 years (\$60)
- Sponsoring contributor (\$40-\$99)*
- Century contributor (\$100)*
- Individual Life (\$500) (No further dues)*
- Family Life (\$600) (Husband & Wife)*
- Student membership (\$10)
- Business membership (\$50-\$499)

Payment enclosed** Please bill me

VISA * _____ Expir. Date _____

MasterCard * _____ Expir. Date _____

Signature _____

\$5 of dues amount is for subscription to TROUT magazine for one year. All contributions over \$5 are tax deductible.

*Note special benefits for these membership categories.

**Make checks payable to Trout Unlimited.

RETURN TO:
 TROUT UNLIMITED
 WASHINGTON, D.C. HEADQUARTERS
 241 CHURCH STREET, NE #10
 VIENNA, VA 22180

31 Please include my name in TU's Conservation Network

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited regional reports

Central Region

Central Region Vice-president Jim Hlaban reports that his region held a "clean-up day" and trout scatter-planting project on the Tomorrow River on October 6, 1990. Members from the Central Wisconsin, Lakeshore and Fox Valley chapters stocked 3,000 brown trout in the Tomorrow between the Portage County line and U.S. Highway 10 in Waupaca County. Hlaban intends to make this project an annual event in early October.

The region will host a "stream clean-up day" on the Branch River in Manitowoc County the first Saturday of June in 1991. More details will be forthcoming in the Spring, 1991, regional report.

picture

Northeast Region

The Northeast Region of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited had its fall meeting on Saturday, December 8, at Buettner's Wild Wolf Inn, south of Langlade on Highway 55. All eight chapters were fully represented at the meeting.

After discussing some in-house Council business regarding financial statements and water resource inventory reports, Regional V-P Mitch Bent brought to the group's attention hearings to be held statewide on NR 103, an administrative rule proposal by the Department of Natural Resources to establish water quality criteria for wetlands. The chapters were encouraged to support the rule proposal at hearings or via letters, but were also advised to enunciate concerns that the proposed rule should not exclude recognized fish habitat improvement techniques from activities permitted in wetlands.

Following that, the group listened to DNR fish managers Max Johnson of Antigo, Ross Langhurst of Shawano and "Duke" Andrews of Woodruff discuss upcoming trout habitat improvement projects slated for 1991. The three also informed the group that certain projects for 1991 had been eliminated from the Department's budget because of revenue shortfalls. These projects included: Brehmer Creek in Oconto County, Wilson Creek in

Shawano County and possibly Tamarack Creek in Vilas County.

Don Hair, fish biologist with the Nicolet National Forest, was also present and informed the group of upcoming work in the Forest on trout streams in 1991. He noted that the "Challenge Grant" project on Forbes Creek will continue in 1991, and he indicated that the Forest would be interested in receiving cooperative assistance in hiring a beaver trapper again as was done in 1990.

Information from the Ottawa National Forest in Michigan's Upper Peninsula showed two trout habitat improvement projects that needed funding for 1991: a) continuation of the "skyhook boom cover" work on the South Branch of the Paint River in Iron County, and b) construction of sand trap/spawning riffle combinations for steelhead in the Jumbo River in the southern part of Houghton County. In past years, the Green Bay and Northwoods T.U. chapters have provided financial assistance to the Ottawa National Forest for trout habitat work on U.P. streams.

Dave Brunner of the Oconto River Watershed Chapter next brought up a request from his chapter for reimbursement of excess monies the chapter had to commit to the construction of a handicapped fishing dock on Town Springs in Mountain (Oconto County) because the county and/or the state did not pick up their promised share of the cost of the project. The chapters made verbal commitments to each ask \$200 from their respective memberships to reimburse Oconto River Watershed in this matter.

Following that, a discussion ensued about the status of the dam on the Middle Branch of the Embarrass River in Shawano County that creates Homme Pond. Shawano County seeks to transfer the ownership of the dam to Lutheran Social Services, because the cost of repairing the dam to DNR standards was more than the county is willing to bear. Lutheran Social Services, which operates a boys home along Homme Pond, stated that, if the county board of supervisors would sell the dam



Ted Rydell of Shawano succeeds Mitch Bent as N.E. Wisconsin T.U. Regional vice-president.

to it for a token amount and provide some financial assistance to repair the dam, they would pick up the rest of the dam repair cost.

Concern over this issue came from Dave Brunner and Ted Rydell (Shawano T.U.). Fish Manager Ross Langhurst explained that he had tried to get the County Board to order removal of the dam, but to no avail, and he said that he fully expected approval of the transfer of the dam to Lutheran Social Services.

However, additional concern was noted with regard to the fact that Lutheran Social Services has expressed an interest in retrofitting the dam for hydroelectric generation. After much discussion, the Region approved a motion to send a letter to Neil Kutchery, Marinette Area DNR, stating that, while the Northeast Region of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited would not object to transfer of the ownership of the Homme Pond dam from Shawano County to Lutheran Social Services, the region would oppose any installation work on the dam that would facilitate hydroelectric generation. And, the motion further stated the region's desire to see present public access maintained at the dam and pond.

After that topic, the regional representatives heard from the DNR fish managers on the proposals for a 1991 inland trout fishing season in Northeast Wisconsin. The DNR fish managers reported that Madison administrative staff had decided to seek "public hearings" on the 1991 trout fishing season for Northeastern and Southwestern Wisconsin counties affected by last year's emergency restrictions, because they did not want to have another "emergency rule" to deal with.

The regional representatives then approved a motion that would request the Natural Resources Board to make a decision regarding the 1991 inland trout fishing season under "emergency rule" rather than through the public hearing process in order to save time and money and avoid confusion as to what will happen with the 1991 fishing season.

The region later rejected two motions, one to have a 1991 trout fishing season in the Northeast Region with a one fish creel limit (except on stretches of trout waters listed as "catch-and-release" under the new inland trout fishing regulations), with all other size limits and angling method restrictions to remain as noted in the new regulations, and another motion that would have recommended a trout fishing season on the Langlade County portion of the Wolf River in 1991 under the new regulatory package.

At the end of the meeting, the regional representatives elected Ted Rydell to serve a one-year term as the Northeast Regional V-P. Rydell succeeds Mitch Bent, who elected to retire from the position after serving three years as Northeast Regional Vice-President.

Northwest Region:
No report

Southern Region

The Southern Region has a new regional vice-president. Webb Kennedy, president of the Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter, will take over for Larry Meicher, who resigned the post. Kennedy will work to coordinate efforts among the Blackhawk, Harry Nohr, Southeastern Wisconsin and Southern Wisconsin T.U. chapters.

Southern Wisconsin Chapter "Ice Breaker" scheduled

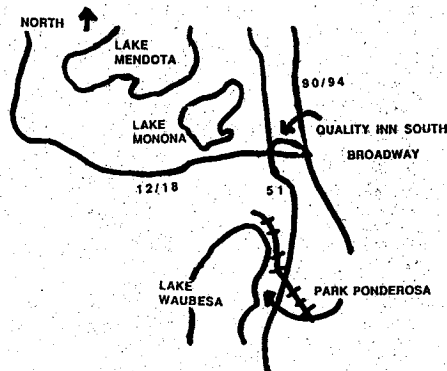
Starting with a Friday night buffet dinner and ending with a Saturday afternoon casting clinic by Joe Humphreys, the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited has scheduled a big weekend for avid trout anglers on January 18-19.

Nationally-recognized author, teacher and fly-tier Joe Humphreys will be the main speaker at the Friday, January 18 buffet at the Quality Inn South, 4916 Broadway, Madison. On Saturday, at the Park Ponderosa Ballroom, 5100 Erling Avenue, McFarland, the annual "Icebreaker" trout fishing clinic will be held, with the day's agenda as follows:

- 8:30 a.m. - Doors open
- 9:00 a.m. - Welcome and introductions
- 9:15 a.m. - Joe Humphreys: Nymphing
- 10:00 a.m. - John Edstrom: Lake Superior steelheading
- 11:00 a.m. - Topf Wells: Chapter

project reports

- 11:30 a.m. - Lunch - Fly tying - Displays
- 1:30 p.m. - Door prizes
- 2:00 p.m. - Joe Humphreys: Night fishing
- 3:00 p.m. - Raffle
- 4:00 p.m. - Casting clinic by Joe Humphreys
- 4:30 p.m. - Adjourn



Tickets for the "all-you-can-eat" Friday night buffet dinner are \$12.00, and advanced sale tickets for the Saturday clinic are \$9.00 (\$10.00 at the

door). To order tickets, send a check payable to Trout Unlimited to: Greg Hyer, 4296 County "P", Cross Plains, WI 53528.

Wetland rule receives wide support

A series of hearings on NR 103, an administrative rule proposal by the Department of Natural Resources to establish water quality standards for wetlands, were held at five statewide locations between December 10-17, 1990. The rules would allow the DNR to set up criteria for evaluating the impacts that permits sought for altering wetlands under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act would have on the water quality of the wetlands and associated water systems. Section 404 is administered by the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

If adopted, NR 103 would give the state "veto power" over the Section 404 permits to some degree by allowing the state to deny water certification to Section 404 permits. The Federal Clean Water Act had permitted states to set these water quality criteria since it was passed in the 1970's, but Wisconsin has lagged in setting the criteria up.

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited testified

in support of NR 103 at several hearings, yet it also noted to DNR staff several shortcomings of the proposed rule. As written, the rule would give special consideration to "Areas of Special Natural Resource Interest", and included in that listing were class I and II trout streams.

Wisconsin T.U., though, objected to the exclusion of class III trout waters from that codicil, noting that many well-known trout streams such as the Pine, Popple and Willow rivers in Northeastern Wisconsin and the Bad, Marengo and Willow rivers in Northwestern Wisconsin have substantial stretches of class III water in them. T.U. stressed to the Department that a class III designation on a trout stream has nothing to do with the water's current water quality of value, but is only an indication of the stream's inability to sustain natural reproduction of trout within it, usually because of unfavorable thermal regimes.

WCC receives award

The Friends of the United Nations Environment Programme (FUNEP) recently selected the Wisconsin Conservation Corps (WCC) as a winner of the FUNEP 500 Environmental Achievement Award. Funep, a private non-profit organization, works in con-

junction with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to protect the environment and educate the public about environmental issues. Established in 1987, FUNEP 500 honors about 100 environmental achievers a year.

DNR Fish Manager Profile: Scot Stewart

One key to success for professionals in the field of fisheries management is having a broad range of professional experiences and duties. And that is just what Scot Stewart, the subject of this issue's DNR Fish Manager profile, has had since he began his career in the late 1970s.

Stewart was born in Ann Harbor, MI, 37 years ago. His family moved to Wisconsin, where he graduated from Brookfield Central High School. Scot obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Fisheries Biology from the University of Minnesota in 1978, and a Master of Science degree in Fisheries Management from Ohio State University in 1982.

He began his professional career as a Research and Teaching Assistant at Ohio State from 1978 to 1982. He was also employed by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources during that period as an intern for doing population assessments on smallmouth bass in Ohio streams and reservoirs.

Once his Master of Science degree was completed in 1982, Scot was hired by Wisconsin's DNR as the Assistant Area Fish manager in Baldwin for Pierce and St. Croix counties. In 1987, he took on the new duties of Area Fish Manager in Madison for the four-county area of Dane, Green, Jefferson and Rock.

Since coming to Wisconsin as a fish manager, Stewart has had his hands in a lot of different projects aimed at assessing and improving trout numbers. He did evaluations on the brushing projects on the Kinnickinnic River done by the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of Trout Unlimited, and he also assisted in the maintenance of the brushed out sections. Scot found that the best stretch among the areas brushed on the "Kinni" held over 9,100 trout/mile.

The Willow River in St. Croix County was another one of Scot's major coldwater resource projects. Here, using Trout Stamp monies, he directed the removal of old, worn-out structures and the installation of boom covers and rip-rap to stabilize the narrows in the Willow.

Scot also put much effort into the Rush River in Pierce County. He ini-

tiated the first Trout Stamp project on a club-lease/cooperative basis with the Eau Galle - Rush River Sportsmen's Club, wherein he had meanders installed in straight, wide, coverless reaches of the river. That effort was rewarded with a 500 percent increase in trout numbers, along with many more big fish in the river.

Stewart worked, too, on the Rush River to carry out evaluations on the contributions of spring vs. fall stockings of trout fingerlings to the fishery population in order to determine which time of the year brought about better successes for trout stocking.

Scot's current position - Area Fish Manager out of Madison - puts him right in the middle of one of the biggest and most important coldwater resource protection and improvement projects going on right now, i.e., the priority watershed project on Black Earth Creek in Dane County.

Says Stewart, "I've been heavily involved in this priority watershed project, which was the first such project to include in-stream habitat improvement work. In cooperation with the Dane County Land Conservation Committee, Water Resources Bureau of the DNR and the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited, we have completed projects on Black Earth Creek where it flows through private, leased and village property."

"The results," he continued, "have been nice increases in trout density and size structure. We've also observed trout spawning in downstream areas where it did not previously occur."

"I think we've completed about seven projects to date since 1988," he noted, "and there are many more scheduled. Habitat improvement is one of my favorite types of projects, especially when it involves working with others that value the streams and the trout that reside in them. In the future, we intend to do more on Black Earth Creek while the priority watershed funds are available. We have an excellent opportunity to do a lot more work with these funds than Trout Stamp monies alone would allow."

When asked about the problems facing the coldwater resources in his area



DNR fish manager Scot Stewart doing population estimates and fish measurements in Black Earth Creek (Dane County).

of responsibility, Stewart again focused in on Black Earth Creek.

"Groundwater problems are a major concern in this area," he said. "Madison wells remove water that is discharged from the Yahara River, and, coupled with development spreading westward, could affect the recharge areas of Black Earth Creek. We (Trout Unlimited, Dane County and the DNR) are trying to get funds set aside for a groundwater study of the area."

One thing Scot sees as a bright spot for trout resources in his area is the new set of inland trout fishing regulations for Wisconsin that came into being this past year.

"The new trout fishing regulations are the best thing to happen in a long time," Scot stated emphatically. "They provide different opportunities for anglers and allow for trout management based upon stream potential."

"I classified two miles each of Black Earth Creek and Mt. Vernon Creek as Type V ('Special Regulations Waters'), with a 20 inch minimum, one fish per day limit on brown trout and artificial lures-and-flies only permitted. The intent was to increase the density of fish between 12 and 20 inches while allowing harvest of a 'trophy' trout if one so desires. We will begin a creel and population estimate study on Black Earth Creek in spring of 1991 to assess the initial impact of the new regulation."

Besides the coldwater fishery resource, Scot also is responsible for the warmwater fishery in the area, and he elaborated on some of the challenges he faces in that regard.

"I'm supervising the management efforts on the Madison lakes (Mendota, Monona, Waubesa and Kegonsa) to look at trophic relationships, size lim-

its, stocking strategies, large lake sampling and projects to improve reproduction and recruitment (i.e., more young fish entering the total population)."

"As an example, we have a major fishery experiment underway on Lake Mendota. It's a three year study that began in January, 1987. The DNR and the University of Wisconsin-Madison cooperated to develop and test research tools that can be used on lakes throughout Wisconsin to improve sport fishing and benefit water quality," Stewart pointed out.

"The main purpose of the study," he

continued, "is to improve sport fishing in Lake Mendota and restore adequate natural reproduction of northern pike and walleye. That will increase the number of popular large gamefish while at the same time provide more predation on the small panfish in the lake so that we can grow bigger bluegills, crappies and perch."

"Another interesting facet of the study," Scot said, "is that which will determine whether large numbers of predatory gamefish will feed on the smaller fish already present in the lake. Reducing the number of small fish, which eat zooplankton, will allow zooplankton numbers to increase. Since zooplankton feed on algae (which are a nuisance on Lake Mendota), more zooplankton could mean less nuisance algae floating on the lake."

"And," he summed up, "even if the Lake Mendota experiment doesn't reduce algae numbers, researchers will learn why, and will be able to apply that information to future lake management work."

When Scot is not busy with his many professional responsibilities, he has a lot of hobbies that he pursues. He is an avid trout angler, and enjoys both fly fishing for trout and fly tying, plus fishing for panfish and gamefish. In the fall, waterfowl and deer hunting are priority outdoor recreational pursuits of his. And, he his wife Jo, and sons Roy and Rick go camping as often as time permits during the spring and summer months.

Scot's efforts on behalf of coldwater resource conservation have not gone unnoticed by the anglers he has served over the years. He has received awards of appreciation from both the Kiap-TU-Wish and Southern Wisconsin T.U. chapters and from the Eau Galle-Rush River Conservation Club. Those awards were richly deserved, for Scot Stewart has taken a leadership role in coldwater resource conservation wherever his professional duties have taken him. And Wisconsin's sport anglers can be proud of having Scot as one of Wisconsin's many fine fishery managers in the Department of Natural Resources. His past achievements only bode well for the future of recreational angling in our state.

McCAUSLIN BROOK, Oconto County, white water trout stream, beautifully wooded, 1½ to 5 acres, permits guaranteed, restricted, FROM \$13,500.

CONTACT: **BAKE. Inc.**

P.O. Box 172
LAKEWOOD, WI 54138
715/276-7676

Wolf River Fly Shop

LANGLADE, WI 54491
715-882-5941

Fly Fishing & Tying Supplies

Open April 19th - Aug. 1st

St. Croix Rods

& Custom-made rods

Good selection of flies for Wolf River and surrounding streams

Located on Rocky Rips Road
off Highway 55
south of Langlade

Brochure Available

Tom Talasek

Wolf River Fly Shop
N4216 Rocky Rips Rd.
White Lake, WI 54491-9718

"Friends of Wisconsin T.U." program update

The "Friends of Wisconsin T.U." program continues to receive support from Wisconsin T.U.'ers. Designed to raise funds to allow the Wisconsin State T.U. Council expand its role in coldwater resource conservation, the "Friends" program has attracted 33 members to date.

During the coming year, the Wisconsin T.U. Council will determine where to apply the net proceeds from this past year's "Friends" program. The Council will be looking at both resource improvement work and research/education options.

To become a "Friend of Wisconsin T.U.", fill out the form below and mail it with your check payable to TROUT UNLIMITED to the address listed in the form. For your \$100 donation, you will receive a "Friends of Wisconsin T.U." lapel pin and a certificate of appreciation suitable for framing. In addition, all "Friends of Wisconsin T.U." are listed in each issue of Wis-

consin Trout, as shown below.

So, don't delay! Start out the New Year with a commitment to better trout fishing for Wisconsin by joining the "Friends of Wisconsin T.U.". Your support will be greatly appreciated!

Friends of Wisconsin T.U.


- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Mitchell Bent | DePere, WI |
| George Bereza | Marinette, WI |
| Robert Bolz | Madison, WI |
| Thomas Buettner | Sheboygan, WI |
| John Cantwell | Green Bay, WI |
| Jon P. Christensen | Mequon, WI |
| Andrew Cook II | DePere, WI |
| J.M. Coombes | Menomonee Falls, WI |
| Wayne Disch | Green Bay, WI |
| David M. Everett | Lincolnshire, IL |
| William Flader | Madison, WI |
| Daniel Flaherty | LaCrosse, WI |
| Robert Hackinson(*) | Appleton, WI |
| Walter Hellyer | Fish Creek, WI |
| Robert Horswill, MD | Janesville, WI |
| Charles V. James | Milwaukee, WI |
| Webb Kennedy(*) | Mequon, WI |
| Richard Kraus | Berlin, WI |
| Richard L. Kroll | Fox Point, WI |
| Mel Lasecki | Green Bay, WI |

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| David Lenz | Middleton, WI |
| Orrin Miller | Janesville, WI |
| Ron Miller | Green Bay, WI |
| Ronald Rellatz | Merton, WI |
| Forest H. Schafer Foundation | Clintonville, WI |
| (John Schafer, Pres.) | |
| William V. Schumacher | Wausau, WI |

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Delmar Schwaller | Appleton, WI |
| Dr. John Shillinglaw | Appleton, WI |
| Mark & Catherine Vaughn | Plover, WI |
| Richard Wachowski | Eau Claire, WI |
| J. Nash Williams(*) | Madison, WI |
| John Yackel | Circle Pines, MN |
| Fred Young | Roscoe, IL |


NOVA BAMBOO

CANE RODS AND REPAIR
"TOMORROW"
Gene Novak
105 Mueller Lane
Random Lake, WI 53075
Ph. 414-994-9843



IRON FEATHER FLY RODS

Performance for Dedicated Fishermen



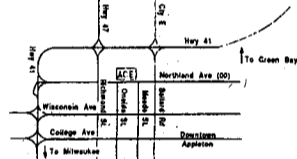
CAST BEFORE YOU BUY
Feel Free to Bring Your Favorite Reel for Practice

ALSO IN STOCK
Fenwick - HMG - Royale - Eagle
Loomis - Premier - IMG - IMX
St. Croix - Imperial - Legend
Sage - Light Line - Reserve Power

Reels - Scientific Anglers - S.T.H. - Fenwick - Martin

Lines - Cortland - Scientific Anglers - Sue Burgess

ACE HARDWARE OF APPLETON
500 E. Northland
Appleton, WI 54911
OPEN 7 DAYS
(414) 731-0500




MAIL TO: TROUT UNLIMITED
1282 MONTEREY TRAIL
DE PERE, WI 54115

Yes, I want to join the Friends of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited
Enclosed is my check for \$100.00.


Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____



WISCONSIN TROUT UNLIMITED



7th CONSERVATION AWARDS BANQUET

SATURDAY, JAN. 26, 1991

At the Paper Valley Hotel & Conference Center

333 W. College Ave. - Appleton, Wis.

PRIZES! RAFFLES! AUCTIONS! FUN!

Cocktails & Hors d'oeuvres - 5:00 p.m. *Dinner - 6:30 p.m.*

Come Join Us for an Evening of Fun, Fellowship
And Dedication to the Coldwater Resources of Wisconsin

Limited Tickets Available at Door - Order Now!

(CLIP OUT AND MAIL TODAY)

YES! I WANT TO ATTEND THE 7th WISCONSIN TROUT UNLIMITED CONSERVATION AWARDS BANQUET.
Enclosed is a Check in the Amount of _____
For _____ Tickets at \$25.00 Each

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TICKET PRICE:
\$25.00

Mail Check and Order Form to:
TROUT UNLIMITED
1282 Monterey Trail
DePere, WI 54115
or Call
Mitch Bent
(414) 336-4983
(Make All Checks Payable To: Trout Unlimited)

RETURN:
Trout Unlimited
Randy Butters
N8082 Union St.
Ripon, WI 54971

News and Views from Wisconsin Trout Unlimited

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 100
RIPON, WI



Wisconsin Trout Unlimited

Att'n: BY THE BAY
Brown County Chronicle
P.O. Box 2467
Green Bay, WI. 54306

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Spring 1991

Natural Resources Board approves "Catch-and-release" seasons in N.E., S.W. Wisconsin

At the January meeting of the Natural Resources Board, the Board approved a "permanent rule" for 1991 that restricts the inland trout angling season in 11 Northeastern and six Southwestern Wisconsin counties to artificials-only, catch-and-release fishing.

The counties affected by the rule change are: (Northeast) Florence, Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto, Oneida, Shawano and Vilas; (Southwest) Columbia, Grant, Iowa, Lafayette, Richland and Sauk. The rule does not affect stocked inland lakes nor the Boundary Brule River between Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. Those waters will be open to trout angling as prescribed in the 1991 trout

fishing regulations pamphlet.

The rule was rushed through the hearing process by Department of Natural Resources staff in order to get the rule on the books in time for the May 4th opening date of the general fishing season opener. A public hearing was held on January 11 in Madison, with deadline for written comments January 14.

DNR staff had recommended the restricted season for those two areas of Wisconsin, as they had been the hardest hit by the drought of previous years and their trout waters were severely depleted of fish. Many streams showed a lack of one or more year classes of trout.

The permanent rule does not forbid, however, use of live bait for fishing for

warmwater species in designated trout waters, and Wisconsin Trout Unlimited expressed concern to DNR staff and to the Natural Resources Board that increased hooking mortality of trout may occur due to those who might be fishing for smallmouth bass or other warmwater species in trout waters and who might accidentally (or otherwise) catch trout instead.

DNR staff dismissed that concern, saying that experience with the artifi-

cially only, catch-and-release season in the Southwestern part of the state in 1990 did not produce any significant illegal angling or excessive hooking mortality.

Subsequent to the Board's action, Legislative approval of the Board's action from standing committees in the Legislature produced the final seal of approval on the 1991 Wisconsin inland trout fishing season.

From the Chairman

By Steve Born

Our recent State Council elections have led to a change of leadership, and I look forward to the challenges of the coming year. "Hats off" to Dick Kraus and other outgoing Council officers for their service and hard work over the past two years. With only a month of experience under my belt, I've rapidly become aware of the many duties--big and small--of keeping an organization like ours moving.

I begin my term with the firm belief that individual chapters are the heart of Trout Unlimited, and that the major coldwater resource issues we face are state issues. In short, the chapters and the State Council are where the action is, and our conservation successes will be measured by strengthening the relationship between the chapters and the Council.

Developing future leaders for chapters and the State Council must be a high priority. Why? Some of you must have read the story in the Milwaukee Journal a while back that headlined: "Musky Chapter Goes Belly Up--Too Few Leaders". It told a story of the Lakeland Chapter of Muskies, Inc., which had been an effective force in the North.

By all accounts, they were successful with projects, fund-raising, monthly meetings, etc. In short they had an enviable track record. Why, then, the article asked, was this chapter going under?

In spite of a membership of some 250 anglers, very few people formed the core of the club for conducting the chapter's business. A nucleus of about ten anglers had been running the club for several years. Their pleas for volunteers and help went without response... and finally the core group just "burned out". Sound familiar?

Unfortunately, we know of such stories from within our own ranks. After all, who wouldn't rather be trout fishing? The newsletter of the Southeastern Wisconsin T.U. Chapter just arrived, with one caption reading "T.U. Leaders Wanted". Nominees



Steve Born

-BRENT NICASTRO PHOTO

for chapter officers were being sought.

Experience with my own chapter - Southern Wisconsin - has convinced me that development of leadership is important. We've had a succession of chapter leaders, many who would rarely describe themselves as leaders, accept the challenge and grow into the job. One of the primary jobs of today's chapter leaders is to nurture the leaders of tomorrow.

We cannot survive without the infusion of new leaders--volunteers who will step forward to learn to play the many roles necessary to make our chapters function. These future leaders of our organization take this step with the belief that this is the most effective way to make the investment in protecting the resource that we all so passionately care about. None of us should forget that it was the marvelous coldwater resource that brought us to T.U. in the first place; maybe it's time to repay that debt.

I'm looking forward to the coming year, to working to strengthen the State Council and to assist chapters in the most productive ways possible. Send me any ideas you've got!

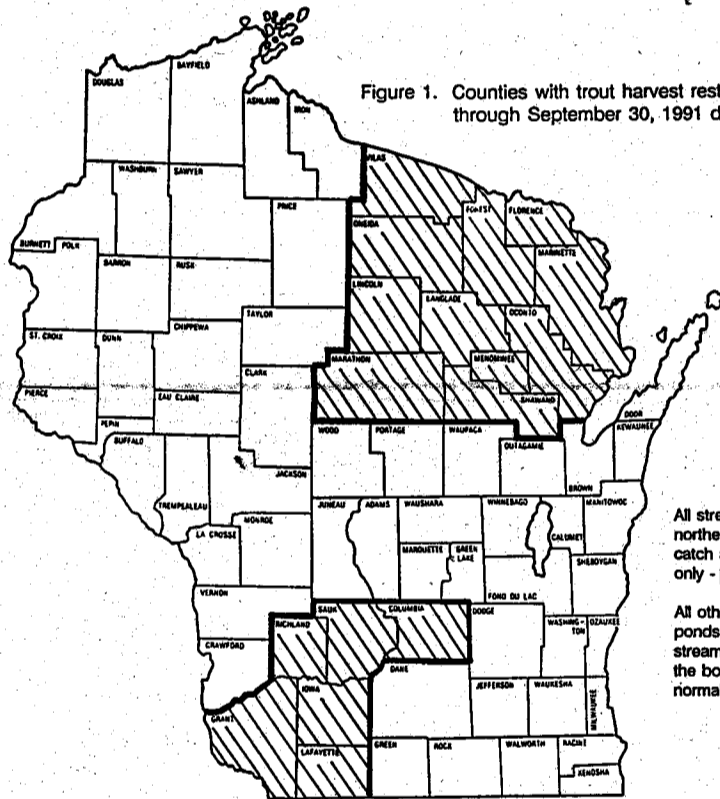


Figure 1. Counties with trout harvest restrictions for May 4 through September 30, 1991 due to the drought.

All streams and spring ponds in the northeast and southwest areas are catch and release with artificial lures only - [diagonal lines]

All other counties, all lakes and ponds, Green Bay tributary streams up to the first dam, and the boundary Brule are open under the normal 1991 regulations.

Highlights of State Council meeting

The Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited met on Saturday, January 26th, at the Paper Valley Hotel & Conference Center in Appleton to conduct its annual meeting. Highlights of the meeting were as follows:

*A report that the Legislature may be considering a proposal called **Stewardship II** patterned after the recently enacted "Stewardship Fund". The purpose of the new "Stewardship" would be to focus on wetlands regulations, wild and scenic rivers, urban waterways and waterway restorations.

*Introduction of new Regional Vice-Presidents for the Northeast (Ted Rydell) and the Southern (Webb Kennedy) regions.

*Discussions by National Directors of the budget woes of National Trout Unlimited that are resulting in cutbacks in communications (*Action Line* has been cancelled and the size of *Trout* magazine has been scaled back) and reducing overhead expenses at the National office.

*Announcement that the second Midwest Region Trout Unlimited meeting will be held in Grayling, Michigan, in summer.

*An update of the progress made on habitat restoration on the Tomorrow River near Nelsonville (Portage Coun-

ty), where a section of the river has been recreated subsequent to the removal of an old dam in 1985.

*A discussion by Council members on how to productively spend the net proceeds from the "Friends of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited" program.

*Approval of a budget for the fiscal year of \$29,250.

At the end of the meeting, elections were held for Council positions. Elected were: Chairman - Steve Born (Madison); Vice-Chairman - John Cantwell (Green Bay); Secretary - Rick Penn Highbridge; Treasurer - Mitch Bent (De Pere); and, Elected National Director - Rick Penn.

New T.U. National address given

In case you haven't heard, Trout Unlimited's National office has moved to a new address, as part of a cost-saving measure. The new address is: Trout Unlimited, 800 Follin Lane, Suite 250, Vienna, VA 22180.

All notices of address change or questions regarding National policy should be directed to that address. T.U. National's phone number is still the same as always, (703) 281-1100.

T.U. Chapters, Foundation help fund dredging

Given the prediction of a near 40 percent decline in Inland Trout Stamps revenues from 1990 because of emergency restrictions and season closures on trout fishing due to drought, chapters of Trout Unlimited in Northeastern Wisconsin, plus the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin, Inc., have teamed up to completely fund the 1991 dredging project slated for Saul Spring Pond in eastern Langlade County.

Saul Spring, a major coldwater feeder to the South Branch of the Oconto River, was once a prime trout fishery as well as a source of recruitment for the South Branch Oconto River. Beaver dams on the spring outlet from 1977-1981 effectively silted in the pond's springs, prevented migration of trout from the South Branch into the pond for spawning purposes and caused losses of several year classes of brook trout.

Even when the dams and beaver were removed, the pond never recovered, because the vast layers of silt and detritus had plugged up springs and covered up spawning areas.

The Department of Natural Resources and the Nicolet National Forest had targeted Saul Spring for dredging in 1991. The dredging project was to dovetail with a three-year habitat improvement project on the South Branch of the Oconto downstream from the Saul Spring outlet and the South Branch.

However, due to revenue shortfalls from the afore-mentioned Inland Trout Stamp sales, fisheries managers were uncertain whether funding could be obtained for the project.

Chapters of Trout Unlimited came to the rescue, though. The Green Bay Chapter appropriated \$10,000 for the project, and Antigo and Marinette County chapters each pledged \$5,000. Because the pond lies within the confines of the Nicolet

National Forest, the Forest Service appropriated \$5,000 from its "Challenge Grant" program for the project.

The State Council of Trout Unlimited also intervened in the matter by submitting an application to the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin, Inc., for a matching grant under the foundation's Small Matching Grants program. The Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin, Inc., generously presented a check to the Council in the sum of \$1,000 to be used for the dredging project, whose cost will run in excess of \$25,000.

In presenting the check to Wisconsin Trout Unlimited, Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin, Inc., board member Dan Flaherty of La Crosse wrote, "I am pleased to inform you that the Awards and Grants Committee of the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin, Inc., has approved your request for a grant of \$1,000 for the Saul Spring Pond project in Langlade County. We are pleased to support improvement of trout habitat in Wisconsin and look forward to receiving an update on this project upon its completion in 1991."

"I can't say when I've enjoyed sending a check out as much as I have this one!" Flaherty added.

Funding from other foundations will be sought prior to commencement of the dredging so as to offset the commitments by the chapters and allow them to stretch their resource dollars further in 1991, when trout habitat improvement monies are expected to be scarce. However, it is to the great credit of the Green Bay, Antigo and Marinette County T.U. chapters, as well as the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin, Inc., that they responded quickly and generously to a situation that demanded prompt action.



Degraded area of Saul Spring Pond in eastern Langlade Co. Pond is scheduled for dredging in 1991.

DNR board member O'Melia dies

Donald O'Melia of Rhinelander, a member of the Natural Resources Board appointed by Governor Thompson, passed away in early February due to heart failure.

Trygve A. Solberg of Minocqua was appointed by Thompson to serve out the remainder of O'Melia's term on the Natural Resources Board.

"Friends of Wisconsin" Trout Unlimited program

The "Friends of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited" program is about to enter its second year, and the Council points with pride to the fact that over 33 members have signed up to provide the Wisconsin T.U. Council with funds it needs to expand its coldwater resource enhancement programs.

Dollars generated by the initial successes of the program will be put to use by the Council in 1991, and the Council will investigate additional ways to productively use these donations in future years.

Want to be a "Friend of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited"? It's easy! All you have to do is fill out the blank associated with this article and send it with your check payable to Wisconsin Trout Unlimited to the address listed on the blank.

Your \$100 contribution will earn you a Wisconsin T.U. pin, Certificate of Appreciation and recognition in future issues of Wisconsin Trout. Consider all the wonderful trout resources we have in this state, and then think of all that Trout Unlimited is doing to improve those resources for current and future generations. We hope you will join with those listed below as a new "Friend of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited"!

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Mitchell Bent | De Pere, WI |
| George Bereza | Marinette, WI |
| Robert Bolz | Madison, WI |
| James Bolton, Jr. (*) | Eau Claire, WI |
| Thomas Buettner | Sheboygan, WI |
| John Cantwell | Green Bay, WI |
| Jon P. Christiansen | Mequon, WI |
| Andrew Cook II | De Pere, WI |
| J.M. Coombes | Menomonee Falls, WI |
| Wayne Disch | Green Bay, WI |
| Thomas England (*) | Knoxville, IL |
| David Everett | Lincolnshire, IL |
| William Flader | Madison, WI |
| Daniel Flaherty | La Crosse, WI |
| Robert Hackinson | Appleton, WI |
| Walter Hellyer | Fish Creek, WI |
| Robert Horswill | Janesville, WI |
| Charles V. James | Milwaukee, WI |
| Webb Kennedy | Mequon, WI |
| Richard Kraus | Berlin, WI |
| Richard Kroll | Fox Point, WI |
| Mel Lasecki | Green Bay, WI |
| David Lenz | Middleton, WI |
| Orrin Miller | Janesville, WI |
| Ron Miller | Green Bay, WI |
| Ronald Rellatz | Merton, WI |
| Forest H. Schafer | Clintonville, WI |
| Foundation | Wausau, WI |
| William V. Schumacher | Appleton, WI |
| Delmae Schwaller | Appleton, WI |
| John Shillinglaw (R) | Plover, IW |
| Mark & Catherine Vaughn | Eau Claire, WI |
| Richard Wachowski | Madison, WI |
| J. Nash Williams | Circle Pine, MN |
| John Yackel | Roscoe, IL |
| Fred Young | |
| (*)=New "Friend" | |
| (R)=Renewal | |

'Free Fishing Days' to be held in Wisconsin and Michigan

Once again, the states of Wisconsin and Michigan will have "free fishing days" as required by state statutes. In Wisconsin, the state's "free fishing day" will be on Sunday, June 2. All residents and non-residents of the state may fish Wisconsin's waters without having in possession legal fishing licenses or user-fee stamps. Admission to state parks that day is also free of charge.

In Michigan, the state's annual "free fishing weekend" will be held June

8-9, with the same parameters as Wisconsin (i.e., no license or stamps required).

Both states do require, though, that creel and size limits apply on those "free fishing" days.

The purpose of these "free fishing" days is to encourage citizens to participate in the healthy outdoor activity of fishing and to make citizens more aware of the importance of a healthy environment in our lives.

Conservation Congress hearings to be held April 22, 1991

The annual Wisconsin Conservation Congress fish and game hearings will be held statewide on Monday, April 22, in every county in the state.

Designed to let interested parties voice opinions and vote on matters pertaining to hunting, fishing and trapping regulations, the hearings provide input to the Natural Resources Board, the

governing body of the Department of Natural Resources on those matters.

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited urges all its members to check out the time and location within their respective counties of these hearings, and to attend the hearings to express their positions on the items on the Congress agenda.

**BUY EXTRA
TROUT STAMPS**

**MAIL TO: TROUT UNLIMITED
1282 MONTEREY TRAIL
DE PERE, WI 54115**

**Yes, I want to join the
Friends of Wisconsin
Trout Unlimited
Enclosed is my check for \$100.00.**

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Letters to the Editor

Praises "Friends" program, trout fishing

Editor, Wisconsin Trout:

Enclosed find a check for \$100 for the "Friends of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited" program. I've been fly fishing in Wisconsin for six years, and have had the good fortune to meet some great people and experience some great fishing.

My first fly fishing experience was in June of 1985 on the Mewan River near Wautoma. I met Dr. Tom Poulette, and, because of him, I joined the Central Wisconsin T.U. Chapter. The following year, I attended the chapter's "Fly Fishing School" and had the opportunity to meet Dick Kraus.

As I mentioned, I am a member of the Central Wisconsin Chapter, but

because I live four hours away, I cannot attend meetings or workdays. I fish Southwestern Wisconsin about three times a year, and really appreciated all the time, effort and money that is spent by fellow TU'ers, DNR people and other agencies on stream habitat protection and restoration.

Thanks for the opportunity to help these worthwhile goals!

Sincerely,
Tom England
Lacy-England Agency, Inc.
131 N. Side of Square
Knoxville, IL 61448

Ed. Note: Thank you, Tom England, for your support of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited.

Questions stamp increase

Editor, Wisconsin Trout:

It seems like talk about increases in the Trout Stamp always includes how much beer and gasoline costs, along with everything else. That's okay if you are talking about a single person, with no kids, who can afford a \$10 stamp.

But what about the guy with a wife and two or three kids, all of whom want to go trout fishing? This same family are also duck hunters and deer hunters.

I don't believe any kid under 18 should even have to have a trout stamp, just a fishing license. These kids must be interested in trout fishing for the year 2010. Maybe the state should consider a "family stamp" for trout fishing.

Somewhere, somebody should stop to think about the kids, instead of let-

ting the parents decide on heading up to Bayfield County for trout fishing and camping this May, or opting to just go to Shawano Lake bluegill fishing.

Somewhere along the line the parents are going to draw the line, probably like I did. I used to go to the Lake Michigan shoreline once in a while trout fishing. When the Great Lakes Trout and Salmon Stamp came into being, I just said "To hell with it!" I feel you should only have to buy the Great Lakes Stamp if a boat is being used to fish trout and salmon.

I hope anyone thinking of a trout stamp increase thinks about the kids.

Sincerely,
Charlie Schmitt
994 River Drive
Campbellsport, WI 53010

Give proper credit on Black Earth Creek story

Editor, Wisconsin Trout:

I appreciate the credit you gave me for writing the article on Black Earth Creek in the Winter, 1991, issue of Wisconsin Trout. I must confess, however, that the text for the article was taken from a brochure entitled "Someplace Special - Black Earth Creek".

The brochure was written by Steve Born, Jeff Mayers, Bill Sonzogni and myself. Photographs were supplied by

Lowell Gennrich. The Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited published the article to heighten awareness about the value of this "suburban spring creek" as a wild trout fishery worthy of long-term protection.

Thanks for running the article!

Sincerely,
Andy Morton
2625 Van Hise Avenue
Madison, WI 53705

WISCONSIN TROUT

is the official publication of the Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited. Issues are distributed to all members of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited chapters. Publication and distribution dates are the first weeks of January, April, July and October. Deadlines for articles and advertisements are the 10th of December, March, June and September, respectively. Advertising rate sheet available upon request. Contributions and letters-to-the-editor are welcomed and encouraged. Submit articles and returnable photos or slides (color or black-and-white) to editor for consideration. Send all change of address notices to: TROUT UNLIMITED, 800 Follin Lane, Suite 250, Vienna VA. 22180.

