

Wisconsin Trout

April 2010



Bill Pfeilsticker

OUTGOING COUNCIL CHAIR BILL HEART HONORED

Incoming WITU State Council Chair Kim McCarthy of Green Bay (right) presents outgoing Chair Bill Heart WITU's Gold Trout Award on Feb. 13. See page 6 for coverage of the council's other honorees.

Wolf, Waupaca reg changes on the Spring Hearing ballot

By Todd Hanson

The public will vote on two trout-related regulation changes at this year's WDNR Spring Hearings at locations in every county in the state on Monday, April 12.

The first regulation change relates to the Wolf River (*see text on p. 5*). The Wolf change would consolidate the regulations on the Wolf throughout Langlade County. This change is supported by TU's Wolf River and Antigo chapters.

The Waupaca River question would reduce the size limit currently in place on the lower part of the river. This change would better facilitate a put-and-take fishery in that part of the river immediately above and below the city of Waupaca.

Advisory questions

Besides the two questions noted above, the Conservation Congress ballot also contains two advisory questions that will give the WDNR feedback on the concept of extending the trout fishing season in both the fall and spring.

The first advisory question asks about extending the trout season one full month to October 31. This question notes that several other states have seasons that extend later into the fall.

This question also states that an extended season would "pose no threat to the trout population in inland streams," but numerous TU members have questioned the truthfulness of this claim given the following:

- The WDNR does not do any stream restoration work after Sept. 30 in order to preserve the viability of trout spawning during the month of October.
- Studies show that trout redds are adversely affected by wading anglers, and spawning starts in October in Wisconsin.
- The few state trout waters that are currently open beyond Sept. 30 should not be pointed to as a precedent for extending the season because these warmer rivers are not used by trout to spawn.

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Groundwater protection bill offered in Assembly

By Todd Hanson

A Groundwater Protection Bill (AB 844) has been introduced in the State Assembly by Rep. Spencer Black, chair of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee, and Sen. Mark Miller, chair of the Senate Environment Committee.

The bill's authors are promoting the Groundwater Protection Bill as a necessary follow-up to the state's landmark 2003 Act 310 Groundwater Protection Act.

"We've learned a lot in the five years since passing the first Groundwater Protection Act," says Miller. "We're building on its successes to ensure that we use this valuable resource in an intelligent and responsible way."

"We received important guidance from the scientists of the Wisconsin Natural History and Geological Survey and the University of Wisconsin," says Black. "Their expertise helped us develop a bill based on sound science."

Affects trout stream flows

Of special interest to trout fishers is a provision in the new bill that gives added protection to the state's

springs, the source waters of most trout streams. The bill changes the criteria for determining which springs are "qualifying springs" under the high-capacity well law.

According to a Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB) analysis of the proposed bill, "Under current law, to be a qualifying spring, a spring must result in a flow of at least one cubic foot per second at least 80 percent of the time. The [new] bill requires DNR to conduct an inventory of large springs in this state and to report the results of the study to the Legislature. Once DNR reports to the Legislature, a spring that results in a flow of at least 0.25 cubic foot per second and that is perennial, as defined by DNR by rule, is a qualifying spring."

The above change is important because under current law, a high-capacity well must be approved by DNR if it could have a significant adverse impact on a qualifying spring.

Other bill provisions

Many of the new bill's provisions establish mechanisms to monitor and react to groundwater shortages.

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Help needed for Wisconsin Outdoor Expo May 13-14

By Bob Haase

The Wisconsin Outdoor Expo will be held again this year at the Dodge County Fairgrounds in Beaver Dam May 13 and 14.

Last year we had around 1,000 kids tie a fly. Many kids also had a chance to cast a fly rod, but high winds limited the numbers who tried casting.

We normally have around 3,000 kids visit the Expo during Thursday and Friday, and it takes a lot of volunteers to cover both the fly tying and fly casting. Your help is greatly needed.

We need 6-10 volunteers each day to teach the fly casting and another 12-18 volunteers to teach the fly tying.

The fly rods are furnished by the WDNR, so all you need bring is yourself if you would like to help with the fly casting.

If you would like to help with the fly tying, you will need to bring your vise and tying tools. We furnish all the materials for tying the flies. To keep things simple, we get material to tie three basic patterns — a wooly worm, a foam beetle, and a chenille wet fly. (The Gart's Foam Beetle pattern we'll be tying is shown in this issue of *Wisconsin Trout*.)

