

RETURN:
Trout Unlimited
Mitch Bent
935 South Union St.
Shawano, WI 54166



Wisconsin Trout

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited

Winter 1995



Annual meeting, state banquet set for Jan. 28

The Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited will hold its Annual Meeting on Saturday, Jan. 28th, at the Oshkosh Hilton, 1 North Main Street, in downtown Oshkosh.

The regular business meeting will begin at 10 a.m. Of special interest to T.U. members will be a presentation at the meeting by Lee Kernan, head of the Bureau of Fishery for the Department of Natural Resources. Kernan will discuss proposed changes in the use of Inland Trout Stamp funds, including use of revenues to fund five fisheries positions to work full-time on the trout habitat improvement program and to allow use of stamp revenues to fund stream surveys.

Lee will also discuss the status of the review of the inland trout regulations.

In addition, the election of officers

(Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer) for the State Council for the coming year will be held. Nominations for these positions should be submitted in writing to: Steve Born, 424 Washburn Place, Madison, WI 53703. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor during the meeting.

All T.U. members are welcome to attend the meeting. The State Council urges that all chapters be represented at this meeting.

In the evening and after the Annual Meeting, the State Council will host its 10th Conservation Awards Banquet in the Hilton. Cash bar opens at 5:30 p.m., with dinner at 7:00 p.m. Menu will include appetizers, roast top sirloin with mushroom sauce, chicken dijon and baked scrod with lemon butter, as well as vegetable, rolls, beverage and

dessert.

Speaker for the banquet will be George Vukelich, author of "North Country Notebook" and "Fisherman's Beach." He will present a discourse entitled "Robert Traver: The Father of Us All." Vukelich is also a writer for the Wisconsin Outdoor Journal and is heard weekly on Wisconsin Public Radio's "Pages From a North Country Notebook."

The event is the State Council's primary fund-raiser. There will be many door and raffle prizes as well as auction items available, and the Council will take time to honor those persons and groups who have worked hard on behalf of the state's resources.

Tickets are available by sending a check payable to Trout Unlimited along with the order form that can be clipped out of the back page of this issue. The Council reminds potential banquet attendees that ticket orders postmarked by January 7, 1995, will enable those attendees to be eligible for a special "Early Bird" drawing of \$100 cash. Ticket price is \$25 each. Chapters and members who wish to

donate cash or merchandise for the banquet are encouraged to do so. Donations between \$100 and \$200 will be considered "Sponsor" donations, and those of \$200 or more will be listed as "Special Sponsors." Businesses are also encouraged to contribute.

All cash contributions should be sent to Forrest Grulke at P.O. Box 291, Menasha, WI 54952. Contributions of merchandise should be handled by calling Forrest at (414) 739-5155. Please make all donations well in advance of January 28 to allow enough time to process the donation and to permit enough time to list the items and the contributor in the banquet program.

Hotel accommodations at the Hilton are available at a special rate for T.U.'ers planning to spend the weekend. Call the Hilton at (414) 231-5000 for information. Be sure to mention that you will be part of the Wisconsin Trout Unlimited group when asking for rates.

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited looks forward to seeing you at the Oshkosh Hilton on Saturday, January 28th!!

From the Chairman

By Forrest Grulke

The end of my term as Chairman of the Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited is drawing near, and I'd like to take a moment to say "Thank you" to many folks.

First of all, thank you to all the members of the Executive Committee who have worked diligently on various issues for Wisconsin T.U. Special thanks go to Steve Born, our past chairman, for his guidance and insight on resource issues; to Topf Wells, our Vice-Chairman, for his leadership on the review of the inland trout fishing regulations; and to Mitch Bent, editor of the Council newspaper, for representing T.U. on numerous occasions at meetings around Wisconsin.

Too, I wish to thank all of the chapter representatives who have taken the time to travel to, and participate in, State Council meetings. The interaction of T.U. representatives from around the state has enhanced unquestionably discussion, analysis of resource issues and formulation of positions.

The new Wisconsin T.U. leadership will be faced with many issues: mining, non-point source pollution, salmonid genetic integrity and riparian corridor management, to name a few. These issues have complex biological, environmental, social and economic impacts. They require in-depth analysis and long-term solutions that are carefully crafted. They will also require that T.U. engage in cooperative efforts with other resource advocacy groups, government bodies, businesses and citizens.

We must have continued strong representation of chapter leadership at State Council meetings in order to coordinate our efforts. This will provide us with a diversity of opinion and knowledge on resource issues and serve to educate us all. It will also provide for the development of positions that represent a broad base of interests within



Forrest Grulke
Wisconsin State Council
T.U. Chairman

T.U. and provide a network of support.

We must also hold accountable government and business leaders in the formulation and enactment of long-term solutions to these problems. We cannot allow issues such as "property rights reform" to translate into inadequate protection of our resources, nor should we allow the continuation of exclusionary policies such as cheap grazing and mining fees to the detriment of not only the environment but to taxpayers in general.

I wish the new Wisconsin Trout Unlimited State Council the best. The problems they will face are large and will require much dedication of time and employment of skills. I will continue to offer my commitment and support to the new leadership of Wisconsin T.U. in addressing the issues at hand, and I hope all of you will join me in this support. It has been an honor to represent Wisconsin T.U., and I thank all of you for providing me this opportunity.

"Rivers conference held

"A Gathering for the Rivers," the first statewide conference devoted to the future of Wisconsin's rivers, took place October 28-29 in Manitowoc. The convention focused on the role of local stewards and partnerships in protecting riverine systems.

The conference brought together almost 150 invited river stewards and activists with representation from a wide array of interests.

The heart of the conference was a series of workshops that sought to identify high priority problems facing rivers and related resources in Wisconsin, institutional barriers that prevent addressing these issues and the identification of an action agenda for future direction-setting.

Among the concerns facing public and private river stewards are: inadequate coordination within and among governmental agencies; concerns related to stewardship, values and ethics; limited citizen understanding of

river systems and a dearth of access to readily available information; legal and regulatory obstacles; improved information and data; funding-related issues; and barriers to effective citizen action.

A conference summary and action recommendations are currently being prepared. A publication prepared for the conference - "A Citizen's Guide to Governmental River Management and Protection Programs and Agencies in Wisconsin" - is available from the UW-Extension Cooperative Service or the River Alliance of Wisconsin.

Contact Steve Born of the UW-Madison Extension (608-262-9985) or Sara Johnson of the River Alliance of Wisconsin (608-257-2424) for copies or additional information.

The conference was sponsored by the UW-Extension, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the National Park Service and the River Alliance of Wisconsin.

Grants available

Wisconsin nonprofit organizations, individuals, schools and local government agencies are eligible for matching grants up to \$1,000 for environmental and conservation projects from the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin, Inc., through its "Small Matching Grants Program."

The grants are intended for environmental education, management, restoration or research projects that provide a public benefit. Private property improvement projects are not eligible.

Grant monies must be matched on a

dollar-for-dollar basis in cash or in-kind goods or services.

The deadline for the next round of applications is Feb. 3, 1995. To receive application materials, contact: Barb Barzen, NRFW, P.O. Box 129, Madison, Wis. 53701. Or, call her at (608) 266-1430.

The NRFW is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping preserve, protect and enhance Wisconsin's natural resources heritage by providing financial assistance for conservation projects.

Wisconsin T.U. Council/Chapter Directory

Chairman: Forrest Grulke, 1356 Home Avenue, Menasha, WI 54952 (414) 739-5155 (H)

Vice-Chairman: G. Topf Wells, 4914 Marathon Drive, Madison, WI 53705 (608) 231-3037

Secretary: Dave Johnson, 143 Water St., #108, Berlin, WI 54923 (414) 361-3046 (H)

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Past Chairman: Steve Born, 424 Washburn Place, Madison, WI 53703 (608) 257-6625 (H)

Fund Raising: John Cantwell, 2286 Mt. Olive, Green Bay, WI 54313 (414) 434-3989 (H)

Legal Counsel: Winston Ostrow, 335 Trader's Point Ln., Green Bay, WI 54302 (414) 469-1596 (H)

Publications: Mitch Bent, 935 South Union St., Shawano, WI 54166 (715) 524-5886

Water Resources: Russ Bouck, 9357 Nelson Rd., Amherst Junction, WI 54407 (715) 824-3781

Youth/Education: Dale Lange, N3167 Right-of-Way Rd., Peshtigo, WI 54157 (715) 582-4172 (H)

Membership: Jim Hlaban, 1421 Silverwood, Neenah, WI 54956 (414) 722-4335

Aldo Leopold Chapter (#375): Clint Byrnes, 921 S. Spring St., Beaver Dam, WI 53916 (414) 885-5335

Antigo Chapter (#313): Scott Hen-

ricks, 213 Mary St., Antigo, WI 54409 (715) 623-3867

Blackhawk Chapter (#390): Terry Vaughn, 4710 Creek Rd., Beloit, WI 53511 (608) 362-4295

Central WI Chapter: Russ Bouck, 9357 Nelson Rd., Amherst Junction, WI 54407 (715) 824-3781

Coulee Region Chapter (#278): John Bethke, 118 Vernon St., Westby, WI 54667; (608) 634-3641

Fox Valley Chapter (#193): Ryan Hagen, 316 Naymut St., Menasha, WI 54952 (414) 722-8015 (H)

Frank Hornberg Chapter (#624): Jeff Dimick, 348 Maple St., Rosholt, WI 54473 (715) 677-4947

Green Bay Chapter (#083): Janet Smith, 3358 Nautical Ave., Green Bay, WI 54311 (414) 433-3803 (O); (414) 468-6154 (H)

Harry Nohr Chapter: Joe Bodewes, 329 W. Division, Dodgeville, WI 53533 (608) 935-2533

Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter (#168): Gary Horvath, 623 W. Pine St., River Falls, WI 54022-2036 (715) 425-8489

Lakeshore Chapter (#423): Jeff Preiss, 15915 CTH "C", Valders, WI 54245 (414) 773-2693 (H)

Marinette County Chapter (#422): Dale Lange, N3167 Right-of-Way Rd., Peshtigo, WI 54157 (715) 582-4172 (H)

Northwoods Chapter (#256): Bill Sherer, 6272 Oswego Fishtrap Lake

Road, Boulder Junction, WI 54512-9721 (715) 385-2186

Oconto River Watershed Chapter (#385): Dave Brunner, 5473 Cardinal Rd., Gillett, WI 54124 (414) 855-6669 (H)

Ojibseau Chapter (#255): John Welter, 204 E. Grand Ave., P.O. Box 358, Eau Claire, WI 54702 (715) 832-3494 (O); (715) 832-7028 (H)

Shaw-Paca Chapter (#381): Jerry Weatherwax, RR 3, Box 203A, Shawano, WI 54166 (715) 524-5642 (H) (715) 823-2180 (O)

Southeastern WI Chapter (#078):

Jon P. Christiansen, 237 Aster Lane, Mequon, WI 53092 (414) 241-5220 (H)

Southern WI Chapter (#061): David Ogletree, 2661 Milwaukee St., Madison, WI 53704 (608) 246-4227 (H)

Wild Rivers Chapter (#415): Paul Gilbert, RR 1, Box 24, Cable, WI 54821 (715) 798-3218 (H)

Wisconsin River Valley Chapter (#395): Herb Hintze, 629 Hamilton St., Wausau, WI 54401 (715) 842-1365 (H)

Wolf River Chapter (#050): Herb Buettner, N4297 Buettner Road, White Lake, WI 54491 (715) 882-8610 (H)

Wisconsin T.U. Chapter meeting times, locations

Aldo Leopold: When needed or called; at **Beaver Dam Conservation Club**, CTH "G", Beaver Dam.

Antigo: Not listed.

Blackhawk: Third Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at **UW-Rock County Campus (South Building)**.

Central Wisconsin: Board meetings at **Tilly's** in Wautoma on second Monday of the month, 7:00 p.m.

Coulee Region: Not given.

Fox Valley: Third Thursday of the month, 7:30 p.m., at **The Forester Club**, Spencer St., Appleton.

Frank Hornberg Chapter: Second Thursday of the month, 7:00 p.m. at **Shooter's Supper Club**, Hwys. 51 & 54, Plover.

Green Bay: First Thursday of September, October, November, January, February, March and April at **Maricque's**, 1517 University Ave., Green Bay at 7:30 p.m. May picnic/meeting at the **Brown County Reforestation Camp**. December Christmas/awards dinner at site to be determined. No chapter meetings June-Aug.

Kiap-TU-Wish: First Wednesday of the month at **The Hudson House** in Hudson. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.; meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Lakeshore: Second Monday of the month, 7:30 p.m. at **The Club Bil-Mar**, Old Hwy. 141, Manitowoc.

Marinette County: First Tuesday

of the month, 7:00 p.m., at **The Dome**, 751 University Drive, Marinette.

Harry Nohr: Not given.

Northwoods: Third Thursday of the month, 7:30 p.m., at **Valley First National Bank (Community Room)**, Stevens at Davenport Streets, Rhinelander.

Oconto River Watershed: First Wednesday of the month, 7:45 p.m., at the **Lone Oak Gun Club**, Hwy. 32 North, Gillett.

Ojibseau: Second Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m., at the **Eau Claire Rod & Gun Club**, Eau Claire.

Shaw-Paca: Third Thursday of the month, 8:00 p.m., at the **Corner Bar**, County "M", in Pella (Shawano County).

Southeastern Wisconsin: Fourth Tuesday of the month. Dinner at 6:00 p.m.; meeting at 7:30 p.m. At the **Bavarian Wursthaus**, 8310 Appleton Ave., Milwaukee.

Southern Wisconsin: Second Tuesday of the month, dinner at 6:00 p.m.; meeting at 7:00 p.m. At the **Maple Tree Restaurant**, McFarland.

Wild Rivers: Not given.

Wisconsin River Valley: First Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m., at the **North Central Technical College**, Wausau.

Wolf River: At various times. Call Herb Buettner (715-882-8612) for information.

Natural Resources Board Directory

Herb Behnke, Chairman
Rt. 4 Box 68
Shawano, WI 54166

Trygve Solberg, Vice-chairman
Box 50
Minocqua, WI 54458

Neal Schneider, Secretary
Box 71
Janesville, WI 53545

Betty Jo Nelsen
2640 E. Newton Ave.
Shorewood, WI 53211

Mary Jane Nelson
W6432 Hwy. D
Holmen, WI 54636

James Tiefenthaler
450 N. Sunny Slope Rd.
Suite 280
Brookfield, WI 53003

Steve Willett
Box 89
Phillips, WI 54455

New Chapter leader? Please tell us

When chapters elect new officers, it is essential that they inform the State Council AND the T.U. National office of that change. Otherwise, vital information for chapter use gets lost, as it is the unfortunate custom of outgoing chapter presidents to fail to forward mail.

Here are the rules to follow when changing chapter presidents:

1. Inform T.U. National by calling **Wendy Reed** at (703) 522-0200. She will need name, address, and home and/or work phone number(s). Or, you can mail that information to her at: Trout Unlimited, 1500 Wilson Blvd. Suite 310, Arlington, VA 22209. Include the name of your chapter AND the three-

digit chapter ID number (see Council/Chapter directory on this page).

2. Inform the **State Council** of the change, too. Send that information to **Mitch Bent**, 935 S. Union St., Shawano, WI 54166. Or, call him at (715) 524-5886.

Now, even with these instructions, some chapter presidents or ex-presidents just won't follow through with the request. So, if you notice that your chapter's president is incorrectly listed in the Council/Chapter directory, **PLEASE** inform **Mitch Bent** at the address or phone number listed. It's better to have too much communication than not enough.

Changing address? Do it right!

If you're changing your address, here are the proper rules to follow in order to continue receiving communications from Trout Unlimited.

1. Send notices of address changes directly to the **T.U. National office**. That address is: Trout Unlimited Membership Service, 14101 Parke Long Court, Chantilly, VA 22021-1645.

2. Include your **eight-digit T.U. identification number** with change of address notice. It is found on the upper left hand corner of mailing labels attached to **TROUT** magazine, **Wisconsin Trout** newspaper or your chapter newsletter.

3. If you are moving to a different

city within Wisconsin and wish to be affiliated with the T.U. chapter in your area, make note of that, too, and include the **three-digit chapter identification number** of the new chapter into which you are transferring.

4. If you have any questions, you may call **Mitch Bent** at (715) 524-5886. **BUT...** you should not send notice of address changes to him. They will not be accepted; rather, they will be returned to the sender. All notice of address changes should go **directly** to **T.U. National**. T.U. National's Phone Number: (703) 522-0200 * FAX (703) 284-9400.

WISCONSIN TROUT

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

ADVERTISING RATES:

4 to 10 column inches (*)	\$5.00/column inch
11 to 24 column inches (24" = quarter page)	\$4.50/column inch
25 to 48 column inches (48" = half page)	\$4.00/column inch
49 or more column inches	\$3.50/column inch

(*) A column inch is one inch high by one-and-five eighths inches wide. All advertising must be accompanied by checks payable to: **WISCONSIN TROUT UNLIMITED**. For prepayment of a full year of advertising (4 issues), deduct 5 percent. Advertisers who submit prepayment may alter the advertisement content from issue-to-issue as they wish.

Send all advertising and payments to: **TROUT UNLIMITED**, c/o Mitchell Bent, 935 S. Union St., Shawano, WI 54166, phone (715) 524-5886.

Send all change of address notices to: **Trout Unlimited Membership Service Center**, 14101 Parke Long Court, Chantilly, VA 22021-1645. Include your T.U. identification number with all notices of address change.

Mitch Bent, Editor
935 South Union St.
Shawano, WI 54166
(715) 524-5886

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Council Officers

Forrest Grulke, Chairman
1356 Home Ave.
Menasha, WI 54952

G. Topf Wells, Vice-Chairman
4914 Marathon Drive
Madison, WI 53705

Dave Johnson, Secretary
143 Water St. #108
Berlin, WI 54923

Ward Cox
N18690 Ten Acre Rd.
Goodman, WI 54125

Chapter president expresses concerns

Sept. 30, 1994

Mr. Lee Kernen
Chief, Bureau of Fish Management
Wisconsin DNR
Madison, WI

Dear Lee,

Thanks again for taking the time to visit with our Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited chapter—we always appreciate your candid and informative visits. I am writing you on behalf of Southern Wisconsin TU, following up on the State Council's earlier correspondence regarding TU concerns and priorities about revision of the trout fishing regulations.

The main focus of this letter has to do with our request for DNR recommendations on establishing an earlier general opening season in a defined southern part of Wisconsin. Our chapter supported, after substantial emotional debate, the Wisconsin TU State Council position that the "early season" in Southwestern Wisconsin, as structured in recent years, be ended.

In spite of some wonderful sporting opportunities in the early part of the year (January-February), we recognized that handling and releasing fish in cold weather raised the potential for mortality; that young-of-the-year fry were probably still in the gravel redds and thus subject to injury/mortality from wading anglers; and that fish concentrated in pools were easy prey for anglers.

Moreover, many anglers in that region felt that "their" local resources were being pounded by anglers from all over Wisconsin—an unfair situation in their eyes.

Our support for ending the early season was predicated on DNR's carefully examining the possibilities of an earlier trout opener that: 1) acknowledged climatic variations between Southern and Northern Wisconsin (i.e., earlier escapement of fry, good insect hatches and pleasant recreational circumstances); and 2) that respected fish biology and resource protection. Because several states in the northern United States allow trout fishing prior to May, we believed that information would be available based on other states' experiences, research literature and the best judgment of the DNR's own coldwater fishery professionals.

We hoped that such a review could be conducted relatively expeditiously, and that, in spite of any divisions among your staff, a biologically-responsible earlier general opener for a specified part of southern Wisconsin could be proposed as part of next year's over-

haul of the trout fishing regulations. Proposed regulations could reflect whatever changes you might have recommended without any date change for the season opener, or could include alternative suggestions regarding harvest/angling technique, etc.

In short, we want to support needed changes in Wisconsin's innovative and generally successful trout fishing regulations, in conjunction with an earlier general opener in a defined southern region. We believe that recreational fishing opportunities can be expanded by five-seven weeks with no risk to the trout fishery resource (which is TU's first priority).

We'd be very disappointed if this professional evaluation dragged on for several years, rather than being accomplished in a timely way to allow consideration along with the five-year revision of the trout regulations. We believe that you have the scientific expertise and resources to provide sound counsel on this matter, and we urge you to take early action.

We also hope that our area fisheries manager, Scot Stewart, will support expanded Category 5 coverage on Black Earth Creek and other trout waters in our area where the quality fishing benefits are recognized and desired by most trout anglers. Of course, we support the other recommendations embodied in the State Council's position, and we hope you will address them affirmatively.

We are committed, both as the state's largest TU chapter and as part of the Wisconsin TU State Council, to provide leadership to help get such changes into place. But we need prompt and responsible counsel from the resource managers to advocate a final position.

We hope that you will see the urgency and soundness of our request. Southern Wisconsin TU hopes that you will form a committee, with strong leadership, charged with developing these new regulations. Unless something is done promptly for the spring hearings, action will be deferred until 1997, which is simply unacceptable.

Many of those TU members who supported ending the early season did so with the belief that the DNR would act aggressively and would not allow consideration of an expanded general season to be delayed for more than a year. We look forward to hearing from you within the next month regarding your plans. Thanks in advance for your careful consideration of our position.

Cordially,

David Ogletree, President
Southern Wisconsin Chapter
Trout Unlimited

Letters to the Editor

DNR chief addresses protection issues

In response to the letter from Southern Wisconsin TU was this letter from Lee Kernen, Chief of the DNR's Bureau of Fish Management.

October 12, 1994

Mr. David Ogletree, President
Southern Wisconsin Chapter Trout Unlimited
2661 Milwaukee Street
Madison, WI 53704

Dear David,

It was a pleasure to speak with your group again last month. Thank you for sharing your thoughts about the timing for addressing trout season changes.

I agree with your premise of providing additional trout fishing opportunities with careful consideration of resource protection. The resource protection issues involved with an earlier season are protection of eggs and fry from wading anglers and protection of large fish from overharvest.

The first concern has received attention from some recent research that wading by anglers on redds has the potential to cause increased mortality to trout eggs and fry. Our research and fish management personnel in central Wisconsin tell me that fry are still coming off the redds in mid-April, so that any meaningful extension of the general season could be potentially harmful.

For complete protection of eggs and fry, we would have to limit the area of the state (open to an "early" trout season) to extreme southern Wisconsin, or

only open selected waters where natural reproduction does not occur. This brings up additional issues of complexity and public information. As you may remember from last year, this is the approach we tried to encourage with our fish managers but received a poor response.

In addition to protecting eggs, we would need very restrictive regulations—probably no harvest—to protect large trout from being overharvested. This restriction is not popular with many anglers.

The Trout Committee of the Conservation Congress recently met and was unanimously against any change in the season. They were thankful that the early season had finally ended, and did not want to see anything take its place in the near future.

For these reasons we did not think it was advisable to rush forward with any proposals to change the season this year. There simply isn't the public or fish manager support for such a change at this time. In addition, our rule-making process for spring hearings in 1995 has already begun and it would be very difficult to add a controversial rule at this time.

We hope to involve your chapter and others next year to get something that can be supported by the majority of trout anglers.

Sincerely,
Lee T. Kernen, Chief
Bureau of Fisheries
Management

Concern over "coasters"

Editor, Wisconsin Trout;

I hope everyone had the opportunity to read Mitch Bent's article regarding coaster brook trout in the Autumn, 1994, issue of Trout magazine. This was a remarkably accurate and comprehensive rundown of the historical aspects of this fishery, as well as being informative on the current resource agency activity working with these once numerous brook trout.

In talking with Lee Newman (of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Fishery Research Office in Ashland) and others involved with coaster brook trout research, I found that these people had a real passion for their efforts in bringing attention to the coaster fishery.

Currently, a proposal by Tom Doolittle, a biologist and professor with Northland College and the Sigurd Olson Institute in Ashland, to have the coaster brook trout listed as a subspecies of the brook trout under the Endan-

gered Species Act. If this proposal is accepted, it would allow funding for research directly into the area of concern, i.e., the coaster brook trout in the United States waters of Lake Superior.

According to Lee Newman, funding is one of the key inhibitors preventing additional research on coasters. Doolittle has been looking for support from Trout Unlimited and has been in contact with some of T.U.'s people at the national level.

This, however, is leaving the Wisconsin State T.U. Council out of the arena. So I pose the question: do we want to be involved in this debate or not? Either we act now, or we will watch this play out before us with little or no influence on our part on the outcome.

Sincerely,
Jeff Carlson
Rt. 1 Box 268
Mason, WI 54856

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Introduction to Fly Fishing, May 27, June 17, July 1 Women Only, and August 12 — Wayne Anderson

Steelheading Techniques, September 23 — Wayne Anderson
Wayne Anderson loves introducing people to trout fishing, or expanding the knowledge of others who are interested in taking the next step. Wayne is a teacher from this area and co-authored the tape Fly Fishing The Wolf River after over a decade and a half of research and experience on the Wolf. The Wolf is a premier Midwest location for trout fishing and Wayne will give you enough information so you can go out on your own and practice.

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White Lake, WI 54491
715-882-3502

"If you'll go down
in the woods today,
you're sure of a
big surprise."

Wisconsin Trout Water Profile - The Pike River

Northeastern Wisconsin is blessed with many fine trout waters. Curiously enough, a lot of the famed trout rivers in this area of the state begin with the letter "P": Peshtigo, Pine, Popple and Prairie.

And the subject of this issue's stream profile also begins with a "P". It is the Pike River in Marinette County.

The Marinette County Pike River is one of the state's three "wild rivers," so declared by an act of the Legislature in 1965. Within its watershed there are over 300 miles of stream and river ranging in size from tiny spring seeps over which one might easily jump to the Main Pike River, which in places is almost 100 feet wide as it tumbles over bedrock outcrops on its way to join the Menominee River.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has had an acquisition program on the lands adjoining the Pike River since 1967. To date, the state owns nearly two-thirds of the lands forming the frontage on the Pike River within the project area. In addition, a large portion of the watershed flows through lands that are part of the Marinette County Forest. All of these lands are open to the public.

The Pike is formed from two main branches, the North and South branches, as well as from many small tributaries, including the **Little South Branch of the Pike River**, which joins the South Branch west of Amberg. Shortly after the main South and Little South branches join, the North and South branches coalesce near Amberg.

The North Branch originates at the junction of **Sidney** and **McIntire** creeks in northwestern Marinette County near the village of **Goodman**. That branch then flows for 29.5 miles to its meeting with the South Branch.

The entire North Branch is listed by the DNR as Class I trout water, meaning that no stocking of hatchery trout is done in its stretch. The North Branch contains both brook and brown trout.

The upper third of the river is managed as a "Category 2" water under the new inland trout fishing rules, i.e., five trout daily with a seven-inch size limit. The lower two-thirds of the North Branch is Category 4 water (three trout daily, eight-inch size limit on brooks, 12 inches on browns and rainbows).

Trout density in the upper part of the North Branch is higher than it is in the lower part, but the fish are smaller in size. Larger browns and brooks do appear in the upper part as spawning season arrives.

In recent years, brook trout populations in the North Branch have been on the rise, though the brown trout population has not yet recovered from the effects of the late 1980's drought.

The entire length of the North Branch is wide enough to allow for all types of angling, including fly fishing. Good structure and cool water temperatures help to make the North branch fishable all season long.

The South Branch originates very near the North Branch. Its headwaters is Coleman Lake, which is surrounded by large private land holdings. This branch traverses about 24 miles in length, and alternately contains stretches of Class I, II and III water. Throughout its entire course the South Branch is listed as a "Category 2" water for angling purposes.

The DNR stocks the Class II and III parts of the South Branch annually with brown trout. Water quality in the South Branch is not as good as that in the North Branch, and stream temperatures in summer reach lethal or near-lethal levels as far as trout are concerned. At those times of the year, trout tend to

concentrate at the mouths of spring feeders and in highly oxygenated riffles and rapids.

Like the North Branch, the South Branch is wide enough to accommodate all types of angling throughout most of its length.

The Main Pike River begins at the confluence of the North and South branches just west of Amberg, and it flows in an easterly direction for about 15 miles until it dumps into the Menominee River east of Wausaukee. The first eight miles of the Main Pike are listed as Class II trout water, and it is this segment of the river that is managed under a "Category 5" special regulation for trout angling.

The "special regs" call for a daily limit of two trout, with minimum size limits of 10 inches on brooks and 18 inches on browns.

This section is also stocked annually with brown trout.

Midsummer stream temperatures get too high to support trout in the lower seven stream miles of the Main Pike, but anglers who fish it early in the season before temperatures warm up often hook into some truly trophy fish. Because the lower seven miles of the Pike are not listed as trout water, they are governed under the "Category 1" listing (all other waters) for angling, i.e., 10 trout daily, no size limit.

Access to the river and its branches is good. There are at least eight road crossings on the North Branch, with numerous other roads and highways that run close to that branch. The South Branch has about five road crossings along its length, as does the Main Pike from Amberg down to the river's junction with the Menominee.

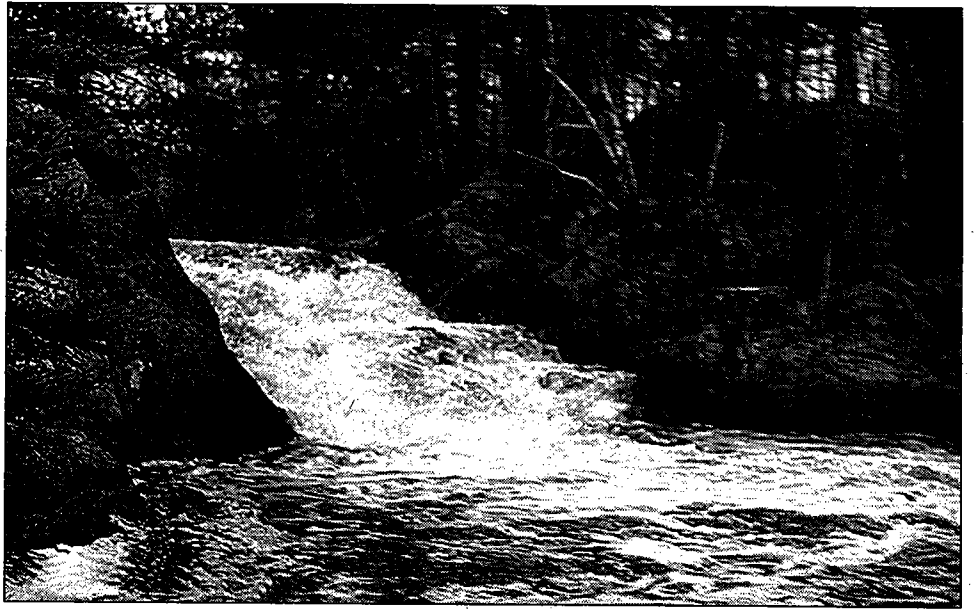
The North Branch also has several falls that are attractive to both anglers and tourists. **Twelve-foot** and **18-foot** falls at and above, respectively, **Twelvefoot Falls County Park** in Marinette County are quite popular places to visit. **Dave's Falls** north of Amberg and just west of Highway 141 also gets its share of attention from trout anglers.

The Pike River and its branches exhibit many of the typical freestone stream characteristics of rivers in Northeastern Wisconsin. The streambottom is boulder-strewn and the water is dark-colored. Fly hatches are not as prolific as they are on other rivers with muckier banks and bottoms that provide habitat for burrowing mayflies. Caddis patterns work the best for fly anglers fishing the Pike and its tributaries.

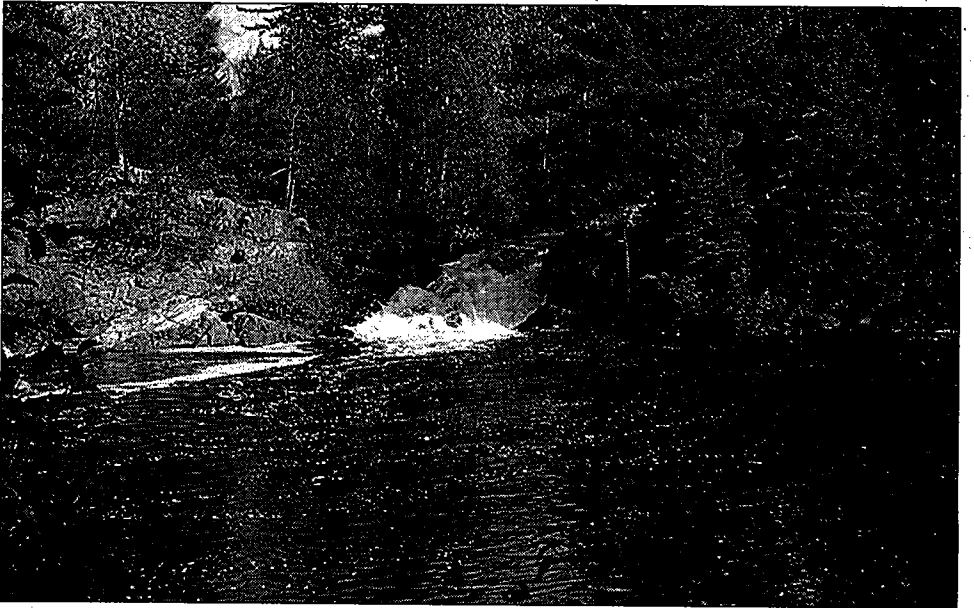
The designation of the Pike as a "wild river" has had good benefits for it, in that the state has been very aggressive in pursuing land acquisition along the river frontage to maintain the river system for future generations.

The downside aspect of the "wild river" designation has been that legal "experts" within the DNR have forbade any trout habitat improvements on the river because that is deemed to be "development" or "alteration of natural conditions," two things not permitted on "wild rivers." Too, proactive beaver control on the Pike has been stymied because of the interpretation of the clauses governing "wild rivers."

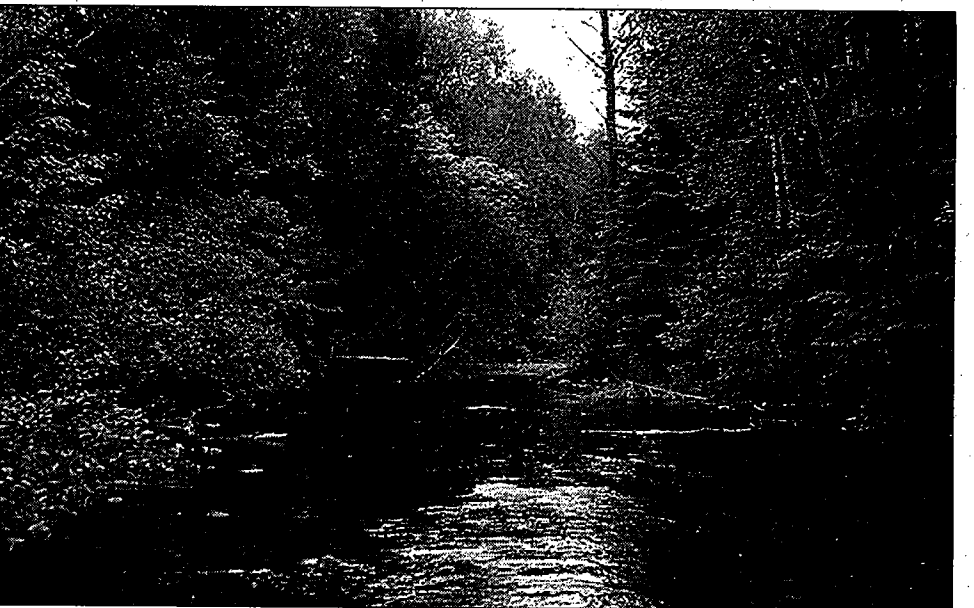
These negative aspects notwithstanding, the Pike River is a truly special resource that is appreciated by anglers and tourists in northeastern Wisconsin. It does not have the aura or acclaim of other noted rivers such as the **Bois Brule** or the **Wolf**, but it is a unique resource that should high on the "visit list" of any serious trout angler in Wisconsin.



18-ft. falls on North Branch Pike River.

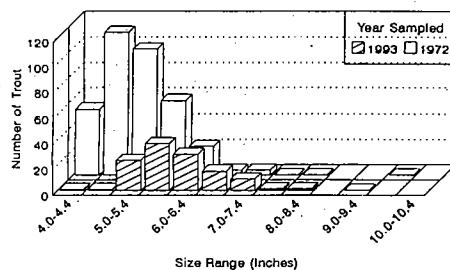


12-ft. falls.

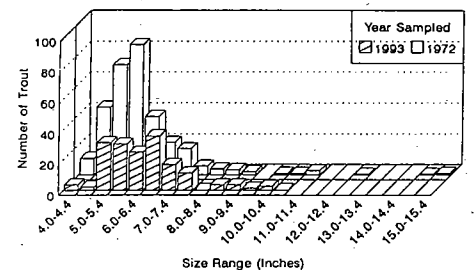


N. Branch Pike River below Highway 8.

N. Br. Pike R. - Category 2 Section
Brook Trout 1972 - 1993



N. Br. Pike R. - Category 2 Section
Brown Trout 1972 - 1993



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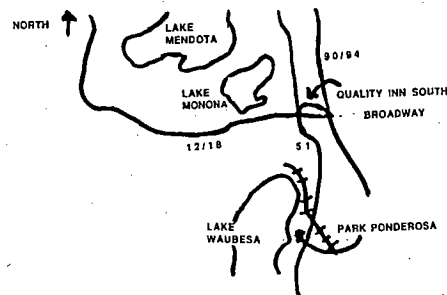
"Ice Breaker" 1995

The Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited will host its 10th annual "Ice Breaker" trout fishing seminar on Saturday, Jan. 21, 1995, at the Park Ponderosa Ballroom in McFarland. In conjunction with the "Ice Breaker" event, the chapter will also hold a "Trout" banquet on Friday night, Jan. 20th, at the Quality Inn South-Madison.

Speakers for this year's events will be Jennifer Smith from Bozeman, Montana, and Roger Hill of Fort Collins, Colorado. Smith is a nationally recognized guide, fly casting instructor, speaker and author who has been featured on "CBS This Morning," "Fishing The West," "On the Fly" and on Swedish National Television.

Smith has written for several fishing publications and was a contributing author for the recently-released book "Uncommon Waters." She also specializes in teaching women about trout fishing.

Roger Hill believes that Colorado's South Platte River is one of America's most rewarding yet most difficult trout streams to fish. In his book "Fly Fishing the South Platte River," he details the strategies he has developed for fishing with tiny flies. He is an expert fly tyer and has developed over a dozen



patterns specifically for the South Platte.

Hill also has a unique perspective that will assist anglers in visualizing and understanding the concepts that will help them fish tiny flies more successfully.

The day-long event will feature bucket raffles that include premium quality fly rods, artwork, fly reels and assorted outdoor gear. There will be a special raffle prize drawing for those joining Trout Unlimited at the "Ice Breaker" event. The featured raffle prize this year will be a 17-foot We-nah "Spirit 2" Tuffwave canoe.

The event will also have door prize drawings, flytying, entomology, a casting clinic and an information booth.

See the advertisement accompanying this article for ticket information. For those with other questions, please call John Strauss at (608) 835-5672.

ICE BREAKER - TROUT FISHING CLINIC & DINNER SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, January 20th - Trout and chicken dinner with Jennifer Smith and Roger Hill - Quality Inn South, 4916 Broadway, Madison, WI 608-222-5501

5:30 p.m. - Cash Bar

6:30 p.m. - Dinner

7:30 p.m. - Fishing Tales by Jennifer Smith and Roger Hill

Saturday, January 21st - "Ice Breaker" 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 and Introduction

9:15 a.m. - Roger Hill "The Physics of Fly Fishing" - The "How come" of "How to" for fishing spring creek flatwaters

10:30 a.m. - Jennifer Smith "A River Keeper"

11:30 a.m. - Lunch (chili & salad bar - available for a nominal charge) Fly Tying - Displays

1:00 p.m. - Door Prizes

1:30 p.m. - Roger Hill "Tiny Flies for Spring Creeks"

2:15 p.m. - Jennifer Smith "A River of One's Own" - Why We Fly Fish - An Inspirational Perspective

3:00 p.m. - Bucket Raffles for We-No-Nah Canoe, Fly Rods, Reels and More

For additional information contact: John Strauss, Chair, at 608/835-5672

ADVANCE TICKET SALES

Banquet tickets are \$16.00 each for the Friday night dinner. There is limited seating available. Tickets MUST be purchased one week in advance. Menu: One serving of trout plus "all you can eat" chicken, potato, vegetables, rolls.

Saturday clinic tickets are \$9.00 each (\$10.00 at the door).

Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your check payable to TROUT UNLIMITED to: Peter Jonas, 2406 Oakridge Ave., Madison, WI 53704.

Trout Unlimited's 10th Annual ICE BREAKER

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21ST

General Public Welcome. Doors Open at 8:30 a.m.

Featuring Roger Hill and Jennifer Smith, section author of "Uncommon Waters." Presentations by Roger Hill on "The Physics of Fly Fishing" and the how come of how to for fishing spring creek flatwaters, as well as an inspirational perspective on why we fly fish "A River of One's Own" by Jennifer Smith.

-Fly Tying Demonstrations - Casting Clinic (weather permitting) -

- Better than ever Raffle Items and Door Prizes including:

A We-nah 17' Spirit II canoe, premium quality fly rods, presentation quality flies, artwork and many other items donated by area businesses.

Park Ponderosa Ballroom - McFarland, WI

8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (\$10.00 at door)

Advance Tickets \$9.00 - Send self-addressed stamped envelope with your check payable to TROUT UNLIMITED to:

Peter Jonas, 2406 Oakridge Ave., Madison, WI 53704

Information: Call John Strauss at 608/835-5672

Sponsor: Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited

All proceeds will be used by Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited to support cold water conservation projects.

Fish for the future

By Lee Kernen, Director of the
DNR Bureau of
Fisheries Management

American pioneers were overwhelmed with the abundance of timber, fish and wildlife they found in North America, and many of them thought that these resources were inexhaustible. They never dreamed that all the big pines could be cut down or that all of the elk would disappear. Great Lakes commercial fishermen continued intensive harvests on fish species even as they saw the number of fish declining.

No one thought of harvesting natural resources at a rate that would allow an annual harvest, as we do today. We call this "sustainability." It is the long-term management of a resource that allows an annual harvest without weakening or losing the resource base for future generations.

Instead of shooting a million deer in one year and then closing the season the next, wildlife managers issue tags that allow hunters to shoot the number of deer each year that keeps the statewide herd at a sustainable level.

The Department of Natural Resources uses similar management techniques for timber and fish harvests.

The key to this type of management is to know how much harvest a resource can withstand. Foresters, for example, know that it takes a clearcut aspen stand about 40 years to regenerate and grow to harvestable size again. They call this a "40-year cutting cycle."

Wildlife managers deal with much shorter cycles. A deer can grow from a tiny spotted fawn to a 120-pound forked buck in just 18 months. Pheasants start out as tiny puffballs of down in May and become cackling, gaudy-colored roosters by October. From egg to trophy in six months!

Fish fall between wildlife and timber when it comes to generation time. At six months, a walleye is lucky to be six inches long, and it is as big around as your thumb. At one-and-a-half years, the same age at which that deer has become a four-point, 120-pound buck, a walleye in northern Wisconsin is only 10 inches long and weighs five ounces.

In fact, it takes four to five years for a walleye to reach the legal length of 15 inches, and a decent fish of 20-21



Lee Kernen

inches is seven years old. A trophy walleye of 25-28 inches is easily 12 to 15 years old!

Muskies are even longer-lived fish. The 48-pound monster caught in 1993 in Round Lake near Hayward was 18 years old and was hatched in 1975. But the average musky harvested by anglers in Wisconsin is only six to seven years of age.

Panfish live and mature much faster, of course. It takes four years to grow a nice round nine-inch yellow perch that any angler would be pleased to put into his cooler. Bluegills, too, can grow to a nice pansize of seven to eight inches at four to five years of age. Even at that, it takes about as long to produce an eight-ounce bluegill as it does a four-to-five year old trophy buck!

Replacement time for fish means that if we harvest the larger fish too rapidly, it will take years to grow their replacements. Who wants to fish in a lake that has only small fish in it? Most anglers dream of tying into a real lunger. At the very least, they like to think that such a trophy lives in the lake.

Wisconsin has some beautiful fish, and thousands of whopper northern pike, muskies, bass and walleyes are caught and harvested every year across the state. But the numbers of such trophies in each lake can be surprisingly low.

Beautiful Lake Tomahawk near Woodruff has an area of 3,400 surface acres and sports a population of about 8,400 adult walleye. Biologists estimate that only 830 (10 percent) of these fish exceed 25 inches in length.

Big Lake near Boulder Junction is 850 acres in size and has an estimated 550 adult muskies swimming in it. But only 50 of them are larger than the 40-inch minimum size limit. As you can see, large gamefish are really quite a scarce resource.

The next time you or your partner catch a beautiful 19-inch bass, a 33-inch northern, or a 26-inch walleye, take time to appreciate that it took 10 years for that fish to get to that size. And if you catch a second one like it, please consider releasing it back into the water for the future.

Discussion ensues over options to the "early" trout season

When the final chapter was closed on Wisconsin's experiment with the "early" trout season in eight southwestern Wisconsin counties (Columbia, Crawford, Grant, Green, Iowa, Lafayette, Richland and Sauk), there was a sigh of relief among those who advocated the cessation of the January 1 opener on those counties' trout waters. There was also some grumbling from those who felt that the "early" trout season was workable.

However, there was also a belief among some, particularly Trout Unlimited members in the southern part of the state, that the Fisheries Bureau of the Department of Natural Resources

would seek to formulate some other "early season" option that would encompass a wider geographic area than southwestern Wisconsin yet still take into consideration the needs of the trout resource to propagate.

Such has not been the case to date. The DNR has not come forth with any new proposals, and Trout Unlimited folks, particularly in the Southern Wisconsin chapter, have asked "Why not?"

Following are the texts of letters exchanged between Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited and Lee Kernen, director of the DNR's Bureau of Fish Management, on this topic.

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Wisconsin Trout Unlir

ALDO LEOPOLD CHAPTER

No report

ANTIGO CHAPTER

No report

BLACKHAWK CHAPTER

The Janesville-based chapter appropriated much time and money this past summer toward additional work on the West Fork of the Kickapoo River in Vernon County. Over \$3,000 was spent by the chapter for continuing projects on that stream, and chapter member Fred Young contributed \$5,000 from his company (Forest City Gear in Roscoe, Illinois) toward purchase of materials, work and fishing easements.

The chapter also approved \$1,000 to be spent on work on Spring Creek (location not named).

In June, Blackhawk T.U. assisted the "Kids' Fishing Day" event in Janesville with a donation of \$300.

Workdays on the West Fork of the

Kickapoo were held in June and August. Members attending the projects also enjoyed some fine fishing afterwards on the West Fork and other coulee area streams.

Chapter meetings were highlighted with some excellent programs. In September, well-known fly angler and writer John Beth talked to members about fishing the Bighorn River in Montana, and the October meeting saw master flytyer Rich Osthoff make a presentation on backpacking into Western trout waters.

Chapter elections were held Nov. 21. Results will be reported in the next issue of Wisconsin Trout.

CENTRAL WISCONSIN CHAPTER

The chapter reports that it had a busy summer and fall season. Work projects included efforts on Caves Creek (Marinette County), the White River (Waushara County) and the Tomorrow River (Portage County), the latter being scheduled in conjunction with the Frank Hornberg Chapter.

The chapter appropriated money for removal of beaver and their dams from Lawrence and Chaffee creeks, and Central Wisconsin T.U. also donated \$200 to the Iron Range Chapter of Trout Unlimited in Michigan's Upper

Peninsula to assist them in their beaver removal efforts.

Winter activities being planned by Central Wisconsin T.U. include: the annual "Fly-tying Funday and Tackle Swap" (set for a Sunday in February); a couple of workdays on area streams; AND the chapter's annual Conservation Banquet to be held Saturday, March 25, at the Oshkosh Hilton and Convention Center. Call Ted Bouressa at (715) 258-0934 for ticket information.

Another interesting fund-raising

venture the chapter is pursuing is a statewide chance event on a donated hand-made cedar woodstrip canoe by master canoe builder Bob Reynolds of Poy Sippi, Wisconsin. Tickets will be available from January 1, 1995, through the night of the chapter's annual banquet (March 25). Proceeds from the sale of \$5.00 tickets will be split on a 50/50 basis between the chapter and

the Wisconsin T.U. State Council.

Tickets can be obtained by writing to: Central Wisconsin T.U., Box 56, Amherst Junction, WI 54407. The drawing will be held at 9 p.m. at the chapter's banquet, and the winner need not be present to win. Free delivery of the canoe will be made by the chapter to any location in Wisconsin.

COULEE REGION

No report

FOX VALLEY CHAPTER

The chapter held two workdays in October on the Tomorrow/Waupaca River. Work consisted of stream narrowing, cutting a rock and gravel channel, installing brush bundles and tying in some logs along the stream banks to

prevent erosion. Fox Valley T.U.'ers also helped participate in the annual fall scatter-stocking of brown trout in the river.

The new chapter president is former chapter president Ryan Hagen.

FRANK HORNBERG CHAPTER

The chapter held elections at its November meeting, with the following people chosen as chapter leaders: Jeff Dimick - President; Stu Grimstad - Vice President; Cheri Dimick - Secretary; and Jim Henke - Treasurer.

Work has continued on chapter projects on Peterson Creek and the Middle Tomorrow River. A workday on the Middle Tomorrow River was held in December, with members installing brush matting to prevent erosion.

General chapter meetings will be

held throughout winter. Programs will include fly-tying, stream research and reports from DNR personnel. The Feb. 9th meeting will be the chapter's third annual "Fun Nite," with demonstrations, seminars and other interesting displays.

The Frank Hornberg T.U. Chapter's third annual Conservation Banquet will be held Saturday, March 11, at the Blue Top Supper Club in Stevens Point. For ticket info, call Jeff Dimick at (715) 677-4947.

GREEN BAY CHAPTER

The chapter has been busy planning its annual fund-raising banquet, which will be held on Saturday, March 18 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in downtown Green Bay. Ticket Price is \$25 each. Contact Jan Stoychoff at (414) 499-5307 for information.

During the fall months, the chapter heard a report from beaver trapper Jerry Giese on his trapping work for which the chapter contracted him. The

chapter's annual December Christmas party was held December 8th.

Chapter member Dennis Gusick has been active in coordinating plans to carry out some streamside fencing along the Wausaukee River in northern Marinette County. Help for this project, planned to be carried out in 1995, will likely be coming from the Wausaukee-based chapter of the Izaak Walton League.

HARRY NOHR CHAPTER

No report

KIAP-TU-WISH CHAPTER

The far-western Wisconsin T.U. chapter continues its busy pace of activities. The chapter prepared an "Embrace-A-Stream" grant application to offset the cost of equipment needed for the water quality/quantity monitoring station on the lower Willow River. In October, chapter V-P Tony Stifter coordinated a meeting between

the DNR and the Department of Transportation (DOT) regarding siltation and sand deposition in the Rush River that resulted from road construction on Highway 72.

The DOT is also working with the DNR on a remediation plan, and, more importantly, Kiap-TU-Wish T.U. has received a five-year plan of road pro-



Members of Central Wisconsin and Frank Hornberg chapters working on the Middle Tomorrow River in September, 1994.

CENTRAL WISCONSIN CHAPTER TROUT UNLIMITED

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nited Chapter reports

jects which have the potential of impacting area streams. By being able to review the plans in advance, the chapter will be able to take a proactive, rather than reactive, approach to these issues.

In later September, the chapter helped stock 10,000 brown trout fingerlings into the Lower Willow River.

Presentations at fall meetings included flyfishing in Alaska by Tom Helgeson, editor and publisher of Mid-

west Flyfishing, and discussion of a proposed April 1 opener for the Lower Willow River. The chapter's board of directors voted to support advancement of this question to the spring Conservation Congress meetings in April.

The chapter's annual Christmas bash took place Dec. 7 at the Hudson House. Don Wisner, pastor at University Lutheran Church in Eau Claire, gave a presentation on stewardship and the conservation ethic.



Lakeshore T.U. members instruct local 4-H Club members in fly-tying.

LAKESHORE CHAPTER

Chapter president Jeff Preiss reports that his chapter made a valiant attempt at a fall fishing outing on the Manitowoc River for chinook salmon, but low water foiled the effort. But the fall wasn't a total loss, as the chapter put together 13 rods and reels and tackle packages for donation to Camp Sinawa in Manitowoc County.

Also, Lakeshore T.U. held an October fly tying session for area 4-H clubs. The chapter plans a joint meeting

with the Badger Fly Fishing Federation and the Helen Shaw FFF on Jan. 18th. Guest speaker will be Pat Ehlers of The Fly Fishers shop in Milwaukee. And, Lakeshore will host a four-week fly tying course in February.

Work is underway for the chapter's annual Conservation Banquet set for April 22nd. Ticket price is \$15. Call Jeff Preiss at (414) 773-2693 for information.

MARINETTE COUNTY CHAPTER

Chapter meeting programs during fall included reports on stream trout populations and beaver dams on streams, a video and talk about former author and Michigan Supreme Court justice John Voelker (a.k.a. "Robert Traver") and land acquisition as it relates to trout streams.

The process of purchasing 64 (+) acres along the Upper Middle Inlet Creek in northern Marinette County and the selling of 59 (+) non-riparian

acres was completed by November. The chapter acted as the liaison for the State Council in this matter. The riparian acreage along the creek will eventually be deeded over the DNR.

The chapter is busy preparing for its annual Conservation Banquet slated for Monday, March 13, at The Dome in Marinette. Contact Jim Bereza at (715) 735-5029 for ticket information and availability.

NORTHWOODS CHAPTER

Chapter meetings gave members this fall the opportunity to get information on trout fishing in southwestern Montana and in the Blue Ridge Mountain areas of the Appalachian region of eastern United States.

The chapter submitted a letter to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding a wetland fill permit sought by Crandon Mining Company under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

OCONTO RIVER WATERSHED CHAPTER

The chapter is considering a plan to expand its tanks at its "trout barn" in order to increase capacity. The chapter's annual "Mini-banquet" was held

Nov. 11th to honor those who worked for the chapter in the past year. Several new members were signed up, and about \$400 was netted.

OJIBLEAU CHAPTER

The chapter did some work on Duncan Creek in Chippewa County during summer, and then began three new projects in fall. Streams on which the chapter began efforts include Sand Creek, Lowes Creek and Duncan Creek.

Chapter member C. W. Wilson was honored as a "Distinguished Service Award" recipient by T.U. National for his efforts on the chapter's Duncan Creek project, for his work in coordinating chapter fly-tying classes and other efforts.

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN

In October, Jim Laganowski spoke to the chapter on the topic of "Inland Trout Fishing Within One Hour of Mil-

waukee." In November, Chapter member, Glen Winston spoke on "Fishing Montana on a Budget."

SHAW-PACA CHAPTER

During fall, the chapter heard from Shawano area DNR fishery manager Ross Langhurst about surveys done on area streams, beaver control and proposed regulation changes for the "Category 5" stretch of the South Branch Oconto River. The chapter also agreed to purchase a slide projector and carousel for the DNR for its use

in making presentations on resource issues.

Preliminary work is underway for the chapter's annual Conservation Banquet. The date has not yet been determined at press time. Call Jerry Weatherwax at (715) 524-5642 for information.

SOUTHERN WISCONSIN CHAPTER

In September, the chapter celebrated its 25th anniversary as a Trout Unlimited chapter. The chapter's charter members back in 1969 were: Henry Bush, Jr.; Clint Byrnes; Richard Ela, Jr.; William Flader; Bronson LaFollette; Edwin Lloyd; Bernhard Mautz, Sr.; Roy McDonald; Lee Parker; Fred Rick-

son; Toby Sherry; Jim Stewart; Roy White; and J. Nash Williams.

The chapter is actively working for another successful "Ice Breaker" session set for Jan. 21 at the Park Ponderosa Ballroom in McFarland. See the ad about the event in this issue.

WILD RIVERS CHAPTER

No report

WOLF RIVER CHAPTER

No report

WISCONSIN RIVER VALLEY CHAPTER

No report

Northeast Region meets

The Northeast Region of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited met on Saturday, Dec. 10, at Buettner's Wild Wolf Inn south of Langlade. All eight chapters were represented at the meeting. Special guests at the meeting included Department of Natural Resources fishery managers Lloyd "Duke" Andrews, Russ Heizer, Max Johnson and Ross Langhurst, as well as Michigan DNR fishery manager Gary Schnicke of Crystal Falls and Don McDonald of the Iron Range T.U. Chapter in Iron County, Michigan.

The Wisconsin DNR fishery managers focused on various topics that were under review by DNR staff. Johnson, Andrews and Langhurst described the status to date of the slow but steady push by some DNR staff to move the state's trout hatchery program away from the current situation of using highly domesticated trout to one where "wild" trout would be reared for stocking in state waters.

Among the problems occurring to date with that idea include budgetary constraints, determining ideal genetic strains to be used in various streams throughout the state and dealing with some institutionalized resistance to change within DNR staff.

Andrews noted that there is a tentative plan to attempt to use the now-closed Crystal Springs hatchery northeast of Antigo as a spot for rearing wilder strains of trout. The eight T.U. chapters agreed to seek commitments of \$10,000 in total from their chapters to help get this project underway.

Andrews also mentioned that his idea for this hatchery, if it is accepted, is to raise not only "wild" strains of brook, brown and rainbow trout, but also to incubate "wild" strains of lake trout that are found in some of the larger lakes in Vilas and Oneida counties.

Discussion next went to the status of the inland trout fishing rules. Johnson and Langhurst mentioned that more time was needed to analyze the impacts of the rules on Northeastern Wisconsin waters, because that part of the state experienced a two-year delay in implementing the new rules due to drought-forced restrictions on trout fishing in 1990 and 1991. The two managers did say that they felt that some waters were not responding to the new angling restrictions, because anglers were not complying with rules, and because DNR law enforcement did not place a high priority on working trout waters.

Heizer gave a review of the state's

beaver management program to date. He noted that more liberal rules are covering the northwestern part of the state, rules that are similar to those in the northeast. Some progress has definitely been made in controlling beavers and their dams in Oconto, Marinette and Shawano counties, but other areas still have too many animals that are impacting trout waters.

The managers also reported to the chapters that the DNR may seek changes in the way Trout Stamp funds are used so that: 1) stamp funds will pay for the five full-time employee equivalents that work on trout habitat improvement projects, and 2) up to \$100,000 of stamp funds can be used annually for trout stream surveys.

After the managers' reports, chapters exchanged information on activities in which they are involved.

At meeting's end, Northeast Regional Vice-President Harley Erbs announced that he was retiring from that position. The regional representatives elected Bill Sherer, president of the Northwoods Chapter, as the new Regional V-P.

Resource Board notes

The Natural Resources Board, governing arm of the Department of Natural Resources, acted on the following items pertaining to the cold-water resource during the last three months:

- Approved establishment of a 5,088-acre Manitowoc-Branch River fishery Area in Manitowoc County;

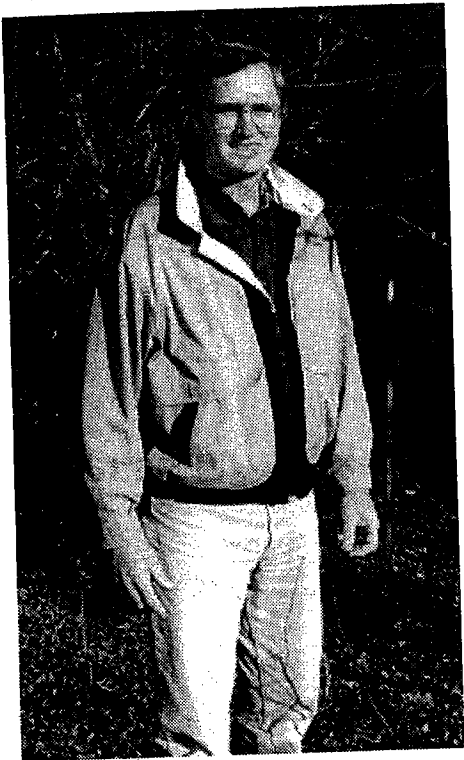
- Sold lands along the Pike Wild River (60.56 acres) in Marinette County and along the Little Plover River (0.343 acre) in Portage County which were no longer needed for conservation purposes;

- Purchased 42.5 acres of land for the Brule River State Forest in Douglas County; the land has 2,600 feet of stream frontage along the Bois Brule River;

- Set a temporary daily creel limit of three for coho salmon caught in Lake Michigan or Green Bay in order to protect coho salmon returning to spawning rivers in 1995.

