

RETURN:  
Trout Unlimited  
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# Wisconsin Trout

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited

Winter 1992

## Political cronyism charged

# Senate panel rejects Resource Board nominees

In mid-October, 1991, the Wisconsin Senate committee on Urban Affairs, Environmental Resources and Elections rejected the nominations of **Stephen D. Dillett**, 44, of Phillips, and **James E. Tiefenthaler, Jr.**, 46, of Brookfield, to the Natural Resources Board, the citizens' board that governs operations of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Willett is the city attorney for Phillips, and Tiefenthaler is president of Tiefenthaler Machine Company. They were nominated to replace **Tom Lawin** of Bloomer and **Helen Jacobs** of Milwaukee, respectively. Lawin and Jacobs were appointees of former governor Anthony Earl.

The vote to reject in the committee was along party lines, with four Democrats voting to reject and two Republicans voting to approve the nominations. Willett and Tiefenthaler are Republicans, as is Governor Tommy Thompson, who made the nominations.

Democrats on the committee, chaired by Madison state senator **Charles Chvala**, stated that they rejected the two nominees because it would continue Thompson's record of appointing only "pro-industry" persons to the Natural Resources Board.

Republicans, on the other hand, supported the nominees and claimed that Democrats rejected them for political reasons.

Charges of cronyism were leveled at the nominations, because Tiefenthaler and Willett have both contributed significantly to Thompson's campaign

fund. Tiefenthaler has contributed \$1,300 to that fund since 1986, and Willett has donated \$1,000 since 1987, including a \$500 contribution in June of 1990.

That situation is not a rarity, though, among NRB nominees. Former NRB member John Brogan of Green Bay had been a heavy contributor to former governor Anthony Earl's 1982 campaign, and he was later appointed to the Board by Earl to fill out the unexpired term of Joseph Decker of Green Bay who died during his term on the NRB.

Of perhaps more important concern over the nominations is the fact that attorney Willett has represented at least three polluting companies in separate cases brought before the state Department of Justice, according to court records.

In 1983, Willett represented Phillips Plating, a metals coating facility. The firm was convicted of 20 criminal counts and fined \$23,000 for intentionally passing polluted waste water around monitoring devices on the Elk River in the Flambeau Flowage watershed.

That case also saw company president William Bararka fined \$11,500 and placed on two years probation.

Willett also represented Phillips Plastics, a Medford-based company that produces plastic knobs and dials. The company was convicted and fined \$30,800 in 1983 for illegally discharging wastewater into the Black River.

And, in 1981, Willett defended Catawba Cheese of Phillips. That com-

pany paid a \$3,920 fine for discharging pollutants into the Elk River.

Committee Chairman Chvala defended the committee's position by saying, "I think the discussion is not so much about the individuals as it is about the makeup of the Board. the governor can still have his majority (Thompson already has five of the seven NRB positions filled by his appointments), but there has to be some diversity."

Recent actions by the NRB on some environmental rules were another reason given as cause for concern of overloading the Board with business-oriented people.

In September, the NRB rejected by a 4-3 margin a DNR staff recommendation on tougher air emission regulations for paper companies, and in June the Board voted to have the state consider mining on some state-owned lands.

The committee vote does not sink the nominations, however. The full Senate must vote yet, and Chvala said it was unclear whether the appointees would have a tough time gaining Senate approval.

Both Willett and Tiefenthaler have defended themselves as being concerned for the environment. Tiefen-

thaler served on the Lower Wisconsin River Board--as an appointee of Thompson--and Willett claimed that the city of Phillips has set up zoning laws, a wetland protection ordinance and a water protection ordinance since he was elected city attorney in 1977.

Full Senate consideration of these NRB appointments will occur when the Senate returns to work in January. Until a decision is made, Lawin and Jacobs continue to serve on the NRB. Those posts were to have been filled by May 1, 1991. These particular NRB seats will have terms expiring on May 1, 1997, regardless of when confirmation of individuals takes place.

### Another new Board member

In a related matter, the Wisconsin Senate approved the nomination of **Mary Jane Nelson**, a bank branch manager in Holmen, by governor Thompson to serve on the Natural Resources Board. She replaces **Connie Pukaite** of Mequon, who resigned her post in October, 1991, due to a job change.

Pukaite had also been a Thompson appointee.

Nelson operates a dairy farm with her husband. Her term will expire in May, 1995.

## Claggett to address State Council meeting

# Early season, special regs among topics to be discussed

Department of Natural Resources Trout Specialist **Larry Claggett** will be the headline speaker at the annual Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited Annual Meeting on Saturday, Jan. 18, 1992, at the Paper Valley Hotel & Conference Center in Appleton.

Claggett will inform meeting attendees of the many trout-related issues facing the Department at the moment, including: effects of 1980's drought on trout; current status of trout fisheries

statewide; the past, present and future of special regulations in Wisconsin and around the United States; the fate of the early trout season; and, why trout stocking is not working in Wisconsin and what we intend to do about it.

The trout topics should interest a wide array of trout anglers, and all TU'ers and interested trout anglers are welcome to attend Claggett's presentation, which will begin at about 2:30 p.m.

# State Council meeting, elections to be held Jan. 18

The Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited will be held on Saturday, Jan. 18, 1992, at the Paper Valley Hotel and Conference Center in downtown Appleton. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. sharp, and will feature a full agenda of business including committee and Regional reports, fund-raising activities, by-law revisions and adoption of the 1992 Budget.

Elections will also be held for the

following posts: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Elected National Director. Nominations for those positions may be submitted to **Dick Kraus**, 174 Ripon Road, Berlin, WI 54923 (414-361-3823).

The eighth Wisconsin T.U. Conservation Awards and Fund-raising Banquet will also be held later that day at the Paper Valley. See separate article on the back page for more information.

# Fees increase Jan. 1

As a reminder to anglers and sports-persons, the fees for fishing licenses and Trout Stamps will increase starting the first of 1992.

Both the Inland and the Great Lakes Trout and Salmon stamps will increase from \$3.25 to \$7.25. Resident fishing licenses will go from \$9.10 to \$12.00, and non-resident annual licenses will rise from \$24.10 to \$28.00.

Also, as of Jan. 1, 1992, those 65 and older may no longer obtain "Senior Citizen" Recreation cards for a one-

time charge that allows free fishing, small game hunting and entrance to state parks. As of the New Year, those turning 65 must buy annual fishing licenses, though at a reduced price of \$5.00.

And, those turning 65 in the future are no longer exempt from having trout stamps in possession while trout fishing. Those seniors who already have their Senior Citizen Recreation Cards prior to the New Year do not have to buy the licenses and stamps.

# Early, regular trout season will open

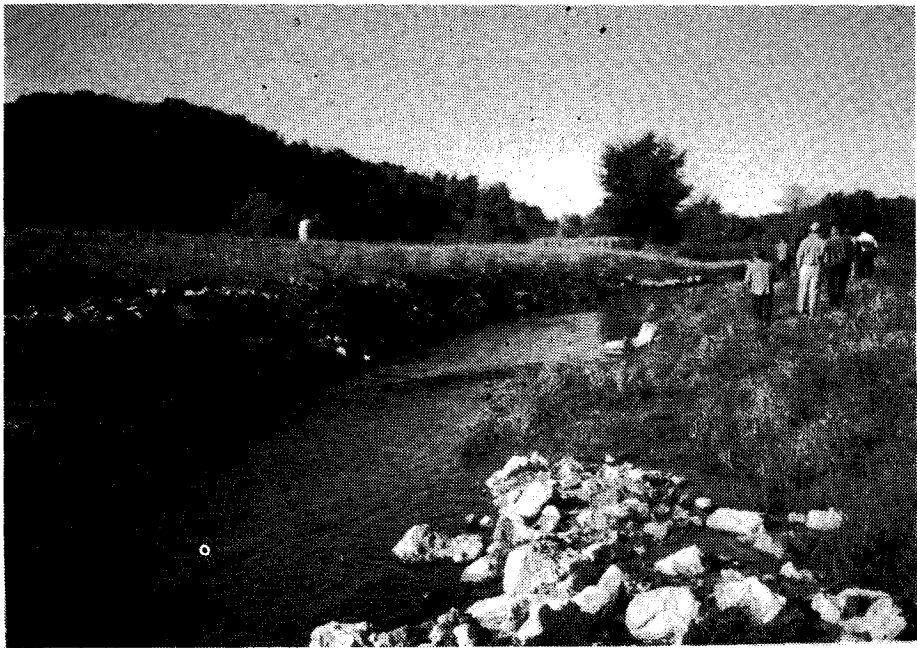
With the drought of the late 1980's officially over, and with both surface water and groundwater levels back to normal, the department of Natural Resources fisheries staff has decided to "return to normal" as far as inland trout angling goes in 1992.

The "early" trout season in the eight southwestern Wisconsin counties of **Columbia, Crawford, Grant, Green, Iowa, Lafayette, Richland** and **Sauk** will open on Jan. 1, 1992, and run through Sept. 30. The remainder of the state's inland trout waters will be open to trout fishing at 5 a.m. on Saturday, May 2, and also run through Sept. 30.

All areas of the state open to trout fishing will be governed by the five-

category inland trout fishing regulations that have been in effect since 1990.

According to **Larry Claggett**, DNR trout fishery specialist for the DNR's Bureau of Fisheries Management, good rainfall the past two years has helped replenish groundwater, and the absence of harvest on trout in areas that were closed or restricted to "no-kill" fishing has helped provide two year classes of trout in most streams. Fish management is now confident that the trout fishery can withstand angling pressure, and will thus allow the emergency order restricting trout angling in southwestern and northeastern Wisconsin to end.



Wisconsin TU Executive Committee toured West Fork Kickapoo River (Vernon County) in late September, 1991.

## State Executive Committee meeting

The Wisconsin T.U. Executive Committee met on Saturday, Sept. 28, 1991, at the West Fork Sportsmen's Club in Avalanche (Vernon County).

The Executive Committee (E.C.) went over such items as the "Friends of Wisconsin T.U." program and a "Planned Giving" concept for T.U. members to include Wisconsin Trout Unlimited in their wills.

Council Chairman Steve Born and Midwest Regional Vice-President Dick Wachowski discussed such topics as the streamlining of the T.U. National office and the new requirement by National for strict adherence to the March 15 deadline for receipt of Financial Statements from chapters and State Councils.

Wachowski then introduced the new Midwest Regional Vice-President, Dave Fass, from Minnesota.

Discussion ensued on chapter development in the Stevens Point area, with state Central Regional V-P Jim Hlaban stating that there was a need for volunteers to come forth in order for the chapter proposed for Stevens Point to get going.

Southern Regional V-P Webb Kennedy reported plans for re-vitalizing the Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter and a project on the Mukwonago River.

The E.C. gave unanimous approval to an expenditure of \$750 from the "Friends of Wisconsin T.U." program for purchase of a Ryan Temperature Monitor for the 205J stormwater project being undertaken by the Kiap-TU-Wish T.U. Chapter on the Kinnickinnic River where it flows through the city of River Falls.

Born then updated E.C. members on state and federal legislation issues. At the state level, the most important bill was SB 281, a non-point pollution con-

trol bill designed to keep "cows out of streams" and deal with urban stormwater management.

Other state issues touched upon were: clearcutting in the Brule River State Forest; the opening of the "early trout season" in eight southwestern Wisconsin counties, and involvement of the Ojibseau T.U. chapter with Eau Claire city officials regarding proposed development south of the city along Lowes Creek.

Hlaban also made note of the fact that additional training use at Fort McCoy will likely expand track movements that would impact the coldwater resources of that area.

Born stated that he hoped to put together a conclave of chapter newsletter editors at the spring/summer State Council meeting to exchange ideas for newsletter communication between, within and among chapters.

The State Council's "Regional" concept was then discussed, with talk focusing on the idea that the concept may have worked to the detriment of the State Council. The concept has taken hold well only in the Northeast Region, and the focus on Regional meetings has undermined attendance at Council meetings.

And, limiting the number of yearly Council meetings to two has resulted in overloaded agendas at those meetings. The consensus of the group was to schedule three Council meetings per year while still retaining the Regional structure.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m., after which the West Fork Sportsmen's Club prepared a barbeque steak dinner for E.C. members and guests. A tour of the club's habitat improvement work on the West Fork of the Kickapoo River was also given.

## Volunteers needed

Wisconsin T.U. Council Chairman Steve Born is looking for a few good people to volunteer some of their time to assist the State Council in some important areas. Those are

**Needed--Chairperson for a Youth Education Committee.** Tasks would include inventorying the array of exciting youth-related projects being undertaken by chapters so that we can tell our story at the state and national levels. Depending upon time and ability, persons can also assist chapters with organizing and coordinating activities related to youth education. A real opportunity for somebody who cares

about the future of trout fishing and the resource!

**Needed--Volunteer(s) to help develop and execute a "Friends of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited" fund-raising effort aimed at getting sustained business and corporate support for Wisconsin T.U. work to protect and restore the state's coldwater resources. Should not be too time-consuming and has the potential to dramatically provide more "Clout for Trout".**

If you are interested in volunteering for either of these roles, or simply wish to learn more about them, contact Steve Born at 608-257-6625.

## From the Chairman

By Steve Born

As the year 1991 comes to a close, Wisconsin Trout Unlimited can take great pride in the conservation accomplishments of its chapters and State Council during the past 12 months.

Chapters have carried out their customary roles as "grass-roots" protectors and enhancers of the coldwater resource through thousands of dollars and hundreds of volunteer hours spent on resource work.

The State Council has played a prominent role in its area of responsibility, too. It has worked with various groups to enact administrative rules strengthening water quality standards for wetlands, and it has coordinated efforts with local chapters to monitor the relicensing of hydropower projects by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on several of the state's better-known trout streams.

And, along with the revitalized leadership of the T.U. National staff, the State Council has taken a strong stand with Wisconsin's Congressional delegation on national legislation impacting coldwater resources.

In short, it's been a year of championing the interests of trout and the environs in which they live.

Much of our success in Wisconsin comes because of the fine cadre of fishery and environmental professionals in state agencies who work on behalf of the resource. These are the experts with whom we have a fine working relationship, and whom we depend upon for scientific knowledge and advice for our many habitat and watershed projects, as well as for policy issues affecting coldwater resources.

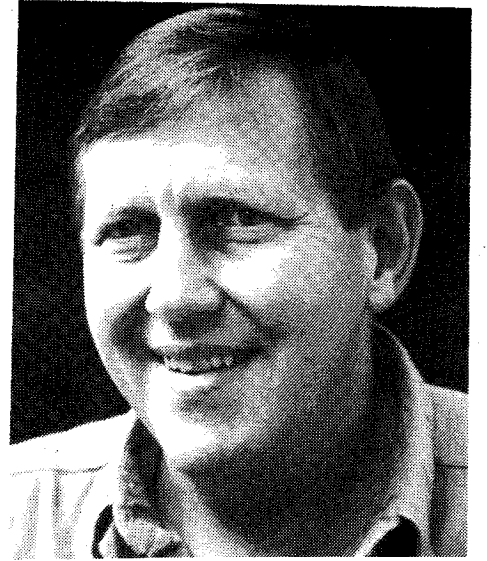
Sometimes, though, these "experts" can be guilty of telling you more than they know! In the biological and environmental sciences, there are many areas where a sound scientific data base or a reliable predictive model do not exist. In these circumstances, we ask the experts for their best "professional judgment".

It is critical for us to know where the biological science ends and experienced judgment begins, though.

As anglers, we all possess strongly-held opinions about the condition of the trout resource and about swarms of related issues such as the early trout season, length and timing of the general season, angling techniques and fish mortality rates, harvest regulations, "catch-and-release" fishing and the impacts of predators and dam-building beavers on the resource.

And discussions of those topics often become heated and personal.

What we need to know is what data and research actually exist on these issues, and how the data/research have been interpreted. We also need to know if more research is necessary to better answer these questions, and if we are undertaking enough research with suf-



Steve Born

-BRENT NICASTRO PHOTO

ficient lead time to make proper management decisions.

Where do the knowledge and experience of the "expert" no longer provide clear directions for taking action? When does the personal viewpoint come in from anglers who--although not trained "experts"--have many seasons of stream observation and experience under their belts?

After all, don't we all consider ourselves "experts" of sorts as a result of what we've personally seen and felt? What decisions cannot be based on biological and environmental science alone, but instead must consider human attitudes, values and perceptions?


I believe these are critical questions we need to think about as T.U. and other conservation organizations, working with agency resource professionals, grapple with the many complex and controversial issues we are facing.

With that in mind, I've asked Larry Claggett--Department of Natural Resources Coldwater Fisheries Specialist--to attend our State Council Annual Meeting in Appleton to present the facts as known with regard to many of these contentious issues, particularly the early trout season. Ample agenda time has been allotted for a full and Constructive discussion of these topics.

Why not plan on attending the meeting, voicing your opinion and listening to those of others? It will be a good time to find out what is really known about these issues.


The ultimate benefactors of such interaction are our "clients"--the trout of Wisconsin. We want to see the state agencies and conservation constituencies--like T.U.--make the best decisions possible for them!

So, with that in mind and in keeping with the Holiday Season, let me wish the trout of Wisconsin a wonderful and re-productive winter season and the healthiest of environments in 1992 on behalf of all T.U.ers in the state. And, Happy New Year to all of you who look forward to enjoying our splendid trout resource in the coming year!



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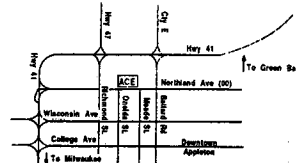
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## Letters to the Editor

### What about Chuck Mitchell?

Dear Editor,

On page 4 of the Fall, 1991, issue of *Wisconsin Trout* was an excellent article on Frank Mittelstadt, the double winner for entries in the 1992 Wisconsin Inland Trout and Great Lakes Trout and Salmon stamp contests.

Also listed as previous double winners were Sam Timm and Scott Zoellick. Unfortunately, you missed the fact that **Chuck Mitchell** was the 1990 contest double winner!

Sincerely,  
Vern & Jeanne Lunde  
2491 Hwy. 92  
Mt. Horeb, WI 53572

Ed. note: *Wisconsin Trout* extends its sincerest apologies to Chuck for that oversight. He has produced some exceptional pieces for not only Wisconsin's stamp design contests but also for other states as well. Sometimes (?) the editor writes before reading. Again, our apologies to Chuck Mitchell!!

### Thanks from Kiap-TU-Wish

Dear Editor,

I and the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of Trout Unlimited would like to thank the Wisconsin T.U. State Council for donating \$750 from the "friends of Wisconsin T.U." fund to sponsor one of our Ryan Temperature Monitors. As you probably know, we are a small but active chapter with limited financial

resources, and we greatly appreciate the State Council's support in our 250J Project.

Thanks for the help!

Sincerely,  
Andy Lamberson, President  
Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter T.U.  
P.O. Box 483  
Hudson, WI 54016

### Likes Nelson article

Dear Editor,

Thank you for the article on **John Nelson** and Nichols Creek. John is one of the finest DNR fish managers around and a fine guy to work with.

By the way, the beginning of the

North Branch of the Milwaukee River is at the outlet of Lake Ellen, not as stated in the article.

Sincerely,  
Tom Buettner  
2404 North Avenue  
Sheboygan, WI 53083

## Green Bay Chapter involved in dam relicensing

By Winston Ostrow

The Green Bay Chapter, with assistance from the State Council and National, has requested information regarding current hydroelectric project relicensing efforts from Wisconsin Public Service Corporation (WPS), Wisconsin Electric Power Company (WEPCO) and Niagara Paper Company. Six WPS dams on the Peshtigo River, as well as WEPCO's Pine River facility and Niagara Paper's Menomonee River dam are involved. They are among the approximately 175 hydroelectric projects across the country seeking relicensing by the Federal

Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in 1993.

The complex relicensing process begins years before the actual relicensing date. Since 1986, FERC has been required to give equal weight to power generation and environmental considerations. Involvement of agencies such as DNR is mandatory. The public, including TU, has limited windows of opportunity to become involved. The Green Bay Chapter has taken the first steps toward involvement by requesting copies of applications and notices. The Chapter may choose to assert a

position in the proceedings after reviewing the information.

The regulation of water flows is a major concern. By storing water in impoundments, utilities may delay generation of electricity until periods of peak demand, allowing them to secure higher prices for the electricity generated. Permitted flows in the same river may vary, for example, from 50 cubic feet per second (CFS) to 1,500 CFS. The resulting peaking flows scour the river bed, to the detriment of aquatic plants, invertebrates and fish as well as to the discomfort and endangerment

of fishermen. Subsequent periods of dewatering may also impair the resource.

Run of the River proposals would require use of water for power generation to correspond to the amount of water flowing into the system. The same amount of power could be generated, but the utilities would no longer delay electricity generation to the more profitable peak demand periods.

More information about the FERC relicensing process may be obtained from the last issue of *Trout* magazine.

## Tips on releasing trout

By Jim Hlaban

With the concept of "catch-and-release" fishing being applied to more and more of our Wisconsin trout waters--either by personal choice or by Department of Natural Resources edict--it is incumbent upon those who attempt to practice "catch-and-release" trout fishing to do so properly.

Part of the scenario of "catch-and-release" is the actual **playing** of the trout while it is hooked. It is important--especially during times of the year when water temperatures are warmer--to play the trout only long enough to land it. Stretching out the playing time may seem fun to the angler, but it can be so stressful to the trout that it might not survive after being released.

Use of a landing net will make handling the fish much easier, too, and facilitate a quicker release back into the water from whence it came.

When unhooking the fish, anglers are advised to wet their hands before touching the fish, so as to minimize the removal of the protective "slime coating" on trout. It is also important to remember to hold the trout gently, not squeezing it too hard and avoiding any touching of the gills.

Holding the fish in a "belly-up" fashion will make the unhooking process easier, too, because the trout are less apt to squirm and wiggle when held that way.

If the hook has been taken too deeply by the fish to allow easy and quick removal, it is better to **cut the line** as close to the hook as possible.

In all instances of practicing "catch-and-release" trout fishing, it is paramount that released fish be "revived" prior to final release. That means holding the trout steady in the water after it has been unhooked and allowing the

fish to regain some of its strength and faculties before having to fend for itself in the current.

A played-out trout that is automatically released into a swift current, or even into a stillwater pond, may end up dying because it was not given the time to "set itself straight".

A few facts about "catch-and-release" trout fishing might be of interest to our T.U. members:

\*About 75 percent of all trout released after being caught with live bait survive, and this percentage could be much higher if lines were cut on deeply-hooked fish;

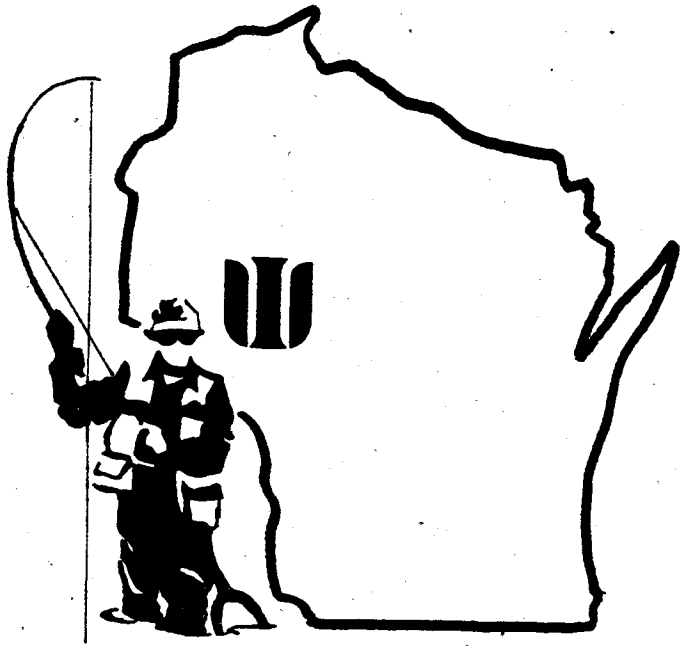
\*Roughly 94 percent of all trout released after being caught on spinners, spoons and lures survive. There is no advantage to using single hooks instead of treble hooks, as single hooks may often be swallowed more deeply than treble hooks, and more often, thus doing more damage;

\*Close to 96 percent of all trout released after being caught on flies survive. Barbless hooks do not seem to improve survival rates compared to barbed hooks; the key factor seems to be how deeply-hooked the trout is;

\*Other stresses reduce the number of trout that survive release, including water temperature, flooding and lack of food;

\*Smaller trout are actually more likely to survive release than larger trout, because they are not as likely to take the hook deeply.

Keeping these facts in mind will play a big part in the successful release of trout once you've caught and landed them. And releasing trout will pay off in the future for the trout anglers of Wisconsin, with the dividend being more and bigger trout in our streams and ponds.



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Green Bay, WI 54313

**Mitch Bent, Treasurer**  
1282 Monterey Trail  
DePere, WI 54115

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# "Friends of Wisconsin T.U." program continues

The very successful "Friends of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited" program put together two years ago by John Cantwell continues to provide strong financial support for the Council's involvement in areas pertaining to coldwater resource conservation.

Renewal rate for first-year contributors to the "Friends" program was an outstanding 91 percent! In addition, the program added 19 new members to the "Friends" group during the year, and our total number of "Friends now stands at 49.

What have our "Friends" been able to do for T.U. and the coldwater resource?

During the year, the State Council Executive Committee appropriated \$4,250 of net proceeds from the "Friends" program to four deserving projects. The most recent contribution was a \$750 donation to the Kiap-TU-Wish T.U. Chapter in Hudson, WI, to sponsor one of five special stream temperature monitors that the chapter has committed to buy in order to keep an eye on the thermal impacts of stormwater runoff into the well-known Kinnickinnic River where it flows through River Falls in Pierce County.

Additionally, the "Friends" program has helped fund habitat improvement work on the West Fork of the Kickapoo River in Vernon County and on Black Earth Creek in Dane County, as well as the dredging of Saul Spring Pond in Langlade County.

The "Friends" program seeks to apply financial support to worthy efforts in the areas of trout habitat improvement, coldwater resource research and conservation education that have benefits or implications of a statewide nature.

If you or your chapter know of any such worthy projects, you are invited to contact Council Chairman Steve Born at (608) 257-6625, or write to him at 424 Washburn Place, Madison, WI 53703.

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited invites its membership to consider becoming a "Friend of Wisconsin T.U." With your donation of \$100 to the "Friends" program, you will receive a "Friends of Wisconsin T.U." lapel pin, a certificate of appreciation suitable for fram-

ing and listing of your name among all Wisconsin T.U.'s "Friends" in four subsequent editions of Wisconsin Trout.

Start out the New Year right by becoming a "Friend of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited"! Wisconsin Trout Unlimited and the state's coldwater resources will be most grateful!

## "FRIENDS OF WISCONSIN TROUT UNLIMITED"

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| Fred Young            | Roscoe, IL       |

\*Note: (N)=new "Friend" since last issue of Wisconsin Trout  
(R)=renewed "Friend" since last issue of Wisconsin Trout



Central Wisconsin TU'ers place sand bags inside bank deflectors in the Tomorrow River to wash sediment out of stream.

# Cooperative effort on the Tomorrow River

By Russ Bouck

The removal of the Nelsonville Dam on the Tomorrow River in Portage County in the late 1980's has helped restore a section of prime trout water into its natural state. However, continuing efforts will be needed from the Department of Natural Resources, groups like Trout Unlimited and concerned citizens in the future to maintain this special resource.

Since the dam has been removed, members of the Central Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited noticed that sand and silt had migrated down stream from the damsite, having an adverse effect on certain sections of the stream between Nelsonville and Amherst Pond. Deep pools were lost, gravel spawning areas had silted in and wide shallow flats had been created.

Central Wisconsin T.U. invited Jack Zimmerman, DNR Area fish manager in Wisconsin Rapids, to a chapter directors' meeting in early summer of 1991 to discuss concerns over the problems and to put together a plan of action to address them. Shortly thereafter, a Central Wisconsin T.U. delegation met with Zimmerman and other DNR personnel in Nelsonville, and they waded the stream to inspect the situation.

A program of stream improvement was discussed and mapped out, and shortly thereafter DNR fisheries technician Dave Paynter and his crew spent a day on the Tomorrow below Nelsonville installing tree trunk deflectors, sandbagging them, placing brush bundles and sodding structures. Members of Central Wisconsin T.U.'s board of directors worked along with the

DNR to learn the proper techniques for placing such structures.

The chapter entered into the necessary agreements to do stream work, and they obtained the permits from the DNR to continue the stream improvement work. On Oct. 26, a crew composed of T.U. members from the Central Wisconsin and Fox Valley T.U. chapters and students from the UW-Stevens Point College of Natural Resources braved rain and cold to continue work begun by the DNR.

Four additional deflectors were installed and sandbagged, and brush bundles were strategically placed. A recent inspection of the area showed a drastic improvement in stream depth and bottom composition. With more time and work, this section of the Tomorrow River will continue to improve and benefit from the removal of the Nelsonville Dam.

Central Wisconsin T.U. has scheduled two future workdays on this stretch of river, June 20 and July 18, 1992. The chapter is extending an open invitation to anyone interested in this project to join them on one or both dates. Additional information as to time and exact location of the workdays can be had by contacting Russ Bouck, Box 56, Amherst Junction, WI 54407.

The Central Wisconsin T.U. Chapter would like to take this opportunity to thank the DNR, in particular Jack Zimmerman and Dave Paynter, for their prompt efforts and advice. Fox Valley T.U.'ers and UW-Stevens Point students are also to be commended for joining with us in this project, and special thanks go to Jerry Raddatz of Nelsonville for all his help and generosity.

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# DNR fish manager profile: George Boronow

Fisheries managers who work with the inland trout waters of Wisconsin have plenty of challenges to deal with, such as beaver control, non-point pollution, livestock damage to streambanks and more.

But those who deal with the coldwater fishery of the Great Lakes have an entirely different array of obstacles that they must face. Chemical contamination, exotic species introduction and commercial fishing interests look these fish managers in the eye every day.

And one such fish manager who has faced these tasks in a professional and successful manner is **George Boronow**, the focus of this issue's DNR Fish Manager profile.

The 41-year-old Boronow was born in New York City and graduated from Verona High School in New Jersey. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology from Maryville (Tennessee) College in 1972, and he was awarded a Master of Science degree in Zoology from the University of Tennessee (Knoxville) in 1975.

Following work as a fisheries biologist with the environmental consulting firm of Camp, Dresser & McKee, Inc., from 1975-1979, Boronow signed on with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in 1979 as the Inland Fisheries Manager in the Southeast District for Kenosha, Racine and Walworth counties. During this time, George chaired the Southeast District Committee on Public Access to Lakes and Streams, among his many duties.

In 1986, Boronow was elevated to his present position of supervisor for the Lake Michigan Work Unit of the DNR. He chairs the Chinook Salmon Technical Committee, Lake Michigan Committee, under the Great Lakes Fishery Commission to review past and future needs of the Lake Michigan fishery. He was also the manager for the planning and construction of the Kewaunee River Anadromous Fish Facility (see separate article) which opened earlier this year.

In his position as supervisor for the Lake Michigan Work Unit, Boronow took time to review some of the efforts and programs that he has been involved with.

"I'm proud to say that I supervise a crack team of five professional fisheries biologists, nine technicians and one clerical assistant at four field stations along Lake Michigan, Green Bay and the inland waters of Brown, Door, Kewaunee and Manitowoc counties," Boronow said. "Our work involves management of the large Lake Michigan fishery, including the commercial fishery, which covers administration, species populations and incidental kill of sport fish."

"In the past," he continued, "we've had to deal with the fall snagging of anadromous runs of Great Lakes salmonids. The snagging produced many problems with sportsmanship, as the activity was harvest-only oriented. We were able to change the emphasis to conventional angling and ban snagging, with the result a better fishery and a better image for the angler."

Currently, Boronow's focus is somewhat different from that of the past.

"We are trying to rejuvenate the steelhead fishery and maximize stream angling opportunities with summer, fall, winter and spring runs in the streams," he noted. "We are also developing wild broods of fish which, along with developing Wisconsin brood fish for coho, resulted in the requirement that we build a facility (Kewaunee River Anadromous Fish Facility) to capture wild fish for spawn."

"And," he added, "we are working hard to investigate the decline and health of the chinook salmon fishery in Lake Michigan."

In the future, Boronow wants to develop adult steelhead holding habitat in streams to increase the number of fishing areas.

"Right now," he says, "many of our rivers have long, flat runs which do not hold fish. Thus, the fish concentrate in a few locations, drawing hordes of anglers and reducing the aesthetic experience of angling."

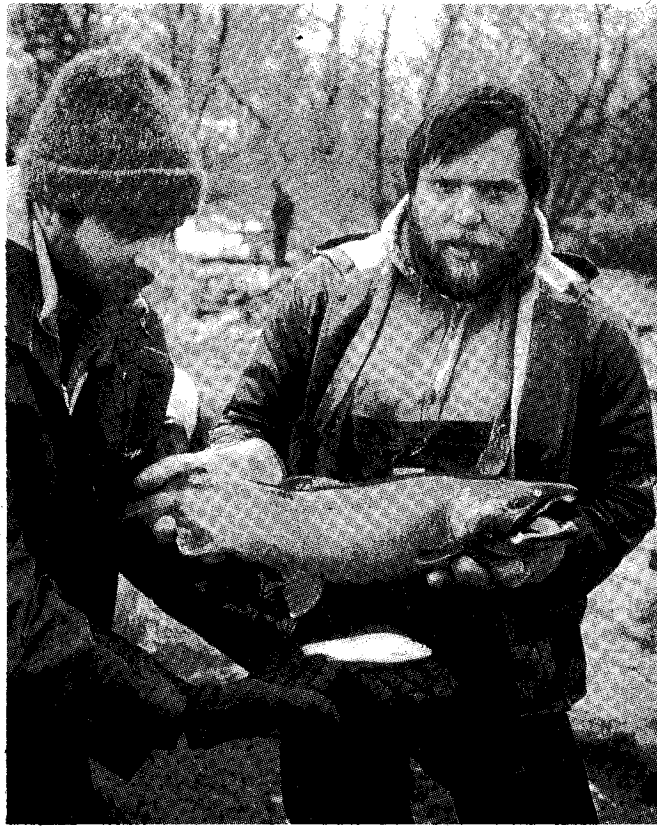
George also notes that he has intentions of seeing handicapped-accessible stream bank fishing locations established on Lake Michigan tributaries to allow the less fortunate to have the unique opportunity to stream fish for large salmonids. One such site is planned for a prime location on the Kewaunee River.

Besides dealing with the anadromous runs of salmonids in Lake Michigan, Boronow also has other important projects in mind.

"We're conducting a number of projects in Lake Michigan," he states. "We want to see if we can restore reproducing populations of lake trout in Lake Michigan, and we're experimenting with the Seeforellen strain of brown trout. That brown trout strain has the characteristics for being beneficial to the 'big lake'."

"It matures one year later than other brown trout strains," Boronow points out, "and it may therefore grow to a larger size. The strain spawns in autumn, so it should feed actively through August and September, and provide a better late-season fishery."

When George is not up to his ears in professional assignments, he is spending time with his wife Lynne and children Seth (6), Caitlyn (4) and Melanie



George Boronow

(2). He also loves to hunt fish and camp, and he's involved in such groups as the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (secretary-treasurer) and the Wednesday Breakfast Optimist Club of Green Bay.

Like any good fish manager, George Boronow does not dwell long on past successes, but looks to solve current problems.

"I have a deep concern over the health of the chinook salmon fishery," he says. "We have a changing forage base in Lake Michigan that may be related to over-predation by the large number of chinooks that had previously gorged themselves on alewives. Forage species like bloater chubs are now abundant, but alewives have declined, and perhaps the larger chinooks are

preying on their smaller stocked brethren."

"Too," Boronow notes, "micro-contaminants like PCBs in the edible portions of fish are at high levels in the larger sizes of some of the salmonid species. We need to learn more about the PCB health-hazard, the toxicity of PCB congeners and which congeners are present in fish."

The task facing the Wisconsin DNR fish managers who work with the Great Lakes is an enormous one, indeed. But thanks to hard-working and dedicated individuals like **George Boronow**, those problems will be overcome. And the trout and trout anglers of the "big lake" will be the ultimate beneficiaries.

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# Wisconsin Trout Unlimited

**Aldo Leopold**  
No report

## Antigo Chapter

On Sept. 21, 1991, Antigo T.U., in conjunction with the Antigo Area Chamber of Commerce and the DNR, co-sponsored the Lake Park Festival "Duck Days", which included a fishing contest for kids. Over 1,000 trout were planted in Lake Antigo for the kids to catch, and prizes were offered in several categories. Sheldon's, Inc. (makers of "Mepp's" spinners) contributed merchandise for prizes and assisted with the cost of the trout planting.

The event brought many smiles to the faces of the kids and generated much good publicity for Antigo T.U.

The chapter's banquet is scheduled for late March, 1992.

## Blackhawk Chapter

The chapter notes that they are continuing to provide financial assistance for trout habitat work on the West Fork of the Kickapoo River in Vernon County. Blackhawk T.U. donated \$3,255 to the West Fork Sportsmen's Club for more work on the West Fork.

The chapter is also planning a workday in March involving construction of more LUNKER structures to add to the more-than-sixty such structures they have already made.

The chapter contributed \$1,000 to the DNR-La Crosse Area to allow fish manager Dave Vetrano to obtain an automatic fish feeder to help him raise genetically-wild trout under conditions that are approximating those of naturally wild conditions. The purpose of this is to raise strains of hatchery fish that will have more potential to sustain themselves in the wild upon release from the hatchery.

Final plans are being made to start fly tying classes on Jan. 4, 1992, at the Rotary Gardens in Janesville on successive Saturdays through March.

## Central Wisconsin Chapter

The chapter recently announced that the Bill Beck Memorial scholarship was awarded to UW-Stevens Point graduate student Mike Ruggles, who is working on a project to evaluate long-term effects of spring pond dredging, the findings of which should be of interest to all.

The chapter began a new work project on the Tomorrow River (see separate article) below Nelsonville in Portage County. Log and sandbag deflectors are being installed to deal with and sediment deposition resulting from the removal of the Nelsonville Dam.

Plans have been made for another new project on Upper Radley Creek in Waupaca County beginning in 1992. Deflector structures will be installed to replace brush bundles placed previously by the DNR, because the bundles have deteriorated and have almost disappeared. An application for project funding through the T.U. National Embrace-A-Stream program has been submitted for this project.

Two recent additions to the DNR staff in Wautoma were guests of the chapter at its fall Board meetings. Conservation Warden Dave Algren attended the September meeting and spoke about a number of concerns in the area. Newly-appointed fish manager Al Niebur attended the November meeting. The chapter looks forward to establishing close working relationships with both.

At the November Board meeting, the chapter set its calendar for the 1992 year, including ten workdays on the Tomorrow River and Radley Creek. In addition, the chapter's annual banquet, fly fishing school and winter fly tying get-together were set, assuring

another busy year for Central Wisconsin T.U.

Informational brochures for the chapter's 1992 Fly Fishing School are expected to be available in December. Interested persons should write Mike Stapleton, 929 Silver Lake Drive, Apt. 9, Portage, WI 53901, or call Mike at (608) 742-3665.

**Chequamegon Chapter**  
No report

**Coulee Region Chapter**  
No report

## Fox Valley Chapter

On Oct. 5, 16 chapter members helped stock 3,000 trout in the Tomorrow River as part of a Central Region work project. A few members helped Central Wisconsin T.U. with their work project on the Tomorrow on Oct. 26.

On Oct. 22, the chapter held a dinner meeting at which Dr. Ross Mueller gave a program on streamside flowers anglers may find along trout streams. Good food and a good program resulted in a very well-attended event.

Chapter meetings will be held the third Thursday of each month through spring at the Forester Club, 4001 W. Spencer, in Appleton.

On Feb. 20, Fox Valley T.U. will host its annual "Fun Night" at the Forester. Doors open at 7 p.m., and attendees will be treated to a wide array of trout fishing information and gear. Call Darrell Toliver at (414) 731-6180 for more information.

The chapter's annual fund-raising banquet will be held on Saturday, March 28, 1992, at the Country Aire in Appleton. An enthusiastic banquet committee is already gearing up for the event. Interested persons should call Gary Winters at (414) 733-4468 for information.

During fall, the chapter made financial contributions to the Bubolz Natural Center, Menominee Range T.U. Emergency Habitat Fund (Upper Michigan) and the Wisconsin T.U. Council Banquet.

The chapter was saddened in November by the sudden passing of long-time Board member and Fox Valley T.U. activist Bob Mancl. Bob will be greatly missed by T.U. members and friends.

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point announced that the winner of the chapter's Wayne Larson Memorial Scholarship was Tom Burri of Willow Springs, IL., and who is pursuing a Master's Degree in Fisheries and Biology.

## Green Bay Chapter

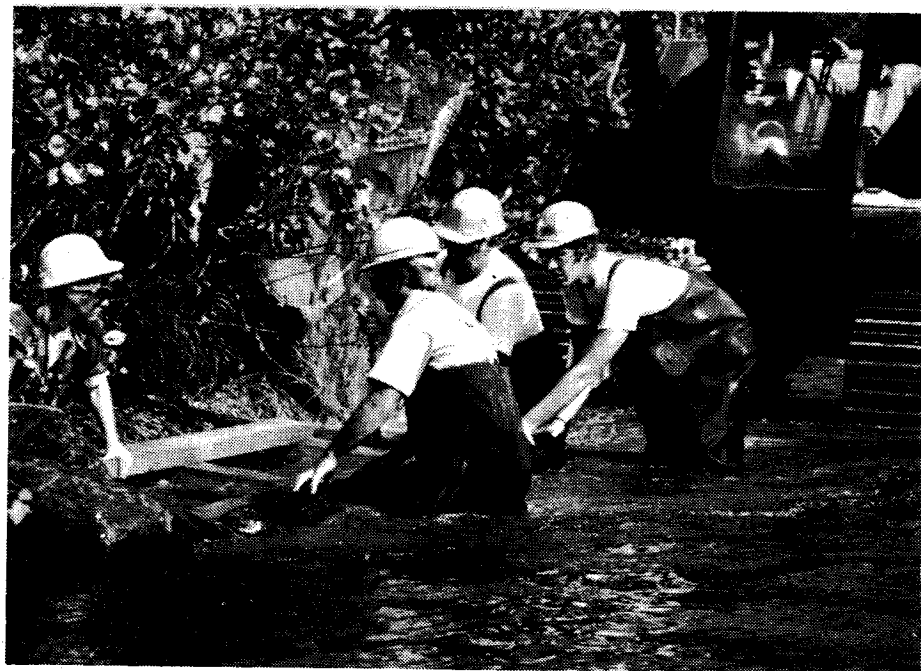
Green Bay T.U. had a productive autumn season. In October, DNR Fish Manager Mike Toney of Sturgeon Bay made a presentation on fall trout and salmon angling opportunities in the Lake Michigan tributaries of Door and Kewaunee counties.

At the November meeting, the chapter heard information from the Northeastern Wisconsin Chapter of Muskies, Inc., on the focus of their group and its efforts with environmental education, "catch-and-release" fishing promotion and reintroduction of the spotted musky into the waters of Green Bay and Lake Michigan. The purpose of the program was to begin establishing lines of communication between different fishing clubs.

Green Bay T.U. continued making expenditures and appropriations for the coldwater resource. The chapter spent \$1,647 to purchase a 250V DC generator for the DNR's electroshocking unit in the Northeastern Wisconsin area, and the chapter signed an agreement with the Lakewood District of the Nicolet National Forest to spend



Completed bank structures on South Branch Paint River.



Habitat crew working on South Branch Paint River, Iron County (Michigan), under "Challenge Grant" cost share provided by Green Bay TU.

\$2,500 in 1992 for trout habitat improvements in the North Fork of the Thunder River in Oconto County. The Nicolet National Forest will also kick in \$2,500 as part of the "Challenge Grant" agreement for the habitat work on one mile of stream.

The chapter also signed an agreement with the Laona District of the Nicolet National Forest to conduct two workdays on South Otter Creek east of Wabeno in Forest County. The work will involve brushing and debris removal from the stream.