A year ago I was helping at a youth tying program in Oakfield, WI, when a father and son came up

to me. The father mentioned that I helped his son tie a fly at the Expo in Beaver Dam, and since then his son has really gotten interested in tying. Since the Expo, his son got his own tools and some materials. He comes home from school and ties flies, and the two of them fish together on weekends.

We in TU talk about getting kids involved in fishing and outdoor sports. Well, this is our chance. We really do need your help! It is making a difference.

Thanks to all you volunteers who have helped in past years, because without your help, we would have to cancel the fly casting and fly tying.

If you can help, please call Bob Haase at (920) 922-8003 or e-mail flytier@milwpc.com.

SEWTU, Borger get EAS grants

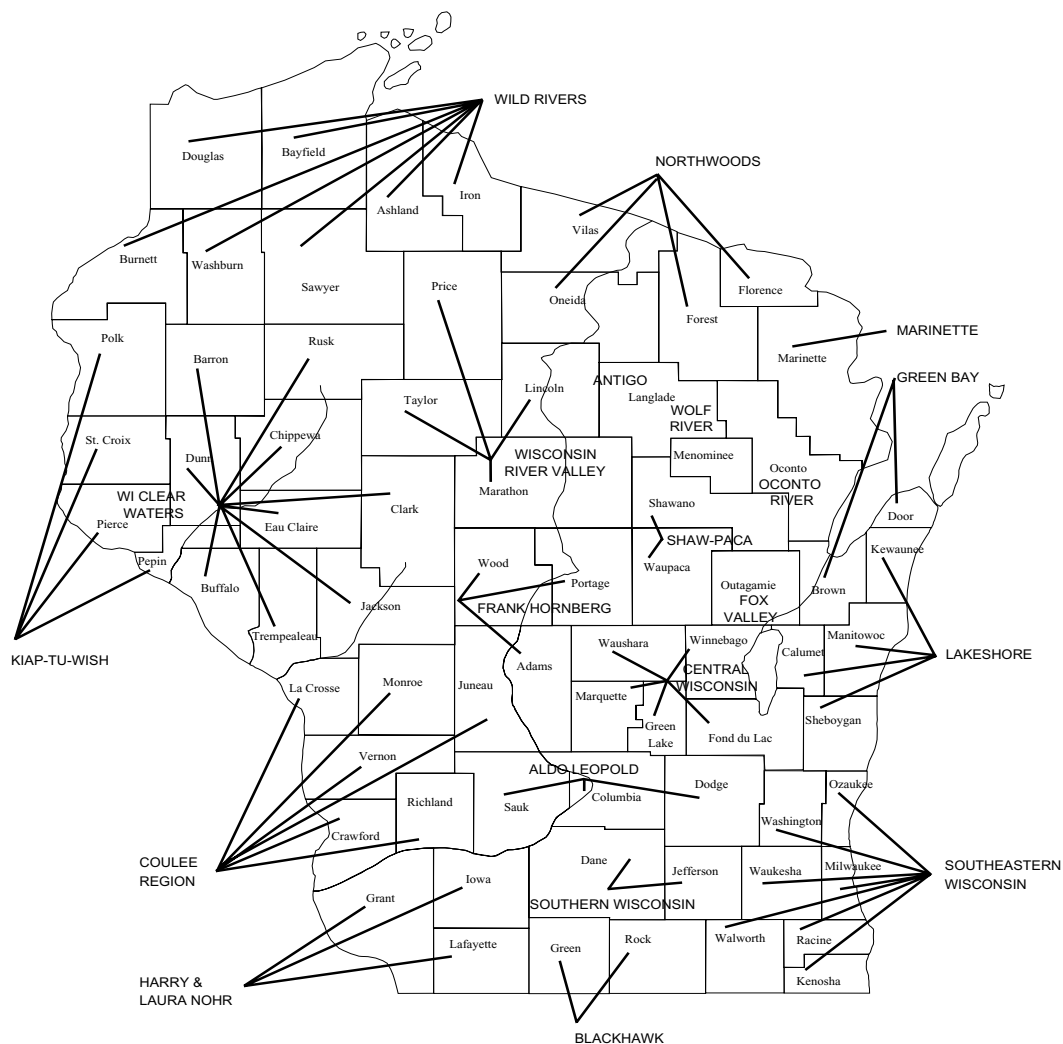
The Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter of TU has been awarded a TU National 2010 Embrace-A-Stream (EAS) grant of \$7,500 for habitat work on Elk Creek in Richland County.