The Board was unable to take action on approval of the inclusion of the East Branch of the Eau Claire River (Langlade County) in the state's "Stream-bank Acquisition Program" due to delays by DNR staff in Rhineland.

DNR Fish Manager Profile: Tom Thuemler



Tom Thuemler

Northeastern Wisconsin has a bountiful blend of coldwater and warmwater fishery resources. The bulk of the state's trout streams lie in that area, and there is also a wide variety of lakes, flowages and rivers that require expert fishery management knowledge.

And responsible for the management of many of these waters in Northeastern Wisconsin is **Tom Thuemler**, the subject of this DNR Fish Manager Profile.

The 49-year old Thuemler was born in Milwaukee. A 1963 graduate of Whitefish Bay Dominican High School, Tom attended Iowa State University, where he received a Bachelor's degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology in 1967. Following that, he attended the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where he earned a Master's degree in zoology in 1969 through his study of the food habits of walleye pike on Escanaba Lake in Vilas County.

Thuemler's work experience in his chosen field began during the summers of his college career. He spent the summer of 1965 working for the Alaska Fish and Game Department, and in subsequent summers he worked for the Wisconsin DNR at Woodruff.

After completing his Master's degree, Tom returned to Woodruff in July of 1969 as a fish manager. The following May, he transferred to Wausau in northern Marinette County, where he worked as a fish biologist until November of 1973, and then as the District fish biologist until July 1983.

Since July of 1983, Tom has been at the Marinette Area DNR office, where he works as the Area Fishery Manager for Marinette, Oconto, Shawano, Menominee and Florence counties.

Over the years, Thuemler has had the opportunity to be involved in many different aspects of fishery management, and he related some of the highlights of his career to date.

"Our focus on coldwater resources continues to be protection of that fragile resource," he said. "We have to work with many entities - riparian landowners, local units of government and others - to ensure the protection of the resource, and we put a high priority on working with our own water regulation staff to make sure that any proposed developments are not negatively impacting coldwater resources."

Over the years, Thuemler and his fishery crew have been successful in getting impoundments and obstructions removed from coldwater streams.

"Years ago we worked hard to get manmade dams removed from Handsaw Creek, a small Class I brook trout stream tributary to the Thunder River in Marinette County," Tom noted. "Removing the two dams on that creek

helped restore five miles of high quality brook trout water."

"This past year," he continued, "we were able to remove two private fish hatcheries from Marinette County trout streams through our acquisition program. Removal of a hatchery on Walker Creek (a tributary to the North Branch Beaver Creek) doubled the amount of groundwater flowing into the creek and enhanced the creek's spawning habitat. And removing the hatchery on Whiskey Creek resulted in the tearing down of two dams, which provided better spawning conditions in this creek which is tributary to the North Branch of the Pike River."

Besides these problems which he was able to solve, Thuemler told of other areas where constant maintenance and vigilance is required.

"We place a high priority on working with developers on road crossings to make sure that culvert and bridge replacements are done properly so as to minimize damage to streams," he said. "Improperly placed culverts can act as barriers to upstream movements of spawning or migrating trout, and they can harm spawning habitat upstream from their sites by acting as small dams on our low gradient streams."

"Beaver problems continue on our streams," he added, "and that still receives a lot of our time and attention. We're currently using a number of programs to keep beaver and beaver dam numbers in check, and our efforts appear to be paying off, as the number of dams throughout our area has been down over the past few years. But we still need to continue our work to keep beavers under control."

Thuemler also mentioned that land use problems impact the trout waters of his area.

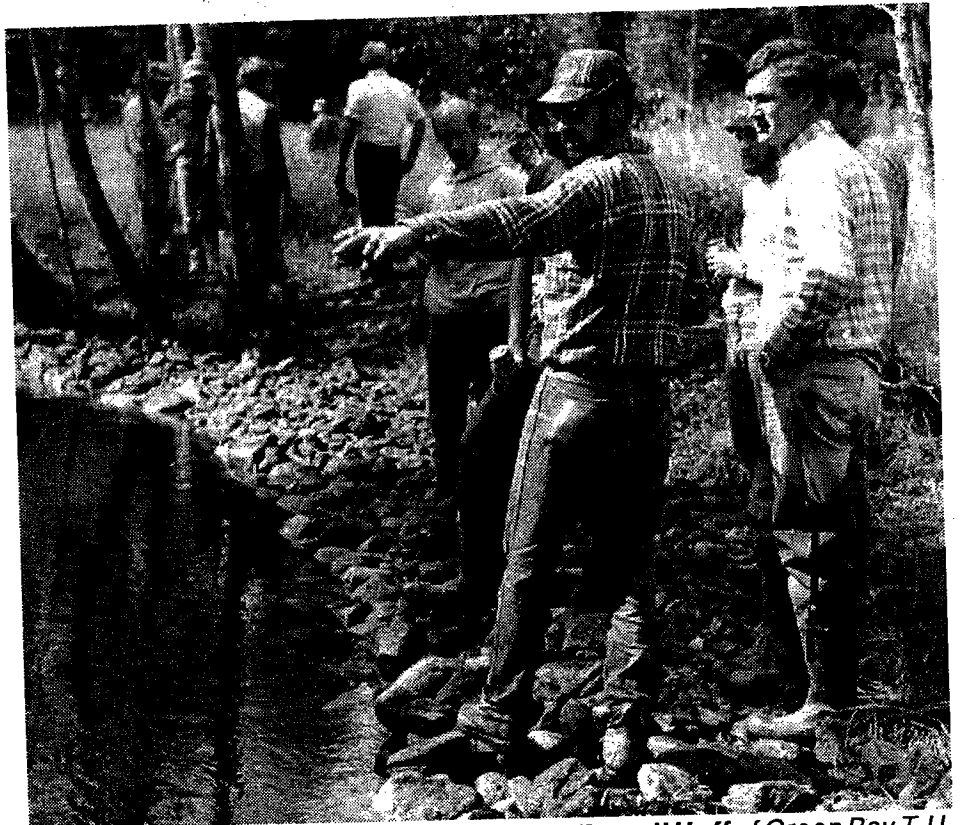
"In Shawano and southern Oconto counties, bad land use practices are some of the biggest threats to the resources," he said. "Poor land uses destroy trout habitat, and we must be continually cognizant of development along our trout streams."

"Another big problem is increased use on a limited resource," Tom added. "Although the number of anglers using the streams may not be increasing, the amount of free time they have to fish and their level of ability definitely is increasing. The amount of pressure our streams receive impacts the size structure of trout populations in the streams."

"This was really brought out to me when the trout season in Northeastern Wisconsin was closed a few years ago because of the drought," he said. "Even though trout numbers were depressed due to the drought, the lack of angler harvest for a two-year period helped produce some of the biggest trout we'd seen in quite a few years. This showed that Northeastern Wisconsin trout streams are capable of supporting higher densities of larger fish. To achieve this, though, we'd have to curtail angler harvest, and I'm not sure trout anglers in general are willing to give up harvesting fish in order to allow more larger trout to exist."

Ever since the Inland Trout Stamp came on the scene in 1978, the Marinette area has been the site of much trout stamp fund expenditures, and Thuemler noted some of the projects that have been funded to date.

"The stream improvement projects are costly and take a great deal of time, but we've seen some very good results from the work done," Tom said. "Evaluations of projects on K. C. Creek and the North Branch Beaver Creek in Marinette County, the First South Branch Oconto River in Oconto County and the LePage Creek in Florence County have all shown significant increases in both total numbers of trout and numbers of large trout after



Tom Thuemler (r) listening to point made by Darrell Huff of Green Bay T.U. at stream work project.

projects were done. We've been fortunate to have Trout Unlimited members assist us on these jobs in order to keep costs down."

Continuing, he noted, "in the Marinette area, we've also used the 'sand trap technology' developed on Michigan trout streams to protect and restore a number of sections of trout streams. One such project was on Upper Middle Inlet Creek, where a trap caught sediment coming down from a bridge replacement on Highway 141."

While trout-related work has taken up much of Thuemler's time in the past, a new challenge has been keeping Tom busy nearly full-time the last half dozen years.

"One of my major responsibilities recently has been the relicensing of many of the hydroelectric projects in my area," he noted. "The aquatic resources of such warmwater rivers as the Menominee, Peshtigo and lower Oconto rivers are being impacted by hydro dams and their operations. It's imperative that resource agencies point out these impacts to the regulator - the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) - in order to have these impacts mitigated or eliminated for the future."

"The new licenses for these facilities will run for the next 30 to 50 years," Tom said, "so we have a small window of opportunity to get changes made that will enhance these resources for the future. Some of the important issues we face in this process are daily fluctuating river flows that impact aquatic habitat, fish passage, fish stranding problems, improving recreational access to lands and improved recreational facilities at these projects."

"Although most of the hydro projects on which we've worked impact warmwater fisheries," he added, "some have also affected anadromous fisheries. The new flow regime that's been implemented on the lower Oconto River below the Stiles dam is just one of many benefits that have been derived from this process."

Another special warmwater interest of Thuemler's has been his work on the management of lake sturgeon.

"I've worked on the lake sturgeon fishery in the Menominee River for most of my career," Tom mentioned. "I feel fortunate to be able to work with this unique fish species, and especially in a state that has not only the best remaining lake sturgeon population in the country, but also one that has the most expertise when it comes to lake sturgeon management."

"One of the issues with which we're dealing right now is the development of fish passages for lake sturgeon," he noted. "Rivers such as the Menominee currently have lake sturgeon populations that are fragmented because of the many dams on the river. By reconnecting these populations through use of fish passageways, we'll be able to increase the overall size of the population."

Life isn't all work for Tom. He and wife Patrice have an eight-year old daughter, Mollie, and the family enjoys fishing of all types and traveling. Tom also busies himself with wood working projects in his off hours.

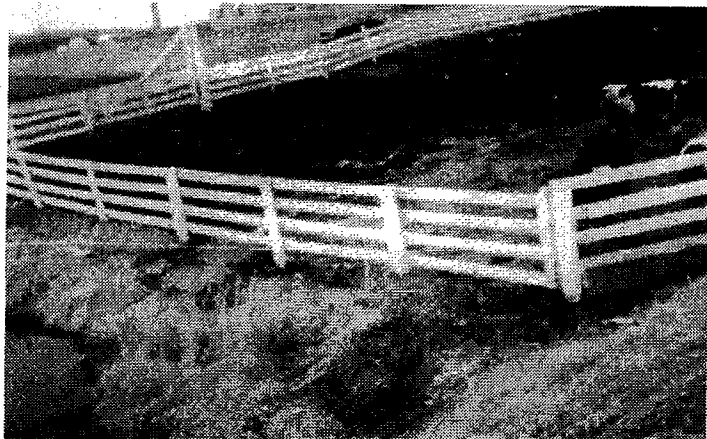
Tom's dedication to fishery resources has not gone unnoticed. The Green Bay Chapter of Trout Unlimited awarded him its "Silver Trout Award" in 1982 for his efforts on behalf of the trout fishery, and the Michigan DNR Fisheries Division bestowed its "Partnership Award" on Tom in 1994 for his cooperative efforts with that state's resource personnel on fishery projects.

Like any good manager, Thuemler has a good team with which to work in the Marinette Area, and he is quick to bestow praise.

"I feel lucky to be part of a very hard-working and talented team that works on the resource in our area," Tom said. "Russ Heizer at Marinette and Ross Langhurst at Shawano are biologists that are responsible for the management in parts of the area, and they do an excellent job of keeping abreast of what is happening to the resource and of anglers' concerns."

"We also have a group of very capable technicians in Greg Kornely, Cliff Sebero, Dean Schoenicke and Steve Kornely, who put in long hours of work on a number of projects and provide many ideas to better manage the resource," Thuemler added. "Another important team member has been Lee Meyers, our district fishery biologist who's added his expertise to a number of trout projects conducted in the area. And, of course, we've been fortunate to have good leadership and direction from Jim Moore, our District Fisheries Supervisor, who has supported our efforts in managing the area's coldwater resources."

The work that Tom Thuemler has done for the fishery resources of his area is appreciated by those who are aware of Tom's quiet yet persistent dedication to his profession. And any accolades which he has directed toward his fishery team would also be well bestowed on him, too.



Local governments can use agricultural shoreland management ordinances to set standards for farming practices near streams, lakes or ponds.

New standards in place

By Dale Gasser,
Department of Ag Trade
and Consumer Protection

In 1991, Wisconsin Act 309 directed the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) to write shoreland management ordinance guidelines to establish standards for agricultural activities related to maintaining and improving surface water quality. Act 309 also created an environmental fund from increased vehicle title transfer fees. The agricultural shoreland management program receives \$500,000 annually from this fund.

To gain public input, DATCP assembled a 14-person advisory committee with representatives from farm, environmental and municipal organizations as well as two farmers and four legislators. DATCP also presented the guidelines to the Land and Water Conservation Board (LWCB). In May, 1994, the DATCP Board approved the following minimum requirements for these ordinances:

Authority. To receive funding under the agricultural shoreland management program, local governments must adopt their ordinances under s. 92.17 Wis. Stats.

Corridor. Land within 20 feet of perennial and intermittent streams, lakes or ponds as shown on United States Geological Survey quadrangle maps is the agricultural shoreland corridor.

Management area. Land within 300 feet of perennial streams, lakes or ponds as shown on USGS quadrangle maps is the agricultural shoreland management area.

Standards. Standards must comply with the following provisions of the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) Technical Guide: row cropping is not allowed in the agricultural shoreland corridor. Cover planting or other best management erosion control practices are required in the corridor.

*Erosion cannot exceed "T", or the tolerable rate, in the agricultural shoreland management area.

*Pasturing is allowed in the agricultural shoreland corridor and agricultural shoreland management area if it meets pasture management standards. Rotational grazing is permitted if it meets standards in "Pastures for Profit" (UW-Extension, Publication A3529).

*Feedlots are allowed in the agricultural shoreland corridor if they meet barnyard runoff control standards.

*Any spreading of manure, sludge, fertilizer or other nutrients in the agricultural shoreland management area must meet nutrient management standards.

Process. Landowners not complying with the ordinance must receive written notice of the problem from the local government or office enforcing the ordinance. They must have the chance to work out a plan in cooperation with the local government or office to correct the problems in five years or less. If cost-sharing money is available, they must begin work on the plan within a year. Landowners are subject to enforcement if they do not develop a plan or meet the schedule.

Cost-share grants are available to landowners after their local government adopts an ordinance consistent with the guidelines and the ordinance is approved by DATCP. However, the amount of cost-share funds requested might exceed the funds available.

For local governments interested in receiving agricultural shoreland management cost-share funds for calendar year 1996, grant applications must be submitted to the DATCP by May 3, 1995.

For more information on the program and help getting started with a local ordinance, contact Dale Gasser, DATCP, (608) 273-6404.

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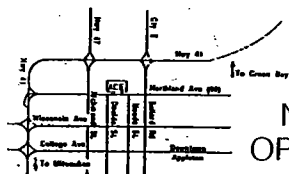


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And the basis of the "Friends" program is YOU! For annual donations of \$100 or more, "Friends" can assist with the betterment of our state trout fishery. The dollars go into a special fund to be used solely for the aforementioned areas of concern of our fishery.

"Friends" members will receive an annual "Friends" lapel pin plus a certificate of appreciation for their support. Too, all "Friends" are listed in four consecutive issues of Wisconsin Trout in recognition of their support of the coldwater resource.

Use the application form shown here to join the "Friends of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited"! Your contribution today will make for a better trout fishery in Wisconsin tomorrow!!

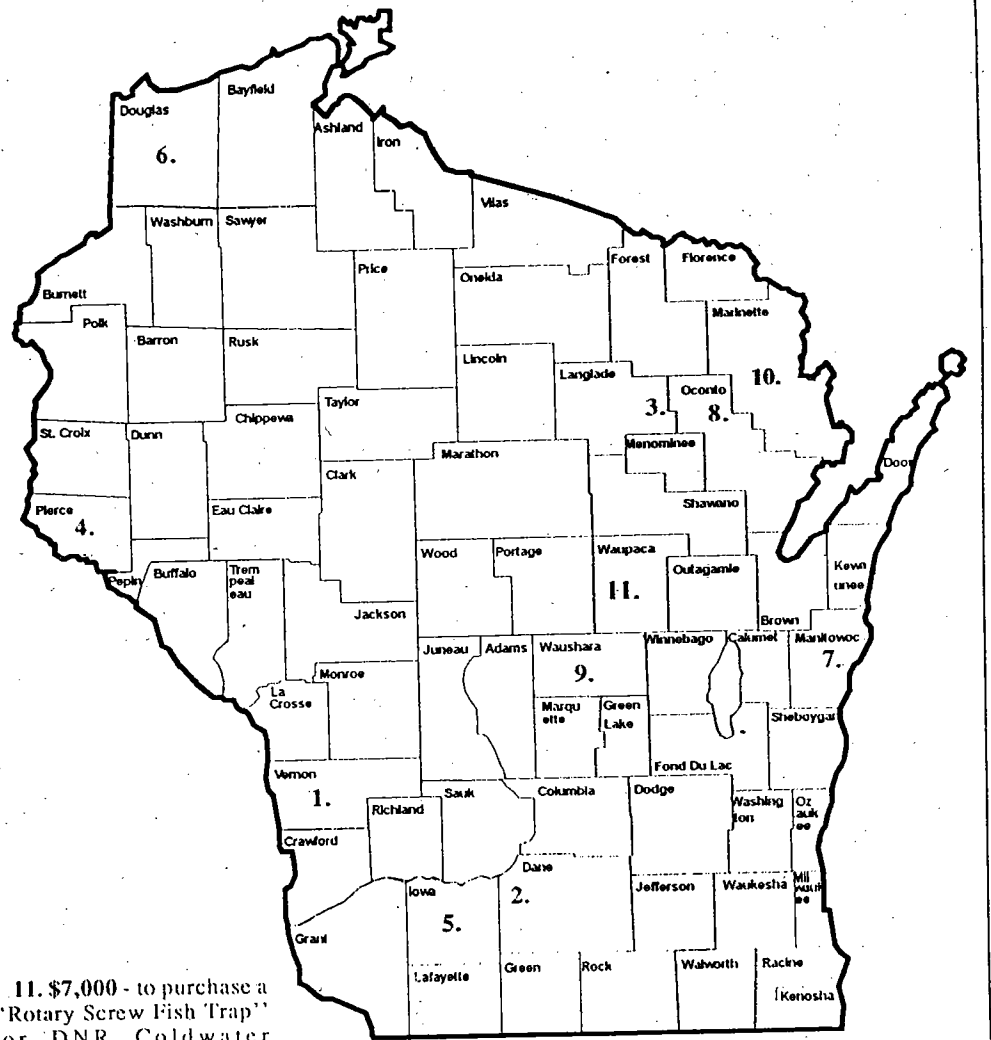
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List of Projects funded via the "Friends of Wisconsin T.U." Program

1. \$4,000 - for rip-rapping and structural improvements on the West Fork Kickapoo River (Vernon Co.)
2. \$1,500 - for placement of LUNKER structures and bank stabilization in Black Earth Creek (Dane Co.)
3. \$1,000 - for hydraulic dredging of Saul Spring Pond (Langlade Co.)
4. \$750 - for purchase of special thermometers to monitor stormwater runoff into the Kinnickinnic River (Pierce Co.)
5. \$2,000 - for re-routing and stabilizing Brewery Creek (Iowa Co.)
6. \$75 - for purchase of "catch-and-release" signs for the Bois Brule River (Douglas Co.)
7. \$2,500 - for renovation of trout rearing facilities in Lincoln Park (City of Manitowoc)
8. \$500 - for bank stabilization and structural improvement on the North Fork Thunder River (Oconto Co.)
9. \$1,000 - for land acquisition along the White River (Waushara Co.)
10. \$1,000 - to assist with acquisition of 64(+) acres of land along Upper Middle Inlet Creek (Marinette County)
11. \$7,000 - to purchase a "Rotary Screw Fish Trap" for DNR Coldwater research



Report on Brule River State Forest

The Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute of Northland College in Ashland recently released a report entitled "Sustaining the Brule River Ecosystem, Past, Present and Future." The report summarizes results from a workshop sponsored by the Institute due to the concern over the future of the Brule River State Forest (BRSF).

The June, 1994, workshop was developed in cooperation with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

The 57 workshop participants included citizens representing a variety of user groups and interests from anglers and canoers to loggers, trappers and local businesses. Terry Daulton, staff biologist at the Institute, noted that, when managing any ecosystem for

multiple uses, there come to be many controversial issues, like clearcutting, biodiversity, overuse of the river by canoers and protection of native fisheries.

At present, the DNR is in a pre-planning phase for the BRSF, with expectations of beginning revisions on the forest's 10-year plan within the next few years. During pre-planning, the DNR will conduct research, gather information and hold sessions similar to the workshop held last June.

The workshop report is available from the Institute. For more information or for a copy of the report, contact: Terry Daulton, Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute, Northland College, Ashland, Wis: 54806. Or call (715) 682-1220.

Where do I find it? Dept.

Need to find a water quality monitoring test kit? Or aquatic sampling nets, water temperature monitoring devices, and environmental education materials? Contact the following companies for a catalog:

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Funding sought for Brule River study

Researchers seek to learn role of downed timber in streams

For many years, it has been the custom of trout habitat improvement crews and Trout Unlimited chapters to remove downed trees and branches from streams as part of habitat improvement projects. It was assumed that the presence of downed timber in the streams resulted in such negative side effects as decreased water velocity and accumulated sand and sediments.

However, according to Department of Natural Resources coldwater fishery researcher **Bob DuBois** (featured in the Autumn, 1994, issue of **Wisconsin Trout**) of the Brule DNR Ranger Station, scientists have been recognizing over the last 30 years that large pieces of wood that fall into streams and rivers play an important role in keeping these waters healthy.

These pieces of wood, called "large woody debris" (LWD), help streams by allowing the formation of more and larger pools than would not exist otherwise in the streams. And the LWD also provides much needed cover for fish, while the wood surface and small places beneath the bark provide habitat for a variety of aquatic insects, i.e., food for fish.

This new information has led to a change in thinking about LWD.

Certainly, large amounts of wood in streams can have detrimental impacts on fish by restricting their movements and covering spawning areas. Only recently, however, have fishery biologists begun to realize that the presence of LWD in streams has more pluses than minuses for most fisheries.

Biologists now assert that, if a stream is thought to be a house for trout, it is the LWD that makes the "rooms."

Comparing present-day trout streams with those same streams 150 (+) years ago, biologists came to realize that there is much less wood lying on the bottoms of streams and rivers today than there was long ago. There are two reasons for this.

First, the rates of adding LWD to streams has been reduced because of clearcutting along streambanks since the late 1800s. Most of Wisconsin's forested areas were clearcut over 80 years ago, and much of the resultant second-growth timber is being harvested on annual 30-40 year rotations. Thus, the widespread harvest of

riparian trees that began in the 1800s interrupted the continual natural process of dying trees falling into streams.

The second reason for reduced amounts of LWD are the past and continuing practices of removing LWD from streams. During the intensive logging era of the 1800s, the floating of logs downriver was a major means of transporting them. Logging dams (often called "splash dams") were built to backup water and collect huge numbers of logs.

When the dams were breached, a torrent of logs and water was released to flow swiftly downstream. In order to have a clear chute for the transport of logs, vast quantities of LWD were typically removed downstream of the splash dams. In addition, LWD was removed from rivers and streams to facilitate navigation for steamboats, barges and canoes.

Continuing efforts to maintain an open canoe trail on the Bois Brule River in Douglas County by sectioning out large trees that fall all or most of the way across the stream channel have resulted in a substantial decrease in the amount of LWD in the Brule. And it is these really large pieces of wood which span the stream channel that are particularly effective for creating pools that attract fish.

Many T.U. members are aware that the Wisconsin DNR has been a national leader in trout stream habitat development for decades. The DNR has developed and put to use new designs of bank covers, current deflectors and other types of instream habitat improvement structures which help to create cover for trout or help to increase stream channel depths and pool areas. These structures have proven effective for increasing trout numbers and/or trout sizes in many types of streams.

The DNR notes with interest that these artificial structures seem to perform a function similar to that performed by naturally-occurring LWD, and some biologists wonder if there might be a link between the success of habitat improvement structures in our streams and reduced amounts of LWD since the turn of the century.

Thus, armed with the knowledge of what LWD can do for some streams, the



T.U. members removing woody debris from creek.

DNR is seeking to learn more about the role of LWD in streams and its impact on fish populations. DuBois has proposed to senior officials in the DNR's Bureau of Fish Management a plan to study the relationship between LWD amounts and fish populations in the Bois Brule River and its drainage.

DuBois notes that riparian areas in the Brule River drainage are no longer being clearcut, and thus recruitment of LWD for streams will be easier to achieve. Also, by stopping or severely limiting removal of LWD from the Brule except where minimally needed to maintain a canoe trail, this will solve the other problem of LWD removal from the stream.

It is also hoped by DuBois that legal obstacles can be surmounted so that the DNR could experimentally add some LWD to certain areas.

The proposal to conduct that study on LWD impacts in rivers and streams has generated considerable interest within the DNR. However, in a period

of tight budgets, there is a shortage of funding for certain aspects of the proposed study. And this is where Wisconsin Trout Unlimited chapters and the State Council can assist.

DuBois has listed items for which funding from T.U. would be important. Those items and their costs are:

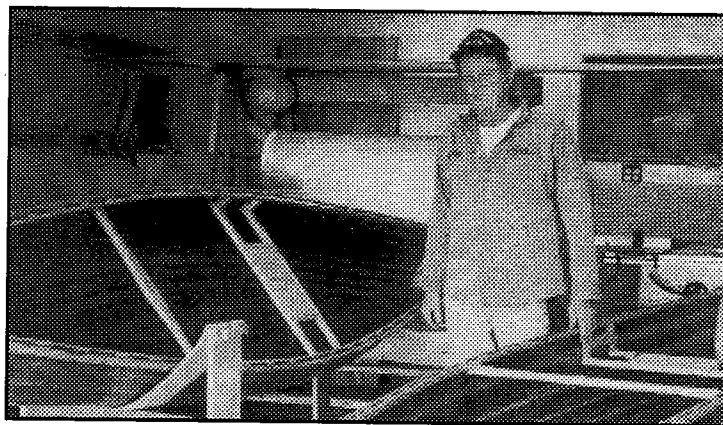
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pH Meter	\$220
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All costs are approximate.

Chapters that may wish to assist in the funding of this study should contact Bob DuBois at the Brule Ranger Station. The phone number is (715) 372-4866.

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Big Green River becomes a Class I trout stream

One of the most exciting developments for trout management in southern Wisconsin in recent years has been the creation of a Class I brown trout fishery in the Big Green River in Grant County. Inasmuch as many southern Wisconsin trout and smallmouth bass streams have experienced declining or depressed fisheries due to negative impacts on them from agricultural activities, this news about the Big Green River is truly remarkable.

The Big Green was heavily stocked with hatchery trout for more than 50 years. Although some holdover hatchery trout occasionally were able to reproduce successfully, there were never enough wild fish present in the river to justify discontinuing the stocking of hatchery fish.

In the late 1980s, Department of Natural Resources fishery biologists began a project to determine if addi-

tions of wild brown trout to the Big Green could enhance natural reproduction. Between 1988 and 1991 about 2,000 wild brown trout were removed from three Class I brown trout streams in southern Wisconsin and were relocated to the Big Green.

According to the DNR, it appears that this experiment was very successful. A mid-September, 1994, electroshocking survey of two areas in the Big Green resulted in the capture of more than 3,000 brown trout. Comparable surveys of the same areas in previous years yielded as few as 136 trout.

The survey also found a good number of 15-inch and larger brown trout, which is most unusual for Class I streams. The DNR notes, however, that this phenomenon may change as the trout population matures. Most Class I brown trout streams in Wisconsin have large numbers of small and medium-

sized fish and lower numbers of 15-inch and larger trout.

The Big Green courses through approximately 11 miles which is classified as trout water in Grant County, and 2.8 miles were surveyed in September. A breakdown of the sizes of brown trout captured is shown here:

3 to 9.9 inches - 2,364
10.0 to 14.9 inches - 592
15.0 to 19.9 inches - 143
20.0 inches and larger - 8

Along the Big Green are about eight miles of fishing easement areas that are

open to public angling. A three-mile stretch on the lower portion of the river has been established as a "catch-and-release" zone, while the remainder of the trout water is listed as Category 3 trout water, i.e., three trout per day in the creel with a nine-inch minimum size limit.

Additional information about the Big Green River, or about other Dodgeville area trout waters, can be obtained by contacting DNR fish manager Gene Van Dyck at (608) 935-3368.

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DNR crew shocking the Big Green River in Grant County.



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Wisconsin Trout

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited

Spring 1995

Governor's budget plan threatens the environment

Thompson seeks to eliminate Public Intervenor and politicize the DNR

Fresh from a landslide victory in November of 1994, Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson handed the Wisconsin Legislature a budget bill package on St. Valentine's day this year that, among many things, seeks to dismantle Wisconsin's progressive methods of handling environmental issues.

Although Thompson ignored environmental issues during last year's campaign, he has made revamping environmental and conservation policy a big issue in his budget bill.

The main topics in that ponderous tome are: 1) eliminating funding for the office of the Public Intervenor; 2) making the secretary of the Department of Natural Resources a direct gubernatorial appointee (i.e., "cabinet government" for the DNR); and 3) making the six DNR district director posts political patronage jobs rather than the civil service posts they now are.

Thompson's plan to eliminate the office of Public Intervenor has drawn widespread criticism from Democrats, who are now in the minority in both the state Senate and Assembly, but it has also been unpopular with prominent Republicans such as Assembly Speaker David Prosser of Appleton and state senator Rob Cowles of Green Bay.

The office of Public Intervenor was created during the reign of Republican governor Warren Knowles in 1967. The purpose of the Intervenor post has been to act as an advocate for the citizen of the state of Wisconsin in matters dealing with water rights and natural resources. Among the many and varied issues in which the Intervenor's office has acted on behalf of Wisconsin citizens are:

- *the proposed zinc-copper-silver-gold mine by Crandon Mining Company (a partnership of Exxon Minerals Company and Rio Algom, LTD., of Canada) which has potentially severe and lasting consequences for the Wolf River watershed in Forest and Langlade counties;

- *the overhaul of state laws regulating mining environmental impacts in the late 1970's;

- *working with Trout Unlimited to prevent the renovation of dams on Handsaw Creek (a tributary of the Thunder River in Marinette County);

- *assisting citizens to prevent the withdrawal of county forest land in Oconto, Eau Claire and Jackson counties for environmentally unsound purposes;

- *negotiating with industry and farm groups to adopt a comprehensive groundwater protection law that is considered the nation's best example of such groundwater protection regulation; and

- *successfully petitioning state agencies to improve state regulations on wetlands and septic systems, ground and drinking water, pesticides, lowland non-metallic mining, environmental

impact statements and safety.

For almost 30 years, the Public Intervenor has played the role envisioned by the Legislature and Governor Knowles. The office has advocated on behalf of the public rights in water under Wisconsin's "public trust doctrine" and public rights in other natural resources, including land, groundwater air and wildlife. That advocacy has been in court proceedings, administrative hearings, committees drafting rules and legislation and in many other forums in which decisions affecting public rights are made.

The rationale put forth by the Thompson administration for eliminating the Public Intervenor office is that money will be saved and that the positions are merely state-funded attorneys for the environmental movement.

The actual cost to Wisconsin's taxpayers (direct cost) for the Public Intervenor is between \$250,000 and \$300,000, a relatively insignificant figure.

What perhaps is Thompson's true motivation for eliminating the Intervenor's positions is the proposed mine at Crandon.

The Public Intervenor has been steadfast guardians of the public's rights in the water resources that this proposed mine might harm. Despite denials from Thompson's office that the mine has nothing to do with this proposed budget cut, it is well known that Thompson is a strong advocate of mining, especially at the Crandon site.

And Thompson's own secretary of Administration, James Klauser, is a former lobbyist for Exxon and helped dilute the mining laws enacted by the Legislature in the 1970's and 1980's.

Thompson's plan to make the DNR secretary a direct political appointee of the governor is also viewed poorly by the environmental community.

Currently, the DNR is governed by a seven-member citizens board called the Natural Resources Board, whose members are appointed by the governor to serve staggered six-year terms - without pay - on this board which hires the DNR secretary and handles DNR policy. The plan was adopted by the 1927 Wisconsin Legislature in order to remove - as much as possible - political influence from decisions impacting fishing, hunting, forestry and environmental regulation.

Wisconsin's method of administering natural resources policy has given it one of the highest rankings of any natural resource agency among the 50 states. The system allows for maximum input from citizens, advocacy groups like the Conservation Congress and Trout Unlimited, and others. The Natural Resources Board meets monthly, and all decisions are made under the scrutiny of the public, not behind closed doors.

Further, the system has allowed for a steady course in doing long range planning for conservation policies, and it

prevents the wide policy swings that occur at the federal level, where changes in administrations brings about vacillating approaches to issues.

Under Thompson's plan, the DNR secretary would be a direct gubernatorial appointment, and the Natural Resources Board - now a policy-making board - would become "advisory" only. This, in turn, would make the Conservation Congress advisory to an advisory board, thus diluting its role in conservation policy.

Even more curious is Thompson's plan to make the six DNR district directors' positions political patronage jobs rather than ones that are earned via civil service. As one state employee stated, "That's a great way to create a dumping ground for used up politicians!"

The method of attaining the rearrangement of the DNR has raised eyebrows as well. By inserting his plans into the budget bill, Thompson has figured out a way to minimize public opposition to his plans.

For the budget bill is the prize package of the Legislature's Joint Finance

Committee. Unlike other legislative committees that hold hearings and welcome any and all public testimony on legislation, the Joint Finance Committee keeps the public at bay and only allows invited persons to testify on matters.

As this paper goes to press, the Senate chairman of the Joint Finance Committee, Senator Joseph Lekan of Waupaca, has stated that he does not intend to remove the DNR reorganization items from the budget bill, even though Democrats and many Republicans contend that the politicizing of the DNR has little or no fiscal impact and should not be part of the fiscally-oriented budget bill.

Environmental and conservation groups have been attacking these proposals to date, but more input from the public is needed. The protection of Wisconsin's environment depends upon the ability of the state to make decisions that are biologically sound and for the good of the people, not for the privileged few.

How to contact your legislators

Trout Unlimited members should be contacting their representatives in the Assembly and state Senate regarding these issues. The state has a toll-free "Legislative Hotline" (1-800-362-9472) whereby citizens may call and leave a message with their own elected Assemblyperson and Senator. The line is open from 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Further, T.U. members should consider calling the office of Senator Lekan at (608) 266-0751, and urging him to remove the items pertaining to

the DNR from the budget bill as well as restoring full funding for the office of Public Intervenor.

If you don't know the name of your representatives in Madison (it's about time you did!), the operators on the "Hotline" will assist you. You may only leave a message with your own representatives via the "Hotline."

Be sure to act NOW! The budget process will be over in a couple of months, and, if citizens don't act, they will lose their ability to have input into the resource-making decisions they now enjoy.



Aldo Leopold T.U. members Clint Byrnes (left) and Marlin Spindler (right) flank Public Intervenor Tom Dawson and Kathleen Falk at March 6th rally in Madison to oppose Governor Thompson's proposal to eliminate the Intervenor's positions.

Wisconsin T.U. Council/Chapter Directory

Chairman: David Ogletree, 2661 Milwaukee St., Madison, WI 53704 (608) 246-4227
Vice-Chairman: Dave Newhouse, 229 Ridgeway, Rhinelander, WI 54501 (715) 362-5263
Secretary: Jon Christiansen, 237 Aster Lane, Minocqua, WI 53092
Treasurer: Forrest Grulke, 1356 Home Ave., Menasha, WI 54952 (414) 739-5155
Past Chairman: Forrest Grulke, 1356 Home Ave., Menasha, WI 54952 (414) 739-5155

Fund Raising: John Cantwell, 2286 Mt. Olive, Green Bay, WI 54313 (414) 434-3989 (H)
Legal Counsel: Winston Ostrow, 335 Trader's Point Ln., Green Bay, WI 54302 (414) 469-1596 (H)
Publications: Mitch Bent, 935 South Union St., Shawano, WI 54166 (715) 524-5886
Water Resources: Russ Bouck, 9357 Nelson Rd., Amherst Junction, WI 54407 (715) 824-3781
Youth/Education: Dale Lange, N3167 Right-of-Way Rd., Peshtigo, WI 54157 (715) 582-4172 (H)
Membership: Jim Hlaban, 1421 Silverwood, Neenah, WI 54956 (414) 722-4335
Aldo Leopold Chapter (#375): Clint Byrnes, 921 S. Spring St., Beaver Dam, WI 53916 (414) 885-5335
Antigo Chapter (#313): Scott Hen-

ricks, 213 Mary St., Antigo, WI 54409 (715) 623-3867
Blackhawk Chapter: (#390): Richard Alfors, 4599 Totter Trail, Rockford, IL 61101-9041 (815) 968-4102
Central WI Chapter: Russ Bouck, 9357 Nelson Rd., Amherst Junction, WI 54407 (715) 824-3781
Coulee Region Chapter (#278): John Bethke, 118 Vernon St., Westby, WI 54667; (608) 634-3641
Fox Valley Chapter (#193): Ryan Hagen, 316 Naymut St., Menasha, WI 54952 (414) 722-8015 (H)
Frank Hornberg Chapter: (#624): Jeff Dimick, P.O. Box 393, Stevens Point, WI 54481-0393 (715) 677-4947
Green Bay Chapter (#083): Janet Smith, 3358 Nautical Ave., Green Bay, WI 54311 (414) 433-3803 (O); (414) 468-6154 (H)
Harry Nohr Chapter: Joe Bodewes, 329 W. Division, Dodgeville, WI 53533 (608) 935-2533
Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter (#168): Gary Horvath, 623 W. Pine St., River Falls, WI 54022-2036 (715) 425-8489
Lakeshore Chapter (#423): Jeff Preiss, 15915 CTH "C", Valders, WI 54245 (414) 773-2693 (H)
Marinette County Chapter (#422): Dale Lange, N3167 Right-of-Way Rd., Peshtigo, WI 54157 (715) 582-4172 (H)
Northwoods Chapter (#256): Bill Sherer, 6272 Oswego Fishtrap Lake

Road, Boulder Junction, WI 54512-9721 (715) 385-2186
Oconto River Watershed Chapter (#385): Dave Brunner, 5473 Cardinal Rd., Gillett, WI 54124 (414) 855-6669 (H)
Ojibseau Chapter (#255): John Welter, 204 E. Grand Ave., P.O. Box 358, Eau Claire, WI 54702 (715) 832-3494 (O); (715) 832-7028 (H)
Shaw-Paca Chapter (#381): Jerry Weatherwax, RR 3, Box 203A, Shawano, WI 54166 (715) 524-5642 (H) (715) 823-2180 (O)
Southeastern WI Chapter (#078):

Jon P. Christiansen, 237 Aster Lane, Mequon, WI 53092 (414) 241-5220 (H)
Southern WI Chapter (#061): David Ogletree, 2661 Milwaukee St., Madison, WI 53704 (608) 246-4227 (H)
Wild Rivers Chapter (#415): Paul Gilbert, RR 1, Box 24, Cable, WI 54821 (715) 798-3218 (H)
Wisconsin River Valley Chapter (#395): Herb Hintze, 629 Hamilton St., Wausau, WI 54401 (715) 842-1365 (H)
Wolf River Chapter (#050): Herb Buettner, N4297 Buettner Road, White Lake, WI 54491 (715) 882-8610 (H)

Wisconsin T.U. Chapter meeting times, locations

Aldo Leopold: When needed or called; at Beaver Dam Conservation Club, CTH "G", Beaver Dam.
Antigo: Not listed.
Blackhawk: Third Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at UW-Rock County Campus (South Building).
Central Wisconsin: Board meetings at Tilly's in Wautoma on second Monday of the month, 7:00 p.m.
Coulee Region: Not given.
Fox Valley: Third Thursday of the month, 7:30 p.m., at The Forester Club, Spencer St., Appleton.
Frank Hornberg Chapter: Second Thursday of the month, 7:00 p.m. at Shooter's Supper Club, Hwys. 51 & 54, Plover. No meetings May-September.
Green Bay: First Thursday of September, October, November, January, February, March and April at Maricque's, 1517 University Ave., Green Bay at 7:30 p.m. May picnic/meeting at the Brown County Reforestation Camp. December Christmas/awards dinner at site to be determined. No chapter meetings June-Aug.
Kiap-TU-Wish: First Wednesday of the month at JR Ranch east of Hudson on Hwy. 12 north of I-94. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.; meeting at 8:00 p.m.
Lakeshore: Second Monday of the month, 7:30 p.m. at The Club Bil-Mar, Old Hwy. 141, Manitowoc.
Marinette County: First Tuesday

of the month, 7:00 p.m., at The Dome, 751 University Drive, Marinette.
Harry Nohr: Not given.
Northwoods: Third Thursday of the month, 7:30 p.m., at Associated Bank (Community Room), Stevens at Davenport Streets, Rhinelander.
Oconto River Watershed: First Wednesday of the month, 7:45 p.m., at the Lone Oak Gun Club, Hwy. 32 North, Gillett.
Ojibseau: Second Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m., at the Eau Claire Rod & Gun Club, Eau Claire.
Shaw-Paca: Third Thursday of the month, 8:00 p.m., at the Corner Bar, County "M", in Pella (Shawano County).
Southeastern Wisconsin: Fourth Tuesday of the month. Dinner at 6:00 p.m., meeting at 7:30 p.m. At the Bavarian Wursthau, 8310 Appleton Ave., Milwaukee.
Southern Wisconsin: Second Tuesday of the month, dinner at 6:00 p.m., meeting at 7:00 p.m. At the Maple Tree Restaurant, McFarland.
Wild Rivers: Not given.
Wisconsin River Valley: First Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m., at the North Central Technical College, Wausau.
Wolf River: At various times. Call Herb Buettner (715-882-8612) for information.

Natural Resources Board Directory

Herb Behnke, Chairman
 Rt. 4 Box 68
 Shawano, WI 54166

Trygve Solberg, Vice-chairman
 Box 50
 Minocqua, WI 54458

Neal Schneider, Secretary
 Box 71
 Janesville, WI 53545

Betty Jo Nelsen
 2640 E. Newton Ave.
 Shorewood, WI 53211

Mary Jane Nelson
 W6432 Hwy. D
 Holmen, WI 54636

James Tiefenthaler
 450 N. Sunny Slope Rd.
 Suite 280
 Brookfield, WI 53003

Steve Willett
 Box 89
 Phillips, WI 54455

New Chapter leader? Please tell us

When chapters elect new officers, it is essential that they inform the State Council AND the T.U. National office of that change. Otherwise, vital information for chapter use gets lost, as it is the unfortunate custom of outgoing chapter presidents to fail to forward mail.

Here are the rules to follow when changing chapter presidents:

1. Inform T.U. National by calling Wendy Reed at (703) 522-0200. She will need name, address, and home and/or work phone number(s). Or, you can mail that information to her at: Trout Unlimited, 1500 Wilson Blvd. Suite 310, Arlington, VA 22209. Include the name of your chapter AND the three-

digit chapter ID number (see Council/Chapter directory on this page).

2. Inform the State Council of the change, too. Send that information to Mitch Bent, 935 S. Union St., Shawano, WI 54166. Or, call him at (715) 524-5886.

Now, even with these instructions, some chapter presidents or ex-presidents just won't follow through with the request. So, if you notice that your chapter's president is incorrectly listed in the Council/Chapter directory, PLEASE inform Mitch Bent at the address or phone number listed. It's better to have too much communication than not enough.

Changing address? Do it right!

If you're changing your address, here are the proper rules to follow in order to continue receiving communications from Trout Unlimited.

1. Send notices of address changes directly to the T.U. National office. That address is: Trout Unlimited Membership Service, 14101 Parke Long Court, Chantilly, VA 22021-1645.

2. Include your eight-digit T.U. identification number with change of address notice. It is found on the upper left hand corner of mailing labels attached to TROUT magazine, Wisconsin Trout newspaper or your chapter newsletter.

3. If you are moving to a different

city within Wisconsin and wish to be affiliated with the T.U. chapter in your area, make note of that, too, and include the three-digit chapter identification number of the new chapter into which you are transferring.

4. If you have any questions, you may call Mitch Bent at (715) 524-5886. BUT...you should not send notice of address changes to him. They will not be accepted; rather, they will be returned to the sender. All notice of address changes should go directly to T.U. National. T.U. National's Phone Number: (703) 522-0200 * FAX (703) 284-9400.

WISCONSIN TROUT

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

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Mitch Bent, Editor
 935 South Union St.
 Shawano, WI 54166
 (715) 524-5886

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Council Officers

David Ogletree, Chairman
 2661 Milwaukee St.
 Madison, WI 53704

Dave Newhouse, Vice-Chairman
 229 Ridgeway
 Rhinelander, WI 54501

Jon Christiansen, Secretary
 237 Aster Lane
 Minocqua, WI 53092

Forrest Grulke, Treasurer
 1356 Home Ave.
 Menasha, WI 54952

Letters to the Editor

Use wild trout transfers

Editor, Wisconsin Trout:

In the last issue of Wisconsin Trout, the article on the Big Green River touched upon a subject in which I have had a great deal of interest during the past 10 years, that being the transfer of wild trout (mainly brown trout) from streams where they are overabundant to streams where there is no natural reproduction of trout.

It appears to me that this is a logical solution to the problems of excessive numbers of trout in good quality streams and poor survival of hatchery-reared trout that are stocked in Class II and III streams.

The issue of poor hatchery-reared trout survival was very noticeable a few years ago (1990 and 1991). Survey after survey showed that hatchery fish disappeared from the streams in which they were stocked even when with nobody fishing for them (Ed. note: the years 1990 and 1991 saw seasons in southwestern and northeastern Wisconsin restricted to complete closure or "catch-and-release" fishing due to the impacts of the late 1980's drought).

Fish research personnel and some fish managers are experimenting with rearing wild fish in hatcheries in an attempt to remedy the problem. Why not go one step further and allow the wild fish to be reared in their natural environment and then remove them (via electroshocking) when they reach six to seven inches in length and transfer them to streams that normally receive hatchery fish?

A crew of three or four people could remove several thousand fish in a day. I personally removed about 2,000 wild browns from a small stream by Boscobel and stocked them in many streams. I had one failure, and that appeared to be due to a manure runoff problem. The Big Green River project was a spectacular success.

There are many advantages to using wild brown trout transfers for shocking

streams, and I can think of five right off the top of my head:

1. The natural wariness of wild browns can allow them to live for six years or more. This is enough time for them to grow to trophy size in their new environment.

2. If enough nursery fish are removed, the fish that remain in the nursery streams would have improved growth rates.

3. If conditions were suitable, natural reproduction would occur in the stocked streams, and further stocking might not be necessary.

4. If the wild fish quickly disappeared, this would indicate that there was an environmental problem that was killing the trout or forcing them to leave that section of their new stream.

5. Fish rearing facilities and all of the expenses involved in producing trout for inland streams could be reduced or eliminated.

Hatchery-reared fish that survive in streams almost always spawn too early (late August or September), and this means that their offspring will emerge from the redds in November or December instead of February or March. This is likely why hatchery-reared fish rarely spawn successfully in streams.

Larry Claggett, the DNR's Coldwater Specialist, recently contacted all fish managers in Wisconsin and encouraged them to try doing some wild trout transfers. I "second that motion." And I would encourage fish managers to try moving fish to streams where there might not be suitable conditions for spawning, as streams of this type generally have the best potential for producing larger trout.

Sincerely,

Roger Kerr

Former DNR Fish Manager

5350 Hwy. 133E

Wilson Nursery

Boscobel, WI 53805

Plover River concerns

Editor, Wisconsin Trout:

I am a dedicated trout angler who is concerned with the future of our coldwater companions. Lately, the Plover River in Marathon County has received much attention concerning stream rehabilitation. This is great! However, I feel some attention should be given to new restrictions.

What good is a rehabilitated stream if the fish population is not there? In this case, special restrictions i.e., making the Plover a Category 5 stream from CTH "Z" south to Highway 153) would prove beneficial. I have spoken with other anglers who feel the same as I do on this topic. The point of this letter is to express my concern (about the Plover) and hopefully expand the thoughts of other anglers.

Although the stretch mentioned above seems to cover a vast amount of water, let us not forget that trout are migratory fish. What is the point of making a small section of the River a Category 5 stretch if the fish are only going to be protected part of the time?

Anglers may argue that the Plover has too much "dead water"; however, at some point that water is used by the trout. I have caught, and I've seen other people catch, some dandy trout out of sandy, shallow or so-called "dead water." It does not matter if the trout were merely migrating through. What does matter is, if the restrictions are in place, the trout may have a better chance to survive.

A slot-size limit would greatly enhance the number of mature spawners and "trophy trout" without limiting those anglers who wish to catch trout to keep and eat. Therefore, legal brook trout for this section of the Plover should be somewhere between eight and 10 inches (with only one over 14 inches being allowed in the daily creel limit), and the size limit on browns and

rainbows should be in the 10-12 inch range (with only one over 20 inches in the daily creel). The daily creel limit should remain at three.

Many anglers will state that mortality of "catch-and-release" is too great for this to work. I also agree with this thought pattern. Since mortality when artificial lures are used is at the six-to-eight percent mark and that when live bait is used equates to 25 percent, an "artificial only" restriction would have to go into effect. Unfortunately, this will restrict bait anglers; however, the issue at hand is what is best for the trout.

Two other major advantages to these proposed restrictions are reduced traffic on the river and reduced pressure on trout. The human race can only put so much pressure on a given ecosystem before that system deteriorates, and trout streams are very delicate. Please do not misunderstand me! I am not out to make trout fishing an elitist sport; I'd simply like more anglers to become more respectful, not only to the trout, but to the trout's environment.

To those out there who feel the restrictions would be too confusing, I'd ask that you please consider how confusing VCR manuals can be; yet, we take time to understand them. I am sure that any true sportsman/sportswoman would be willing to make the effort to understand the restrictions.

I am truly thankful for your time in reading this letter, and would hope to see it printed in a future issue of Wisconsin Trout. I'd like to thank everyone who helps out in supporting Wisconsin's coldwater environment. It's one of Wisconsin's great treasures; let's keep it that way!

Sincerely,

Christopher R. Hamerla

3604 Northwestern Ave.

Wausau, WI 54403

Contract aims at environmental research

The new Republican majorities in the United States Congress have been taking aim at eviscerating a wide phalanx of conservation and environmental programs that were established in a bipartisan fashion over the past 25 years. In honoring their "Contract With America," the GOP has tossed a wrecking ball at a number of budget items that have been invaluable tools of governmental scientific research.

Included among these intended casualties of new majority's war on conservation is the National Biological Service. Suggested cuts by the GOP threaten the closure of the NBS's Great Lakes Science Center in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and could have potentially drastic effects on the studies and research on coaster brook trout and Lake trout.


On February 22nd, the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee approved a recession (i.e., reduction of existing budget) of 10 percent for the

NBS for fiscal year 1995. Since the year is already halfway through, that amounts to a 20 percent cut. To come up with the \$16.7 million cut out of existing funds, the NBS was directed to reduce important nationwide research. It must close parts or all of one of four major research facilities, including the one at Ann Arbor.

If that center is closed, literally hundreds of biological samples and accompanying data - some well over 60 years old - would be lost, thus eliminating any chance for long-term evaluations.

Commenting on the proposed cuts, Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt said, "The proposed destruction of these agencies is the resource equivalent of book-burning. Eliminating the NBS will simply allow Congress and the bureaucrats to make decisions based on whim and preference - not on facts."

Babbitt also warned that this was only the first step in a campaign to eliminate natural resource science.



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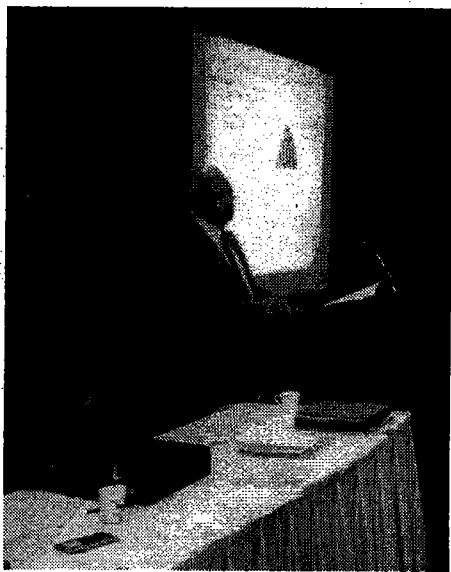
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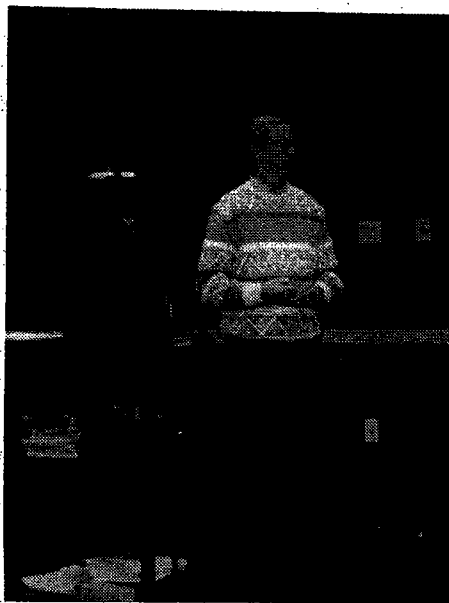
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New "early season," Trout



Lee Kernen discusses proposed changes in Trout Stamp uses at the January 28th State Council meeting.



Larry Claggett shows T.U. delegates the proposed new early trout season format.

The leadership of fisheries management in Wisconsin paid a visit to the Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited annual meeting on Jan. 28th to inform the Council on some proposals that the DNR has regarding trout fishing in the state.

Lee Kernen, chief of the Bureau of Fisheries, and Larry Claggett, the DNR's Trout Specialist, brought forth a proposal to revamp the currently deceased "early trout season" in southern Wisconsin, and they also told the Council about budgetary plans to allow the DNR to use up to \$100,000 of Inland Trout Stamp revenues for carrying out trout stream surveys.

The revised early season plan came about as a result of many meetings between the DNR and members of the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited. The SWTU members had pressed the Department to come up with an alternate plan for providing early trout season fishing in lieu of the demise of the original early season this past year.

Kernen and Claggett showed the Council some data from different streams around the state indicating when trout fry might escape from spawning redds. The DNR had recently concluded that spawning redd perturbation by anglers wading in streams in the winter months might have negative impacts on developing trout fry and thus might harm future year classes of trout.

Given that data, Kernen noted that the DNR had arrived at a new area and season framework to be offered to trout anglers.

As the adjoining map shows, the new area for a revamped early trout season would be that area south of a line beginning with Highway 33 in the western part of the state and extending through Highway 151 in the east. The original eight counties that had had the former

early trout season are shown with diagonal lines for comparison's sake.

The new early trout season as proposed by the DNR would start about April 1 and would continue through the day prior to opening day of the regular statewide fishing season, which is the first Saturday in May. Rules that would apply to the early trout season would be: 1) "catch-and-release" fishing; 2) only artificial flies and lures may be used; and 3) all hooks must be barbless.

The new early trout season format would attempt to alleviate problems and fears that accrued from the previous early trout season format.

With the new plan, the area open to early season fishing would be much broader than the old eight-county area. The inclusion of Dane County in the plan would also address criticism from the rural southwestern Wisconsin counties that anglers from Dane County were not willing to have an early season in their own county, but wanted one in others.

The April 1 proposed opening date would satisfy fears by some that early season angling was disrupting trout spawning beds. Data collected by the DNR indicates that by April 1 most trout fry in the southern third of the state have left their redds and were living in the streams.

And, the "catch-and-release," artificial-only, barbless hook codicil would allow recreational trout angling with no legal harvest and minimal trout mortality, thus saving allowable trout harvest for anglers of all methods until opening day, when the angling regulations on the streams in the early season zone would revert to their normal categorization as per the Wisconsin Trout Fishing Regulations pamphlet.

The Wisconsin State Council representatives reviewed the new early season plan, and then voted unanim-

Information on Emergence of Trout From Spawning Redds

Water	Dates Eggs & Fry Present	Emergence		Investigator
		Range	Peak	
Spring Cr. Oneida Co.	March 10 & 29			Brasch 1949
Spring Ponds Langlade Co.	Feb. - March			Carline 1971 Brasch 1949
Lawrence Cr. Marquette Co.	Dec. 28 - March 16			Hausle 1973
Lawrence Cr. Marquette Co.		Feb. - May 7	March	Miller 1970
Trout Cr. Iowa Co.	Dec. - Feb.		Feb.-Mar.	Avery 1980
SE Minnesota		March 15 - April 15		Anderson '83
Michigan		Feb. 2 - March 22		Hansen 1975

Comparison of available trout waters between former early trout season and new proposal.

Number and Mileage of Trout Streams in Southern Zone

Area	Number	Miles			Total Miles
		Class I	Class II	Class III	
Old Early Season Counties	245	78	718	104	900
Other Southern Zone Counties	130 (+53%)	79 (+100%)	182 (+25%)	197 (+189%)	458 (+50%)
Total	375	157	900	301	1358

Mortality of Trout Eggs and Fry From Wading on Redds in Montana (from Roberts 1988)

Frequency of Wading	Species	Mortality
Once	Brown	2.8% - 37.4%
"	Rainbow	7.1% - 52.9%
Twice Daily	Brown	89%
"	Rainbow	96%

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BROOK and RAINBOW TROUT

Stamp changes discussed

ously to endorse the proposal. Kernan told the Council that he had been given permission to bypass the usual method of rule changes, i.e., by going through the Conservation Congress hearing route before bringing the proposal to the Natural Resources Board. Instead, Kernan said that he would proffer the idea to Wisconsin T.U. and the Trout Study Committee of the Congress, and then public hearings would be held this summer on the plan.

If there are favorable reviews by the public on this plan, Kernan will then bring the idea before the Natural Resources Board for their decision. Should the NRB look kindly upon the plan, the new early season would be implemented in 1996.

Regarding the modification of use of Inland Trout Stamp funds, Kernan and Claggett noted that continuing budget restraints being sought by the Thompson administration has forced the DNR to review and consolidate many programs. In past years, monies for trout surveys came from the general license revenues. With license sales remaining flat or falling, budgets have shrunk and the DNR had to look elsewhere for the money to conduct the surveys, which are necessary precursors for fisheries management to establish angling regulations and carry out habitat improvements.

Currently, the language of the Inland

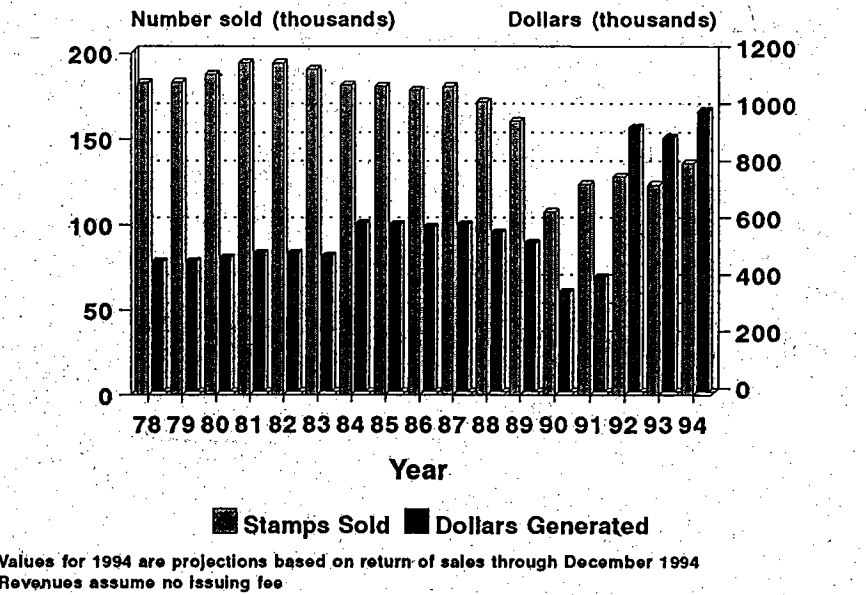
Trout Stamp statute permits use of those funds only for habitat improvements, with a small portion allowed for administration and salaries of habitat crew workers. Given a shortage of revenues from license sales and some surplus in the Inland Trout Stamp fund, the DNR is seeking to change the wording of the Trout Stamp law to permit the Department to use the Trout Stamp revenues to fund the stream surveys.