Mitch Bent, Editor
1282 Monterey Trail
DePere WI 54115
(414) 336-4983

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Council Officers

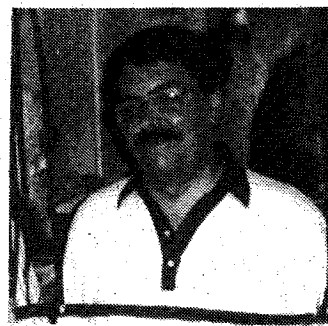
Steve Born, Chairman
424 Washburn Place
Madison, WI 53703

Rick Penn, Secretary
Rt. 1 Box 267
Highbridge, WI 54846

John Cantwell, Vice-Chairman
2286 Mt. Olive
Green Bay, WI 54313

Mitch Bent, Treasurer
1282 Monterey Trail
DePere, WI 54115

Wisconsin T.U. member profile: Dick Wachowski



Dick Wachowski

Working one's way through the ranks of an organization is the time-honored method of not only achieving position and status within a business or group, but it is also certainly the surest way of becoming knowledgeable of the entire workings of the operation. Such has been the path chosen by Dick Wachowski of Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

The forty-two year old Wachowski, a native of eastern Wisconsin, grew up in Two Rivers. After graduating from high school there, he earned his undergraduate degree at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He then completed work for his law degree at the UW Law School, and has been a practicing attorney in the Eau Claire area for many years.

Dick first joined Trout Unlimited in 1977 at the urging of a partner in his law firm. Given his long-time interest in trout fishing and water resource issues, the move was a natural one. "The organization seemed to be intimately involved in both areas," Wachowski stated, "and that was what I was interested in, too."

With his store of legal knowledge and his skills in enunciating positions and ideas, Dick quickly became involved in the workings of Trout Unlimited. He served as both vice-president and president of the Ojibseau chapter in the late 1970's and early 1980's, and was also the chapter's representative to the State Council of Wisconsin T.U.

As duties with the chapter waned, he became more involved with the State Council, serving concurrent positions of Vice-Chairman and Legal Counsel from late 1983 through early 1987. He was elected to serve as Chairman of the State Council in January of 1987, and was re-elected to another one-year term in 1988.

In the role of Council Chairman, he also served in the capacity of one of Wisconsin's two elected directors to the T.U. National Board, where he put his professional talents to use as a member of the National Board's Legal Advisory Committee.

In 1989, he succeeded Alan Pienkowski of Michigan as the Midwest Regional Vice-President, wherein he not only maintained his position as a T.U. National Director, but also monitored activities and problems among the T.U. State Councils of Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota and the Ozarks as well as Wisconsin. In the summer of 1990, he put together a very successful first-ever meeting of representatives from the T.U. Midwest Councils in Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin.

During his time with T.U., Dick was involved in a whole host of projects and issues affecting coldwater resources. At the local level of the Ojibseau Chapter, Wachowski participated in habitat restoration works on Duncan Creek and Elk Creek in Chippewa and Eau Claire counties. He also put to use his legal expertise in assisting on the Lowes Creek storm sewer compromise agreement with city of Eau Claire officials in the late 1970's and on the Augusta/Bridge Creek dam proposal in Eau Claire County.

Dick's legal background was helpful, too, at the state level when he was an active participant in the controversy over establishing road construction regulations (known then as Trans 207) to protect streams from construction site erosion from bridge and highway projects that passed over or by trout waters. And, Dick took substantial interest and spent time on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) re-licensing of the dam on the Willow River in St. Croix County.

He was also an active participant in the regulatory process regarding the now-temporarily abandoned Exxon mine project for Forest County.

With his broad knowledge and experience of T.U. and resource issues,

Dick commented on the organization and the direction it is heading in.

"I definitely feel that the strength of the organization is at the state and local level, and our resources should be concentrated there. I also feel quite strongly that we should be establishing a 'holistic' approach to the resource by focusing on protection and enhancement of entire watersheds, not just individual streams or sections thereof."

As far as resource problems that need addressing, Wachowski is quick to cite many things that he feels pose threats to Wisconsin's coldwater resources.

"Development along streams and stream corridors ranks as one of the biggest threats to the health of the inland trout fishery in Wisconsin," he strongly asserted. "The exemption of the cranberry industry from environmental regulations is another severe threat to the resource that needs T.U.'s attention."

"In addition, we have to get going on controlling non-point pollution from construction sites, logging areas in state, county and national forests, and, of course, from agricultural areas. Lax regulation of mining in Wisconsin poses potential threats, and, of course, preventing and/or removing dams from trout streams, be they be constructed by man or beaver, is important," he maintained.

Besides the many things listed here that Wachowski has immersed himself in as an active member of Trout Unlimited, they represent only a portion of his dedicated efforts on behalf of the resource. Dick was an active proponent of the new inland trout fishing regulatory package that first went into effect during the 1990 trout fishing season. He worked with Rep. Spencer Black (D-Madison) and a Legislative Committee that formulated the "Stewardship Fund" for the state.

As Council Vice-Chairman, Dick put together a clear, concise revision of the Council's by-laws, and in 1988 he was on the organizing committee for the conference on Trout Anglers in the Upper Midwest held at La Crosse, which was a first-of-its-kind meeting.

Wachowski will be winding down his activities with the National Board this coming October when he retires from the position of Midwest Regional Vice-President. That will give him more time to spend with his wife, Peg, and daughters Kate (11) and Beth (7). And it may provide him some more time to pursue his favorite leisure activities of trout fishing, canoeing, reading and golf.

"I truly believe that the chapters and the Council will be the prime movers to re-establish a respectable coldwater fishery in the state," he said. "And I also believe that the Conservancy program that T.U. National has begun will be important for chapters and Councils to use in protecting their coldwater resources."

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited has indeed been fortunate to have someone like Dick Wachowski in its ranks. While many people may have the talents he possess, few have been willing to share those talents with the organization. And for that, Wisconsin Trout Unlimited is extremely grateful to Dick, and is pleased to know that they can count on him in the future to work for a better trout fishery for all of Wisconsin.

DNR Fish Manager Profile: Marty Engel

Western Wisconsin is an area of diverse recreational angling opportunities. Outstanding trout streams, excellent lakes and superb warmwater rivers provide fishermen in that region with a lot of enjoyable fishing to pick and choose from.

That diversity also provides DNR fish managers with many challenges to contend with. It was just such diversity that lured Marty Engel to seek and obtain a fish management position within Wisconsin's DNR in the Baldwin area (Pierce County) of western Wisconsin.

Engel was born in Burlington, Wisconsin, in 1957, where he grew up and graduated from Burlington High School in 1975. As have many of his peers in Wisconsin's DNR Bureau of Fish Management, Marty attended the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife Management, Resource Management and Biology in December of 1979.

He began his professional career with the DNR by working on fishery and wildlife projects during summers between college. His first duties consisted of doing in-stream habitat work on **Beaver Brook**, a Class I brook and brown trout stream near Spooner.

After graduation from "Point", Engel assisted the fisheries manager in Burlington for two seasons with evaluations of bass slot-size limits and creel surveys of four southeastern Wisconsin lakes. He also took part in some trout habitat improvement work on **Bluff and Funk Creeks**, two tiny but important trout streams in the southeast part of the state.

In the winters during that time, Marty worked with Wildlife Management, conducting wildlife surveys, maintaining properties and doing prescribed burning and other habitat manipulation techniques. He also spent one fall working on a research project on **Parker Creek** in St. Croix County, evaluating the use of brush bundles and half-logs as a means of improving trout densities in a stream prone to flooding.

In April of 1983, he accepted his first permanent position with the DNR as a Fisheries Research Technician for the Northern Highland Fisheries Research Station in Vilas County. There, he conducted lake surveys and angler interviews to get fish and angler characteristic data and obtain biological, physical, chemical and ecological data in relation to approved fishery research projects focused mainly on smallmouth bass and walleye.

In May of 1987, Marty was offered a promotion to Fish Manager and spent nine months training in La Crosse, during which he worked primarily on the Mississippi River and the Environmental Management Plan designed to restore fisheries and wildlife habitat. He co-authored a paper in 1986 that was instrumental in establishing updated commercial clam harvesting regulations for the Mississippi River.

Engel transferred to Baldwin in February of 1988 in order to obtain a location with diverse fish management opportunities for both cold- and warmwater species. His current duties require him to plan and administer all DNR fish management programs in Pierce and St. Croix counties; conduct biological surveys of the St. Croix River; coordinate management with the DNR Mississippi River Work Unit and other government agencies; and, assist the Area Fish Manager with planning and development of area-wide fish management programs.

His coldwater resource responsibilities include two small trout lakes and over 180 miles of trout streams, including popular rivers like the **Kinnickinnic, Willow-Race and Rush** rivers, in St. Croix and Pierce counties, plus some assistance work on trout waters in

Dunn and Pepin counties.

Presently, he is in the process of completing a major five-year investigation on the **Rush River** looking at population dynamics, stocking survival and angler characteristics. He has also carried out major habitat work on the **Trimbelle River** in Pierce County (40" lunker structures and over 1,100 yards of rip-rapping) that will serve as a ¼ mile demonstration area project.

The **Kinnickinnic River** has been a favorite piece of water for Engel to work on, and he has enlisted the help of the **Kiap-TU-Wish T.U. Chapter** in Hudson and the **Twin Cities T.U. Chapter** in Minneapolis for many brushing projects on the "Kinni".

Marty has also put much effort into repair flood damage on the **Race Branch of the Willow River**, with help from the **St. Croix County Alliance of Sports Clubs**, and he's done cooperative stream work with the **Eau Galle-Rush River Sportsmen's Club** on the **Rush River**.

Management work on the "Kinni" takes much of Marty's time, as about 15 miles of the Class I trout stream are under DNR control through leases, easements or fee title, and about 30 miles of fence line must be maintained, along with 50 cattle watering stations, to protect habitat and water quality.

Evaluation of regulations will likely consume a lot of Marty's future work time as he studies data from "Special Regulation" waters on the **Willow-Race, Kinnickinnic and Rush** rivers. He will also be updating stocking strategies on Class II and III trout waters, while at the same time determining ways to streamline maintenance activities on the "Kinni" so as to devote more time to habitat improvement works.

And, he will put increased emphasis on providing expertise to projects financed by trout fishing clubs, county aids programs and the Department of Transportation. Identification of critical trout habitats, land acquisition and public education will be priorities, too.

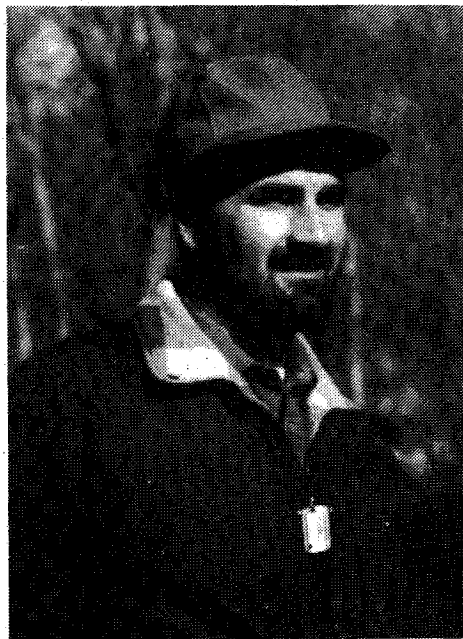
Engel has also looked to the future as far as problems facing the coldwater resources in his domain. He notes that increasing population growth in Pierce and St. Croix counties sets the stage for a lot of encroachment along rivers like the **Kinnickinnic**, and poses potential adverse impacts from non-point pollution and siltation. Responsible planning to protect the river is beginning to take shape, he says, but too many people still treat streams and tributaries as drainage ditches.

Special regulations on trout waters in his area are expected to improve the trout fishery there, he contends.

"We now have a variety of trout fishing opportunities from trophy 'catch-and-release' streams such as the **Willow Race** to 'fish-for-food' areas on the **Upper Kinnickinnic**. A slot-size limit area on the **Lower Kinnickinnic** was designed to improve size structure without excluding any particular angling method."

Continuing, he says "Our base regulation in Pierce County is **Type 4** (three trout per day, 8" size limit on brook trout, 12" on browns), which is aimed at protecting our stocked fish for one year before harvest is allowed. This is important where no reproduction occurs and the quality of the fishery is dependent upon recruitment to larger sized fish from stocked sources. Our trout lakes are open during winter months to provide trout fishing opportunities without loss of quality."

Engel also elaborated about his warmwater fishery responsibilities. "My warmwater duties include 30 lakes and 37 miles of the St. Croix River, along with warmwater sections of the **Apple and Willow** rivers. During my first years at Baldwin, I was responsible for completing three major inves-



Marty Engel

tigational reports on area lakes to evaluate population and growth parameters of major game fish and panfish species," he said.

"Since then," he added, "we are annually monitoring walleye stock survival on several lakes, and we're developing indices of young-of-the-year walleye on others. In addition, I recently completed a report entitled 'Population Parameters of Lake Sturgeon in the St. Croix River with Special Reference to Movements', which provides information on the characteristics of St. Croix River Sturgeon populations."

When Marty isn't knee-deep in fish management responsibilities, he is often just plain "gone fishin'" with his wife, Jan, and sons Lee (6) and Jeff (5). "I don't specialize in any particu-

lar species, but rather go after them all," he admits. "In fall, I concentrate on bowhunting for deer, but I also enjoy duck, pheasant and grouse hunting, not to mention firearm deer hunting. And my family and I look forward to several camping trips each year. This past summer, we spent a week camping throughout Kentucky."

He adds, "My children are very active in scouting, soccer, basketball and baseball programs, which I assist in as coach. My wife and I both strongly believe in providing outdoor recreational opportunities to children and adults in the area, and we are both Angler Education Instructors and have conducted many clinics."

In conclusion, Engel says, "The members of the **Kiap-TU-Wish and Twin Cities T.U.** chapters, along with other sportsmen's groups, have been of great help to me in my professional career over the years. They are all willing to help and highly educated on natural resources protection and enhancement topics. Their dedication goes above and beyond helping with 'fun' projects, as demonstrated by their professional approach to tough political problems affecting the fishery. I consider them to be personal friends and feel welcome at their functions."

It is safe to say that T.U. members from western Wisconsin have similar commendable things to say about Marty Engel. Nominated for several awards for his fishery management activities, Engel continues to serve his constituents - the anglers of western Wisconsin and surrounding areas - extremely well. And it is fish managers like Marty Engel who continue to keep Wisconsin number one in fish management achievements across the nation.

State Council TU banquet nets \$5,400

The 8th Wisconsin State Council Trout Unlimited Awards & Conservation Banquet held January 26, 1991, at the Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton netted the Council a respectable \$5,400.

The Council is most grateful to **Forrest Grulke** of the Fox Valley Chapter for coordinating the event. The entire banquet was smoothly run, thanks to Forrest's work.

Pure Water 2000 program helps projects

Your area Coors distributor could be the source of up to \$2,000 for your next chapter project. Through **Pure Water 2000**, a national cooperative project launched by the **Coors Brewing Company** to educate and motivate Americans on water quality issues, more than 275 Coors distributors have already coordinated and supported some 225 local projects.

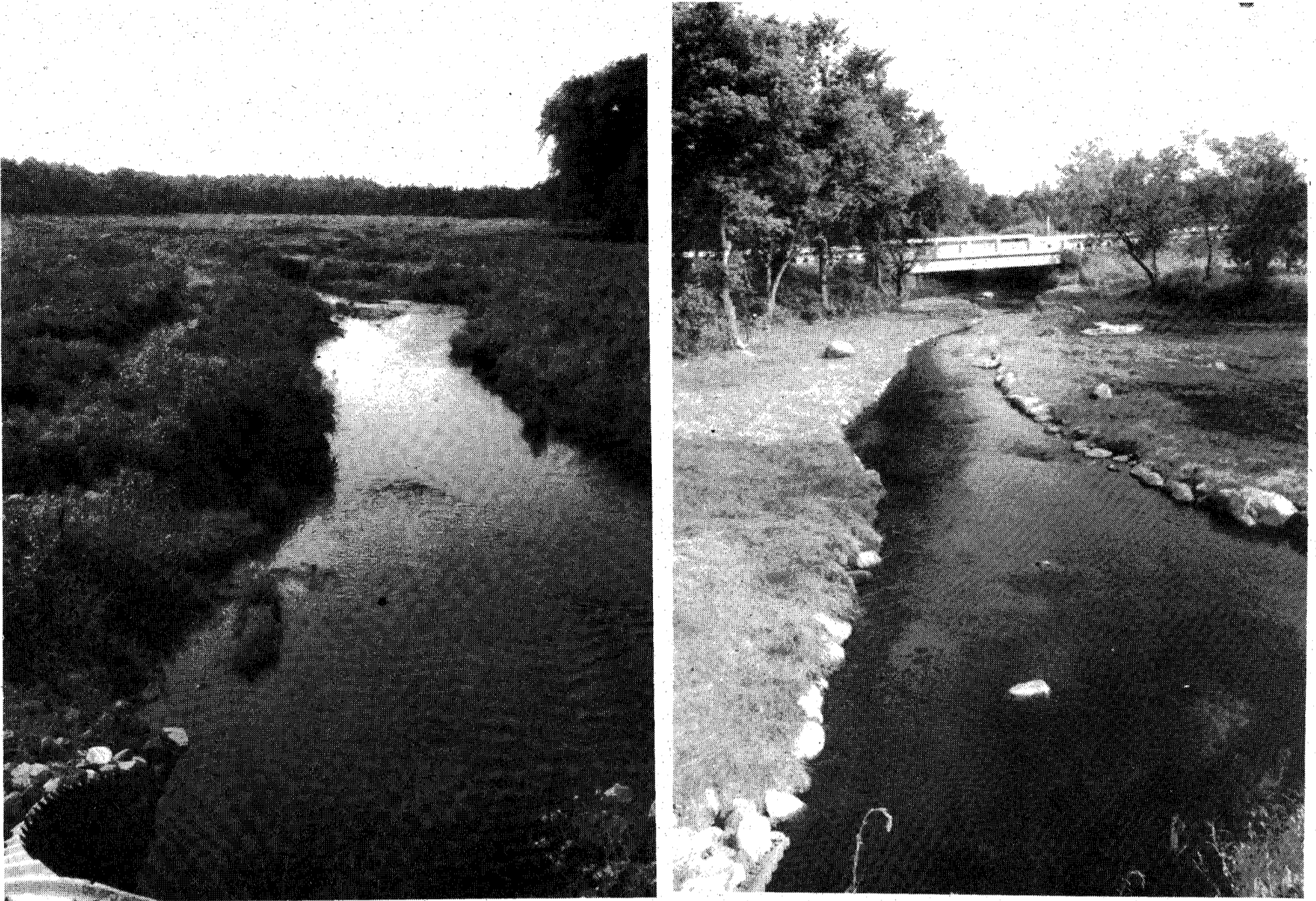
These projects have ranged from a

cleanup day on the **South Platte River** near Denver, CO, to a household chemical roundup in Freeport, IL, to stocking of Atlantic salmon fry in New Hampshire.

For more information on **Pure Water 2000** and how to apply for funding for your project, call **Todd Appleman**, Coors Pure Water 2000 coordinator, at 1-800-525-3786.

Working to protect the environment--this publication is printed on recycled newsprint.

**BUY EXTRA
TROUT STAMPS**



Upstream and downstream sections of Upper Tomorrow River from site of old Nelsonville Dam after dam removal.

DNR Director feels outdated dams are harmful to Wisconsin fisheries

By Lee Kernen
Director of the Bureau of
Fisheries Management,
Wisconsin Department of
Natural Resources

I don't like most of the dams in Wisconsin, and wish they could be removed immediately. I'm not advocating destruction of major flowage dams such as those on the Flambeau or Petenwell, and major hydroelectric dams are important to electricity production.

I'm talking about the hundreds of five- to 15-foot head dams that many years ago started out as important mill dams - dams that are more than 100 years old and today do nothing but hold silt and hurt our fisheries.

Jack Zimmerman, DNR area fish manager in Wisconsin Rapids, played a major role in removing one such outdated structure.

The Nelsonville Dam and a 30-acre impoundment on the Upper Tomorrow River had existed in eastern Portage County since 1860. The old Nelsonville Pond warmed downstream trout waters and created habitat for carp, suckers and northern pike, which spread into the stream to the detriment of trout.

Nelsonville was one of the millponds responsible for the spread of carp in the Tomorrow River prior to the 1970s. In 1971, considerable time and money was put into chemical treatment of the Tomorrow River to remove rough fish from the system.

The mill and dam were purchased by the DNR in 1984 for \$40,000. The pond was drained and the historical mill building was given to the Portage County Historical Society. A private fund was established through the FishAmerica Foundation and Trout

Unlimited to assist landowners along the millpond with erosion control. Trees and shrubs were planted on the old pond bed for beautification.

In 1988, we discovered that the old concrete base of the dam was still holding back more than four feet of water, preventing the stream from returning to its original level. In the meantime, the Historical Society had cleaned and restored the old mill building and began using it as a museum and for art shows. After securing an additional \$50,000, DNR removed the old dam and replaced it with twin culverts.

The upstream section of the Upper Tomorrow returned to its original level, but the downstream section (350 feet) became clogged with sand and debris. In 1990, we narrowed and deepened the downstream section while installing boomcovers to improve trout habitat.

The end result was more than one mile of trout stream reclaimed. Free migration of fish is now possible with the dam removed, and the natural beauty of a free-flowing stream has replaced a weedy millpond that had degraded the stream for 120 years.

Brook and brown trout have moved into the stream and most of the banks have revegetated and healed. The site now serves as an excellent example of the benefits that can result from the removal of an old mill dam on a prime trout stream.

I'd like to see more projects like this, including those on warmwater streams. If our fish had more freedom to move, they would find the correct winter and summer habitat that would allow more of them to survive. This would mean better fishing in hundreds of rivers now holding only minnows and bullheads.

The "Unpredictable" Charter Service
Featuring ultra light 12' Fenwick Noodle Rods with 8 lb. test line. The largest fish caught on board to date with light tackle.
21 lb. Rainbow - 28 lb. King

Booking May-Oct.
28' Carver (Santa Cruz)
Fly Bridge
Twin 302 Inboards
All Modern Electronics
Specializing Rainbow
& Salmon

1-6 people charters
Group packages
Call or write:
Captain Jerry L. Eichmann
1118 So. 24th Street
Manitowoc, WI 54220
Phone 414-684-0316

WISCONSIN TROUT WATERS

DNR trout stream information transferred to county maps.

Maps show Class I & II streams with color overlay.

Adjoining Federal, State, County & Town roads shown.

*Includes trout species
*\$12.95 per copy delivered
CLARKSON MAPS

P.O. Box 218 Kaukauna, WI 54130-0218

BRULE RIVER WILDERNESS

Two 5-acre parcels on the Brule River, Florence County, deep in the heart of the Nicolet National Forest adjacent to the Whisker Lake Wilderness Area. Beautiful high land. \$11,000 & \$12,000.

The border Brule flows clear, cool and full even in times of drought; a premier native brook trout river; some native browns; canoeable all summer; never planted. Because it is a boundary water (Wisconsin-Michigan) THE SEASON IS OPEN THIS COMING spring and summer.

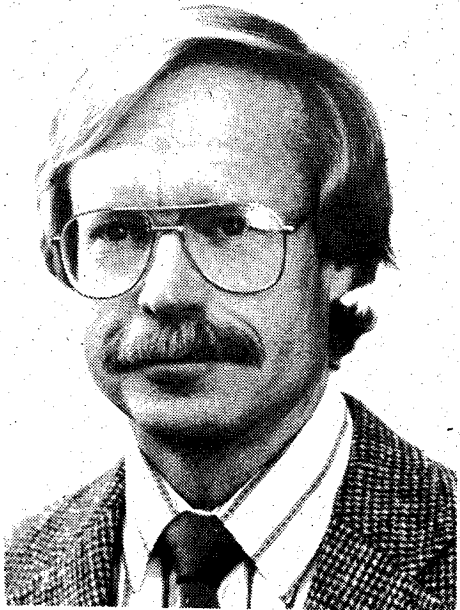
PINE RIVER REALTY
Cal Erickson, broker-trout fisherman
P.O. Box 56, Florence, WI 54121
Phone 715-528-3280

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited State Council

The Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited held its seventh Conservation Awards Banquet on Saturday, January 26th, at the Paper Valley Hotel and Conference Center in Appleton.

Besides being one of the main fund-raising mechanisms for the Council, the banquet also presents the Council with an opportunity to give recognition to individuals and groups for doing outstanding work on behalf of the coldwater resources and the Wisconsin T.U. Council.

Recipients of awards and certificates of appreciation at this banquet were as follows:



**Award of Merit -
LARRY CLAGGETT,
DNR Trout Specialist**

Claggett received the Award of Merit for his outstanding efforts in bringing about the successful adoption of the revised trout angling regulations in Wisconsin that were adopted in 1990.

For two years, Claggett spent 75 percent of his time attending meetings and talking with dozens of sportsmen's groups and T.U. chapters about the proposals to radically alter inland trout fishing in Wisconsin. Despite projections of a "less than 50-50 change of acceptance", Claggett persevered, and delegates to the 1989 Wisconsin Conservation Congress approved the new regulations by more than 60 percent of the total vote statewide.

Because of Claggett's work, Wisconsin has now in place one of the most progressive set of inland trout fishing regulations in the nation that will satisfy a wide diversity of angler desires.



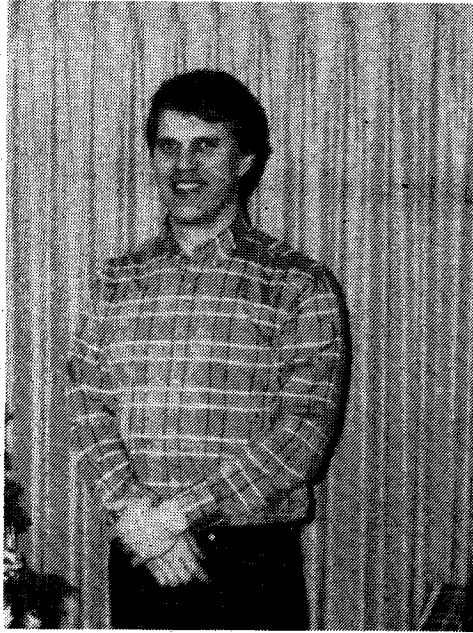
**Gold Net Award -
RICHARD KRAUS**

In the past two years, Dick Kraus of Berlin, WI., has served with distinction as Chairman of the Wisconsin State T.U. Council. Despite the heavy demands on his professional job, Kraus gave generously of his free time to take on the many unexpected duties that befall a T.U. Council chairperson.

Kraus took personal time to attend many meetings and hearings regarding

non-point pollution, impacts of cranberry operations on trout streams and wetlands, land acquisition and trout angling regulation overhaul.

Dick also served with distinction on the Trout Unlimited National Board of Directors, making sure that Wisconsin's voice was heard. His dedication to the volunteer position he was elected to in January of 1989 and 1990 are indeed commendable.



**Gold Trout Award -
JIM BEREZA**

Jim Bereza of the Marinette County T.U. has been a key person for the Council in fund-raising efforts. For the 1987 and 1988 State Council banquets, Jim handled most of the arrangements for the events, both of which were highly successful.

In addition, he has worked hard to establish his Marinette County T.U. banquet as one of the best T.U. fund-raisers in the state. The banquet has shown increased profitability each year, and Marinette County's banquet boasts the highest per capita raffle ticket sales of any Trout Unlimited banquet in the state.

Besides his work at fund-raising, Bereza has put in many hours on trout habitat improvement projects in Northeastern Wisconsin, including Wisconsin Creek (Florence County), North Branch of the Beaver Creek (Marinette County) and the First South Branch of the Oconto River (Oconto County). Jim Bereza has devoted a lot of time and back-breaking effort to make things better for trout and trout anglers since his joining T.U. in 1982.

**Silver Trout Award
(Outstanding Chapter) -
SOUTHERN
WISCONSIN T.U.**

Over the past decade, Southern Wisconsin T.U. has been an example of a T.U. chapter that takes its mission seriously. It has expanded its membership to the highest of any chapter in the state, and it has instituted several unique fund-raising events to help finance its coldwater resource work.

It is in its resume' of habitat improvement works, though, that Southern Wisconsin T.U. has shown its mettle. Hundreds of hours of labor by chapter members have gone into significant improvements on the chapter's "home waters" of Black Earth Creek and its tributaries.

These projects have included building and installing "lunker structures", rip-rapping, fencing, installing cattle watering stations and crossings and planting trees and shrubs. And much of the success of the work in that particular state Priority Watershed project can be attributed to the strong cooperation between Southern Wisconsin T.U. and the DNR and local agencies.



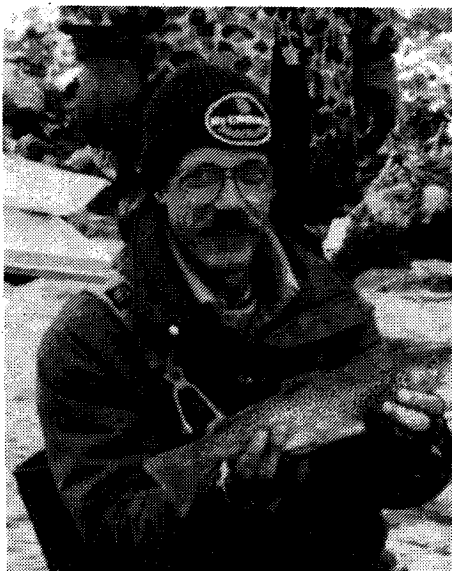
Southern Wisconsin T.U. members working along Black Earth Creek (Dane Co.)

The chapter has taken the lead in projects on Black Earth Creek totalling more than \$65,000, and its project committee has been the focal point for contracting much of the construction work.

Besides habitat work, chapter members have formed "water-watcher" efforts to keep an eye on happenings within the watershed, and they have testified on proposed development projects, zoning actions and additional resource management studies. Southern Wisconsin T.U. also recently contributed funds for a much-needed groundwater study in the upper reaches of Black Earth Creek.

Educational efforts of the chapter have included: 1) taking the lead in the adoption of the new inland trout fishing regulations, 2) providing information for the Black Earth Creek Watershed Association and adjacent landowners, 3) annual fly tying classes and fishing seminars, and 4) production of an informational brochure on watershed management focusing on the successes on Black Earth Creek.

The wide variety of activities pursued by Southern Wisconsin T.U. have collectively resulted in better protection for the coldwater resources of their area.



**DNR Fish Manager
of the Year -
SCOT STEWART**

Since coming to the Southern Wisconsin DNR District in 1987, Scot Stewart has shown a strong dedication to improving the coldwater resources in the area while involving local groups in the process. In his relatively brief tenure in the Madison area, Stewart has

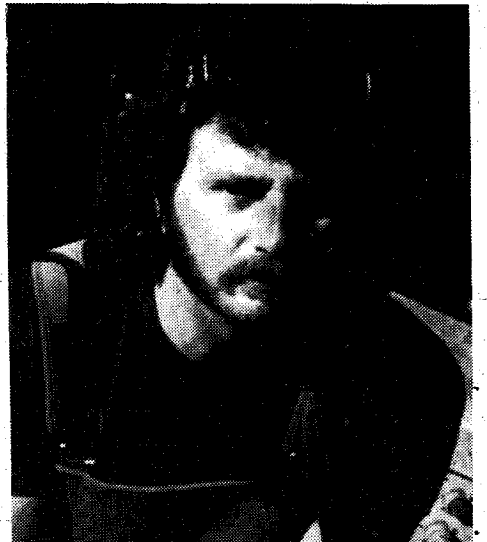
worked closely with many fishing groups, including Southern Wisconsin T.U., and has made himself available to individual T.U. members regarding progress of habitat improvement projects in his area.

Scot has provided the T.U. chapter with much information so that they could proceed with their chapter habitat work. He has taken leadership roles on projects on Storey, Garfoot, Mt. Vernon and Black Earth Creeks. In a unique endeavor, almost 1½ miles of Storey Creek were restored by replacing a drainage ditch with the original stream meanders. Water that was once unproductive now abounds with trout.

On Black Earth Creek, Stewart has carried out projects involving placement of lunker structures, stream rip-rap and fencing.

His dedication to the warmwater fisheries under his charge is also worth noting. He has labored on the Lake Monona-Yahara River priority project as well as the restoration of Six Mile Creek. His ongoing program for manipulation of biomass in Lake Mendota, along with size and creel limit changes, have been an important facet of Scot's professional agenda.

Stewart's boundless energy and dedication to aquatic resources, as well as his involvements in local resource matters, make him most deserving of this recognition from Wisconsin Trout Unlimited.



**Appreciation Award for
DNR personnel -
DAVE VETRANO**

As fish manager for Crawford and Vernon counties, Dave Vetrano has

presents awards

done an outstanding job above and beyond the call of duty with his stream restoration work on the West Fork of the Kickapoo River in Vernon County. Vetrano has worked tirelessly with local sportsmen's clubs and chapters of Trout Unlimited (Coulee Region, Blackhawk and Fox Valley) to carry out some impressive work on the West Fork.

That work has already resulted in increased numbers of larger brown trout in the stream, and Dave plans even more work to increase the carrying capacity of the West Fork. Combined with the new inland trout fishing regulations designating a stretch of the West Fork from State Highway 82 upstream to County Highway "S" as a "Catch-and-Release" section, Vetrano's work will bring about an outstanding trophy trout fishery within a few years.

Vetrano also undertook an insightful project resulting in the redesign and modification of traditional trout habitat structures so that they would withstand the rigors of coulee streams and their unpredictable floods. His new design resulted not only in stronger structures, but also in ones that are considerably less expensive to build and install.

With a dearth of public stream frontage in his management area, Dave Vetrano has done a masterful job of enhancing the coldwater fishery of his area by communicating effectively with local landowners and area sportsmen's groups, and Wisconsin Trout Unlimited is proud to recognize him for his efforts.

Certificate of Appreciation - JAY REED

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Jay Reed, well-known outdoor writer for the Milwaukee Journal, for his series of informational articles in 1989 that helped bring about the passage of the new inland trout fishing regulations in Wisconsin. His reporting of the 1989 Wisconsin State Council annual meeting wherein the aspects of the new reg-

ulations were debated was distributed statewide, and many subsequent favorable articles on those regulations were given credit for helping the public accept the regulation overhaul.

Also, over the years, Reed has written several articles presenting Trout Unlimited in a positive light, promoting conservation and protection of our delicate environment.



Certificate of Appreciation - ANNE DIRKMAN

Anne Dirkman of the Lakeshore Chapter of Trout Unlimited was honored with a Certificate of Appreciation for her three years served as Treasurer of the Wisconsin T.U. Council. During her tenure, Anne set a new standard for future Council treasurers to go by. She was always prompt and efficient with preparation of financial statements, she paid bills on time and she willingly undertook the unpleasant task of seeing that chapters submitted their annual Financial Statements to the Council on time.

Anne Dirkman took her responsibility seriously, and it is with great pride that Wisconsin Trout Unlimited recognizes her for those efforts.

Resources Board reviews wetlands rule

The Natural Resources Board, governing body of the Department of Natural Resources, took two days of testimony at its February 27-28 meeting on NR 103, an administrative rule sought by Department of Natural Resources staff to establish water quality standards for wetlands for the state's use in reviewing federal Section 404 permits for wetland alterations in the state.

The state is required by the Clean Water Act to establish these water quality standards by 1993, or else the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will do so for the state.

By establishing these standards, the DNR will have parameters to go by to evaluate the impacts that proposed projects would have on wetland water quality and associated fish and wildlife values, and could allow the state to veto or modify permit requests before they get to the issuing federal agency, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited appeared at the hearing in the person of Council Chairman Steve Born in support of NR 103. Prior to the final draft on the administrative rule, T.U. had objected to language which seemed to

give less attention to wetlands along Class III trout streams as opposed to those along Class I and II waters.

In the final draft, new language was inserted to treat all coldwater communities as areas of "special resource protection", and Wisconsin T.U. found that to be favorable. The Council also urged that wording in the rule be carefully written to ensure that the rule would prevent the carrying on of trout habitat improvement works.

Opposition to the rule came mainly from cranberry producers and real estate interests. The cranberry growers viewed the new rule as a threat to their current privilege of being exempt from many state regulations governed under Chapter 30 and 31 of Wisconsin statutes pertaining to in-stream alterations and dam placements.

Real estate interests took issue with the rule because of concerns that the rule would have a negative effect on residential and commercial construction.

The Natural Resources Board delayed a decision on the rule pending clarification of some certain items discussed during the two-day hearings. The Board is expected to vote on the rule at its March meeting.



Wisconsin Trout editor Mitch Bent with his first-ever steelhead taken from the Kewaunee River in spring of 1989.

It's STEELHEAD time!

With the coming of spring, many trout anglers will find an outlet for their pent up energies by pursuing steelhead in many of the tributary streams to Lake Michigan and Lake Superior. These large, hard-fighting fish ascend the rivers and creeks at this time of the year as part of their ancient spawning rituals, and they become prime targets for anglers when this happens.

Wisconsin is blessed with many good steelhead waters, and this article will focus on two such rivers, one each tributary to Lakes Superior and Michigan.

Sioux River

The Sioux River is located in Bayfield County in Northwestern Wisconsin. It is famous as one of the prime steelhead rivers in the state. The Sioux runs a total of 12 miles from its origin before emptying into Lake Superior between the cities of Washburn and Bayfield. Four creeks tributary to the Sioux provide excellent water quality for it.

The Sioux receives runs of both rainbows (steelhead) and brown trout from Lake Superior. Though the browns run only once a year (during the latter part of August), the steelhead make both a spring and fall run up the river. The larger steelhead move up in spring. The special early and late lake run seasons are in effect from a point called "Big Rock" to the mouth of the Sioux.

Access sites on the Sioux are plentiful. Bayfield County maintains a county camping park at Big Rock. The Big Rock itself is a wide, flat area of bedrock that creates a major obstacle to migrating fish. The fish congregate in the pool at the base of the outcrop, and angling there is prohibited. From the park, one can look down into the large pool and watch fish attempt, and succeed, in getting up the "rock". If the water is clear enough, viewers may also be able to see the fish actually spawning.

Camping fees are modest at the park, and water is available. Big Rock Park is reached by turning left on County "C" as you enter Washburn, and then turning right onto Big Rock Road off of "C".

Through permanent easements, the DNR has set up a public fishing grounds along 3/4 mile of the Sioux, and it also owns scattered parcels of land along the river. Bayfield County owns substantial streamfront acreage along the Sioux, and the total public frontage owned by the state and the county amounts to around seven miles.

Access to the lower river is obtained from State Highway 13. Upstream access can be had at the confluence of the Little Sioux and the Sioux off of Friendly Valley Road.

By getting onto the river at any of these suggested points, the steelhead angler will be able to get into some excellent fishing opportunities.

Lake Michigan tributary - Kewaunee River

Flowing gently through the pastoral settings of Kewaunee County, the Kewaunee River is one of the finer steelhead rivers tri-

butary to Lake Michigan. Rated as a class I steelhead river by the DNR, the Kewaunee River is unique among such steelhead streams in that it does not have a dam on it that stops upstream migration of anadromous salmonids. The Kewaunee River and its major tributaries (Scarboro, Little Scarboro and Casco Creeks) contain about 22 river miles suitable for steelhead runs.

Natural reproduction of steelhead trout, plus chinook and coho salmon, has been documented in the system. The Kewaunee River has been selected for the development of a coho salmon and steelhead trout broodstock collection facility.

The spring run of steelhead in the Kewaunee gets underway when temperatures warm up to over 45 to 50 degrees on a consistent basis (ambient temperatures). This usually occurs in late March or early April. Once the run begins, it can last about five weeks or more.

Angling methods for steelhead during the spawning runs generally consist of using spawn sacs and drifting them over the spots where steelhead are seen either fanning their beds or swimming in pools. The use of big artificial flies, though, is becoming more and more popular as a way to catch the fish, though.

The type of fly used need not be important. Les Wrotny of DePere, WI., a member of the Green Bay T.U. chapter, has shown yours truly that steelhead can be taken on what are called "tinsel flies". These are simply bare-shanked hooks with several strands of tinsel tied on at the eye of the hook. These strands give a shiny, undulating appearance in the river and, when drifted correctly past a steelhead on a reed, can provide for quick strikes.

The Kewaunee is divided into two sections insofar as trout angling regulations go. Downstream from County "C", the angler must possess a Great Lakes Trout and Salmon Stamp in order to fish; upstream from there, an Inland Trout Stamp is required and the river is open for angling only during the regular trout fishing season.

Good access on the Kewaunee is available at "C", with anglers walking downstream several hundred yards before starting to seriously fish. Another popular location for steelhead anglers to ply their trade at is off of Footbridge, which is the junction of County "C" and County "F" just a few miles west of the city of Kewaunee.

As was mentioned earlier, the state is in the process of building a broodstock collection facility on the Kewaunee. This is located near Footbridge. With construction going on now, angling is a bit up in the air for this year. A certain section of the Kewaunee in that area is closed to fishing, and anglers should take precautions to be sure that they are not fishing where it is prohibited. For this season, steelheading on the Kewaunee may be a bit tenuous because of the construction activity. But, once that is completed, steelhead anglers will again be able to enjoy splendid action for steelhead in the Kewaunee.

BUY EXTRA TROUT STAMPS



Antigo

The Antigo Chapter is currently involved in the installation of two large piers in Antigo Lake, which is located in the city of Antigo and is an impoundment on Spring Brook, a trout stream. The lake is currently undergoing a massive cleanup involving the dredging and removal of tons of accumulated debris.

The chapter is combining its efforts and financial aid with the Antigo Optimist Club and Antigo Lions Club. Cooperating in the effort are Wisconsin Public Service, DNR and the city of Antigo.

Plans call for two 40-foot piers with fishing platforms at the end of each one. Although plans for both structures are not finalized, posts have been installed for one of the docks at this time.