Another Wisconsin project was awarded an EAS grant. The Gary Borger Chapter in Illinois will get \$4,500 for work on Paradise Spring Creek in Waukesha County.

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Contact TU National when you change addresses or chapter leaders

TU National manages WITU's mailing list, so members should contact TU National at 1-800-834-2419 to change addresses. Address changes can also be done on-line by going to www.tu.org and signing in with your member number, which is found on your wallet card or *TROUT* magazine label.

If you are moving to a different city and wish to be affiliated with the TU chapter in your new area, note the new chapter number (see the text next to the map above for the numbers of our chapters).

WISCONSIN TROUT

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WITU COUNCIL CHAIR KIM MCCARTHY WITH A WESTERN TROUT
Kim brings a nice cutbow to hand on a recent visit to Slough Creek in Yellowstone Park. He tries to make a pilgrimage out west every year.



Can we do more to protect coasters?

Editor,

Reading Bill Heart's comments about coaster brook trout in the January issue got me thinking about the recent history of coasters in Wisconsin. Apparently there are currently no known coaster populations in Wisconsin, except for the very few fish of Whittlesey Creek.

As I understand it, it is not entirely clear whether or not coasters are genetically different from non-migratory brook trout. As evidenced by the federal government's decision not to list a small Michigan population of the fish as an endangered species, current theory seems to be leaning toward the possibility that coasters may not be genetically different. Instead, it may be that resident brook trout would migrate to Lake Superior if the stream populations were high enough. That is to say, a critical mass of fish may need to exist in a stream in order for migration to occur.

When I learned about coaster brook trout, I was in my twenties. I thought that maybe they would be re-established when I was in my thirties. When I was in my forties, I thought it might happen when I was in my forties. In a few months, I will be fifty. There are still not even any modest populations of coasters in Wisconsin.

Currently, no brook trout can be killed on Whittlesey Creek. On one stretch of the Bois Brule River, three brook trout over 10" can be killed daily. On the rest of the Brule and all of the other Lake Superior

tributaries, five brook trout per day over 8" can be killed. These native fish have been given far less protection than the valuable, but non-native, steelhead.

I appreciate the need for study, and applaud those who have worked on and studied Whittlesey Creek. Nevertheless, I have to wonder what the situation might be like if catch-and-release (or at least very strict) regulations had been enacted at some time in the last three decades. Stricter regulations certainly would not have harmed the research or stream improvement work that is being done. The "critical mass" theory might have been proven correct, and we might have seen coaster populations develop in a number of tributaries. We will never know.

If regulations do not change, I don't expect that there will be even modest coaster populations in Wisconsin in my lifetime. Maybe there will be by the middle or end of this century. Maybe not.

Nationally, TU has been sending a pro native species message. Some states have followed suit. Montana, for instance, has enacted catch-and-release regulations for native cutthroat trout in most of its streams. Here in Wisconsin, we don't really seem to have gotten on board with that idea yet.

Perhaps Wisconsin TU needs to take an active role in lobbying for reasonable regulations to protect our precious native trout.

Tom Wiensch

Even more chemical threats to groundwater

Editor,

As a geosciences graduate student at UW-Milwaukee and an avid fisherman, I was pleased to receive my copy of the January special groundwater edition of *Wisconsin Trout*. Of particular interest was your summary of the 2008 report "Agricultural Chemicals in Wisconsin Groundwater," which highlight-

ed the impact that agriculture has on our groundwater resources.

While the agricultural and industrial sectors do play a large role in groundwater contamination, it comes as a surprise to many people that the typical consumer is playing an ever-increasing role in the pollution of our waterways. As techniques to analyze contaminants in

Some thoughts on the issues facing WITU

By Kim McCarthy

WITU State Council Chair

As I write this first column as your new State Council Chair, I first want to express what an honor it is to have the council place its trust in me to serve as its chair.

It won't be easy following Bill Heart. Bill was a fine state chair. He was about as active, approachable, and conservation-minded as a chair could be. For me, he was a mentor who always made me feel like I was capable of taking on this challenge.

Bill assures me that we haven't seen the last of him. There are a number of issues on which he will continue to work, and the State Council will continue to benefit from his presence.

Every chair arrives in this position with a number of issues pending. My arrival is no different.