Again, the Wisconsin Council reviewed the DNR proposal and approved the plan, with only one dissenting vote.

Claggett also reported to the Council that only minor "housekeeping" changes will be submitted to the annual spring Conservation Congress fish and game hearings with regard to the inland trout fishing regulations. Of note, though, to trout anglers will be proposals to have extended seasons (Oct. 1 - Nov. 15) on the Wolf River in Langlade County and on the Peshtigo River in Forest and Marinette counties. These extended seasons would be for "catch-and-release" fishing only, with artificial flies and lures required.

Claggett noted that these rule changes are for review only by Congress meeting attendees, and votes will be taken only if requested at respective county Congress hearings. A list of the proposed changes is shown adjacent to this article.

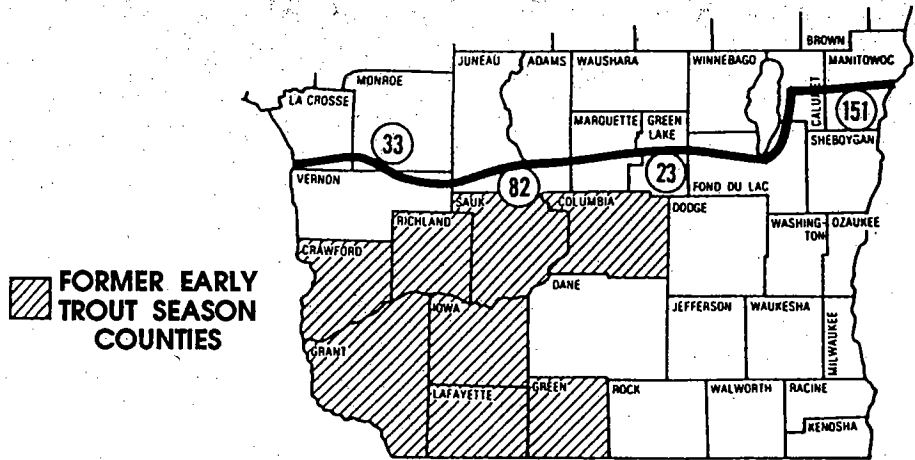
Wisconsin Inland Trout Stamp Sales and Revenues



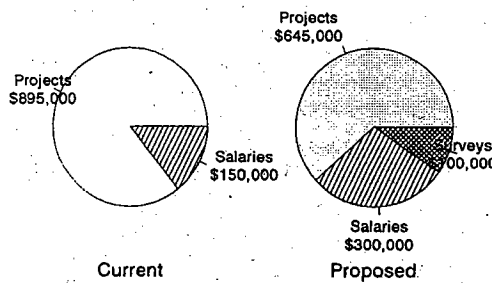
Summary of Inland Trout Regulation Change Proposals for 1996

County	Description of Change	Justification
Adams	- Change Neenah Cr. (Upper) from cat. 5 (10-15" slot) to 1 > 18" - Change L. Roche A Cr. from cat. 2 to cat. 5 (8-12" slot)	Trophy potential Simplify boundary Protect large trout
Barron	Add extended season to L. Granite L.	More opportunity
Columbia	- Change Rowley Cr. from cat. 3 to 4 - Change Upper Rowan from cat. 5 to 3	Survey info. No large fish
Dane	Reinstitute an early season on lakes and ponds	Correction
Dunn	- Remove cat. 5 section on Red Cedar R. - Change Elk Cr. cat. 5 from 1>18" to 10-14" slot with 1>14"	No large fish Survey info.
Florence	- Change Patten L. and Chipmunk Cr. from cat. 1 to 2 - Change Wisconsin Cr. from cat. 2 to 4 - Remove Sand L. and add extended season to Sand Lake (T38N, R18E, S21)	New classification Improve size structure Correction
Forest	- Change N. Otter Cr. from 9-12" slot to 10-14" slot - Change Lucerne L. from 15" size limit to 16" size limit - Add an extended season (till Nov. 15) on the Peshtigo R.	Standardize Standardize More opportunity
Langlade	Add extended season (Oct. 1 to Nov. 15) on Wolf R.	More opportunity
Lincoln	- Remove artificial lure restriction from Long and Bass L. - Add Hiltz L. with an extended season and 3 > 12"	Correction New trout lake
Marathon	- Add Jacobson Springs with cat. 3 - Change Silent Springs from cat. 5 to cat. 3	New trout water Opportunity for disabled
Marinette	- Change Thunder R. from cat. 2 to 4 - Add an extended season (till Nov. 15) on the Peshtigo R.	Standardize More opportunity
Marquette	Change Mecan R. cat. 3 portion to cat. 5	New classification
Oconto	- Change base reg. from cat. 1 to 2 - Change Waupesa Cr. from cat. 2 to 4 - Change Oconto R. cat. 5 from 3 bag to 1 bag and size limits for brooks from 10 to 12" and browns from 13 to 18" - Remove Kathleen L.	Improve size structure Trophy potential
Oneida	- Remove Bird L.	No longer stocked
Portage	- Change L. Wolf R. from cat. 2 to 4 - Change Tomorrow R. (Middle) boundary from CTH SS to First St. - Change Tomorrow R. (Upper) from cat. 3 to 4, and add a cat. 5 section (1 bag, bn > 14", bk > 10")	Simplify Correction Protect large trout
Richland	- Change slot limit on Grinsell Cr. on brook trout from 10-18" to 10-14"	Correction
Rock	Reinstitute an early season on lakes and ponds	Correction
Sauk	- Change from cat. 5 (slots) and cat. 4 to cat. 3 - Add extended season (Oct. 1 to March 1) to Devil's L.	Survey info. Continue ice fishing
Shawano	Change base reg. from cat. 1 to cat. 2	
Sheboygan	Remove Butler L. and Big Elkhart L.	No longer managed for trout
St. Croix	Change Upper Willow R. from cat. 3 to 2, and all waters in the Park from cat. 3 to 5 (0 bag April, 1>16")	Trophy potential
Waupaca	- Change 5 lakes from 45" cum. bag to cat. 2 or 4 - Change Radley Cr. from cat. 2 and 4 to cat. 3 - Change cat. 4 portion of Waupaca R. to cat. 5 - Change L. Wolf R. from cat. 4 to 5	Simplify Survey info. Trophy potential Trophy brooks
Waushara	- Change 2 lakes, 2 ponds, and 2 streams from 45" cum. bag to cat. 2 - Change Mecan R. from cat. 3 to 5	Simplify Trophy potential
Vilas	- Open South basin of Trout L. and increase size limit from 26 to 30" - Remove Papoose L.	Simplify, enforcement, and protection No longer stocked
Wood	Change Ten Mile Cr. from cat. 3 to 2	Stocked fish will be legal

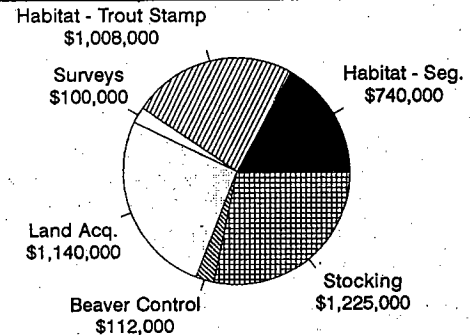
Proposed Southern Trout Zone - Area of the proposed "Southern Trout Zone" lies south of the highway boundary line shown on the map.



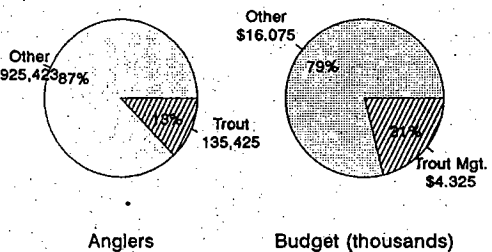
Expenditures of Trout Stamp



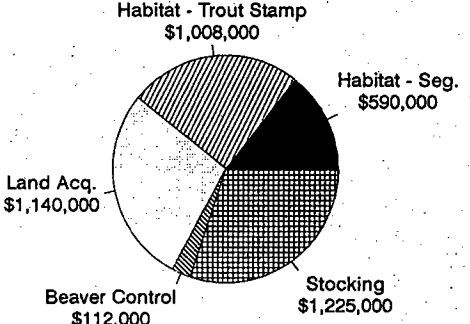
Current Expenditures for Trout Management

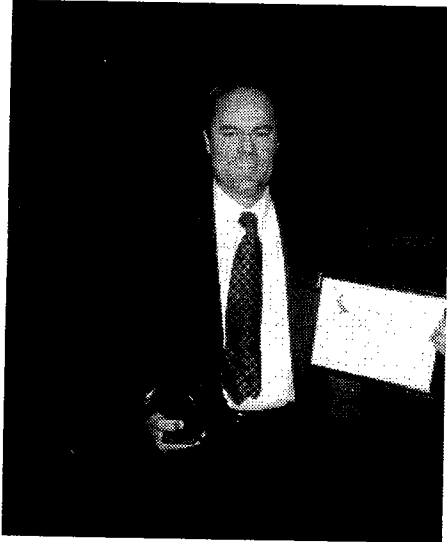


Percent of Trout Anglers Compared to Percent of Budget Spent on Trout Management



Proposed Expenditures for Trout Management

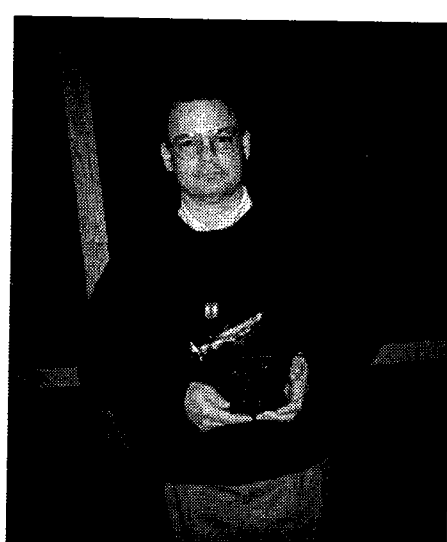




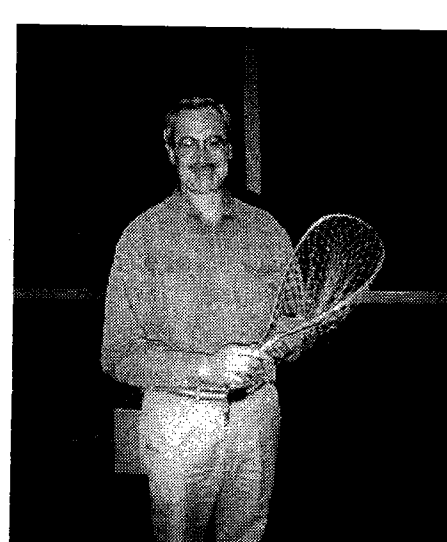
Legislative Service Award
State Senator Rob Cowles
(R. - Green Bay)



Silver Trout Award
Frank Hornberg Chapter
(Pres. Jeff Dimick shown with award)



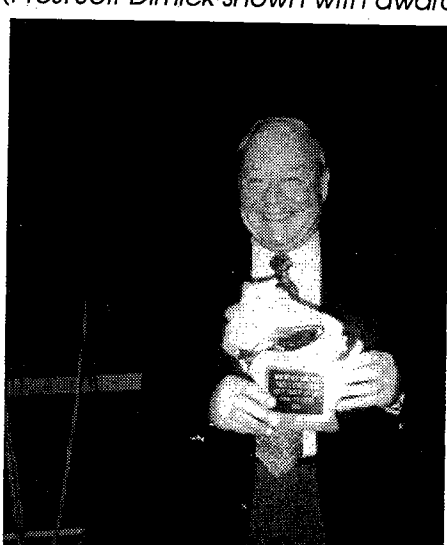
Gold Net Award
Bob Estlund



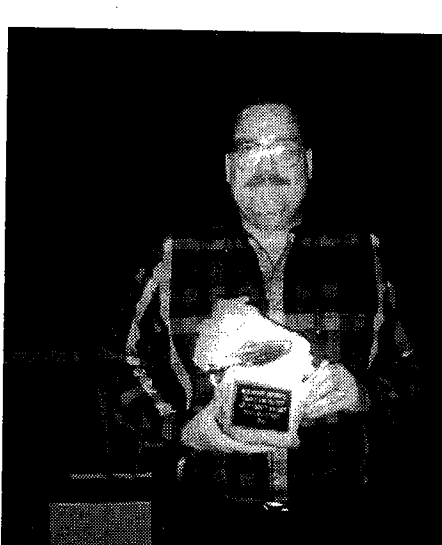
Gold Net Award
John Cantwell



Award of Merit
George Vukelich



Gold Trout Award
Harley Erbs



Gold Trout Award
David Ogletree



Gold Trout Award
Jim Hlaban

Awards given at State Council banquet

At the 10th Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited Conservation Awards banquet held January 28th in Oshkosh, the Council presented a number of awards to deserving individuals and groups. They are as follows:

AWARD OF MERIT - George Vukelich. A writer and resident of Dane County, Vukelich received his award for his many years of writing about and talking about the environmental problems facing Wisconsin, particularly those problems relating to water quality and habitat loss.

GOLD TROUT AWARDS - to Jim Hlaban of Neenah for his many years of service to the State Council in the

capacities of Membership Chairman, Central Region Vice-President and organizer of the "Catch-and-Release" committee that is educating anglers on proper techniques of releasing fish;

to Harley Erbs of Rhinelander for his many years of T.U. activism, including terms as president of the Northwoods Chapter and as Northeast Regional Vice-President; and

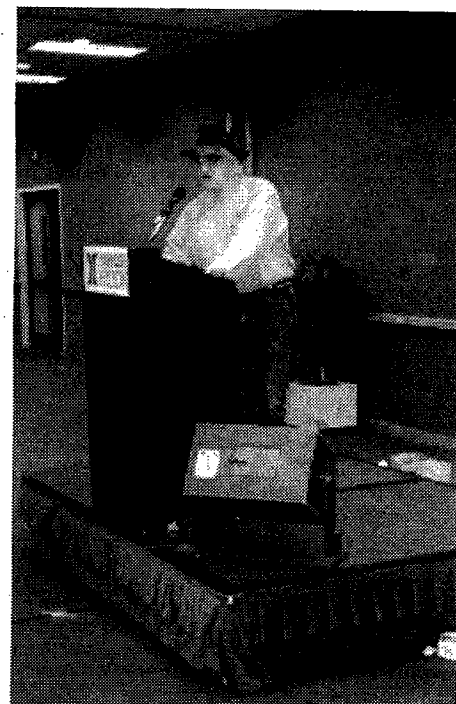
to Dave Ogletree of Madison for his efforts on behalf of Trout Unlimited to protect Dane County's Black Earth Creek from impending industrial development.

GOLD NET AWARDS - to John Cantwell of Green Bay for his work in starting and promoting the "Friends of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited" fund-raising program, which has netted over \$23,000 for the State Council's use in stream habitat improvement and coldwater research; and

to Bob Estlund of Wauwatosa for his work in revitalizing the Southeastern Wisconsin chapter and his work in stream improvements, fund-raising and education.

SILVER TROUT AWARD - to the Frank Hornberg Chapter of the Stevens Point/Wisconsin Rapids area for serving as an effective voice for coldwater resource conservation in the heart of Wisconsin.

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE AWARD - to State Senator Rob Cowles (R. - 2nd Dist., Green Bay) for his career-long concern for environmental protection and his work as chairperson of the Senate Environment and Energy Committee since 1993.



Writer George Vukelich of Madison was the guest speaker at the Council's Conservation Awards Banquet.



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A crowd of about 175 people enjoyed the 10th State Council Conservation Awards Banquet.

Join the "Friends of Wisconsin T.U."

The 1995 trout fishing season is almost upon us, and most T.U. members are probably busy getting their gear in shape for another fun-filled season.

While you're making a list of what to buy, be sure to put down one item that will go a long way to insure good trout fishing in the future. That is, of course, a membership in the "Friends of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited."

For the past five years, the successful "Friends" program has brought in over \$23,000 to the Wisconsin State T.U. Council for funding various coldwater habitat, education and research projects. And the State Council intends to continue with this record of achievement.

And that's where YOU enter the picture.

The "Friends" program relies on the generosity of average TU'ers, local chapters and businesses to provide the funds needed to help finance the many and varied efforts that "Friends" has done. Annual contributions of \$100 or more go into a special fund to be used ONLY for the likes of projects shown on the map.

And although the annual "Friends" campaign is soon to be underway, you can get a head start on it by filling out the "Friends" form and mailing it in with a check payable to Trout Unlimited as shown.

Your tax deductible donation will earn you listing in four consecutive issues of Wisconsin Trout along with all the other "Friends", and you will receive a "Friends" lapel pin and certificate of appreciation.

Best of all, though, you will get the satisfaction of knowing that you are directly benefitting Wisconsin's precious coldwater resources for today and down the road.

So, don't delay, sign up TODAY! Join the "Friends of Wisconsin T.U.," and help ensure a better future for trout fishing in Wisconsin!

"FRIENDS OF WISCONSIN T.U."

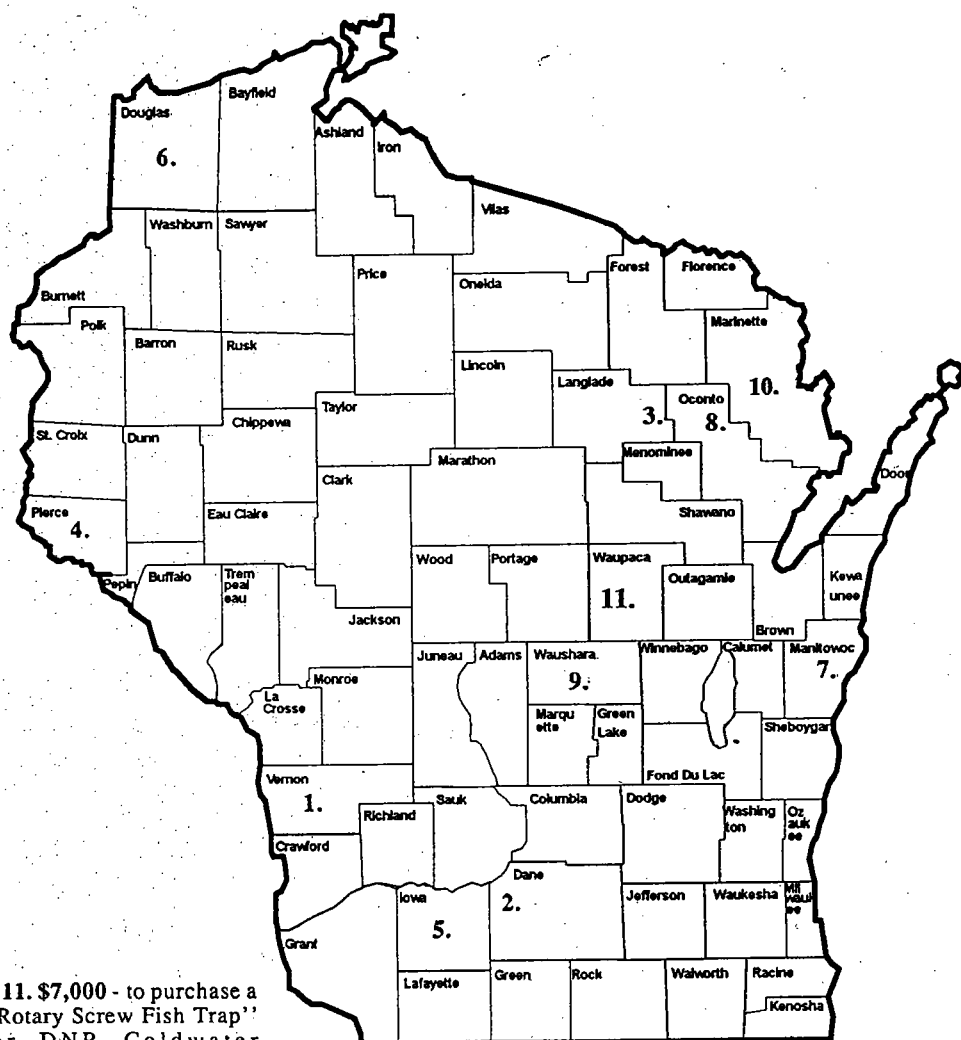
Ed Anderson/Culligan of Marinette
David Beckwith
Mitchell Bent
George Bereza
James C. Bolton, Jr.
Robert Bolz
Lawrence Brown
Thomas Buettner
Kenneth Bunn
John Cantwell
Central Wisconsin Chapter
Jon Christiansen
Andrew Cook II
Sheldon Damberg, M.D.
Bruce Davidson
Claude Davis
Wayne Disch
Dale Druckrey
Dick DuPlessie
Tom England
Dick & Fran Erney
Alan Finesilver
William Flader, M.D.
Daniel Flaherty
Fred Forseth
Louis Frase, M.D.
Donald Gore
Robert Hackinson
David Hanson (N)
Brian Harden (N)
Henry Haugley
Steve Hawk
Walter Hellyer
Charles Hodulik
J.R. Humphrey

Webb Kennedy
David Kindig
Gordon King
Lane Kistler
Mark Klingbeil
Richard Kraus
P. Eric Kuusinen
David Lenz
Donald Loss
Thomas Lyons, M.D.
Marinette County Chapter
Bruce Miller
Dennis Morgan

Oak Park Heights, MN
Mequon, WI
Madison, WI
Merrill, WI
Milwaukee, WI
Milwaukee, WI
Berlin, WI
Elm Grove, WI
Middleton, WI
Milwaukee, WI
Neenah, WI
Cross Plains, WI
Longview, WA

List of Projects funded via the "Friends of Wisconsin T.U." Program

1. \$4,000 - for rip-rapping and structural improvements on the West Fork Kickapoo River (Vernon Co.)
2. \$1,500 - for placement of LUNKER structures and bank stabilization in Black Earth Creek (Dane Co.)
3. \$1,000 - for hydraulic dredging of Saul Spring Pond (Langlade Co.)
4. \$750 - for purchase of special thermometers to monitor stormwater runoff into the Kinnickinnic River (Pierce Co.)
5. \$2,000 - for re-routing and stabilizing Brewery Creek (Iowa Co.)
6. \$75 - for purchase of "catch-and-release" signs for the Bois Brule River (Douglas Co.)
7. \$2,500 - for renovation of trout rearing facilities in Lincoln Park (City of Manitowoc)
8. \$500 - for bank stabilization and structural improvement on the North Fork Thunder River (Oconto Co.)
9. \$1,000 - for land acquisition along the White River (Waushara Co.)
10. \$1,000 - to assist with acquisition of 64(+) acres of land along Upper Middle Inlet Creek (Marinette County)
11. \$7,000 - to purchase a "Rotary Screw Fish Trap" for DNR Coldwater research



11. \$7,000 - to purchase a "Rotary Screw Fish Trap" for DNR Coldwater research

In memoriam: Arling Erickson

The Central Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Chapter and the Wisconsin T.U. State Council lost an old friend when Arling "Ole" Erickson, 69, of Poy Sippi passed away February 18th at the Wautoma Care Center.

Raised in Iron River, Michigan, Erickson moved to the Poy Sippi area in 1960 and owned and operated the Fountain Valley Nursery for 25 years. He also made a name for himself with his Custom Fly Shop that he ran from his

property until the winter of 1994.

Arling was a chapter member of the Central Wisconsin T.U. chapter when it formed in 1969, and he was active for many years in stream improvement work, the chapter's Fly Fishing School and other activities.

Memorials may be made to Mrs. Lucille Erickson, P.O. Box 330, Poy Sippi, WI 54967. The Central Wisconsin T.U. chapter will also be formulating a memorial in Erickson's name.

Nominations needed for awards

It is time once again to begin thinking about nominations for TU's Annual Awards Program. Nominations must be postmarked by May 15, 1995. Please submit five copies of all nomination materials to: Trout Unlimited, 1500 Wilson Blvd., Suite 310, Arlington,

Virginia 22209-2310, Att'n: Loretta Pogorzelski.

To obtain copies of award criteria and categories, please contact Loretta at (703) 284-9403.

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Trout Unlimited
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New membership displays available

New countertop displays for TU membership applications are now available from the National office. The clear plastic displays, which are marked with a TU logo, have a very small "footprint" and therefore take up far less countertop space than the old TU displays.

The displays are available free of charge for placement in your local fishing tackle shops and other retail stores. There is a limit of three displays per chapter.

For larger quantities and more information, contact Wendy Reed at the TU National office, (703) 294-9421.

Wisconsin Trout Unlim

ALDO LEOPOLD

Chapter officers Clint Byrnes and Marlin Spindler attended a March 6th press conference in Madison along with other environmentalists to oppose Gov-

ernor Thompson's plan to eliminate the office of Wisconsin Public Intervenor (see front page headline article).

ANTIGO CHAPTER

The Antigo Chapter held its annual Conservation Banquet on April 1 at the Riverview Country club. Details will be provided in the next chapter report. Call Scott Henricks at (715) 623-3867 for ticket info.

The chapter plans to carry out some maintenance work on half-log structures in the East Branch Eau Claire River prior to the opening of fishing

season, and Antigo T.U.'ers are also scheduling another "Kids' Fishing Day" for early summer.

And the chapter, along with the Wolf River Chapter and the Antigo Sportsmen's Club, is awaiting approval for the go-ahead to proceed with a project to rear wild brook trout at the currently-dormant Crystal Springs Hatchery northeast of Antigo.

BLACKHAWK CHAPTER

Winter has been a busy time for this southern-most Wisconsin T.U. chapter. New officers of the chapter are: Dick Alfors - President; John Miller - Vice President; Dave Patrick - Secretary; Don Studdt - Treasurer; and Fred Young - Membership.

Chapter meetings were spiced by good programs the past few months. Todd Jensen of the Green County Conservation League addressed Blackhawk T.U.'ers in December, 1994, about proposed trout habitat work planned in Green County, and Blackhawk T.U. will consider donations of time and dollars to the projects.

In March, Department of Natural Resources fish manager Dave Vetrano addressed the chapter and reported on a variety of topics such as stream shocking survey results, angling regulations and planned habitat work on trout waters in the western coulee country of

Wisconsin.

The chapter was saddened this past fall the passing of member Steve Swanson, who was an avid T.U. supporter and hard worker for Blackhawk T.U.

Chapter energies are now being focused on the annual Blackhawk T.U. Conservation Banquet slated for Monday, April 17th, at the Hoffman House in Janesville. Tickets bought up to April 1 are \$30/each or \$50/couple; after April 1, they are \$40/each and \$60/couple. Interested attendees should contact Tom Kautz at (608) 868-4522 or Joe Putsch at (608) 752-1955.

A workday on the West Fork Kickapoo River was held on March 18th in the Vernon County hamlet of Avalanche. Chapter members and friends spent the day building additional LUNKER structures that will later be installed in the West Fork.



Central Wisconsin TU'ers install structures through the ice in the West Branch of the White River this past winter.

COULEE REGION CHAPTER

Chapter meetings resumed in January. Coulee Region approved a donation of \$1,000 to the West Fork Sportsmen's Club of Avalanche for additional work on the West Fork Kickapoo River. West Fork Sportsmen's Club president Roger Widner accepted the donation and informed the chapter that, since 1989, the sportsmen's club has carried out 38 separate projects involving 130 LUNKER structures and 3,800 cubic yards of rock on the West Fork and its tributaries.

The chapter's 1995 annual Conservation Banquet is set for Wednesday, May 3rd, at Pogy's Catering in La Crosse. Contact chapter president John Bethke at (608) 634-3641 for information on ticket price and availability.

Coulee Region T.U. will undertake a concerted recruitment effort to increase its active membership by experimenting with a variety of meeting sites during the year as well as featuring speakers and entertainment at the meetings.

FOX VALLEY CHAPTER

Fox Valley T.U.'s annual Conservation Banquet was held March 11th at the Country Aire in Appleton. Results of the dinner will be listed in the next issue.

The chapter held its annual "Fun Nite" in February and had another good turnout of interested anglers. Fox Valley T.U. members also assisted on work days coordinated by the Central

Wisconsin T.U. chapter in January and February on the West Branch of the White River.

And, the chapter also sponsored a booth again at the mid-March Fox Valley Sports Show.

Upcoming events for the chapter include the annual Handicap Fishing Outing on April 29 and the "Kids Fishing Day" set for May 13.

FRANK HORNBERG CHAPTER

The chapter held its third annual Conservation Banquet on Saturday, March 11, at the Blue Top Supper Club in Stevens Point. Results will be announced in the next newsletter.

The potential development of cranberry bogs within the Buena Vista Marsh has caused the chapter to become concerned. Seven cranberry growers are proposing to develop several thousand acres for cranberry growth. The chapter was invited to meet with the Portage County Drainage District on February 23rd to outline its concerns. Chapter member Jim Friedrich presented a list of nine concerns of the chapter, among them:

- *increased sedimentation rates into ditches due to the lack of erosion control on new spoil piles and in new lateral ditches;
- *diversion dam construction and associated alteration of surface water levels in ditches;
- *potential changes in water thermal regimes;
- *increased nutrient loading to the ditches from cranberry operation outfall;
- *increased pesticide and herbicide applications related to cranberry bog development;
- *potential alteration of spawning locations and spawning migrations due to diversion dams.

The chapter notes that the "ditches"

in that central Wisconsin area hold excellent numbers of trout, including some surprisingly large fish. Frank Hornberg T.U. remains vigilant over this issue and will keep the State Council informed of the situation.

Summer months will be filled with much stream improvement work on Peterson Creek (Waupaca County), the Middle Tomorrow River (Portage County) and Ten Mile Creek (Wood County). And the chapter will hold another "Kids' Fishing Day" in mid-June for the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Programs of Portage and Wood counties.

The chapter's membership roster continues to grow, and chapter president Jeff Dimick notes with pleasure that more chapter members are stepping up and offering to volunteer for various aspects of chapter activity.

Among the chapter's winter meeting programs was a presentation by DNR fishery personnel Jack Zimmermann and Dave Paynter on the health of area trout fisheries. The DNR fish managers related that the most improved stream in the region is the Middle Tomorrow River in the Nelsonville area, with more legal sized brown trout (18 inches and up) being reported.

The chapter and the DNR have done several work projects in the Middle Tomorrow River to provide better habitat for the trout fishery in the past



Central Wisconsin workers removing brush and fallen trees from West Branch of the White River in winter, 1995.

CENTRAL WISCONSIN CHAPTER

The chapter's annual Conservation Banquet was held March 25th at the Oshkosh Hilton Convention Center. Results will be reported in the next chapter report.

Two work days on the West Branch White River were held during the winter months, with both efforts devoted to removing streamside brush and installing in-stream habitat structures.

On Feb. 19th, the chapter held a "Fly Tying Funday" at the facilities of the Waupaca Conservation League. A good number of people attended the event and learned different tying techniques.

Spring workdays are planned for habitat improvement work on the White and Mekan rivers.

Central Wisconsin T.U. is gearing up once again for its always-successful annual "Flying Fishing School" set for June 2-4. The new location for this year's event will be the Odd Fellows Youth Camp on Gooseneck Lake near Waupaca.

The chapter also mourned the passing of founding member Arling Erickson of Poy Sippi. Erickson passed away Feb. 18th (see article elsewhere in this issue), and the chapter is mulling options for a fitting memorial in the name of "Ole".

ited Chapter Reports

three years.

In March, chapter president **Jeff Dimick** gave a program entitled "The Effects of Rusty Crayfish Upon the Riffle Dwelling Invertebrate Com-

munity of the Prairie River."

The chapter's third annual "Fun Nite" will be held on Thursday, April 13th, at the One Stop Sport Shop in Stevens Point.

GREEN BAY CHAPTER

Green Bay T.U. held its 20th annual Conservation Banquet March 18th at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Green Bay. Results are pending.

In December of 1994, the chapter held its annual Awards Dinner. Chapter Vice-President **Bruce Deuchert** was honored as "Member of the Year" for his long-time service to the chapter in every facet of its activities and his leadership as the chairman of the **Brown County Conservation Alliance**. Chapter president **Janet Smith** and members **Pat Hermans** and **Jim Vanden Branden** were accepted into the chapter's "President's Club," which honors various members for their efforts on behalf of coldwater resource conservation.

The chapter was saddened by the loss of two members. **Gene Buckoski** passed away in January, and **Paul Mineau** in February. Gene was very active in stream habitat improvement works and the banquet committee, and Paul was a long-time conservation activist in Brown County.

During the winter months, Green Bay T.U. approved a number of propos-

als for project funding, including:

- *\$3,000 to assist the Nicolet National Forest with the construction of a barrier-free trail for the handicapped along the South Branch of the Oconto River;

- *\$2,000 for habitat improvement work via the Nicolet Forest on the First South Branch Oconto River;

- *\$1,500 to construct fencing along the Wausaukee River to keep cattle out of the stream;

- *\$1,200 to fund a beaver trapper to continue trapping efforts on Northeastern Wisconsin trout streams; and

- *\$900 for providing scholarships to students for several summer conservation education camps.

Among programs at winter meetings was a presentation in March by guides **Dan Elsner** and **Barry Wolf** on steelhead fishing opportunities along the Lake Michigan shoreline.

Chapter membership chairman **Dennis Gusick** reports that recruitment efforts are paying off, with several new members having been signed up over the past few months.

HARRY NOHR CHAPTER

Chapter president **Joe Bodewes** notes that the chapter's 18th annual Conservation Banquet was held March 25th at the Don Q. Inn in Dodgeville. **Lee Kern**, chief of the DNR's bureau of fisheries, was the guest speaker. Banquet results will be forthcoming in the next issue.

Harry Nohr T.U.'ers put in a day's work in mid-January on Harker Creek (Iowa County). Much streamside brush was removed that day, and future plans call for placement of additional fish structures into the creek later this year.

Long-time chapter secretary **Bill Baebler** noted the chapter's many accomplishments over the past months, including:

- *appropriation of nearly \$2,000 for clearing trees and brush along area trout streams;

- *offering to match Grant County Highway Department funds with chapter dollars to protect a bridge over the Little Green River in an environmentally-sensitive manner;

KIAP-TU-WISH CHAPTER

In conjunction with other groups, Kiap-TU-Wish T.U. is involved in the process of establishing a panel to review erosion control plans by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation for various road construction projects affecting local trout streams. And, the chapter is fighting to stop a water diversion project that would take excess water from Bass Lake (St. Croix County) and discharge it into the Willow River.

Kiap-TU-Wish T.U.'ers spent several Saturdays in January, February and March conducting habitat work on the Kinnickinnic River south of Highway 65 in St. Croix County. Much stream brush and debris was removed by T.U.

LAKESHORE CHAPTER

The chapter is busily preparing for its annual Conservation Banquet slated for April 22nd at The Club Bil-Mar in Manitowoc. Tickets are \$15 each. Call **Jeff Preiss** at (414) 773-2693.

Lakeshore's annual winter fly-tying

classes were held in February, with 12 students participating.

The chapter approved a donation of \$1,200 for the Sheboygan River Priority Watershed Project. The money will be used for bank work,

cattle fencing and construction of cattle crossings on the upper reaches of the river. The Fond du Lac County Land Conservation Department sent a note of thanks to Lakeshore T.U. for their support.

Other donations made by Lakeshore T.U. include \$420 for two scholarships to students attending the Central Wisconsin Environmental Center east of Stevens Point and \$290 for a scholarship to a student attending a stream improvement workshop in Superior.

MARINETTE COUNTY CHAPTER

The chapter held its 12th annual Conservation Banquet March 13th at The Dome in Marinette. The event was a sellout well in advance, and another successful night for the trout resulted. Final figures will be forthcoming in the next issue.

Marinette County T.U. made the following appropriations for resource work during the winter months:

- *\$1,800 for contracting trapping services for beaver and dam removal from seven Marinette County streams, including first-time work on Holmes Creek and the Little Wausaukee River;

- *\$1,500 for a fencing project on the South Branch of the Beaver Creek west of Coleman;

- *\$1,500 for fencing along the Wausaukee River in Marinette County;

Plans for spring and summer include stream work on the Mullet and Onion rivers in Sheboygan County and several youth-oriented functions, including a fly-tying event with kids from the Manitowoc County 4-H group and a fishing outing for children who are victims of domestic abuse.

Programs held at past winter meetings included viewing of the videos "FLY TYING" by **Royce Dam** and "STEELHEADING IN WISCONSIN" by **Dan Elsner**.

- *\$1,000 for a barrier-free access development along the South Branch Oconto River in the Nicolet National Forest;

- *\$1,000 commitment for raising wild brook trout at the Crystal Springs Hatchery northeast of Antigo in Langlade County; and

- *\$300 for maintenance work and weather-proofing the ramp and fishing platform at Holley's Hole on the North Branch of the Beaver Creek in southern Marinette County.

Programs at winter meetings included ones on taxidermy, trout fishing in Colorado and Indian artifacts in Marinette County.

Election of officers and directors will be held at the chapter's April meeting.

NORTHWOODS CHAPTER

The chapter's annual Conservation Banquet is set for Tuesday, April 4th, at the Rhinelander Cafe & Pub. For ticket information, call **Bill Sherer** at (715) 385-2186.

Chapter members **Al Lenz** and **Dave Anderson** are heading up the chapter's Stream Conservation Project Committee, and are working with the Wisconsin and Michigan DNRs and neighboring T.U. chapters concerning cooperative habitat work on the Border Brule River.

Northwoods T.U. is working with Trees For Tomorrow in Eagle River to offer \$200 scholarships to four-five

students for participating in educational activities sponsored at "Trees."

The chapter participated this winter in the **WXPR Public Radio's "EARTH FAIR"** in Eagle River.

Over the course of a weekend, the chapter made many positive contacts with members of the public who had never heard of Trout Unlimited, and several interested individuals were anxious to learn more about T.U. and the chapter's habitat improvement projects.

At the January meeting, chapter members were treated to a slide-talk show by naturalist **Ced Vig**.

OCONTO RIVER WATERSHED CHAPTER

The chapter is hard at work preparing for its annual Conservation Banquet set for April 20th at Romy's Holiday Inn on Kelly Lake. For ticket information, call **Dale Halla** at (715) 745-2099.

Chapter members are working on plans to do some instream improvements in the main Oconto River by installing wing deflectors at strategic locations. Shawano area DNR fish manager **Ross Langhurst** has met with the chapter to coordinate this effort.

Oconto River T.U. has been the ben-

eficiary of bequests from several estates recently, which will be of help when the chapter carries out its habitat projects.

Meeting programs during winter included a talk by DNR fish manager **Russ Heizer** of Marinette on the status of beaver control in the area, and a presentation by Natural Resources Board Chairman **Herb Behnke** of Shawano on the workings of the seven-member citizens board that runs the affairs of the DNR.

OJIBLEAU CHAPTER

During winter, Ojibseau T.U.'ers busied themselves by presenting rod-building and fly-tying classes at the Eau Claire Rod and Gun Club, as well as planning stream restoration work on Sand Creek in Chippewa County.

Chapter members heard from **Jane Tetzloff-Jenson**, chair of the Chippewa County Water Quality Improvement Program on Duncan Creek, about the Duncan Creek Watershed Project at the chapter's December, 1994, meeting. Other winter programs

included a talk on coulee region fisheries by DNR fish manager **Dave Vetrano**, fly fishing around the world by chapter member **Don Cheney** and fishing Wyoming's North Platte River by **Jeff Bartynski**.

The chapter's spring banquet will be held April 13th at the Midway Hotel in Eau Claire. Featured guest speaker will be **Clay Riness**, who will discuss trout fishing in the Coulee Region of Western Wisconsin. For ticket information, call **John Welter** at (715) 833-7028.

Cont. on Page 10

✓Chapter reports

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SHAW-PACA CHAPTER

The chapter's 12th annual Conservation Banquet is slated for Thursday, April 6th, at The Gathering in Shawano. Tickets are \$25; call (715) 524-5886 for information.

Appropriations made by the chapter during winter included \$2,000 for the proposed wild trout rearing project at the Crystal Springs hatchery near Antigo and \$500 for a scholarship to Cory Arndt, a local student majoring in

aquatic resources at UW-Stevens Point.

Shaw-Paca T.U. is also planning to assist with funding of some aggressive beaver trapping efforts on tributaries to the Little Wolf River in northern Waupaca County.

Summer work efforts will include brushing and debris removal from Mill Creek in Shawano County and hosting another "Kids Fishing Day" in June.

SOUTHERN WISCONSIN CHAPTER

The chapter will be finishing another 1,300 feet of fencing on Garfoot Creek (Dane County) in spring, and it will also be starting a new project in spring at the Danz Confluence, a point where Vermont Creek enters into Black Earth Creek. About 25 LUNKER structures will be installed in the stream area, and banks will be riprapped and seeded. Total project cost will be about \$6,200, with help coming from the Illinois-based Gary Borger T.U. chapter.

The chapter's annual winter ICE BREAKER seminar was the most successful one to date. Held in late January, the program attracted over 350 people, with 20 percent of the attendees being women. A total of 30 percent of attendees were from outside the Madison-Middleton-Monona area. Over \$6,500 was raised by the two-day event, and 36 new members were signed up!

Southern Wisconsin's other fund-raising effort - the annual auction night - was also a resounding success, with

another \$1,500 raised for chapter resource efforts.

The chapter's stream improvement committee reports that the Johnson-Danz project segment on Vermont Creek has been completed, with over 72 LUNKER structures installed and 2,600 feet of streambank stabilized.

Under the leadership of chapter member Wyatt Rapavich, the chapter held another successful fly tying school during the winter months.

Among the interesting chapter events in winter was a presentation on March 14th by Bob Smith of Great Rocky Mountain Outfitters of Wyoming. Smith discussed trout fishing opportunities in the Upper North Platte River and other great western trout fisheries.

The chapter will hold its annual meeting April 14th, with chapter president David Ogletree stepping down after two years of fine service. In May, DNR fish manager Scot Stewart will make a presentation to the chapter.

WILD RIVERS CHAPTER

Chapter member Jeff Carlson reports little or no activity emanating from the far northwestern Wisconsin chapter.

The chapter held its annual "Steelhead Saturday" seminar March 25th,

with featured speakers John Beth and Pat Ehlers. In February, the chapter's meeting was highlighted by a presentation by Rich Osthoff on backpacking trips in Western states and tying flies for Wisconsin stream fishing.

WISCONSIN RIVER VALLEY CHAPTER

Chapter president Herb Hintze notes that his chapter has plans to spend nearly \$5,500 on habitat work on the Plover River south of CTH "N" in 1995. The work would include installation of half-logs, placement of skyhook boom covers and current deflectors,

stabilizing bank covers and placing large boulders in strategic stream locations.

In 1994, the chapter spent nearly \$3,500 on similar work in the Plover where the chapter has an easement along the streambank.

WOLF RIVER CHAPTER

No report

From the Chairman

By Dave Ogletree

I would like to take this moment to introduce myself to all Wisconsin Trout Unlimited members.

My name is David Ogletree, and I'm your new State Council Chairman. As I address you for the first time in my new capacity, I would like to give a very big and warm "Thank you" on behalf of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited to our past-chairman Forrest Grulke, past vice-chairman Topf Wells, past Secretary Dave Johnson and past Treasurer Ward Cox for their devotion of time and service to the State Council.

I am looking forward to working with the new Executive Committee and the State Council. I'd like to start by getting to know as many of the chapter leaders and their members as is possible. I'd like to be informed as to what is transpiring in your region and discuss with you your chapter's future plans regarding resource work and educational efforts.

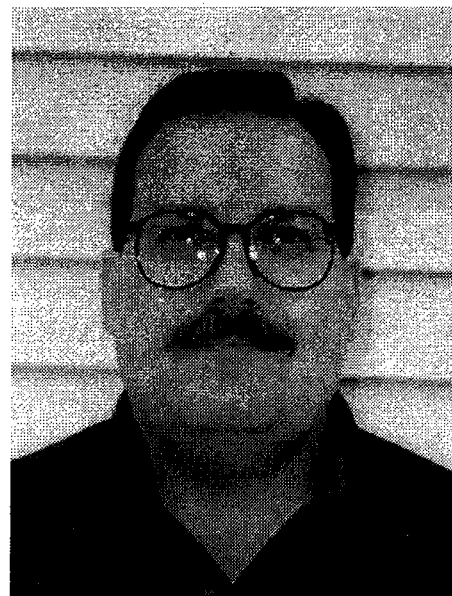
I intend to do this by arranging meetings with all the chapter presidents and any interested members of the chapters. If you have any functions planned, please contact me, and I'll try to attend that event. I'm especially interested in attending any functions that involve regional meetings or meetings involving more than a single chapter.

I doubt if there is one chapter in the State Council that can say that the coldwater resources of their area are NOT affected or threatened by some form of development or pollution. This is why I am going to stress the importance of a good working relationship between the chapters and the State Council. Since we all have dedicated ourselves to preserving our precious coldwater resources, we can only increase our chances of success through solidarity, which will make the Council strong and effective in dealing with complex issues.

It is doubtful that all chapter members will agree on each issue that comes before us. As members of individual chapters, we must realize that there are limits to what we can accomplish alone when dealing with complicated political issues.

This is where a State Council - representing all chapters and all members - is at its best. With sheer numbers, strong leadership and a connected network of supportive chapters, the State Council can implement a plan to address an issue more effectively than can an individual chapter.

However, there is one area that we as



Dave Ogletree

individuals and as chapters can be very effective, and that is the area of activism. I'm sure you've been reading about all of the proposed state budget cuts. Some of these cuts will decrease or eliminate funding for various programs or agencies (such as the cuts proposed to eliminate the office of the Public Intervenor).

We must exercise our rights as individual citizens and speak out against the weakening of programs that have positive impacts on the protection of our environment. We must write letters to or directly talk with our elected officials in Madison and tell them that we want our environment protected.

Because of our love for the resource, we take on the responsibility of being "water watchers." We have many issues to address, and we cannot afford the luxury of sitting back and not getting involved.

With this in mind, I urge you - each and every Wisconsin T.U. member - to step up your level of involvement. Become an active chapter member. Make sure your chapter has two representatives at each and every State Council meeting.

There is no excuse for poor attendance or representation at the State Council meetings. After all, this is where the information that affects us all is discussed and where State Council decisions are reached.

With your help, I can guarantee you our best efforts in your behalf.

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Council meets, elects officers

The Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited held its annual meeting on Saturday, Jan. 28, 1995, at the Oshkosh Hilton Convention Center. All chapters were represented except for Antigo, Harry Nohr, Ojibseau and Wisconsin River Valley.

Among the highlights of the annual meeting were:

- *Approval of the annual budget;
- *Appropriation of \$1,250 to assist the Department of Natural Resources with land acquisition along Lunch Creek in Waushara County;

- *Approval of a motion to donate approximately 5.64 acres of riparian frontage along Upper Middle Inlet Creek in Marinette County to the DNR pending determination of any necessary deed restrictions;

- *Support of a DNR Fishery Bureau proposal (see separate article) to offer a modified "early trout season" for the southern third of the state;

- *Support for a DNR budget proposal to modify the language of the statute creating the Inland Trout Stamp so as to allow use of funds (\$100,000) to trout stream survey work;

- *Approval of \$1,400 for expansion of the "Friends of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited" program to pursue a "Corporate Friends" program.

The Council also heard reports on plans for restoring coaster brook trout in Lake Superior and an update on the status of the permitting process concerning the zinc-copper-silver-gold mine proposed by Crandon Mining Company near the headwaters of the Wolf River.

Elections of officers for the coming year produced the following: Chairman - **David Ogletree**; Vice-Chairman - **Dave Newhouse**; Secretary - **Jon Christiansen**; Treasurer - **Forrest Grulke**.

The various Wisconsin T.U. committees presented their reports, including:

Youth Education - Dale Lange noted that, of the chapter survey reports that he had received, many chapters have shown that they are involved in a wide variety of youth-oriented activities. He urged chapters to continue to stay in touch with him so that he can compile the list of youth education efforts that chapters are doing.

Membership - Jim Hlaban said that the current membership trend is positive in the state, with most chapters holding their own and some heading upward.

"Friends of Wisconsin T.U." - John Cantwell reported on the cumulative results of the "Friends" fundraising campaigns since its inception five years ago. Through the end of 1994, the program has netted the State Council over \$23,000, of which nearly \$20,000 has been appropriated by Wisconsin T.U. for various projects statewide. The 1995 "Friends" campaign will begin this spring, and Cantwell said that he hoped for more T.U. members to sign on as "Friends of Wisconsin T.U."

"Catch-and-Release" - Jim Hlaban reported that the committee continues to meet and discuss ways to educate the angling public on the proper methods for safely releasing trout. The State Council approved additional funds for production of more "Catch-and-Release" pamphlets to be distributed at sport shops and other locales.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m. The next State Council meeting will likely be held on May 13th, with location to be announced to chapters via communication from the new Council Chairman and the Executive Committee.



New State Council officers (left to right): Dave Ogletree (President), Dave Newhouse (Vice-President), Jon Christiansen (Secretary), and Forrest Grulke (Treasurer).



Passing the torch - Retiring Council Chairman Forrest Grulke (right) congratulates new chairman Dave Ogletree.

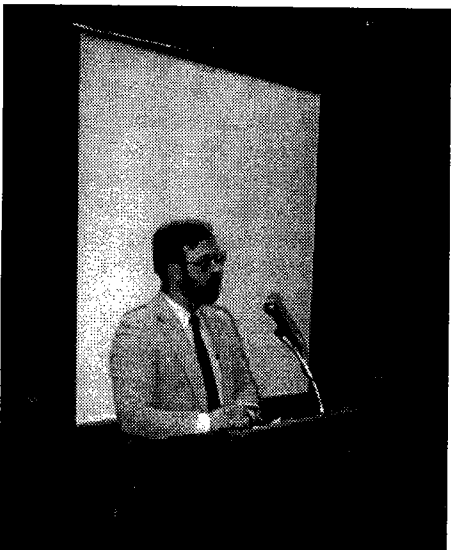
Beaver subsidy program explained

Also speaking to the Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited's Annual Meeting in Oshkosh on January 28th was Laine Stowell of the Department of Natural Resources' animal damage unit. Stowell explained to TU representatives the past and current status of the state's beaver control program.

The intent of the beaver subsidy program is to provide financial incentives to trappers and hunters to increase their take on beaver in designated areas of Wisconsin.

The subsidy program pays trappers to take beaver after the regular trapping season has ended. After a subsidy trapper takes a beaver, he or she must present the unskinned carcass of the beaver with the tail attached at a designated DNR location. The trappers are given vouchers indicating the date that the beaver was taken and the county in which it was harvested.

Since the current phase of the program began in 1989, over 32,000 beaver have been removed from coldwater streams and watersheds. Counties which have had the highest number of beaver removed via the subsidy program include Oneida, Vilas, Lincoln, Forest and Marinette. See the charts for a full compilation of data.



Laine Stowell of the DNR discusses beaver trapping subsidies at the annual meeting of Wisconsin T.U.

Although beaver pelt prices rose sharply this year, the DNR still retained funding for that program in their budget. The more efforts that can be directed at controlling the pesky rodent that dams trout streams and blocks spawning migrations of trout, the better.

Table 1. Subsidy beaver season dates and payments, 1989-1994.

Year	Season Dates	Amount of subsidy paid for each beaver taken
1989	Mar. 16-Sept. 30	\$7.50
1990	Mar. 16-Apr. 30	\$10.00
1991	Mar. 16-Apr. 30	\$10.00
1992	Mar. 16-Apr. 30	\$10.00
1993	Mar. 16-Apr. 30	\$7.50
1994	Mar. 16-Apr. 30	\$7.50

Table 2. Number of beaver taken and number of trappers harvesting beaver in the subsidy program 1989-1993.

Year	Number of beaver	Change from last year	Number of trappers	Average catch per trappers
1989	5,474	--	241	22.7
1990	5,936	462	167	35.5
1991	6,405	469	166	38.6
1992	7,740	1,335	194	39.9
1993	6,673	-1,167	173	38.6
Total	32,228		941	34.2

Table 3. Participation in the beaver subsidy program 1989-1993.

Year	Number of people who filled out an agreement	Number of people who harvested at least 1 beaver	Success ratio
1989	615	241	39%
1990	272	167	61%
1991	250	166	66%
1992	308	198	64%
1993	258	173	67%

Table 4. Summary of subsidy beaver harvest in each county 1989-1993. A dash (-) indicates the county was not part of the subsidy zone that year.

County	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	Total	Average
Adams	6	--	--	--	--	6	6
Ashland	--	--	--	603	552	1,155	578
Florence	486	326	399	455	238	1,904	381
Forest	636	934	631	629	367	3,197	639
Iron	--	--	--	468	1,007	1,475	738
Juneau	0	--	--	--	--	0	0
Langlade	316	527	686	503	434	2,466	493
Lincoln	784	584	1,274	591	751	3,984	797
Marathon	276	201	181	239	158	1,055	211
Marinette	733	548	459	443	356	2,539	508
Menominee	248	69	10	74	94	495	99
Oconto	165	123	103	146	72	609	122
Oneida	877	1,376	1,661	1,354	1,002	6,270	1,254
Portage	9	--	--	--	--	9	9
Price	--	--	--	918	718	1,636	818
Shawano	43	104	100	110	88	445	89
Taylor	--	--	--	413	206	619	310
Vilas	872	1,144	901	794	630	4,341	868
Waupaca	10	--	--	--	--	10	10
Waushara	5	--	--	--	--	5	5
Wood	8	--	--	--	--	8	8
Total	5,474	5,936	6,405	7,740	6,673	32,228	6,446

Wisconsin Trout Stream Profile: the Yellow River

The famed "Indianhead Country" of northwestern Wisconsin is a mecca for vacationers and outdoor enthusiasts. But it has never been known as a prime area for trout anglers, given the disproportionate number of excellent warmwater fisheries as compared to coldwater ones.

That's probably just as well, for nice little secrets such as the Yellow River in Barron County have been well kept to those who quietly work its waters each year for some enjoyable fishing.

The Yellow River lies about halfway between Cumberland and Rice Lake in the northern section of the county. It is considered trout water from its outlet at Silver Lake down to its entrance into the Barron Flowage just north of U.S. Highway 8.

A little over three stream miles are listed as Class I trout water, almost six as Class II and the remaining 3.6 miles are called Class III.

Under the inland trout fishing regulations, the part of the Yellow above Highway 48 is Category 2 water (five trout daily, seven-inch size limit), and the remaining downstream portion has been listed as Category 3 water (three trout daily, nine-inch size limit).

The Yellow River is a moderate-sized trout stream that flows through a mixture of agricultural and forested lands. About six miles of the stream flow through the state-owned "Yellow River Fishery Area" that exists both above and below Highway 48.

Average stream width of the Yellow is 20-25 feet, average depth is one- to two feet and the water is clear and mildly alkaline, with a pH of 7.6. In mid-summer, ambient water temperatures rarely exceed the upper 60's. Much of the bottom substrate is composed of shifting sand, with the remainder a mixture of gravel, rubble and silt.

Prior to the late 1980's, the Yellow River's trout fishery composition was

heavily tilted in favor of brown trout. However, the brown trout numbers plummeted late that decade when the severe drought hit Wisconsin, and currently most of the trout in the Yellow - at least in that part where Department of Natural Resources fishery crews do annual stream shocking surveys - are brook trout.

Fish managers suggest, though, that the shift to a brook trout-dominated fishery may be only temporary should the brown trout begin to achieve better reproductive successes in the future.

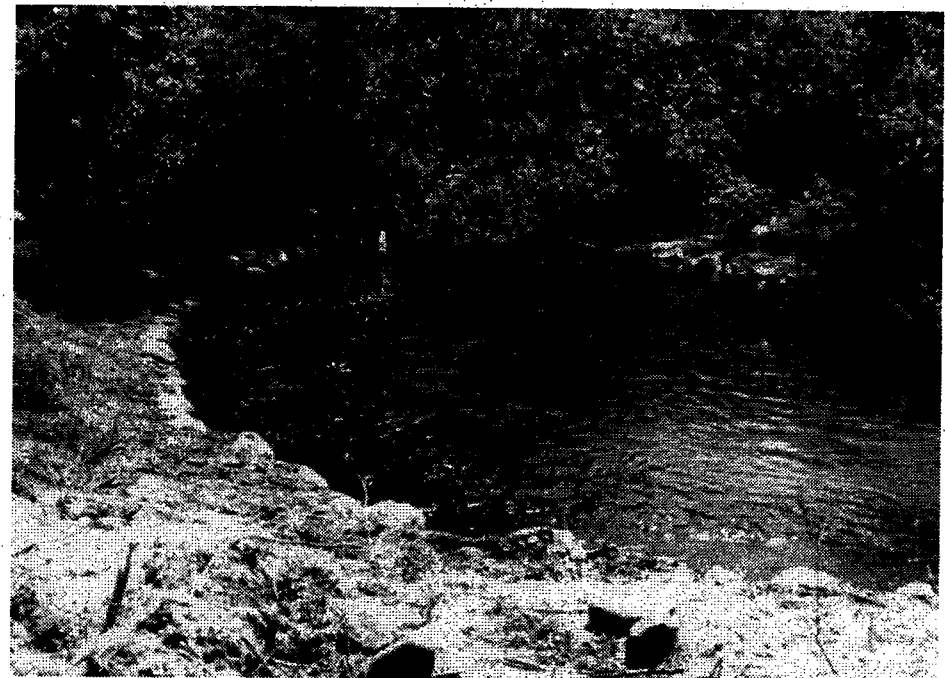
The Category 3 listing for the lower two-thirds of the Yellow River to date has not produced the type of results that fish managers had hoped it would, insofar as achieving higher populations of larger-sized fish is concerned. With the minimum size limit of nine inches for trout harvested from that section by anglers, the regulation may be protecting lots of smaller-sized fish without getting more desirable sized fish in the population.

During the 1980's, DNR fishery crews under the direction of area fish manager Tom Beard (see accompanying article) carried out a number of habitat improvement projects in the stream that included streambank brushing and installation of bank covers, wing-deflectors, brush mats and half-logs. The DNR intends to carry out some maintenance work on these structures in the near future.