When the entire project is completed (lake dredged and piers installed), a recreational fishing opportunity will be available to all area residents, one that has been nearly non-existent for many years. The Antigo chapter and other area organizations are already looking into the stocking of fish (including trout) in the cleaned-up lake.

Antigo T.U. is also in the process of acquiring another easement on the East Branch of the Eau Claire River north of Antigo for future trout habitat work.

Antigo's 11th annual Banquet will be held on Saturday, April 6th, at the Riverview Country Club. Scott Henricks (715-623-3867) is in charge of ticket sales.

Blackhawk

The Blackhawk Chapter is gearing up for its annual banquet, set for Monday, April 29. Call Bill Zeman at 608-752-5044 or Terry Vaughn at 608-362-4295 for tickets and information. Banquet proceeds will go toward trout habitat improvement works in southern Wisconsin.

The chapter spent the day of March 16th constructing 20-60 lunker structures to be placed in the West Fork of the Kickapoo River in Vernon County this spring. Blackhawk T.U. donated \$3,000 and spent three work days on the West Fork project in 1990.

Another \$3,000 was also donated to the DNR, along with a day of free labor, for improvement work on Storey Creek in Green County. Water was diverted from a straight ditch into a man-made stream with rock and lunker structures. This project has already paid dividends in the production of wild trout.

Central Wisconsin no report

Chequamegon no report

Coulee Region

Programs highlighted the winter months for Coulee Region Chapter members. Malcolm Clark and Kevin Johnson showed their fly-tying exper-

tise while Bob Bott manufactured some alluring lures for those partial to spin fishing.

The February meeting was entitled "Show & Blow" night, with the membership bringing in trout mounts, pictures, fly rods, paintings and stories to share with fellow troutiers.

Programs in March and April included a fly fishing clinic for those interested in learning the art of fly casting. Chapter experts shared their knowledge with novices in the ways of successful fly fishing.

The chapter will continue to work with DNR fish manager Dave Vetrano in access completion to the disabled fishing facility on Coon Valley Creek. Additionally, the chapter will continue its involvement with the West Fork Kickapoo River project in Vernon County near Avalanche.

Fox Valley

The chapter held its annual "Fun Nite" on February 21 at the Forester Club in Appleton, and entertained a lot of interested trout anglers with many exhibits. The chapter also had a booth at the annual WLUK-TV Sports Show at the Tri-County Ice Arena.

The chapter has been gearing up for its 18th anniversary Banquet to be held April 6th at the Paper Valley Hotel. For ticket information, call Forrest Grulke at (414) 739-5155.

Future months call for election of officers at the April 25th meeting, the annual Handicapped Fishing Day on May 11, a work day and fishing at Fort McCoy on May 18 and a Central Region workday June 1 on the Branch River in Manitowoc County.

The chapter donated \$2,000 to T.U. National's "Living Brightwater" program in late 1990.

Green Bay

The chapter held a series of interesting programs during its winter monthly meetings. In January, DNR Lake Michigan Steelhead Specialist Todd Schneider gave a talk and slide show on Department efforts to enhance the steelhead fishery of Lake Michigan and its tributary streams.

In February, Woodruff Area DNR Fish Manager Duke Andrews related information to chapter members on trout population surveys done in Forest, Oneida and Vilas counties, with particular attention given to the boundary Brule River. Andrews also updated members on the impacts that spearfishing by Chippewa tribal members and sport fishing by non-tribal citizens were having on walleye and musky numbers in northern Wisconsin lakes.

Topf Wells, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Conservation Corps, gave a talk and slide show to the chapter in March on the W.C.C. and how it works on various conservation projects, including trout habitat improvement.

Chapter members met with T.U. members from the Marinette County

and Oconto River Watershed chapters, along with DNR fish managers Russ Heizer and Ross Langhurst, to go over potential projects for 1991 that would require T.U. funding.

The chapter approved funding up to \$2,500 to assist the DNR with a trout habitat improvement project on Brehmer Creek in the Machinckanee Forest Unit of the Oconto County Forest south of Oconto Falls; the Oconto River Watershed chapter will also participate in that venture.

Green Bay T.U. also approved a continuation of its financial support for habitat work to be done on the South Branch of the Paint River in Iron County, MI., in the Ottawa National Forest. The expenditure is contingent upon approval of receipt of a \$7,500 grant from the FishAmerica Foundation. The chapter's level of support will be \$3,030, and other sources of financial support will come from Wildlife Unlimited of Iron County, MI. (\$4,000) and the Ottawa National Forest (\$6,800).

Chapter elections were held at the March meeting, and the following people were elected: Mitch Bent - president; Bruce Deuchert - vice president; Gary Stoychoff - secretary/treasurer; Rick Christopherson and Jim Friedrich - directors; Dale Druckrey - State Council representative.

The chapter approved funding of six scholarships, four high school and two middle school, for students to attend week-long Conservation Camps at the Central Wisconsin Environmental Center east of Stevens Point near Sunset Lake.

Green Bay T.U. held its 16th annual Conservation Banquet on Wednesday, March 20th, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Green Bay. The date of Saturday, March 28, 1992, has already been secured for next year's fundraiser.

Kiap-TU-Wish

The chapter held six workdays between January and March on the upper Kinnickinnic River, doing brushing and debris removal on state-owned property near the river's headwaters. The objective of the work coordinated by DNR fish manager Marty Engel is to stabilize the banks and reduce siltation, thereby preserving spawning sites.

The chapter will also carry out smaller jobs on the lower Willow River.

With regard to the Willow River, the chapter's February newsletter announced that the Willow Falls Dam in Willow River State Park has been slated for demolition. No funds have been allocated for dam replacement, but money is available to mitigate the effects of the dam's removal. Kiap-TU-Wish is strongly supportive of removal of the dam and restoration of the river fishery above the dam.

Interesting programs highlighted the chapter's winter meetings. In January, Tom Helgeson of "Bright Waters Fly-fishing" out of Minneapolis gave a presentation on the high quality trout

fishery below the Holter Dam on Montana's Missouri River. In February, Tom Andersen, one of Kiap-TU-Wish's charter members, gave a program on "Midwest Stream Entomology."

The chapter has also reported some successful meetings between it and the campus planner for the University of Wisconsin-River Falls with regard to the South Fork of the Kinnickinnic River, which runs through the campus. Because of concerns expressed by Kiap-TU-Wish, UW River Falls will change plans that would have put 900 additional parking stalls near the river, and will instead be sure that they are placed away from the river's floodplain. An existing parking lot located on the floodplain will also be redesigned to take it further from the river.

Lakeshore

Lakeshore T.U. has been putting the finishing touches on its 1991 banquet slated for April 6th at the Club Bil-Mar in Manitowoc. Call Anne Dirkmann at (414) 682-7978 for tickets (\$15.00 each).

The chapter will be working with local sportsmen's clubs and the DNR on angler's survey of local streams, with potential changes in times when area streams are stocked with trout.

Lakeshore T.U. is working with the Manitowoc Maritime Museum in providing special programs for their new "Anglers All: 500 Years of Fly Fishing" exhibit that opened on February 23 in downtown Manitowoc and will run through December of this year. Chapter members put on a fly-tying show on March 2nd, and DNR Coldwater Research leader Bob Hunt gave a slide presentation on March 16th on trout habitat improvement.

In May, the chapter will host a fly-casting clinic put on by Lois Jirikowicz of Sheboygan.

Marinette County

The chapter's annual Conservation Banquet was held March 18th at The Dome in Marinette. Marinette County T.U. will again contract with a beaver trapper to remove beaver and dams from county trout streams. The chapter will fund stream surveys by the DNR, too.

Harry Nohr

The chapter spent a busy winter preparing for its annual fund-raising dinner held March 23rd at the Castle Rock Inn in rural Muscodia.

Northwoods

The chapter has been finalizing preparations for its annual Banquet set for April 6th at the Rhinelander Cafe & Pub. Grand prize will be a canoe. For ticket information, call Harley Erbs at (715) 362-2643.

Northwoods T.U. sponsored a fly-tying and trout stream entomology course at Tree Haven between Rhinelander and Tomahawk, March 8-10, with over 20 people enrolled in a course

Wolf River Fly Shop

LANGLADE, WI 54491
715-882-5941

Fly Fishing & Tying Supplies
Open April 19th - Aug. 1st

St. Croix Rods
& Custom-made rods

Good selection of flies for Wolf River and surrounding streams

Located on Rocky Rips Road
off Highway 55
south of Langlade

Brochure Available
Bob Talasek

Wolf River Fly Shop
N4216 Rocky Rips Rd.
White Lake, WI 54491-9718

BUY EXTRA TROUT STAMPS

TROUT FISHING OR STOCKING

BROOK - BROWN - RAINBOW

NO LICENSE TO FISH

Located on Hwy. 64

between Antigo and Langlade



Silver Moon Springs

SILVER MOON SPRINGS - ELTON, WI
Phone (715) 882-8176

FINEST

BROOK and RAINBOW TROUT

NORTHLAND MAP CO.

Fishing Lake Survey Maps by County

\$7.95 each

8 1/2 x 11

21 to 31 Lakes in each Book

County Books NOW AVAILABLE:

Florence, Forest, Langlade, Marinette,
Wood (incl. Portage, Adams, Juneau)

Dane (and surrounding areas), Oconto, Shawano
Includes: *Water Depth *Contour Lines *Fish Cribs
*Structure *Boat Ramps *Acreage *Inlets/Outlets

1011 S. Fisk St. - Green Bay, WI 54304

414-494-3090

Unlimited Chapter reports

designed for fly-tyers from beginners through advanced tyers.

In cooperation with the **Ottawa National Forest**, the chapter will be funding a stream habitat improvement project on the **Middle Branch of the Ontonagon River** in Upper Michigan in 1991.

Oconto River Watershed

The chapter is busily preparing for its annual fund-raising banquet to be held Thursday, April 25th, at Romy's Holiday Inn on Kelly Lake. Tickets for the banquet are \$20.00 and are available by sending a check payable to Trout Unlimited to: Mitch Meunier, c/o Coast-To-Coast Hardware, Gillett, WI. 54124. Or, call Dale Halla at (715) 745-2099.

The chapter will work with the **Green Bay chapter** to cooperatively fund a trout habitat improvement project on **Brehmer Creek** in the **Machickanee Forest**. The chapter will spend \$2,500 to have brush bundles placed in the stream under the guidance of **Shawano Area DNR fish manager Ross Langhurst**. Also, the chapter is working to secure an easement on **Brehmer Creek** where it flows through a 40-acre parcel surrounded by the **Machickanee Forest**. This will allow additional habitat improvement to be carried out.

A new pump was purchased for the chapter's "trout barn", and the chapter will once again be able to raise trout for a fall scatter-planting.

The chapter approved expenditure of \$300 for a scholarship for a student in environmental/conservation programs at **UW-Stevens Point**.

Ojibseau

The Chapter continues to be active in stream improvement activities in the **Eau Claire area**. In fall of 1990, the chapter put a lot of time and money into **Elk Creek**, which borders **Eau Claire** and **Dunn counties**. Reconstruction of areas washed out by high flood waters in the spring of 1990 was accomplished.

New officers will be installed come April of 1991. They are: **Dick DuPlessie** - president; **Harlan Husman** - vice president; **George Senteney** - secretary; and **Dale Sevig** - treasurer.

The chapter is also re-dedicating itself to environmental concerns in the area. Current activities include monitoring proposed developments on **Lowes Creek** in **Eau Claire County** and completion of work projects on **Duncan Creek** in **Chippewa County**. **Ojibseau T.U.** is also in the planning phase for projects on **Beaver Creek** and **Lowes Creek**, both in **Eau Claire County**.

The annual chapter banquet will be held on April 24 at the **Hoffman House Restaurant** in **Eau Claire**. Featured speaker will be **Bob Mitchell** of **Bob**

Mitchell's Fly Shop in **Lake Elmo, Minnesota**. His topic will be "The Gift of Trout".

Shaw-Paca

During winter meetings, the chapter voted to spend \$2,000 for an improvement project on a local creek, \$1,000 to T.U. National's general fund and \$200 to assist the **Oconto River Watershed Chapter** with funding for a handicapped fishing dock.

The chapter's annual **Conservation Banquet** will be held on Thursday, April 4th, at **The Gathering** in **Shawano**. Call **Jerry Weatherwax** at (715) 754-5642 for information.

The chapter's popular "Fishing Fever" program, featuring trout fishing topics, equipment, etc., will be held the weekend of April 6-7 at **Shawano High School**.

Finally, the chapter awarded its annual scholarship to **Mr. Chris Reitmeyer**, a student in water chemistry and aquatic toxicology at **UW-Stevens Point**.

Southeastern Wisconsin

Chapter activities during the winter months included a rod building demonstration by **Jon Apple** at the chapter's February meeting and a steelhead fishing seminar and competition on Saturday, March 23, at **Quarry Park** in **Racine**.

Chapter members **Bob Estlund** and **Ben Van Horn** represented the chapter at the February 2nd meeting of the ad hoc **Great Lakes Group** in **Chicago**, to update the chapter on the future of this group within T.U. as it explores ways to help enhance the **Great Lakes salmonid fishery**.

The chapter is looking to focus its conservation efforts on the **Mukwonago River, Paradise Springs, Lake Michigan tributaries** and inshore **Lake Michigan**.

The chapter will hold annual elections and a swap-night at its April 23rd meeting. Future chapter events may include a fly tying seminar and competition at its May meeting and an outing to **Southwestern Wisconsin creeks** in June.

Southern Wisconsin

On January 19, the chapter held another successful "Winter Icebreaker" at the **Park Ponderosa Ballroom** in **McFarland**. The event featured raffles, door prizes and featured speaker **Joe Humphries**, the noted author and fly fishing professor from **Penn State University**.

The chapter scheduled fly tying classes at two locations in **Madison** during the winter/spring months, and will be offering a fly casting and trout fishing

instructional class, including entomology, ethics, tactics and fishing tackle, on April 13th.

Both the fly tying classes and the trout fishing instructional session are designed as community services, especially for youth, and for promotion of T.U. membership.

In February, the chapter co-sponsored the **Dane County Fishing Expo** with other **Dane County outdoor groups**. All proceeds from the event will be used for area water resource projects. **Southern Wisconsin T.U.** provided volunteer labor and operated a T.U. booth for the event.

March 12th was the chapter's annual **Swap-Auction Night**, with auctioneers **Dr. Sausage** and **Col. Muskrat** presiding, along with their able-bodied helpers, over the donated items. All profits

are earmarked for project work.

The chapter is in the planning stages of 1991 project work. Plans are being made for streambank stabilization on **Black Earth Creek**. A work project was held March 2 on **Black Earth Creek** to repair a cattle crossing.

In June, the chapter, with the help of many volunteers, will sponsor a trout fishing experience for "Special Needs" citizens.

Wild Rivers
No report

Wisconsin River Valley
No report

Wolf River
No report

Regional reports

Central

Central Region Vice-President **Jim Hlaban** reports that his region will have a meeting in April at the **Fond du Lac airport**. The region will also sponsor a clean-up day on the **Branch River** and other area streams in **Manitowoc County**. Persons interested in assisting in that worthwhile endeavor should meet at the **Duck Inn** in **Branch, Wisconsin**, located on U.S. Highway 10 just west of Interstate Highway 43 on the outskirts of **Manitowoc**, at 9:00 a.m., Saturday, June 1.

Hlaban reports that there is an attempt to get a T.U. chapter going in the **Stevens Point** area. Anyone who is interested in getting a chapter there going, or who knows of someone who has an interest in that regard, should

contact **Jim Hlaban** at: 1421 Silverwood Lane, **Neenah, WI 54956**, or call at (414) 722-4335.

Northeast

Northeast Regional Vice-President **Ted Rydell** has scheduled the spring meeting of the Northeast Region for Saturday, May 11, at **Buettner's Wild Wolf Inn**, Highway 55 south of **Langlade**. Meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m., and all chapters are asked to be fully represented.

Northwest
No report

Southern
No report

One rainbow limit pays off on Bois Brule River

A one-rainbow limit and voluntary catch-and-release fishing by anglers appears to be paying off for **Wisconsin's Bois Brule River** according to **Dennis Pratt**, **Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources fisheries manager** for **Western Lake Superior**.

This year was the second year for the one-rainbow trout limit on the lower **Bois Brule**. The regulation was designed to help bring back the number of **Lake Superior rainbow trout - steelhead** - that migrate up the stream to spawn.

Pratt encouraged anglers to continue releasing the steelhead they catch in the **Bois Brule**. "It's making a differ-

ence," Pratt said. "We are seeing larger fish because they have been released before and are able to live longer and grow bigger."

But Pratt warned that fishing success could change quickly as angling pressure increased. "If you increase the fishing pressure, angling success can decline even with a one-fish limit," he said.

Pratt said that **Bois Brule River anglers** may have been interviewed this past spring or fall by **DNR employees** who are compiling information on angler success and size of fish caught to assess the health of the steelhead population.

LITTLE ARCHIBALD LAKE, private, secluded, restricted, virgin timber, EXCELLENT FISHING, all parcels over 1½ acres, from \$18,000, ASK FOR MAP & PRICES.

MCCAUSLIN BROOK, Oconto County, white water trout stream, beautifully wooded, 1½ to 5 acres, permits guaranteed, restricted, FROM \$13,500.

CONTACT:

BAKE, Inc.

P.O. Box 172
LAKEWOOD, WI 54138
715-276-7676

NOVA BAMBOO

CANE RODS AND REPAIR
"TOMORROW"

Gene Novak

105 Mueller Lane

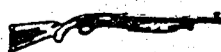
Random Lake, WI 53075

Ph. 414-994-9843

The



Sporting
Goods &
Fly Shop



Bob Oldale
Doug Campbell

Parker-Hale
Rifles &
Shotguns

(414) 336-4427

Cortland Fly Fishing Pro-Shop

118 S. Broadway
De Pere, WI 54115



Performance for Dedicated Fishermen

IRON FEATHER FLY RODS

CAST BEFORE YOU BUY
Feel Free to Bring Your Favorite
Reel for Practice

ALSO IN STOCK

Fenwick - HMG - Royale - Eagle
Loomis - Premier - IMG - IMX
St. Croix - Imperial - Legend
Sage - Light Line - Reserve Power

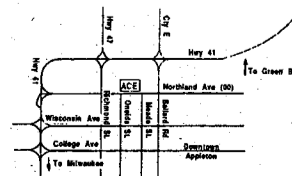
Reels - Scientific Anglers - S.T.H. -
Fenwick - Martin

Lines - Cortland - Scientific Anglers -
Sue Burgess

ACE HARDWARE OF APPLETON

500 E. Northland
Appleton, WI 54911

OPEN 7 DAYS
(414) 731-0500



Wisconsin Trout Stream Profile: Kinnickinnic River

Rising in the middle of Western Wisconsin's St. Croix County, the Kinnickinnic River winds its way southwestward on through St. Croix and Pierce counties before emptying into the St. Croix River several miles north of Prescott. With 25 miles of the river listed as Class I, and four-and-a-half miles of the "Kinnie's" South Fork listed as Class II water, this river has become a mecca for anglers from the western part of the state and from Minnesota's Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul.

The upper reaches of the Kinnickinnic meander through farm country, and the water is usually cold enough to support trout year round. Reproduction rates in the upper reaches have been described as "astounding" by J.R. Humphrey, a free-lance outdoor writer from St. Paul.

However, growth rates of trout in the stream are not what anglers and fish managers would like to see, probably because of a lack of sufficient numbers of forage fish.

A 1986 electro-shocking run done by the DNR showed that up to 9,000 trout per mile existed in the upper Kinnickinnic River. Other survey sections showed anywhere from 6,600 to 6,800 trout per mile. When one considers that 1,100 trout per mile of stream is thought to be great, it is no wonder that the word "astounding" is used to describe the trout populations of the "Kinnie's" upper reaches.

Those upper reaches have streamflows augmented by numerous springs. Both brook and brown trout use those areas.

During the last few decades, the

DNR has acquired fee title and easements to a number of locations along the "Kinnie". This has resulted in not only a goodly number of access sites - over 17 between the spring pond headwaters and Highway 35 near River Falls - but it has also allowed the DNR and the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of Trout Unlimited (based in Hudson, WI.) to do extensive work on the river.

Miles and miles of fencing have been installed along the "Kinnie" to protect it from cattle damage. Brush encroachment has traditionally been another serious problem in the upper reaches, and the DNR and Kiap-TU-Wish T.U. spend much time each year removing brush and debris from streambanks.

The lower stretches of the "Kinnie" represent a completely different situation. It is wider and shallower than the upper reaches, and also marginally warmer. With a bed described as being of sand, gravel and rubble, it presents the angler with very easy wading conditions.

It also has one other thing missing from the upper stretch, and that is a very broad forage base for trout. Crayfish, minnows and leeches abound in the waters, and trout growth rates are much better than they are upstream. Trout 18 inches and over are not uncommon in the lower "Kinnie", and a few "monsters" are known to exist in the deeper pools.

Access in the lower reaches, from River Falls down into Pierce County, can be had in several areas. Below impoundments on the river in River Falls, one can get into the river. Some private trails (permission must be sought for access) drift down to the river between Glen Park and County "F".

Problems exist for the resource on the lower "Kinnie", too, though. Housing developments along the south bluffs at River Falls forbode erosion and discharge problems facing the water quality of the river. Expansion of facilities at nearby University of Wisconsin-River Falls, through which the South Fork of the "Kinnie" runs, are also a problem as they encroach upon the river's banks.

Kiap-TU-Wish T.U. and the DNR have been working diligently with city planners and university officials (see Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter Report) to ameliorate the potential problems facing the river from the developments that are planned. Recently, the city of



Lower Kinnickinnic River in Pierce County downstream from Cth. "F".

River Falls, with T.U.'s support, applied for a grant from the DNR to develop a stormwater management plan that would allow the city to carry on and expand while at the same time avoiding degradation to the resource. If implemented, the grant will go a long way in the right direction to repairing and avoiding negative impacts on the lower Kinnickinnic.

In the past couple of years, the "Kinnie" has also seen other changes happen to it, mainly in the form of the new trout angling regulations that came into place in 1990. All stretches of the river in St. Croix County, the area above the dam in Pierce County and the South Fork of the Kinnickinnic in Pierce County were listed as Type II waters, meaning a creel limit of five trout per day with a seven-inch minimum size limit.

Below the dam in River Falls, where trout growth rates are known to be much better than the stretches above the dam, the "Kinnie" was listed as a Type 5 water, i.e., "Special Regulation" water. In that section, the daily creel limit is still five trout per day, but anglers may keep only one fish over 16 inches, and all fish between 12 and 16 inches must be returned to the river immediately after catching.

This "slot-size" restriction was put in place to allow more trout to attain the sizes that anglers find desirable while still allowing for some harvest of fish. The Kiap-TU-Wish T.U. chapter played a big role in seeing that regulation come to bear.

For anglers venturing to the "Kinnie" from other areas of the state, they will find lots of good fishing areas, but they must remember that the trout are wary due to the heavy angling pressure the river gets. Since there are no angling-method restrictions on the river, bait and spin fishing fans can find numerous spots to ply their trades.

Fly anglers will likely find the "Kinnie" to their liking, too, and the river has an abundance of hatches that appear throughout the year (see inset).

With year-round monitoring and vigilance by the Kiap-TU-Wish T.U. chapter, committed regulation by the Department of Natural Resources and willing compromise by officials from River Falls and the state university, the Kinnickinnic River will continue to provide a superb trout fishery for its area residents, neighboring Minnesotans and anglers from all around Wisconsin who appreciate cold, free-flowing water, pastoral scenes and abundant trout populations.

TROUT REGULATION

Open Season: Standard 4:00 AM 1st Saturday of May to Sept. 30

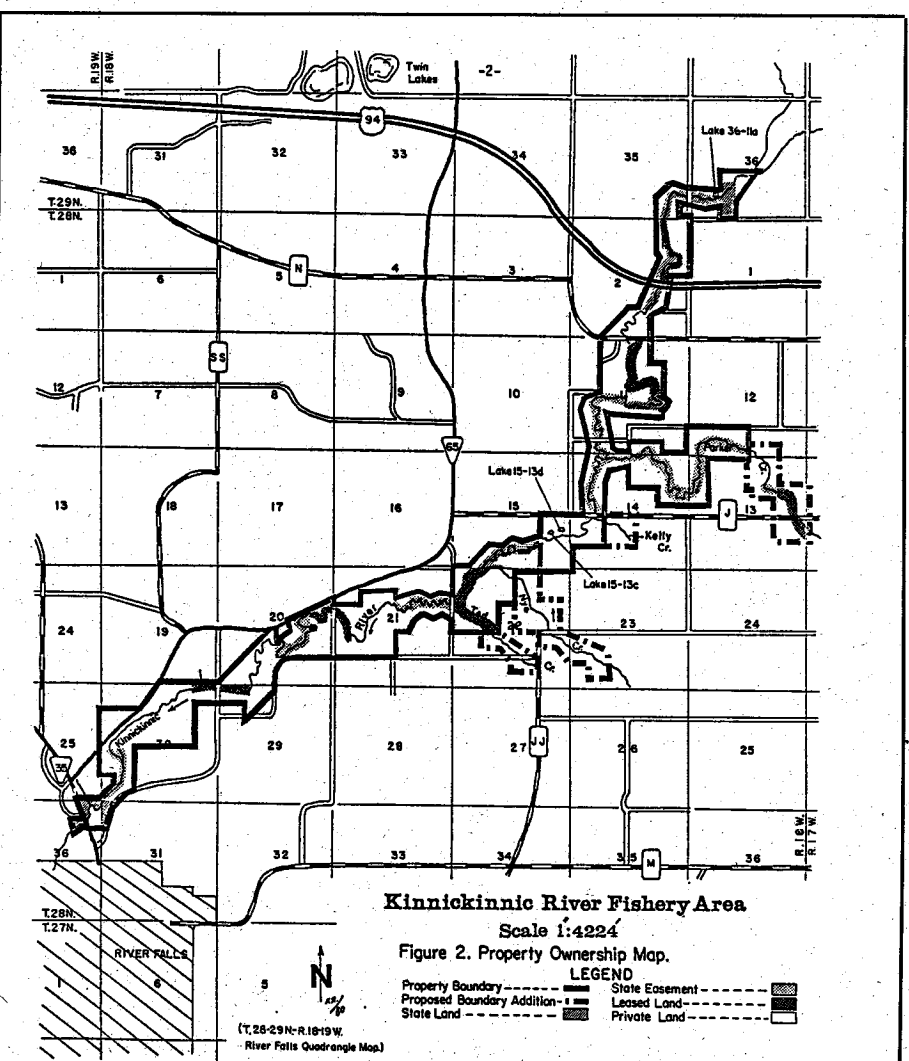
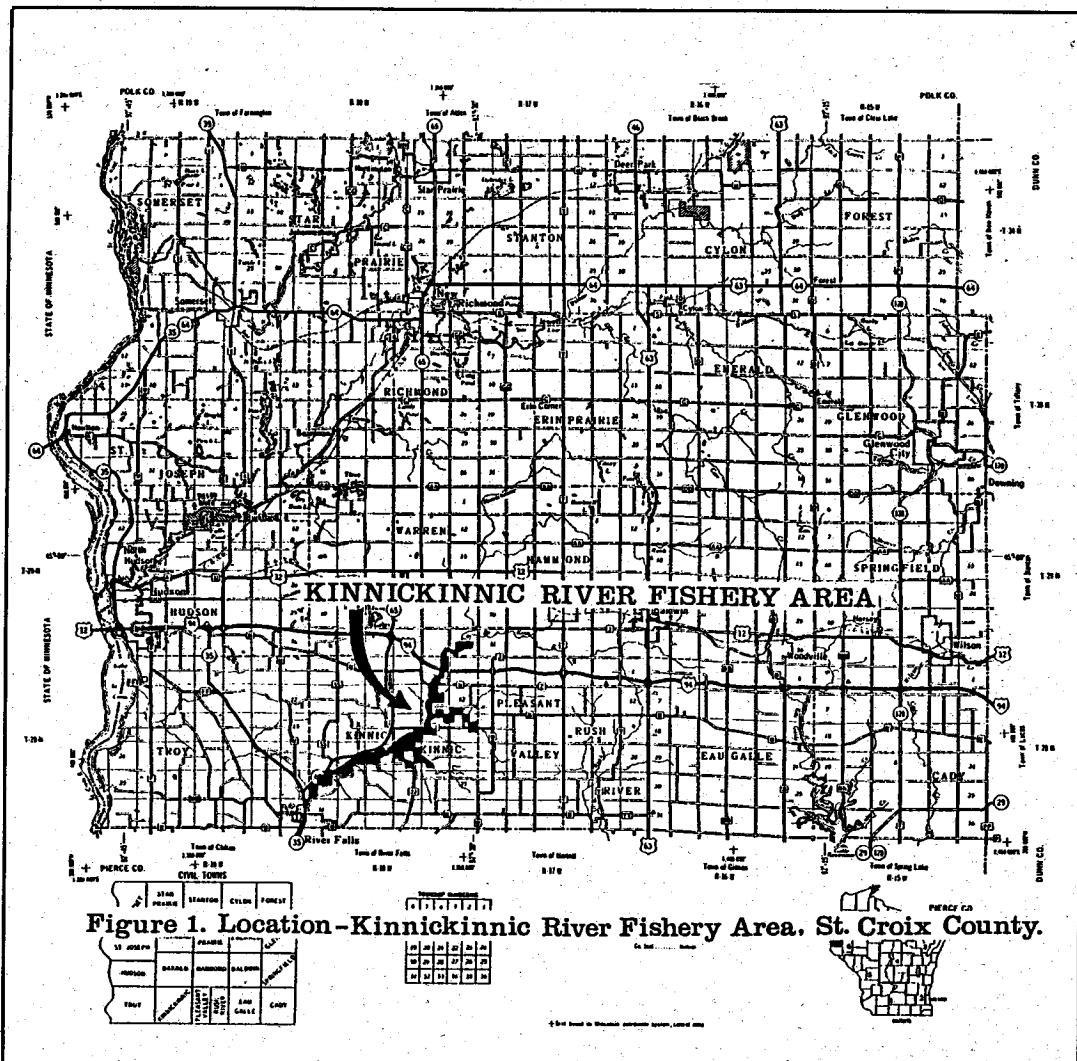
Baits & Lures: No Restriction

Bag Limit: All Trout - 5 Fish Total

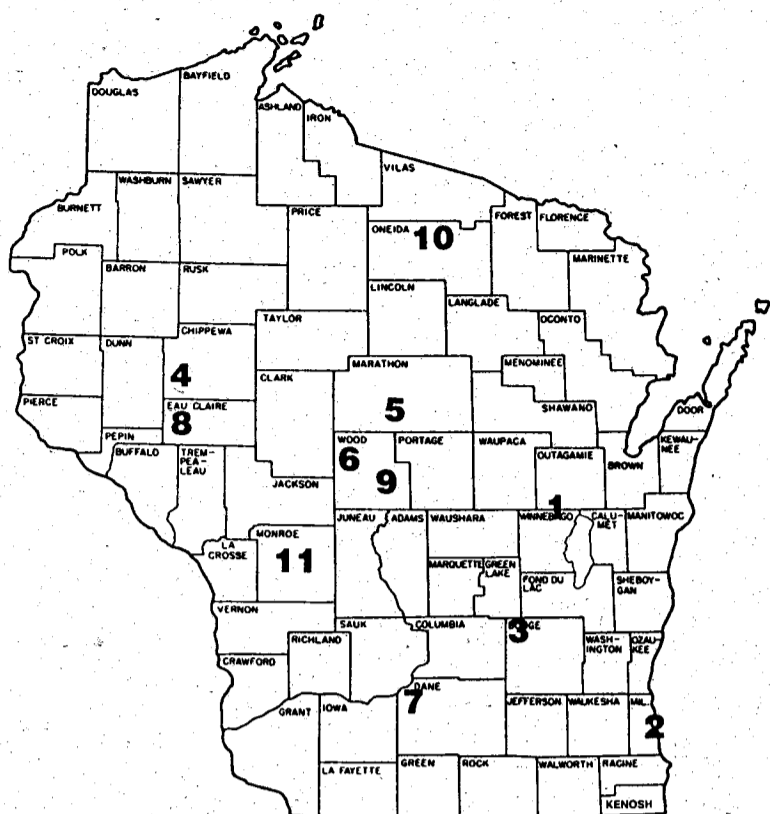
Size Limit: All Trout - 5 Fish - 12" or Shorter OR 4 Fish - 12" or Shorter & 1 Fish - 16" or Longer

All Trout - 12" to 16" - No Kill

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources



New watershed projects begin in spring



Eleven new "priority watershed" projects will get underway this spring in urban and rural areas throughout Wisconsin. The projects focus on both groundwater and surface water quality. The watersheds have been designated under the state's Nonpoint Source Water Pollution Abatement Program, which is set up to help landowners and local government reduce pollution with financial and technical assistance.

The 11 new projects are:

1) **Arrowhead River and Daggetts Creek:** Located in Winnebago, Outagamie and Waupaca counties, this 135 square-mile watershed area includes streams that drain into Lake Winneconne, Lake Poygan and Lake Butte des Morts.

2) **Kinnickinnic River:** This Kinnickinnic River, located near Milwaukee, was designated a priority watershed by the state Legislature. The Kinnickinnic River plan now complements the plan made by the Legislature to include all waterways draining into the Milwaukee Harbor as priority watersheds.

3) **Beaver Dam River:** This large watershed lies mostly in Dodge County and includes two heavily used lakes - Fox Lake and Beaver Dam Lake. Both lakes suffer from severe weed and algae problems.

4) **Duncan Creek:** Located primarily in Chippewa County, this watershed includes a number of trout streams threatened by nonpoint source pollution. The watershed project will also focus on four small lakes and a potential groundwater problem, both urban and rural nonpoint sources of pollution will be addressed.

5) **Lower Big Eau Pleine River:**

This watershed complements the ongoing Upper Big Eau Pleine River Watershed with attention focused on the Marathon County portion of the river. Together, both projects cover the entire drainage to the Big Eau Pleine River.

6) **Upper Yellow River:** Located primarily in Wood and Clark counties, the focus of this watershed will be Lake Dexter on the Yellow River. Nonpoint source pollution control is expected to greatly increase water quality in the lake, and, to a lesser extent, in the Yellow River.

7) **Dunlap Creek:** This watershed project, located in Dane County, will focus on controlling gully erosion harmful to trout in the creek, which drains into the Wisconsin River.

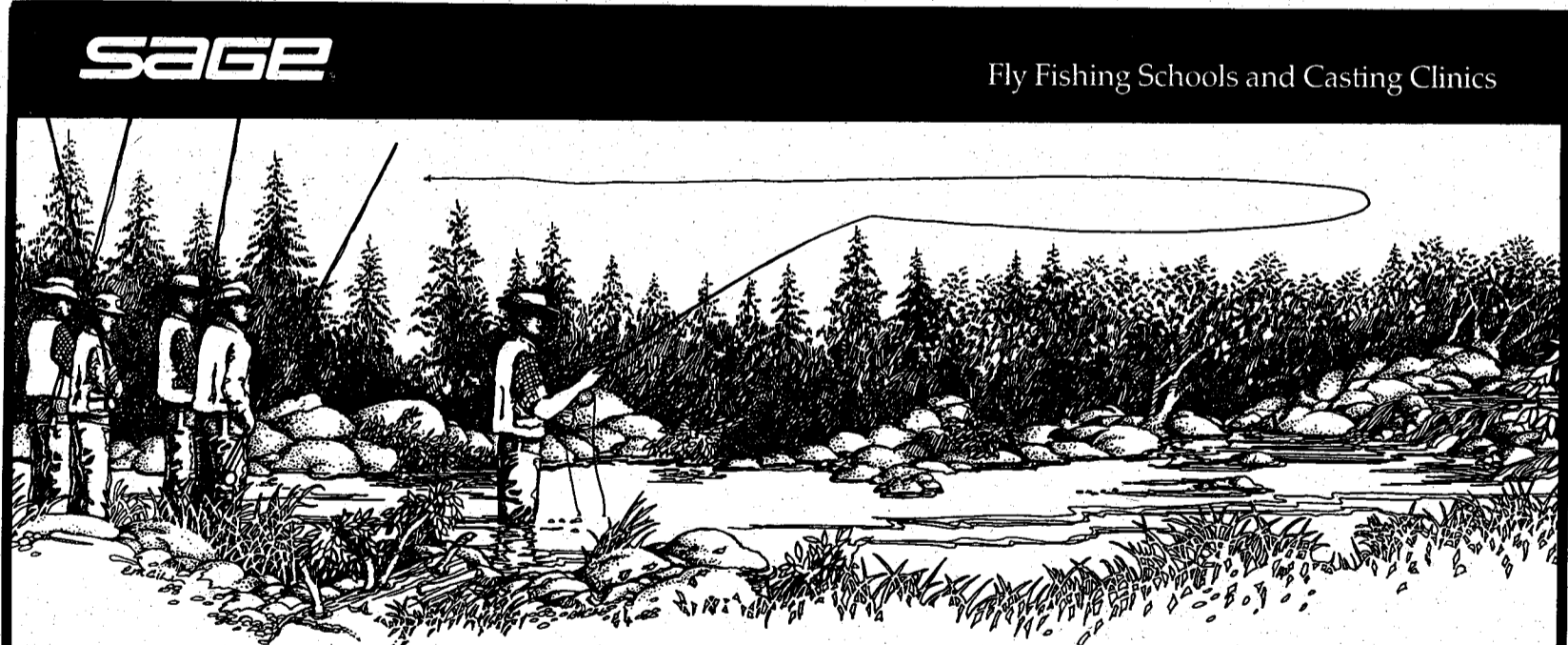
8) **Lowes Creek:** This project will help control streambank erosion caused by urban development on the southwest side of the city of Eau Claire.

9) **Wood County Groundwater Project:** This project focuses on a typical agricultural area in the "Central Sands" area, where center pivot irrigation is used in growing vegetables and other specialty crops. The focus of the project will be on protecting groundwater through better management of fertilizers and pesticides.

10) **Minocqua Lake:** Located near Minocqua in Oneida County, this high-quality lake is showing signs of pollution from commercial and residential areas in town.

11) **Lake Tomah:** This lake is located on the south fork of the Lemonweir River in Monroe County, and is showing severe signs of stress from excess nutrients and sediment.


**BUY EXTRA
TROUT STAMPS**



SAGE

Fly Fishing Schools and Casting Clinics

SAGE CASTING CLINIC • APRIL 13th
FLY FISHING SCHOOL • MAY 18th
20% - 30% OFF Sage
Graphite II Rods & Packages!


Vests - 20% OFF!
 With Ad - Valid thru 4/30/91

**FONTANA SPORTS
SPECIALTIES, INC.**
(608) 257-5048
 251 State Street - Madison, WI 53703

Call this dealer for school dates, details, and your fly-fishing supplies

God, I miss trout fishing!

by DENNY ORGEMAN

Like many other trout fishermen in Northeastern Wisconsin, I've had a difficult time adjusting to a closed trout fishing season. The closure, though necessary, created a great void in my life, and I attempted last year to fill it with various other hobbies and amusements.

For the first few months of the closure, I was satisfied to go lake fishing for bluegills, crappies, walleyes and other species of a lesser God. But, I found the lake fishing is a real financial entrapment.

Most serious lake anglers need a boat, motor and trailer. And that's just the beginning! The well-equipped lake fisherman will have their boats rigged with very sophisticated sonar devices that will detect and display fish on a screen, show water depth, display bottom features and produce other information that helps to remove as much as possible any challenge involved in actually catching a fish!

I've heard, too, that engineers are currently working on a unit that will include a remote cable TV hookup and a small microwave.

I did learn a few things, though, from lake fishing. Boat landings can be crowded; they can also provide great entertainment as people jockey for position to haul baits out of the water or put them into it.

I also learned that the sun is much hotter in the middle of the lake, live bait left in the back of a truck for a few days will bring tears to your eyes, and lake fish have pronounced scales - yuck!!

God, I miss trout fishing!

When lake fishing began to lose its charm, I took up gardening on someone's recommendation. I figured, why not? How hard can it be to throw a few seeds and plants into the ground and watch them grow?

I planted sweet corn, two types of tomatoes and some strawberry rootlet plants. In addition, I planted three blueberry plants — I was told I needed at least two plants to even get any berries (cross-pollination or some such malarkey). I decided to go with the extra third plant as some kind of insurance — in case one of the plants was frigid or impotent or something.

Later — too late, in fact — I planted some squash and cabbage plants.

The squirrels cut down the sweet corn when it was about a foot high. They didn't eat the plants as far as I could tell; they just cut them down for the fun of it! Some of those squirrels no longer live in my neighborhood, but they apparently have a lot of relatives and friends that moved in. No matter, the corn is gone!

God, I miss trout fishing!!

The tomatoes were doing fairly well — plants were growing and little tomatoes could be seen on some branches. But then the leaves started to curl up and get black. I was told by gardeners more experienced than I am that insecticide should be applied to control the multitude of garden invaders. Some were small, some large, some hopped, some flew and some looked like miniature horror movie monsters.

Two things they all seemed to have in common was a love for my garden and an immunity to insecticides. And if that weren't enough, my strawberry plants, which grew well enough to produce one whole berry, was the site of a major rumble over that lone berry by about 150 songbirds.

God, I miss trout fishing!!

September came, and with growing season almost over, I checked my cabbage plants. They had heads on them about two inches wide. The squash grew to a whole three inches. The blueberry plants fared worse — one was eaten by a cottontail rabbit, another was consumed by my lawn mower and the lone survivor had nothing to pollinate with, so it just sat there and pro-

duced only leaves.

