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News and Views from Wisconsin Trout Unlimited

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Wisconsin Trout

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited

Winter 1999

Some more "dam" good news! Colfax dam gone; 18-Mile Creek restored

Two years ago, trout anglers in western Wisconsin rejoiced when the **Mounds Dam** on St. Croix County's **Willow River** was slated for demolition and removal. That decision cleared the way for restoring a segment of a popular Wisconsin trout stream.

Just as important, but with considerably less fanfare, another dam on a western Wisconsin trout stream bit the dust this past year when the **Colfax Dam** (Dunn Co.) was removed from **Eighteen-Mile Creek** near the stream's confluence with the **Red Cedar River**. And restoration efforts on Eighteen-Mile Creek (EMC) are showing that quality trout water can be restored quickly once dams are removed from free-flowing waters.

The EMC at Colfax had been dammed for over 100 years, with the most recent structure built in 1957. As in every case where dams span rivers or streams, the impoundment behind the Colfax dam became filled with sediment and no longer provided the scenic or recreational value it once did.

While the original water depth in the impoundment after the 1957 construction was about 10-16 feet, sediment accumulation over the years reduced that to an average depth of **three feet** at best during normal water periods. Summer water depths were even lower, and the impounded area was described as nothing but sand flats and mosquito habitat."

Several years ago, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources ordered that the dam either be removed or replaced. Dam replacement - and subsequent dredging of the pond - was estimated to cost at least **\$1 million**, a large amount of money to be borne by the small Village of Colfax. After a series of public meetings and a referendum, the Village Board of Trustees decided to remove the dam.

At this point, the **Ojibseau Chapter of Trout Unlimited** stepped up to become an important partner in seeing removal of the dam and restoration of EMC to completion, according to Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Council Chairman **John Welter**, who was chapter president at that time.

"When the Village Board voted to remove the dam and the DNR proposed to restore the free-flowing stream which existed before the dam was built, DNR personnel **John**

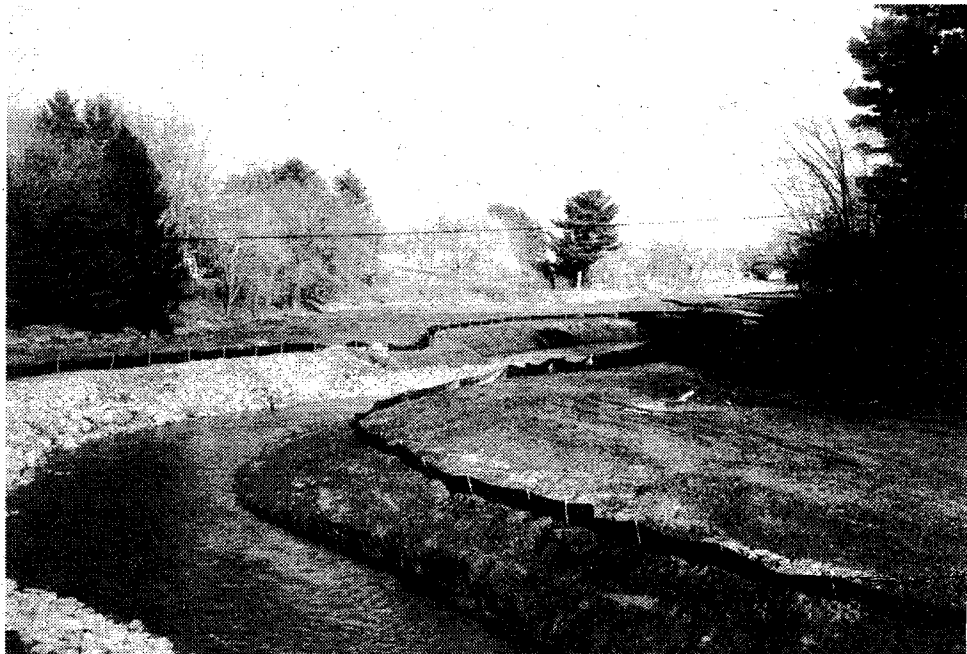
Paddock, Jim Holzer, Dan Koich and I spoke to about 150 people at a public meeting about the possibility of infusing some **\$200,000** in funds into the trout stream restoration project," Welter stated. "The linchpin for the project was to convince about 26 landowners adjoining the millpond site to execute quit-claim deeds transferring whatever revisionary interests they may have had in the millpond to the Village."

"Holzer met with some of those landowners a half-dozen times," Welter added, "and eventually got, I believe, 25 deeds and an easement allowing construction and public access to the stream."

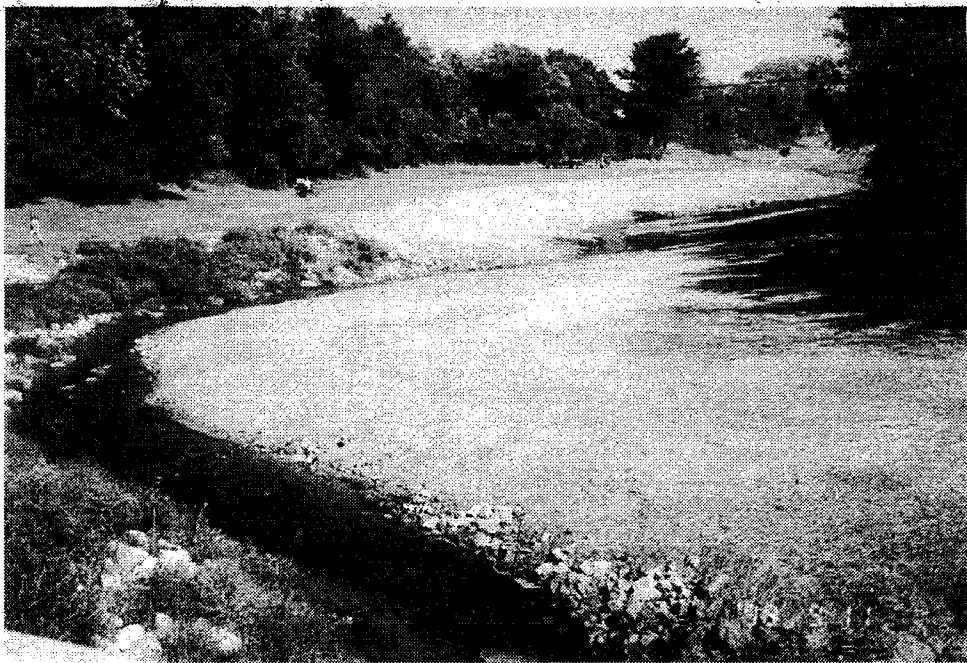
Once the legal work was completed, assessments of the stream and impoundment needed to be done, according to **John Paddock**, the leader of the DNR's **Lower Chippewa Water GMU** (Geographic Management Unit). The DNR pre-monitored sediment levels and surveyed fish and aquatic habitat on the entire EMC watershed, contracted for dam removal (for which the Village was responsible) and prepared an environmental assessment for the waterway modifications. During fall of 1997, the DNR team lowered the pond level, dredged the channel and created a sediment trap in the streambed of EMC below the dam-site.

That's when the Ojibseau T.U. Chapter entered in to help. The chapter contributed **\$2,500** to help pay for **notching the dam** in the winter of 1997-98, leading to its removal last spring. Chapter members also worked at the site with DNR crews last summer, helping to install in-stream structures and rake and seed the exposed banks.

The DNR crews did the bulk of the heavy duty restoration work including:
* removing **7,000 cubic yards of sediment** from the stream channel above the damsite;
* re-sloping **6,400 feet of streambank** to stabilize in-place sediments;
* installing **8,500 cubic yards of rock** to stabilize banks and build stream habitat;
* constructing 98 boom covers in the stream for trout habitat; and
* relocating a sewer line that was exposed upon lowering of the impoundment.



April 1998 - Much progress was made in restoring 18-Mile Creek between April and Sept., 1998. Scene from Hwy. 40 bridge.



September 1998

--DNR photos

In addition, the DNR removed several **beaver dams** near the stream's headwaters and treated some storm sewer outlets. Soon after that stretch of EMC began to heal, trout began to move into the area, and anglers reported some fishing success. The DNR then transferred about **600 wild brook trout** into that part of EMC to establish

a self sustaining resident population of fish.

During the coming year, more work in the area will occur. Ojibseau T.U. plans to build **kiosks** with informational pamphlets on angling regulations and "catch-and-release" fishing at sev-

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Annual Meeting notice

The Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited will be held Saturday, **February 13, 1999**, at the **Oshkosh Hilton Conference Centre**, 1 North Main Street, Oshkosh. All members of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited are welcome to attend. Each T.U. chapter should be represented by two voting delegates at this meeting.

Elections for the offices of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer will be held that day. Nominations for any of these positions may be submitted to Past Council Chairman **Bill Sherer** at P.O. Box 516, Boulder Junction, WI 54512. Nominations also will be taken from the floor the day of the meeting.

From the Trout Unlimited Chairman

By John Welter

Equidistant between the end and beginning of two trout seasons, now is a good time to review where Wisconsin Trout Unlimited has been in 1998 and where it's going in 1999.

The past year saw great strides for WTU. The "Friends of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited" program raised more money for Coldwater resource projects than ever before, and the State Council will be distributing "Friends" funds to worthwhile efforts in 1999. The new WTU website (<http://www.spacestar.net/users/lambcom/witn/index.htm/>) is up and running, and it offers great promise for both internal and external communications (you can find the minutes of the Oct. 10, 1998, State Council meeting as well as the Feb. 13, 1999, Annual Meeting agenda there).

Also, our membership is around 3,000, and our chapters are healthy and have their own set of emphases and strengths. We hope to be adding new chapters in the near future.

Our TU volunteers were active on many fronts in 1998. They worked to influence new regulations on **drainage districts, wetland rules, aquaculture and shoreland zoning**. Our members also labored to influence policies on **forest management plans and salmonid restoration**, and we have helped create better regulation of **concentrated animal feedlot operations**.

In 1998, WTU formed a special committee to study the **Trout Stamp program** administered by the Department of Natural Resources, and the committee made a number of important recommendations to help that program work better. And the State Council

developed **generic easement forms and procedures** in order to standardize our efforts to obtain **conservation easements** along trout waters.

The legislative fight over the **Sulfide Mining Moratorium Bill** (Senate Bill 3) served to galvanize Wisconsin T.U. members, and legislators around the state were peppered with calls, letters and e-mails from anglers concerned about the impact of sulfide ore mining on our Coldwater resources. We found we could act effectively when allied with others who are concerned about the environment and conservation, even when facing well-funded corporate interests and powerful politicians.

Which brings us to 1999. Where are we going, what can we do better and on what new initiatives should we should we focus? Among the things on which we should work, I believe, are:

- * developing the "Friends" program even more and pursuing other sources of funding for trout habitat improvement/restoration projects in the state;

- * creating a more orderly **budgeting procedure** so the State Council knows where it can expect to spend funds sensibly and predictably;

- * developing a **legislative/legal effort** to ensure we spend our volunteers' energy wisely rather than cause "burnout" of our members, and finding a volunteer - preferably close to the State Capitol - with legislative experience to assist us in our work for sound environmental policies;

- * finding a **Trout Stamp coordinator** to represent WTU in working with the DNR on trout stamp projects;

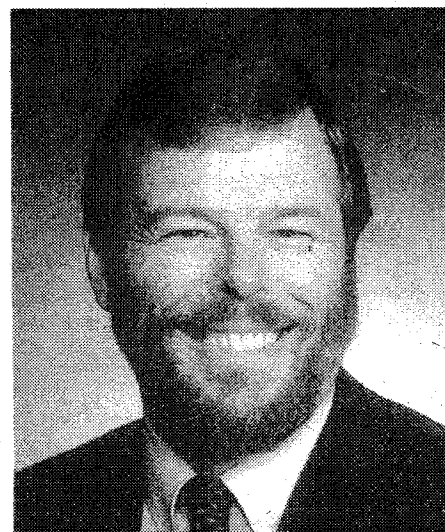
- * beginning a **Statewide Endowment** - by ourselves or in conjunction with other groups - to purchase environmentally sensitive stream properties to preserve them for the future; and

- * ensuring that **development pressures** do not lead to **reduced access** to our state's streams by procuring **conservation easements** from landowners.

Dealing with the hundreds of aging (often failing) dams on Wisconsin waters in another critical issue facing Wisconsin Trout Unlimited. Scores of these dams impound trout streams, and as part of our organization's goal to "restore... trout habitat," we must consider that restoration often means urging dam removals.

Those fights won't be easy or pleasant. At least with the removals of the **Mounds Dam** on the **Willow River** (St. Croix Co.) and the dam on **Eighteen-Mile Creek** at **Colfax** (Dunn Co.) and the restorations of those streams that once were silt-filled ponds, we're making significant progress that should provide examples for TU'ers to use in future dam removal battles.

Communications is an essential part of WTU's efforts. Every chapter should be publicizing its activities to its members and the public through a newsletter and, where needed, press releases and other media contacts. Statewide, I believe we will improve our communications as we work to broaden the base of contributors to **Wisconsin Trout** and expand the offerings on our website. As an organization, we would be wise to



John Welter

develop a thoughtful approach to disseminating the word about Wisconsin Trout Unlimited to the state's daily and weekly newspapers and electronic media.

The crucial key to making all of this happen is **YOU**. As an activist organization, TU works hard to encourage volunteers to find a niche for themselves. Some find it in on-stream work, hauling brush and rocks. Some enjoy instructing others in various angling skills or conservation principles. Others write, or would like to if the opportunity presented itself, articles or press releases, and yet other members train business personnel or solicit funds for projects.

Each of those skills can be invaluable to WTU or to your local chapter. It just takes a step to volunteer or to urge another to do so. If you're a new member, you might be surprised at how quickly you'll be welcomed aboard if you volunteer your skills.

The minutes of the October, 1998, State Council meeting briefly mention that the Council opted not to take a "Pro" or "Con" position on the renewal of the **early trout season** for future years after the three-year experimental season ends in 1999. The renewal question will be part of the agenda for the annual **Conservation Congress Fish and Game Rule hearings** held in April in every county. Everyone attending those hearings will be eligible to vote on that and other questions regardless of whether or not they are residents of the state or the county where they attend the hearing.

One rationale underlying the State Council's decision on the early season was that it allowed each chapter to decide on its own whether or not to take a position on the early trout season renewal and whether to support or oppose it. Let me make it **very clear** that TU members should **NOT** state that Wisconsin TU has taken any position - pro or con - on this matter. Members are free to express **their own position** or **their chapter's position** on this matter.

A committee will be appointed to address possible future options or adjustments to the early season. However, those potential changes will not make their way through the DNR's rule-making process in time to be considered for the 1999 hearings.

Letters to the Editor

Poaching concerns overstated

Editor, **Wisconsin Trout**;

Every so often, there is an article in this newsletter (**Wisconsin Trout**) or in sporting magazines that has a reference to poaching. The implication of such articles is that poaching is a serious problem.

A small Class I brown trout stream (**Crooked Creek**) here by **Boscobel** (Grant Co.) has been used as a "natural hatchery" to supply wild fish fry for many southern Wisconsin streams. Thousands of fish have been removed from it by DNR personnel, and that has not affected the existing trout population. The significance of this is that a small army of poachers could have been doing the removing of those trout, and

the end result would be the same.

Most of the trout that are stocked in Wisconsin streams disappear shortly after being planted. They don't show up in the harvest and aren't present when shocker surveys are conducted. Poaching of these fish would improve their utilization (note: this is an economic fact, not something that I am recommending).

In general, poaching is an irritant rather than being a serious problem. I would hope that anglers would keep this in mind when making decisions about bag limits, seasons, etc.

Sincerely,

Roger Kerr, Former Fish Manager
5388 Hwy. MS
Boscobel, WI. 53805

Whirlpool Kitchenettes

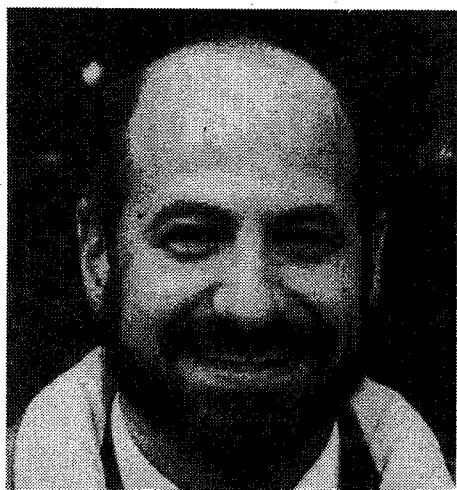
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CORRECTION

In the last issue of **Wisconsin Trout**, we mistakenly identified Rev. Spencer Black (D-Madison) with the photo of former Rep. Bill Lorge (R.-Bear Creek). The correct photo of Black is shown here.



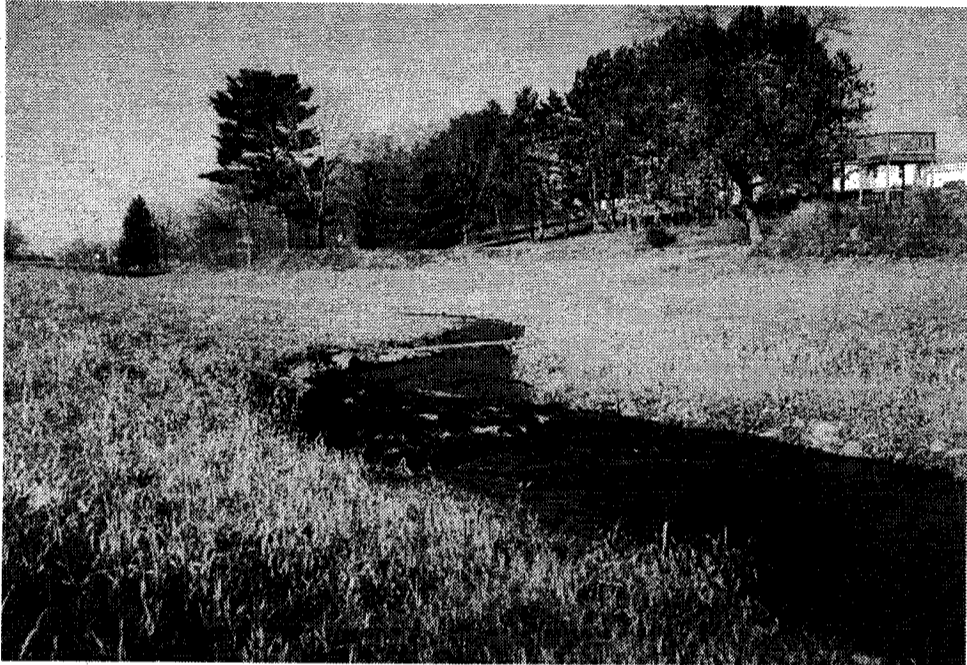
EDITOR WANTED

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited is seeking a person to assume the role of editor of **Wisconsin Trout**, as the current editor is vacating the position. Work will involve writing copy, coordinating articles with others, soliciting advertising and producing quarterly issues for distribution by **Jan. 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1**. The individual should have some background in writing and composition, and should be able to begin as early as **Feb. 1, 1999**, but no later than **July 1, 1999**. A stipend is provided for the editor.

Inquiries should be directed to Wisconsin T.U. State Council Chairman **John Welter** at (715) 833-7028, or by e-mail at jwelter@discover-net.net.



18-Mile Creek above former Colfax Dam before...



...and after stream restoration and bank stabilization.

--DNR photos

✓ Colfax Dam

Continued from Page 1

eral stream sites. On April 17th, the chapter will co-lead a community event at the County Fairgrounds to introduce the stream to residents and to give instructions on entomology, casting, fly-tying and "catch-and-release" methods.

The DNR will plant native grasses and plants in two prairie areas (four acres total), do touch-up work to the landscaping as needed and introduce more wild strain trout to the EMC.

In assessing this remarkable restoration effort, Paddock noted the following measures of success that were achieved by combined efforts:

- * aquatic habitat and natural fisheries reproduction in the creek and watershed were improved;

- * the **Dunn County Land Conservation Department** used DNR ecosystem information to apply for a habitat protection project in the EMC basin;

- * the DNR gained local landowner support for the project and dam/impoundment removal, with one landowner donating land that allowed an **800-foot increase** in the project area;

- * local interests joined in the project, and the local high school will use the project for **environmental education purposes**;

- * working relationships with the Village Board, as well as with residents and landowners, were improved;

- * the EMC restoration provides an incentive for followup **watershed/nonpoint source projects** and for control of existing sediment sources in the creek basin; and

- * the members of the **DNR Lower Chippewa Team** were brought together as a group, and a feeling of group contribution and ownership has been created.

The success story of the removal of the Colfax Dam and restoration of the stretch of Eighteen-Mile Creek affected above and below the former dam is one for which all parties - the DNR, the Village of Colfax and the Ojibseau Chapter of Trout Unlimited - should feel great pride. And it is a story that can be re-played many, many times throughout Wisconsin where aging dams on trout waters are failing, provided that the same type of dedicated and cooperative efforts are used to reclaim trout waters.



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State Council meeting in Eau Claire

The Wisconsin T.U. State Council met Oct. 10, 1998, at the Eau Claire Rod and Gun Club east of Eau Claire. About 14 of the 21 state T.U. chapters were represented.

Council chairman **John Welter** made several announcements pertaining to Trout Unlimited, including the following:

* **Sara Johnson** of the **River Alliance of Wisconsin** has been hired by T.U. National to work on chapter development issue;

* A gift of \$4,000 was bestowed upon the Wisconsin T.U. State Council by **Christine Thomas**, a professor in the **University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point College of Natural Resources**. The dollars were part of a grant awarded to Thomas to distribute for conservation purposes from the **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation**, which recognized Thomas for her efforts in creating and sustaining the "Becoming an Outdoors Woman" (B.O.W.) program at UW-SP. The \$4,000 grant directed by Wisconsin T.U. toward the Kickapoo River project in Vernon County;

* The display of the plaque received by Wisconsin T.U. earlier this year from the **Milwaukee Journal Sentinel** for its Coldwater resource conservation efforts over the years.

Following that, **John Paddock**, leader for the Department of Natural Resources' **Lower Chippewa Valley Basin Team**, detailed some of the issues pertaining to the fish kill last May in the **Parker Creek/Kinnickinnic River system** (St. Croix Co.). Paddock advised that the DNR and the local District Attorney's office had sufficient evidence to proceed with a case against the farmer from whose fields the manure runoff into Parker Creek occurred, but that they may instead try to negotiate a land and manure management plan for the farmer rather than prosecute.

After Paddock's presentation, DNR Coldwater Specialist **Larry Claggett** addressed the Council on several issues. He advised that the department had been subject to a **national review of its Coldwater fishery program** as well as audits of **Trout Stamp fund usage, segregated funds, use of National Sport Fishery Restoration funds and hatcheries**.

Claggett also noted that the five-category inland trout fishing regulations were up again for a review. While the general consensus within Fisheries is to retain all five categories, there are plans to simplify the regulations by reducing the various number of Category 5 "Special Regulations" choices from the current 40 to about eight.

Too, there may be reductions in usages of categories in various parts of the state, with the Northeast and North

Central areas looking to change the base category in counties from Category 1 (10 trout/day, no size limit) to Category 2 (five trout/day, seven-inch size limit). And, Claggett said that there would be attempts to make category regulations consistent for streams and their tributaries, unlike the current situation where restrictive regulations may exist on a main river but more liberal categories applying to tributaries.

Claggett said that Fisheries was still in the process of making proposed amendments. The final proposed revisions will be presented to the Natural Resources Board either in December, 1998, or in January, 1999, prior to inclusion as a question on the annual Conservation Congress Spring Fish and Game Rule Hearings that will be held in each county in April, 1999.

The Council members then heard from **Ted Lauf**, who chaired the Council's **Ad Hoc Trout Stamp Committee**, which was assigned the task of investigating problems with the growing surplus in the **Inland Trout Stamp fund**. The Committee produced a number of recommendations for making productive use of the surplus, including:

* Completing projects that have been held up due to the DNR's reorganization;

* Undertaking a **demonstration project** (trout habitat project) in various areas of the state; and

* Filling needed staff openings to bring the trout habitat crew to adequate levels.

The Council members later heard from **Andy Lamberson** on the creation of a State Council website.

The afternoon session was devoted to an extensive discussion about the **early trout season** and the question on the Spring, 1999, Conservation Congress agenda to continue or discontinue the special season. It was determined that there was not enough time for the Council to develop an alternative proposal that would allow fishery managers discretion in which streams would be open during the early season (as opposed to the statewide early season that exists now), and thus the question that will go before Congress attendees in Spring will be a straight "yes-or-no" vote on continuing the statewide early season.

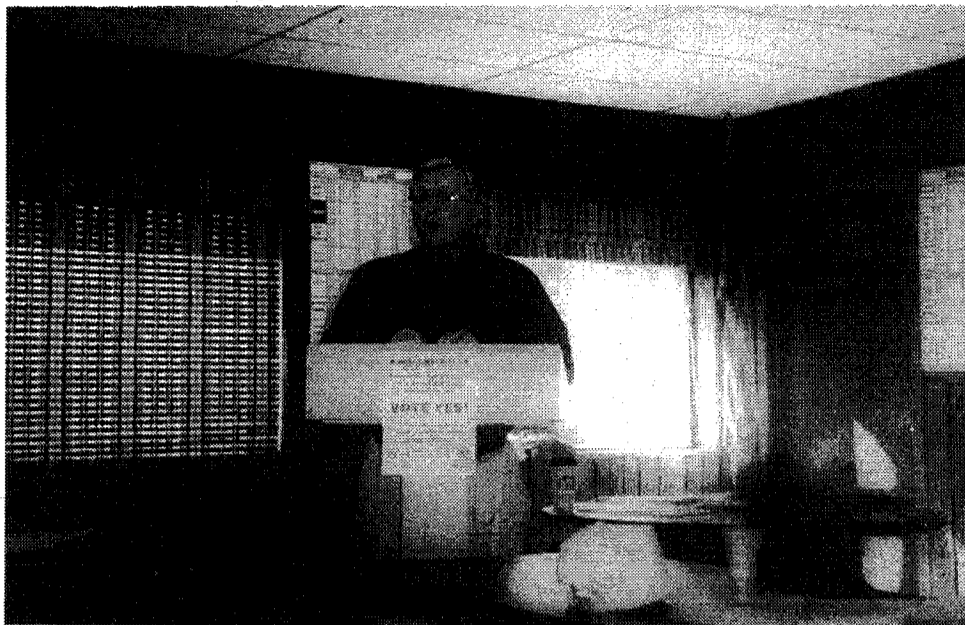
Because of the deep division that still exists among state T.U. chapters on this issue, the State Council reaffirmed its "No Position" stance on the early trout season, and individual chapters may support or oppose the early season as their memberships so deem.

Other matters brought before the Council that day included updated information about the removal of the **Oriente Dam** on Bayfield County's

Iron River, and information and a slide show by Water Resources Committee members **Gary Horvath** and **Kevin Cooley** on dam removals in the state.

The next meeting of the Wisconsin

T.U. State Council will be held on Saturday, **February 13, 1999**, at the **Oshkosh Hilton Conference Center** (see front page for details.)



Ad Hoc Trout Stamp Committee Chairman **Ted Lauf** addressed the Council on the Trout Stamp surplus.

"Duke's deadly dozen" trout flies

By John "Duke" Welter

(Ed. note: This is the third in a series of articles by Wisconsin T.U. members on their "pet" dozen flies for Wisconsin trout fishing. John Welter is the current Chairman of the Wisconsin T.U. State Council. If YOU would care to share a list of your favorite dozen trout flies, please submit that list to the Editor in timely fashion. Thank you!)

All right, turnabout is fair play. At my request, **Larry Meicher** (who fishes more in the month of June than I do in an entire season!) shared with you in the last issue of **Wisconsin Trout** his list of a dozen favorite flies, including an original pattern called the **Pass Lake Emerger** (as an aside, I've been to Pass take - it's in Ontario, gateway to the "Sleeping Giant Park" - and the natives never have heard of this family of flies!!).

Anyway, now it's payback time. It has been about 15 years since I took Larry's fly tying class through the **Southern Wisconsin T.U. Chapter**. Since then I've haunted fly shops throughout the state, the Upper Midwest and everywhere else I visit on trips. My basement walls are hung with brochures from many of those shops, with samples of their unique or particularly well done flies stuck through the paper. Ed Huega's **Artesian Green**, Dick Berge's **stonefly nymphs**, Tom Wendelburg's **X-Cricket**, **Watersmeet Hoppers** and his ubiquitous **Bullethead Hex Comparadun** - they all come in handy at certain times on certain rivers in the state.

So, I owe you my list of favorites, "Duke's Deadly Dozen," if you will. Actually, I was unable to keep the list at a dozen, so it got down to a dozen general attractors and a dozen specific patterns.

As far as attractors go, I'll separate them into dries, nymphs, wets and streamers.

Dries: **Parachute Adams**, size 18-20 (alternately tied with olive or yellow body); **Deer Hair Adams** (Wolf River Drake), 12-16; **Elk Hair** or **CDC Caddis**; **Sid Gordon's Dry Fly** (from "How to Fish from Top to Bottom"; the **Stimulator** in a variety of sizes and colors; and the **Vermont Caddis**.

This last one (Vermont Caddis) is a dandy rough-water caddis pattern, tied

on size 14-16 dry fly hooks, with an 1/8-inch tail of tan feather fibers, tan abdomen about 1/3 the hook shank, and the rest of the hook heavily hackled with ginger and grizzly. Trim the hackle flat on the bottom and even with the hook point. No wing added - I believe the hackle imitates a fluttering wing.

Nymphs: **Pheasant Tail** (tied **Frank Sawyer-style**, with copper wire doubling as tying thread); the **Wendelburg Scud**; and, **Prince** or **Brown Forked-Tail nymph**.

Wets and Streamers: **Hornberg; Muddler**; and, a version of the **Pass Lake** (16-18) tied with a herl body and mallard flank tail and wing.

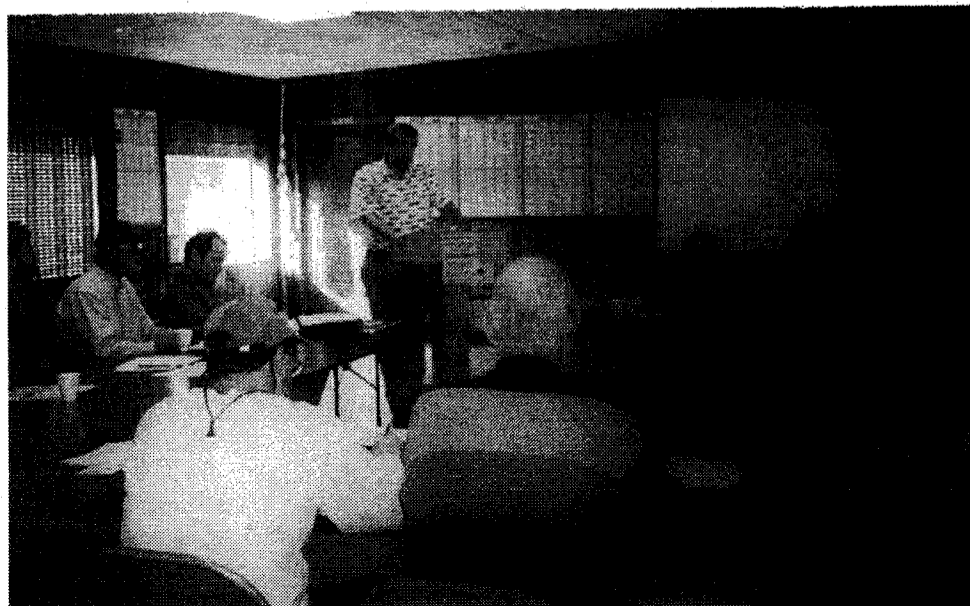
Moving along to specific imitations, I suggest you try:

Dries: **Tan Stimulator** (for size 12-14 stoneflies); **Bullethead Hex Comparadun**; **Ants** (12-22, black and cinnamon, winged or wingless); **Light Cahill** (tied Catskill-style); **LeTort Cricket**; **Joe's Hopper**; **Foam-bodied Beetle**; the **Borger Loop-wing Duns** (for specific mayflies); and the **Sparkle Comparadun Sulfur**.

Emergers: **Ross Mueller's Black Caddis** and **Blue-Wing Olive Emergers** (from his book "Upper Midwest Flies that Catch Trout").

Another fly showing promise is the **Whiskey Fly**, which was developed by Twin Cities guide **Bob Nasby**, I believe. Tied on a streamer or nymph hook (size 6-10), it has a black beadhead and body and a tail of grey Wild Turkey (hence the name) marabou, with a bit of crystal flash thrown in. I've had a shopping bag of turkey feathers in my basement for several years and had no fly "recipes" to use those feathers until now. This past season I used that fly to catch brookies, browns, walleyes, northerns, bass and crappies.

One of the interesting things I have observed about the afore-mentioned fly patterns is how many of them originated in Wisconsin. One of the reasons may be due to the fact that several notable commercial fly tying businesses began here earlier this century. With Wisconsin's huge deer population, I am convinced that Wisconsin tiers should be leading the world in deerhair fly construction and design!



Council Chairman **John Welter** presided over Oct. 10 meeting in Eau Claire.

DNR Fish Manager Profile: Dennis Scholl



Dennis Scholl

Wild and remote, northwestern Wisconsin is blessed with an abundance of warmwater lakes and a number of exceptional of Coldwater trout streams that draw anglers from all parts of the country. Careful management of these resources is an absolute necessity to ensure that these waters remain attractive to anglers. And doing his part to guarantee that these aquatic resources are maintained as high quality fisheries is **Dennis Scholl**, the Senior Fisheries Biologist for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources at the **Brule Ranger Station**.

The 44-year old Scholl graduated from Neenah High School in 1972 and attended the **University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point**, where he graduated in 1976 with a Bachelor's Degree in Fisheries Management. From there, Dennis did graduate work in fisheries at the **University of Missouri**.

His professional career began in Missouri, where he worked a year for the **Missouri Department of Conservation** on a study of river mussel species distribution, and then a short time with the **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service** in Columbia.

Dennis returned to Wisconsin in 1979 to take a temporary job with the DNR midway through a two-year study of **migratory trout** in the **Bois Brule River**. When that study was done, Scholl was hired full-time as a fish manager, remaining at the Brule station for a year before being transferred into a new fish manager post at **Mercer**. While there for 11 years, he handled fish management duties for inland waters in **Ashland** and **Iron counties**, and also performed temporary duties as the interim property manager for the **Turtle-Flambeau Flowage** after its purchase by the State.

In 1992, Dennis was transferred back to Brule, where his responsibilities now focus on the inland waters of **Bayfield** and **Douglas counties**.