Green Bay T.U. was notified by the Ottawa National Forest that work had been completed on the South Branch of the Paint River in Iron County, MI. Over 150 cantilevered bank covers ("skyhook boom covers") were installed in a one-third mile stretch of the South Branch. The chapter kicked in \$5,030 to the project, and successfully obtained a \$5,000 grant from the FishAmerica Foundation for the project.

Already for 1992, the chapter has workdays lined up on the South Branch of the Oconto River (bank sodding), and is working to plan a date for habitat work in conjunction with the DNR and other T.U. chapters on Ben Nutt Creek in Sheboygan County.

At the chapter's annual December Awards Banquet and Christmas party, several chapter members and resource

agencies received awards for their work on behalf of the resource and the chapter.

Chapter Member of the Year was bestowed upon Walter Bettin of Townsend for his long-time devotion to chapter trout habitat improvement projects. Past-president Joe Wieske was honored for his service to the chapter,

and Board member Rick Christopher was given recognition for his efforts in the first-ever chapter "Kids Fishing Day" held in August. Bob Heim was also honored for his many years of past service.

The Lake Michigan District of the DNR and the Green Bay Office of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service were dual recipients of the chapter's Silver Trout Awards for their successful efforts to get the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to order minimum streamflows for the Oconto River below the dam at Stiles, an order that will enhance the anadromous fishery of that river.

Great programs are lined up for winter meetings at Maricque's in Green Bay. On Jan. 9, Wisconsin DNR Bureau of Fish Management Chief Lee Kerns will talk about the future of trout fishing and other fishery management in Wisconsin in the 1990's. On Feb. 6, Nicolet National Forest Fishery Biologist Don Hair will discuss trout habitat work on streams within the Nicolet, as well as the success-to-date with beaver control on Forest trout streams.

Green Bay T.U.'s annual Conservation Banquet will be held on Saturday, March 28, 1992, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Green Bay. Special auction items will include sold-out limited edition prints of "Evening Retreat" and "Prairie Morning" by Terry Redlin, "Midnight - Holy Hill" by Don Kloetzke and "Reflections-Wolves" by Persis Clayton-Weirs. The usual fine display of door and raffle prizes will also be on hand. Tickets for the event are \$20 and can be purchased by calling Gary or Jan Stoychoff at (414) 499-5307.



# Trout Unlimited Chapter reports



## Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter

At the chapter's October, 1991, meeting, members were treated to a program by Brian McKinley, a teacher by trade and an Orvis Flyfishing School instructor by avocation in summer, on Florida bonefishing. In November, chapter president Andy Lamberson gave a slide show on his summer jaunt to Montana, where he fished the Yellowstone River and Armstrong's and DePuy's Spring Creeks.

Several chapter members helped out on the last day of the regular trout fishing season by stocking over 10,000 brown trout into the Willow River and the Race Branch of the Willow. The fish came from the St. Croix Falls Hatchery and averaged four-to-five inches long.

Chapter member Gary Horvath kept chapter members informed on the status of dams on waters in their western Wisconsin domain. The Willow Falls dam in the Willow River State Park has been slated for removal, and the Willow River dam at New Richmond will either be repaired or removed.

The Powell Dam on the lower Kinnickinnic River was evaluated and found to be in better condition than anticipated. Repairs totalling \$80,500 will be necessary to lengthen the serviceable life of the structure for 30 years.

Kiap-TU-Wish lost one of its founding members in spring with the passing of Larry Williamson. Family members had requested that memorials be contributed to Kiap-TU-Wish and the memorial monies used for stream improvements on the Willow-Race, a favorite stream of Larry's.

## Lakeshore Chapter

Chapter president Jeff Preiss reports that the chapter held a very successful fishing outing on the Manitowoc River on Oct. 20, with about 20 members catching and releasing nearly two dozen salmon.

Winter will be busy months for Lakeshore T.U. The chapter will hold a fly-tying class in February for both beginners and advanced tiers. On March 28, Lakeshore will host its annual Conservation Banquet at the Club Bil-Mar. Tickets for that event are \$15; contact Jeff Preiss at (414) 773-2693 for ticket information.

Stream project work is being arranged for spring and summer on the Mullet River and Ben Nutt Creek in Sheboygan County under the guidance of DNR fish manager John Nelson.

The chapter is once again working on its "Rods & Reels for Kids" project this year. Used rods and reels are picked up, reworked and given over to youth groups in the Manitowoc-Sheboygan area.

## Marinette County Chapter

Chapter members heard from Federal trappers in October that, as of the end of September, 1991, 35 beaver and 312 beaver dams had been removed from Marinette County waters, primarily on the Eagle Creek system. Trapper Bob Willging worked into October and had the Eagle Creek system clear of beaver and dams from headwaters to mouth.

The chapter reported that members put in about 65 volunteer hours in summer of 1991 on Little Waupee and Brehmer Creeks and the South Branch-Ontonagon River, doing brushing, brush bundling and old half-log removal. Members also water-proofed the handicapped fishing pier on Holley's Hole on the North Branch of the Beaver Creek in summer.

## Harry Nohr Chapter

No report

## Northwoods Chapter

The chapter's annual conservation banquet is set for late March at the Rhinelander Cafe & Pub. Tickets are \$25 each. Call Harley Erbs at (715) 362-2643 for more information on exact date and times.

Trout habitat projects completed during 1991 include: 1) construction and installation of six cedar log fish shelters for Woodboro Springs in Oneida County, 2) brushing and brush bundle placement in Coldwater Creek in Forest County, and 3) funding of a "Challenge Grant" project on the Middle Branch of the Ontonagon River near Watersmeet in Gogebic County, MI, where streambank boom covers were installed to provide cover and narrow the stream.

The chapter also hopes to sponsor a fly-tying course again this coming spring at the UW-Stevens Point Treehaven Center near Tomahawk.

## Oconto River Watershed Chapter

The chapter's second annual "Minibanquet" held Nov. 1 at Holiday Inn on Kelly Lake turned out to be a great success, as over 90 people showed up for the appreciation event for the chapter's banquet committee and workers. Eight new members were signed up that night.

The chapter stocked 2,500 brown trout and 1,500 brookies in the Oconto River and its tributaries between Surging and the CTH "BB" bridge near Gillett. The fish were raised in the chapter's own hatchery. Plans are being made to dredge out the sediment trap on Christy Brook that flows through Gillett.

The annual chapter Conservation Banquet appears to be slated for April 23, but all details are not yet ready at press time. More information will be available in the next issue of Wisconsin Trout.

## Ojiblean Chapter

Ojiblean T.U. had a busy spring and summer season this past year. A sustained effort was made to complete work on the habitat project on Duncan Creek in Chippewa County, and final completion of the project will occur sometime in 1992. Rip-rap was installed along the creek on several workdays.

Ojiblean T.U. immersed itself in area environmental concerns as well. Chapter president Dick DuPlessie is an active member in the Lowes Creek Watershed Protection District, and he had the chapter involved in the design, installation and analysis of an industrial area that borders Lowes Creek.

Plans for 1992 include preparation of a demonstration project at the Beaver Creek/Wise Nature Center in Eau Claire County, completion of the Duncan Creek project and planning for future work on Lowes Creek.

The chapter banquet is scheduled for April 22, 1992. Featured speaker will be Jack Dennis of Jackson, WY. Chapter meetings will begin on a regular basis in January along with an instructional fly-tying program.

## Shaw-Paca Chapter

During its fall meetings, the chapter voted to donate \$2,000 towards stream habitat improvement on a local stream. The local beaver problem was discussed, and the chapter voted to pay a trapper up to \$500 to trap beavers on two area streams. And, a "Kids Fishing Day" will be carried out next spring.

Things are shaping up already for the chapter's 1992 banquet, with many prizes already purchased.

## Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter

On Nov. 11, the chapter sponsored a clean-up project on the Milwaukee River along with other organizations and the DNR. Milwaukee mayor John Norquist and his wife, Susan Mudd (a leader in the Citizens for a Better Environment), were on hand to help, too. The chapter had press coverage from all three TV stations as well as local newspapers.

Tons of old tires and other debris were removed from the river, making the river a more suitable place for anadromous trout and salmon. The work is part of an effort to remove the North Avenue Dam, which has been open since 1990. The river's characteristics show fast water riffles and pools that can hold migratory fish. It has the potential to offer fine fishing for the great numbers of people living in the Milwaukee area.

The chapter will host the second annual "Steelhead Saturday" on March 28, 1992, at Quarry Park in Racine on the Root River. The event will begin at dawn in the parking lot of the park, and at 9 a.m. a seminar will be held to discuss innovative techniques for catching steelhead. There will be prizes for the largest fish caught, coffee and rolls and lunch will be on hand, and a complete fishing outfit will be raffled off at the end of the day.

The chapter has reserved rooms at the Holiday Inn in Racine for those who may be traveling a distance to get to the event (the Inn is across the street from Quarry Park). Call 414-637-9311 early to make reservations, and mention you are from trout Unlimited when you call.

On April 11, the chapter will be host-

ing a fund-raising event and seminar series at the Waukesha Expo Center from 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. (see ad in this paper). Two of trout fishing's most knowledgeable authorities, Jack Dennis and J.R. Humphrey, will be the featured speakers.

Dennis will cover such topics as: stillwater fishing, fly fishing strategies for larger trout, fly fishing tips and tying spun deer hair flies.

Humphrey will focus on two topics: trout streams of Southwestern Wisconsin and Minnesota, and mayflies native to Wisconsin.

Dennis started guiding anglers at age 14, and opened his own tackle business by age 19. He's authored many well-known fishing books, and he operates the Wyoming Galleries and the Jack Dennis Outdoor Shops.

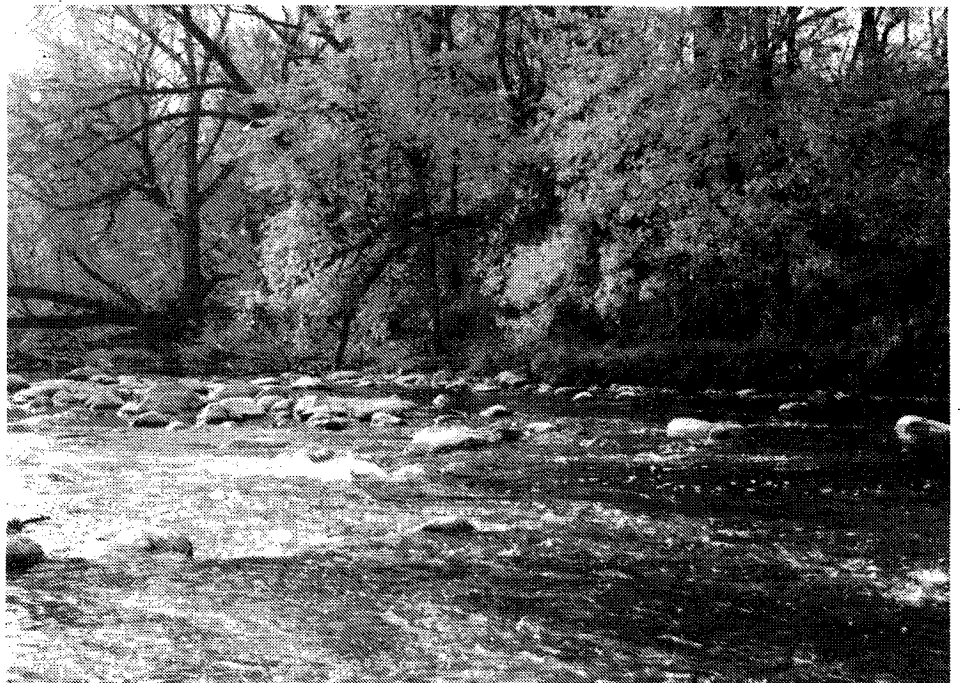
In addition, he has appeared on many TV fishing shows, was a member of the Trout Unlimited Team in the first-ever United States-USSR States Angling Games and was named to the U.S. Fly Fishing Team in World Fly Fishing Championships.

Humphrey is a well-known writer in the Midwest, having submitted many articles for Fly Fisherman magazine on such rivers as the Wolf and the Kinnickinnic.

The Waukesha Expo Center is located just south of Interstate 94 and the Waukesha Airport at the Highway F exit. The events will be situated in the North Hall, with doors open at 8:30 a.m. Lunch and refreshments will be available.

Proceeds from the event, the chap-

Cont. on Page 8



Section of Milwaukee River shows good potential for anadromous fishery.



S.E. Wisconsin TU'ers show debris removed from Milwaukee River in November, 1991.



# Chapter reports

Cont. from Page 7

ter's largest fund raising effort of the year, will go toward coldwater resource improvement in Wisconsin. Tickets are \$9.00 in advance or \$10.00 at the door. To order tickets, send check payable to Trout Unlimited to: Southeastern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited, P.O. Box 17962, Milwaukee, WI 53217.

Call Bob Estlund at 414-475-1864 or Webb Kennedy at 414-242-3199 for more information.

## Southern Wisconsin Chapter

Southern Wisconsin T.U. recently put the finishing touches on its annual project on **Black Earth Creek** by planting trees and shrubs along the streambanks for aesthetic beauty and cover for fish, wildlife and insects.

Chapter members are planning and anxiously awaiting the chapter's "Winter Icebreaker" event to be held on Saturday, Jan. 25, at the **Park Ponderosa Ballroom** in McFarland (see separate article on this). Featured speakers will be "Lefty" Kreh and Dennis Franke.

Besides the "Winter Icebreaker" event, the chapter has other important items lined up for the winter months. The annual awards presentation will be

held at the February meeting, and the ever popular "Swap and Auction Night", with auctioneers **Colonel Muskrat** and **Doctor Sausage** presiding, is slated for the March meeting. Proceeds from the auction will help fund chapter work projects.

Free fly tying classes will be offered as an inducement to build membership for both beginning and advanced students. The classes begin in January.

## Wild Rivers Chapter

No report

## Wisconsin River Valley Chapter

The chapter approved spending over \$3,000 to help fund a sediment trap in the **Prairie River** below the soon-to-be-removed **Prairie Dells Dam** in Lincoln County. The trap--to be 200 feet long, 40 feet wide and five feet deep--will hold about 1,800 cubic yards of sediment which is expected to be dispersed downstream from the dam when it is fully removed.

## Wolf River Chapter

No report

# Northeast Regional report

By Ted Rydell

The Northeast Region of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited met on Saturday, Dec. 7, 1991, at Buettner's Wild Wolf Inn south of Langlade.

Regional representatives discussed prospects for the 1992 season and reviewed the results of the 1991 "catch-and-release" season. There seemed to be much optimism about the prospects for the 1992 season, given that stream surveys show remarkable recoveries of trout in many N.E. Wisconsin trout streams.

Because the 1992 season will be such a unique opportunity for the angler, given that two years of "no-kill" regulations had allowed growth of fish to sizes seldom seen before and in such numbers, the N.E. Region felt there was a need to educate the trout angling public on the status of the resource and the new trout fishing regulations.

A motion was approved urging the Wisconsin T.U. State Council to contact **Dan Small** of the **Outdoor Wisconsin** program to ask him to put together a series of televised spots on **Outdoor Wisconsin** that focus on Wisconsin's inland fishery future. Topics would include habitat improvement programs, limitations of the trout hatchery program, the possibilities and limitations of "catch-and-release" fishing, fishing ethics and a review of the new five-category inland trout fishing regulations.

An idea for promoting T.U. in Wisconsin was brought up by Herb Buett-

ner. He suggested the creation and distribution of a Wisconsin T.U. placemat to restaurants as a promotional method. The mats would have the T.U. logo on them, and would include a summary of important areas of resource conservation that Wisconsin T.U. and its chapters have been involved in over the years.

Chapter representatives gave reviews of accomplishments and problems during 1991, along with plans for 1992. DNR fish managers **Max Johnson** and "**Duke**" **Andrews** gave reviews of the projects that they carried out during the past year, and informed the group as to what to expect for 1992.

A brief review of pending legislation was given by Mitch Bent. He noted that comments had been sent out on the relicensing of the **Johnson Falls** hydroelectric facility on the **Peshtigo River** operated by Wisconsin Public Service, and T.U. is asking that the dam be ordered to operate in a "run-of-the-river" mode for future use. Bent also updated the group on the status of **SB 281**, the non-point pollution control bill that had passed the state senate in October.

At meeting's end, Ted Rydell was re-elected to serve another one-year term as N.E. Regional vice-president. Rydell then gave a short demonstration of acute and chronic bioassay procedures for whole effluent toxicity using daphnia (waterfleas) and fathead minnows.



Handicap accessible area on Coon Creek in Vernon County.



# Handicapped accessible fishing area accomplished through joint effort

In recent years, much attention has been paid to making recreational fishing areas more accessible to those having physical impairments. Handicap parking areas, "accessible" nature trails and fishing piers are becoming more common. However, "barrier free" access to quality trout streams via use of paved trails with fishing stations has been quite limited.

The La Crosse Area Department of Natural Resources office had been looking for a suitable site for such a project for several years, and that site became available in 1986 when a parcel of land the DNR owned was donated to the Village of Coon Valley for a park.

The Department of Transportation was planning on replacing the Highway 14-61 bridge along Coon Creek, a class II brown trout stream, in Coon Valley. That meant disturbing the channel of Coon Creek, but DNR fish managers **Dave Vetrano** and **Ken Wright** saw it as a chance, too, to provide a good access area for wheelchair-bound anglers.

As part of the mitigation process for the channel change, the DOT agreed to do all of the channel reconstruction and provide all of the riprapping needed to install trout habitat improvement structures in the new channel. The **Vernon County Conservation Alliance**, with its 10 member sportsmen's clubs, held a fund-raising event that generated \$7,000 for the trail construction for the project.

At the same time, the DNR applied for and received **Dingell-Johnson** funds to cover the cost of structure installation and landscaping above the channel change area.

All of the initial work was accom-

plished in 1990 with over 20 habitat improvement structures, thousands of cubic yards of riprap and a "Hewitt ramp" (an artificial plunge pool) being installed in the project area.

Adjacent to the new channel is an 850-foot trail with 10 fishing spots paved for handicap use, allowing someone in a wheelchair to stop and fish at various points along the stream and have access to virtually the entire length. The "parking spots" do not have rails, but have 4" x 6" parking blocks to station wheelchairs.

The Village of Coon Creek paved the adjacent parking lot, upgraded the shelter house and toilets to make them accessible, and will install benches along the trail.

There were many contributors to the work involved, including the **Ojibbeau T.U. Chapter** and the **Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited**.


On Sept. 14, 1991, **Vetrano** and trout fishing friend **Larry Whitewater**, a Vietnam War veteran confined to a wheelchair, were on hand to dedicate the fishing access sites. **Vetrano** and **Whitewater** met in 1988 after **Dave** learned that **Larry** was having a hard time finding a place to fish for trout in the Coulee Region.

Because of their budding friendship, and because of the efforts of the DNR, the Village of Coon Valley, the Vernon County Conservation Alliance, the Wisconsin DOT and average citizens, a fishing area for handicapped citizens that is likely unique to the country came into being and will help serve the recreational needs of those who have always had to struggle to enjoy what the rest of us often take for granted.

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# Kewaunee River anadromous fish facility open

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' Kewaunee River anadromous fish facility became fully operational on Oct. 8, 1991, according to DNR fish managers. Located three miles west of Kewaunee, the facility has been under construction since August, 1989.

George Boronow, supervisor of the DNR's Lake Michigan work unit, said the facility is vital for the collection of eggs from wild chinook salmon, coho salmon and three strains of rainbow trout. The fish are collected on their upstream spawning migrations to provide fertilized eggs for Wisconsin DNR hatcheries.

"Taking eggs from fish that have spent their adult lives in Lake Michigan is necessary to maintain the wild qualities that provide exciting fishing and stronger fish," Boronow said.

Spring spawning activity at the Kewaunee facility peaks in April with the spawning runs of Chambers Creek and Ganaraska strain rainbow trout. Skamania strain rainbows run in July and August, and the fall runs of chinook and coho salmon peak in October and extend into November.

Boronow said the facility was designed to provide opportunities for the public to observe the fish migrations and spawn collection, and is open during daylight hours seven days a week.

"Large underwater viewing win-

dows enable our visitors to watch the fish move up the fish ladder," Boronow says.

Outside, an observation deck and paved walkways follow the route of the fish from the fish barrier through the fish ladder to the holding ponds. "During the runs, visitors can often see hundreds of large fish in the holding ponds," Boronow noted.

Half of the facility's \$535,000 construction cost was paid by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Anadromous Fish Grant Program. Revenues from sales of Wisconsin Great Lakes Trout and Salmon stamps provided a matching amount.

Boronow said the DNR plans to expand the number of holding ponds from five to ten and build a permanent spawning building for the facility. The Fish and Wildlife Service has already provided \$100,000 of additional matching funds for the planned expansion.

For further information on the facility, call George Boronow at 414-448-5126, or Mark Opgenorth at 414-492-5833.

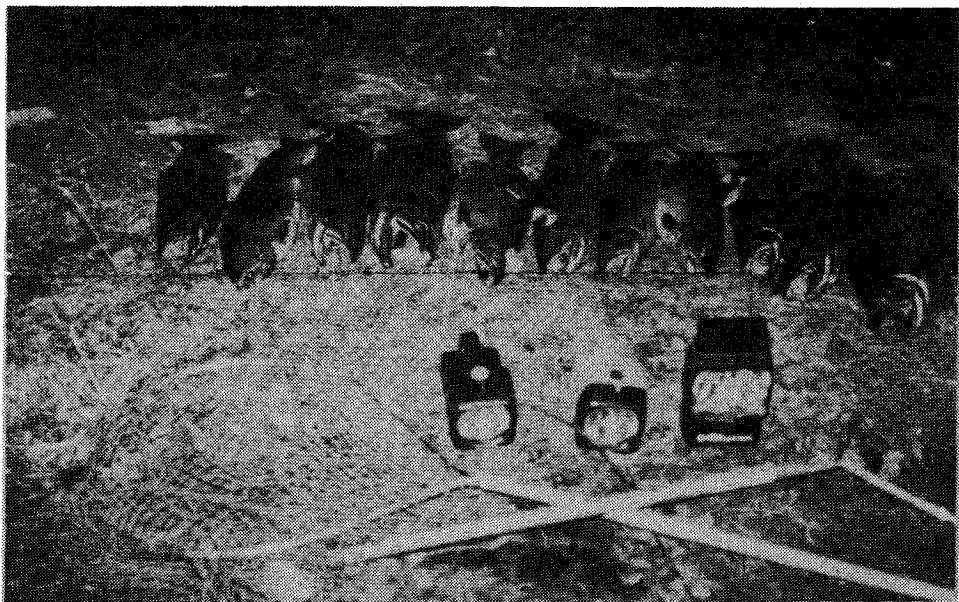
The majority of migrating fish are not needed for spawn collection and are passed upstream to provide fishing. Spring rainbow trout are spawned on site and released alive. Skamania strain rainbow are transferred to the Kettle Moraine Springs hatchery and spawned the following spring.

## Fact sheet on Kewaunee River Anadromous Fish Facility

Species	Time of arrival	Volume of Spawning Runs	Adults	Eggs	Kewaunee River stocking
Rainbow trout (Skamania trout)	July/Aug.-Sept.	1-2,000	250	340,000	35,000
Chinook salmon	Sept.-Nov.	3-4,000	2,000	1,500,000	170,000
Coho salmon	Sept.-Nov.	3-4,000	800	1,200,000	175,000
Rainbow trout (Chambers Creek strain)	Feb.-April	2,000	250	425,000	35,000
Rainbow trout (Ganaraska strain)	Feb.-May	2,000	400	425,000	35,000



Aerial view of Kewaunee River Fish Facility next to Kewaunee River (Kewaunee County).



Some of illegally netted Rainbow Trout from Oconto river tributary.

## Game wardens make arrests for illegal netting of Rainbow Trout

On April 14 at about 1:00 a.m., Department of Natural Resources Conservation Wardens arrested six Oconto County men for illegal netting of rainbow trout in a tributary of the Oconto River called "Chicken Shack Creek" near Stiles.

Wardens from the Marinette Area were on surveillance of the area after receiving several complaints about illegal taking of rainbow trout.

The picture on the right shows some of the 14 illegally taken fish that were seized by the DNR. There were seven each of males and females. Lengths ranged from 22-34 inches, and the average weight of each fish was eight pounds.

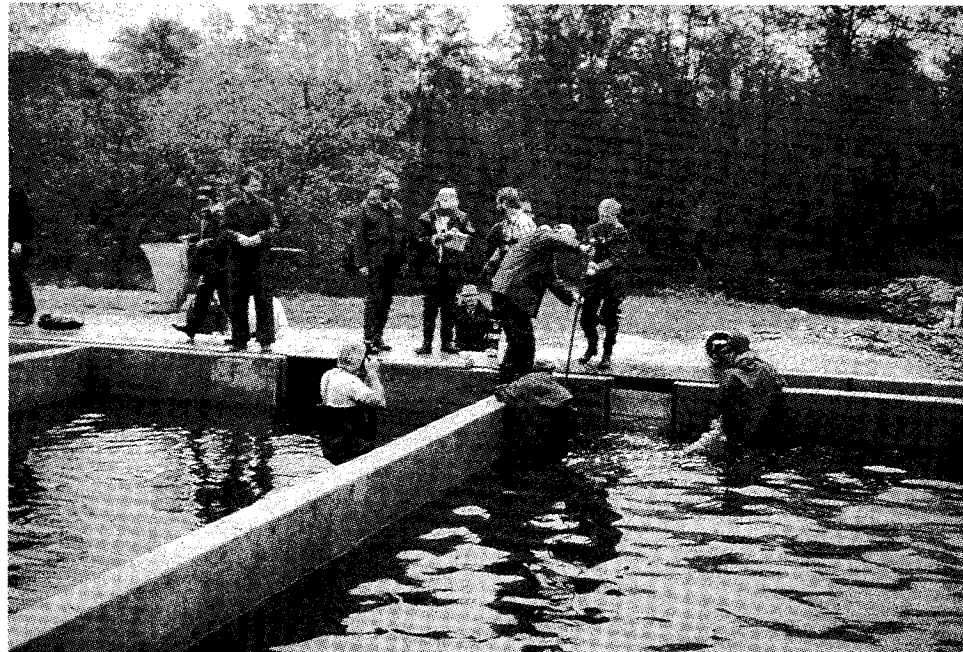
According to Randy Stark, Warden Supervisor for the Marinette Area, the individuals were apprehended at a residence after they were observed by the wardens to illegally net the fish with hand held dip nets. Three of the fish were tagged with DNR fisheries tags, one of which originated from the Manitowoc area.

The arrested individuals face potential fines of \$1,981.00 and three years revocation of all hunting, fishing and trapping licenses.

The wardens are asking that anyone who may have information on similar violations should call warden Mike Stahl of Oconto Falls at 414-846-2980 or Randy Stark of Marinette at 715-732-0101. All information is strictly confidential and is extremely valuable to the wardens in attempting to apprehend violators.

Wardens also ask that trout anglers in Northeastern Wisconsin who are participating in the "catch-and-release, artificials only" trout season to be aware of anyone who may be fishing illegally on the trout waters having those restrictions.

If you see a violation occurring, or if you strongly suspect that one might be happening, you can call the toll-free "Poachers Hotline" to leave a message with a warden. That number is: 1-800-TIP-WDNR, or 1-800-847-9367. Violators steal from all of us; they deserve to be arrested and brought to justice. Since the wardens cannot be everywhere, it is up to honest sportsmen and sportswomen to keep their eyes and ears open when in the outdoors and report violations that may occur.



DNR fishery personnel collect fish at the new facility along Kewaunee River.



Eggs and milt from female (l) and male (r) Coho Salmon are gathered for hatchery production.



# Natural Resources Foundation supplies grants



Dredging of Saul Spring Pond (Langlade County) was aided by a \$1,000 grant from the NRFW, Inc.

## U.S. National notes

The Lines To Leaders communication from Trout Unlimited National has had several important pieces of information in it that Wisconsin Trout will pass along to its readers.

**\* New Executive Director:** Charles F. Gauvin was selected by the T.U. National Board to replace Robert Herbst, who resigned effective November 1, 1990. Gauvin, who began his duties on April 8th, has quickly become involved in many facets of T.U.'s operations.

He has addressed T.U.'s concerns to appropriate agencies about acid rain, anadromous fisheries, federal lands fisheries issues, hydropower, watershed restoration and protection and reauthorization of the Clean Water Act.

Gauvin has also worked along with the National Board to reduce the costs of maintaining the National organization and to increase T.U. revenues from banquets and high-end corporate contributions.

**\* Resource Director slot vacated:** The activities of T.U.'s Resource Department are being handled by various staff members since the departure of former Resource Director Pam McClelland on March 5. All requests for resource advice/information will be referred to the appropriate staff person. Call Bud Nagelvoort, 703-281-1100, if there are any questions in this regard.

**\* T.U. video:** T.U.'s new video, "More Than A Fishing Club", tells new or prospective members what Trout Unlimited is all about. The 17-minute, VHS-format tape is available for \$12.50 plus \$2.50 postage and handling. To order, call Neal Emerald at 703-281-1100.

**New officers:** T.U.'s 1991 Annual Meeting in August produced new leadership for the National organization. They are: Chairman of the Board - G. Richard Mode (Morgantown, NC); President - Doug McClelland (Bozeman, MT); 1st Vice President - K.C. Walsh (Los Angeles, CA); 2nd Vice President (new post) - Alen Baker (Hunterville, NC); Secretary - Robert Teufel (Emmaus, PA); and, Treasurer - Eugene McKenna (Hopkinton, MA).

**Wild and Scenic Rivers Map:** The Departments of Interior and Agriculture have collaborated with the U.S. Geological Survey to produce a map of the Wild and Scenic Rivers system as of 1990. The maps are available to T.U. chapters free of charge. To receive yours, contact: John Haubert, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, NW, Room 3230, Washington, D.C. 20240; or, call (202) 208-4290.

**Notification of Chapter/Council Leadership changes:** Chapter or Council elections coming up? Already passed? Please be sure to notify National T.U. of any changes in chapter presidents, Council Chairmen, National Directors and/or changes of address. Send changes to: Susan Craig, National Trout Unlimited, 800 Follin Lane, SE, Suite 250, Vienna, VA 22180-4959, or call her at (703) 281-1100.

As a note to chapter presidents and Council Chairmen: because the Chapter/Council handbooks are expensive, please help keep down costs by passing them on to the incoming president/chairman.

**Non-point Source Pollution News--** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has a newsletter entitled "NPS News Notes" which focuses on non-point source pollution issues, many of which are of great concern to T.U. To get your chapter or Council on the mailing list, write to: NPS News-Notes (WH-553), Assessment and Watershed Protection Division, U.S. EPA, 401 M Street, SW, Washington, D.C. 20460; or, FAX your request to (202) 260-1517.

**License plates for sale:** Need a fashionable conservation statement for your vehicle? The Georgia Council has a special plate for sale. It's white with the T.U. logo in blue and green, along with the statement: "WORKING TO PROTECT AMERICA'S STREAMS". These handsome plates are \$11 each (cost includes shipping) and can be purchased individually, or T.U. chapters can negotiate a special rate for a bulk order to re-sell in their home areas. To order, contact: Robert Foster, Chairman, Georgia Council Trout Unlimited, 5074 Odins Way, Marietta, GA 30067.

**WILD TROUT Symposia available:** The T.U. National Office still has plenty of the WILD TROUT symposia series on hand. T.U. chapters and councils should obtain a set for their chapter library. Another good idea might be to donate the series to your local public library, college library, high school library, extension office and any local environmental regulatory agencies. Price is \$3 each for WILD TROUT I, II, and III, \$5 for WILD TROUT IV or \$10 for the set of all four.

WILD TROUT symposia present the basis for T.U.'s wild trout philosophy.

**Wallop-Breaux Fund raid halted:** The raid on the Wallop-Breaux funds has been stopped. When the legislation came out of conference committee in the nation's Capitol, the \$190 million cap on annual expenditures from the fund has been stripped from the bill.

If your T.U. chapter is looking for ways to raise additional funds for worthwhile trout habitat improvement projects, one potential source of grant money is the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin, Inc. (NRFW).

Created in 1986 to provide financial support for the goals and needs of the Department of Natural Resources and other related conservation organizations, the NRFW is a non-profit organization that, since its inception, has channeled over \$115,000 in grants and donations directly to the DNR and conservation groups.

Through its "Small Matching Grant Program", the NRFW has made many grant awards in recent years, including:

\*\$1,000 to the Lucky Hills 4-H Club in Taylor County to develop a pond teaching area to educate people in aquatic ecology and water quality;

\*\$1,000 to the Rib Lake Area Fish & Game Association to install an aeration system in Rib Lake (Taylor County), a shallow freeze-out lake in which it is difficult to maintain fish populations;

\*\$1,000 to the UW extension, Green Bay Sewerage District and the DNR to develop the "Adopt-A-Waterway" program, which will educate and involve students in the rehabilitation of the Lower Fox and East rivers and the bay of Green Bay. The agencies will cooperate in developing activities, resource materials and an in-service training program for teachers;

\*\$1,000 to the Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited and the DNR for the dredging of Saul Spring pond in eastern Langlade County;

\*\$858 to the Cable Natural History Museum for development of a study and collection area in which hands-on activities involving plant and animal identification, and ethical, legal collec-

tion and preparation of plant and animal specimens will be conducted;

\*\$702 to the City of Shell Lake (Washburn County) for construction and placement of 50 fish cribs in Shell Lake to increase fish breeding habitat;

\*\$605 to the DNR bureau of Wildlife Management to purchase posters for its "Watchable Wildlife" displays at state parks. The educational program focuses on non-consumptive ways to enjoy wildlife in the state;

\*\$500 to a UW-Stevens Point College of Natural Resources graduate student to conduct an inventory of wildlife uses on land owned by commercial cranberry producers, to develop wildlife management plans for commercial cranberry growers that are compatible with cranberry production and to develop wildlife management methods which will discourage wildlife use detrimental to cranberry production.

The Small Matching Grants Program, which promotes cooperation between public and private conservation organizations, distributes grants in the range of \$100 to \$1,000. To qualify for such grants, applicants must:

\*Be a public or private nonprofit organization or individual;

\*Propose a project that entails management, research, education or development that benefits natural resources or nature-related recreational opportunities in Wisconsin;

\*Document project budgets and funds that will match the NRFW grant;

Deadlines for submitting grant applications for the Small Matching Grants Programs are March 6 and Sept. 6 of each year. For further information on the Small Matching Grants Program or the NRFW, Inc., call Barb Barzen at (608) 266-1430, or write to the Foundation at: P.O. Box 129, Madison, WI 53701-0129.

## Youth education curricula

As more and more Trout Unlimited chapters and Councils put emphasis on environmental education of youth, questions may arise as to where to find suitable resource education materials for these programs.

T.U. National has listed in its Lines To Leaders letter three potential sources of environmental education curricula that chapters and Councils may wish to pursue. The top three curricula listed by National are: The Stream

Scene available from the Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, Office of Public Affairs, P.O. Box 59, Portland, OR. 97207, (503-229-5400, ext. 432) (cost: \$15); Aquatic Resources Education Curricula from Kendall Hunt Publications Co., Order Dept. 2460 Kerper Blvd., Box 539, Dubuque IA. 52001 (1-800-338-5578) (cost: \$20); and, Aquatic Project WILD, P.O. Box 18060, Boulder, CO. 80308 (303-444-2390).

### 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  
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# Non-point pollution bill passes State Senate

By Senator Charles Chvala

Before the close of the Fall, 1991, session of the Wisconsin Legislature, the State Senate gave approval to a bill--SB 281--that takes aim at controlling non-point pollution sources around the state.

SB 281 was the offshoot of a Legislative Ad Hoc Committee series of recommendations for controlling the wide variety of sources of non-point pollution.

The problems Wisconsin has been facing from non-point pollution have been staggering. Run-off from construction sites, farm fields and other sources has degraded about 40 percent of Wisconsin's 43,000 miles of rivers and streams and 75 percent of the state's 15,000 lakes.

Erosion and livestock waste have killed many a trout stream over the years. Storm runoff from barnyards and feedlots can cause brief periods of oxygen depletion which kill fish outright.

Erosion from construction or cows trampling streambanks destroy stream habitat.

Thus, SB 281 takes aim at controlling this runoff, and this legislation has been called "the most important environmental bill of this decade."

Thanks to many conservation groups, including Trout Unlimited, the Senate was able to pass SB 281 by a vote of 24-9 in favor, though many "weakening" amendments were beaten back by much narrower margins. As a result, SB 281 remains a strong bill.

As passed by the Senate, SB 281 does the following:

\*Establishes a statewide construction site erosion control program to be paid for by builder permit fees;

\*Reforms the state's priority watershed program--our current "non-point pollution control program"--by creating new incentives and greater benefits for farmers and others to vol-

untarily implement so-called "best management practices";

\*If voluntary participation in priority watersheds is not sufficient to meet water quality goals, the Department of Natural Resources can order participation at lower levels of cost-sharing for farmers and others who refused previously to volunteer;

\*It accelerates the same program, directing the DNR to at least begin work on all of the state's 130 degraded watersheds by the year 2000. Since the program began in 1978, only 51 watershed programs have begun, and only six are completed;

\*Grants the state's Department of Agriculture the authority to order drainage districts to correct poor maintenance of their ditches.

SB 281 must now be approved by the State Assembly. Trout Unlimited members are urged to call their state Assembly representatives on the toll-

free "Legislative Hotline" (1-800-362-9696) and tell them to support SB 281. That line is open from 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Your active support is needed if we are to keep SB 281 a strong and significant piece of legislation.

More than half a century ago, the renowned conservationist Aldo Leopold challenged humanity to adopt a "land ethic", to treat the land not as "commodity belonging to us", but rather as "a community to which we belong".

Non-point pollution problems occur when we abuse the land. Run-off erosion occurs when the land is scarred by construction or by careless farming, unmitigated by soil conservation practices. Adoption of Senate Bill 281 will show that we as a society are ready to accept Leopold's challenge of treating our land as a community and not as a commodity.

## Southern Wisconsin T.U. hosts Ice Breaker

The Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited will once again host its annual "Ice Breaker" Fishing Clinic at the Park Ponderosa Ballroom in McFarland, WI, on Saturday, January 25, with doors opening at 8:30 a.m.

The featured guest for the event will be Fishing Hall of Fame member, accomplished author and teacher Bernard "Lefty" Kreh, who has traveled the world pursuing trout, salmon, steelhead, tarpon, permit, bluefish, bass, barracuda, flounder, ladyfish, mackerel, redfish, bonefish, pompano and speckled trout.

Kreh is the former outdoor editor of the Baltimore Sun newspaper, and holds staff positions on the following magazines: Editor-at-Large for Fly Fisherman Magazine and California Angler; Chief Editorial Advisor for Flyfisher; and, Techniques Columnist for Fishing World Magazine.

"Lefty" has also participated in developing a number of videos which

include: "Fly Fishing in New Zealand"; "Lefty Kreh's All New Fly Casting Techniques"; "Fishing the Bow River"; "Lefty Kreh's Light Tackle Techniques-Filmed in Belize", and others.

In addition to Kreh, there will be a presentation on "Fishing the Short Rod" by Dennis Franke, a former associate of Orvis in Chicago, where he taught their Midwest Fly Fishing Schools. Franke has managed several fly fishing shops and is presently owner of Glasstech Rods.

There will also be presentations on "160 Flyfishing Tips" and "How to Take Better Fishing Photographs" by "Lefty" Kreh, fly tying demonstrations, a Chapter Activities Report, raffle and door prize distribution, lunch, cash bar and a casting clinic with Kreh.

This fun and informative weekend will begin Friday night, Jan. 24, 1992, with an "all you can eat" trout and

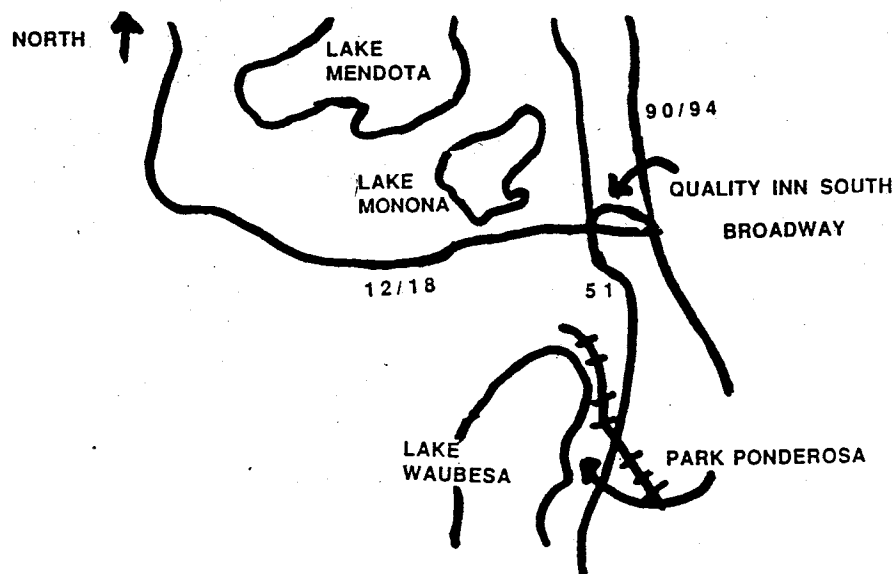
chicken buffet at the Quality Inn, 4916 Broadway, in Madison. "Lefty" will be the main speaker at that function, discussing "Flyfishing Around the World".

The event is Southern Wisconsin T.U.'s largest fundraiser of the year. All funds go back into coldwater resources through stream projects and other activities. The chapter invites you to join them for a day of fun and to

help support the future of trout and trout fishing.

Tickets for the Friday night dinner are \$14, and tickets for the Saturday event are \$9 in advance or \$10 at the door. To order tickets, send a check payable to Trout Unlimited to: Greg Hyer, 4296 County "P", Cross Plains, WI 53528.

For additional information on these events, call Jim Bartelt at 608-249-9908.



### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, January 24th - Let's Talk Fishin' Dinner with Lefty Kreh  
Quality Inn South, 4916 Broadway, Madison, WI 608-222-5501

5:30 p.m. - Cash Bar

6:30 p.m. - All You Can Eat Buffet - Baked Trout & Chicken

7:30 p.m. - Lefty Kreh on Flyfishing Around the World

Saturday, January 25th - Trout Fishing Clinic

Park Ponderosa Ballroom, 5100 Erling Ave., McFarland, WI 608-838-9927

8:30 a.m. - Doors Open

9:00 a.m. - Welcome & Introductions

9:15 a.m. Lefty Kreh - 160 Flyfishing Tips

10:00 a.m. - Dennis Franke - Fishing the Short Rod

11:00 a.m. - Chapter Activities Report

11:30 a.m. - Lunch (nominal charge) - Flytying - Displays - Casting Demo by Dennis Franke

1:30 p.m. Door Prizes

2:00 p.m. - Lefty Kreh - How to Take Better Fishing Photographs

3:00 p.m. - Raffle

4:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. - Casting Clinic by Lefty Kreh

(weather permitting)

For additional information contact: Jim Bartelt, Chair, at 608-249-9908

### ADVANCE TICKET SALES

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ tickets at \$14.00 each for the Friday night all you can eat dinner. There is limited seating available for the Friday night buffet!

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ tickets at \$9.00 each for the Saturday clinic.


Enclosed is a check or cash for \$\_\_\_\_\_ for tickets. Please send the enclosed form to: Greg Hyer, 4296 County P. Cross Plains, WI 53528.

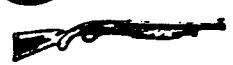
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# Conservation Awards Banquet set for Jan. 18

Time is drawing near for TU'ers and friends to get their last chance at tickets for the eighth Wisconsin State Council Trout Unlimited Conservation Awards and Fund-raising Banquet. The event will be held on **Saturday, Jan. 18, 1992**, at the Paper Valley Hotel & Conference Center in downtown Appleton.

Cocktails will begin at 5:30 p.m., followed by a dinner that includes:

- Roast sirloin of beef
- Baked potato with sour cream
- Vegetable
- Soup du jour
- Salad
- Rolls and butter
- Chocolate mousse cake
- Beverage

There will be many fine door prizes distributed, and attendees will have chances to win some outstanding items on raffles and auctions.