One of the important tasks we need to take on will be to continue to clarify to the public that, first and foremost, we are a conservation organization. We do great conservation work which has resulted in larger trout populations around the state for members and nonmembers alike. Our record of habitat work in Wisconsin is unparalleled, and this is certainly one of the main reasons why southwestern Wisconsin is now considered to be a world-class fishery. We need to constantly remind the public about who we really are, the good work that we do, and that we are all about putting the resource above everything else.

Regulations are another issue sure to demand our attention over the next few years. I like to think that much of the good fishing in Wisconsin exists because several pieces of a fishing jigsaw puzzle have all fit together. Land use practices have gotten better in some areas, habitat work has greatly improved the carrying capacity of many of our streams, easements have allowed fishermen much better access to good trout water, and sound regulations have allowed trout populations to recover and flourish. I view all of the pieces of this puzzle as being important. Disrupt any of the pieces and the entire puzzle is impacted.

There are currently a number of ideas and proposals being floated around the state that, if adopted, could greatly alter the regulation piece of the trout puzzle. Many of the proposals are designed to allow a greater harvest. When confronted with the decision to support any new

regulation proposal, I feel TU should always ask the same questions. We should keep in mind that we are part of a conservation organization dedicated to preserving quality coldwater opportunities.

The first set of questions should be "What is the goal of the proposal, and what is the evidence that the proposal will accomplish that goal?" The second set of questions should be "Will the new proposal be good for the resource from a conservation point of view, and will the fishery for which the rule is being proposed be as good in the future as it was before the proposal was implemented?" As a conservation group, we would be remiss not to examine proposals from a conservation point of view.

Other critical issues are ongoing. How is the state going to regulate groundwater withdrawals? Can we as a group continue to tolerate trout waters such as the Little Plover River and Spring Brook being completely dewatered during the summer months?

Agency budget cuts present yet another challenge. Will Trout Unlimited have the resources to fill the void being left by budget cuts to make sure that habitat work continues at current levels or even increases? I'm sure we will make every effort.

Member participation will be critical to meeting our challenges. Trout Unlimited's strength lies in its membership that does such a great job of operating our 21 local chapters. I am always amazed and impressed as I look over the many activities that take place at the chapter level around the state. For chapters to continue and expand the many things they do requires an active membership. I hope that many of you who have not had the chance to become active chapter members will be able to increase your participation. Attend a couple of meetings. Find and join one of the committees that your interests align with. Make a donation to your chapter's fundraiser. Work with kids at one of your educational activities. Help out at your chapter banquet. Get wet at one of your chapter's workdays. There are countless ways, both large and small, for members to get involved. The more active members we have, the better our organization will be.

And finally, have some fun! We have a great trout resource in Wisconsin that Trout Unlimited has helped create. Get out there and enjoy it.

groundwater become increasingly more sophisticated, scientists are now observing trace amounts of many common household chemicals in aquifers.

These chemicals are now commonly referred to as "emerging contaminants" (ECs), and include many compounds that are very familiar to all of us: over-the-counter medications such as Ibuprofen and Tylenol, oral contraceptives (the "morning after" pill), nicotine, caffeine, etc. Prescription drugs, cleaning products, perfumes, and sunscreens are just some of the many ECs that are now found in our local waters.

ECs tend to be found in extremely low levels (in parts per trillion), usually much lower than is of general concern for regulating agencies

like the EPA, and much lower than concentrations used to test for side effects in laboratory experiments. That being said, the general consensus among many researchers is that we truly don't know how long-term, low-dose exposure to ECs will affect biological development.

Of particular concern is a subclass of ECs known as "Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals" (EDCs), which includes steroids and the synthetic estrogens used in hormone replacement therapies and oral contraceptives. EDCs disrupt the natural growth and development of an organism by confusing the body into responding to the presence of the EDC as if it was a natural hormone, i.e., testosterone and estrogen.

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LETTERS: groundwater threats

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A number of recent field and laboratory studies have linked the presence of EDCs with increased intersexuality and reduced fertility in a number of fish species (Jobling et al. 1998, 2002; Bayley et al. 2003; Kavanagh et al. 2004). A 10-year study from 1995-2004 of nine river basins by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) found that intersexuality was common among both largemouth and smallmouth bass (Hinck et al. 2009). In some cases, the male testes in examined fish were so malformed that they were largely indistinguishable from that of a female fish, and some male bass were found producing eggs within their testes.