Besides his local management work, Scholl has been involved in many state-wide committees to develop more effective angling regulations for several species, particularly for muskies and walleyes.

Since his return to the Brule Station, Dennis has focused much of his Coldwater fishery work on the **White River system** in Bayfield County. A lot of that work has been directed at repairing earlier habitat work that had deteriorated, with Trout Stamp dollars being spent in 1995 and 1996 to restore wide shallow areas that once were the beds of impoundments on the White.

Another big project which Dennis undertook was restoration work on the upper reaches of the **Iron River** in Bayfield County (see the Fall, 1998, issue for details). The construction of deflectors, channel constrictors and boom covers brought immediate benefits to the river, and Scholl has more

work planned for the Iron in 1999.

Problems, of course, face the Coldwater resources Dennis manages. **Beaver and beaver dams** have been on-going irritations for years, and Scholl has directed a lot of beaver trapping efforts on the main White River and its tributaries. That trapping has been aided by the **APHIS** (Animal, Plant Health Inspection Service) division of the **U.S. Department of Agriculture**.

Another problem facing Coldwater resources in his area is one that is being recognized by many other fisheries personnel, that being poorly constructed road crossings and culverts over and on trout streams.

"My eyes have been opened more and more each year to the slipshod ways that many crossings, particularly culverts, have been built," Dennis stated. "Often there is a tendency for highway departments, railroads and others to save time and money by taking shortcuts with weak designs, shoddy materials, inadequate-sized culverts and poor construction practices. Rather than doing things right the first time, they use 'quick fixes' that result in situations where road materials erode into streams and cover aquatic habitat. And there are examples where culverts end up acting as barriers to fish movements."

"We need to take a closer look at correcting the existing bad situations and do a better job of preventing new ones from occurring," he added.

Scholl has used some special angling regulations to manage the trout fisheries in his area, the most noted being on stretches of the **White River** and its **Long Lake Branch** (Bayfield Co.) that limit daily angler harvest to three fish nine inches or larger, with only one fish greater than 15 inches allowed.

Also, Dennis has applied special regs to six Bayfield County stocked trout lakes by restricting fishing to **alternate years**. Two such lakes are open on even-numbered years, and the other four are open in odd-numbered years. Angler feedback has been positive to date, and Scholl hopes to do some creel surveys on those lakes in the near future to assess those regs.

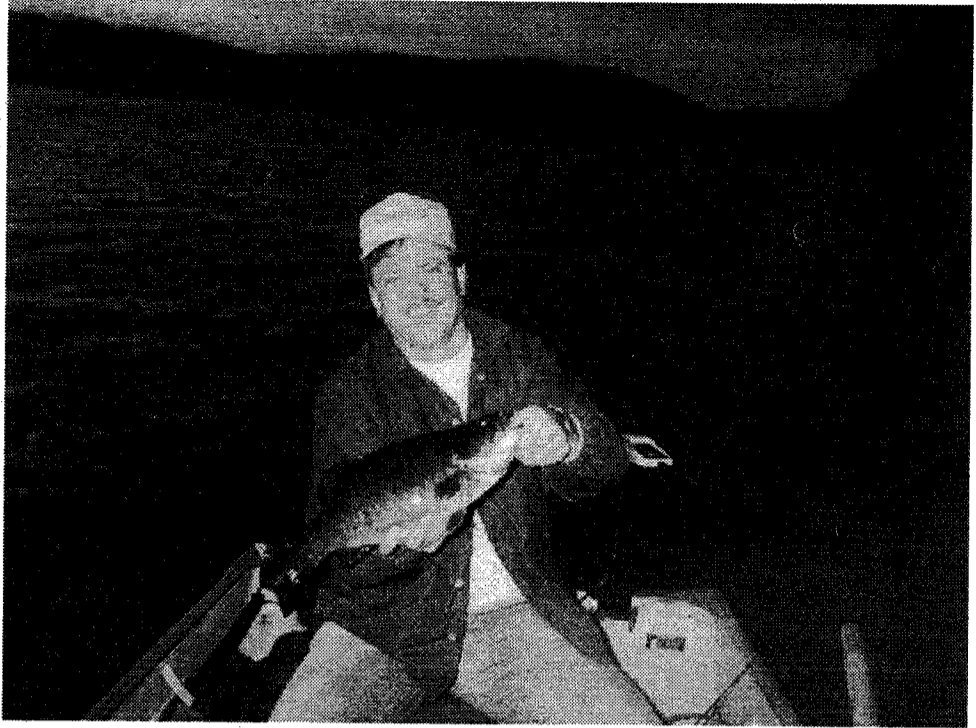
Besides the 650 miles of Coldwater streams in his area, Dennis also manages many warmwater fisheries ranging from small wilderness-type lakes to large, highly-developed lakes and lake-chains like **Lake Namekagon**, **Lake Owen** and the **Eau Claire chain of lakes**. Development of better angling regulations has been a prime focus of his in this regard.

"I've taken a lot of interest in trying to develop effective angling rules on our waters," he said. "I started with the DNR at a time when a number of states were beginning to see the folly of trying to manage diverse fisheries with over-simplified statewide regulations in the face of increasing angling pressure."

Continuing, he added, "At that time here in Wisconsin, little had been done about our regulation framework. Making changes was a slow process for several years because of reluctance not only among the public but within our own administration as well. As people have seen improvements in fishing through better regulations, it has been easier to sell them on these concepts."

"We have good regs for trout, walleyes, bass and muskies, though we still need some fine-tuning with a few of the rules," Scholl noted. "We have a long way to go on other species, particularly with regard to angler harvest on panfish and northern pike."

Dennis' free time is spent with his wife Carolyn and his two sons Lee and Carl. He enjoys fishing inland lakes and hunting for small game and deer, the latter both with gun and bow. Snorkeling



Dennis Scholl with fine smallmouth bass.

and fish observation are some of his pastimes as well, and Dennis also has taken up flying, having gotten his pilot's license two years ago.

In assessing his fishery management career to date, Scholl stated, "I hope I never lose the zeal that I had when I began with the Department. I've always

felt that I could make fishing better if I'm allowed to do the things I was trained to do. The frustrating part of the job is trying to minimize the obstacles and distractions along the way. But in spite of those things, I feel we've made progress in a lot of areas in the years I've been here."

Natural Resources Board notes

During fall, 1998, the Natural Resources Board took action on several items pertaining to Coldwater resources, including:

- * approved purchase of **127.76 acres** of land for the **Ice Age Trail** in **Portage County** that included **1,320 feet** of two-bank frontage on **Murry Creek**, a Class I trout stream forming the north fork of **Radley Creek**;

- * approved acquisition in fee title of **14 acres** and in easement of **50 acres** of land as part of the **Token Creek Restoration Project** in **Dane County**; the purchased land will be added to the Statewide Fishery Habitat Areas Program in Dane County, and the easement purchase will be part of the Statewide Easement Program and Lake Mendota Priority Watershed Project;

- * approved purchase of **160 acres** of land for the **Brule River State Forest** (Douglas Co.) that encompassed springflow, a pond and **1,700 feet** of **streamthread** feeding **St. Croix Creek**, a Class I brook trout feeder to Lake St. Croix;

- * gave approval to the Department of Natural Resources' 1999-2001 biennial budget request that calls for a net increase of **39 FTE positions**, including **12 in water regulations and shoreland**

zoning (see separate article).

The Board also gave approval to the Department to hold hearings on several clearinghouse items pertaining to trout fisheries, including:

- * defining "Lake Michigan tributaries" and "trout streams";

- * correcting the lake trout season on Lake Michigan to match the Lake Michigan regulations;

- * clarifying the intent of gear restrictions for the early catch-and-release trout season to apply while fishing for any species on all trout streams during this period;

- * modifying the hours of the early catch-and-release trout season so the season ends at 6 p.m. on the **Friday preceding the general season opener**, rather than at 4:59 a.m. on the day of the general season opener;

- * correct an omission on gear restrictions for **Upper Neenah Creek** to require artificial lures only;

- * include all waters of Jefferson County under the Category 3 trout regulations; and

- * eliminate the requirement to sign trout stamps to accommodate the new automated licensing system (see separate article).

DNR Service Center Phone Numbers

Antigo 715-627-4317
 Baldwin 715-684-2914
 Black River Falls .. 715-284-1400
 Dodgeville 608-935-3368
 Eau Claire 715-839-3700
 Fitchburg 608-275-3266
 Green Bay 920 492-5800
 Horicon 920-387-7860
 Janesville Fall, 1998
 La Crosse 608-785-9000
 Madison 608/266-2621
 Milwaukee 414-263-8500

Oshkosh 920 424-3050
 Park Falls 715-762-3204
 Peshtigo 715 582-5000
 Plymouth 920-892-8756
 Rhinelander 715-365-8900
 Spooner 715-635-2101
 Sturgeon Bay 920 746-2860
 Sturtevant 414-884-2300
 Superior 715-392-7988
 Wausau 715-359-4522
 WI Rapids 715-421-7800
 Woodruff 715-356-5211

Wisconsin Waters Initiative

Citizen action needed!

One of the top budget priorities for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in the coming biennium (1999-2000) is the **Wisconsin Waters Initiative**. This program would add **12 staff positions** to the DNR's water regulation and shoreland zoning staff, provide \$1.5 million to allow electronic access to water information and budget \$80,000 seed money to consolidate state and local permit processes.

And there is an **urgent need** for citizen action on this matter.

Eighty percent of the land along Wisconsin's lakes and rivers is in private ownership, and hundreds of thousands of water-related property development activities occur throughout the state annually. The current amount and intensity of water-related development have outstripped the abilities of state and local agencies to fulfill effectively their protective regulatory roles.

As a result, the permitting process is not working like it should, and sensitive riparian areas along lakes and **trout streams** are not receiving the protection they need. Likewise, permit applicants often experience excessive delays in receiving their permits.

Currently, 42 DNR field staffers annually work with an estimated **10,000 landowners** who consider waterway alterations, and with **500 local governments** having thousands of complex

decisions each year on floodplain, shoreland and wetland ordinances. That same staff also works with owners of Wisconsin's **3,500 or more dams**, providing technical capability for emergency response in dam breaks, floods and droughts.

Although analysis shows a shortfall of **60 full-time staff (FTE) positions** in the water regs/shoreland zoning area the DNR is asking only for 12 FTEs in order to minimize staff increases. With those 12 new positions, the DNR hopes to increase **consistency** in evaluating and approving/disapproving permits related to waterway alterations.

Since a great deal of current and potential waterway alterations have been and will be focused along **coldwater systems**, there is a need for trout anglers to join with others concerned about protecting the integrity of the state's remaining undeveloped shorelines. Conservationists are urged to submit letters supporting the **Wisconsin Waters Initiative** for the 12 additional positions in DNR for water regulations and shoreland zoning **immediately** to:

***Governor Tommy Thompson**, P.O. Box 7863, Madison, WI. 53707;

*Copies of that letter to your **State Senator** and **Assembly Representative**, and to **Secretary Mark Bugher**, Department of Administration, P.O. Box 7864, Madison, WI. 53707-7864.

License sales to be automated statewide March 15

After a test run in fall of 1998, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will incorporate a new **automated license issuance system (ALIS)** beginning March 15, 1999. License sales will be offered over the phone through a toll-free 800 number that will allow purchases to be made 24 hours a day, seven days a week. A \$3 fee will be charged for this service.

Licenses will be printed on durable, waterproof stock, and the color will change each year. There will be fewer forms to fill out, and each license location will sell a complete selection of licenses, including Patron Licenses, duplicate licenses and park sticker receipts, which currently are available only at county clerk offices or DNR stations.

The DNR will be able to implement the new system because of funds raised through an increase in hunting and fishing license fees enacted in 1997.

A Wisconsin Driver's License will continue to be the primary form of identification used to sell licenses with the new system, but each customer also will be assigned a unique **DNR Customer Identification Number** that will be accessible at any license sales site in the state. Using the customer ID number will speed future license purchases by making a computerized customer record easy and quick to find.

Additionally, new state and federal mandates require that anyone purchasing hunting and fishing licenses also must provide a social security number. The new law denies hunting and fishing privileges to anyone who is seriously

delinquent in child support payments, and the social security number is necessary to determine who is so delinquent.

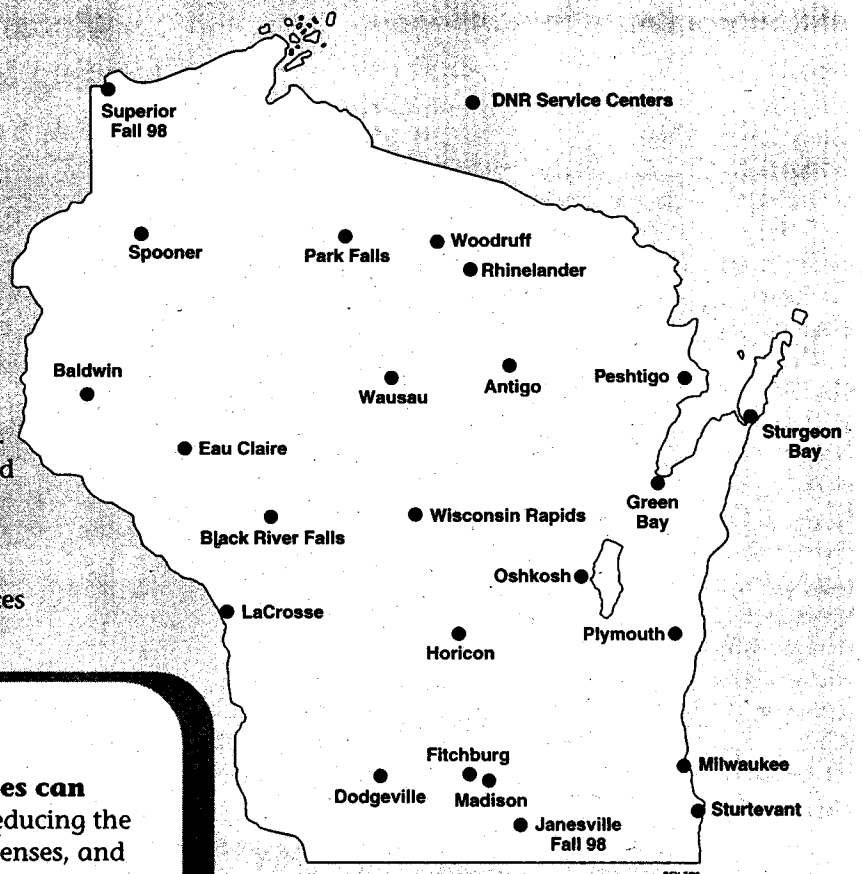
Once purchased, most license privileges sold by phone can be enjoyed immediately, as applicants will receive an authorization number over the phone enabling them to fish and hunt legally before receiving the license in the mail.

The toll-free telephone sales number was not established as this paper went to press. Those wishing to inquire about that number should call the nearest DNR Service Center for that information. Find the number of that center closest to your location in the adjacent sidebar.

For more information...

Visit or call a DNR service center*

- Customer service specialists can answer your questions, sell you licenses and put you in touch with DNR specialists in wildlife, fisheries and law enforcement.
- Extended hours at some sites during special seasons.
- Visa or MasterCard accepted for license purchases at all DNR service centers.
- Free publications about Wisconsin's natural resources and outdoor safety.



New look for licenses

Licenses sold through Wisconsin's new automated system will have a new look:

1998 A.L.I.S. LICENSE	
Expires March 31, 1999	
WISCONSIN DEPT OF NATURAL RESOURCES	
ISSUED: 3/4/98 9:16:06	AGENT: 1234567
TRAN #: 1234567	HAIR: Brwn 8' 3, 200 lbs
NAME: John Smith	Male EYES: Blue
ADDRESS: 8900 Bluegill Rd	DOB: 1/12/80
Waukeesa, WI 50000	
DL #: 123456789	
Resident Annual Fishing	\$14.00
Inland Trout Stamp	\$7.25
Signature of Applicant	
DNR CUST #: 1234567	

- **Several recreational privileges can be printed on each license**, reducing the need for you to carry multiple licenses, and eliminating the need for you to carry stamps.
- **Stamps for inland trout fishing or turkey hunting will no longer need to be attached to your license** because the stamp privilege you have purchased will be printed right on your license. If you pay for a stamp and still want to receive the actual stamp, you can get one at a DNR service center at no additional cost or through the mail for an additional fee.
- **Your customer identification number will be printed on the license.**
- Licenses will be made of sturdy, flexible, waterproof material sized to fit in your wallet. The color will change each license year.

Visit Wisconsin DNR's World Wide Web site at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us>

Call Wisconsin DNR's main Information Center in Madison at (608) 266-2621 from 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday (except on state holidays).

* See other side for DNR Service Center phone numbers.

Wisconsin Trout Unlin

ALDO LEOPOLD CHAPTER

No report

ANTIGO CHAPTER

Habitat work this past year focused on a stretch of the **East Branch Eau Claire River** east of Highway 45 upstream from **Little Chicago Road**. Antigo T.U. funded work that narrowed that stretch with wingdams and boulder retards. The chapter also assumed fuel costs for the dredging of

Markgraf Springs in the northern part of Langlade County.

The chapter's **Conservation Banquet** is slated for **Saturday, March 27th**. For ticket information, call **Scott Hendricks** at (715) 623-3867 or **Denny Orgeman** at (715) 627-7002.



Sandy Tauferner and **Rick McMonagle** of **Kinnickinnic River Land Trust** addressed **Blackhawk T.U.** in fall.

BLACKHAWK CHAPTER

Autumn meetings included programs presented by **Rich McMonagle** and **Sandy Tauferner** of the **Kinnickinnic River Land Trust (KRLT)** on the group's work to preserve the watershed of the "Kinni," and by **Craig Amacher** of **Fontana Sport Specialties** (Madison) on trout fishing in **Montana**.

Blackhawk T.U. purchased a **pneumatic nailer** to assist in the construction of **LUNKER** structures and fish cribs. The chapter also pledged **\$1,000** to the KRLT to help with acquisition of land along **Kelly Creek**, a tributary to the "Kinni."

The chapter's annual **fly-tying class** will begin in early January.



Central WI T.U.'ers assisted with stream survey on **Little Pine Creek** (Waushara Co.) in summer.

CENTRAL WISCONSIN CHAPTER

The restoration project on **Little Pine Creek** (Waushara Co.) will continue to be the focus of **Central Wisconsin T.U.'s** efforts in 1999. About half of the project has been completed to date, with chapter members removing undesirable trees and brush from streambanks and installing brush bundles to increase streamflow and deepen the channel.

Central Wisconsin T.U. hopes to

increase its workday productivity by contracting with **DNR Habitat Crews** to use their **mechanical brush wacker** to accelerate the brushing process. The chapter also plans to add **LUNKER** structures, bank covers and other in-stream devices to stabilize streambanks, and it hopes to obtain easements from landowners at the headwaters of the stream in order to return the creek to its original condition.



Tom Poullette (l) of **Central WI T.U.** examining illegal fill along **Sannes Creek** (Waupaca Co.).

The chapter gratefully received a **\$1,000 donation** from **Roy Roddewig** and **Roy Sanders** of **Freeport, Ill.**, to be used toward the **Little Pine Creek** project.

Central Wisconsin T.U. took action this past fall when alerted about placement of spoil and fill in trout spawning areas in **Sannes Creek**, near **Scandinavia** (Waupaca Co.), where the **DNR** had purchased land. A local farmer had violated a land use agreement on a right-of-way with the **DNR**

and had collapsed a culvert and covered gravel spawning redds with spoil.

Chapter members **Tom "Doc" Poullette** and **Jack Wahlers** surveyed the scene and documented the damage to the creek. When a local conservation warden declined to take action on the spill, Wahlers contacted **DNR North-east Region Director Bill Selbig**, who sent warden supervisor **Larry Kriese** to review the matter. By late October, the situation was rectified.

COULEE REGION CHAPTER

The chapter has changed the timing of its annual fund-raising banquet from spring to winter. This year's event will be held **February 23** at **Pogy's Catering** in **La Crosse**. For ticket information, contact **Cy Post** at (608) 788-1325.

Banquet profits will be directed again toward habitat restoration on **Mormon Coulee Creek** (La Crosse Co.). **Coulee Region T.U.** intends to apply for a **T.U. National Embrace-A-**

Stream grant and a local grant from the **Stry Foundation** of **La Crosse** to augment funds being used to pay for the habitat improvement work on **Mormon Coulee**.

Fall meeting programs included presentations by **Steve Winters**, proprietor of **"Sleazy Steve's Soggy Bottom Flyshop"** in **Reedsburg**, and by **DNR fishery personnel Mike Leonard** and **Dave Vetrano**.

FOX VALLEY CHAPTER

Chapter meetings in fall included presentations on **outdoor photography** by **Patrick Murray**, trout fishing on the **Wolf River** by **Wayne Anderson**, fish cooking skills by the **Culinary Program** of the **Fox Valley Technical College** and a **"Fishing**

Skills Grab Bag" night by chapter members.

Fox Valley T.U. notes with sadness that longtime chapter member **Paul Ringeisen**, who was a regular at the chapter's **Handicapped fishing outings**, passed away in September.

FRANK HORNBERG CHAPTER

Chapter elections were held in November, with **Jim Friedrich** elected to succeed **Stu Grimstad** as president. Other officers elected were: **Don Ebbers** - Vice President; **Bud Nehring** - Secretary; **Chris Holmes** - Treasurer.

Also at the November meeting, **DNR fisheries personnel Al Hauber**, **Dale Kufalk** and **Dave Paynter** discussed a number of topics, including area stream surveys and future stream improvement plans.

The chapter's stream restoration

work continued on the **Tomorrow River** near **Nelsonville**, and **Frank Hornberg T.U.** began a new project at the confluence of **Stedman Creek** and the **Tomorrow/Waupaca River**, both in **Portage County**. Winter workdays are scheduled for Jan. 16, Feb. 20 and March 20.

Also, the chapter is surveying members to gauge their satisfaction with chapter work, as well as their interests, in the hope of increasing member participation.

GREEN BAY CHAPTER

The chapter's annual **December Awards Dinner** saw the following members receive recognition: **Bruce Deuchert** (Silver Trout Award); **Dale Druckrey** (Member of the Year); and **Rick Christopherson** (President's Club). Fall meeting programs included a presentation by **DNR fishery biologist Steve Hogler** on the **Priority**

Watershed Program and steelhead fishery in the **Branch River** (Manitowoc Co.), a slide show by **Kim McCarthy** on **Idaho trout fishing**, and a program by **Wayne Anderson** on the **"Secrets of the Wolf River."**

Green Bay T.U. made the following appropriations during fall: **\$4,000** to help the **Marinette County Chapter**

United Chapter Reports

buy land along the **Wausaukee River** (Marinette Co.); **\$500** to the **River Alliance of Wisconsin** for their "20 by 2000" program (that aims to remove 20 small-head dams from Wisconsin streams by the year 2000); and **\$100** to become a contributing member of the

KIAP-TU-WISH CHAPTER

Chapter meetings in fall included an October presentation by **Mike Reiter**, chairman of the **Trout Study Committee** of the **Wisconsin Conservation Congress**, that focused on the early trout season, and a November talk by State Council chairperson **John Welter** on issues confronting Wisconsin T.U. In December **Cathy Wurzer** unveiled the rough draft cut of the chapter's educational video on the effects of **urban sprawl** on the **Kinnickinnic River**.

Kiap-TU-Wish is pursuing an opportunity with the **USGS** and the **Wisconsin DNR** to build and equip a **monitoring station** on the **Lower Kinnickinnic River** (Pierce Co.) to

LAKESHORE CHAPTER

Chapter members installed brush bundles and monitored stream flows in the **Onion River** (Sheboygan Co.) on Oct. 17. The chapter also netted **\$800** for the Onion River project with a raffle in October.

Several Lakeshore T.U.'ers took part in a **fall fishing outing** to the **Lower Oconto River** for steelhead and salmon, and some of the chapter's

MARINETTE COUNTY CHAPTER

The chapter voted to purchase **15.65 acres** of land along the **Wausaukee River** in **Athelstane** (Marinette Co.) for **\$24,000** in order to protect the land from development. Marinette County T.U. received financial help from the **Green Bay Chapter** (\$4,000) and the **Shaw-Paca Chapter** (\$1,000) for the land acquisition.

The land buy puts the chapter's cash reserves at about nil, and thus Marinette County T.U. is looking to have another successful banquet to replenish its conservation fund. The

HARRY & LAURA NOHR CHAPTER

No report

NORTHWOODS CHAPTER

The chapter reports no significant change in the DNR's position regarding removal of the **McDermott Dam** on the **Deerskin River** (Vilas Co.). They await completion of an **Environmental Impact Statement** on that proposal.

Two workdays this past summer by

OCONTO RIVER WATERSHED CHAPTER

The chapter had a busy day on October 3rd. In the morning, the chapter hosted its annual **Handicapped Fishing Outing** and lunch at **Dave Brunner's ponds** for about 50 special needs participants, and in the afternoon members stocked "**wild**" trout raised at the chapter's own hatchery into the **Oconto River**.

On Nov. 13, the chapter held its annual fall "**mini-banquet**" for mem-

OJIBLEAU CHAPTER

The chapter voted to support removal of the **Lake Como Dam** on **Duncan Creek** in **Bloomer** (Chippewa Co.). The City of Bloomer is under orders from the DNR to repair or

Fox/Wolf Basin 2000 coalition.

The chapter's annual **Conservation Banquet** will be held **Thursday, March 18**, at **The Swan Club** in **DePere**. For ticket information, call **Gary Stoychoff** at (920) 499-5307, or e-mail him at gnjstoychoff@itol.com.

determine the **nutrient load** in the **Lower St. Croix River Basin**, thus providing baseline data for the entire **Kinnickinnic Watershed**. The chapter has appropriated **\$1,000** to assist with the project.

Kiap-TU-Wish is progressing on plans with the DNR and St. Croix County to implement bank stabilization and rip-rap where the channel of the **Willow River** flows through the former **Mounds Dam impoundment**. In late September, six chapter members helped scatter-stock **10,500 brown trout** into the lower **Willow River's Main and Race branches**. This marked the 27th consecutive year that Kiap-TU-Wish assisted in this endeavor.

better fly tiers gave tying demonstrations at the annual "**Buck Fever Night**" sponsored by the **Manitowoc Fish and Game League**.

Lakeshore approved a scholarship for an area student to the "**Trees For Tomorrow**" camp in **Eagle River**. Fall meetings included a program by biologist **Mike McGill** on entomology.

chapter's spring **Conservation Banquet** is slated for Monday, **April 19, 1999**, at **Schussler's Supper Club** in **Peshtigo**. Tickets are **\$25** and can be obtained after Feb. 1 by mailing checks payable to Trout Unlimited to: **George Bereza**, 1205 Currie St., Marinette WI 54143.

Fall meetings included a program by DNR fishery biologist **Russ Heizer** on "**wild**" trout projects and a feature of the "**Water Bugs**" educational video produced by the **University of Wisconsin-Superior**.

chapter members on **Bearskin Creek** (Oneida Co.) resulted in significant deepening of the stream channel.

Northwoods T.U. donated **\$250** to the State Council's Feb. 13th Conservation Banquet. The chapter also plans two **fly-tying** seminars for winter.

bers only at **Romy's Holiday Inn** on **Kelly Lake**, netting an additional **\$1,500** for chapter projects. Chapter members **Doug and Pam McMahon** were awarded the **Golden Trout Plaque** as "Members of the Year" for their efforts on behalf of the chapter.

The tentative date for Oconto River Watershed T.U.'s annual spring banquet is **April 22nd**, also to be held at Romy's.

through the city.

Ojibleau is considering a new habitat restoration project on **Elk Creek** south of Highway 29. Chapter members have been busy contacting area **volunteer military units** and **State Department of Corrections officials** to provide labor. The chapter will contact landowners along the stream to obtain perpetual easements needed to



Shaw-Paca T.U. obtained a new easement along the **S. Br. Embarrass River** (Shawano Co.).

SHAW-PACA CHAPTER

Shaw-Paca T.U. has obtained another easement on land along the **South Branch Embarrass River** south of **Wittenberg** (Shawano Co.) for stream restoration work that will be done by the DNR in 1999. The chapter now has easements along the South Branch Embarrass where it flows through **100 acres** of land, and Shaw-Paca T.U. plans to contact more landowners along the river to extend the restoration effort.

Programs at fall meetings included a presentation by **Bruce Bushweiler** of the **Waupaca County Land & Water Conservation Department** on the county's **shoreland zoning ordinance**, and a slide show and discussion by author **Ross Mueller** on Upper Midwest trout fishing in 1998. Shaw-Paca T.U. donated **\$1,000** to the **Marinette County chapter** for land acquisition along the **Wausaukee**

undertake stream restoration work.

The chapter's December meeting entailed discussions on the restoration of **Eighteen-Mile Creek** near **Colfax** (see front page headline article), **Bear Grass Creek** (Eau Claire Co.) and **Duncan Creek** (Chippewa Co.) south of Highway 64. In January, members will hear from **Todd Jones** about back-packing trips in **Montana**.

River (Marinette Co.).

The chapter received word from DNR Warden Supervisor **Larry Kriese** from the **Northeast Region DNR office** that negotiations with the **Department of Transportation** regarding the severe erosion runoff into **Mill Creek** (Shawano Co.) that occurred last summer due to the Highway 29 road project are nearing completion and should include creation of several large **sediment traps** and maintenance plans to remove sediments over the next few years.

Shaw-Paca T.U. will offer another **fly-tying course** this winter beginning in mid-January. Contact **Larry Forden** at (715) 524-2150 for details.

The chapter's 16th annual **Conservation Banquet** is slated for Thursday, **March 25, 1999**, at **The Gathering** in **Shawano**. Tickets are **\$25** and can be obtained by calling **Mitch Bent** at (715) 524-5886.

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN CHAPTER

No report

SOUTHERN WISCONSIN CHAPTER

The chapter's members are busy preparing for their annual winter "**Ice-breaker**" event (see ad elsewhere in paper for details) to be held **Saturday, January 16, 1999**, at the **Park Ponderosa Ballroom** in **McFarland**.

Southern Wisconsin T.U. notes that the State of Wisconsin now owns the land that formed the lakebed and dam on **Token Creek** (Dane Co.). Closing ceremonies took place in December,

1998. The **Army Corps of Engineers** could provide up to **\$3 million** for restoring **Token Creek** to a top-notch trout fishery.

Fall meeting programs included **backcountry trout fishing** in the **Rocky Mountains** by **Rich Osthoff**, **bamboo rod construction** by **Don Schroeder** and trout fishing in **British Columbia** by **Steve Born** and **Jeff Smith**.

WILD RIVERS CHAPTER

No report

WISCONSIN RIVER VALLEY CHAPTER

Chapter president **Herb Hintze** reports that the chapter has met with four **aquatic biology classes** from **Wausau East** and **Athens High Schools** for projects that the students are doing in their classes. These pro-

jects involve **water quality testing**, **invertebrate and insect collections**, **fishery analysis** and other related items. Chapter members have been on-

Cont. on Page 10

Funds, manpower available for chapter projects

Two of the most important ingredients for carrying out successful stream habitat improvement projects are the "M&M" factors - **Money and Manpower**. All too often, Trout Unlimited chapters have a ready supply of only one of those two ingredients, and the projects they may attempt either languish or fall short of their potential.

But there are some innovative ways that T.U. chapters can utilize existing financial and human resources for projects, and they are listed here.

•Miller "Friends of the Field"

For the past several years now, the **Miller Brewing Company** has been funding a host of worthy conservation projects through its philanthropic arm known as the "**Friends of the Field**" (FOF). Since its inception in 1994, the FOF has contributed over **\$237,000** for conservation, habitat improvement and environmental education in 12 states. The grant money comes from annual direct donations by Miller Brewing and dues paid by more than **10,000** FOF members.

The Milwaukee-based nonprofit **Foundation for Wildlife Conservation**, acting on behalf of the FOF, reviews project proposals and awards grants. Usually, FOF grants support **cooperative projects** involving donations from businesses, major conservation organizations, government agencies and individuals.

In the latest round of grants bestowed by the FOF were two to Wisconsin-based organizations. one for **\$4,000** went to the **Peshtigo Flowages Sportsmen Society** for a walleye stocking project in the **High Falls and Caldron Falls** (Marinette Co.) flowages. The other, for **\$10,000**, went to the **Ox-Bow Sportsmen's Club** (Hilbert, WI.) to help finance construction of wetland restoration in Calumet County's **Brillion marsh**.

To inquire about applying for a "Friend of the Field" grant, direct written communication to: Miller "Friends of the Field," P.O. Box 482, Milwaukee, WI. 53201-0482.

•Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin, Inc.

The Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin, Inc. (NRFW), is a nonprofit organization which develops, promotes and funds education, restoration and management programs related to Wisconsin's natural resources. One facet of the NRFW that has been used by a variety of groups - including chapters of Trout Unlimited - is the Foundation's **Small Matching Grants Program**.

Grants awarded through this program range up to **\$1,000**, and are bestowed to nonprofit groups, governmental agencies and individuals who use the grants for the benefit of the public and who match the grant on a 1:1 basis either with funds or in-kind services. Grant recipients must submit a final written report within 60 days of the completion of the project and detail how the monies were spent and if objectives were met.

In years past, several trout habitat

improvement efforts were funded with the NRFW's help, including the dredging of **Saul Springs** (Langlade Co.), stream improvements on the **North Fork Thunder River** (Oconto Co.) and on **Ben Nutt Creek** (Sheboygan Co.), and rehabilitation work on the **West Fork Kickapoo River** (Vernon Co.).

This past year, Small Matching Grants were awarded to assist stream restoration on **Mormon Coulee Creek** (La Crosse Co.), an environmental research class for Hayward High School at the **Stress Springs** restoration site (Sawyer Co.) and enhancements on **Hatchery Creek** via the Sawyer County Land and Water Conservation Department.

Grants from the NRFW Small Matching Grants Program are approved in early February. Any T.U. chapter wishing to apply for such a grant for 1999 should call the NRFW at **(608) 266-1430** and ask for **Barb Barzen**, Program Director. Applications must be submitted by **Jan. 18, 1999**.

The NRFW also can be contacted via e-mail at: barzeb@dnr.state.wi.us. The mailing address is: NRFW, Inc., P.O. Box 129, Madison, WI. 53701.

•Wisconsin Department of Corrections

Looking to get some help in building the ever-popular **LUNKER** structures for stream restoration projects? Perhaps you need to look no further than the closest State Department of Corrections (DOC) facility.

Bea Jay Panke, DOC Project Developer, has informed **Wisconsin Trout** that many DOC institutions experience inmate idleness problems and are looking for work that the inmates can accomplish, usually on-site (i.e., at the prison location). Panke has discussed with the Department of Natural Resources the possibility of "pre-fabricating" **LUNKER** structures at the various DOC sites. If the DNR or a group like Trout Unlimited purchases the materials and delivers them to the DOC institution, inmate labor can be used to cut, pre-drill and do other needed steps in the construction of these stream devices.