Among these prizes is a two night stay for two at the famed **Seven Pines Lodge** in Lewis, WI (Polk County). This lodge was the site for filming the Trout Unlimited award-winning movie "Way of a Trout". Fishing on the property is open year-round and is

restricted to "catch-and-release" angling.

Other special prizes include a pair of **Browning Upland Special** shotguns (12 and 20 gauges), a Getaway Weekend for Two at the Paper Valley Hotel, fly rods by Powell, G. Loomis and Orvis, binoculars, float tube, trolling motor, 13" remote control TV, \$100 cash and more.

The auctions will offer some outstanding limited edition, sold-out prints that will include "Morning Solitude" and "Welcome to Paradise" by Terry Redlin, "Reflections-Wolves" by Maine artist Persis Clayton-Weirs, and "Midnight - Holy Hill" by Don Kloetzke.

There will be several unique carvings, custom-made fly rods, a Lake Michigan charter fishing trip and other desirable items to place bids.

Banquet tickets are \$25.00 each, and be purchased by filling out the ticket order form below and mailing it to the address indicated. Ticket orders postmarked **Jan. 4, 1992**, will allow ticket holders to be eligible for a special "Early Bird" drawing of one

hundred dollars!

Contributions in the form of cash donations or merchandise will also be gratefully accepted. Cash donations should be mailed to: Mitch Bent, 1282 Monterey Trail, De Pere, WI 54115. Make checks payable to Trout Unlimited.

Merchandise donations should be directed to: Jim Bereza, 710 McAllister

Avenue, Marinette, WI 54143 (phone: 715-735-5029).

Your attendance and support for the State Council Conservation Awards and Fund-raising event will be most appreciated, as it enhances the Council's ability to enhance the state's coldwater resource base.

Seating will be limited to 250, so order your tickets today!

## Wetlands proposal draws fire--EPA chief suggests re-evaluation

The proposal by the Bush administration to "re-define" wetlands in order to satisfy concerns of oil, gas, real estate and agribusiness interests has drawn such a firestorm of opposition from environmental groups and concerned citizens that Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) chief William Reilly has suggested that the proposal must "go back to the drawing board" for redoing.

As outlined in the Fall, 1991, issue of Wisconsin Trout, the Bush administration had proposed changes in the **Federal Manual for Identifying and Delineating Jurisdictional Wetlands** that would have altered the scientifically formulated definition of what constitutes a wetland and replaced it with one that had been arrived at through political expediency.

Under the Bush proposal, wetlands would have to have standing water on it for **15 consecutive days** in a year in order to be classified as "wetland". Currently, the Manual defines wetlands as having ponded water for **seven total days** during a year, among other criteria.

Field testing of the proposed wetland definition revealed that millions of acres of land now listed as "wetlands" would lose that listing under the new

definition, and the time to decide if land is "wetland" or not would actually double under the proposed definition change.

Wisconsin officials, in a letter directed to the EPA, noted that the state would lose regulatory protection over about 80 percent of the remaining wetlands within its borders if the definition change became permanent. Wisconsin has already lost over half of its original wetland acreage since settlement days.

So ambiguous was the new definition of wetlands, in fact, that state and Federal resource officials determined that much of Wisconsin's famed **Horicon Marsh** would not be classified as "wetland" under the new definition.

Initially, the EPA had set a cutoff date for public comment on the proposal of Oct. 15, 1991, but the heavy volume of mail on the subject and the long time periods needed to compile field test results on the workability of the new definition caused the comment period to be extended through Dec. 15, 1991.

Reilly stated that a decision on how to further proceed with the proposed wetland definition change would not be made until after the comment deadline had been reached.

## Lodging for State Council Banquet

For those of you who may be traveling some distance for the annual Wisconsin T.U. State Council Conservation Awards and Fund-raising Banquet, there are many fine lodging sites available in the Appleton area.

The Paper Valley Hotel, of course, has fine lodging available, along with access to a swimming pool, mall and downtown shopping establishments. Room rates are approximately \$69/single and \$80 double. The toll free number to call regarding rooms and vacancies is: 1-800-242-3499.

A number of other lodging sites exist along the West College Avenue "strip" right off the Highway 41-141 exit that takes you downtown to the Paper Valley Hotel. Listed below, they are:

Roadstar Inn, 3623 West College, Appleton, single--\$30.95, double--\$36.95. Phone 1-800-445-INNS

Super-Motel, 3624 West College, Appleton, single-\$37.98, double-\$44.98. Phone 1-800-800-8000.

EXEL Inn, 210 West Hill Blvd. (just off West College), Appleton, single-\$29.95, double-\$36.95. Phone 1-800-356-8013.

Budgetel Inn (just off College Avenue exit going north onto Hwy. 41-141), single-\$36.95, double-\$43.95. Phone 1-800-428-3438.

Woodfield Suites, U.S. 41 at Hwy. 125, 3730 West College, Appleton, single-\$54.95, double-\$64.95. Phone 1-800-338-0008.



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# Wisconsin Trout

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited

Spring 1992

## Crisis in Wisconsin fish management!

# Fish managers leaving Wisconsin in record numbers!!

Wisconsin. A fabled state as far as progressive resource management is concerned. A state of many pristine lakes, fine coldwater and warmwater fisheries, beautiful forests and varied landscape.

Sounds nice, doesn't it? Just the way we've always known our home state. You might want to keep that thought on file, because, if present trends continue in Wisconsin, the thought of Wisconsin being a leader in resource management, particularly fish management, will be just that--a thought or a memory.

Why? Simple. Fish managers are leaving Wisconsin in record numbers, and they are doing so for one basic reason: money. To put it bluntly, Wisconsin is being a cheapskate with its professional resource people.

And that "penny-wise, pound-foolish" mentality that pervades the current state government is reaping what it has sown. Right now, the Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Program is experiencing

almost a 20 percent turnover rate among its senior management staff. In the Madison Bureau alone, that turnover rate is a whopping 48 percent.

Wisconsin can no longer compete to retain or recruit qualified fisheries professionals. The most experienced staff are leaving the state and the most qualified candidates are avoiding jobs in our state for more lucrative positions elsewhere.

When compared to other Midwest states (with fishing license fees similar to those in Wisconsin) and other resource agency fishery departments, Wisconsin pays its fishery professionals 17 to 30 percent less than fishery professionals in those states and agencies. The average Wisconsin DNR Fishery Professional after 35 years of service under the current pay system in Wisconsin will reach only 49 percent of his or her pay range maximum.

Anyone with the most minimal concern for Wisconsin's fishery resources should be alarmed by this situation.

Using even the most conservative economic analysis, Wisconsin's fishery has an annual economic impact on the state to the tune of \$233 million.

The state's tourism industry thrives heavily on a well-managed and varied fishery for inland and Great Lakes sport fishing. Any number of retail outlets in the state do a good share of their annual business because of good fishing in the state.

But, the powers that be in state government, namely the governor and the Legislature, are sitting back on their heels, doing nothing. Why is that?

For one thing, there has always been a pervasive attitude in the state that young graduates fresh out of college and trained professionals in other states were just champing at the bit to come to work in Wisconsin, with its far-sighted management schemes and its copious supply of lakes, rivers and streams. That made up for any discrepancies in pay.

But not any more. Just read the following letter sent to Ron Bruch, Area Fish Manager for the DNR out of Oshkosh:

Dear Mr. Bruch,

*I thank you for your interest in interviewing me for a Natural Resource Specialist I-Fish Management position at your Wautoma station. I have, however, decided to decline the interview at this time.*

*I was raised and educated in Wisconsin, and would have welcomed the opportunity to return. However, as you are well aware, the starting salary for your entry-level*

*professional fish management positions are well below those of most states. Your neighboring state of Minnesota has a starting salary of \$6,000 more per year for the same position. Thus, my reason for declining the interview is financial. As a recent graduate in Fisheries Science (South Dakota State University, M.S., 1990), believe me, the word is out that Wisconsin pays low.*

*I urge the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to work towards increasing entry-level salaries needed to attract and retain highly-qualified professionals to manage Wisconsin's resources.*

*Sincerely,*

*David Simon  
Klamath Falls, Oregon*

So poor is Wisconsin's pay scale in fisheries that, as of early 1992, there were eight unfilled fisheries staff positions in Madison. And...a nationwide recruitment effort to fill those positions attracted only seven applicants, all of whom were unqualified and inexperienced!

In northwestern Wisconsin, an inland fisheries position at the DNR station in Brule has been unoccupied for two years. And, with the onset of the spring spearfishing season by Chippewa tribal members in lakes in the ceded territories of northern Wisconsin, the state's Treaty Assessment Biologist at Woodruff--Pam Thiel--has resigned to take a position in Min-

Cont. on Page 2

## From the Chairman

By Steve Born

When comparing T.U. chapter membership rosters with the numbers of members who attend meetings, participate in work projects and assist the chapter in various ways, you can't help but realize that a fairly large number of Wisconsin T.U.'ers are passive supporters of the organization.

They support coldwater resources protection and conservation with their membership dues, and perhaps are avid readers of our national magazine, TROUT. But, they are not activists.

Moreover, some of our members are not serious anglers, but rather are part of the large environmentally-concerned public. They support T.U. because they believe in the organization's objectives. A 1990 membership survey indicated that more than half of T.U.'s membership nationally had not attended a chapter meeting in a year!

But these numbers, along with our activists, are an important ingredient in "more clout for trout". They are part of this organization's most important resource--the human resource.

Without an effective and strong human resource, the trout resource is in trouble. I believe that one key aspect of successful chapter functioning is staying in touch with all our chapter members, and the main way we do that is through our chapter and state Council communication tools--our newsletters.

It is our chapter newsletters which alert members to upcoming events and programs, that notify members of critical resource issues demanding their attention, that acknowledge the many

contributions of members and that provide periodic useful fishing information.

Some chapter newsletters are rudimentary and brief, others are more lengthy and creative. Some are written to capture our attention, while others are just part of the flow of household mail.

Volunteers who edit our chapters' newsletters tackle one of the toughest and most time-consuming jobs in the chapter. Often they get limited guidance before taking on their tasks, and there is the inevitable "burn-out" and turnover of editors. The Wisconsin State T.U. Council believes that the newsletters and their editors are key components of T.U. In fact, all that some of our members know of our efforts comes from what is printed in those newsletters!

That's why at the May 16 Wisconsin T.U. State Council meeting in Antigo (hopefully a time when fishing is good), we will be sponsoring a workshop for newsletter editors. This will be an opportunity to get some constructive professional advice from a terrific instructor, to share ideas with counterparts and to establish a better network so that we can all be better informed about T.U. activities in Wisconsin.

I hope that every chapter will make sure that their present (and prospective!) newsletter editors take advantage of this chance to improve their product and exchange information. Wisconsin T.U. chapters, and the State Council,

Cont. on Page 2

## State Council meets May 16

The Wisconsin T.U. State Council will meet on Saturday, May 16, in Antigo, Wisconsin. Included in the meeting will be a special forum for chapter newsletter editors to exchange ideas on news dissemination and sources of

news for members.

Announcement of the exact time and location of the meeting will be distributed to chapter and Council leaders at a later date. Check with your chapter president for that information.

## Conservation Congress hearings moved up

The annual Wisconsin Conservation Congress hearings have been moved up in scheduling this year. Normally held the last Monday in April, they will be held this year in each county of the state on Monday, April 6th.

Of interest to many anglers this year will be several questions on the questionnaire relating to establishing a three-year moratorium on the early trout season held in eight southwestern Wisconsin counties (Columbia, Crawford, Grant, Green, Iowa, Lafayette,

Richland and Sauk) that runs from January 1 through the Friday prior to the opening of the general statewide fishing season on the first Saturday in May.

Those TU'ers who are interested in that issue should attend and make their voices heard. All members are encouraged to attend the hearings in their home counties to vote on the variety of issues that will be presented. Check with your local DNR office regarding time and place of the hearings.



# 'Fish managers leaving Wisconsin in record numbers'

Cont. from Page 1

nesota for higher pay.

What are we risking by being so penurious with fish managers' pay? Well, here's some idea.

Wisconsin's fish management programs are consistently ranked near the top nationwide. Our fisheries professionals manage Wisconsin's 15,000 lakes, 50,000 miles of streams, two Great Lakes (Michigan and Superior) and several border rivers such as the Mississippi, St. Croix, Montreal, Brule and Menominee.

In addition, these managers develop public access to waters, protect critical habitats by administering environmental protection laws, manage thousands of acres of public lands and handle user conflicts, including the Native American Treaty Rights Issue.

Because of the expertise shown by Wisconsin's professional fish management staff, the afore-mentioned tourism industry benefits tremendously. Wisconsin is second in the nation in the number of non-resident fishing licenses sold, and one in four Wisconsin residents buys a fishing license.

Anglers put in about 28.9 million days a year pursuing their sport in Wisconsin, and they spend \$707.5 million retail dollars a year in the state. That expenditure by anglers translates into about 26,600 jobs in Wisconsin that generates \$19.1 million in tax revenues.

And, it is worth noting that fishery management personnel are paid by anglers and other outdoor user groups, not by general revenue taxes.

Where the problem occurs with adequate pay for Wisconsin's fish management pros lies in the lack of "pay progression" with years of service. In every category of job title and classification, Wisconsin lags behind neighboring states and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service with pay progression.

Some people argue that fish managers know what they are getting into when they accept their positions and that they should shut up and not complain. That simplistic view misses sev-

eral key points.

Most of Wisconsin's experienced fishery team began working for the Department of Natural Resources/Wisconsin Conservation Department in the mid-60's, give or take a few years. At that time, the state's salary scale was much more in line with those of other states, and, given the progressive nature of Wisconsin's conservation programs, employment with Wisconsin's natural resource agency was prized by graduates of top-notch universities offering conservation programs.

But, times have changed. Not only have other states copied many of Wisconsin's noteworthy achievements in fish management, but they have also "one-upped" the state by offering their professional fisheries personnel better pay. By so doing, they also attract the most qualified college graduates and the best trained personnel who seek career moves.

This fact gets obscured, though, by those who see a lot of Wisconsin's long-time fishery professionals still working in the state. If things are so bad, why aren't these folks leaving, too?

When fishery professionals put in twenty or more years of service to a particular agency, leaving becomes a difficult thing to do. Pensions and benefits have built up to such a point that increases in salary cannot offset the "bennies" that have accrued.

The "old guard", so to speak, is going to tough it out here in Wisconsin.

But...many of them are soon due to retire. That's where our problems will come to bear. Who will we hire to replace these veteran fisheries pros who have so much experience and whose work has received laudatory acclaim from their peers nationwide?

If present trends are any indication, we are going to fare poorly. Wisconsin can't fill existing vacancies with qualified people now. Some intra-agency transfers may occur for those supervisor/manager positions that

become vacant, but we still won't be getting the number and kind of top-notch applicants that the state should be getting.

The solutions to this problem--a problem that will manifest itself more so each year Wisconsin dawdles or pretends the problem doesn't exist--are several. Top on the list is establishment of pay progression that rewards experience and expertise. Cost of living increases that reflect the actual cost of living must be carried out, and actual pay--not pay range--should be competitive with other Midwestern states.

The bottom line is that Wisconsin needs to be able to offer starting salaries and progressive pay increases based on an applicant's experience and qualifications.

Without doing so, the state will gradually lose out to other states in personnel and programs. It is naive to think

that the programs that are in place today to manage fisheries (and people!) will still be the same ones we will be using one or two decades from now. Fish management is always in a dynamic state, and the best minds will be needed to keep Wisconsin ahead of the pack in that regard.

Right now, our fishery programs rank near the top nationwide, and our compensation for fishery professionals is heading toward the bottom. If we don't reverse the latter trend regarding compensation for fish managers, our fishery programs will follow suit. You can't have the number one fish management program with the number 35 salary compensation scale.

It's more likely that if we remain number 35 in salaries paid to managers, our fishery programs will eventually gravitate to number 35, also. Is that what Wisconsin anglers really want?

## 'From the Chairman'

Cont. from Page 1

will be stronger for this effort. Please...make sure that newsletter editors try to attend this workshop and make it a successful event.

On another front, actions were taken at the February National Board of Directors meeting that portend significant changes and strengthening for the national organization. Please watch for and review forthcoming information on this subject; over the long haul these proposed changes will be critical to Trout Unlimited.

A sound review by the membership prior to taking final action is an essential part of the process. While not in agreement with every detail of the recommendations of the Strategic Review Committee (which carried out this review), I applaud their incredible

work ethic, their commitment to a participatory process and to the exciting prospect of a stronger "new" T.U. if their recommendations are adopted by the full membership.

Finally, my apologies for a rather boring and business-like column from your chair. I would rather have shared some fantastic angling success stories with you--you know, like clever tactics, new lures, lengthy battles and legendary catches. Unfortunately, my three brief early season attempts have so far resulted in a few small trout and a chub. And my one voyage to the Great Lakes tributaries occurred when the Root River was easier to plow than to fish.

Like the rest of you optimists, I know things will get better by the time of my next column!

## 'Friends of Wisconsin' T.U. program rolls on

The highly-successful "Friends of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited" fund-raising program that the Wisconsin T.U. State Council has operated the past two years continues to provide funding for worthwhile coldwater resource conservation projects that have statewide significance.

Most recently, the State Council pumped \$4,000--of which \$2,000 was from the "Friends" fund--into a huge project in Mineral Point, Wisconsin, part of which involves the re-routing of Brewery Creek.

That contribution is on top of \$4,250 that the Council has expended from the "Friends" fund during 1991 for habitat and research work on the coldwater resource.

While the 1992 "Friends" campaign will soon be underway, you can get a head start on making a contribution to Wisconsin T.U.'s important coldwater resource fund by filling out the blank below and mailing your check of \$100 or more to the address listed.

Join with the nearly 50 "Friends of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited" listed here to better the future of trout and trout fishing in Wisconsin! You will receive a "Friends" pin and a Certificate of Appreciation for your donation, plus the satisfaction of helping shape a positive future for Wisconsin's coldwater resources!!

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| Robert Bolz        | Madison, WI    |
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Steve Born  
Wisconsin State  
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# Letters to the Editor

## Concerns over Black Earth Creek

Dear Editor,

Recently, we've become aware of a new plan by CUNA Mutual to develop its Pleasant View Golf Course. Numerous inquiries of Middleton officials over the last six months led many to believe that the project was "DEAD". Information available at this time is very sketchy and limited to an article in the January 24, 1992, issue of ISTHMUS (a Madison-based newspaper).

Citizens for Responsible Growth took a major role in opposing the original First Federal/CUNA Project. We felt that their plans didn't address a number of serious issues, such as: impact on local school populations, police and fire service, effect of increased water pumping from Well #6 on the Black Earth Creek headwaters, loss of wildlife habitat, transportation and traffic concerns, loss of prime agricultural lands, the effects of annexation on the town of Middleton's tax base and the threat to nationally-registered, historic First Lutheran Church.

We are anxiously awaiting CUNA's new proposal. Citizens for Responsible Growth encourages environmentally and socially responsible growth. If the new proposal fails to adequately address the issues specified above,

Citizens for Responsible Growth will rally its membership and join with our friends in the Town of Middleton, the Village of Cross Plains, Trout Unlimited, the Federation of Fly Fishers, the Black Earth Creek Watershed Association and the Sierra Club in opposing the revised project.

I would urge T.U. members to contact the Cross Plains Village President, Mr. Richard Griffin, 2107 Julius St., Cross Plains, WI 53528, and share your concerns with him. Black Earth Creek is an environmental and economic asset to the village. It might be a good idea for members to let Mr. Griffin know that they spend money on gas, food and other items in Cross Plains because of the trout angling opportunities on Black Earth Creek.

I want to congratulate you on your fine publication--only wish there were the money and time for it to come out on a monthly basis.

Please feel free to call me at (608) 233-7522 if you have any questions regarding the CUNA development.

Sincerely,

Mike Duren

Citizens for Responsible Growth  
1630 Cypress Trail  
Middleton, WI 53562

## Appreciates award

Dear Wisconsin T.U.,

Please convey my utmost appreciation to the Wisconsin T.U. State Council for the Award of Merit presented to me at the recent annual Council Awards Banquet. As one of the award recipients, I want to assure the Council that the effort expended to solicit nominees, gather background information on them and arrange for appropriate awards is effort well worth it.

associates dedicated to common sense is the kind of encouragement that keeps us all dedicated to the tasks of preserving, enhancing and stewarding the fragile aquatic ecosystems we all enjoy so much.

Sincerely,  
Bob Hunt

DNR Cold Water Group Leader  
Waupaca, WI 54981

## Says "Thanks" for award

Dear Wisconsin T.U.,

Now that I have had some time to savor my recognition as Wisconsin Trout Unlimited's "Fish Manager of the Year", it is high time that I thank everyone associated with the effort in bringing this award to me.

As a long-time member of T.U. and a fisheries professional, it was an honor to have received this award. It made me feel darn good, and I trust that I will continue to be worthy of the honor.

I have said it before--T.U. is a great organization to work with and that reflects on twenty-five years of profes-

sional interaction with chapters and members. I expect to continue this association until my season closes for the last time with that final trip around the bend.

Please convey my gratitude to the State T.U. Awards Committee!

Sincerely,

Lloyd "Duke" Andrews  
Woodruff Area Fisheries Manager  
Dept. of Natural Resources  
8770 Hwy. "J"  
Woodruff, WI 54568

## End of the early trout season?

By Bill Sonzogni

At the recent meeting of the Wisconsin T.U. State Council, Department of Natural Resources Trout Fisheries Specialist Larry Claggett spoke to the audience about a proposed question on the April 6th Conservation Congress questionnaire relating to closing the early trout season in eight southwestern Wisconsin counties (Columbia, Crawford, Grant, Green, Iowa, Lafayette, Richland and Sauk).

A number of folks in those counties would like to see that early season closed, so the Congress has posed a question that, if approved by the Congress and then the Natural Resources Board, would establish a three-year moratorium on the early season.

Claggett indicated that, if this question is approved with little or no opposition at the Congress hearings, the DNR may be forced to close the early trout season.

Many of us have taken advantage of the early trout season, wetting a line a couple of times (especially during those occasionally beautiful days in March and April). Most of us don't keep fish, but it sure is nice to fool a fish or two.

However, unless we can convince the Conservation Congress and/or the DNR otherwise, the early trout season will be history!

According to Claggett's presentation, the DNR wants to retain the early season. They say that there is no biological basis for closing the early trout season.

In fact, according to Claggett, the early season has been successful in meeting its original purpose, i.e., relieving the circus-like atmosphere of the opening day of the regular season and providing extra recreational opportunities for sport anglers.

The main reason for opposition to the early trout season appears to be the limited number of counties (eight) that are open to that season. Many non-local and out-of-state anglers use the trout streams in that eight-county area, and there is also a perception that trout, par-

ticularly larger trout, are more vulnerable to catch and harvest during the winter months (thus depleting trout numbers for spring and summer anglers).

I can empathize with such concerns, but I hope that there are ways that the early trout season can remain open.

First, the studies to date do not indicate that winter angling harms the fishery. More importantly, the DNR has just put into effect many special regulations on a variety of stream reaches that should ease concerns about overharvest. Let's give those regs a chance to prove themselves.

Second, most of our southwestern Wisconsin friends aren't aware that Southern Wisconsin T.U. addressed their concerns back in 1987. A special committee evaluated all available data on the topic and presented recommendations to the chapter.

Southern Wisconsin T.U. endorsed a recommendation to further limit the harvest of trout during the early trout season and to ask the DNR to consider expanded geographic coverage of the streams open to the early trout season.

So, what can we do? For starters, we can contact our fellow chapters in the southwest to let them know our position. They should realize that we acknowledge their concerns and are not adverse to limiting the harvest and expanding the number of counties where the early trout season would be open.

Next, we should reaffirm to the DNR our desire for an early trout season, and indicate that we would probably support changes in the current regulations. And, lastly, we need to get our views out to those attending the Conservation Congress hearings in April and make sure our members attend the hearings locally.

Most states, including states with progressive trout management like Montana and Pennsylvania, have some type of early trout season. It would be a shame to see Wisconsin revert back to a late spring/summer season only.

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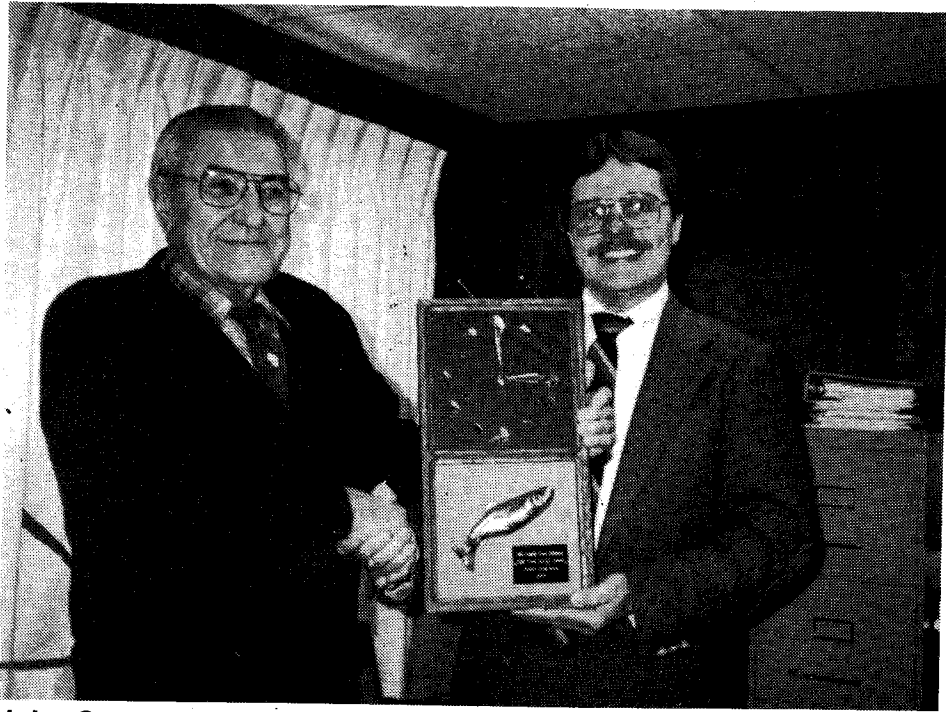
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# Wisconsin Trout Unlimited



John Sarnow (left) receives "Gold Trout" Award from Cy Sendelbach (right) for past service to the Aldo Leopold Chapter.

## ALDO LEOPOLD CHAPTER

Chapter past-president John Sarnow received a big "thank-you" from the chapter for his years of service. Cy Sendelbach, a T.U. Life Member and member of Aldo Leopold T.U., made a presentation of the "Gold Trout Service Award" to John (see photo). Sarnow also received a walnut fly box containing 10 flies tied by the late Lee Parker.

During Sarnow's presidency, the chapter hosted two T.U. National Con-

servations Banquets, sponsored two fishing outings for disabled citizens and one for the "Big Brothers, Big Sisters". John is the superintendent of the Poynette School District and a member of the Poynette Optimist Club.

Aldo Leopold T.U. is attempting a revitalization of the chapter. Long-time T.U. member Clint Byrnes of Beaver Dam now serves as chapter president. The chapter has gone on record urging an end to the "early" trout season.



Happy Kids from Antigo show appreciation to Antigo T.U. for "Kids Fishing Day" in 1991.

## ANTIGO CHAPTER

As this goes to press, Antigo T.U. is busy planning its 1992 Conservation Banquet to be held March 28th. Funds raised at that event will help pay for: 1) stocking of trout in Antigo Lake for another fishing day for kids and senior citizens and 2) purchase of easements

along the East Branch of the Eau Claire River to pave the way for future habitat work.

The Antigo Chapter will also play host to the State Council meeting on May 16th.

## BLACKHAWK CHAPTER

The chapter has hosted several entertaining meetings over the winter months.

The December, 1991, meeting was highlighted by nationally-known knife maker Ed Brandsey of Edgerton, Wisconsin. He gave a talk and slide show on the history of the Bowie knife and techniques used in making knives.

The January meeting saw members viewing videos of a summer, 1991, trout fishing trip to Montana. At the February meeting, La Crosse area fish manager Dave Vetrano made a slide presentation on his attempts at rearing wild brown and brook trout, and he presented data gathered from trout population surveys on La Crosse area streams.

The chapter voted to spend \$1,000 to provide a trout feeder for Vetrano's project.

The chapter held a workday on the West Fork Kickapoo River (Vernon County) the weekend of March 14-15 to build "LUNKER" structures that will be installed in another section of the river as part of the ongoing habitat work being done there.

At the May chapter meeting, Dennis Franke, formerly with the Orvis Company and now an independent rod builder, will give a slide presentation on trout fishing the spring creeks of Southwestern Wisconsin. He will also give a fly casting clinic at the June meeting.

All chapter meetings are held on the

third Monday of each month at the Rotary Gardens in Janesville.

The chapter is in the midst of planning another successful Conservation Banquet to be held April 27th at the Hoffman House (Ramada Inn). Cocktails start at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 7:00 p.m. Many prizes and auction items will be on hand. Tickets are \$25

each or \$45 per couple. Contact Tom Kautz at (608) 868-4522 for information, or send check payable to Trout Unlimited to Kautz at: 2818 North Emerald Grove Road, Milton, WI 53563.

Terry Kent was elected to succeed Dave Patrick as chapter president.

## CENTRAL WISCONSIN CHAPTER

The chapter held its February workday on the West Branch of the White River near Wautoma. Despite a light turnout of workers, members managed to brush 500 feet of streambank and remove a couple of bankside trees. One more day on the West Branch is scheduled for September.

The chapter was recently awarded an "Embrace-A-Stream" grant from T.U. National for a restoration project on Radley Creek in Waupaca County, and it will hold three workdays for this project (April 25, May 16 and August 15). The project site is on West Road, one-quarter mile north of Highway 22 just east of the Portage-Waupaca county line.

The chapter's annual banquet was

held March 14 at the Oshkosh Hilton. Results will be reported in the next chapter report.

Final plans are being made for the chapter's 16th Annual Fly Fishing School, to be held the weekend of May 29-31. There is still some room available for additional students, and anyone interested in attending should contact Mike Stapleton at (608) 742-3665.

The chapter's Board of Directors voted in March to sponsor students at the Natural Resources Center Workshop and Nature Adventure Camp, both held at UW-Stevens Point.

There will also be workdays June 20 and July 18 on the Tomorrow River at Welton Road below Nelsonville.

## COULEE REGION CHAPTER

New chapter president John Florine reports that his chapter will host a "Take a Kid Fishing Day" on June

7th at Esofea Park in Coon Valley in conjunction with the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program.

## FOX VALLEY CHAPTER

The chapter had interesting meetings during winter, including a program on The Nature Conservancy, steelhead fishing, trout ponds, fly fishing technology and others. The chapter's banquet was held March 28 at the Country Aire in Appleton. Results will be reported in the next issue.

Habitat improvement projects are

being formed for waters in Waushara and Waupaca counties. The chapter has also awarded a scholarship to Tom Burri, a fisheries major at UW-Stevens Point.

For information on meetings or workdays, call Darrell Toliver at (414) 731-6180.



Green Bay T.U. president Mitch Bent (left) and Shawano DNR fish manager Ross Langhurst (right) beside new generator for stream shocker bought for DNR by Green Bay T.U.

## GREEN BAY CHAPTER

The chapter spent a busy winter preparing for its 17th annual Conservation Banquet set for March 28th in Green Bay. Another fine turnout was expected.

Winter meetings provided good programs for chapter members. Wisconsin DNR Fishery Bureau chief Lee Kernen appeared at the January meeting to discuss future trout management plans in the state. At the February meeting, Nicolet National Forest fishery biologist Don Hair and Lakewood District (Nicolet Forest) Biologist Gary Zimmer reviewed trout habitat improvement work and beaver control on Forest trout streams.

The March meeting saw DNR fish managers Ross Langhurst and Russ

Heizer and DNR Conservation Warden Steve Daye discuss the new inland trout fishing regulations that North-eastern Wisconsin trout anglers will face for the first time.

Also at the March meeting, the chapter approved several funding requests: 1) \$5,000 for habitat work on Ben Nutt Creek in Sheboygan County; 2) \$2,159.40 for buy and/or refurbish 20 radio transmitters to assist the DNR with a trout movement study in the South Branch of the Oconto River north of Suring; and 3) \$900 to fund six students to Conservation Summer Camps.

The chapter also made strides in the Youth/Education area. Former chapter president Bob Heim held a meeting in



# Chapter reports

February with chapter members and area educators to discuss short-term and long-range proposals for T.U. involvement in conservation education with Brown County youth. Included in the committee's proposal were purchase of videos for distribution in county and school libraries and plans for a

"walk-through" trout stream exhibit at the Brown County Reforestation Camp.

Pete Harris and Bob Heim were elected to three-year terms on the Board of Directors at the March meeting.

## KIAP-TU-WISH CHAPTER

Kiap-TU-Wish has launched another "Trout Works" project on the Upper Kinnickinnic River. In February and March, the chapter carried out stream-bank brushing under the guidance of DNR fish manager Marty Engel.

Kiap-TU-Wish is also making plans for habitat improvement work on the Willow River near Burkhardt, and it is keeping abreast of the process involving the proposed bypass over the "Kin-

ni" near River Falls.

The chapter is also starting to place recently-purchased "Ryan Temperature Monitors" in pre-determined locations above and below the site on the "Kinni" where the city of River Falls will impact the river with discharges. As part of the city's 205J Stormwater Management Plan, the chapter's temperature monitoring project will be used to create a storm water management plan for River Falls.

## LAKESHORE CHAPTER

Lakeshore T.U. put on a fly tying class for 12 students (six each of beginners and advanced) in February. Chapter members were also busy preparing for the March 28th banquet at the Club Bil-Mar in Manitowoc.

The chapter will conduct a casting clinic in May, with chapter member Louis Jirikowic demonstrating use of Sage rods and reels. The clinic will be open to the public, with cost \$10 for members and \$20 for non-members.

Lakeshore T.U. has been working quite hard helping to organize a Manitowoc County Conservation Hall of Fame. Several chapter members received special awards from the Hall of Fame and one member was one of the

first six to be inducted into the Hall.

Plymouth area DNR fish manager John Nelson spoke at the chapter's March meeting and related plans for habitat improvement projects in Sheboygan County.

Lakeshore again will sponsor two high school students for 1992 Natural Resources Career Workshops at the Central Wisconsin Environmental Station east of Stevens Point.

Chapter president Jeff Preiss informs folks that anyone may call him at (414) 773-2693 for information on steelhead fishing conditions on the Branch, Manitowoc and/or Sheboygan rivers.

## MARINETTE COUNTY CHAPTER

The chapter hosted a sellout crowd March 16th at its annual Conservation Banquet at the Dome in Marinette. Banquet proceeds will be used to fund stream surveys, beaver control on county trout streams and a fencing pro-

ject on the South Branch of Beaver Creek in Marinette County.

Plans are also in the works to coordinate efforts with the Peshtigo Park & Recreation Department for another youth fishing day.



View of Brewery Creek stream channel (ditch) next to roaster pile before re-routing of creek.

## HARRY NOHR CHAPTER

The chapter was pleased to announce the beginning of re-routing of Brewery Creek near the Iowa County city of Mineral Point. The creek was re-routed to detour it away from roaster piles that were polluting the stream in its former course. Harry Nohr T.U. con-

tributed \$1,000 to the project, and the Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited donated \$2,000 from general funds and \$2,000 from the "Friends of Wisconsin T.U." fund to assist in the project.

## NORTHWOODS CHAPTER

No report

## OCONTO RIVER WATERSHED CHAPTER

No report

## OJIBLEAU CHAPTER

Ojibseau T.U.'ers are gearing up for their chapter's Spring Banquet set for April 9th. Featured speaker will be Jack Dennis of Jackson Hole, Wyoming. For tickets, contact Dick DuPlessie at (715) 834-7692.

Chapter projects for the upcoming season include completion of the Duncan Creek Work Project in Chippewa County, completion of a demonstration project for Beaver Creek Reserve in Eau Claire County and preliminary



Re-routed section of Brewery Creek nearing completion. Old stream channel is on opposite side of road next to roaster pile at right left.

work and study of potential projects for Lowes Creek in Eau Claire County. The chapter hopes for a good turnout of all chapter members and friends in these work projects.

Ojibseau T.U. also hopes to complete seeding work on Elk Creek at the site of its previous project work, and for improvements to be made to the chapter

property on Elk Creek.

Regular meetings and fly-tying classes are being conducted. Jon Kling and Clarence Wilson are overseeing the volunteer teachers for a large number of student fly-tiers. Mike Benrud, chapter meeting chairman, continues to bring new and interesting speakers to the monthly meetings.

## SHAW-PACA CHAPTER

During the past few years, Shaw-Paca T.U. has arranged to host a "Kids' Fishing Day" this summer, with time and location to be determined at a later date. The local Wal-Mart Store has donated \$450 to assist the chapter in local projects.

Shaw-Paca T.U. will sponsor two students to the Central Wisconsin Environmental Station this summer. The students will be from the Shawano-Waupaca county area. Other educational news from the chapter includes

announcement of the awarding of the chapter's annual scholarship in Water Resources to Jonathan Pyatskowitz of Shawano. Jonathan is currently a junior at UW-Stevens Point.

The chapter is heading toward another successful banquet set for Thursday, April 2, at The Gathering in Shawano.

## SOUTHEASTERN WI CHAPTER

No report

## SOUTHERN WI CHAPTER

The chapter had a very busy and fruitful winter season. In January, it hosted another successful "Trout Fishing Clinic" and dinner featuring well-known angler and author "Lefty" Kreh and rod-builder Dennis Franke.

The chapter has been holding fly-tying classes for beginning and advanced tyers at two Madison locations during winter and early spring.

The chapter's annual "Auction Night", featuring the "legendary" "Colonel Muskrat" and "Doctor Sausage" was a smashing success during March.

Chapter members staffed booths at the Dane County Fishing Expo and the "Badger Fly Fishers" conclave dur-

ing winter and spring.

The Projects Committee made plans for a work day on the West Branch of Blue Mounds Creek in March, and they also planned major streambank improvement work on Black Earth Creek for summer. Other work will focus on Vermont Creek in Dane County.

Southern WI T.U. will have other summer activities, including a flycasting and trout fishing seminar, a fishing day for handicapped citizens and a field day to visit and review past chapter habitat improvement work.

## WILD RIVERS CHAPTER

No report

## WOLF RIVER CHAPTER

In January, the chapter met to establish some goals for the coming year. The chapter will explore the acquisition and removal of an old dam on the Lily River, a tributary to the Wolf River. The dam causes warmwater discharges to the Wolf and prevents upstream migration of trout for spawning.

Wolf River T.U. will look into acquisition of white cedar seedlings to plant along Spring Creek, another coldwater feeder to the Wolf. The creek has suffered from past beaver activity, and now needs shade and erosion protection in order to restore its streambanks. Trees will be planted May 3rd; call Herb Buettner at (715) 882-8612 for information.

Member Harold Levin is coordinating a stocking project of non-migratory rainbow trout in the Wolf River, and he hopes to find a strain of fish that will naturally reproduce in the river.

In the area of Youth/Education, the

chapter has several exciting things going on. It has sponsored an essay contest for students from the White Lake Public School asking them to describe the importance of water resources and what individuals and the community can do to protect them. Donna Kallner (715-882-5400) chairs that project.

A fishing clinic for area youth will be introduced this summer, and the chapter will sponsor a scholarship for a high school student from White Lake Public School to attend a natural resources career workshop offered by UW-Stevens Point at the Central Wisconsin Environmental Station at Sunset Lake east of Stevens Point.

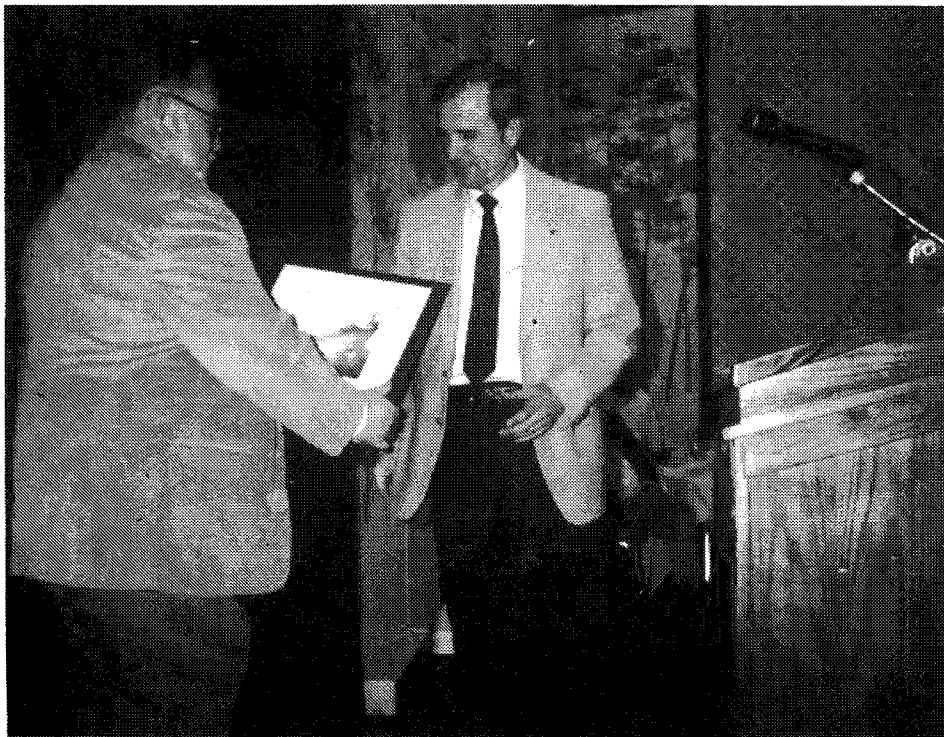
Herb Buettner will be coordinating plans to gather brown trout stock from the Wolf River in order to obtain trout with proper genetic "imprinting" to serve as brood stock for future planting and return to the river. The chapter

Cont. on Page 9

# Awards presented at

The Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited held its eighth Conservation Awards and Fund-raising Banquet on Saturday, January 18, at the

Paper Valley Hotel & Conference Center in Appleton. Many awards and certificates of appreciation were handed out that evening, and they are listed herein.



Bob Hunt (right) receiving the Wisconsin T.U. Award of Merit.

## AWARD OF MERIT

This award was bestowed upon **Bob Hunt**, Coldwater Research Team Leader for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. During his tenure in that position, Hunt spent a great deal of time conducting research on trout habitat improvement methods and has helped direct emphasis on natural reproduction of native trout to sustain a fishery as opposed to promoting indiscriminate stocking of hatchery fish.

In addition to supervising and coordinating the Coldwater Research Unit, Hunt also acts as the principal investigator for four or five field studies within that unit annually. He has published over 40 technical papers on these topics. Hunt serves, too, on the Board of

Directors of the American Fisheries Society and is a standing member of the National Scientific Board of Trout Unlimited.

The work that Bob Hunt and his research crew have done over the past decades was instrumental in providing the basis for promulgation of new trout fishing regulations that were enacted in 1990, and that work also was instrumental in giving the Wisconsin Legislature the information it needed to enact the Trout Stamp in 1977.

The legacy that Bob Hunt has left behind will continue to bear fruit for trout management in Wisconsin for years to come.



Steve Born displays his "Gold Trout" Award for leadership.

## GOLD TROUT AWARD

Two of the prestigious "Gold Trout Awards" were presented that evening. **Dick Wachowski** of Eau Claire was presented one of the awards for his many years of service to Trout Unlimited at all levels of the organization.

Wachowski spent several years as the representative of the Ojibseau chapter to the Wisconsin State Council while also serving as that chapter's president. He served three years as the Council's Vice-Chairman, as well as its Legal Counsel.

From 1987 to 1989, Wachowski was the Chairman of the State Council, during which time he put much effort into assisting the Wisconsin DNR in bringing the new Inland Trout Fishing Regulations to the public for information

and dissemination. Dick also played a key role in bringing about a conference on trout management held in La Crosse in 1988.