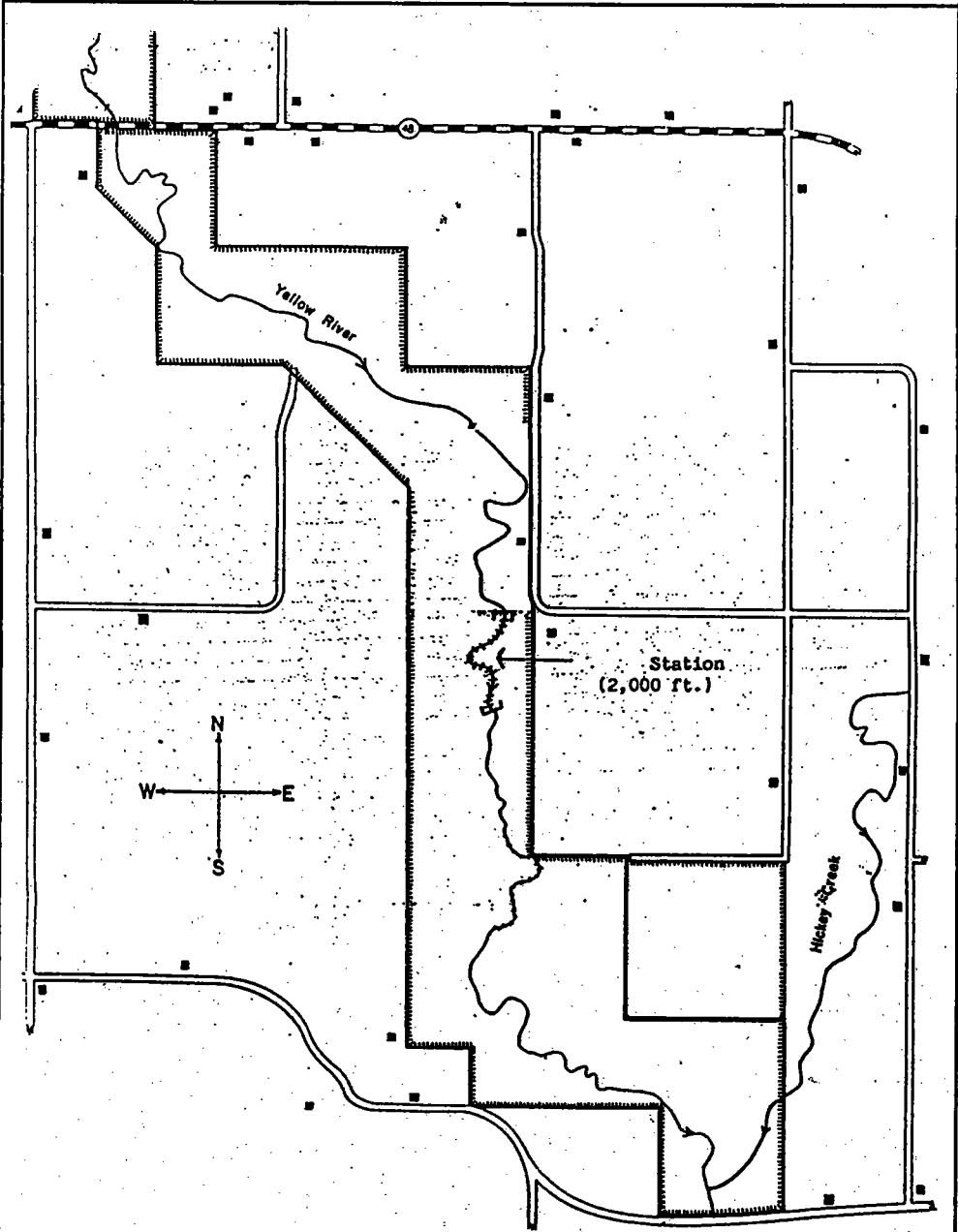
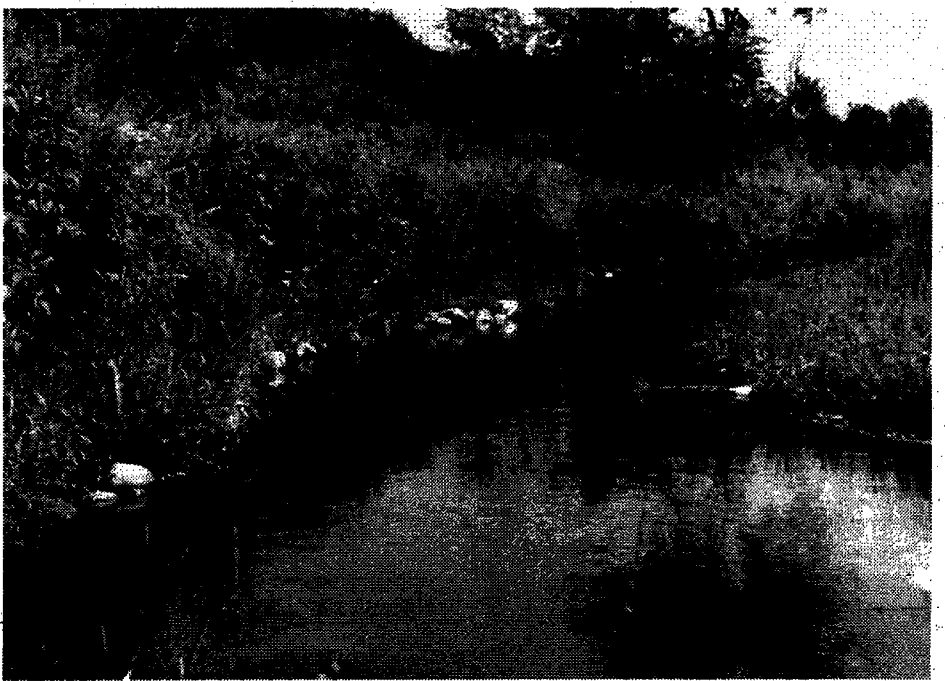
While not the site of any major insect hatches, the Yellow has its fair share of mayflies, stoneflies, caddis and other insect life, as well as populations of freshwater shrimp and crayfish for the diets of the trout.

The lower section (Class III) of the Yellow does receive a dose of hatchery-reared trout annually, amounting to about 1,500 stocked brown trout. The rest of the river is home primarily to native fish.

Access to the Yellow River is excel-



Before and after photos of habitat work done on the Yellow River in Barron County.



Yellow River State Fishery Area below Highway 48 in Barron County.

lent. In addition to the state-owned frontage along about six miles of river, there are also at least 11 different roads that either cross or abut the stream to allow anglers entrance to the water.

Two major coldwater feeders of the Yellow are Engle Creek and springs and Hickey Creek. Along with a few other unnamed feeders, these creeks provide the Yellow with sufficient amounts of cold spring water to keep the river's water temperatures viable for trout.

Future plans for the Yellow River by DNR fishery personnel include some more habitat work in areas where modifications will help enhance trout numbers. The Cumberland area fishery

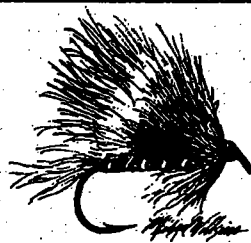
team will also be reviewing the efficacy of the Category 3 status on the lower two-thirds of the river's trout water to ascertain if continuation of that more restrictive regulation will be of benefit to the fishery and anglers or not.

Unlike many of Wisconsin's famed trout waters, the Yellow River does not have a reputation that resonates with trout anglers. Yet its gentle waters and idyllic surroundings make a fishing trip there worthwhile.

And though the size of trout caught from the Yellow may not be worth bragging, the chance to trout fish in solitude amidst the quiet magnificence of Indianhead Country will surely compensate.

Year	Number Per Mile					
	Brook Trout			Brown Trout		
	<5.0	≥5.0	≥9.0	<5.0	≥5.0	≥9.0
1989	69	232	0	137	779	238
1992	407	240	11	172	383	111
1994	1,296	700	21	290	349	61

Estimated Population of Brook and Brown Trout at a Survey Station, Yellow River - 1989, 1992, 1994



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DNR Fish Manager Profile: Tom Beard

The state of Indiana is well known throughout the country for its production of fine basketball players. However, the Hoosier State is more than a haven for hardcourt aficionados. The state has brought forth many excellent natural resource professionals, and one of them - Tom Beard - is the focus of this issue's "Wisconsin DNR Fish Manager Profile."

The 51-year old Beard was born and raised in Columbia City, Indiana. Tom attended Purdue University, where he received his Bachelors Degree in wildlife management, and he then attended Indiana University and obtained his Masters Degree in fisheries management.

Beard's entire professional career in fisheries has been spent with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The first 12 years (1967-1979) were spent as a warmwater research biologist, where Tom was heavily involved in the study of fish population dynamics. Since 1979, he has held the position of Area Fisheries Supervisor for the Cumberland Area, which includes the counties of Barron, Burnett, Polk and Washburn in the far northwestern part of Wisconsin.

In his capacity as an area fishery manager, Beard is the immediate supervisor of six other fishery managers, and he has responsibility for the maintenance, improvement and protection of the area's very abundant aquatic resources.

Part of Beard's responsibilities include supervising and conducting trout stream habitat improvement programs. Every year since 1979, he has overseen the operation and completion of two major trout habitat improvement projects in the area. Most projects consist of the usual type of work such as building bank covers and wing deflectors, removing brush from streambanks and installing fencing and cattle crossings.

The streams that have been the recipients of improvements under Tom's supervision include: Hickey Creek and the Yellow River (Barron Co.); Dogtown Creek and the Clam River (Burnett Co.); MacKenzie and Sand creeks (Polk Co.); and Bean, Beaver and Sawyer brooks and Fivemile Creek (Washburn Co.).

In addition to the "hands-on" efforts of trout stream improvements, Beard deals with such issues as water regulation and water resources management in evaluating the impacts activities sought via permits will have on the public resource. Tom echoes the statement of most fish managers when he says that land use problems caused by agriculture have a big impact on the coldwater resources of his area.

Fishing pressure, too, takes its toll on the fishery, says Beard.

In the four county area which Tom oversees, there are no "Category 5" waters (i.e., "Special Regulation waters") as per the inland trout fishing regulations. Most waters are Category 2 (five trout daily, seven-inch size limit), with the smaller creeks being in the

Category 1 listing (10 trout daily, no size limit). Two streams - the Brill River in Barron County and the Apple River in Polk County - have stretches designated as Category 4 (three trout daily, eight inch limit on brooks, 12 inches on browns and rainbows).

And one stream - the Yellow River - in Barron County - has a Category 3 stretch (three trout daily, nine inch size limit). On that stream, Beard and his crew have conducted surveys to ascertain the impact of the angling regulations on the fishery. To this point, they have been unable to see any difference that the Category 3 rule has on the trout population on that section of the Yellow River in comparison to the other segments that are listed as Category 2 water.

The trout fishing in Beard's area of Wisconsin is overshadowed, understandably, by the vast number and diversity of warmwater fisheries that include lakes both big and small and many rivers where one can catch nice-sized smallmouth bass, northerns and walleyes.

And those warmwater resources have been the focus of much of Tom's time since 1983 when the gathering rights of Chippewa Tribal members on off-reservation waters was upheld by court decisions.

During that time, Beard has had a busy schedule. He's participated in numerous biological committees to provide sound aquatic and biological data on the fisheries in the ceded territory to DNR attorneys and negotiators. He was also part of a technical working group representing the State in developing fishery quotas that governed off-reservation harvest by the tribes.

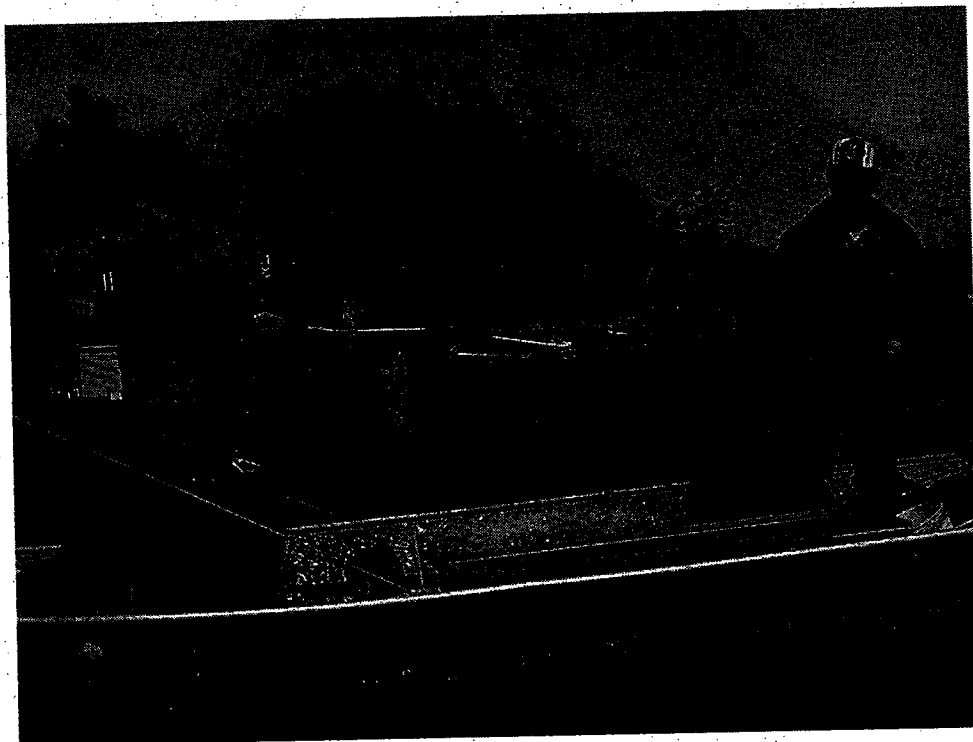
Besides all of those chores, Tom has many "routine" duties that include reporting to lake associations or districts on management recommendations for specific lakes, developing public access sites, dealing with private fish hatcheries and meeting with various groups and Conservation Congress delegations on fishery issues.

And, Beard has also served as president of the State Chapter of the American Fisheries Society.

When not knee-deep in fishery work, Tom enjoys life in Wisconsin's far northwest corner with his wife, Lynn, and children Doug, Tim and Tawnya. As with most fish managers, Beard likes to fish, but he also takes pride in his gardening skills and still participates in some sports.

Wisconsin's northwest section is a lightly populated but highly-prized piece of real estate. The many warmwater and coldwater resources of that area make it a special place. And the protection of those resources is important to the continued recreational enjoyment of those who play there as well as to economic livelihood of those who choose to work in the region.

And thanks to DNR fish managers like Tom Beard and his crew, those resources will continue to supply both residents and vacationers with much pleasure now and in the future.



Tom Beard (left) netting fish during lake survey.

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Conservation Congress meetings slated

The annual spring Conservation Congress fish and game hearings will be held in all 72 Wisconsin counties on Monday, April 10th. For trout anglers, there are several questions which will be of interest.

The Department of Natural Resources has proposed revisions to its inland trout fishing regulations, and the DNR will be showing meeting attendees what they plan insofar as streamlining and modifying the rules. While no general vote will be taken on the proposed package of changes, Congress meeting attendees may bring up questions for votes on specific changes.

The Trout Study Committee has raised two questions for meeting attendees to ponder.

One asks whether or not those in attendance support the idea of closing some aging trout hatcheries operated by the state in order to save money during this period of tight budgets. The Trout Study Committee has stated that it is opposed to this idea, suggesting instead that more money should be spent to renovate the hatcheries. They do not, however, indicate from where the money would come to carry out this plan.

The other Trout Study Committee question seeks input regarding the plan to use some of the inland trout stamp funds to conduct trout stream surveys. The proposal is similar to the one brought to the attention of the Wisconsin T.U. State Council by DNR fishery

bureau chief Lee Kernan at the Council's annual meeting in January.

The Trout Study Committee has indicated strong support for this idea, as has Wisconsin Trout Unlimited.

Listed below are the locations of Congress meeting sites on a county-by-county basis. All meetings start at 7 p.m. Trout Unlimited members are encouraged to attend these hearings.

Locations of Conservation Congress meetings by county
Adams: Adams-Columbia Electric Co-op Building, 401 E. Lake St., Friendship

Ashland: Ashland High School Auditorium, Ashland

Barron: Barron County Courthouse Auditorium, Barron

Bayfield: Drummond High School, Drummond

Brown: Southwest High School Auditorium, Green Bay

Buffalo: Alma High School Auditorium, Alma

Burnett: Burnett County Government Center, Room 165, Siren

Calumet: Calumet County Courthouse, 206 Court Street, 3rd floor Assembly Room, Chilton

Chippewa: Chippewa County Courthouse, Large Assembly Room, Chippewa Falls

Clark: National Guard Armory, 411 W. 18th, Neillsville

Columbia: Columbia County Courthouse, 400 De Witte St., Portage

Crawford: Crawford County Courthouse, Prairie du Chien

Dane: Memorial High School, 201 S. Gammon Rd., Madison

Dodge: Horicon City Hall, Horicon

Door: Sturgeon Bay High School, Cafeteria, Sturgeon Bay

Douglas: Superior Senior High School Cafeteria, Superior

Dunn: Dunn County Fish/Game Club, Menomonie

Eau Claire: So. Jr. High School Auditorium, Eau Claire

Florence: Florence Natural Resources Center, Jct. of Hwys. 2 & 101, Florence

Fond du Lac: Moraine Park Technical College, Hwy. 23 East, Fond du Lac

Forest: Crandon High School, Hwy. 8 West, Crandon

Grant: Lancaster High School, Hilary Auditorium, Lancaster

Green: Monroe City Hall, Community Center in basement, Monroe

Green Lake: Green Lake High School, Green Lake

Iowa: Dodgeville Elementary School, Cafeteria, Dodgeville

Iron: Mercer Public School, County "J", Mercer

Jackson: Jackson County Courthouse, Black River Falls

Jefferson: Jefferson County Courthouse, Room 205, Jefferson

Juneau: Juneau County Courthouse, Court Room, Mauston

Kenosha: Kenosha County Center, Hearing Room, Bristol

Kewaunee: Kewaunee County Courthouse, Kewaunee

La Crosse: Central High School Auditorium, La Crosse

Lafayette: Darlington High School

Cafeteria, Darlington

Langlade: Langlade County Courthouse, Antigo

Lincoln: Tomahawk Elementary School Auditorium, Tomahawk

Manitowoc: UW Center-Manitowoc, Lecture Hall, Manitowoc

Marathon: John Muir Middle School, Wausau

Marinette: Wausaukee High School, N11941 Hwy. 141, Wausaukee

Marquette: Marquette County Courthouse, Montello

Menominee: Menominee County Courthouse, Basement Meeting Room, Keshena

Milwaukee: Whitnall High School Auditorium, Greenfield

Monroe: Sparta Senior High School Auditorium, Sparta

Oconto: Suring High School Cafeteria, Suring

Oneida: James Williams Junior High Auditorium, Rhinelander

Outagamie: Wilson School, 255 N. Badger Ave., Appleton

Ozaukee: American Legion Hall No. 82, Port Washington

Pepin: Pepin County Government Center, County Board Room, Durand

Pierce: Hillcrest Elementary School Gymnasium, 350 S. Grant, Ellsworth

Polk: Unity High School Auditorium, Balsam Lake

Portage: Ben Franklin Junior High School Auditorium, Stevens Point

Price: Price County Courthouse, Phillips

Racine: Union Grove High School Auditorium, Union Grove

Richland: Richland County Courthouse, Richland Center

Rock: Rock County Health Care Center Auditorium, Janesville

Rusk: Ladysmith High School Auditorium, Ladysmith

St. Croix: American Legion Post 240, Baldwin

Sauk: UW-Baraboo Campus, Baraboo

Sawyer: Hayward High School, Spoolman Auditorium, Hayward

Shawano: Shawano Senior High School Gymnasium, Shawano

Taylor: Taylor County Fairgrounds, Multi-purpose Building, Medford

Trempealeau: Trempealeau County Courthouse, Whitehall

Vernon: Vernon County Courthouse, Viroqua

Vilas: Plum Lake Community Building, Sayner

Walworth: Elkhorn Area Middle School Auditorium, Elkhorn

Washburn: Spooner High School Cafeteria, Spooner

Washington: UW-Washington County Campus, Room 201 (Big Lecture Hall), West Bend

Waukesha: Waukesha County Expo Center, North Hall, N1 W24848 Northview Rd., Waukesha

Waupaca: Grand Seasons Hotel, 110 Grand Seasons Dr., Waupaca

Waushara: Waushara County Courthouse, County Board Room 265, Wautoma

Winnebago: Oshkosh North High School Auditorium, Oshkosh

Wood: Pittsville High School Gymnasium, Pittsville

More Wisconsinites and more anglers

By Lee Kernan

The U.S. Census Bureau has announced that our state population now exceeds five million. That's pretty crowded compared to 300 years ago when, some historians estimate, fewer than 50,000 native Americans lived in what we now call Wisconsin.

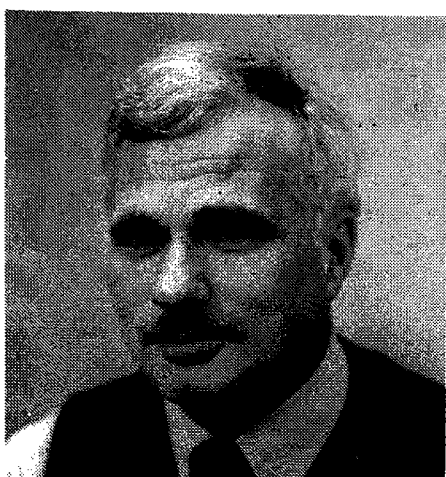
However, the portion of our population that goes fishing is not increasing as fast as the overall population. While the U.S. population grew by 5.3 percent, the number of anglers increased by less than one percent.

The top states for residents holding fishing licenses nationally in 1992 were: California (2,070,046); Texas (1,741,903); Minnesota (1,600,604); Michigan (1,577,701); and Wisconsin (1,455,548). Wisconsin's fifth-place ranking is remarkable, because we have a comparatively smaller population.

Another interesting way to look at fishing license sales is to see what percent of the population in a state actually fish. Alaska, with a small population, leads the pack with 64 percent. Minnesota and Wisconsin lead the big license holder states with 36 and 29 percent, respectively, of their residents holding licenses.

What do all these numbers mean? First of all, it means that even though growth of license holder numbers is slow, our lakes and streams will continue to receive increasing amounts of pressure.

If quality fishing - lots of bites and decent-sized fish - is our goal, then we must continue to emphasize catch-and-release fishing and encourage anglers



Lee Kernan

to refrain from always keeping a limit of fish. If we do this, fishing actually can improve even though we may have more anglers.

Secondly - and of great concern to me - is that more of our citizens are choosing other leisure activities instead of fishing. This means an increasing percentage of our population may relate less to nature and become more urbanized.

We need more people involved in the preservation of our environment, not fewer. Fishing is a great way to learn about the importance of clean water and how humankind is dependent upon the Earth's life support system.

I sure hope we can continue to involve our young people in a great outdoor sport like fishing. Please take a kid fishing when you get a chance!

Free fishing weekends approach

In conjunction with the annual "National Fishing Week" celebration, the states of Wisconsin and Michigan will host "Free Fishing Weekends" in June.

Wisconsin's "Free Fishing Weekend," which will replace the former "Free Fishing Day," will occur

June 3-4. Michigan's is one week later on June 10-11.

On those weekends in the respective states, resident and non-resident anglers may fish those states' waters without any license or trout stamp requirements. Creel and size limits, as well as special restrictions and regulations, still apply to all anglers.

requiring a wearable life jacket on aboard every type of boat for each person in the craft. The new law was written to apply to persons in boats, canoes and other craft under 16 feet in length. The same law is already in effect for boats 16 feet and longer.

New life jacket law takes effect

Starting May 1, canoers and operators of small boats who have relied upon "seat cushion" style life preservers in the past will need to have wearable life jackets on board their watercraft due to a recent change in federal law.

The last Congress approved a law

WISCONSIN TROUT WATERS

DNR trout stream information transferred to county maps.

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Wardens "Joining Forces" with youth

Wisconsin's conservation law enforcement officers are obliged to carry out many varied responsibilities. Starting this year, they have an added assignment to get youngsters acquainted with the conservation of the state's natural resources.

Called the "Joining Forces" program, the new mission is designed to have the conservation wardens talk to fifth-grade students in their areas and help the students develop an understanding of the role that they as citizens can play in managing and protecting Wisconsin's environment.

The program was developed by the Department of Natural Resources in

conjunction with the state Department of Public Instruction. Through the program, conservation wardens challenge the students to be responsible users of the state's resources and ask them to show respect for other resource users.

During the 1993-94 school year, "Joining Forces" was offered to select schools as a pilot program. Feedback from teachers and students was so positive that a goal of reaching 100 percent of fifth-grade students during the current 1994-95 school year was set.

All private and public schools were sent a letter explaining the program and inviting them to schedule a presenta-

tion by a warden. The response was overwhelming.

According to Larry Kriese, warden supervisor for the 14-county Lake Michigan District DNR area, wardens were scheduled to make over 310 presentations to more than 13,000 students by the end of the current school year. This comes over and above the receipt and investigation of over 4,000 citizen complaints and 1,500 presentations to other schools, clubs and groups that the

30-member warden staff of the Lake Michigan District alone handles each year.

"It's been challenging to find time to present the 'Joining Forces' program," Kriese said, "but helping fifth-grade students gain a better understanding of their natural environment will pay dividends in the future." Kriese said that "Joining Forces" will be offered as long as operating funds and personnel make it possible.

Youth education report

By Dale Lange

Many Wisconsin Trout Unlimited chapters are involved in youth education activities. A survey of chapters in 1994 revealed - from those 11 chapters taking the time to respond to the survey - that about 700 youngsters were involved in T.U.-sponsored events.

Following are some recommendations which local chapters may wish to explore for youth education activities. Each chapter's decision on youth activities to pursue will vary according to such factors as: number of volunteers willing to give time; financial resources; local support from city and/or county agencies and businesses; and the number of youth interested in participating in such programs.

When considering events for youth, try to hold a series of events throughout the year. Such a variety will keep kids interested and excited. Also, try to get adults involved with the kids, as some of them may never have fished before.

Too, keep things simple. Don't get too complicated or run events that drag on for long periods of time. A few short periods of time spent may be better than one long time period.

Suggested events and activities for youth

Event - Youth fishing day, information source - Park and Recreation Departments and other fishing clubs.

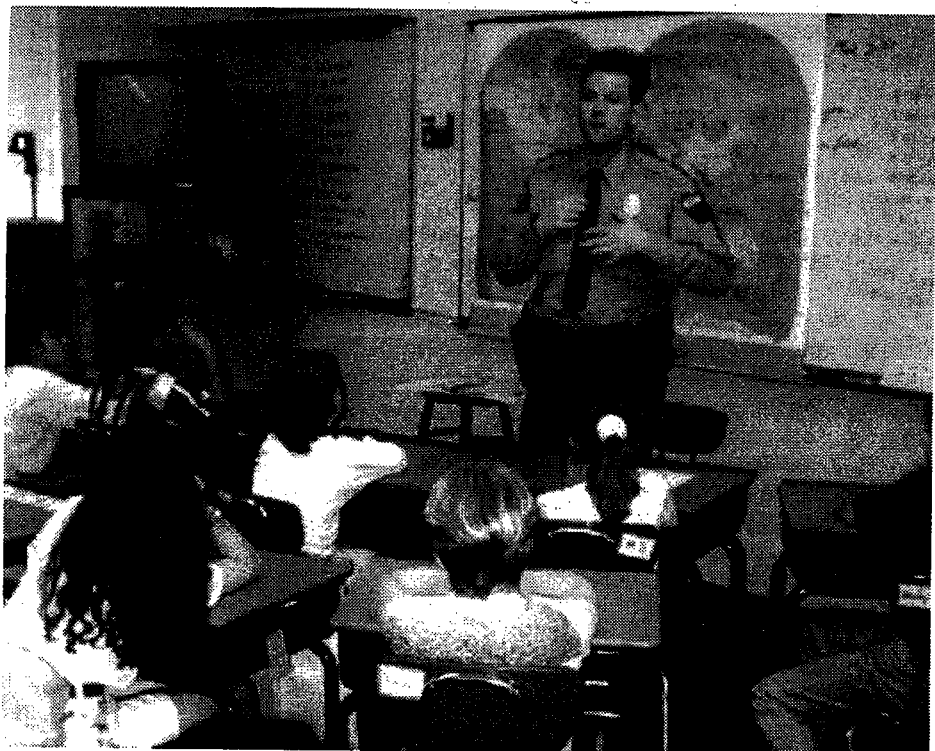
Event - Half-day fishing trips with T.U. members - have kids sign up at Rec departments or sport shops.

Trout magazines/videos - get T.U. materials to science teachers and school/city libraries.

Event - Fishing seminars/classes (especially good in winter) - use Park and Rec Departments, sport shops, school gyms, YMCA. Good speakers will be an added attraction.

Tours and field trips (take kids on habitat work projects, visit DNR stations, observe stream surveys, visit hatcheries), information source - possible trips with Park and Rec Department, class trips in spring for schools.

(Ed. note): Dale Lange is the Wisconsin T.U. Youth/Education Coordinator. Chapters or individuals with good youth education programs or ideas should contact Dale at: N3167 Right-of-Way Road, Peshtigo, WI 54157; or, call him at (715) 582-4172.



Shawano County Conservation Warden Jim Horne talks to fifth-graders at Gresham Public School.

News from T.U. National

National Fishing Week June 5-11

Since 1976, National fishing Week has provided the opportunity for new anglers (especially young ones) to experience the fun of recreational fishing, learn about aquatic resources and practice conservation ethics.

Getting involved in National Fishing Week (June 5-11 this year) is a great way to raise TU's profile, spread the word about conservation and attract new members.

If plans for a National Fishing Week event in your community are not underway already, your chapter should consider sponsoring one itself. After all, TU'ers are the ideal people to help new anglers enjoy their first fishing experience.

Sponsors can host events ranging from fishing clinics and derbies to stream cleanups. Many states also offer free fishing days during National Fishing Week - why not take advantage of a free fishing day to hold an event?

Every TU chapter should have received an information packet from the National Fishing Week Steering Committee. The mailing offered general information and included order forms for National Fishing Week materials such as: an event planning guide; promotional posters; an educational activity book; and certificates of accomplishment for participating kids.

Cartoonist Jim Davis and his feline friend, Garfield the Cat, will be co-chairs for the week-long celebration. With "Garfield" as the 1995 honorary spokescat, it should come as little surprise that this year's theme will be "Eat, Sleep, Go Fishing." A variety of "Garfield" materials available in the near future should be a great help in promoting your National Fishing Week

events.

TU encourages all of its chapters to partake in National Fishing Week. For more information, contact the National Fishing Week Steering Committee, 1033 North Fairfax Street, Suite 200, Alexandria, Virginia 22314-1540 or call (703) 684-3201. TU'ers may also call David Nickum of TU National at (703) 284-9408.

Project Access

If your chapter has participated in any projects making fishing areas more accessible to the elderly or handicapped in the past five years, please send a brief letter describing the project (including the date of project initiation or completion) to the National TU office, 1500 Wilson Blvd., Suite 310, Arlington, Virginia 22209-2310, Attn: Project Access.

Information will be used for an article in an upcoming issue of TROUT magazine.

Chapter-National communications

If your chapter has information for the National TU office within the chapter's regular newsletter, please send a copy of the pertinent newsletter and an explanatory letter to the appropriate person at TU National. A list of national staff and their titles is published in each issue of TROUT magazine.

Newsletters

TU National is considering the possibility of making a computer newsletter template available for chapter newsletters. If you would be interested in such a template, please write or FAX the National office at 703-284-9400, Attn: Newsletter Templates.

Youth Education survey results

Trout Unlimited Chapter Activities

Professional Speakers	3
Educational Seminars/Classes	6
Stream Construction/Educational facilities	4
Scholarships to camps and/or UW Stevens Point	2
Youth fishing/Handicap fishing events	7
Fly tying/Fly fishing/Rod building	5
Study of stream habitat and ecology systems	2
Donations to schools/libraries--books, videos	3

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April 21-23, 1995

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The workshop registration fee includes all instruction and fly tying materials. Friday dinner through Sunday lunch and two nights lodging. This program is sponsored in part by Northwoods Trout Unlimited and Treehaven.

REGISTRATION FORM

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Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send workshop fee (\$105) to:
Treehaven, 2540 Pickerel Creek Road, Tomahawk, WI 54487
If you have any questions call Treehaven at 715-453-4106

Natural Resources Board notes Board approves animal waste resolution

At the February, 1995, meeting of the Natural Resources Board (NRB), the Board approved a resolution recommending revisions to Wisconsin's Animal Waste Management Program.

The resolution was the outgrowth of six months of work by the Animal Waste Advisory Committee, which recommended a sweeping set of changes in the handling of manure as it relates to water quality in Wisconsin.

The Animal Waste Advisory Committee (AWAC) was formed in June of 1994 by Department of Natural Resources Secretary George Meyer in response to a petition from Wisconsin's Environmental Decade and others, as well as in response to a critical report from the Legislative Audit Bureau regarding the administration and effectiveness of the state's Animal Waste Management Program.

Chaired by DNR chief legal counsel James Kurtz, the AWAC included representatives from agricultural, environmental and governmental interests.

The focal points of the AWAC's work include four "prohibited behaviors" that would no longer be condoned, including:

- *no overflow of manure storage structures

- *no unconfined manure stacking within Water Quality Management Areas

- *no direct runoff from feedlots or stored manure to the waters of the state

- *no unlimited livestock access to the state's waters where high concentrations of animals prevent adequate sod cover maintenance.

While state law requires states to issue discharge permits for all livestock facilities that have more than 1,000 animal units, the AWAC recommended that more provisions be added to Wisconsin's administrative code to regulate livestock facilities with 300-1,000 animal units.

In conjunction with that recommendation came other suggestions to develop programs that will eliminate manure discharges into waters (thus negating a need for permit issuance), and to

focus on livestock facilities that have a documentable impact on water quality.

An adjunct to the NRB's resolution endorsing the AWAC's recommendations included directives for DNR staff to work with legislators and other parties to draft statutory changes needed to implement the program recommended by the AWAC.

Too, DNR staff will be proceeding with rulemaking activities needed to implement the Manure Management Program recommended by the AWAC, with staff scheduled to present a progress report to the NRB at its August, 1995, meeting.

The NRB is holding in abeyance any action on the afore-mentioned petition by the Environmental Decade and other groups until that meeting in August.

Manure runoff into state waters and livestock activities in and along streams has been a major water quality and fishery problem in Wisconsin - particularly in the southern half of the state - and has had much negative impacts of prime coldwater resources.

In developing the recommended provisions, the AWAC noted that manure is only one of many non-point pollution sources to state waters, and the AWAC noted that it does not wish to weaken related programs aimed at dealing with all sources of water quality degradation on a comprehensive basis.

One of the biggest obstacles to implementing the plan will be current tight fiscal budgets that may result in difficulty in assembling a "financial package" needed to make the rules and laws effective.

Action delayed on East Branch Eau Claire River

Also at the February NRB meeting, the Board withdrew a request by DNR staff to include the East Branch of the Eau Claire River (Langlade County) in the "Stream Bank Protection Program."

The East Branch was one of 21 streams or stream segments that had been proposed originally for inclusion in the "Stream Bank Protection Program"

under the auspices of the state's Stewardship Program. The NRB was to have approved inclusion of all 21 streams and stream segments into that program at the February, 1994, NRB meeting, but a snowstorm prevented the Board from meeting that month.

That freak storm was just enough to allow a group of dissident landowners along the East Branch to mount a campaign of lies and innuendoes about the DNR's intentions for the East Branch, and, when the NRB convened the following month, the East Branch was temporarily removed from the list of streams to be included in the Stream Bank Program so that DNR staff could explain the project's purpose to interested citizens.

An April 14, 1994, meeting in Antigo to explain the program turned into a feeding frenzy of negative attitudes toward the project based upon false statements by anti-East Branch Project people who claimed (falsely) that the DNR was intent on using its powers of "eminent domain" (i.e., condemnation) to obtain land for the project.

Subject to that meeting, Natural Resources Board chairman Herb Behnke of Shawano met with North Central District DNR staff, including Antigo area DNR fish manager Max Johnson, and with project dissidents to review the East Branch and the areas along the stream where runoff is causing water quality problems with this unique coldwater resource.

The staff at the NCD office in Rhineland then scheduled an "open house" type meeting for February 2, 1995, at Antigo to provide more information to the public about the project.

However, project opponents continued to mount a false publicity campaign against the project, and those turning out at the "open house" were overwhelmingly opposed to including the East Branch of the Eau Claire River in the Stream Bank Protection Program. Among the project opponents were a group of people who called themselves the "Eau Claire River Landowners Association," and who claimed that they had plans to clean up

the erosion and runoff problems plaguing the East Branch that would make state land acquisition unnecessary.

The NRB opted, then, to withdraw plans to include the East Branch of the Eau Claire in the Stream Bank Protection Program. But the NRB did direct DNR staff to cooperate with remedial efforts undertaken by the Eau Claire Landowners Association and to issue quarterly reports to the NRB on the progress being made to eradicate runoff problems into the East Branch.

The Board's resolution on this matter also indicated that, should there be less than satisfactory progress made in addressing the runoff problems currently affecting the East Branch, the NRB may act to include the East Branch in the Stream Bank Protection Program at a later date.

Other NRB actions

Among other actions taken by the Natural Resources Board at meetings this winter regarding coldwater resources were approvals of land acquisitions on the following waters:

- *138 acres along the Upper Kinnickinnic River in St. Croix County (\$193,000) for the Stream Bank Protection Program; the property includes 3,100 feet of two-bank frontage on the main Kinnickinnic and 860 feet of two-bank frontage on Parker Creek, a tributary to the "Kinni"; the land lies just north of CTH "J" east of Highway 65;

- *222.62 acres along Allen Creek in Rock County for the Stream Bank Protection Program; the land is adjacent to the west end of the Evansville Wildlife Area and abuts Highway 59/213; purchase price is \$267,000;

- *4.95 acres along the Pike River in Marinette County (\$45,000) for the Pike Wild River Project; the land is one mile west of Amberg off Dam Road;

- *227 acres (from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation) for the Rush Creek Natural Area in Crawford County (\$121,900); the land lies between the Natural Area and the Rush Creek Stream Bank Protection Area east of Highway 35.

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Wisconsin Trout

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Summer 1995

RETURN:
Trout Unlimited
Mitch Bent
935 South Union St.
Shawano, WI 54166

State budget still threatens environment

As as reported in the Spring, 1995, issue of Wisconsin Trout, the state budget bill proposed by Governor Tommy Thompson in mid-February to the Wisconsin Legislature contained a phalanx of issues - many not germane to fiscal policy - that threatened to undercut Wisconsin's history and tradition of progressive conservation policy and citizen involvement.

Thompson's original budget package called for eliminating the two full-time positions of **Public Intervenor** within the Department of Justice and eliminating the authority of the Natural Resources Board to hire (and fire) the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources, placing that authority directly with the governor and thus making the DNR part of the governor's "cabinet."

The original budget also called for the elimination of the civil service status for the six DNR district directors, making those positions instead political patronage jobs.

There were other items, too, that were not discussed in the last issue of Wisconsin Trout. We will attempt to update you as to what has transpired since the last issue and what is pending as we go to press.

Public Intervenor cuts

At hearings held in select areas in the state, mainly near Milwaukee and Madison, members of the Legislature's Joint Finance Committee heard from many citizens and groups who supported retention of a fully-funded office of the Public Intervenor. The support came from diverse sources such as conservation and environmental groups, the Wisconsin Towns association, small businesspersons, farmers and others.

The office of Public Intervenor was created in 1967 under former Republican Governor Warren Knowles to be a "watchdog" over citizens' rights in water and other natural resources and to make sure that agencies such as the Department of Natural Resources carry out their mandates to protect the environment.

Over the years, the Intervenor's office came to the aid of many citizens and groups - including Trout Unlimited - when issues arose over resource utilization.

However, the Intervenor only submitted about 15 lawsuits in all the years of its existence, preferring instead to reach a consensus on how to proceed with contentious issues.

Governor Thompson had stated that he wished to cut the Intervenor's post (two) to "save money" (\$350,000 over two years, or a nickel per person per year), but it was strongly suggested that his real interest in nixing the posts was to eliminate any interference by the state in plans for such ventures as the proposed zinc-copper mine near Crandon.

In an attempt to placate both citizens and the governor, state senator Rob Cowles (R. - Green Bay), a JFC mem-

ber, proposed an amendment to the budget bill that reduced the Intervenor staff from two to one, transferred it from the Department of Justice to the DNR and stripped it of the authority to enter into litigation.

The amendment was accepted, but was quickly labeled a sham by Intervenor supporters, who said that the amendment makes the Intervenor nothing more than an "advocate" or a "cheerleader." While giving the impression that the Intervenor post still exists, the amendment in reality eliminates the post.

At press time, the amendment still remains in the budget, though some Assemblypersons from Green Bay may seek to eliminate the position altogether.

"Cabinet" government for DNR

By April, opposition to Thompson's plan to politicize the DNR had reached such heights that the governor called a press conference to state that he was "giving up" on his plans to make the DNR a direct cabinet agency.

However, that was just a smoke-screen to confuse the opposition.

Thompson offered another "compromise" on the DNR, suggesting that the seven-member citizens board (the Natural Resources Board) could still direct agency policy but that the sitting governor would be given the authority to hire (and fire) the DNR secretary. While looking like a "reasonable" compromise, the proposal is as much a scam as is the "compromise" on the Public Intervenor posts.

With a citizens board directing policy and a governor hiring the DNR secretary, the scenario exists for a DNR chief to be taking orders from two different bosses. Confusion and uncertainty are bound to reign, with a governor then calling for elimination of the citizens board down the road because of "overlapping jurisdiction."

The JFC accepted this proposal, only after defeating an amendment by senator Cowles to amend the budget bill to allow the Natural Resources Board to hire the DNR secretary "with the advice and consent of the governor," which is de facto practice right now.

Cowles' motion was beaten when two JFC members of his own party, senator Mary Panzer (West Bend) and assembly person Cloyd Porter (Burlington) dropped their support of Cowles' amendment.

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress denounced both the moves to eliminate the Public Intervenor's office and to politicize the DNR at its April fish and game hearings and at its annual meeting in May in Wisconsin Dells. Every other conservation group in the state has denounced these moves, but their objections have fallen on deaf ears.

Conservation groups have supported the current method of running the DNR - i.e., by a seven-member citizens board that hires the DNR secretary and determines agency policy - because it insu-

lates the department from undue political influence in resource management decisions and allows maximum citizen participation in decision-making. With cabinet government, decisions are made behind closed doors and public input is minimized, allowing wealthy special interests to determine resource policy.

Wisconsin once had "cabinet" government for its old Conservation Department, but legislative disgust with the political shenanigans resulting from such a system caused an overhaul back in 1927 of the system to what we have today.

With our current system, Wisconsin has been rated one of the best states insofar as resource policy is concerned, due in no small part to having a system that allows citizens - not politicians - run the agency and determine policy.

At press time, the Assembly was just beginning to take up the budget bill after it had passed the JFC by a 12-4 party-line vote (Republicans in favor, Democrats against). It is unclear if anything can or will be done to undo this situation in the budget by either house of the Legislature.

"Political patronage" for DNR district directors

One bright spot in the budget debate has been the decision by the JFC to restore the civil service status of the six DNR district director positions. Thompson had originally wanted to make the positions appointed jobs, but the JFC saw this as bad policy and returned the posts to the status of civil service, where people are hired based on merit rather than on political affiliation.

"Theft" of Stewardship Funds

Not mentioned in the last issue of Wisconsin Trout was a codicil in the state budget submitted by Thompson that would have "shifted" approximately \$9.5 million over two years from the Stewardship Fund's land acquisition fund to pay for construction of a dormitory for 4-H students and ice skaters at the State Fair Park in West Allis and for construction and maintenance of the Great Lakes Visitor Center.

Created in 1989 over Thompson's objections, the Stewardship Fund is a ten-year, \$250 million state bonding program designed to upgrade and expand state parks and hunting and fishing areas as well as provide matching grant monies for land conservation work, including protection and restoration of riparian streambank corridors.

Annually, about \$8.6 million of the \$25 million Stewardship Fund is earmarked of land acquisition, which has been used for such things as the Streambank Acquisition Program that has been successful in buying land and easements along degraded trout waters throughout Wisconsin.

The fund was raided by Thompson a few years ago in order to use \$900,000

annually for the "Urban Rivers" grant program and \$1 million for construction of the Frank Lloyd Wright Center in Dane County.

This new raid was even more ominous, as it would, if carried through, rob the land acquisition fund of nearly 71 percent of the funds for unintended purposes.

Alerted by members of The Nature Conservancy, many conservation groups - including the Conservation Congress - protested loudly about this blatant attempt by Thompson to abscond with public funds for purposes other than which the Stewardship Fund had been created.

In a defense to the press, Thompson said that "These 4-H students are some of the best soil conservationists around, so I don't think that this is stretching the concept of Stewardship too far!"

However, the governor's plan ran into trouble among members of both political parties in the JFC, so another "compromise" was made. Monies for the dormitory and Visitor Center will now come from other General Obligation bonds which the state will sell, but total Stewardship bonding for the next two fiscal years will be decreased by the amount of bonding needed for the two construction projects.

License fee increases

Included in Thompson's budget were proposals to raise fees for hunting and fishing by an average of 16 percent (no increases were proposed for either Trout Stamp cost). The DNR and the Thompson administration had been working on an agreement to address the need for fee increases every four years, rather than having the department come to the Legislature every year or two years for smaller increases.

The Natural Resources Board had reviewed the fee increase package and given its OK last fall. But the JFC, working late one Friday afternoon after a week of budget haggling, rejected the license fee package, leaving the possibility of a \$5.2 million shortfall in the conservation fund.

Subsequent to the JFC's rejection of the fee increases, DNR Secretary George Meyer wrote to all JFC members advising them of the cuts that DNR would have to make if the fee increases weren't adopted.

Among the items up for cutting, according to Meyer, were 12 game warden positions, trout stocking (682,000 fewer fish stocked in inland waters) and the state's beaver control program (a 90 percent reduction).

While Meyer's letter caused some JFC members to reconsider their move, others were critical, saying that Meyer had listed only possible cuts that would cause consternation among those programs' advocates and would result in lobbying of the Legislature to restore the fee increases.

The Conservation Congress adopted

Cont. on Page 3

Wisconsin T.U. Council/Chapter Directory

Chairman: David Ogletree, 2661 Milwaukee St., Madison, WI 53704 (608) 246-4227

Vice-Chairman: Dave Newhouse, 229 Ridgeway, Rhinelander, WI 54501 (715) 362-5263

Secretary: Jon Christiansen, 237 Aster Lane, Mequon, WI 53092

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Past Chairman: Forrest Grulke, 1356 Home Ave., Menasha, WI 54952 (414) 739-5155

Fund Raising: John Cantwell, 2286 Mt. Olive, Green Bay, WI 54313 (414) 434-3989 (H)

Legal Counsel: Winston Ostrow, 335 Trader's Point Ln., Green Bay, WI 54302 (414) 469-1596 (H)

Publications: Mitch Bent, 935 South Union St., Shawano, WI 54166 (715) 524-5886

Water Resources: Russ Bouck, 9357 Nelson Rd., Amherst Junction, WI 54407 (715) 824-3781

Youth/Education: Dale Lange, N3167 Right-of-Way Rd., Peshtigo, WI 54157 (715) 582-4172 (H)

Membership: Jim Hlaban, 1421 Silverwood, Neenah, WI 54956 (414) 722-4335

Aldo Leopold Chapter (#375): Clint Byrnes, 921 S. Spring St., Beaver Dam, WI 53916 (414) 885-5335

Antigo Chapter (#313): Scott Hen-

ricks, 213 Mary St., Antigo, WI 54409 (715) 623-3867

Blackhawk Chapter: (#390): Richard Alfors, 4599 Totter Trail, Rockford, IL 61101-9041 (815) 968-4102

Central WI Chapter: Russ Bouck, 9357 Nelson Rd., Amherst Junction, WI 54407 (715) 824-3781

Coulee Region Chapter (#278): John Bethke, 118 Vernon St., Westby, WI 54667; (608) 634-3641

Fox Valley Chapter (#193): Ryan Hagen, 316 Naymut St., Menasha, WI 54952 (414) 722-8015 (H)

Frank Hornberg Chapter: (#624): Jeff Dimick, P.O. Box 393, Stevens Point, WI 54481-0393 (715) 677-4947

Green Bay Chapter (#083): Janet Smith, 3358 Nautical Ave., Green Bay, WI 54311 (414) 433-3803 (O); (414) 468-6154 (H)

Harry Nohr Chapter: Joe Bodewes, 329 W. Division, Dodgeville, WI 53533 (608) 935-2533

Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter (#168): Gary Horvath, 623 W. Pine St., River Falls, WI 54022-2036 (715) 425-8489

Lakeshore Chapter (#423): Ron McCormick, 1535 Kellner St., Manitowoc, WI 54220-1541 (414) 684-0724

Marinette County Chapter (#422): Jerry Chevalier, 3218 W. Bayshore St., Marinette, WI 54143 (715) 732-1555

Northwoods Chapter (#256): Al Lenz, 2432 Highway 17, Phelps, WI 54554 (715) 545-2424

Oconto River Watershed Chapter (#385): Dave Brunner, 5473 Cardinal Rd., Gillett, WI 54124 (414) 855-6669 (H)

Ojibseau Chapter (#255): John Welter, 204 E. Grand Ave., P.O. Box 358, Eau Claire, WI 54702 (715) 832-3494 (O); (715) 832-7028 (H)

Shaw-Paca Chapter (#381): Jerry Weatherwax, RR 3, Box 203A, Shawano, WI 54166 (715) 524-5642 (H) (715) 823-2180 (O)

Southeastern WI Chapter (#078): Jon P. Christiansen, 237 Aster Lane,

Mequon, WI 53092 (414) 241-5220 (H)

Southern WI Chapter (#061): Bill Sonzogni, 3731 Pioneer Road, Verona, WI 53593 (608) 829-2552

Wild Rivers Chapter (#415): Paul Gilbert, RR 1, Box 24, Cable, WI 54821 (715) 798-3218 (H)

Wisconsin River Valley Chapter (#395): Herb Hintze, 629 Hamilton St., Wausau, WI 54401 (715) 842-1365 (H)

Wolf River Chapter (#050): Herb Buettner, N4297 Buettner Road, White Lake, WI 54491 (715) 882-8610 (H)

Wisconsin T.U. Chapter meeting times, locations

Aldo Leopold: When needed or called; at Beaver Dam Conservation Club, CTH "G", Beaver Dam.

Antigo: Not listed.

Blackhawk: Third Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at UW-Rock County Campus (South Building).

Central Wisconsin: Board meetings at Tilly's in Wautoma on second Monday of the month, 7:00 p.m.

Coulee Region: Not given.

Fox Valley: Third Thursday of the month, 7:30 p.m., at The Forester Club, Spencer St., Appleton.

Frank Hornberg Chapter: Second Thursday of the month, 7:00 p.m. at Shooter's Supper Club, Hwys. 51 & 54, Plover. No meetings May-September.

Green Bay: First Thursday of September, October, November, January, February, March and April at Maricque's, 1517 University Ave., Green Bay at 7:30 p.m. May picnic/meeting at the Brown County Reforestation Camp. December Christmas/awards dinner at site to be determined. No chapter meetings June-Aug.

Kiap-TU-Wish: First Wednesday of the month at JR Ranch east of Hudson on Hwy. 12 north of I-94. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.; meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Lakeshore: Second Monday of the month, 7:30 p.m. at The Club Bil-Mar, Old Hwy. 141, Manitowoc.

Marinette County: First Tuesday

of the month, 7:00 p.m., at The Dome, 751 University Drive, Marinette.

Harry Nohr: Not given.

Northwoods: Third Thursday of the month, 7 p.m. at Associated Bank (Community Room), Stevens at Davenport Streets, Rhinelander. No meetings June, July and August.

Oconto River Watershed: First Wednesday of the month, 7:45 p.m., at the Lone Oak Gun Club, Hwy. 32 North, Gillett.

Ojibseau: Second Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m., at the Eau Claire Rod & Gun Club, Eau Claire.

Shaw-Paca: Third Thursday of the month, 8:00 p.m., at the Corner Bar, County "M", in Pella (Shawano County).

Southeastern Wisconsin: Fourth Tuesday of the month. Dinner at 6:00 p.m., meeting at 7:30 p.m. At the Bavarian Wursthau, 8310 Appleton Ave., Milwaukee.

Southern Wisconsin: Second Tuesday of the month, dinner at 6:00 p.m., meeting at 7:00 p.m. At the Maple Tree Restaurant, McFarland.

Wild Rivers: Not given.

Wisconsin River Valley: First Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m., at the North Central Technical College, Wausau.

Wolf River: At various times. Call Herb Buettner (715-882-8612) for information.

Natural Resources Board Directory

Herb Behnke, Chairman
Rt. 4 Box 68
Shawano, WI 54166

Trygve Solberg, Vice-chairman
Box 50
Minocqua, WI 54458

Neal Schneider, Secretary
Box 71
Janesville, WI 53545

Betty Jo Nelsen
2640 E. Newton Ave.
Shorewood, WI 53211

Mary Jane Nelson
W6432 Hwy. D
Holmen, WI 54636

James Tiefenthaler
450 N. Sunny Slope Rd.
Suite 280
Brookfield, WI 53003

Steve Willett
Box 89
Phillips, WI 54455

New Chapter leader? Please tell us

When chapters elect new officers, it is essential that they inform the State Council AND the T.U. National office of that change. Otherwise, vital information for chapter use gets lost, as it is the unfortunate custom of outgoing chapter presidents to fail to forward mail.

Here are the rules to follow when changing chapter presidents:

1. Inform T.U. National by calling Wendy Reed at (703) 522-0200. She will need name, address, and home and/or work phone number(s). Or, you can mail that information to her at: Trout Unlimited, 1500 Wilson Blvd. Suite 310, Arlington, VA 22209. Include the name of your chapter AND the three-

digit chapter ID number (see Council/Chapter directory on this page).

2. Inform the State Council of the change, too. Send that information to Mitch Bent, 935 S. Union St., Shawano, WI 54166. Or, call him at (715) 524-5886.

Now, even with these instructions, some chapter presidents or ex-presidents just won't follow through with the request. So, if you notice that your chapter's president is incorrectly listed in the Council/Chapter directory, PLEASE inform Mitch Bent at the address or phone number listed. It's better to have too much communication than not enough.

Changing address? Do it right!

If you're changing your address, here are the proper rules to follow in order to continue receiving communications from Trout Unlimited.

1. Send notices of address changes directly to the T.U. National office. That address is: Trout Unlimited Membership Service, 14101 Parke Long Court, Chantilly, VA 22021-1645.

2. Include your eight-digit T.U. identification number with change of address notice. It is found on the upper left hand corner of mailing labels attached to TROUT magazine, Wisconsin Trout newspaper or your chapter newsletter.

3. If you are moving to a different

city within Wisconsin and wish to be affiliated with the T.U. chapter in your area, make note of that, too, and include the three-digit chapter identification number of the new chapter into which you are transferring.

4. If you have any questions, you may call Mitch Bent at (715) 524-5886. BUT...you should not send notice of address changes to him. They will not be accepted; rather, they will be returned to the sender. All notice of address changes should go directly to T.U. National. T.U. National's Phone Number: (703) 522-0200 * FAX (703) 284-9400.

WISCONSIN TROUT

Is the official publication of the Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited. Issues are distributed to all members of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited chapters. Publication and distribution dates are the first weeks of January, April, July and October. Deadlines for articles and advertisements are the 10th of December, March, June and September, respectively. Advertising rate sheet available upon request. Contributions and letters-to-the-editor are welcomed and encouraged. Submit articles and returnable photos or slides (color or black-and-white) to editor for consideration.

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Mitch Bent, Editor
935 South Union St.
Shawano, WI 54166
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Rhinelander, WI 54501

Forrest Grulke, Treasurer
1356 Home Ave.
Menasha, WI 54952

Letters to the Editor

Disputes "egg crushing" impacts

Editor, Wisconsin Trout:

I am mystified by all of the early trout season stories that I have read over the past several months that angler "egg crushing" (i.e., wading anglers stepping on fertilized trout ova in spawning redds and destroying the potential number of trout that may be hatched) is a problem - or cause for concern.

The people who hold this view should be aware that a continuous evaluation process was in effect during the 20-year history of the early trout season, and nothing was found to suggest that trout reproduction had declined during the run of this early season. In fact, the opposite occurred. Let me explain.

By chance, when the early trout season started in southern Wisconsin,

biologists Oscar and Cliff Brynildson has just completed about 10 years of continuous study of wild brown trout in Trout Creek near Barneveld in Iowa County. Since the stream is only a 30 minute drive from Madison, it immediately received heavy early season fishing pressure. Angler "egg crushing" must have occurred in the main spawning area, because high steep banks greatly restrict bank fishing. Although Oscar began his retirement about this time, Cliff continued to monitor the trout population, and he found that it was not affected by early season fishing or by wading anglers.

Many surveys of Class I trout streams in Grant, Richland and Vernon counties have demonstrated clearly that trout reproduction in streams in these counties is controlled by weather-

related events and land use. Flooding is the main factor.

When late winter or early spring floods occur, trout fry are usually swept away and killed. When floods don't occur, reproduction is excellent.

Also, a lot of trout streams in these counties went from Class II status to Class I during the early trout season period of 20 years. There was adequate reproduction of trout, and this allowed fish managers to remove surplus wild brown trout from some streams and transfer them to Class II trout streams (this "unorthodox" practice is now being encouraged by the DNR's Bureau of Fish Management).

Noted trout research biologist Robert Behnke had this to say back in 1979 about trout reproduction (and about people like Cliff and me): "They

(biologists) realize that, in most trout streams, a great surplus of natural reproduction occurs, and the hatching of more trout only aggravates the problem of high (90-98 percent) natural mortality during the first year of life."

I can find no fault with Mr. Behnke's statement.

Persons wishing to discuss this matter with me personally can write to me at the address listed below. And for those who wonder about my interest in trout, I have fished them for more than 40 years, and I've been a member of Trout Unlimited for 15 years. I also am a member of The Nature Conservancy, the Audubon Society and the Smallmouth(bass) Alliance.

Sincerely,
Roger Kerr
5388 Hwy. MS
Boscobel, WI 53805

Followup letter from Brynildson

Dear Roger,

As I recall, the last Trout Creek fish population surveys in which I was involved were conducted in the late 1970's. It was from the data gathered there - plus a one per creel census - that I wrote the report on the effects of the early fishing season on the trout population.

No significant adverse effects were noted because of the good natural reproduction of brown trout.

The effects of wading on the spawning beds were not evaluated. In fact, this issue was not considered as being a problem. It seems to me that it would take a sizeable group of wading fishermen to create any harm to the trout eggs. I was surprised to see the results of a study conducted in Montana that

was shown in the last issue of Wisconsin Trout.

If the early trout fishing season becomes legal again in 1996, the season would probably open the first Saturday in April. All the trout fry would be dispersed through the streams, and thus no longer be subjected to (harm from) wading (anglers).

Winter floods can be destructive to eggs and emerging trout fry. There were several years when floods took their tolls in both Trout and Mt. Vernon Creeks. I appreciate receiving this material on trout management that I normally would not have.

Best wishes,
Cliff Brynildson
5710 Thrush Lane
Madison, WI 53711

Objects to changes in Trout Stamp use

Editor, Wisconsin Trout:

I had heard a rumor that the DNR was proposing to make changes in the permissible use of Trout Stamp monies. I note now from the Spring, 1995, issue of Wisconsin Trout that the rumor is true.

I was a member of the Natural Resources Board when the Trout Stamp for Wisconsin was approved. I fought hard to have the stamp required AND to make sure that the funds raised from sale of Trout Stamps were used solely for habitat improvements. We saw the futility of dumping hatchery trout into sub-standard streams for "put-and-take" fishing with no lasting benefits. At that time, we also had the DNR agree that that part of the monies of the regular fishing licenses which had been devoted traditionally to habitat improvement, trout surveys, etc., would continue to be used for those purposes, so that Trout Stamp proceeds would not constitute the only source of monies for coldwater stream management.

Since then, I have written to the Department almost every year at budget time to secure their assurances that these two agreements were being honored in the next year's budget. Gen-

erally speaking, I have been given that assurance. Now it is proposed that the rules be changed.

I don't know about other trout anglers, but I would regard the invasion of the Trout Stamp funds for purposes other than habitat improvement to be a violation of our "trust fund" concept. I think it is obvious that once a hole is in the dike, there will be no end to raiding the habitat improvement funds for other purposes.

The article in Wisconsin Trout indicates that there is "some surplus" in the Inland Trout Stamp fund. That certainly can't be because there are not hundreds - if not thousands - of miles of marginal or Class III trout waters which should have habitat improvement.

I urge Wisconsin TU, both the Wisconsin State Council and its individual members, to write to the DNR objecting to its diversion of monies from the Trout Stamp trust fund.

Very truly yours,
Daniel T. Flaherty
Suite 621

Exchange Building
205 Fifth Avenue South
P.O. Box 1626
La Crosse, WI 54601-1626

Military plans cause concerns

Plans to buy and clear more than 7,000 acres of land between the Petenwell Flowage and the Necedah National Wildlife Refuge in west central Wisconsin to establish a new aerial bombing and gunnery range have upset a multitude of residents in that area who are concerned about the project's impact on many facets of existing life - including tourism - in that part of Wisconsin.

If the range is established, three military flight corridors would be set up to enter Wisconsin from northern Illinois, eastern Iowa and eastern Minnesota. The corridors would cover large parts

of Buffalo, Crawford, Grant, Jackson, Juneau, Monroe, Richland, Trempealeau and Vernon counties.

A group calling itself "Citizens United Against Low Level Flights" have expressed fears that, among other things, tourist activities such as trout fishing, turkey hunting, bird-watching and canoeing would be sharply reduced because of the amount and volume of noise that would be made by aircraft during the training exercises.

For more information, contact: Citizens United Against Low Level Flights, P.O. Box 22, Mount Sterling, WI 54645.