I did manage to get a few small cherry tomatoes to mature, but they were so full of insecticide that they couldn't safely be eaten.

It wasn't a total failure, though, as I did provide food and habitat for countless insects, birds, squirrels, rabbits and weeds. I don't care much for fresh vegetables, anyway!

God, I miss trout fishing!!

As another way to relieve my withdrawal symptoms from the trout season closure, I took a friend's suggestion and put up some bird feeders and bird houses, three feeders and two houses, to be exact. One house was supposed to be a wren house and one a swallow house (how the heck the birds are supposed to know the difference is beyond me!). I also put out a bird bath.

Soon I learned that bird feeders also serve as squirrel feeders. The squirrels ate the bird seed and would, on occasion, eat the birds as well! Between the squirrels and the birds, they consumed about 4,000 pounds of seed and wrecked two feeders.

The wren house remained unoccupied all summer, except for some transient insects. The swallow house was better — it produced 247 sparrows!

The birds did indeed use the bird bath — sometimes even to bathe in. Despite changing the water often, the water in the bird bath always seemed to get green and slimy. The birds didn't seem to mind, but I found it a bit disgusting to see them drink from their combination bathtub/toilet!

God, I miss trout fishing!!

Frustrated over my inability to find a decent substitute for trout fishing, I began to devise some schemes to simulate trout fishing's pleasures without even leaving my yard. First, I set the canoe in the middle of the back yard. I climbed in, casting my favorite fly rod till my arm got sore. I occasionally stuck a fly in various anatomical parts, too, just like I would when I did real trout fishing (I really missed that!).

I would even sit out there in the rain and pretend that I forgot my raincoat (I just sort of missed that!). Mosquitoes would feed on me at will, as my bug dope was my raincoat!

The bogus fishing soon became a bore. I knew I need to have something live attached at the end of the leader, something that would pull and jerk and put up a fight.

About that time, my neighbor's cat wandered through our backyard. As luck would have it, the cat wore a collar, and attached to the collar was a small ring — perfect to tie the leader onto. I don't know what compelled me to try "catfishing", unless it was the loss of blood from the hordes of mosquitoes or many medical doses of Jack Daniels that I'd prescribed for myself.

Although this "recreation" did provide some very exciting moments, I do not recommend it for the following reasons:

1. **Cats are inherently uncooperative:** despite the fact that I explained to the cat in great detail what I expected of him (while he sat there staring at me unblinkingly as cats are apt to do), he never moved. Once I provided a small "incentive", the cat took off like a streak — right to its owner, a short, burly person (gender undetermined) who apparently had a great deal of compassion for cats and none whatsoever for trout anglers. The owner had little difficulty following the fly line back to me.

What transpired next still isn't totally clear, but when I managed to climb down out of the tree I noticed that my two-piece fly rod was scattered about the yard in 50 pieces or so. I concluded from this episode that cats can't be trusted, cat owners don't like fly rods and the Humane Society can write some very nasty letters when provoked!

2. **"Cats and release":** the scars will probably heal in time, but my land-

ing net is totally ruined!

3. **"Feline on a phoneline":** Cats like to climb things. Attempting to land a cat from the top of a telephone pole can be fatal, even though a cat supposedly has nine lives. And flyline conducts electricity!

God, I miss trout fishing!!

As a result of all the trauma experienced from the 1990 trout fishing closure in Northeastern Wisconsin, I'm attempting to put together a support group for trout anglers suffering from the same withdrawal symptoms that I had. I call it "Trout Fishermen Anonymous", and it's patterned after more widely known support groups (with some notable exceptions!).

For instance, drinking potent libations and telling horrendous lies will be encouraged rather than discouraged. Many of my best friends will do well in those areas, as they've had years of

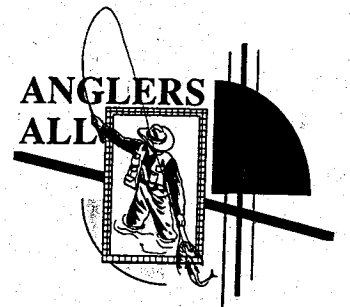
practice in both arts!

I guess I'd better go fill the bird feeder now. I just saw a squirrel trying to eat a bird. The bird bath looks slimy green again, and....wait a minute, is that a new cat going through the yard?

God, I miss trout fishing!!

(Ed. note: Denny Orgeman of Antigo is a past-president and current vice-president of the Antigo T.U. Chapter. Besides being known for a wry and subtle — and sometimes not-so-subtle — sense of humor, he is also known as an avid trout angler, especially on the many stillwater trout ponds that abound in Northeast Wisconsin in 1991, reader wishing to send condolences, flowers or contributions for needed psychological evaluations should mail them to: Denny Orgeman, 519 Deleglise St., Antigo, WI. 54409.)

New fly-fishing exhibit featured



Bing Crosby, Zane Grey, Samuel Morse, Andrew Carnegie, Ernest Hemingway, Daniel Webster, Herbert Hoover, Winslow Homer and on and on. What did all these folks have in common?

They were "anglers all", fly-fishing enthusiasts! On Saturday, Feb. 23rd, the **Manitowoc Maritime Museum** opened its doors to a new special exhibit, "ANGLERS ALL", chronicling 500 years of fly fishing.

Organized by the **American Museum for Fly Fishing in Manchester, VT**, the exhibit includes rods, reels, lures and memorabilia from fly fishing fans. Hundreds of beautifully-mounted flies, kits, pictures and specimens from the Academy's fish collection are on display.

One of the highlights of the exhibit is a first-edition of **Izaak Walton's Compleat Angler**, which was printed in 1653. As a bait fisherman, Izaak Walton was perhaps the world's best, because he was most interested in that branch of angling. Among other techniques, the making of a minnow was first described by Walton.

He wrote what is considered to be the greatest angling book of all time, giving as much space, if not more, to the artificial fly as any of his predecessors. Through his love and perception of angling, he helped fly fishing become the "recreation of gentlemen".

For those who treasure memorabilia, this exhibit should be a special treat. Artifacts from the "rich and famous" are on display, including: **Bing Crosby's** pipe, hat, fly rod and reel; **Ernest Hemingway's** fly rod; **Zane Grey's** flies, fly rod and reel, and book on fly-fishing he wrote in 1919; a small **Hardy** reel belonging to **Herbert Hoover**; an original 1874 patent model **Orvis** reel; and a **Victorian** fly-tyer's bench with all the necessary tools of that period.

If you enjoy the serenity of the inland lakes, fishing with Grandpa, or if your passion in life is fly fishing, you won't want to miss this fascinating special exhibit. The museum has developed a special program series on fly fishing

that will run throughout the exhibit's tour at the Maritime Museum (December 1991).

Besides the exhibits listed above, there will also be displays of 24 rods dating back to 1836, including those manufactured by **Leonard, Orvis and Paybe & Chubb**, among others. Reels, dating from 1790 to the present, demonstrate an interesting chronology of technological improvements.

Famous reelmakers include **Bosgan, Hewitt, Billingham, Fowler and Vom Hofe**. There is even a 19th century Adirondack Guideboat, its carved yoke allowing it to be carried between lakes on the shoulders of a guide. These types of boats date from just after the Civil War, and were very popular until World War I.

Art and book sections of the exhibit feature periodicals and catalogues from 1653 to 1950, along with assorted contemporary magazines. Representative artwork illustrating the sport of fly fishing, and the beautiful surroundings in which it is practiced, give another dimension to the show.

Museum visitors will also be treated to the 1990 special exhibit "Outboards...Knucklebusters to Speed Machines." This exhibit boasts a collection of beautiful antique and state-of-the-art outboard motors through full scale, three dimensional displays. Stories and pictures re-telling the history of the inventors and businesses that revolutionized the outboard motor industry are all here to see.

The display is located at the **Manitowoc Maritime Museum**, 75 Maritime Drive, Manitowoc, Wisconsin. For more information on the exhibit and special events, call (414) 684-0218.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

YES! Please begin my one-year introductory membership in Trout Unlimited at the rate I have checked below. I understand my dues payment entitles me to all regular membership benefits, including a TU decal, personal membership card and quarterly issues of Trout magazine and Action Line resource information.

Name _____ (please print)
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Telephone (Area Code) _____ Chapter _____ (if known)
Sponsor _____

Please check membership category:

- Regular membership (\$20) 3 years (\$50)
 Family membership (\$25) 3 years (\$60)
 Sponsoring contributor (\$40-\$99)*
 Century contributor (\$100)*
 Individual Life (\$500) (No further dues)*
 Family Life (\$600) (Husband & Wife)*
 Student membership (\$10)
 Business membership (\$50-\$499)

Payment enclosed* Please bill me

VISA * _____ Expir. Date _____

MasterCard * _____ Expir. Date _____

Signature _____

*Note special benefits for these membership categories.

**Make checks payable to Trout Unlimited.

RETURN TO:
TROUT UNLIMITED
WASHINGTON, D.C. HEADQUARTERS
301 CHURCH STREET, NE #103
VIENNA, VA 22180

\$5 of dues amount is for subscription to TROUT magazine for one year. All contributions over \$5 are tax deductible.

RETURN:
Trout Unlimited
Randy Butters
N8082 Union St.
Ripon, WI 54971



Wisconsin Trout

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited

Summer 1991

Pressure light in "Catch-and-Release" areas

The 1991 inland trout fishing season opened on Saturday, May 4, in most of the state, with 11 Northeastern and six Southwestern Wisconsin counties having their trout waters restricted to "catch-and-release", artificials only trout fishing as a result of three prior years of drought which decimated trout numbers in many areas.

The Natural Resources Board, governing body of the Department of Natural Resources, had approved an emergency order at its January, 1991, meeting to approve trout fishing restrictions in those counties (Florence, Forest, Langlade, Lincoln,

Marathon, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto, Oneida, Shawano and Vilas in the Northeast, and Columbia, Grant, Iowa, Lafayette, Richland and Sauk counties in the Southwest). DNR fishery personnel in those areas had felt that trout populations in too many waters had not recovered sufficiently from the drought to permit angler harvest even under the new inland trout fishing regulations.

The season had been entirely closed in 1990 in the Northeast, except for stocked trout lakes, and limited to the "catch-and-release", artificials only rule in 12 Southwest and West Central

counties.

DNR fish managers, particularly those in Northeastern Wisconsin, felt that some type of season needed to be offered to the trout angler, and they thus proposed a compromise with the "catch-and-release" season. It has not been a big hit with anglers, however.

Fish managers from both areas of the state where the angling restrictions are in place note that there is little angler interest in the "catch-and-release" season. Some of the better known rivers in the Southwestern corner of the state - such as Castle Rock Creek, the Blue River and the Big Green River - are seeing a fair bit of action from anglers, many of whom come from Illinois.

In Northeastern Wisconsin, not only has there been apathy toward the "catch-and-release" season, but, in many instances, there has been much hostility shown to the DNR and local T.U. chapters over the restrictions.

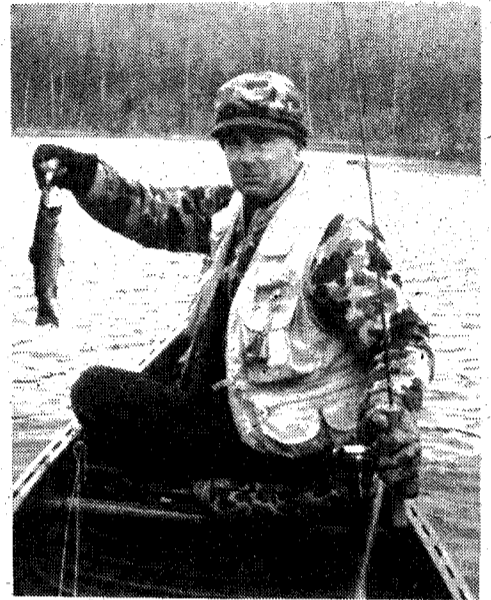
That anger comes from two sources, according to DNR fish managers and T.U. chapter representatives. Some who are angered by the "catch-and-release" season are those who want to go out and harvest fish regardless of the overall health of the trout population. Others seem to feel some discrimination, because live bait usage is prohibited under the restrictions.

Many more, though, who are upset with the season have expressed a concern that the "catch-and-release" rules will not provide satisfactory protection to the remaining stocks of trout in the streams. Fears of high incidences of hooking mortality have not been soothed by data showing about a ten percent loss in numbers due to hooking mortality.

The fish managers reported that they were soundly taken to task at county Conservation Congress hearings on April 22nd over the "catch-and-release" season. "Duke" Andrews of Woodruff reported that, at the Forest County hearing, attendees passed an after-the-fact resolution urging the Department to keep the trout season closed rather than have a "catch-and-release" season if trout numbers cannot withstand harvest.

Ross Langhurst of Shawano, Russ Heizer of Marinette and Max Johnson of Antigo, all DNR fish managers, heard similar complaints in their areas.

As a result of angler attitudes toward



Kim McCarthy displays chunky Brook Trout caught on the second day of the season from a Forest County pond.

the "catch-and-release" season, some fish managers have stated that, should future conditions, such as drought, warrant restrictions on trout angling to protect the resource, the option of complete closure will be viewed as more viable.

Anglers who have chosen to participate in the "catch-and-release", artificials only season have reported some good-to-outstanding catching success in both areas of the state. Good numbers of large brown and brook trout have been caught and released by some anglers, and most note with satisfaction the solitude they encounter on the streams and ponds.

DNR fish managers are also noting that the numbers of larger trout, particularly brook trout in northern waters, are way above what was thought to be possible for systems to sustain. Stream survey data this year on trout waters in the angling-restricted areas may provide some key baseline data for future management decisions affecting both trout and the angler.

Conservation wardens have reported few, if any, violations of the "catch-and-release", artificials only rules to date. Some have received complaints but have not been able to apprehend anyone in the act of keeping trout or using live bait for trout in the restricted zones.

From the Chairman



Steve Born
-BRENT NICASTRO PHOTO

Lee Wulff, John Voelker, Norman MacLean. Famous trout fishing authors all. All are deceased.

Like the mayfly, we, too, have our life cycle. The ranks of trout anglers are perpetually depleted. We read in the papers about the demise of our more-famous fishing compatriots, their obituaries and followup news stores chronicling their lifetime love and passion for the sport and the resource.

But as we all know, the same cycle runs its course closer to home, as close friends of ours (and friends of the resource) move on to the "Big Trout Stream in the Sky". Like the mayfly, our destiny is preordained from our first day of life.

Yet this is not intended to be a gloomy report. Those who have passed on have lived full and enjoyable lives. They need to be "replaced", though we recognize that old fishing friends can never be replaced, but that new friends help fill the void left behind.

This column, then, is about "regeneration"...of finding people who will care about the resource and fishing just as we do. Of finding younger people, that is.

I'm writing this just before National Fishing Week takes place (June 3-9), with its emphasis on "Take a Friend Fishing". Much of this week is, of course, a promotional activity by fishing tackle manufacturers and retailers who recognize that creating new

anglers is a great and necessary way of assuring future customers.

But Trout Unlimited and other conservation organizations should share their concern. A recent article on "The Future of Fishin'" in *Western Outdoors* magazine reports that participation in sport fishing will decline over the next decade simply because of age demographics.

An aging America and a high divorce rate have changed family structure and activities. Often kids have no one to introduce them to the sport of fishing and to trigger their trigger in it. While the prospect of declining participation in sportfishing may open images of uncrowded lakes and streams ("like in the old days"), the larger view suggests that a reduced constituency for resource conservation and fisheries will also come about, just when we need to recruit new anglers and conservationists to the ranks of Trout Unlimited and other sister organizations.

So the chance to take a kid fishing - be it during National Fishing Week or anytime - is an opportunity not to be missed. These are the trout anglers and coldwater resource protectors of tomorrow.

On this note, it's great to see Wisconsin T.U. chapters focusing some of their energy and attention on youth. Sponsorship of conservation education scholarships, producing youth education programs, collaborating with the Wisconsin Conservation Corps and holding special fishing days for disabled youths are activities that represent an investment in the future of the sport and the resource.

In support of that goal, Wisconsin T.U. will soon be setting up a Youth Education Committee at the state level to link up with National T.U.'s efforts in that area. We'll also try to assist Wisconsin T.U. chapters in their youth education, and, as usual, we'll be looking for interested volunteers!

Trout anglers come and, after their allotted time on the Earth's rivers, lakes and streams, they go. Like the trout, we, too, are a "renewable resource". Recruitment of young trout anglers and future conservationists is our best insurance to produce the Lee Wulffs, John Voelkers and Norman MacLeans of tomorrow.

State Council banquet slated

Although we are in the middle of summer, the middle of fishing season and a long, long way away from the snow and cold of January, Wisconsin Trout Unlimited wishes to inform its members that the eighth Wisconsin State Council Conservation Awards Banquet will be held on January 25, 1992, at the Paper Valley Hotel & Conference Center in downtown Appleton.

The event will be coordinated by a team consisting of Jim Bereza of Marinette, Forrest Grulke of Menasha, Ted Rydell of Shawano and Mitch Bent of De Pere.

The Council's Banquet Team will be

looking for contributions of unique items for prizes and auction items for the event, and any Wisconsin T.U. member who has any special talent as far as fly-tying, rod-building, net-making or whatever is encouraged to assist the Council in its fundraising endeavor.

Further notification of the banquet will come in the ensuing issues of *Wisconsin Trout*. To contact Wisconsin T.U.'s Banquet Team regarding the event, call one of the following: Jim Bereza (715-735-5029); Forrest Grulke (414-739-5155); Ted Tydell (715-526-9415); or, Mitch Bent (414-336-4983).

"Friends of Wisconsin T.U." program gains support

The spring mailing for continuation of the "Friends of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited" program has been a great success! Nineteen new members have joined the "Friends" program since the April, 1991, mailing and an equal number of first-year "Friends" have

renewed during that time.

The "Friends of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited" program, a creation of Council fundraising chairman John Cantwell, is designed to attract additional support for the Wisconsin Council's coldwater resource conservation program. A separate article in this issue of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited describes the ways those "Friends" funds have been used to date by the Wisconsin T.U. Council.

Would you like to become a "Friend of Wisconsin T.U."? We'd sure like to have you as our "Friend"!!

To become a "Friend of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited", fill out the form below and enclose a check for \$100.00 payable to TROUT UNLIMITED. Mail to the address listed on the form.

For your annual donation of \$100, you will receive a certificate of appreciation, Wisconsin Trout Unlimited pin and listing as a "Friend of Wisconsin T.U." in each issue of Wisconsin Trout, the official publication of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited.

You will also receive the satisfaction of knowing that you are directly contributing to the improvement of the coldwater resources in our great, be it through habitat improvement, research or education.

Your generous contribution will provide the impetus for Wisconsin T.U. to get the job done. We look forward to hearing from you soon!

Moratorium sought on early trout season

Delegates to the annual Wisconsin Conservation Congress meeting, held in Wausau from May 31 to June 1, voted to recommend that the "early" trout season be closed for a trial period of three years, according to Department of Natural Resources Trout Specialist Larry Claggett.

The Congress' position on the matter stems from a series of rather curious votes that took place on the topic at Conservation Congress hearings in the eight counties that currently have the "early" trout season (Columbia, Crawford, Grant, Green, Iowa, Lafayette, Richland and Sauk).

The "early" trout season has been in place for many years in the southwestern part of Wisconsin. Its creation was strongly pushed by such people as Dodgeville Area DNR Fish Manager Gene Van Dyck and longtime Iowa County Conservation Congress delegate and Harry Nohr T.U. Chapter member Dave Ladd.

The purpose of the "early" trout season - which opens on January 1 and runs through the day before the general statewide trout fishing opener on the first Saturday in May - was to alleviate the "circus-like" atmosphere produced by crowds of trout anglers on opening day. The heavy influx of people on the relatively few trout waters in Southwestern Wisconsin - which lies within easy driving range of a large human population - had caused many points of contention with landowners whose properties were being trespassed upon by anglers on opening weekend.

While the January 1 opener alleviated that problem, the "early" trout season was blamed for causing excessive mortality of larger-sized trout because of the susceptibility of trout to angling pressure at that time of year.

Even when creel limits were reduced to two trout per day during the early season, some anglers were dissatisfied with the situation and desired a return to a trout angling season that opened and closed with the rest of the state.

There were divisions among T.U. members and chapters, too, on this topic.

Thus, at the April 22, 1991, Conservation Congress hearings, two dichotomous questions were on the agenda for public vote. The first asked attendees in each of the eight counties having the early trout season if they wished to have their county remain in the early trout season. The other one asked if the attendees wanted their county to be excluded from the early trout season.

Here are how the votes went regarding the issue:

Continue early season			
COUNTY	YES	NO	TOTAL
Columbia	230	200	430
Crawford	196	181	377
Grant	194	171	365
Green	210	165	375
Iowa	185	194	379
Lafayette	228	162	390
Richland	186	181	367
Sauk	194	198	392

Exclude from early season

YES	NO	TOTAL
164	147	311
157	116	273
156	102	258
172	107	279
154	102	256
197	107	304
156	102	258
164	102	266

As can be seen, when asked if a particular county wished to stay with the early season, six of eight said "yes". When the second question was asked - later in the evening after many people apparently went home - the tables were turned and all counties opted to be excluded from the early season.

The Congress took this recommendation to the June 26-27 meeting of the Natural Resources Board in Oshkosh. Wisconsin Trout will report in the next issue what transpired from that recommendation by the Conservation Congress.

National meeting Aug. 21-25

As noted in the last issue of Trout, the official publication of Trout Unlimited, the Annual Meeting for Trout Unlimited will be held in Portland, Maine, from August 21-25 at the Sheraton Tara Hotel. The members meeting is scheduled for 2:45 p.m. on August 24th.

A variety of informative seminars and programs will be available for

those attending the four-day session. For a rundown of the schedule of events, write to: Trout Unlimited 1991 Annual Meeting, P.O. Box 3862, Portland, Maine 04104.

For travel/vacation/accommodation arrangements, contact Nationwide 1-800-866-6171 and ask for the T.U. travel desk.

"FRIENDS OF WISCONSIN TROUT UNLIMITED"

Ed Anderson/Culligan of Marinette (N) Marinette, WI.

Mitchell Bent (R) De Pere, WI.

George Bereza (R) Marinette, WI.

Robert Bolz Madison, WI.

James Bolton, Jr. Eau Claire, WI.

Gerald Bristol (N) Ellsworth, WI.

Thomas Buettner (R) Sheboygan, WI.

John Cantwell (R) Green Bay, WI.

Jon P. Christiansen Mequon, WI.

Andrew E. Cook, II (R) De Pere, WI.

J.M. Coombes (R) Menomonee Falls, WI.

Bruce Davidson (N) Marinette, WI.

Wayne Disch (R) Green Bay, WI.

Dick DuPlessie (N) Eau Claire, WI.

Tom England (R) Knoxville, IL.

David Everett (R) Lincolnshire, IL.

Alan Finesilver (N) De Pere, WI.

William A. Flader (R) Madison, WI.

Daniel Flaherty La Crosse, WI.

Louis Frase, M.D. (N) Eau Claire, WI.

Robert Hackinson Appleton, WI.

Walter Hellyer Fish Creek, WI.

Robert Horswill, M.D. (R) Janesville, WI.

Charles V. James (R) Milwaukee, WI.

Harold Keland (N) Racine, WI.

Webb J. Kennedy Mequon, WI.

Richard Kraus (R) Berlin, WI.

Richard Kroll (R) Fox Point, WI.

P. Eric Kuusinen (N) Elm Grove, WI.

Mel Lasecki (R) Green Bay, WI.

David Lenz (R) Middleton, WI.

Harold Levin (N) Gurnee, IL.

Vern Lunde/The Lunde Agency (N) Mt. Horeb, WI.

Phillip Mayer (N) Dodgeville, WI.

James McHale (N) Lily, WI.

Orrin Miller Janesville, WI.

Ron Miller/Four Corporation (R) Green Bay, WI.

Dennis Morgan (N) Grande Prairie, Alberta (Canada)

Peter Rath sack (N) Waunakee, WI.

Ronald Rellatz (R) Merton, WI.

Thomas J. Rice, M.D. (N) Marshfield, WI.

Thomas Rogers (N) Princeton, WI.

Forest H. Schafer Foundation (John Schafer, Pres.) (R) Clintonville, WI.

William V. Schumacher Wausau, WI.

John Shillinglaw Appleton, WI.

Delmar Schwaller (R) Appleton, WI.

Dain Trafton (N) Rockford, IL.

Mark & Catherine Vaughn Plover, WI.

Richard Wachowski Eau Claire, WI.

J. Nash Williams (R) Madison, WI.

Norb Wozniak (N) Juneau, WI.

John Yackel (R) Circle Pines, MN.

Fred Young (R) Roscoe, IL.

*Note: (N) = new "Friend since last issue of Wisconsin Trout

(R) = renewed "Friend" since last issue of Wisconsin Trout

MAIL TO: TROUT UNLIMITED
1282 MONTEREY TRAIL
DE PERE, WI 54115

Yes, I want to join the
Friends of Wisconsin
Trout Unlimited
Enclosed is my check for \$100.00.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

"Friends of Wisconsin T.U." funds habitat work

The Executive Council of the Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited has announced the first projects that will receive funding from the Council through its "Friends of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited" program. The Executive Council voted on recommendations at its April 20th meeting in Madison.

Three projects have received financial assistance from Wisconsin T.U. through the "Friends" program. They are:

1) **West Fork Kickapoo River project (Vernon County):** This project, being carried out under the direction of DNR Fish Manager Dave Vetrano with help from the Coulee Region T.U. Chapter and the West Fork Sportsmen's Club, has gained statewide significance since its initiation.

The West Fork, flowing through lands owned by the West Fork Sportsmen's Club, has had a history of severely eroding banks and flooding, both of which have led to serious deterioration of trout habitat and trout numbers in the stream. Under Vetrano's guidance, stream banks have been stabilized and seeded with riprap and vegetative cover, and in-stream structures and boulders have been strategically placed to enhance trout habitat and trout numbers.

Because the West Fork flows mainly through private lands and is listed as a Class III trout water by the DNR, no state funds have been available for work on the project. Funding has come from the West Fork Sportsmen's Club, the Blackhawk Chapter of T.U. in Janesville, the Fox Valley Chapter of T.U. in Appleton, and, this year, the Green Bay T.U. Chapter. The Blackhawk and Fox Valley chapters have also provided some volunteer labor to assist the West Fork Sportsmen's Club and the Coulee Region T.U. Chapter with the work.

Through the intensive habitat work and special regulations, trout numbers in the West Fork have responded very positively. Reports of brown trout up to 27 inches caught and released have made headlines in the area, and trout anglers are now beginning to consis-

tently catch brown trout 14 inches and up.

The \$1,000 provided by the Wisconsin State T.U. Council's "Friends of Wisconsin T.U." program will assist the DNR and the West Fork Sportsmen's Club in purchase of materials to construct and place more habitat structures in the West Fork. Heavy equipment operators in the West Fork area have provided free time and labor for the work.

2) **Black Earth Creek project (Dane County):** One of the premier spring creeks in Wisconsin, if not the entire Midwest United States, Black Earth Creek has suffered severely over the years from stream bank destruction by cattle, channelization, urban sprawl, effluent discharges and more.

Despite all these atrocities done to the creek and its groundwater supplies, restoration works that have gone on for many years now have not only held the line on the creek but have brought any areas back to life.

Under the direction of Area Fish Manager Scot Stewart, the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited, the Black Earth Watershed Association and other conservation groups have conducted a series of habitat improvement works--including stream bank fencing, cattle crossings and installation of in-stream structures--that have restored large areas of Black Earth Creek and made the stream one of the most productive brown trout fisheries around.

Combined with new special regulations on certain parts of the stream that will restrict trout harvest, the trout population of Black Earth Creek is on the rebound. The Wisconsin T.U. Executive Council was pleased to honor a request from the Southern Wisconsin T.U. Chapter for \$1,500 from the "Friends of Wisconsin T.U." program to assist the chapter in receiving matching grant money for a major project this year on the creek near the village of Cross Plains in Dane County.

Stream bank stabilization and installation of "LUNKER" structures will take place in a demonstration area



More work like this will occur on the West Fork of the Kickapoo River in Vernon County thanks to \$1,000 from the "Friends" program.

designed to not only provide trout cover but also to educate the public on the benefits of trout habitat improvement and the need to wisely manage the entire watershed basin, including the delicate groundwater supply, of Black Earth Creek.

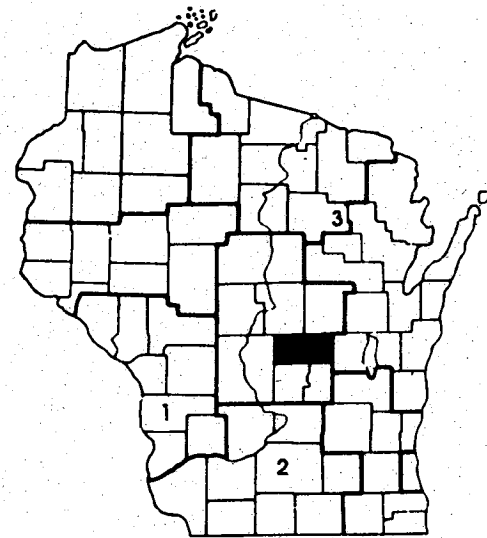
3) **Saul Spring Pond dredging (Langlade County):** An important source of cold water for the South Branch of the Oconto River, as well as a vital spawning area and recruitment source for both the river and itself, Saul Spring Pond in eastern Langlade County had undergone severe deterioration since the mid-1970's.

Beaver dams on the pond's outlet (tributary to the South Branch of the Oconto) had caused havoc with the 6.4 acre pond's ability to produce trout. Not only was migration from the South Branch of the Oconto to the pond for trout blocked off, the springs in the pond were subjected to increased hydraulic head due to the impounding of the waters by beavers.

Several year classes of trout were lost in the late 1970's and early 1980's before the beaver and dams were permanently removed. However, layers of silt and detritus remained in the pond due to the impoundment, and living space for trout, along with spawning areas, had decreased by over 70 percent.

Due to budget constraints imposed on the DNR by hiring freezes and salary controls, the planned dredging of Saul Spring Pond in 1991 by the DNR was in doubt. However, the T.U. chapters of Green Bay, Marinette County and Antigo appropriated \$10,000, \$5,000 and \$4,000, respectively, to fund the project.

The Nicolet National Forest, wherein Saul Spring lies in entirety, has pledged \$5,000 through its "Challenge



Grant" program for the dredging work, and the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin, Inc. generously provided a donation through its Small Matching Grants Program of \$1,000 to help fund the project.

The Wisconsin T.U. Council was pleased to be able to allocate \$1,000 from the "Friends of Wisconsin T.U." program to assist in the restoration of Saul Spring Pond in eastern Langlade County.

The Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited will continue to provide support for vital trout habitat improvement and research projects and coldwater/environmental education programs as long as generous support from members and businesses continues to exist.

The Wisconsin T.U. Council encourages as many of its members as possible to consider becoming a "Friend of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited" (see accompanying article for details). With your support, Wisconsin Trout Unlimited will work hard to make a positive impact on the trout fishery here in Wisconsin.



Improvements on Black Earth Creek in Dane County will be aided by \$1,500 from the "Friends" program.



Saul Spring Pond in Eastern Langlade County will be dredged this summer with \$1,000 assistance from the "Friends" program.

WISCONSIN TROUT

is the official publication of the Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited. Issues are distributed to all members of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited chapters. Publication and distribution dates are the first weeks of January, April, July and October. Deadlines for articles and advertisements are the 10th of December, March, June and September, respectively. Advertising rate sheet available upon request. Contributions and letters-to-the-editor are welcomed and encouraged. Submit articles and returnable photos or slides (color or black-and-white) to editor for consideration. Send all change of address notices to: TROUT UNLIMITED, 800 Follin Lane, Suite 250, Vienna VA. 22180.

Mitch Bent, Editor
1282 Monterey Trail
DePere WI 54115
(414) 336-4983

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Council Officers

Steve Born, Chairman
424 Washburn Place
Madison, WI 53703

Rick Penn, Secretary
Rt. 1 Box 267
Highbridge, WI 54846

John Cantwell, Vice-Chairman
2286 Mt. Olive
Green Bay, WI 54313

Mitch Bent, Treasurer
1282 Monterey Trail
DePere, WI 54115

Wisconsin Trout Water Profile: Emmons Creek

When you think of special trout waters, far too often we are apt to conjure up some big river whose banks have played host to many, many anglers and whose waters have been visited by the creme' de la creme' of outdoor writers.

But, by doing so, we overlook the many small, special little streams that are far more numerous - and often far more productive - than their larger, more hallowed brethren.

One such little stream is **Emmons Creek**, flowing gently through eastern Portage and western Waupaca Counties.

Emmons Creek is one of the finest trout streams in central Wisconsin, with the beauty of the stream and its surrounding banks going unchallenged. The crystal clear waters support a self-sustaining population of trout, mainly browns with a few brook trout in the headwaters area.

The state of Wisconsin long ago recognized the unique characteristics of Emmons Creek. In 1957, through the authority of the old Wisconsin Conservation Department (predecessor of today's Department of Natural Resources) under chapter 23.09 of the Wisconsin statutes and with federal aid from the Fish and Wildlife Restoration Acts, the state initiated a land acquisition program along Emmons Creek.

The primary purpose of the acquisition program was to ensure public access to the waterway and provide for outdoor recreation. In 1958, the proper boundaries and funding for Emmons

Creek Fishery Area were approved by the Wisconsin Conservation Commission, the predecessor of the Natural Resources Board, under the Dingell-Johnson Act, with an acreage goal of 1,611.08 acres.

Since 1967, acquisition has been done with ORAP 200 funds. The acreage goal was reduced in 1967 to the present goal of 1,418.85 acres. In 1972, a management plan for the 643 acres of land along Emmons Creek owned by the state at that time was developed by a DNR committee.

The Multiple Management Proposal for the Emmons Creek Fish and Wildlife Area called for preservation of the area in as natural a condition as possible. That Multiple Management Proposal has been since abandoned by the DNR in favor of a "Master Plan". Currently, over 1,050 acres along Emmons Creek are owned in fee title by the state of Wisconsin.

Emmons Creek has its source from the spring waters of Fountain Lake in southeastern Portage County. Fountain Lake was acquired by the DNR in the past decade, after several attempts to do so. Development plans for subdivisions around the lake had posed a threat not only to Fountain Lake itself, but also to the downstream waters of Emmons Creek.

But, after repeated attempts to subdivide the lake frontage failed because of zoning restrictions, the state was able to lay claim to the property and preserve it in its entirety.

The sandy soils of the central Wis-



Typical stretch along Emmons Creek, Waupaca County.

consin area wherein Emmons Creek flows provide much of the substance of the creek. Cool springs keep the water temperatures of the creek comfortable for trout all year long. Rapid permeability of surrounding soils and extensive vegetative cover along the creek's banks account for relatively infrequent flooding of the creek banks.

As noted earlier, brown trout are abundant throughout the entire length of stream, averaging 507 trout per acre with ranges from 285 to 1,518 brown trout per acre.

Brook trout are present in sparse numbers except for the upper mile of Emmons Creek and its several feeder streams. Brook trout densities are on the order of 26 fish per acre.

Trout have not been stocked in Emmons Creek since 1954.

The trout fishery of Emmons Creek also possesses a unique feature in that a resident population of large brown trout in the Waupaca Chain O' Lakes makes an annual fall spawning run up the creek. Trout of six-to-seven pounds have been periodically caught in Emmons Creek.

There is also a verified report of a 27-inch brown trout tagged in Long Lake being recaptured six days later in Emmons Creek approximately one mile from Fountain Lake.

Although relatively pristine in nature, Emmons Creek has also had its share of problems insofar as trout habitat is concerned. An extensive number of large dead and dying elm trees along

the creek's banks had fallen into the creek over the years, causing a slowing of stream current and a widening of the stream.

To correct the problem, the DNR elicited assistance from the Central Wisconsin and Fox Valley T.U. chapters to remove many of the dead trees and brush that were choking Emmons Creek. Much of that work has been done, and Emmons Creek meanders in a much better condition than it had in past years.

Also unique to the stream is the fact that the Department of Natural Resources' Coldwater Research Unit station is located along its banks. Headed by DNR Fishery researcher Robert Hunt (see separate article), the Coldwater Research Unit has done many studies of trout in Emmons Creek and has established a habitat demonstration area on the creek near the unit's headquarters building.

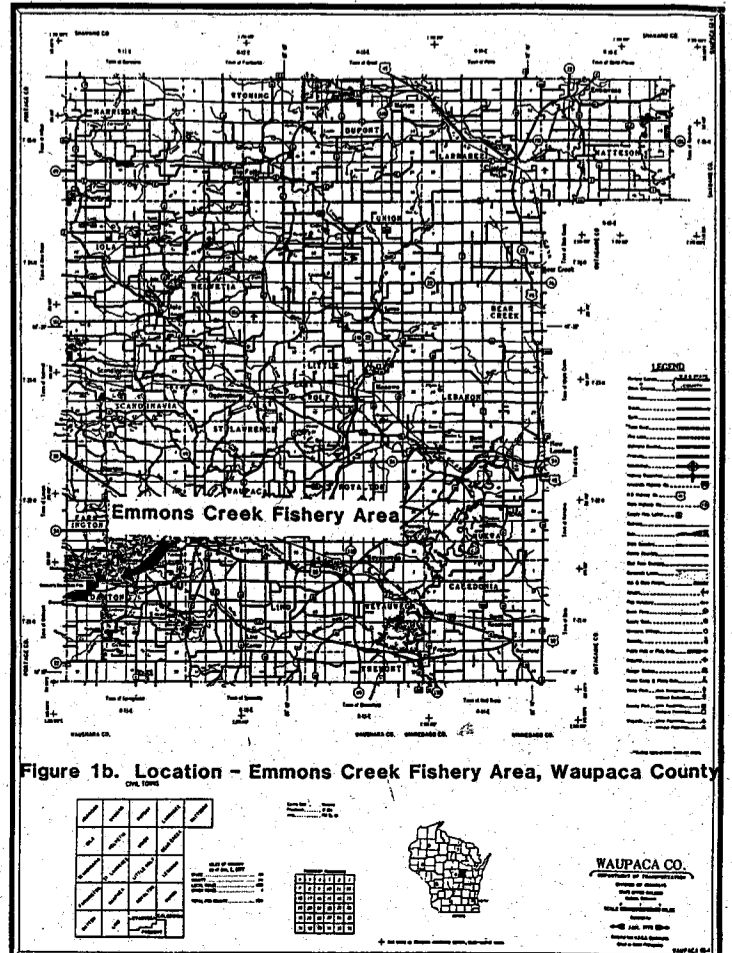
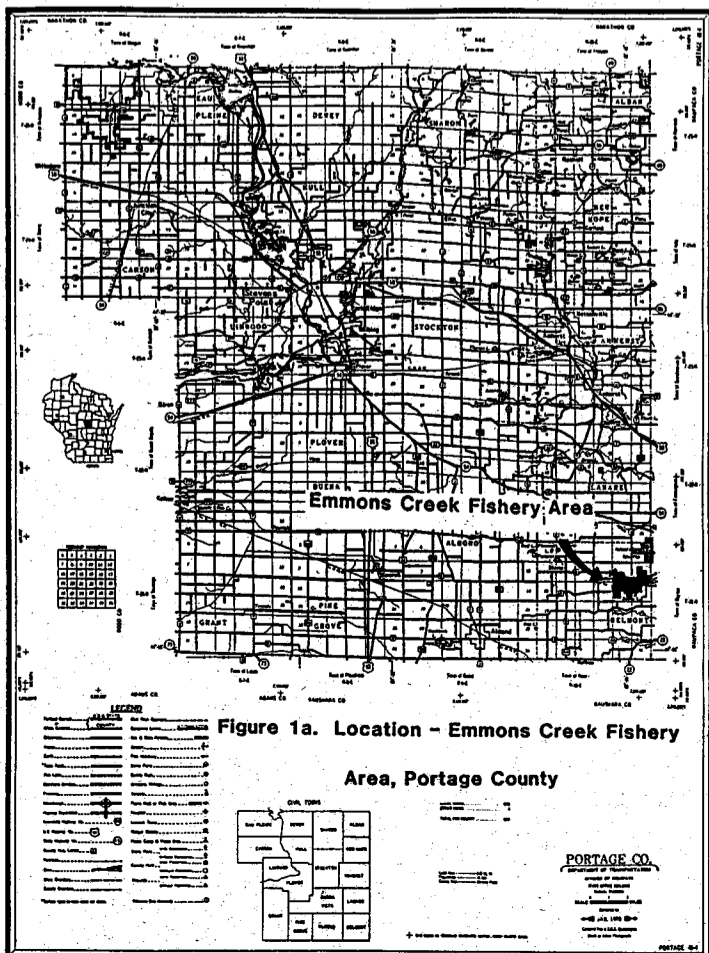
Being close to a fairly large human population center (over 56,000 in Portage County and over 42,000 in Waupaca County), Emmons Creek sees a fair bit of trout angling pressure. Surveys have indicated that the creek receives about 550 angler days/mile of stream. With a stream length of 6.22 miles, that extrapolates to 3,420 angler days per year.