Following his stint as Council Chairman, Wachowski served with distinction as the Midwest Regional Vice-president for Trout Unlimited. Under his leadership, the first-ever Midwest Regional meeting of T.U. representatives was convened in Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin. This highly successful gathering provided the opportunity for T.U.'ers from the Midwest to share information on various coldwater resource concerns in their respective states.

All during Wachowski's tenure as Council Chairman and Midwest Reg-



Dick Wachowski receives a "Gold Trout" Award for Service.

ional Vice-president, he served as a member of the T.U. National Board of Directors and was a staunch advocate for promoting fiscal responsibility within T.U. as well as keeping the National Board attuned to the needs of the chapters and state councils.

Wachowski's decade-and-a-half of distinguished service to T.U. made him

a worthy recipient of the Gold Trout Award.

The other Gold Trout Award was bestowed upon State Council Chairman **Steve Born** of Madison. A professor of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Born has been a strong advocate for Trout Unlimited, whether it be dealing with students, faculty, bureaucrats, politicians or anyone concerned with resource management in Wisconsin.

Born served three terms as president of the Southern Wisconsin T.U. chapter, and he also assumed the duties of State Council delegate, Council Secretary and Vice-Chairman. Steve has also been a "behind-the-scenes" influence on much of the recent legislation positively impacting Wisconsin's coldwater resources of late, including Wisconsin's "Stewardship Fund".

A reknowned expert on natural resources policy who is recognized internationally, Born was one of the driving forces in the founding of the Black Earth Creek Watershed Association and has served as its president since 1986. Under Steve's leadership, the association has been exemplary in uniting diverse interests of landowners, the DNR, local governments and T.U. members in focusing on the betterment of the Black Earth Creek Watershed.

For his outstanding leadership in these many areas, Steve Born was rightly recognized by the Wisconsin T.U. State Council and was deserving of his Gold Trout Award.



Green Bay T.U.'ers accept the "Silver Trout" Award.

## SILVER TROUT AWARD

The Green Bay Chapter of Trout Unlimited was the recipient of this award for "Chapter of the Year" in 1991.

During the past year, Green Bay T.U. carried out an impressive array of coldwater resource and environmental education work including:

- \*Expenditures of over \$28,000 on trout habitat improvements such as the dredging of Saul Spring Pond in Langlade County (\$8,950), removal of beaver and beaver dams from trout waters in the Nicolet National Forest (\$6,000), brushing and brush bundle installation in Little Waupsee Creek (\$3,100) and Brehmer Creek (\$2,700) in Oconto County, "sky-hook" boom cover installation in the South Branch of the Paint River in Iron County, MI (\$5,030), brush bundle installation, sand trap creation and "digger" log placement in Forbes Creek (\$2,000) in Oconto County and placement of "LUNKER" structures in the West Fork of the Kickapoo River (\$500) in Vernon County;

- \*Funding of other coldwater resource work such as trout population

- surveys on Bearskin and Noisy Creeks (Oneida County) and Plum Creek (Vilas County) (\$1,336); purchase of a four-wheel ATV for the Marinette Area DNR for law enforcement on remote trout waters (\$800); and purchase of a new generator for the DNR's electroshocking unit in Northeast Wisconsin (\$1,647);

- \*Providing over 300 volunteer hours of labor on trout habitat improvement work in Northeast Wisconsin;

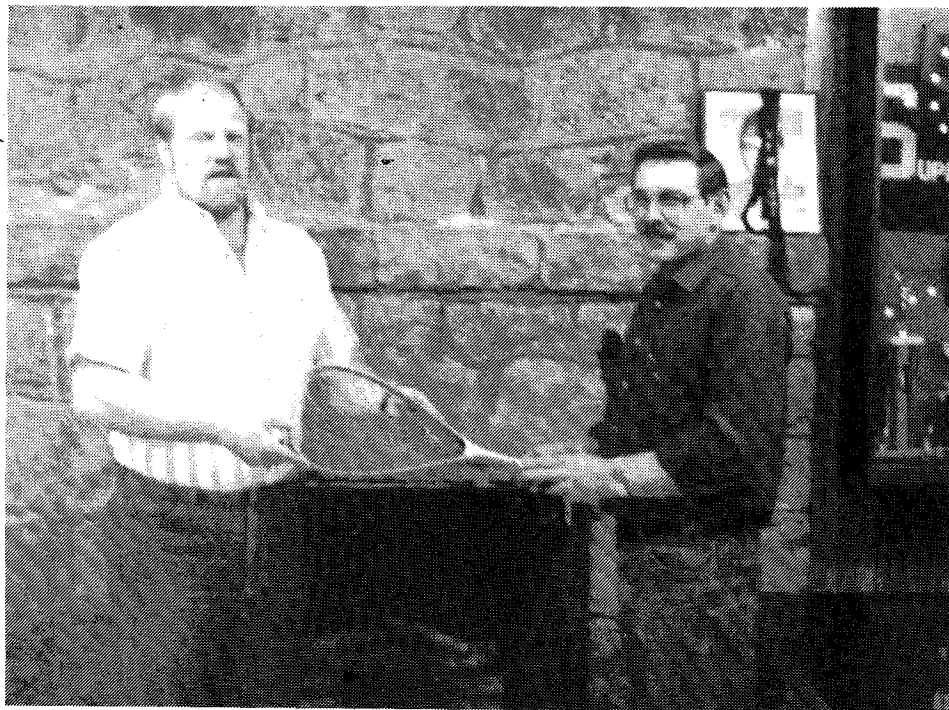
- \*Sending six youths to week-long Conservation Summer Camps at the Central Wisconsin Environmental Center east of Stevens Point;

- \*Carrying out its first-ever "Kids Fishing Day" with youngsters from the Brown County Social Services Department PALS Program.

All this effort was made possible by the chapter's exceptional annual Conservation Banquet, which netted over \$23,600 in 1991. Green Bay T.U. served the resource well in 1991 and was most deserving of the Silver Trout Award.



# State Council Banquet



Denny Orgeman (right) receives "Gold Net" Award from Scott Henricks (left), Antigo T.U. Chapter president.

## GOLD NET AWARD

Denny Orgeman of Antigo received the Gold Net Award for his years of admirable service to Antigo T.U. and the coldwater resources of Langlade County.

Orgeman has been a major force in the success of Antigo's annual Conservation Fund-raising banquet, which has raised well over \$75,000 during the past decade. Each year, Denny has put in an enormous amount of time coordinating efforts for his chapter's event.

Orgeman has also given generously of his time on many trout habitat improvement projects in his area, including work on Coldwater Creek,

the Hunting River and the East Branch of the Eau Claire River. Through his work with Antigo Area DNR fish manager Max Johnson, several stretches of the East Branch of the Eau Claire have received habitat work that has greatly improved the trout carrying capacities of the river in those areas.

Last but not least, Denny was also the prime mover in 1991 in producing a fishing day for kids and senior citizens on Antigo Lake--an impoundment on Spring Brook within the Antigo city limits. The event brought much good will to the Antigo T.U. chapter, thanks to Denny's superb efforts.



Lloyd "Duke" Andrews--DNR Fish Manager of the Year.

## DNR FISH MANAGER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Lloyd "Duke" Andrews, a 32-year veteran of the Department of Natural Resources and currently the Area Fish Manager from Woodruff, was the recipient of this year's "DNR Fish Manager of the Year".

Andrews began his career with the DNR in 1959, holding positions of technician, biologist, manager and fisheries supervisor. His love of trout fishing and the coldwater resource has been a driving factor in his emphasis on trout management during his career that has spanned three decades.

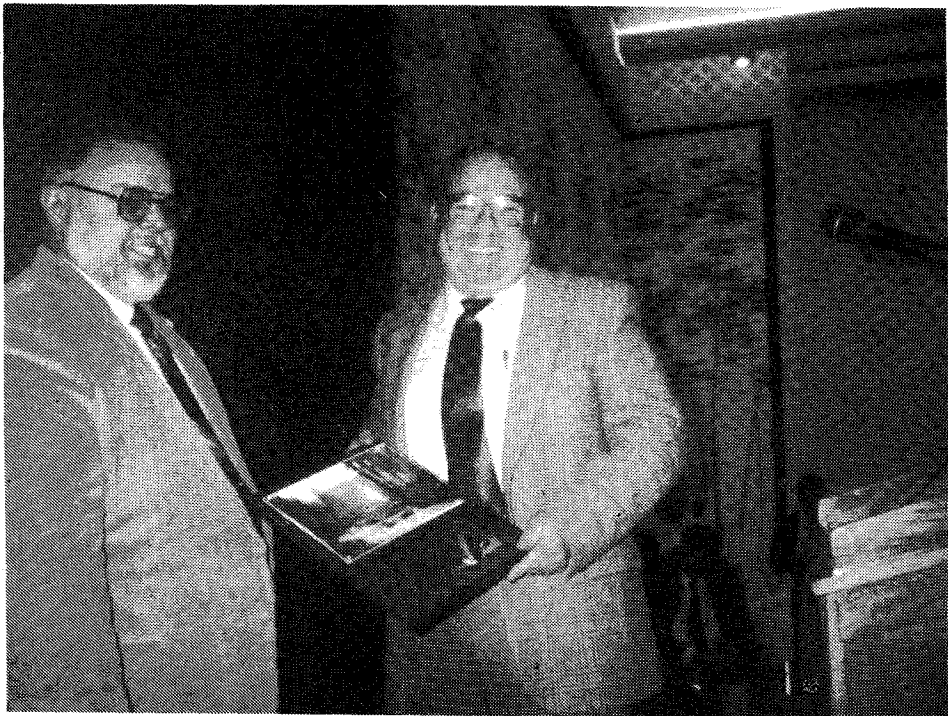
Some of his more notable achievements during that time include: 1) research and investigative work on the Pike River in Marinette County; 2) assessment of the "Vibert Box" in the Wolf River and 3) preparation of part of the environmental Impact Statement regarding potential impacts on lakes and streams that the formerly-proposed Exxon mine project would have had.

"Duke" has been the lead player in a number of trout habitat improvement projects in his Woodruff area that encompasses 3,500 lakes and 2,000 miles of coldwater and warmwater streams. Among those projects are: 1) structure placement and dredging of Elvoy Creek and Elvoy Springs, respectively; 2) bank cover and sand

trap placement in the Deerskin River (Vilas County); 3) dredging of Goodyear Springs (Oneida and Vilas counties); 4) installation of habitat structures in Plum Creek (Vilas County), and 5) creation of hiding cover for trout in Woodboro Springs (Oneida County).

In addition to use of habitat improvements to improve his area's trout fishery, Andrews and his staff have expanded trout fishing opportunities in North Central Wisconsin through judicious use of stocked trout lakes, and he put much effort into establishing restrictive regulations in his area to allow better propagation of lake trout in the few scattered lakes where they reside.

Andrews also achieved a great deal of respect for the incredible amount of time and effort he put in during the past decade with regard to controversies surrounding Chippewa tribal spearfishing in lakes within the ceded territory of Northern Wisconsin. Caught between zealots on both sides of the issue, Andrews and his team worked tirelessly to produce a solid data base on warmwater species of fish--walleyes, muskellunge, northern pike and bass--that will give the DNR the best knowledge possible to protect those resources for all anglers.



Clint Byrnes (right) holds his "Headwaters" Award.

## HEADWATERS AWARD

Each grand and mighty river has its start in the quiet and steady beginnings of unseen headwaters. So, also, with the course and flow of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited. The work of our organization begins with the quiet and ceaseless work of individuals whose efforts are braided together to pursue our lofty goals. Wisconsin Trout Unlimited proudly bestowed its Headwaters Award to Clint Byrnes in recognition of his unsung efforts in promoting conservation and the work of Trout Unlimited.

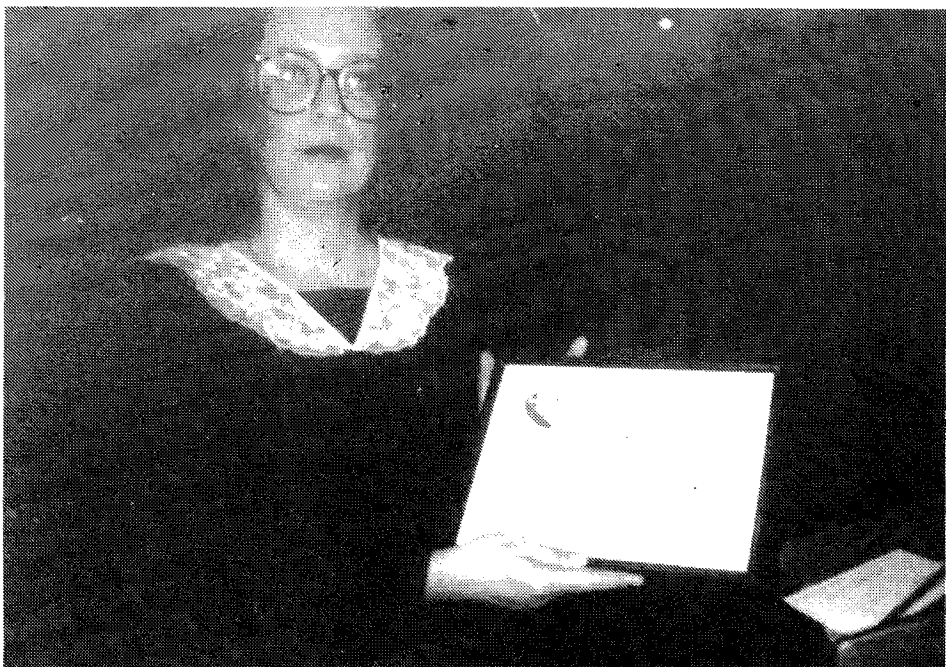
Byrnes was a charter member of the Southern Wisconsin T.U. chapter, and later became a charter member of the Aldo Leopold chapter when it formed in 1982.

Clint has received the American

Motors National Conservation Award for his work to restore Crystal Creek near Beaver Dam in the 1970's, and he has also been honored for his work by the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation.

He has been active in past years in the Wisconsin Conservation Congress and the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, and he has also been very involved with the affairs of the Wisconsin T.U. State Council. Most importantly, Clint has literally been the "father" of the Wisconsin T.U. Council's Awards Program from its inception many years ago.

The Headwaters Award is thus a small token of the deep appreciation the Council feels for Clint's efforts over the years.



Linda Anderson of Madison accepts the "Environmental Legislator of the Year" Award for State Senator Charles Chvala (D.-Madison).

## ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR

Wisconsin State Senator Charles Chvala of Madison received this year's award for his tireless efforts on behalf of the environment since election to the Legislature in 1982.

During the Legislature's current session, Chvala chaired a special subcommittee charged with the responsibility

of drafting legislation to reform the state's Priority Watershed Program. The proposed legislation is designed to give farmers greater incentives to voluntarily participate in efforts to control runoff and erosion, while giving the DNR greater flexibility in forcing non-

Cont. on Page 8

# 'State Council Banquet'

Cont. from Page 7

## Environmental Legislator, Cont.

compliant landowners to participate in the watershed protection plan.

The legislation drafted by Chvala's committee would also speed up efforts to clean up Priority Watersheds and would direct the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection to develop a model "livestock exclusion" ordinance to encourage counties to keep livestock out of streams.

Other important legislation that Chvala has been involved with that would impact our environment includes: recycling, protection of road-

side habitat, promotion of "sustainable" agriculture, tougher enforcement of anti-pollution laws, control of pesticides and limiting development of prime farmlands. He was also successful during the past Budget Session in providing \$200,000 to fund a study on the impact of development on Dane County's groundwater system, including the effects on Black Earth Creek.

Those who care about the future of our state's coldwater resources and the Wisconsin environment have no better friend in the Legislature than Senator Charles Chvala of Madison.



"Tip" Bagstad (right) receives Certificate of Appreciation from Larry Meicher (left).

### CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION

Two certificates were presented at the annual Awards Banquet.

The first went to Tilford "Tip" Badstad of Westby, Wisconsin. Since the 1950's, "Tip" has been involved with trout habitat improvement work in the Coulee Region of the state, particularly La Crosse and Vernon counties. This involvement included construction and installation of habitat improvement structures at his own expense in a small stream adjacent to his own land, as well as toiling for over 14 years as a Limited Term Employee (LTE) with the DNR.

Bagstad's work achieved acclaim in the late 1970's, when severe floods ruined much of the former trout habitat improvement work in the Coulee streams. "Tip" took over as crew leader under the direction of La Crosse Area Fish Manager Ken Wright, and, by the time a Trout Habitat Technician position had been established for the La Crosse area in 1980, Bagstad and his crew had built and installed several hundred wing deflectors in Timber Coulee, Rulland's Coulee and Bohemian Valley Creeks.

"Tip" was also intimately involved in the development of "LUNKER" structures which are now used frequently by fish managers in southern and western parts of the state for trout habitat improvement because of lower costs and ease of construction in building and installation.

Since 1985, almost 500 "LUNKER" structures have been built and placed in Coulee region trout streams under Bagstad's guidance, and neighboring states are seeking information on these structures from Wisconsin's DNR because of the successes that have

accrued from their use.

There is perhaps no greater tribute to "Tip" Bagstad than the fact that, because of his work on Timber Coulee Creek (a stream considered to be a marginal "put-and-take" fishery 30 years ago), the stream has been upgraded to a Class I trout water fully capable of sustaining a fishery from natural reproduction. Timber Coulee has also been listed as one of America's top 100 trout streams by Trout Unlimited.

Over the years, Bagstad has taken great pride in his work as an equipment supervisor, problem-solver and personnel supervisor. He has always been available for extra work in order to complete tasks, and he has been a willing leader in field demonstrations to show the effectiveness of the habitat structures for trout populations.

Without the involvement of "Tip" Bagstad in the trout habitat improvement program of the La Crosse Area DNR, the program would not have been as effective as it has been.

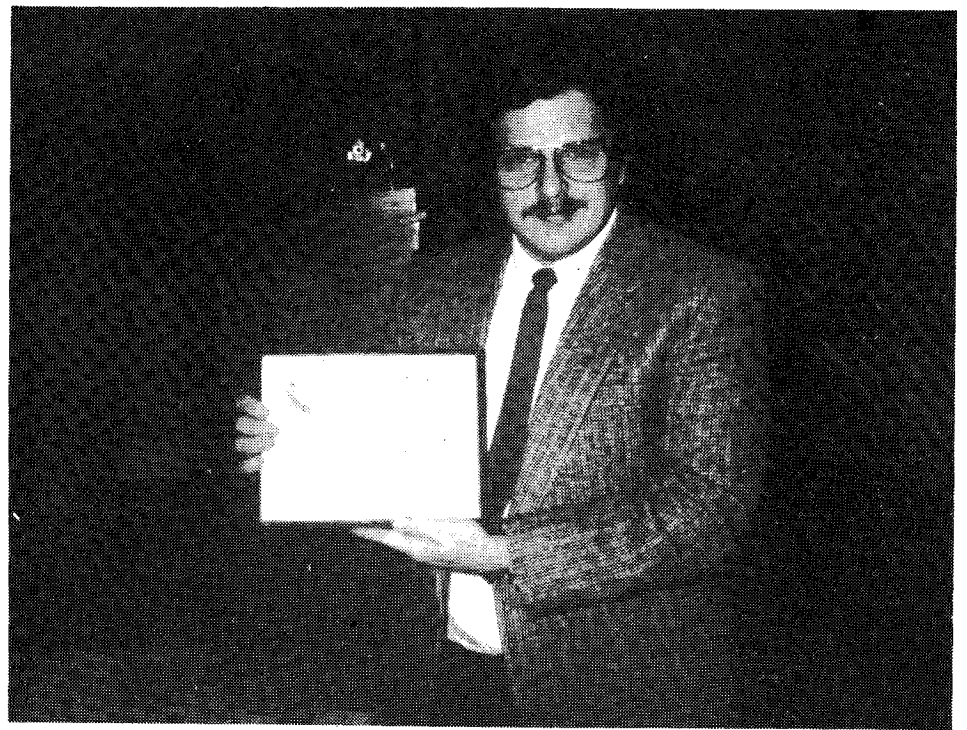
The second certificate of appreciation was awarded to the Dane County Land Conservation Committee. This committee has established a landowner organization for the Black Earth Creek Watershed, implemented several projects and activities designed to protect and enhance the quality of the Black Earth Creek Watershed, and has cooperated and funded trout habitat projects with Southern Wisconsin T.U. along Black Earth Creek and its tributaries.

Without the funds allocated by the Dane County Land Conservation Committee, the accomplishments to date on Black Earth Creek would have been significantly less.

## Council banquet successful

Many thanks are due to banquet organizers Jim Bereza and Mitch Bent for the many hours they spent putting the event together. Thanks are also due to the many chapters that contributed to the event and to the staff of the Paper Valley Hotel for their arrangements.

The Wisconsin State Council Trout Unlimited eighth Conservation Awards and Fund-raising Banquet held January 18 at the Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton was a big success. A crowd of about 200 people helped raise over \$7,300 for the State Council's conservation efforts.



John Strauss with Certificate of Appreciation given to the Dane County Land Conservation Committee.

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# 'Chapter reports'

Cont. from Page 5

## Wolf River Chapter, Cont.

feels that obtaining trout that have survived in the river and using their genetic material for future trout stocks will produce more fish for the Wolf and be more cost effective.

Chapter treasurer Neil Sandvige (715-882-8581) will continue to carry out the chapter's beaver control prog-

ram on Wolf River feeder streams. A fall assessment of beaver activity on Nine Mile Creek, a major coldwater feeder north of Langlade, will be done, and appropriate recommendations for habitat management in that creek will be made.



This photo shows the site on the Prairie River where the Department of Natural Resources is digging out a sediment trap to catch sand drifting downstream. The sand is being scoured from the stream bed behind the Prairie Dells Dam as the dam is demolished and water levels lowered. The trap site is at the end of Shady Lane in the town of Schley about 1 1/2 -miles downstream from the dam. Much of the funding for the project has come from the Trout Unlimited.

--Jim Lee/Wausau Daily Herald

## WISCONSIN RIVER VALLEY CHAPTER

The chapter is looking forward to the DNR's construction of a sand and sediment trap in the Prairie River below the Prairie Dells damsite in Lincoln County. The trap--200 feet long, 40 feet wide and six feet deep--will catch sediment that washes out from the impoundment behind the old Prairie Dells Dam.

The chapter appropriated \$3,000 to assist in funding the project, and

obtained a matching amount from the state's County Conservation Fund.

Although the trap will have to be periodically cleaned out, the costs will be worth the effort. Cooler water temperatures will exist downstream from the damsite now that the dam has been removed, and that will bode well for the trout of the lower Prairie River.

# Two chapters fold, consolidate

While the news of the formation of a new T.U. chapter in Stevens Point was welcome news for Wisconsin T.U., there was also some bad news. Two former T.U. chapters, the Fontinalis Chapter in the Rice Lake area and the Chequamegon Chapter in Ashland, Bayfield and Douglas counties, have closed shop.

The members of the Fontinalis Chapter were transferred to the Ojibseau Chapter headquartered in Eau Claire,

while T.U.'s from Chequamegon were transferred to the Wild Rivers Chapter based in the Hayward-Cable area of Sawyer County.

Wisconsin T.U. regrets the closures of these chapters, but it had to be done in order to remove active chapters from the roster. We hope that someday individuals will step forth to reinvigorate the T.U. presence in those two important regions of the state.



Officers of the new Frank Hornberg T.U. Chapter are (l-r): Dick Behm (secretary-treasurer), Jeff Dimick (president), and Ken Kraeger (vice-president).

# New T.U. chapter forms in Stevens Point area

After many years of trying, the Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited was successful in seeing a T.U. chapter formed in the Stevens Point area.

Called the Frank Hornberg Chapter of Trout Unlimited, the new T.U. group will concentrate on resource issues and membership promotion in Portage and Wood counties. The chapter was named after Frank Hornberg, a fabled conservation warden, trout angler and creator of the well-known "Hornberg" fly which is still widely used by trout anglers.

The Frank Hornberg Chapter was officially welcomed into the T.U. fold with approval of its by-laws by the T.U. National Board of Directors at its mid-February meeting in Washington, D.C.

Officers of the group include: President - Jeff Dimick; Vice-president - Ken Kraeger; Secretary-Treasurer - Richard Behm.

At the initial meeting of the chapter on January 9, Department of Natural Resources Coldwater Research Team Leader Bob Hunt spoke on the DNR's trout research unit. He also told the group that membership in Trout Unlimited is a way anglers can have an impact

on trout resources at the local, state and national level.

"Trout Unlimited has an awful lot of clout," Hunt said.

The new T.U. chapter will have a lot of areas to exercise its clout on in the coming years. Portage and Wood counties have over 100 miles of trout streams between them, including such well-known waters as the Tomorrow River, Ten Mile Creek, Emmons Creek and Flume Creek. Even drainage ditches in the Buena Vista Marsh hold trout, as these were trout streams before they were straightened early in this century.

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited welcomes the new Frank Hornberg Chapter into its ranks and wishes it much success in the coming years. Starting and maintaining a T.U. chapter is hard work, but the rewards of working together with individuals and resource agencies to make trout fishing just a little bit better than before is worth the effort.

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited also takes this moment to recognize Jim Hlaban, Wisconsin T.U. Central Regional Vice-President, for all of his work, time and effort in helping get the new T.U. chapter off the ground.

# Regional reports

## Central Region By Jim Hlaban

The Central Region heartily welcomes the new "Frank Hornberg" Chapter to the region. Also, the Region is glad to have Al Nigbor as the new DNR fish manager for Waushara and Waupaca counties. Al will be working out of the Wautoma Station, and he has several projects lined up for Trout

Unlimited this summer.

## Northeast Region By Ted Rydell

The Northeast Region will meet on June 13 at the Wild Wolf Inn off Highway 55 south of Langlade. Information on the meeting will be sent to chapter leaders in the region at a later date.

# Resource board nominees approved

Although a state senate legislative committee recommended otherwise, the full Wisconsin state senate approved the nominations of James E. Tiefenthaler, Jr., 46, of Brookfield, and Stephen D. Willett, 44, of Phillips, to the Natural Resources Board, governing body of the Department of Natural Resources.

The two men, appointees of governor Thompson, had run into flak in October of 1991 when the Senate Urban Affairs, Environmental Resources and Elections Committee voted 4-2 along party lines to oppose the nominations. Critics said that their appointees would continue to "stack the deck" on the Natural Resources Board with pro-business

members.

Tiefenthaler and Willett replaced Helen Jacobs and Tom Lawin, respectively, on the Board. Jacobs and Lawin were appointees of former governor Anthony Earl.

The two men will serve terms expiring in May, 1997. The positions were to have been filled in May, 1991, so that the new appointees could serve full six-year terms on the Board, but delays in appointments by the Thompson administration and the adverse vote by the Senate committee delayed things.

All seven members of the Natural Resources Board are now direct Thompson appointees.

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# Wisconsin trout stream profile: West Fork Kickapoo River

There is an old phrase that goes, "You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear." While that may be true with purses and pig's ears, the same is not necessarily true of trout streams.

And the West Fork of the Kickapoo River is a good example of an exception to that phrase.

The West Fork, as it is commonly called, runs for about 24 miles north-to-south in Vernon County. The water is listed as class III trout water its entire length, meaning that heavy stocking of hatchery fish is needed annually to maintain a trout fishery.

Generally, WISCONSIN TROUT does not go bragging about marginal trout waters in Wisconsin, given the high number of good quality streams. But, the West Fork is a special case, and its story deserves to be told.

Prior to settlement of the land, the West Fork flowed like all other Coulee Region streams--through unspoiled land. Heavy agricultural and pasture usage of the region quickly changed the pristine nature of the West Fork. Erosion from croplands and bank degradation caused by overgrazing soon ruined much of the West Fork and its ability to hold trout.

But, during the past several years, a transformation has been occurring on the West Fork that is nothing short of phenomenal.

Led by La Crosse Area Assistant Fisheries Manager Dave Vetrano (see separate article), a number of conservation clubs, chapters of Trout Unlimited and state organizations have been providing money, manpower and equipment to reverse the trout-bearing fortunes of the river.

This consortium of groups has focused much of its restoration activity on the West Fork where it flows through the property owned by the West Fork Sportsmen's Club near the little village of Avalanche. As shown in the pictures accompanying this article, extensive riprapping of the stream-banks has resulted in protection for the stream from erosion and cattle activity.

The stream has also been narrowed by the work, and deeper holes have been formed for trout.

The results of the extensive and intensive habitat work have been awesome, to say the least. A river that held few trout now holds plenty of fish, including some real "wallhangers". Although the trout are hatchery-reared fish, many have "held over" and provide some outstanding fishing.

Helping to keep the fishing excellent on the West Fork is a Type 5 "Special Regulation" from the stretch between State highway 82 upstream to County "S" and Bloomingdale Road that requires anglers to use artificial lures and flies only for fishing, as well as returning all trout to the water immediately after landing (i.e. "catch-and-release").

The origin of the West Fork starts as a small stream called Jersey Valley Creek, but it becomes officially the West Fork downstream from the Jersey Valley Lake Impoundment. The bottom type is predominantly rocks, boulders, sand, gravel and moderate levels of silt with some logs, trees and scattered vegetation beds.

Only 30 percent of the land in the watershed is "wild" along the banks, with the other 70 percent of the stream frontage flowing through agricultural land. Aquatic invertebrates such as stoneflies, caddisflies, shrimp and crayfish are somewhat scarce, but there is an excellent abundance and diversity of forage minnow species for trout to feed on.

Public access is a bit of a problem on the West Fork. There are multiple road

crossings along the river, and the West Fork Sportsmen's Club provides access along its banks. However, because of the class III nature of the stream, the state does not acquire easements along the stream frontage. Even if the river were upgraded to class II, as is being considered, current bureaucratic guidelines are making acquisition of lands outside of established named fishery areas all but impossible.

When talking about the West Fork project, fish manager Vetrano beams with pride for a number of reasons.

"I think the West Fork project is an excellent example of local sportsmen's clubs combining forces with anglers and other groups from around the state on a project that benefits everyone," says Vetrano. "The DNR cannot--and should not--be expected to do everything. There is a real sense of pride exhibited by all the 'players' in this project. And they have a right to be proud! In a time when many are looking to the government to take care of them cradle-to-grave, these people are doing it themselves; I hope it continues for a long time," he concluded.

Vetrano says that the West Fork's fishery is managed as a brown trout fishery, but he also plans to stock some Shasta strain rainbow trout this spring in the river. That strain of rainbow seems to hold better than other rainbow trout strains. There is excellent trout growth in the stream, and the potential exists for some very large trout to exist in the "Special regs" section.

In fact, Vetrano thinks there is so much potential in the West Fork that he states, "I'll predict that within four-to-five years there will be so many big trout that it will be unsafe to swim in the stream. Chinook salmon tackle will be the norm needed to land a fish from the West Fork, and the large numbers of big trout will actually raise the water level in the stream by one-to-two feet!"

Although Vetrano's tongue-in-cheek statement obviously overstates things regarding the West Fork a tad, the reality of the situation is that the river, especially that part restored where it flows through the West Fork Sportsmen's Club property, has become a fine trout fishery and is fast-gaining a reputation that is drawing anglers from far-flung places.

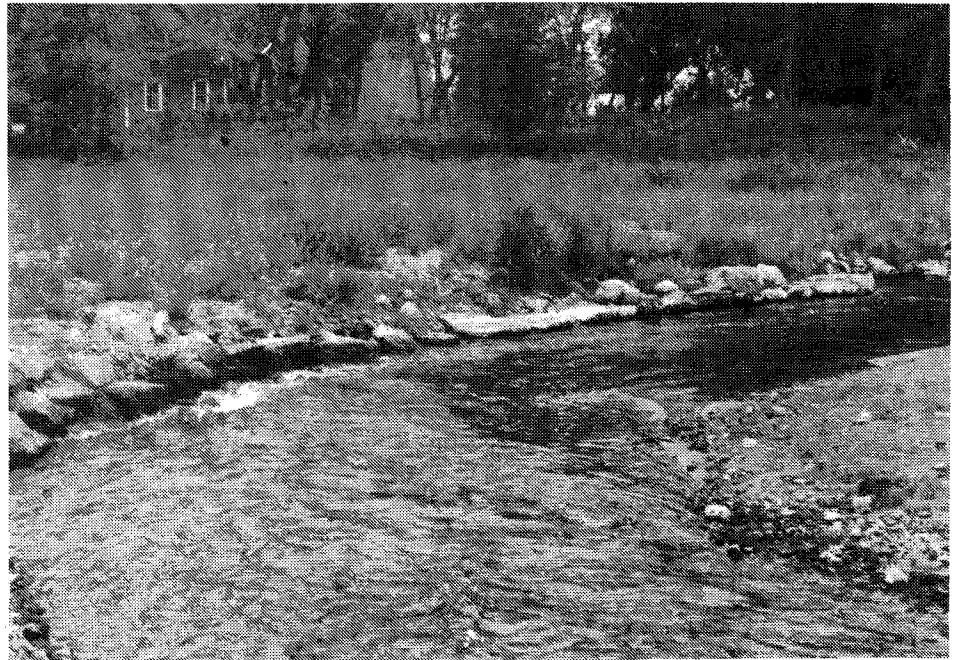
While the "Special regs" section is most popular with its "catch-and-release" rule, the upstream and downstream portions (which are Type 3--three trout/day, 9 inch size limit) also attract their share of anglers.

Work will continue on the West Fork in years to come. The West Fork Sportsmen's Club continues to make plans for more work, and T.U. chapters from La Crosse, Janesville, the Fox Cities and others have been putting in volunteer labor and providing dollars to carry out work, particularly the construction and installation of more "LUNKER" structures.

In addition, the Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Council last year provided \$1,000 from its "Friends of Wisconsin T.U." fund to assist in the project.

This river and project have gained appeal from far and wide. It is an excellent example of government and the private sector working together to restore a lost jewel. If you come to this part of Coulee country, visit the West Fork. Sample its trout fishing and admire the beauty of the coulee surroundings.

You may or may not land the trophy of a lifetime, but you will leave with the appreciation of nature restored because of commitment from so many concerned groups. And that is the best gift that the West Fork can give anyone!



Rip-rap has narrowed West Fork's width, creating riffles and deep holes.



"LUNKER" structures waiting to be installed in West Fork section.

## Council Executive Committee meets

The Wisconsin T.U. Executive Committee met February 22 in Stevens Point. Important notes from that meeting include:

- \*Announcement of the formal acceptance by the T.U. National Board of the "Frank Hornberg" Chapter for Portage and Wood counties in Wisconsin;

- \*Distribution of \$300 to the Frank Hornberg Chapter from the Council's "New Chapter" fund to help the chapter get on its feet financially;

- \*A report that the State Council Banquet netted \$7,306.72, about \$1,800 better than budgeted;

- \*A discussion of re-licensing of dams in Wisconsin and an update on several pieces of state legislation, most important SB 281, a bill to control non-

point pollution; also, bills on aquaculture (AB 681) and timber harvest on state forests were discussed;

- \*Establishment of a \$400 fund to cover expenses for Harley Erbs of Rhinelander to carry out duties for advertising director for WISCONSIN TROUT;

- \*Announcement that three projects in Wisconsin and nearby Minnesota received financial support at the mid-February National Board meeting from the "Embrace-A-Stream" program - 1) the 205J stormwater project in the City of River Falls affecting the Kinnickinnic River; 2) a project on Radley Creek in Waupaca County sponsored by the Central Wisconsin Chapter; and 3) a project for the Hiawatha Chapter in Minnesota;

- \*Announcement that the 1993 State Council Banquet will be held on January 30, again at the Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton;

- \*Establishment of the spring Council meeting in Antigo on May 16 and an August 1 meeting somewhere in the Stevens Point area.

## Born to chair national committee

Wisconsin State Council Chairman Steve Born has been appointed by Trout Unlimited National President Doug McClelland to chair the National Research and Projects Committee for Trout Unlimited. This committee decides on allocations of funding for the T.U. National "Embrace-A-Stream" Program, through which several Wisconsin trout habitat projects have been funded in recent years.

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# DNR Fish Manager Profile: Dave Vetrano

Those of us who have gotten to know some of the fish managers for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources have found them to have many common similarities. They are professional, hard-working and knowledgeable about their responsibilities. Those are attributes common to all the fish managers, it seems.

And, for the most part, they are almost all quiet, unassuming types who do not stick out in a crowd.

But, that stereotype is broken when you get to know **Dave Vetrano**, the subject of this issue's **DNR Fish Manager Profile**.

The 41-year old Vetrano is the Assistant Area Fisheries Manager for the La Crosse area. He is responsible for managing the inland water resources of Crawford and Vernon counties, part of the famed "Coulee Region" of western Wisconsin.

A 1968 graduate of Nathan Hale High School in West Allis, Wisconsin, Vetrano received a Bachelor of Science degree in fisheries management from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in 1977. Since then, he has worked with the Wisconsin DNR in several areas.

From 1977-1978, Dave monitored commercial fishermen on Lake Michigan. He transferred to Black River Falls in 1978 and worked there until 1980 in the propagation of warmwater species such as muskies, walleyes and smallmouth bass.

In 1980, Vetrano signed on as a **Trout Habitat Improvement Technician** in the La Crosse Area, and he worked in that vein until 1988, when he assumed his present duties.

With regard to his duties in managing the coldwater resources in his area, Vetrano shared some ideas of what he is looking at now and in the future for the trout resource.

"The La Crosse area has an aggressive trout habitat improvement and land acquisition program," he said. "In the last 25 years, over 90 miles of trout streams have been opened up to the public, and 50 miles of stream has had habitat improvement work done on them. Land acquisition and habitat improvement will continue to be a high priority in the future."

Dave also noted with pride something he has accomplished cost-wise as far as trout habitat improvements are concerned.

"The development of 'LUNKER' structures has cut our habitat improvement costs by over 30 percent," he stated. "By using these lighter-weight, lower-cost structures, we are giving the trout anglers more for their money while providing better cover for trout."

Another important facet of Vetrano's trout habitat improvement work in his region is the rapport he has established between the DNR and local

sportsmen's clubs and Trout Unlimited.

"Cooperation between the DNR and local clubs is very important to our success," asserts Vetrano. "Our cooperative trout-rearing program, which raises 50,000 high quality trout for our local streams, will continue to be an important part of our focus."

Continuing, he stated, "Providing technical assistance for trout habitat improvement projects that are initiated by sportsmen's clubs on their local streams has been a very positive part of my work, and I hope it will continue. These clubs are doing quality work, and it gives them a vested interest in their streams and pride in their accomplishments."

Although the trout waters that Vetrano manages are primarily brown trout streams, Dave is looking down the road to reintroduce wild brook trout to those waters.

"The reintroduction of wild brook trout to Coulee area streams will be a major emphasis in the future," he says. "Most brookie water in the La Crosse area is limited to very small tributary streams. We'd like to establish brook trout in a larger stream comparable in size to Timber Coulee Creek. There are several candidate streams, but they will require more habitat improvement and restrictive regulations. We have the potential of producing 18-20 inch brookies in these waters."

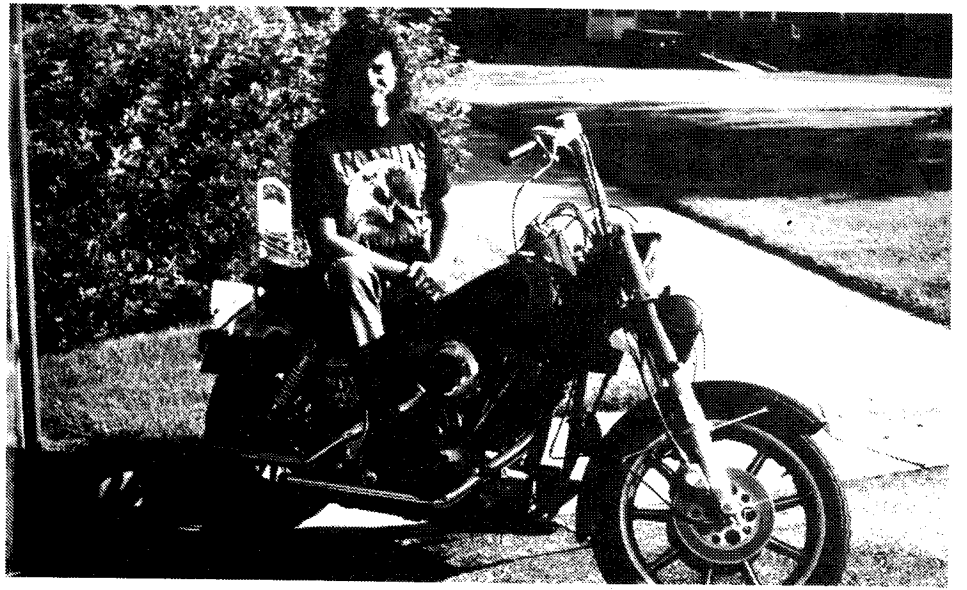
Although wild trout propagation is first and foremost in Vetrano's agenda for trout, he is also sensitive to the need for better hatchery fish for marginal trout waters.

"Increasing the survival of stocked trout is--and will continue to be--a major focus in the La Crosse area, as it is statewide. Improving genetics in the hatchery stock and reducing the human influence in those fish will allow hatchery operators to be more innovative, and will require field biologists to assess trout stocking changes and make recommendations that will result in a better product going to the stream without increasing hatchery costs."

"And," he notes, "the 'hatchery vs. wild trout' question is receiving more and more attention nationwide, not just here in Wisconsin."

Vetrano knows that there is more to providing an excellent trout fishery in his area than just building "LUNKER" structures and stocking trout in area streams. Land use practices in the hilly regions of Crawford and Vernon counties have great impacts on the resource, and the amount of harvest on the resource by anglers will also play a major role in the area's future trout fishery.

"Though most streams are in better shape than they were 30-40 years ago," Dave states, "poor land use continues to negatively impact area streams. And,



Dave Vetrano astride his Harley Davidson motorcycle.

recent increases in political intervention on resource issues could cause us to lose some of the gains we've made over the years. The DNR needs to greatly increase and improve our public relations program."

"As far as trout fishing regulations go," Vetrano mused, "we were fairly conservative in the initial number of 'special regulations' streams we placed in our area under the new regulations. Evaluation of the results of those regulations up through 1995 will determine how many more streams will be added to the 'special regs' category (i.e., Type 5). Preliminary data are showing increases in larger-sized trout in the 'special regs' waters, and one stream in particular (the West Fork of the Kickapoo River) probably will have a good number of brown trout over 23 inches in a few years."

While trout resource work takes a lot of Vetrano's time and energy, he also focuses on warmwater fisheries.

"We are just getting into a smallmouth bass habitat improvement project in Vernon County," he relates. "The candidate stream has the potential of producing some nice smallmouth, but it lacks in-stream cover. The same techniques used in trout streams for improvement will be employed for smallmouths, but will likely include more instream rock (boulder retards and riprap)."

When Dave isn't up to his ears in professional responsibilities, he has a variety of outlets for his enthusiasm. He enjoys fishing for all kinds of species, and he is fond of deer hunting both with bow and arrow and firearm. He has also taken a strong liking to turkey hunting ("It's getting to be a sickness," he quips).

Besides those hobbies, Vetrano is a big motorcycle fan (see photo) and is often seen cruising on his Harley-Davidson. When in a less exuberant mood, he will tend to his garden and do woodworking.

His family includes his wife, Genean, and a son, Mitch, from a previous marriage.

Vetrano's unique, forthright way of

carrying out his professional responsibilities has not gone unnoticed. He has received several awards for his works, including: 1) Outstanding Fish Management Project (1986); 2) State of Wisconsin Merit Award Board Certificate of Appreciation (1988); 3) State Employee Suggestion Program Suggestor-of-the-Year (1989); 4) District 6 Wisconsin Wildlife Federation Conservationist of the Year (1990); and 5) Certificate of Appreciation from the Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited (1991).

In summing up his professional career to date, particularly as it relates to coldwater resource conservation, Vetrano says, "Our most successful projects, such as development of the 'LUNKER' structures (which are currently being gused by at least five other states and several non-profit conservation organizations) and the completion of the Coon Creek Accessible Fishery Area, would never have gotten past the 'idea stage' if it weren't for the involvement of other people in those projects."