✓State budget

Cont. from Page 1

a "thumbs-down" position on the fee increase package, and at the moment the situation is in limbo. There is no indication at press time what might happen with the fee package when it reaches the full Legislature for debate.

Wisconsin Trout will attempt to update all members in the Fall, 1995, issue with regard to what has transpired in this most unusual of budget battles.

We will also report on the votes on ALL legislators on the budget, doing so in an objective, non-partisan manner.

However, we will clearly draw the line between "good" votes and "bad" votes.

A vote FOR any budget that eliminates or waters down the office of Public Intervenor, that turns the DNR into a cabinet agency or that shifts funds from the Stewardship Fund to other unintended purposes will be viewed as a vote AGAINST the environment and Wisconsin's long-standing traditions of citizen input into resource management policy.

And those who vote against the environment - no matter their political persuasion or their "truly good intentions" - will be held accountable for their actions.

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Wisconsin Trout Stream

Central Wisconsin is a special place. It is a land of gently rolling terrain, beautiful wooded lands and quiet, gurgling streams.

And one trout river that seems to capture the essence of this wonderful part of our great state is the Plover River.

The Plover has its beginnings in swamp seepage areas in the southwestern corner of Langlade County, but it is in Marathon County where the river establishes its fame and credibility as a fine trout stream.

In 1952, the Wisconsin Conservation Commission (predecessor to today's Natural Resources Board) approved a plan to establish the Plover River Fishery Area, with an acreage goal of about 1,935 acres. The area includes riparian lands along the Plover between Highway 52 on the north border to CTH "N" on the south.

Since the approval of that plan over 40 years ago, much work has been done

to enhance the carrying capacity for trout in the Plover.

In the 1950's, the old Conservation Department bought and leased areas along the Plover within the boundary lines in order to repair streambanks that had been damaged by cattle activity. Stream banks were fenced, cattle watering areas were created and sheet piling deflectors were installed at several locations.

By the 1970's and 1980's, more intensive in-stream habitat work was being done on the Plover. The Department of Natural Resources installed a series of boom covers for about one-half mile in a stretch south of CTH "Z", and stream bank brushign and brush bundle installation was carried out between Sportsmen Road and Highway 52 in the mid-80's.

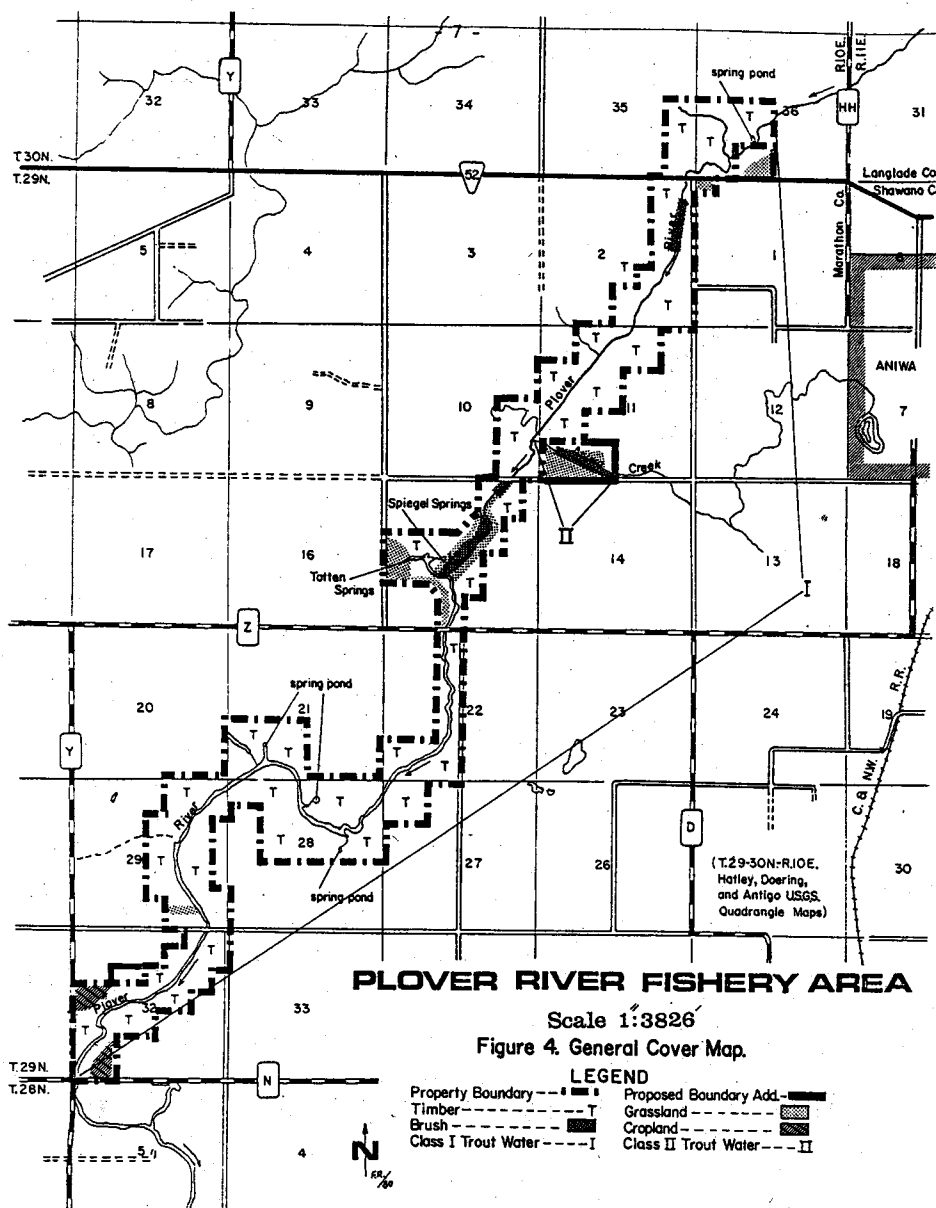
Come to the 1990's, and habitat work became even more intense, thanks in large part to the active role played by



Totten Springs feeds the Plover north of CTH "Z".



Herb Hintze lands trout from improved stretch of the Plover.



the Wisconsin River Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited and its president, Herb Hintze.

The T.U. chapter obtained several leases from private landowners south of CTH "N" (and out of the boundaries of the established fishery area) and subsequently did a lot of rehabilitation work. Channels were reworked, brush bundles and boom covers were installed and banks were maintained and seeded.

But the health of the trout fishery in the Plover was - and is - dependent as well on spring ponds which send cooling waters into the river's main stream thread, and the DNR has been active in protecting those areas as well.

In 1963, Spiegel Springs, which lies a mile north of CTH "Z," was dredged by the DNR in one of their initial pond dredging projects. Ten years later, Totten Springs, just north of "Z," was also hydraulically dredged. Clark Springs, an important spring source bordering the south side of CTH "N," was dredged by the DNR - with financial help from the Wisconsin River Valley Chapter - in 1985.

More recently, the state has purchased land around Silent Springs, a former fish hatchery whose waters feed the Plover south of the little burg of Bevent. Another important coldwater source for the Plover is Bear Springs, north of Highway 153.

The fishery composition of the Plover is a mix of brook and brown trout. The system provides for excellent

natural reproduction of trout, and the river north of CTH "N" is listed as Class I trout water (no stocking of fish necessary) by the DNR. The 16 river miles south of "N" are listed as Class II water, and some annual stocking of brown trout occurs in these reaches.

With the implementation of the new inland trout fishing regulations this decade, angling restrictions on the Plover have been varied. The stretch north of the Totten Springs outlet in Marathon County through to the headwaters stretch in Langlade County is listed as Category 2 water, i.e., a five trout daily creel limit and seven-inch minimum size limit.

From Highway 153 (the southern edge of the established trout water) north to CTH "Z," the Plover carries a Category 4 listing (three trout daily, eight-inch size limit on brook trout, 12 inches on browns).

And even before the new regulations were set, the Plover already had a "Special Regulations" section (Category 5) on part of its meander.

In the 1980's, the DNR responded to anglers' worries about a disproportionate brown trout to brook trout ratio in the river and set up a "Special Regs" stretch from CTH "Z" north to the confluence of the Plover and the Totten Springs outlet. The rule limited the daily creel of trout to five, with a minimum size limit of 14 inches on brook trout and seven on browns and rainbows.

And artificial lures and flies are



Clark Springs, a spring pond feeding the Plover just south of CTH "N", was dredged by the DNR in 1985.

Profile: Plover River

required for use by anglers (no live bait) in that run.

While the Plover has shown the potential to produce a very abundant trout fishery, it has been plagued - as have many northeastern and north central streams - by a multitude of problems over the past two decades.

Beaver activity on and along the Plover and its tributaries has caused much trouble for spawning trout, and active control programs on the flat-tailed ordents have been carried out to keep the system free-flowing and in good condition to host spawning fish.

Two droughts in the last 20 years - the one in 1976 and the one that lasted from 1987-1990 - put definite crimps into the Plover's trout population. Wausau area DNR fish biologist Al Hauber (see accompanying article) noted that it took five years for the Plover's trout population to recover from the 1976 drought, and it is taking nearly as long - even with the added benefit of more restrictive angling rules - for it to return to its former self after the terrible late 1980's dry spell.

Adding to the Plover's woes has been its attractiveness as a trout fishery, especially to those who would transgress the angling rules. During the 1976 drought, Conservation officer Don Mezei of Marathon County caught two "anglers" floating a slow-moving section of the Plover with over 250 trout in possession. Such abominable misuse of the resource, especially at a time of severe stress to the trout, only prolonged the recovery time of the fishery.

Yet the Plover does provide - and will continue to provide - a splendid opportunity for the trout angler to seek

trout in quiet rural surroundings. At least 14 road crossings provide access to the Plover from its headwaters in Langlade County to the southern end of the Class II trout water at Highway 153.

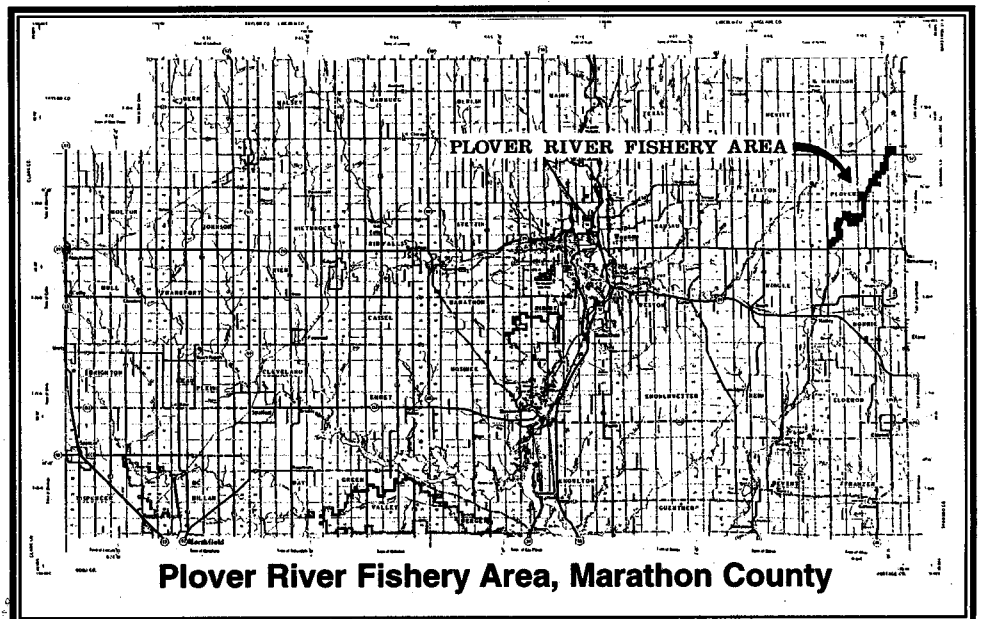
And the river can provide a varied trout fishing experience.

Much of the river runs over sandy or gravelly areas, making wading quite easy. Riffle areas are often productive, and anglers must always be alert when casting lure, bait or fly into the Plover, for fish are well-spread out through its reaches.

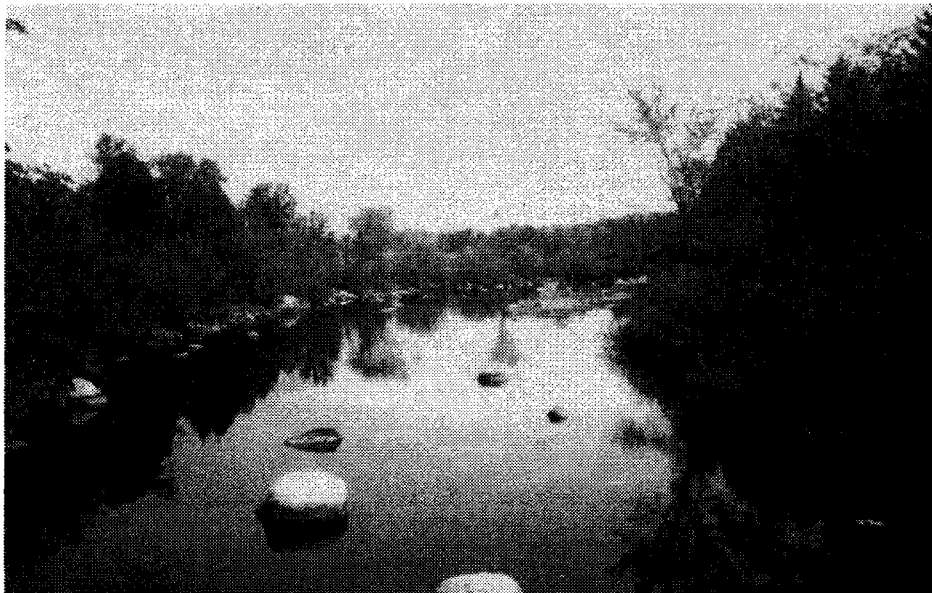
The Plover also has mucky, slow-moving parts, some of which are quite deep. Large browns will gravitate to these spots, and anglers who come upon these runs during the prolific hatches of brown drakes or hexagenia mayflies may be startled at the sizes of some of the fish that rise to the unfortunate flies.

All in all, the Plover is a fine, lovely stream that provides much enjoyable trout fishing in the heart of Wisconsin. Like any precious resource, it needs lots of TLC (tender loving care) to continue its ability to produce fish. Anglers who ply its waters are encouraged to restrict their harvest above and beyond what the trout regulations booklet says so that the fishery will be viable for many years hence.

And when you fish the Plover, step back for a minute and listen to its song. It will sing you a melody that tells of much affection and care shown it by the DNR and the Wisconsin River Valley T.U. Chapter. And, like so many other of Wisconsin's fine waters, it will soothe your soul and leave you - if only for a moment - at peace in a world that sometimes goes far too fast.



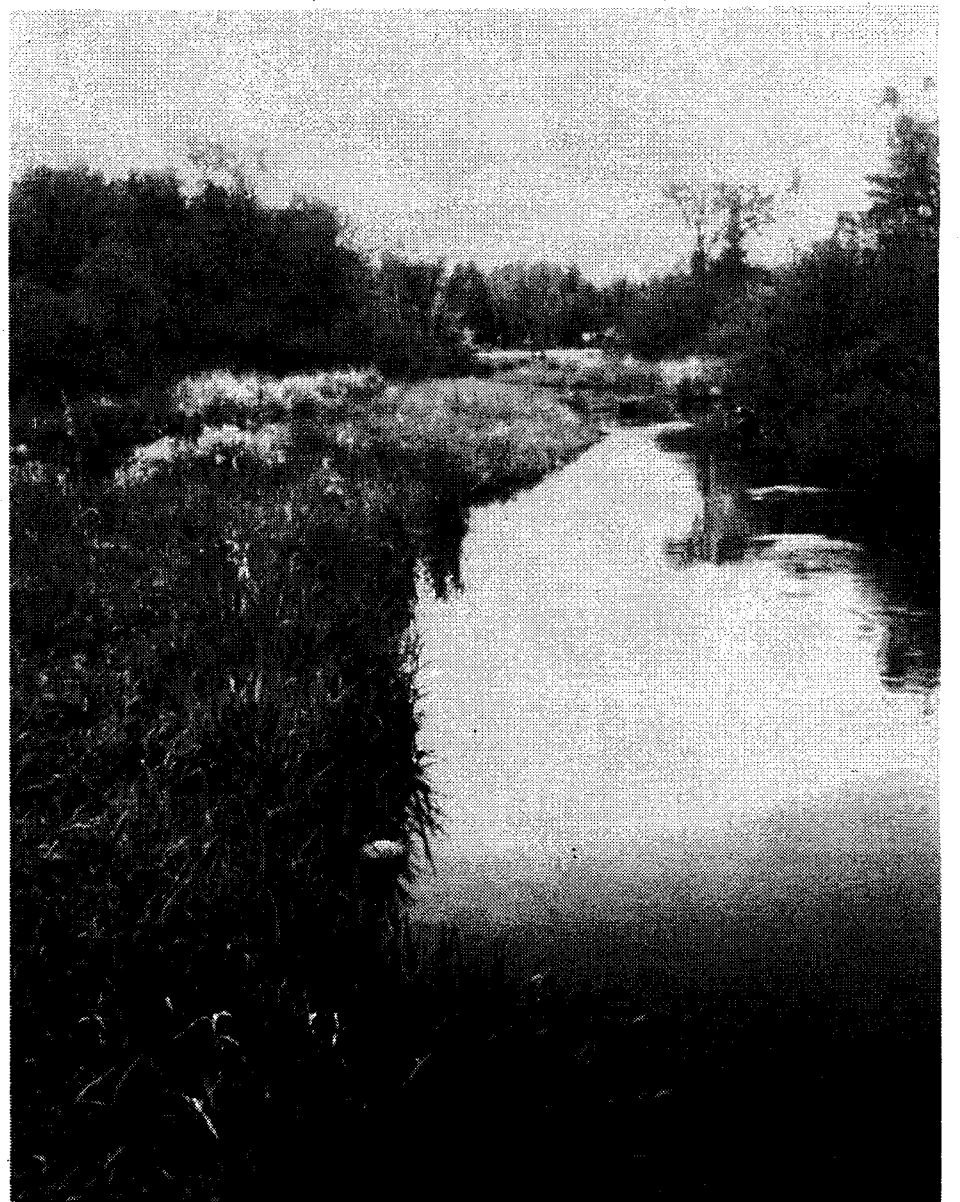
Flat, slow-moving section of the Plover one mile north of CTH "N".



Lower stretch of Plover River in Marathon County that could use habitat work.



Wisconsin River Valley T.U. members installing half-logs in the Plover River.



Narrowed section of Plover River immediately south of CTH "N".

Coho creel limit reduced on Lake Michigan

Anglers fishing on Lake Michigan and Green Bay began abiding by a new temporary daily creel limit on coho salmon on April 1.

The temporary creel limit reduction (from five to three per day) was necessary to assure that a sufficient number

of adult coho salmon survive through next fall to provide eggs for stocking cohos in Lake Michigan in the future. The temporary creel reduction, which is not listed in the current fishing regulations pamphlet, will be in effect until March 30, 1996.

Overall daily creel limits on Lake Michigan and Green Bay are not affected. During the 1995 angling season, anglers may catch a total of five salmon and trout, of which no more than three may be cohos and no more than two may be lake trout.

The coho salmon fishery in Lake Michigan relies on the capture of spawning fish for preparation of successive generations. Fisheries managers capture adult coho salmon in the Root and Kewanunee rivers in Wisconsin, and in the Platte River in Michigan. Eggs taken from the adults are hatched in hatcheries, and fingerlings or yearlings produced from those eggs are stocked back into the rivers.

"The production of salmon from eggs taken at the Platte River is key to the lakewide coho fishery," says Bill Horns, a Great Lakes fisheries specialist with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. "That river produces all of the coho salmon stocked in Michigan, Indiana and Illinois, about 80 percent of the cohos stocked statewide."

"Coho salmon swim widely in Lake

Michigan, so all of those fish are important to Wisconsin anglers," Horns added. "A large percentage of the coho salmon caught here are stocked in the Platte River and would return there if not captured. We can help assure an adequate return to the Platte River by reducing our daily creel limit."

All states bordering Lake Michigan will have a daily creel limit of three on cohos in 1995.

In recent years, hatcheries have been experiencing problems with the survival of coho salmon. As a result of high mortality, the number of cohos stocked into Lake Michigan in 1994 was approximately half of the desired levels. The fish stocked in 1994 will support the sport fishery during this year, and those that survive will return to spawn in the fall.

"Because too few fish were stocked in 1994, there is a significant chance that the number of adult coho salmon returning to spawn in the Platte River in 1995 will not be sufficient to produce enough eggs to supply stocking needs," said Horns.

"Catch-and-Release" Committee distributes brochures

By Jim Hlaban

The "Catch-and-Release" (C&R) Committee has been very active in 1995. The committee has overseen the printing and distribution to chapters of over 60,000 brochures entitled "Consider Proper Release," CPR for short. We hope that you have seen one or at least heard about them, as they were sent to each Wisconsin T.U. chapter president. We trust that they have been well distributed and are helping anglers to understand and carry out proper release of trout so that more fish will survive.

The C&R Committee also has identified a countertop display that will be used in conjunction with the brochures in 1996.

We in the C&R Committee also have made significant progress on the production of a video that will outline and demonstrate proper release techniques. We will supply chapters with copies of this video when it is finished, and we'll be asking for your help in getting it

shown to various groups and distributed to TV stations.

We would also like to identify a small, inexpensive video player that chapters could buy and use at banquets, sport shows and meetings to show this video. These players could also be loaned out to bait shops to show the short video to customers during the fishing season.

If anyone has any other ideas on how to promote this video and get more anglers educated with regard to proper release techniques, let me know. And if you'd like to become involved on our C&R committee, give me a call. I can be reached by writing to me at: Jim Hlaban, 1421 Silverwood Lane, Neenah, Wis. 54956, or by calling (414) 722-4335.

We believe that this is an ongoing effort that will continue to need your support. Please help however you can. Ask your chapter president how you might help distribute the "CPR" brochures or further this effort. Thanks!!

Looking for Youth Education Ideas?

If your chapter has been searching for ideas on youth education activities, here are two programs to consider.

"Give Water a Hand" - This 4-H Environmental Stewardship program involves young people in environmental community service.

The "Give Water a Hand" project guidebooks help young people identify and address local water issues. Groups investigate potential water quality and conservation issues in their communities, and then they join forces with local natural resources experts to evaluate their findings and take action on a water problem they themselves have identified.

Leading up to Earth Day and National Drinking Water Week 1995, this year's "Give Water a Hand" participants applied to win the United Earth Youth Service Award. The winners of this national award will be announced during Earth Week 1995.

Young people can still participate in "Give Water a Hand" and make a dif-

ference this year and beyond. To receive copies of the "Give Water a Hand" leader guidebook and youth Site Action Guide, contact your county extension 4-H office. For more information, call "Give Water a Hand" at 1-800-WATER20.

"Pennies for the Planet" - Several TU chapters are participating in Earth Force's "Go Wild For Wildlife!" campaign, an effort to encourage children to take action to help wildlife in their community.

Earth Force, a national non-profit environmental organization for young people, again invites TU chapters to help kids learn more about wildlife by participating in the annual "Pennies for the Planet" campaign. Children across the country collect, earn and save pennies during the month of April through a variety of community-based, environmentally-inspired activities that culminate on Earth Day.

For more information, contact: Earth Force, 1501 Wilson Blvd., 12th Floor, Arlington, Virginia 22209 (phone 703-552-WILD).

Membership report

by Jim Hlaban

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited has experienced tremendous growth over the last few years. The Southern Wisconsin Chapter has exceeded over 500 members and a strong new chapter - the Frank Hornberg Chapter - has been in operation for a few years now in the Portage-Wood County area.

Yet I still hear reports about the difficulty that some chapters are having in finding members to step forward and assume leadership positions in their chapters.

In an effort to take some of the mystery out of what it takes to become a Trout Unlimited leader, we of the Wisconsin T.U. State Council have discussed holding a leadership training seminar, though the logistics of getting a group together are difficult.

As a compromise, we decided to try and start a regular column in Wisconsin

Trout that would explain such topics as chapter operation or coordinating a habitat improvement project. We will begin doing so in the Fall, 1995, issue of this paper, when Council Treasurer and immediate past chairman Forrest Grulke will present a column on chapter financial reporting.

I am asking for YOUR HELP, also! If you have ideas to share, questions which you would like to be answered or issues like chapter operation or leadership explained, please write to me, and I will try to have them covered in these future columns. We will continue to discuss the possibility of training seminars as well.

If you or your chapter are interested in this topic, let me know and I'll try to put something together. You may contact me at: Jim Hlaban, 1421 Silverwood Lane, Neenah, Wis. 54956. Or, call at (414) 722-4335.

WISCONSIN COUNCIL TROUT UNLIMITED							5/13/95
CHAPTER BOUNDARIES AND MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS							
CHAPTER	NUM	BOUNDARIES COUNTIES/AREA	MEMBERSHIP				
			1/91	1/92	1/93	1/94	1/95 5/95
WOLF RIVER	50	BOARDERING WOLF RIVER TROUT WATER	48	48	63	79	79 81
SOUTHERN WISCONSIN	61	DANE & JEFFERSON	365	348	432	409	454 518
SOUTHEAST WISCONSIN	78	WASHINGTON, OZAUKEE, WAUKESHA, MILWAUKEE, WALWORTH, RACINE & KENOSHA	257	246	312	302	334 355
GREEN BAY	83	BROWN & DOOR	172	172	189	172	177 186
CENTRAL WISCONSIN	117	ADAMS, WAUSHARA, MARQUETTE, GREEN LAKE, FOND DU LAC & WINNEBAGO	191	169	198	190	178 190
KIAP TU WISH	168	POLK, ST CROIX, PIERCE & PEPIN	132	126	146	128	136 145
FOX VALLEY	193	OUTAGAMIE	199	200	210	191	185 185
OJIBEAU	255	BUFFALO, EAU CLAIRE, CLARK, JACKSON, TREMPAULEAU, CHIPPEWA, DUNN, BARRON & RUSK	71	104	128	111	135 140
NORTHWOODS	256	FOREST, FLORENCE, ONIEDA & VILAS	46	48	58	59	64 67
HARRY NOHR	257	GRANT, IOWA, LAFAYETTE & CRAWFORD	33	41	49	35	33 34
COULEE REGION	278	LACROSSE, MONROE, JUNEAU, VERNON & RICHLAND	49	51	56	44	46 50
ANTIGO	313	LANGLADE	41	27	44	44	40 39
ALDO LEOPOLD	375	COLUMBIA, DODGE & SAUK	53	47	51	41	34 38
SHAWPACA	381	SHAWANO & WAUPACA	79	66	67	57	66 70
OCONTO RIVER	385	OCONTO RIVER WATERSHED	68	64	79	69	75 84
BLACKHAWK	390	GREEN & ROCK	89	93	102	83	86 88
WISCONSIN RIVER VALLEY	395	LINCOLN, MARATHON, PRICE, & TAYLOR	92	83	83	59	80 88
WILD RIVERS	415	DOUGLAS, BAYFIELD, ASHLAND, IRON, BURNETT, WASHBURN & SAWYER	16	35	43	43	43 44
MARINETTE COUNTY	422	MARINETTE	63	61	70	61	60 72
LAKESHORE	423	MANITOWOC, KEWAUNEE, SHEBOYGAN & CALUMET	71	77	74	77	84 89
FRANK HORNBERG	624	PORTAGE & WOOD		27	39	53	63 76
			2135	2133	2493	2307	2452 2639

News from T.U. National

1995 EAS Grant Recipients

The following TU chapters and councils will receive grants for their stream restoration, education, and research activities:

Oregon Council	McKenzie River/OR	\$2,600
Old Pueblo Chapter	West Fork of the Black River/AZ	\$10,000
Northwestern No. Carolina Chapter	South Holston River/TN	\$10,000
Little River Chapter	Abrams Creek/TN	\$10,000
Deschutes River Chapter	Lower Deschutes River/OR	\$2,250
Maine Council	Sheepscot River/ME	\$2,100
Arkansas Council/Arkansas Chapter	White River/AR	\$5,000
Gunnison Gorge Anglers Chapter	Rowdy Lake/CO	\$500
West Virginia Council	Cranberry River & Shavers Fork Watershed/WV	\$9,550
Klamath Basin Chapter	Upper Williamson River/OR	\$4,150
Narragansett Chapter	Wood River/RI	\$4,700
Adirondack Chapter	Mettawee River/NY	\$2,172
Pike-Wayne Chapter	Wallenpaupack Creek/PA	\$3,700
Illinois Council	Lake Superior/Great Lakes	\$7,000
Donegal Chapter	Lititz Run/PA	\$5,000
Upper Valley Chapter	Mill Brook/VT	\$2,218
KIAP-TU-WISH	Willow River/WI	\$5,562
Idaho Panhandle Chapter	Grouse Creek/ID	\$5,000
Illinois Council	Great Lakes/MI	\$4,000
So. Carolina & Georgia Councils	Chattooga River/GA	\$10,000
Sandy River Chapter	Beaver Creek of Sandy River/OR	\$5,000
Great Smoky Mountains Chapter	Clear Creek/TN	\$2,605
Georgia Foothills Chapter	Soque River/GA	\$600
Ochoco Chapter	Crooked River/OR	\$2,520
Hacklebarney Chapter	Rockaway River/NJ	\$2,500
Olympia Chapter	Budd Inlet/Deschutes River/WA	\$3,000

EAS Grants Announced

The T.U. National "Embrace-A-Stream" Committee has awarded 26 EAS grants totaling \$121,727 for projects located in 25 states for 1995. The EAS Committee evaluated projects in terms of:

- *benefits for coldwater fisheries conservation;
- *regional or national significance of the fishery resource;
- *adequate Trout Unlimited volunteer involvement;
- *feasibility and cost; and
- *provision for a 1:1 match of the grant request.

EAS grant announcement letters and checks were mailed in March. See the list of grant recipients, project locations and award amounts in the figure accompanying this article.

Trout & Salmon Foundation calls for proposals

Each year, the Trout & Salmon Foundation awards grants ranging from \$1,000 - \$5,000 for the preservation and enhancement of North American trout and salmon resources. The

T&S foundation supports wild trout and salmon habitat improvement efforts, as well as water quality research.

The T&S Foundation is now soliciting proposals for grants to be awarded in the fall of 1995. All proposals must include provisions for matching funds and are due by August 1, 1995.

Eligible projects must aid the restoration or improvement of trout and salmon fisheries and/or ambient stream conditions that result in improved fish reproduction, fish growth and survival. The Foundation does NOT support advocacy activities.

The T&S Foundation began awarding grants in 1972, and it has been a generous supporter of T.U. National's "Embrace-A-Stream" program. The more information about the Trout & Salmon Foundation, write or call: Thomas Donnelly II, Trout & Salmon Foundation, 77 West Wacker Dr., 17th Floor, Chicago, IL. 60601-1696; or, Christine Arena, Grants Director, T.U. National Office, 1500 Wilson Blvd., Ste. 310, Arlington, VA 22209-2310.

New watershed projects announced

Nine new watershed projects have been approved by the Department of Natural Resources for inclusion in the state's "Priority Watershed Program." Among the nine projects are three that include trout water.

Dell Creek. This is a 133-square mile watershed project in northeastern Sauk County that includes Dell Creek, a trout stream for more than ten miles of its length and one nominated as an "Exceptional Resource Water" under the state's anti-degradation rules. Hubert Creek, a small tributary to the Wisconsin River at Watconsin Dells, is also part of this watershed project.

Spring Brook. This large-scale project covers 67 square miles, mostly in Langlade County with a small portion in neighboring Marathon County. Spring Brook is the main river running through the narrow watershed, with the

city of Antigo lying about halfway between its headwaters and its confluence with the Eau Claire River at the bottom of the watershed.

An impoundment on Spring Brook - Antigo Lake - produces warming waters which, with urban runoff, causes excessive algae and aquatic plant growth downstream from Antigo, harming the potential for a thriving trout population. The watershed is also ranked high for its potential groundwater problems due to polluted runoff.

Honey and Sugar Creeks. This is a 200-square mile watershed located almost entirely in Walworth County in southeastern Wisconsin. A major tributary of Sugar Creek - Spring Creek - is listed as a trout stream. The watershed is negatively impacted primarily from polluted runoff, as there are no point sources of contamination.

Chapter/Council Land Ownership

Any T.U. chapter or State Council considering acquisition of land should examine carefully the possibility of environmental and personal injury liability that is associated with land ownership.

Any chapter or State Council that currently owns property (fishing lodge, streamfront land, etc.) should send a copy of the deed to Steve Porzio at T.U. National as soon as possible.

Lawsuit notifications

All chapters and State Councils MUST notify the T.U. National Office at least 14 days in advance before they plan to bring about, or intervene in, a lawsuit. Any chapter or State Council named as a defendant in a lawsuit must notify the T.U. National Office IMMEDIATELY. A notice in a chapter newsletter that is sent to T.U. National is NOT SUFFICIENT.

When a chapter or State Council becomes involved in litigation, it must intervene or file as "...Chapter of Trout Unlimited" or "...Council of Trout Unlimited." It may NOT intervene under the heading of "TU" or "Trout Unlimited."

If you need legal advice regarding a lawsuit in which your chapter or State Council is involved, please call Mona Janopaul at TU National, (703) 522-0200.

T.U. tests free "E-Mail" system

As part of an intensive effort to improve communication among Trout Unlimited chapters, state councils and the National Office, T.U. is testing a new computer "e-mail" system.

Developed by a Bozeman, Montana, company, "FreeMail" is a self-replicating software package that allows easy transfer of messages and files between users. With FreeMail software, any stand-alone Personal Computer or Macintosh system can exchange unlimited e-mail files of any kind with any other PC or Macintosh running the software. FreeMail eliminates the need for network cabling, software, file servers or system administrators by using regular phone lines and standard modems. No on-line services are required, and no subscription charges are incurred.

To properly evaluate the new system, T.U. is seeking a limited number of chapter presidents, Council chairpersons and other grassroots leaders to serve as volunteer testers. The first 12 volunteers who contact the National Office and who commit to using the system in this trial arrangement will receive a free software package and test instructions.

To volunteer, contact Pete Rafle via CompuServe (70534.3234@compuserve.com) or America Online (TroutU@aol.com) or call (703) 284-9412.

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Never
Ends

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Wisconsin Trout Unlimi



Dan Fuller (c), DNR fisheries technician, accepting Byrnescraft net and "Beaver Blaster" certificate from Aldo Leopold T.U. president **Clint Byrnes (r)** and **Marlin Spindler (l)** for his work on beaver control on Columbia and Sauk counties.

ALDO LEOPOLD CHAPTER

During late winter and early spring, Aldo Leopold T.U. was involved in several areas.

Chapter members **Dale Gonnering**, **Dan Hunt** and **Clint Byrnes** assisted public television personality **Dan Small** at the Outdoor Wisconsin and Public TV booth at the Beaver Dam Home and Sport Show. At that event, and at other locations, the chapter has been active distributing the Wisconsin T.U. "Catch and Release Committee" brochure entitled "Consider Proper Release."

The chapter also presented a "Beaver Blaster Certificate" to DNR fisheries technician **Dan Fuller** of Poynette, along with a Byrnescraft landing net. Fuller coordinates beaver trapping efforts and beaver dam removal in Columbia and eastern Sauk counties, and typically removes 50 beavers and 15-20 beaver dams annually on the 10 trout streams in that area.

Aldo Leopold T.U. made donations of prizes to the **Harry Nohr T.U.** Chapter annual banquet held March 25th.

ANTIGO CHAPTER

The chapter held its annual "Kids Fishing Day" June 3rd in Antigo. Antigo T.U. paid for the stocking of fish in a fish tank provided by **Silver Moon Springs** of Elton, while a kids' casting contest was conducted on nearby **Spring Lake**, an impoundment of **Spring Brook** in Antigo. A great many youth enjoyed the fishing, food and beverages and games provided by Antigo T.U. and local sponsors, and chapter

president **Scott Henricks** declared it to be the best kids' day since the chapter began the event.

In April, chapter members performed the annual maintenance and repair of its half-log project on the **East Branch Eau Claire River** north of Antigo. The chapter also held its Conservation Banquet on April 1st and had another successful event.

BLACKHAWK CHAPTER

The chapter's annual banquet held in April was a success, with about \$7,000 raised for conservation resource work.

Chapter members put in a day's work on June 4th on the **West Fork Kickapoo River** in Vernon County.

Spring meetings in May and June

provided members with interesting topics. In May, the chapter held a fly casting demonstration on the grounds of the UW-Rock County campus in Janesville. The June meeting saw presentations by the C.E.O. of **Gander Mountain** and a talk on Alaskan fishing.

COULEE REGION CHAPTER

Spring has been a busy season for Coulee Region T.U. The chapter held its annual banquet May 3rd at **Pogy's Catering** in La Crosse, netting a fair bit of change for conservation work.

The chapter combined forces with **Fox Valley T.U.** members to install brush bundles on **Tarr Creek** in **Fort McCoy** on May 20th, and on the following day several chapter members chaperoned eight Cub Scouts on a trout fishing outing at a private pond near La Crosse.

On May 28th, the chapter sent helpers to assist on a workday along the **West Fork Kickapoo River** near **Avalanche** (Vernon County) in conjunction with the **West Fork Sportsmen's Club** and the **Blackhawk T.U.** Chap-

ter. The workers installed 10 LUNKER structures and two wing deflectors in a 100-yard section of the **West Fork** above **Avalanche**.

The chapter completed its fly-tying course in late May, when 12 La Crosse area people graduated from the program taught by chapter president **John Bethke**.

Chapter meetings will be held monthly through the rest of summer, with chapter elections being held in August. Coulee Region T.U. is looking into several other projects and activities for summer, including a potential "Kids Fishing Day" and cooperative efforts on the **West Fork Kickapoo** with the **West Fork Sportsmen's Club**.



Fly-tying "Funday" held by Central Wisconsin T.U. in Waupaca during winter.



Students and some of the staff of the 1995 Central Wisconsin T.U. Fly Fishing School held in Waupaca June 2-4.

CENTRAL WISCONSIN CHAPTER

The Central Wisconsin Chapter held its annual banquet March 25th at the **Oshkosh Hilton Convention Center**, with the event declared another success.

A workday was held April 22nd on the main branch of the **White River** below **Wautoma** in conjunction with the **Fox Valley Chapter**. The effort received good publicity from **Ed Culhane** of the **Appleton Post-Crescent** newspaper.

The chapter's annual Fly Fishing

School was held June 2-4, and once again demand was greater than supply. Those who were unable to get into this year's class should try again next year.

Future work days will include efforts on the **Mecan River** in **Waushara County**, a cooperative effort with the **Frank Hornberg Chapter** on the **Tomorrow River** in **Portage County** and two days on **Lunch Creek** in **Waushara County**. The chapter's annual picnic will be held in conjunction with the planned August 19th work day on **Lunch Creek**.

FOX VALLEY CHAPTER

Fox Valley T.U. has held a number of events and work efforts since the last report. On April 29th, the chapter hosted its annual "Handicapped Fishing Day" for about 12 physically and emotionally challenged participants, and, later in May, the chapter sponsored a "Kids Fishing Day" for 22 kids and seven adults via the **Big Brothers/Big Sisters** organization.

Chapter members also assisted the **Appleton Parks and Recreation Department** with a "Kids Fishing Day" on June 10th.

Fox Valley T.U.'ers volunteered time April 29-30 at the "Gander Mountain Fishing Premier" in **Appleton**.

Members demonstrated casting, fly tying and fishing skills for **Gander Mountain**, and the company in turn rewarded the chapter with a check for \$500.

Stream improvements efforts continue to be a major focus of **Fox Valley T.U.** Chapter members combined forces with **Central Wisconsin T.U.** on April 22nd to carry out erosion control measures on the **White River** in **Waushara County**. On May 20th, several members journeyed to **Fort McCoy** to work with **Coulee Region** members on **Tarr Creek**. And two work days were held on the **Morgan Farm** stretch of the **Waupaca River**.

FRANK HORNBERG CHAPTER

No report

ted Chapter Reports

GREEN BAY CHAPTER

The chapter held its 20th annual banquet March 18th in Green Bay and netted \$15,500 for resource work for the coming year.

Chapter members put in much effort in June to complete the "Walk-Through Educational Trout Stream" display at the Brown County Reforestation Camp north of Green Bay. The chapter also appropriated another \$2,000 toward this project.

Green Bay T.U. again came to the assistance of the Nicolet National Forest and its coldwater resource work efforts. The chapter donated \$1,200 to the Nicolet to fund habitat improvements (beaver control and dam and debris removal) on Colburn, Halley, South Otter, Spencer and Torpee

Creeks, which feed major rivers like the North Branch Oconto and Rat Rivers in the Nicolet. The chapter also provided help for creation of a "Handicapped Access Fishing Trail" along the South Branch Oconto River south of Highway 64 in Oconto County on June 3rd.

In late June, the chapter began efforts on a stream fencing project on the Wausaukee River where it flows through the Steve Kafka farm. The streambank is to be fenced, and a cattle watering station installed. The Marinette County Chapter is assisting with the effort.

Elections were held at the March meeting, with Janet Smith being re-elected to another two-year stint.

HARRY NOHR CHAPTER

No report

KIAP-TU-WISH CHAPTER

The chapter was pleased to announce that it has been the recipient of a grant from the T.U. National Embrace-A-Stream program in the amount of \$5,562.00. Kiap-TU-Wish will use that grant money to help fund a continuous temperature and flow monitoring station on the Lower Willow River in St. Croix County. The project has been initiated in order to answer nagging questions about operation of the dam on the Lower Willow and its suspected link to the declining trout fishery in the river.

At the moment, the chapter is working to secure the necessary permits required for the water quality monitoring station.

Spring meetings provided entertainment and information for chapter members. In April, the chapter hosted a fly tiers demonstration, featuring Ellen Clark of the Federation of Flyfishers, Tom Helgeson (editor of Midwest Flyfishing), flyshop owner Mike Alwin, saltwater specialist Brian McKinley and Tracy Peterson. At the May meeting, DNR fish manager Marty Engel discussed recent and potential habitat work on the Rush, Trimble and Kinnickinnic Rivers.

Chapter elections were held in March, with all officers remaining as they are. The chapter participated in an Earth Day event April 22nd at the Lee and Rose Warner Nature Center.

LAKESHORE CHAPTER

The chapter's annual Conservation Banquet held April 22nd at the Club Bil-Mar in Manitowoc netted over \$7,000 for chapter conservation efforts. Chapter elections were held in May, with Ron McCormick succeeding longtime chapter president Jeff Preiss, who stepped down after many years of service.

MARINETTE COUNTY CHAPTER

The chapter held its 12th annual Conservation Banquet March 13th, and netted \$13,959. Chapter elections were held in April, and Jerry Chevalier was elected to a two-year term as president, succeeding outgoing president Dale Lange.

Marinette County T.U. has a full slate of work ahead for the spring and summer months. The chapter is providing financial and physical support to the U.S. Forest Service to help construct a "barrier-free" access path along the South Branch Oconto River south of Highway 64 in Oconto County, and it is funding half the cost of streamside fencing and in-stream work on the Steve Kafka farm along the Wausaukee River in conjunction with the Green Bay Chapter.

And the chapter is continuing its funding of a professional beaver trap-

per to keep important tributaries of the Peshtigo River - such as Camp 5, Swede John and Swamp Creeks - as well as the Big Eagle and Little Eagle Creeks and the Wausaukee River free of beaver and their dams.

Other activities in which the chapter will participate include the creation of "fish retrieval openings" in the rails on the handicapped-accessible fishing deck at Holley's Hole on the North Branch Beaver Creek in southern Marinette County, and providing prizes for several "Kids Fishing Days" in Peshtigo and Marinette.

The chapter was also pleased to award three scholarships to area students - Nick Dombrowski and Angela Seubert of Peshtigo High School and Angela Steppke of Marinette High School - for the "DNR Career Workshops for High School Students.

NORTHWOODS CHAPTER

The chapter held its 21st annual Conservation Banquet at the Rhinelander Cafe & Pub, with a good chunk of change being raised for coldwater resource conservation.

Chapter elections were held in May, with Al Lenz taking over as chapter president from retiring president Bill Sherer.

In May, the chapter heard from Department of Natural Resources water specialist Bob Martini about mercury contamination in northwoods area waters. Also, North Central District Fisheries Supervisor "Duke" Andrews talked with the chapter about options for summer conservation projects.

OCONTO RIVER WATERSHED CHAPTER

The chapter's annual banquet held in April netted the chapter around \$7,000 for conservation and youth education activities. The chapter awarded several scholarships to area students to attend Natural Resource Career Workshops and Nature Adventure Camps, and members assisted in mid-May with the

CESA 8 "Special Olympics" at Gillett.

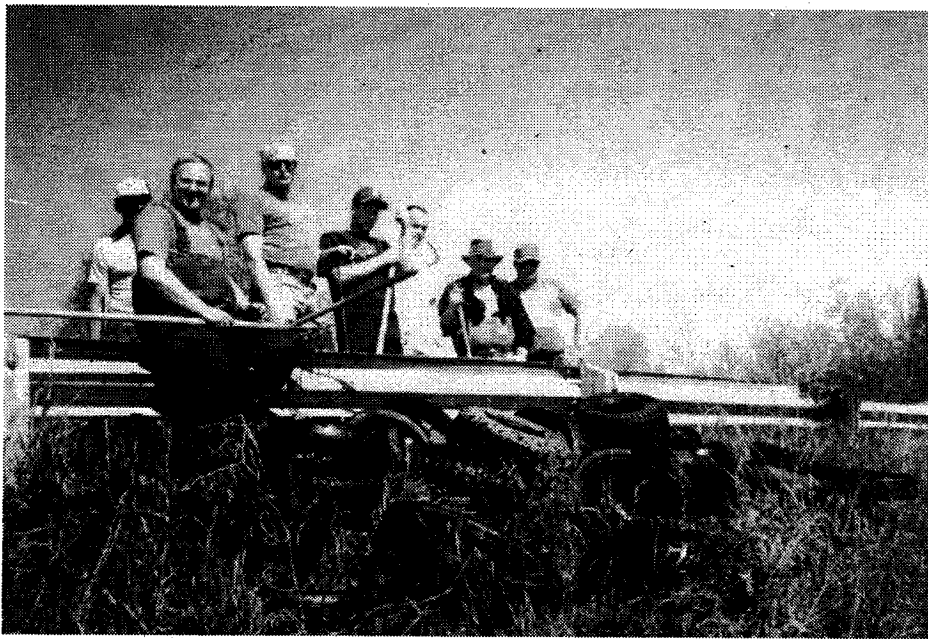
The chapter continues its trout stocking activities in area waters, and it is investigating possibilities to do some in-stream structural work on the main Oconto River below Pulcifer.

OJIBLEAU CHAPTER

The chapter held two fishing events in spring for the public. On April 26th, a "Fly Fishing for Kids" display was carried out at the Rod & Gun Park in Eau Claire, and a "Learn to Cast" night was held later on at Elk Creek. Both events were well-attended.

The chapter is in the midst of a work

project on Sand Creek in Chippewa County in cooperation with the DNR and the New Auburn High School FFA Chapter. Over 60 truckloads of rock have been placed along the stream to stabilize banks and narrow the stream channel.



Shaw-Paca T.U.'ers with tires they removed from Spaulding Creek and Little Wolf River.

SHAW-PACA CHAPTER

The chapter's 12th annual Conservation Banquet, held April 6th, netted the chapter approximately \$11,227. The chapter presented a certificate of appreciation award at the banquet to Natural Resources Board chairman Herb Behnke of Shawano for his many years of service to the state as a member of the NRB. Elections were held in May, and Jerry Weatherwax was elected for another one-year term as president.

Several events and projects were held in June. On the 3rd, chapter members gathered to remove illegally-disposed tires from Spaulding Creek, a tributary to the Little Wolf River. On the 24th, members worked with Shawano area DNR fish manager Ross Langhurs to electroshock a section of Mill Creek in Shawano County to assess trout populations in the stream and to learn how the DNR carries out population surveys.

The chapter's annual "Kids Fishing Day" was held June 17th on the property of chapter member Floyd Pluger. More information on that event will be given in the next issue.

Shaw-Paca T.U. awarded two scholarships to area students to attend Natural Resources camps this summer, and the chapter renewed its membership in the "Friends of Wisconsin



Natural Resources Board Chairman Herb Behnke (l) of Shawano receives Certificate of Appreciation from Shaw-Paca T.U. president Jerry Weatherwax (r) at the Shaw-Paca banquet.

T.U." program.

In early June, the chapter was a grateful recipient of a donation check from the Wal-Mart Foundation in the amount of \$750. The donation will be used by the chapter to help fund the construction of a sand and sediment trap on Mill Creek later this summer.

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN CHAPTER

No report

SOUTHERN WISCONSIN CHAPTER

In April, leadership in Wisconsin's largest T.U. chapter changed hands. Bill Sonzogni took over as chapter president, replacing the retiring Dave Ogletree, who now serves as State Council Chairman.

Chapter meetings in spring included a March presentation by Bob Smith of the Great Rocky Mountain Outfitters (Wyoming) on fishing the North

Cont. on Page 10

✓Chapter reports

Cont. from Page 9

Platte River, and a presentation in May by DNR fishery biologist Scot Stewart on findings on area streams taken from stream shocking surveys.

On April 22nd, about 25 students turned out for the chapter's "Casting Clinic". That same day, chapter members worked with volunteers from the Black Earth Creek Watershed Association to pick up trash and debris along Black Earth Creek as part of the annual Earth Day celebration.

June 10th marked the day of the chapter's annual "Special Needs Fish-

ing Day" for the physically and emotionally challenged. Bill Suick organized this year's events, and 50 participants had an opportunity to experience a semblance of trout fishing courtesy of Southern Wisconsin T.U. and Jim Kalscheur, on whose pond and property the event takes place.

Stream improvement and stream-bank fencing along Garfoot Creek in Dane County is continuing. The chapter held a couple of work efforts there this spring, and more work will occur this summer.

WILD RIVERS CHAPTER

No report

WISCONSIN RIVER VALLEY CHAPTER

Work on the Plover River continues this spring and summer downstream from the CTH "N" crossing. The chapter plans to install about 75 half-logs in a section of the Plover, and it will be funding work on another 700-800 feet of the stream.

The chapter recently procured two important easements from landowners

along the Plover that will allow it to do additional habitat work in the future.

And, the chapter recently made a donation to a student in the UW-Stevens Point College of Natural Resources for undertaking summer conservation studies in Germany and Poland.

WOLF RIVER CHAPTER

The chapter continues to monitor the progress of the permitting process regarding the proposed metallic mine by Crandon Mining Company near the headwaters of the Wolf River in southwestern Forest County.

Wolf River T.U. also is continuing its work with the DNR to evaluate new strains of brown and rainbow trout that are being introduced into the river. Extensive shocking in fall of 1994 turned up very good numbers of the wild "Menominee strain" rainbows, 4,000 of which were stocked into the Wolf in spring of 1994. "Polar" rainbows from a hatchery east of Antigo - some up to 15 inches in length - are showing up in creel surveys.

The chapter has prepared some creel census forms and placed them in various business outlets in the Langlade-White Lake area in order to assist the DNR in evaluating the performance of various strains of trout stocked into the Wolf.

The chapter's long-running efforts at beaver control on tributaries to the Wolf appears to be paying off. More brook trout are being caught in the Wolf from the Wolf-Lily Rivers confluence downstream than in many years, including one 16-inch brookie that was landed this spring.

Wolf River T.U. was honored to host the May 13th Wisconsin T.U. State Council meeting.

Mining company modifies plan

Rules out discharge to Wolf River

Crandon Mining Company - partnership of Exxon Coal and Minerals Company and Rio Algom, Ltd., of Ontario, Canada - has modified its proposal to mine an ore body southwest of Crandon (Forest County).

The original proposal by Crandon Mining Company (CMC) for its underground mine that contains zinc, copper, silver and gold would have resulted in alteration to approximately 66 acres of wetlands. A revised plan now calls for about 30 wetland acres to be altered, with plans to "mitigate" that wetland loss through "creation" of about 50 wetland acres in Oconto County, far removed from the mine site.

The "mitigation" plan calls for purchase of an existing "muck farm" and restoring those acres to their former wetland state.

Furthermore, CMC has announced that it has abandoned plans to discharge treated mine wastewater into either the Wolf River or Swamp Creek, a tributary to the Wolf. Rather, the partnership intends to seek approval of a plan to pipe the wastewater about 37 miles to Rhinelander, where the effluent would be discharged into the Wisconsin River near the Hat Rapids Dam.

Or, CMC may choose to discharge the wastewater into seepage basins on the mine property. Under this option, the wastewater would be pumped into specifically engineered basins and allowed to percolate naturally into the groundwater. The wastewater entering

the ponds would have to meet federal drinking water standards.

In its recently completed environmental studies, CMC stated that the two alternatives were more environmentally suitable than discharging into the Wolf River watershed. The Wolf River is classified as an Outstanding Resource Water (ORW) according to the state's "anti-degradation" rules, and any discharge into ORW-designated waters must result in zero degradation of ambient water quality.

CMC has submitted a "Tailings Management Area Feasibility Report and Plan of Operation" to the Department of Natural Resources in early June, wherein the company detailed a new plan to construct a mine tailings waste storage area away from prime forested wetlands and a burr oak swamp.

By late June, the company was expected to release a plan of operation for its wastewater treatment facility, and future areas of the firm's Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will focus on the mine's expected impacts on groundwater, wells and lakes and streams in the area.

The DNR and federal agencies such as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will review the company's EIR and ascertain if the plans for the mine could meet environmental standards.

Natural Resources Board notes

Since the last issue of Wisconsin Trout, the seven-member Natural Resources Board has dealt with several items pertaining to the coldwater resource and trout and salmon fishing in Wisconsin.

Lake Michigan Integrated Fisheries Management Plan

The Board approved at its May meeting the plan proposed by DNR staff to address problems with the entire fishery - warmwater and coldwater - of Lake Michigan.

The main goals of the plan are: 1) create a diverse, balanced and healthy ecosystem, 2) establish a diverse, multi-species sport fishery within the productive capacity of the lake, and 3) sustain a stable commercial fishery.

Regarding the coldwater component of the Lake Michigan fishery, the plan seeks to develop a salmon and trout species mix within the lake's ecosystem capacity that supports sport harvests within target ranges, and to maintain a lake trout harvest consistent with lake-wide management

objectives.

The plan also addresses problems with current propagation facilities, lack of natural reproduction by lake trout and shore fishing opportunities. In addition, the plan looks at ways to develop angling regulations that discourage unethical practices.

Land acquisitions

The Board approved two land purchase requests at its April meeting. It approved the acquisition of 1.82 acres of land for the Emmons Creek Fishery Area in Portage County and 182.12 acres of land for the South Shore Lake Superior Fish and Wildlife Area in Bayfield County through which flows a section of the East Fork of the Cranberry River.

Angling regulations

At the May Board meeting, the NRB approved most of the rule changes regarding trout fishing that were proposed at the annual Conservation Congress spring fish and game hearings. Wisconsin Trout will attempt to detail those changes in the Fall, 1995, issue.

Notice to Life Members

All Life Members of Trout Unlimited please take note! The National T.U. Office has informed us that, due to a "computer glitch," Life Members were not showing up on rosters and labels of chapter and State Councils for as far back as last September or October.

It would appear that copies of the Spring, 1995, issue of Wisconsin

Trout did not go to T.U. Life Members in the Wisconsin Council because of that problem.

T.U. National is trying to correct this latest "glitch," and we hope that you are now receiving your Council newspaper, TROUT magazine and chapter newsletters. If there are still problems, please call the T.U. National office (703-522-0200) and ask for Wendy Reeds.

JoJo Attractors

Derby Winner!

This is what downrigger fishing is all about!! Developed on Lake Champlain, JoJo's unique setup enables 2 lures/lines (flowing parallel 2 ft. apart) behind the blades for side-by-side action that excites the fish. This trolling innovation attaches directly between the downrigger cable and weight. JoJo's excellent hook-up combined with flashy blades and sleek rigged body, create sonic sound causing the best possible attraction. It can be used many ways such as bouncing bottom for lake trout or fishing suspended for salmonoids and gives the fisherman the freedom of reeling in the fish only, the downrigger brings up the JoJo for another quick hook-up. JoJo has proven itself to be #1 placing in derbies in various lakes. Equip your boat with 2 JoJos and prepare for plenty of fishing action. It's not uncommon for both releases to pop at the same time!

JoJo Attractor blades are interchangeable so the fisherman gets various use from one product. The colored/plated blades can be switched in less than two minutes allowing the fisherman to experiment with different colors while fishing. All popular colors are available. Also to the fisherman's advantage is the choice to pick the size blades he's going to troll with for different type fish. The 3"x6" plated Boss Blades for slow trolling speeds make excellent deep-water bottom trolling because the large shiny blade surface provides improved attraction where light is limited. Very successful on slow moving fish such as Lake Trout, Walleye, etc. The 1 1/2"x3 1/2" plated Fast Attract Blades are used with fast lures and fish such as Atlantic Salmon, Steelhead, King Salmon, Brown Trout, etc.

For more information call 1-800-359-4436 or write JoJo Attractors, 10 Londonderry Ln, Essex Jct, VT 05452. We also supply 170 lb. downrigger cable, planer board, stacking and single releases, etc. Wholesalers and retailers welcomed.

Comments from Satisfied Fishermen

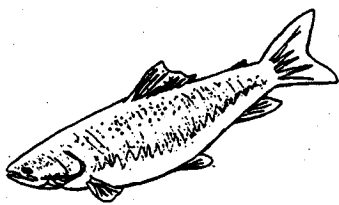
We caught fish when other boats weren't doing anything! Francis Carter, Denemora, NY

Fishing Machine!... Tom Kolodzey, Lake Ontario, NY

I averaged bigger fish using JoJos!... Ron Wood, Keeseville, NY

More fish in one day than I caught all year! Steve McGinnis, Vergennes, VT

Makes an excellent fisherman out of anyone!... Larry Ducate, Plattsburgh, NY



Patented

Take care of your fish

By Lee Kern
Chief of the DNR Bureau
of Fishery Management

If you want to serve a delicious meal of fish to your family, the cooking is only a small part of the process. Unless you take special care of your fish immediately upon catching them, you will have lost the battle before you reach the kitchen or the campfire.

I'll always remember stopping near a bridge over Beaver Dam Lake to chat with some bank fishermen. One elderly gentleman had a five-gallon metal bucket, half full of dirty water, with 20 bullheads gasping at the surface.

Four yellow perch floated among them - white, bloated and obviously dead for hours. "Nice batch of fish," I offered. "Especially those perch."

The old angler replied, "Yeah, but I don't know what all the fuss about perch is. They ain't nearly as tasty as those bullheads."

No wonder, I thought. It isn't fair to compare a long dead perch to a living bullhead.

When you're out to catch a meal of fish in summer, always bring a cooler of ice along to chill immediately the fish you keep, unless you're sure you can keep them alive.

What is wrong with using a fish basket, a live well or a stringer? Several things, actually.

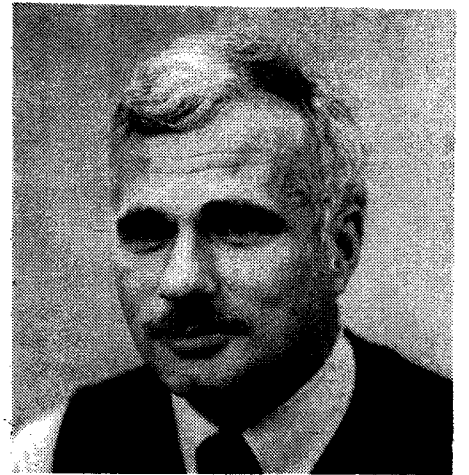
Let's say you're catching perch about 18 feet down in July using live bait such as worms. The water down there is probably about 65 degrees, but the temperature of the surface water that your boat pumps into the livewell is probably 75 degrees or warmer. Ditto for the top three feet of the lake where your fish basket or stringer is hanging.

Since fish are cold-blooded, they take on the temperature of their surroundings. The added 10 degrees of temperature and crowding of fish will stress the fish soon, and some will go belly up and begin to die. Deeply hooked fish may succumb very quickly under these conditions.