The "Pre-fabbed" structures then can be picked up at the institution and delivered to stream sites for installation. A per-structure cost would need to be factored into the overall cost along with the materials, and, depending upon the DOC institution where the work would be done, Panke advises that cost could range from **\$2.50 - \$20.00 per structure**.

Panke noted that DOC institutions contacted about this possibility were **very interested** in doing this work. Trout Unlimited chapters wishing to inquire about this type of inexpensive labor for making **LUNKER** structures should contact B. J. Panke at **(608) 246-5642** or **(608) 862-1086**, or write to: B.J. Panke, Bureau of Correctional Institutions, 2917 International Lane, P.O. Box 8990, Madison, WI. 53708-8990.

DNR with a "road map" for their use in setting up future stream restoration projects.

Work on the Plover south of **Highway 29** in the **Konkel Road** area will begin next summer. And the chapter has received word from the DNR that habitat work on the **Prairie River** west of **Bloomville** (Lincoln Co.) will commence in 1999 as well.

✓Chapter reports

Continued from Page 9

hand to provide input to the students.

The chapter is starting another round of easement procurements along the **Plover River** (eastern Marathon Co.) south of **Bridge Road**, and is setting up **landowner meetings** in the process. President Hintze mapped the Plover from Highway 153 to Bridge Road this past summer to provide the

WOLF RIVER CHAPTER

No report



Ice Breaker Trout Fishing Clinic & "Trout Massacre" Banquet

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, January 15th

Trout and Chicken Dinner with A.K. Best and Dave Ruetz at the Radisson, 517 Grand Canyon Dr., Madison, WI (Dinner Ticket Drawing for Door Prizes!)

5:30 p.m. - Social hour with cash bar
7:00 p.m. - Trout and Chicken Dinner
7:30 p.m. - Fishing Stories with A.K. and Dave

Saturday January 16th

"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 Introductions
9:15 a.m. - Dave Ruetz - "Wisconsin Hatches."
10:30 a.m. - A.K. Best - "Matching The Naturals, Not The Hatch"
11:30 a.m. - Lunch (Chili & Salad bar - available for a nominal charge)
Fly Tying - Displays - Fly Casting

1:00 p.m. - Door Prizes
1:30 p.m. - A.K. Best - "Labrador Brookies & Landlocked Char"
2:30 p.m. - Dave Ruetz - "Trout Streams of Wisconsin"
3:15 p.m. - Bucket Raffles - Fly Rods - Reels - Art Work - More
3:30 p.m. - Fly Casting Clinic (weather permitting)
All times are approximate.

ADVANCE TICKET SALES

Friday Night "Trout Massacre" banquet tickets are \$18.50 each and must be purchased at least one week in advance.

Saturday "Ice Breaker" Tickets \$10.00 at the door, \$9.00 in advance. For advance tickets send a self addressed, stamped envelope with your check payable to Trout Unlimited to:

Lynn Blenker
6319 Pheasant Lane, #14
Middleton, WI 53562

For more information contact: Tom Fendrick, (608) 873-1623

Southern Wisconsin Chapter Trout Unlimited's 15th Annual

ICE BREAKER

Saturday, January 16th Doors Open at 8:30 AM, General Public Welcome.



Featuring:

A.K. Best

- Author of *A.K.'s Fly Box* and *Production Fly Tying*
- Contributor, *Fly Rod and Reel Magazine*
- Editor at Large, *The Bamboo Fly Rod*

Also Featuring:

Dave Ruetz

- Operator of Wolf River Fly Fishing School
- Montana Trout Guide
- Aquatic Biologist with Fishery



Fly Tying Demonstrations, Casting Clinic (weather permitting), Raffle Items and Door Prizes including: Quality fly rods and reels, presentation quality flies, Gromme prints, and many other items donated by area businesses. Also, a new member fly rod raffle!



Park Ponderosa Ballroom

5100 Erling Ave., McFarland, WI (608) 838-9927

8:30 AM - 4:30 PM (\$10.00 at door)

Advance Tickets \$9.00 - Send self-addressed stamped envelope with your check payable to TROUT UNLIMITED to: Lynn Blenker, 6319 Pheasant Lane, #14 Middleton, WI 53562

For more information: Call Tom Fendrick at 608/873-1623

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

Learn How To Catch Fish As Big As Your Leg!

Wisconsin Trout Stream Profile: White River

The White River of Bayfield County is one of northwestern Wisconsin's worst-kept secrets insofar as trout angling is concerned. Well-known for prolific hatches of the big *Hexagenia limbata* mayflies that stimulate large resident brown trout to go on feeding frenzies in late June and early July, the White River has become a mecca for Midwestern trout anglers, as well as others from around the country.

The main White River arises from three separate branches - the West Fork, South Fork and East Fork - near Delta in the central part of Bayfield County. Having excellent water quality and good natural reproduction of both brown and brook trout, the river flows easterly through a wild and relatively development-free part of Wisconsin before emptying into Lake Superior east of Ashland.

While warmwater lakes form the headwaters of the East and West Forks, a series of spring ponds shunts cold water into the South Fork. Four of the springs were dredged by the Department of Natural Resources in the early 1970s, providing both for increased coldwater flows to the main White River and additional living space for trout in those ponds.

The three forks of the White eventually merge into the main river just south of the point where County "H" crosses the East Fork. The river flows about two miles before coming to Pike's Bridge, which marks the start of the Category 5 "Special Regulation" section on the White. From Pike's Bridge downstream to the White River dam near the Bayfield-Ashland counties line, trout anglers are restricted to three fish daily and a nine-inch size limit, with only one trout greater than 15 inches allowed in the creel.

Above Pike's Bridge and on all three forks and spring ponds, the Category 2 regulation (five trout daily, seven-inch size limit) applies.

Below the Sutherland bridge, the White flows through the famed Bibon Swamp, a wild and roadless tract of land that has been the source of many tales of harrowing adventure. Recreational canoeers and anglers who seek a desolate fishing experience make use of this segment. This stretch is noted for the famed "Hex" hatches, but wading anglers must be wary, as the river runs deeply and swiftly in most spots.

Near the takeout point downstream from the Bibon Swamp, the Long Lake Branch joins the main White River. Also a good stream, the Long Lake Branch from Taylor Lane downstream to its confluence with the White has the same Category 5 "Special Regulation"

on it as does the main White below Pike's Bridge.

Below the Highway 63 bridge near Mason, the White still is a good fishing stream, but it gains speed as the gradient becomes steeper and has more traditional rapids and riffle areas that are attractive to anglers. It, too, is quite remote, nearly as much so as that segment flowing through Bibon Swamp.

Below the White River dam (which acts as a lamprey barrier), the river gets runs of anadromous salmon, steelhead and brown trout.

Early in 1961, the White River Public Fishing and Research Area was approved by the Wisconsin Conservation Commission (predecessor to today's Natural Resources Board), with approval for land acquisition coming in July, 1961. The first purchase occurred in January, 1962, when 1,602 acres around the South Fork headwater area was obtained. The original land acquisition goal within Public Fishing and Research Area has been reduced from 4,280 acres to 3,294.

Early on, management activities for the river included restoration of the springs area on the South Fork, which had been altered to create a private fish hatchery (called the "Delta Brook Trout Resort") prior to public ownership. The main dam at one of the ponds was removed in 1963 to return the water to its natural stream channel and to improve water temperatures. Six years later, stream habitat work was carried out by fishery management staff below a pond called "Lake Two" to improve trout habitat and stabilize eroding banks.

And, as noted earlier, several spring ponds were dredged of silt and detritus between 1971 and 1973 to improve springflow and water temperatures for the White.

During the 1990s, habitat restoration on the White again has been a focus of fisheries management. In 1994, DNR crews narrowed a large shallow flat section of the White that was the site of the largest impoundment on the river. The DNR used excelsior bales to create artificial bank cover several hundred feet long, thus cutting a deeper stream channel and creating bank cover behind the bales.

From 1995 to 1996, crews under fishery biologist Dennis Scholl (see separate article) replaced or repaired aging habitat structures in the White. And, the DNR has had a continuing program to remove beaver and their dams from the White and its tributaries in order to maintain thermal regimes and spawning sites.

As the reputation of the White River for its "Hex" hatches and large brown



Boom covers were installed in White River in 1995.

trout grew, so, too, did angling pressure. Where once anglers could fish in solitude, they now had to compete for space. And concerns over angler harvest began to mount.

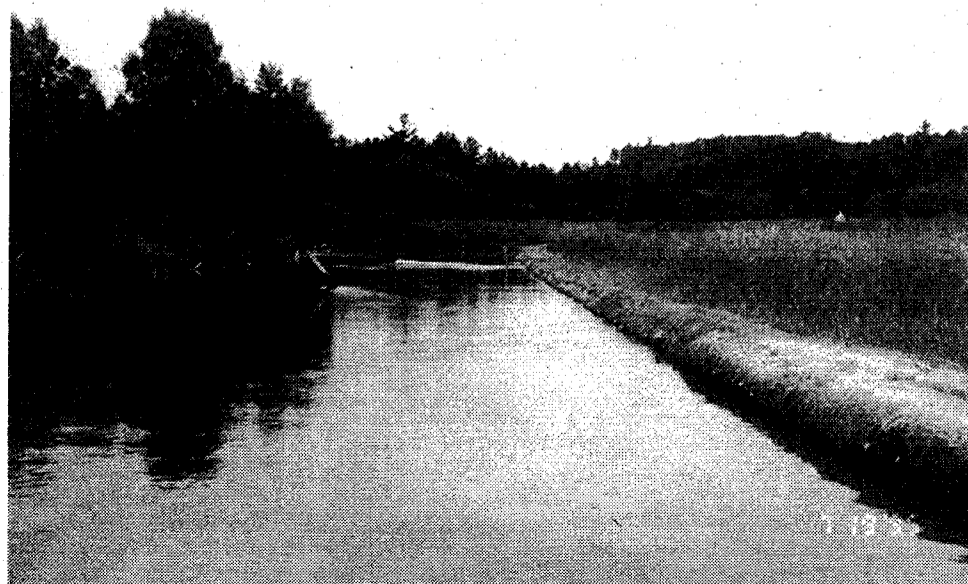
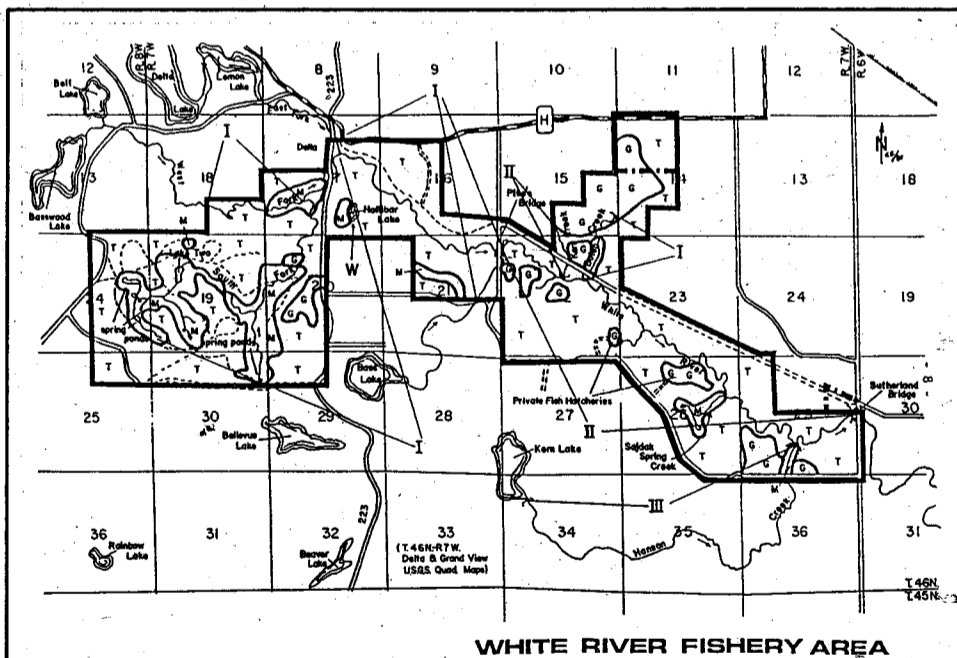
In the mid-1980s, the DNR carried out research on the White River's Bibon Swamp Natural Area to get baseline data and determine impacts of anglers on trout populations. A report in 1990 ("Research Report 150") by Ed Avery on the study done on this 21.3-mile segment of the White River showed that annual fishing pressure and angler harvests were increasing and the average size of creel brown trout was declining.

As a result of the study, the DNR recommended more restrictive harvest limits on the White and its Long Lake Branch as were described earlier. Too, the Department recommended a cessation on construction of parking facilities or public access along the river within

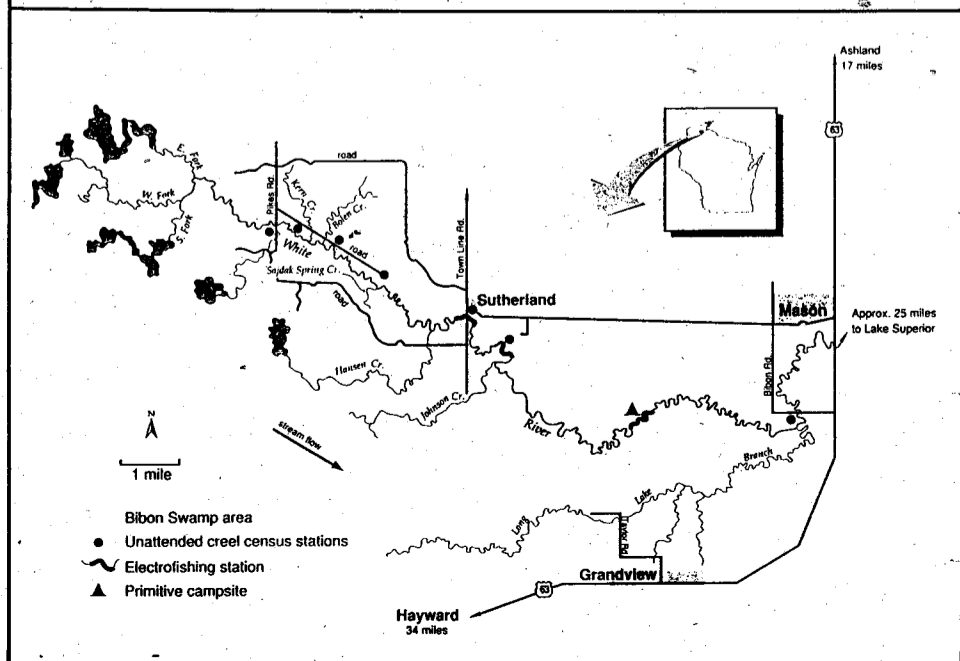
the Bibon Swamp Natural Area in order to avoid increased exploitation of a unique resource.

Trout anglers owe it to themselves to sample the special charms and wild surroundings of the White River. Populations of brook trout are increasing, thanks to beaver control and habitat work, and brown trout numbers are improving. The cold, clean waters of the White hold a cornucopia of trout food besides the "Hex" nymphs and mayflies, and visiting anglers can have a great fishing experience while trying to unravel the White's mysteries.

As with any unique and fragile resource, care and caution must be taken to avoid misuse. By limiting one's harvest, particularly of large "spawner" fish, anglers can ensure that Bayfield County's White River system will continue to produce a fishery that has the potential of rivaling anything east of Montana.



Excelsior bales were used to narrow and deepen the White River channel (1994).



Start the New Year right!

Join the "Friends of Wisconsin T.U."!

"FRIENDS OF WISCONSIN T.U."

- | | | | |
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| Mark Adams | Elm Grove, WI | Lane Kistler (*) | Milwaukee, WI |
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| Charles V. James (*) | | | |
| E.T. Juday | | | |

(N) = New "Friend" since last issue
 (R) = Renewed "Friend" since last issue
 (*) = Five (+) year "Friend"

The New Year of 1999 is at hand. Another year filled with anticipation of great trout fishing trips in the Badger State is soon to begin. Want to make the New Year - and "New Trout Fishing Year" - even better? Here's an idea - join the "Friends of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited!"

Formed in 1990, this special program of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited has funneled over \$55,000 into 31 different projects throughout the state ranging from stream habitat improvement to spring pond dredging to coldwater resource research to land acquisition to field equipment purchases.

What's so special about the "Friends" program is that it is funded mainly by average Wisconsin T.U. members, members who feel an obligation to "go the extra mile" to ensure a bright future for Wisconsin's coldwater trout fishery. Annual donations by "Friends" members of \$100 or more go into a segregated account to be used exclusively for the types of projects named above (see list of projects under map).

"Friends" members receive recognition for their contributions by being listed along with other "Friends" in four consecutive issues of **Wisconsin Trout**, the official publication of the Wisconsin T.U. State Council. And each "Friend" receives a special gift from Wisconsin T.U. for that annual gift to the "Friends" fund.

But the best part of being a "Friend of Wisconsin T.U." is the personal satisfaction one gets from knowing that they have played a part in helping to restore degraded trout streams and spring ponds in Wisconsin, to gather research data needed to better manage our coldwater resources, and to educate the public about issues affecting the health of our watersheds.

So if you want to start out the New Year right, take a moment, fill out the form below and become a "Friend of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited." Join with the others who have made a firm commitment to protect Wisconsin's wonderful trout fishery! You'll be glad you did!!



"Friends" funds were applied to project on Mormon Coulee Creek (La Crosse Co.) in 1998.

--DNR photo

FLY FISHING SCHOOL

Held during Prime Dry Fly Fishing Season
 (including Grey Drake; Brown Drake & Stone Fly Hatches)

Sponsored by: WOLF RIVER FLY SHOP

June 5 & 6, 1999

CLASSES: IN River Fishing escorted by Dave Ruetz and Wayne Anderson;
 Fly Casting - Presentation of Dries - Streamers & Nymphs

Dave Ruetz, Aquatic Biologist, Director of Schools in Montana and Wyoming for the FFF and TU Conclaves.

Wayne Anderson, Wolf River expert, Articles in Wisconsin Outdoors, ESPN appearance, and audio tape.

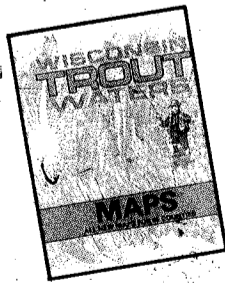
Limited Enrollment - Brochures Available

For information write: Bob Talasek
 6442 N. Atwahl Drive, Glendale, WI 53209
 (414-352-6483)

School Held at: WOLF RIVER FLY SHOP (on the Wolf River)
 N4216 Rocky Rips Rd.
 White Lake, WI 54491-9718

(NOTE: Free Fishing Weekend - NO license required)

WISCONSIN TROUT WATERS



TROUT FISHERMAN'S DREAM BOOK

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, in its efforts to catalog the abundant resources of the state, keep track of trout success throughout Wisconsin. This information has been transferred to the maps included in this publication. These access maps indicate the best producing trout streams in the state.

60 Pages \$1.50 per book.
 \$12.95 each for shipping

CLARKSON MAP CO.

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Visit the Sportsmen's Center at

Mike's Mobil Service

New for '99 are: Fenwick rods, waders, vests, custom nets by Neil Sandvige, custom rods by Jim Curry, and quality flies by Jim Curry and other tyers.

Mike's purchased the inventory of the former **Fishful Thinking Fly Shop** and moved it to **Mike's Mobil** at the Highway 55-64 junction along the famous **Wolf River**. Stop in and have a look!

Kickapoo Project update

By Laura Hewitt

Since the last issue of the paper, there has been a lot of activity occurring with the project, and here is a synopsis of things since summer.

Super season for stream work!

It was an incredibly busy season for stream habitat restoration work. In fact, some of the work planned for 1998 had to be postponed until 1999, because quarries were short of rock! Here's a quick rundown of projects in the Valley:

Reads Creek - Work was done on two properties to restore a healthy brook trout fishery, and a third will be done in spring. When finished, we will have 2,300 feet of rip-rap placed on 34 sites and over 50 LUNKER structures, boulder retards and vortex weirs installed, at a total cost of \$53,000 that came from a variety of sources.

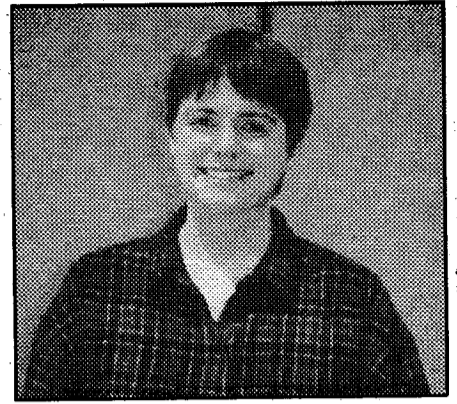
West Fork Kickapoo River - The West Fork Sportsmen's Club completed over 1,100 feet of rip-rap and installed 25 LUNKERS on eight sites on the Wahl property at a cost of \$46,000.

Billings Creek - This stream received a great deal of attention in 1998, with over 23 sites on four properties receiving 2,600 feet of rip-rap, 46 LUNKERS and several Hewitt ramps.

Morris Creek - One project was completed entailing 1,200 feet of rip-rap and 40 LUNKERS at 14 sites.

Plum Creek - The Prairie du Chien Sports Club got its feet wet in 1998 on this Crawford County brook trout stream, building 26 LUNKERS that will be installed in spring.

For next year, we have additional work on Billings Creek (about 17 sites with 48 LUNKERS and other habitat devices estimated to cost \$85,000),



Warner Creek (over 1,500 feet of rip-rap and 34 LUNKERS costing \$34,000), Seas Branch and Nederlo Creek.

Education and Monitoring Coordinator

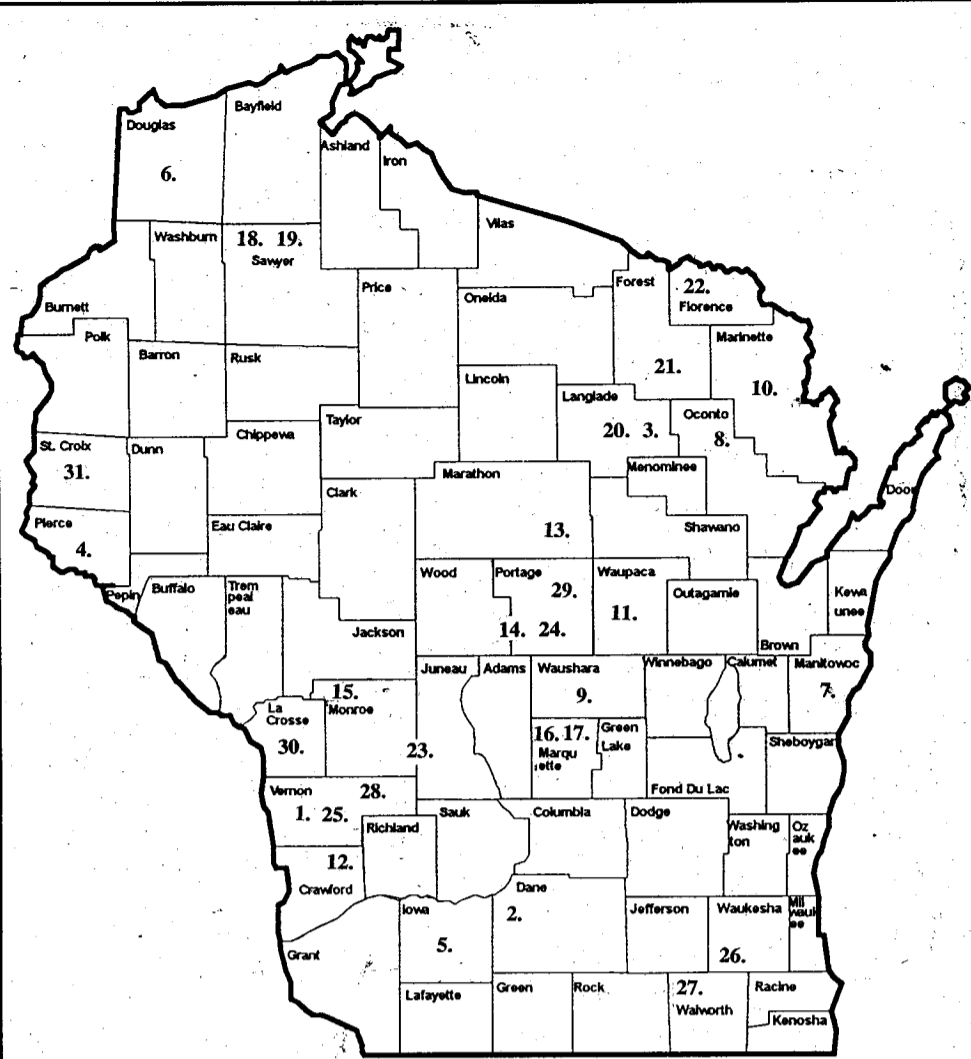
The Kickapoo Valley Project hired Barb Schieffer to fill the education and monitoring coordinator post vacated by Tina Hirsch. She is a graduate of UW-Milwaukee with experience as a teacher and a naturalist (most recently at Wildcat Mountain State Park).

Second monitoring training session

A second monitoring training session for citizens was held September 26, 1998, at the West Fork Sports Club. We now have about 16 monitor groups involving over 20 citizens.

Kickapoo on TV!

The ESPN2 "Trout Unlimited on TV" series aired a half-hour special on December 23, 1998, on the Kickapoo River and the conservation project on its watershed.



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 Co.)
11. \$7,000 - to purchase a "Rotary Screw Fish Trap" for DNR Coldwater research
12. \$3,000 - to fund stream improvements and riparian protection in and along streams of Middle Kickapoo River watershed. (Vernon and Crawford counties)
13. \$1,000 - to help fund instream habitat work in the Plover River (Marathon Co.)
14. \$551 - to help purchase recording thermographs to monitor thermal regimes in trout streams in the Buena Vista and Leola marshes (Portage, Wood, Adams counties)
15. \$3,371 - for installing bank cover and closing side channels in Sand Creek (Jackson and Monroe counties)
16. \$3,296 - to continue and extend stream bank brushing along Chaffee Creek (Marquette Co.)
17. \$1,000 - to continue population and movement studies of brown trout in the Mecan River (Marquette County) for potential stream re-classification
18. \$1,700 - to conduct followup surveys on

- "wild" brown trout in the Namekagon River (Sawyer/Bayfield counties)
19. \$2,000 - to conduct studies of fall movements and concentrations of spawning "wild" brood fish in the Namekagon River (Sawyer/Bayfield counties) for capture and use in raising "wild" trout for the river
 20. \$1,000 - to assist with the third year of dredging silt and detritus from Elton Springs (Langlade Co.)
 21. \$1,000 - for stream brushing, debris removal and brush bundle installation in Swanson Creek (Forest County), a tributary to the Rat River
 22. \$500 - for building a sand/sediment trap in Wisconsin Creek (Florence County), a tributary to the boundary Brule River, to enhance trout spawning potential
 23. \$2,750 - to purchase materials for fencing projects approved under the "Streambank Easement Program" (part of the state's "Stewardship Program") for the Wisconsin Rapids area; and for fencing materials for the Little Lemonweir River project (Monroe Co.)
 24. \$350 - to conduct trout population studies in the lateral "ditches" listed as trout waters (Portage, Wood and Adams counties) that are under threat from agricultural/cranberry operation encroachment
 25. \$250 - toward habitat work on the West Fork Kickapoo River (Vernon and Crawford counties)
 26. \$2,000 - to fund dredging (silt/debris removal) from McClintock Springs (Waukesha Co.) in the southern unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest
 27. \$2,000 - to create overhead bank cover in and remove beaver dams from Whitewater/Bluff Creek (Walworth Co.)
 28. \$2,000 - for stream improvements in Billings Creek (Vernon Co.)
 29. \$1,500 - for materials for in-stream structures in the Tomorrow River (Portage Co.)
 30. \$2,500 - for stream restoration in Mormon Coulee Creek (La Crosse Co.)
 31. \$1,500 - to assist in production of an educational video on development impacts along the Kinnickinnic River (St. Croix and Pierce cos.)

Stewardship Network to meet

A luncheon address by Christine Thomas, Professor of Resource Management at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, will highlight a weekend long meeting of the Stewardship Network on Jan. 29-30 at the Stevens Point Best Western Motel. The two-day meeting will feature a Friday night dinner and discussion with the Wisconsin Conservation Congress Executive Committee, and Saturday training and strategy sessions with State Senator Kevin Shibilski (D.-Amherst), Assemblyperson DuWayne Johnsrud (R.-Eastman) and former Public Intervenor Tom Dawson.

The Stewardship Network (SN) is a loose coalition of environmental, conservation and sportsperson's clubs in Wisconsin that serves to inform participating member organizations about legislation and administrative rules impacting natural resource protection in the Badger State.

In the past year, the SN successfully

worked to secure passage of the Sulfide Mining Moratorium Bill (SB 3) by the Legislature and to have the bill signed into law by the governor. Efforts also were made by the SN to:

- * Restore the independence of the Department of Natural Resources and return the office of Public Intervenor to its former autonomous post within the State Justice Department;
- * Protect natural shorelands; and
- * Halt factory farming.

The Saturday meeting will run from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., with focus on a variety of issues including renewal of the "Stewardship Fund" and enforcement of the Sulfide Mining Moratorium Law. Suggested registration fee is \$20 to cover costs of lunch, child care and miscellaneous expenses. For more information on the Friday evening dinner and Saturday meeting and training sessions, call Thor Backus at (608) 251-7020, or e-mail him at tbackus@itis.com.

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Wisconsin goes "Wild"!

Namekagon River (Hayward area)

(Ed. note: This is the fourth in a series of articles about efforts by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and groups like Trout Unlimited to improve the genetic strains of trout stocked into state streams through use of "wild" strains of trout instead of traditional domestic strains. Information for this article was supplied by DNR Fishery Biologist Frank Pratt DNR Station.)

The "wild" trout project on northwestern Wisconsin's famed **Namekagon River** began in the fall of 1993 when Department of Natural Resources fishery crews under the direction of fishery biologist **Frank Pratt** electroshocked the **Lenroot section** of the Namekagon to obtain wild brown trout for the preliminary phase of the **Wild Trout Project**. The crew caught about 40 large, wild brood fish and transported them to "temporary housing" at the **Bayfield Hatchery**. Three ripe female browns and two mature males were stripped of eggs and milt, respectively, and the fertilized eggs were stored, hatched and raised by the DNR with minimum human contact for about 18 months. The brood stock were returned unharmed to their parent stream section.

Hatchery survival of the "wild" browns was good, and about 2,100 "wild" yearling browns were scatter-stocked by the DNR back into the **Phipps section** of the Namekagon in April, 1995. In order to do a proper comparison study of survival rates of stocked trout in that section, the DNR also stocked equal cohorts of Wisconsin domestic-strain browns at the same time and in the same location.

One domestic group had been reared under typical high human contact hatchery conditions, and the other domestic group - termed "optimum domestic" - was raised under the same minimal human contact conditions as were the "wild" strain trout. Each group was given a distinctive "fin-clip" in order to differentiate them during follow-up evaluation studies.

Pratt's group had an underlying hypothesis for the study, that "wild" strain fish would out-survive domestic strains, because survival has a strong **genetic base**. Hatchery rearing conditions were considered relatively unimportant.

The DNR crew conducted a creel

census in 1995 and carried out electroshocking surveys of the river's trout population in August of 1995, 1997 and 1998 (first, third and fourth years, respectively). Data on trout survival showed conclusively that "wild" strain trout would survive longer and better than domestic strains.

By August of the first year, the "wild" strain browns outsurvived the two domestic cohorts by rates of two-to-one and five-to-one, and they accounted for about half the total trout population, thus highlighting the clear superiority of "wild" strain trout. For domestic fish, rearing conditions did not improve survivability, as the "optimum" cohort (which began with larger-sized fish) exhibited even poorer survival rates than did the "typical" hatchery fish.

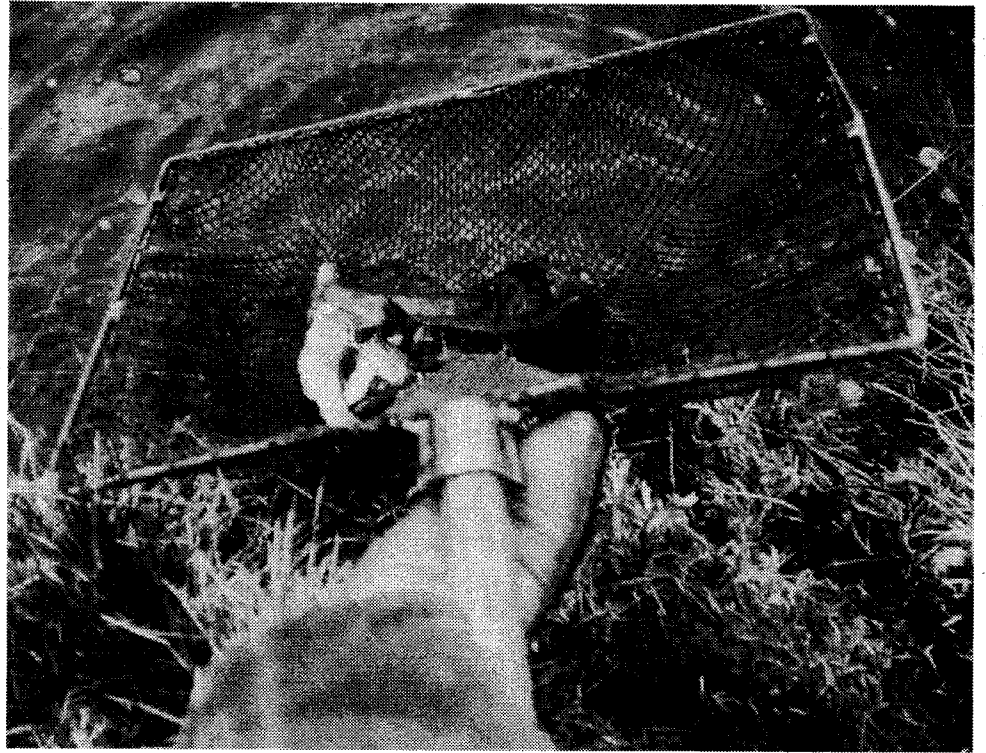
Some logistical problems began to occur with the Wild Trout Program. Obtaining ripe brood fish in sufficient numbers was very labor intensive and difficult. Finding mature males was harder to do than capturing ripe females. Spawning areas were variable, spread out over long segments of river and hard to locate.

Some unanticipated ecological problems arose as well. The trout population in the Phipps study section was showing signs of severe stress bordering on collapse. Trout reproduction was low and declining, and the adult brood population had fallen to critically low levels. Had it not been for the fortuitous timing of 1995 stocking of "wild" trout, a total collapse of the trout population may have occurred.