Continuing, he said, "Without the support of many people, good ideas would remain just that--good ideas. I've had the great support from my supervisor (Ken Wright), who's always believed in innovation. I've had a field foreman ("Tip" Bagstad) who's taken ideas and made them work. And I've had the support of local sportsmen's clubs, anglers, fishing clubs, DNR staff and local communities who have pitched in and helped make the ideas become reality."

Yes, Vetrano has had lots of help over the years. But, without his enthusiastic attitude toward making the resource better and his principled positions on land use and protection, the Coulee Region trout waters of western Wisconsin would not be in the good shape they are today.


Dave's unique, innovative and free-spirited approach to protection and restoration of Wisconsin's coldwater resources make him an important and appreciated part of the Wisconsin DNR's fish management team.

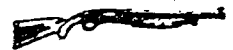
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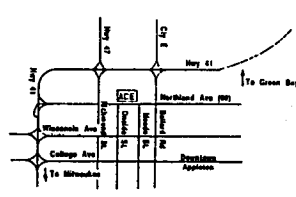
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# Trout Unlimited national notes

## Membership Drive

The Spring issue of **TROUT** magazine will feature five pages of ads and copy detailing T.U.'s 1992 "MEMBER-GET-A-MEMBER" drive. Highlights of this major membership recruitment campaign include:

\*An opportunity for one lucky T.U. recruiter and his or her companion to travel to the brand new **Rio Puelo Lodge** in southern Chile with honorary drive chairpersons **Jill St. John** and **Robert Wagner!**

\*An assortment of other great prizes T.U. members can 'buy' using the "Trout Bucks" they will earn by recruiting their friends, neighbors, co-workers and fishing buddies to Trout Unlimited.

\*A \$1,000 cash prize to the top recruiting Council based upon growth from chapters within each state and a

"Best in T.U." award to the top Region.

\*A limited edition **Wheatley 100th Anniversary Flybox** (\$500 value) to the top T.U. recruiter.

Chapters should start planning now on how they can motivate their members to recruit new coldwater fisheries members for Trout Unlimited.

## Films available

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has developed two new video tapes addressing water quality standards. They are entitled: 1) "Water Quality-based Approach to Pollution Control" and 2) "Water Quality Standards and 401 Certification." These videos are available on loan from the EPA.

To obtain them, call **Frances Dessel-**

le at (202) 260-1320, or write to: **Frances A. Desselle, U.S. EPA, Office of Science & Technology, Standards and Applied Science Division, 401 "M" Street, SW, Washington, D.C. 10460.**

The EPA also has four previously-produced videos available for loan:

- 1) "Introduction to Water Quality Standards"
- 2) "Antidegradation Policy: A Means to Maintain and Protect Existing Uses and Water Quality"
- 3) "Development of Water Quality Criteria and its Relationship to Water Quality Standards"
- 4) "Enumeration Methods for E. coli and Enterococci"

In addition, the **Outdoor Writers Association of America (OWAA)** has updated its brochure describing 28 outstanding outdoor films and videos, many of which are suitable for chapter meeting programs. To obtain the free brochure along with rental or purchase information, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: **OWAA, 2017 Cato Ave., Suite 101, State College, PA 16801-2798.**

## New Resource Director

Trout Unlimited has a new Resource Department Director. **Joe McGurrin**, a certified fisheries scientist (by the American Fisheries Society) and currently Assistant Program Coordinator with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, takes over direction of T.U.'s resource activities on March 1st.

McGurrin's academic background includes a Bachelor of Science degree (Biology and Psychology) from **William & Mary College (1975)** and a Master of Fishery Science from the **University of Maryland (1984)**.

In his professional career, McGurrin has developed and coordinated interstate fisheries programs involving 15 fishery management plans for 18 fish species along the Atlantic coast. He has also planned a Sport Fishing Restoration Program that includes marine recreational fisheries, and he has authored publications on fishery issues such as habitat restoration.

McGurrin is currently the managing editor of the **SFI Bulletin** (Sport Fishing Institute publication on fisheries).

## Fishing Has No Boundaries

**Bobby Cammack** is the president of **FISHING HAS NO BOUNDARIES**, a national, non-profit organization based in Wisconsin whose mission is to aid disabled people in the pursuit of sport fishing. Mr. Cammack has met many T.U. people in his work on behalf of disabled anglers. He's provided assistance to T.U. chapters who sponsor activities for the disabled. Chapters will be receiving (if they haven't already) a letter from Mr. Cammack that introduces your chapter to "FISHING HAS NO BOUNDARIES", and to offer their assistance in the develop-

ment of programs for the disabled for your chapter or Council.

You may contact Mr. Cammack and his organization by writing:

**Bobby Cammack, President, Fishing Has No Boundaries, P.O. Box 175, Hayward, WI 54843 (phone: 715-634-3185).**

## National board meeting

On February 15, Trout Unlimited's national leadership took several important steps to renew the organization's commitment to its mission.

The Board of Directors voted to create a new leadership body called the "National Resource Board". The Board's purpose is to set the organization's conservation and advocacy agenda and to direct the use of professional and volunteer resources toward accomplishment of T.U.'s mission.

The National Resource Board will be comprised of representatives of T.U. Councils and Regions, and will elect its chairman from among those representatives. To ensure close coordination between the National Resource Board and T.U.'s National Office, T.U.'s Executive Director will serve as president of the National Resource Board.

Creation of the National Resource Board is an exciting step for Trout Unlimited, and is part of the Strategic Review process which began last August. The National Resource Board responds to the Strategic Review Committee's finding--and the longstanding judgment of many T.U. leaders--that National T.U. needs to be more effective in determining and carrying out its national resource agenda.

The Board of Directors also voted to vest general oversight and supervisory authority in a newly-created **Board of Trustees**, which will include equal representation by "at-large" trustees and trustees from T.U. Councils, who will be elected on a regional basis.

In addition to "at-large" and grassroots trustees, the Board of Trustees will draw upon talents of individuals whose professional expertise will enhance T.U.'s position as a leader in coldwater fisheries conservation and increase public awareness of T.U. and its mission.

The Strategic Review Committee's report is a blueprint for T.U.'s future. It makes excellent reading. For a copy, write to: **Susan Craig, Trout Unlimited, 800 Follin Ln., Suite 250, Vienna, VA 22180-4959.**

## T.U. Youth program

The T.U. Youth Program is just beginning to kick off! Trout Unlimited now has a "YOUTH" patch that chapters and Councils can use in their youth programs. The patches are available in quantities at \$1.50/patch; the price for a single YOUTH patch is \$3.95. Proceeds from the sale of these "YOUTH" patches will go into the youth fund at T.U. National to continue the patch program and develop other youth products such as decals and pins.

The upcoming issue of **TROUT** magazine will have a column devoted to youth and youth programs. **Terry Austin** needs black-and-white photos of T.U. members working with kids for the upcoming **T.U. YOUTH EDUCATION HANDBOOK**. If your chapter has any, please forward them (with captions) to **Terry Austin** at the T.U. National Headquarters (800 Follin Lane, Suite 250, Vienna, VA 22180-4959).

## New Video

The long-awaited T.U. VHS video ("Flyfishing Without Frustration") is now available. The video is an excellent way for T.U. chapters to introduce the joys of flyfishing to new members, and can be used in conjunction with flyfishing classes. The video is priced at \$24.95, plus \$3.50 for shipping and handling.

## Highlights of State Council annual meeting

The Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited held its annual meeting on Saturday, January 18, 1992, at the Paper Valley Hotel & Conference Center in Appleton. Highlights of the meeting include:

\*Announcement of a \$4,000 disbursement to the city of Mineral Point (\$2,000 of which came from the "Friends of Wisconsin T.U." fund) to clean up water pollution and re-route Brewery Creek, an Iowa County trout stream;

\*A report on the progress of establishing a "planned giving" program for T.U.'ers to bequeath Trout Unlimited assets from their estates after death;

\*Discussion of the closing of the Chequamegon and Fontinalis T.U. chapters into the Wild Rivers and Ojibléau chapters, respectively;

\*Announcement of the formation of the "Frank Hornberg" chapter in the Stevens Point area;

\*A unanimous Council vote to modify its by-laws to incorporate concerns regarding financial liability and exposure of the Council;

\*Approval of a budget for fiscal year 10/91-9/92 of \$33,250;

\*Introduction and announcement of

two new additions to the Wisconsin Council--**Chuck Park** as state chair for Youth/Education and **Dan Lemke** as chair of the **Water Resources Committee**;

\*Development of a new map for the State Council delineating membership boundaries for individual T.U. chapters;

\*Unanimous consent to give the State Council to proceed with a partnership agreement and the DNR for habitat improvement work in the state's National Forests;

\*Authorization was given to **Ted Rydell** and **Herb Buettner** to proceed with a pilot production and testing of T.U. paper place mats for distribution to restaurants;

\*Election of the following individuals to their respective offices: **Steve Born**-Chairman; **Forrest Grulke**-Vice-Chairman; **Dave Johnson**-Secretary; **Mitch Bent**-Treasurer; **Dick Kraus**-National Director.

Following the meeting, DNR Trout Specialist **Larry Claggett** and DNR Fish Manager **Roger Kerr** of **Boscobel** gave a program and led a discussion on the "early" trout season in southwestern Wisconsin.

## FOR SALE

Newly remodeled Hobby Farm 1 1/2 miles from town with beautiful view on 35 acres (up to 115 acres available) in deer area. Includes barn, trout stream, fenced pasture and 50 wooded acres.

FLORENCE, WI--Only serious buyers.  
CALL 715-528-4960

Note--will pay \$1,000 for bonafide buyer

## 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 with *Action Line*.

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

Please check membership category:

- Regular membership (\$25)/  3 years (\$65)
- Family membership (\$30)/  3 years (\$75)
- Sponsoring contributor (\$50)\*
- Century contributor (\$100)\*
- Conservator contributor (\$250)
- Individual Life (\$500)(No further dues)\*
- Family Life (\$600)(Husband & Wife)\*
- Student membership (\$10)
- Business membership (\$100)\*

Payment enclosed \*\*  Please bill me

VISA # \_\_\_\_\_ Expir. Date \_\_\_\_\_

MasterCard # \_\_\_\_\_ Expir. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Canadian memberships please add \$5/yr.; all other countries, add \$20/ yr.  
All contributions over \$12 are tax deductible.

\* Note special benefits for these membership categories.  
\*\* Make checks payable to Trout Unlimited.  
Mail this postpaid card to join TU today!

Mail to: Trout Unlimited, 800 Follin Lane, SE, #250, Vienna, VA 22180-9931



RETURN:  
Trout Unlimited  
Mitch Bent  
1282 Monterey Trail  
DePere, WI 54115



# Wisconsin Trout

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited

Summer 1992

## Resources Board rejects early trout season closure

The Natural Resources Board, governing arm of the Department of Natural Resources, rejected a vote by the Wisconsin Conservation Congress to establish a three-year moratorium on the "early" trout season in eight southwestern Wisconsin counties.

At the annual Congress fish and game hearings, attendees had voted by a 1,141 to 828 margin to establish the closure. Thirty-one counties voted to close the season, while 17 opposed the moratorium.

Because of the relatively narrow

margin of the vote, and because there was a split among the eight counties currently having the early trout season, Fisheries Management in the DNR recommended that the early trout season continue in the established counties (Columbia, Crawford, Grant, Green, Iowa, Lafayette, Richland and Sauk).

The four affected counties where Congress attendees supported a moratorium were Crawford, Grant, Iowa and Richland. The other four counties (Columbia, Green, Lafayette and Sauk) opposed a moratorium.

According to Lee Kern, director of

the DNR's Bureau of Fish Management, the DNR would not reduce trout angling opportunities based upon such a narrow vote.

Larry Claggett, Trout Specialist with the DNR, said that there is no biological evidence to support the notion that trout reproduction in the eight counties having the early trout season has suffered because of the increased angling opportunities afforded by the early season.

Claggett also noted that DNR has no plans to reduce the area where the early season exists, claiming that such a move would only increase fishing pressure in the remaining counties open to the early season.

DNR fish managers met with Claggett in June to discuss the situation, and a report of that meeting will appear in the next issue of Wisconsin Trout.

Claggett has said that he will meet with the Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited, individual T.U. chapters and other interested parties to try to develop a recommendation concerning the type of early trout season that is favored by most anglers.

While he doubts that there will ever be a statewide winter trout season, Claggett suggested that the DNR would like to open more streams to winter trout fishing if biological considerations are met. And there may be more acceptance of early trout fishing on other streams if restrictive "catch-and-release", artificial-only rules are part of the recommendation.

Claggett notes that any T.U. chapter wishing to have him appear before their group to discuss the issue and make recommendations should contact him at his office phone (608-267-9658).

## Thompson guts non-point pollution bill Vetoes important points of bill

Governor Tommy Thompson signed into law Senate Bill 281, a bill submitted by a Legislative Council to deal with urban and rural non-point pollution. That's the good news.

The bad news is that Thompson line-item vetoed important aspects of the bill that could render the legislation relatively meaningless.

The final version of the bill that was signed into law as ACT 304 directs the Department of Natural Resources to begin all Priority Watershed projects by the year 2000. Of the 330 watersheds in Wisconsin, the DNR has identified about 130 which have been severely degraded by nonpoint pollution. The DNR has begun 51 projects since the Priority Watershed program started in 1978, and it has completed only six.

The bill also directs the 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 percent cost-sharing to install best management practices (more in cases of economic hardship).

However, it was here that Thompson's veto pen drew blood. The governor deleted the "grace period" and "bad actor" provisions of the bill that would have forced compliance with the bill's provisions on recalcitrant landowners.

The "grace period" would have allowed the DNR to determine if water quality goals were being met after the initial three-year voluntary sign-up period. If those goals weren't being met, the DNR would have been able to contact critical nonparticipants and encourage them to volunteer during a six-month grace period.

The "bad actor" provision would have permitted the DNR to require compliance with watershed cleanup programs by critical nonparticipants

after the signup and grace periods. The "bad actors" would have been required to participate but only be eligible for 25 percent cost-sharing or a loan subsidy. This language vetoed by Thompson would have provided a strong incentive to volunteer for the program and greatly reduce enforcement costs.

As the bill stands now, critical non-participants can continue to carry out bad land use practices within a Priority Watershed program and thus undermine the will of the majority in cleaning up the waters.

The bill also dealt with items such as shoreland grazing and construction site erosion, and once again the governor's veto pen brought smiles to those who pollute Wisconsin's waters with no concern for the future.

A provision to direct the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) to develop shoreland grazing management guidelines for counties to voluntarily adopt in order to set limits on uncontrolled cattle access to streams and lakes was butchered by Thompson. The governor vetoed the words "...in order to provide reasonable limits on uncontrolled cattle access to our lakes and streams" from the wording, along with one or two other minor line vetoes.

Thompson left intact a codicil that gives DATCP the authority to set performance standards and to order corrections for drainage districts. The Legislative Committee that drafted SB 281 had received testimony that improperly maintained drainage districts can dump large amounts of sediment into Wisconsin's navigable waters.

Thompson also voted a provision in SB 281 that directed DNR to issue model ordinances to regulate construction site erosion for other land-disturbing

Cont. on Page 2

## Council responds to early season problems

At the May 16, 1992, meeting of the Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited, much discussion centered around problems associated with the early trout season currently in place in eight southwestern Wisconsin counties (see separate article on Council meeting).

Subsequent to that meeting, Council Chairman Steve Born submitted the following communication to Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources secretary Carroll "Buzz" Besadny:

Dear Buzz,

At its May meeting in Antigo, the State Council of Trout Unlimited addressed concerns about the early trout fishing season and its inequitable impact on the involved southwestern counties. While there is a mix of viewpoints regarding the early season among TU members, the organization unanimously resolved that the present

arrangements impact the southwestern counties disproportionately, and that maintaining the status quo is unacceptable.

TU further resolved to work with the Department and other concerned interests to develop and evaluate alternative seasonal regulations that might equitably provide recreational angling opportunities while providing biologically-based protection for the resource.

I want to communicate our action to you prior to the final Natural Resources Board action on the Conservation Congress voting recommendations on the early trout fishing season. Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,  
Steve Born, Chair

## Bob Hunt to retire

After 33 years of service to Wisconsin's trout anglers in the arena of habitat improvement and scientific research, Coldwater Research Team Leader Bob Hunt plans to retire on July 3rd from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

A retirement party to honor Bob will be held on Saturday, July 18, at the Holiday Inn & Convention Center in Stevens Point. A social hour with cash bar will be from 5:00-6:00 p.m., with dinner served at 6:00 p.m. A program will follow the dinner.

Anyone wishing to attend the dinner,

make a gift donation to Hunt or participate in the program by sharing some anecdotes about Bob should contact Ed Avery of the DNR. His phone numbers are: (715) 258-3430 (office) or (715) 258-7687 (home).

Dinner cost is \$12.00 and includes a choice of swiss steak, ham steak or baked chicken as the main entree. Checks for dinner attendance should be mailed to Ed Avery, DNR, 11084 Stratton Lake Road, Waupaca, WI 54981, and should be payable to the "Bob Hunt Retirement Party".

# ✓Thompson

Cont. from Page 1

activities, with the counties being required to adopt and enforce the ordinance. The mandate would have been funded by a fee paid by developers and builders.

The bill as now signed into law does provide for a bit of control over non-point pollution, but provisions which would have really helped move the

non-point pollution control plans swiftly along fell before the uncompromising veto pen of Tommy Thompson.

The Legislature did not attempt an override of the governor's anti-environmental vetoes within SB 281, because of a decided lack of two-thirds majorities in both the Assembly and Senate needed to bring about overrides.

## Council meets Aug. 1

The next meeting of the Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited will be Saturday, August 1, at the Tomorrow River Supper Club on Highway 10 between Stevens Point and Waupaca.

Although a full agenda is not available at press time, there will be an interesting program by Law Enforcement officials of the Department of Natural Resources concerning enforcement of

trout fishing regulations on Wisconsin's trout waters.

The meeting will begin promptly at 10:00 p.m. All chapters are requested to have two chapter representatives on hand for the meeting. Trout fishing opportunities will be available after the meeting.

For more information about the Council meeting, call Council Chairman Steve Born at (608) 257-6625.

## "Friends of Wisconsin T.U."

The 1992 "Friends of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited" fund-raising campaign is underway. Invitational or renewal letters have been sent to all members of the Wisconsin T.U. State Council. The Council is hoping for a good response from its membership.

Since its inception in 1990, the "Friends" program has allowed the Wisconsin T.U. State Council to take a more active role in trout habitat improvement and watershed protection. The Council has appropriated over \$6,000 to worthy projects having statewide significance through the "Friends" program.

Your enrollment or renewal in the "Friends" program will help the State T.U. Council continue that commitment.

Fill out the form below and mail it with your \$100.00 check payable to Trout Unlimited to: Mitch Bent, 1282 Monterey Trail, De Pere, WI 54115.

You will automatically become a "Friend" of Wisconsin T.U. Your name will appear in four subsequent issues of Wisconsin Trout, and you will receive a "Friends of Wisconsin T.U." lapel pin and certificate of appreciation suitable for framing. Membership is on an annual basis.

Add your name to those below who have made a commitment to better trout fishing in Wisconsin. Your support will be appreciated!

\*\*\*\*\*

### "Friends of Wisconsin T.U."

- |                       |                |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Ed Anderson           | Marinette, WI  |
| B & K Transportation  | Oak Creek, WI  |
| E.V. Barrett (N)      | Madison, WI    |
| Mitchell Bent (R)     | De Pere, WI    |
| George Bereza (R)     | Marinette, WI  |
| James Bolton, Jr. (R) | Eau Claire, WI |
| Robert Bolz           | Madison, WI    |
| Gerald Bristol        | Ellsworth, WI  |

- |                              |                         |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Thomas Buettner (R)          | Sheboygan, WI           |
| John Cantwell (R)            | Green Bay, WI           |
| Jon P. Christiansen          | Mequon, WI              |
| Andrew Cook II (R)           | De Pere, WI             |
| J.M. Coombes (R)             | Menomonee Falls, WI     |
| Sheldon Damberg, M.D. (N)    | St. Paul, MN            |
| Bruce Davidson (R)           | Wauwatosa, WI           |
| Wayne Disch                  | Green Bay, WI           |
| Dick DuPlessie (R)           | Eau Claire, WI          |
| Tom England (R)              | Knoxville, IL           |
| David M. Everett             | Lincolnshire, IL        |
| Alan Finesilver (R)          | De Pere, WI             |
| William A. Flader (R)        | Madison, WI             |
| Daniel Flaherty              | La Crosse, WI           |
| Louis Frase, M.D.            | Eau Claire, WI          |
| Stephen Gifford (N)          | Greenleaf, WI           |
| Robert Hackinson (R)         | Appleton, WI            |
| Steve Hawk (N)               | Madison, 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              |
| Lane A. Kistler (N)          | Milwaukee, WI           |
| Donald Krall                 | Milwaukee, WI           |
| Richard Kraus                | Berlin, WI              |
| Richard Kroll                | Fox Point, WI           |
| P. Eric Kuusinen             | Elm Grove, WI           |
| Mel Lasecki (R)              | Green Bay, WI           |
| David Lenz                   | Middleton, WI           |
| Harold Levin                 | Gurnee, IL              |
| Vern & Jeanne Lunde          | Mt. Horeb, WI           |
| Phillip B. Mayer (R)         | Dodgeville, WI          |
| James M. McHale (R)          | Lily, WI                |
| Ron Miller/Four Corp.        | Green Bay, WI           |
| Dennis Morgan                | Grande Prairie, Alberta |
| L.R. Peterson (N)            | Hayward, WI             |
| Peter Rathack                | Waunakee, WI            |
| Ron Rellatz                  | Merton, WI              |
| Thomas J. Rice, M.D. (R)     | Marshfield, WI          |
| Thomas Rogers                | Princeton, WI           |
| Forest H. Schafer Foundation | Clintonville, WI        |
| Del Schwaller (R)            | Appleton, WI            |
| John Shillinglaw (R)         | Appleton, WI            |
| Bob Simon                    | Sycamore, IL            |
| Dain Trafton (R)             | Rockford, IL            |
| Richard Wachowski (R)        | Eau Claire, WI          |
| Nash Williams                | Madison, WI             |
| Norb Wozniak (R)             | Juneau, WI              |
| John Yackel                  | Circle Pines, MN        |
| Fred Young (R)               | Roscoe, IL              |

(N) = New "Friend"  
(R) = Renewed since last issue

# From the Chairman

By Steve Born

Your Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited is planning on signing a partnership agreement with the U.S. Forest Service (and the Department of Natural Resources) in August at official ceremonies during the T.U. National meetings in Rochester, Minnesota.

The Chequamegon and Nicolet National Forests in Wisconsin contain both important existing and potential coldwater fisheries. Several TU chapters have worked with the Forest Service in past years to accomplish shared objectives regarding the coldwater fishery resource.

Among the key goals of the agreement are increased funding for habitat restoration and improvement on lands administered by the USFS, and protection of recreational and scenic amenities that relate to the coldwater resource. Through cooperation, we hope that additional awareness, support and funding will be generated for the resource.

We enter into the agreement with both optimism and caution. The U.S. Department of Agriculture--which houses the USFS--has a mixed record in environmental management.

Their charge for multiple use and sustained yield management has too often been interpreted by the forestry folks as reason to produce a maximum timber cut while neglecting other considerations. Stewardship of aquatic resources on the National Forests has too often been viewed as a constraint to timber production rather than an end in itself.

Times are changing, though, and I believe that, in a few decades, we will look back and see that the Forest Service has gone through a revolution during these times, and that it is finally assuming its full responsibilities for environmental stewardship in the fullest sense, rather than viewing the world in terms of "board feet of wood products."

However, recent actions by the USDA to eliminate administrative appeals by the public on certain agency project decisions do not bode well, especially when many of these appeals have related to limiting timber sales and cutting that can cause great harm to watersheds and riparian eco-systems.

Some USFS supervisors have been victimized by enormous political pressures when they've attempted to manage forests in a more sustainable and environmentally-responsible manner, and this is a cause for concern.

Moreover, partnerships between TU and the USFS in other states have not



Steve Born  
Wisconsin State  
Council Chairman

always been tranquil. Although the USFS has finally added more biologists and fishery professionals to their staffs, fishery resources are still threatened in several states by USFS decisions!

So, we are hoping for the best, but we'll be watchful as we nurture this new relationship along.

On lighter notes, the fishing season has yet to produce a really big trout for yours truly. In fact, I'm not sure my heart could stand hooking a trout longer than a foot!

A recent trip to the Wolf River was particularly perplexing. Herb Buettner of the Wolf River Chapter had told me that the Wolf's fly hatches were tremendous. That was so, but where were the trout? We caught some, but in light of the spectacular hatches of brown drakes, sulfurs, caddis, etc., I was shocked that every fish in the river wasn't surfacing to gulp flies.

What was even more worrisome to me was the thought that perhaps these were all the trout in the river! Was it possible that the drought years and long-standing temperature problems on the Wolf have badly damaged the trout fishery?

On the other hand, some friends reported several nice catches a week later, so maybe it was just a matter of timing (certainly not angling skills!). So I'm looking ahead enthusiastically, in spite of the fickle weather to date. "Hex" time is at hand, I've got a new pattern to trick smart trout and I'm expecting some "big fish" stories and fond memories to come from the rest of the season.

And if I didn't believe that, I wouldn't be much of a fisherman!

## WISCONSIN TROUT

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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

## In praise...

Editor, Wisconsin Trout:

The Spring, 1992, issue of Wisconsin Trout has arrived, and you are doing an outstanding job as editor. Just hope the anglers of Wisconsin will read and heed your warning on the fish managers' pay crisis.

Wisconsin T.U. should take on a statewide project to reverse the present situation (i.e., insufficient pay for fish managers). Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,  
Jack Heaton  
Bozeman, Montana

## In criticism...

Editor, Wisconsin Trout:

I am writing to thank you guys for the 15-year shafting you have been giving us here in Southwestern Wisconsin, and in particular to thank you guys for the super-shafting you have given us this year by making sure the January 1 opening of the early trout season took place.

Down here, we went into the season with a huge population of large, carry-over trout. These fish were the survivors from predators, catch-and-release and drought. By the May 2nd general opener, there will be almost nothing left in many of our streams, thanks to you guys and your early opening.

You guys should get down here and watch three years of conservation, fisherman's restraint and sacrifice go down the toilet--while your damned streams are closed.

I personally know a guy who, as of February 10, had taken and kept 17 trout over 12 inches long. You fellows guess what his take is by now. Another fellow took a 24 inch and 30 inch trout on the same day.

That's only two guys, but I'd guess one could find many like them in any of the counties with the early opening, the counties upon which you guys have imposed the early opening.

Last spring at the Iowa County Conservation Congress hearings, a farmer got up and asked how the early opening for trout fishing could continue when every year the Iowa County vote was more-and-more against it--perhaps by as much as 50-0. The final DNR figures showed a vote of 185-194 against closure of the early season. How does this happen, you fine TU'ers ask.

The country hayseeds were voting only on their county and passing on the others, while their "in-the-know" city brothers were voting on all eight counties (in effect voting eight times as often). Pretty damn sharp, fellows, pretty sharp!

The early trout opening is really set up for you outside guys, mostly from Madison, Milwaukee and Illinois, to come in and hammer our resource. Come May 2nd, you birds (herons included) just take a trip up north and start all over again while the guys in Southwestern Wisconsin are left with s--- for trout fishing.

Of course, you guys point out that you love to "catch-and-release". You sit there and wash your hands with good old "catch-and-release" while the guy at the next bridge or hole is filling up his freezer. It doesn't matter if they are your neighbor, my neighbor or some guy from out of state, that's what's going on out here.

Just so long as you guys can have your fun and move on. It's like eating your cake (really my cake) and then having your cake at the same time.

Now I really hope that you guys can get your wonderful early opening back--just keep it in your own back yard for 15 years. I would like to suggest that you Green Bay guys vote to open up McCaslin Brook to be hammered for nine months next year. The same goes for you guys in Antigo. Let's put four more months of pressure on the Prairie River and see what you have left come

May 2nd.

You Appleton TU'ers could offer to open up the Tomorrow River; see what's left after the Madison, Milwaukee and Illinois crowd works on them for four months with bait in gin-clear water.

Of course, if you want to be fair, let the Madison guys open up their fragile Black Earth Creek. They won't do it, though. All you will hear is, "It's too fragile, there are too many people out here, we might hurt it." The same crap we've been listening to for the last ten years. Just don't hold your breath waiting for the Madison guys to extend the early opening to Dane County.

What we really have here is T.U. greed! The chance to come out here and fish for fun--so you insist--while everyone around you is hammering the hell out of 'em and then come early May to move up north and have your fun all over again. Of course, that kind of fun, and its so-called benefits to the resource, is much too good to have in your backyard or in your favorite stream.

And that, boys, in case you haven't caught on yet, is the weakness of the early opening and the complete hypocrisy of Trout Unlimited's position. If the early opening is so damn good for us, let's see you get it in for your area of the state, and especially on the stream you plan to fish on opening day.

I've been active in T.U. for over 20 years, and am one of the original officers of the Dodgeville club (i.e., Harry Nohr T.U. Chapter). I really respect most of the things that T.U. and the DNR have done for our trout. However, in spite of the good things we do, we have a dying chapter out here.

We can't get six people together to spend our money, and if it wasn't for one wonderful person, we wouldn't have any money at all to spend. One of the things that is killing our group and, in fact, hurting T.U. statewide, is the early trout opener. We have had fine members and workers just fade away, in part due to their opposition to the early trout opening. When yearly votes on the county level are against the early opening and the fellows who fish know exactly who is out goring their resource, try getting them to join T.U.

What I have admired most about T.U. is the influence and power you guys have to get things done and protecting the environment. What I admire least about you guys is your inaction this winter on the re-opening of the early opener.

You and you alone had the connections and influence to stop what happened to our resource this spring, and you just sat there with your fingers you-know-where. Instead of standing up for the resource, you listened to a bunch of "fish-for-funnies" who wanted their fun while everyone else was out pounding the fish. Three years of conservation down the toilet!

Sincerely yours,  
Charles T. Steudel  
Rt. 1  
Highland, WI 53543  
Phone: 608-929-7617

# T.U. National notes

**Project Access:** Project Access is a program to allow elderly and physically-challenged anglers to fish prime fishing water. Project Access is a cooperative effort among the Catskill Fly Fishing Center, Trout Unlimited and other organizations.

Want to start a Project Access project in your area? Project Access has an excellent VHS video (15 minutes) that details the program. T.U. Councils and chapters can obtain the video for only \$10.00. Send the check payable to Stefan Dohert Productions, 471 Fairhaven Road, MD 20754.

**Counter-top Displays:** The new T.U./Coors membership brochure countertop displays are on their way! Thanks once again to the Coors Company, T.U. will receive 2,500 displays for distribution to requesting chapters and Councils. New to this reprint is the name change for the rainbow trout and the addition of a notice behind the brochure holder suggesting prospective members contact the local T.U. chapter if all brochures are gone.

Because of the great demand expected for these displays, requests will be limited to six per chapter at no charge. For every display over six ordered, T.U. National will ask for a \$2.50 donation to go into a restricted fund to be used for securing additional displays, if needed.

**Ordering T.U. letterhead/envelopes:** The T.U. National Office has T.U. logo letterhead and envelopes available to chapters and Councils at its cost plus handling. The price is \$20/500 for letterhead or envelopes, with the handling charge being \$2.50.

The stationery has paper with a percent of recycled content as high as can be utilized. To order, call the National Office, mail room (703-281-1100, Ext. 314). T.U. National will bill chapters and Councils, but individuals need to send payment with orders or provide credit card information, if ordering by phone.

**Federal Lands policy:** T.U. is developing a national policy on federal land use to guide our local and regional fisheries efforts on federal lands. The policy will establish T.U. positions on

extractive uses (timber, grazing and mining) of federal lands, and will advance guiding principles for improved habitat and watershed management.

T.U. National staffer Joe McGurrian is preparing a background "white paper" on the issues and a draft policy statement. The documents will cover both protection and restoration of habitat, including: 1) discussion as to whether current extractive practices are compatible with the preservation of coldwater fishery habitat. If they are not, can they be made compatible and, if so, how? 2) observations as to whether federal agency and T.U. cooperative fishery programs are effective in protecting and restoring habitat. If not, can they be made effective? If they are effective, how can these programs be fostered and improved?

By addressing these questions, the white paper and final policy will provide a framework for T.U. members to work with agency managers on federal lands. The implementation of the policy should lead to improved multiple use of federal lands and result in specific actions for improving U.S. salmonid fisheries.

Based on input from T.U. members and staff, the white paper and policy recommendations will be available for review by the T.U. Board at the Annual Meeting in August.

**Butter-Krust Bread bonus:** T.U. National, in cooperation with the Butter-Krust Baking Company, is producing a 12-15 minute educational video on stream ecology. This year, Butter-Krust chose to earmark funds from its "Save America's Streams" program to support T.U.'s nationwide youth education program.

An independent producer is filming the video in several locations, including Penn's Creek in Pennsylvania. Dr. Greg Hoover, a Penn State aquatic entomologist, is assisting as technical adviser for the video.

When the video is completed, it will be made available to chapters and Councils to facilitate their youth education initiatives.

## Wetlands network explored

The Wisconsin Wetlands Association is surveying wetland conservationists around the state in hopes of organizing a network of groups working on wetlands issues. If your chapter would

like to become part of the network project, contact Scott Lennie, Wisconsin Wetlands Association, 222 S. Hamilton St., Madison, WI 53703. Or call (608) 251-2252.

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# A plan of action for the Wolf River

By Harold Levin

Of all the waters in the Midwest, Wisconsin's Wolf River in Langlade County must be considered one of the outstanding rivers. It possesses many of the characteristics of important Western streams, such as size, beauty, abundant insect populations, good stretches of whitewater and a fair amount of accessible "wilderness".

Unfortunately, the trout fishery falls short of the quality one would expect from such a magnificent water, primarily due to two factors--water temperature and lack of native trout.

The objective of this article is to propose a program which could improve the Wolf River's trout fishery in a relatively short time. This program is built around improvements designed to restore in a practical way the natural capability of the river to sustain a trout fishery.

The proposed program will focus on four parts: 1) water quality, 2) trout quality, 3) harvest levels on trout and 4) access.

Although completion of the program in total could require years, good results are achievable in the short term, and can create a base upon which further work can be built. We do need to see some improvements in our lifetime, and the means exist today to do so. We have the opportunity to make a significant difference, but we must take action if we are to achieve the potential available to us.

The four aspects of this plan are described below.

## Water quality

The water quality of the Wolf River is acceptable, if not excellent, most of the year. However, the temperature regimes of the Wolf's waters do leave something to be desired. Warm summer temperatures harm fish, and cooler fall and winter temperatures produce slush ice that takes a toll on the fishery and makes natural reproduction in the main stream all but impossible.

Yet, some trout do survive, as witnessed by occasional catches of good-sized fish that have survived several seasons. Undoubtedly, in stressful times these fish have found spring holes or other such "zones of refuge" that naturally exist and have survived. The problem today is that there are not enough of these zones, or that they are not efficient as they could be. Perhaps in years past these "zones" were not so important, but dams, deforestation, agriculture and other encroachments of civilization have harmed the river in such a way that the "zones" are increasingly important.

Conceivably, water temperature regimes could be improved if several of the dams on the Wolf near Pearson were removed, as well as dams on some tributary streams. In addition, smaller feeder streams dammed by beavers would benefit the main river if they could be maintained dam free (a program is in effect to do so currently). It is not likely, though, that these actions can be accomplished to the degree necessary to maintain a suitable temperature regime for the Wolf.

The proposed program is suggested here to improve the quantity and quality of the refuge zones, enhancing a natural phenomenon common to the Wolf as well as many other streams and rivers.

It is proposed to enhance the refuge zones by delaying the dilution of spring waters through use of diversion structures such as wing dams, pipes, natural islands and the like. It is further proposed that wells be used to supplement the springs during critical times.

Innovative thinking is required here. As one member of the Wolf River T.U. chapter points out, some of these

resources may already exist. As an example, potato farmers once irrigated crops with water taken directly from the river. Now they irrigate from wells along the river, and the well water is much colder than the river water.

Why couldn't the cold well water be directed to the river while the irrigators draw warmer water from the river for their use on an exchange basis? How many other ways are there to provide refuge zones or better water temperature for the trout in stressful times?

Under the scope of a Master Plan, these improvements could be made piecemeal and have an immediate benefit. If they were done properly, the aesthetics of the river would not be changed, but the quality of trout fishing would improve significantly. Who knows, we might even achieve some natural reproduction of trout!

## Trout quality

It is almost universally recognized that native trout are superior to hatchery-raised trout. It is also strongly believed that the introduction of hatchery-raised trout into waters where native trout exist is harmful to the native trout fishery.

Unfortunately in many Wisconsin streams, hatchery trout are the only hope for a trout fishery, since natural reproduction is marginal at best. Except for migrations of native fish raised in feeder streams, the Wolf's trout population comes mainly from stocked fish.

Not all hatchery trout are alike, however. Trout from many generations of hatchery production are less vital than trout whose ancestors are wild fish. Because we accept the fact that survival rates on these hatchery fish will be low, we also accept the fact that there will be a lot fewer trout available for sportfishing.

The program proposed here suggests that we introduce trout from recently-wild stocks of fish as a supplement to the current hatchery program. This supplemental stocking could come from private hatcheries and/or from special rearing of wild stock in segregated rearing areas of existing state hatcheries.

Funding for this supplemental stocking could come from Trout Unlimited chapters as well as other sources. It is strongly believed that these near-wild trout will have higher vitality that ordinary hatchery trout would have, and thus they would also have a corresponding increase in survivability.

It has been widely reported that the "Bitterroot" strain of brown trout have achieved great success in stocking programs. Other strains are known to have better survivability, including a non-migratory strain of rainbow trout.

Over the longer term, it is proposed that all the fish stocked in the Wolf River come from near-wild trout in the event that natural reproduction cannot be established.

## Harvest

No topic generates more heated controversy than the subject of fish limits, especially if the issue of "catch-and-release" is raised. But, one thing is clear--the days of limit catches of large trout are gone forever.

On a recent trip to the Bighorn River in Montana, several members of the Wolf River T.U. chapter observed an interesting phenomenon. People from many states (Wisconsin, Connecticut, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, etc.) were observed catching many large fish of 18 inches and over. Only two of those fish were kept by anglers in the course of a week! The drawing power of the river was the fishing, not the killing of fish.

The Wolf River cannot sustain a heavy harvest on trout under its current condition. If most of the fish in the river



Wide rocky section of the Wolf below Boy Scout Camp south of Langlade.



Wolf River near Hollister



Fast rapids on Wolf below Buettner's Wild Wolf Inn.

are caught and killed, not many will be left. If we must have "meat" fishing, we should establish some ponds with regular stocking of keepers and operate them as "meat" holes. If we want good sport fishing, we need to build up the river's trout population, and to do that we need to enact severe limits on harvest.

(Ed. note: the new Inland trout fishing regulations as they apply to the Wolf River have the river listed as a Type IV water, i.e., three fish per day with an eight-inch size limit on brook trout and 12 inches on browns, except for a stretch of water between the Nine-Mile Creek railroad trestle and the "Irrigation Hole" that is a "catch-and-release", artificial lures and flies-only section).

## Access

It has been said that a river that cannot be accessed by the average person is a river without many friends. The Wolf River today has reasonable access given the quality of the fishery. Some stretches of the river are inaccessible to most anglers except by canoe or rubber raft, whereas other stretches have good

access.

Access currently is not a major problem given the state of the fishery. When the fishery improves, as a result of improvement programs, access may become a problem.

It is proposed, then, that plans for improved access be drafted right away, and that their implementation be scheduled to coincide with the improvements in river quality and trout quality (and the subsequent increase in demand).

## Summary

This proposed set of programs to improve the Wolf River fishery is based on a rather simplistic--yet realistic--approach. Where the river's natural attributes and trout population require assistance, this program proposes actions to be taken in a manner that will complement nature as much as is practical. It is believed that much can be done to improve the Wolf River, and the results would be forthcoming within a few years after implementation of the proposals.

What we desperately need to do is to start doing!



# South Branch Oconto trout study

The Marinette Area Department of Natural Resources fish management team has been in the process of conducting a trout movement study on the South Branch of the Oconto River (Oconto County).

Traps, or weirs, were placed in two locations to capture brown and brook trout that are believed to overwinter in the Main Oconto River. The trout were tagged and marked when they were first caught and then immediately released.

In addition, ten to twelve trout were implanted with radio transmitters that last up to 200 days. These fish were tracked weekly to determine the extent of their upstream movements.

A creel survey was also planned for the area of the South Branch between its confluence with the North Branch of the Oconto north of Suring up to the Menominee County line. The creel clerk looked for anglers with tagged fish, as well as any other fish, in their creels. Information on angler exploitation as well as trout movement will have been obtained.

The survey will also help the DNR evaluate the "Special Regulations" that apply to the section of the South Branch between County Highway "AA" and State Highway 32. Those regulations, enacted prior to the overhaul of Wisconsin's inland trout fishing rules, require use of artificial lures and flies only, limit harvest to three fish a day and enact minimum size limits of 10 inches and 13 inches on brook and brown trout, respectively.

Partial funding for the trout movements study came from the Green Bay, Oconto River Watershed and Shaw-Paca TU chapters.

To date, the DNR has found that trout migrate many miles up the South Branch and into its tributaries. One radio-tagged brown trout was found to have navigated its way over or through three beaver dams on the Second South Branch of the Oconto!

The study will be completed later this year, and additional information on the data collected from this important research work will be printed in a future issue of Wisconsin Trout.

## Duncan Creek Clean Water Project

Duncan Creek, located in Chippewa County north of Chippewa Falls, has received status as a priority watershed for cleanup and improvement of water quality. Eight-and-a-half miles of the creek above Lake Como are listed as Class I Trout Water by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

The Duncan Creek Clean Water Project is a community effort to improve

water quality. The project offers accelerated engineering and financial assistance to help landowners control pollution.

Streams and lakes in the Duncan Creek Basin have shown signs of degradation. Results of recent well sampling indicate that concerns for groundwater quality also exist.

An initial evaluation of these resources suggests that water quality can be improved readily and habitat enhanced. Many area farmers and service groups have made past commitments to conservation, and a larger number expressed interest in further improvements.

The project covers approximately 193 square miles in western Chippewa and northern Eau Claire counties.

The Duncan Creek Clean Water Project is administered by the Chippewa County Land Conservation Committee under the direction of the Chippewa County Board of Supervisors. Funding comes from a grant made through the DNR. A Citizen's Advisory Group provides input and advice relating to policy development. Eligible landowners and community groups participate on a voluntary basis.

Eligible landowners will be offered the chance to pursue barnyard improvements, manure storage, water quality easements, streambank protection and other land management practices designed to protect water quality. Sportsmen's and environmental groups interested in the project will be encouraged to take part in the effort.