I'll grant you that some of the fish may be alive when you reach the dock at 4 p.m., but many of the others will have been dead for several hours. These dead specimens begin to deteriorate immediately - they lose their color, begin to bloat and the flesh itself starts to break down.

Back at camp or wherever you clean your fish, those that died are now mixed in with the rest. Eating a meal of these fish is like playing Russian roulette - somebody at the dinner table is going to get a bad one and, although it may not make her or him sick if it's been cooked well, it just won't taste very good.

I'll bet you wouldn't let a few raw hamburgers sit in 75-degree water for a day before you cook them. Fish are not that much different.



Lee Kern

Ice is the simple answer. I keep an extra cooler for the fish I intend to keep. If you're out all day with fish on ice, the only thing you need to do is to drain off the melt water regularly. Even cold fish can absorb off-flavors when sitting in bloody water for hours.

That's why commercial fishermen pack their fish in wooden boxes that have cracks in them. The melt water runs through the ice and fish, carrying the blood and bacteria away with it.

An added bonus for keeping your fish on ice comes at cleaning time. A chilled fish is nice and stiff and firm, and is much easier to scale and fillet. A couple of bags of ice is a cheap investment to preserve the quality of your fish. Give it a try next time, and you may be pleasantly surprised at how much tastier those fish will be.

Don't sell membership lists

TU National reminds chapters that chapters offering membership mailing lists to various commercial concerns in exchange for products or services could place that chapter - and Trout Unlimited - in violation of established direct mail standards regarding the use, control and protection of names on mailing lists.

If any TU chapters are doing this, they should stop immediately.

The membership lists that TU National provides to its chapters are for the restricted use of chapter mailings to members. The lists have not eliminated the names and addresses of individuals who have requested that their names not be sold, bartered or traded to third

parties.

If you release your chapter's mailing list to a third party and it contains names of any individuals who have requested that their names not be released, you have violated established mail standards and subjected the organization and yourself to potential liability.

Remember, the membership lists that your chapter receives contain privileged information and should be handled accordingly. Misuse of your chapter's mailing list could result in the revocation of your chapter's charter.

If there are any questions regarding this matter, please contact Terry Austin at (708) 284-9411.

Beware of copyright violations

Recently, T.U. Communications Director Peter Raffle noticed chapter newsletters that featured excerpts from magazines and newspapers with no indication given of the source of the material.

THIS IS ILLEGAL! Copyrighted material, which can be assumed to include virtually anything you see in print, must not be reprinted without the permission of the copyright holder. The source of the material must also be indicated clearly. Failure to follow these

rules could result in costly lawsuits and bad feelings between T.U. and the publications in question.

Raffle encourages newsletter editors to contact him or T.U. Conservation Counsel Mona Jonapaul if they have questions about copyrights.

Stream Resolution Guide

T.U. National is preparing a guide to stream restoration projects. Chapters interested in reviewing a draft copy and contributing suggestions should contact Dave Nickum at (703) 284-9408.

Are you in the right chapter?

When someone joins Trout Unlimited, they probably expect that they are assigned to the chapter closest to their residence (if they have not already indicated a chapter preference when they filled out the application form).

However, those expectations are not always met. Sometimes human error at the National office results in the member being assigned to the wrong chapter. Other times, the handwriting on the membership application is so poor and nearly illegible that the person at the National office cannot ascertain what it is that the member wrote, resulting in the member being assigned to the wrong chapter.

In any event, it would appear from a review of the Wisconsin T.U. State Council roster that a good number of people may not have been assigned to the chapter in which they actually wish to belong. There are people in Milwaukee assigned to the chapter in Madison,

and vice versa. There are folks in north-eastern Wisconsin assigned to chapters in the southwestern part of the state.

While some folks may want to be with chapters far from their homes (perhaps because they wish to affiliate with a chapter that is close to the waters they fish), others may have been improperly assigned by T.U. National.

Please look over the following chart to note which chapters are where in the state. Look at your mailing label on this newspaper, and read the top line. In the middle is a three-digit number that is coded to a specific T.U. chapter. If you find that the chapter code number on the label does not correspond to the chapter in which you wish to affiliate, please send a notice to: Wisconsin Trout, 935 S. Union St., Shawano, WI 54166-3145. Include your mailing label and a note indicating the chapter into which you wish to be assigned. Or, call (715) 524-5886.

WISCONSIN TROUT UNLIMITED CHAPTERS

CHAPTER NUMBER	CHAPTER NAME	CHAPTER BASE and AREA
050	Wolf River	White Lake; eastern Langlade County
061	Southern WI	Madison; Dane County area
078	Southeastern WI	Milwaukee; southeast Wisconsin
083	Green Bay	Green Bay; Brown County area
117	Central WI	Oshkosh - Wautoma; Waushara, Marquette and part of Winnebago counties
168	Kiap-TU-Wish	Hudson; St. Croix and Pierce counties area
193	Fox Valley	Appleton; Outagamie County and Fox Cities area
255	Ojibseau	Eau Claire; counties of Eau Claire, Chippewa, Dunn and surrounding area
256	Northwoods	Rhineland; Oneida, Vilas, Forest, Florence and northern Lincoln counties
257	Harry Nohr	Dodgeville; Iowa, Grant, Lafayette, Richland counties
278	Coulee Region	La Crosse; La Crosse, Monroe, Vernon counties area
313	Antigo	Antigo; Langlade County
375	Aldo Leopold	Beaver Dam; Dodge, Columbia, and parts of Fond du Lac counties
381	Shaw-Paca	Shawano-Clintonville; Shawano and part of Waupaca counties
385	Oconto River Watershed	Gillett-Oconto Falls; Oconto County
390	Blackhawk	Janesville; Rock, Green and Walworth counties
395	Wisconsin River Valley	Wausau-Merrill; Marathon and Lincoln counties
415	Wild Rivers	Cable - Hayward; northwest Wisconsin counties
422	Marinette County	Marinette-Peshtigo; Marinette County area
423	Lakeshore	Manitowoc; Manitowoc, Sheboygan and parts of Waupaca counties
624	Frank Hornberg	Stevens Point; Portage, Wood and parts of Waupaca counties

Spring State Council meeting held

The Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited held its spring meeting on Saturday, May 13th, at Buettner's Wild Wolff Inn along Highway 55 south of Langlade. All chapters sent representation except: Antigo, Blackhawk, Coulee Region, Frank Hornberg, Southeastern WI and Wild Rivers.

Highlights of the meeting included:

Conservation Congress meeting: Wolf River T.U. chapter president Herb Buettner, who is also a member of the Langlade County Conservation Congress delegation, announced that the annual Congress meeting held May 11-13 in Wisconsin Dells was a mixed bag. The Congress reiterated its opposition to "cabinet government" for the Department of Natural Resources and also its opposition to plans by Governor Thompson to eliminate the office of Wisconsin Public Intervenor and to misuse monies in the "Stewardship Fund" for unintended purposes (see separate articles on these stories in this issue).

Buettner stated that many Congress delegates were unhappy with the way that the Congress was being run, as there was too much politics in many areas.

State conservation issues: The Council discussed a wide variety of pressing conservation issues, particularly those that were contained in the State's Budget Bill relating to the elimination of the Public Intervenor's office, the politicizing of the DNR via a change that would allow the governor to directly appoint the DNR secretary (rather than the current method of having the Natural Resources Board carrying out that responsibility) and the attempted misappropriation of Stewardship Funds.

Ojibseau Chapter member Ron Koshoshek gave a lengthy report to the Council on the expanding aquaculture industry in Wisconsin and the potential hazards that the industry might impose on coldwater streams, particularly springheads in the coulee region of western Wisconsin. Koshoshek also reported that the DNR was proposing a revision of the state's hatchery law to create three classes of hatchery licenses (commercial, recreational and public fee license).

Water Resources: Committee

chairman Russ Bouck reported that he had received a notice of an application to put a dam on a trout stream in Adams County, and that he would check into the specifics of that.

Bouck also noted that the Corps of Engineers was seeking public comment on a Corps proposal to loosen wetland fill regulations by issuing a "nation-wide permit" (i.e., one where no review by federal resource agencies is required) to allow the filling and alteration of wetlands of up to one-half acre in size for construction of single family dwellings. The proposal could have a drastic cumulative impact on the nation's wetlands, particularly those in the riparian zones of streams, and could exacerbate problems with runoff, filtration, flooding and wildlife habitat.

The State Council has sent a letter to the Corps opposing such a move.

Catch-and-Release: Committee chairman Jim Hlaban reported that more pamphlets showing proper release techniques have been printed and distributed. A video that shows proper releasing methods is expected to be ready by mid-summer, thanks to a very generous donation of \$5,000 by long-time T.U. activist J. Nash Williams to help cover the production costs.

"Friends of Wisconsin T.U.": Program director John Cantwell reported that the 1995 "Friends" campaign had been started in mid-April. Things were going fairly well to date, though renewals have been a bit slow. The "Friends" program was given a boost at the meeting when Central Wisconsin T.U. presented the State Council and the "Friends" campaign with a check for \$1,476.18, representing one-half of the net proceeds of their very successful canoe raffle held in winter and early spring.

Crandon mine: The Council discussed at length the status of the proposed metallic mine planned by Crandon Mining Company (a partnership of Exxon Minerals Company and Rio Algom, Ltd., of Ontario, Canada) near the headwaters of the Wolf River in Forest County. It was reported that the partnership has decided to nix plans to discharge wastewater into the Wolf River or Swamp Creek (a Wolf River tributary) because of the difficulty of meeting water quality standards for the



Council members discuss Crandon mine at the May 13th State Council meeting.

Wolf, which is listed as an "Outstanding Resource Water" under state anti-degradation rules.

The firm's current plan is to pipe the wastewater 37 miles to be discharged into the Wisconsin River near Rhinelander. The Council approved a motion to have a committee draft a position on the mine (as it is now being planned) for the Wisconsin T.U. State Council, with chapters to review the draft and offer criticisms or approvals of the draft. Once chapter responses are tabulated, the Executive Council will put together a final draft that will enunciate the Council's official position on the mine as it is now being planned.

Early trout season: The Council discussed the status of the proposed revised "early trout season" that has been in the public hearing process. Several members stated that the negative votes recorded on the topic at Conservation Congress hearings were not necessarily representative of the feelings of anglers statewide, as the DNR was receiving much written correspondence from anglers statewide in favor of the proposal. Others disagreed, and stated that they felt that the opposition to the plan shown at Congress hearings reflected dissatisfaction with the plan because it was not encompassing enough of a geographical range of the state.

Four hearings were to be held on the

proposal in mid-May (see separate article), and the DNR would then decide what to propose to the Natural Resources Board insofar as a revised "early" season is concerned.

Coaster brook trout study: Forrest Grulke reported that some progress is being made in obtaining funding for studies to determine feasibility of restoring the large brook trout strain in the Lake Superior basin, but the State of Wisconsin has been a drag on the plan due to its inability to commit funding because of restricted budgets. A radio telemetry study on coasters in the Isle Royale area will be conducted by Lee Newman of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Fishery Research Office in Ashland, Wisconsin.

Funding: Grulke distributed a request from the Vermont T.U. Council seeking help from T.U. State Councils and chapters in their efforts to have several dams on state rivers removed as part of the FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) re-licensing process. The Council voted to send a check in the amount of \$500 to the Vermont T.U. Council to help them with their costs in waging this effort.

The next State Council meeting is scheduled for September 9th, somewhere in northwestern Wisconsin. The exact location, meeting place and times will be sent out to chapter leaders and Council officers at a later date.



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DNR Fish Manager Profile: Al Hauber



Al Hauber

The north central part of Wisconsin features a wide variety of coldwater and warmwater fisheries that present a challenge to modern-day fishery management. Al Hauber, the Department of Natural Resources fish manager in Wausau, has the duty of protecting and enhancing the fishery resources of the area of Langlade, Lincoln and Marathon counties, and it is a duty that he enjoys very much.

The 49-year old Hauber was born and raised in the prairie country of Huron, South Dakota. He graduated from Huron High School and then attended the local South Dakota State University, from where he attained a Bachelor's Degree in 1968 and a Masters in 1971.

Subsequent to receiving his Masters Degree, Hauber worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Raleigh, North Carolina, in 1971-1972, and has been with the Wisconsin DNR since July of 1972. He was assigned to the Wausau office in March of 1973, and has been there ever since, working as a fishery biologist for the three-county area mentioned above.

Hauber's coldwater resource efforts have been varied.

"Most of my work on trout water has been focused on the Prairie River in Lincoln County and the Plover River in Marathon County, as well as on spring pond acquisition in Lincoln and Marathon counties," said Hauber. "In recent years, we've been successful in purchasing several springs,

including Koepsel Springs, Silent Springs (a former private fish hatchery for over 40 years) and Jacobsen Springs (a private fish hatchery since 1909 that was dredged by the DNR in 1994). And we were active in getting Clark Springs dredged in the late 1980's."

"Much of the habitat improvement work has been directed toward the Prairie and Plover Rivers," he noted, "but we are working on other streams as well. We've recently obtained 'mitigation money' from the Department of Transportation due to construction work on Highway 29, and we intend to use that money to perform some habitat improvement work on about 800 feet of Spranger Creek that had been damaged previously from railroad and highway construction."

The area under Hauber's jurisdiction has a wealth of good trout water, but it is not without problems.

"Like other areas of the state, we have our share of problems relating to the coldwater resource," Al said. "Development and related activities cause a lot of nutrients and sediments to enter our streams, and that development is also causing a loss of shoreline buffer to both streams and lakes."

"And," he added, "our trout resource has suffered from the drought, increased angling pressure and beaver activity."

In his area, Hauber has a great deal of important warmwater resources with which to deal, and he spends a lot of his work hours on those waters.

"I put in a lot of time with the management of the 12 reservoirs in my area," he stated. "The 30-year licenses of the dams that impound these reservoirs are coming due, and I'm putting in a great deal of time and effort on the FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) relicensing of those dams."

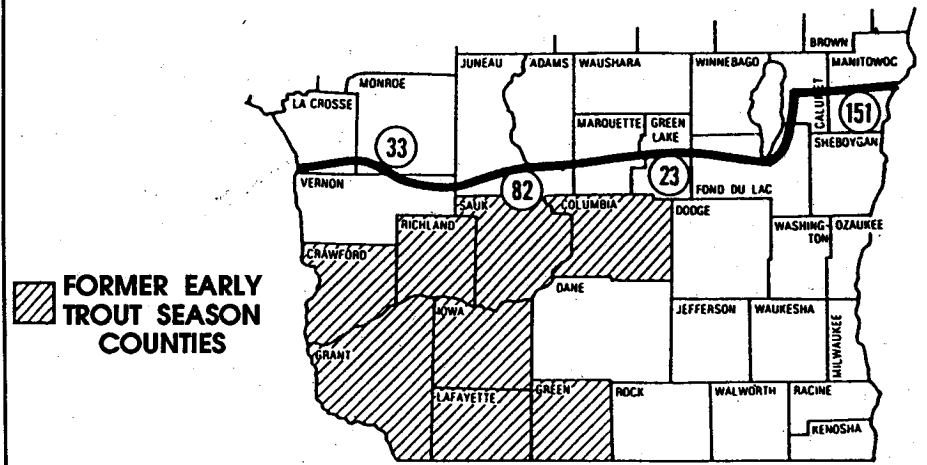
"Too, I have to deal with a great many permits sought by individuals for alteration of lake and stream beds," he noted. "And, given the fairly populated size of the Wausau area, I have to make quite a number of visits and presentations to schools and service organizations to inform them about what the DNR does to protect aquatic resources in our area."

When not engaged in fishery work, Al relaxes with his wife Paula, daughter Erin and son Ryan. Fishing and golf are favorite spring and summer pastimes, and Al makes yearly treks back to his native heath in South Dakota during autumn to pursue ring-necked pheasants.

For over two decades, Al Hauber has been working hard with the DNR in his role of fishery biologist to ensure a

healthy and varied fishery resource for resident anglers and the many tourists who frequent his north central Wisconsin region. Trout Unlimited is grateful to the likes of Al Hauber for his successful efforts to date, and we expect that many more good things will be happening for the coldwater resource in that part of Wisconsin under his guidance.

Proposed Southern Trout Zone -
Area of the proposed "Southern Trout Zone" lies south of the highway boundary line shown on the map.



Disagreement surrounds new "early season"

A proposal to establish a new "early trout season" in parts of southern Wisconsin has received a mixed review to date by various members of the public.

The proposal to set an "early season" in all or parts of 29 counties south of a line from Highway 33 in southern La Crosse County through Highway 151 in Manitowoc County was soundly rejected by attendees at the April Conservation Congress spring hearings (2,717 "No", 989 "Yes").

However, at four public hearings in mid-May, those attending the hearings favored the idea by 80 percent to 20 percent.

In addition, many letters in support of the plan were sent to DNR Secretary George Meyer and Governor

Thompson.

The proposal calls for an opening on or near April 1 in the affected counties for trout fishing. However, rules of the proposed season call for only "catch-and-release" fishing and use of flies or lures equipped with barbless hooks. No live bait would be permitted, and no trout caught from streams in those counties could be kept until the general trout fishing season opens at 5:01 a.m. the first Saturday in May.

The Natural Resources Board dealt with this issue at its June meeting in Dodgeville subsequent to the deadline for this issue of Wisconsin Trout. We will detail the decisions the NRB made on this topic in the Fall, 1995, issue.



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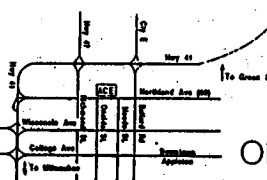
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From the Chairman

By David Ogletree

As citizens we entrust the future of Wisconsin's natural resources and the state's environmental health to our elected officials. And as we today face many issues such as Governor Thompson's proposed budget cuts, which would strip Wisconsin citizens of their voice and weaken or eliminate our representation regarding environmental issues, we are receiving a signal for the future.

With the expansion of business development, highway construction and housing to accommodate our ever-increasing population, we are again receiving a signal for the future. No wonder we are finding it increasingly difficult to champion effectively our coldwater resources.

With this in mind, we need to be prepared, for this is the future. And it isn't going to get any better tomorrow.

First, we need to recommit ourselves to the protection of our coldwater resources. It is now painfully obvious that stream and fishery improvements in the future will be possible only if we can make sure the streams and fisheries we want to improve will be there in the future.

We are facing some of the most environmentally-threatening issues in Wisconsin's history, and you would think that this would be cause for every member to take time to write or call our elected officials and give them a clear, concise statement supporting a strong and healthy environment. Instead, it seems that many members feel that "someone else" will take care of the issues for them.

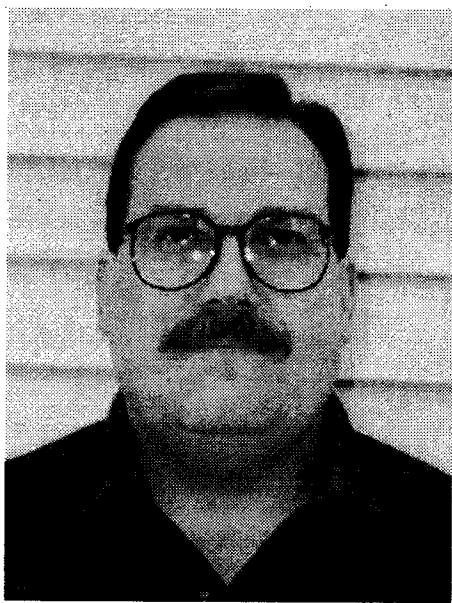
Well, let me clue you in on something. These issues are too big and too important for just a few people to handle!

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited has over 2,600 members statewide, and we all have to take an active role in defending our environment.

You've heard the expression, "If you want a job done right, you must do it yourself." The key word here is **YOU**.

If each one of you does your part as a citizen and lend your support to your T.U. State Council when we alert you to important issues affecting the resource, we will then have a tremendous impact on our elected officials and the decision they make.

We can no longer be just a "conser-



Dave Ogletree

vation" organization. The times have forced Trout Unlimited to step forward and become an environmental organization as well. By using the rights given to us in our state and national constitutions, we can be assured of being heard regarding key environmental issues. Only with your commitment to become an active participant in the legislative process will we have a positive impact on the future of the coldwater resources in Wisconsin.

We will all have to live with the consequences of our actions. Let our actions speak loudly in favor of a healthy environment, and let those actions send messages to our elected officials that they, too, have to live with the consequences of their actions.

As members of Trout Unlimited, we are drawn together by our love for trout and the environs in which they live. Trout need cold, clean water. Waters capable of holding trout are among the rarest of gems in the world. Without the committed efforts of T.U. and other like-minded organizations, these gems will be lost to the whims of politicians and ill-advised development.

And thus the trout we seek will be without the habitat needed for survival. Once the trout streams are gone, so, too, are the trout. I guess at that time we can all decide which other species of fish and habitats we will not be willing to defend. Remember: you can restock the trout, but you can't make a trout stream.

Notes from T.U. National

T.U. priorities set at convention

Trout Unlimited's national convention was held in late September in Bozeman, Montana. At this annual meeting, T.U.'s National Resource Board voted clean water and water quality to be T.U.'s number-one conservation priorities for the coming year.

In addition to clean water, other priorities established by T.U. are:

- *hydropower relicensing/fish passage/instream flows
- *Pacific and Atlantic salmon recovery
- *wild salmonid genetics
- *Great Lakes restoration
- *acid rain mitigation

T.U. now on "America Online"

Trout Unlimited continues to be America's most accessible coldwater conservation organization. Subscribers to "America Online" can now reach the T.U. National Office directly (screen name: TroutU). Internet subscribers can send messages to: TroutU@aol.com.

T.U.'s CompuServe address remains 70534,3234. T.U. has cancelled its subscription with EcoNet.

Communications Director Peter Rafle has assumed responsibility for monitoring all of T.U.'s e-mail accounts. If your message is intended for another member of the T.U. staff, please make sure the message is clearly addressed, and Rafle will forward the message.

T.U. under one roof

Membership Services and Banquet Operations are moving to the T.U. Arlington office. All calls and correspondence regarding membership, banquets and accessory questions should be directed to:

Trout Unlimited
1500 Wilson Blvd.
Suite 310
Arlington, Va. 22209-2310
Phone: (703) 522-0200
Fax: (703) 284-9400

The toll-free membership and merchandise numbers will remain the same: Membership (1-800-834-2419); Merchandise — 1-800-805-4607).

Direct lines for Wendy Reed (Membership Services Manager) and Vincent DiNova (Merchandise Assistant) remain the same. Reed's number is (703) 284-9421; DiNova's is (703) 284-9424.

New grants director named

The new T.U. grants director is Christine Arena. She will assume direct program responsibility for: planning and coordinating development of the Coldwater Conservation Fund; corporate and foundation grant writing and prospect research; managing Board of Trustees meetings; and administering the "Embrace-A-Stream" grant program.

Arena, a native of New England, joined the T.U. staff in February of 1993. She graduated from Smith College in 1991 with a B.A. in Art History.

T.U. Letterhead

All T.U. merchandise, including stationery, has been outsourced to a company in Maryland. If your chapter needs to purchase stationery, please call Vince DiNova at National headquarters, (703) 284-9424. Stationery must be brought in lots of 500 letterhead sheets or 500 envelopes, at a cost of \$20 per 500, plus shipping.

Youth Education

T.U. National wants to know about your chapter's youth education programs. What type of programs have been the most enjoyable? Most successful? What age groups are being targeted? Are the programs primarily recreational or educational? What are some of the challenges and difficulties that you've encountered? What have been the rewards?

Send your reply to: Trout Unlimited, Attention: Youth Education, 1500 Wilson Blvd., Suite 310, Arlington, Va 22209-2310.

T.U. names Banquet Manager

T.U. National has introduced Steve Gonzalez as the new National Banquets/Special Events Manager. Steve was the Assistant General Manager/Director of Marketing for a minor league professional basketball team before coming to T.U. He has also coordinated and directed special events for several non-profit associations, including the American Cancer Society and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

New Officers?

If your chapter has recently elected new officers, PLEASE send their names, addresses and phone numbers to Wendy Reed at the National Office in Arlington, VA.

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Congress rated on conservation votes

The League of Conservation Voters, a non-partisan, non-profit organization based in Washington, D.C., has begun sending out quarterly statements on the voting records of state Congressional representatives on bills having an impact on conservation and environmental protection.

The League (LCV) decided to begin making more intensive reporting and analyses of votes by Congressional representatives subsequent to the takeover of the House of Representatives and the United States Senate by Republicans after last November 8th's mid-term elections. Although the environment was barely mentioned as a campaign issue in 1994, many of the new faces in Congress have espoused decidedly hostile attitudes toward environmental protection.

According to the LCV, there are 73 new Republicans members in the House of Representatives, and, based upon 10 key votes in the first 100 days of the 104th Congress, the average environmentally-correct voting percentage of the freshmen Republicans is three percent. More senior Republicans averaged 10 percent. Sixty-one of the 73 freshmen GOP'ers scored zero.

In addition, a group of about 23 conservative Democrats - mostly from the south and west - averaged 13 percent on these issues, compared to 77 percent correct environmental voting by the remaining Democrats.

Listed below are the ten bills on which the LCV's voting records were based. All of the items are from the GOP's "Contract With America." After the description of the bills and issues are the respective votes by Wisconsin's Congressional delegation on those bills.

Vote descriptions

1. H. R. 5, the "unfunded mandates" bill/Maloney amendment. H. R. 5 would erect new procedural hurdles before Congress could pass legis-

lation to create national standards (such as reducing chemicals or bacteria in water supplies) if the total cost exceeded \$50 million and if state and local governments were expected to implement the legislation without full federal funding. The bill exempted certain programs such as those relating to national defense or civil rights from the new procedural hurdles. Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) offered an amendment to add legislation protection children's health to the list of exemptions. The amendment was defeated 161-261. YES was a pro-environment vote.

2. H. R. 450, a bill to suspend federal rulemaking. As passed, the bill retroactively suspends federal government rulemaking, the process by which laws which establish safeguards are implemented. New standards for environmental protection are blocked until Dec. 31, 1995. The House passed an amendment to ban protections for newly determined endangered species for two years, and rejected amendments that would have allowed the government to continue to set standards for bacterial contamination of meat, and to safeguard tap water from pathogens. The bill passed 271-146. NO is the pro-environment vote.

3. H. R. 1022, "risk assessment" and "cost/benefit" legislation. Rather than streamlining bureaucratic procedures, the "regulatory reform" legislation sets up a one-sided array of procedural and analytical roadblocks to environmental protection, while exempting pesticide companies and other corporate interests from the same requirements. Also, industries that resist new safeguards can lodge legal challenges to the cost and risk assessments, potentially adding years to the delay of implementation. Under the guise of science, this legislation gives corporations power to rewrite dozens of environmental statutes enacted during the past 25 years. An

amendment by Rep. Tim Roemer (D-IN) to prevent the lodging of court challenges to minute details of the many new procedures was defeated 192-231. YES was the pro-environment vote.

4. H. R. 1022 amendment, by Reps. Joe Barton (R-TX), Billy Joe Tauzin (D-LA) and Michael Crapo (R-ID) to apply H. R. 1022 to existing federal regulations as well as new ones by allowing businesses to force rollbacks of existing health, safety and environmental rules. Agencies would have to respond to the corporate rollback requests immediately, and if the requests were denied, the denials would be reviewable by the courts. The House rejected the Barton amendment by only 206-220. NO is the pro-environment vote.

5. H. R. 1022 amendment, by Rep. Sherwood Boehlert (R-NY) to prevent new regulatory procedures from undoing existing laws such as the Clean Air Act of 1990, was defeated 181-238. YES was the pro-environment vote.

6. H. R. 1022, final bill. Over the unanimous objection of national environmental groups, the House approved risk assessment and cost/benefit legislation, 286-141. NO is the pro-environment vote.

7. H. R. 925, redefining the concept of "takings". As approved by the House, H. R. 925 requires the government to use funds which would otherwise go to the Fish and Wildlife Service or other resource agencies to pay property owners to obey the Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act or other environmental issues (e.g., the government would have to use TAX DOLLARS to pay paper mills and others not to pollute waterways).

The Fifth Amendment to the Constitution guarantees that "Private property shall not be taken for public use without just compensation." The government can, however, reasonably regulate activities that have adverse impacts on communities, such as prohibiting the filling of wetlands to prevent flooding. Under H. R. 925, landowners who claim that any portions of their land were reduced in value by 20 percent or more would be entitled to compensation from the taxpayers, or, if the government cannot afford to pay, the landowner can then violate the law. In addition to the potential costs of this radical new interpretation of the Constitution, the bill would require agencies to develop a new layer of bureaucracy to handle the challenges.

As authorized by the Judiciary Committee, H. R. 925 would apply broadly to federal law. Under a substitute version of the bill offered by Rep. Tauzin (D-LA), the bill would directly target the Endangered Species Act, the wetlands protections of the Clean Water Act and those federal laws that protect

water flow in the arid West, potentially crippling them. The House approved the Tauzin substitute, 301-128. NO was the pro-environment vote.

8. H. R. 925, full "takings" bill. The House approved the "takings" legislation 277-148. NO was the pro-environment vote (the LCV considered this vote so important because of the potential environmental harm that it scored this vote twice).

9. H.R. 9, combining "takings," "risk assessment," and "cost/benefit" legislation. The House combined H. R. 925, H. R. 1022 and H. R. 926, Regulatory Impact Analysis, a bill which creates new levels of analysis for regulations and allows the Office of Management and Budget to block health and safety protections. Taken all together, H. R. 9 overrides 25 years of environmental protection. The House adopted H. R. 9, 277-148. NO was the pro-environment vote.

10. H. R. 1158, rescissions and emergency appropriations. As part of Federal appropriations legislation affecting previously approved spending for 1995, Rep. Charles Taylor (R-NC) authorized a section to mandate increased logging - at increased cost - on Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands. In order to guarantee that the trees will be cut, the Taylor provision would suspend all federal laws which would otherwise prevent this logging. Supposedly providing for "salvage" logging of at least 6.2 billion board feet of trees affected by wildfire or insect infestation, the Taylor language expressly allowed cutting live, healthy trees. Rep. Sidney Yates (D-IL) offered an amendment to kill the Taylor provision and return the forest program to its previous 1995 levels under law. The Yates amendment was defeated 150-275. YES is the pro-environment vote.

How Wisconsin Congressional representatives voted

Below are the tabulations according to the LCV of the votes on these "Contract With America" items that forbode vast impacts on the environment, if they are approved by the Senate and signed into law (or established by override of a presidential vote). Going from left to right across a line is the Congressional district, name of Congressman, political affiliation ("D" for Democrat and "R" for Republican), how that person voted on issues ("+" is pro-environment, "-" is anti-environment) and, finally, the percent LCV correct voting score (the higher the number, the more pro-environment is the legislator's voting record).

The number of the bills or amendments to bills as described previously are listed in bold-faced type above the "+" or "-" votes.

House passes "Dirty Water Bill"

On May 16, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the "Clean Water Reauthorization Bill" by a vote of 240-185. The bill has been lambasted by every respected conservation organization in the country - including Trout Unlimited - as the "Dirty Water Act" because it represents an attempt to roll back 25 years of progress in solving the problems that plague the nation's waters.

The bill, HR 961, would virtually eliminate the Clean Water Act's protection for wetlands by removing oversight by the Environmental Protection Agency with regard to veto authority over permits issued by the Corps of Engineers. HR 961 would also classify wetland into three categories - high, medium and low quality - and make protection of even highest quality wetlands virtually impossible.

So extreme is the House-passed version of the bill that the Everglades would not be protected by the reauthorized act.

In addition, the bill would roll back programs to prevent polluted runoff from entering streams and lakes, would lower water quality standards and would even reduce states' rights to enforce their own water quality standards on issues relating to dam construction and operation.

The bill now moves to the Senate, where Environment and Public Works Committee Chairman John Chafee (R-

Rhode Island), a noted environmental leader in the Senate, has pledged to do all he can to prevent a bad bill from passing. President Clinton has vowed to veto the bill if it comes to his desk in the current form.

Trout Unlimited Executive Director Charles Gauvin noted that, despite the loss in the House of Representatives on this vote, Americans did react to its potential disastrous impacts. Gauvin said that many Congressional offices were inundated with calls and letters opposing this version of the reauthorization of the Clean Water Act. That outpouring of public anger helped create a bi-partisan group of opposition to the bill. The 185 pro-environment "NO" votes against the "Dirty Water Bill" came from 150 Democrats, 34 Republicans and one independent.

How did Wisconsin's

Congressional delegation vote?

Eight of Wisconsin's nine Congressional representatives voted on HR 961 (Gerald Kleczka, D. - 5th district, did not vote). Here's how they voted: FOR HR 961 (against clear water): Neumann (R. - 1st district); Roth (R. - 8th district).

AGAINST HR 961 (for clean water): Klug (R. - 2nd district); Gunderson (R. - 3rd district); Barrett (D. - 4th district); Petri (R. - 6th district); Obey (D. - 7th district); Sensenbrenner (R. - 9th district).

Cong. district	Name		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	%
1	Neumann (R)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
2	Klug (R)	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	45
3	Gunderson (R)	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
4	Kleczka (D)	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	91
5	Barrett (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100
6	Petri (R)	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
7	Obey (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	74
8	Roth (R)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
9	Sensenbrenner (R)	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9

Wisconsin Trout will continue to report timely vote tabulations by the League of Conservation Voters on the

positions of our elected Congressional representatives on these issues of great environmental importance.

"Friends" campaign going well

The 1995 "Friends of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited" fund-raising drive is off to a good start and Wisconsin T.U. hopes to see it grow even more this year.

Since the mid-April mailing to all Wisconsin T.U. members, the "Friends" campaign has garnered 15 new "Friends" as well as about 40 renewals. However, we have at least another 30 "Friends" who have yet to renew, and the State Council urges its present "Friends" to renew in this worthwhile endeavor.

Of special note is a tremendous donation to the "Friends" program made by the Central Wisconsin T.U. Chapter, which contributed \$1,476.18 to the "Friends" program. This figure represents half of the net proceeds the chapter made from a special "woodstrip canoe raffle" it held during the winter months.

The canoe was built by master canoe builder Bob Reynolds of Poy Sippi and donated to Central Wisconsin T.U. Central Wisconsin T.U. sold 657 \$5.00 tickets for the canoe, drawing, which was held at the chapter's annual Conservation Banquet March 25th in Oshkosh. The winning ticket holder was Robert Brutenmiller of Sheboygan.

Wisconsin T.U. reminds everyone that they, too, can become a "Friend of Wisconsin T.U." by making an annual donation of \$100 or more to Wisconsin Trout Unlimited. Your donation will go into a separate account that will be used by the Wisconsin T.U. State Council to fund a variety of habitat improvement, research and education projects throughout the state.

The Council also reminds our state

T.U. chapters that they may apply for available "Friends" funds by contacting State Council Chairman Dave Ogletree (see "Council Directory," page 2). Chapters that are in need of extra funds to carry out worthwhile coldwater resource work are urged to get in touch with the Council right away.

Thanks again to all who have joined the "Friends" campaign or who have renewed their commitment to the betterment of the state's trout fishery via the "Friends" program. We look forward to having the rest of our "Friends" renew so that we can continue our efforts now and in the future.

Remember: your annual contributions provide you with a "Friends" lapel pin, a certificate of appreciation and listing with all the other "Friends" in four consecutive issues of Wisconsin Trout.

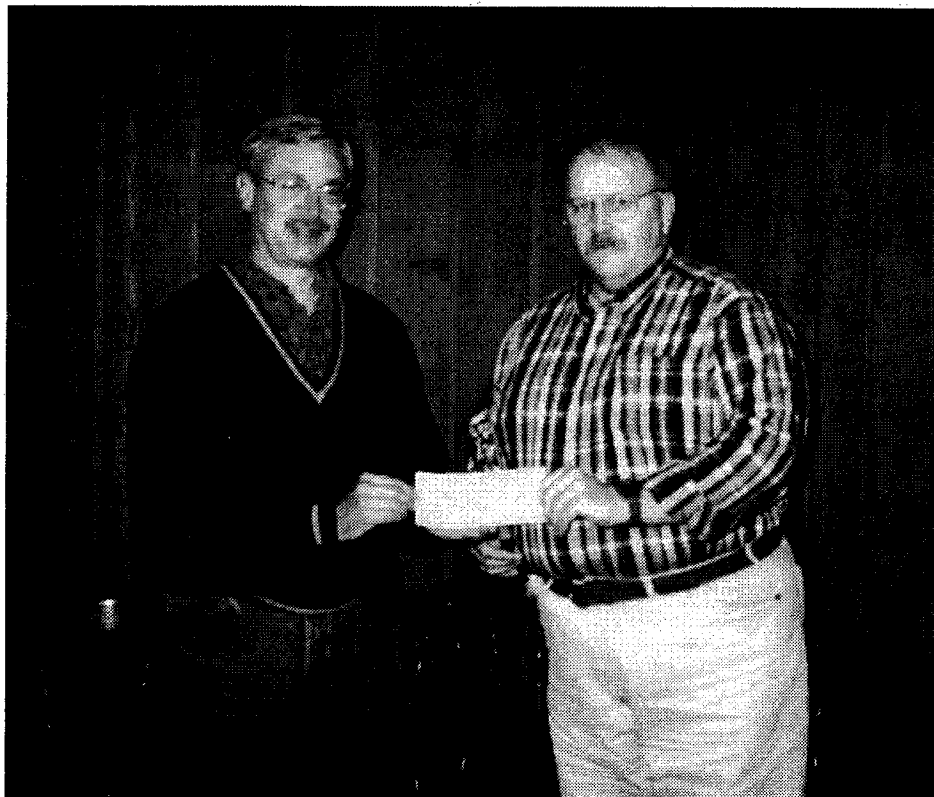
If you haven't joined the "Friends" yet, why not do so? Fill out the order form below and mail it in TODAY! Wisconsin T.U. and our coldwater resources will be most grateful for your support!!

"FRIENDS OF WISCONSIN T.U."

Ed Anderson/
Anderson Water Conditioning (R)
Peshtigo, WI
B & K Transportation/
Terry Kultgen (N) Oak Creek, WI
David Beckwith (R) Milwaukee, WI
Mitchell Bent (R) Shawano, WI
George Bereza (R) Marinette, WI
James C. Bolton, Jr. (R) Eau Claire, WI
Robert Bolz (R) Madison, WI
Steve Born (N) Madison, WI
Lawrence Brown Appleton, WI
Thomas Buettner Sheboygan, WI
Buettner's Wild Wolf Inn (N)
White Lake, WI



Central Wisconsin Chapter president Russ Bouck (r) presents to "Friends" coordinator John Cantwell (l) a check for \$1,476.18, which represents half the net proceeds of Central Wisconsin's canoe raffle.



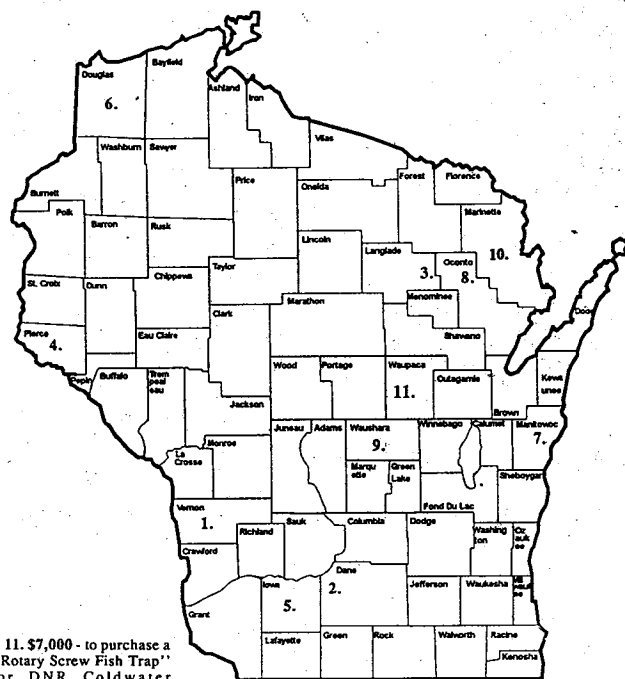
Central Wisconsin Chapter president Russ Bouck (r) shakes hands with Robert Brutenmiller (l) of Sheboygan, who won the woodstrip canoe drawing at the Central Wisconsin Chapter banquet.

Kenneth Bunn	Neenah, WI	James Moline (N)	Stillwater, MN
John Cantwell (R)	Green Bay, WI	Dennis Morgan (R)	Longview, WA
Central Wisconsin Chapter (R)		Bill Nielsen (R)	Eau Claire, WI
Andrew E. Cook II (R)	De Pere, WI	Harry Nohr Chapter (N)	
Sheldon W. Damberg, M.D. (R)		Northwoods Chapter (*)	
	St. Paul, MN	Kenneth Nuttall (N)	Appleton, WI
Bruce C. Davidson (R)	Marinette, WI	Oconto River Watershed Chapter (R)	
Claude D. Davis	Chippewa Falls, WI	Dr. Herbert W. Oechler (N)	
Gregory Derfus (N)	Eau Claire, WI		Wauwatosa, WI
Wayne A. Disch (R)	Green Bay, WI	Ron Rellatz	Merton, WI
Dale Druckrey	Bonduel, WI	Bob Reynolds	North Oaks, MN
Dick DuPlessie (R)	Eau Claire, WI	Dr. Thomas J. Rice, M.D. (R)	
Tom England	Knoxville, IL		Marshfield, WI
Dick & Fran Erney	Madison, WI	Delmar J. Schwaller (R)	Appleton, WI
Alan Finesilver (R)	De Pere, WI	Kevin Searock (N)	Portage, WI
William Flader, M.D. (R)	Madison, WI	Robert Selk	Madison, WI
Daniel T. Flaherty (R)	La Crosse, WI	Shaw-Paca Chapter (R)	
Louis Frase, M.D.	Eau Claire, WI	D.C. Shepard (N)	Neenah, WI
Donald R. Gore (R)	Sheboygan, WI	John Shillinglaw	Appleton, WI
Jim Greenlee (N)	Wausau, WI	Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter (N)	
The Grootemaat Foundation (N)		Michael P. Stapleton	Pardeeville, WI
	Mequon, WI	Joseph T. Steuer (R)	Naples, FL
Robert Hackinson (R)	Appleton, WI	Gary & Jan Stoychoff (N)	
David J. Hanson	Madison, WI		Green Bay, WI
Brian Harden	Milwaukee, WI	Jack & Suzanne Swanson	Appleton, WI
Henry Haugley (R)	Sun Prairie, WI	James C. Tibbitts, M.D.	Madison, WI
Steve Hawk (R)	Madison, WI	Dain Trafton (R)	Rockford, IL
Robert Hellyer (N)	Northbrook, IL	Charles Utzinger (R)	Oostburg, WI
Walter Hellyer	Fish Creek, WI	William D. Van Dyke III (R)	
J.R. Humphrey (R)			Milwaukee, WI
	Oak Park Heights, MN	Richard Wachowski (R)	Eau Claire, WI
Charles V. James (N)	Milwaukee, WI	Don A. Wagner	Gillett, WI
Webb Kennedy	Mequon, WI	John Wahlers	Berlin, WI
Gordon King (R)	Merrill, WI	J. Nash Williams (R)	Madison, WI
Lane A. Kistler (R)	Milwaukee, WI	Dan Wisniewski (*)	Madison, WI
Mark Klingbeil (R)	Milwaukee, WI	Gayle & Mary Worf (*)	Madison, WI
Richard Kraus (R)	Pine River, WI	Norb Wozniak (R)	Juneau, WI
P. Eric Kuusinen (*)	Elm Grove, WI	Fred Young (R)	Roscoe, IL
David Lenz (*)	Middleton, WI	Robert Zimmerman (R)	Green Bay, WI
Donald A. Loss (*)	Milwaukee, WI		
Thomas A. Lyons (*)	Neenah, WI		
Marinette County Chapter (R)			
Bruce Miller (R)	Cross Plains, WI		

(N)=New "Friend"
(R)=Renewed "Friend"

List of Projects funded via the "Friends of Wisconsin T.U." Program

- \$4,000 - for rip-rapping and structural improvements on the West Fork Kickapoo River (Vernon Co.)
- \$1,500 - for placement of LUNKER structures and bank stabilization in Black Earth Creek (Dane Co.)
- \$1,000 - for hydraulic dredging of Saul Spring Pond (Langlade Co.)
- \$750 - for purchase of special thermometers to monitor stormwater runoff into the Kinnickinnic River (Pierce Co.)
- \$2,000 - for re-routing and stabilizing Brewery Creek (Iowa Co.)
- \$75 - for purchase of "catch-and-release" signs for the Bois Brule River (Douglas Co.)
- \$2,500 - for renovation of trout rearing facilities in Lincoln Park (City of Manitowoc)
- \$500 - for bank stabilization and structural improvement on the North Fork Thunder River (Oconto Co.)
- \$1,000 - for land acquisition along the White River (Waushara Co.)
- \$1,000 - to assist with acquisition of 64(+) acres of land along Upper Middle Inlet Creek (Marinette County)
- \$7,000 - to purchase a "Rotary Screw Fish Trap" for DNR Coldwater research



MAIL TO: TROUT UNLIMITED
935 South Union St.
Shawano, WI 54166

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

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

RETURN:
Trout Unlimited
Mitch Bent
935 South Union St.
Shawano, WI 54166



Wisconsin Trout

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited

Fall 1995

Wisconsin's conservation legacy in ruins!

Thompson, GOP legislature shred environmental protection

Nearly seven decades of progressive conservation and environmental protection policy in Wisconsin were tossed out the window in June when the Republican-controlled state legislature genducted to Governor Thompson's demands and voted in straight party-line fashion to undercut the citizen-based Department of Natural Resources and the Office of Public Intervenor.

Using the State Budget Bill (AB 150) as a mask for their tactics, the Republicans approved Thompson's plan to transfer the authority for hiring and firing the DNR secretary from the seven-member citizens' Natural Resources Board to the office of the governor. Since 1927, Wisconsin has used a plan - promoted by the late and great Aldo Leopold, a Republican - to have a citizens' board hire the agency secretary and thus keep political influence in resource management decisions at a minimum.

The Republicans also eliminated - for all practical purposes - the Office of Public Intervenor, which housed state lawyers who worked in the Department of Justice on behalf of citizens and groups regarding surface and groundwater, wetlands, urban sprawl and more. The office was created in 1967 under the administration of former Governor Warren Knowles, a Republican.

The Public Intervenor office was originally targeted for direct elimination by Governor Thompson in his budget bill. However, the Republicans used a pathetic sham of a proposal by state senator Robert Cowles (R. - Green Bay) to retain one Public Intervenor, strip the office of the ability to file lawsuits on behalf of state citizens and transfer the Intervenor from

the Justice Department to the DNR, where it will become part of the political patronage system now in operation.

Adding further insult to injury, Thompson used a line-item veto to rearrange the makeup for the citizens' committee overseeing the Intervenor's office.

As approved by the legislature, that committee was to be comprised of two appointees each from the governor's office and that of the state Attorney General, and one each by the majority and minority parties in the legislature.

Thompson used his well-known creative line-item veto to eliminate the two appointees from the Attorney General's office (currently headed by Democrat James Doyle, a Thompson foe) and to add those appointees to the governor's office, thus giving the governor appointment of four of the six oversight committee members.

The Republican majority in the legislature has refused to attempt an override of Thompson's line-item veto.

For the moment, the position of "Public Intervenor" is nothing more than that of a high-priced cheerleader. Neither of the two Public Intervenor who held those posts prior to the signing of the budget bill by Thompson are seeking the new "Intervenor" post. Thomas Dawson and Kathleen Falk will be taking on different assignments in either the Department of Justice or in private practice.

Also lost from the Intervenor's office is the half-time Intervenor, Laura Sutherland, who was working for the state's citizens on the permitting process now underway with the proposed copper-zinc-silver-gold mine sought by the consortium of Exxon Minerals Corporation and Rio

Algom, Ltd., also called "Crandon Mining Company."

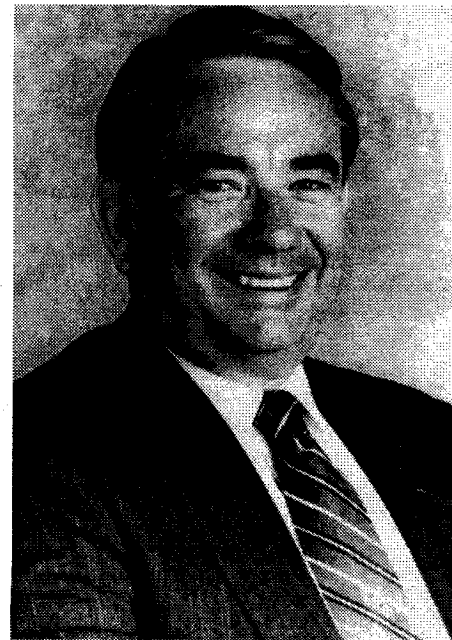
In the spirited debate over these two very important issues, Democrats in both houses of the legislature offered amendments to restore the office of the Public Intervenor to its previous status (i.e., two-and-a-half positions fully funded within the Department of Justice), and to retain the appointment authority for the DNR secretary with the seven-member citizens Natural Resources Board.

Despite tens of thousands of letters, calls and petitions from citizens across the state who were opposed to these changes, the majority Republicans all voted to reject these Democratic amendments. Every Republican voted to politicize the DNR and to eliminate the office of Public Intervenor. Every Democrat voted to retain a fully-funded Office of Public Intervenor within the Department of Justice and to retain appointment authority for the DNR head with the Natural Resources Board.

What comes next is uncertain. As this goes to press, Thompson has yet to nominate a person for the DNR secretary post. Current secretary George Meyer is rumored to be the leading candidate for the job, but, even if nominated by Thompson and approved by the state senate, his influence and effectiveness would be muted, because he would be nothing more than a lap dog for Thompson.

The Budget Bill did not strip from the Natural Resources Board its policy-making authority for the agency, as Thompson had originally sought. However, with the governor appointing the DNR secretary and the Board setting policy, confusion is likely to reign within the DNR, adding to the already low staff morale.

Assemblyperson Spencer Black (D. - Madison), the legislature's leading conservation advocate, has stated that he intends to introduce during the fall legislative session the "Conservation Restoration Act," a bill that would return appointment power over the



Governor Thompson's plan to politicize DNR, destroy Public Intervenor Office.

DNR secretary back to the Natural Resources Board and one that would restore a fully-funded and fully-staffed office of Public Intervenor within the Department of Justice.

However, with Republicans controlling both houses of the legislature, chances of getting a public hearing on the bill - let alone getting it passed - are remote.

Wisconsin Trout has listed, and will continue to list, the names, districts and party affiliations of all members of the state legislature in this issue. We will continue to report on how state legislators vote on issues that impact natural resource management and use in Wisconsin.

As an outdoorsperson, you have a right to know what your elected officials are doing with regard to conservation and environmental issues.

For information on other impacts that the State Budget Bill will have on conservation in our state, see related stories within this issue.

Nominations for awards sought

The Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited will host its annual Conservation Awards Banquet Saturday, Feb. 3, 1996, at the Oshkosh Hilton in downtown Oshkosh.

As part of the banquet events, the Council will present awards to individuals and chapters for service to the Wisconsin T.U. State Council and for protection and enhancement of coldwater resources in Wisconsin.

The categories of awards to be presented include:

*Gold Trout Award for leadership or service to Trout Unlimited;

*Gold Net Award for outstanding efforts in fund-raising;

*Silver Trout Award for a chapter's efforts on a stream or watershed project;

*Award of Merit for outstanding efforts and/or achievements on behalf of the coldwater resource and environmental protection that go above and beyond normal efforts;

*Fish Manager of the Year to a

Department of Natural Resources fishery person who has excelled in efforts benefitting the coldwater resource in Wisconsin;

*Legislative Service Award to a member of the Wisconsin State Legislature who has promoted or significantly aided in passing legislation promoting conservation and environmental protection in Wisconsin;

Please note that nominations should be made only for those individuals or chapters whose achievements have a statewide significance.

Letters of nomination should include the name, address and phone number of said nominee; a summary of the reasons for nomination; and a designation for which award the nominee is being supported.

The deadline for receipt of the nominations by the Awards Committee is: Dec. 15, 1995. All nominations should be mailed to: Larry Meicher, 2308 Hwy. "BB", Cottage Grove, WI 53527.

LIST OF ASSEMBLYPERSONS AND STATE SENATORS

Name, party and district	Home	Green, Mark (R. - 4th)	Green Bay
Ainsworth, John (R. - 6th)	Shawano	Grobschmidt, Richard (D. - 21st)	
Albers, Sheryl (R. - 50th)	Loganville		South Milwaukee
Baldus, Al (D. - 29th)	Menominee	Gronemus, Barbara (D. - 91st)	Whitehall
Baldwin, Tammy (D. - 78th)	Madison	Grothman, Glenn (R. - 59th)	West Bend
Baumgart, James (D. - 26th)	Sheboygan	Gunderson, Scott (R. - 83rd)	Waterford
Bell, Jeannette (D. - 15th)	West Allis	Hahn, Eugene (R. - 47th)	Cambria
Black, Spencer (D. - 77th)	Madison	Handrick, Joseph (R. - 34th)	Minocqua
Bock, Peter (D. - 7th)	Milwaukee	Hanson, Doris (D. - 48th)	McFarland
Boyle, Frank (D. - 73rd)	Superior	Harsdorf, Sheila (R. - 30th)	River Falls
Brancel, Ben (R. - 42nd)	Endeavor	Hasenohrl, Donald (D. - 70th)	Pittsville
Brandemuehl, David (R. - 49th)		Hoven, Tim (R. - 60th)	Port Washington
		Huber, Greg (D. - 85th)	Wausau
	Fennimore	Hubler, Mary (D. - 75th)	Rice Lake
Carpenter, Tim (D. - 9th)	Milwaukee	Huebsch, Michael (R. - 94th)	Onalaska
Coggs, G. Spencer (D. - 17th)	Milwaukee	Hutchison, Dave (R. - 1st)	Luxemburg
Coleman, Charles (R. - 43rd)	Whiteawter	Jensen, Scott (R. - 32nd)	Waukesha
Cullen, David (D. - 13th)	Milwaukee	Johnsrud, DuWayne (R. - 96th)	Eastman
Dobyns, John (R. - 52nd)	Fond du Lac	Kaufert, Dean (R. - 55th)	Neenah
Dueholm, Robert (D. - 28th)	Luck	Kelso, Carol (R. - 88th)	Green Bay
Duff, Marc (R. - 98th)	New Berlin	Klusman, Judith (R. - 56th)	Oshkosh
Freese, Stephen (R. - 51st)	Oconomowoc	Kreibich, Robin (R. - 93rd)	Eau Claire
Gard, John (R. - 89th)	Dodgeville		
Goetsch, Robt. (R. - 39th)	Peshigo		
	Juneau		

(Cont. on Page 3)

Wisconsin T.U. Council/Chapter Directory

Chairman: David Ogletree, 2661 Milwaukee St., Madison, WI 53704 (608) 246-4227

Vice-Chairman: Dave Newhouse, 229 Ridgeway, Rhinelander, WI 54501 (715) 362-5263

Secretary: Jon Christiansen, 237 Aster Lane, Mequon, WI 53092

Treasurer: Forrest Grulke, 1356 Home Ave., Menasha, WI 54952 (414) 739-5155

Past Chairman: Forrest Grulke, 1356 Home Ave., Menasha, WI 54952 (414) 739-5155

Fund Raising: John Cantwell, 2286 Mt. Olive, Green Bay, WI 54313 (414) 434-3989 (H)

Legal Counsel: Winston Ostrow, 335 Trader's Point Ln., Green Bay, WI 54302 (414) 469-1596 (H)

Publications: Mitch Bent, 935 South Union St., Shawano, WI 54166 (715) 524-5886

Water Resources: Russ Bouck, 9357 Nelson Rd., Amherst Junction, WI 54407 (715) 824-3781

Youth/Education: Dale Lange, N3167 Right-of-Way Rd., Peshtigo, WI 54157 (715) 582-4172 (H)

Membership: Jim Hlaban, 1421 Silverwood, Neenah, WI 54956 (414) 722-4335

Aldo Leopold Chapter (#375): Clint Byrnes, 921 S. Spring St., Beaver Dam, WI 53916 (414) 885-5335

Antigo Chapter (#313): Scott Hen-

ricks, 213 Mary St., Antigo, WI 54409 (715) 623-3867

Blackhawk Chapter: (#390): Richard Alfors, 4599 Totter Trail, Rockford, IL 61101-9041 (815) 968-4102

Central WI Chapter: Russ Bouck, 9357 Nelson Rd., Amherst Junction, WI 54407 (715) 824-3781

Coulee Region Chapter (#278): Dale Sevig, W5721 Sherwood Drive, La Crosse, WI 54601 (608) 787-1778

Fox Valley Chapter (#193): Ryan Hagen, 316 Naymut St., Menasha, WI 54952 (414) 722-8015 (H)

Frank Hornberg Chapter (#624): 348 Maple St., Rosholt, WI 54473

Green Bay Chapter (#083): Janet Smith, 3358 Nautical Ave., Green Bay, WI 54311 (414) 433-3803 (O); (414) 468-6154 (H)

Harry Nohr Chapter (#257): Chuck Steudel, Rt. 1, Highland, WI 53543 (608) 929-7617

Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter (#168): Gary Horvath, 623 W. Pine St., River Falls, WI 54022-2036 (715) 425-8489

Lakeshore Chapter (#423): Ron McCormick, 1535 Kellner St., Manitowoc, WI 54220-1541 (414) 684-0724

Marinette County Chapter (#422): Jerry Chevalier, 3218 W. Bayshore St., Marinette, WI 54143 (715) 732-1555

Northwoods Chapter (#256): Al Lenz, 2432 Highway 17, Phelps, WI 54554 (715) 545-2424

Oconto River Watershed Chapter (#385): Dave Brunner, 5473 Cardinal Rd., Gillett, WI 54124 (414) 855-6669 (H)

Ojibseau Chapter (#255): John Welter, 204 E. Grand Ave., P.O. Box 358, Eau Claire, WI 54702 (715) 832-3494 (O); (715) 832-7028 (H)

Shaw-Paca Chapter (#381): Jerry Weatherwax, RR 3, Box 203A, Shawano, WI 54166 (715) 524-5642 (H) (715) 823-2180 (O)

Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter (#078): James Folda, 18525 Harvest Lane,

Brookfield, WI 53045-5457 (414) 475-3942

Southern WI Chapter (#061): Bill Sonzogni, 3731 Pioneer Road, Verona, WI 53593 (608) 829-2552

Wild Rivers Chapter (#415): Paul Gilbert, RR 1, Box 24, Cable, WI 54821 (715) 798-3218 (H)

Wisconsin River Valley Chapter (#395): Herb Hintze, 629 Hamilton St., Wausau, WI 54401 (715) 842-1365 (H)

Wolf River Chapter (#050): Herb Buettner, N4297 Buettner Road, White Lake, WI 54491 (715) 882-8610 (H)

Wisconsin T.U. Chapter meeting times, locations

Aldo Leopold: When needed or called; at Beaver Dam Conservation Club, CTH "G", Beaver Dam.

Antigo: Not listed.

Blackhawk: Third Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at UW-Rock County Campus (South Building).

Central Wisconsin: Board meetings at Tilly's in Wautoma on second Monday of the month, 7:00 p.m.

Coulee Region: Not given.

Fox Valley: Third Thursday of the month, 7:30 p.m., at The Forester Club, Spencer St., Appleton.

Frank Hornberg Chapter: Second Thursday of the month, 7:00 p.m. at Shooter's Supper Club, Hwys. 51 & 54, Plover. No meetings May-September.

Green Bay: First Thursday of September, October, November, January, February, March and April at Maricque's, 1517 University Ave., Green Bay at 7:30 p.m. May picnic/meeting at the Brown County Reforestation Camp. December Christmas/awards dinner at site to be determined. No chapter meetings June-Aug.

Kiap-TU-Wish: First Wednesday of the month at JR Ranch east of Hudson on Hwy. 12 north of I-94. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.; meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Lakeshore: Second Monday of the month, 7:30 p.m. at The Club Bil-Mar, Old Hwy. 141, Manitowoc.

Marinette County: First Tuesday

of the month, 7:00 p.m., at The Dome, 751 University Drive, Marinette.

Harry Nohr: Not given.