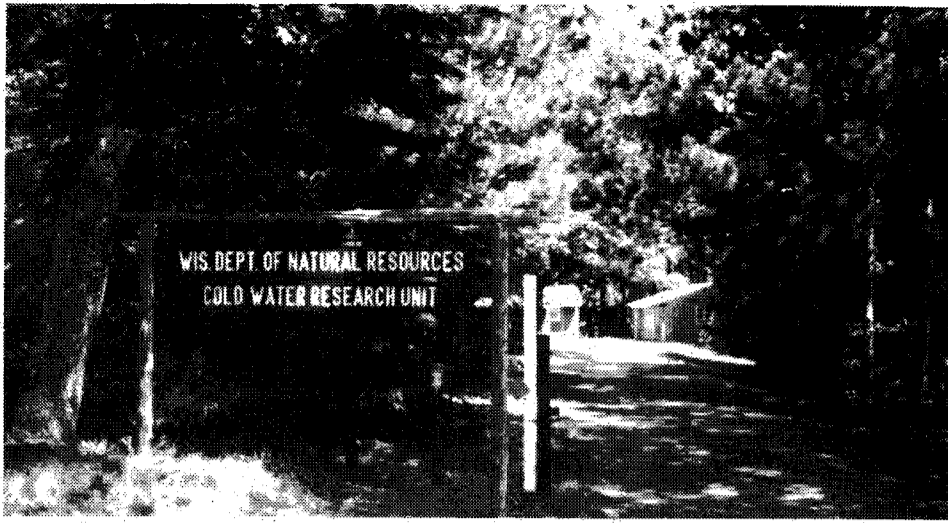
To minimize illegal overnight camping and littering in the Emmons Creek area, the state has restricted drive-in

Cont. on Page 5



Fountain Lake (headwaters of Emmons Creek) in Portage County.





DNR Coldwater Research Unit Station near Emmons Creek.

'Emmons Creek'

Cont. from Page 4

access to the state-owned areas.

The clear alkaline (pH 8.2) and hard waters (183-186 ppm CaCO₃) of Emmons Creek give rise to abundant caddisfly and freshwater shrimp populations, which are favorite foods of trout. Mayflies and stoneflies are also common trout foods in the creek.

The entire length of Emmons Creek has been listed as Class I trout water by the Department of Natural Resources due to the streams ability to sustain its trout populations through natural reproduction.

Under the new Inland Trout Fishing regulations, Emmons Creek is listed as a Type 2 stream, meaning a limit of five trout per day with a seven inch size limit on trout harvested from the creek.

Access to Emmons Creek comes from at least five road crossings in Portage and Waupaca counties and from numerous sites along state-owned lands. Anglers who travel to fish this lovely little creek should be aware that

the narrow width of the stream can cause some delicate presentation problems for those using bait, spinners or flies. Short rods and light tackle are recommended, though they may be a handicap should one luck into one of those big fall-run brown trout.

There is an old cliché that says, "Good things come in small packages." Such words are true of Emmons Creek. Its cool, clear waters, its inviting meanders and its occasional deep holes beckon the trout angler to stop and have a try at its trout.

Yes, the big-name rivers are always an attraction for dedicated trout chasers. But anglers who want something a bit different, a bit more relaxed, should head toward Emmons Creek for a refreshing change. The delicate little runs and riffles of the stream should be a delight to any trout angler.

And if you put back more trout into Emmons Creek than you take from it, the stream will continue to enhance trout lovers for years to come.

Funding cuts for federal beaver control proposed

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited was alerted in April that proposals in Washington, D.C., were being made to cut approximately \$5,361,000 in fiscal year 92 (FY92) from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal Damage Control (ADC) program.

The Department of Natural Resources has alerted concerned conservation organizations like Trout Unlimited about this issue, and DNR secretary Carroll "Buzz" Besadny has written letters to Senator Robert Kasten, Jr., and Representative David Obey (members of the respective Senate and House Agricultural Appropriations Committees) to enlist their support in retaining the funding for this small but highly important program.

In his letter, Besadny pointed out that the Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) - Animal Damage Control (ADC) unit has played a valu-

able role in Wisconsin, particularly with respect to beaver control on trout streams and commercial forests. APHIS trappers have worked on a number of trout streams in the state's National Forests, particularly the Nicolet, and have helped to restore many miles of trout waters that had been impounded and inundated by beaver dams.

In addition, T.U. chapters such as Marinette County and Green Bay have either fully or partially funded APHIS beaver trappers to expand the amount of beaver control occurring on northern Wisconsin trout waters.

State Council Chairman Steve Born has contacted Rep. Obey and Senators Kasten and Kohl regarding this topic, and has been assured by them that they will work to keep this funding in the coming year's budget.

Wetland rule adopted by Natural Resources Board

But Legislature may undercut Board's actions

At the March meeting of the Natural Resources Board, the governing body of the Department of Natural Resources, the Board gave a unanimous vote in support of NR 103, an administrative rule promulgated by the Department of Natural Resources to establish water quality criteria for wetlands as required of states under the federal Clean Water Act.

By establishing such criteria, the state will be in a better position to examine wetland dredge-and-fill permits sought under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Section 404 is administered nationwide by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

With the standards in place, Wisconsin can carry out its requirements under Section 401 of the CWA to deny "water certification" for Section 404 permits, should projects for which Section 404 permits are sought be considered to likely cause a lessening of water quality.

Subsequent to public hearings held in December, 1990, on the rule, the DNR made several modifications to it based upon public input.

Of major interest to Wisconsin Trout Unlimited was changes in wording regarding "Special Areas of Protection" that identified ecosystems that would receive extra protection under the rule. The initial draft had stated that "...Class I and Class II trout waters..." would be listed as "Special Areas" worthy of additional protection under NR 103.

Objections by several members of Trout Unlimited at the five public hearings that such wording left Class III trout streams without needed protection led the DNR staff to change the wording of that codicil from "...Class I and Class II trout streams..." to "...coldwater communities..." which thus included Class III trout waters in the class of "Special Areas".

Since adoption of the rule by the NRB, however, legislative action has taken place that may seriously undermine the integrity of NR 103.

The cranberry industry, whose activities on navigable waters in the

state are exempt from statutory requirements under Chapters 30 and 31 of the Wisconsin code and whose members (about 140 in all) vigorously opposed adoption of NR 103, has led an assault on NR 103 by getting the Joint Finance Committee of the Wisconsin Legislature to adopt an amendment to the State Budget Bill by Senator Robert Jauch (D. - Poplar) to require the DNR to promulgate rules within one year that would establish criteria under which the restoration and enhancement of wetlands may be approved as a method of satisfying the water quality standards for wetlands, as long as a net gain in wetlands results.

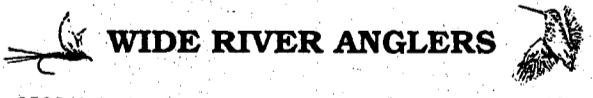
This amendment by Senator Jauch addressed the cranberry industry's contention that mitigation (i.e., replacement of altered wetlands with "other wetlands" of equal or greater value) be part and parcel of NR 103.

The problem with that assertion is that the DNR does not have the legal authority to incorporate mitigation provisions into NR 103. "Mitigation" is a term which, when boiled down to its basics, means that destruction of one entity is allowable based upon an agreement by the destroying party that it will "create" another entity--in this case, wetlands--that is equal to that lost.

Legislative directive may be able to force the DNR to carry out mitigation requirements, but, under Senator Jauch's provision, just about any wetland alteration project could be allowed to go past the state and to the Corps of Engineers as long as "mitigation" plans had been developed by the applicant.

Currently, the Corps of Engineers handles any "mitigation" plans proposed by applicants for Section 404 permits.

As this paper goes to press, we do not know the fate of the Jauch amendment to the Budget Bill--an amendment, by the way, that is totally not germane to the fiscal nature of the Budget Bill. Strong attempts will be made in party caucuses to remove the Jauch amendment, no doubt, from the Budget Bill




WIDE RIVER ANGLERS

2580 Interlachen Drive - Stillwater, Minn. 55082.
612-227-7717

--Hardy Tackle Catalog (Free)
--Leaders, Lines, Clothing
--Pack Rods & Flies
--Flies Tied on Partridge Hooks

Chris & Mark Larson - Prop.



IRON FEATHER FLY RODS

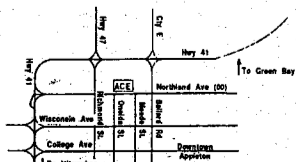
CAST BEFORE YOU BUY
Feel Free to Bring Your Favorite Reel for Practice

ALSO IN STOCK
Fenwick - HMG - Royale - Eagle
Loomis - Premier - IMG - IMX
St. Croix - Imperial - Legend
Sage - Light Line - Reserve Power

Reels - Scientific Anglers - S.T.H. - Fenwick - Martin

Lines - Cortland - Scientific Anglers - Sue Burgess

ACE HARDWARE OF APPLETON
500 E. Northland Appleton, WI 54911
OPEN 7 DAYS
(414) 731-0500



WANTED FISHING TEST PEOPLE

RODS - REEDS - LINE

Minimum 5 years fishing experience needed. Quality manufacture selection. For more info contact Darrell Toliver.

414-731-0500

BUY EXTRA TROUT STAMPS

Rods * Reels * Lines
Float Tubes * Flies
Vests * Rainwear
Gifts * Waders
Clothing * Accessories



Performance for Dedicated Fishermen




Mon. & Thurs. 10-6 Tues., Wed. & Fri. 10-6 Sat. 9-6 Sun. Noon-5
Corner State & Johnson*608-257-5043
Downtown Madison

FONTANA

SPORTS SPECIALTIES

NOVA BAMBOO

CANE RODS AND REPAIR
"TOMORROW"

Gene Novak
105 Mueller Lane
Random Lake, WI 53075
Ph. 414-994-9843



Wisconsin Trout Unlim

Aldo Leopold
No report

Antigo

The chapter's 11th annual Conservation Banquet on April 6th produced a net income of about \$8,200. Ticket sales were down slightly, but the event was an overall success.

A workday was held in April to apply stain to the wood of a fishing pier installed on the East Branch of the Eau Claire River in 1990 by the chapter and the Hy-land Lakes Lions Club. Venison hot dogs provided by chapter director Larry Marmes were duly consumed by chapter volunteers after the work was done.

The chapter made a big hit with Antigo area residents on May 17th when it stocked over 1,500 brook trout in Antigo Lake, an impounded area of Spring Brook (a trout stream above and below the city of Antigo) that lies within the city limits of Antigo.

The city recently had the lake dredged, making the lake deeper and cleaner and more habitable for fish, and thus able to provide recreational opportunities for city residents to enjoy.

Many area youngsters and elderly residents took advantage of the trout stocking to enjoy some close-to-home fishing, and the chapter reaped huge amounts of positive public relations because of its generous effort. Chapter vice-president **Denny Orgeman** reported that a local citizen made out a check to Antigo T.U. for \$100 that day and handed it over to him in gratitude for the chapter's generous stocking of the lake.

The stocking project, according to Orgeman, was made possible by DNR Area Fish Manager **Max Johnson**, who obtained the needed permits to expedite the trout stocking, and by **Silver Moon Springs Trout Hatchery** see ad in pap-

er) of Elton, which provided the trout and cooperated with Antigo T.U. in the endeavor. Hatchery personnel placed special tags on several of the trout that were stocked, and prizes were awarded to persons catching a tagged trout and turning the tag in to chapter president **Scott Henricks**.

Additional areas where the chapter will be involved in this summer include the funding of the dredging project on Saul Spring Pond (\$3,580), additional trout stocking in Antigo Lake and procurement of easements on area trout waters.

Blackhawk

The chapter's annual conservation fund-raising banquet was a great success. The April 29th event netted the chapter about \$7,500, according to banquet chairman **Larry Becker**.

The chapter held two outings on the West Fork of the Kickapoo River in Vernon County, east of Avalanche, to build and install "Lunker" structures as a continuation of the chapter's commitment to the restoration of that important trout fishery.

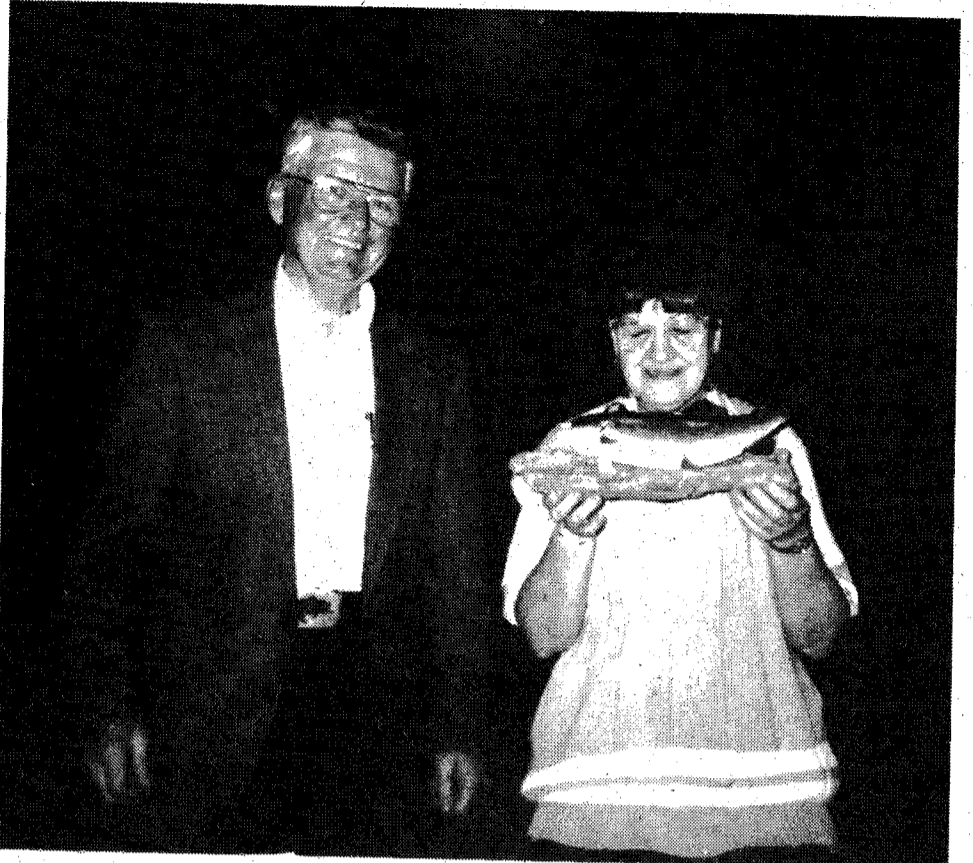
At the chapter's May meeting, **Dennis Franke** of the Orvis Company gave a fly-casting demonstration to chapter members.

Central Wisconsin
No report

Coulee Region

Coulee Region chapter president **Jay Flury** sent a note of thanks to the Wisconsin T.U. State Council for the Council's appropriation of \$1,000 from the "Friends of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited" program for work on the West Fork of the Kickapoo River that will be done by the West Fork Sportsmen's Club of Vernon County.

Chapter members **Malcolm Clark,**



Del Schwallar presented this mounted trout to Eleanor Lamaide at the 1991 Fox Valley Chapter banquet.

Tom Jones and **Clay Riness** gave a fly fishing seminar at the chapter's April meeting, with the program geared to both novice and veteran fly casters.

Coulee Region members plan on several workdays on the West Fork of the Kickapoo River this summer.

Fox Valley

Election of officers highlighted the chapter's April business meeting, with the following people elected to serve: President - **Darrell Toliver**; Vice-President - **Tom Beyer**; Secretary - **Gary Winters**; Treasurer - **Terry Hoover**. Following the business meeting, Green Bay chapter member **Gaary Tielens** gave a slide and talk show on trout fishing on the Green River in Wyoming.

The chapter's annual "Handicapped Fishing Day" was held May 11 at the Maine Creek Farm for about 20 handicapped individuals. The event was its usual success!

Chapter members participated in the annual **Fork McCoy Work Day & Fishing Day** on May 18, and chapter members also lent a hand to the Central Region work day focusing on cleanup of the Branch River in Manitowoc County on June 1.

The chapter's annual picnic was held at the cabin of **Tom Beyer** on June 8th along the Little Wolf River in Waupaca County.

The chapter reports that its annual banquet, held April 6th at the Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton, was successful.

Green Bay

The chapter's final two meetings prior to the summer work project season provided interesting and diverse topics for members. At the April meeting, **Jori Jonas** of the UW Sea Grant Program gave a talk and slide show on the influx of zebra mussels into Great Lakes waterways, and she discussed the potential impacts the exotic species could have on fish and fowl species, not to mention humans.

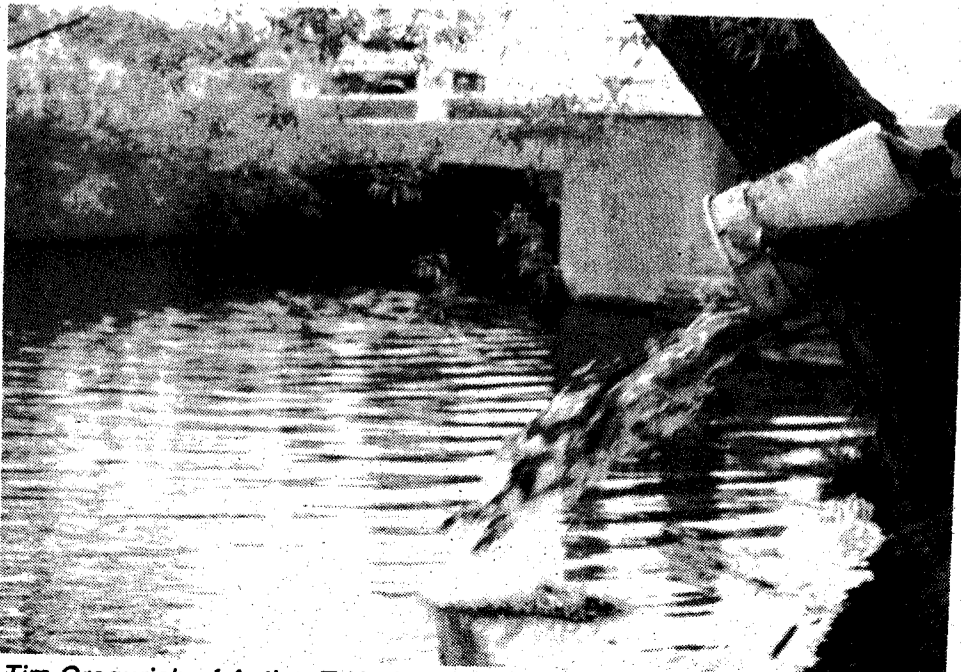
The May meeting was held at the **Brown County Reforestation Camp** as a picnic/meeting. **Marinette Area DNR fish manager Russ Heizer** informed chapter members of some potentially good spots for "catch-and-release" trout fishing in Northeastern Wisconsin during the restricted 1991 season, and **Coldwater Research Team Leader Bob Hunt** of Waupaca pointed out trout fishing locations in the central Wisconsin counties of Adams, Portage, Waupaca and Waushara, where anglers may keep trout under the new inland trout fishing regulations.

The chapter's 16th annual Conservation Banquet, held March 20th at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Green Bay, set another new record for profitability, netting \$23,612.80. The 1992 banquet has already been set for March 28th at the Embassy.

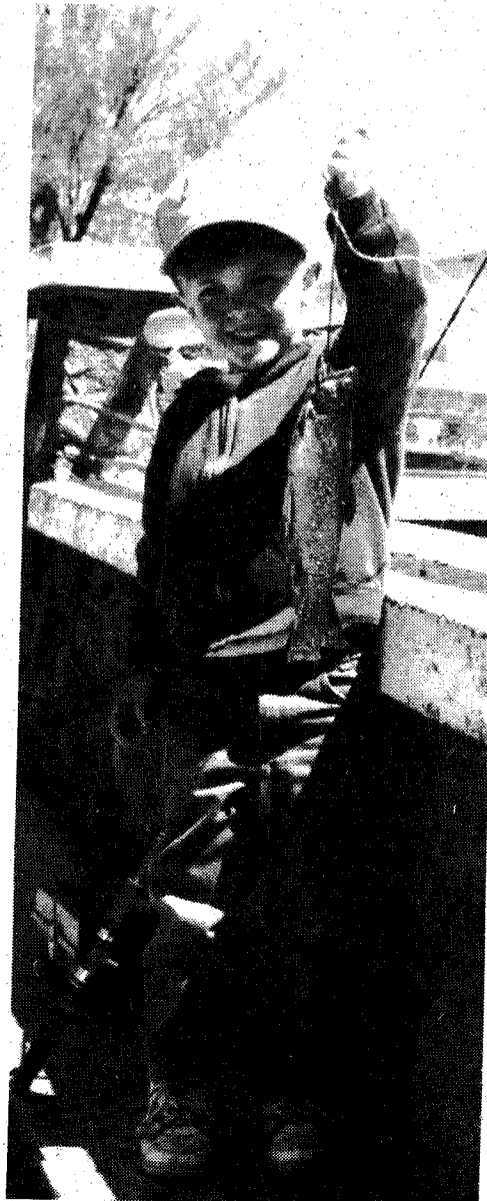
Green Bay T.U. continued to fund a variety of projects during its final meetings before summer. The chapter provided \$8,000 to the Nicolet National Forest to assist in the hiring of an additional beaver trapper (\$6,000) to remove problem beavers and dams from trout streams within the Nicolet Forest and to provide matching funds for the Forest Service's "Challenge Grant" project on Forbes Creek



A netful of Brook Trout from Silver Moon Springs Hatchery heading for Antigo Lake.



Tim Gregurich of Antigo T.U. dumping a bucket of trout into Antigo Lake.



Four-year-old Donovan Leaser of Antigo proudly displays Brook Trout caught from Antigo Lake.

United Chapter reports



(\$2,000) east of Lakewood in northern Oconto County.

A \$3,000 donation was approved by the chapter to help fund a Wisconsin Conservation Corps crew doing stream brushing and brush bundle placement in Little Waupee Creek near Mountain in northern Oconto County.

Green Bay T.U. continued its support of T.U. National's conservation needs by approving a \$2,500 donation to the "Living Brightwater Program".

Chapter members also approved a donation of \$500 to the West Fork Sportsmen's Club to fund materials to be used in the West Fork Kickapoo River project in Vernon County.

Two other funding requests were approved by the chapter's Board of Directors. A total of \$1336 will be donated to allow Woodruff Area DNR Fish Manager "Duke" Andrews conduct trout population surveys on Bearskin and Noisy Creeks in Oneida County and on Plum Creek in Vilas County. And the Board appropriated \$800 to match \$800 appropriated by the Brown County Conservation Alliance to assist the Marinette Area DNR purchase a four-wheel All-Terrain-Vehicle for patrolling trout waters in the remote areas of Florence, Marinette and Oconto counties, among other uses.

The chapter's first work project on the South Branch of the Oconto River was cancelled due to rain. Two workdays were held in June on Brehmer Creek, a tributary to the Oconto River in the Machickanee Forest Unit of the Oconto County Forest. Brush bundles and stream brushing was done. The chapter also presented a check for \$2,500 to Shawano Area DNR Fish Manager Ross Langhurst to help fund a summer work crew on Brehmer Creek.

The chapter plans two work days on Little Waupee Creek in northern Oconto County to do brushing and brush bundle placement, and one day in August to place sod cover on banks of the Eagle Creek in Marinette County. The South Branch Oconto River project has been re-scheduled for late August.

At the June meeting of the Natural Resources Board in Oshkosh, the chapter presented the DNR with a check for \$7,950 to fulfill the remainder of its \$8,950 commitment to the dredging project on Saul Springs in Langlade County; \$1,000 had been sent earlier to the DNR for "seed money" for the project.

Green Bay T.U. sent its appropriated \$3,030 to the Ottawa National Forest in Upper Michigan for habitat work on the South Branch of the Paint River Iron County, Michigan. And the chapter may consider additional funding for that project should the need arise.

Finally, the chapter's directors are in the process of planning a fishing day for under-privileged youngsters from the Brown County PALS program in late summer.

Kiap-TU-Wish

The chapter reports having some interesting programs in April and May. Chapter members Mike Alwin, Cathy Dicharry, Dan Gaedje and Will Koukkari put on an outstanding fly-tying demonstration at the April meeting, and DNR Fish Manager Marty Engel informed the chapter at the May meeting of stream shocking survey results on the main Kinnickinnic River and the South Fork of the Kinnickinnic.

The chapter finished up its work project schedule in late March, having removed lots of debris and downed trees from the headwaters area on the Kinnickinnic River.

Long-time chapter secretary Chuck Goossen announced his "retirement"

as chapter secretary, and was given a big "thank-you" from the chapter for his many years of service to the chapter in various areas.

Kiap-TU-Wish members have voiced their displeasure with a budget amendment proposal by River Falls area state representative Sheila Harsdorf that would supply \$4 million of state money to the estimated \$5.4 million needed to replace the Willow Falls Dam on the Willow River in St. Croix County.

Chapter leadership has changed, too, with Andy Lamberson succeeding Jon Jacobs as chapter president.

Lakeshore

The chapter's successful April 6th banquet enabled Lakeshore to fund several items for 1991.

The chapter will donate \$525 to the Dean Heili Memorial Fund to build a roof over the fish-rearing pond at Lincoln Park in Manitowoc, and \$300 to Camp Sinawa for a tree planting project.

Chapter members assisted in the scatter-planting of fish in the Mullet and Onion Rivers in Sheboygan County in April, and they also helped install a dock at Camp Sinawa.

New officers for Lakeshore T.U. are: President - Jeff Preiss; Vice-President - Larry Yax; Treasurer - Dick Pruchta; Directors - Louis Jirikowic, Chuck Wolff and Tom Beschta.

Larry Yax received a commemorative plaque for his years of service as president of the Lakeshore Chapter, and Jeff Preiss was honored as Lakeshore's "Member of the Year" for 1991.

Marinette County

Chapter leadership changed in April, with Dale Lange succeeding Jerry Chevalier as president. Elected to other posts were: George Bereza - Vice-President; Jim Bereza - Secretary/Treasurer; Lyle Lange and Dave Larson - directors (three-year terms).

The chapter's 1991 Conservation Banquet netted approximately \$10,700, and was once again a big success.

The beaver trapper contracted by the chapter through the Animal Damage Control unit (ADC) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture began his work with maintenance trapping on streams worked in 1990. He removed 12 beaver from Swede John Creek, three from Camp 5 Creek, three from Eagle Creek and one beaver and four dams from Swamp Creek. All streams are tributaries of the Peshtigo River. Work will soon commence on beaver removal from the Harvey Creek system in Marinette County.

Marinette County T.U. presented checks totalling \$4,470 to the Department of Natural Resources for its share of the cost of the Saul Springs dredging project in Langlade County, with \$3,470 presented at the June meeting of the Natural Resources Board.

Chapter members will be assisting on trout habitat improvement projects on Brehmer Creek in southern Oconto County, Little Waupee Creek in northern Oconto County and Eagle Creek in Marinette County this summer.

The chapter will also be working with the Peshtigo Recreation Department on a "Kids Fishing Day" for children up to age 14 on July 12th.

Harry Nohr

The chapter's successful March 23rd banquet in Muscoda helped the chapter to fund several worthwhile projects this year.

The chapter will spend up to \$2,500 to re-stock suitable streams in Southwestern Wisconsin that have recovered from the drought with native fish. The

chapter will spend an equal amount (\$2,500) for continued work on protection of vital Springheads in that part of the state.

And, the chapter will offer to pay for one-half the tuition costs for five area high school students to attend the DNR/UW-Stevens Point Conservation Career Workshops at Amherst Junction.

Northwoods

The chapter's annual conservation banquet was held April 6th in Rhinelander, with a net profit of about \$2,300 reported.

Chapter member Don Hair was elected to serve on the Board of Directors and assume the duties of project chairman. Projects for 1991 on the chapter itinerary include: 1) funding habitat work on the Middle Branch of the Ontonagon River in Upper Michigan; 2) working with a Wisconsin Conservation Corps crew out of Rhinelander to do stream brushing and brush bundle installation on Noisy Creek in Oneida County; 3) place-

ment of six fish shelters in Woodboro Springs in Oneida County; and 4) brushing and brush bundle work on Coldwater Creek in Forest County.

Oconto River Watershed

The chapter's 1991 banquet was the best yet, reports chapter president Dale Halla. Approximately \$8,500 was raised at the April 25th event.

Elections were held at the April chapter meeting, with the following people elected to serve: President - Dale Halla; Vice-President - Dave Brunner; Secretary - Neil Druckrey; Treasurer - Jay Scherbarth; Chairman of the Board - Mike Ascher; Directors - Joe Detaege, Doug McMahon and Don Wagner.

The chapter voted to sponsor one or more scholarships for youths 9-11 years of age to a Nature Adventure Camp.

Oconto River T.U. aimed its sights at helping restore Brehmer Creek in the Machickanee Forest near Abrams in

Cont. on Page 8



Brush bundles placed along Brehmer Creek will trap silt and deepen stream channel.



Members of the Green Bay, Marinette County and Oconto River Watershed T.U. Chapters stabilize banks of Brehmer Creek, Oconto County.

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Chapter reports

Cont. from Page 7

1991. A check for \$2,500 was sent to DNR Fish Manager Ross Langhurst to fund two limited term employees (LTE's) to do stream brushing and brush bundle placement in the creek, and two volunteer work days were set in conjunction with the Green Bay and Marinette County chapters to assist in the work.

The chapter also completed a 10-year lease agreement on a privately-owned 40 acre parcel where Brehmer Creek flows through so as to provide additional area for habitat improvement.

The chapter's trout-rearing project was started up this spring. Initially, 5,000 brown trout were raised for stocking area streams, and the chapter hopes to expand its operation to raise at least 5,000 brook trout as well.

Ojibseau

Over 80 people attended the chapter's April 24th spring fund-raising banquet. Bob Mitchell from Lake Elmo, MN., was the featured speaker, giving a talk entitled "The Gift of Trout".

A work day and general meeting were held at the chapter's Elk Creek property, with members doing stream brushing during the work day.

A first-ever fly-tying class was put on by the chapter, with six aspiring fly anglers attending the first class. The class consisted of two sessions. The first session introduced students to basic fly fishing equipment, fishing techniques and entomology. The second session was a trip to a local stream for some "on-stream" instruction.

The chapter sponsored two chapter fishing trips, one to the Namekagon River in mid-May, and one to the Wolf River in early June.

Shaw-Paca

The chapter's April 4th annual Conservation Banquet was held at The Gathering in Shawano and was a big success, over \$10,700 being netted for the trout.

Unusually warm weather on April 6-7 almost spoiled the chapter's "Fishing Fever" event at Shawano High School, but the chapter still made a slight profit on it anyway.

The chapter offered two scholarships to area youth for the Natural Resources Workshop sponsored by UW-Stevens Point, and donated prizes for "Kids Fishing Day" in Shawano on June 1.

About 2,500 brown trout were planted in the Red River and Mill Creek on April 27th, and professional trapper Cal Skalitzky was hired to continue trapping beaver from the Red River and the Embarrass River watersheds. Skalitzky took 39 and 41 beaver, respectively, from those watersheds this winter (he trapped 89 total beaver in 1990). The chapter made Skalitzky an honorary member for his efforts.

Shaw-Paca T.U. also thanked Robin Romberg for removing over 20 beaver from the Shawano/Waupaca county line trout streams.

The chapter appropriated \$2,000 to assist DNR Fish Manager Ross Langhurst with a habitat improvement project on Wilson Creek west of Shawano.

Chapter elections were held, with the following officers being chosen: President - Steve Schultz; Vice-president - Jim Dins; Secretary - Lee Kersten; Treasurer - Sally Weatherwax; Stream Chairman - Floyd Pluger.

Outgoing chapter president Jerry Weatherwax received special appreciation for his years of service to Shaw-Paca T.U.

Southeastern Wisconsin

Chapter elections in April produced the following results: President - Bob Estlund; Vice-President - Jim Folda; Secretary - Jon Apple; Treasurer - Webb Kennedy; Directors - Jon Christianson and Glen Winston.

The chapter held a "swap night" at its April meeting, with fishing gear and fly tying equipment trading hands. At its May meeting, Southeastern Wisconsin T.U. held its first annual "Fly Tying Contest & Tying Bee". Winners were picked by popular vote.

Chapter members combined forces with members of the Gary Borger Chapter of Northern Chicago for a work day on the Mukwanago River on April 27th, and the chapter planned a trout fishing outing to Castle Rock Creek in Grant County for July.

Southern Wisconsin

The Southern Wisconsin T.U. chapter is currently doing a project on Black Earth Creek near the Village of Black Earth. The project is unique, because it is designed both for trout and Hexagenia mayflies!

Preliminary planning for the project included a study of the distribution and abundance of Hexagenia nymphs in that section of stream. Consultation with entomologists from the University of Wisconsin and Winona State University in Minnesota led to a design that should improve habitat for the trout and the mayflies on over 2,000 feet of stream.

A combination of "LUNKER" structures, bank deflectors, trees and shrubbery will be used to provide the habitat modifications.

Another important chapter project will include a highly visible cooperative project on Black Earth Creek where it runs through the Village of Cross Plains in Dane County. The project, a joint effort between the Southern WI. chapter, the Wisconsin T.U. State Council, DNR, local businesses and the Village of Cross Plains, will restore a degraded portion of the creek that had been channelized in prior years.

The chapter has also been active in other functions. About 12 members attended a workshop to become certified instructors for the DNR's "Master" and "Junior" ANGLER PROGRAM. These people will avail themselves to teach angling skills, ethics and outdoor appreciation to school groups, scout troops and 4-H clubs.

In April, the chapter hosted a beginner's trout fishing and fly casting seminar at Salmo Pond. Participants were instructed in the areas of fly casting, stream reading, entomology and fishing tackle. The clinic was designed to act as a membership builder.

The chapter also sponsored an informational booth at the Dane County Fishing Expo, where members demonstrated fly tying and recruited new members.

On June 15th, Southern Wisconsin T.U. held a "Trout Fishing Day" for "special needs" citizens at the Kal Trout Pond. Chapter members paired up with participants to assist them in catching trout of 20 inches or more. The event was made possible through generous contributions of bait, equipment and picnic supplies from local

businesses.

Wisconsin River Valley

The chapter and the DNR will combine forces to complete work on the Meadow Creek project in Lincoln County. A sign will be placed at the site informing the public of the project's purpose and participants, and a small parking lot will be constructed to allow the DNR to have a place to park vehicles when they show the area as a demonstration project. Trees were also planted at the site.

Chapter leader Herb Hintze is still vigorously pursuing easements along the Plover River in Marathon County so that plans for trout habitat improvement in areas south of County "N" can be made, including completion of dredging of the outlet creek of Clark Springs.

The chapter's annual fishing outing for handicapped citizens was successfully held on June 15th.

Wolf River

The chapter continues to focus on beaver trapping and beaver dam removal on tributary streams to the Wolf River. The annual scatter-planting of trout in the Wolf will occur the Saturday after Labor Day in September. Call Herb Buettner at 715-882-8612 for information.

The chapter's October, 1990, banquet netted \$3,600, and plans are being made for the 1991 fund-raiser, to be held on Saturday, October 12, at Buettner's Wild Wolf Inn, six miles south of Langlade on Highway 55. Ticket information can be obtained from Herb Buettner.

Natural Resources Board notes

Since the last issue of Wisconsin Trout, the Natural Resources Board has acted upon several items of interest to the coldwater resource in Wisconsin.

In February, the Board approved a Statewide Stream Bank Easement Project with an acreage goal of 10,205 acres.

At the March meeting, the Board adopted an emergency order that revised rules pertaining to commercial lake trout fishing on Lake Superior and approved additions to the Statewide Spring Ponds land acquisition program in Langlade County.

In April, approval by the Board was given to additional land acquisition along the Upper Wolf River Fishery Area in Langlade County for purchase of land along the former Diercks property that added about two miles of stream frontage to the Upper Wolf River Fishery Area.

The May meeting produced Board approval of several items of importance. The Lodi Spring Creek Fishery Area, with an acreage goal of 180 acres, was established for Columbia County.

Approval was granted to amend the Statewide Stream Bank Easement Project to increase the acreage goal from the 10,205 acres approved in February to 21,075 acres.

And, the Lake Superior Steelhead Association, Inc., provided a donation, which the NRB accepted, that would support Skamania strain steelhead propagation and related development activities at the Bayfield Fish Hatch-

ery. The association's donation was in the sum of \$25,000.

Earlier in the year, at the January Board meeting, the NRB approved the La Crosse Comprehensive Fishery Area master plan for La Crosse, Monroe, Vernon and Crawford counties, with an acreage goal of 2,000 acres, and approval of an acreage goal of 800 acres for the Remnant Areas Program in the four counties.

**TRY
TOMORROW
TODAY**

o HANDCRAFTED

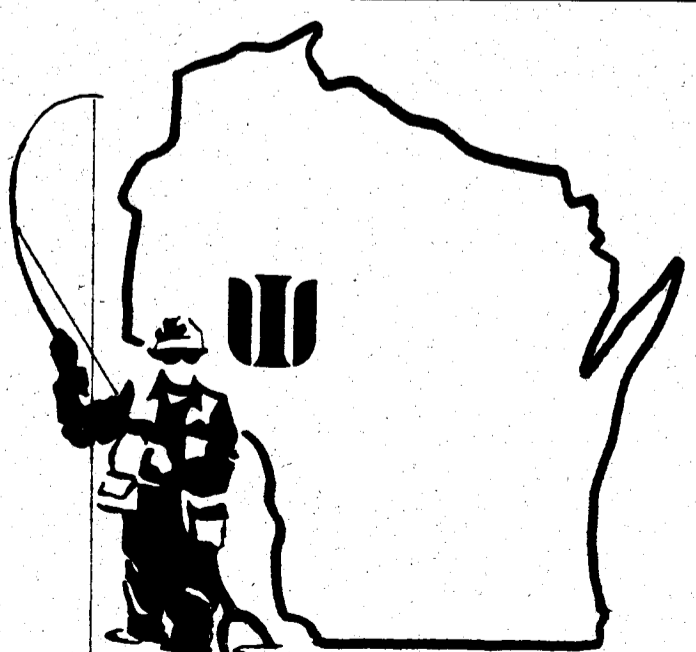
o HEIRLOOM
CALIBER

FLY RODS

o BEAUTIFULLY
DETAILED &
APPOINTED

o FINE TUNED
TO EACH
ANGLER'S
NEEDS

Call or Write
Tomorrow River Rod
8908 HWY GG
Almond, WI 54909
(715) 366-7105



**WU FIRST WISCONSIN
EAU CLAIRE**

Serving the financial needs of the Chippewa Valley
since 1872.

Member FDIC

**BUY EXTRA
TROUT STAMPS**

New Stream Bank Program expands throughout state

The Department of Natural Resources plans to expand the new "Stream Bank Easement Program", part of the Stewardship Program, to include streams in all areas of the state.

The easement program, which was first established as a project covering streams in the DNR's Southern and Southeastern districts in February of this year, will now expand to include streams in the Western, Northwest, North Central and Lake Michigan districts as well, according to Ron Poff, fisheries management operations section chief for the DNR.

The Statewide Stream Bank Easement Program protects stream water quality and fish habitat from agricultural and urban runoff. Funded by the Stewardship Program, \$1 million per year for 10 years is available to purchase perpetual easements of at least 66 feet on stream banks.

Streams are selected for this program based upon several criteria:

- * The ability to protect water quality and fish habitat through easement in the designated section of stream;

- * The significance of the stream section to maintaining the quality of downstream resources;

- * The immediacy of the threat to water quality;

- * The presence of unique or endangered resources.

Each stream has a management plan that describes the resource and why it is threatened. Stream banks protected under this program will be maintained in natural vegetation cover.

The program also offers non-profit conservation organizations (like Trout Unlimited) an opportunity to help protect stream water quality and fish habitat. Qualifying organizations may be eligible for grants covering 50 percent of the easement acquisition cost on approved streams.