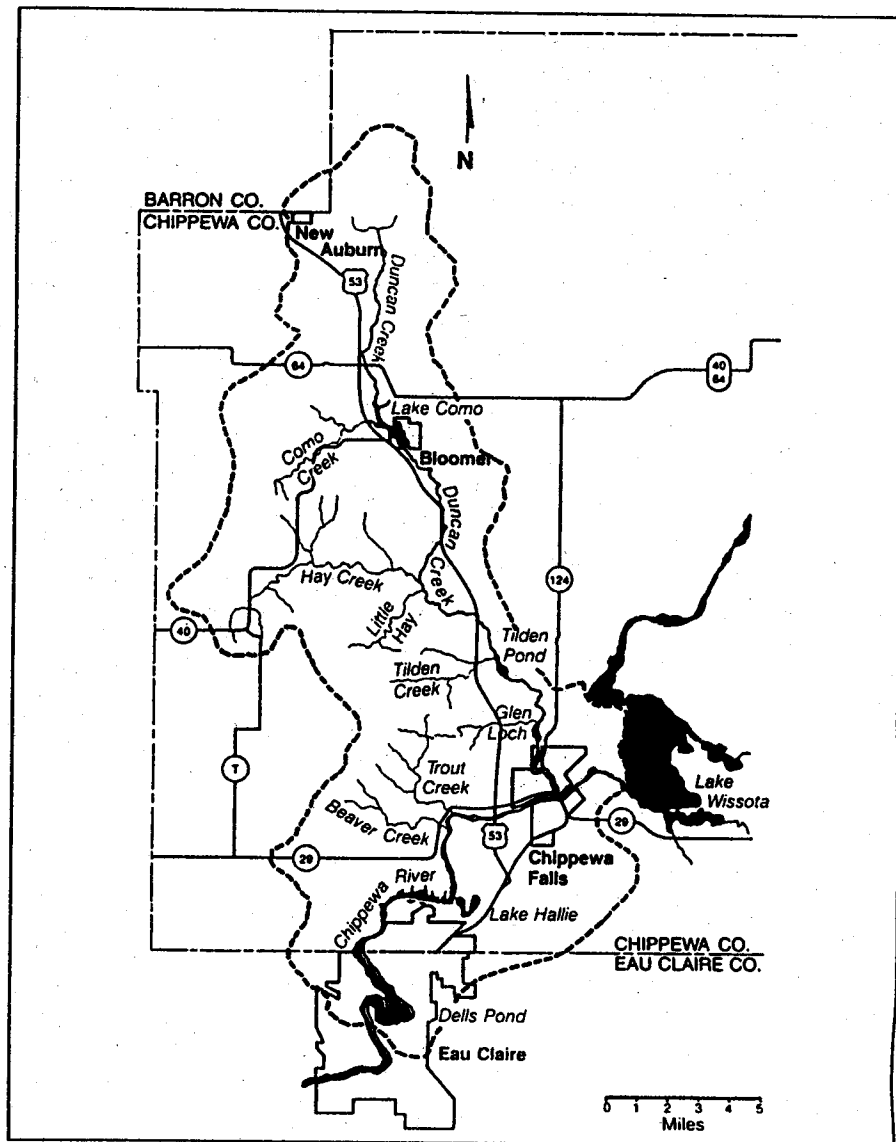
There are two phases to the project work.

The Inventory/Planning Phase consists of an inventory of existing conditions in the watershed. Local management objectives and public policies will be developed to guide project implementation. Public hearings will be held to solicit citizen input during the planning phase.

During the Implementation Phase, eligible landowners will have three years to enter into water quality contracts. Landowners may implement projects over an eight-year construction period. Engineering and financial assistance will be available to offset costs associated with water quality management practices.

The timeline for the project will run to the year 2000.

More information about the Duncan Creek Clean Water Project can be obtained from the Chippewa County Land Conservation Department, 619 N. Bridge Street, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729. Or call (715) 723-5415.



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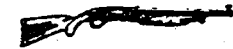
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# Wisconsin Trout Unlim



The Aldo Leopold Chapter of Trout Unlimited celebrates its tenth anniversary by donating "The Way of a Trout" to the Columbus Public Library. The 30-minute conservation classic video is in memory of Lee W. Parker. Parker, a master fly tier, taught fly tying under the auspices of Trout Unlimited, and was a charter member of the Southern Chapter and Aldo Leopold Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Pictured are Andrea Kiefer, librarian at Columbus and Cy Sendelbach, member of the board of directors.

## Aldo Leopold Chapter

The Aldo Leopold Chapter celebrated its tenth anniversary by making donations of "The Way of a Trout" videos to 11 public libraries in the chapter's area. The cities and their presenters were: Beaver Dam (Earl Little and Jack Saunders); Columbus (Cy Sendelbach); DeForest (Jim Klingbeil); Fond du Lac (David Wurtz); Horicon (Clint Byrnes and Marlin Spindler); Juneau (Norb Wozniak); Mayville (David Wurtz); Pardeeville (Robin Klingbeil); Portage and Poynette (John Sarnow); and, Randolph (Bill Metcalf).

The chapter also held a fly-tying course over the winter months, and graduated ten students.

## Antigo Chapter

Antigo T.U. held its 12th annual Banquet on March 28th at the River-view Country Club. The event was another success, with about 245 people in attendance.

On June 6th, the chapter combined forces with area merchants to hold a trout fishing day on Antigo Lake. About 3,000 brook trout were stocked in the lake, and hamburgers and hot dogs were provided to the kids who participated (over 300). Prizes were awarded, too.

The chapter will be acquiring another land easement on the East Branch Eau Claire River this summer below the bridge on River Road. A trout habitat improvement project will be carried out in that stream section in 1993.

Antigo T.U. was glad to be able to host the May 16th State Council meeting (see separate article).

## Blackhawk Chapter

The chapter has held several interesting meetings and programs since the last newspaper. Those included a discussion of spring creeks in southwestern Wisconsin by Dennis Franke, a presentation on different types of canoes by Gordon Sussman (owner of Rutagaga in Madison) and a fly casting clinic by Clay Rieness of Coon Valley.

Chapter members installed five LUNKER structures into a stretch of the West Fork Kickapoo River (Vernon County) in March; eleven more structures will be placed at a later date. The chapter also kicked in \$2,000 for the building of more structures for the

## West Fork.

The chapter's annual banquet, held in late April, successfully raised about \$6,500. A chapter picnic is planned for August.

## Central Wisconsin Chapter

The chapter held two workdays on Radley Creek in Waupaca County. The streambank was brushed and sandbags were placed to prevent erosion. The project is partially funded via T.U. National's "Embrace-A-Stream" program.

A joint workday was held June 20th with members of the Frank Hornberg chapter on the Tomorrow River.

Another successful Fly Fishing School was held May 29-31 at Camp Hiwela, with 19 students participating. Information on next year's event can be obtained by calling Dave Johnson at (414) 293-4337.

## Coulee Region Chapter

No report

## Fox Valley Chapter

New chapter officers elected in spring are: Tom Beyer - President; Gene Weber - Vice-president; Dale Peterson - Secretary; Terry Hoover - Treasurer; Fran Elliot and Jerry Unmuth - three-year terms on Board of Directors.

The chapter's annual "Handicapped Fishing Day" was a big success once again. A 19½ inch rainbow trout was the largest fish caught. The chapter's "Kids Fishing Day" had over 125 youngsters participate.

Workdays have included work on Davis Creek in Waushara County. Electro-shocking revealed three year classes of trout present, which is a good sign for this small creek.

Work on the Tomorrow River in Waupaca County continues, too, with positive results noticed. Another area on the Tomorrow has opened up for possible stream work, thanks to a private landowner who was glad to talk with an organization that would help preserve resources.

The chapter has invested in a computer to upgrade the newsletter and compile and maintain membership lists. Fox Valley hopes to better its communication between members.

Fox Valley T.U.'s annual chapter picnic will be held along the Little Wolf

River at Tom Beyer's cabin.

## Green Bay Chapter

The chapter's annual Conservation Banquet was held March 28th, with a net profit of \$22,053. Next year's event is slated for Wednesday, March 24th, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Green Bay.

Chapter meeting programs included an April presentation by State Council Chairman Steve Born on the Black Earth Creek Watershed project in Dane County, and a picnic/meeting at the Brown County Reforestation Camp in May.

Chapter members were saddened in March by the accidental death of long-time chapter member Gary Grasse.

The chapter made several appropriations, including: 1) \$4,000 to begin work on a trout stream education project along Hallars Creek in the Brown County Reforestation Camp; 2) \$2,500 to go to T.U. National's "Embrace-A-Stream" program; and 3) \$250 to sponsor five handicapped citizens for a fishing weekend put on by "Fishing Has No Boundaries", a non-profit organization that provides angling opportunities for the disabled.

A work project was held with the DNR on April 25th. Chapter members hauled equipment down to the banks of the South Branch of the Oconto River to construct two fish weirs. The DNR carried out a trout movement study using those weirs in May and June.

Work projects for June included brushing and debris removal on MacCauley Creek east of Mountain in Oconto County, and another project unknown at press time.

The chapter was most pleased to be the recipient of a \$500 grant from the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin, Inc., for habitat work on a project slated for Ben Nutt Creek in western Sheboygan County near Plymouth. The work will be carried out in July and August.

## Frank Hornberg Chapter

Since the chapter was formed early this year, things have progressed well, with membership growing to over 40 people. Members will have ample opportunity to be involved with resource work and chapter activities.

Stream projects include cleaning up debris along one of the Buena Vista Marsh streams and working with the local Izaak Walton League Chapter on the Upper Tomorrow River. Members will also combine forces with members of the Central Wisconsin and Fox Valley chapters for work on the Middle Tomorrow River.

Chapter members have been looking into a project on the Tomorrow River or the Flume or Peterson Creeks. After consulting with the DNR and local landowners, the chapter is leaning toward directing efforts on the Flume Creek.

The chapter held a successful raffle to provide some financial stability for the organization. Some of the raffle proceeds will be used to host a fishing day on July 11th for kids involved in the "Big Brothers - Big Sisters" program. The event will be held in one of the ponds on land owned by Sentry Insurance.

## Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter

Chapter members assisted the DNR with electro-shocking on the Willow River and the Lower Kinnickinnic River in April.

## Lakeshore Chapter

Lakeshore's banquet was held March 28th at the Club Bil-Mar. It was the best attended banquet to date, and profits were up over 33 percent from 1991.

The chapter has appropriated money for several projects this summer, including: 1) \$1,000 for work on Ben Nutt Creek in Sheboygan County; 2) \$1,000 for installing fencing and a watering pump on the West Twin River in Manitowoc County; and 3) \$1,000 to stock trout in the West Twin upon completion of the fencing and watering pump project.

Lakeshore members spent a day in April working on the West Twin project. More work days are scheduled for that project in July and August, as well as work on Ben Nutt Creek.

The chapter approved two scholarships for students to the Natural Resources Career Workshop at the Central Wisconsin Environmental Station east of Stevens Point.

The chapter's annual June meeting and cookout for family members was held at the pond and home of a chapter member. Officers for the coming year are: President - Jeff Preiss; Vice-president - Larry Yax; Secretary - Ron McCormick; Treasurer - Dick Prucha; State Council representative - Marty Kwitek.

## Marinette County Chapter

The chapter's March 16th Conservation Banquet netted a record \$13,392 for resource work. Funds raised will go toward the following projects: 1) \$1,000 for fencing and installation of a "pasture pump" along an unnamed tributary of the South Branch of the Beaver Creek in Oconto County; 2) \$2,500 to fund trout stream surveys by DNR Area fish manager Tom Thuemler; 3) \$4,000 to fund a beaver trapper to remove beaver and dams from Camp 5, Eagle, Swamp and Swede John Creeks (all tributaries of the Peshtigo River).

The chapter held a Youth Fishing Contest June 18th in conjunction with the Peshtigo Recreation Department.

Chapter officers for the coming year are: President - Dale Lange; Vice-president - George Bereza; Secretary - Treasurer - Jim Bereza.

## Harry Nohr Chapter

No report

## Northwoods Chapter

The chapter held another successful Conservation Banquet in early March and raised several thousand dollars for 1992 projects, which include: 1) bank brushing and brush bundling on Noisy Creek; 2) brushing and debris removal on Trout Creek; and 3) culvert replacement on the Bearskin River. All streams worked on are in Oneida County.

Leadership changed hands in the chapter. Long-time chapter president Harley Erbs handed over the reins to David Newhouse, and even longer-time chapter secretary-treasurer Connie Rollman retired in favor of Mark Mattson. Vice-president is Matt Nowak, Sr.

Northwoods T.U. presented its Award of Merit to charter member Herb Schauder for his many years of service and support. The chapter's Member-Get-A-Member Drive resulted in the recruitment of several new members for the chapter.

## Oconto River Watershed Chapter

The chapter's annual Conservation Banquet, held April 23rd at the Cotton Patch Supper Club off Shawano Lake, netted over \$8,000 for chapter projects.

The chapter stocked a number of larger trout (eight to 13 inches) on May 30th in many locations on branches and sections of the Oconto River from Mountain to Pulcifer.



# United Chapter reports

Water quality in the chapter's fishing rearing pond is still a problem, but fish will be raised when the problems are solved.

The chapter appropriated \$1,000 for use by the DNR in making aerial surveys of radio-tagged trout and their movements in the South Branch of the Oconto River.

Leases along Christy Brook near Gillett will be renewed this year between the chapter and landowners.

## Ojibseau Chapter

Jack Dennis of Jackson Hole, Wyoming, was the guest speaker at the chapter's annual banquet in April, with over 130 people attending.

Work projects either finished or in stages of completion by the chapter include: 1) seeding on Elk Creek, and 2) habitat work on Duncan Creek.

The chapter continues its involvement in the Lowes Creek Watershed Protection District, and will conduct planning to get a course of action over the next several years.

## Shaw-Paca Chapter

The chapter held its annual "Kids

Fishing Day" on June 20th. Chapter members scatter-planted trout in the Red River on April 25th. Local beaver trappers removed a total of 49 beaver from area trout streams during the winter and spring season.

The chapter appropriated \$1,000 to assist the DNR with the trout movement study on the South Branch of the Oconto River.

**Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter**  
No report

**Southern Wisconsin Chapter**  
No report

**Wild Rivers Chapter**  
No report

**Wisconsin River Valley Chapter**  
No report

## Wolf River Chapter

The chapter continued its impressive number of projects through the spring season. On May 3rd (the second day of trout fishing season!), members planted 1400 white cedar seedlings

along the banks of Spring Creek, a tributary to the Wolf River, in an area that had been flooded by a beaver dam. The chapter thanked Pat McCabe for purchasing the trees, DNR Ranger Dave Beer for providing planting equipment, John Conn for providing access across his land to the planting site and Herb Buettner for organizing the project.

Chapter members helped scatter-plant 14,000 brown trout in a 30-mile stretch of the Wolf on April 29. A fall scatter-planting is also planned.

The chapter is looking into doing some work on a section of the Nine-Mile Creek near Hollister. The DNR purchased an 80-acre parcel of land containing a nice section of the Nine-Mile, but the stream needs brushing in that half-mile area. Also, Wolf River T.U. set aside \$3,000 to help the DNR complete the dredging on Saul Spring Pond in eastern Langlade County.

The chapter sponsored a "Youth Fishing Clinic" on June 2nd to introduce area youth to fly fishing for trout. Four kids (and two adults who managed to pass as kids!) participated in the clinic. Chapter members Duke Schenk and Bill Kallner helped project chairman

Herb Buettner coach the kids.

The chapter's Youth Essay Contest resulted in awards presented to 4th and 5th grade students and teachers at the White Lake Elementary School. The students were asked to write 200 words or less on "What I Can Do To Protect Our Water Resources".

Fourth-grader Chris Svoboda won a Gander Mountain "Future Pro" spin-cast rod, reel and tackle set. Fifth-grader Sara Buettner won a Cabela's Youth Flyfishing Kit. Honorable mention certificates went to 5th graders Clayton Richter and Katie Kolpack.

Fourth grade teacher Barb Wilson won a limited edition wildlife collector's plate, and fifth grade teacher Lois Anderson won a Polartec jacket. Judges for the contest were DNR fish manager Max Johnson and chapter member Dave Pilsner.

Chapter members were pleased to hear that \$8,000 in trout stamp money has been budgeted for a major habitat improvement project on the Wolf River. The project could get underway by fall if other work is completed on schedule.

## Wisconsin T.U. member profile: Jim Bereza

In any conservation organization, be it Trout Unlimited or whatever, there are always a few individuals who stand out because of their commitment and dedication to the organization and its goals. Jim Bereza of the Marinette County T.U. chapter aptly falls into that special category of people.

A lifelong resident of the Marinette area, Bereza first joined T.U. in the early 1980's as a member of the Green Bay T.U. chapter. In April of 1983, when the Marinette county T.U. chapter was formed, Jim became the charter president of the group, serving until 1987.

Since then, Bereza has served as the chapter's Secretary-Treasurer. He has edited the chapter newsletter since 1985, and he has ably served as his chapter's banquet co-chairman from 1984 to the present.

Running a successful banquet is something that Jim has always taken pride in doing. Besides helping to put on one of the more profitable conservation banquets in the state for his own chapter, Bereza has served as co-chairman of the Wisconsin State T.U. Council fund-raiser three times (1987, 1988 and 1992), all of which have been successful ventures.

Jim is quick to share the secrets of making a banquet a success, too.

"Putting together a successful banquet is a year round thing," he states. "You have to stay alert for special discounts and sales on merchandise for prizes in order to keep costs down, and you need to be alert to trends in the limited edition art print world in order to know what is desirable or which prints are likely to become 'sold-out' in the near future."

Resource work has also ranked high in Jim's involvements with T.U. He has put in a tremendous amount of time on many trout habitat improvement projects since the early 1980's. Streams such as the First South Branch of the Oconto River, main Oconto River, Mountain Springs Creek, Waupee Creek, Little Waupee Creek and Brehmer Creek in Oconto County, Upper Middle Inlet Creek and North Branch Beaver Creek in Marinette County, the Wolf River in Langlade County and Lamon Tague Creek in Florence County have been some of the spots where Bereza has toiled for the

resource.

The reasons for the effort Jim has put into the coldwater resource are simple. "I joined Trout Unlimited because it stressed the importance of proper habitat management and wild trout management (i.e., natural reproduction of trout, versus the breeding of fish in a hatchery solely for stocking them in marginal trout waters," he stated. "I enjoy doing the work on habitat improvement, and I hope that my children's grandchildren will be able to see the benefits of some of the work done today."

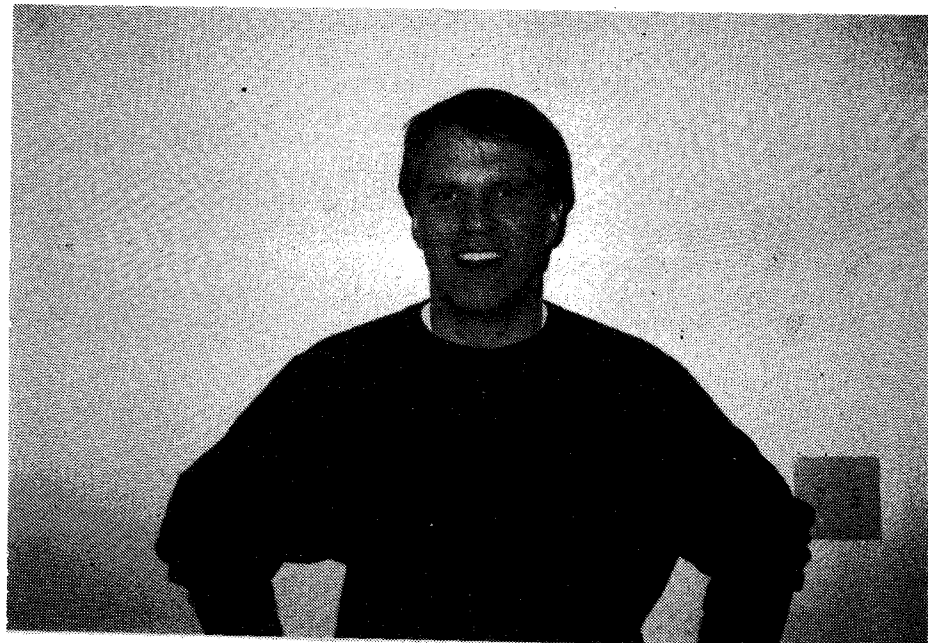
While Bereza certainly considers involvement in Trout Unlimited to be one of his hobbies, he has many other interests. Trout fishing, of course, ranks right up there on that list of favorite pastimes.

"Since joining T.U., I've taken up different methods of angling," he says. "I've used different angling methods for taking trout, but I have lately done mainly fly fishing because of the challenge of catching a fish with a fly. I practice 'catch-and-release' most of the time, and not just because the fish are under-sized, either, but I do bring home a few fish once in awhile for the pan."

Besides fishing, Jim enjoys bird hunting for grouse, and he took a pilgrimage to Iowa in the fall of 1991 to seek wily rooster pheasants, a trip that will be repeated in future years. He also took up deer hunting for the first time in 1991, and is planning to take his son along this coming season.

Jim and his family (wife Pat, son Ryan, 15, and daughter Kelly, 13) also are fond of traveling. "We try to take one trip of some distance each year," Jim said. "We've been to Disney World in Florida, Glacier National Park, Yellowstone National Park, Rocky Mountain National Park near Estes, Colorado; Devil's Tower; Mount Rushmore; Great America near Gurnee, Illinois; and Cedar Point Amusement Park near Sandusky, Ohio. We've also been to a number of points of interest throughout Wisconsin."

Besides his outdoor interests and family interests, Jim makes a living working for Scott Paper Company in Marinette, where he has been employed since 1977. He is a journeyman finish-



Jim Bereza

ing adjustor with the company, having been in the adjustor program since 1985.

Looking at T.U. and the problems facing it and the resource, Bereza says, "I generally focus my attention on items of a more immediate nature, such as how the next banquet will turn out or how a habitat improvement project will get planned and executed. I'm fairly satisfied where T.U. is at the moment."

"Regarding the resource," he continues, "overpopulation of beavers on trout streams continues to be the number one problem we have in Northeastern Wisconsin as far as trout are concerned. Fortunately, there are a number of professional resource agencies and Trout Unlimited chapters that are

addressing the issue at the moment. And, non-point pollution is another area that needs attention and where T.U. is pitching in to help."

For the future, Bereza plans to continue working on habitat improvement projects and staying involved with fund-raising. Marinette County T.U. and the Wisconsin State T.U. Council are indeed fortunate to have Jim Bereza--a Family Life Member of Trout Unlimited--in its ranks. His outstanding concern and dedication, which have earned him awards such as the 1991 Wisconsin T.U. "Gold Trout Award", are elements hard to find in this era, and he is appreciated very much by his fellow T.U.'ers around the state.

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FINEST  
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# Council meeting held in Antigo

The spring meeting of the Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited was held Saturday, May 16, at the Cutlass Royale Motor inn in Antigo.

Council chairman Steve Born convened the meeting shortly after 10:00 a.m. A synopsis of the meeting's events follows:

**Fund-raising:** The mailing for the 1992 "Friends of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited" campaign was to be distributed in late May.

**Planned giving:** Dick Wachowski reported that monetary gifts can be specified to go to certain areas or projects. He recommended that endowments where interest can be used in perpetuity are not desirable, because the organization does not have institutional staff that can adequately handle the fiduciary responsibilities associated with such gifts.

**Heileman Resource Conservation Grant:** Born reported that the Heileman Brewing Company donated \$10,000 to Trout Unlimited, with 80 percent of the money earmarked to come to Wisconsin. That means that the Wisconsin State T.U. Council will have \$7-8,000 more available for resource work.

**Treasurer's report:** The cash balance as of May 16, 1992, stood at \$18,000.40.

**Publications:** Chapters and members were encouraged to help solicit more advertising for Wisconsin Trout. Publications were proceeding as planned.

**Water Resources:** The 1991 statewide Wisconsin T.U. Work Project Inventory was incomplete due to the refusal of about 10 chapters to submit reports. Of those chapters submitting reports, a total of 1,223.50 person-hours and \$78,314.66 had been expended on the resource in 1991.

**Membership:** Membership chairman Jim Hlaban reported that current paid-up T.U. membership in Wisconsin stood at 2,190. He felt membership growth had stagnated due to several years of closed or restricted trout fishing seasons due to drought. Chapter membership boundary maps were issued (see separate article). Council attendees voted to limit the sharing of chapter membership lists with other organizations.

The new Frank Hornberg Chapter reported that they were adding about five new members per month to their roster.

**Youth Education:** Chuck Park, new chairman of the committee, discussed a series of documents to be released by T.U. National on youth activities and organization. He is also developing a list of key youth contact people in the state. Antigo Area DNR fish manager Max Johnson added that the DNR has youth education materials available for chapters at their requests.

**Legislative:** Born discussed Governor Thompson's vetoes of key provisions in SB 281, the bill to control non-point pollution. Also, he noted that a bill to tighten wetlands protection failed to pass the Legislature.

**Placemat project:** Herb Buettner of the Wolf River Chapter detailed that the printing of 30,000 placemats with the T.U. philosophy on them could be done for about \$500. They would be available by Memorial Day.

**Forest Service partnership:** Born stated that a signing ceremony will be held at the T.U. National meeting in Rochester, MN., for the partnership agreement to be made between T.U. and the U.S. Forest Service for cooperative ventures between the two regarding trout habitat improvement on trout waters in National Forests.



Antigo T.U.'s (l-r): Larry Marmes, Denny Orgeman, Dean Curran, Scott Henricks, Tim Gregurich, Jim Schewe, who prepared the meeting and meal. Missing from photo: Jim Smith.

**National T.U. reorganization:** A copy of the Strategic Review Plan compiled by T.U. National staff and Board members was dispensed to all chapters and Council officers.

**Conservation Congress Hearings:** DNR Trout Specialist Larry Claggett reported that the total vote at Congress hearings regarding a proposal to have a three-year moratorium on the "early" trout season in eight southwestern Wisconsin counties won by a narrow 52-48 percent margin. The DNR felt that that was not a clear mandate and that they would not recommend a closure of the "early" trout season.

A representative of the Harry Nohr Chapter expressed concerns that an inequality exists with the "early" trout season, because pressure is focused on just a few counties. He felt that the "early" trout season should be open perhaps on a statewide basis.

Following much discussion, a motion was made and approved to the effect that "...Trout Unlimited realizes the present early trout season results in unequal pressure being placed on the

trout resources of the counties in that region, and the present status quo cannot be maintained. The body urges that all interested parties work together to resolve the problem."

**State Council Banquet:** January 30, 1993, is set for the Annual Wisconsin T.U. meeting and State Council Banquet.

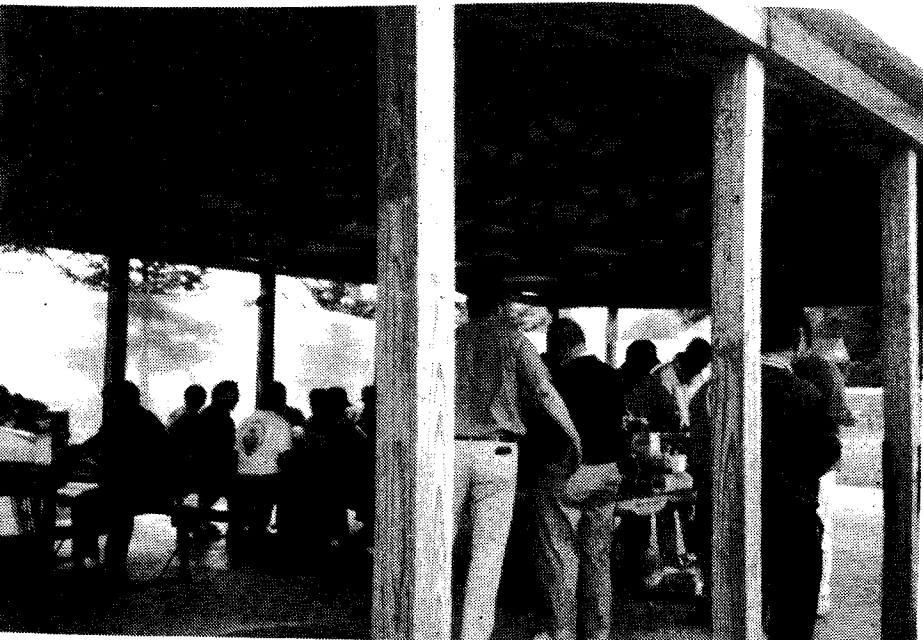
**Other business:** The next meeting of the Wisconsin T.U. Council is slated for Saturday, August 1, at the Tomorrow River Supper Club on Highway 10 between Stevens Point and Waupaca (see separate note).

A motion was made to nominate Wisconsin Trout for the Award for National T.U. Newsletter at the T.U. Annual meeting in Rochester, MN. The meeting was adjourned at 3:14 p.m.

The Wisconsin T.U. State Council gives a big "thank-you" to the members of the Antigo T.U. Chapter for setting up the arrangements for the Council meeting and for providing a splendid cookout and hospitality for Council representatives!



Council Chair Steve Born addresses members at May 16 meeting in Antigo.



Council reps enjoy lunch prepared by Antigo T.U.'ers.



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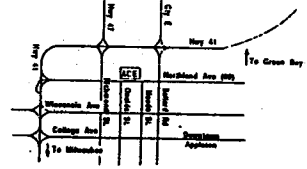
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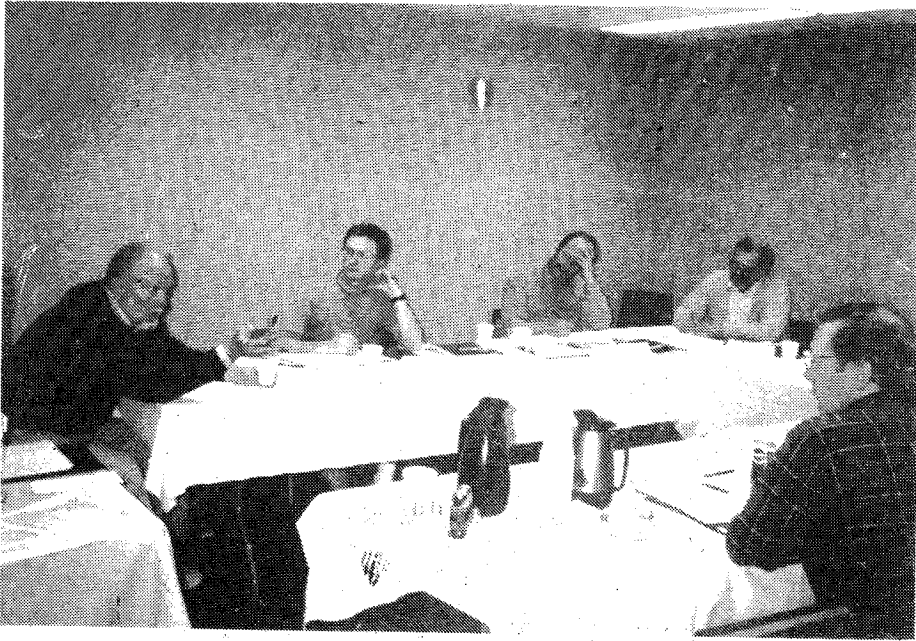
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Professor Blake R. Kellogg (l) makes a point at Newsletter Workshop held during May State Council meeting.

## Communication focus of Council program

Communication. It has become an overworked word in our society. Yet it is vital to our existence as citizens.

So, too, it is vital to the existence of organizations such as Trout Unlimited.

It is so vital, in fact, that the Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited devoted time at its May 16, 1992, spring Council meeting in Antigo to a workshop on ways for chapters and the State Council to communicate better with its membership.

Blake R. Kellogg, professor of Journalism at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, provided a workshop that day for eight representatives of Wisconsin T.U. chapters to offer insight into improving dissemination of information to chapter members via newsletters.

Kellogg focused on such items as production of better graphics in newsletters to quickly capture the readers' attention; using different type styles, critiquing various chapter newsletters and dealing with problems that chapter newsletter editors face in their tasks.

He was quick to point out that chapter newsletters need to be styled in such a manner that will quickly capture the reader. Otherwise, the newsletter may be viewed as any other piece of unimportant "junk mail" and get tossed into the recycling bin with other unwanted paper.

Kellogg also stressed to the workshop attendees that newsletters must have the essential "Who-What-Where-When-Why-How" topics to retain the

readers' attention.

Workshop attendees collectively listed a number of topics that would be important to their readership. They included: chapter meetings; chapter activities; activities of other clubs or T.U. chapters; projects or programs being undertaken by the Department of Natural Resources; changes in fishing regulations; local government activities; Legislative activities; stream reports or fishing updates; member involvement in issues; member profiles; reports on chapter expenditures; and, banquet reports.

Kellogg made a strong point that recognition in the newsletter of members who participate in work projects, fundraisers or the like was a very important thing that newsletter editors should stress. Such recognition makes members who give of themselves feel good about their efforts, and it may spur others to volunteer because they know that their work will be appreciated.

The workshop proved to be a very valuable tool for informing chapter newsletter editors about ways to keep their chapter members alert and interested in chapter activities, and it also served to infuse enthusiasm in those who attended the workshop.

The Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited is most grateful for the effort put forth by Professor Blake R. Kellogg in providing insight into production of a quality communication piece for T.U. chapters.

## Chapter boundaries set

State Council membership chairman **Jim Hlaban** has put together a revised set of "boundaries" for T.U. chapters within Wisconsin regarding membership.

As shown below, each chapter is assigned counties wherein its membership is generally derived. Some overlap certainly may occur, but the plan here has been carried out to the best of our State Council's ability.

If there are any questions or concerns about this plan, write to Jim Hlaban, 1421 Silverwood, Neenah, WI 54956. Or call (414) 722-4335.

### Wisconsin T.U. Chapter boundaries:

Wolf River Chapter--Bordering the Wolf River trout area.

Southern Wisconsin Chapter--Dane and Jefferson counties.

Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter--Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Walworth, Washington and Waukesha counties.

Green Bay Chapter--Brown and Door.

Central Wisconsin Chapter--Adams, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Marquette, Waushara and Winnebago Counties.

Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter--Pepin, Pierce, Polk and St. Croix counties.

Fox Valley Chapter--Outagamie

county.

Ojiblcaw Chapter--Barron, Buffalo, Chippewa, Clark, Dunn, Eau Claire, Jackson, Rusk and Trempealeau counties.

Northwoods--Florence, Forest, Oneida and Vilas counties.

Harry Nohr Chapter--Crawford, Grant, Iowa and Lafayette counties.

Coulee Region Chapter--Juneau, La Crosse, Monroe, Richland and Vernon counties.

Antigo Chapter--Langlade county. Aldo Leopold Chapter--Columbia, Dodge and Sauk counties.

Shaw-Paca Chapter--Shawano and Waupaca counties.

Oconto River Watershed Chapter--Oconto county.

Blackhawk Chapter--Green and Rock counties.

Wisconsin River Valley Chapter--Lincoln, Marathon, Price and Taylor counties.

Wild Rivers Chapter--Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Iron, Sawyer and Washburn counties.

Marinette County Chapter--Marinette County.

Lakeshore Chapter--Calumet, Kewaunee, Manitowoc and Sheboygan counties.

## Natural resources board notes

The Natural Resources Board, the seven-member citizens' board that governs the Department of Natural Resources, elected officers and made committee assignments early this year.

Chairman of the board is Stanton "Pete" Helland of Wisconsin Dells. Vice-chairman is Herb Behnke of Shawano. Secretary is Trygve Solberg of Minocqua.

Chairman Helland made the following committee assignments: Environmental Quality/Enforcement Committee--Neal Schneider (Janesville), chair; Mary Jane Nelson (Holmen); Stephen Willett (Phillips). Resource Management/Business Committee:

Herb Behnke, chair; Trygve Solberg; James Tiefenthaler (Milwaukee).

The Board will hold its summer monthly meetings in various locations around the state to give citizens in different areas a chance to comment on various natural resource policies. The dates and locations are: July 29-30 (Manitowoc); August 19-20 (Superior); and September 23-24 (Wisconsin Rapids).

Anyone wishing to register to speak at any of those meetings should contact board secretary **Judy Scullion** by the Friday prior to the meeting date. Her number is (608) 267-7420.

## Environmental directory

Educational Communications, Inc., publishes a **Directory of Environmental Organizations**, and will include your organization in an upcoming edition if you provide them with the information.

Give your group's name, typed or printed in full; a complete address, with city, state (two-letter abbreviation) and zip code; telephone numbers with area

codes, and a FAX number if applicable. If you have an office number, indicate the above information for each of them.

For more information, or to enter your group, write Educational Communications, Inc., P.O. Box 351419, Los Angeles, CA 90035-9119. The printed directory can be purchased for \$30, or is available on diskettes for \$300.

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# Wisconsin Trout Water Profile: McGee Lake

For the most part, when anglers mention "trout water", images of swift-flowing streams come to mind. Wisconsin has nearly 9,000 miles of trout streams of varying size and productivity, so it is understandable that such a mental response would occur.

But the state is also blessed with a number of highly-productive spring-fed ponds and lakes that produce some exceptional trout angling. One of the more unique of these stillwater ponds is McGee Lake in southeastern Langlade County.

McGee Lake is a 23-acre hardwater spring lake with very alkaline, clear water of high transparency. The immediate shoreline is predominantly hardwood upland (99 percent), with the remainder being coniferous wetland.

The lake's bottom is typical of the many spring ponds that lie in a geologic stratum east of Antigo. Composition of littoral materials is rubble (30 percent), sand (20 percent), gravel (20 percent), muck (20 percent) and boulders (10 percent). Certain shallow areas of the lake have fairly lush growths of aquatic vegetation that are prime areas for freshwater shrimp, scuds and other favorite trout foods.

The entire shoreline of 0.95 mile is owned by the Department of Natural Resources, having been acquired during the late 1960's.

Management of McGee Lake's coldwater fishery has varied over the years. The lake was chemically-treated during the 1970's to rid it of bass, northern pike, suckers and panfish. Several strains of brook trout were introduced during the 1970's, including a faster-growing strain of Canadian brook trout.

To attempt to speed the recovery of brook trout in the lake, the DNR applied some "special regulations" to McGee Lake in 1978. Rules reduced the daily creel limit to two trout per day of any size limit, as opposed to the then-standard ten trout per day, six-inch size limit. No angling method restrictions were enacted, however.

The new regulations were thought to provide a way for "trophy" trout fishing experiences to be had by anglers, but the results were disappointing. Rather than catching and releasing most fish, trout anglers who fished McGee were more apt to quickly take their allowable two trout, and the lake's trout population suffered.

With the onset of the revamping of the inland trout fishing regulations in Wisconsin, McGee Lake got a new lease on life. Antigo Area DNR Fisheries Supervisor Max Johnson recommended that regulations for McGee Lake entail a continuation of the two trout per day creel limit, but changes

were made to make the minimum size limit 12 inches and require use of artificial lures and flies only for angling.

And prior to the establishment of those regulations, Johnson also began a slightly different approach to management of the lake fishery composition.

Initially, McGee had been stocked only with brook trout, including some native trout trapped from area streams. In 1989, Johnson began stocking some larger rainbow trout in McGee. The mixture has been a success, and angler enjoyment of the lake's trout resource has increased.

In addition, Johnson has noted that McGee Lake has been able to provide conditions for natural reproduction of brook trout in the lake. This has nicely complemented the annual influx of hatchery brook trout the DNR puts into McGee.

Like any of the other spring ponds or lakes in the area, McGee can be a tricky water to fish. Its transparent nature can make any fish wary of the presence of danger. Bright, clear days can frustrate the most skilled angler. Overcast, windy days with drizzle or rain will produce best during the warmer summer months.

As the season shifts toward fall, fishing becomes both easier yet unpredictable. Small black ant fly patterns fished in shallower areas can be deadly for brook trout, and crawfish fly or spinning lure patterns or pink leadhead jigs with pink skirted twister tails are apt to produce a strike from one of the big rainbow trout in the lake. Spinning lures in the Number One or Two size are also productive.

Access to McGee Lake is relatively easy. The lake lies south of the little hamlet of Elton, which is approximately 13 miles east of Antigo on Highway 64. Elton Road South intersects Highway 64 in that town, and the access road to McGee lies about two miles south of Elton off Elton Road South.

A DNR parking lot exists at that access point, with a steep, maintained path taking anglers down the west side of the lake. Anglers will need a boat or canoe to fish McGee, and the lake is also a perfect one for those partial to use of "belly-boats".

During the years of restrictive rules for trout fishing in Northeastern Wisconsin (1990 and 1991) because of the drought, McGee Lake was open for trout angling because its fishery was more dependent upon hatchery fish than native ones and was not in jeopardy. Angler pressure increased some above normal during those years, but the fishery was still maintained.

This year, with trout angling open statewide again, McGee sees less pressure. It is indeed a worthwhile spot for



Signs indicate "Special Regs" on McGee Lake.

the adventurous angler to explore. It will not always produce a trophy fish, but it will provide one with a quality

experience that will only whet the appetite for a return trip.

## Wisconsin's youth/education program

By Chuck Park

(Ed. Note: Chuck Park has recently agreed to serve as the Youth/Education Coordinator for Wisconsin Trout Unlimited. He resides at N7483 Ridge Road, Whitewater, WI 53190. His home phone is 414-473-6783. He is a member of the faculty of the Educational Foundations Department at UW-Whitewater.)

Young people, like our environment, need thoughtful attention these days. Many schools find it difficult to provide environmental programs, and many youth organizations have suffered from a lack of knowledgeable volunteers.

For members, chapters and State Councils of Trout Unlimited, such conditions actually provide an opportunity to fill those voids and give leadership. As a member of the T.U. National Youth Education Committee once remarked, "It makes little sense to save streams, anadromous fisheries or watersheds today yet neglect the education of others to carry out these practices in the future."

The reason for youth education is clear--as clear as the waters in an ongoing brook.

The T.U. National Youth Education

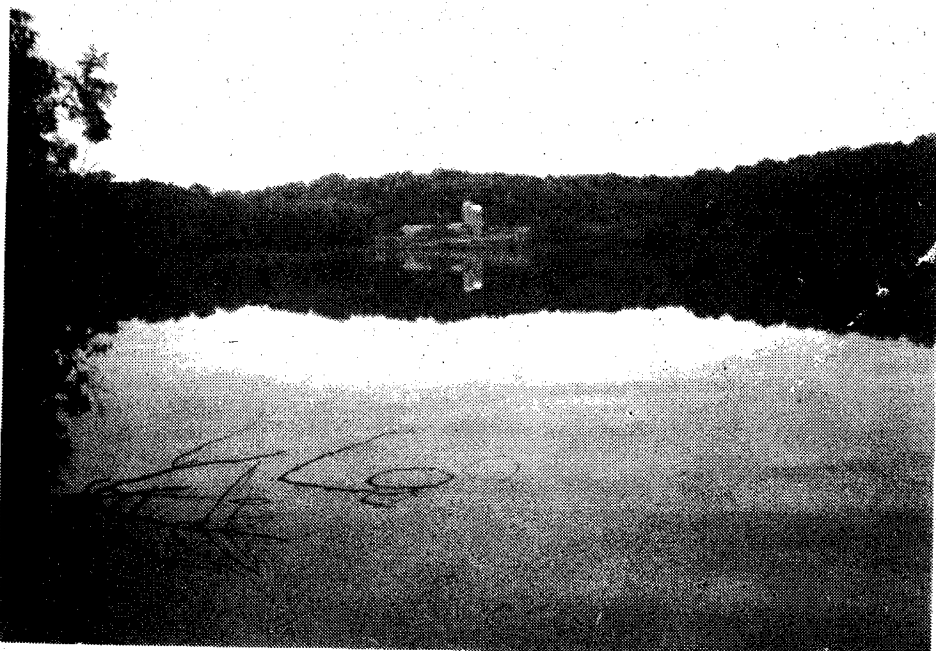
Committee plans to examine ways in which T.U. might add to the "diversity of education for American children" and "to increase the number of citizens devoted to the care and nurturing of our coldwater resources."

It's a good idea, and Wisconsin T.U. can play a significant role in it. Many of our chapters have already heped to design environmental projects with kids, schools and youth organizations.

Many helpful publications are in the process of being designed by the T.U. National Youth Education Committee and should be available in the near future.

As an initial project, some people have suggested the development of an inventory of State Council and local chapters for ideas, programs, resource speakers and cooperative links with schools and youth organizations.

T.U. Youth Education Committees are just getting started, but already one thing is clear: there will be opportunities to enjoy ourselves and make a contribution to the future. If your chapter has a Youth Education Committee and has plans and ideas, please direct them to me so that I may keep a list of what is happening in the state with T.U. chapters and Youth Education.



McGee Lake in Langlade Co., as viewed from south shore.

**BUY EXTRA  
TROUT STAMPS**



# DNR Fish Manager profile: Max Johnson

We've all heard of the proverbial "fork in the road". The one we all come to now and then as far as decision-making is concerned.

Max O. Johnson, subject of this Wisconsin Trout DNR fish manager profile, remembers his famous "fork in the road".

At age 23, Johnson was a professional baseball player who had just been traded from the Chicago White Sox to the New York Yankees. These were the Yankees with Mickey Mantle, Roger Maris and Tom Tresh.

Sensing that his chances to break into the Yankee outfield was nil with those established stars on hand, Johnson decided to halt his baseball career to re-continue his college education.

In reminiscing, Johnson says wryly, "A year after I made the decision, Mantle was shifted to first base and Maris was traded to the St. Louis Cardinals. Oh, well!"