Northwoods: Third Thursday of the month, 7 p.m. at Associated Bank (Community Room), Stevens at Davenport Streets, Rhinelander. No meetings June, July and August.

Oconto River Watershed: First Wednesday of the month, 7:45 p.m., at the Lone Oak Gun Club, Hwy. 32 North, Gillett.

Ojibseau: Second Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m., at the Eau Claire Rod & Gun Club, Eau Claire.

Shaw-Paca: Third Thursday of the month, 8:00 p.m., at the Corner Bar, County "M", in Pella (Shawano County).

Southeastern Wisconsin: Fourth Tuesday of the month. Dinner at 6:00 p.m., meeting at 7:30 p.m. At the Bavarian Wursthau, 8310 Appleton Ave., Milwaukee.

Southern Wisconsin: Second Tuesday of the month, dinner at 6:00 p.m., meeting at 7:00 p.m. At the Maple Tree Restaurant, McFarland.

Wild Rivers: Not given.

Wisconsin River Valley: First Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m., at the North Central Technical College, Wausau.

Wolf River: At various times. Call Herb Buettner (715-882-8612) for information.

Natural Resources Board Directory

Herb Behnke, Chairman
Rt. 4 Box 68
Shawano, WI 54166

Trygve Solberg, Vice-chairman
Box 50
Minocqua, WI 54458

Neal Schneider, Secretary
Box 71
Janesville, WI 53545

Betty Jo Nelsen
2640 E. Newton Ave.
Shorewood, WI 53211

Mary Jane Nelson
W6432 Hwy. D
Holmen, WI 54636

James Tiefenthaler
450 N. Sunny Slope Rd.
Suite 280
Brookfield, WI 53003

Steve Willett
Box 89
Phillips, WI 54455

New Chapter leader? Please tell us

When chapters elect new officers, it is essential that they inform the State Council AND the T.U. National office of that change. Otherwise, vital information for chapter use gets lost, as it is the unfortunate custom of outgoing chapter presidents to fail to forward mail.

Here are the rules to follow when changing chapter presidents:

1. Inform T.U. National by calling Wendy Reed at (703) 522-0200. She will need name, address, and home and/or work phone number(s). Or, you can mail that information to her at: Trout Unlimited, 1500 Wilson Blvd. Suite 310, Arlington, VA 22209. Include the name of your chapter AND the three-

digit chapter ID number (see Council/Chapter directory on this page).

2. Inform the State Council of the change, too. Send that information to Mitch Bent, 935 S. Union St., Shawano, WI 54166. Or, call him at (715) 524-5886.

Now, even with these instructions, some chapter presidents or ex-presidents just won't follow through with the request. So, if you notice that your chapter's president is incorrectly listed in the Council/Chapter directory, PLEASE inform Mitch Bent at the address or phone number listed. It's better to have too much communication than not enough.

Changing address? Do it right!

If you're changing your address, here are the proper rules to follow in order to continue receiving communications from Trout Unlimited.

1. Send notices of address changes directly to the T.U. National office. That address is: Trout Unlimited Membership Service, 14101 Parke Long Court, Chantilly, VA 22021-1645.

2. Include your eight-digit T.U. identification number with change of address notice. It is found on the upper left hand corner of mailing labels attached to TROUT magazine, Wisconsin Trout newspaper or your chapter newsletter.

3. If you are moving to a different

city within Wisconsin and wish to be affiliated with the T.U. chapter in your area, make note of that, too, and include the three-digit chapter identification number of the new chapter into which you are transferring.

4. If you have any questions, you may call Mitch Bent at (715) 524-5886. BUT...you should not send notice of address changes to him. They will not be accepted; rather, they will be returned to the sender. All notice of address changes should go directly to T.U. National. T.U. National's Phone Number: (703) 522-0200 * FAX (703) 284-9400.

WISCONSIN TROUT

Is the official publication of the Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited. Issues are distributed to all members of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited chapters. Publication and distribution dates are the first weeks of January, April, July and October. Deadlines for articles and advertisements are the 10th of December, March, June and September, respectively. Advertising rate sheet available upon request. Contributions and letters-to-the-editor are welcomed and encouraged. Submit articles and returnable photos or slides (color or black-and-white) to editor for consideration.

ADVERTISING RATES:

4 to 10 column inches (*)	\$5.00/column inch
11 to 24 column inches (24" = quarter page)	\$4.50/column inch
25 to 48 column inches (48" = half page)	\$4.00/column inch
49 or more column inches	\$3.50/column inch

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229 Ridgeway
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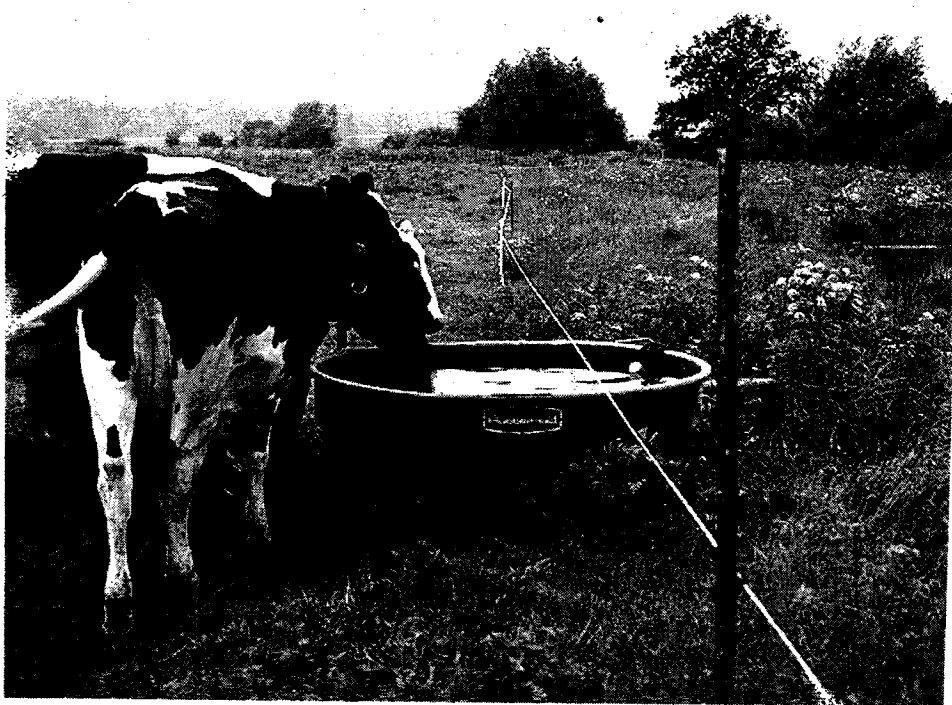
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Name, party and district	Home
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Andrea, Joseph (D. - 22nd)	Kenosha
Breske, Roger (D. - 12th)	Eland
Buettner, Carol (R. - 18th)	Oshkosh
Burke, Brian (D. - 3rd)	Milwaukee
Chvala, Charles (D. - 16th)	Madison
Clausing, Alice (D. - 10th)	Menominee
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Decker, Russell (D. - 29th)	Schofield
Drzewiecki, Gary (R. - 30th)	Pulaski
Ellis, Michael (R. - 19th)	Neenah
Farrow, Margaret (R. - 33rd)	Elm Grove
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Plewa, John (D. - 7th) Milwaukee
Potter, Calvin (D. - 9th) Kohler

Risser, Fred (D. - 26th) Madison
Rosenzweig, Peggy (R. - 5th) Wauwatosa
Rude, Brian (R. - 32nd) Coon Valley
Schultz, Dale (R. - 17th) Richland Center

Shibilski, Kevin (D. - 24th) Amherst
Weeden, Timothy (R. - 15th) Beloit
Welch, Robert (R. - 14th) Redgranite
Wineke, Joseph (D. - 27th) Verona
Zien, David (R. - 23rd) Eau Claire



Some progress indicated on shoreland management

Current secretary of the Wisconsin state Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) Alan Tracy is noting that some progress is being made in implementing the voluntary shoreland management guidelines promulgated by a DATCP citizens advisory committee last year.

Those voluntary guidelines are designed for adoption by counties or townships to curtail nonpoint pollution and soil runoff that has negative effects on water quality in the state.

To date, says Tracy, DATCP has

received responses from 10 counties (not named in his statement) that are interested in adopting an Agricultural Shoreland Management Ordinance. Too, one town - the Town of Lodi in Columbia County - has passed a resolution stating that they intend to adopt an ordinance in 1995.

The Shoreland Management Ordinance was part of former Senate Bill 281 that was co-sponsored by state senator Charles Chvala (D. - Madison) in the previous session of the state legislature.

More impacts of Budget Bill on conservation

Besides the elimination of the effective office of Public Intervenor and the politicizing of the Department of Natural Resources, the Budget Bill approved by all Republican state legislators and signed by Governor Thompson had many other anti-environmental facets, including:

***Wisconsin Conservation Corps cuts.** The GOP lopped off 25 percent of the crews of Wisconsin Conservation Corps, a statewide youth training program that provided work in conservation for thousands of state youth, including work on trout streams. The head of the WCC will now be a gubernatorial appointee, just like the DNR secretary will be.

Nonpoint pollution control cuts. Republicans deleted \$4.6 million from the DNR's \$6.4 million Non Point Pollution abatement program. They also reduced from \$24 million to \$20 million the bonding authority for priority watershed projects.

***Shift of monies from the Recycling Fund.** The GOP stole money (\$21.4 million) from the state's Recycling Fund (funds gathered from waste generators) to pay for property tax relief. This cut--or theft--occurs just as the state's recycling law goes into full effect and will hamper local efforts to reduce solid waste.

***Drinking water standards.** Republicans exempted septic systems and their sewage from meeting health standards for drinking water from underground water wells. And the GOP eliminated the DNR's veto authority over establishing septic system specifications that might adversely affect health.

***Environmental Repair Fund cuts.** The GOP reduced from \$4.1 million to \$2.5 million funds available for hazard-

ous waste or spill cleanups.

***Sustainable Agriculture program eliminated.** Republicans completely eliminated the state's "Sustainable Agriculture Program," an effort that had been having remarkable success in helping farmers reduce erosion and nonpoint runoff, conserve topsoil and lower dependence on energy and chemicals (and thus help farmers earn more money).

***Lower Wisconsin Riverway coordinator cut.** The GOP eliminated the lone staff person responsible for land acquisition and management for the 25,000 acre Lower Wisconsin Riverway.

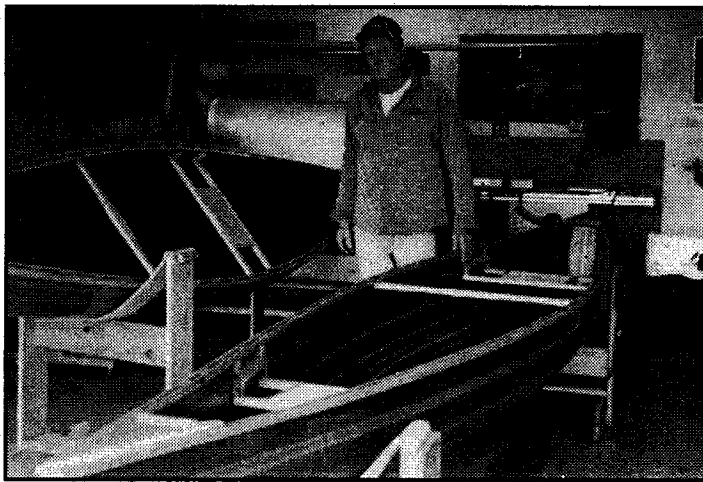
The only encouraging news from the Republican budget bill comes in the form of "restored cuts" or "rescinded non-budget items."

The Joint Finance Committee had gone along with the Governor's request to reduce land acquisition bonding authority in the state's "Stewardship Fund" by nearly \$10 million over two years in order to finance a dormitory for ice skaters and 4-H students at the State Fairgrounds in West Allis. Assembly Republicans reluctantly restored the "Stewardship Fund" bonding authority to full levels only after a massive outpouring of opposition by citizens to the planned theft.

The state senate reversed an assembly Republican amendment that would have eliminated the state's shoreland protection zoning rules, which are designed to protect wetlands from development and alteration.

However, that is about the only "good news" that came out of the legislature's budget session. There were no progressive conservation gains made during this time period.

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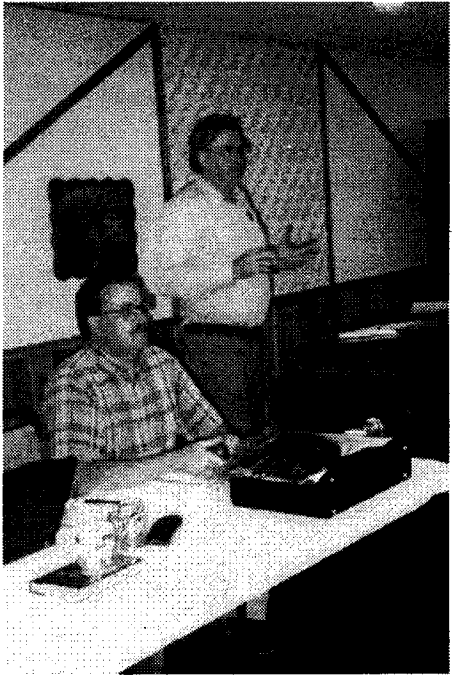
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Council debates new "early" season proposal



Lee Newman (at podium) discusses progress on "coaster" brook trout restoration at Sept. 9 State Council meeting in Hayward. At table is Council Chairman Dave Ogletree.

The Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited met Saturday, Sept. 9, 1995, at the Northern Pine International Inn in Hayward. All chapters except the following were represented: Antigo, Blackhawk, Frank Hornberg, Lakeshore and Oconto River Watershed.

The main item of discussion that consumed the Council's energies was a revamped proposal on an "early" trout season.

In January, the State council had lent support to a plan proffered by Department of Natural Resources Bureau of Fisheries chief Lee Kern and Trout Specialist Larry Claggett to establish

a new "early" trout season that covered all or parts of 21 southern Wisconsin counties, would open on the Saturday nearest April 1 and run through to the regular first-Saturday-in-May general fishing season opener. Rules governing the early season would be that only barbless-hooked, artificial-only flies and lures could be used, and all trout caught must be released.

The proposal was supposed to have been taken to public hearings rather than through the Conservation Congress hearing process; however, this plan met with the displeasure of Congress officials, and they submitted a late item onto the Congress 1995 spring fish and game hearings pertaining to that plan. The proposal was handily rejected at the Congress hearings, though it was supported at the four public hearings held in May.

Subsequent to this, the DNR met with representatives of the Trout Study Committee of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress, Wisconsin T.U. and other interested parties to decide what to do. The result was a scrapping of the original "new" early season in favor of a plan to submit to the 1996 Conservation Congress questionnaire a proposal that would:

- *establish an early artificials-only, barbless-hook only, catch-and-release season statewide beginning on March 1 in 1997;

- *have the season run through to the first-Saturday-in-May general opener;

- *exempt spring ponds and other unspecified "sensitive" waters from having an "early" season.

Chapter representatives debated the issue for nearly two hours, with no consensus evident on a position "pro" or "con" on the issue from the group. It was decided that, because the issue had been put forth to the Council represen-

tatives with very little prior information, the Executive Council would send to all chapters a detailed sheet explaining the issue, as well as a list of arguments that were spoken "pro" and "con" concerning the issue.

Chapters will be asked to bring this topic before the members and get a "yea" or "nay" position on the early season proposal from their chapter members. The Executive Committee of the State Council will tabulate the results and then meet in Executive Session in January to determine the chapter votes and see if a position on this proposal can be established.

Among other topics discussed at the Council meeting were:

- ***Catch-and-release Committee:** The Council's C&R Committee announced that it has finished a "first draft" of a video designed to instruct anglers in the proper techniques of safely releasing hooked fish, and that they are progressing well to getting the final version ready for production and distribution to the chapters.

- ***Fund-raising:** Mitch Bent reported that he had sent out an extra mailing to "Friends of Wisconsin T.U." who had not yet renewed their "Friends" membership by August 1, and that the mailing had brought in an additional \$1,100 on top of the \$7,290 that had already been taken in via this year's "Friends" campaign.

- ***National T.U. Convention:** Jim Bereza and Steve Born reviewed major topics from the Aug. 17-20 T.U.

National Convention held in Lexington, Kentucky. Among the more noted topics at the National meeting were: a dues increase for members; discussions of the expectations of a Trout Unlimited chapter; discussions of land effects on coldwater resources; whirling disease impacts on Rocky Mountain state trout resources; and the establishment of a Coldwater Research Institute by T.U. National.

- ***Council position on Crandon mine:** The State Council established its position on the proposed metallic ore mine near Crandon in southwestern Forest County (see separate article on position statement).

Near the end of the meeting, the State Council welcomed Lee Newman of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Ashland-based Fishery Research Office. Newman gave the Council an update on progress being made to restore populations of coaster brook trout to their former range in the Lake Superior watershed. He noted that there have been three strong year classes of coasters in certain areas of their former range along Lake Superior's shore. About 50-60 miles of the north shore of Lake Superior are showing good numbers of small coasters.

More research and re-establishment efforts will be continued, and Newman stated that Wisconsin T.U. may be asked to assist financially in future coaster brook trout efforts.

Council opposes Crandon mine

At the September 9th meeting of the Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited, the Council adopted a position statement on the proposed zinc-copper-silver-gold mine planned by Exxon Minerals Company and Canada-based Rio Algom, Ltd. (a.k.a. Crandon Mining Company). The State Council has come out opposed to the mine in the following statement:

"The Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited is dedicated to protecting and enhancing coldwater resources and perpetuating the native and wild fish resources of this state. We believe that prevention of environmental degradation from mining is essential for salmonid conservation. The Council opposes permitting, constructing or operating the metallic mine proposed by Crandon Mining Company (a partnership of Exxon Minerals Company and Rio Algom, Ltd., of Canada).

We believe that the proposed mine should not be permitted, constructed or operated, because:

- *Proposed ground-and-surface-water removals (to keep the mine dry at great depth) would adversely draw down local wetlands, lake levels and stream flows to the detriment of resident aquatic life and human recreational uses; it would alter flow regimes - especially that of the Wolf River - with particularly serious effects on aquatic organisms during period of high summer temperatures; and it would affect detrimentally groundwater supplies upon which local residents depend across a miles-wide "cone of depression."

- *Proposed discharges from mining operations would transfer ground-and-surface-waters, and possibly living organisms, from the Wolf River/Lake Michigan/St. Lawrence watershed to the Wisconsin/Mississippi River watershed, with adverse hydrologic effects on fish and human use of the Wolf River, and would have potentially negative biological and genetic consequences for native animals and plants.

- *Proposed placement of mine tailings ponds would destroy important ground-water-

recharging wetlands. Even if such ponds were placed in upland locations, they would eventually leak or leach heavy metals and other contaminants to surface- or ground-waters, regardless of the liner material used (no known liner material has lasted as long as has the toxicity of the tailings).

- *Proposed mitigation sites for the wetlands to be altered or lost during construction of the mine site and operation of the mine are inadequate, because proposing to mitigate for wetlands and their hydrologic functions in an area far removed from the actual site of wetland alteration and loss is both irrelevant and ineffective.

- *Proposed construction of discharge lines from the mine site to the Wisconsin River would damage several wetlands, cause disturbance and sedimentation to the beds of several streams (including one "trout" stream), depending upon the route used and placement methods selected.

- *Proposed discharge of "treated" water into the Wisconsin River, even if supposedly "cleaner than the receiving water itself," will degrade water quality of that river, cause long-term accumulation of heavy metals in this aquatic ecosystem and inevitably affect aquatic life, especially that which is sensitive to low-level contamination, adversely. Wastewater that is unacceptable to an "Outstanding Resource Water" like the Wolf River is no more appropriate discharged below a paper mill and hydroelectric dam on Wisconsin's namesake river.

- *We are concerned that the overall, cumulative negative impacts of the proposed mine on the region's water and fishery resources will have long-lasting negative secondary effects on the Northwoods' diverse and sustainable economy. Economic, as well as ecological, health, in the Northwoods depends upon tourism, recreation, forest products and small businesses, working in harmony with the land. The overall negative consequences of constructing and operating the proposed mine would be contrary to the desires of both the residents of the area and seasonal visitors, that is, to "Keep the North the North" (as expressed resoundingly by those who gave input into the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' "Northern Initiatives" study.

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Dam relicensing on Peshtigo River continues

Agencies involved in the FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) relicensing of a series of hydropower dams owned and operated by Wisconsin Public Service Corporation continued their work and discussions on these dams throughout the summer.

In mid-July, FERC held a public hearing session in Marinette to elicit public input into the areas that the public felt should be investigated regarding the dams' relicensing.

At that hearing, Marinette County T.U. activist Jim Bereza and State Council representative Mitch Bent spoke to FERC personnel regarding the operation of the dams and the effects of current operations on downstream fishery (trout) populations, aquatic ecology and angler use.

The Johnson Falls dam lies above the beginning of the approximately five-mile section of the Peshtigo that is designated as a Category 5 "Special Regulations" area, with only artificial flies and lures allowed for angling use and a restrictive daily creel limit (two per day, 18-inch minimum size limit on brown trout, 10 inches on brooks and rainbows). Use of "peaking" power operation of the Johnson Falls dam has, over the years, caused severe scouring of the river bottom (and the insect and aquatic life), and has also resulted in river flows that are either too heavy or too meager for fishing purposes.

The Sandstone Rapids dam lies several miles above the confluence of the Peshtigo River and the Beaver Creek, an important coldwater tributary to the Peshtigo. Although the Peshtigo at that juncture is no longer listed as trout water, the river at that confluence site

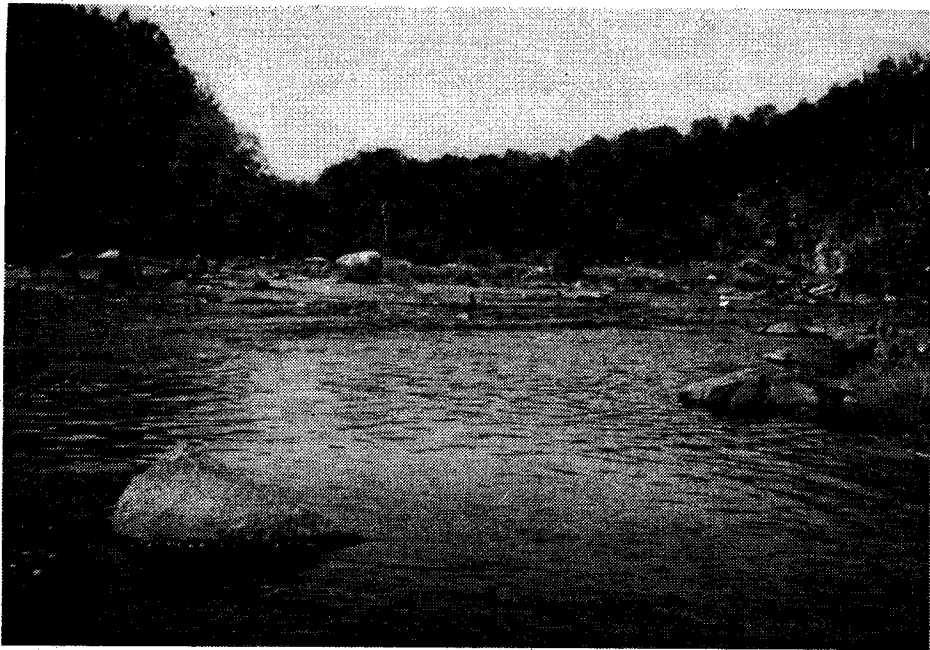
acts as an over-winter refuge site for trout, particularly large brown and brook trout, that otherwise spend the rest of the year in either the main Beaver Creek or in the North and South branches of the creek.

The T.U. representatives at this public "scoping" session asked that FERC examine the impacts that use of the "peaking" power operation mode may have on the salmonid fishery population that overwinters in that confluence area of the Peshtigo and Beaver Creek.

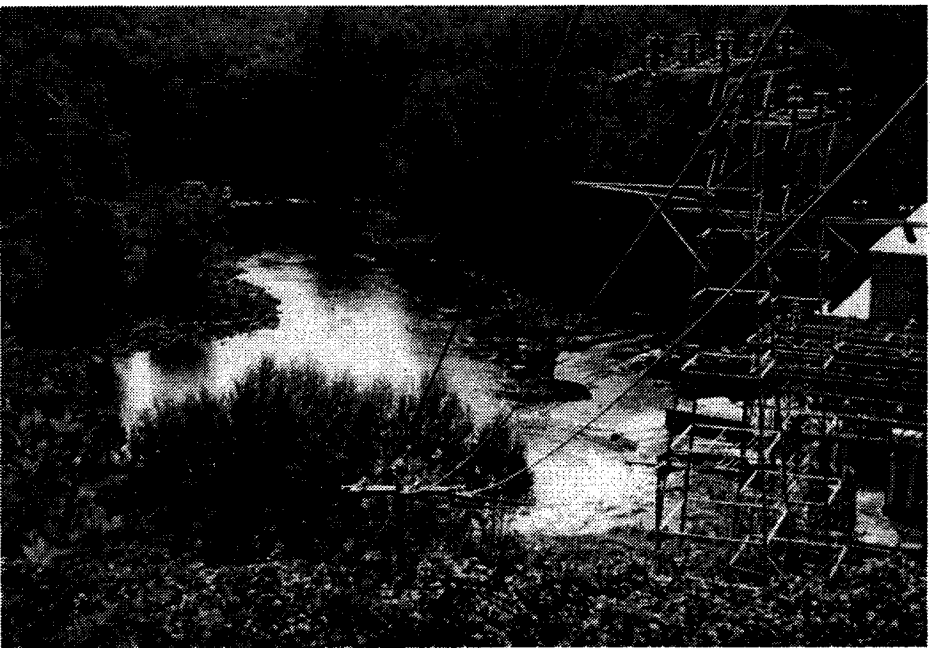
The state Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Green Bay office) and the state Department of Administration's Division of Energy and Intergovernmental Relations have submitted to FERC since that public "scoping" session and subsequent agency field tours letters outlining their concerns and objections to current dam operations by WPS on the Peshtigo.

Many of these agencies' concerns center around problems caused by "entrainment" of fish species (i.e., trapping and killing) within the turbines of the several dams. The DNR and the Fish and Wildlife Service assert that studies done by WPS have not been sufficient nor completely relevant, and they cite several instances where fish species ranging from small panfish to trophy sturgeon have been caught and killed in the turbines.

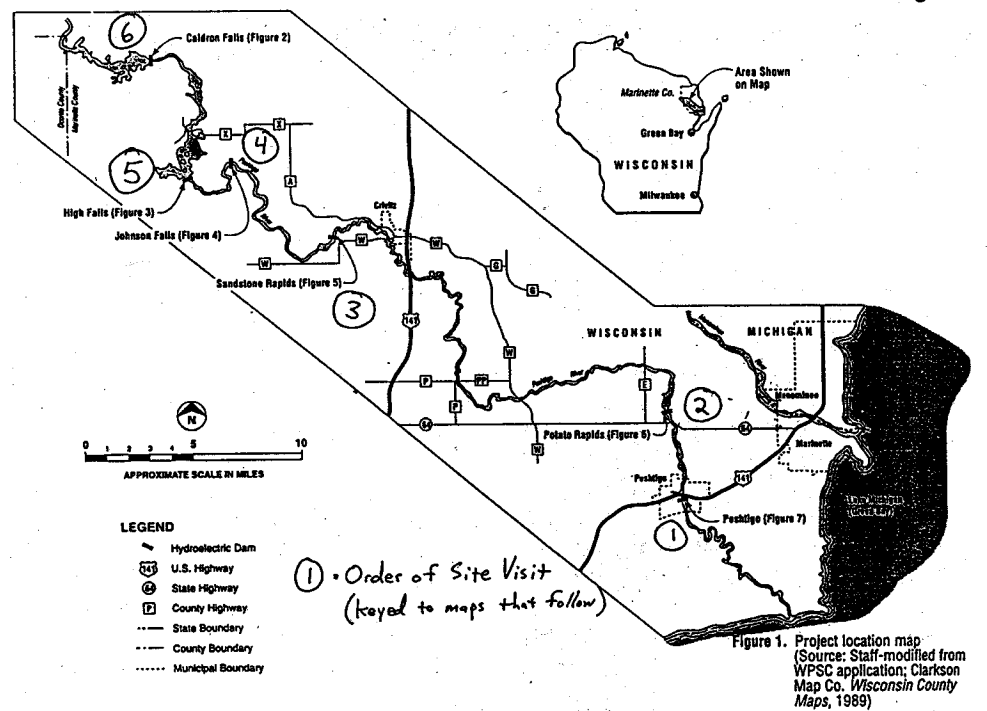
The utility (WPS) has objected to many of the agencies' claims and has suggested that the DNR and Fish and Wildlife Service are misguided in their analyses of the impacts that the dams have on the aquatic resources of the Peshtigo.



Peshtigo River below Johnson Falls dam.



Exposed river bottom of the Peshtigo below Johnson Falls dam at low flow period.



'Takings' legislation introduced in Wisconsin

The state legislature will face this fall a heated debate over a bill (SB 298) that would, if passed and signed into law, require taxpayers to pay developers and polluters to not harm the environment.

Introduced by state senator Gary Drzewiecki (R. - Pulaski), this so-called "takings," or "property rights" legislation has the potential to force state regulatory agencies into making decisions whether or not to enforce statutes that safeguard human health, property and the environment.

The bill is based upon similar legislation that has been introduced and/or passed in a number of other states in the nation.

Disguised as legislation that would protect property owners from intrusive governmental actions, the bill actually would hamstring local and county zoning ordinances and create a bureaucratic maze through which agencies such as the Department of Natural Resources would have to traverse in order to enforce rules and laws like shoreland zoning ordinances, wetland protection, non-point pollution rules and more.

And while the bill specifically states that regulation of mining would not be affected, a simple "line-item" veto by Wisconsin's pro-mining Governor Thompson could undo that codicil in the mere flick of a pen.

The bill allows property owners to sue governmental agencies if owners simply contend that a governmental action reduces the value of a parcel of land by more than 20 percent of the fair market value. And the property owner has the right to designate which piece of property has been devalued by the 20-percent clause even if it is only a small parcel of a larger piece of property.

As an example, if a landowner has 200 acres of land with one acre of wetland on it, said landowner could sue the state if it enforced wetland regulations or shoreland zoning ordinances that restrict development in wetlands.

If the landowner was successful in winning a court decision in such a case, the state - that is, the taxpayers - would have to reimburse the landowner for the difference in the valuation of the land between its existing use and its alleged potential use.

That may sound fair, but research has shown it to be a hoax on the taxpayer, not to mention a severe threat to the environment.

If a riparian landowner wishes to fill in wetlands and is denied that right through a permitting process, the taxpayers pay him or her to not destroy wetlands. If the state or local zoning agency decides not to enforce the statute because of fear of a lawsuit, the

landowner fills in the wetland, and downstream property owners may suffer imminent and long-term flood damage to THEIR property because the absorptive functions of the destroyed wetland have been negated.

While "takings" laws have been the "talk of the town" in many circles, citizens have spoken out strongly against these farces.

In the November 1994 elections, while conservative candidates were doing well nationwide, a "takings" law that was being pushed by anti-environment groups such as big ranchers, miners and developers was beaten by a 3-2 margin at the polls. And Arizona is not known as a "liberal" state by any stretch of the imagination.

Wisconsin's version of "takings" laws, SB 298, received a hearing in Eau Claire in late August, and despite claims by the bill's co-sponsors that there was a huge public demand for such a law, there was no organized support for the bill. A mixture of environmental groups and others such as the Wisconsin Alliance For Cities rallied to oppose the measure.

The bill's co-sponsors have not yet determined a site for another hearing.

Wisconsin T.U.'ers should be very aware of SB 298, for it would jeopardize the ability of all branches of government agencies to enforce environmental and health laws that protect our citizens and natural resources.

Except for one Assembly Democrat, Barbara Gronemus (Whitehall), all of the bill's co-sponsors are state Republican legislators. They are: state senators Joanne Huelsman (Waukesha), Alan Lasee (De Pere), George Petak (Racine), Dale Schultz (Richland Center) and Drzewiecki; and assemblypersons John Ainsworth (Shawano), Sheryl Albers (Loganville), Ben Brancel (Endeavor), David Brandemuehl (Fennimore), Stephen Freese (Dodgeville), Robert Goetsch (Juneau), Glenn Grothman (West Bend), Scott Gunderson (Waterford), Eugene Hahn (Cambria), Sheila Harsdorf (River Falls), Michael Huebsch (Onalaska), Scott Jensen (Waukesha), DuWayne Johnsrud (Eastman), Robin Kreibich (Eau Claire), Michael Lehman (Hartford), Terry Musser (Black River Falls), Cloyd Porter (Burlington), Lorraine Seratti (Florence), Rick Skinrud (Mt. Horeb), Scott Walker (Wauwatosa) and Robert Zukowski (Thorpe).

Another Assembly Democrat, John Ryba (Green Bay), initially co-sponsored the bill, but has since removed his name from SB 298 after discovering that he was misled on the intentions of the bill by its sponsor, Senator Drzewiecki.

Much intrigue behind DNR politicizing



Governor Tommy Thompson requested reviews of environmental lawsuits before they were sent to the Justice Department, in violation of state law.

When Jerry Garcia, leader of the long-time rock/pop band "The Grateful Dead" died this summer of heart failure, the national press reminisced about many of the "Dead's" hit songs, including its most famous, "What a Long Strange Trip It's Been."

Ironically, the title of that song would well describe the path taken to strip the authority for hiring and firing Wisconsin's secretary of the Department of Natural Resources from the seven-person citizens National Resources Board and to give that authority to the sitting governor.

According to an article written for the Madison *Isthmus* by recently-deceased writer and T.U. member George Vukelich, the movement behind this now-completed "coup d'etat" began about 10 years ago.

In a November, 1985, paper written for an issue of *Insight*, a publication of the Wisconsin Association of Manufacturers and Commerce, James Derouin, then an environmental consultant for WMC, said that part of the regulatory reform needed to create a "business climate" in Wisconsin was the "unshackling" of the Department of Natural Resources via adoption of a "cabinet government" approach to running the agency. That is, having the sitting governor appoint the DNR secretary, instead of citizens, so that environmental decisions could be more easily influenced by political pressure (spell that: M-O-N-E-Y).

The paper also called for eliminating the office of Wisconsin Public Intervenor. Oddly enough(?), both goals were achieved this past summer when the Republican-controlled legislature approved Governor Thompson's calls for creating political patronage for the DNR secretary position and for eliminating the office of Public Intervenor.

The actual nuts-and-bolts moves to accomplish this maneuver had a barnyard smell to it. In February, Thompson submitted his Budget Bill (AB 150) to the Legislature. The ponderous tome initially included language to not only strip the Natural Resources Board's authority to hire and fire the DNR secretary, it also proposed making the NRB "advisory" rather than keeping it as the policy-making board it was.

Citizen outrage roared across the state, so much so that the Republican-dominated Joint Finance Committee held several hearings outside of Madison on the bill. However, except for one or two hearings, all were held in close proximity to Madison or Milwaukee, where the bulk of high-priced industrial lobbyists reside.

No hearings were held in the northern half of Wisconsin, where concern over mining and other resource issues is strong.

When it was obvious that the original "cabinet government" plan for the DNR was a loser, Thompson feigned defeat and offered an "alternative." It was nothing but a smokescreen.

The new plan--which was approved by every Republican state legislator and opposed by every Democrat state legislator--kept the NRB intact for policy-making but gave the governor the right to hire and fire the DNR secretary. The plan fooled no one.

Conservation groups loudly protested this sham, but to no avail. Fearful of recriminations from their allegedly powerful governor, the GOP legislators voted as one to abolish 68 years of conservation policy that had been the envy of the nation and served as a model for many other states to follow in administering laws and rules for resource protection, development and conservation.

During this whole period, several things happened which made citizens scratch their heads in wonderment over the process.

In early June, it was revealed via the publishing of a personal letter from DNR secretary George Meyer to state Attorney General James Doyle (a Democrat and Thompson foe) that Thompson had personally sought to have Meyer direct all proposed environmental lawsuits to Thompson's office before they went to the Attorney General, which is a request that is in direct violation of state law.

Also revealed in the handwritten letter from Meyer to Doyle was that Thompson had personally admonished Meyer subsequent to Thompson's reelection last November 8th for failing to contribute to Thompson's campaign fund. Meyer had stated that he declined to contribute to either Thompson or his opponent, Democrat state senator Charles Chvala of Madison, in order to maintain a respectable level of neutrality.

When word of these incredible abuses of power came forth, Thompson did not deny their veracity, but he side-stepped questions about them and instead attempted to impugn the integrity of the Attorney General for releasing the information at a critical time during debate over the budget bill.

Then, after Meyer and Thompson met in private at the governor's request subsequent to the brouhaha over Meyer's letter to Doyle, the DNR secretary emerged from the meeting stating that he supported the "modified" plan by Thompson to politicize the agency by allowing the governor to hire and fire the DNR secretary.

This is in direct contradiction to Meyer's statements earlier in the year. To date, Thompson has refused to say if

he will keep Meyer on as the head of the DNR.

Added to all of this intrigue was the exposure of the behind-the-scenes maneuvering of then-chairman, now ex-chairman, of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress, Francis William "Bill" Murphy, to help get the governor's anti-conservation schemes through the legislature via the shameful train of the budget bill, which is supposed to contain only matters of a "fiscal" nature.

It has been the long-standing position of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress to oppose any attempt to remove from the Natural Resources Board (or its predecessor, the Wisconsin Conservation Commission) the authority to hire and fire the agency secretary. The Conservation Congress itself was statutorily formed in the late 1920's at the same time that that era's Wisconsin Legislature created the citizens board (Conservation Commission) to run the agency and hire its administrator so that the problems of political patronage that had so plagued the agency up till then could be eliminated.

The Conservation Congress had always been at the forefront whenever this issue came up. Until the mid-1980's, that is.

At that time, former state senator Lloyd Kincaid (D.-Crandon), a maverick politician with close ties to Exxon's Minerals Corporation, submitted legislation that would have abolished the NRB and made the DNR secretary a gubernatorial appointee, i.e., a "cabinet" appointment.

That bill was narrowly defeated in the Legislature, but during the debate process it was revealed that Murphy, then chairman of the Congress, was bucking the Congress' long-standing opposition to cabinet government for the DNR, and was instead actively supporting the move. News reporters quoted him as saying something to the effect that, while the Congress may oppose cabinet government for the DNR, he, Bill Murphy, supported it, and that was that.

The cabinet government concept lay dormant during Thompson's first two terms as governor, but reared its head this year after Republicans gained control of both houses of the state legislature.

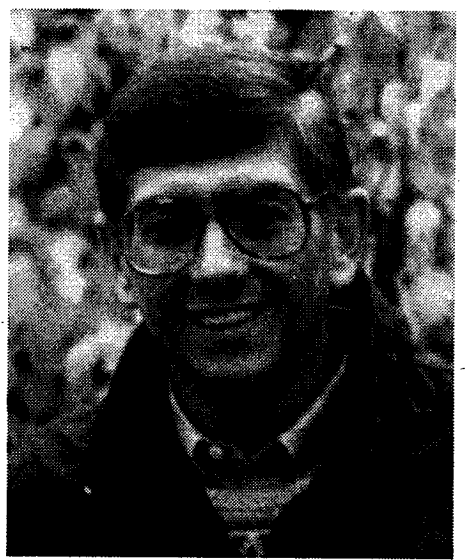
As the debate wore on over this monumental change in environmental policy, elected county delegates to the Conservation Congress were expressing their opposition to the plan. At the April spring fish and game hearings, attendees overwhelmingly voted to oppose Thompson's plan to politicize the DNR and to oppose the plan to eliminate the office of Public Intervenor within the Department of Justice.

And at the Congress' annual meeting in May in Wisconsin Dells, the delegates again overwhelmingly voted to uphold their counties' votes on these issues.

Where was Murphy all during this? Nowhere to be found, so it seemed. But that really wasn't so, it turns out.

According to an article in the June 30th edition of the Madison Capital Times newspaper, an "Open Records" request revealed that Murphy, in an April 3, 1995 letter to Thompson, reported that two Democratic assemblypersons, Spencer Black (Madison) and James Baumgart (Sheboygan), were urging sportsmen's clubs to oppose Thompson's plans for cabinet government for the DNR.

Wrote Murphy, "In my discussion with county (Congress) chairmen that are calling me on this, it has been my recommendation that the resolution be



DNR secretary George Meyer was scolded by Thompson for not contributing to the governor's 1994 election campaign.

placed in the file behind their desk." "Put it in the Congress file in your office," he penned to Thompson, "you have to know what is going on behind the scenes."

One month later, Murphy again wrote to Thompson to warn him about the opposition from Wisconsin's hunters and anglers to the cabinet government idea.

"I simply don't like the fact that conservation organizations, as such, are involved in the issue....," he wrote.

Murphy, it should be noted, resigned for the second time (he did so once before in 1986) as chairman of the Congress at the May Congress annual meeting. He still remains on the Congress Executive Council. Bob Ellingson, a former DNR liaison to the Congress, now chairs the group, but Murphy still controls the Congress' actions, according to reports from several county Conservation Congress delegates.

So, there you have it as to how Wisconsin's once well-respected programs for handling conservation and environmental protection were swept aside by Tommy Thompson and his majority Republican legislators in Madison. Conservation policy that formerly was made in the light of public scrutiny will now be subject to backroom deals and political influence. No state lawyers (Public Intervenor) will be on hand to assist citizens with issues pertaining to trout streams, wetlands, urban sprawl, mining and more.

More than 68 years of progressive, bi-partisan conservation policy were thrown into the wastebasket to pay back chits to industrial polluters, mining firms, chemical manufacturers, development interests and, of course, the ex-chairman of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress.

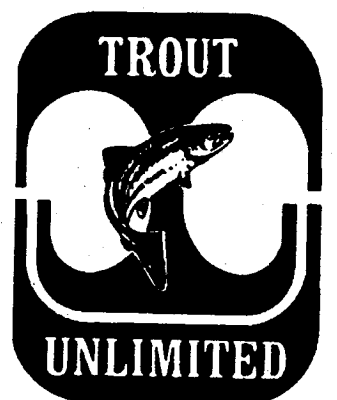
Yes, indeed, what a long, strange trip it's been!

Or, in other more famous words, "Those who fail to learn the lessons of history are condemned to repeat them."



Francis "Bill" Murphy, immediate past chairman of the Conservation Congress, worked to promote "cabinet government" for DNR in defiance of Congress position.

(Photo courtesy of Wisconsin DNR)



Is the grass greener elsewhere?

By Lee Kernen

Today's sport anglers are better informed than ever before in history. Magazine racks are filled with issues on how and where to catch fish all over the nation and the world.

You can sit in your living room and watch hours of fishing shows on the TV on weekends. These shows are great, and I watch them myself when I'm not out on the water. But they are a little misleading.

A TV show usually takes a full day to film, so the viewer does not get an appreciation for the hours of casting by the anglers that did not produce any fish. Instead, eight hours of action gets compressed into about 20 minutes of viewing, which makes the fishing action look much faster than it really was.

I don't expect the show's producer to run a half hour show with no fish--no one would watch that. But I am concerned that young anglers might build up their expectations to an unreasonable level from watching these shows. Then when they get out onto the water to fish themselves, they may get discouraged by their "apparent" lack of success.

There is great fishing all over the United States, but it's not much different than some of the fishing that is available here in our home state of Wisconsin.

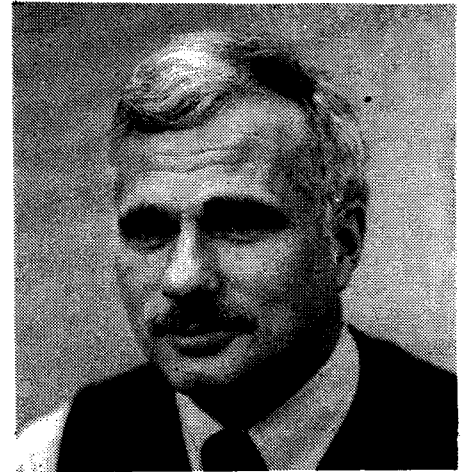
Florida is known for huge bass. But many of these lunkers you see on TV come from private lakes that see very little fishing pressure. A recent study of major fishing tournaments on Florida's most famous bass waters showed some

rather unimpressive results.

Professional bass anglers spent more than 112,000 hours during 89 tournaments. Their average bass weighed two pounds each. It took a tournament angler an average of six-and-one-half hours to land ONE 14-inch keeper bass!

By comparison, in the last few years of the smallmouth tournament at Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, the 442 participants caught 3,039 smallmouth bass in Green Bay. The fish that were registered averaged almost three pounds apiece, and it took an average of only two-and-one-half hours to land one. That is pretty fancy fishing no matter where you go!

I'm not saying that our bass fishing is better than it is in Florida, but you can see from the numbers in this case that



Lee Kernen

the grass is just as green in our backyard as it is in the South.

DNR districts reorganized

Looking to streamline the Department of Natural Resources and make the agency more "user-friendly," the Natural Resources Board approved at its July meeting a plan to reduce the number of DNR districts from six to five and to move more agency staff from the Madison bureau into the field.

In January of this year, the DNR hired the nationally-known consulting firm of Grant Thornton LLP to review its organizational structure and to recommend internal restructuring that would help the department function effectively into the next century while accomplishing the following goals:

- *increasing efficiency and effectiveness;
- *managing resources and the environment on a natural geographic basis;
- *better integrating resource and environmental programs;
- *facilitating public and private partnerships that benefit environmental management and increasing department effectiveness;
- *meeting increasing demands for "front line" services; and
- *better empowering department staff to do their jobs.

Grant Thornton LLP completed its study in June and presented its recommendations to the Natural Resources Board at its June 29th meeting. The changes in the organizational structure are shown in the two charts comparing previous versus current pyramidal structure. The only difference not shown in the proposed model is that the DNR secretary is now beholden to the sitting governor rather than to the Natural Resources Board (see front page article).

The new plan also reduces the six DNR districts to five DNR "regions," as shown on the maps. The regions were based, as much as possible, on the concept of aligning counties with similar major rivers into one region.

In order to meet the organizational goal of increasing department efficiency and effectiveness, the consulting

firm recommended that the DNR structure its field offices to better meet the needs of local citizens and communities.

Under this proposal, the DNR will develop between 26 and 40 "customer service centers" which will offer expanded weekend and evening hours and will be staffed and equipped to satisfy most local customer needs. "Service centers" will be placed within a 30-minute drive of most citizens. Many of the DNR's existing field offices are well-placed already to be modified for that purpose.

Increased field staffing to handle the direct services duties under the consulting firm's recommendations will be available through decentralizing more of the DNR's Madison office and some district personnel. No additional personnel are planned for this transition. To free staff for decentralization, central and regional offices will focus on developing and supporting uniform statewide programs and policies, and will reduce their involvement in direct program implementation.

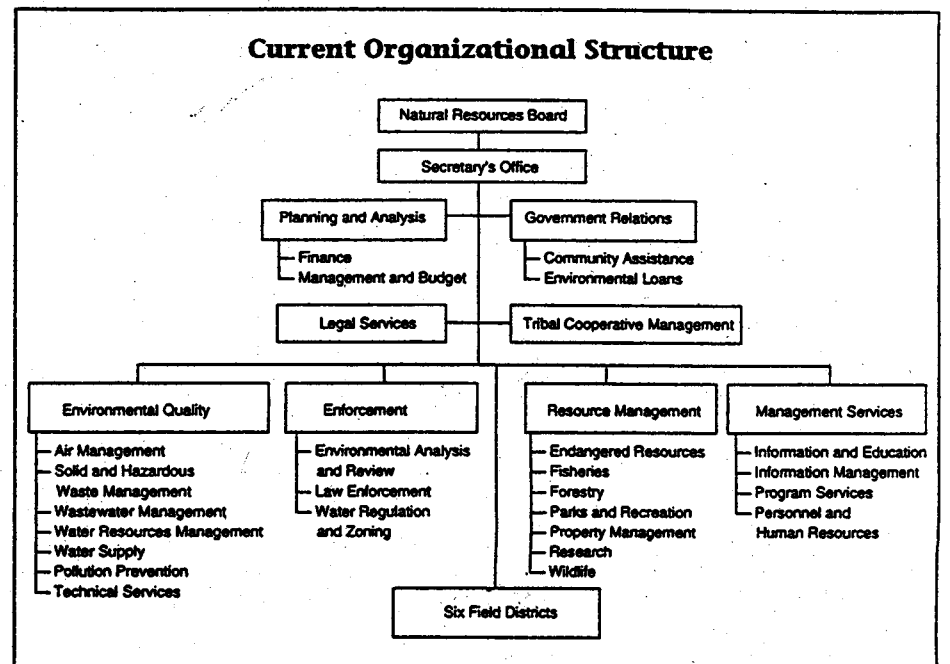
Under the new plan, other offices located near DNR management projects would continue to function as work sites for department technicians, and would not be equipped to handle customer contacts. Examples of such work sites might be fish hatcheries or tree nurseries.

The department will also make use of a toll-free telephone number to better meet citizen and customer needs.

Benefits of restructuring

The consulting firm determined that the following benefits would accrue from the restructuring plan:

- *more staff in field offices for faster



local response to questions and needs, and a closer relationship between DNR employees and their communities;

*better outstate access to specialized department expertise;

*better focus on administration, policy and coordination by central and regional office staff;

*closer physical ties between DNR staff and the state's natural resources;

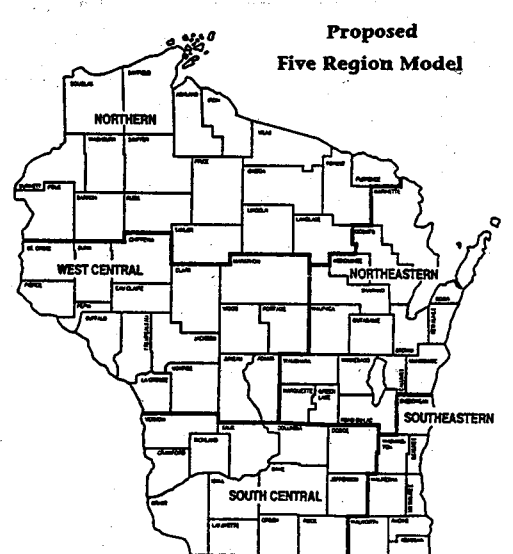
*greater department credibility within communities and increased opportunities to form partnerships;

*fewer internal administrative layers and fewer positions allocated to supervisory duties, thus making more staff available for "front line" (hands-on management and service) activities;

*better program integration through media-based divisions and water basin team structure;

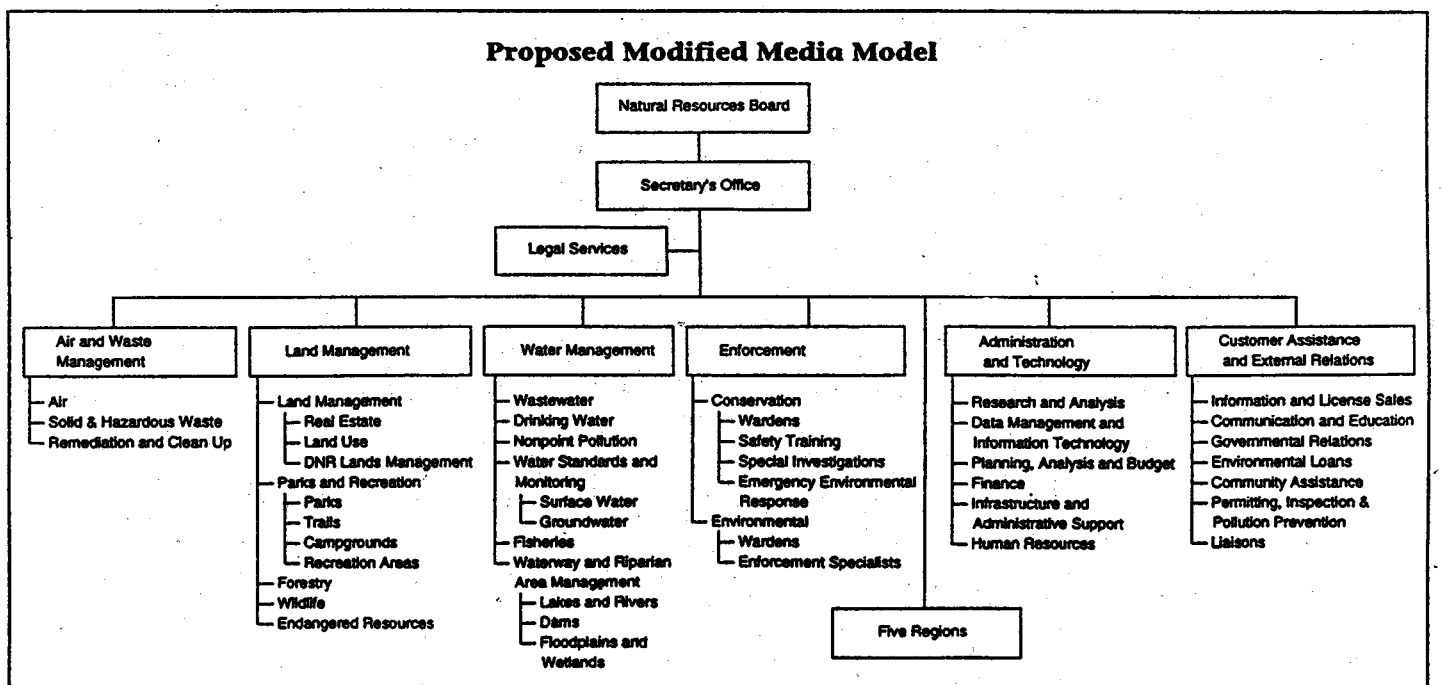
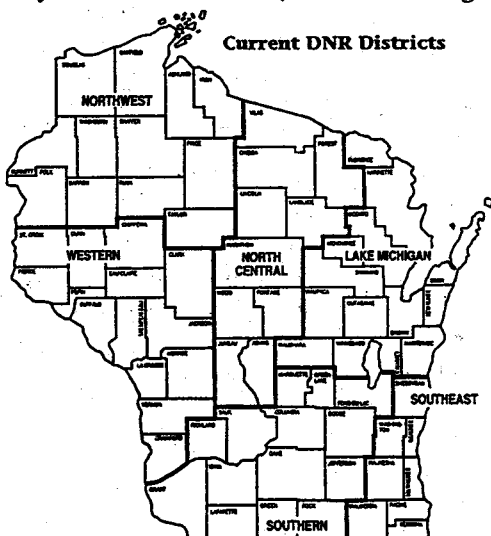
*a holistic approach to the management of regional resources;

*opportunity to name and manage regions by prominent natural features, promoting a "sense of place"; and



*improved workload distribution between divisions.

Full implementation of this restructuring is expected to occur over a two-to-four year period.



Wisconsin Trout Unlin

ALDO LEOPOLD CHAPTER

No report

ANTIGO CHAPTER

The chapter has participated this summer in several meetings with the Department of Natural Resources, the Wolf River T.U. Chapter and the Northwoods Sportsmen's Club to carry out "Project Fontinalis," which is designed to use the former Crystal

Springs trout hatchery as a rearing area for "wild" brook trout. Chapter president Scott Henricks says that the chapter will continue to work with responsible parties to see this project get underway.

BLACKHAWK CHAPTER

Chapter members put in a day of work in early August on the West Fork Kickapoo River near Avalanche (Ver-

non County) to help install "LUNKER" structures and half-logs.



Central Wisconsin T.U.'ers remove trees felled by tornadoes from the Mekan River.

CENTRAL WISCONSIN CHAPTER

Central Wisconsin T.U. spent a busy summer with much stream improvement and restoration work. In mid-June, chapter members spent a day clearing away fallen trees from the Mekan River in Waushara County. A tornado had toppled many trees into this river, and members from as far away as Chicago came out to assist.

In mid-July, Central Wisconsin T.U.'ers linked up with those from the Frank Hornberg Chapter to work on the Middle Tomorrow River in Portage County.

On August 19th, the chapter combined a work day on Lunch Creek with a chapter picnic, doing a little "touch-up" work at the site of one of the chap-

ter's original work projects and then enjoying the company of other chapter members for a cookout at the property of member Al Krnak along the Mekan River.

The chapter has added to its list of efforts a new venture to remove beaver and their dams on Emmons Creek in Waupaca County.

Central Wisconsin T.U. is again holding a raffle for a woodstrip canoe, with proceeds to be split 50-50 between the chapter and the State Council "Friends" program. Canoe builder and chapter member Bob Reynolds has once again donated his time and talents for this effort.

COULEE REGION CHAPTER

At the chapter's August meeting, elections were held, and the following people were elected to two-year terms of office: President - Dale Sevig; Vice President - John Wisneski; Secretary - Rolf Skogstad; Treasurer - Chris Bucheit.

In late July, chapter members joined up with the La Crosse area Big Brothers/Big Sisters to sponsor a "Take A Kid fishing Day" for about 15 youngsters at a private pond, where the kids caught lots of trout and enjoyed a picnic lunch.

On August 5, some Coulee Region T.U.'ers joined forces with those from Blackhawk T.U. and the West Fork Sportsmen's Club in Vernon County to install "LUNKER" structures and half-log cover in the West Fork Kickapoo

River as part of that on-going project. A cooperative work effort was also planned for September on Upper Leon Creek in Monroe County.

Under consideration by the chapter is a joint venture with the DNR to create a quality brook trout fishery in a local stream (not yet named) via a combination of stream improvement and stocking of "wild" trout.

As the trout season comes to a close, Coulee Region T.U.'ers are expressing ongoing concerns about two issues: a) the re-establishment of some type of "early" trout season, and b) the impacts that the recently-passed state budget bill will have on the ability of the DNR to manage effectively our coldwater resources.

FOX VALLEY CHAPTER

Chapter members were busy this summer on a variety of habitat improvement projects: Fox Valley T.U.'ers braved the miserable heat and humidity of June to create brush bundles in and along the Waupaca River

on the Sannes property, and they joined forces in mid-July with members of the Central Wisconsin and Frank Hornberg chapters to install a large sandbag deflector with an undercut bank on the Tomorrow River near

Nelsonville.

Members Fran Elliot and Tex Helms also worked together to install brush bundles and a wing deflector in the Waupaca River near the Morgan Farm.

The chapter held its annual picnic August 19th at the cabin of long-time member Jim Hlaban. Chapter members will also be involved in the annual fall scatter-stocking of brown trout into the Waupaca River on Oct. 7th.

FRANK HORNBERG CHAPTER

No report



Before and after shots of fencing and streambank work on Wausauke River (Marinette Co.) done by Green Bay and Marinette Co. T.U. Chapters.



GREEN BAY CHAPTER

The chapter joined up Marinette County T.U. in June to fence a stretch of the Wausauke River in northern Marinette County that had been damaged by livestock activity along its banks. The T.U.'ers accomplished in one work session what had been planned for two such efforts.

Chapter members also hooked up with Marinette County T.U. and the Nicolet National Forest to continue

work on a "barrier-free" fishing path along the South Branch Oconto River south of Highway 64 in Oconto County in early August. Work on this project will continue into 1996.

Chapter member Bob Heim kept other Green Bay T.U.'ers hopping with several work efforts on the chapter's "Walk-Through-Educational-Trout-Stream" display at the Brown County Reforestation Camp near



Cattle crossing on Wausauke River installed by Green Bay and T.U.

United Chapter Reports

Suamico. The display was about done by late August just in time for the Governor's Conference held in Green Bay.

In late August, Green Bay T.U. held its fifth annual "Kids Fishing Day" for youngsters enrolled into the Brown County Social Services' "PALS" program. Another good turnout of kids and their sponsors made for a successful event. Helping Green Bay T.U. with the fishing day were members of the Green Bay Exchange Club.

The DNR gave recognition to Green Bay T.U.'ers many years of efforts on behalf of coldwater resource conservation work by awarding the chapter a

Stewardship Recognition Plaque this summer.

Chapter meetings began once again in September. Members heard about beaver trapping efforts from trapper Jerry Giese, and they approved an additional \$2,200 for maintaining beaver trapping work on Handsaw Creek (Marinette County), Waupee Creek (Oconto County) and the Thunder River system (Marinette and Oconto counties), as well as for expansion of the trapping efforts into the Knowles Creek system, which feeds the North Branch Oconto River in Oconto County.