Proposed additions to the Stream Bank Easement Program were:

Western District	County	Miles of Stream
Eau Claire Area		
Como Creek (*)	Chippewa	3.8
Elk Creek tributaries (*)	Chippewa	5.0
Gilbert Creek (*)	Dunn	10.1
Knights Creek (*)	Dunn	8.0
Wilson Creek (*)	Dunn	24.1
Clear Creek (*)	Eau Claire	8.3
Fall Creek (*)	Pepin	2.6
Upper Cady Creek (*)	Pierce	4.0
Trimble River (*)	Pierce	7.5
Upper Kinnickinnic River (*)	St. Croix	9.5
Upper Tiffany Creek (*)	St. Croix	11.5
Black River Falls Area		
Bear Creek (*)	Trempealeau	7.6
La Crosse Area		
Gran Grae Creek (*)	Crawford	4.9
Rush Creek (*)	Crawford	11.1
Neshonoc tributaries (*)	La Crosse	13.0
Little Lemonweir River (*)	Monroe	13.5
Bad Axe River, North Fork (*)	Vernon	23.0
Bad Axe River, South Fork (*)	Vernon	18.5
Norwegian Hollow Creek (*)	Vernon	3.0
Springville Brook	Vernon	7.6
Northwest District		
Cumberland Area		
Brown Creek (*)	Barron	1.0
Four Mile Creek (*)	Barron	3.5
Hickey Creek (*)	Barron	4.0
Upper Pine Creek (*)	Barron	2.5
Vermillion Creek (*)	Barron	3.0
Yellow River (*)	Barron	2.0
North Central District		
Antigo Area		

Clearwater Creek (*)	Langlade	2.0
Eau Claire River, East Br. (*)	Langlade	27.5
Eau Claire River, West Br. (*)	Langlade	11.5
Red River (*)	Langlade	6.0
Spring Brook (*)	Langlade	9.5
Devil Creek (*)	Lincoln	9.5
Lower Prairie River (*)	Lincoln	22.5
Black Creek (*)	Marathon	3.5
Little Cain Creek (*)	Marathon	3.0
Freeman Creek (*)	Marathon	8.0
Mole Brook (*)	Marathon	6.0
Plover River (*)	Marathon	26.0
Big Rib River	Marathon	18.0
Spring Brook (*)	Marathon	2.5
Campbell Creek (*)	Adams	5.3
Fordham Creek (*)	Adams	7.5
Leola Ditch (*)	Adams	5.5
Big Roche Cri (*)	Adams	15.0
Big Spring Creek (*)	Adams	2.5
Widow Green Creek (*)	Adams	6.5
Brewer Creek (*)	Juneau	8.0
Fountain Creek (*)	Juneau	6.0
Holtzliner Creek (*)	Juneau	4.0
Little Hoton Creek (*)	Juneau	3.0
Little One Mile Creek (*)	Juneau	4.0
Lyndon Creek (*)	Juneau	4.5
One Mile Creek (*)	Juneau	11.0
Seymour Creek (*)	Juneau	2.0
Tracy Creek (*)	Juneau	6.0
Webster Creek (*)	Juneau	8.5
Allen Creek (*)	Portage	1.5
Bear Creek (*)	Portage	5.2
Bradley Creek (*)	Portage	4.0
Emmons Creek (*)	Portage	1.5
Flume Creek (*)	Portage	9.0
Little Plover River (*)	Portage	3.0
Lost Creek (*)	Portage	3.0
Mack Creek (*)	Portage	2.0
N. & S. Radley Creeks (*)	Portage	3.0
Spring Creek (*)	Portage	4.0
Stoltenburg Creek (*)	Portage	1.5
Tomorrow River (*)	Portage	26.0
Bear Creek	Wood	2.0
Cat Creek	Wood	1.5
Mocassin Creek	Wood	12.0
Rocky Run Creek	Wood	21.5
Yellow River, East Br.	Wood	4.0
Yellow River, West Br.	Wood	8.0

Lake Michigan District		
Oshkosh Area		
Black Otter Creek	Outagamie	3.0
Mud Creek	Outagamie	2.5
Sawyer Creek	Winnebago	7.0
Spring Brook	Winnebago	4.5
Green Bay Area		
Branch River (*) (A)	Manitowoc	20.0
Manitowoc River (*) (A)	Manitowoc	21.0
Southern District		
Madison Area		
Token Creek (*)	Dane	25.0

(*) = indicates some or all of miles are trout water
 (A) = indicates anadromous trout fishery present

The initial list of streams to be protected through the Stream Bank Easement Program included the following:

Madison Area Stream	Southern District County	Miles
Lodi Spring Creek	Columbia	12.0
Bohn (Elvers) Creek	Dane	12.5
Deer Creek	Dane	5.5
Flynn Creek	Dane	4.0
Fryes Feeder Creek	Dane	4.5
Primrose Brook	Dane	6.1
Six Mile Creek	Dane	7.5
Story Creek	Dane	4.0
Sugar River East	Dane	20.0
Sugar River West	Dane	8.5
Token Creek	Dane	7.0
Upper Black Earth Creek	Dane	4.3
Upper Yahara River	Dane	9.5
Bushnell Creek	Green	7.0
Dougherty Creek	Green	16.0
Erickson Creek	Green	5.0
Gill Creek	Green	4.0
Hammerly Creek	Green	2.0
Hefty Creek North	Green	8.0
Little Sugar River	Green	11.0
Lower Story Creek	Green	2.0
Richland Creek	Green	12.0
Sawmill Creek	Green	9.0
Ward Creek	Green	4.0
Lower Allen Creek	Green/Rock	11.0
Spring Creek	Rock	3.5
Turtle Creek	Rock	11.0
Upper Allen Creek	Rock	2.0

Dodgeville Area		
Little Platte River	Grant	26.0
Rattlesnake Creek	Grant	9.0
Sinsinawa River	Grant	33.0
Apple Branch	Lafayette	7.0
Otter Creek	Lafayette	61.0
Crossman/Little Baraboo R.	Sauk	25.0
Narrows Creek	Sauk	30.0

Horicon Area		
Cambria Creek	Dodge	8.5
Beaver Creek	Fond du Lac	8.6
Campground Creek	Fond du Lac	5.0
Feldners Creek	Fond du Lac	3.0
Parson's Creek	Fond du Lac	3.0
Sheboygan River	Fond du Lac	10.0
Spring Creek	Fond du Lac	1.3

Stream	Southeast District County	Miles
Mud Lake Outlet	Ozaukee	3.5
N. Branch Cedar Creek	Ozaukee	8.1
Milwaukee River (main stem)	Ozaukee/FDL/Washington	50.0
Millhomme Creek	Sheboygan/Manitowoc	1.5
N. Branch Milwaukee River	Sheboygan/Wash/Ozauk	21.5
Onion River and tribs.	Sheboygan	10.5
Otter Creek	Sheboygan	3.5
Sheboygan River	Sheboygan	25.0
Bluff/White Water Creeks	Walworth	2.7
Jackson Creek	Walworth	3.0
White River	Walworth	9.5
Cedar Creek	Washington/Ozaukee	30.0
Lehner Lake Outlet	Washington	2.5
Bark River	Waukesha	7.5
Mukwonago River	Waukesha	6.0
Upper Fox Illinois	Waukesha	9.0

Northwest region report

By Ted Rydell

The Northeast Region of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited met on Saturday, May 11, at Buettner's Wild Wolf Inn south of Langlade, N.E. Regional V-P Ted Rydell of Shawano presiding.

After a review of State Council business, chapters exchanged information on successes of their 1990-1991 Conservation fund-raising Banquets. With seven of eight chapters accounted for, the net banquet income from chapters reporting totalled over \$72,800.

Chapter representatives from the Antigo, Northwoods and Wisconsin River Valley noted that the state-mandated "artificial only, catch-and-release" trout fishing season for the 11 Northeast Wisconsin counties had been poorly received by trout anglers in their respective areas, and bitterness by many trout anglers gave way to less support for those chapters' banquets this past spring.

Those three chapters indicated that trout anglers that complained about the season said that they would have preferred another closed season rather than a "catch-and-release" one. Reasons for this included fears that hooking mortality on fish would be high regardless of the "no live bait" rule, and that the season seemed "elitist" in that it did not allow bait anglers to fish in their traditional method.

Following that, Rydell reviewed chapter work proposals for 1991, and he then followed up with a discussion on the need to establish long-range trout watershed management plans and focus on those watersheds rather than carry out projects in a haphazard manner.

A discussion then ensued regarding problems in the region that required efforts by the chapter. As in the past, problems with beaver and beaver dams continued to rank high on all chapters' lists of problems. The chapter representatives also spent considerable time exchanging ideas for increased promotion of both coldwater resource/environmental education and fishing skills among today's youth. There was a perceived need to get more information out to anglers, farmers, school and businesses about the importance of clean water and the necessity of reaching out to children in single-parent families to get them involved in outdoor activities, including fishing.

The final topic of the meeting was a question with regard to a trout season for Northeast Wisconsin in 1992 and what position the Region should be taking in that regard. It was decided on a unanimous vote to have the chapter representatives poll their individual chapters later in the year to ask their opinions (pro or con) of having another "catch-and-release" season in 1992 (should conditions exist that would not permit a season under regular harvest restrictions) as opposed to either a closed season or one with only certain designated stocked streams open for harvest.

BUY EXTRA TROUT STAMPS

The "Unpredictable" Charter Service
 Featuring ultra light 12' Fenwick Noodle Rods with 8 lb. test line. The largest fish caught on board to date with light tackle.
 21 lb. Rainbow - 28 lb. King

Booking May-Oct. 1-6 people charters
 28' Carver (Santa Cruz) Group packages
 Fly Bridge Call or write:
 Twin 302 Inboards Captain Jerry L. Eichmann
 All Modern Electronics 1118 So. 24th Street
 Specializing Rainbow Manitowoc, WI 54220
 & Salmon Phone 414-684-0316

LITTLE ARCHIBALD LAKE, private, secluded, restricted, virgin timber, EXCELLENT FISHING, all parcels over 1 1/2 acres, from \$18,000, ASK FOR MAP & PRICES.

CONTACT:

BAKE, Inc.

P.O. Box 172 - LAKEWOOD, WI 54138
 715-276-7676

Wolf River Fly Shop

LANGLADE, WI 54491
 715-882-5941

Fly Fishing & Tying Supplies
 Open April 19th - Aug. 1st

St. Croix Rods
 & Custom-made rods

Good selection of flies for Wolf River and surrounding streams

Located on Rocky Rips Road
 off Highway 55
 south of Langlade

Brochure Available
 Bob Talasek

Wolf River Fly Shop
 N4216 Rocky Rips Rd.
 White Lake, WI 54491-9718

TROUT FISHING OR STOCKING
 BROOK - BROWN - RAINBOW
 NO LICENSE TO FISH

Located on Hwy. 64
 between Antigo and Langlade



Silver Moon Springs
 SILVER MOON SPRINGS - ELTON, WI

Phone (715) 882-8176

BROOK and RAINBOW TROUT



Laacke & Joys

Premier Fly Fishing Equipment

Quality Since 1844
 DOWNTOWN MILWAUKEE 1433 N. Water St.
 Phone (414) 271-7878

Mon., Thurs., Fri. 10-9; Tues., Wed. 10-5:30; Sat. 10-5
 MasterCard, VISA or American Express Welcome. Free parking

Machickanee Forest, Brehmer Creek given a reprieve

Judge reverses Addis' ruling allowing landfill in county forest

On May 16, 1991, Dane County Judge George Northrup gave a new breath of life to the Machickanee Forest Unit of the Oconto County Forest near Oconto Falls by reversing a 1989 decision by James T. Addis, director of the Bureau of Resource Management for the Department of Natural Resources, that would have allowed Oconto County to withdraw 98 acres of public land from the Machickanee Forest for use as a solid waste disposal facility.

Northrup's decision also reversed a feasibility report that gave a nod of approval for use of the site as a dump.

In April of 1989, Addis made his decision to permit Oconto County to withdraw the 98 acres of land from the Machickanee Forest, stating that "...the best and highest use of the land was not for recreation but rather for a dumpsite."

The plan to place the dumpsite in the Machickanee Forest was fought long and hard by the Machickanee Landowners Association, led by president Robert Calewarts, Dee Bedore and Town of Abrams attorney Joe McCormick, and by Public Intervenor Thomas Dawson. Groups like the Sierra Club and Trout Unlimited participated by appearing at public hearings and at the contested case hearing on the feasibility study for siting the dump.

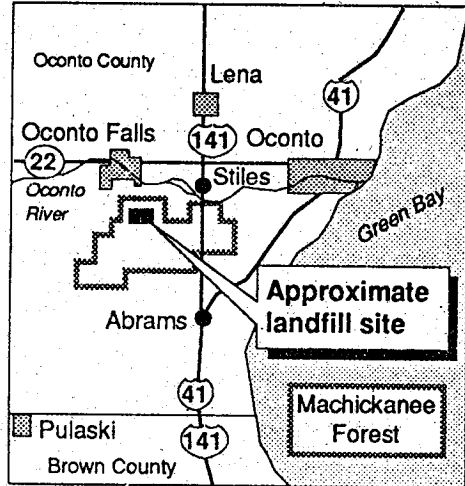
Of particular concern to Trout Unlimited was the location of the dumpsite within a half-mile of Brehmer Creek, a small but extremely productive Class I trout stream tributary to the main Oconto River and Machickanee Flowage.

Groundwater studies had shown that the direction of groundwater flow went directly toward Brehmer Creek, thus giving rise to concerns that any contaminated leachate escaping a landfill site so close to the creek would eventually reach the stream and cause problems for both water quality in Brehmer Creek and the brook trout residing therein.

During the course of testimony given at the December, 1986, contested case hearing held before state hearing examiner Patrick Currie, Dawson and McCormick were able to elicit testimony for witnesses that showed that the county of Oconto had been negligent in preparing a proper cost/benefit analysis for the proposed landfill by failing to include in the final cost over \$2.5 million of road reconstruction and maintenance costs needed to keep roads passable for dump trucks.

The two lawyers also proved that the county had refused to consider other alternative locations for a solid waste disposal facility that were less environmentally sensitive.

Despite the enormous weight of evidence against siting the landfill in the public forest, Currie approved the feasibility study, leaving it to Addis to make the decision whether or not to allow Oconto County to withdraw the public land for a dumpsite. Addis toured the area in early 1989, and came



to the conclusion that the forest site - close to metropolitan Green Bay and a popular recreational area for deer and bird hunters, cross-country skiers, trout anglers and nature lovers - was better suited for solid waste disposal than recreation and forestry.

Subsequent to Addis' decision to allow the land withdrawal, Oconto County signed an agreement to use excess capacity in the Marinette County landfill for 12 to 18 years, thus practically negating the need for the use of the Machickanee Forest as a landfill site.

However, Addis' ruling had a further ominous effect beyond its potential impact upon the Machickanee Forest and Brehmer Creek. By ruling that county forests, i.e., public lands, could be converted from public use to a landfill site, Addis opened the door for other counties to attempt to do the same with their county forests.

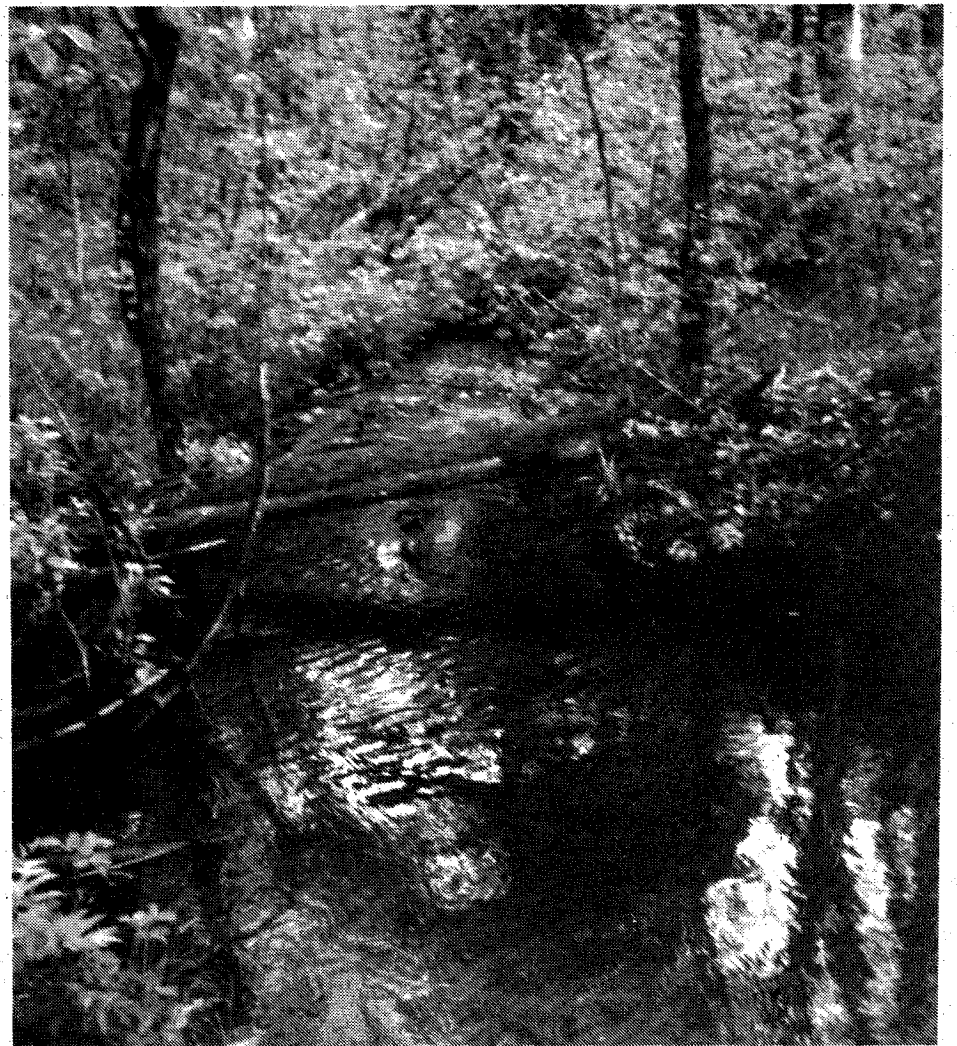
For now, the Machickanee Forest is intact, its woods and waters held inviolate. During June, T.U. members from the Green Bay and Oconto River Watershed chapters will be funding a habitat improvement project on Brehmer Creek under the guidance of Shawano Area DNR Fish Manager Ross Langhurst. Each chapter has provided \$2,500 to finance a Wisconsin Conservation Corps crew to do stream brushing and place brush bundles to improve Brehmer Creek's carrying capacity.

The chapters will also combine forces to assist on two work projects on the creek.

When the work is completed, chapter members will not only have the satisfaction of having improved a public resource, but they will also know that their work will not be undercut in the future from contaminated leachate seeping into the waters of Brehmer Creek.

Thanks to Judge Northrup, Robert Calewarts, Dee Bedore, Joe McCormick, Tom Dawson and others who would not accept the duplicity and arrogance of Oconto County officials and the DNR, the Machickanee Forest and Brehmer Creek will continue to provide the public with multiple-use recreation in a pristine setting.

Oconto County Board Chairman Don Bartels of Lakewood said that he expects the county to appeal Northrup's decision.



Class I Brehmer Creek flows through the Machickanee, 1/2 mile from the proposed landfill site.

Noted trout author, Robert Traver, dies

The world of trout angling and trout angling literature became a bit poorer on March 18, 1991, when John Voelker, a.k.a. "Robert Traver", died of a heart attack while driving his car in Marquette County, Michigan.

Under the pen-name of "Robert Traver", Voelker rose to fame in the literary world of trout fishing with his many humorous books on trout fishing, among them "Trout Madness", "Trout Magic" and "Laughing Whitefish".

A former Michigan Supreme Court justice, Voelker became famous with his work "Anatomy of a Murder", which chronicled a murder case that Voelker had been involved in while a district attorney for Marquette County. The book became a best seller and an award-winning movie was made from the book in 1959.

The work made Voelker a giant in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, but his subsequent writings about his love affairs with trout and trout fishing made him a giant among all those who revered trout and trout fishing tales.

Voelker touched many an angler's heart with his "Testament of a Fisherman", which he used to preface his famous work, Trout Magic. He left readers laughing with outlandishly funny stories of trout fishing on the famed "Frenchman's Pond", which was actu-



Robert Traver

ally a wide water area on the Middle Branch of the Escanaba River where it flowed through Voelker's 160 tract of land southwest of Marquette.

John Voelker/Robert Traver is gone. Michigan's U.P. and the trout fishing world have lost a legend. Heaven has gained a lovable rascal.

National Hunting and Fishing Day set

The 20th anniversary of National Hunting and Fishing Day will be celebrated on September 28th. This year's theme is "An Idea Whose Time Has Come - Again!"

Established by a Congressional resolution in 1971, National Hunting and Fishing Day honors sportsmen and sportswomen for their important and historic contributions to conservation.

The organizers of the annual event note that, to date, over \$12 billion have been contributed by hunters and

anglers through license fees and self-imposed excise taxes on their equipment to support fish and wildlife conservation programs.

For more information on how your chapter or organization can get involved in the 20th anniversary of National Hunting and Fishing Day, write to: National Hunting and Fishing Day, 555 Danbury Road, Wilton, Connecticut 06897-2217. Or, call coordinator Chris Dolnack at (203) 762-1320.



"Keep Out" sign in Machickanee Forest, where Oconto County hoped to build landfill.

Department of Natural Resources profile: Bob Hunt

The state of Wisconsin has for a long time been nationally and internationally known as a leader in fisheries management. It's well-respected fisheries staff has established a track record in innovative fish management techniques and harvest regulations that is envied far and wide.

Among the many important personnel involved in fisheries research and habitat improvement — in particular for trout — has been Bob Hunt, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Coldwater Research Team Leader.

The 57-year old Hunt was born and raised on Lake Waubesa, south of Madison. He attended grade school in McFarland (a now rapidly-growing suburb of Madison), and he then went on to Madison East High School, where he graduated.

Hunt entered UW-Madison after high school, but a combination of poor grades and excessive time spent working in a sporting goods store caused him to drop out of college after two years.

"I decided to enter the Army," he said. "I ended up bumming around Europe for a couple of years, mainly playing baseball," he added with a laugh.

Once he got out of the Army, the G.I. bill helped him fund his way through the final two years of his undergraduate studies in zoology. With the advice of his brother, Dick Hunt (DNR wildlife professional at Horicon Marsh), Bob went on to grad school. His interest in trout and trout fishing became a boon to him then.

"A scholarship was available to do work on the Bois Brule River in Douglas County," Bob said, with a twinkle in his eye. "It was paid for by a lodgeowner on the river. I basically studied the relationship between surface drift insect numbers and percent utilization of those insects by the trout."

With a chuckle, he added, "I was forced to sample the trout fishing with my fly rod and equipment to get some better 'data'. I think I caught about 850 trout that summer of 1958."

Hunt got his Masters Degree in zoology in 1959 (much to the relief of the trout of the Bois Brule) just about the time a job within the DNR (then the Wisconsin Conservation Department became available at the Lawrence Creek trout station near Westfield in Marquette County. A contact with Dr. Oscar Brynildson of the WCD got him the position at that location.

"Dr. Brynildson knew of my interest in trout and said to me, 'The job is yours if you want it' ", noted Hunt with a wry smile. "Those were the 'good old days' when you didn't have to compete with anyone on an examination."

Hunt spent eight very productive years at that station, focusing on experimenting with new trout regulations.

"Lawrence Creek was unique," said Hunt, "in that it was the only place in Wisconsin — and one of the few in the nation — where anglers had to register with an agency (in this case, the Conservation Department) before going fishing. As a result, we obtained a 100 percent creel survey on anglers, as opposed to the random interviews we were accustomed to getting."

Through the creel surveys and trout population studies done by Hunt and his crew, the stage was set for an inten-

sive study of trout habitat improvement and its impacts on trout populations.

"We started on the upper mile of Lawrence Creek, in Adams County, in 1964," Hunt related. "The habitat work done there, along with subsequent population surveys, provided classic baseline study and information for what happens to trout numbers when intensive habitat improvement is carried out. My colleague Bob Hedging was responsible for the design of many of the types of structures installed in Lawrence Creek. I just happened to be there to assimilate the data."

Continuing, he added, "Because of the results of that long-term study, we had the data available to allow the DNR to go to the Legislature and say, 'We need a Trout Stamp to generate funds for trout habitat improvement' "

Subsequent to the Lawrence Creek study, Bob was promoted from Project Manager to "Group Leader" status of the Trout Research Unit of the DNR in 1967. With that came a relocation of the research station to a central Wisconsin location.

"We almost went to Stevens Point, to be in close contact with the university and its budding fisheries management program," Hunt reminisced. "But housing was really tough to find then. When we found out that one of the college professors was actually living in a tent, we decided to take our housing search elsewhere."

"So," he went on, "we ended up at Hartman Creek State Park in Waupaca, which was still close to the university. Soon after that, we moved our research station into a building on a parcel of land that Bob Hedging had bought for the Department on Emmons Creek, and that's where we've been for 11 years."

The "we" of Hunt's team includes Ed Avery, a fishery biologist, and Kent Niermeyer, a technician.

When asked to enumerate the highlights of the past 25 years of his career in trout research, Hunt had a litany of important points.

"Moving from an in-depth focus on one stream to a statewide overview of Wisconsin's entire coldwater resource was most important," he claimed. "Evaluating trout regulations, such as the special regulations we established on the Race Branch of the Willow River in St. Croix County, Timber Coulee Creek in Vernon County and on McGee Lake in Langlade County, provided important documentation of the effectiveness of 'catch-and-release' rules if care is taken on which body of water they are applied."

"Our spring pond dredging program has been very successful and quite important to brook trout populations in the northern part of the state," he added. "And the evaluations we did on brook trout populations in Northeastern Wisconsin were especially critical to promoting the five-categories of classes in the new inland trout fishing regulations."

Hunt was also particularly pleased with the trout research project that he helped establish on the Bois Brule River.

"That project gave us the first good quantitative information on both resident trout and anadromous runs to steelhead and brown trout in the Bois Brule," said Hunt. "Bob DuBois, a

fishery biologist under my supervision, has done the bulk of the data collecting on this study."

When asked about his immediate impressions of the recently-enacted inland trout fishing regulations where they have been in place and have been evaluated (Northwest, West Central, Central and Southeastern Wisconsin), Hunt minced no words in his optimism regarding those new rules.

"My impression is that the rules to date show we've been right on track with what we predicted would happen. We've increased the diversity of trout fishing opportunities in the state, especially so as far as being able to get larger (albeit fewer) fish in the creel," he stated succinctly. "I think that other states are going to follow our lead in this, and I also believe it will give our own fish managers the impetus to apply these principles to managing other sport fish."

"I'm really excited about the potential for big increases in trout numbers and trout fishing opportunities in Wisconsin because of these new regulations," Hunt said.

While Wisconsin has been a recognized international leader in habitat improvement techniques and trout angling regulations, the state has lagged, Bob said, in its trout hatchery program.

"We're going to have to look at increasing the quality of our hatchery product and take a more careful look at where we use those fish," he opined.

Looking back over his entire career, Bob was able to wax philosophical about what he has accomplished.

"I've taken a lot of enjoyment lately in filling a type of consultation role in fisheries, being an 'in-house' expert, if you will," he said with his infectious smile. "I'll have put in 32 years of service come July 1 of this year, and I feel that I've been extremely fortunate to work for an agency (Wisconsin DNR) that has a separate research unit. I've turned down opportunities to go elsewhere because of the research chances that were available in Wisconsin."

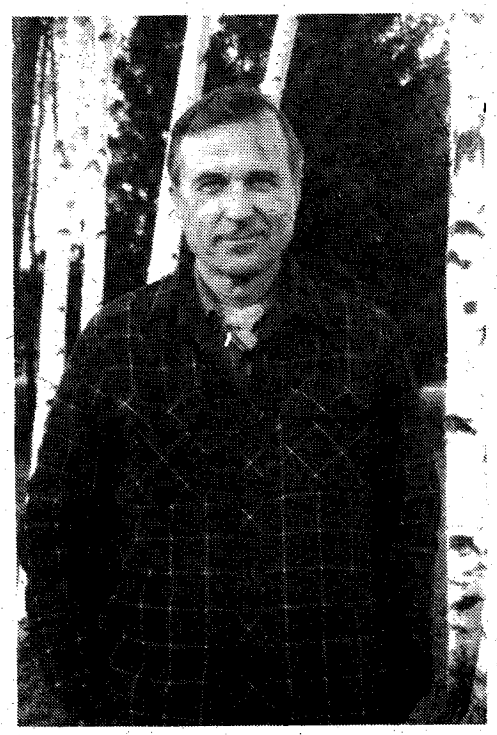
Continuing, he added, "It has also been quite important to me that the agency had the foresight to allow long-term studies (six-to-eight years) to be carried out rather than trying to make do with shorter-term investigations prior to decisions on management options."

"And," he stressed, "I've been fortunate to be associated with top-notch fish managers, many of whom have come up with management ideas and implemented them. I just happened to be by and collected the data," he ended with an impish grin.

Bob Hunt has indeed had a storied life in central Wisconsin. He and wife Phyllis have raised three children: Laurie, a teacher in Charleston, South Carolina; Cindy, a cardiac intensive care nurse at the University Hospital in Madison; and, David, a budding airline mechanic.

To the trout anglers of Wisconsin, though, and even those in other parts of the country and world, Bob Hunt and his work have been more than a story. They have become a legend, part of a growing legend, that has made Wisconsin stand tall in the saddle when it comes to fishery research and management.

Long after Bob Hunt retires (which



DNR Coldwater research team leader, Bob Hunt.

we hope won't occur for some time to come), trout anglers will be reaping the rewards of his dedicated research on the trout resources of Wisconsin. And for that we shall be ever grateful.

Highlights of Bob Hunt's career

- *Pioneered evaluations of stream bank debrushing and use of brush bundles and half-logs as habitat improvement practices;
- *Pioneered research on wild trout in Wisconsin at a time when indiscriminate widespread stocking of hatchery trout was the major thrust of the trout management program;
- *Co-chaired first Workshop on Management of Brook Trout in 1975 at UW-Stevens Point;
- *Organized first Trout Stream Habitat Improvement Workshop in 1978, also in Stevens Point;
- *Was one of only eight American fishery scientists invited to present papers at an American-Soviet Union conference in 1989 in Racine, WI.;
- *Performed many "first" evaluations on such things as "catch-and-release" angling regulations in Wisconsin, hooking mortality on trout, various size limits on wild brook trout and introductions of Canadian-strain brook trout into Wisconsin waters;
- *Assimilated research data that was instrumental in passage by the Wisconsin Legislature in 1977 of the Inland Trout Stamp legislation that provided funds for trout habitat improvement;
- *Provided research which gave impetus to new inland trout fishing regulations;
- *Because of his research and technology transfer, was appointed to the National Scientific Advisory Board of Trout Unlimited, the most influential organization of trout anglers in the country (Hunt is the only member of the seven-member board from a natural resources agency — the rest are University faculty members).

BUY EXTRA TROUT STAMPS

NEW **IN-Spinners** **NEW**

*Single Hook
*Catch & Release
*Trout Spinner

In-Spinners
Route 2 Box 192B1
Shawano, WI 54166

Pat. Pend.

The **Sporting Goods & Fly Shop**

Bob Oldale
Doug Campbell

Parker-Hale
Rifles &
Shotguns

118 S. Broadway
De Pere, WI 54115

(414) 336-4427
Cortland Fly Fishing Pro-Shop

FOR SALE BY TROUT FISHERMAN

RANGER NEOPRENE WADERS

Used 3 times. \$150 new.
Will sell for \$85. Size XL.

Call Roy Ahl
414-233-1039

Legislature deals with conservation issues

As this issue of Wisconsin Trout goes to press, a great many issues relating to conservation and resources utilization are under consideration in the Wisconsin Legislature. Here is a synopsis of what is happening in Madison.

***License, stamp increase:** Governor Thompson's proposed budget for the Department of Natural Resources, with its across-the-board increases for almost all licenses and user-fees, has drawn much criticism from both political parties.

Of main concern to Trout Unlimited was the proposal, both by Thompson and the DNR, to increase the cost of the Inland Trout Stamp from \$3.25 to \$7.25, a 123 percent increase. Wisconsin T.U. had gone on record in support of a \$5.25 Inland Trout Stamp, which, it claimed, more accurately reflected the impact of inflation on the stamp's purchasing power since it was last increased in 1984.

An April 10th hearing in Madison held by Rep. Spencer Black (D.-Madison) provided more questions about Thompson's DNR budget proposal.

During testimony, it was found that two new stamps proposed by Thompson — not the DNR — were being included in the budget as a way of avoiding the general obligations for expenditures to be incurred through the "Stewardship" program.

Thompson had proposed that all hun-

ters and anglers not having any other stamp on their licenses be required to buy a \$3.25 "Habitat" stamp, to be applied onto each license not having another stamp on it. He also proposed a \$5.00 "Pheasant Stamp", which would permit pheasant hunters to take only one pheasant during the season.

While the alleged purposes of these stamps were supposed to be for increased revenues for wetlands protection, erosion control and other conservation purposes, it became apparent to committee members that the proposal for these stamps was a thinly-veiled attempt to place the entire burden of funding for "Stewardship" on the backs (and in the wallets!) of outdoors people. The Stewardship Fund, as passed, requires sale of General Obligation Bonds by the state to pay for the many programs funded by "Stewardship".

Subsequent to the hearing, Black offered a counter-proposal to Thompson's DNR budget. Under Black's plan, both the Inland and Great Lakes Trout Stamps would be increased to \$5.25 rather than to \$7.25, and the "Habitat" and "Pheasant" stamps would be eliminated.

To make up for revenue shortfalls in his plan, Black proposed to increase pollution fees on industries discharging wastes into Wisconsin's air and water. His plan would increase the cur-

rent recovery costs of the Wastewater and Air Management programs for industries from 35 percent to 100 percent of the costs, with the monies generated to be used for the purposes that the "Habitat" and "Pheasant" stamps had been meant.

In both the Thompson and Black proposals for the DNR budget, fees would be instituted for incoming "Senior Citizens" for small game hunting and fishing. Thompson's proposal called for \$6.00 fees for each license — half the price of those licenses under the new budget proposal — while Black's plan called for \$3.00 charges for each of those licenses for incoming Seniors.

Senior Citizens who already had purchased their "Senior Citizen Recreation Card" under the current law allowing lifetime small game hunting and fishing privileges for those 65 and over with a one-time charge of \$15 would be grand-fathered in under the old law.

DNR Bureau of Resource Management director James T. Addis and budget chief Joe Polachek warned the committee that keeping the Senior Citizen fee too low would continue to make Wisconsin ineligible for matching federal funds for those license sales if the fee charged to seniors is deemed to be only a "token" fee to cover administrative expenses.

Without charging Senior Citizens for small game hunting and fishing licenses, Wisconsin has lost over \$22 million since 1978, not only from decreased license and user-stamp sales, but also from matching federal money from programs such as Dingell-Johnson, Pittman-Robertson and Wallop-Breaux, which distribute excise tax dollars back to states proportionately on the basis of license sales.

Free licenses to senior citizens do not count as license sales under the federal guidelines, and Wisconsin has thus lost out on many more federal dollars over the past 13 years that could have been used for a variety of outdoor-related projects.

Under both Thompson's and Black's proposals, resident fishing licenses would rise from \$9.10 to \$12.00. The Daily Sport License would increase from \$6.10 to \$8.00, be good for two

days rather than one, but apply only to fishing in the Great Lakes.

Sportsmen's licenses would jump from \$32.60 to \$38.00, and the Non-Resident Fishing License would rise from \$24.10 to \$28.00.

As we go to press, the Legislature has not made a decision on these or any other proposals regarding license and stamp increases. We will report to you in the next issue of Wisconsin Trout what the Legislature decided upon regarding these increases.

***Nonpoint Pollution Legislation:** Sen. Charles Chvala (D-Madison) has guided the Legislative Nonpoint Pollution Study Committee to develop legislation that addresses one of the most pressing concerns of clean water advocates, non-point pollution.

The legislation being formulated by the committee has the following provisions:

- Directs the DNR to begin all priority watershed projects by the year 2000; DNR has begun only 40 projects since the priority watershed program began in 1978, and has completed only 3. Of the 330 watersheds in Wisconsin, DNR has identified roughly 130 which have been severely degraded by nonpoint pollution.

- Directs DNR to establish water quality goals at the beginning of each priority watershed project and directs DNR to persuade landowners to volunteer for the program by offering 70% cost-sharing to install best management practices (more in cases of economic hardship).

- Continues to voluntary approach of the priority watershed program, but requires DNR to mandate that reluctant participants (a.k.a. "bad actors") participate if volunteer levels are not sufficient to achieve water quality goals.

- Directs the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) to develop a model livestock exclusion ordinance and to encourage counties to adopt the measure by July 1, 1993. The Wisconsin Conservation Corps would be granted set-aside monies to give priority to projects helping counties implement the ordinance.

- Grants DATCP the authority to order corrections of poorly-run drainage districts.

- Directs the Department of Industry, Labor and Human Relations (DIHLR) to regular construction site erosion through its one and two family dwelling code.

- Directs DNR to issue a model ordinance to regular construction site erosion for other land-disturbing activities and further directs that counties adopt and enforce the ordinance.

- "Gag rule": The Legislature passed, and Governor Thompson vetoed, a bill (AB 10 and SB 3) that would repeal the 1987 law forbidding state agency employees from talking to legislators about increasing agency program budget requests (the law has been especially harmful to the DNR, whose employees cannot discuss important matters with their elected representatives).

- AB 27: Bill by Rep. Black with Senate counterpart (SB 132 by Senator Decker, D.-Wausau) to limit or prohibit mining on state-owned land operated by the DNR. Bills do not include mining for sand, crushed stone, gravel or peat.

- AB 74 and SB 29: By Rep. Baldus (D.-Menominee) and Senator Berndt (R.-River Falls) to require DNR to promulgate rules regulating discharge of phosphorous into the state's waters. This proposal would extend DNR authority beyond its current jurisdiction in the Great Lakes basin.

In addition, proposals are coming out of the Legislative Council Surface Water Committee for protection of the Great Lakes and additional protection for wetlands. Wisconsin Trout hopes to have a further update on those proposal in future issues.

Central Region report

By Jim Hlaban

The Central Region of Wisconsin T.U. held a meeting on April 15 to discuss future activities, including the June 1 cleanup day on the Branch River west of Manitowoc. On September 21, the region will have a project in the area of the Aldo Leopold Chapter, and on October 5 the region will host its second annual scatter-plant of brown trout and clean-up on the Tomorrow

River. For the latter project, workers will meet at 8:30 a.m. at the first way-side west of Waupaca on Highway 10. Lunch will be provided afterwards.

Some contacts have been made to initiate a new T.U. chapter in the Stevens Point area. Anyone who has the name and address of anyone who may be interested in helping start that chapter should send it to: Jim Hlaban, 1421 Silverwood, Neenah, WI 54956.

Working to protect the environment--this publication is printed on recycled newsprint.

T.U. membership dues to increase Oct. 1

At the winter meeting of Trout Unlimited's National Board of Directors, the Board decided to move up the scheduled increase in membership dues from January 1, 1992, to October 1, 1991, to coincide with the start of the fiscal year of T.U. National. Listed below is the new dues structure that has been approved:

Regular	20	25
3-Year	50	65
Family	25	30
Sponsor	50	50
Century	100	100
Business	100	100
Life	600	600

All current members are offered the opportunity to renew their membership, or to add on to their membership length, at the current rate before the October 1, 1991, increase takes effect. To do so, use the membership appli-

cation form below to renew (note: clearly mark the word "RENEWAL" on your application and list your seven-digit T.U. identification number on the form; the ID number is the last seven numbers on the right of the number listed on the mailing label attached to this newspaper).

You may also use the form to sign up another member for Trout Unlimited. We can always use more members help protect our coldwater trout fishery and habitat base!

	Dues as of
Current	10/1/91
Membership dues (FY '92)	(FY '92)
Youth	\$10 \$10

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

YES! Please begin my one-year introductory membership in Trout Unlimited at the rate I have checked below. I understand my dues payment entitles me to all regular membership benefits, including a TU decal, personal membership card and quarterly issues of Trout magazine and Action Line resource newspaper.

Name _____ (please print)

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Chapter _____ (if known)

Sponsor _____

31 Please include my name in TU's Conservation Network

Please check membership category:

- Regular membership (\$20)/ 3 years (\$50)
- Family membership (\$25)/ 3 years (\$60)
- Sponsoring contributor (\$40-\$99)*
- Century contributor (\$100)*
- Individual Life (\$500)(No further dues)*
- Family Life (\$600)(Husband & Wife)*
- Student membership (\$10)
- Business membership (\$50-\$499)

Payment enclosed** Please bill me

VISA * _____ Expir. Date _____

MasterCard * _____ Expir. Date _____

Signature _____

+ Canadian addresses \$25/other international addresses \$40
All contributions over \$5 are tax deductible.

* Note special benefits for these membership categories.

** Make checks payable to Trout Unlimited.

Detach and mail this postpaid card to join TU today!

RETURN:
Trout Unlimited
Randy Butters
N8082 Union St.
Ripon, WI 54971



Wisconsin Trout

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited

Fall 1991

Some "dam" good news, for a change

No news, so goes the saying, is good news. Mass murders, armed assaults, child abuse and banking scandals all seem to make the front pages day after day.

But once in a while some news comes across the wires that is "good" news. And we have in this issue--in this article--some "good" news. "Dam"

good news, in fact!

This past summer has seen three cases where decisions have been made to either remove old, dysfunctional man-made dams or modify flow orders for dams on well-known rivers in Wisconsin. Those decisions will be of great benefit to anglers and all who love free-flowing streams.

In Lincoln County, the County Board of Supervisors gave final approval for the demolition and removal of the "Prairie Dells Dam" on the Prairie River northeast of Merrill.

In St. Croix County, the Willow Falls Dam will be removed this fall as a result of the state Legislature appropriating funds in the 1991-1993 budget for such work.

And, in Oconto County, Oconto Electric Cooperative, which operates the Stiles Dam on the main Oconto River just west of Highway 141, was ordered by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to maintain minimum stream flows in the river at significantly higher levels than it has done in the past.

There are stories behind each of these "dam" good news bits.

The Prairie Dells Dam was built around 1905 through an ill-conceived notion that the dam could be fitted for production of hydroelectricity for the Merrill Paper and Manufacturing Company a dozen miles downstream.

The builders of the dam, the Prairie River Improvement and Boom Company, made some misjudgments regarding the capacity of the basin that would be formed by the impoundment on the river. According to an article by Jim Lee of the Wausau Daily Herald, local lore around Merrill said that the dam's designer missed a decimal point in calculations on the project, and that

ended up throwing everything off as far as design went.

After realizing that the dam and impoundment would not serve the intended purpose for which it was built, the Improvement Company built the needed generating facility on the Wisconsin River. The Prairie Dells Dam, though, remained behind, still holding back the formerly free-flowing waters of the Prairie River.

Developments sprouted up along the impoundment's perimeter, including homes and a tavern near the junction of the Prairie River and Big Haymeadow Creek.