The Yankees' loss became Wisconsin's gain, however. Johnson gravitated to Wisconsin in 1967, and he has become one of the DNR's most respected fish managers, especially insofar as the coldwater resource is concerned.

The 51-year old Johnson was born in Lawrence, Kansas, and graduated from Topeka (Kansas) High School. He obtained a Bachelor's degree in Fisheries Management from Kansas State University, and worked as a biologist with the state of Kansas for three years before becoming a Fishery Management trainee with the Wisconsin DNR at Spooner in 1967.

In 1968, Max moved to Antigo, where he held the title of District Fish Manager until 1971, when he assumed his present title of Area Fisheries Supervisor for Langlade, Lincoln and Marathon counties.

The area that Johnson manages is unique, for it contains some of the better known trout streams in Wisconsin, such as Wolf, Prairie, Plover, Big Rib, East Branch Eau Claire and Evergreen rivers.

And it also has a myriad of spring ponds unlike any other area in the state.

Because of the uniqueness of the area he manages, Johnson has worked diligently to acquire as much public frontage as possible along priority waters. He says, "The state owns over 18,000 acres along trout streams and spring ponds in my area, the most of any other area of Wisconsin. Our primary purpose is habitat preservation."

Johnson has been very aggressive in the area of trout habitat improvement as well. One of the first habitat projects funded by revenues from Inland Trout Stamp sales was creation of "skyhook boom covers" on a section of the Prairie River north of Gleason in Lincoln County. That habitat improvement method, developed by Max, has been used in other streams both in Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula with good success.

Besides instream trout habitat improvement, Johnson has focused on rehabilitation (dredging) of spring ponds that have silted in over the years. About 30 ponds have been dredged in the area during his tenure, thus bringing back to life many once-productive trout waters.

Despite all of the impressive habitat work done by Max and his crew through the years, trout numbers just didn't hold up well. As Johnson notes, "Beaver and their dams were killing many of our trout waters, and angler over-harvest was having an impact on trout populations."

"I led the fight," he said, "to control beaver on trout waters in the state. It's an ongoing battle that we will always need to monitor."

Johnson also noted that he played an

instrumental role in revamping Wisconsin's inland trout fishing regulations.

"Whether you want to thank me or blame me," he said, "I developed the 'category' system we currently have for our trout streams. Overall, I think we will see better quality and diversity in our trout resources, because the trout regulations will match the capabilities of the waters to which they are applied."

Max has taken special pride in the fact that he has worked well with several TU chapters, including Antigo, Northwoods, Wisconsin River Valley and Wolf River.

Johnson's area trout streams have an array of "Special Regulation" (Type V category) applications. They include "trophy" waters like the East Branch of the Eau Claire and Hunting rivers, where only one brook trout larger than 14 inches and one brown trout larger than 20 inches may be kept from certain river segments. There are also "slot-size" regulations on waters like Spring Brook in Langlade and Marathon counties where the limits are five trout per day eight inches or less, or four trout eight inches or less and one greater than 12 inches.

And there are segments on rivers like the Wolf in Langlade County and the Big Rib in Lincoln County that are strictly "catch-and-release", artificials only.

Besides coldwater resource work, Johnson oversees 1,491 lakes with a total area of 47,339 acres, and 373 warmwater streams totaling 1,159 miles. Several large flowages on the Wisconsin River system also demand his attention.

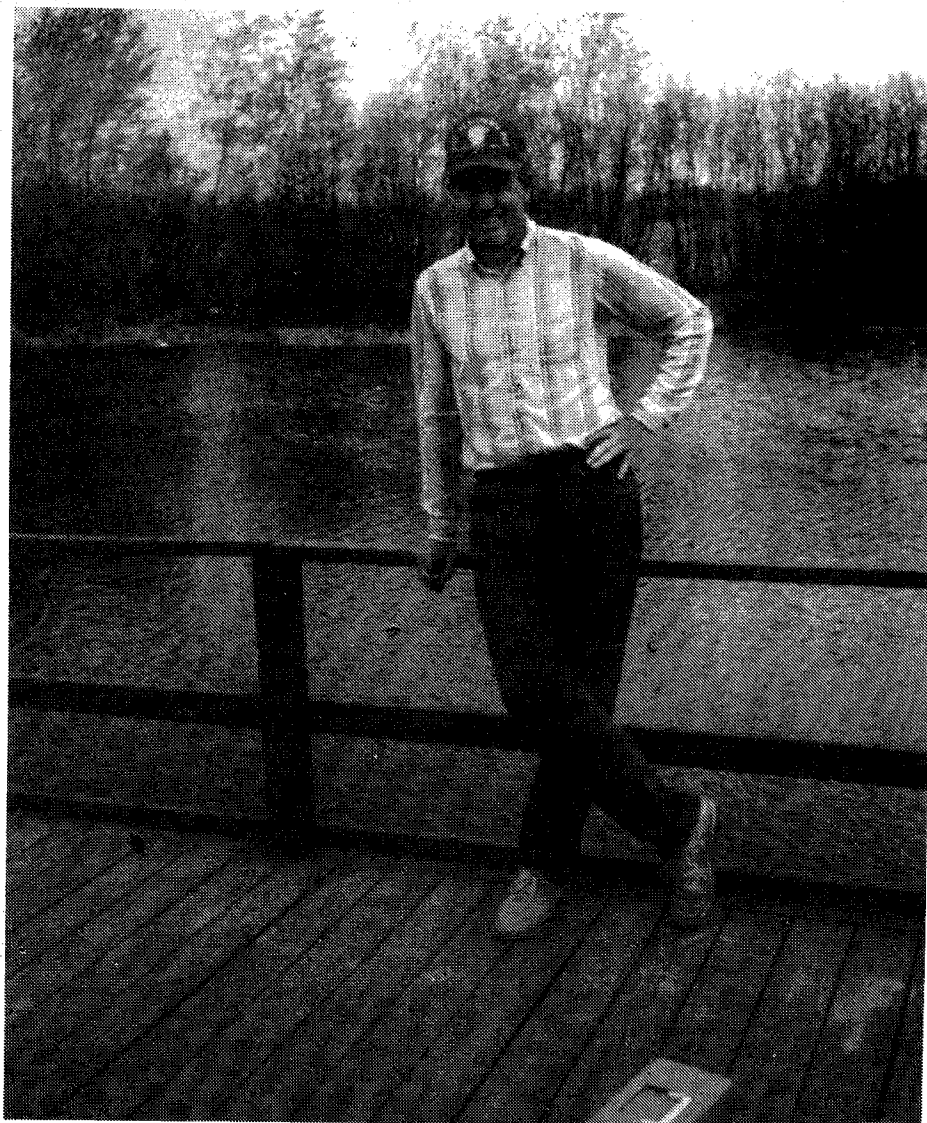
Says Max of the water resources in his charge, "We can't possibly do what needs to be done. We get to a major lake once every 10 years or so. The resource--and the angler--get short-changed due to lack of adequate staffing."

"And," he added, "the workload associated with Chippewa Tribal treaty rights fish harvest has made things worse because it has consumed a lot of time."

As in most areas of the state, there continue to be problems with the resources that Johnson manages. Besides the afore-mentioned problems with beavers on trout waters, Johnson says that poor land use practices, particularly non-point runoff, harm the coldwater resource.

Public education and acceptance of a conservation ethic, he says, are the best tools to handle those problems.

Overall, Johnson has been pleased with his stay in the Antigo area with the DNR. He and wife Linda raised two sons (Wade and Wes) and have had a happy existence in the small North



Max Johnson

Central Wisconsin town, though he adds, "We've never really adjusted to Wisconsin's winters, if truth be known!"

One thing that Max has taken exceptional pride in is his goal of creating a quality trout fishery for wild trout.

"I've held a strong belief that the quality of trout fishing was declining for many years. Through habitat improvement and limited harvest, we are able to turn that situation around," he said. "And we are showing that stocking of trout provides very short-term results in most instances (one-to-six weeks). Emphasis must be on habitat and limiting harvest."

Johnson's many achievements have not gone unnoticed. Awards and recognition given Max include the Wisconsin TU Council "DNR Fish Manager of the Year" award at its 1989 Council Banquet.

What Max Johnson's career as a major league baseball player would have been we will never know. What we do know is that his career as a dedicated manager of fisheries, both coldwater and warmwater, has been a big plus to anglers from all parts of Wisconsin and areas beyond. His legacy will be remembered for many years to come.

## Marinette County chapter honored

The Marinette County Chapter of Trout Unlimited was honored at the May 15th annual meeting of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress in Eau Claire. The Congress honored Marinette

County T.U. for its efforts in funding trout habitat work in the Marinette County area, its volunteer work and its programs for youth fishing activities.

### 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 with *Action Line*.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter \_\_\_\_\_  
(Area Code) (if known)

Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_

Please check membership category:

- Regular membership (\$25)/  3 years (\$65)  
 Family membership (\$30)/  3 years (\$75)  
 Sponsoring contributor (\$50)\*  
 Century contributor (\$100)\*  
 Conservator contributor (\$250)  
 Individual Life (\$500) (No further dues)\*  
 Family Life (\$600) (Husband & Wife)\*  
 Student membership (\$10)  
 Business membership (\$100)\*

Payment enclosed \*\*  Please bill me

VISA # \_\_\_\_\_ Expir. Date \_\_\_\_\_

MasterCard # \_\_\_\_\_ Expir. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Canadian memberships please add \$5/yr.; all other countries, add \$20/yr.  
All contributions over \$12 are tax deductible.

\* Note special benefits for these membership categories.  
\*\* Make checks payable to *Trout Unlimited*.  
Mail this postpaid card to join TU today!

Mail to: Trout Unlimited, 800 Follin Lane, SE, #250, Vienna, VA 22180-9931

# T.U. National Convention in Rochester, MN

The 1992 Trout Unlimited National Convention and Annual Meeting will be held August 20-23 in Rochester, Minnesota. The Minnesota State T.U. Council and the Hiawatha T.U. Chapter cordially invite T.U. members to attend the meeting.

The convention will be the most important T.U. meeting of the year. Much of T.U.'s business and planning will be conducted by volunteer representatives and National staff. Chapter projects will be assessed, grants determined and awards presented to chapters and individuals for their distinguished contributions to the resource.

During the convention, a proposal to completely reorganize the National Board of Directors will be debated and voted upon. This will have a dramatic effect on how chapters are represented at the national level.

Member contributions are vital to the decision-making process. The convention will be a great opportunity to meet and share ideas with fellow T.U. leaders. It will also be a great way to recharge one's batteries and to learn new methods to meet the challenges of T.U. leadership.

Rochester, Minnesota, is 85 miles south of the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport. The area comprises

approximately 100,000 residents involved in service and light industry, with its two largest employers being the Mayo Medical Center and an IBM development and production facility.

The convention will be headquartered in two downtown Rochester hotels. Meetings and events will be scheduled at the Holiday Inn Downtown (507-288-3231) and the Radisson Hotel Centerplace (507-281-8000), both of which are interconnected by an air-conditioned skyway system.

The Holiday Inn will provide accommodations for up to four per room at \$61/night; the Radisson, a newer hotel, offers rates of \$71/room per night for up to three per room.

If you are interested in alternative lodging outside of Rochester or the downtown area, or would like to explore camping opportunities, the Minnesota Council will provide information upon request.

The Minnesota T.U. Council urges prospective attendees to use the services of the Carlson Travel Agency (507-285-9771) for making arrangements, as this will contribute significantly to a successful financial outcome for the meeting.

Early registration with Carlson Travel Agency will qualify one for a drawing for a free round-trip airline ticket. Registrations received after

August 5 cannot be guaranteed for the headquarter hotels.

A welcoming Reception will be held Thursday night, August 20, at the historic Plummer House, home of one of the early developers of the Mayo Clinic. On Friday, August 21, the business of the organization will be conducted in committee meetings throughout the day.

That evening, the Hiawatha Chapter will put on a barbecue with all the fixings on the land where its Embrace-A-System project is occurring. An electro-shocking demonstration is planned as well.

On Saturday, August 22, there will be a meeting of the Board of Directors, the Awards Luncheon at noon and the Annual Membership Meeting in the afternoon. In the evening, a National Conservation Banquet will be held to provide an opportunity for a good time as well as raising funds for local, state and national programs vital to the coldwater resource.

A limited number of Board members will have meetings on Sunday, August 23, while the Minnesota State Council invites the rest of the attendees to spend some time enjoying Minnesota's scenery, open spaces and, of course, fishing.

Southeastern Minnesota is a beautiful region blessed with over 800 miles

of quality trout water holding wild browns up to eight pounds! The small rivers and spring creeks are productive and challenging, with 14-18 inch trout common (for those who can fool them!).

There are several events planned for accompanying family members. These will be held during the day for those not interested in attending business meetings. Day-long events include a tour of the Amish country, a trip to the newly-opened Mall of America and a canoe trip down one of the state's warmwater smallmouth bass rivers.

Shorter trips will also be offered, including a tour of Mayo Clinic and a golf trip. Additionally, some Minnesota T.U.'ers will be available for guided trout fishing.

Contributions of items or cash toward the Annual Convention will be appreciated. If your chapter is interested in contributing, send your contribution to: Dave Kolbert/T.U. Convention, c/o Wild Wings, Inc., South Highway 61, Lake City, MN 55041-0451. Include your chapter's name with the gift to receive proper recognition and thanks.

For further information on the event, call Dave Fass, Midwest Regional T.U. Vice-President at: (507) 284-8275 (office), or (507) 288-8775 (home).

## Wolf River fly fishing tape

Greycliff Publishing has produced a 90-minute audio tape entitled "Fly Fishing the Wolf River". Selling for \$13.95, the tape includes information on reading the water on the Wolf, special places to fish the river, specific tips for fishing in each month of the trout season, hatch periods, non-hatch periods and more.

The tape features presentations by

Gary LaFontaine and Wolf River chapter member Wayne Anderson. A hatch chart and fly pattern list are also provided.

"Fly Fishing the Wolf River" is part of Greycliff's "River Rap" series, which includes tapes on the Madison, Henry's Fork, Beaverkill and Housatonic Rivers, among others.

committee meetings---proxies---barbeques---libations---fisticuffs---CEO's---regions---agreements---embrace-a-stream---hotel room

### TROUT UNLIMITED BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

August 20-23 1992

Call (507)284-8275

Rochester, MN

--anadromous---tricos---Robert's rules---DNR---lost luggage---bylaws---awards---Forest Service---FERC---banquet---funding--

### 1992 TROUT UNLIMITED NATIONAL CONVENTION AUGUST 20-23, 1992 ROCHESTER MINNESOTA

#### REGISTRATION FORM

Please Print  
NAME(S) first middle last  
ADDRESS  
CITY, STATE, ZIP  
PHONE (Best Number) (Other Number)

Payment may be by personal check or credit card. For credit card use please provide: Credit Card Company Card Number  
Expiration Date Signature

SEND TO: CARLSON TRAVEL NETWORK  
1915 HWY. 52 NORTH  
ROCHESTER, MN 55901

PHONE: (507) 285-9771

#### REGISTRATION:

Meeting Registration Fee Member/Guest: # @ \$25 =  
Accompanying Guest: # @ \$10 =  
Children: # @ FREE

#### MEALS:

Thursday August 20 1992	Price	Number Attending	Total
Noon -- 1:30 P.M. U.S.Forest Service Luncheon	\$10		\$
6:30 P.M. Welcome Reception USFS--TU Signing Ceremony (Sponsored by BP and TU)	\$ Free to Registrants		
Friday August 21 1992			
7:00 -- 8:00 A.M. New Directors/Advisory Board Orientation Breakfast	\$7		\$
5:30 -- 11:00 P.M. Streamside Hog Roast Electroshocking of E.A.S. Project Music & Merriment Children 12 and under, FREE	\$20		\$
TOTAL THIS SIDE: \$			

Saturday August 22 1992	Price	Number Attending	Total
7:00 -- 8:00 A.M. Grass Roots Input Breakfast Council Directors & Interested Members	\$7		\$
Noon -- 2:00 P.M. Awards Luncheon	\$15		\$
4:00 -- 11:00 P.M. National Conservation Banquet	\$35	Single	\$
Smoking <input type="checkbox"/> Minnesota Walleye <input type="checkbox"/>		Couple	\$
Non-Smoking <input type="checkbox"/> Peppered Rib-eye <input type="checkbox"/>	\$55		
			Total Page 2 \$
			Total Page 1 \$
Registration plus all meals--			GRAND TOTAL \$

#### GUEST ACTIVITIES:

Please indicate your interest in the following activities. We need this information to plan for the appropriate transportation and the correct number of local tour guides. Do not include any money at this time as the prices are approximate and will depend upon the number of participants for each activity.

FISHING: Trout  Other  Professional Guide  Boundary Waters

AMISH COUNTRY TOUR: Includes transportation, guide and lunch  
Approx. \$12

CANOEING or TUBING: On the Zumbro River 20 miles North of Rochester.  
A benign smallmouth bass stream offering pleasant surroundings, relaxation, swimming and sun.  
Canoe \$16/2 persons,  Tube \$4.50 each

MALL OF AMERICA TOUR: The "Mall", the largest in America is scheduled to open just before our Convention. A visit there will provide ample opportunity to spend excessive amounts of cash.  
Motor-Coach round trip is about \$18 and takes about 90 min. each way.

MAYO CLINIC TOUR  LOCAL SHOPPING  MAYWOOD TOUR  GOLF

Additional information will be provided for any activity checked above. If there are other pursuits you wish to explore during your visit to Rochester, please let us know so that the Minnesota State Council can assist you.



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

News and Views from Wisconsin Trout Unlimited

BULK RATE  
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PAID  
PERMIT NO. 48  
WAUTOMA, WI 54982

RETURN:  
Trout Unlimited  
Mitch Bent  
1282 Monterey Trail  
DePere, WI 54115



# Wisconsin Trout

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited

Fall 1992

## Tornadoes hit Wautoma area trout streams

By Forrest Grulke

The evening of August 29, 1992, will not soon be forgotten by residents of central Wisconsin, particularly those in Wautoma. A tornado hit Wautoma and the surrounding area with devastating force, resulting in loss of life, injuries and forced homelessness.

One count indicated that 560 residences and businesses were either destroyed or damaged.

Not included in the news coverage on the tornado's effects was the damage done to the environment. The tornado ripped a path of destruction through Waushara County, uprooting hundreds of trees and snapping many more in half.

The damage to the trees resulted in some ancillary damage to the county's fine trout streams, too, including the White River and its West Branch, the Mecan and Willow Rivers, and Cedar Springs and Little Pine Creeks. According to Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources fisheries biologist Al Niebur, who covers Waupaca and Waushara counties, approximately two-and-one-half miles of premier trout streams have significant damage.

Most of the trout stream damage came from downed trees that re-

directed current and impeded stream flow. Additionally, the uprooting of trees allowed a big influx of sediment to wash into the streams, and rains subsequent to the tornado exacerbated the situation.

Much debris from former buildings within the vicinity of the streams also ended up in the rivers and creeks.

It appeared that the West Branch of the White River had suffered the worst from tree uprooting and sediment influx, with the most immediate near-term threat being the impact of heavy sediment loads on the success of the fall-spawning trout of the West Branch.

At press time, the DNR was considering construction of a temporary silt trap in order to collect the majority of sediments entering the West Branch and thus enhance trout spawning success.

Trout Unlimited members rose to the occasion to assist in the repair of the damage done to these streams. T.U. members from many chapters gathered on Sept. 5, 12 and 19 to remove downed trees and other debris that had fallen into the streams.

Further reports on this cleanup will come in the following issue of Wisconsin Trout.



Before



T.U. members removing downed trees from West Branch White River (Waushara County).



Before and after view of stretch of West Branch of the White River (Waushara County) where tornado uprooted trees along banks.

## From the Chairman



Steve Born  
Wisconsin State  
Council Chairman

By Steve Born

"There's trout fishing, then there's everything else," says the author of the book *Montana Time*. That sums up the passion many of us feel about our sport and the protection of the trout resource.

In an environmental video produced by one of our sister fishing organizations, Gary Borger estimates that coldwater rivers and streams comprise less than 0.000001 percent of the world's rivers and streams. What an astounding number!

Just looking at it - 0.000001 percent - drives home the understanding of the scarcity of such a natural resource. It emphasizes why it's so important to fight tooth-and-nail for the protection - and, where possible, rehabilitation - of the coldwater resource.

As Borger notes, trout and trout streams are like the proverbial "canary in the mine". Their inability to flourish sends a clear signal that we're destroying our environment.

That's why the work of Trout Unlimited at every level - national, state and local - is so critical. The resource is so precious and vulnerable that we can't afford not to battle in order to protect it.

No doubt some of our adversaries must scratch their heads wondering why T.U. gets so emotionally and physically involved over just a little stretch of river or stream.

Why are those T.U.'ers working so hard and sweating so much to improve the habitat in that tiny headwater brook?

Why are they willing to challenge, and even alienate, the Department of Natural Resources (usually their allies) when they think the resource is not being adequately protected?

Why are they willing to tussle through the legislative and administrative rule-making processes or the courts to make sure that the fishery and

Please turn to 'CHAIRMAN'  
on Page 2

# ✓ Chairman

Cont. from Page 1

environment get their due respect? Why do those T.U.'ers spend so much time away from trout fishing? Because they're fighting for their piece of the 0.000001 percent of the planet's streams!

I just wonder what percentage of the global flowing freshwater "pie" is represented by St. Croix County's Kinnickinnic, Grant County's Big Green or Waushara and Marquette counties' Mecan rivers?: These waters and the other wonderful trout streams around the country that haunt our memories are the reasons for our passion, and are the justification for our commitment and our actions.

When an acquaintance of mine left the T.U. ranks a few years ago because

he felt T.U. was "too political", I think he must have assumed that his piece of the 0.000001 percent coldwater resource base would be safe forever. How naive when one looks at the development pressures threatening so many of our trout streams!

So when you think about whether or not to attend a chapter meeting, work on a project, teach the next generation of anglers, advocate before governmental bodies, volunteer to raise funds - all those things that T.U.'ers do so well and that take time away from trout fishing - think about that 0.000001 percent minority of streams that are counting on you.

We love trout and trout fishing, and love is never easy!

## Natural Resources Board directory

The seven-member Natural Resources Board is the governing body of the Department of Natural Resources. Appointed to staggered six-year terms by the governor and confirmed by the State Senate, the NRB members make many decisions regarding natural resources policy in the state.

Anyone wishing to contact a NRB member can use the directory listed here:

**Stanton P. Helland, Chairman**  
Box 410  
Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965

**Neal Schneider**  
Box 71  
Janesville, WI 53545

**Mary Jane Nelson**  
W6432 Hwy. D  
Holmen, WI 54676

**Steve Willett**  
Box 89  
Phillips, WI 54455

**Herbert F. Behnke, Vice-chairman**  
Route 4, Box 68  
Shawano, WI 54166

**Trygve A. Solberg**  
Box 50  
Minocqua, WI 54548

**James Tiefenthaler**  
450 N. Sunny Slope Rd., Suite 280  
Brookfield, WI 53003

## Conservation speakers available

Want to hear a talk about a particular conservation issue? Interested in hearing about wildlife or wildlife management?

The Nature Conservancy may just have the speaker for you. Their Speaker's Bureau provides programs on habitat and species preservation in Wisconsin, as well as on topics of special interest to your organization.

They also have an award-winning film that explains the need for habitat preservation worldwide and that shows

the conflicts that sometimes arise between development and preservation interests.

The Nature Conservancy is a private, non-profit group with over 15,000 Wisconsin members. Their goal is the protection and maintenance of unique and rare biological communities.

You can get more program information from **Benita Walker**, The Nature Conservancy, 333 W. Mifflin St., Suite 107, Maidson, WI 53703; or call (608) 251-8140.

## BUY EXTRA TROUT STAMPS

## Wisconsin T.U. receives Heileman grant

The Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited became the recipient of a grant from the **G. Heileman Brewing Company of La Crosse, WI.**, in the amount of **\$6,400.00** this summer. The Council was notified of this grant from T.U. National Director of Development, **Terry Austin**, who wrote,

"It is my pleasure to forward the enclosed check for \$6,400 to the Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited.

"These funds were made possible by the G. Heileman Brewing Company of La Crosse, Wisconsin. This spring, Heileman and Trout Unlimited conducted a cause-related marketing program that netted \$8,500. The program centered around promotion of a conservation plaque featuring Heileman's Old Style logo and a brook trout.

"Seventeen thousand limited edition plaques were produced and sold to Heileman's distributors throughout the Midwest. The proceeds from the program are being distributed to T.U. Councils in proportion to the distribution of the plaques. Trout Unlimited National retained approximately six percent of the net to cover the program administration, management and overhead.

"It is Heileman's desire that these funds be used to support conservation projects. Additionally, we request that you acknowledge the G. Heileman Brewing Company's support in any newsletters or media coverage regarding projects supported by these funds. Please ensure that I receive copies of

any recognition you are able to provide. "Good luck and best wishes,"

Sincerely,  
**Terry Austin**  
Subsequent to receipt of the check, the Executive Committee of the Wisconsin T.U. State Council approved a motion to appropriate the entire proceeds of the grant to the on-going trout habitat improvement project on the **West Fork of the Kickapoo River** in central **Vernon County**. That work, under the supervision of Department of Natural Resources fish manager **Dave Vetrano**, has produced amazing results on a stream that was once considered marginal at best.

Upon being contacted by the Wisconsin T.U. State Council about the availability of the grant money, Vetrano replied that the project could indeed use the funds to continue and expand the habitat improvement work on the stream. Part of the work has been completed this fall, and the rest will be done next spring and summer.

The Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited is so very grateful to **G. Heileman Brewing Company of La Crosse, WI.**, for the generous contribution to coldwater resource conservation. The Council is also happy that they have been able to spend the money on productive work not far from the headquarters of G. Heileman Brewing Company, right in the heart of "God's Country"!

## N.E. Region sets next meeting

The Northeastern Region of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited is tentatively scheduled to meet on Saturday, Dec. 12, 1992, at **Buettner's Wild Wolf Inn**,

Highway 55, south of Langlade. Regional Vice-President **Ted Rydell** will notify chapters of specific times and the agenda.

## State Council to be held Jan. 30, 1993

The ninth Wisconsin State Council Trout Unlimited Conservation Awards and Fund-raising banquet is set for Saturday, Jan. 30, 1993, at the **Paper Valley Hotel and Conference Center** in downtown **Appleton**.

Cocktails will start at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$25 each, and can be obtained by using the order form on the back of this paper.

Banquet attendees from the past two years will receive a personal ticket

order form in the mail in November. Besides providing an opportunity for the State Council to recognize worthwhile efforts on behalf of coldwater resource conservation, the banquet is also one of the State T.U. Council's major ways of raising revenues for its annual operations.

There will be a select number of fine limited edition prints along with many non-art items to invite spirited bidding. There will also be many prizes and

raffle items, including a grand cash prize of \$200 and a major raffle prize of \$500.

And, ticket orders postmarked by Jan. 15, 1993, will be eligible for an "Early Bird" raffle of \$100 cash! As usual, donations of merchandise, hand-crafted items or cash are needed and appreciated. All cash and hand-crafted donations should be directed to: **Mitch Bent**, 1282 Monterey Trail, De Pere, WI 54115. All donations of merchandise should be sent to: **Ted Rydell**, Rt. 2, Box 192B-1, Shawano, WI 54166.

Bent can be reached via phone at (414) 336-4983; Rydell at (715) 526-9415.

The Wisconsin T.U. State Council looks forward to seeing you at its annual fund-raising event on Jan. 30, 1993, at the **Paper Valley Hotel** in **Appleton**! More information will be announced in the next issue of **Wisconsin Trout**.

### 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 with *Action Line*.

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

Please check membership category:

- Regular membership (\$25)/  3 years (\$65)
- Family membership (\$30)/  3 years (\$75)
- Sponsoring contributor (\$50)\*
- Century contributor (\$100)\*
- Conservator contributor (\$250)
- Individual Life (\$500)(No further dues)\*
- Family Life (\$600)(Husband & Wife)\*
- Student membership (\$10)
- Business membership (\$100)\*

Payment enclosed \*\*     Please bill me

VISA # \_\_\_\_\_ Expir. Date \_\_\_\_\_

MasterCard # \_\_\_\_\_ Expir. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Canadian memberships please add \$5/yr.; all other countries, add \$20/yr. All contributions over \$12 are tax deductible.

\* Note special benefits for these membership categories.  
\*\* Make checks payable to *Trout Unlimited*.  
Mail this postpaid card to join TU today!

Mail to: Trout Unlimited, 800 Follin Lane, SE, #250, Vienna, VA 22180-9931



# Letters to the Editor

## Rebuffs "early season critic"

Editor, Wisconsin Trout:

This letter is in response to the one written by Charles Steudel, which was printed in the Summer, 1992, edition of Wisconsin Trout.

I am a bit confused as to what Mr. Steudel wants to point out in his letter. He starts by saying that "his" resource and "his trout are being pounded by non-local fishermen in "his back yard". He contends that other streams should open early to take the pressure off "his" streams.

First of all, Mr. Steudel, they aren't your fish. They belong to no one. It is a resource/sport/hobby/addiction/art that we humans are privileged enough to partake in.

As far as opening up other trout streams (early) in the state, I agree with you in part. I would love to see streams in my area open early so I wouldn't have to drive so far. I wouldn't have to buy gasoline in your area, and I wouldn't have to eat at the restaurants nor stay at the hotels in your area. It would save me a lot of money.

I was next going to address your statement about "T.U. greed". Then I read on. You say you have been active in T.U. for over 20 years. If you have been active in T.U. for that long, I have to ask you why you are blaming Trout

Unlimited for fishing conditions in your area?

T.U. does not set the regulations for fishing in the State of Wisconsin. If there is one thing that T.U. and a majority of its members are not, it is "greedy".

The group of T.U.'ers that I have come to know have been one of the most dedicated, giving and caring bunch with whom I have ever been involved. In T.U., when there is a problem involving coldwater resources or trout, bitching does not solve the problem. Hard work does.

You would do well to work with T.U. to solve the "problem" in your area rather than berate the one organization that can help you out.

It is not your cake that is being eaten. It belongs to all fishermen. Enjoy the slice that you have instead of wanting the whole thing. I disagree with you on the early opener for trout fishing. And I only have one question for you, Mr. Steudel: just exactly where were those 24-inch and 30-inch trout caught?

Sincerely,

R. "Buzz" Butters  
100 Jackson Street  
Ripon, WI 54971

## Reader responds to letter

Editor, Wisconsin Trout:

The venomous letter in the Summer issue of Wisconsin Trout by a southwest Wisconsin resident begs a response.

Wisconsin T.U. members have no need to feel guilty about anything they did or did not do concerning the early trout season.

The most significant - and disturbing - finding of the post-drought period was that our average trout streams here in southwest Wisconsin showed virtually no response to zero trout fishing pressure. This strongly suggests that angler harvest is not a problem.

Our very best trout streams (and we have only a few) showed a positive response to the closure (and then "catch-and-release" fishing in 1991). I know of one stream where there was a "slaughter" when the early trout season resumed this past January, but in the "big picture" this was insignificant.

What were the reasons for the lack of response to zero trout fishing pressure on these streams? We really don't know for sure, but we suspect the following:

- 1) Predation by great blue herons
- 2) Reduced water quality due to barnyard and feedlot runoff

3) Hatchery fish that can't survive long after being stocked

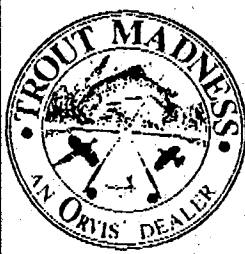
Heron have increased in numbers in recent years due to reduced hunting pressure and possibly because of the elimination of the use of DDT. They have few natural predators, and they will likely increase in abundance. I don't know what - if anything - should be done about them.

Water quality problems are being addressed by various DNR and federal programs. A committee of fish managers is looking into our hatchery fish survival scenario.

In my opinion, the letter sent to DNR Secretary Besadny by Steve Born is an appropriate response to the early season question. March and April (I think January and February should be eliminated from the early trout season) are wonderful times to fish trout in southwest Wisconsin. It seems right that coldwater fish should be pursued during cold weather.

Sincerely,

Roger Kerr  
"Retired" Fish Manager  
Dept. of Natural Resources  
F.G. Wilson Nursery  
5350 Hwy. 133 E.  
Boscobel, WI 53805



<p>Able Aerietta Angler's Expressions Barbour Beretta Calvin</p>	<p>Orvis Pro-Tackle Regal Renzetti 3M/Scientific Anglers Trips</p>
--	--

...and MUCH MORE

10912 N. PORT WASHINGTON RD. 1 (414) 241-1007  
MEQUON, WI 53092 FAX 1 (414) 241-1019

## Trout stamp costs

Editor, Wisconsin Trout:

Every time I see ongoing trout stream habitat improvement projects, I thank the "God of Trout" that the DNR, the Wisconsin Legislature and the governor for not listening to our state T.U. directors when they opposed raising the price of the Inland Trout Stamp from \$3.25 to the current \$7.25.

I discussed this with Jim Addis, one of our friends in the DNR recently, and Jim told me that the only protest against the state T.U. Council's resistance to the now-implemented price change in the stamp came from this writer. It is still hard for me to understand how the leaders of the most avid trout anglers in Wisconsin could have asked for a smaller increase.

But before we congratulate each other too enthusiastically, the most recent issue of Iowa Conservationist, the publication of the Iowa DNR, announced that the Iowa Trout Stamp now costs \$10. It was the Iowa Trout Stamp that Wisconsin used to model its own Trout Stamp program in 1977, fol-

lowing a push from some of us.

Iowa's stamp began with a \$5.00 pricetag, while ours began at \$2.50! If Wisconsin charged proportionately for its trout stamp based upon the quality and quantity of its trout fishing compared to that of Iowa, we should be charging \$100 per year for our Trout Stamp.

Despite the foot-dragging of our State Council directors, we are slowly moving in the right direction.

Very truly yours,  
Daniel T. Flaherty

1925 King Street  
La Crosse, WI 54601

**Ed note: Mr. Flaherty served on the Natural Resources Board from 1975-1981 as an appointee of former governor Patrick Lucey. Flaherty was one of the chief promoters of the Inland Trout Stamp legislation, which became law in 1977, and was instrumental in ensuring that the Trout Stamp funds were to be used solely for trout habitat improvement.**

## Wolf River fly fishing tape

In the last issue of Wisconsin Trout, we made note of the availability of a 90-minute audio tape entitled "Fly Fishing the Wolf River". Selling for \$13.95, the tape includes information on reading the water on the Wolf, special places to fish the river, specific tips for fishing in each month of the trout

season, hatches, non-hatch periods and more.

What we failed to inform the readers is where to obtain the tape. To order a tape, call Wayne Anderson at (715) 882-4111. Anderson, a member of the Wolf River Chapter, put the tape together with Gary La Fontaine.

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# DNR Fish Manager Profile: Steve Schram

The northern reaches of Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula harbor have some of the last great tracts of wild area. That means, though, that employment opportunities are far from what they are in the industrialized and developed reaches of Wisconsin and Lower Michigan.

Not many people who are born and raised in that area find ways to maintain suitable employment in these sparsely-populated regions, and they often head elsewhere. One man who has been able to keep his roots in the north while pursuing a career in something he loves is Steve Schram, the subject of this Wisconsin DNR Fish Manager Profile.

The 42-year old Schram was born in Escanaba, Michigan. He graduated from high school in nearby Gladstone, north of Escanaba along Little Bay de Noc, and from there he pursued undergraduate work at Northern Michigan University in Marquette, where he obtained his Bachelor's Degree in Biology.

Following that, Schram attended Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant, where he was awarded a Master's Degree in Outdoor Recreation and Field Biology.

Steve's professional fisheries career began in 1972 when he started working for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Division in the U.P. on inland lakes, trout streams and Lake Superior. He toiled in that area until 1976, when he began a stint lasting until 1984 as the Fish Manager for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources at the Brule Station in Douglas County, where he was in charge of coldwater resources and other fisheries for Bayfield and Douglas counties.

While at the Brule Station, Schram worked on the Bois Brule River and published the results of a two-year comprehensive study of anadromous rainbows (steelhead) and brown trout.

In 1985, he was assigned to his present position as the Lake Superior Fisheries Biologist at Bayfield. In that capacity, Steve is responsible for the management of the Wisconsin waters

of Lake Superior and anadromous streams up to the first natural falls or barrier.

In addition to research on lake trout, Schram and his team have also conducted extensive research on anadromous salmonids in the south shore Lake Superior streams. Their focus has been centered on estimating spawning runs (species composition, age structure, population size, etc.) and investigating potential impacts of Pacific Coast salmon on brook, brown and rainbow trout.

Over the years, Steve has been involved in a number of efforts to improve the trout fishery of the northwestern part of Wisconsin, especially on the Bois Brule River. He worked on projects involving brushing, brush bundle installation and rock wing dam creation on the Brule, and he and a team of DNR personnel were responsible for the design and construction of the present lamprey barrier/fishway on the Brule.

According to Schram, "The fishway has been an excellent management tool, because spawning runs can now be accurately quantified."

In addition to habitat work and research on the anadromous streams of the northwest part of the state, Schram has put a lot of time in recently to bring about regulatory change as far as sport and commercial anglers are concerned.

"When I first started with the Wisconsin DNR," Steve said, "angling regulations were fairly liberal. Through the years, the pendulum has been swinging to more conservative rules as angler success has increased and fish populations began to suffer."

As a result of the decrease in fish numbers, Schram proposed new regulations that have won approval from the Wisconsin Conservation Congress and the Natural Resources Board.

For streams flowing into Lake Superior, all of them have the following regulations from their mouths upstream to the first impassable permanent barrier unless listed otherwise:

Open season: first Saturday in May

at 5:00 a.m. - Sept. 30;

Daily creek limit: five trout and salmon in total, only two of which may be brown trout over 15 inches and only one of which may be a rainbow trout;

Size limit: brook trout 8 inches; brown trout 10 inches; salmon and rainbow trout 12 inches.

The rainbow trout size limit is due to change, though, in 1993, to a 26 inch minimum size limit. According to Schram, "This new regulation will allow the vast majority of steelhead to spawn at least once in our anadromous streams."

Also, for Lake Superior, Steve helped institute a one fish per day limit on rainbows with a 28 inch minimum size limit.

When Schram is not up to his elbows in work involving the anadromous fishery of Lake Superior and lake trout rehabilitation, he is found dealing with fisheries programs on Chequamegon Bay. There he monitors and evaluates management programs on walleye pike, smallmouth bass, lake sturgeon (see photo), splake and yellow perch.

In his spare time, Steve enjoys a host of outdoor activities with his wife, Ann, and two children, Benjamin and Molly. Fishing, boating, biking and running are among his favorite outdoor pastimes, while reading and reviewing of regional history take up the slack in the winter months. Steve currently serves as the vice-president of the Washburn Public Library.

At this stage in his career, Schram can look with pride at his accomplishments. "The biggest problem I have faced on Lake Superior is controlling exploitation on slow-growing, late-maturing fish. We had to develop - and we succeeded in doing so - regulations that would maintain mortality rates at a low level in order to allow population levels to rehabilitate while still providing enough fish for sport and commercial anglers."

And he can also feel a sense of happiness in being able to carry out his life's work in the northwoods area that he so dearly loves.



Steve Schram, DNR Lake Superior fisheries biologist, with lake sturgeon.

"I was born and raised on Lake Michigan," he noted, "and was always interested in working the Great Lakes. I even spent a couple of summers on Great Lakes ore boats for Roen Steamship of Sturgeon Bay."

For the serious anadromous salmonid anglers who tackle Lake Superior's south shore, the work and effort that Schram and his team have done to rejuvenate a depressed fishery will be much appreciated. The coldwater denizens of the big lake they call "Gitchie Gumees" need special protection to maintain their viability.

And thanks to Steve Schram, they are getting that protection. And that is good news for both anglers and the trout and salmon.



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- 301 - Reception
  - 302 - Charles Gauvin, President
  - 303 - Bud Nagelvoort, Dir. of Admin.
  - 304 - Loretta Pogorzelski, Exec. Sec.
  - 305 - Joe McGurrin, Resource Dir.
  - 306 - Neal Emerald, Grassroots Coord.
  - 307 - Terry Austin, Dir. of Develop.
  - 308 - Bill Maxon, Dir. Govt. Affairs
  - 309 - Pam Bletzacker, Resource Asst.
  - 310 - Gail Garber, Develop. Asst.
  - 312 - Leslie Stanfield, Dr. Acctg.
  - 318 - Ursula Ifudu, Memb. Services
  - 320 - Trish Wentz, Banquet Coord.
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# Retirement party held for Bob Hunt

Thirty-three years is a long time to devote one's time to a business or agency. And when someone gives that much of their life to a profession, it is only right and proper that he or she receive due recognition for that service.

Robert Hunt, leader of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Coldwater Research Unit, did indeed toil industriously for 33 years with the Department.

And on the evening of July 18, 1992, at the Holiday Inn in Stevens Point, friends, family and co-workers joined together to recognize and honor Bob for his many achievements during his tenure with the DNR.

Hunt was honored for the quality and extent of the research that he and his team carried out over the years for the betterment of the coldwater resource in Wisconsin. Starting with the trout research station on Lawrence Creek in central Wisconsin in 1959, Hunt began a career that helped reshape trout management in our state.

His work ran the gamut of regulatory changes, in-stream structure improvements and spring pond dredging. Hunt's efforts were especially important in shifting focus away from hatchery trout in favor of wild trout.

And it was primarily due to the research data collected by Hunt and his team that the Wisconsin Legislature finally established in 1977 the Inland Trout Stamp, purchase of which was required of all anglers over 16 years of age for inland trout fishing in Wisconsin.

The revenues generated by the Trout Stamp sales provided funds for the state's accelerated trout habitat improvement work that began in the late 1970's.

Hunt was presented with many gifts and mementoes that evening, including an Orvis fly rod from the Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited, and an Orvis fly reel from the Central Wisconsin T.U. Chapter.

Hunt was honored by many folks in the audience, including Bill Thorne of the Minnesota DNR and Gaylord Alexander of the Michigan DNR.

Yet some of the most apt phrases to honor Hunt came from his own Wisconsinites. Long-time Wisconsin T.U. activist J. Nash Williams of Madison noted that Bob was a "quiet and honorable man". And Hunt's research cohort Ed Avery described Hunt as "...a good example and a good mentor, a fine man to 'ride the river' with...."

Hunt himself spoke to the crowd in his typically deadpan way. He acknow-

ledged his success by defining "success" as that stage where "...reputation exceeds competence...." He humbly said that he was fortunate to have lived during the "Golden Age" of fisheries research.

While Hunt may have indeed been fortunate to live during this "Golden Age" of fisheries research, the fact of the matter is that a good part of the reason for that "Golden Age" was that Bob Hunt was at the helm during that time.

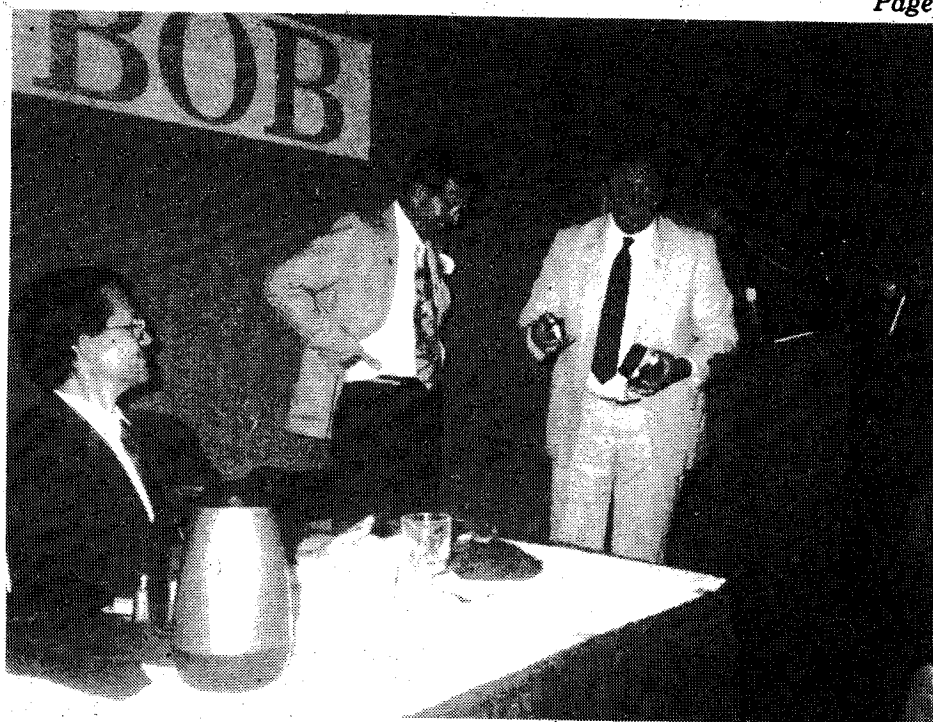
His devotion to his career and to the coldwater resource will be remembered for a long time to come. And now it is Bob's time to reap the fruits of his work.