This elevated the importance of the Wild Trout Program study from pure scientific curiosity to critical rehabilitation and restoration.

Based upon the success of reintroductions of "wild" brown trout at other sites and the availability of an abundant population of young trout in two upstream reaches (**Lenroot and Cable**), Pratt and his crew decided to modify the Wild Trout Project by ceasing use of the rearing/stocking approach and instead implementing use of **field transfers**, i.e., relocating wild browns from parts of the river with robust populations into the threatened population at Phipps.

The advantages of field transfers over hatchery rearing included more immediate results without the time lag for rearing, greater genetic diversity, a



"Wild" brown trout re-stocked into **Phipps** section of the Namekagon.

--DNR photo



DNR fishery biologist **Frank Pratt** and crew shocking **Namekagon River** for wild trout brood stock.

--DNR Photo



Large Namekagon brown trout used as "brood stock" for Wild Trout Project.

--DNR Photo

wider range of sizes and age classes and retention of whatever "wild stream smarts" that might be attributable to fish that are born and bred in the river.

The field transfer stage began in fall of 1998, with Pratt's crew relocating **250 browns** into the Phipps section of the Namekagon. Most of the trout were young-of-the-year from the 1998 year class of trout and yearlings from 1997, along with a few larger, older trout up to 12 inches. The field transfers will be repeated in 1999, with evaluations to be ongoing. **Wisconsin Trout Unlimited** has helped fund the current stages of this program with **\$2,700** from the "Friends of Wisconsin T.U." program.

Trout angling will be restricted to "catch-and-release" fishing starting in 1999. Voluntary "catch-and-release" was encouraged quite strongly in 1998. Professional opinion is that there are too few wild trout in the Phipps section to risk any kind of harvest, even though

Namekagon anglers already voluntarily release two-thirds of trout caught. With fewer than 50 brood fish remaining in the Phipps section, total protection is in order.

The DNR studies show that other sections of the Namekagon are in good shape, especially for small trout and very large ones. There was poor streamwide trout recruitment in 1994 and 1995, and this explains the temporary lack of 10-15 inch browns which made the river famous.

In the Lenroot section, the population of large (15-plus inches) is at its highest level since studies began in 1981. According to Pratt, "This stream can support as many as 30-35 large browns per mile, and the Lenroot section is at that capacity right now. The immediate goal of our **wild trout reintroduction program** is to restore the Phipps section back to similar levels of production."

Crandon mine update

Nicolet Minerals initiates legal action against township

The Board of Supervisors of Forest County's **Township of Nashville** voted unanimously September 22, 1998, to rescind the multi-million dollar "local agreement" negotiated between the previous town board and **Crandon Mining Company (CMC)** in December 1996, setting the stage for legal action to be taken against the Township by **Nicolet Minerals Company**, the new name for the partnership of **Rio Algom, Ltd.**, of Ontario, Canada, and **Exxon Minerals Company**, which seeks to mine the gold-silver-zinc-copper sulfide ore lode in Forest County near the headwaters of the **Wolf River**.

Despite news last January that Exxon had "pulled out" of the mining venture, records show that the company still owns a 2.5 percent stake in any profits derived from the mine, should it become operational.

Citizen anger over the previous Nashville Town Board's approval of the so-called "local agreement" between the township and CMC resulted in voters ousting the old town board and electing new supervisors opposed to the Crandon mine in the April, 1997, elections.

Under the negotiated settlement (a.k.a. "local agreement") made by the old town board and CMC/Exxon, CMC/Exxon would pay the town \$100,000 after the deal was signed, at least five annual payments of \$120,000 during construction of the mine, about \$500,000 for legal expenses and \$4 million in special tax payments.

In return, the township would agree to support the mine. If it decided later to change its position on the mine, it would be subject to legal action. Environmentalists have charged that such "local

agreements" amount to little more than extortion.

Late in fall, Nicolet Minerals filed a **notice of claim**, which provides a 120-day time period for the township to consider the actions it took on the agreements September 22, 1998, before the company would launch legal action. Nashville Township is being represented by the Madison law firm of **Stoddard and Garvey**.

Environmentalists seek mining rules, "disaster fund"

In September, 1998, representatives of the **Sierra Club** and **Wisconsin's Environmental Decade** held a press conference requesting that the Department of Natural Resources set additional rules to carry out the intent of the **Sulfide Mining Moratorium Bill** (Senate Bill 3) that was passed by the Legislature and signed into law in 1998.

The two groups objected to the fact that, although SB 3 states that no sulfide ore mine can be permitted in Wisconsin until applicants can provide an example of a similar mine in North America that did not harm surface or ground waters, the permitting process for the Crandon mine continues even though the applicant - **Nicolet Minerals Company** - has not produced an example of such a mine.

However, the DNR (now a political agency subservient to the sitting governor) says that SB 3 "is clear" and does not need additional rules for implementation.

In a related matter, two environmental champions in the Legislature - **Rep. Spencer Black** (D.-Madison) and **State Senator Alice Clausing** (D.-Menom-



The Wolf River is still threatened by the Crandon mine.

inie) sent a sharply worded letter to Governor Thompson in late September, 1998, requesting that he cease his administration's delay in establishing the **Mine Emergency Disaster Fund**, which sets up an irrevocable trust to be used to handle emergencies associated with any disasters stemming from mining operations in the state.

Black and Clausing stated that Thompson's continued delays in implementing the fund "put both taxpayers and the environment at risk." The Mine Emergency Disaster Fund was first proposed July 10, 1996, through a petition

submitted to the DNR. The proposal then was modified by the Senate Agriculture and Environment Committee on December 18, 1997, to require a fee of **\$2 per ton** on hazardous mining waste, and adopted on a 4-1 vote.

The DNR originally endorsed the modified rule, but implementation of the rule was delayed when mining companies objected. The rule then was scheduled for the April, 1998, Natural Resources Board meeting, but was removed from the agenda prior to the meeting. It has yet to be brought before the NRB.

Metallic mining information on DNR website

A new website page has been developed to offer people fast, easy access to information about the way Wisconsin regulates metallic mines and to periodic updates of the Department of Natural Resources' review of the proposed gold-silver-zinc-copper sulfide ore mine by **Nicolet Minerals Company** near the **Wolf River headwaters** in Forest County.

The page is accessible from the DNR Web home page, <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us>, by clicking on the "Environmental Protection," "Land," and then the "Metallic Mining" buttons.

Wisconsin has no metallic mines in operation now, but Nicolet Minerals Company (a partnership of **Rio Algom, Ltd.**, of Canada and **Exxon Minerals Company**) is seeking permits to operate an underground mine five miles south of Crandon.

Under state law, the DNR is the pri-

mary agency charged with regulating mining activities. Most agency work involves reviewing mining permit applications, assuring that a proposed mine will comply with all environmental protection requirements and, if a mine is approved, monitoring construction, mining and reclamation activities.

The DNR mining page also provides links to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Web sites pertaining to those agencies' review of the proposed Crandon mine.

Once Nicolet Minerals Company details all applicable mining proposal changes, the web page will carry a summary of those changes. Some changes the company has announced include performing subsurface grouting to reduce the flow of groundwater into the mine, removing pyrite from the mine tailings that would be stored in the tailings management area, adding cement

to the of paste" backfill before returning the pyrite to mined-out areas and discharging treated mine wastewater into groundwater seepage cells in the general area of the mine rather than into the Wisconsin River.

More information will be added to the page as it becomes available, including the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. For more information on the DNR's metallic mining web site, call Dave Kunelius at (715) 365-8924.

T.U. National notes

Among the latest important bits of information from Trout Unlimited via its "Lines to Leaders" letter are the following:

T.U. TV reaches one million viewers

The Trout Unlimited TV series that premiered in October, 1998, on ESPN2 attracted a cumulative audience of **one million viewers** in the first five half-hour shows, according to Nielsen Media Research data. The 13-episode series ended Dec. 31, and included a show on the **Kickapoo River** and its associated watershed project in Wisconsin.

Stocking stats

Trout Unlimited asked the fisheries administrators of all 50 states to provide information on their levels of **trout stocking** in 1997. The survey concentrated on inland, non-migratory salmonids only.

Forty-four states responded and indicated that more than **140 million trout** (weighing more than 22 million pounds) were stocked nationwide by state resource agencies. Additionally, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service pro-

duced more than **75 million trout** weighing more than three million pounds. All told, the vast majority of trout production (79 percent in biomass) was for catchable-sized trout, which ranged from a minimum of six inches in some states to a minimum of 12 inches in others.

These and other facts about trout production and stocking should be available on T.U.'s Website. For more information, contact **John Epifanio**, T.U.'s Conservation Geneticist, at (703) 284-9415, or at jepifanio@tu.org.

TROUT back-issues

Back-issues of **TROUT** magazine are available to T.U. chapters and State Councils for free to distribute at sport shows and other events. Backissues come in cartons of 50 and are shipped directly from the magazine's printer in Salem, Ill.

Single copies are not available, and the minimum order is 20 copies. To order, contact Christine Arena at (703) 284-9400, or at carena@tu.org. You must provide the quantity desired and a shipping address that can receive UPS deliveries.



Council to hold annual Awards Banquet Feb. 13

See YOU at the Oshkosh Hilton!

The 14th Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited Conservation Awards Banquet is all set for Saturday, Feb. 13, 1999, at the **Oshkosh Hilton**, 1 North Main Street, Oshkosh. Seating is limited, and Wisconsin T.U. encourages its members to attend the banquet. Only a **very limited** number of tickets will be sold at the door.

The banquet presents the opportunity for Wisconsin T.U. to honor those who have excelled in protecting, restoring and maintaining the Badger State's precious coldwater resources, and it also is the major fund-raising event during the year for the State Council.

As in past years, there will be an exciting array of door prizes, raffle prizes and auction items, including sporting equipment, fly and spinning

rods, limited edition artwork, custom crafts and more. Dinner will be the usual buffet-style meal with several entrees and a delicious assortment of salads and desserts available.

Doors open at 5 p.m. with a cash bar, and dinner begins at 6:30. Tickets are priced at **\$30** and may be obtained by using the ticket order form below. Banquet attendees from recent years have received their ticket order forms in the mail.

Ticket orders postmarked by **January 25, 1999**, will be eligible for the special "Early Bird" raffle of **\$200 cash**.

Donations of cash and merchandise are needed for the banquet and are much appreciated. Original carvings and custom-made fly selections always have

great appeal on both the Live and Silent Auctions. Other attractive items include custom-made rods and nets and unique craftworks. All contributors are duly recognized by the Council for their support of the Conservation Awards Banquet.

All contributions should be sent to **Forrest Grulke** at the address listed below. If there are questions, call him at **(920) 406-1394**.

The mid-February Wisconsin T.U. State Council Conservation Awards Banquet is a great time to break up winter's dull routine. It gives you a chance

to renew old friendships and make new acquaintances, and also to support Wisconsin T.U.'s efforts for the coming year.

Use the moment **NOW** to fill out the ticket order form below and reserve your place at the 14th Wisconsin T.U. State Council Conservation Awards Banquet. Persons wishing to stay overnight at the Hilton may reserve rooms at the special Trout Unlimited rate of **\$70** by calling **(920) 231-5000**.

We'll look forward to seeing **YOU** on Feb. 13th at the Oshkosh Hilton!

State Council e-mail list

The Wisconsin Trout Unlimited State Council wishes to compile an **e-mail list** of its members so that alerts on important issues affecting the coldwater resource can be sent quickly and efficiently.

Below is the State Council e-mail contact form you can use to get on the

Council's e-mail list. Please send the information to State Council e-mail coordinator **John Cantwell**, 3725 Ken Ridge Lane, Green Bay, WI 54313. Or contact him at the following sources: Phone - (920) 865-4441; Fax - (920) 865-4442; e-mail address - JohnC3989@aol.com.

T.U. State Council electronic mail contact form: This list like all other T.U. lists will remain confidential.

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Wisconsin Trout

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited

Spring 1999

National Forest trout waters undergo repair *Roads, culverts harming streams and ponds*

The largest block of public land in Wisconsin is in the combined **Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest (CNNF)**. Within that huge chunk of real estate, particularly in the Nicolet Unit, are hundreds and hundreds of miles of trout streams and many spring ponds. These waters provide tremendous recreational opportunities for many trout anglers.

While the trout waters within the CNNF are thought to be some of the finest ones around, they have suffered - as have trout streams everywhere - from a variety of ills. Log drives in the last century scoured river bottoms and gouged streambanks, harming instream aquatic life and riparian zones. Increased beaver populations over the past 40 years have dammed small tributaries that feed life-sustaining cold water into the major rivers.

But another problem of more recent origin harmful to CNNF trout streams is that of **poorly-designed and installed road and culvert crossings**. Studies by staff biologists in both the Chequa-

megon Forest (CF) and the Nicolet Forest (NF) illuminated these problems, and efforts are underway at last to rectify matters.

Gary Zimmer, biologist with the **Lakewood Ranger District** of the NF, brought this problem to the attention of the eight **Northeastern Wisconsin Region** Wisconsin Trout Unlimited chapters in December, 1997, at the Region's semi-annual meeting. He told chapter representatives that his peers in the CF had done surveys of road and culvert crossings in that unit a few years back and had found some major problems accruing to trout streams because of roads and culverts that had not been installed properly.

Zimmer asked the chapters to provide **\$6,000** to assist with a similar survey on NF roads and culverts, and four chapters - **Green Bay, Marinette County, Oconto River Watershed and Shaw-Paca** - approved the requested funds. With that grant from T.U., Zimmer and his crew of summer help examined road crossings in the southern

half of the NF Unit in 1998, and the data they found provided some startling information, as well as answers to why some trout waters were not producing fish as would be expected.

Over **37 percent** of all crossings were posing **moderate to extreme problems** to trout streams in that area of the Nicolet. Not only streams, but spring ponds as well were being impacted.

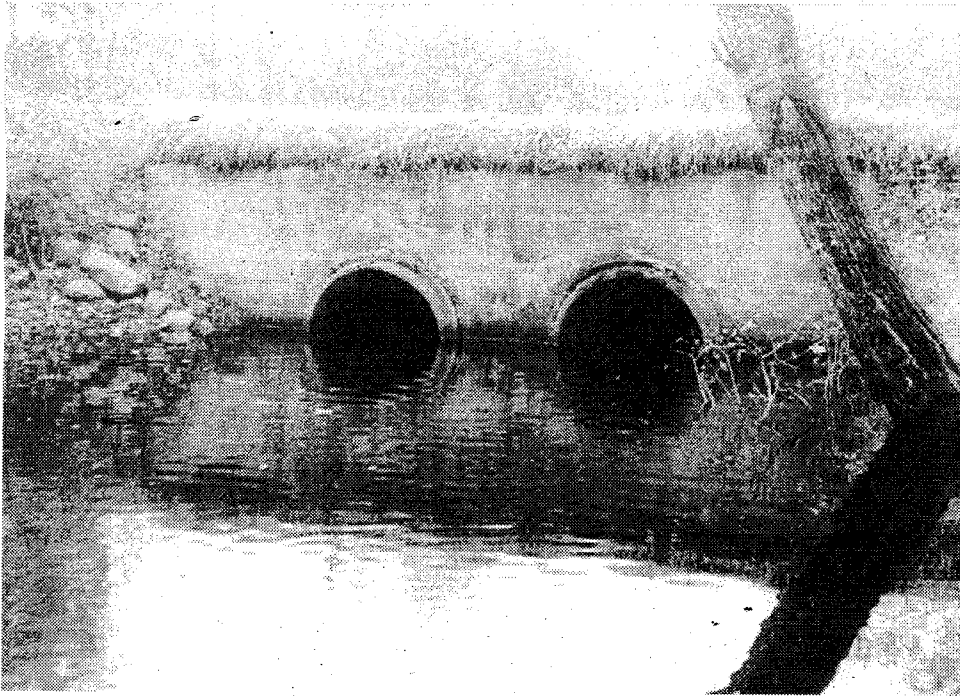
"We found out that we simply couldn't blame log drives from long ago for the lack of fish in some of our waters," Zimmer stated. "The healing process should have been done. But our survey showed that **current practices** are nega-

tively impacting many of the NF trout waters, specifically bad road and culvert crossings."

One trout water in particular - **Forbes Springs** northeast of **Lakewood** in Oconto County - provided a prime example of how culvert problems could harm a trout fishery.

"Back in the 1980's, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources dredged Forbes Springs, and it was one of the best dredging jobs I've seen them do," Gary noted. "But trout anglers who fished that pond in subsequent years

Cont. on Page 4



Undersized culverts on Hay Creek (Nicolet National Forest, Oconto County) retard flow during high water events, impounding water until road washes out and heavy gravel fills holes downstream.

Photo Credit - Forest Service



NEW WISCONSIN T.U. COUNCIL WEBSITE www.lambcom.net/witu

The Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited has launched a home page that will help to inform members and other interested trout anglers and conservationists about issues affecting Wisconsin's coldwater resources, as well as allow them the opportunity to voice their concerns about the state's trout fishery resources.

The site features up-to-date information on a variety of matters ranging from State Council meetings to fishing information to resource items. Feel free to add your "two cents worth" on issues important to YOU!

EVERYONE is encouraged to contribute material to the web site. You can submit articles, conservation information and chapter updates to our new e-mail address: witrounlimited@hotmail.com

Also, you can post information about your chapter and upcoming events on the discussion page.

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- Crandon mine updatePage 17

From the Trout Unlimited Chairman

By John Welter

Training as a historian can make you feel out of step with what seems to be the rest of the world. Look at the issue of dams in Wisconsin for a moment, and you'll see what I mean.

From the moment that white settlers emigrated to Wisconsin, they began building dams - a bout 3,600 of them - across the state, mainly for sawmills and gristmills. These pioneers felt it was their destiny to "harness" nature for their economic ends, and they considered their dams to be "triumphs of civilization" over nature.

They blocked watercourses in the state with everything from little local water gates to paper mill dams to giant hydropower facilities on the likes of the Wisconsin River. Communities looked with pride at the local sawmill, built just behind the edge of the cutover, where huge white pines and other trees were turned into lumber, shingles, lath and millwork.

However, by the turn of the century many of those dams had lost their economic usefulness. Timber stands had receded, and the second-growth wasn't sufficient to support many mills. Different milling methods superseded the water-powered gristmills. Electric power and paper production remained the chief uses of hydro dams, though most of them simply acted as barriers to streams, creating warmwater impoundments.

The cost of dams to the ecological integrity of natural streams is huge. They block passages of fish and other species and interrupt historic migration patterns. The impoundments behind the dams fill with sediment and become choked with weeds. When they blow out, as happened on Lawrence Creek near Westfield and on the Willow River near New Richmond in years past, they cause flooding of downstream areas and severe property damage.

Most important to trout anglers, dams create artificial warming of our coldwater streams. Few things are more frustrating to a trout angler than to see stream habitat - suitable for trout in almost every way - devoid of fish

because the thermal regimes of the sluggish water flowing from upstream impoundments make that habitat unlivable for trout to thrive.

Equally as frustrating is that, although the economic reasons for these dams no longer exist, the nearby communities often prefer to retain their impoundments rather than accept change and allow restoration of the streams that lay flooded behind those structures.

Where does history enter into this issue? When communities disregard the reasons why settlers build dams, they lose their ability - or willingness - to judge whether or not those dams are justifiable as interrupters of streamflows. When they evaluate the costs of dam repair using only emotion ("This town wouldn't be the same without the sunset over the millpond"), they forget that the costs of repeatedly repairing and continually maintaining the dams and dredging the millponds will be a millstone around the community's neck until the dam finally is removed.

All too often they don't consider alternatives to dam repair, and they rely on memory tidbits like, "My kids took their swimming lessons in that pond, back before it was covered with weed growth."

The Chippewa County City of Bloomer, north of Chippewa Falls, currently is deciding what to do with its Lake Como Dam, which was built on Duncan Creek (Class I trout water) in 1860 and which has been replaced and repaired repeatedly (see separate article in this issue). Bloomer has a population of 3,000, and its voters have turned down four school-building referenda in three years.

Yet Lake Como lakeshore property owners and the mayor are pushing hard to get approval to spend \$3 million to rebuild the dam (AGAIN!) and dredge the sediment load from the millpond. And they are fearful - dreadfully so - of being forced to put all the necessary information about this proposal before the voters and hold a referendum on the dam replacement issue.

One alderperson, who represents the

lakeside district, went so far as to say, "If we let everybody have an opinion, there is going to be too much misinformation." The counter-argument might be, "What could the community do with a new 90-acre park site near the center of town and with the luxury of not having to spend \$3 million to repair the dam?"

In many cases, communities have decided to make taxpayers bear the cost of keeping dams in place without allowing wide-ranging public debate on the subject. That prevents taxpayers from discovering that costs of dam removal often are only one-third to one-fifth of the repair costs.

Historically, we've gone through many phases where we redefined what "nature" is. Once, natural places like Yellowstone Park were thought to be "the Devil's own places." The tops of the Alps were so forbidding that no one ventured to climb them. And free-flowing waters existed only so that we could "harness" them for our economic benefit, so that we could "civilize" nature.

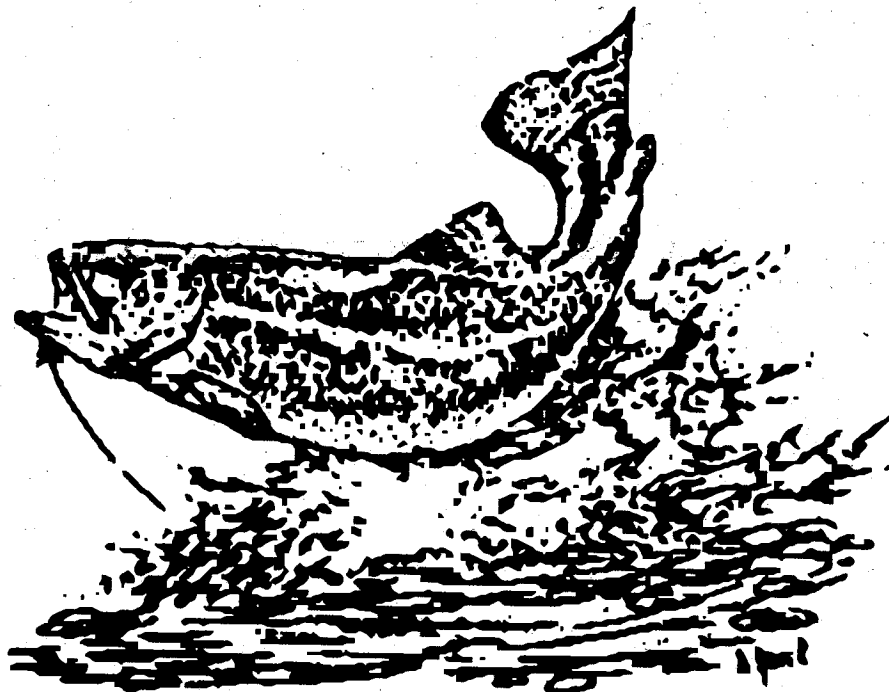
In our era, 100 to 150 years after many of these dams were built, we are defining nature again. We have learned to view our streams as crucial water "arteries" of entire watersheds, and we have come to understand how dams and



John Welter

their impoundments damage those watersheds.

Where the health of those watersheds is hindered by the presence of outmoded dams, communities should view removal of dams as positive change, even though that change is hard to accept sometimes. It is my hope that the coming century will see more and more of Wisconsin's coldwater streams again flow freely, unimpeded by dams.



Letters to the Editor

Says "Thanks" to editor

Editor, Wisconsin Trout;

I see from the latest issue of Wisconsin Trout (Winter, 1999) that you are stepping down as editor of the paper. I'm very sorry to hear that, because you have done such an extraordinary job with the newsletter. It's a wonderful newspaper, something with far more depth and vigor than a newsletter.

Anyway, count me a big fan of your work, and someone who is very sorry to see you leave the post.

Sincerely,

Jan Grover
109 S. 18th Ave. E.
Duluth, MN 55812

(Ed. note: Jan Grover is an accomplished outdoor write whose detailed and well-researched articles often appear in such publications as *Midwest Fly Fishing*. The outgoing editor not only thanks her for her kind accolades, but also publicly expresses his appreciation of HER many fine journalistic pieces.

EDITOR WANTED

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited is seeking a person to assume the role of editor of Wisconsin Trout, as the current editor is vacating the position. Work will involve writing copy, coordinating articles with others, soliciting advertising and producing quarterly issues for distribution by Jan. 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1. The individual should have some background in writing and composition, and should be able to begin no later than July 1, 1999. A stipend is provided for the editor.

Inquiries should be directed to Wisconsin T.U. State Council Chairman John Welter at (715) 833-7028, or by e-mail at jwelter@discover-net.net.

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Dave Ruetz: Aquatic Biologist; Director of Schools in Montana and Wyoming for the FFF and TU Conclaves.

Wayne Anderson: Wolf River expert. Articles in Wisconsin Outdoors; ESPN appearance; and audio tape.

Limited Enrollment - Brochures Available

For Information write: Bob Talasek

6442 N. Atwahl Drive, Glendale, WI 53209

(414-351-6483)

School Held at: WOLF RIVER FLY SHOP (on the Wolf River)

N4216 Rocky Rips Rd.

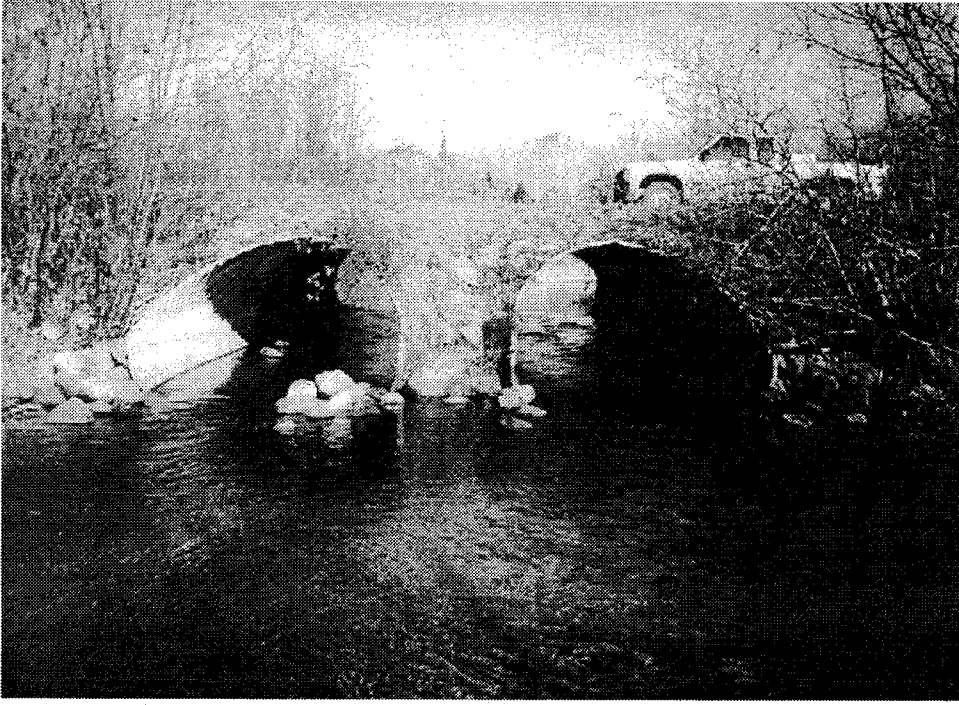
White Lake, WI 54491-9718

(After April 15th - 715-882-5941)

NOTE: FREE Fishing Weekend - NO license required)

✓ National Forest trout waters

Cont. from Page 1



"A Tale of Two Culverts" - Large, well placed culverts on **South Branch Oconto River** on **Wichser Lake Road** (Nicolet Forest) allow for upstream trout migration while small, poorly positioned culverts downstream on **Seed Orchard Road** inhibit passage.

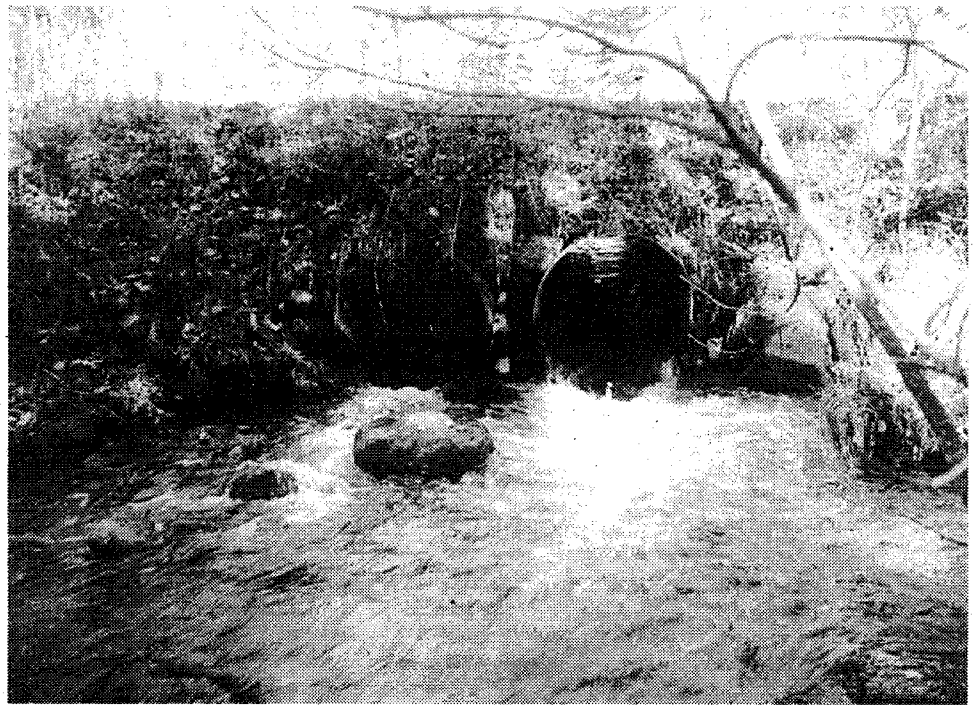


Photo Credits - Forest Service

complained that they weren't catching many fish, and those they did catch were quite small. We knew that the outlet stream, **Forbes Creek**, had some nice brook trout in it, and we were puzzled as to why those big fish weren't showing up in the spring pond."

So Zimmer took a look at Forbes Springs last summer, and he finally found the reason for the lack of nicer-sized fish in the pond.

"I got into the creek on the downstream side of the culvert and literally was on my hands and knees," he said with a smile. "When I looked upstream through the culvert, I saw the problem right there. Frost-heave apparently had caused a big rock to push right up underneath the culvert, buckling it upward, and the whole thing was acting as a barrier to trout that wanted to migrate into the pond in fall to spawn."

Another major problem was discovered on the **South Branch of the Oconto River** at a road crossing in what is called the "Seed Orchard" area of the NF just north of Highway 64.

"There we found two old, undersized and poorly-placed culverts had created conditions unfavorable for fish passage, especially during low-flow periods," Zimmer said. "Data from DNR tagging studies showed that no tag returns of larger fish had occurred above this crossing location, indicating that those culverts were impeding migration of trout to traditional spawning sites."

Armed with the knowledge gleaned about these and other road and culvert problems of NF trout streams, Zimmer applied for grants from his Forest Service Regional headquarters, and he said that approval was given for **several hundred thousand dollars** to go to the NF to fix these problems. In the entire CNNE, about 12 to 15 sites will be repaired in 1999.

"The study which **Trout Unlimited** helped us to fund enabled us to prioritize our needs for road and culvert crossing repair," Gary asserted, "and that allowed us to get the grant money. The Forest Service director (Wisconsin native **Mike Dombeck**) is emphasizing watershed restoration and has earmarked money for watershed restoration projects. But without the survey that T.U. funded, we would have no rankings and thus no money to fix these problems."

The Forbes Creek culvert problem will be corrected this spring, as will the one on the South Branch Oconto River. Another priority problem to be attacked this summer will be the **Jack Pine Camp Road** culvert and road crossing on the **North Fork** of the **Thunder**

River in Oconto County. There the road - which also is used as a winter snowmobile trail - has drainage problems that cause sedimentation which has filled downstream pools and limited holding capacity for larger-sized fish.

The **Green Bay** and **Marinette County T.U. Chapters** each have appropriated **\$3,000** to assist with the South Branch Oconto and North Fork Thunder restoration projects, and a snowmobile club will assist as well on the North Fork Thunder River.

Zimmer also notes that he and his staff work with various township and county road crews to ensure that road crossing and culvert installment work is done properly to avoid future problems on National Forest waters.

"Too many culverts in the past were installed with the only thought in mind being to get the water through as quickly and as cheaply as possible," he mentioned. "Culverts with high lips prevented fish passage, thus hindering trout reproduction. Culverts that are too small create fast rapids on the downstream side that may prevent smaller fish - and sometimes larger ones - from getting upstream."

"Road crossings are a problem if the 'low point' of the road is at the culvert site," Gary continued. "When that's the case, water that would run off into the grass if the crossing had been constructed properly empties into the stream, carrying with it sediments that fill holes and trout resting sites and cover spawning redds."

The identification of the many harmful road and culvert crossings on CNNE trout streams was an important step in providing the impetus to remediate the many problem sites in the National Forest. It is to the great credit of the Forest Service biologists that they took the lead in attempting to address this problem and restore the areas on trout streams that have been damaged by roads and culverts.

And it is of equal credit to the Northeast Wisconsin Region T.U. chapters of **Green Bay, Marinette County, Oconto River** and **Shaw-Paca**, which helped fund a "road survey" whose purpose may not have been clear to them at the time.

Now, though, the T.U. chapters and the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest are able to work again as partners to correct another series of problems that have afflicted trout waters in the Forest, and they will be able to plan more such restoration projects well into the future. Just the way they like it!



Dalton Creek below Hwy. 64 (Langlade Co.) where gravel piled up in stream after culvert washed out

Photo Credit - Forest Service



Well-designed concrete culverts on **First South Branch Oconto River** at Hwy. 32 crossing allow good stream flow, room for high water events and good fish passage.

Photo Credit - Forest Service

Controversy over Bloomer Dam

By Mike Swoboda

In Wisconsin and across the country, removal of unwanted and unnecessary dams from free-flowing rivers has become a big issue. Dams from Maine to Washington State are coming off of rivers, providing opportunities to restore trout and salmon populations in areas where indigenous populations had been depressed due to loss of habitat from dams and their impoundments.

Wisconsin has been the site of several successful dam removals in the past few years (the **Prairie Dells Dam** on Lincoln County's **Prairie River**, the **Mounds Dam** on St. Croix County's **Willow River** and the **Colfax Dam** on Dunn County's **18-Mile Creek**), and now another dam on a coldwater trout stream - the **Bloomer Dam** on Chippewa County's **Duncan Creek** - is the site of a potential dam removal. But removal of that dam is not without controversy, mind you.