HARRY NOHR CHAPTER

In mid-August, the chapter appropriated another \$3,000 for continued brush removal and streambank improvement work on Harker Creek in Iowa County. The work will commence in early fall and end before the new year.

Several chapter members attended

joint meetings with the Conservation Congress Trout Study Committee and other groups with regard to an "early" trout season framework.

Chapter elections were held, with Chuck Steudel being elected as chapter president.

KIAP-TU-WISH CHAPTER

The chapter held its first fishing clinic in River Falls on June 17th. Over 20 persons attended the session held at Glen Park on the Kinnickinnic River. Participants received instructions in many aspects of fly fishing, including gear selection, casting and ethics. After a lunch provided by the chapter, participants spent the evening receiving personalized casting instruction on the "Kinni."

A small group of chapter members re-sighted a temperature monitor on the "Kinni" just in time for the arrival of the hot weather that persisted most of the summer. Chapter member Kent Johnson has been working with the DNR, Army Corps of Engineers, Kinnickinnic River Land Trust and the City of River Falls to identify data needs for a temperature model of the river that can measure stormwater impacts. The chapter is hopeful that the recent selection of the "Kinni" as a "Priority Watershed" will provide the necessary funding for this project.

Lobbying efforts by the chapter aimed at the Department of Transportation have resulted in the inclusion of stormwater "best management prac-

tices" in the plans for the four-lane Highway 35 upgrade project between River Falls and Hudson. The DOT has agreed to use ideas submitted by the DNR to protect the "Kinni" from stormwater impacts.

Complaints from Kiap-TU-Wish T.U. to officials of FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) about fluctuating water flows on the "Kinni" led to an audit in early September of the River Falls Municipal hydro facility. Kiap-TU-Wish chapter members and DNR fisheries personnel were invited to participate in the audit.

The chapter is behind schedule in the installation of the monitoring station on the Willow River in St. Croix County due to unforeseen problems in obtaining all the necessary permits. Most of the hurdles have been cleared, and it is hoped that the structure will be in place this fall. Chapter members have been lobbying the DNR to remove the Mounds Dam on the Willow, as this state-owned dam is in need of repairs, and cost over-runs are approaching one million dollars.

A decision by the DNR was due in September.

LAKESHORE CHAPTER

In early summer, chapter members held a fishing day and picnic for about 10 children from the local Domestic Abuse Center. The kids had a great time catching fish and devouring hot dogs and hamburgers!

Chapter efforts to improve the Mullet River in Sheboygan County continue to pay off. In August, Lakeshore T.U.'ers installed several more wing

dams in the Mullet to add to the number that were put in last year.

Chapter president Ron McCormick and member Tom Steinberg manned a booth for the Manitowoc County Fish & Game Protective Association at the Manitowoc County Fair in late August. The two tied lots of flies and talked up trout Unlimited with as many folks as possible.

MARINETTE COUNTY CHAPTER

Chapter members linked up with Green Bay T.U. on several efforts this summer. The chapter expended over 150 hours helping to install fencing and a cattle-watering station on the Wausaukee River west of Wausaukee, as well as providing \$1,750 worth of materials for the project.

In August, the chapter helped out on the "barrier-free" fishing path along the South Branch Oconto River in the Nicolet National Forest in Oconto County.

The chapter's beaver trapper, Jerry Giese, worked this spring and summer removing beaver and their dams from the Wausaukee and Little Wausaukee Rivers, as well as from Camp 5, Eagle,

Holmes, Swamp, Swede John and other creeks in Marinette County. About \$1,800 was spent by Marinette County T.U. in this effort.

Chapter members also fortified the handicapped access fishing pier on the Holley's Hole section of the North Branch Beaver Creek.

Past-president Dale Lange worked to coordinate efforts with the Marinette and Peshtigo Recreation Departments for two separate "Kids Fishing Days" in summer.

The chapter sent members Jim Bereza and John LeBeau to the T.U. Annual Meeting this past August in Lexington, Kentucky.

Much of the chapter's concerns at the



Marinette County T.U. Chapter members (l-r) in back (Steve Wilke, Jim Bereza and Dale Lange) with young attendees at Peshtigo "Kids Fishing Day" in July.



Marinette County T.U.'ers Kevin King (l) and George Bereza (r) work on fishing pier at Holley's Hole on N. Branch Beaver Creek (Marinette County).

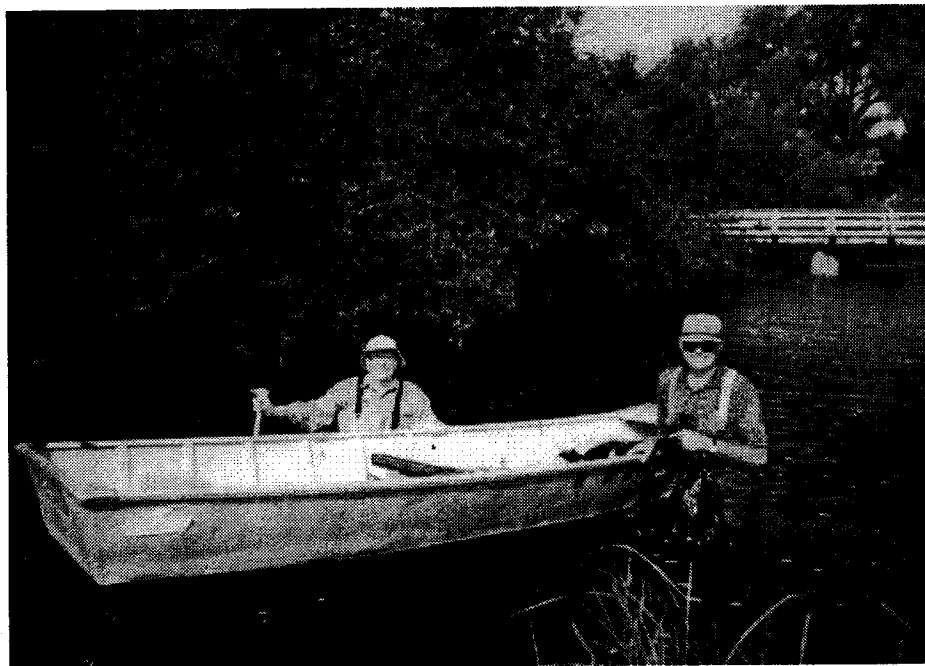
moment are directed toward a decision on what to do with the dam on the Wausaukee River right in the village of Wausaukee east of Highway 141.

Preliminary findings by the DNR and an engineering firm indicate that the dam is in poor shape. Chapter representatives have attended two meetings on this issue, and they have indicated that Marinette County T.U. would like to see the dam removed and the stream restored with monies from the Trout

Stamp, chapter funds and other sources. The pond has an accumulation of silt and sediment ranging anywhere from two to seven feet in depth that would need to be dredged and hauled away to an upland disposal site.

The chapter was the proud recipient of the 1995 "District Conservation Club of the Year" award from the Wisconsin Conservation Congress at the May 12, 1995, annual meeting of the Congress in Wisconsin Dells.

NORTHWOODS CHAPTER



Northwoods T.U. chapter president Al Lenz (l) and member Bill Hall (author of "Trout Fishing Addiction") remove trash from the Iron River in Michigan's U.P.

Cont. on Page 10

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NORTHWOODS CHAPTER

In late June, Northwoods T.U.'ers joined up with members of the Menominee Range Chapter of Iron County in Michigan's Upper Peninsula to participate in that chapter's annual "Iron River Trash-O-Rama." Members helped remove "a whole bunch of stuff" from the banks and bed of the Iron River.

On July 8th, members set up a booth at the Lake Fair near Lake Metonga at Crandon (Forest County). The chapter made many new contacts of potential members.

The chapter has continued a membership drive throughout spring and summer, with T.U. T-shirts to be awarded to the first six members who sign up two new members each.

Northwoods T.U. has been informed that any projects slated for the border Brule River are on hold pending negotiations and action on federal "Wild and Scenic Rivers" legislation.

Chapter members returned to the Iron River late in summer for a "Beaver-Rama," i.e., removal of several beaver dams from the Iron River. The chapter also contributed \$1,500 to

the Michigan DNR for beaver control. The Upper Peninsula DNR was about to abandon beaver control until a barrage of letters and the T.U. contribution forced them to re-think their position.

Northwoods' annual picnic was held Aug. 6th at the property of long-time member **Connie Rollman**.

Among issues with which Northwoods T.U. has dealt over summer include letters to local newspapers opposing any additional discharge of mercury into the area atmosphere by industry, and a letter to Governor Thompson urging him to retain **George Meyer** as DNR secretary (now that the appointive over for the DNR chief lies with the governor and not with the Natural Resources Board).

A project slated for **Military Creek** near Phelps in Vilas County has been put on hold pending a cleanup of contaminated ground in the vicinity of an area where a local Phelps company had been treating wood products with preservatives; the preservatives got into the ground, saturating the soil nearby the creek.

OCONTO RIVER WATERSHED CHAPTER

No report

OJIBLEAU CHAPTER

Ojibseau T.U. wrapped up its project on **Sand Creek**, just upstream of the village by the same name in northeastern Dunn County, by brushing the stream and placing 60 dump truck loads of rock for rip-rapping. Both brook and brown trout inhabit this stream. Now

the entire stretch of the creek from County Line Road to the Village of Sand Creek has been improved and is open for angling. The chapter had joined up with the DNR and the New Auburn FFA Chapter to accomplish the work.

SHAW-PACA CHAPTER

The chapter held a very successful "Kids Fishing Day" in mid-June, hosting about 175 youngsters for fishing fun and a picnic lunch. The chapter also funded member **Bill Wagner** for clinics of the Fly Fishing Mentors program.

Shaw-Paca T.U. paid \$840 to beaver trapper **Cal Skalitzky** for removing 42 beaver from area trout streams.

Low water conditions during summer prevented the chapter from doing any work on Mill Creek. Chapter meetings resumed in September.

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN CHAPTER

Chapter elections earlier this year saw **James Folda** replace the retiring **Jon Christiansen** as chapter president.

In May, several chapter members participated in a fishing outing to Dane County's **Black Earth Creek**, while, in September, members held an outing at the Port Washington harbor off Lake

Michigan.

Chapter members were also involved in hearings on the proposed new "early" trout season, and several attended hearings on the state budget bill that included many anti-environmental changes to the state's conservation policy (see front page article).

SOUTHERN WISCONSIN CHAPTER

Southern Wisconsin T.U. was busy all summer with a variety of stream improvement projects. Work centered on **Black Earth Creek** and two of its tributaries, **Garfoot** and **Vermont creeks**. These projects involved cost-sharing with a number of organizations and landowners, and they continue to be received very well by the community.

The chapter held a "stream meeting" in July on **Vermont Creek** to evaluate a previous stream habitat improvement project. Several chapter members assisted DNR fish manager **Scot Stewart** with electroshocking a half-mile stretch of stream. The effort showed that the creek held a very healthy fish population, including several brown trout over 16 inches long.

The chapter has begun its planning for the annual "Ice Breaker" event, to be held **January 20, 1996**. Speakers at the upcoming "Ice Breaker" will include **Ed Shenk**, a well-known master angler of Pennsylvania's spring creeks. Also on hand will be **Dorothy Schramm** (a noted featured instructor

for the chapter's on-stream seminars for women anglers), who will display her fly-tying and rod-building talents, and **Clay Reiness**, a southwestern Wisconsin angler noted for his prowess at fishing the spring creeks of southern Wisconsin and the western "coulee region" streams.

Fall meetings began in September with a presentation by **Bill Sherer**, owner of the "We Tie It Fly Shop" in Boulder Junction, Wisconsin. Sherer gave a talk on fishing northern waters, in particular five streams in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

SWTU also appropriated over summer \$1,000 toward the cost of an initial assessment effort to mediate growth in the **Black Earth Creek** corridor, an area that has been under very heavy development pressure for the last decade or more.

Planning for future habitat projects has also taken up the chapter's time. Southern Wisconsin T.U. is working with the DNR and Dane County on details and funding mechanisms for a major project on a stream east of Wis-

consin Heights High School in 1996. Other plans include some winter brushing on **Black Earth Creek**, and additional work on the **Danz property** at the confluence of Vermont and **Black Earth Creeks**.

The chapter was saddened this summer when two outstanding members -

George Vukelich (see separate article) and **Craig Amacker** - left this world to go fish the "Big Spring Creek in the Sky." The chapter received a memorial gift from the Amacker family of \$810, which will be used toward some habitat improvement work, no doubt.

WILD RIVERS CHAPTER

No report

WISCONSIN RIVER VALLEY CHAPTER

The chapter funded work on a project covering another 1,700 feet in and along the **Plover River** east of **Wausau** in **Marathon County**, south of CTH "N." The work involved in-stream construction of boom-covers to narrow and deepen the stream section. Chapter members also spent a good deal of time installing half-logs in a one-quarter

mile segment of the Plover south of **Biramwood Road**.

Also, the chapter - via the tireless efforts of chapter president **Herb Hintze** - has obtained easements on another 120 acres of land bordering the Plover both above and below the area

Cont. on Page 11



Wisconsin River Valley T.U. member **Henry Kanemoto** collects "fly-tying" material (dead dog fur) from an unwilling donor at chapter work project.



Example of in-stream habitat work done on the **Plover River** by Wisconsin River Valley T.U. this summer.



Wisconsin River Valley T.U.'ers installing half-log cover in the **Plover River**.

Resources Board approves trout rule changes

Following the annual meetings of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress, the Natural Resources Board approved a number of rules and regulations pertaining to trout fishing in Wisconsin's inland and Great Lakes tributary streams, as well as in the Great Lakes themselves.

The bulk of the rule changes were focused on those relating to inland trout fishing. The Department of Natural Resources Fishery Bureau reviewed the impacts that the five-category stream angling classifications had made on trout angling and trout populations throughout Wisconsin, and fish managers made revised recommendations for trout fishing rules on certain waters based upon the data gleaned over the past five years since the new regulations have been in place.

Listed here are the set of rule changes as adopted by the Natural Resources Board this past June. The rule changes will take effect with the opening of the 1996 fishing seasons.

INLAND TROUT WATER ANGLING RULE CHANGES

Adams County--Little Roche a Cri Creek, portion-all, regulation category-2, change to Cat. 5; 5 trout/day under 8", or 4 under 8" + 1 over 12"; Neenah Creek, portion-all, category-5, change-reduce daily creel limit to 1 fish 18" or bigger.

Barron County--Little Granite Lake, portion-all, category-2, change-extend season from Sept 30 to March 1.

Columbia County--Rowan Creek, portion-Loveland Rd. down to STH 51, category-5 change to Cat. 3.

Dane County--All lakes and ponds, category-3, change season to run Jan. 1 to Sept. 30.

Dunn County--Elk Creek, portion-Eau Claire

County line downstream of Plaquet Drive up to CTH "EE", category-5, change-increase daily creel limit to 3 trout under 10" or 2 under 10" and 1 over 14"; Red Cedar River, portion-from mouth of Upper Pine Creek down to STH 64, category-5, change to Cat. 2.

Florence County--Chippmunk Creek, portion-all, category-1, change to Cat. 2; Patten Lake, portion-all, category-1, change to Cat. 2; Wisconsin Creek, portion-all, category-2, change to Cat. 4.

Forest County--Lake Lucerne, portion-all, category-5, change-increase minimum size on brown trout from 15" to 16"; North Otter Creek and springs, portion-all, category-5, change-to 5 trout/day under 10", or 4 under 10" and 1 over 14"; Peshtigo River, portion-down from STH 8, category-5, change-Cat. 3 rules from 1st Saturday in May-Sept. 30; artificials only, catch-and-release from Oct. 1-Nov. 15.

Langlade County--Wolf River, portion-all, category-4 & 5, change-add artificials only, catch-and-release season from Oct. 1-Nov. 15 on all parts of river.

Lincoln County--Hills Lake, portion-all, category-5, change-create open season from first Saturday in May-March 1; 3 trout/day, 9" limit; Long and Bass lakes, portion-all, category-5, change-remove artificial lures only restriction.

Marathon County--Jacobsen Springs, portion-all, category-3, change-add to list; Silent Springs, portion-all, category-5, change to Cat. 3.

Marquette County--Upper Neenah Creek, portion-upstream from STH 82, category-5, change-reduce daily creel limit to 1 fish over 18".

Oconto County--All waters not listed, portion-all, category-1, change all Cat. 1 waters to Cat. 2; Kathleen Lake, portion-all, category-3, change-remove from list; no longer managed for trout; South Branch Oconto River, portion-between CTH "AA" and STH 32, category-5, change-reduce daily creel limit to 1; increase size limit to 12" on brooks and 18" on browns; Thunder River (North Fork), portion-upstream from Marinette Co. line (All), category-2, change to Cat. 4;

Waupee Creek, portion-all, category-2, change to Cat. 4.

Oneida County--Bird Lake, portion-all, category-5, change-delete from list.

Portage County--Little Wolf River, portion-all, category-2, change to Cat. 4; Tomorrow River, portion-RR bridge upstream from Amherst Pond upstream to CTH "SS" in Nelsonville, category-5, change-make upper limit First St. in Nelsonville, not CTH "SS"; Tomorrow River (lower), portion-Waupaca County line to Amherst, category-4, change-make lower limit Amherst pond; Tomorrow River (upper), portion-upstream from CTH "SS" in Nelsonville to Clementson Road; category-3, change to Cat. 4; change lower limit from CTH "SS" to First St. in Nelsonville; Tomorrow River (upper), portion-Clementson Road upstream to Poncho Creek, category-5, change-include gear restrictions to artificials only; daily creel limit of 1 trout; minimum size limits-brooks 10"; browns 14".

Richland County--Grimsell Creek, portion-all, category-5, change-correct spelling to Grinsell; change upper slot size limit on brook trout from 18" to 14".

Rock County--All lakes and ponds, category-3, change-open season from Jan. 1-Sept. 30.

Sauk County--Beaver Creek, portion-all, category-5, change-make entire creek "catch-and-release" waters (no gear restrictions); Boulder Creek, portion-all, category-5, change to Cat. 3; Dell Creek, portion-South Ave. upstream to North Ave., category-5, change to Cat. 3; Dell Creek, portion-upstream from North Ave., category-4, change to Cat. 3; Devil's Lake, portion-all, category-3, change-extend season to March 1; Honey Creek, portion-Willow Rd. upstream to STH 23, category-4, change to Cat. 3; Leech Creek, portion-Muck ditches upstream to Paschen Road, category-4, change to Cat. 3; Little Baraboo River, portion-Rott Rd. upstream to Woolever Rd., category-5, change to Cat. 3; Little Baraboo River, portion-upstream from Woolever Rd., category-4, change to Cat. 3; Manley Creek, portion-all, category-5, change to Cat. 3; Otter Creek, portion-all, category-5, change to Cat. 3; Parfrey's Glen Creek, portion-all, category-5, change to Cat. 3; Rowley Creek, portion-all, category-5, change to Cat. 4.

Shawano County--All waters not listed, portion-all, category-1, change all Cat. 1 waters to Cat. 2.

Sheboygan--Big Elkhart and Butler lakes, portion-all, category-3, change-remove from list.

St. Croix County--Anderson Springs, portion-all, category-3, change to Cat. 2; Race Branch of Willow River, portion-Mounds Pond Dam downstream to Lake Mallalieu, category-3, change to Cat. 5; artificials only; only 1 trout/day, 16" minimum size.

Vilas County--Pallette Lake, portion-all, category-5, change-no fishing for lake trout; Papoose Lake, portion-all, category-5, change-remove from list; Trout Lake, portion-south basin, category-5, change-open to lake trout fishing from first Saturday in May to Sept. 30; 1 trout per day; 30" size limit; Trout Lake, portion-north basin, category-5, change minimum size limit on lake trout to 30".

Waupaca--Bass Lakes, portion-all, category-5, change to Cat. 2 and season to March 1; Chain of Lakes, portion-all, category-5, change to Cat. 4, and season to March 1; Keller Lake, portion-all, category-5, change-remove cumulative creel limit of 45 total inches of trout and change to Cat. 2 regs; close season on Sept. 30; Little Long Lake, portion-all, category-5, change to Cat. 2; remove cumulative creel limit of 45 total inches of trout; season to March 1; Little Wolf River, portion-CTH "J" upstream to Ness Road,

category-4, change to Cat. 5; only artificial lures; 1 trout/day limit; 14" size limit on brook trout; Radley Creek, portion-downstream from STH 22, category-4, change to Cat. 3; Radley Creek, portion-upstream from STH 22, category-2, change to Cat. 3; Waupaca River, portion-STH 10 upstream to Durant Road, category-4, change to Cat. 5; only artificial lures; 1 trout/day limit; minimum size-brooks 10" browns 18".

Waushara County--Johns Lake, portion-all, category-5, change to Cat. 2; remove cumulative creel limit of 45 total inches of trout; season to March 1; Spring Lake, portion-all, category-5, change to Cat. 2; remove cumulative creel limit of 45 total inches of trout; season to March 1; Wedde Creek, portion-all, category-5, change to Cat. 2; remove cumulative creel limit of 45 total inches of trout; White River pond (west branch, portion-all, category-5, change to Cat. 2; remove cumulative creel limit of 45 total inches of trout; White River (west branch), portion-all, category-5, change to Cat. 2; remove cumulative creel limit of 45 total inches of trout; Wild Rose Mill Pond, portion-all, category-5, change to Cat. 2; remove cumulative creel limit of 45 total inches of trout.

Wood County--Ten Mile Creek, portion-upstream from Rangeline Rd., category-3, change to Cat. 2.

The Department of Natural Resources withdrew two proposals that had been pending before the Conservation Congress. One would have changed the Category 3 parts of the Mekan River in all of Waushara and Marquette counties to Category 5, with the same "special regulation" as the current Category 5 stretch of the Mekan in Marquette County (3 trout/day, 12" size minimum, only one over 15"). The other would have established an "early season" (April 1 to the Friday before the first Saturday in May general opener) on the Willow River in St. Croix County (catch-and-release), artificials only).

The Conservation Congress and the NRB also agreed to set new upstream boundaries for the following Lake Michigan tributary trout and salmon stream: **Little River** (Oconto Co.) - from its confluence with the Oconto River upstream to the Highway 141 bridge;

Kewaunee River (Kewaunee Co.) - the entire river and its tributaries EXCEPT Little Scarboro Creek, Scarboro Creek, Rogers Creek and Casco Creek; **Milwaukee River** (Ozaukee Co.) - upstream to the Chair Factory dam in the Village of Grafton;

Menomonee River (Milwaukee Co.) - from its confluence with the Milwaukee River upstream to the 45th Street drop structure in the City of Milwaukee; **Pike River** (Kenosha and Racine counties) - entire river and its tributaries.

In addition, the NRB approved the elimination of the Clay Banks lake trout refuge on Lake Michigan off of Algoma.

✓ Chapter Reports

Cont. from Page 10

on which the chapter worked this summer. The chapter is coordinating things with the DNR to carry out more habitat work of a similar nature to that done this past year. Once this work gets done, it will conclude efforts on nearly

two miles of stream, with one-and-one-half miles of intensive in-stream rehabilitation and one-half mile to be left alone as a "mud flat" area with in-stream springs and a small area with rapids.

WOLF RIVER CHAPTER

The chapter is busy planning for its annual conservation Banquet to be held Saturday, Oct. 7, at Buettner's Wild Wolf Inn. Tickets are \$20 each, and can be obtained by calling Mike or Donna Svob at (715) 882-5200. A great many fine prizes will be awarded, and there will be many fine art pieces to be auctioned off. Cocktails begin at 5 p.m., with dinner at 7 p.m.

Wolf River T.U. cooperated with DNR fisheries personnel by keeping a creel census of all trout caught in the Wolf River to help determine carry-over ability of the river on new strains of brown trout that have been stocked into the wolf, as well as determining the growth rates of the fish.

The chapter also is planning to continue its program to try to re-establish populations of rainbow trout in the Wolf River that will be self-sustaining. Catches of rainbows up to 16 inches in length were reported this year. With extremely warm weather causing river temperatures to climb above 80

degrees, the chapter decided to not stock any rainbows in late June, but rather to wait until September to do so.

Wolf River T.U.'s beaver removal efforts on tributaries to the Wolf River are paying off. Brook trout catches from the Wolf are being reported from Lily in Langlade County all the way downstream to the Menominee County border. The largest brookie reported caught - and released - hit 17½ inches.

Chapter president Herb Buettner and other members traversed the length of Spring Creek, a prime Wolf feeder, and found it to be "beaver free," a welcome sight after knowing that the creek once had over 26 beaver dams on it four years ago. The chapter's trapper catches approximately 15 beaver attempting to work their way up the creek each year. Many, many small brook trout are now being observed in the Wolf and in Spring Creek now that the brookies can reach the prime spawning sites in Spring Creek to procreate.

Author, radio host dies

Well-known author and radio host, as well as long time Trout Unlimited member, George Vukelich died of a heart attack on July 4th, at age 67, one day before his birthday.

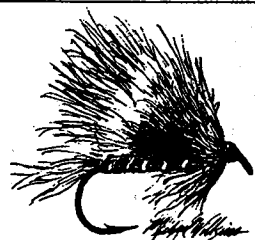
Vukelich was noted for his writings entitled "North Country Notebook," which appeared in the Wisconsin Outdoor Journal magazine. He also hosted a radio show under that same name.

A life-long passion for environmental protection was the spur that prodded Vukelich on his path. This past January, the Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited presented George with its special "Award of Merit" for his many years of advocacy of conservation.

Vukelich is survived by his wife, Helen, four daughters and a son, and six grandchildren. He also left behind innumerable friends and fans who will miss his gentle wit and insight.



George Vukelich passed away July 4th.



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Make a "Friends" donation now

Another trout season has come and gone. Except for some great angling times on Great Lakes tributaries that are open year round or on inland lakes that have extended seasons, our special pastime is put on hold until next spring.

When you think about all the pleasure which Wisconsin's trout fishing opportunities have given you this year and in the past, you know that you want to make sure that such wonderful experiences and great resources remain for the future.

And to help ensure that we have something here for us and our heirs tomorrow, how about contributing to the "Friends of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited" program today?

For an annual donation of \$100, your "Friends" donation will go into a special account managed by the Wisconsin T.U. Council and will be used solely for funding projects aimed at restoring and protecting coldwater resources through habitat work, research and education.

And you will receive a "Friends" pin along with a certificate of appreciation, as well as being listed with other "Friends" in four consecutive issues of Wisconsin Trout newspaper.

Take a moment to fill out the "Friends" form below and mail it in with your donation today. Wisconsin T.U. - and the coldwater resources it protects - will thank you for it!

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J. Nash Williams
Norb Wozniak
Fred Young
Robert Zimmerman
(N)=New "Friend"
(R)=Renewed since last issue

Rockford, Ill.
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Juneau, WI
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From the Chairman

By Dave Ogletree

The year 1995 will haunt all of us for many years to come. As members of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited and as citizens, we incurred a series of losses comparable to nothing in Wisconsin's history.

Our biggest loss came with the passage of the State Budget Bill for the coming biennium. Included in that document were items that will have a profound impact--negative impact--on resource management in our state.

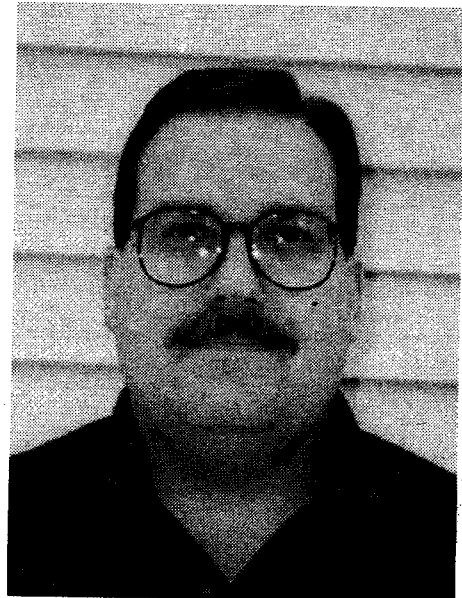
The most devastating loss via the Budget Bill was the elimination of the Office of Public Intervenor. As of August 22nd, the Intervenor's doors--located in the Department of Justice--were closed for good. A new "Intervenor" office will now be housed within the Department of Natural Resources, and will have just one staff person, who will serve as an information hub (i.e., a glorified "receptionist" for the governor). He or she will take phone calls, receive letters and then forward all matters to the governor's office for review.

DON'T BE FOOLED into believing that there is still an independent Public Intervenor there to help us when a matter of environmental consequence arises. This office no longer works for the good of the environment or the public, and no longer has the right to file lawsuits on behalf of the state's citizens. It is a neutered "watchdog" with no teeth, and will roll over the "fetch" at the governor's command.

Kathleen Falk and Thomas Dawson, who served as the Public Intervenor prior to this legislative coup d'etat, fought courageously to preserve this office. I think they should both be remembered as true Wisconsin heroes for their unwavering dedication and service to the citizens of Wisconsin and the environment in which we live. As Chairman of the Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited, I would like to say "thank you" to Kathleen and Tom on behalf of our membership. Wisconsin T.U. is proud to have been able to work with you, and we will miss you very much.

The other major defeat in the Budget Bill was the approval by the Republican majorities in the State Senate and Assembly of a codicil that strips the authority for hiring and firing the DNR secretary from the citizens Natural Resources Board and places that authority with the sitting governor.

In the midst of this battle, I think that our current DNR secretary, George Meyer, showed incredible courage in exposing how Governor Thompson plans to manipulate an appointed DNR secretary by asking to illegally review environmental litigation suits before they are properly transferred to the Department of Justice. Meyer showed us examples of honesty and integrity in doing this. However, future DNR secretaries, whoever they may be, will not be able to display this honesty in the



Dave Ogletree

future, because they will be acting on the whims of the present and future governors.

Another major problem created by the Budget Bill was the level of cuts that will occur in the operations of the DNR. Funding for fish hatcheries, law enforcement and other functions has been sharply reduced, and the consequences of these cuts will be felt soon.

Despite all these defeats, we can be thankful for one victory, that being a rejection of Governor Thompson's proposal to steal \$10 million from the Stewardship land acquisition fund to pay for a dormitory for ice skaters and 4-H students at the State Fairgrounds in West Allis.

We've taken an environmental beating this year, and I'd like to thank all the T.U. members and other environmental organizations who gave of their time and energies on these issues.

Unfortunately, we don't have time to sulk and lick our wounds, for there are more threats--mining, land use issues and others--looming on the horizon. We must stay united and work together with the environmental community in order to prevail.

We also had losses this year of a personal nature. No longer with us as T.U. members and friends are Arling "Ole" Erickson of the Central Wisconsin Chapter and George Vukelich and Chuck Amacker of the Southern Wisconsin Chapter. All three of these men valiantly defended the coldwater resource, and our environment is better because of the work that Arling, George and Chuck did during their lives. They will be missed.

Finally, on a bright note, I hope that you are planning to attend the State Council Conservation Awards Banquet scheduled for February 3, 1996, in Oshkosh. Banquet co-chairmen Forrest Grulke and Dave Johnson have been working hard on all the arrangements. The State Council will welcome your support. I look forward to seeing YOU there!

List of Projects funded via the "Friends of Wisconsin T.U." Program

- \$4,000 - for rip-rapping and structural improvements on the West Fork Kickapoo River (Vernon Co.)
- \$1,500 - for placement of LUNKER structures and bank stabilization in Black Earth Creek (Dane Co.)
- \$1,000 - for hydraulic dredging of Saul Spring Pond (Langlade Co.)
- \$750 - for purchase of special thermometers to monitor stormwater runoff into the Kinnickinnic River (Pierce Co.)
- \$2,000 - for re-routing and stabilizing Brewery Creek (Iowa Co.)
- \$75 - for purchase of "catch-and-release" signs for the Bois Brule River (Douglas Co.)
- \$2,500 - for renovation of trout rearing facilities in Lincoln Park (City of Manitowoc)
- \$500 - for bank stabilization and structural improvement on the North Fork Thunder River (Oconto Co.)
- \$1,000 - for land acquisition along the White River (Waushara Co.)
- \$1,000 - to assist with acquisition of 64(+) acres of land along Upper Middle Inlet Creek (Marinette County)
- \$7,000 - to purchase a "Rotary Screw Fish Trap" for DNR Coldwater research

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

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DNR Fish Manager profile: Jim Talley

Many professionals in the field of fisheries management move around a lot during the span of their careers. Some do so to ride up the "corporate" ladder, so to speak, and some do so to get a taste of different experiences in various regions of a state or country.

But some find a particular part of the world to their liking and decide to put their roots down. Such is the case with the subject of this issue's "DNR Fish Manager profile," Jim Talley of Black River Falls.

The 50-year old Talley has worked out of the Black River Falls office of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources the entirety of his professional fishery management career. A native of Harlan, Iowa, Jim attended high school in that town and then went on to receive a Bachelor's Degree in fish and wildlife biology from Iowa State University.

Although he spent two summers working as a fisheries technician with the Iowa conservation Department, Talley has toiled his all of his post-college working years with Wisconsin's DNR. And over that time, he has accomplished a lot for the coldwater resource.

Jim's area of responsibility includes the counties of Buffalo, Clark, Jackson and Trempealeau. Much of his time has been devoted to the protection of that special area's coldwater fishery.

"I've been very active with acquisition of riparian lands along trout waters in these counties," said Talley, "and I've also spent a good deal of time assisting with acquisitions of wetlands that border the streams and springs that feed them. To date, I've helped the state obtain over 5,000 acres of land along trout waters through either fee title purchase or easements. This amounts to over 50 miles of trout water."

"Each year," he added, "we usually have some on-going trout habitat improvement projects underway. Things like fencing to exclude livestock from streams, brushing of streambanks, sodding of bank covers, rapping and installing half-logs. We're also actively involved with various trout fishing groups, and we participate in cooperative trout rearing programs, as well as with transfers of 'wild' trout for introduction into streams."

Jim's work efforts on behalf of trout have not been restricted solely to proactive habitat improvements and fish-rearing, though.

"I have also had an active career being involved in protecting coldwater resources via our water management permitting and hearing processes," he

noted. "I currently have four priority watershed programs (non-point pollution control) in my area that involve primarily coldwater resources. I'm working actively with many resource agencies outside the DNR (such as Land Conservation Departments, Soil Conservation Service, etc.) to try to refocus agricultural land management activities toward those that will reduce soil erosion and nutrient loading to our waters."

"Besides being successful in these ventures," Talley continued, "I hope to emphasize during the remainder of my career more reintroductions of 'wild' trout to our streams and to continue aggressive land acquisition and habitat development programs."

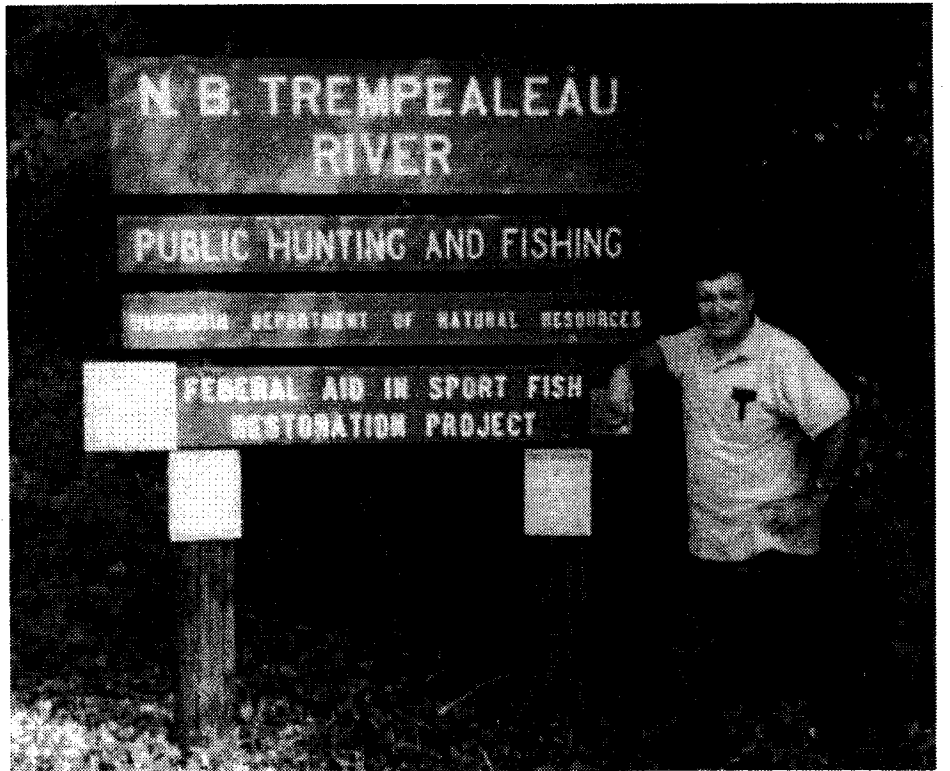
Managing trout resources in a rural agricultural area of Wisconsin brings about a certain set of problems facing the coldwater resource with which fishery managers must deal.

"We have the usual problems associated with agriculture along our streams," Jim stated. "Besides the runoff and bank erosion problems, we are also faced quite often with situations where private interests seek to dam springs and streams. And we are always facing the continuing threats of expansion of cranberry growing operations on or along our trout waters."

In Talley's area of concern, there are quite a number of trout waters, including the Trempealeau River system, which is featured in this issue of Wisconsin Trout. And Jim has not been shy about seeking relatively strict angling restrictions for those waters. There are many streams listed as category 3 or 4 in Buffalo, Jackson and Trempealeau counties, and he also has a smattering of Category 5 waters ("Special Regulations") in his domain.

"I was actively involved in the Trout Committee that developed the current inland trout regulation system," he said. "Right now we are still in the process of evaluating the effectiveness of some of these regs. We make assessments on an annual basis."

"There are four Category 5 waters in my area," he added, "that were set up to promote opportunities for catching 'trophy trout.' On stretches of the Beaver Creek and Buffalo (Beef) River in Trempealeau County and sections of the main Trempealeau River and its North Branch in Jackson County, 'I've established regs that restrict angling to artificial lures and flies only, and I've set the creel limits at two trout daily. Of those two trout, only



Jim Talley, DNR fishery manager from Black River Falls.

one may be a brown trout (18 inch minimum size limit). Minimum size limits on brooks and rainbows there are 10 inches."

Although the Black River Falls area is part of the well-known "Driftless Area" of Wisconsin where glacial action did not occur during the last Ice Age, there are still some warmwater fisheries present that demand a bit of Talley's time and involvement.

"We have a fair number of warmwater impoundments on our bigger rivers and some smaller streams," Jim noted. "Some have been dredged and renovated via our inland lakes programs. Along with the Black River, which traverses this area for about 100 miles, we have a good variety of warmwater fish species for anglers to seek. And we also have a pretty good musky population in the Black River which attracts anglers."

"My main duties on the warmwater bodies," he said, "have to do with development of access points for anglers and control of erosion into the rivers and impoundments. The FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) re-licensing of the Hatfield hydro dam is also an on-going project."

When Jim isn't up to his ears in fisheries work, he enjoys life in the quiet,

bucolic surroundings of the Jackson County countryside with his wife, Julie, and children Jeff, Jim and Lisa. He likes to keep his garden well tended during the summer months, and during the rest of the year Jim takes delight in such outdoor activities as fishing, trapping, hunting and archery.

Talley's work over the years has been appreciated by those with whom he has labored. The Ojibla Chapter of Trout Unlimited presented Jim with an award for his professional work on coldwater resource conservation, and the Trempealeau County Land Conservation Department gave him its "Fish and Wildlife Award" for his efforts.

As he heads into the "home stretch" of his fishery management career, Jim is philosophical about the future.

"Our coldwater resources today face many challenges," he said. "Some of the things we are facing could very well threaten the existence of trout fishing. Conservation groups like Trout Unlimited and others must continue their efforts. They have been, and will be, valuable allies in the battles we face."

So, too, will be conscientious and dedicated fishery managers like Jim Talley of Black River Falls.

WISCONSIN TROUT WATERS

DNR trout stream information transferred to county maps.

Maps show Class I & II streams with color overlay.

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Resource Board deals with early season, budget cuts

The seven-member citizens Natural Resources Board had a busy summer dealing with a host of issues pertaining to trout fishing and natural resources management. Chief among them were revisions to the proposed new "early" trout season and budget cuts affecting the Department of Natural Resources operations.

In August, the NRB tabled a plan to establish a new early trout season in all or parts of 21 southern Wisconsin counties (see map). As proposed, that plan called for an early season in that zone starting in 1996, with an opening date around April 1 and rules calling for catch-and-release, artificial fly and lure, barbless hooks-only fishing.

This plan was set aside due to protests from anglers in southwestern Wisconsin who feared that too much pressure would be focused on streams in that region, and from the leadership of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress, who felt that the Congress was being circumvented in the decision-making process.

As a result of this, a committee of individuals from various groups--including Trout Unlimited--put together a revised plan on which attendees at the 1996 Conservation Congress hearings will discuss and vote. The new revised "early" season calls for a statewide early opener sometime between January 1 and March 1, with spring ponds and other "sensitive"

waters closed. The early season would run up until the general first Saturday in May opener, and would be governed by catch-and-release, barbless hook, artificials-only rules.

As of this issue, Wisconsin Trout Unlimited has not adopted an official position on this proposal.

In addition, the NRB had to review many revisions to the DNR's budget in lieu of the failure of the Republican-controlled legislature to adopt increases in license fees, thus creating an operating deficit for the DNR.

Among the cuts approved by the DNR and the Natural Resources Board are several affecting coldwater fisheries management, including:

- *a loss of nine Full-Time Employees relating to fish hatchery and transport operations;

- *elimination of cooperative University of Wisconsin research funding used for long-term decision-making;

- *a reduction in monies for various coldwater stream surveys, including regulation evaluation of the Tomorrow River in Portage County, assessment of the inland brown trout fishery of Emmons Creek in Waupaca County, regulation evaluation of the border Brule River in Forest County and others;

- *a 90 percent reduction in beaver control in northern counties;

- *25 percent reduction (390,000 fish) in trout stocking in inland waters, with

most of the reduction targeted on low priority, Class III trout waters;

- *a loss of 12 conservation wardens;
- *elimination of Priority Watershed surveys.

While there is some talk about seeking license fee increases via legislative action, nothing is certain at the present time.

In addition to these items, the NRB acted on a host of other projects and items, including:

- *approved public hearings for revisions in Wisconsin's Nonpoint Source Pollution Abatement Program to designate critical sites in priority watersheds and establish a process for enforcement, as well as revising the priority watershed selection process;

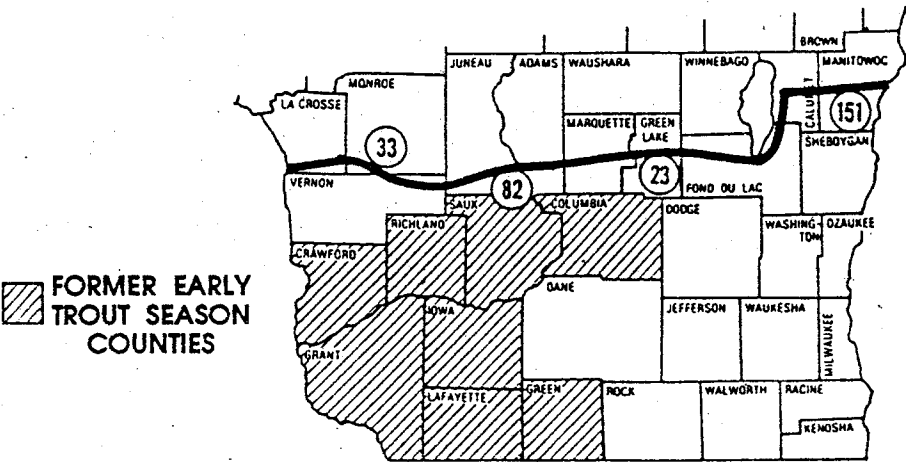
- *approving the purchase of 133 acres of land along the Upper Kinnickinnic River in Pierce County for the Stream-

bank Acquisition Program (land includes 1,320 feet of two-bank frontage on the South Fork of the "Kinni");

- *accepting a donation of 120 acres of land in Langlade County from the Elizabeth Steffen Trust via the Nature Conservancy of Wisconsin; this land includes 2,000 feet of two-bank frontage along the Red River, a Class II trout stream, as well as an unnamed spring pond that feeds the Red;

- *approving an exchange of land between Florence County and the state (366 acres for 360 acres) to add to the state's Pine-Popple Wild Rivers project; the 366 acres from Florence County to the state includes 16,800 feet of frontage on the Pine River, part of which is the north half of La Salle Falls, the largest waterfall in northeastern Wisconsin.

Proposed Southern Trout Zone for an "early" season has been rejected. Sportsmen will be asked at the 1996 Fish and Game hearing to approve a statewide early season.

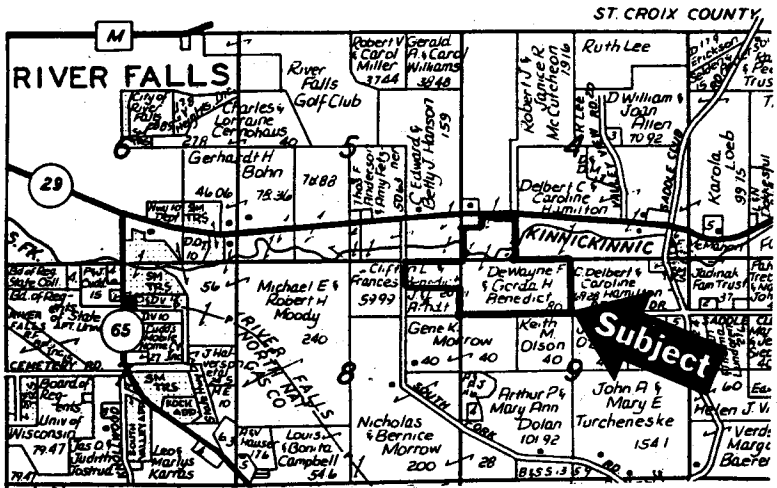


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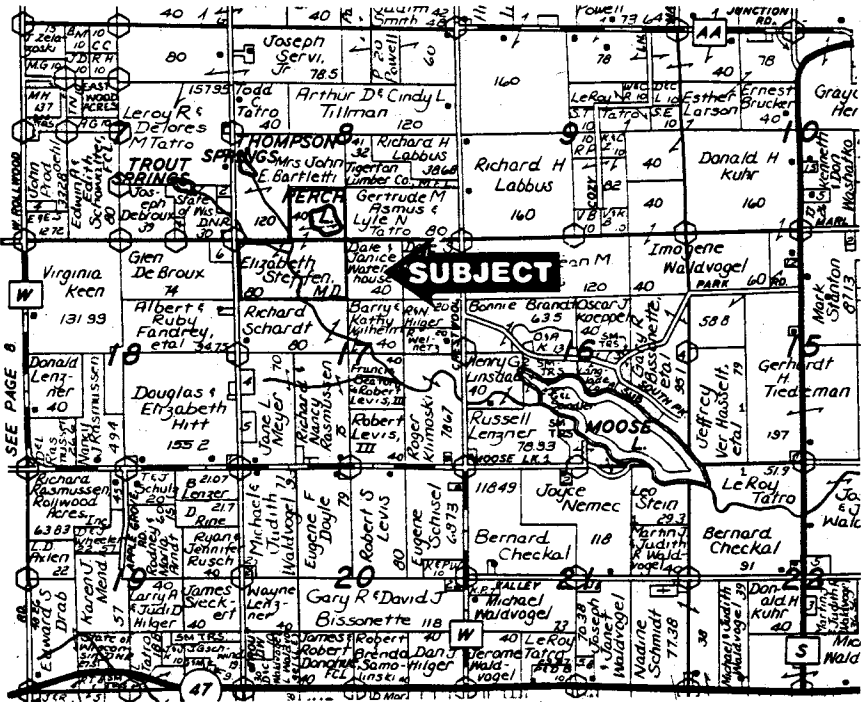
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The state bought 133 acres of land along the South Fork of the Kinnickinnic River in Pierce County via the Streambank Acquisition Program.



The state received 120 acres of land in Langlade County along the Red River.

WISCONSIN COUNCIL TROUT UNLIMITED			9/9/95					
CHAPTER BOUNDARIES AND MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS								
CHAPTER	NUM	BOUNDARIES COUNTIES/AREA	MEMBERSHIP					
			1/91	1/92	1/93	1/94	1/95	9/95
WOLF RIVER	50	BOARDERING WOLF RIVER TROUT WATER	48	48	63	79	79	75
SOUTHERN WISCONSIN	61	DANE & JEFFERSON	365	348	432	409	454	524
SOUTHEAST WISCONSIN	78	WASHINGTON, OZAUKEE, WAUKESHA, MILWAUKEE, WALWORTH, RACINE & KENOSHA	257	246	312	302	334	358
GREEN BAY	83	BROWN & DOOR	172	172	189	172	177	187
CENTRAL WISCONSIN	117	ADAMS, WAUSHARA, MARQUETTE, GREEN LAKE, FOND DU LAC & WINNEBAGO	191	169	198	190	178	186
KIAP TU WISH	168	POLK, ST CROIX, PIERCE & PEPIN	132	126	146	128	136	160
FOX VALLEY	193	OUTAGAMIE	199	200	210	191	185	192
OJIBLEAU	255	BUFFALO, EAU CLAIRE, CLARK, JACKSON, TREMPAULEAU, CHIPPEWA, DUNN, BARRON & RUSK	71	104	128	111	135	138
NORTHWOODS	256	FOREST, FLORENCE, ONEIDA & VILAS	46	48	58	59	64	74
HARRY NOHR	257	GRANT, IOWA, LAFAYETTE & CRAWFORD	33	41	49	35	33	32
COULEE REGION	278	LACROSSE, MONROE, JUNEAU, VERNON & RICHLAND	49	51	56	44	46	50
ANTIGO	313	LANGLADE	41	27	44	44	40	45
ALDO LEOPOLD	375	COLUMBIA, DODGE & SAUK	53	47	51	41	34	39
SHAWPACA	381	SHAWANO & WAUPACA	79	66	67	57	66	66
OCONTO RIVER	385	OCONTO RIVER WATERSHED	68	64	79	69	75	86
BLACKHAWK	390	GREEN & ROCK	89	93	102	83	86	98
WISCONSIN RIVER VALLEY	395	LINCOLN, MARATHON, PRICE, & TAYLOR	92	83	83	59	80	90
WILD RIVERS	415	DOUGLAS, BAYFIELD, ASHLAND, IRON, BURNETT, WASHBURN & SAWYER	16	35	43	43	43	45
MARINETTE COUNTY	422	MARINETTE	63	61	70	61	60	76
LAKE SHORE	423	MANITOWOC, KEWAUNEE, SHEBOYGAN & CALUMET	71	77	74	77	84	96
FRANK HORNBERG	624	PORTAGE & WOOD		27	39	53	63	85
			2135	2133	2493	2307	2452	2703

Wisconsin Trout Stream Profile: the Trempealeau River

Every state that has a fair-to-middlin' reputation as a good place to fish for trout--as does Wisconsin--always seems to have its share of well-known, "blue-ribbon" waters.

But there are a lot of other rivers and streams in trout fishing states that don't get much attention, yet they also provide some very satisfying trout angling experiences. Such a river in Wisconsin is the Trempealeau River and its tributaries in Jackson and Trempealeau counties.

The Trempealeau courses in a northeast-to-southwest diagonal through this part of the "coulee region" of western Wisconsin (sometimes called "God's Country"). The main stem of the river has 13 miles of its thread in Jackson County and another three miles in Trempealeau County that is classified as trout water (Class II). The trout portion of the river ends in the little town of Blair in eastern Trempealeau County, where an impoundment called "Lake Henry" signals the switch from coldwater to warmwater fish species.

In Jackson County, where the bulk of the Trempealeau's watershed lies, the North Branch and South Branch of the Trempealeau coalesce just above where Interstate 94 crosses the main river. The North Fork (7.2 miles) is listed as Class I trout water (no stocking of trout required), while the seven miles of the South Branch are all Class II water.

A number of important coldwater tributaries feed the Trempealeau, adding not only cold water but also native trout to the system. Tank Creek in Jackson County is perhaps the most important tributary, with its five miles of stretch producing good numbers of native brook and brown trout to the Trempealeau.

Other smaller but nonetheless feeders are Curran, French, Lowe, Pine, Stony and Vosse Coulee creeks, all in Jackson County.

Trout reproduction is considered excellent in the North Branch and Tank Creek, while that in the South Branch and in French, Pine and Vosse Coulee creeks is considered fair-to-good. Trout reproduction in the main Trempealeau and in Curran and Stony creeks is poor at best.

The entire run of the Trempealeau that is considered trout water is mostly noted for its shifting sands bottom. The pH of the system in Trempealeau County tends to neutral or slightly alkaline with medium water hardness, while the Jackson County section shows very soft to soft water characteristics.

As a result of this chemistry, fly hatches are not nearly as heavy as one finds in other waters that have greater alkalinity, hardness and siltier or more gravelly bottom compositions.

The trout species composition of the Trempealeau system is a mixture of brook and brown trout, with brooks tending to dominate the smaller, upper reaches of the North Branch, most of the South Branch and the feeder tributary streams. Browns are more common in the lower reaches of the North Branch and in the main Trempealeau.

Department of Natural Resources fishery biologist Jim Talley (see accompanying article) has attempted to establish some quality angling stretches on the Trempealeau system in Jackson County. A section of the North Branch (from Cain Road down to the confluence with the South Branch) and part of the main stem (from Davis Road upstream to South Lincoln Road) have been set aside as Category 5 waters ("special regulations" waters) since the inception of the new inland trout fishing rules in 1990.

On those river segments, anglers are limited to using only artificial flies and lures (no live bait). The daily creel limit on trout there is two, and only one brown trout (minimum size of 18 inches) is permitted; the minimum size limit on brook and rainbow trout is 10 inches.

To date, though, Talley reports that the "jury is out" as to whether or not those Category 5 designations have helped the trout populations in the river system.

The remaining stretches of the main Trempealeau and its branches are listed as Category 4 waters (three trout daily, 12 inch size limit on browns and rainbows, eight inches on brooks).

The major tributaries of the river are listed as follows as far as angling regulations are concerned: Category 2 - French and Lowe creeks; Category 3 - Curran and Stony creeks; Category 4 - Tank and Vosse Coulee creeks.

Besides angling regulations designed to save more trout from a trip to the frying pan, habitat improvement has helped the Trempealeau River system over the years.

Using funds from ORAP (the Outdoor Recreation And Planning program), the federal Dingell-Johnson fisheries account and inland trout stream revenues, the DNR has done the following work on the river's watershed: one-quarter mile stream bank brushing, one-and-a-half miles of stream fencing, one mile of bank covers and rip-rap and 25 installed half-logs in Tank Creek; one-half mile of stream brushing, eight miles of stream fencing, a quarter-mile of bank cover and rip-rap and another 25 half-logs installed in the North Branch; and, two miles of stream fencing, three-quarters of a mile of bank covers and rip-rap and 100 half logs installed in the South Branch.

In addition, the DNR continues to



Habitat work underway on South Branch of the Trempealeau River.

carry out an aggressive land acquisition policy for riparian lands along the watershed's coldwater streams. The DNR wants to maintain existing stream developments and create an extra one mile of bank covers and rip-rap to stabilize banks and diminish erosion problems.

Besides this, DNR staff is looking more closely into plans for introducing "wild" trout from other streams into the Trempealeau system, particularly the South Branch, in order to upgrade the listing of streams and tributaries to Class I (no stocking needed). And Talley hopes to get some "wild" trout into the upper reaches of Lowe Creek after two warmwater impoundments have been removed.

Since the Trempealeau is one of the major rivers in Jackson County, it gets its share of angling pressure. Fish manager Talley notes that the highest use by anglers occurs in May, early June and September, with light use the rest of the time. Most of the Trempealeau provides easy wading conditions for anglers, though some holes in the main river section are too deep to be waded.

Like many Wisconsin streams, the Trempealeau system was hit hard by the late 1980's drought, with trout numbers taking a nosedive. Talley says that stream flows were reduced about 50 percent during that time, and trout populations have been slow to recover in most of the system.

Given the rural location of the Trempealeau's stream course, there are the

usual problems facing the river that other such streams face. Agricultural runoff and sand mines pose threats to the river, and occasional beaver problems occur on some of the tributaries, though animal control measures and increased pelt prices have kept beaver numbers in check recently.

Development pressure to date has been light, according to Talley.

One problem facing the river system is a proliferation of aquatic weed growth, particularly that of elodea and sparganium. Talley reports that the elodea is becoming quite dense in portions of the North and South branches, and in some areas it is a nuisance.

Problems aside, the Trempealeau system certainly provides anglers with some enjoyable trout fishing in quiet, peaceful settings. The DNR has obtained, through fee title purchase and easements, over 1,050 acres of land along the river system, primarily along the North and South branches and along Tank and Lowe creeks. Numerous other county, town and state roads cross the Trempealeau and its tributaries to offer anglers access.

And much of the main stem of the Trempealeau runs parallel to State Highway 95 in Jackson County.

While other more famed Wisconsin trout waters may entice resident and non-resident anglers to their banks, the gentle murmur of the Trempealeau River has a message that beckons those who seek tranquility to come visit. A trip to this river will certainly be worth the angler's time and trouble.



Main branch of the Trempealeau River in Jackson County.



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Council banquet set for Feb. 4

The Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited will once again hold its annual Conservation Awards banquet in 1996. The event is scheduled for Feb. 3, 1996, at the Oshkosh Hilton in downtown Oshkosh.

While the main purpose of the event is to give honor and recognition to those individuals and chapters within Wisconsin Trout Unlimited who have demonstrated significant achievement toward the betterment of the coldwater resource in the state (see front page article), the banquet is also a major funding source for the State Council's

work in the coming year.

And what with so many issues facing the coldwater resource in the state - mining, nonpoint runoff, cutbacks in resource agency budgets and more - the role of Wisconsin T.U. in protecting the state's coldwater resources becomes even more important.

The 1996 banquet will once again feature a good selection of door and raffle prizes as well as fine and unique items for live and silent auctions on which attendees may bid.

Tickets are still a very reasonable

\$25 per person, and all those who have their ticket orders postmarked by January 13, 1996, will be eligible for an "Early Bird" drawing of \$100 cash.

Past banquet attendees will receive ticket order forms via the mail shortly after Dec. 1. Those who have not attended a recent State Council banquet - or anyone who wants to get a jump on getting their tickets - may use the order form shown below. All checks should be made payable to Wisconsin Trout Unlimited.

Banquet co-chairmen Forrest Grulke (414-739-5155) and Dave

Johnson (414-361-3046) are organizing this year's event. Individuals, businesses or chapters who would be interested in contributing items for prizes or auction items or who wish to make cash contributions toward the banquet's success should get in touch with either of these two gentlemen at your earliest convenience.

The Wisconsin T.U. State Council is looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at this annual event. Banquet seating will be limited, so be sure to get your tickets in advance.

Foundation offers grants, speakers

The Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin, Inc., announces that the next round of grants to be awarded through its "Small Matching Grants" program will be awarded in March, 1996. The deadline for submitting proposals is February 2, 1996.

The Foundation awards grants up to \$1,000 through this program on a matching (dollar-for-dollar) basis to organizations, individuals, schools and local governments. Eligible projects involved education, management, restoration and research related to Wisconsin's natural resources.

Among the most recent grants provided by the NRFW was a \$500 grant to the Harry Nohr T.U. Chapter in Dodgeville to help fund stream improvement in Harker Creek. Past NRFW grants have helped fund spring pond dredging in Langlade County (on Saul Springs) and stream improve-

ment work on the North Fork Thunder River in Oconto County.

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited chapters that wish to take advantage of this opportunity for obtaining matching grant funds should send an application to get on the Foundation's mailing list. Application materials will be available starting in November.

To get on the NRFW mailing list for applications, write to: Natural Resources Foundation, P.O. Box 129, Madison, WI 53701. Or, call their office at (608) 266-1430.

The Foundation also notes that organizations (such as T.U. chapters) that need speakers on environmental topics at meetings or seminars should give the Foundation a call. The NRFW can give chapters names of DNR employees in the chapter's area of interest whom they may contact for a presentation.

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