Around 1980 or so, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources made a finding that the dam was unsafe, and they told Lincoln County it had two choices: repair the dam or remove it.

The county made several attempts to repair the dam, but as costs escalated and news problems arose regarding liability, people in Lincoln County began changing their minds about repairing the dam.

And, members of the Wisconsin River Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited who lived in Lincoln County, along with other sportsmen's groups, continued to talk to the County Board of supervisors to encourage them to seek removal of the dam rather than repair of it.

According to Herb Hintze, presi-
Cont. on Page 2

From the Chairman



Steve Born

-BRENT NICASTRO PHOTO

By Steve Born

As I've said before, the greatest strength of our organization is in the chapters, with their "grass-roots" activities, and in the State Councils, which facilitate the work of chapters and take the lead on major statewide resource issues affecting coldwater resources.

But, we sometimes fail to emphasize that much of Trout Unlimited's strength is derived from the fact that we are a national organization.

I returned recently from the T.U. Annual National meeting in Maine (along with Wisconsin T.U. National Director Rick Penn and Midwest Regional Vice-president Dick Wachowski). It was my first meeting as a National Director, and I was pleased to see that the National T.U. Board of Directors has a strong complement of former chapter and State Council leaders from around the country.

In general, both national directors and T.U. staff members based in the Washington, D.C., area seem more sensitive than ever to the fact that Trout Unlimited is a national organization dependent upon its "grass-roots" core.

The new T.U. Executive Director (Charles Gauvin) is both energetic and pragmatic, and staff enthusiasm and morale in the Washington, D.C., office are on a major upswing. After two difficult years of severe financial stress, I'm convinced that our National leadership is back on solid footing, ready to work with chapters and State Councils in protecting coldwater resources.

The National Office has carried out its functions and met our needs in spite of a real downsizing of both staff and budget. We've truly gotten "more for less" over the past year. Responsible budgeting has put us back on a sound fiscal footing at the National level, although some tough cuts had to be absorbed.

The National staff, along with State Councils and chapters, is playing a key role in a number of vital national resource issues, including:

- *Wetlands protection and reauthorization of the Clean Water Act;
- *Representation of fisheries concerns in Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing proceedings (an area which we in Wisconsin must play a significant role);
- *Mining and grazing legislation;
- *Wallop-Breaux funding for state fishery and wildlife programs; and
- *A host of other regionally-critical issues like high seas drift netting, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Colorado River flows and many others.

In short, the national resources action agenda seems more focused and better-linked to our grass-roots strengths than ever before.

Thus, it is important that all of us "in the trenches" who fight the battles to protect and restore our coldwater resources don't lose sight of the importance of our collective strength--as a chapter, as a State Council and as a National Conservation Organization.

It is the combination of our activities that undergirds our "Clout for Trout". We need to support a viable National organization, because we are them!

For example, the National Banquet Program has raised more than two million dollars (\$2,000,000) for resource programs since its inception, and more than \$115,000 in 1991 alone. T.U. chapters in Wisconsin might wish to consider participating in this program, as well as assisting the National organization in other ways.

While the National organization might seem to be a distant adjunct to our operations (I know some members feel likewise about our State Council!), the National organization is part of a large complex volunteer conservation network which needs all the unity and mutual support possible in the unending battle to protect and wisely manage our threatened coldwater natural resources.



Breaching of Prairie Dells Dam is allowing Prairie River to return to its former streambed.

State Council elections to be held Jan. 18

The annual elections of the Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited will be held at the Council's annual meeting on Saturday, January 18, 1992, at the Paper Valley Hotel & Conference Center in Appleton.

Elections will be held for the positions of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and elected

National director. The Chairman of the Council automatically serves as the second elected National Director to the T.U. National Board.

Nominations may be submitted to: Richard Kraus, 174 Ripon Road, Berlin, WI 54923, or by calling Kraus at 414-361-3823.

✓ Good news

Cont. from Page 1

dent of the W.R.V. T.U. Chapter, "The Lincoln County Board, led by some enlightened supervisors like Ole Hansen and Gene Schmidt and others, just plain got tired of pouring money into a dead horse. The dam had just become far too expensive to continue to conduct repairs on it."

Demolition on the dam has already started, and will continue through autumn of 1991 and perhaps beyond. The impoundment level will need to be lowered gradually to prevent problems from occurring downstream, but eventually the Prairie River will return to its former free-flowing self after almost 86 years.

Instead of a dam, visitors will soon see a tumbling rapids in the river that had been inundated for over eight decades. Dells and rock ledges will be apparent.

And, perhaps above all, the formerly-impounded area will once again be a viable living spot for trout.

The Willow Falls Dam on the Willow River had also been a point of concern for many years. The Kiap-TU-Wish T.U. Chapter, based in Hudson, had been working to seek removal of the dam for many years. The dam is one of three such structures on the Willow River within Willow Falls State Park.

Early in legislative budget-making procedures, concerns were raised by Kiap-TU-Wish members that dam removal might not occur. Republican state representative Sheila Harsdorf of River Falls was attempting to insert language into the budget bill to repair the dam, which, like the Prairie Dells Dam, had been deemed unsafe by the DNR.

During the budget-making proceedings, however, the language of the funding mechanism was reversed to have the dam removed rather than repaired.

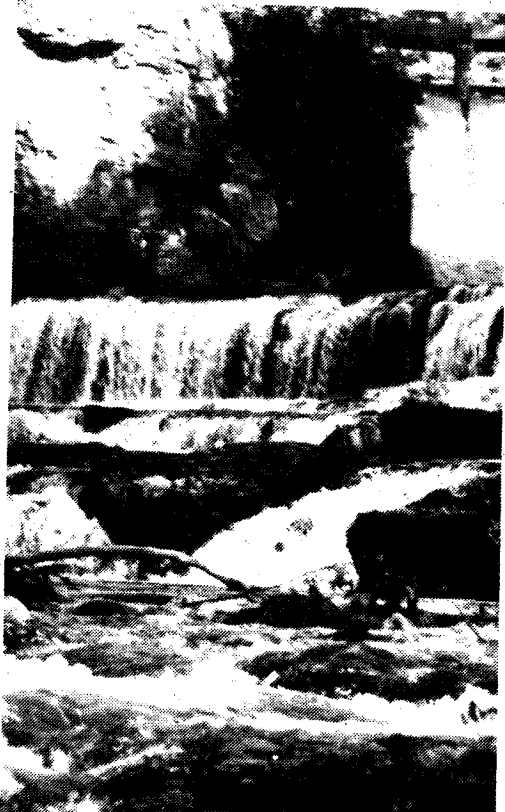
That is good news for river lovers, but DNR Fish Manager Marty Engel of Baldwin is not ready to claim that the trout fishery of the Willow River will automatically improve with the dam's removal.

"There is no guarantee," said Engel, "that a coldwater fishery will flourish above and below the damsite. It is quite possible that the fishery will be a warmwater-type one for smallmouth bass and the like."

"The Willow has had a general warming in it overall," he stated. "Loss of springflow is a likely answer to why the river has warmed. That springflow loss could have come from many sources, including human development in the area."

Nonetheless, there is satisfaction among the angling public and DNR resource managers with the decision to fund the dam's removal. Dam removal will begin soon, and, as is the case with the Prairie Dells Dam, the structure will be removed gradually in a step-by-step process.

The Stiles Dam on the Oconto River, approximately 30 miles north of Green Bay, has been another point of contention between the dam's operators and the DNR and concerned outdoor groups



Willow Falls Dam on Willow River (St. Croix County) is slated for demolition.

for many years.

For many years, Oconto Electric Cooperative had operated the dam in such a manner that was often detrimental to the downstream river and aquatic life. According to Ron Fassbender, a Water Quality and Regulations staffer with the Lake Michigan District of the DNR, summertime stream flows often got as low as 200 cubic feet per second (cfs), and even got as low as 100 cfs in the early 1980's.

The new order by the FERC requires the utility to maintain a minimum streamflow of 200 cfs from Oct. 1 through April 30, 572 cfs from May 1 to June 30, 410 cfs from July 1-31 and 370 cfs from Aug. 1 to Sept. 30.

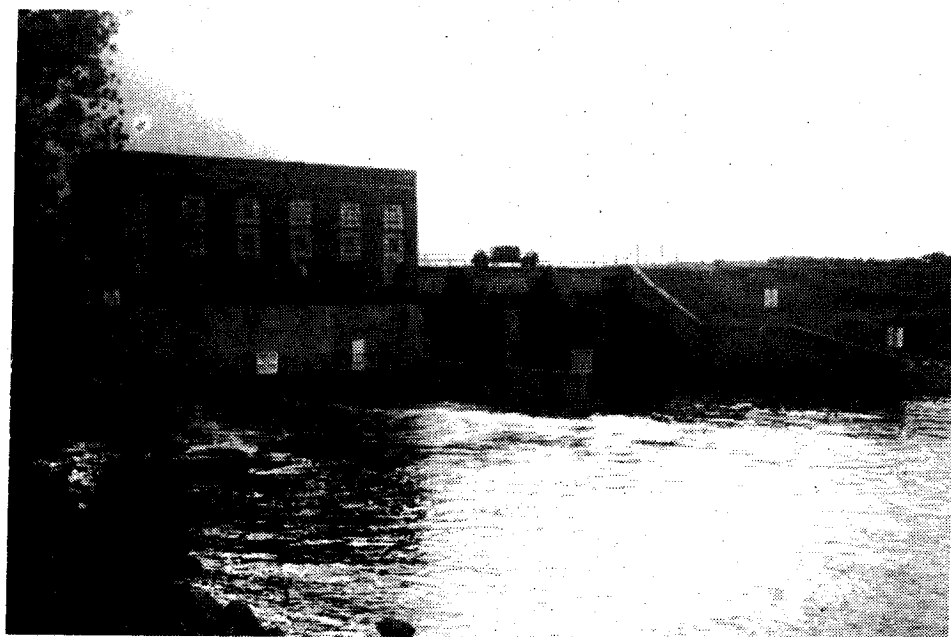
Fassbender and other DNR and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service personnel state that the new flow orders, which have been sought by the state and federal resource agencies for over eight years, will reduce the likelihood of fish kills in the river. The Oconto gets runs of several species of rainbow trout, including the Skamania and Chambers Creek strains of steelhead/rainbows, plus migrations of brown trout and salmon.

In addition, the river, which has become much cleaner the past 12 years because of DNR-ordered pollution cleanup efforts, hosts an excellent smallmouth bass fishery, as well as a good walleye fishery.

The increased streamflows will also be of benefit to canoers and boaters who use this resource.

Public support for the increased streamflows came from area chapters of Trout Unlimited in Northeastern Wisconsin, including the Green Bay, Marinette County and Oconto River Watershed chapters.

Not all news is good news, we know. But, as said before, this news is good news. "Dam" good news, in fact!!



Stiles Dam on the Oconto River was ordered by FERC to increase minimum streamflows.

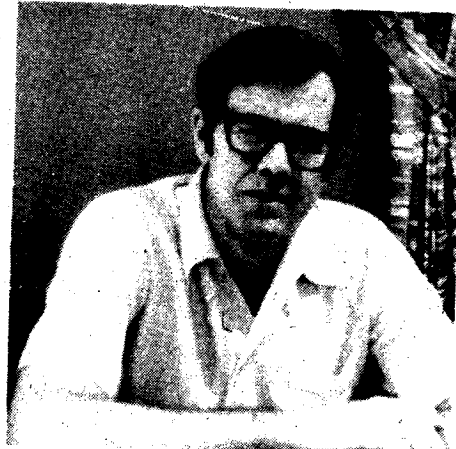
Art Hagemann: May 30, 1931-June 3, 1991

Trout Unlimited and the conservation community in Wisconsin lost a good friend in June when Art Hagemann of Wausau died suddenly due to a heart attack.

Hagemann was a member of the Wisconsin River Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited, but he was best known as the long-time recording secretary for the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation. Art was also quite active with the Lincoln County Sportsmen's Club.

A chemistry and science teacher in the Wausau school system for 36 years, he began his teaching career at Wausau East High School and remained there until 1969 when the Wausau West High School opened. He received many teaching awards during his career, including the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship to Princeton University in 1990.

An ardent trout angler, Hagemann owned a cabin along the Prairie River in Lincoln County, where he spent many happy moments. He is survived by his wife, Hazel; a daughter, Lisa; and a son,



Art Hagemann

John. Art and Hazel had also been foster parents to over 70 children since 1975.

The family has requested that contributions to the Arthur Hagemann Memorial Scholarship Fund be made in lieu of flowers. Contributions can be mailed to: Mrs. Art Hagemann, 915 S. 15th Ave., Wausau, WI 54401.

NOVA BAMBOO

CANE RODS AND REPAIR
"TOMORROW"

Gene Novak

105 Mueller Lane

Random Lake, WI 53075

Ph. 414-994-9843

WISCONSIN TROUT

is the official publication of the Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited. Issues are distributed to all members of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited chapters. Publication and distribution dates are the first weeks of January, April, July and October. Deadlines for articles and advertisements are the 10th of December, March, June and September, respectively. Advertising rate sheet available upon request. Contributions and letters-to-the-editor are welcomed and encouraged. Submit articles and returnable photos or slides (color or black-and-white) to editor for consideration. Send all change of address notices to: TROUT UNLIMITED, 800 Follin Lane, Suite 250, Vienna VA. 22180.

Mitch Bent, Editor
1282 Monterey Trail
DePere WI 54115
(414) 336-4983

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Council Officers

Steve Born, Chairman
424 Washburn Place
Madison, WI 53703

Rick Penn, Secretary
Rt. 1 Box 267
Highbridge, WI 54846

John Cantwell, Vice-Chairman
2286 Mt. Olive
Green Bay, WI 54313

Mitch Bent, Treasurer
1282 Monterey Trail
DePere, WI 54115

New Western District DNR Director named

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources secretary Carroll "Buzz" Besadny has named Donald Winter to head the DNR's Western District. Winter, who joined the DNR in 1970, has been serving as deputy director of the Western District since 1978.

A native of Antigo, Winter graduated from UW-Madison in 1964 with a bachelor's degree in biology, and earned a Master's Degree in zoology

and botany from the UW in 1970, the same year he became an administrative assistant in the DNR's Bureau of Air Pollution and Solid Waste.

Winter later served as chief limnologist for the Bureau of Research and deputy director and acting director of the Office of Inland Lake Renewal, before becoming deputy director of the Western District.

Wisconsin trout water profile: Nichols Creek

When one thinks of some of the better inland trout fishing areas of the state, seldom does southeastern Wisconsin come to mind. Densely populated and highly overdeveloped, that part of the state has long since seen

most of its natural resource gems go the way of the passenger pigeon.

However, a few "crown jewels" have escaped physical desecration and still exhibit exceptional beauty. And one such resource is Nichols Creek in

western Sheboygan County.

Nichols Creek is considered the premier trout resource in southeastern Wisconsin. The creek is actually--and legally--supposed to be referred to as the North Branch of the Milwaukee River, and is signed as such at road crossings. However, locals have refused to change their pet name for the stream, and "Nichols Creek" is what you will find this lovely little stream called by residents of that part of the state.

The creek is listed as a Class I brook and brown trout water along the 3.8 miles of its watercourse from headwater springs just north of County Trunk "N" down to Highway 28 in the village of Cascade.

Most of the headwater section is protected by state ownership of the 611-acre Nichols Creek Wildlife Area. The best access to the stream is had from County "N" and Cedar Lake, northwest of Cascade. Some anglers do fish the stream right through the Village of Cascade as it meanders through a small village park. Trespass onto private lands adjacent to the creek has been a problem at times.

Over the years, some trout habitat restoration and stream enhancement work has been done by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Boy Scout groups, the Izaak Walton League and chapters of Trout Unlimited. From 1966 through 1981, 32 branch covers, 22 wing deflectors and 24 brush bundles have been installed in the creek.

Natural stream cover, however, is good-to-excellent, and the numerous spring seeps discharge excellent quality water for natural reproduction of trout.

Trout population surveys have given credence to claims of good trout numbers in Nichols Creek. The last survey--conducted in 1983--showed an average trout population of 3,512 per mile, and a biomass of 535 pounds per mile.

Most (63.5 percent) of the trout were over six inches long, and the largest trout captured in the stream shocking survey was 16½ inches.

Anglers who fish this little stream know the challenges it presents. One must move quietly to the stream edge and drop presentations into open areas that are measured in inches rather than feet.

But the efforts are worth it, as the stream is full of brook and brown trout that are as wild and wary as an angler could hope for.

Because the stream is so challenging to fish, it receives relatively little use from trout anglers in southeastern Wisconsin. Fly presentations are extremely tough to carry out, and even spinner and bait anglers can have trouble working the creek. Some anglers suggest that the best time to fish Nichols Creek is after dark in summer when grasshoppers are abundant.

The new inland trout fishing regulations did not change anything as far as legal harvest on Nichols Creek is concerned. All inland trout waters in Sheboygan County are categorized as Type 3 (three trout per day, nine inch size limit, no angling method restriction). Since Nichols Creek lies south of Highway 23, it had the same harvest regulations prior to implementation of the new rules.

Trout anglers of southeastern Wisconsin and areas nearby may have been overlooking a gem in Nichols Creek and its abundant trout fishery. When the 1992 trout fishing season opens, this fine little creek may be worth a look-see come some fine spring day.

Treat the little stream--and its trout--with respect, though. Limit your take rather than take your limit. If you heed that suggestion, Nichols Creek will likely return you many favors over the years to come.

Those favors won't come easily, but the good things in life seldom do.



Nichols Creek meanders through western Sheboygan County.

Letters to the Editor

"Thank you" for donation

On behalf of the West Fork Sportsmen's Club, I would like to thank the Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited for the generous donation of \$1,000 for trout habitat improvements on the West Fork Kickapoo River in Vernon County.

We have received so many comments and letters-of-appreciation for

the work done so far, and your support helps make this possible for us all to enjoy!

Sincerely,
Lisa Widner, Secretary
West Fork Sportsmen's Club
Rt. 3 Box 127
Westby, WI 54667

Questions moratorium vote

Editor, Wisconsin Trout:

I read with much interest your report on the moratorium on the early trout season in southwestern Wisconsin.

Without debating the issue, I personally supported the early season for many years, but no longer do. I wonder where you got the figures that your article mentions, namely that in Iowa County 154 people voted to be excluded from the early season and 102 voted "no" on the question.

Personally, I would doubt if there were 256 people present at that hearing at any time. The vote that I recall toward the end of the meeting was 100% against continuing the early season.

The question I would ask you, Mitch, is could you find out how a vote of 75 or 100 to zero gets reported as 154-102 against? This early season seems to

have a life of its own. I know that in Iowa County it has been voted down several times at the hearings and still continues on and on.

Sincerely yours,
Charles T. Stuedel
Rt. 1
Highland, WI 53543

ED. NOTE: The vote numbers listed in the last issue of Wisconsin Trout regarding whether certain counties should remain open for the early trout season or be closed for it were inaccurately indicated to be votes taken just in the counties themselves. The vote totals actually came from all the counties voting on the issue plus votes of those who sent in letters to the DNR on that issue.

Praise and a question

Editor, Wisconsin Trout:

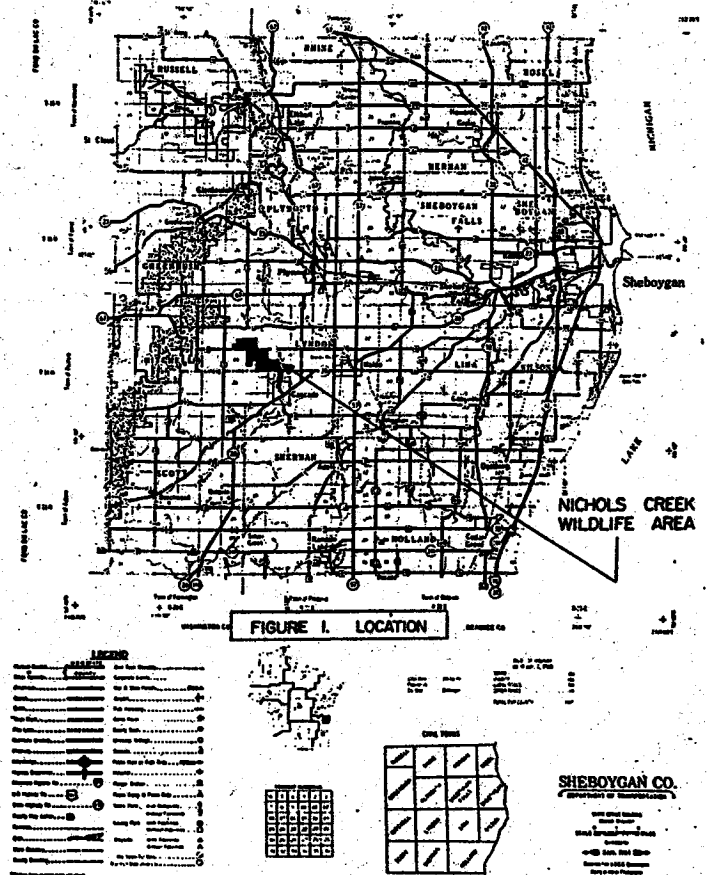
Just a note to tell you how thoroughly I enjoyed the summer issue of Wisconsin Trout. I found every article interesting, informative and well-written, and I was glad to see Bob Hunt get well-deserved recognition.

The article on Emmons Creek sounded so interesting that I tried fishing it several weeks later at three or four different areas. Does it have any

trout in it?

Sincerely,
William "Doc" Flader
812 McBride
Madison, WI 53704

ED. NOTE: Thanks, Doc, for the praise! It's appreciated very much!! As for Emmons Creek, I know it has trout in it, because Bob Hunt said so.



TROUT FISHING OR STOCKING
BROOK - BROWN - RAINBOW
NO LICENSE TO FISH
Located on Hwy. 64
between Antigo and Langlade



Silver Moon Springs

SILVER MOON SPRINGS - ELTON, WI
Phone (715) 882-8176

BROOK and RAINBOW TROUT

"Friends of Wisconsin T.U." program

The "Friends of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited" program continues to provide the Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited with the support it needs to carry out its important coldwater resource conservation functions.

The program currently has 49 new or continuing members, and the Wisconsin State T.U. Council hopes that more T.U.'ers will take the opportunity to become a "Friend" of Wisconsin T.U.

"Friends" of Wisconsin T.U. make annual \$100 contributions to the Council for its use in habitat improvement project funding, coldwater resource conservation research and environmental education.

By becoming a "Friend", the contributor receives a "Friends" lapel pin, certificate of appreciation and bold-faced type listing in four subsequent issues of **Wisconsin Trout**.

If you would like to become a member of the "Friends" program, fill out the form below and mail it with your check payable to Trout Unlimited as indicated.

Your support will be most appreciated, and you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you are directly contributing to the betterment of the coldwater trout fishery of Wisconsin. We look forward to hearing from you soon!

Ed Anderson/Culligan
of Marinette
Marinette, WI

Mitchell Bent
De Pere, WI

George Bereza
Marinette, WI

James Bolton, Jr.
Eau Claire, WI

Gerald Bristol
Ellsworth, WI

Thomas Buettner
Sheboygan, WI

John Cantwell
Green Bay, WI

Jon P. Christiansen (R)
Mequon, WI

Andrew E. Cook, II (R)
De Pere, WI

J.M. Coombes
Menomonee Falls, WI

Bruce Davidson
Marinette, WI

Wayne Disch
Green Bay, WI

Dick DuPlessie
Eau Claire, WI

Tom England
Knoxville, IL

David Everett
Lincolnshire, IL

Alan Finesilver
De Pere, WI

William A. Flader
Madison, WI

Daniel Flaherty (R)
La Crosse, WI

Louis Frase, M.D.
Eau Claire, WI

Robert Hackinson
Appleton, WI

Walter Hellyer (R)
Fish Creek, WI

Robert Horswill, M.D.
Janesville, WI

Charles V. James
Milwaukee, WI

Harold Keland
Racine, WI

Webb J. Kennedy
Mequon, WI

Richard Kraus
Berlin, WI

Richard Kroll
Fox Point, WI

P. Eric Kuusinen
Elm Grove, WI

Mel Lasecki
Green Bay, WI

David Lenz
Middleton, WI

Harold Levin
Gurnee, IL

Vern & Jean Lunde
Mt. Horeb, WI

Phillip Mayer
Dodgeville, WI

James McHale
Lily, WI

Ron Miller/Four Corporation
Green Bay, WI

Dennis Morgan
Grande Prairie, Alberta
(Canada)

Peter Rathsack
Waunakee, WI

Ronald Rellatz
Merton, WI

Thomas J. Rice, M.D.
Marshfield, WI

Thomas Rogers
Princeton, WI

Forest H. Schafer Foundation
(John Schafer, Pres.)
Clintonville, WI

John Shillinglaw
Appleton, WI

Delmar Schwaller
Appleton, WI

Dain Trafton
Rockford, IL

Richard Wachowski (R)
Eau Claire, WI

J. Nash Williams (R)
Madison, WI

Norb Wozniak
Juneau, WI

John Yackel
Circle Pines, MN

Fred Young
Roscoe, IL

*Note: (R)= renewed "Friend" since last issue of Wisconsin Trout



Frank Mittelstadt

Conservation videos available to chapters

If your chapter is looking for some new educational materials to show at meetings or for use in chapter events, a couple of newer videos are available through state sources.

The UW-Extension has a video entitled: "From Curb to Stream - Cleaning up our Urban Waters". The video illustrates problems associated with nitrogen, phosphorous and sulfur pollution that come from construction site erosion, runoff from paved areas, careless use of home and lawn chemicals and others.

The tape runs about 20 minutes and features ways that urban land users can reduce such pollution. Target groups for the tapes would also include farmers, conservation groups, local officials, students, teachers and civic groups. Call Gary Korb at (414) 547-6721 for more information.

"Fencing and Watering Systems for Streambank Protection" is a new videotape that focuses on alternative approaches that attempt to reduce problems associated with traditional fencing and watering systems.

The video illustrates the use of "seasonal fencing" which eliminates springtime fencing washouts. This approach uses rotational grazing equipment and techniques.

The 16-minute tape was cooperatively produced by the North Central Technical Institute and the Land Conservation and Extension offices in Lincoln and Marathon counties. Potential audiences and users would include farmers, conservation groups and dealers in fencing and watering equipment.

For more information, contact Ted Gashler, North Central Technical Institute, (715) 675-3331.

Mittelstadt double winner in trout stamp contests

Beaver Dam artist Frank Mittelstadt had the rare fortune earlier this year to become a double winner in the design contests for the 1992 Inland and Great Lakes Trout & Salmon Stamp contests.

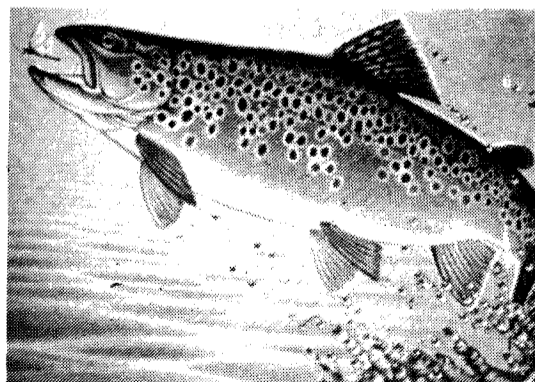
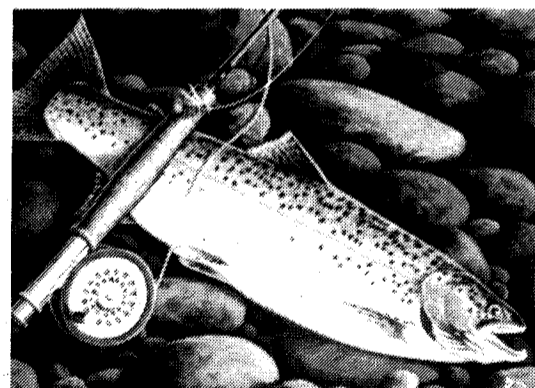
Mittelstadt's depiction of a brown trout leaping out of the water after a mayfly was selected for the design on the 1992 Inland Trout Stamp, and his painting of a steelhead (rainbow) trout laying on a streambank after being landed by an angler took top honors for the 1992 Great Lakes Trout & Salmon Stamp design.

Mittelstadt joins artists Sam Timm and Scott Zoellick as double winners in those two contests.

Born in Beaver Dam in 1956, Mittelstadt developed an early appreciation of nature through hunting and fishing trips with his father. He began drawing at an early age, and he started using acrylics for painting while in high school. He describes himself as a "self-taught" artist.

In previous years, Mittelstadt has placed in such events as the Federal duck stamp contest, as well as contests for the Wisconsin Waterfowl Stamp, Illinois Salmon Stamp and Ohio Duck Stamp contests.

Runnersup in the Inland Trout Stamp contest were: 1st runnerup--Robert J. Schmidt (Webster, WI); 2nd runnersup (tie)--Greg Alexander (Washburn, WI) and Sam Timm (Wautoma, WI). Other finishers were Virgil Beck (Stevens Point), Therese Pankratz-Randall (Eden), Robert Leum (Holmen), Larry Seiler (Rice Lake), Benjamin Tranholm (Milwaukee) and



Wiley Miller (Wind Lake), all from Wisconsin.

Runnersup in the Great Lakes Trout & Salmon Stamp contest were: 1st runnerup--Sam Timm (Wautoma); 2nd runnersup (tie)--Larry Seiler (Rice Lake) and Greg Alexander (Washburn). Other finishers included Wiley Miller (Wind Lake), Bob Frankowiak (Milwaukee), Benjamin Tranholm (Milwaukee), Virgil Beck (Stevens Point) and Renee Allegar (Rio), again, all from Wisconsin.

**MAIL TO: TROUT UNLIMITED
1282 MONTEREY TRAIL
DE PERE, WI 54115**

**Yes, I want to join the
Friends of Wisconsin
Trout Unlimited
Enclosed is my check for \$100.00.**

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Coming Soon!

TROUT MADNESS

“An Orvis Shop”

A Fly-Fishing & Upland Game Store
Opening On or About
November 1, 1991

Full array of freshwater/saltwater fly fishing equipment and **Orvis** spinning rod selections.

Over & Under/side-by-side Upland Game & Sporting Clays Shotguns

Outdoor Clothing & Gifts

*Special Apparel Section for Women
Fishing Schools! Fly-Tying Schools! Shooting Schools!

Located at: 10912 N. Port Washington Rd.
Mequon, WI 53092

Phone: (414) 241-1007
FAX (for orders): (414) 241-1019

Cramped for time? Stop By and Pick Up One of Our Catalogs.
Order by FAX or Phone!



Wisconsin Trout Unlin



Blackhawk T.U.'ers install a "lunker" structure in the West Fork Kickapoo River (Vernon County).

Aldo Leopold Chapter
No report

Antigo Chapter
No report

Blackhawk Chapter

The chapter held three work days through the summer on the West Fork of the Kickapoo River in Vernon County. Members built and installed "LUNKER" structures in designated locations in the river.

In June, the chapter sponsored its annual fly casting clinic featuring Dennis Franke, with the event being well-attended.

The chapter has expressed concern over finding worthwhile projects to fund in the coming years. Since the chapter has a very successful fundraising banquet and has averaged spending close to \$6,000 annually on trout habitat improvements, it wants to continue on this successful path.

Many chapter members took time out in summer to journey to such "high-profile" trout fishing spots like the Bighorn, Bow and Missouri Rivers, as well as the famous spring creeks of Montana.

Central Wisconsin

Three workdays were held by Central Wisconsin T.U. this summer, one on Emmons Creek and two on the West Branch of the White River.

On Emmons Creek, chapter members removed brush and debris from the stream, while on the West Branch of the White the chapter continued its ongoing half-log installation project, along with removal of some large willow trees.

At the July board of Directors meeting, Wisconsin DNR Area Fish Manager Jack Zimmerman met with the chapter to discuss concerns over downstream movement of silt and sand in the Tomorrow River following removal of the Nelsonville Dam. Chapter members had noticed substantial degradation of the stream and loss of gravel substrate due to siltation.

As a result of the meeting, the DNR agreed to install several deflector structures to clean out selected sites in the Tomorrow, and Central Wisconsin T.U. has entered into a cooperative agreement with DNR to perform habitat work on the river.

That work will include the installation of more deflectors and other improvements. The chapter will seek the support of other chapters for this project due to the Tomorrow River's popularity and statewide reputation.

As this is written, the chapter has also planned three more workdays: Sept. 21 - West Branch of the White River; Oct. 26 - Tomorrow River; and, Nov. 9 - to be announced.

Chequamegon Chapter
No report

Coulee Region
No report

Fox Valley Chapter
No report



Proud young lady from Brown County "PALS" Program shows off fish caught during fishing outing put on by Green Bay T.U.

Green Bay Chapter

Green Bay T.U. had a very busy and productive spring and summer season. The chapter spent over 300 hours on trout habitat work projects, including three days on Little Waupee Creek, two days on Brehmer Creek and one day on the South Branch of the Oconto River, all in Oconto County.

Chapter members and friends removed brush and debris and installed



Bruce Deuchert (left), president of the Brown County Conservation Alliance, and Mitch Bent (right), Green Bay T.U. chapter president, pose with Marinette Area Warden Supervisor Randy Stark behind four-wheel ATV that Green Bay T.U. and the Alliance helped the DNR purchase for use in patrolling remote trout streams in northeast Wisconsin.

brush bundles on Brehmer and Little Waupee Creeks, and they removed old half-log structures on the South Branch of the Oconto, where a three-year, \$45,000 DNR trout habitat improvement project is underway.

The chapter also helped out with trout habitat improvements across the border in Upper Michigan's Iron County. Green Bay T.U. appropriated over \$5,000 toward installation of sky-hook boom covers in the South Branch of the Paint River, and it obtained a \$5,000 grant from the FishAmerica Foundation for that work, which was carried out by the Ottawa National Forest.

The habitat work on the South Branch-Paint River encompassed about one-half mile of stream, and was also aided by funds supplied by the Forest Service and by Wildlife Unlimited of Iron County, Michigan.

In August, the chapter held a special "Kids Fishing Day" for youngsters enrolled in the Brown County "PALS" Program. Designed for kids younger than those involved in the "Big Brothers - Big Sisters" program, the "PALS" program seeks to match adults with children ages three through seven for wholesome activities.

The "PALS" kids come from disadvantaged backgrounds--divorce, abuse and neglect. Yet, like all kids, they enjoy outdoor activities, and, according to Glen Tilot, "PALS" program coordinator for Brown County, one of the most desired activities these kids longed for was to go fishing!

So, Green Bay T.U. and the Green Bay Exchange Club (a local service organization) combined forces to provide a day of fishing for these kids. Green Bay T.U. bought and stocked 300 hybrid bluegills in the Brown County Reforestation Camp ponds, and the Exchange Club coordinated transportation for the kids to the ponds and food for the event.

Over 50 kids enjoyed an afternoon of fishing and fun that would not have been available had it not been for Green Bay T.U., the Green Bay Exchange Club and the Brown County "PALS" program.

The chapter donated \$800 toward purchase of a four-wheel "All-Terrain-Vehicle" (ATV) for the Law Enforcement Division of the Marinette Area DNR, and obtained an equal amount from the Brown County Conservation

Alliance for the equipment. The DNR used the money to purchase the vehicle, which will be used to help Conservation Wardens patrol remote areas of Northeast Wisconsin for trout fishing law enforcement.

Not yet finalized, but in the workings, is the formation of a Youth/Education Committee within the chapter. The committee will work with Brown County schools regarding conservation scholarships, environmental education videos and aquatic ecology information.

The chapter has already received requests for future funding of equipment and trout habitat improvement work. The DNR is seeking financial help to replace a generator for an electroshocking system for carrying out trout population surveys in Northeast Wisconsin. The Nicolet National Forest has on line two projects that will need funding in 1992: work on the North Fork of the Thunder River in Oconto County, and habitat improvement on Otter Creek (south) in Forest County, east of Wabeno.

The chapter is also working to stabilize and increase its number of members. Chapter meetings have seen a switch in location to Maricque's Tavern on University Avenue in Green Bay.

Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter

The chapter had a very active summer season on a number of fronts.

Kiap-TU-Wish T.U. conducted an emergency repair on some damaged stream improvement work on the Race Branch of the Willow River, and it also spent a lot of time on work with the 205J-Storm Water Management Plan for the Kinnickinnic River where it flows through the city of River Falls. Chapter Vice-president Kent Johnson spent an enormous amount of time working with the city of River Falls and a consulting firm on that project, and deserves many thanks for his efforts.

Kiap-TU-Wish has committed \$4,700 to that storm water management project through the purchase of five Ryan Instruments Water Temperature Monitors. The purchase has had a significant impact on the chapter's finances, and "Sponsors" are being sought (at \$750 each) for the monitors.

On August 3rd, chapter president Andy Lamberson, along with chapter members Kent Johnson and Jon

United Chapter reports



Jacobs, met with Governor Tommy Thompson on the banks of the Kinnickinnic River to participate in an electroshocking demonstration of the "Kinni" with the DNR. The chapter expressed its concerns for the future of the river with the governor.

Later, at a water retention pond in the industrial development area of River Falls, chapter members again met with Thompson to discuss the 205J plan and how it could help both the "Kinni" and the city of River Falls. The chapter gave a "repeat performance" of its concerns on the matter before the National Resources Board when it met in River Falls on Aug. 28.

At the chapter's September meeting, Larry Hood of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service gave a presentation on raptors.

Lakeshore Chapter

In June, the chapter participated in a Regional Cleanup project on the Branch River in Manitowoc County. The river receives heavy runs of spring and fall Lake Michigan trout and salmon.

Louis Jirikowic and other chapter members put on a fly casting school in summer, and chapter members also helped scatter-plant trout in the Mullet and Onion Rivers in Sheboygan County. And, a cookout and trout fishing evening was held in June at an area pond owned by one of the chapter members.

A fly-casting demonstration as part of the Fly Fishing History Exhibition at the Manitowoc Maritime Museum was held in September. At the October meeting, a talk on fly-tying and fall flies for anadromous trout and salmon was given.

If anyone has questions on fall trout and salmon fishing opportunities in Sheboygan, Manitowoc and Oconto counties, they should call Jeff Preiss, chapter president, at (414) 773-2693.

Marinette County Chapter

In conjunction with the Peshtigo Recreation Department, the Marinette County T.U. Chapter sponsored a "Youth Fishing Tournament" on July 12th on the Peshtigo River for kids aged 8-14. About 27 youngsters caught and released over 50 fish during the rainy two-hour period, according to chapter president Dale Lange.

Contest winners included: First Fish Caught - Brad Sutek (Plano tackle Box and tackle); Biggest Fish Caught - Casey Behnke (Silstar graphite rod and reel); Heaviest Fish Caught - Jestin

Goldsmith (Zebco graphite rod and reel combo); Most Fish Caught - 18, by Steve Risner (Shimano Aerocast rod and reel); and, Smallest Fish Caught - a 3 3/4" sunfish by Terri Sutek!

Chapter members worked in conjunction with Green Bay T.U. and the DNR on trout habitat projects on Brehmer and Little Waupee Creeks and the South Branch Oconto River (all in Oconto County) during summer.

The beaver trapper contracted by the chapter through the USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) reported that, as of the end of July, he had trapped 32 beaver and removed 198 dams from the waters Camp 5, Eagle, Swamp and Swede John Creeks and the South Branch of the Pemebonwon River, all of which, except for the South Branch Pemebonwon, are tributary to the Peshtigo River.

Harry Nohr Chapter

No report

Northwoods Chapter

In June, the chapter helped install six cedar log trout shelters in waters of Woodboro Springs west of Rhinelander in Oneida County. The floating shelters were anchored in various spots with tamarack poles driven into the pond bottom.

July saw the chapter carry out two work efforts on Coldwater Creek in Forest County, west of Long Lake. Chapter members did stream brushing and placed brush bundles in the creek.

On Sept. 14 and 21, the chapter did brushing and brush bundle placement on Noisy Creek in Oneida County.

Oconto River Watershed Chapter

The chapter held a work day in summer to fix up the "trout barn" and property where the chapter raises trout for stocking purposes. Members painted the building, added windows, framed out a doorway and built a stairway. In addition, another tank was installed in the barn to raise trout.

About 5,000 brown and brook trout were stocked in the Oconto River system in September.

The chapter once again set up a "Trout Pond" at the Oconto County Youth Fair, and provided a lot of fun for the kids that attended.

Chapter members worked with Green Bay and Marinette County T.U.'ers on trout habitat projects during summer on Brehmer, Little Waupee and the South Branch-Oconto River systems. Oconto River T.U. also dredged out the "sand trap" installed



Members of Green Bay, Marinette County, and Oconto River Chapters remove logs, brush and debris from Little Waupee Creek, Oconto County.

on Christie Brook in Gillett. The trap, about 100 feet in length, had nearly filled with sand and had to be scooped out.

The water in Christie Brook above the trap shows some improvement for trout, but has a long way to go. Sufficient water flows will aid in that success.

Ojibseau Chapter

No report

Shaw-Paca Chapter

The chapter awarded scholarships to Martha Paitl of Lena and Mike Weatherwax of Marion to the UW-Stevens Point Natural Resources Careers Workshop. Shaw-Paca T.U. also pledged financial assistance for publication of Bob Hunt's book on stream improvement techniques.

At a summer meeting, deputy Conservation Warden Doug Ziehn spoke to the chapter on his beginning career as a warden. Ziehn urged members to get involved in the process of creating or changing laws when the need arises.