The Bloomer Dam sits in the city of the same name and creates an impoundment on Duncan Creek known as **Lake Como**. Above the impoundment, Duncan Creek is a Class I trout water for 8.5 miles, with a stretch from State Highway 64 down to the Lake Como Dam listed as a Category 5 "Special Regulations" water having a daily creek limit of five trout under eight inches or four under eight and one over 12 inches.

Lake Como is little more than a wide spot in this urban environment, but for a small water body it does much damage to the water quality of Duncan Creek below the damsite.

The main problem facing the creek below Lake Como is **warmwater discharges** coming over the top of **Bloomer Dam**. The resulting thermal regimes are unfavorable for trout reproduction and survival, and Duncan Creek below Bloomer is rated a Category 3 water, meaning its trout fishery is dependent on the stocking of hatchery-reared fish rather than on naturally-reproducing native brook trout which could thrive in that stretch if the water temperatures were not altered by the dam's presence. Although the waters of Class II **Hay Creek** (Woodmohr Creek) empty into Duncan Creek a few miles below Bloomer, it is not enough to ameliorate the negative impacts provided by the warmwater discharges from Lake Como to the stream.

Besides impacting Duncan Creek below Bloomer, the dam - like all dams - has had an unfavorable impact on the creek above the damsite. Silt and sediments have accumulated behind the Bloomer Dam, resulting in a pond that continues to fill with sediment and sees heavy algae and weed growth during spring and summer. The warmwater fishery has been fair to good in the impoundment till now, but continued filling-in of the impoundment surely will result in an algae and weed-choked system that will reduce even that fishery.

Currently, the City of Bloomer is under orders from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to repair or remove the Lake Como (Bloomer) Dam by April, 2002. However, Bloomer has requested a grant (tax dollars) from the state for a feasibility study of dam repair, dredging of sediments from behind the dam, stormwater management and removal of homes from below the floodplain downstream from the dam.

The latter item is of importance, because currently there are 30 homes in that floodplain below the dam, thus creating one criteria that gives the dam a "high hazard" designation. Removal of half of the homes would lower the rating

to "medium," and removal of all 30 homes would bring about a "low hazard" rating. The higher the hazard rating, the more expensive are the repairs needed for the dam.

Adding complexity to the controversy over whether or not to remove the dam is the fact that the City of Bloomer built two a new wastewater treatment plant two years ago that was licensed for warmwater discharges but actually is meeting standards for discharges into coldwater streams. However, discharge loads from the plant will rise as Bloomer grows and adds industry, thus requiring an upgrading of the plant to meet discharge loads if the dam were removed and Duncan Creek below the city attained a higher ranking as coldwater trout stream.

Needless to say, the powers that be in the City of Bloomer are divided over how to address the matter. Two City Council members and the mayor stand firmly for dam removal, despite the much higher costs associated with dam repair and retention compared to dam removal. The other two City Council members are open to the idea of removal of the dam and have gone on record in favor of a public referendum to determine the fate of the dam.

The **Ojibseau Chapter of Trout Unlimited** has been working to convince Bloomer residents to consider alternatives to repair and retention of the dam, and some Ojibseau T.U.'ers participated in a March 8th public information meeting on the issue, along with biologists, local historians and representatives of the **River Alliance of Wisconsin**. Among the topical items presented by the group regarding the dam were:

1) Como Lake is severely eutrophic and very shallow due to sedimentation from upland sources.

2) Recreational fishing is limited primarily to icefishing in winter and early spring open water fishing. Algae and weed growth not only inhibit summer fishing, but also reduce swimming and recreational boating.

3) Dam repair will cost five times more than dam removal, and it will not

increase water quality behind the impoundment.

4) Improving water quality behind the dam only can be accomplished through dredging the impoundment and controlling weed growth (both very expensive) and by controlling sediment delivery from upland sites (which is beyond the control of the City of Bloomer), and which also is quite costly.

5) Dam removal would allow the possibility of extending a Class I trout stream (Duncan Creek) right through Bloomer. There is potential for a greenway park along the stream, as well as trout fishing right in the city limits, bringing in extra tourist dollars to the community. Matching grant money from the state is available for dam removal, as well as for reclamation of the lake bottom and reconstruction of the stream channel.

6) The new wastewater treatment plant already is capable of meeting the discharge limits for a coldwater stream, and an upgrade of the plant would not need to be done for many years. The DNR has indicated a willingness to be flexible in determining how coldwater discharge limits would affect the new plant.

At that March 8th meeting, those who favor retention of the Lake Como Dam gave evidence that they wanted to retain the warmwater fishery, such as it is, in Lake Como and were not influenced by the potential for restoration of

13 downstream miles of coldwater fishery. The pro-dam forces also expressed resentment that "outsiders" had focused light on a topic they felt was only of local concern.

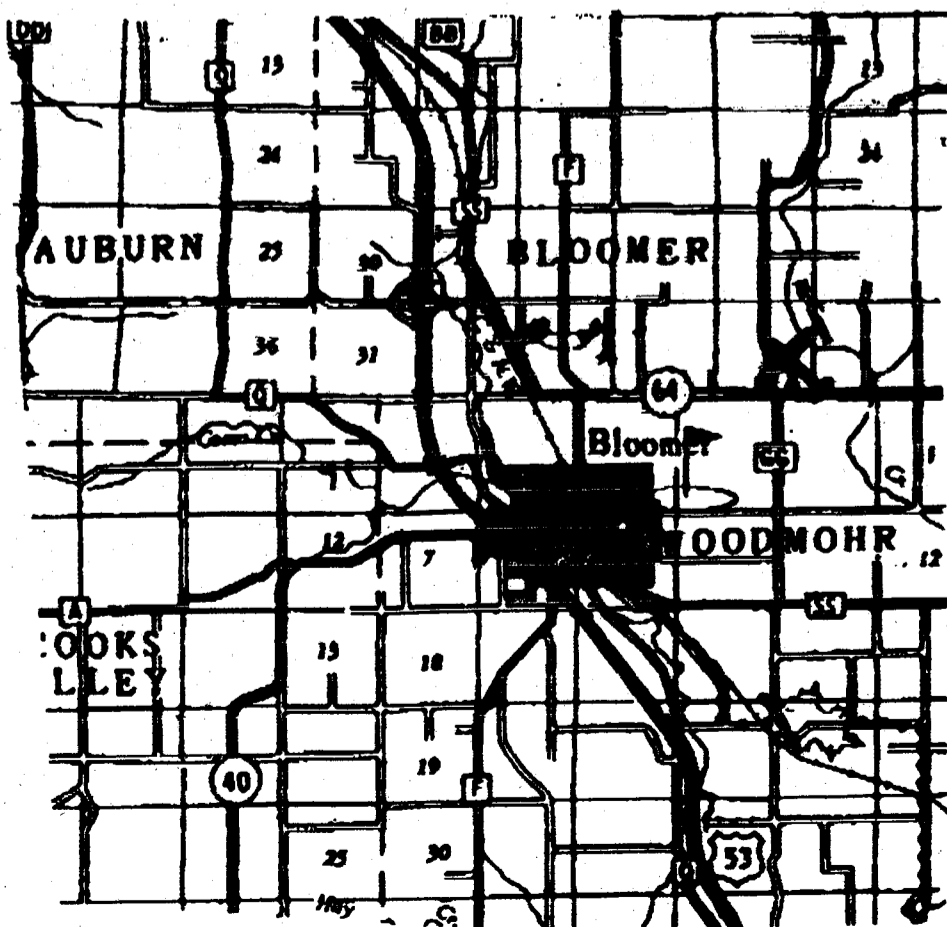
Presenting arguments in favor of removal of the dam were State council Chairman **John Welter** and **Todd Ames** and **Stephanie Lindloff** of the **Wisconsin River Alliances**.

Most disturbing about the entire situation was that the Department of Natural Resources - which had advised Ojibseau T.U. that it was going to adopt a "sit back and wait" position on the dam removal so as not to be perceived as interfering with the city's issue - attempted to cancel Ojibseau T.U.'s meeting on the dam. The DNR not only declined to attend T.U.'s meeting, but they turned around and contacted a Bloomer City Councilperson and tried to persuade him to cancel the meeting.

Ojibseau T.U. found it more than curious that the agency whose mission allegedly is to protect natural resources was giving short shrift to the one group - Ojibseau T.U. - that was standing up for the resource in this instance.

The Lake Como Dam issue has only just begun to boil. More information on this will be noted in the Summer, 1999, issue of **Wisconsin Trout**.

(Ed. note: Mike Swoboda is Secretary of the Ojibseau T.U. Chapter and a longtime activist with the organization. He lives in Chippewa Falls.)



The Lake Como Dam on Duncan Creek in Bloomer (Chippewa Co.) is the scene of controversy.

State Council Awards Banquet

The 14th Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited Conservation Awards Banquet was held February 13, 1999, at the Oshkosh Hilton Conference Centre. Approximately 145 people were in attendance to recognize the following award recipients:

***Award of Merit**

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Professor (College of Natural Resources) **Christine Thomas** received this award for being the driving force behind the nationally-acclaimed "Becoming an Outdoor Woman" (B.O.W.), a program designed to introduce women to fishing, hunting and other outdoor-related sports. Thomas has sponsored many workshops across the nation to promote B.O.W., and she has been an ardent environmental advocate.

In 1997, the Anheuser-Busch Corporation's **Budweiser Foundation** named Thomas as "Outdoorsperson of the Year" and donated \$50,000 to various conservation groups on Thomas' behalf, \$4,000 of which was bestowed upon Wisconsin Trout Unlimited's large-scale **Kickapoo River Valley Watershed Conservation Project**.

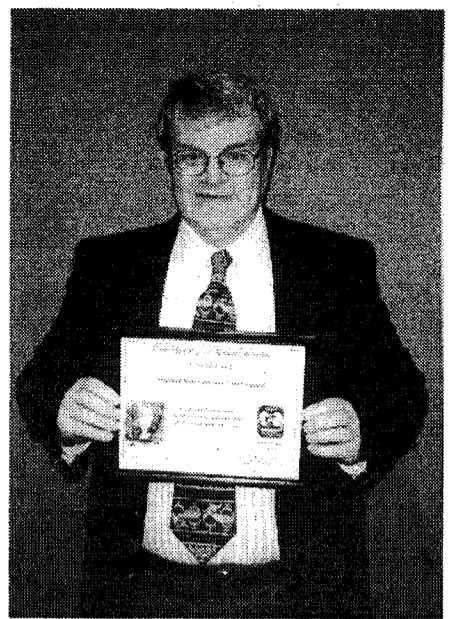
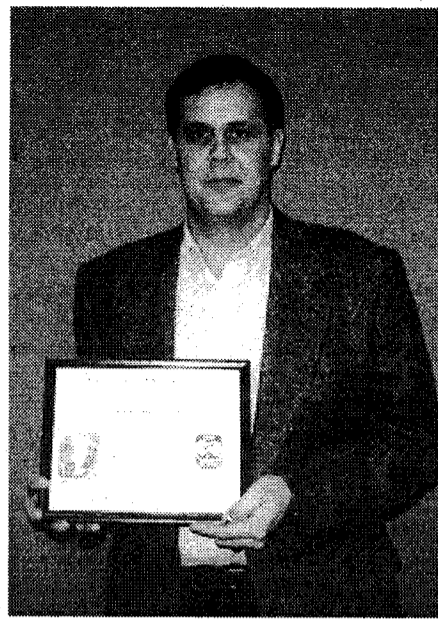
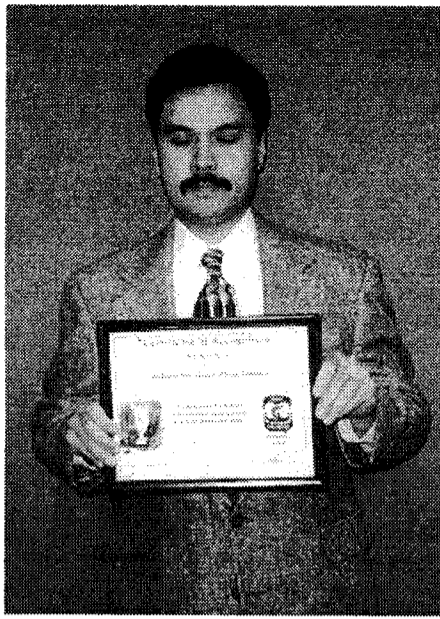
***Lee and Joan Wulff Lifetime Conservation Award**

This "traveling award" was given in 1999 to **Jeff Carlson**, president of the **Wild Rivers T.U. Chapter**, for leading conservation efforts affecting the **Bois Brule, Iron, Namekagon and White** rivers in northwestern Wisconsin. His endeavors have ranged from hands-on "grunt work" creating trout spawning habitat in rivers to being T.U.'s point-person at hearings on the **Oriente Dam** issue. Carlson also has been an outspoken advocate for restoration of populations of **coast-er brook trout** in Lake Superior.

***Gold Trout Award**

Long-term Southern Wisconsin T.U. activist **Jeff Smith** of Madison was presented the "Gold Trout Award" for numerous T.U.-related activities, including his collaboration with various individuals and groups that helped raise \$1 million to initiate restoration of **Token Creek** as a naturally-reproducing brook trout stream adjacent to the northeast corner of the Madison metropolitan area.

Smith was specifically recognized for his work in financial analysis and tracking of Inland Trout Stamp funds and the projects to which they have been applied. His efforts permitted Wisconsin T.U.'s ad hoc Trout Stamp Committee to develop recommendations for better uses of that segregated account, which funds trout habitat restoration work by the Department of Natural Resources.



Wisconsin DNR fishery biologists **Al Niebur** (Wautoma), **John Nelson** (Sheboygan Area) and **Jim Holzer** (Eau Claire Area) with **DNR Fish Manager Awards**.

***Silver Trout Award**

For the second time in four years, the **Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of Trout Unlimited**, based in Hudson, WI, received this award for its exemplary work on coldwater resource issues. The chapter installed and monitored temperature gauging stations on the **Kinnickinnic River** in River Falls (Pierce Co.) to assess thermal "spikes" in the Kinni caused by stormwater runoff and which pose threats to the lower Kinni's trout fishery. Kiap-TU-Wish's work resulted in changes for stormwater management plans for the Kinni by the River Falls Public Works Department that will protect that famed stream's fishery.

Too, Kiap-TU-Wish led the battle for the removal of the **Mounds Dam** on the **Willow River** (St. Croix Co.), opening up a long-flooded stretch of that river for restoration as a trout fishery.

Recently, the chapter completed a superb educational video revealing the impacts of development on the **Kinnickinnic River watershed** and showing how well-planned development can accommodate growth while still preserving natural resources, including rivers and streams.

***Gold Net Award**

Lakeshore T.U. Chapter charter member and activist **Jeff Preiss** received the "Gold Net Award" for his outstanding efforts on behalf of his chapter. A former president of Lakeshore T.U., Preiss has served as chapter Banquet Chairman for many years, helping Lakeshore net substantial revenues for its coldwater resource conservation efforts. He and Lakeshore now are directing those dollars into a project aimed at making Sheboygan

County's **Onion River** a self-sustaining wild brown trout fishery.

In addition, Preiss was an important cog in Lakeshore's work on such streams as the **Mullet River** and **Ben Nutt Creek** (Sheboygan Co.) and **Jambo Creek** and the **West Twin River** (Manitowoc Co.).

***DNR Fishery Manager Awards**

After a lapse for a few years, Wisconsin T.U. made special presentations to three Wisconsin DNR fishery biologists for their unique efforts on behalf of coldwater resources in their areas of responsibilities.

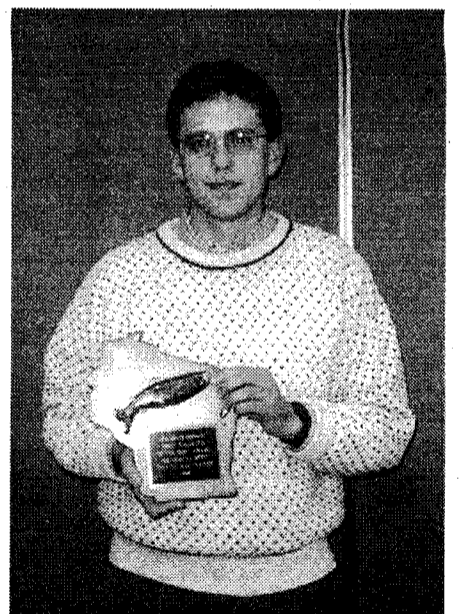
Wautoma Area DNR fishery biologist **Al Niebur** was honored for his

work with the **Fox Valley T.U. Chapter** in planning and facilitating stream restoration projects, including the on-going effort on **Whitcomb Creek** (Waupaca Co.). Niebur also was recognized for his innovative restoration project on the **Waupaca River** near the Portage-Waupaca counties line that has accelerated stream flow, increased holding water, enhanced aquatic insect life and helped create spawning habitat for brown trout in a stretch of stream that former colleagues had written off as a lost cause

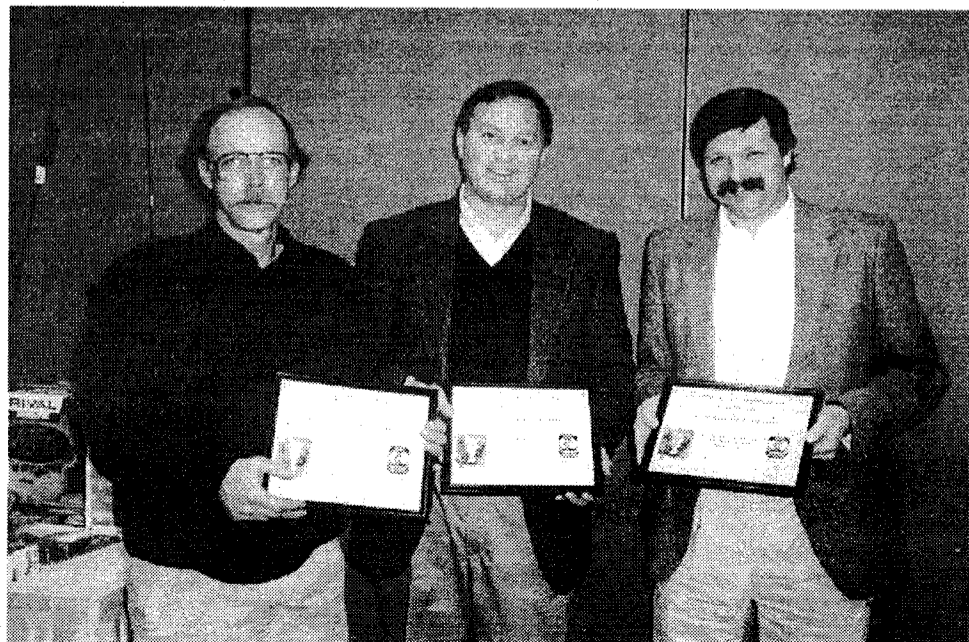
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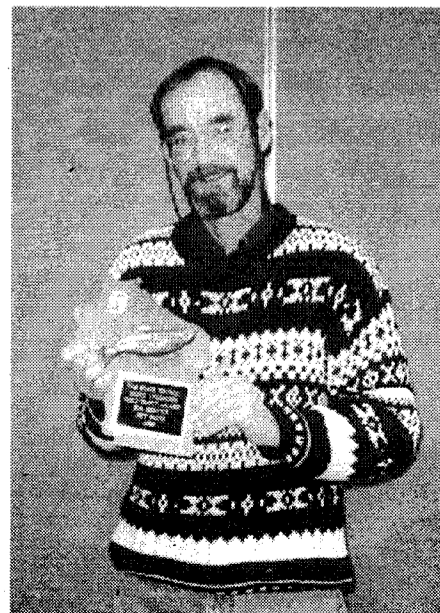
Jeff Preiss of Lakeshore T.U. with the **Gold Net Award**.



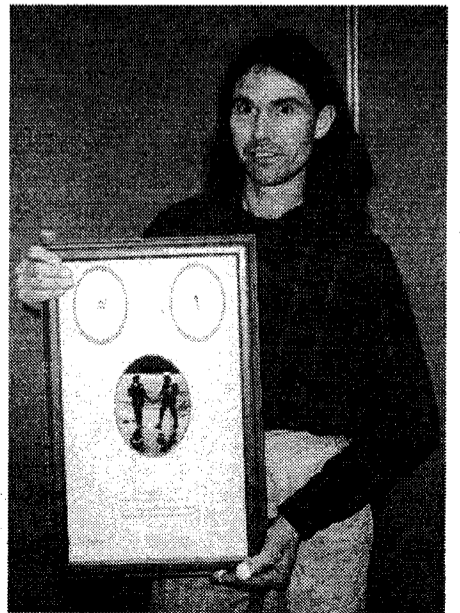
Kiap-TU-Wish T.U. Chapter president Brent Sittlow accepted the **Silver Trout Award** for his chapter.



Special Recognition Awards went to (l-r) **Scot Stewart**, **Ken Johnson** and **Andy Morton** for their efforts on the **Token Creek** restoration project.



Jeff Smith (Southern WI Chapter) with the **Gold Trout Award**.



Jeff Carlson, president of the **Wild Rivers Chapter**, received the **Lee and Joan Wulff Lifetime Conservation Award**.

Education Committee report

By Dale Lange

Over the past few years, I have compiled a list of educational materials that are available from Wisconsin T.U. chapters and other sources for use by our

chapters and others in educating youth and/or providing interesting programs at meetings or to groups.

That list is provided here for all Wisconsin T.U. members and their

chapters. If your chapter has any new information on available educational materials which can be included on this list, please send it to me at the address

listed in the Directory on Page 2. I will update this information on our **State Council website**.

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Education Data

TOPIC

SOURCE

Catch-and-Release:

"Consider Proper Release" (brochure and video) Wisconsin T.U.
"Caught me a big 'un and Then I Let Him Go" (Book) Jimmy Houston

Insects & Aquatic Life:

Guide to Wisconsin Aquatic Plants (booklet) WDNR Pub. #WR-173
"The Way of a Trout" (video) 3M Leisure Time Products
"Water Bugs" (video) UW-Superior Media Resource Center

Water Quality:

"Painting the Town with Waves"
"Keeping Current"
Important Health Information for People Eating Fish From Wisconsin Waters
"Water Quality Resource Guide"
"A Storm on the Horizon" (Video)

UW-Extension/WDNR
UW-Extension

WDNR Publ. #FH824-97
UW-Extension
Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter

Stream Habitat:

"Anatomy of a Trout Stream"
Wisconsin Trout Stream Habitat Management" (booklet)
"Adopt-A-Stream" Program
Coon Creek's Contribution (video)

3M Leisure Time Products
WDNR

Harry/Laura Nohr Chapter
LaCrosse DNR

Fishing Records:

National Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame
"Watch Me Grow" (Wisc. Records wall chart)
DNR Fish Ruler

NFFHoff (Hayward, WI)
WDNR Bur. Fish Mgmt.
WDNR

Things for Kids:

"Kids + Fishing = Fun" (video)
"Fishing For Fun" (brochure)
"Different Fish and Where They Live"
"Catch 'N Color" (coloring book)
"A Splash of Color" (coloring book)
"Look Mom. I'm Fishing" (video)

Scimitar Prod., Inc.
WDNR Pub. #FM-756-95
WDNR
WDNR Pub. #FM-743-93
WDNR Pub. #FM-756-95
Complete Outdoor Encyclopedia

Fishing Equipment:

Black's 1997 Fly Fishing (book)
Cabela's Fly Fishing or Tacklecraft catalogs

1-800-237-4444

Seminars & Programs:

Fly Fishers International
"Ice Breaker"
Fly Fishing Schools

Fly Fishing Federation
Southern WI Chapter
Wolf River Fly Shop
Trees For Tomorrow
R. Chris Halla
Greg Breining
WDNR

"Everyone's Illustrated Guide to Trout on a Fly"
"Fishing Tips & Tricks"
"Forecasting Fishing Hot Spots"
Black's Fly Fishing (book)
Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp

Pennsylvania T.U.

Crafts/Skills:

"Tying Trout Flies" (video)
"Introduction to Fly Fishing"

3M Leisure Time Products
L.L. Bean

Comical Fishing Films:

"Fishing Bloopers" (Vol. 1 and 2)

Bill Dance_Outdoors

Outfitters and Guides:

Northern Adventure Guide Services

Bill Sherer
Boulder Junction, WI

Internet/Websites:

Trout Unlimited (National)
Trout Unlimited (State Council)

<http://www.tu.org>
<http://www.lambcom.net/witu>
<http://vbe.com/~heusers/fvtu.htm>
<http://www.wnrmag.com>
<http://www.igc.org/wisrivers>

Trout Unlimited (fox Valley Chapter)

Wisconsin Fishing/Wisc. Natural Resources
River Alliance of Wisconsin

Coldwater Fishing:

"Flyfishing for Trout" (video)
"Fishing the Dry Fly" (video)
"Flyfishing Success, the Fundamentals" (video)
"The Wet Fly & Nymphing"
"Nymphing" (Borger video)
"The Dry Fly"

3M Leisure Time Products
3M Leisure Time Products
Vestron Video
Sonoma Video Productions
3M Leisure Time Products
Hal Janssen

Educational Activities:

Youth Fishing Days
Fly fishing classes/seminars
Fly tying

Local Park/Rec. Depts.

✓ Banquet

Cont. from Page 6

as far as habitat restoration was concerned.

Sheboygan Area DNR fishery biologist **John Nelson** received recognition for his positive working relationship with the **Lakeshore T.U. Chapter** and his commitment to restoring the **Onion River** in Sheboygan County as a first-class trout fishery. Nelson was the driving force behind the 1996 purchase by the DNR of 82 acres of land along the Onion, an effort aided by Lakeshore T.U., the Sheboygan County Conservation Alliance and the Helen Shaw Fly Fishers. Since then, Nelson has directed the expenditure of over **\$20,000** for streambank stabilization and **LUNKER** structure installation along and in the Onion, and he has arranged for the transfer of **wild brown trout** from southwestern Wisconsin streams into the Onion.

Combined with concomitant efforts to improve Onion River tributaries like **Ben Nutt** and **Mill creeks**, Nelson hopes to establish a "wild" self-sustaining brown trout fishery in the Onion within 10 years.

Fishery biologist **Jim Holzer** of the Eau Claire-Dunn counties region was honored for his dedication to coldwater resource conservation, particularly with regard to the removal of the **Colfax Dam on 18-Mile Creek** (Dunn Co.) and restoration of over one-half mile of the stream above the former millpond site. Holzer attended many public meetings regarding dam removal and convinced adjacent landowners to donate the millpond to the Village of Colfax for a park.

He then organized a crew of laborers and equipment operators, as well as volunteers from the **Ojibseau T.U. Chapter**, to restore the creek above the former damsite. Also, Holzer encouraged local schools to get students involved in studying the changes in the aquatic ecosystem of the creek as it reverted from an impoundment back into a free-flowing stream.

Additionally, Holzer coordinated efforts with western Wisconsin T.U. chapters to encourage development of a **DNR Trout Crew** for West Central Wisconsin to conduct stream restoration projects in that part of the state which has been overlooked in the past as far as habitat improvement projects are concerned.

*Special Recognition Awards

As noted in past issues of **Wisconsin Trout**, much effort has been focused on restoration of Dane County's **Token Creek** since 1994 when the old gristmill dam on the creek's headwaters was breached, uncovering what proved to be the largest complex of coldwater springs in southern Wisconsin. As a result of this, the DNR - rather than encourage the rebuilding of the dam as was sought by landowners adjacent to the former millpond - suggested an alternative concept to the dam, one entailing a 69-acre nature conservancy area with restored wetlands, small ponds, nature paths and a **trout stream**.

Over the past two years, much work has gone into effectuating this massive restoration project. Wisconsin T.U. honored three special Wisconsin DNR staff members who were instrumental in bringing this restoration effort to fruition:

Ken Johnson, the DNR's Lower Rock River Basin Leader, served as head of a committee that kept the project alive. He educated potential donors about the positive impacts the project would have, motivated other members and wrote grant proposals that brought in hundreds of thousands of dollars for the restoration work. Working with Johnson in this vein were Madison are DNR fishery biologist **Scot Stewart** and DNR Watershed Specialist/Planner **Andy Morton**. All three thus were honored for their exceptional efforts culminating in the approval and advancement of the **Token Creek restoration project**.

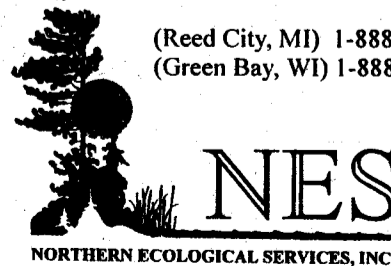
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Kickapoo Project update



By Laura Hewitt

It feels quite remarkable that we recently completed the second year of the **Kickapoo River Valley Watershed Conservation Project**. What's more, there is only one year left of the official Trout Unlimited-Kickapoo Project.

Since the start of this project, our partners have asked, "How will efforts be sustained after the T.U. project concludes?" Good question! Over the past two years, we've been gathering information about the watershed, talking with our partners and trying to establish goals and objectives for continuing aspects of the project.

The Kickapoo Project not only will establish priorities for the protection and restoration of area streams, but it also will set out guidelines for the continuation of the **youth educa-**

tion initiative, citizen monitoring efforts, coordination among agencies and public outreach. A draft of the plan will be available early next year, and it will go through a public review process. The plan is being written with our cooperating partners in mind; however, we welcome input from everyone in the community.

Real estate study

The first phase of the project's **Real Estate Study**, completed about a year ago, examined broad trends in the Kickapoo Watershed's real estate market. The results of Phase One describe a **landscape in transition**, where recreational land prices are becoming increasingly expensive. In early February, 1999, T.U. received a draft version of Phase II, which provides a complete picture of land sales trends in the watershed. Among the interesting bits of information provided by Phase II are:

*The vast majority of land sales occur between Kickapoo Valley residents. The number of out-of-area buyers is increasing, but they are shifting from those residing in northern Illinois to people living in Madison and Milwaukee.

Generally, the most common parcel size purchased is **less than five acres**. The study only analyzed rural sales, suggesting that land is being broken up into smaller and smaller pieces. Newly-acquired existing lots are just as likely to be vacant as to be

developed, and they are very pricey.

This information is useful to conservation agencies, as it tells them that they will be working increasingly with **more landowners** on smaller land parcels.

The final version of Phase II will be available soon, and can be obtained by calling me at **(608) 262-3939**.

1999 Stream restoration targets

One of our goals this year is to complete several jobs that we didn't do last year because quarries ran out of rock, we ran out of time or both. Work on **Billings Creek in Wildcat Mountain State Park, Reads Creek, Jersey Valley Creek and Warner Creek** has been designed, bid out and approved to go, and those projects likely will be completed in 1999.

New work slated for this season will occur on **Harrison Hollow, Morris or Billings Creeks in Monroe County**, and on **Plum and Tainter Creeks in Crawford County**.

Despite the fact that the T.U. project has considerably fewer resources to invest in stream work this year compared to last year, our partners have leveraged a lot of dollars from a variety of sources, most notably the Department of Natural Resources' **Inland Trout Stamp fund**. We are quite happy to see angler support being invested directly back into improving the coldwater resources in this area.

Upcoming events

There are several projects planned for the valley this spring, including:

***Stream workdays** - The **West Fork Sports Club** has scheduled two workdays. One (completed prior to press release) involved building **LUNKER** structures at the club grounds on **March 27**, and the other is a stream workday slated for **June 12**.

***River Cleanup** - Project staff invite everyone to join us for a "River

and Parks Cleanup" on Saturday, **May 1** (Opening Day of the regular inland fishing season). Volunteers will meet to pick up garbage in the **Kickapoo Reserve, Sidie Hollow Park, Jersey Valley Park, Runge Hollow** and other sites.

Last year, about **75 volunteers** collected over **two tons of trash**. Cleanup will begin in the morning and will be followed by lunch at the **Rockton Bar**. Contact the **Kickapoo Reserve** at **(608) 625-2960** for details.

Seeking grants

During the winter months, we submitted two grants in cooperation with our usual cast of partners.

One went to the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) via their **"Five-Star Restoration Challenge Grant Program,"** wherein we sought **\$11,000** to try a few new things, such as: 1) planting native prairie plant seeds along restoration sites and roadsides for better erosion/sediment control, wildlife habitat and future seed sources; 2) doing extensive tree planting at one or more stream project sites as an alternative to use of rip-rap and **LUNKER** structures.

The **Vernon County land and Water Conservation Department, DNR, Monroe and Crawford County Land Conservation Departments, West Fork Sports Club and Blackhawk Chapter of Trout Unlimited** were cooperators in this grant request.

Partners also submitted a grant request for **\$29,000** to **River Network** for their **Watershed Assistance Program**, which helps watershed groups in starting up or improving their operations. Project partners said they want to see the existing network and key activities such as **stream restoration, youth education and citizen monitoring** continue, and they would like to form an independent watershed conservation group.

T.U. National notes

The following news items come from T.U.'s "Lines To Leaders" notes:

New Director of Volunteer Operations

Trout Unlimited has hired **Sara Johnson of Madison, WI**, as its new **Director of Volunteer Operations**. Johnson will direct T.U.'s recently launched **Small Dams Project** and will oversee development of T.U.'s 100,000 members as grassroots volunteers.

Prior to co-founding the **River Alliance of Wisconsin**, Sara worked for five years in natural resource policy education and outreach for the **University of Wisconsin** at its **College of Agriculture** and the **UW-Extension**. She also has eight years of experience with non-profit organizations, including four at National Public Radio headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Johnson has a Master's Degree in Environmental Science and a Bachelor's Degree in Journalism from UW-Madison. She is considered an expert on aging dams and their impacts on rivers. Sara is a past member of the Board of Directors of the Southern Wisconsin T.U. Chapter, and currently she serves on the Wisconsin T.U. Council's **Small Dams Committee**.

Johnson may be contacted at 3602 Wyota Ave., Madison, WI 53703; at (608) 231-9950 (phone), (608) 231-9960 (FAX) or via e-mail at johnson@tu.org.

New T.U. MasterCard

Trout Unlimited and **First USA Bank** have teamed up to offer a new **Trout Unlimited Platinum MasterCard** featuring a **3.9 percent introductory rate** and a **9.9 fixed rate**, some of the best rates in the country. Every purchase made with this card generates a contribution to T.U.'s conservation programs.

To apply for the new T.U. Master-

Card, call toll-free at **(888) 305-4016**. Although MBNA no longer is T.U.'s credit card affinity partner, T.U. will continue to receive royalties from T.U.-branded MBNA card purchases.