His Wisconsin DNR colleague, Lloyd "Duke" Andrews of Woodruff, told Bob to "become a trout bum". And that is what Hunt intends to do, for in the world of the trout angler, there is no higher calling.

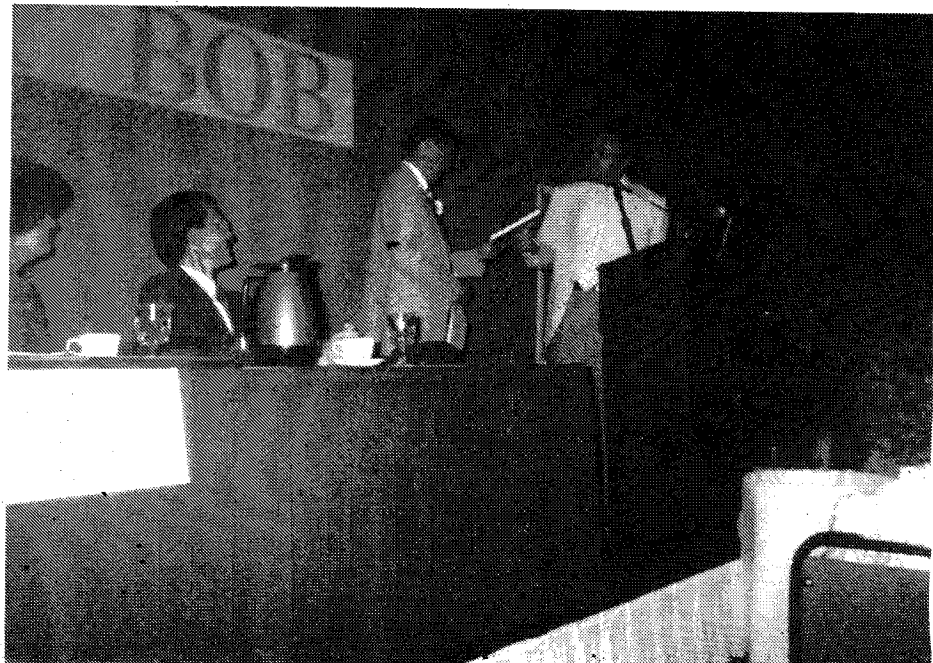
We in Wisconsin Trout Unlimited hereby salute Bob Hunt for his many years of service to the trout and trout anglers of this state. And we hope the pictures accompanying this story do justice to an evening that did justice to this fine man's career.



Bob Hunt with plaque from Natural Resources Board and carved brown trout.



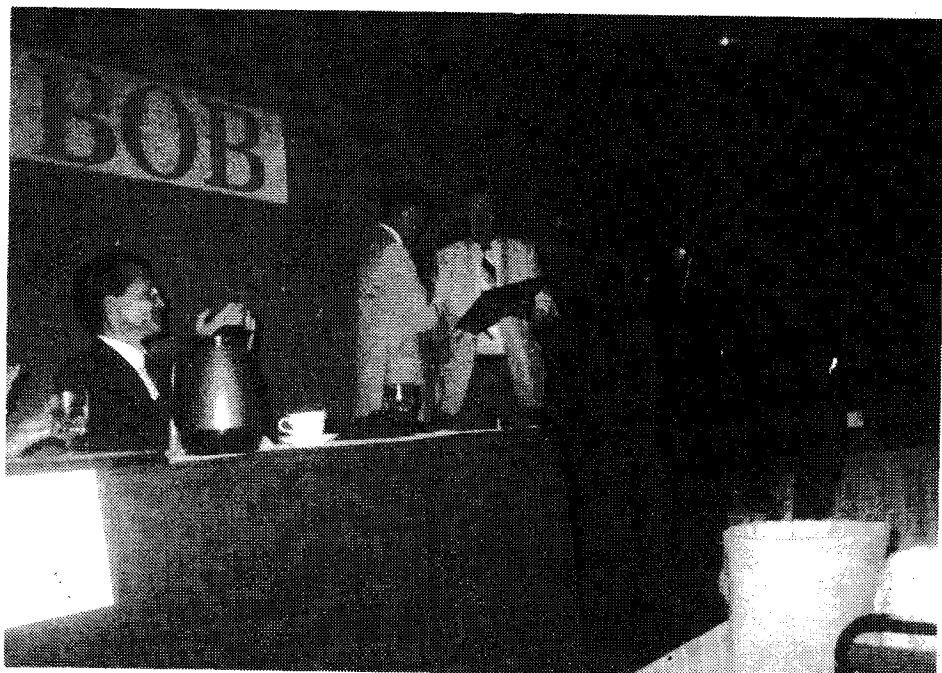
Tom Poulette presents Hunt with Orvis CEO fly reel, courtesy of Central Wisconsin T.U. Chapter.



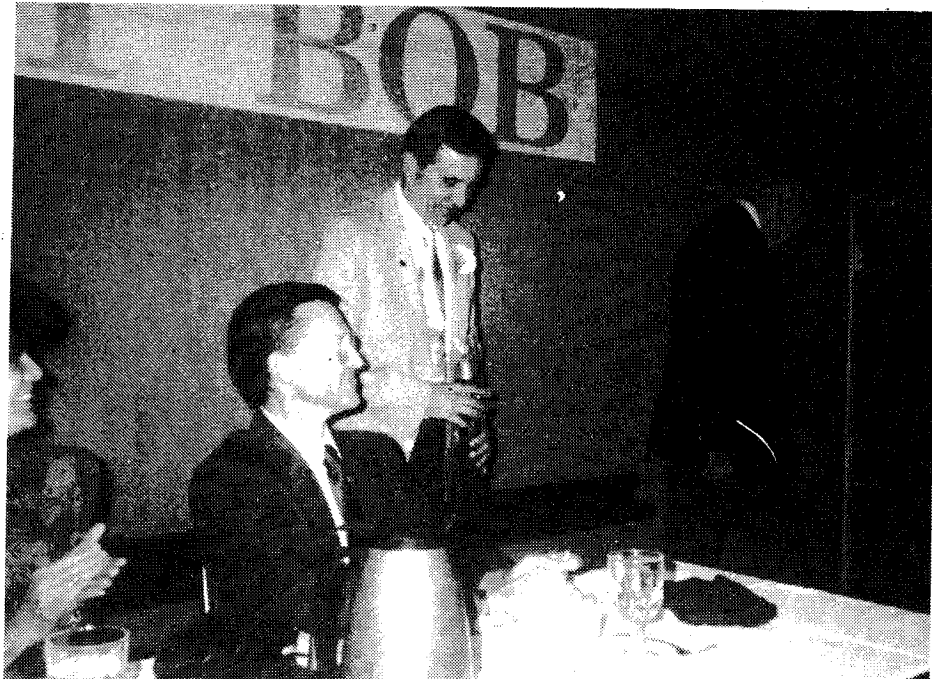
Woodruff Area DNR Fish Manager "Duke Andrews" (at podium) presents Hunt with book Andrews borrowed from Bob many years ago.



Old waders, socks, and tennis shoes from Hunt's equipment collection at his research station.



Ralph Christiansen (r) presents Hunt with recognition plaque from the Natural Resources Board.



Hunt accepts Orvis fly rod from Wisconsin T.U. Council presented by Nash Williams (r). Ed Avery is seated on Hunt's right.



# Wisconsin Trout Unlin



Clint Byrnes, Jean Spindler, Becky Byrnes and Marlin Spindler beside sign honoring the late Lee Parker.

### Aldo Leopold Chapter

In honor of former chapter member Lee Parker, who passed away in 1990, chapter members planted a flowering crab tree alongside a nature trail bordering Rowan Creek near Poynette in Columbia County. Parker was a charter member of both the Southern Wisconsin and Aldo Leopold chapters, a Life Member of T.U. and a master fly tyer.

A routed, painted redwood sign was also installed, reading, "Lee Parker/

True Friend of Trout/1924-1990/Aldo Leopold Chapter Trout Unlimited".

The chapter made donations to the T.U. Annual Meeting in Rochester, Mn., of a bamboo landing net, spools of fishing line, fishing videos, a Microsoft computer program and some Aldo Leopold tee-shirts.

Several chapter members also assisted in the cleanup efforts on the West Branch White River in Waushara County.



Antigo kids enjoy fishing from dock on Antigo Lake during "Youth Fishing Day".



Successful young anglers at Antigo T.U.'s "Youth Fishing Day", June 6.

### Antigo Chapter

The chapter sponsored its first annual "Youth Fishing Day" on June 6, 1992, with help from local merchants including Animal's Bar & Grill, Edleman Meats, Country Market, Pepsi-Cola/Antigo and lots of volunteer labor.

Food and soda were served to the youngsters free of charge, and over 3,000 brook trout were stocked in Antigo Lake with the cooperation of Augustyn Springs and Silver Moon Springs hatcheries. Augustyn Springs hatchery also donated a good number of the fish that were stocked.

Chapter Vice-President Denny Orgeman noted that, "It was a very successful event. We feel we were able

to introduce a lot of young people to fishing. Many of them don't get a chance to fish anywhere else."

The chapter also combined efforts with the Antigo Chamber of Commerce, and Mainstreet, Inc., for a "Lake Park Fest" on Sept. 12. Antigo T.U., along with Animal's Bar & Grill and Sheldon's, Inc. (maker of Mepp's spinners), sponsored the trout that were stocked, and the Antigo McDonald's worked with Sheldon's, Inc., and the chapter to provide prizes for all the youngsters involved.

The event generated great community support, which will help when banquet time rolls around!

### Blackhawk Chapter

Two work days were held during summer on the West Fork Kickapoo River near Avalanche in Vernon County. Eleven LUNKER structures were placed in two separate locations, and rip-rapping and stream bank erosion controls were also done.

Chapter president Terry Kent

reports that the last five LUNKER structures placed in the river constituted some of the best stream work he'd ever seen. They are located at a spot called "Parker's Bridge".

Summer meetings included demonstrations on kinds and uses of float tubes, a fly-casting clinic and a picnic.



T.U. members from Central Wisconsin and Frank Hornberg chapters apply sod to wing dam on Tomorrow River below Nelsonville.

### Central Wisconsin Chapter

The chapter conducted a joint venture with the Frank Hornberg chapter on the Tomorrow River below Nelsonville (Portage County) in July. Members installed wing dams to increase stream velocity and wash out silt and sediment that had accumulated downstream of the old Nelsonville Dam after it had been removed.

Central Wisconsin also donated a Stihl chainsaw to the Frank Hornberg chapter for their use in resource work

(see picture).

The chapter made a presentation of 25 copies of "A River Never Sleeps" to area high schools as part of its annual Bill Beck Memorial Education donation.

Chapter members coordinated, and participated in, efforts to undo the damage done to Waushara County trout streams by the devastating tornadoes which tore through the county on August 29th (see front page article).



Coulee Region T.U.'er Hal Young and kids describing the "big fish" caught during chapter's "Take A Kid Fishing Day".



# United Chapter reports

## Coulee Region Chapter

On Saturday, Aug. 29, the Coulee Region T.U. Chapter, working in conjunction with the La Crosse Big Brothers/Big Sisters Program and the DNR, hosted a "Take A Kid Fishing Day" at Esofea Park near Coon Valley in Vernon County.

Rene' Shuly, director of the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Program, gave the names of 13 interested boys and girls

who were treated to a day of fishing and a lunch at the park by local volunteers.

Through the courtesy and generosity of Kent Nelson, a private fish hatchery operator, over 210 fat rainbow trout were stocked in the park's ponds, with fish size ranging from 12-14 inches. DNR fish manager Dave Vetrano was also instrumental in assisting in the fish stocking.

## Fox Valley Chapter

The chapter kicked off its fall meeting session with a program by DNR fish manager Al Niebur, who asked chapter members their opinions of the new inland trout fishing regulations.

Chapter members continued to focus efforts on the Tomorrow/Waupaca River system. A work day in October has been set up to clean up beaver damage and finish wing-dam installation on the Waupaca stretch flowing through the Rose farm, and private landowners

in the Morgan farm are being contacted to allow improvements in that area.

Chapter members will help scatter-plant trout in the Tomorrow River on Oct. 3rd, and several chapter members assisted in the cleanup operations on streams in the Wautoma area devastated by the tornadoes of Aug. 29th.

The chapter's annual dinner meeting is set for Oct. 15th at the Forester Club in Appleton.



Ken Kreager (l) and Jeff Dimick (c) accept new Stihl chainsaw donated by Central Wisconsin chapter to Frank Hornberg chapter.

## Frank Hornberg Chapter

The chapter hosted the summer State Council meeting at the Tomorrow River Supper Club and provided a cook-out lunch along the Tomorrow River at Nelsonville, where the old mill dam

had been removed.

Chapter members also worked with those from the Central Wisconsin chapter on habitat improvement in the Tomorrow River.



Students and Green Bay T.U.'ers brush out path for Educational Trout Stream project at Brown County Reforestation Camp.

## Green Bay Chapter

Chapter members spent some productive days during the summer working on trout habitat improvement projects. Two days were given to installing brush bundles and removing brush and debris from South Otter Creek east of Wabeno in Forest County in conjunc-

tion with the Laona District of the Nicolet National Forest.

In late July, chapter members worked with those from the Lakeshore and Southeastern Wisconsin chapters to sod bank covers along Ben Nutt Creek in western Sheboygan County near

Plymouth. The work for the project was directed by DNR fish manager John Nelson. The staff work for the Ben Nutt Creek project was funded by the three T.U. chapters, the Sheboygan County Conservation Association, the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin, Inc., and other groups.

The chapter finished up its work schedule in late August by spending a day removing fallen logs and debris from MacCauley Creek in Oconto County east of Mountain.

On Aug. 20th, the chapter co-sponsored its second annual "Kids Fishing Day" with the Green Bay Exchange Club, a local service organization. Approximately 40 youngsters from the Brown County Social Services "PALS" program (for youngsters ages three to seven who are too young for the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program) were given the chance to fish for bluegills at the Brown County Reforestation Camp. Lunch was provided to the kids, their parents and sponsors.

Helping out with the event were Bob's Bait & Tackle of Green Bay, the Belson Company of Green Bay, Morning Glory Dairy of DePere, ShopKo Stores and the DNR.

The chapter continues to keep an eye on the status of the relicensing of the

Wisconsin Public Service hydropower facility at Johnson Falls on the Peshtigo River west of Crivitz, and will seek "intervenor status" at the appropriate time when the notice for public intervention comes to the public.

The fall meeting season began with a September presentation by Marinette DNR fish manager Russ Heizer on electroshocking surveys done by his crew on Northeastern Wisconsin trout waters this year.

Heizer showed data indicating that the open season on trout resulted in a fairly heavy kill of adult fish by anglers, despite the implementation of the new inland trout fishing regulations for the first time in the area. He said that preliminary results showed that fish managers would have to impose more restrictive creel limits on many trout streams in the future in order to maintain better trout fisheries in those waters.

On Sept. 12th, chapter members began work on the planned trout stream education display along Hallars Creek in the Brown County Reforestation Camp in Suamico. Members and friends brushed out an area for a walking path along the creek. The project is being coordinated by Youth/Education Committee chairman Bob Heim.



Green Bay T.U.'ers install brush bundles on South Otter Creek in Forest County.



T.U.'ers from Green Bay and Oconto River Watershed chapters remove debris from MacCauley Creek in Oconto County.

# ✓ Reports

Cont. from Page 7

## Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter No report



T.U. members from Green Bay, Lakeshore and S.E. Wisconsin chapters prepare bank of Ben Nutt Creek for sodding.

## Lakeshore Chapter

Work projects the chapter carried out this past summer included sodding bank covers on Ben Nutt Creek in Sheboygan County and fencing off cattle and installing water pumps on the West Twin River in Manitowoc County. The chapter also appropriated \$1,000 and \$2,300, respectively, for the Ben Nutt Creek and West Twin River projects.

Chapter members came to the aid of the damage repair work on the West Branch of the White River in Wautoma in September.

The chapter put together a trout outing Sept. 19th on the Oconto River for members, and another outing in October on the Manitowoc-Branch Rivers is planned for trout and salmon fishing.



Before and after scenes of unnamed tributary to South Branch of Beaver Creek in Oconto County fenced by Marinette County T.U. Chapter.



Finished cattle watering station.

## Marinette County Chapter

The chapter spent a busy and productive summer with many activities. In conjunction with the Peshtigo Recreation Department, the chapter co-sponsored a youth fishing contest on the Peshtigo River on June 18th. Prizes were awarded for most fish caught, first fish landed and biggest fish caught.

About 20 young anglers between ages eight and 14 participated. All fish caught were released.

The chapter's main trout habitat work involved the creation of a cattle watering station and installation of a cattle watering pump on an unnamed tributary to the South Branch Beaver

Creek in Oconto County. Members also fenced the streambank along one quarter mile of the creek. Over 110 man-hours went into the project.

Marinette County T.U. paid \$1,020 for materials for the project, and they coordinated efforts with the Wisconsin DNR, county agricultural agent and Army Corps of Engineers.

The tributary has important spawn-

ing sites for trout from the Beaver Creek's south branch.

Beaver trapping continued with the chapter's financial support on Camp Five, Eagle and Swede John creeks in Marinette County. Thirty-two beaver were trapped out and six dams were removed from the creeks and their tributaries at a cost of \$2,250.

## Harry Nohr Chapter No report

## Northwoods Chapter

Chapter members carried out a habitat improvement project on Noisy Creek in Oneida County on June 27th, cutting tag alder, removing instream debris and installing brush bundles.

Project chairman Don Hair and Gerry Kraus met Aug. 1 with Woodruff area DNR fish manager "Duke" Andrews to design stone-lined plunge pools next to two large concrete culverts under the Bearskin State Park Bike/Hike Trail. The culverts are on the Bearskin Creek in Oneida County, and they may be preventing the upstream passage of spawning trout.

Another potential project being

planned is work on the Mishonagon Creek in Vilas County, which has suffered a decline in its brook trout fishery due to beaver dam impoundments and overharvest of trout.

On Aug. 23, the chapter held its annual picnic at the property of member Connie Rollman. About three dozen members and their families enjoyed the picnic and did some fishing on both the Wisconsin River and Noisy Creek.

The chapter is actively seeking to broaden its committee base by establishing committees for: awards, education, membership, outings and publicity, to name a few.

## Oconto River Watershed Chapter

Chapter activities this summer included participation in habitat work on MacCauley Creek east of Mountain in Oconto County with the Green Bay Chapter and Marinette County

Chapter. Members also participated in operating a fishing tank at the Oconto County Fair, where they distributed information on T.U.

## Ojibseau Chapter

Work continues on Elk Creek and Duncan Creek. Seeding was done on the completed project area on Elk Creek and work continues on Duncan Creek with two work days scheduled in September.

Chapter meetings are scheduled to begin in October with Chapter activities resuming.

The Chapter will engage in planning

for the upcoming years and including planning for future work projects during the Fall months.

Joe Knight has agreed to act as our Newsletter Editor and a newsletter is expected to be published beginning in September. John Welter has agreed to serve as Meeting Chairman for the oncoming year.

## Shaw-Paca Chapter

The chapter sponsored a "Kids Fishing Day" June 20th at member Floyd Pluger's ponds. Trout fishing, lunch and refreshments were available for about 130 young anglers, their parents and guardians.

Two scholarships for students to the Natural Resources Careers Adventure Camp were presented to Shawano students Christel Beno and Darrin Kuhn.

## Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter No report

## Southern Wisconsin Chapter

The chapter proudly announces that it was the recipient of the T.U. National "Silver Trout Award" for T.U. Chapter of the Year at the Annual T.U. Meeting held Aug. 20-23 in Rochester, Minnesota.

The chapter held a meeting in July alongside Black Earth Creek at the site of its 1991 project work. Fish manager Scot Stewart explained how the stream had responded to the work, and

he performed an electroshocking of the stretch, finding good numbers of brown and rainbow trout in all size ranges.

The meeting in September resulted in new officers for the chapter, as well as planning for the chapter's annual "Winter Ice Breaker" featuring Ernest Schweibert. Details of the event, including date and location will be available in the next issue of Wisconsin Trout.

## Wild Rivers Chapter No report

## Wisconsin River Valley Chapter

Chapter president Herb Hintze reports that removal of the Prairie Dells Dam on the Prairie River was completed this summer, and the river is cutting a channel down to bedrock through the pond area. A sediment trap downstream from the old damsite is in operation and is being dredged out as necessary by the DNR.

Work on the Plover River project in Marathon County has begun. From Townline Road downstream for about one-third mile, the DNR crews will be installing brush bundles, a series of wing deflectors and half-logs. Also, the outlet of Clark Springs, which empties into the Plover River, is being cleaned out by a DNR crew.

## Wolf River Chapter

The chapter had a busy late summer/early fall season. On Sept. 13, members had a "Meet the Candidates" session with state Assembly and Senate candidates to discuss topics, including the potential resumption of plans for the Exxon Minerals Corporation zinc-copper mine.

On Sept. 19, the chapter held its annual fall scatter-planting of brown trout in the Wolf River, with several

chapters providing members to assist. Lunch and refreshments were provided by the Wolf River chapter.

Also, the chapter announces its annual Conservation Banquet set for Saturday, October 17, at Buettner's Wild Wolf Inn on Highway 55 south of Langlade. Tickets are \$20. Call Herb Buettner at (715) 882-8612 for more information.



# Tribute to Jim Stewart, a Wisconsin T.U. founder



Jim Stewart

A founder of Trout Unlimited in Wisconsin, Jim Stewart, died of a long illness.

Perhaps you didn't know Jim. Read on anyway; if you fish for trout, he was your friend. Besides, the following remembrances from T.U. friends who knew him in the 60s and 70s include some early history of your organization.

Clint Byrnes, Beaver Dam  
Susie Isaksen, Poynette

### Knew trout resource

From happy hours on beautiful streams from Wisconsin to the Rockies, the Bois Brule to the Bitterroot and perhaps beyond, Jim understood and loved the trout resource - wild fish and their habitat. He knew what was good about the world.

As a chemist and businessman, he had scientific knowledge and organizational skills. He could size up problems, see the possible solutions and work confidently toward them.

Taking over T.U.'s Wisconsin reins in about 1969, he gave the organization direction, stabilizing its start and expanding it greatly.

In Jim and in what the organization became under his leadership, onceskeptical fisheries biologists sensed enthusiasm and the ability to make good decisions. Jim's emphasis was not on pet projects and trying to tell state managers what to do, but on supporting them in what needed to be done for the health of the resource.

He had the broad, long view. He was an idea person, a fact-driven idea person, and, being quick to incorporate new information and determine what was needed, he did not hesitate to update his ideas. He sought good

advice and put it to good use.

Jim put in huge amounts of personal time back in the '70s, driving across Wisconsin to start T.U. chapters and drum up membership and support. And, as a state council representative on the national board, he travelled to other parts of the nation on T.U. business.

I went along on a couple of those state trips and to one national meeting, and this gave us lots of time to talk. It struck me that Jim was an avid angler who didn't indulge much in fishing stories. He talked about trout resource problems and policies and about how to get things done. Because of his intense focus and dedication, he sometimes showed impatience for that side of T.U. that tended toward ego-tripping, fish stories and socializing. I recall his frustration with the way some meetings went, but I remember more vividly his joy at successes, his determination and decisiveness in doing battle for the resource (for example, as a behind-the-scenes force at Wood River and Hulbert Creek) and his optimism for the future of trout.

One the national T.U. scene, Jim was a stickler for financial responsibility in the organization. This effort was not always as successful as he wished and did not proceed without rancor. Eventually, as anyone understands who has done even a fraction of the volunteer work that Jim put into T.U., the time commitment took its toll on personal life and business, and Jim felt he had to back off.

He phased himself out of direct T.U. activity and joined up with other former T.U. leaders to promote trout conservation along a different but complementary route, the Trout and Salmon Foundation.

Jim left a large, positive mark on T.U. We owe him much.

Ray J. White, Edmunds, Wash. (Ray White of Edmunds, Wash., worked for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, starting in 1957. In 1972, he received a PhD from UW-Madison and began his still continuing service on the T.U. national Board of Scientific Advisors.)

### Had passion for Brule

I remember Jim as the one who was the very backbone of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited.

As an angler, he had a passion for the Bois Brule that rivals what the upper Escanaba was to Bob Traver. The one occasion I can most vividly remember was the time I fished with him on Big Lake. We were watching the water,

enjoying duck's solitude, when I noticed a large trout swimming out from the cedars. I tied on a deer hair mouse.

"What the heck you got, a hummingbird?" asked Jim, who knew of my big fly theory.

I hadn't gotten through the third word in the fly's name when the big brown hit. I landed it and we admired the fish for a moment. Then Jim slid it back into its environs.

Very politely, he asked if I had any more deer hair mice. Sure, I said, so he tied one on, talking to himself.

I paddled Jim for about a half hour before he landed a huge brown. Both of us thought it had been a most enjoyable evening. Little did we know that the fly would be a standard pattern today.

Jim, as you watch over your beloved water, should anyone hook a larger trout than ours, reach down with your Old Town canoe paddle and ease it free.

Arling Erickson, Poy Sippi (Erickson held various T.U. chapter and council leadership positions since at least 1969.)

### Made T.U. happen

It was Jim's organizational talent that made T.U. happen in Wisconsin. He paid attention to details while seeing the big picture. A "get-it-done" kind of guy, he set goals for T.U. in Wisconsin, went after them and accomplished them.

He was a steadfast kind of friend.

Nash Williams, Madison (Williams, active since 1969 or before, has served in numerous chapter, state and national board leadership positions.)

### Painted town hall

Jim was the ramrod behind Wisconsin T.U. in the early stages. He was a guy with real talent, style and exceptional wit.

Never afraid to work, when the hand pump at his Brule cabin needed fixing, he was the one who gave up on his fishing and stayed behind to fix it.

When the nearby Town Hall at Lake Nebagamon needed painting and there was no money to do it, Jim showed up with a paint spraying rig and did it free.

There was never a dull moment on the Bois Brule trips Jim organized. A gourmet breakfast, with the works, cooked by Jim, got the crew off to a good start. Once he included fried gyromitra mushrooms. Mmm...they were delicious and we all survived.

Hitting the river at "the crack of noon" seemed to be perfect timing for the trout to start rising. Jim would give us a few of his home-tied, secret-pattern dry flies, which seemed to work even when the fish weren't rising. What a river.

When I make it back to the Brule someday, my first case will be a tribute to Jim, the guy who got this great club going. I hope you'll do the same at your favorite river.

Dick Ela, Madison

(Ela became the first secretary-treasurer of the Southern Wisconsin Chapter in 1969.)

### Structured Wisconsin T.U.

First there was the Wolf River Chapter. Then Jim came along and started the state's second chapter, the Southern Wisconsin Chapter, in 1969. He also set to work building a state wide organization.

He started the state newsletter, to pull the organization together and give it a voice.

As council president, beginning in 1969, he got people involved in committees that took on fundraising, conservation, awards and chapter and membership development.

Jim had a talent for getting people interested, making sure they had an assignment and assuring that they were successful and recognized for what they did. He's the one who got the rest of us involved.

Summing up, I'd say Jim Stewart took the emerging state organization and gave it structure.

Tom Sopkovich, Milwaukee (Tom Sopkovich has held many T.U. national, state and chapter leadership positions.)

### Enjoyed fun

Remembrances of Jim? He was very bright and always working. My best memories of him are from college times when his appetite for perfection was directed at having fun.

I have a grape vine over 100 years old covering the front of my house. One year Jim suggested we would make wine. He had learned how to make beer and decided to graduate into wine making. We got the grapes picked and squished and he did the rest with his chemistry skills. He even had special labels made. We split the bottles. I put mine in an upstairs closet to age. One morning while I was fixing breakfast I noticed a stream of dark red dripping from a crack in the ceiling. Several corks had popped off, sending our wine oozing down through the ceiling. Suffice it to say, that was the last batch of Chateau La Follette.


Jim was "tight". He saved his olive drab Army trench coat and had it dyed blue so he wouldn't have to buy a new one. We both liked old clothes and old records. During the summer of '56 we used to shop for hours at the Salvation Army and St. Vincent De Paul's.

Jim taught me how to fish.

Bronson C. La Follette, Madison (La Follette served on the first board of directors of the Southern Wisconsin Chapter.)

### Chronology of Jim Stewart's T.U. involvement

- \*First president of Southern Wisconsin Chapter, elected in 1969.
- \*President of Wisconsin Council, 1969-1972.
- \*National T.U. board of directors, elected in 1969.
- \*Organized 1972 national meeting of Trout Unlimited, held in Madison.
- \*Vice president of T.U. national board, elected in 1973.
- \*Moved on to leadership of the Trout and Salmon Foundation.



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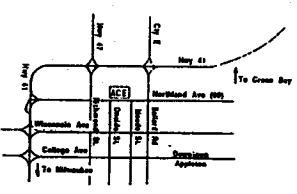
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# Wardens discuss law enforcement

Besides the regular business of the Wisconsin T.U. State Council meeting Aug. 1, the State Council reviewed law enforcement on the state's trout waters with two Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources conservation wardens.

Tom Harelson, the DNR's Southern District law enforcement supervisor, and Barry Meister, Portage County warden from Stevens Point, took time to discuss the extent of law enforcement on trout fishing and how the new inland trout fishing regulations were being accepted by the angling public.

As shown in the graph accompanying this article, conservation wardens are putting in fewer hours but making more arrests and issuing more citations for angling violations.

In noting this fact, Harelson stated that he felt that people are not getting any worse as far as compliance with rules go, even though the figures might indicate as much. He felt that wardens were becoming more efficient in getting on top of cases, and he also claimed that the number of "hard-core" violators was down.

He also stressed that many new angling regulations had been put into place in recent years, and that may account for the increase in violations. Besides the sweeping new inland trout regulations that first came into play in 1990, the state has made new regulations affecting bass and walleye fishing.

Each time new regulations come into existence, Harelson said, there is an adjustment period for anglers to accept the new rules, and violations increase for awhile.

In discussing the new inland trout fishing regulations specifically, Harelson and Meister noted that the regulations were complicated from the wardens' point of view, and they look for ways to minimize the number of violations by working with the public to achieve understanding of the rules.

Meister said that he personally felt the regulations were good and needed, and he did not experience as many problems in the field with enforcement and angler understanding as he had anticipated. He encouraged anglers to read the trout regulation pamphlet text rather than look at the maps contained therein for the right regulation, as he claimed the text was more accurate than the maps.

Regarding the amount of time

devoted by wardens to trout fishing law enforcement, Harelson pointed out that there are several things that need to be taken into account when reviewing this issue.

Wardens need to prioritize their time, he said, because the Fair Labor Standards Act compels wardens to limit their duty time to 40 hours per week.

And, he added, there is still a relative dearth of wardens in the field. In 1974, the state had 126 field wardens; today, that number is only 140. And, Harelson noted, time demands for additional things such as environmental law enforcement stretches the wardens' time for field activities.

Both wardens said that trout fishing law enforcement was a high priority during the first few weeks of the season this year. They found fair compliance with the new fishing regulations, though there was a 50-50 split on the public's attitude toward the new regs.

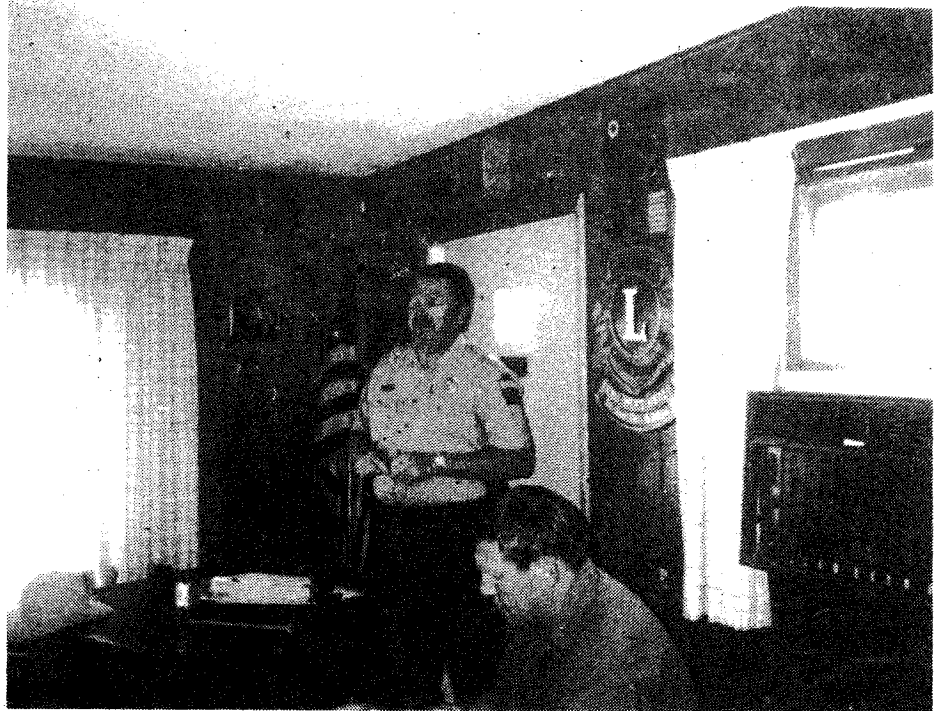
Of those caught in violation of trout fishing rules, Harelson noted that 80 percent of the violators were between the ages of 18 and 35.

Meister was very careful to stress that citizen involvement makes a big difference in the wardens' abilities to apprehend violators. He noted that the four-or-five big cases he made from the opening weekend of this year's trout season all resulted from citizen's complaints that were phoned to him directly or from the toll-free hotline (1-800-TIP-WDNR, or 1-800-847-9367).

Citizen involvement was very important, Meister said, because there are so few wardens available for duty. The hiring of deputy wardens, as was done in past years, is no longer permitted, he said, because training requirements prohibit such practices any more.

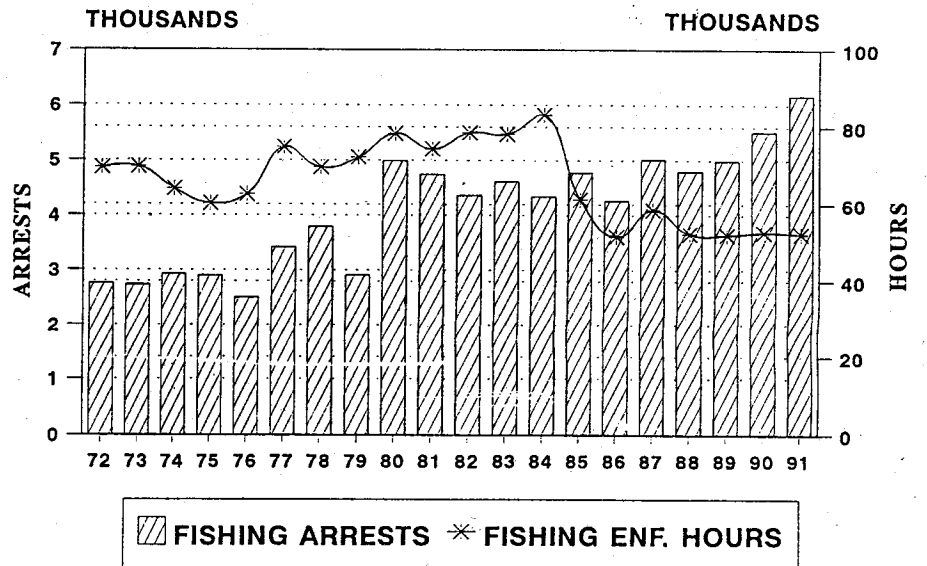
The wardens also fielded several questions from the Council members about various rules. The most frequently asked questions had to do with trespass and navigational rights of anglers.

The wardens said that trespass laws are handled by local authorities, not the DNR, while navigational rights continue to be an on-going problem. Harelson made clear that anglers do have the right to wade in streams that flow through private property, and they also have the right to go onto land to get around both natural and man-made obstructions that are in streams.



Conservation Warden Tom Harelson discusses law enforcement at Aug. 1 State Council meeting.

## FISHING ENFORCEMENT Arrests vs. Hours



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# Council meeting held in Amherst

The Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited met Aug. 1, 1992, at the Tomorrow River Supper Club in Amherst, east of Stevens Point. Highlights of the meeting include:

\*A cash balance of \$27,421.32, with outstanding bills to pay on the summer issue of Wisconsin Trout and the T.U. National meeting in Rochester, Minnesota, and expected revenues in the form of the annual rebate from T.U. National;

\*Notice that Wisconsin T.U. received a \$6,400 grant from G. Heileman Brewing Company of La Crosse (see separate article);

\*Note that Wisconsin T.U. will sign a Partnership Agreement with the U.S. Forest Service at the Annual Meeting in Rochester, Minnesota, for cooperative projects in the Chequamegon and Nicolet National Forests;

\*A Midwest Regional report by T.U. Midwest Vice-President Dave Fass concerning the re-structuring of the National Board of Directors of T.U.;

\*Announcements on chapter development, including the final closing of the former Chequamegon and Fontinalis chapters in northwestern Wisconsin, the reorganization and revitalization of the Aldo Leopold chapter in south central Wisconsin, the revival of the Southeastern Wisconsin chapter and the progress of the Frank Hornberg chapter in the Stevens Point area;

\*A motion to have mailing labels of chapters distributed to all chapters so that they might exchange newsletters with each other;

\*Announcement that Water Resources Chairman Dan Lemke has moved

to California, and that he will be replaced by John Crane of Waupaca;

\*A membership report by Jim Hlaban indicating that membership growth in T.U. in Wisconsin has been slight, and has been limited mainly to the membership growth of the newly-formed Frank Hornberg chapter;

\*A mention by Youth/Education coordinator Chuck Park that only three of 21 chapters responded to his request for information on Youth/Education Activities in their chapters;

\*An update on the "Placemat Project" carried out by Herb Buettner and Ted Rydell wherein dinner placemats with the T.U. logo and T.U. philosophy would be made and distributed to restaurants in areas that chapters feel might benefit T.U.;

\*Approval of a retirement gift for DNR Coldwater Research Team Leader Bob Hunt of an Orvis Fly Rod, and approval of a donation of \$200 to T.U. National from the State Council for the Annual Meeting/Banquet;

\*Noting that Dick Kraus will chair the nominations committee for the Council elections to be held January 30, 1993, at the annual Wisconsin T.U. meeting in Appleton.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m. The State Council expresses its thanks and appreciation to the Frank Hornberg Chapter for providing lunch and refreshment, and to the Fox Valley Chapter for bringing doughnuts for a pre-meeting snack.

Thanks are also due Jim Hlaban for hosting the meeting of the Executive Committee the evening prior to the August 1 meeting.



State Council members eating lunch Aug. 1 courtesy of Frank Hornberg chapter.



(l-r) Jim Henke, George Rogers, Jeff Dimick and Ken Kreager of Frank Hornberg Chapter put on lunch for State Council meeting Aug. 1.

## Fall fishing opportunities abound

Although the regular inland trout fishing season came to a close on September 30th, trout anglers who want to extend their fishing enjoyment into the fall season need only look to the many opportunities that exist in tributary rivers and streams of Lake Michigan.

Jeff Preiss, president of the Lakeshore T.U. Chapter and a very knowledgeable angler, has provided some tips here on tackle, techniques and time of the year to do well on the anadromous salmonid migrations in the Lake Michigan tributaries.

According to Preiss, by the time fall arrives, fishing should really be picking up in such rivers as the Peshtigo, Oconto, Ahnapee, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Sheboygan, Pigeon and Root. And the variety of species available is hard to imagine, he says.

"I've had days," Preiss states, "where I caught kings (chinook salmon), browns, brookies, steelhead, coho salmon and even lake trout on my flies. There was even a fall (1990) when we had a run of pink salmon that provided lots of action. And I'm still waiting for an Atlantic salmon to come by."

Jeff says that various strains of rainbows (steelhead) are in the river systems at all times of the year, each taking their spawning turn. Kings and browns join the rainbows in September and peak in October, while cohos, more rainbows and brookies move into the systems in October and November.

For places to try, Preiss makes these suggestions:

**Sheboygan County:** "Try the Pigeon and Sheboygan Rivers from late September through early Decem-

ber. All species of trout and salmon show up, though the rainbow run is a bit weak in the Pigeon."

**Manitowoc County:** "The Branch River should have a good run of coho salmon (from a planting of 60,000 fish three years ago) plus some brookies in late October and early November. A few rainbows come in then, too. The Manitowoc River is good for brown trout up to the I-43 overpass, and you can find chinooks all the way up to the Clark Mills dam in October and early November. Try the Cato Falls Park on CTH "J" and the Oslo Dam area."

**Kewaunee County:** "The Kewaunee River has great runs of rainbows, kings, cohos and big brookies all through fall. Bremer Park above Footbridge is a favorite spot, but the place can be a zoo on weekends. Try a day during the week in late October or early November after a rain."

**Oconto County:** "The Oconto River gets a great run of big browns at Stiles in October. Use Muddler Minnows or big Picket Pin patterns."

Although a great many trout and salmon invade the lakeshore tributary streams in fall, Preiss says that fishing for these spawning fish is never easy, and takes many hours of hard work.

And he advises, "Never give up on a fish. Get the fly down to them, get it in their faces. In most cases, you have to get them mad as hell to get them to strike."

For up-to-date fishing information on the Lake Michigan tributary runs, one can call Jeff at home at (414) 773-2693.

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# Friends of Wisconsin T.U. program produces results

The "Friends of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited" fund-raising program has completed its third year of operation, and the continued support for the "Friends" program by Wisconsin T.U. Council members has paid dividends.

Since the program's inception in 1990, "Friends" has raised over \$10,000 (net) for resource work in Wisconsin.

Wisconsin T.U.'s "Friends" provide a vital service to the coldwater resources of Wisconsin. The annual donations of \$100 provide a lapel pin and certificate of appreciation for our "Friends", along with listing in four consecutive issues of Wisconsin Trout newspaper.

Use the form below to sign up as a "Friend of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited". Your support for our program will mean good things for the coldwater resources of Wisconsin in the future!

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## Jim Frank, Central Wisconsin Trout Unlimited activist, dies

Jim Frank, a long-time (20 years) member of the Central Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited, passed away on August 11, 1992, at the Mercy

Medical Center in Oshkosh. The 57-year old Frank was a firefighter for the city of Oshkosh for 31 years and had been captain for seven years. He is survived by his wife, Beverly; mother, Hilda Frank of Oshkosh; four daughters and two grandchildren.

An avid outdoorsman, Jim was especially fond of duck hunting, trout fishing and building wooden canoes and landing nets. He was active in the Wooden Canoe Heritage Association.

Frank had served as secretary of the Central Wisconsin Chapter, as well as on the Board of Directors. For 15 years, he also presided as chef at the chapter's annual Fly Fishing School.

And, Jim was a member of the "T.U. Committee of Three" from Central Wisconsin T.U. that put together the 1982 National Trout Unlimited Convention held in Oshkosh.

An up-beat type of person who always thought positively, Jim loved to partake in the chapter's many trout stream habitat improvement projects. His hard work, positive thinking, sense of humor and friendly personality will be missed.



Jim Frank

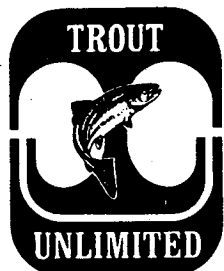
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