Southeastern Wisconsin

In June, the chapter held an outing at the Port Washington Marina in search of brook and brown trout and coho salmon. In late July, chapter members convened in Grant County for an outing on Castle Rock Spring Creek, a "catch-and-release" fishery in southwestern Wisconsin, as well as on the Big Green, Little Bue and Doc Smith rivers. Fishing was reported as excellent, with one 21 inch brown trout

caught and released being the biggest fish landed.

A work project was scheduled for Sept. 21 on the Mukwanago River.

with pic--

Southern Wisconsin Chapter

The chapter reports that project work on a stretch of the Black Earth Creek is nearing completion. The project is designed both to create trout habitat and retain silt beds for Hexagenia mayflies. In fall, the chapter will install shrubbery to enhance songbird habitat and aesthetics. A second project on Black Earth Creek will be starting soon.

The chapter's annual "Winter Ice-breaker" is scheduled for January 25, 1992, at the "Park Ponderosa" in McFarland. Featured speaker will be "Lefty" Kreh, and the day-long event will include raffles and demonstrations. Tickets will be \$9.00 in advance and \$10 at the door. For more information, call Jim Bartelt at (608) 249-9908.

The chapter sponsored two scholarships during summer. One was for the "Camp Fish" venture in Minnesota, and the other was for a Career Exploration Workshop at UW-Stevens Point.

Southern Wisconsin T.U. also donated \$500 to the Westby Rod & Gun Club in Vernon County to support their stream improvement projects on Timber Coulee Creek.

Chapter elections for officers and

Cont. on Page 8



Marinette County T.U. Chapter president Dale Lange (center) poses with prize winners of chapter's "youth Fishing Tournament", (l-r) Steve Risner, Casey Behnke, Lange, Jestin Goldsmith, Bradley Sutek.



Southern Wisconsin T.U.'ers install "lunker" structure in Black Earth Creek (Dane County).

DNR Fish Manager profile: John Nelson

Being a fish manager in the state of Wisconsin is not an easy job. The pay is hardly the greatest, the hours are long and managers often have to deal with a demanding, selfish public that is interested only in how much it can extract from the resource base.

It would not be hard, then, for a fish manager to become hard-bitten and grumpy. On good days, mind you.

But those adjectives could never describe John E. Nelson, Department of Natural Resources fish manager from Plymouth. He is probably one of the nicest persons you'd ever want to meet.

The 37-year old Nelson was born in Sycamore, Illinois, and graduated from St. Charles High School in that city. He headed north to carry out his undergraduate studies in fisheries management at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in 1978.

After graduating from "Point, John attended Tennessee Tech University in Cookeville, Tennessee, where he received a Master of Science Degree in Biology in 1981.

He spent internships with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the U.S. Forest Service during his college years, and, after graduating from Tennessee Tech, he hooked up with the Wisconsin DNR.

Nelson spent a year-and-a-half as a Natural Resources Assistant in Wildlife Management at Horicon, and for the last eight-and-a-half years he has worked as Fisheries Manager for the DNR at its Plymouth station in Sheboygan County, managing fisheries in Ozaukee, Sheboygan and Washing-

ton counties.

While that region of the state is certainly not considered to be prime trout country, the area does have some special coldwater resources that John gives extra attention to.

"My major focus at this time with respect to coldwater resources," he says, "is the acquisition of lands along the limited trout resources we have in Sheboygan County. Once the state buys enough parcels along some of these trout streams, we can work toward restoration of good quality habitat."

Continuing, he said, "We have plans to improve trout habitat in the Mullett River, Ben Nutt Creek and, for anadromous fish, the Pigeon River. We've already done some improvement work on LaBudde Creek in SW Sheboygan County and Allenton Creek in Washington County, installing brush bundles, bank covers and some half-logs, and we did some brushing and bank cover installation on Ben Nutt Creek a few years ago, too."

Not only does the lack of public lands pose problems for coldwater resource management in his area, but another problem--lack of springhead protection--is rearing its ugly head at DNR conservation efforts.

"Many of the springheads on the major streams have been dammed," says Nelson. "This presents us with water quality problems that translate into poorer environments for trout."

"Housing development in rural areas is an increasing threat to the resource," he adds, "and it also hampers angler access to streams. And, of course, agricultural activities in watersheds are always a concern with regard



John Nelson (left), DNR fish manager from Plymouth, holding a "non-trout" during a fish survey.

to water quality."

Yet, Nelson sees some hope for the trout streams in his jurisdiction. "Our acquisition program is beginning to gather steam," he states. "I have acquired 111 acres of land with stream frontage over the past five years, and I've got an additional 49 acres of land under option at this time."

"The Stewardship Program, with its emphasis on land acquisition, should have a very positive impact on our ability to acquire trout stream frontage for access and habitat improvement," he notes.

In addition to coldwater resource responsibilities, John points out that his primary fisheries management responsibility lies in warmwater management in his three-county area. And, he says, "I probably have more involvement with environmental programs than most fish managers, because of the large human population pressures that exist in southeastern Wisconsin. I also occasionally work with the biologists in the Department's Lake Michigan management program."

John's "off-duty" hours are typical of the average family man. He likes to fish and hunt, and, in season, stay tuned in to Green Bay Packer football.

And, with his wife (Char), two daughters (Lindsey and Kristin) and son (Todd), John is involved in a variety of community and church activities.

One group that John has worked well with over the years has been the Lakeshore Chapter of Trout Unlimited. The chapter was so impressed with Nelson's dedication to fishery conservation and his willingness to involve the chapter in trout habitat efforts in the area that it awarded John its "Silver Trout Award" in 1983.

Nelson is as complimentary of T.U. as it has been of him.

"I admire the dedication of Trout Unlimited to the resource," he says. "It is one of the few organizations that is interested more in protecting the resource than taking something from it. I can't thank them enough for their support."

That support from Trout Unlimited flows easily when it comes to working together with a quality person like John Nelson. With a "can-do" attitude and a willingness to both instruct volunteers while learning from them, Nelson plays a key role in helping shape a better future for the coldwater resources of an area of the state that is often forgotten as far as trout are concerned.

And the odds are that those resources will improve because of the cooperative relationship between John Nelson and Trout Unlimited that has been forged in the past and continues to flourish today.

Regional reports

Central Region report

By Jim Hlaban

Efforts are still underway to establish a viable T.U. chapter in the Stevens Point area. Some progress has been made, and we are seeking people who will make a commitment to carry out the work needed for a successful chapter. Interested persons in that area should contact Jim Hlaban at (414)722-4335. The chapter boundaries would include those of Portage and Wood counties.

The annual scatter-planting of trout in the Tomorrow River will be held on

Saturday, Oct. 5. Workers are to meet at the first wayside west of Waupaca on U.S. Highway 10 at 8 a.m. Canoes and paddles are needed to carry out the work. Lunch will be provided. Call Jim Hlaban at the number above for more information.

Northeast Region
No report

Northwest Region
No report

Southern Region
No report

**FIRST WISCONSIN
EAU CLAIRE**

Serving the financial needs of the Chippewa Valley
since 1872.

Member FDIC

✓ Chapter reports

Cont. from Page 7

directors took place at the September meeting.

Wild Rivers Chapter
No report

Wisconsin River Valley Chapter

The summer months brought both joy and sorrow to the chapter. The former came in the decision by the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors to authorize the removal of the Prairie Dells Dam on the Prairie River northeast of Merrill (see separate story).

The sorrow came with the sudden and unexpected passing of Art Hagemann, a longtime T.U. member and conservation activist from Wausau.

Chapter president Herb Hintze continued to seek easements along the Plover River south of County "N" for future trout habitat improvement work, and the chapter has set aside a fund for cleanup work on the Prairie River by the Dells after dam demolition is com-

plete. The fund will be used for tree planting, stream work and other associated needs.

Wolf River Chapter

The chapter's annual scatter-planting of brown trout in the Wolf River, set for Sept. 7, was postponed due to problems with trout from the hatchery. Chapter president Herb Buettner hoped to schedule the work for a later date.

The chapter's fourth annual Conservation Banquet will be held on Saturday, Oct. 12, 1991 at Buettner's Wild Wolf Inn, six miles south of Langlade on Highway 55. Cocktails start at 5 p.m. with dinner at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20 and can be obtained by calling Herb Buettner at (715) 882-8612.

The chapter continues to move ahead with its beaver removal program on Nine Mile Creek and Spring Creek, tributaries to the Wolf River.

Wisconsin's forgotten trout: the Lake Trout

When we think of trout in Wisconsin, especially those of us who fish inland waters of the state, our focus is pretty limited. The terms "brook trout", "brown trout", and "rainbow trout" usually leap to mind.

Yet there is another "inland" trout in our state that gets very little attention. And that is the lake trout.

The lake trout (*Salvelinus Namaycush*) is a native trout species to a few waters of northern Wisconsin. Also called "mackinaw", "togue", "gray trout" and "Great Lakes trout", the lake trout is a unique species of salmonid that is seeing some increased management emphasis directed toward it by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

That increased management emphasis comes about because of the uniqueness of the species. Unlike other salmonid species whose members reach spawning age in a few years, lake trout do not reach sexual maturity for a long time.

The male of the species matures at about 22 inches (seven years) while the females must be around 24 inches (eight years) before being able to spawn. As a result, any amount of heavy fishing pressure directed toward the species can have a detrimental impact on production of native fish.

It should be noted, though, that sexual maturity does vary widely among the species depending upon geographical location, with some Canadian lakes producing mature fish at 12 inches long.

Unlike other salmonid species, lake trout do not build a nest or redd for spawning. The males, which outnumber the females on the spawning grounds, precede the females in congregating over the breeding area. They cruise over the bottom and clean it of debris, algae growth and slime by fanning and rubbing the rocks of the substratum.

Most spawning activity occurs between dusk and midnight, and reaches its peak shortly after dark. The spawning season occurs in fall.

Since lakers are polygamous, there is no vigorous fighting or defense of territory that mark the habits of other trout. During courtship, a marked, but transitional, color change occurs among the males, with the back becoming light and silvery while a dark, lustrous stripe appears along each side.

The fish breed at random over the cleaned area, and no attempt is made to bury or otherwise care for the eggs, which sink into crevices among the rocks. Individual male lakers may

remain on or near the spawning grounds for three weeks or more, but the adults will disperse widely from the breeding area once the spawning season is completed.

Prior to the institution of the comprehensive new inland trout fishing regulations in Wisconsin, lake trout fishing regulations for the few northern waters holding them were rather liberal in that the season was open until March 1 and the minimum size limit was 17 inches. Such liberal rules were viewed as having a negative impact on the ability of inland lake trout to sustain reproducing populations of fish, and changes were considered to address that need.

Lloyd "Duke" Andrews, Woodruff Area Fisheries Manager for the DNR, has jurisdiction over the main inland lake trout populations in the state, those occurring in Forest and Vilas counties. After monitoring lake trout in Trout Lake in Vilas County for years, he determined that lake trout stocks were declining in that lake which has naturally-occurring lake trout numbers (Black Oak Lake in Vilas County is the other lake having reproducing lake trout populations).

One option for reversing that trend, Andrews thought, was to enact an outright closure for lake trout in Trout Lake. He chose, however, to only close South Trout Lake to lake trout harvest, despite some urgings at Vilas County fish and game hearings to close the North basin as well.

With that closure of the South Trout Lake basin came new regulations that would apply to all inland lakes of that three-county region having lake trout. The season would open with the regular inland trout fishing season on 5:00 a.m., the first Saturday in May, and run through Sept. 30. The daily bag limit was reduced to one trout per day, with a minimum size limit of 26 inches.

While that restriction in harvest limit and size might seem controversial enough, the real kicker that Andrews found which caused a stir among those upset with the new regulation on lake trout was the one that cut the season short. Ice anglers who had been accustomed to enjoying lake trout fishing in winter were now forced to find other pleasures, and Andrews took some heat on that change.

However, he firmly noted, "Review of our lake trout harvest data showed that winter fishing was the most efficient time for harvest. That occurred because the fish are probably targeted by anglers at that time of year."

"This does not mean that they can't be caught in summer," he added, "but

the effort and harvest, at least to date, do not appear to be as great during the open water months. And although our data on Black Oak Lake and other lakes are not as complete as they are for Trout Lake, I felt it was necessary to treat all lakes the same (i.e., a Sept. 30 closure) to avoid shifting angler pressure to these fragile stocks if lakes were to remain open."

Andrews pointed out, too, that the nearby Sylvania Wilderness tract in the adjacent Upper Peninsula of Michigan has no winter lake trout fishery, with the season there running from the last Saturday in April through Oct. 31. The size limit there is 30 inches, bag limit one fish and only artificial lures are permitted for angling.

The lakes where Wisconsin has put special lake trout fishing restrictions into place are: Forest County--Lucerne Lake; Vilas County--Black Oak, Crystal (S27, T41N, R7E), Little Trout and Trout (North and South) Lakes.

While no angling method restrictions have been imposed along with the harvest and season restrictions, Andrews urges those anglers pursuing inland lake trout in the restricted lakes to use artificial lures to minimize hooking mortality on the species.

In order to provide an alternative winter trout fishing experience to anglers mourning the loss of the lake trout ice-fishing, Andrews and his crew commenced a stocking program on 12 additional lakes in the Woodruff Area to bring to 16 the total number of lakes where trout can be legally taken through the ice.

Because lake trout are relatively slow-growing and long-lived fish, it will take time to evaluate the success or failure of this new management strategy for lakers that addresses protection, enhancement and expansion of their range in the region. Thus a long-term, not a short-term, management perspective is required.

The DNR and Andrews have been aided in their lake trout monitoring program by chapters in the Northeast Region of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited. The region allowed leftover funds from a creek census on the Pehstigo River a few years back to be used in the monitoring program. More dollars will be needed in the future, however.



Happy angler Wes Jahns holds lake trout caught in northern Wisconsin lake.

In waxing philosophical over the lake trout management plan, Andrews stated, "Our fisheries history--whether inland or on the oceans--is replete with overharvest scenarios. The sad part is that only when the fisheries have crashed have their demises been fully realized."

"Once a fishery crashes, it is usually very difficult and expensive to rehabilitate it--if we can! But that's the management phase that gets all the attention. Seldom are the tell-tale signs that alert fisheries managers to possible problems acknowledged by those for whom we manage, because proof is wanting. It is an imperfect science; therefore, let us err on the side of the fishery," he concludes.

It will obviously be years before the DNR will know if the newly-instituted regulatory scheme for inland lake trout fishing will be successful or not. If it is, though, we may be able, then, when we speak of "goin' trout fishin' up north", to conjure up thoughts not only of brook, brown and rainbow trout, but also thoughts of that shy, unique critter called the lake trout!

BUY EXTRA TROUT STAMPS

The "Unpredictable" Charter Service
Featuring ultra light 12' Fenwick Noodle Rods with 8 lb. test line. The largest fish caught on board to date with light tackle.
21 lb. Rainbow - 28 lb. King

Booking May-Oct.	1-6 people charters
28' Carver (Santa Cruz)	Group packages
Fly Bridge	Call or write:
Twin 302 Inboards	Captain Jerry L. Eichmann
All Modern Electronics	1118 So. 24th Street
Specializing Rainbow & Salmon	Manitowoc, WI 54220
	Phone 414-684-0316

The Sporting Goods & Fly Shop

Bob Oldale
Doug Campbell

Parker-Hale Rifles & Shotguns
118 S. Broadway
De Pere, WI 54115

(414) 336-4427
Cortland Fly Fishing Pro-Shop

TRY TOMORROW TODAY

o HANDCRAFTED

o HEIRLOOM CALIBER

FLY RODS

o BEAUTIFULLY DETAILED & APPOINTED

o FINE TUNED TO EACH ANGLER'S NEEDS

Call or Write
Tomorrow River Rod
8908 HWY GG
Almond, WE 54909
(715) 366-7105

Fenwick
Performance for Dedicated Fishermen

IRON FEATHER FLY RODS

CAST BEFORE YOU BUY
Feel Free to Bring Your Favorite Reel for Practice

ALSO IN STOCK
Fenwick - HMG - Royale - Eagle
Loomis - Premier - IMG - IMX
St. Croix - Imperial - Legend
Sage - Light Line - Reserve Power

Reels - Scientific Anglers - S.T.H. - Fenwick - Martin

Lines - Cortland - Scientific Anglers - Sue Burgess

ACE HARDWARE OF APPLETON
500 E. Northland
Appleton, WI 54911
OPEN 7 DAYS
(414) 731-0500

Highlights of State Council meeting

The Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited held its summer meeting on Saturday, June 22, at the Union State Bank in Wautoma.

Chapters that were represented at the meeting were: Central Wisconsin, Fox Valley, Green Bay, Lakeshore, Marinette County, Northwoods, Ojibseau, Shaw-Paca, Southeastern

Wisconsin and Southern Wisconsin.

Fund-raising coordinator John Cantwell reviewed progress made in the "Friends of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited" campaign. Between April 1 and June 22, the program had made 19 new members and 25 renewals.

Chairman Steve Born made note that the Executive Committee of the State

Council had made three distributions of "Friends" revenues after the April 20 Executive Committee meeting. One thousand dollars (\$1,000) was used to help fund continuing habitat work on the West Fork of the Kickapoo River in Vernon County, and the same amount was donated to the Department of Natural Resources to assist in the dredging of Saul Spring Pond in Langlade County.

Fifteen hundred dollars (\$1,500) was also approved for expenditure on the demonstration and habitat project on Black Earth Creek in Dane County.

Considerable time was spent discussing the possible formation of a new Trout Unlimited chapter in the Stevens Point area, where a viable chapter has long been sought. Central Region Vice-President Jim Hlaban discussed the results of work he had done on that opportunity to date, and he introduced several individuals from the Stevens Point area who attended the Council meeting to learn more about the organization.

The 1992 State Council banquet is slated for Saturday, Jan. 18, again at the Paper Valley Hotel & Conference Center in Appleton. Co-chairmen Jim Bereza and Mitch Bent informed the chapters of work done to date on the event, and promised to stay in touch with the chapters as time goes by as far as donations and ticket sales are concerned.

Webb Kennedy and Bob Estlund of the Southeastern Wisconsin chapter gave the Council an overview of a Great Lakes Task Force meeting held in Chicago in February and sponsored by T.U. representatives of Great Lakes states and Canadian provinces. Estlund said the committee would look into problems such as exotic species invasions into the Great Lakes, levels of forage base for salmonids and the "native" vs. "stocked" fish controversy.

Midwest Regional Vice-President Dick Wachowski and Council Chairman Steve Born discussed changes at the T.U. National level. Wachowski said that he felt that National T.U. was heading into a more fiscally responsible method of operation. He also stated

that rebates to chapters and Councils would continue for the near future, at least.

Born noted that the 2nd Midwest Region T.U. meeting was to take place at the end of July in the Grayling, Michigan, area. Lakeshore T.U. representative Marty Kwitek attended the meeting on behalf of the Wisconsin Council.

After Regional Vice-president reports were heard, Water Resources Chairman Dave Johnson noted that he was still in need of the 1990 Water Resource Work Inventories from 14 chapters. The eight chapters that did submit reports to Johnson showed a compiled listing of about 1,950 volunteer hours spent on conservation work (habitat projects), 444 hours on non-habitat work and a total of nearly \$41,800 spent on habitat improvement and conservation education work.

Born then made several announcements about direction under his leadership. He appointed Jim Hlaban to serve as the Council's Membership Chairman, and he announced his intent to form a Youth Education Committee within the Council.

Legislative reports were given on such topics as wetlands protection, state budget items and cranberry marsh operations. Jim Hlaban also reported that an attempt was being made to expand military training operations to the Black River State Forest, and such movements would likely have negative impacts on trout streams in that area of the state.

Dick Wachowski reported on the status of a bill in Congress affecting Wild & Scenic Rivers in Michigan, and the impacts that the bill might have on resource agencies' abilities to carry out stream habitat improvements on rivers labeled as "Wild & Scenic".

Other items discussed at the meeting included Leadership Training and development, programs, and videos on proper techniques for releasing fish after they are caught.

As a final note, Born stated that the Executive Committee would meet in Vernon County, near the West Fork of the Kickapoo River, in September.

Thompson nominates new Board members

Governor Thompson has nominated two new members to the Natural Resources Board, the seven-member citizens body that governs operations of the Department of Natural Resources.

James Tiefenthaler, Jr., of Brookfield and Stephen Willett of Phillips were nominated for six-year terms that expire on May 1, 1997. If confirmed by the State Senate, they will replace Helen Jacobs of Milwaukee and Tom Lawin of Bloomer, respectively, on the Board.

Jacobs and Lawin were appointees of former governor Anthony Earl.

Tiefenthaler, 46, is founder and

president of the Tiefenthaler Machinery Company, Inc. His background includes serving on the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board, being a founding member of the Wisconsin Waterfowlers Association and sponsoring Ducks Unlimited. He also holds memberships in the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation and the Ruffed Grouse Society.

Willett, 44, is an attorney with Willett and Klein in Phillips. He is a member of the Wisconsin Judicial Council and serves on the Board of Directors of the Phillips Chamber of Commerce. He is also listed as a sponsor of Ducks Unlimited in Price County.

Great Lakes Task Force report

By Bob Estlund

In February of this year, representatives from T.U. Councils of states and Canadian provinces met in Chicago to discuss concerns about the Great Lakes ranging from water quality to the health of the salmonid fishery of those great bodies of water.

The "Great Lakes Task Force", then, is an ad hoc committee of Trout Unlimited members from the aforementioned areas. The Task force's goal is to address the importance of the Great Lakes as one of the most significant coldwater fisheries anywhere in the world.

Many T.U. members have enjoyed the wonderful fishing opportunities that exist in Lakes Michigan and Superior. Nowhere in Wisconsin can trophy trout of this size and abundance be taken with such regularity.

Not only are these opportunities available in the big lakes, but they are also to be had in many of the tributary streams flowing into the lakes that provide year-round fishing for anadromous species.

The Great Lakes are in trouble, however, and the Task Force wants to address these problems. Pollution is widespread, and is especially pronounced at the major ports dotting the Great Lakes. Many unwanted exotic

species like the sea lamprey and the zebra mussel have invaded the lakes, causing severe problems.

Many native species are extinct, or they are unable to maintain self-sustaining populations. The forage base for salmonids has changed drastically over the past decade, and stocking efforts among Great Lakes states and provinces are not coordinated.

Over-exploitation of the fishery exists in some areas that have self-sustaining steelhead populations. And the list goes on.

What the Task Force is requesting of the Wisconsin T.U. State Council is its support, so that the Task Force can become a viable body of Trout Unlimited. We feel it is high time for T.U. to become active in addressing the unique problems that exist in the Great Lakes.

Trout Unlimited is the most significant conservation organization in America with regard to the protection of the coldwater resource, and its goals of promoting and conserving trout fishing should include the largest bodies of trout water in the nation.

For further information about the Great Lakes Task Force, contact: Bob Estlund, 12007 Diane Drive, Wauwatosa, WI 53226, or call him at home at (414) 475-1864.

Fish collection facility gets approval

The Natural Resources Board has approved a memorandum of understanding with Salmon Unlimited of Racine, which plans to donate a \$250,000 fish collection and egg-take facility on Racine's Root River to the Department of Natural Resources.

Under the agreement, the DNR and the City of Racine will enter into a cooperative agreement allowing the Department to operate and maintain the facility on city land at Lincoln Park.

Salmon Unlimited noted that a project such as this, where a non-profit organization, a city government and a state agency have joined together to complete a project, has never been done before.

The primary objective will be to collect approximately 300 adult summer-run steelhead for use as brood stock each, 340,000 winter-run steelhead eggs annually and the same amount of spring-run steelhead eggs annually. The facility will assist in meeting Wisconsin's annual 2.5 million chinook salmon stocking quota by collecting and spawning up to 4,500 chinook per year. Up to 500 coho salmon will also be collected and spawned.

Completion of this project will mean that Wisconsin will no longer have to rely on other states to meet its steelhead stocking needs for Lake Michigan, and it will ensure the success of the state's steelhead program.

An educational area will also be part of the facility. From an observation platform, visitors will be able to see how adult fish and their eggs are collected. Viewing windows will show the movement of the fish entering the holding pond, and exhibits will show the life cycles, eating habits and migratory aspects of the fish in Lake Michigan.

For more information on the project, write to: Mike Grayson, 816 Ostergaard Avenue, Racine, WI 53406.

Hearings held on stream protection

Public comment was taken in late June and early July of this year on proposals by the Department of Natural Resources to give added protection from wastewater and municipal discharge to more than 250 high-quality state waters via expansion of the list of waters covered by the state's "anti-degradation" rules (Chapters 102 and 207, Wisconsin Administrative Code).

The "anti-degradation" rules, required by the 1987 reauthorized Clean Water Act, protect the quality of waters that already meet clean water standards.

Hearings were held June 24 (Ashland), June 25 (Rhinelander), June 26 (Manitowoc), July 1 (Eau Claire) and July 2 (Richland Center).

According to Ron Martin of the DNR's Bureau of Water Resources, the DNR is preparing a general response summary to all comments received at the public hearings and during the comment period. Because a number of complex issues involving some of the proposed waters on the list have been identified, DNR is attempting to sort out all the issues on those waters before returning to the Natural Resources Board with specific recommendations.

The Department has stated that it will provide to those who commented on the proposal a copy of the response summary being prepared by DNR staff prior to bringing the list to the Board.

To receive added protection authorized through the "anti-degradation" rules, high-quality lakes and streams

must be designated as either "Outstanding Resource Waters" (ORW) or "Exceptional Resource Waters" (ERW).

The rules currently restrict wastewater discharged into ORW or ERW waters from industrial and municipal sources. Effluent discharged into an ORW, for example, must be as clean as, or cleaner than, the stream receiving the wastewater.

ERW waters receive the same level of protection from new wastewater discharges, but existing industries or sewage treatment plants may increase their discharges into ERW waters if the discharges can be justified from a regional or socio-economic perspective. All current water quality standards would still have to be met in those cases.

Wetland wars continue at state and federal levels

Battles at state and federal levels to either expand existing wetland protection or maintain it have been in the forefront of conservation news of late. In Wisconsin, an attempt by state Senator Robert Jauch (D.-Poplar) to undercut the effectiveness of recently-enacted wetland water quality rules (administrative rule NR 103) via an amendment to the state budget bill was soundly beaten back by members of his

own party. Jauch's amendment would have permitted gaping loopholes in the rule by ordering the Department of Natural Resources to carry out any "mitigation" plan produced by applicants seeking to alter wetlands adjacent to navigable waters in the United States, among other things. With the Jauch amendment to the state budget having been defeated, NR 103, which was strongly supported by

state conservation groups (Trout Unlimited included) went into effect on Aug. 1st of this year. NR 103 was enacted via a unanimous vote of the Natural Resources Board in March. The rule establishes water quality standards for wetlands in accordance with requirements of the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA). The rule will allow the DNR to have veto authority insofar as water quality is concerned over wetland dredge-and-fill permits issued through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under Section 404 of the CWA.

James Sensenbrenner (R.-Shorewood)--have been evasive as to their intentions with regard to H. R. 1330 or H. R. 404. The two bills might be made moot, however, by some tawdry action by President George Bush, Vice-President Dan Quayle and White House Chief of Staff, John Sununu.

Capitulating to the demands of the agribusiness and real estate interests (and their campaign donations), Bush, the so-called "environmental President", has reversed his campaign pledge of "no-net-loss" of wetlands by pushing an administrative recodification of wetlands that are to be protected via Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

License, stamp fee increases approved

Despite making a record number of vetoes in many areas of the 1991-1993 biennial state budget, Governor Tommy Thompson approved all the fee increases sought by the Department of Natural Resources and his own administration for fishing and hunting licenses and special user stamps.

Thompson signed the Budget Bill in early August.

Beginning in 1992, anglers will see increases in all areas of fishing licenses and stamps, with the greatest jump coming in the costs of the Inland Trout Stamp and Great Lakes Trout & Salmon Stamp. Those two stamps will increase from their current prices of \$3.25 each to \$7.25 each, a 123 percent increase. The stamp price had last been raised in 1984.

A couple of new twists were added to the menu of fishing licenses that will be sold by the state.

The old Daily Sport Fishing License (\$6.00) has been replaced with a two-day fishing license (for both residents and non-residents) costing \$8.00 but good only for fishing in the Great Lakes (not their tributaries). Anyone wishing to fish inland waters and Great Lakes tributaries must purchase the proper resident or non-resident annual or fixed-number-of-days license.

Another more controversial change, and one that affects both fishing and hunting, is the elimination of the "Senior Citizen Recreation Card" for incoming senior citizens in favor of reduced-cost annual fishing and small-game hunting licenses for those who turn 65 on or after Jan. 1, 1992.

The budget requires that new senior citizens pay \$5.00 each annually for

those licenses, and it thus eliminates the exemptions for new seniors from buying either one of the Trout Stamps or the Wisconsin Waterfowl Stamp. Those turning 65 on or after Jan. 1, 1992, must now continue to buy Trout Stamps for trout fishing and Wisconsin Waterfowl Stamps for duck and goose hunting.

Those persons who turned 65 prior to Jan. 1, 1992, and who obtained their \$15 Senior Citizen Recreation Card before that date will be exempt from the new Senior Citizen license and stamp purchase requirements.

The Senior Citizen Recreation Card program--which provided those 65 and over with lifetime fishing, small game hunting and state park entrance privileges for a one-time \$15 charge--had been enacted in the late 1970's. Though well-intentioned, the program cost the state over \$22 million in lost license and stamp revenues and matching federal dollars from programs like the Dingell-Johnson Fund and the Pittman-Robertson Fund, which allotted excise taxes collected on various outdoor sporting equipment back to the states based upon numbers of licenses sold.

By not charging senior citizens annual license fees, the state thus reduced the number of licenses it could have sold each year and lost much revenue that could have gone toward conservation programs.

A complete listing of all license and stamp increases is given here, both for fishing and hunting. The increases in the hunting licenses take place in the fall of 1991, except as noted.

In the past, the DNR has waived any action on water quality standards for wetland fills, because it claimed it had no authority to do so. But prompting by many conservation groups and the office of Wisconsin Public Intervenor since 1984 finally got DNR to sit down and establish the long-overdue rules.

Factors that will determine whether a wetland fill receives approval include: 1) the "water dependency" of the project, 2) practical alternatives to the project that avoid wetland use, 3) maintenance of "functional values" of wetlands, and 4) cumulative impacts of the project.

Since the inception of NR 103 on Aug. 1, 1991, two wetland fill permits sought by applicants via the Section 404 permitting process have already been vetoed by DNR because of wetland water quality standards concerns.

That is the good news. The bad news is that, in order to implement the new program, Assembly Natural Resources Committee representative Thomas Seery (D.-Milwaukee) included a budget amendment for \$61,700 in General Public Revenue (GPR) in fiscal year 1992-1993 for three positions in DNR to carry out the workload. Governor Tommy Thompson vetoed all three positions.

Whether the Legislature has the political muscle or intelligence to override the veto remains to be seen.

On the Federal level, things are worse. Two bills in Congress (H. R. 1330 and H. R. 404) have been introduced that would radically re-define what a wetland is, remove from protection millions of acres of land (wetlands) currently under protection via Section 404 of the CWA and remove the veto power of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the Section 404 permitting process.

The bills, introduced by "good ol' boy" southern politicians from Louisiana and Arkansas, are a result of heavy lobbying by powerful interest groups on Capitol Hill, namely agribusiness and real estate interests.

An additional impetus for the legislation was the use of veto power by the EPA last year to put a halt to the infamous Two Forks Dam on the South Platte River in Colorado. When anti-environmental special interest groups were unable to proceed with this "pork-barrel" water project through current rules and regulations, they decided to work to "change the rules" instead.

H. R. 1330 currently has about 147 House of Representatives sponsors. While no Wisconsin Congressman has yet signed onto the bill, a couple of them--Toby Roth (R.-Appleton) and F.

Dismissal of the judgment used by a panel of scientific advisers that had previously defined what constitutes a "wetland", Bush and his people have ordered a change in wetlands definition to one that says that a "wetland" must have standing water on it for 15 consecutive days in a year in order to be a wetland.

The scientifically-determined definition for wetlands said that "wetlands" must be lands that have ponded water on them for a total of seven days. Further, there were additional requirements that certain hydrological features and surface vegetation be present to constitute a wetland under the scientific definition.

With the Bush proposal, those hydrological features and vegetation can be present on land, but those lands may no longer qualify as "wetlands".

Losers in this battle, should Bush's plan go through, will be, among others, trout anglers. Forest wetlands will receive a low priority rating on the scale being promoted to assess the "usefulness" of wetlands. Since forested wetlands are often ecosystems through which trout streams traverse, trout streams may suffer irreparable water quality damage because of development occurring along their banks that had been heretofore regulated by Section 404 of the CWA.

Other losers if Bush's plan or the Congressional bills gain approval will be small prairie potholes and "ephemeral" wetlands that provide critical staging and pairing places for waterfowl and non-game species.

A 60-day comment period on the proposed wetland definition changes by the Bush administration began in mid-August and will continue through mid-October. National conservation groups like Trout Unlimited, the National Wildlife Federation, Audubon Society and others are fighting this rule change and the Congressional bills.

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited urges its members and friends to send a short letter of opposition to the proposed definition changes that the Bush administration is proposing for wetlands. Letters should be mailed before Oct. 15 and sent to:

Mr. Gregory Peck
Chief, Wetlands Aquatic Resources
Regulatory Branch
Mail Code (A-104F)
U.S. EPA
401 "M" Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

FISHING LICENSE FEES (beginning 1/1/92)	New fee	Old fee
Resident annual individual	\$ 12.00	\$ 9.10
Resident husband & wife	20.00	15.60
Great Lakes two-day (replaces Daily Sport)	8.00	----
Senior Citizen annual	5.00	----
Nonresident annual individual	28.00	24.10
Nonresident family annual	48.00	41.60
Nonresident four-day individual	13.00	12.10
Trout Stamp (Inland)	7.25	3.25
Great Lakes Trout & Salmon Stamp	7.25	3.25
Conservation Patron	110.75	100.00
Sportsmen's	38.00	32.60
Resident small game	12.00	9.60
Resident deer (firearm)	18.00	15.35
Resident "bonus" deer	12.00	----
Resident bear (pursuit)	6.75	6.50
Resident bear (harvest)	29.25	25.00
Resident archery	18.00	15.60
Resident turkey (*) (replaces Turkey stamp)	8.00	----
Resident trapping	15.00	13.60
Waterfowl stamp	5.25	3.25
Senior Citizen Small game (starting 9-1-92)	5.00	----
Nonresident small game	70.00	66.60
Nonresident five-day small game	40.00	36.60
Nonresident deer	120.00	106.60
Nonresident bonus deer	20.00	----
Nonresident bear (pursuit)	21.75	21.60
Nonresident bear (harvest)	120.00	106.60
Nonresident archery	120.00	76.60
Nonresident turkey	50.00	----
Nonresident trapping	140.00	136.60
Permit application fee	3.00	----
Hunter's Choice deer	Fisher tag	
Otter tag	Goose (starting 1992)	
Bobcat tag	Turkey (starting 1992)	

LITTLE ARCHIBALD LAKE, private, secluded, restricted, virgin timber, EXCELLENT FISHING, all parcels over 1 1/2 acres, from \$18,000. ASK FOR MAP & PRICES.

CONTACT:

Mike Tebo
LAKWOOD REALTY
P.O. Box 188 - Lakewood, WI 54138
715-276-7676

Conservation Awards Banquet slated for Jan. 18

Mark your calendars now! The eighth Wisconsin State Council Trout Unlimited Conservation Awards Banquet is set for Saturday, Jan. 18, 1992, at the Paper Valley Hotel & Conference Center in downtown Appleton. The date had previously been announced as Jan. 25, but was changed due to a scheduling conflict with another event.

Cocktails will begin at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 7 p.m. Besides the usual assortment of door, raffle and auction items that will interest banquet-goers, there are several items that will draw special attention.

A drawing will be held for a two-night stay for two at the famed Seven Pines Lodge in Lewis, Wisconsin, in northern Polk County. Flowing through the Lodge's property is Knapp Creek, the site of the filming of the award-winning "Way of a Trout" movie produced for Trout Unlimited.

Fishing on the property is open year-round and is restricted to "catch-and-release" angling. Winner of the stay at

the Seven Pines Lodge will have the "President's Room" in the facility for his or her visit.

But that's not all the banquet has to offer. Through some judicious begging and buying, banquet organizers have come up with some outstanding limited edition art work that is no longer available from retail art galleries.

Among these prints are "Morning Solitude" and "Welcome to Paradise" by well-known Minnesota artist Terry Redlin. Also available will be "Reflections-Wolves" by Maine artist Persis Clayton-Weirs, who is a rising star among wildlife artists and whose specialty is painting scenes of timber wolves.

Many other prizes will be available, too. Fishing rods, firearms, tackle, equipment and you-name-it. Besides the prizes, there will be many old trout angling friends with whom you can renew acquaintances, plus others whom you'll want to meet and share an

evening of fun.

The State Council Banquet is a good chance to break up the winter doldrums as well as show support for the State Council's conservation activities. And, of course, it is a special time to give thanks and appreciation to those individuals and chapters who have been working hard to better the coldwater resources in Wisconsin.

Banquet tickets are \$25 each, and can be purchased by filling out the ticket order form below and mailing it in to the address indicated. Ticket orders postmarked by Jan. 4, 1992, will also allow the holders to be eligible for a special "Early Bird" drawing for one hundred dollars!

Contributions are also needed to make the banquet a success. Special Sponsors (\$200) and Sponsors (\$100) are encouraged. Individuals or businesses contributing cash or merchandise at the \$200 (or more) level will receive two (2) complimentary banquet tickets along with bold-faced listing on the

sponsor page of the banquet program. Sponsors (\$100) will receive one (1) complimentary ticket plus regular listing on the Sponsor page.

In addition, donations like customized flies, nets and other items will be appreciated. All cash donations should be sent to: Mitch Bent, 1282 Monterey Trail, De Pere, WI 54115 (checks should be payable to Trout Unlimited). His phone is (414) 336-4983.

Merchandise donations should be forwarded to: Jim Bereza, 710 McAllister Ave., Marinette, WI 54143 (phone: 715-735-5029).

Banquet attendees from the past two events will receive a ticket order form in the mail for convenience in ticket ordering.

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited looks forward to seeing you at this special event on Jan. 18, 1992, at the Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton. So, don't delay; order your tickets today!

Nominations for awards banquet due Dec. 1

A focal part of the State Council's Conservation Awards Banquet is the presentation of awards to individuals and T.U. chapters that have excelled in work protecting and restoring our coldwater resources. To do a proper job of honoring deserving individuals and chapters, the Council seeks input from its T.U. members.

Five categories of awards exist for people to make nominations. The nominations should be type-written, concise and provide sufficient background information for the Awards Committee to make a determination.

Nominations shall include the name, address and phone number of the person or group nominated for the award and the category for which that person or group is being nominated. All nomi-

nations must be in the hands of the Awards Committee by December 1, 1991.

Send all award nominations to: Lawrence Meicher, 2308 Cottage Grove Road, Cottage Grove, Wis. 53527. You may also call Meicher at (608) 839-4744.

The award categories and their descriptions are:

***Trout Unlimited AWARD of MERIT:** may be awarded to a member or non-member of the organization for outstanding contributions to conservation in the state. The award may be granted posthumously.

***Gold Trout Award for Service:** this award is presented to a T.U. member in good standing who is a past or present officer of the Wisconsin T.U.

State Council (Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer) who has performed a minimum of one year of service in that capacity;

***Gold Net Award:** presented to a T.U. member in good standing who has participated in at least one major fundraising event for the Council or chapter, and who has attended and worked in at least five trout habitat improvement projects in the past five years;

***Silver Trout Award:** presented to the Wisconsin T.U. Chapter of Merit for contributing to the restoration or enhancement of the coldwater resources of Wisconsin. Project value must total at least \$3,500 for consideration, and be carried out on public--not private--waters. The project(s) must demonstrate a long-term commitment

to the benefit of the resource;

***Certificate of Appreciation:** presented for a variety of work either directly or indirectly related to the resource. May be presented to a resource agency professional, landowner, educator, media representative, contributor of equipment or funds, etc. May also be presented to a related conservation organization (sportsmen's club, etc.)

The Council strongly urges its members to consider worthy persons or groups for nomination for these awards, as there are many deserving individuals and organizations in the state that should be recognized for their efforts.

Again, nomination deadline is Dec. 1, 1991.



WISCONSIN TROUT UNLIMITED 8th CONSERVATION AWARDS BANQUET SATURDAY, JAN. 18, 1992



At the Paper Valley Hotel & Conference Center
333 W. College Ave. - Appleton, WI

PRIZES! RAFFLES! AUCTIONS! FUN!

Cocktails & Hors d'oeuvres - 5:30 p.m. Dinner 7 p.m.
Come Join Us for an Evening of Fun, Fellowship
And Dedication to the Coldwater Resources of Wisconsin

All Ticket Orders
Postmarked by Jan. 4, 1992,
Will be Eligible for
"EARLY BIRD" Drawing
(\$100.00)

TICKET PRICE:
\$25.00

Mail Check and
Order Form to:
TROUT UNLIMITED
1282 Monterey Trail
DePere, WI 54115
or Call Mitch Bent
(414) 336-4983
(Make All Checks Payable
To Trout Unlimited)

(CLIP OUT AND MAIL TODAY)

YES! I WANT TO ATTEND THE 8th WISCONSIN
TROUT UNLIMITED CONSERVATION AWARDS BANQUET.

Enclosed is a Check in the Amount of _____
For _____ Tickets at \$25.00 Each

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____