T.U. National Convention in Colorado

The 1999 Trout Unlimited National Convention will be held **Aug. 17-22** at the **Copper Mountain Resort in Summit County, Colorado**. Hosted by the Colorado T.U. Council, the convention will feature celebrations of T.U.'s **40th Anniversary**, the annual members' meeting and the annual meeting of the National Resource Board. Program, registration and local fishing information will appear in the Spring, 1999, issue of **TROUT** magazine.

New addresses

The website for ordering T.U. merchandise has changed to: www.jgstuff.com/trout_unlimited.shtm/ The new e-mail address for **Dave Nolte**, T.U.'s "Bring Back the Natives" coordinator is: dnolte@stillwater-flyfishing.com.

Clip art for newsletter editors

The T.U. website has **clip art** available for newsletter editors to import into their word processing or desktop publishing programs. See the "Leaders Only" section of www.tu.org. The graphics illustrate such topics as grazing, acid precipitation, research, fishing and fund-raising. The clip art is for use **ONLY** in T.U. chapter and council electronic newsletters and websites, paper newsletters and other T.U. promotional materials.

Both **GIF** and **EPS** formats are offered, and all images are available both in color and black-and-white. Downloading instructions for PC and Mac users are posted on the clip art page.



Sara Johnson, T.U. National's Director of Volunteer Operations, addressed State Council Annual Meeting in Oshkosh.

Council meets, elects officers

The Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited held its Annual Meeting on Saturday, February 13, 1999, at the Oshkosh Hilton Conference Centre. Officers elected for one-year posts were: Chairman - **John Welter** (Eau Claire); Vice Chairman - **Gary Horvath** (River Falls); Secretary - **Ted Lauf** (Madison); Treasurer - **Forrest Grulke** (Green Bay).

Other highlights of the Annual Meeting were:

*A presentation on the **Trout Unlimited National Partnership program** by **Sara Johnson**, T.U. National's **Director of Volunteer Operations**, on the purpose of her mission and the partnership arrangement with the **River Alliance of Wisconsin** (represented by **Stephanie Lindloff**) to work on selective removal of aging dams from Wisconsin rivers.

*Announcement of the new Wisconsin Trout Unlimited **website**, address of which is: **www.lambcom.net/witu**.

*A report by Water Resources Chairman **Gary Horvath** on the committee's work involving: fact sheet dissemination on issues ranging from feedlot and manure management to highway construction impacts on streams to wetland loss; updates on

*Appropriation of **\$15,250** of funds from the "**Friends of Wisconsin T.U.**" program for five new stream projects (see related article).

*A report on T.U. National by **Steve Born** that included the announcement that **Dave Beckwith of Milwaukee** has been appointed to the T.U. National Board of Trustees, and a reminder that T.U. National's 1999 Annual Meeting, which will celebrate its **40th birthday**, will be held August 17-22 at **Copper Mountain, Colorado**.

*Approval of a motion for Wisconsin T.U. to join the **Steering Committee of the Wisconsin Stewardship Network**.

*Approval of a motion encouraging T.U. chapters and members to assist DNR Conservation Law Enforcement officers with identifying any anglers illegally harvesting trout during the early catch-and-release trout season.

*A presentation by **Laura Hewitt** of the **Kickapoo River Valley Conservation Project** on the **USDA Buffer Initiative** regarding riparian dams (**Oriente Dam on the Iron River in Bayfield Co.**, the **Ward Paper Mill Dam on the lower Prairie River in Lincoln Co.** and the **Lake Como Dam on Duncan Creek in Chippewa Co.**).



Council Chairman **John Welter** (background) speaking at Feb. 13 State Council meeting in Oshkosh.

zones along streams.

Also, the appointments of **Ted Lauf** (National Resources Board delegate from Wisconsin) and **Lloyd Andrews** (Northeast Regional Vice-

Chairman for Wisconsin T.U.) were approved.

The next meeting of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited will be in spring, date and location to be determined.

Kinnickinnic River update

More easements, grants for the "Kinni"

Good news on progress being made to protect the watershed of the **Kinnickinnic River** in **Pierce** and **St. Croix** counties was announced recently by the **Kinnickinnic River Land Trust (KRLT)**.

The year 1998 ended on a high note for the KRLT with the donation by four families near **River Falls Township** (Pierce County) of a conservation easement in a wooded valley encompassing part of the **Rocky Branch tributary** of the "Kinni." The easement will preserve the natural qualities of the valley and protect it from any future development. Too, the land recently put under easement adjoins another easement obtained in 1996, resulting in an important **conservation block** of 255 acres.

"This was another first for us," said KRLT executive director **Rick McMonagle**. "The land is owned in common by four separate families, and so this time we needed to make sure that all eight family members and the KRLT had their different needs met. I'm pleased that we were able to accomplish that."

In another important "anti-development" development, the KRLT received a donation of a conservation easement in **Kinnickinnic Township** (St. Croix County) on 22.5 acres of land that includes the confluence of **Kelly Creek** and the "Kinni," wetlands and wooded and open areas. About **1,300 feet of two-sided riverbank** will be protected by this transaction, and the new easement raises

the total acres involved in the protection of Kelly Creek to 47.5.

New grants to help the "Kinni"

The KRLT also has had some good news on the fund-raising front, as two new grants will be providing substantial financial resources for its efforts.

The **McNeely Foundation** of St.

Paul, MN, made a generous donation of **\$25,000** to help with the purchase of **Kelly Creek**. This grant motivated other donors to contribute more than **\$32,500** for the land purchase, leaving the KRLT only **\$7,500** short of its fund-raising goal of **\$75,000** for Kelly Creek.

In addition, the **MAHADH Fund**

of the **HRK Foundation** of St. Paul awarded a **\$30,000 grant** to the KRLT's **General Operating Fund**, as well as an incentive challenge promising an additional **\$25,000** if the KRLT can match that grant dollar-for-dollar with new memberships or increased levels of giving from current members.

Yes! I want to help the KRLT work in cooperation with landowners to conserve the resources I value—clean water, wildlife, recreation, natural areas, wild trout, scenic beauty, and family farms.

Student/Senior \$15
Individual \$35 - \$99
Sponsor \$100 - \$199
Benefactor \$200 - \$499
Patron \$500 - \$999
River Guardian \$1000+

Your support qualifies for an income tax deduction.

- Tell me about property for sale
 I want to volunteer, please call me

Please make your check payable to:
The Kinnickinnic River Land Trust
Post Office Box 87
River Falls, Wisconsin 54022

A SPONSOR MEMBER OF THE
LAND TRUST ALLIANCE

Name _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

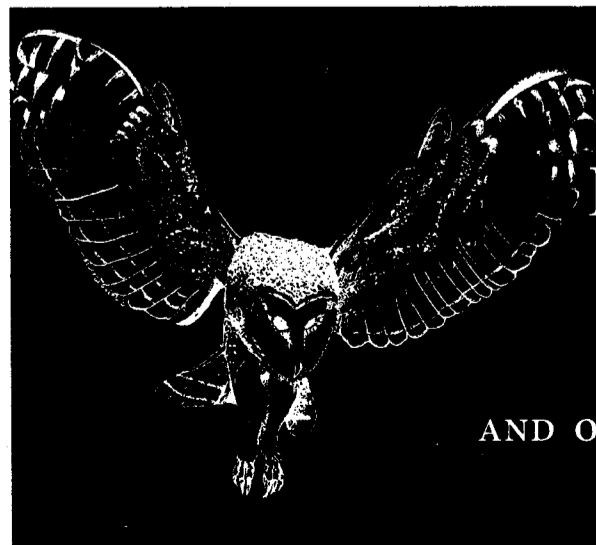
Please bill my credit card: _____

for: \$ _____

expires: _____

- Visa
 Mastercard
 Discover

#13



TWO MORE KINNI PROPERTIES PROTECTED!

LOCAL FAMILIES
HAVE NOW PROTECTED 690 ACRES
AND OPENED ALMOST 2.0 MILES OF RIVERBANK
TO PERMANENT PUBLIC USE.



The KRLT is a 501(c)3 non-profit charity. Membership dues, gifts, and donations are eligible as an income tax deduction.

Wisconsin Trout Unlin

ALDO LEOPOLD CHAPTER

The chapter will meet on April 13 at the **Ponderosa**, 1520 North Spring Street, Beaver Dam, 7 p.m. **Norb Wozniak**, District Conservationist for the **Natural Resources Conservation Service**, will discuss the water quality improvement projects on **Irish and Gill Creeks in Dodge County**. Election of officers will be held, with

longtime chapter activists **Clint Byrnes** and **Marlin Spindler** stepping down from their posts.

Aldo Leopold T.U. donated their collection of fly tying materials - received from the estate of deceased member **Lee Parker** - to the Southern Wisconsin T.U. Chapter.

ANTIGO CHAPTER

The chapter's annual Conservation Banquet was held **March 27th** at the **Knights of Columbus Hall** in Antigo. Funds raised will be used in 1999 for the following: **\$2,900** for backhoe work on the restoration project on the **East Branch Eau Claire River** (Langlade Co.); **\$750** for fuel costs for the dredging of **Hoglot Springs**

(Langlade Co.); **\$550** for temperature monitoring equipment for Department of Natural Resources thermal regime studies on the Langlade County waters of the **East Branch Eau Claire, Hunting, Prairie and Wolf rivers and Elton Springs**; and several hundred dollars for backhoe work on the DNR's **Wolf River** restoration project.



Blackhawk T.U.'ers instructing students in fly-tying at winter classes.

BLACKHAWK CHAPTER

During the winter, chapter members were treated to a variety of programs. **Craig Amacher** of **Fontana Sports Specialties** (Madison) and **Bob Blumreich** (Janesville) gave slide shows on Western trout fishing and Wisconsin salmon and trout fishing, respectively. **Jeff Hastings** of the **Vernon County Land and Water Conservation Department** provided an update on stream improvements being done in that county. Winter fly

tying classes attracted many new tyers.

After building about **65 LUNKER structures** in 1998, Blackhawk T.U.'ers are planning several more workdays this year. The chapter's annual Conservation Banquet will be held Monday, **April 26th**, at the **Ramada Inn Hoffman House** in Janesville. For tickets or information, contact **Terry Vaughn** at (608) 362-4295 or **Bill Karduck** at (414) 275-5444.

CENTRAL WISCONSIN CHAPTER

The chapter's annual banquet was held **March 20th** at the **Oshkosh Ramada Inn**. Funds raised will be put toward habitat work on **Little Pine Creek** (Waushara Co.), where the chapter hopes to concentrate its work efforts building **LUNKER structures** and bank covers while using DNR habitat crews to do streamside brushing.

A delegation of chapter members met with **U.S. Senator Russ Feingold** at the senator's February 16, 1999, listening session in **Wautoma**. The T.U.'ers voiced their displeasure with a

"rider" in the last Congressional Budget Bill dealing with wetlands fills and enforcement of **Section 404 of the Clean Water Act** by the Corps of Engineers. They elicited a promise from Senator Feingold that he would seek corrective action to that "rider."

Members were saddened at the death of **Rich Locy**, a young chapter member who drowned on an ice fishing trip when his vehicle broke through Minnesota's **Lake Winnibigosh**. Locy had assumed editorship of the chapter's "Brookie News" newsletter. He will be missed very much.

COULEE REGION CHAPTER

The chapter's annual banquet was held February 23rd at **Pogy's Catering** in **LaCrosse**. About 85 people attended, a significant increase over 1998. Banquet proceeds will be used to fund Coulee Region's share of the habitat restoration project on **Mormon Coulee Creek** (LaCrosse County).

Part of the proceeds (**\$500**) came via a special donation to the chapter from **John Ellingson** of **Black River Falls** in memory of his son **Matt**, a former chapter member and UW-

LaCrosse student who succumbed to bone cancer.

Prior to the banquet, Coulee Region T.U. was the recipient of a **\$5,000 grant** from the **Stry Foundation** of **LaCrosse**. The grant money will be used for the **Mormon Coulee Creek** project. Still pending are grant applications to the **Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin** and to T.U. National's **Embrace-A-Stream** program.

The chapter kicked off its 1999

work season on **Mormon Coulee Creek** **March 27th** with construction of **LUNKER structures** to be installed in summer.

Winter meeting guest speakers included **Laura Hewitt** (Kickapoo Valley Watershed Conservation Project

update) and DNR Conservation Law Enforcement officer **Russ Wilson** (early trout season review). Scheduled for April is **Rich Osthoff** of **Mauston**, who will discuss his newest book, "**Flyfishing the Rocky Mountain Backcountry**."

FOX VALLEY CHAPTER

Winter meeting programs included instructions on cooking fish by the **Fox Valley Technical College's culinary program** and a recap of 1998 streamwork and trout population surveys by **Wautoma Area DNR fishery biologist Al Niebur**. In February, Fox Valley T.U. held its annual "**Fun Night**," with displays of fly tying, rod building, cast-

ing, stream entomology and more organized by **John Nebel**. Several new members joined the chapter that evening, and Fox Valley T.U. raised about **\$600** from various raffles.

The chapter's 26th annual Conservation Banquet was held **March 20th**.

FRANK HORNBERG CHAPTER

Chapter members enjoyed winter meeting programs that included a presentation by member **Jim Meier** on **graphite rod building** and by **Wautoma Area DNR fishery biologist Al Niebur** on future plans for stream restoration on the **Tomorrow/Waupaca River system**.

The chapter also surveyed its membership to get input on how to approach various chapter projects and programs.

Frank Hornberg chapter members attended several regional and statewide meetings in winter, including the **Stewardship Network Conference** January 30th and a regional information meeting for T.U. chapters held by DNR fishery biologists **Al Hauber**

(Wausau) and **Al Niebur** on progress made to date on area trout habitat restorations.

The winter work season began in February when members built a wing deflector on the **Tomorrow River** at **Nelsonville** to stabilize a streambank. Workdays were scheduled for **March 20th** and **April 17th** on **Stedman Creek** (Portage Co.), a tributary to the **Waupaca River**.

Frank Hornberg T.U. gratefully received donations of **\$1,000** from the **Shaw-Paca T.U. Chapter** and **\$300** from **Geno Shulfer** of **Shooter's Supper Club** (Plover), both of which will pay the chapter stream restoration work.

GREEN BAY CHAPTER

Winter meeting programs included a talk by **Darrell Toliver** of **The Flyshop at Bob's Bait & Tackle** (Green Bay) on rods and reels, by **U.S. Forest Service biologist Gary Zimmer** on problems caused to trout streams in the **Nicolet National Forest** by poorly designed **culvert and road crossings**, and by former chapter president **Mitch Bent** on winter trout fishing and historical sites in **New Mexico**. The chapter's 24th annual Conservation Banquet was held **March 18th**.

Election of officers as held in March, with **Pete Harris** re-elected to a two-year term as president.

Green Bay T.U. has been working on plans with DNR fishery biologist **Brian Belonger** (Peshtigo) and other groups to fund a project to create instream habitat in, and narrow the channel of, the **lower Oconto River**

downstream from **Stiles** (Oconto Co.). The chapter appropriated **\$5,000** toward this project, which will affect about **1,000 feet of river**.

Other appropriations made by the chapter included: **\$3,000** to assist the **Nicolet National Forest** with culvert replacements on the **South Branch Oconto River** above Highway 64 and on the **North Fork of the Thunder River** by **Jackpine Camp Road** both in Oconto Co.); **\$3,000** to help fund an additional **beaver trapper** on Nicolet Forest trout streams; **\$1,200** to fund beaver trapping efforts by private trapper **Jerry Giese**; **\$1,000** for stream improvements on **Johnson, North Otter and Spencer Creeks** (Forest Co.) by the U.S. Forest Service; and **\$500** to the **River Alliance of Wisconsin**.

KIAP-TU-WISH CHAPTER

Winter was a busy time for the western-most Wisconsin T.U. chapter. Members **Gary Horvath** and **Brent Sittlow** met with **Ojibseau T.U. members** and DNR officials to discuss plans for trout habitat improvement projects financed with **Trout Stamp funds** in the next two years. There was agreement that major focus should go to trout streams in **Dunn County**, halfway between **St. Croix** and **Eau Claire counties**.

In coming months, chapter members will meet with representatives of the **Wisconsin Department of Transportation** to review **erosion control plans** for the planned 1999-2000 four-lane expansion of **Highway 35** to the City of River Falls.

Programs at meetings were: a talk on **electronic media communication** efforts of the chapter, including **website and video projects**; a slide show on **steelhead fishing** in the **Sandy River of Alaska**; and a discussion by **St. Croix County Conservation Warden**

Dave Hausman on the **Parker Creek fish kill**.

The chapter's annual **Spring Fishing Clinic** will be held **May 22nd** at **Glen Park** (River Falls) along the **Kinnickinnic River**. Chapter elections were held in early March.

Kiap-TU-Wish proudly displayed its new "**Storm on the Horizon**" video at the Feb. 13th Wisconsin T.U. State Council meeting in Oshkosh. It is an excellent piece that warns about the dangers of rampant development, thermal pollution and land use practices to watersheds. Chapters seeking a copy of this video should contact **Brent Sittlow** at (715) 386-0820.

Honors abounded for the chapter and its members. Kiap-TU-Wish received the 1998 **Silver Trout Award** at the State Council Awards Banquet (see separate article), and it received the **DNR Extended Partner/Cooperator Award for 1998** at the DNR Fisheries Management and Habitat Protection Recognition Awards dinner.

United Chapter Reports

Also, member **Kent Johnson** was given the **Water Quality Leadership Award** from **St. Croix County** for his efforts in watershed management and prevention of non-point pollution.

The news was good and bad on the resource front. The good news was that the stretch of the **Willow River** (St. Croix Co.) once inundated by the former **Mounds Dam** has reverted to a beautifully flowing river. The freeflowing stretch drops 40 feet in elevation, revealing a canyon, limestone cliffs, riffles, runs and a small waterfall, all of which had been flooded for the past 71 years by Mounds Dam.

The bad news was the frustration many chapter members felt over the seemingly small penalty assessed the

LAKESHORE CHAPTER

Lakeshore T.U. had a busy winter. The chapter sponsored its annual fly tying class during February, and it hosted meetings of the **Manitowoc Fish and Game Association** and the **Sheboygan County Conservation Alliance**. Meeting programs included an address by state senator **Jim Baumgart** (D.-Sheboygan) on the **Stewardship Fund** and other environmental issues before the Wisconsin

MARINETTE COUNTY CHAPTER

Marinette County T.U.'s 16th annual Conservation Banquet will be held Monday, **April 19th**, at **Schussler's Supper Club** in **Peshtigo**. Tickets (\$25) can be obtained by sending checks payable to **Jim Bereza**, 710 McAllister Ave., Marinette, WI 54143, or by calling him at (715) 735-5029.

Winter meeting programs included: a presentation by **Joe Haug** (DNR Upper Green Bay Basin Land Team Supervisor) about the **Green Bay Basin Watershed Partners**; a program by **Jim Shane** on **Western trout fishing**; and a slide show and talk by **Gary Zimmer** (Nicolet National Forest/Lakewood District biologist) on problems caused to Forest trout streams by roads and culverts.

HARRY & LAURA NOHR CHAPTER

The chapter has been active in promoting its **Adopt-A-Stream** Project, wherein it will pay for the fencing of **spring areas** on private land to protect them from adverse livestock impacts. The chapter also will be repairing and updating past fencing projects.

A proposed land sale along Grant County's **Green River** has spurred the chapter into looking into options for assisting the DNR with the acquisition of this important parcel that includes a quarter mile of stream frontage, one-eighth mile of tributary, springs and a pond.

NORTHWOODS CHAPTER

Northwoods T.U.'s 25th annual Conservation Banquet will be held Tuesday, **April 13th** at the **Rhinlander Cafe and Pub**. For tickets, contact **Ron Reupert** at (715) 365-8387 or **Brian Hege** at (715) 362-3244.

The chapter plans three workdays on **Bearskin Creek** (Oneida Co.) to complement last year's successful efforts on that stream. Northwoods

OCONTO RIVER WATERSHED CHAPTER

Programs at winter meetings included a presentation by DNR Water Quality Specialist **Tim Rasman** on impacts of land use on lakes, and streams and by Chequamegon-Nicolet

landowner from whose property came the infamous manure spill in May, 1998, that decimated trout and invertebrate populations in **Parker Creek**, a tributary to the **Kinnickinnic River** in St. Croix County (see the separate article).

Kiap-TU-Wish voted to appropriate **\$950** to help fund a two-year **aquatic inventory** of the "Kinni" based upon a proposal by **Professor Gerry Clark** of the **UW-River Falls biology department**. The baseline data will be very helpful, as the river faces many threats to its ecosystem.

The chapter's website can be reached by Internet users who log on to: <http://www.lambcom.net/kiap-tuwish/>

Legislature, and a presentation by **Laura Hewitt** on the **Kickapoo River Valley Watershed Conservation Project** and stream restoration in the coulee region.

The chapter's annual Conservation Banquet is set for Saturday, **April 10th**, at the **Club Bil-Mar** in **Manitowoc**. Tickets (\$20) can be obtained by calling **Jeff Preiss** at (920) 208-1135.

In January, Marinette County T.U. appropriated the following: **\$3,000** for culvert replacements on the **South Branch Oconto River** and **North Fork Thunder River** in the **Nicolet National Forest** (Oconto Co.); **\$2,500** to help fund additional beaver trapping on Nicolet Forest trout streams; **\$1,700** to fund trapper **Jerry Giese** for beaver and dam removal on Marinette County trout waters; and **\$1,000** to assist the Forest Service with habitat work on **Johnson, North Otter and Spencer Creeks** (Forest Co.).

Also in January, the chapter finalized the purchase of **15.65 acres** of land with **800 feet of stream frontage** along the **Wausaukee River** east of **Athelstane** (Marinette Co.).

Chapter members have expressed displeasure that **Iowa County** has yet to establish a plan or code for **manure handling and storage** as have adjoining counties. Chapter member **Dan Patenaude** was directed by the chapter to address county officials on that matter.

The chapter's annual banquet will be held on **May 7th** at **The Dodge-bowl** in **Dodgeville**. Tickets (\$20 for adult, \$10 for children) can be obtained by calling **Chuck Steudel** at (608) 987-2171.

T.U. is awaiting the DNR's issuance of an **Environmental Assessment** of the **McDermott Dam/Flowage** on the **Deerskin River** (Vilas Co.). The document is due in June, and the chapter hopes it will buttress its contention that the dam should be removed. The Deerskin is a Class I and II trout stream and the largest in Vilas County.

National Forest Fisheries Biologist **Sue Reinecke** on fisheries management and associated problems in the National Forest.

Oconto River T.U.'s annual Conser-

vation Banquet will be held **April 22nd** at **Romy's Holiday Inn** on **Kelly Lake**. Tickets are \$25. For information, call **Dale Halla** at (715) 745-2099. Proceeds will help fund the chapter's "wild" trout project with the DNR, stream improvements on the **North Branch Oconto River** and other efforts.

OJIBLEAU CHAPTER

Ojibseau T.U.'ers have been very busy with involvement in the controversy over the **Bloomer Dam** on **Duncan Creek** (Chippewa Co.). See separate article for details.

Chapter members also have been working with **Kiap-TU-Wish T.U.** to set priorities for applying **Trout Stamp funds** to stream improvement projects in the **West Central Region** and to lobby the DNR to fulfill its promises to fund a **Trout Crew** for that area. Those positions were to have been filled by mid-March.

The **DNR Bureau of Fisheries Management and Habitat Protection** awarded **Ojibseau T.U.** and the **Village of Colfax** (Dunn Co.) its "External

SHAW-PACA CHAPTER

Shaw-Paca T.U. held its second winter fly tying course, attracting eight students for the six-week session. Winter meeting programs included a discussion by Shawano Area DNR fishery biologist **Ross Langhurst** on the **wild trout program**, a slide and video program by member **Mitch Bent** on winter trout fishing and historical sights in **New Mexico**, and a presentation by Wautoma Area DNR fishery biologist **Al Niebur** on trout population surveys of streams in the **Tomorrow/Waupaca River** watershed.

Since the last issue, Shaw-Paca T.U. made the following appropriations: **\$2,000** to help the **Wisconsin River Valley Chapter** with its restoration project on the **Plover River** (eastern Marathon Co.); **\$1,500** to assist the Forest Service with hiring an additional beaver trapper to remove beaver and dams from Nicolet Forest trout streams; **\$1,000** to help the **Frank**

The chapter plans to host a "Women's Fly Fishing School" this spring featuring **Sara Johnson** from T.U. National and **Stephanie Lindloff** of the **River Alliance of Wisconsin**. Ladies interested in the time and details of this event should contact **Dave Brunner** at (920) 855-6669.

Partners Award" for the project involving removal of the dam on **18-Mile Creek** at **Colfax** and the ensuing restoration work on the stream (see the Winter, 1999, issue of **Wisconsin Trout**.)

Ojibseau's annual spring fund-raising banquet will be held **April 22nd** at the **Park Inn** in **Eau Claire**. For ticket information, contact **Steve Gausman** at (715) 834-8744 or **John Welter** at (715) 833-7028.

In April, the chapter will host a fishing seminar and dedicate a trout display in conjunction with **Earth Day festivities** at the **Beaver Creek Nature Preserve** (Eau Claire Co.).

Hornberg Chapter buy materials for restoration work on the **Tomorrow River** (Portage Co.) and on **Peterson Creek** (Waupaca Co.); **\$500** for a scholarship for an area student majoring in natural resources at **UW-Stevens Point**; **\$200** to renew the chapter's membership with the **Kinnickinnic River Land Trust**; and **\$100** for the "Friends of Wisconsin T.U." program.

The chapter also will contribute another **\$3,000** for continuing habitat restoration work on the **South Branch Embarrass River** (western Shawano Co.), and it will consider proposals for habitat work on the **South Branch of the Little Wolf River** near **Iola** (Waupaca Co.), and for stream surveys on the **Little Wolf River** watershed and on Shawano County trout streams.

Shaw-Paca T.U.'s 16th annual Conservation Banquet was held March 25th.

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN CHAPTER

No report

SOUTHERN WISCONSIN CHAPTER

Wisconsin's largest T.U. chapter breathed a sigh of relief when the deal for purchasing the property around the **Token Creek** millpond and old dam-

site was finalized with a ceremony on December 11, 1998. The **U.S. Army**

Cont. on Page 12



SWTU president Greg Vodak (with plaque) and **DNR Secretary George Meyer** listen to **Ruth Badger** (DNR Southern Region Director) at Dec. 11, 1998, closing ceremony on **Token Creek** acquisition.

✓ Chapter reports

Cont. from Page 11

Corps of Engineers may spend up to \$5 million on dam removal, dredging and restoring five to seven miles of Token Creek as a Class I trout stream.

The chapter's annual "Icebreaker" seminar was a huge success, as over 300 people attended the January 16th event featuring A.K. Best and Dave Ruetz, and SWTU raised over \$5,600 for resource projects.

The February meeting featured presentations by Bradd Sims, new DNR fishery biologist for southwestern Wisconsin, on stream surveys, trout regulations and his goals in his new position, and by Dorrie Bollman of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,

who discussed different stream habitat restoration technologies which may be used on future improvement projects on the Token Creek Watershed (Dane Co.).

Southern Wisconsin T.U.'s annual "March Madness Auction" occurred on the 9th. Chapter elections will be held at the April meeting.

The chapter's annual Casting Clinic is scheduled for April 10th at Salmo Pond, between Cross Plains and Black Earth. Reservations and a \$5 deposit payable to SWTU should be sent to: Greg Vodak, 2649 Tareyton Circle, Stoughton, WI 53589.

WILD RIVERS CHAPTER

No report

WISCONSIN RIVER VALLEY CHAPTER

Chapter president Herb Hintze continues to procure easements from private landowners along the Plover River (eastern Marathon Co.) between Highway 29 and 153, boding well for future restoration work on the river. The chapter will fund (along with Shaw-Paca T.U.) some intensive restoration work in the Plover below Konkell Road in 1998, as well as habitat restoration on a half-mile stretch of the Prairie River (Lincoln Co.) near the Prairie Forks off Axen Road.

The chapter was saddened at the

loss of two fine members, Russ Raymond, a T.U. Life Member and a charter member of Wisconsin River Valley T.U., and Brian Gebarski, who was very supportive of chapter fundraising efforts. Both men will be missed very much.

Wisconsin River Valley T.U.'s annual Conservation Banquet is set for Saturday, April 10th, at Les & Jim's in Merrill. Tickets are \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door. For information, call Herb Hintze at (715) 842-1365.

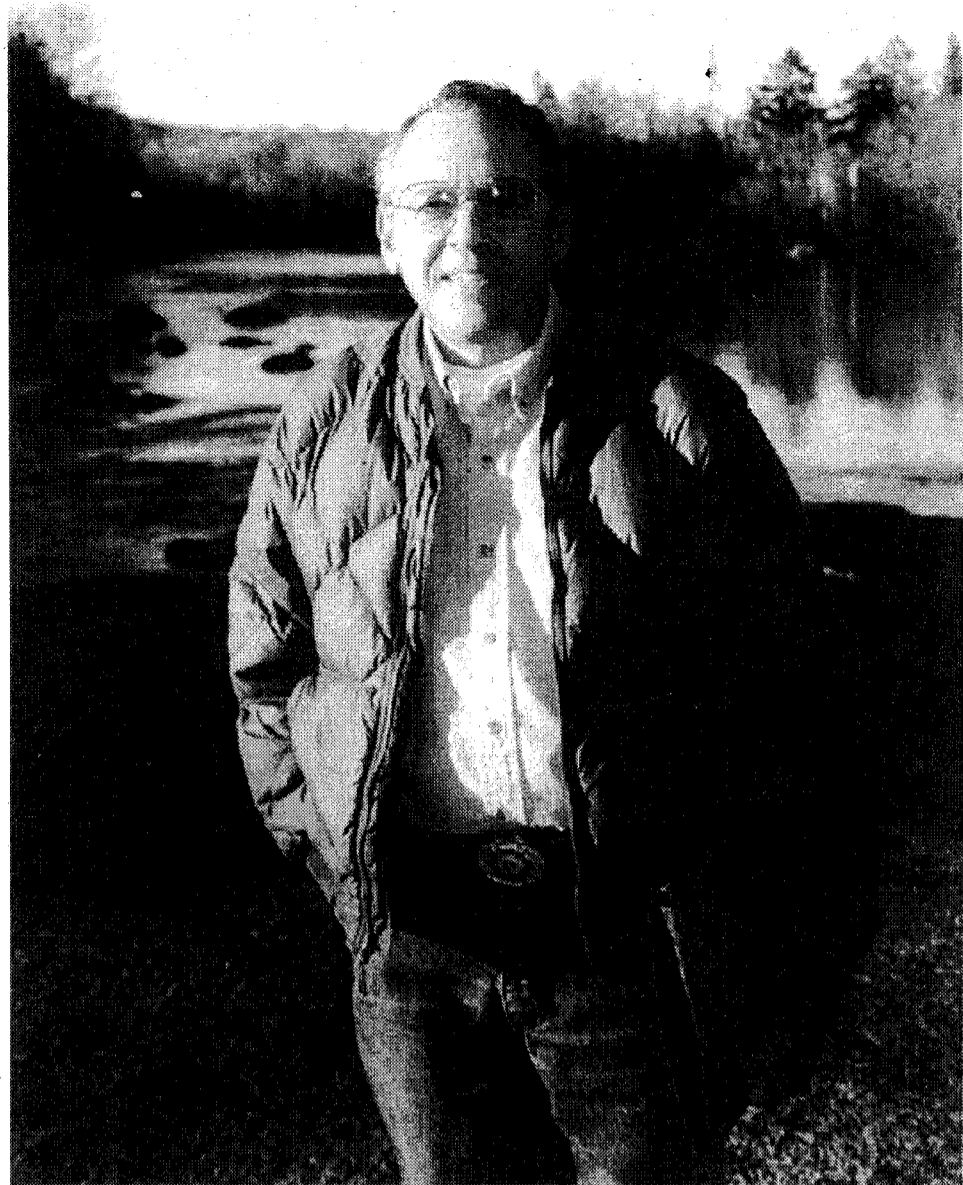
WOLF RIVER CHAPTER

Wolf River T.U. held a successful banquet last October, raising several thousand dollars for resource work that will include: \$2,000 to pay backhoe time for the restoration project on the Wolf River and temperature monitoring on the East Branch Eau Claire, Hunting, Prairie and Wolf rivers and on Elton Springs (all Langlade Co.).

Also, the chapter will continue to subsidize beaver trapping along Wolf River Tributary streams and to fund its program of stocking spring-spawning rainbow trout into the Wolf

River.

The chapter made a large contribution to the Town of Nashville (Forest Co.) Legal Defense Fund to assist the township in its battle with Nicolet Minerals Company (the front name for Exxon) to rescind the local agreement signed by the former Township government and the mining firm that waived the Township's right to object to the proposed gold-silver-zinc-copper mine near the headwaters of the Wolf River.



Lloyd "Duke" Andrews was elected as the new N.E. Region Vice-Chairman.

Northeast Region meets, elects leader

The Northeast Region of the Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited met Dec. 12, 1998, at Buettner's Wild Wolf Inn south of Langlade. The region elected Lloyd "Duke" Andrews to succeed Mitch Bent as N.E. Regional Vice-Chairman.

The meeting was highlighted by a presentation from Gary Zimmer, District Biologist for the Lakewood Ranger Station of the Nicolet National Forest, on impacts that road crossings and culverts have had on trout waters in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest system. Zimmer, along with Forest Fisheries Biologist Sue Reinecke, detailed areas where trout populations likely were suffering because of negative effects of improperly placed culverts and shoddily-built roads. The study of those impacts was funded in 1998 by several T.U. chapters in Northeastern Wisconsin (Green Bay, Marinette County, Oconto River Watershed and Shaw-Paca).

As a result of those studies, remedial action will occur at several sites this summer and in future years (see front page headline article for details).

Following that presentation, Department of Natural Resources fishery biologists and the U.S. Forest Service biologists presented to the group projects where financial assistance from Trout Unlimited was need-

ed. The chapter representatives agreed to seek approval from their individual chapters for \$30,000 total to fund 12 new projects in the region including:

*Stream improvements on the East Branch Eau Claire River and Wolf River and dredging of Hoglot Springs (Langlade County);

*Culvert replacements on the South Branch Oconto River and North Fork Thunder River (Oconto County);

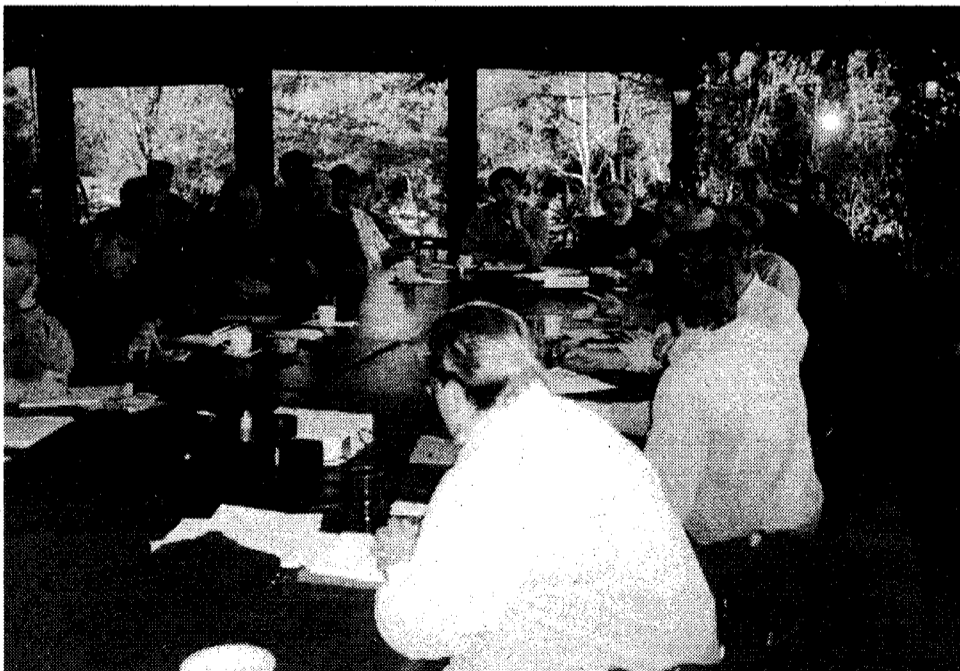
*Instream habitat work on Johnson, North Otter and Spencer Creeks in Forest County;

*Habitat restoration on the Prairie River (Lincoln Co.); and

*Temperature regime monitoring on the Prairie River (Lincoln Co.) and on the East Branch Eau Claire, Hunting and Wolf rivers and on Elton Springs (Langlade Co.).

Also discussed at the meeting were issues involving the Crandon mine, drought impacts on trout waters in Northeastern Wisconsin, the early trout season, alternate funding sources and issues regarding the Ward Paper Mill Dam on the Prairie River (Lincoln Co.), McDermott Dam on the Deerskin River (Vilas Co.) and the Wausaukee Millpond Dam on the Wausaukee River (Marinette Co.).

The next meeting of the N.E. Region is scheduled tentatively for June in Antigo.



N.E. Region T.U.'ers met Dec. 12, 1998, along the Wolf River.

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Conservation Congress hearings April 12th

Early trout season, other items on agenda

The annual Wisconsin Conservation Congress Fish and Game rule hearings will be held in all 72 Wisconsin counties on Monday, April 12, 1999, starting at 7 p.m. Several questions pertaining to trout fishing will be part of the agenda for proposed statewide Bureau of Fisheries Management and Habitat Protection rule changes.

Most notable among the questions is the proposal to reauthorize the "early" trout fishing season on inland trout streams, except for the Category 5 sections of the **Tomorrow River** (Portage Co.), the **West Branch White River** (Waushara Co.) and the **White**

River and its tributaries (Bayfield Co.) upstream from **Pike River Road**.

The early trout season - which allows catch-and-release trout fishing by anglers using only **barbless hooked artificial flies and lures** on all inland trout waters save for lakes, ponds, spring ponds and the above-mentioned trout streams from March 1 through 6 p.m. of the day before the general fishing season opener - was approved by the Natural Resources Board in 1996.

The controversial statewide season was ordered to run only for three years (1997, 1998 and 1999). If the special season is to continue, it must again be put to a vote before the Conservation

Congress and be approved by the NRB.

Along with that question is one that would remove the requirement that **barbless hooks** be used by anglers during the early trout season.

In addition, there will be a proposal to prohibit the **possession** of live bait on designated Category 5 trout waters where gear restrictions limit anglers to use of artificial lures and flies only. Conservation wardens have complained that it is difficult to arrest violators who illegally fish "artificial only" waters with live bait, because they must nab the poachers fishing with live bait **already on the hook** before they can make a case, and

approval of this proposal would make enforcement of the "artificial only" restriction easier.

Finally, a fourth question asks approval of a proposal to add certain stretches of five Lake Michigan tributary rivers (**Pike Kewaunee, Milwaukee, Menomonee and Little**) to those waters designated as "outlying waters."

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited strongly urges its members to attend the Congress hearing in their county and vote as they feel on these issues pertaining to fishing rule changes. The county-by-county locations for the hearings are listed below.

CONSERVATION CONGRESS HEARINGS

Adams	Community Room, Columbia Electric Co-op, 401 E. Lake St., Friendship
Ashland	Ashland High School, Ashland
Barron	Auditorium, Barron County Courthouse, Barron
Bayfield	Gymnasium, Drummond High School, Drummond
Brown	Auditorium, Southwest High School, 1331 Packerland Drive, Green Bay
Buffalo	Auditorium, Alma Area School, S1618 STH 35, Alma
Burnett	Burnett County Government Center, Siren
Calumet	Room 025, Calumet County Courthouse, 206 Court Street, Chilton (Use westside entrance)
Chippewa	Auditorium "A", Chippewa Falls Middle School, 750 Tropicana Blvd., Chippewa Falls
Clark	Greenwood Elementary School, 708 E. Division, Greenwood
Columbia	Columbia Co. Administration Bldg., 400 DeWitt Street, Portage
Crawford	Circuit Courtroom, Crawford County Courthouse, Prairie du Chien
Dane	Mendota Room 5-6, Exhibition Hall, Dane County Expo Center, 1919 Expo Way, Madison
Dodge	Horicon City Hall, 404 E. Lake Street, Horicon
Door	Room A-150, Door County Courthouse, 421 Nebraska St., Sturgeon Bay
Douglas	Cafeteria, St. Croix High School, Solon Springs
Dunn	Dunn Co. Fish and Game Club, 1900 Pine Avenue, Menomonie
Eau Claire	Auditorium, South Middle School, 2115 Mitscher Ave., Eau Claire
Florence	Downstairs Meeting Room, DNR Natural Resource Center, Hwy. 2 and 101, Florence
Fond du Lac	Cafeteria, Moraine Park Technical College, Hwy. 23 East, Fond du Lac
Forest	Auditorium, Crandon High School, Crandon
Grant	Youth & Ag Building, Grant County Fairgrounds, 916 Elm Street, Lancaster
Green	Auditorium, Pleasant View Annex, North 3150 Hwy. 81, Monroe
Green Lake	Multi-purpose Room, Green Lake High School, 612 Mill Street, Green Lake
Iowa	Cafeteria, Dodgeville Elementary School, 404 N. Johnson, Dodgeville
Iron	Iron County Courthouse, Hurley
Jackson	County Board Room, Jackson Co. Courthouse, 307 Main, Black River Falls
Jefferson	Room 205, Jefferson County Courthouse, 320 South Main St., Jefferson
Juneau	Courtroom, Juneau Co. Courthouse, 220 E. State Street, Mauston
Kenosha	Hearing Room, Kenosha County Center, 19600 75th Street, Bristol
Kewaunee	Circuit Courtroom 212, Kewaunee County Courthouse, Kewaunee
La Crosse	Fine Arts Center Auditorium, Onalaska High School, 700 Hilltopper Drive, Onalaska
Lafayette	Cafeteria, Darlington Community High School, 11838 Center Hill Road, Darlington
Langlade	Courthouse, Antigo
Lincoln	Auditorium, Elementary School, Tomahawk School Complex, Tomahawk
Manitowoc	Lecture Hall Room E-125, UW-Manitowoc, 705 Viebahn St., Manitowoc
Marathon	John Muir Middle School, 1400 W. Stewart Avenue, Wausau
Marinette	Auditorium, Wausaukee High School, N11941 Hwy. 141, Wausaukee
Marquette	Marquette County Courthouse, 77 W. Park Street, Montello
Menominee	Meeting Room, Menominee County Courthouse, Keshena
Milwaukee	Auditorium, Hamilton High School, 6215 W. Warnimont Avenue, Milwaukee
Monroe	Auditorium, Sparta High School, Black River Street, Sparta
Oconto	Cafeteria, Suring High School, 411 E. Algoma, Suring
Oneida	Auditorium, James Williams Junior High, 915 Acacia Lane, Rhinelander
Outagamie	Jefferson Elementary School, 1000 South Mason Street, Appleton
Ozaukee	American Legion Hall, 435 N. Lake Street, Port Washington
Pepin	County Board Room, Pepin Co. Government Center, 740 7th Avenue West, Durand
Pierce	Gymnasium, Hillcrest Elementary School, 350 S. Grant, Ellsworth
Polk	Polk County Government Center, Balsam Lake
Portage	Auditorium, Ben Franklin Jr. High School, 2000 Polk Street, Stevens Point
Price	County Board Room, Price County Courthouse, Phillips
Racine	Cafeteria, Union Grove High School, 3433 S. Colony Avenue, Union Grove
Richland	Circuit Courtroom, Richland County Courthouse, Richland Center
Rock	Auditorium, Rock County Health Care Center, 3530 North County Highway F, Janesville
Rusk	Auditorium, Ladysmith High School, Ladysmith
St. Croix	Cashman Auditorium, WI Indianhead Technical College, 1019 S. Knowles Ave., New Richmond
Sauk	UW-Baraboo Campus, 1006 Connie Road, Baraboo
Sawyer	Auditorium, Hayward High School, Hayward
Shawano	LGI Room, Community Middle School, 1050 S. Union Street, Shawano
Sheboygan	Cafeteria, Sheboygan Falls High School, 220 Amherst Avenue, Sheboygan Falls
Taylor	Multi-Purpose Building, Taylor County Fairgrounds, Medford
Trempealeau	County Board Room, Trempealeau Co. Courthouse, 36245 Main Street, Whitehall
Vernon	Large Lecture Room, Viroqua Middle School, Blackhawk Dr., Viroqua
Vilas	Plum Lake Town Hall, Lake Street, Sayner
Waikowish	National Guard Armory, 401 E. Fair Street, Elkhorn
Washburn	Agriculture Research Station, Spooner
Washington	Room 201, Big Lecture Hall, UW-Washington County Campus, 400 University Drive, West Bend
Waukesha	North Hall, Waukesha County Expo Center, 4848 Northview Rd., Waukesha
Waupaca	Grand Seasons Hotel, 110 Grand Seasons Drive, Waupaca
Waushara	Waushara County Courthouse, 209 South St. Marie, Wautoma
Winnebago	Auditorium, Oshkosh North High School, 1100 W. Smith, Oshkosh
Wood	Auditorium, Pittsville High School, 5407 1st Avenue, Pittsville

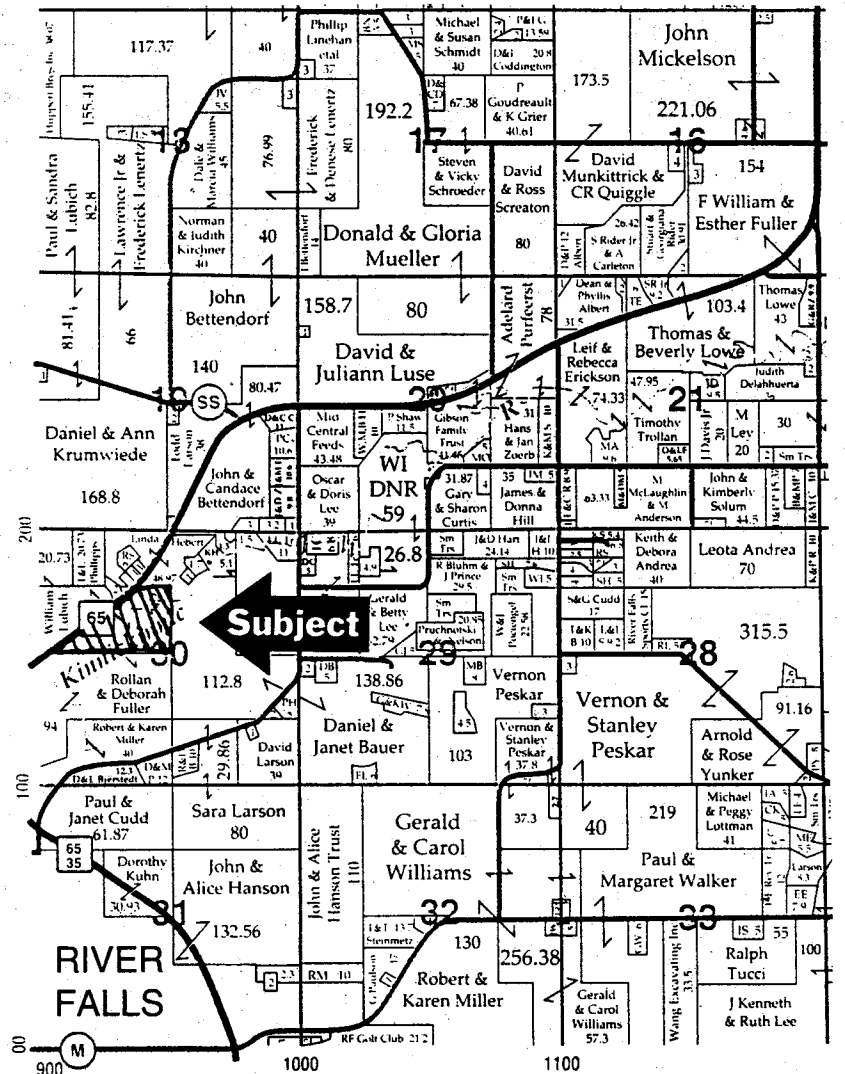


Natural Resources Board notes

During the past few months, the Wisconsin's Natural Resources Board has approved the following land purchase transactions affecting state trout waters:

Pike Wild River - 2.02 acres along the **North Branch of the Pike River**

(Marinette County); and **Kinnickinnic River** - 53 acres along the main "Kinni" in St. Croix County two miles north of River Falls. Parcel has **2,300 feet** of two-bank frontage and **550 feet** of one-bank frontage.



The DNR recently bought 53 acres of land along the Kinnickinnic River north of River Falls through the "Streambank Protection Area" Program.

Wisconsin Trout Stream Profile: the Elk River

In past issues of this paper, we have profiled well-known Wisconsin trout waters having excellent trout habitat, decent thermal regimes and, for the most part, good to excellent trout fishing.

The subject of this issue's "Stream Profile" does not fit that description, however. Price County's **Elk River**, which once supported a decent brook trout population, has experienced a downturn in its fishery over many years due to a number of factors. But recent action by biologists with the **Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest (CNNF)** may be helping to reverse that situation.

The Elk River is located in the southeast corner of the **Park Falls Ranger District** of the CNNF. Depending upon which publication you read, the upper Elk River (before it is impounded by the **Musser Dam** about six miles east of **Phillips**) is listed as Class II or Class III trout water for a little over 13 miles from its origins in the **Elk River Semi-Primitive Non-motorized Area** of the CNNF downstream to **County Road "H."** The Elk's fishery is predominantly brook trout, with some browns mixed among them.

According to CNNF Fishery Biologist **Sue Reinecke** (see separate article), the Elk historically was a good brook trout stream. But the area was logged heavily during the last century or more, and there is evidence that the Elk was used as a conduit for **log drives**.

That was damaging to the Elk for several reasons: The rush of logs down a river hurts its natural meanders and banks due to the physical gouging by the logs. Too, because the Elk is a low gradient stream, it is susceptible to **sediment loading and retention**, which alters (for the worse) in-stream aquatic biota.

Too, a permanent road system became established as the area was developed. Vegetation within the watershed was manipulated, resulting in significant stands of aspen along the river and creeks.

The CNNF began looking at the Elk River and its tributaries, particularly two-mile long **Spring Creek**, in the early 1980's. A comprehensive survey was done on the Elk, revealing a low-density yet self-sustaining brook trout population of 646/acre (47 percent greater than six inches). The study also showed that the Elk had adequate groundwater and spawning habitat which would allow for a higher carrying capacity within the river if other stream and streamside habitat components were not degraded.

Not much proactive work was done on the Elk River system subsequent to the survey, save for some limited beaver management. Then in the early 1990's and in conjunction with another project, the CNNF began to look at the Elk's watershed again and in greater detail. What the biologists determined was that the Elk River watershed was being degraded by the system of roads that traversed the area, in particular by **Forest Road 517 (FR517)**, which crosses **Spring Creek** - a key spawning area and groundwater source for the Elk - no fewer than **six times** in a one-and-a-half mile section.

The Forest Service built FR517 in 1977 as a response to a windstorm and tornado that raged through northern Wisconsin on the Fourth of July weekend. That weather event caused huge timber blow-downs in the Elk River drainage, and the Forest Service decided that the timber should be salvaged as quickly as possible, thus resulting in the construction of FR517.

But the construction of the road was not done well as far as its effects on the Elk River system. The six culverts (one

for each road crossing) all were undersized, and they would wash out each time a major flow event (rainstorm or spring runoff) happened.

This situation went on for 20 years, and Reinecke commented on this matter.

"Imagine a stream (Spring Creek) that is less than 10 feet wide getting inundated with sediment every two-to-three years for 20 years," she stated. "There were sand and gravel deposits visible for several hundred to thousands of feet downstream from the crossings."

"We also know that significant amounts of the sediment reached the Elk River," Reinecke continued. "At the same time, we started looking at all the other crossings within the watershed, and we found at least six additional sites that were contributing major amounts of sediment to the Elk and its associated tributaries. It's no wonder that, between the stuff and earlier (logging) activities within the watershed, the brook trout fishery has declined so much."

The CNNF biologists at Park Falls decided that before any attempts were made to do instream work on the Elk River and Spring Creek, sediment inputs into the system had to be stopped. In 1997, CNNF personnel worked in conjunction with the Town of Emery (wherein the Elk's upper reaches flow) to determine the best course of action to halt sedimentation. They decided that the best course of action would be to **remove the six culverts and obliterate FR517**, while repairing the other six crossings in the watershed.

Work done in the summer of 1998 included pulling those six culverts spanning Spring Creek, removing road-fill from the floodplain, restoring the stream channel and removing sediment up to 100 feet downstream of the crossing. The rest of FR517 was obliterated and bermed on both ends. All of the other culvert sites were on tributaries to the Elk River, most of which are underground river systems that support brook trout.

Although the corrective work is very fresh, Reinecke mentioned that benefits of that work have begun to accrue.

"This past fall, we observed brook trout spawning near several of the old crossing sites," she said. "Now that we've stopped the sediment inputs, we can start working on channel restoration. Hopefully, some day the Elk river will be known once again for having a quality brook trout fishery!"

The hopes expressed by Sue Reinecke for the Elk River's brook trout fishery certainly are attainable. Since most of the classified trout water of the Elk courses through the public lands of the Park Falls Ranger District of the Chequamegon Unit of the CNNF, poten-



Price County's Elk River.



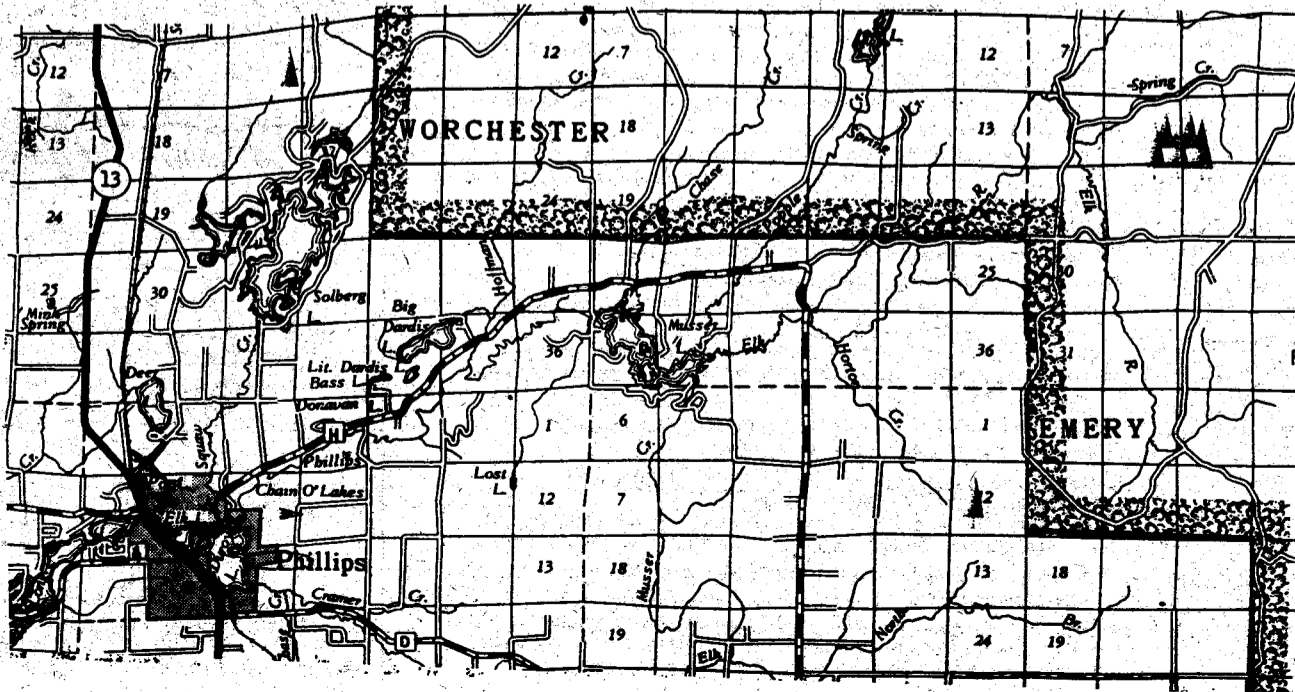
Spring Creek, important feeder to the Elk River, was damaged by Forest Road 517.

tial exists for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to apply **Inland Trout Stamp monies** to stream restoration projects in the river.

And given that U.S. Forest Service Director **Mike Dombeck** (a Wisconsin native) has made watershed protection and restoration a major component of overall Forest Service policy, federal dollars also should be available for restoration work on the Elk.

If so, future articles about Price County's Elk River may not bemoan the state of degradation of the stream, but rather may sing the praises of a river full of aquatic life and healthy, self-sustaining brook trout. Wouldn't that be nice?

(Ed. note: Information on the Elk River was supplied by Sue Reinecke, CNNF Fishery Biologist).



Fishery Biologist Profile: Sue Reinecke

(Ed. note: Past issues of *Wisconsin Trout* have provided profiles on fishery biologists employed with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. This issue and the next will focus on biologists who work for the USDA Forest Service, Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, and who also are involved in important coldwater fishery resource work.)

Trout anglers who appreciate the many and varied coldwater fishery opportunities in Wisconsin most likely are familiar with some of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources fishery biologists who work hard to ensure healthy aquatic ecosystems and fish populations in their areas of responsibilities.

But there are biologists with other resource agencies, particularly with the **USDA Forest Service**, who also endeavor to make a positive impact on the Badger State's trout fisheries, specifically on those waters that flow through the vast network of public lands in the **Chequamegon and Nicolet National Forests**. One person who is an important cog among the staff of biologists working for the Forest Service in Wisconsin is **Sue Reinecke**, the subject of this **Wisconsin Trout Fishery Biologist Profile**.

The 34-year old Reinecke is a native of **Grand Haven, Michigan**, a few miles south of **Muskegon** on the eastern shore of **Lake Michigan**. A 1983 graduate of **Grand Haven Senior High School**, Sue headed south for her college career, attending the **University of Tampa (Florida)**, where she received a Bachelor's Degree in **Marine Biology**.

Upon graduation, Reinecke joined the **Peace Corps** and spent two years in **Sierra Leone, West Africa**, teaching subsistence farmers how to raise fish in ponds. After returning to the States, Sue worked five months with for **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service** surveying Michigan streams for sea lamprey.

In August of 1989, she began working for the **Chequamegon National Forest** out of **Park Falls** as the **Forest Fisheries Biologist**. About the time that her peer in the **Nicolet National Forest - Don Hair** - took a new position with the Forest Service in Montana, the **Chequamegon and Nicolet National Forests** merged into one unit, and Sue was assigned the fisheries duties for the combined National Forest unit.

Taking on such a dual load can be an intimidating prospect, but Reinecke has persevered nonetheless.

"The **Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest (CNNF)** covers over **1.5 million acres**, of which 23 percent is wetland," she said. "There are **603 lakes** greater than **10 acres** in size, and there are over **2,000 miles of stream**, of which **1,382 miles** are classified as **trout water**, with 463 miles of Class I, 722 miles of Class II and 197 miles of Class III water".

"The majority of the trout waters are on the **Nicolet side**, though the **Chequamegon** does have about 211 miles of trout stream," Sue noted. "The **CNNF** falls within 11 counties, including **Ashland, Bayfield, Price, Sawyer and Taylor** in the **Chequamegon Unit**, and **Florence, Forest, Langlade, Oconto, Oneida and Vilas** in the **Nicolet Unit**."

Although the Forest Service's involvement in coldwater resource conservation goes back many years, it is only in the last 10-12 years that its activities have been headlined, and Reinecke commented on that situation.

"The Forest has a long history of working to restore and improve trout resources," she claimed. "In fact, it always amazes me what I find when I'm

doing survey work in a trout stream. Often I come across many structures that date back to the **CCC days** (Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930's Depression Era)."

"When I started with the Forest Service," she added, "the beaver management program was just getting started, the more expensive, labor-intensive structures (bank covers, **LUNKER** structures, deflector logs, etc.) were popular, and stream brushing and brush bundle installation were in their infancy states. Over the past few years, we've been expanding our focus in stream restoration to learn how streams function **hydrologically**."

Taking a holistic approach to stream restoration has become the driving force behind the Forest Service's philosophy of trout habitat improvement work.

"Many times in the past we've focused our efforts on trying to provide the best habitat for trout," She continued. "That's not necessarily a bad thing, but sometimes we forget to look at what the stream can provide. All streams don't function the same way, thus certain restoration techniques may work well in one channel type but not in another."

"Looking at streams from a watershed perspective also is becoming more common," Reinecke stated. "Instead of just working on various sections of a stream, we inventory the entire system and try to determine all sources of impacts, including such things as **road/culvert crossings** on streams."

Before direct physical restorations on streams can occur, Sue said that the Forest Service has to lay out plans prior to that work.

"**Monitoring** is a tool we're using to help us better decide the best course of action to take in stream restoration," she noted. "We now have permanent cross-sections on several different streams so that we can return each year and take measurements to determine how the channel is reacting to the treatment (stream restoration) and if we're getting the habitat we desired."

"This information will be invaluable in designing future instream restoration work," Reinecke added. "There's a lot of work still to be done. The streams and rivers of the **CNNF** were impacted substantially by **early log drives**, roads and more recent vegetative management. The more inventory and monitoring that is done, the better we can understand the systems and restore them."

While the immense acreage within the **CNNF** is public holdings, there still exist problems with the coldwater resources therein, and Sue focused on one of the major problems on which more attention has been directed recently.

"Probably one of the biggest threats to both coldwater and warmwater ecosystems is **sediment**," she noted. "We've been working on a forest-wide inventory of the road/stream crossings, and results are rather astonishing. A 1997 survey of **403 sites** in the **Chequamegon Unit** found that 12 percent were major sediment sources, 24 percent moderate, 36 percent minor and 28 percent not at all. A similar survey done in 1998 in the **Nicolet Unit** produced results of 14 percent major, 23 percent moderate and 37 percent minor."

"Many of the streams in the forest have very little gradient," Reinecke added, "so once the sediment gets into them, it stays there forever. Not only does excess sediment fill pools and cover spawning areas, but it also can change the way a channel functions hydrologically. Thanks to four Northeastern Wisconsin T.U. chapters



Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest Fisheries Biologist Sue Reinecke.

(**Green Bay, Marinette County, Oconto River Water-shed and Shaw-Paca**) that helped fund the **Nicolet** portion of the inventory last year, we now have a much better handle on the situation. In fact, we will have the opportunity to fix several problem areas on each side of the **CNNF** this year."

Having the responsibility of caring for a multitude of coldwater and warmwater resources can be a crushing burden, but Sue keeps life in perspective.

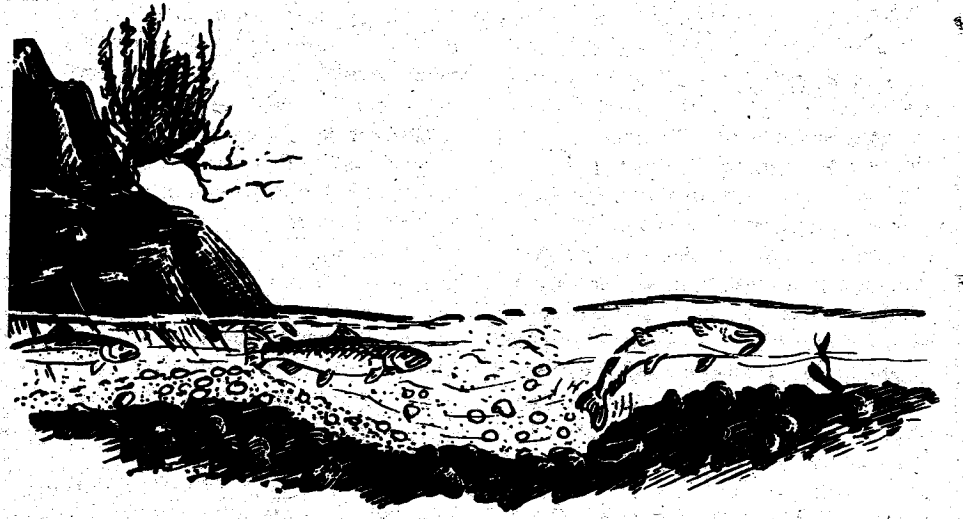
"My first love is water," she said in her typically effervescent manner, "and that's the reason I work in fisheries. I love to snorkel, scuba-dive, canoe and fish. I also enjoy doing crafts, going biking (mountain and road) and traveling."

During her career, Reinecke has been recognized for her work on behalf of aquatic resources. In 1993, Sue received both the "Forest Service Eastern Region Honor Award for Integrated Resource Management" and the "USDA Honor Award for Implementing Ecosystem Management" as a member of the

Chequamegon NF Ecosystem Implementation Group. In 1997, she was presented with the "Forest Service Eastern Region Honor Award for Environmental Protection" as a member of the **Wisconsin Aquatic Group, CNNF**.

Summarizing her work to date on aquatic resources in the **Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest**, Sue stated, "I enjoy my job very much, and some of the best times have been spent working with outside organizations. I know that we in the Forest Service could not accomplish the positive things we've achieved relating to trout waters if it weren't for the help of the many **Trout Unlimited chapters** which have come to our aid over the years."

Suffice it to say that T.U. chapters feel the same way about **Sue Reinecke** and other biologists of the **USDA Forest Service** in Wisconsin who have gone the extra mile to ensure that the many waters within the **CNNF** - which belongs to **EVERYONE** - are managed and protected as best they can be for current and future generations of outdoor recreation enthusiasts.



Visit the Sportsmen's Center at

Mike's Mobil Service

New for '99 are: Fenwick rods, waders, vests, custom nets by Neil Sandvige; custom rods by Jim Curry, and quality flies by Jim Curry and other tyers.

Mike's purchased the inventory of the former **Fishful Thinking Fly Shop** and moved it to **Mike's Mobil** at the Highway 55-64 junction along the famous **Wolf River**. Stop in and have a look!

Settlement reached on Parker Creek spill

Was agreement too lenient?

The Department of Natural Resources announced that a River Falls area farmer involved in the May, 1998, fish kill in St. Croix County's **Parker Creek**, a tributary to the popular **Kinnickinnic River**, agreed on January 14, 1999, to a manure management plan (MMP) designed to prevent future damage to the waterways from manure runoff via his farm.

Eric Swenson, 148 CTH "W," River Falls, agreed to a plan prohibiting manure spreading in the most environmentally sensitive areas (ESAs) on his farm and requiring that manure be worked into the soil as soon as possible in some other areas where it is applied. Swenson also pleaded "No contest" to a DNR citation for pollution, and agreed to pay a \$200 penalty, which was accepted by St. Croix County Judge Eric Lundell.

State nonpoint source pollution

officials say the MMP highlights the importance of **where and when** manure should be applied to land.

"This plan represents a good start," said **Jill Jonas**, leader of the DNR runoff management section. "The plan recognizes the need for adequate stream buffers, uniform spreading of manure and immediate incorporation of the manure into the soil in ESAs. It's sad that the fishkill happened; however, it shows that what is considered 'acceptable manure management' today does not necessarily protect water quality. This is one of the issues we're hoping to address as we redesign the nonpoint source pollution program."

The fishkill began near the headwaters of the **South Branch of Parker Creek**, where a farm field had been spread with liquid manure immediately before a heavy rain occurred. More than 90 percent of Parker Creek's trout

population died, as did much of the stream's invertebrate life. Biologists expect that it will take three to five years for the creek's trout population to rebound to the levels that existed prior to the spill.

Trout in the "Kinni" also succumbed to the spill, but recovery is expected to go faster there.

The agreement reached between Swenson and the St. Croix County District Attorney's office requires Swenson to follow a MMP on all areas of his farm in the future to prevent a recurrence of that fish kill, and that it must meet **Standard 590** of the **Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)**, formerly the Soil Conservation Service).

It says that no manure applications

can be made within 50 feet of identified ESAs, and that any manure applications within 200 feet of an ESA outside the 50-foot zone will be incorporated into the soil as quickly as possible after application. The **St. Croix Land and Water Conservation Department (L&WCD)** will review the MMP annually.

In addition, Swenson must establish **conservation-grassland buffers** on both sides of the designated waterway, and elsewhere if appropriate, under direction from the NRCS and county L&WCD. The buffers are to be maintained at a minimum width of 100 feet on each side of the designated waterway and for a minimum period of 10 years.

Angler's perspective on Parker Creek agreement

By "Skip" James

(Ed. note: "Skip" James is a long-time activist with the **Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of Trout Unlimited**. He wrote a column for the Summer, 1998, issue of **Wisconsin Trout** on this spill after it occurred last May. This column appeared previously in the March, 1999, issue of **Rip Rap**, the official newsletter of **Kiap-TU-Wish T.U.**)

Last May, a disastrous fish kill occurred on Parker Creek, a tributary to the Kinnickinnic River. Over **14,000 trout** were destroyed when liquid manure - pumped as fertilizer onto the fields of farmer **Eric Swenson** - was washed by torrential rains into a dry run leading to the creek before it had been incorporated into the soil.

After a huge outcry from **Trout Unlimited** and other conservation organizations, the DNR cited Swenson for negligence, and **Eric Johnson**, St. Croix County District Attorney, brought charges against him. The case was settled January 14, 1999, with a **plea bargain**. Swenson agreed to pay \$200, adopt and put in place a nutrient management plan and establish grassy buffers along the waterways on his property.

The nutrient management plan and buffers will be maintained under the yearly inspection of the St. Croix County Land and Water Conservation Department. Swenson's "no contest" plea does not imply guilt or liability for damages. His reaction to the settlement was "I still have my doubts whether I'm responsible for this, but I agreed to it because it was financially feasible for me. I guess everybody is going to get something out of it."

Not everyone was happy, though. There is general agreement among DNR personnel that the bargain struck with Swenson may not do enough to protect the "Kinni" from future similar mishaps. The agency pushed hard for same-day incorporation of liquid manure, rather than the 48 hours allowed in the settlement. Compensation for the lost trout - estimated to be at least **\$18,500** - certainly would have sent a stronger message than the \$200 recovered. It remains to be seen whether the DNR will use this case in efforts to lobby for stricter standards statewide.

Tim Popple, project manager for the **Kinnickinnic River Priority Watershed**, was more sanguine. He has been trying to educate farmers in the valley about ecologically sound ways to manage their wastes.

"Farmers are an independent lot," he said. "If the outcome of the Swenson case had been seen as punitive, I can tell you that his neighbors wouldn't allow me on their property. The key to changing farming practices is access, education and cooperation. Swenson's dairy operation is not the only 'accident-waiting-to-happen' around. There are a lot of dry runs out there."

Popple has spent the last two years building consensus among landowners, environmental groups, developers and other interests for a comprehensive plan for the preservation of water quality in the Kinnickinnic River.

Are there lessons to be learned here? The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is the designated agency to enforce the rules concerning fish and game. It's recent politicization makes enforcement more difficult when regulations conflict with agricultural or other interests with powerful lobbies in Madison.

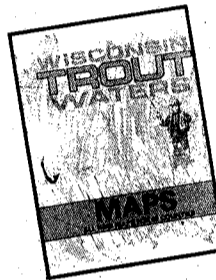
If it pushes too hard, its budget gets cut, or it loses personnel or funding for projects. Under present circumstances, "getting tough" with farmers isn't going to translate into a cleaner river.

Combine that with the dogged determination of farmers to preserve their independent way of life, and it may be more realistic to take a gentler tack. The carrot sometimes works better than the stick.

If the Kinnickinnic River Priority Watershed plan is adopted by St. Croix County, the stage will be set for conciliation, not confrontation. We need informational tools like **Kiap-TU-Wish T.U.'s** new "Storm on the Horizon" video to educate people. Perhaps Eric Swenson's farm, with its best-practices waste management system and its vegetative buffer zones, will become a model for his neighbors after they listen to Tim Popple explain how improved water quality benefits everyone.

Should that happen, those of us who love the "Kinni" will be very happy, indeed!

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Crandon mine update

Nicolet Minerals Company submits list of "safe mines"

Critics say mines don't meet criteria

In early January and less than a year after passage of the controversial **Sulfide Mining Moratorium Bill (SB 3)** by the Wisconsin Legislature, Nicolet Minerals Company submitted a list of three North American mines the company says meets the criteria laid out in the legislation against which it lobbied so vigorously last session.

Environmental groups and other critics of the proposed **gold-silver-zinc-copper sulfide ore mine** near the headwaters of the **Wolf River** in **Forest County** have complained, however, that the three mines submitted by Nicolet Minerals (formerly **Crandon Mining Company**) as "safe" mines cannot be compared to the proposed Crandon mine.

"They just don't make any sense. The mines have absolutely nothing in common with the Crandon mine," said **Zoltan Grossman**, co-founder of the **Wolf Watershed Educational Project**.

The mining moratorium bill, grudgingly signed into law last Earth Day (April 22, 1998) by Governor Thompson, says that Wisconsin may not issue permits for sulfide ore mines in Wisconsin unless and until applicants can provide examples of another similar mine in a similar ore body in North America that has been mined for at least 10 years **AND** closed for at least 10 years without adverse consequences to surface water and groundwater supplies.

Nicolet Minerals Company proffered as "safe" the following North American mines:

*the **McLaughlin mine**, and **open-pit** gold mine in California;

*the **Sacaton mine**, and **open-pit** copper mine near Casa Grande, Arizona;

*the **Cullaton Lake mine**, an **underground** gold mine off Hudson Bay in the Northwest Territories of Canada.

The company chose the McLaughlin mine as one that has operated 10 years without causing environmental harm, and the Cullaton Lake mine as one that has been closed 10 years without any environmental problems. The Sacaton mine was submitted as an example of one that met both criteria.

Environmental groups waited nearly a month before issuing an opinion on the qualifications of the three mines, because they were unable to gain access to the company's documents for a period of time, according to **Al Gedicks**, executive secretary of the **Wisconsin Resources Protection Council**. After studying the documents, environmental groups said that the three mines cannot be compared to the proposed Crandon mine because they are in different climatological areas, and only one has been **BOTH** opened and closed for at least 10 years.

The reasons given by the groups for stating that none of the mines meet the

criteria for "safe" mines as delineated in SB 3 are:

***Sacaton mine** (Casa Grande, Arizona): The mine is **open-pit** compared to the **underground** nature of the proposed Crandon mine, and rainfall is scarce compared to Crandon, which gets more than 30 inches a year. Also, there is no wastewater discharge to streams at Sacaton.

***McLaughlin mine** (near San Francisco, Cal.): While having been operated for at least 10 years (1983 to present), the mine has yet to be closed for at least that long; too, the mine does not discharge to groundwater as would the Crandon mine.

***Cullaton Lake mine**: Although operated between 1976 and 1985, the mine was in **full production** under different companies only from 1982 to 1985, fewer than 10 years; also, the mine was underground in **permafrost**, where groundwater was not monitored because it was **frozen**.

"There are hundreds of metallic sulfide mines in North America," Grossman stated. "From all of them, Nicolet Minerals could find only three mines they felt qualified as 'safe' mines, and then they bent the rules of two of the three in their hopes of meeting the criteria."

Also critical of the selections was **Chuck Sleeter**, the chairman of Forest County's **Nashville Township** wherein part of the Crandon ore lode lies.

"I can't expect that the Department

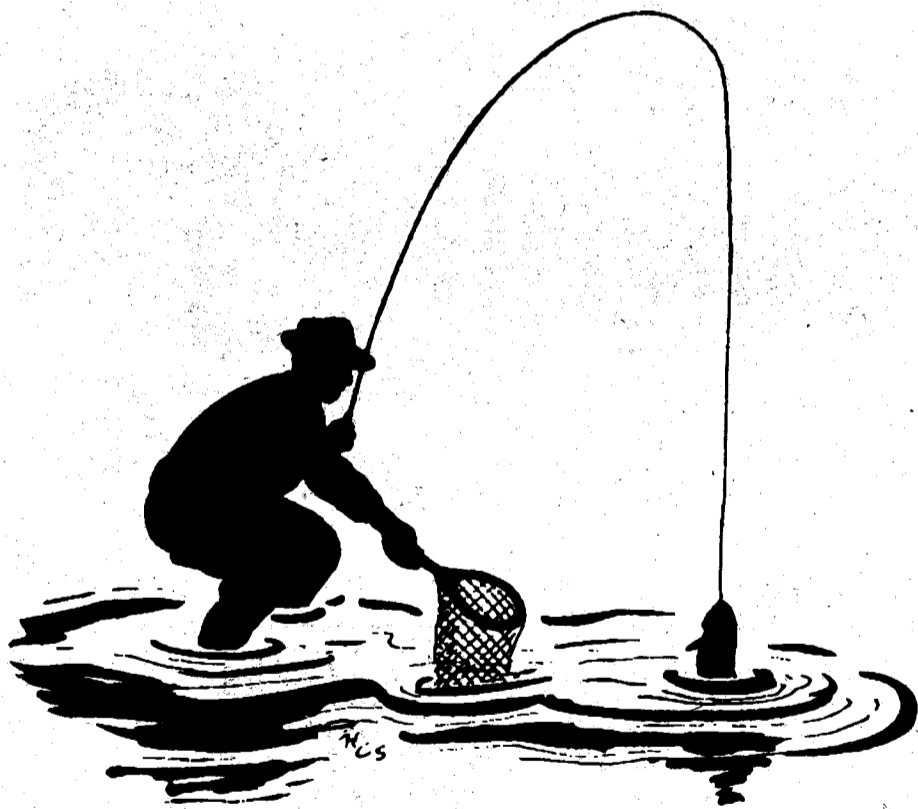
of Natural Resources even would consider these as options," he said. "It's apples and oranges. Two of the examples are **open-pits**; we have a proposed **below-ground mine** that has the potential of acid mine drainage."

In addition to the three mines it submitted as examples of "safe" mines, Nicolet Minerals cited **11 other mines** they claimed provide examples of "effective environmental approaches and technologies." Included in that list was the **Flambeau mine** near **Ladysmith, Wisconsin**. That mine operated only four years, not long enough to meet the moratorium's 10-year operating standard (nor its 10-year closure standard), but the company said it provides "useful information" about environmental technology at a mine with geological characteristics similar to the Crandon mine.

Nicolet Minerals ignored the fact that the Flambeau mine is an **open-pit** mine, as are the **Sacaton** and **McLaughlin mines**.

The DNR will analyze the company's list of mines and make recommendations on whether any of the mines comply with the sulfide mining moratorium law. While a decision is not expected until next year, environmentalists like Gedicks are worried that the DNR will ignore their concerns.

"Our major fear is that, with the politicization of the DNR, it will bend the law to make these half-hearted examples admissible," he said.



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Legislative notes

Bills introduced to restore Public Intervenor, end "politicized" DNR

With the 1999-2000 session of the Wisconsin Legislature underway, several important environmental bills have been introduced, according to **Rep. Spencer Black** (D.-Madison), the leading advocate in the Assembly for environmental protection.

Black has introduced two bills, one ending political control of the Department of Natural Resources and the other restoring the position of **Public Intervenor** to its autonomous place within the **State Justice Department**, that are priority items with state environmental/conservation groups.

The former - **AB 82** - was announced by Black at a State Capitol press conference while joined by **Estella Leopold** and **Nina Leopold-Bradley**, daughters of famed Wisconsin conservationist **Aldo Leopold**, who led the successful fight in 1927 to end political cronyism in the state's conservation agency. The bill would remove the authority for appointing the DNR Secretary from the governor and return it to the Natural Resources Board.

Introducing AB 82, Black stated, "Wisconsin's system of a **politically independent** conservation agency made our state a leader in protecting our environment, because decisions about our outdoors were based on science, not politics. The recent change to a politically-controlled DNR undermines our proud tradition of stewardship of our environment. The newly-established political control of the DNR means that decisions about our environment now are subject to political influence."

Black said some effects of political control of the DNR on policymaking already have been seen. He said that the DNR has gone from being an independent regulator of the mining industry to a **booster of mining**, noting that the agency lobbied **against** last session's **Sulfide Mining Moratorium Bill** (SB 3) and that it refused to pass rules preventing pollution from mining.

He also asserted that there has been a sharp decline in bringing environmental lawbreakers to court since the administration of Governor Thompson won in 1995 the right to politicize appointment of the DNR Secretary, and he raised concerns that the DNR Secretary has become a partisan political fund-raiser.

"Having the regulator of the mining and landfill industries soliciting campaign contributions from mining and landfill lobbyists compromises enforcement of our anti-pollution laws," Black said.

The Leopold sisters echoed Black's feelings about political control of the DNR.

"From Aldo Leopold's point of view, the head of a regulatory agency that is concerned with land and wildlife management should take the long view," stated Estella Leopold, a botany professor. "When decisions are made, they should not be by a political delegate, but by a statesman trained in science and representing the long view. That is why this bill is critically important."

Nina Leopold Bradley, who heads the **Aldo Leopold Foundation**, added that her father saw the destructive influence that political control had on natural resource management in the early part of this century, and she urged a return to her father's vision of long term conservation based on science and community values.

The bill to restore the office of **Public Intervenor** was announced by Black and state senator **Gary George** (D.-Milwaukee) on March 1. The Intervenor's office was created in 1967 under the administration of former Republican governor **Warren Knowles** as a means of providing an "environmental watchdog" over the DNR after it had been created from the melding of the former **Conservation Department** and **Department of Resource Development** as per the **Kellett Commission** government reorganization plan.

In the 1995-1996 state Budget Bill, Governor Thompson had proposed to abolish the Intervenor's office, which was viewed as a thorn in the side of the likes of the **mining industry** and **cranberry growers**, both of which have been large contributors to Thompson's campaigns.

Republican majorities in both the Assembly and State Senate subsequently passed - by party-line votes - a modification of Thompson's plan (with his approval) that transferred the Intervenor's office from the Justice Department to the DNR and stripped it of its right to bring suit ("intervene"), thus eviscerating it of its ability to protect citizens' rights in natural resource matters.

While that right to sue was used sparingly by the Intervenor's office, it was an essential "carrot-and-stick" tool to force agencies to negotiate solutions to environmental disputes.

Black stated that, "The Public Intervenor acted as the citizen's voice in legal disputes. They were the **people's lawyers**. In facing a well-funded corporation or public agency, a citizen might not face much of a chance. Having the Public Intervenor on their side gave average citizens a fighting chance."

"I hear from many citizens who face problems such as a power plant being sited near their farm, PCBs (poly-chlorinated biphenyls) being dumped near their house or a wetland being filled in their community. Before, I could refer them to the Public Intervenor; now, unless they're wealthy, they have no place to turn for legal assistance," Black added.

Senator George noted, "The Public Intervenor can play a key role in helping citizens and localities protect environmentally sensitive areas and open spaces on the fringes of urban areas. Combined with additional funding for the state's **Stewardship Program**, this office can provide citizens and local governments with the resources they need in the fight to protect these lands and combat the adverse impacts of urban sprawl."

Questions over Stewardship Fund renewal

Governor Thompson's 1999-2000 biennial budget bill, submitted in February, contained language reauthorizing the **Stewardship Fund**, the 10-year, \$250 million bonding program for recreational land acquisition that expires this year. Once a strident opponent of "Stewardship" (he threatened to veto the plan when it was passed by the Democrat-controlled Legislature in 1989), Thompson has become a fan of the plan, pointing out that more lands and waters have been protected under his administration than that of any other governor in Wisconsin history.

"Stewardship" has been important to trout anglers in Wisconsin, as the **Streambank Protection Program**

facet has been used to purchase important streamside riparian lands where Inland Trout Stamps funds can be applied for trout habitat restoration projects.

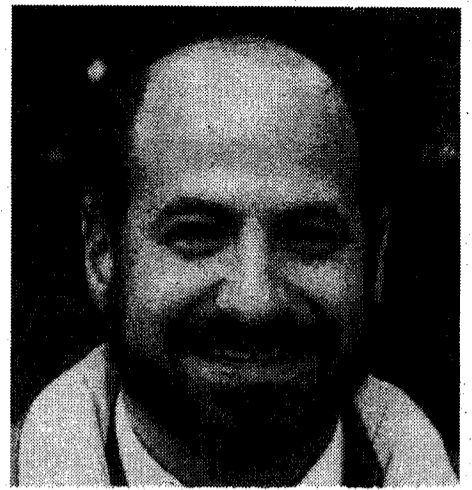
The governor's new plan for "Stewardship" calls for another 10-year cycle of selling **General Obligation Bonds** to raise funds for purchasing environmentally important tracts of land, but with the amount raised to **\$500 million**.

Environmental/conservation groups applauded Thompson's proposal, but they also expressed concerns about the actual amount of money that will be available.

Groups like the **River Alliance of Wisconsin** and the **Sierra Club** pointed out that Thompson's plan only proposed **\$345 million** in state funding, with **\$40 million** of that going toward the state-shared funding of the federal government's remodeled **CREP** (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program), which pays farmers to idle production on ecologically important grasslands and wetlands.

They also noted that the governor's \$500-\$520 million figure includes an estimated **\$170 million** in federal money that will be added because of the state's \$40 million commitment to CREP.

Rep. Black, who authored the orig-



inal "Stewardship Program" act, stated, "While I'm glad the Stewardship Fund is continuing, what the governor is proposing is, in reality, somewhat disappointing." He added that the actual amount of state bonding money - **\$305 million** - in the Stewardship Fund renewal will purchase far less land than did the original Stewardship Fund, because land prices have escalated so rapidly in the last decade.

Black and other legislators will propose an even higher level of bonding for "Stewardship" in the budget bill.

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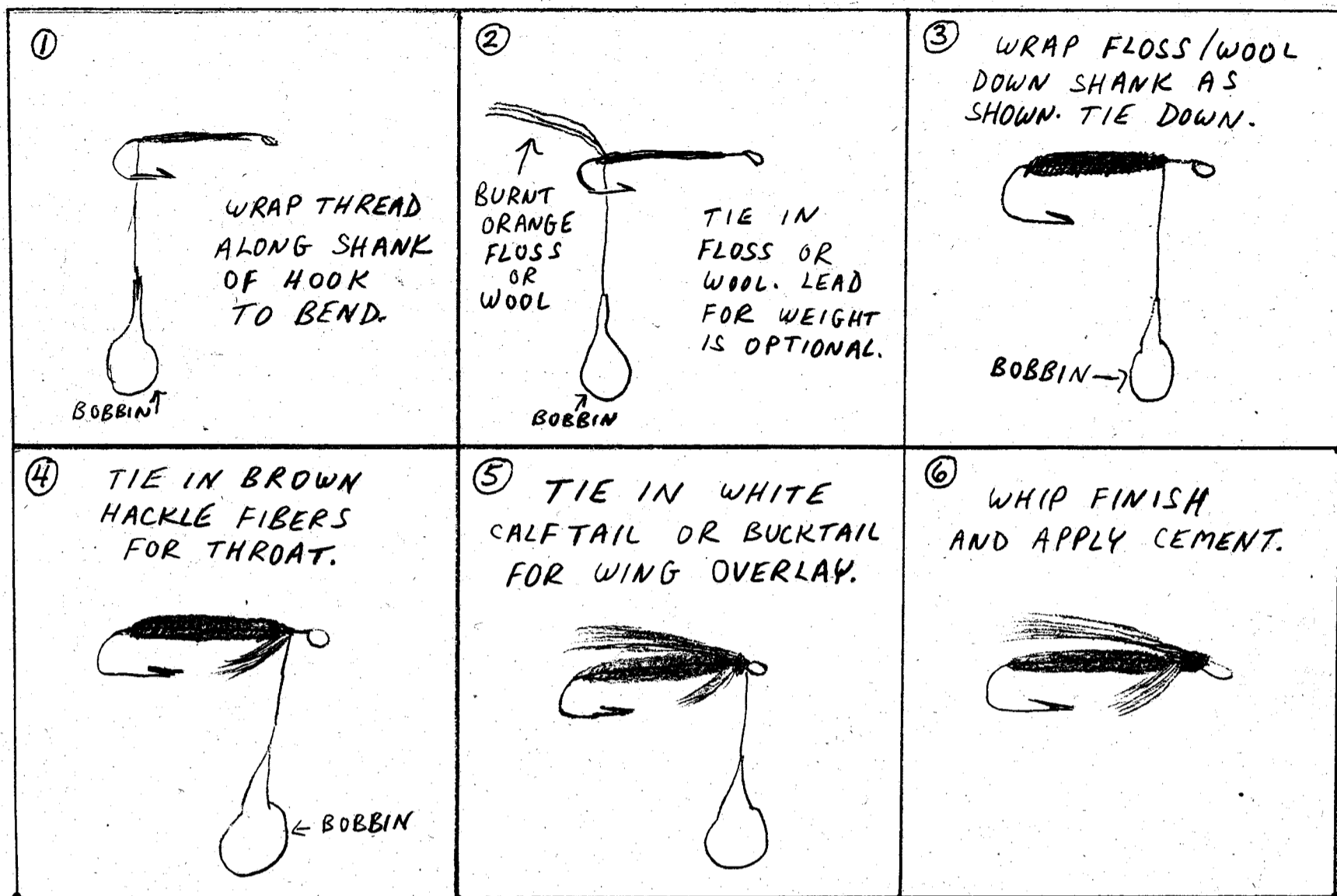
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Favorite trout flies for spring pond fishing

Tying Instructions for the "ORANGE & WHITE" Wet Fly



By Mitch Bent

It is likely that most Wisconsin trout anglers prefer to do their fishing in the abundant and varied rivers, streams and creeks that meander through Wisconsin's countryside. Those waters give rise to specific aquatic insect hatches that have provided fly fishing much of its lore and allure.

A smaller group of trout anglers, myself included, have a special affection for pursuing trout - mainly brook trout - in the numerous spring ponds around the state, especially those that are concentrated in Northeastern Wisconsin. The techniques and flies used for this stillwater angling often differ from those used on free-flowing waters. Although my technique always will be suspect, I have found a number of fly patterns that can give an edge in catching trout even to a mediocre fly angler like me.

Without further adieu, let us go through my list of a dozen or so good, proven fly patterns that will interest the finicky native brook trout that reside in spring ponds. Some of these are "local patterns" unknown to most anglers. Listing my most successful ones with an asterick (*), they are (noted by pattern, type and size):

Orange and White (*): Wet fly. Sizes 8-14 (Mustad #9671 or old Mustad #7957). Profiled here in article.

Dark Cahill (*): Wet fly. Sizes 8-18 (Mustad #3906). Also profiled.

Grizzly King (*): Wet fly. Sizes 10-14 (Mustad #9671). Use squirrel tail rather than mallard flank feathers for wing top for faster sinking.

Pro buck (*): Wet fly. Sizes 6-12 (Mustad #9671). Originated in Upper Michigan along the Escanaba River. Red tag, yellow or cream wool body, fine dentist wire ribbing, brown hackle fibers for throat, black bucktail over white bucktail for overwing. Lead weight optional.

Chironomids/midge flies (*): Nymph. Sizes 16-18 (Mustad #9671) or

sizes 16-20 (Mustad #3906). Especially good in early-mid May after first warm rain.

Shrimp (*): Nymph. Sizes 14-20 (Mustad #37160).

Cress Bug: Weighted nymph. Sizes 14-20 (Mustad #3906). Fished near underwater vegetation.

Squirrel Tail steamer: Streamer/wet fly. Various body colors (yellow, white, gray) with gold tinsel ribbing. Sizes 6-12 (Mustad #9672).

Professor: Wet fly. Sizes 10-14 (Mustad #9671).

Elk hair caddis: Dry fly. Sizes 12-18 (Mustad #94840). Fish in areas of slight current movement.

Pass Lake: Dry or wet. Sizes 4-16 (Mustad #94840). Larger ones for night fishing.

I would swear on a stack of Bibles that I have caught more trout on the first two wet fly patterns (**Orange and White** and **Dark Cahill**) than I have on all other fly patterns combined, though the **Grizzly King** has been a reliable pattern the past five or so years. Since I subscribe to the "Forrest Gump" method of fly tying (Simple does as simple is"), I'll take you through the easy steps to tie these very effective stillwater patterns.

Orange and White: My father, Gordon Bent, who was without doubt the finest fly caster I've ever seen, used this wet fly pattern extensively on our all-too-few trout fishing trips together. It is tied thus:

1) Wrap thread along hook shank. Lead wire for weight is optional.

2) For a single wrap of burnt orange wool (two strands) or floss, tie in material at hook bend. For a double wrap, tie in two-thirds from bend to eye. Wrap to hook bend and then back to starting point.

3) Tie in brown hackle fibers for throat.

4) Tie in wing using white bucktail or calf-tail. The former will make fly sink better, while the latter will help it remain just below surface.

5) Whip-finish head and apply cement to head.

Dark Cahill: This, too, was one of Gordy's pet patterns. The tying steps are in many publications, but I'll go through them here, anyway:

1) Wrap thread along hook shank. Apply lead wire if weight is desired.

2) Gray or dun hackle fiber tips are optional for tail. If used, tie in a sparse bunch, but don't extend too far forward from bend.

3) For body, tie in slate gray or blue dun floss, hand-spun yarn or double-strand wool. Floss gives a nice, sleek appearance, but it begins to unravel after a few hits, as trout teeth are sharp enough to tear it. Wool will give a "bug-gier" appearance, but may cause initial buoyancy.

4) Tie in gray or brown hackle fibers for throat.

5) Attach amber-colored wood duck flank feather fibers for wing topping.

6) Whip-finish and apply cement to head.

These patterns, as well as the **Pro buck**, **Grizzly King**, **Professor** and **Squirrel Tail streamer**, should be allowed to sink some before being retrieved. I often vary the speed with which I retrieve the Orange and White, while I bring in the Dark Cahill more slowly, inch-by-inch.

Give these fly patterns a try if you venture out onto Wisconsin's many spring holes. These should produce strikes if the fish are feeding.

But remember, particularly if you're accustomed to river and stream fishing, that spring pond trout often are selective and picky. They can afford to be so, because potential "chow" is abundant and does not go zipping by, thus allowing them to examine a fly more closely.

Too, you are more likely to catch spring pond fish in early mornings, near or after dusk and on overcast, drizzly days. Good luck!

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New "Friends" campaign underway

Five new projects funded; more pending

"Trout waters can be very personal places. The best trout streams are the ones you grow up with and then grow old with....You develop a profound affection for them, and you think maybe before you die you will even understand a little about them."

So wrote the late and great Wisconsin outdoor writer Gordon MacQuarrie. Our beloved Badger State certainly is blessed with a multitude of such trout waters that evoke the type of gut feelings expressed by the likes of MacQuarrie. The vast complex of rivers and spring ponds in the Northeast. The famed Bois Brule-Namekagon-White

River systems in the Northwest. The unsung but nonetheless special rivers and streams of West Central Wisconsin. The Little Wolf, Mekan, Tomorrow and White rivers of the Central Sands country. And, of course, those incredibly rich Coulee Region and Southern Wisconsin spring creeks.

Yes, Wisconsin trout anglers have many waters with which to grow old. But many of our trout streams and springs ponds fail to reach their potential as fisheries because of the impacts that pollution, unwise agricultural practices and improper land uses have on our trout fisheries.

However, many of these blemishes on Wisconsin's coldwater resource cornucopia have been corrected over the years through work by dedicated groups, not the least of which has been the "Friends of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited."

Formed in 1990, the "Friends of Wisconsin T.U." has provided nearly \$56,000 to assist in the restoration of the state's trout waters and to educate the public about impending threats to our coldwater resources.

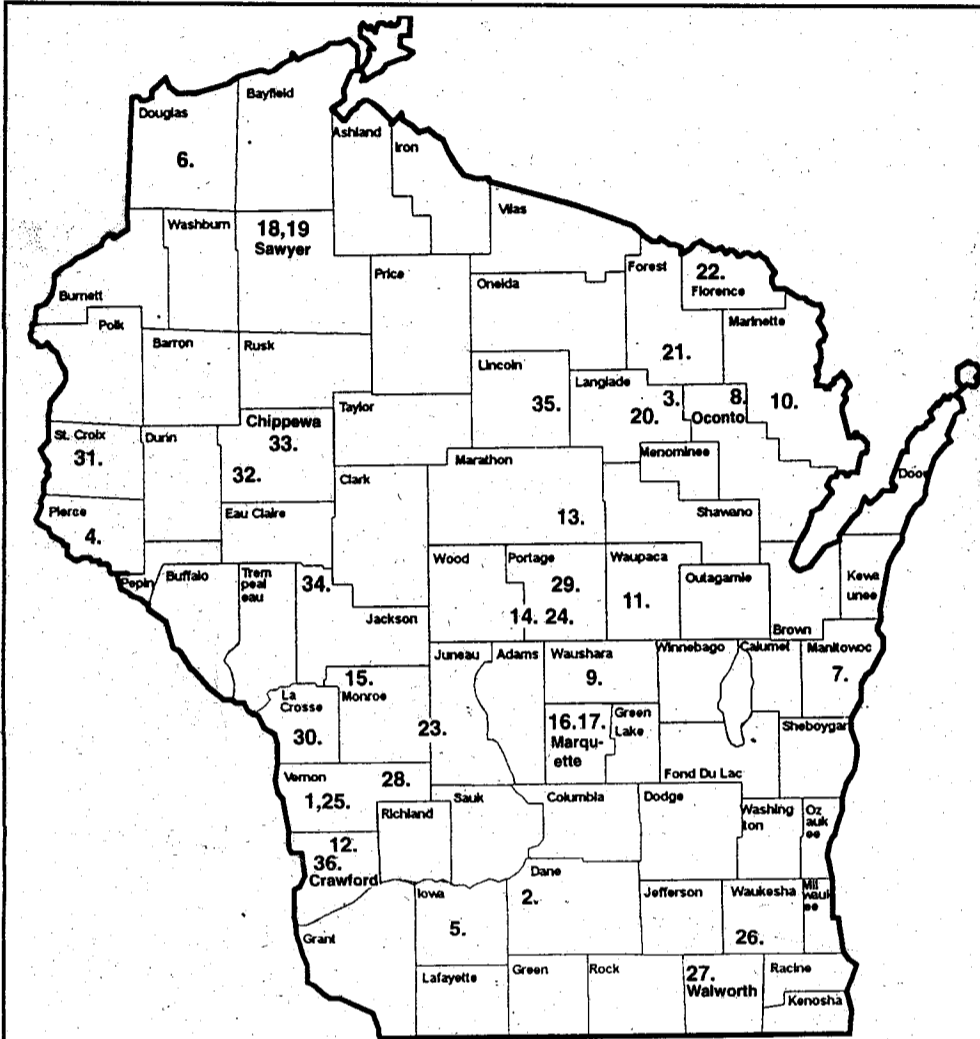
And at the Feb. 13, 1999, Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin T.U. State Council, another \$15,525 of "Friends" funds were appropriated to fund habitat improvements and restorations on **Duncan and Elk Creeks** (Chippewa Co.), **Tainter Creek** (Crawford Co.), the **North Fork Buffalo River** (Jackson Co.) and the **Prairie River** (Lincoln Co.). Pending yet are proposals to assist with habitat improvements on the **Onion River** (Sheboygan Co.) and on the **West Fork Kickapoo River** (Vernon Co.).

To continue to meet the ever-growing need to fund important coldwater conservation projects that will benefit Wisconsin's trout fishery, the Wisconsin Trout Unlimited State Council's annual "Friends of Wisconsin T.U." fund-raising

campaign is underway this spring to retain our existing "Friends" and recruit new "Friends" to the cause of coldwater resource conservation.

By making annual donations of **\$100 or more** to the "Friends of Wisconsin T.U.", contributors will be providing funds that Wisconsin T.U. earmarks specifically for projects designed to restore and enhance trout streams, to fund important coldwater resource research and to educate the public about threats to the resource. And for those generous contributions, our "Friends" will receive a special "Friends" coffee mug, as well as recognition with all the other "Friends" in **Wisconsin Trout**, the official publication of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited.

If you have received your 1999 "Friends" request form in the mail, please consider becoming a "Friend of Wisconsin T.U." or renewing your contribution to this unique program that is dedicated solely to the restoration and enhancement of Wisconsin's coldwater resources. Or, use the enclosed "Friends" form to join the ranks of those "Friends" listed here who have made a personal commitment to ensure the health and wealth of Wisconsin's wonderful coldwater trout fishery. Your generous support will be much appreciated.



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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** (Marquette Co.)
11. \$7,000 - to purchase a "Rotary Screw Fish Trap" for DNR Coldwater research
12. \$3,000 - to fund stream improvements and riparian protection in and along streams of **Middle Kickapoo River watershed**. (Vernon and Crawford counties)
13. \$1,000 - to help fund instream habitat work in the **Plover River** (Marathon Co.)
14. \$551 - to help purchase recording thermographs to monitor thermal regimes in trout streams in the **Buena Vista and Leola marshes** (Portage, Wood, Adams counties)
15. \$3,371 - for installing bank cover and closing side channels in **Sand Creek** (Jackson and Monroe counties)
16. \$3,296 - to continue and extend stream bank brushing along **Chaffee Creek** (Marquette Co.)
17. \$1,000 - to continue population and movement studies of brown trout in the **Mekan River** (Marquette County) for potential stream re-classification
18. \$1,700 - to conduct followup surveys on "wild" brown trout in the **Namekagon River** (Sawyer/Bayfield counties)
19. \$2,000 - to conduct studies of fall movements and concentrations of spawning "wild" brood fish in the **Namekagon River** (Sawyer/Bayfield counties) for capture and use in raising "wild" trout

20. \$1,000 - to assist with the third year of dredging silt and detritus from **Elton Springs** (Langlade Co.)
21. \$1,000 - for stream brushing, debris removal and brush bundle installation in **Swanson Creek** (Forest County), a tributary to the **Rat River**
22. \$500 - for building a sand/sediment trap in **Wisconsin Creek** (Florence County), a tributary to the boundary **Brule River**, to enhance trout spawning potential
23. \$2,750 - to purchase materials for fencing projects approved under the "Streambank Easement Program" (part of the state's "Stewardship Program") for the **Wisconsin Rapids area**; and for fencing materials for the **Little Lemonweir River** project (Monroe Co.)
24. \$350 - to conduct trout population studies in the lateral "ditches" listed as trout waters (Portage, Wood and Adams counties) that are under threat from agricultural/cranberry operation encroachment
25. \$250 - toward habitat work on the **West Fork Kickapoo River** (Vernon and Crawford counties)
26. \$2,000 - to fund dredging (silt/debris removal) from **McClintock Springs** (Waukesha Co.) in the southern unit of the **Kettle Moraine State Forest**
27. \$2,000 - to create overhead bank cover in and remove beaver dams from **Whitewater/Bluff Creek** (Walworth Co.)
28. \$2,000 - for stream improvements in **Billings Creek** (Vernon Co.)
29. \$1,500 - for materials for in-stream structures in the **Tomorrow River** (Portage Co.)
30. \$2,500 - for stream restoration in **Mormon Coulee Creek** (La Crosse Co.)
31. \$1,500 - to assist in production of an educational video on development impacts along the **Kinnickinnic River** (St. Croix and Pierce cos.)
32. \$7,000 - stream improvement on **Elk Creek** (Chippewa Co.)
33. \$4,000 - rock hauling and restoration work on **Duncan Creek** (Chippewa Co.)
34. \$1,750 - to purchase materials for stream improvements on the **North Fork Buffalo River** (Jackson Co.)
35. \$2,000 - to fund backhoe work on intensive habitat improvement in the **Prairie River** (Lincoln Co.)
36. \$500 - for stream rehabilitation in **Tainter Creek** (Crawford Co.)

"FRIENDS OF WISCONSIN T.U."

- | | | | |
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| J.R. Humphrey (*) | Sun Prairie, WI | Robert Zimmerman (*) | Green Bay, WI |
| Charles V. James (*) | Oak Park Heights, MN | | |
| E.T. Juday | Milwaukee, WI | | |
| Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter (N) | Land O'Lakes, WI | | |
| Dave Kindig | | | |
| Gordon King (*) | Madison, WI | | |
| | Merrill, WI | | |

(N) = New "Friend" since last issue
 (R) = Renewed "Friend" since last issue
 (*) = Five (+) year "Friend"
 (**) = Ten (+) year "Friend"