There is some good news to be had with ECs, however — we, as primary consumers of the many products that produce ECs, can help limit their spread in our waterways:

- Don't over-medicate yourself,
- Don't dispose of old medications by flushing them down the toilet, and
- Properly dispose of unwanted cleaning products and other EC sources to prevent contamination.

Thank you once again for drawing attention to our regional groundwater resources and the importance they play in the physical health of coldwater fisheries and the mental health of many a fisherman.

Tristan J. Kloss
UW-Milwaukee

Objects to Glennon privatization concept

I am writing to thank *Wisconsin Trout* for the January special edition

featuring your several articles on groundwater management and high-



Eric Lorenzen



Ed Culhane

STEVE HILL AND RYAN HAGEN ON THE WATER

Steve Hill (top) holds a Bonneville cutthroat on a recent fishing trip to Wyoming, while Ryan Hagen releases a brown trout on a stream near his hometown of Westby.

lighting the overall issue of groundwater conservation. Given that groundwater protection was one of the selected issues for the League of Conservation Voters' Lobby Day this year and given that a groundwater bill has since been introduced into the state Legislature, your January edition was most timely.

As I write this, I have not yet had an opportunity to determine the specific provisions of the groundwater bill just introduced into the Legislature. Hopefully, the bill contains at least some if not most or all of the measures advocated by Brother Welter in his January *WisTrout* editorial which as a whole would in essence establish the scientific connection between ground and surface water as a principle of law and would then use that as a basis to regulate high-capacity wells in particular and groundwater use in general in several ways to prevent exploitation adverse to the environment and therefore to the public interest. Welter's proposals would provide increased protections against high capacity wells which could negatively affect small spring tributary streams and other sensitive surface aquatic systems.

While I personally strongly support this type of public interest regulation of private natural resource utilization as necessary and appropriate resource protection, I'm afraid my support does not extend to the groundwater protection strategies and principles advocated by Robert Glennon in the book chapter reprinted following Mr. Welter's editorial.

Applying the concept of privatization to the protection of our groundwater resources as advocated by Robert Glennon would, in my opinion, be a perversion of the scientific/spiritual understanding that we now have of water, including the groundwater system, as one of the foundations of our ecosystems and as essential to life itself. Groundwater is on one level an essential element of the community of life and thus part of what connects us to all life on earth. On a resource level groundwater is absolutely essential

to each of us individually and to our existence and lifeways as a society and is thus the very definition of a public resource.

As a matter of principle, if there are resources so fundamental to life itself and the quality of life that they simply must be publicly owned or regulated in the public interest, certainly water, including groundwater, is among them. On a more pragmatic and utilitarian level, it seems apparent that when and where there have been problematic consequences for the public from groundwater exploitation, it has most often been the result of private usage constituting a conflict between private interest and gain and the public interest to include the protection of the environment. Groundwater should be first and foremost a commonly shared, public natural resource as a principle of law from which all regulation of groundwater should flow, and it should not be regarded primarily as an economic or personal property commodity to be regulated as such with only secondary consideration being given to the common good. We have already seen examples in developing nations in which development of water resources has been privatized and controlled by corporations who have priced some citizens out of having access to safe

We cannot afford either legally or politically to confuse or compromise the issue of whether groundwater is essentially and primarily a public resource or a private commodity.

Although this may ultimately be decided by the courts, I would hope that any groundwater protection legislation would include a clear and direct statement of legislative intent to apply the long- and well-established public trust doctrine beyond our surface waters to the groundwaters of the State of Wisconsin as well. No private landowner should any more be regarded as owning the groundwater flowing beneath his land than should that same landowner be considered to legally own

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TU leaders Steve Hill and Ryan Hagen pass

Wisconsin TU lost two of its leaders to heart attacks recently — Steve Hill of the Aldo Leopold Chapter and Ryan Hagen of the Fox Valley Chapter.

Steve Hill

Hill, 65, of Watertown, director the State Council's Friends of Wisconsin TU habitat grant program the past four years, died Feb. 24.

He was also treasurer of the Aldo Leopold Chapter since 2004 and involved in numerous Aldo Leopold functions.

Ironically, Steve was just honored by the State Council with the Gold Net Award at the council's annual banquet in Stevens Point Feb. 13. (For more on Steve's accomplishments, see the awards story on p. 7.)

Steve and his wife, Donna, operated Budget Print in Watertown since 1982, and Steve used that business to help his chapter with its publicity and promotional needs on countless occasions.

Steve is survived by wife, Donna, and four children — Steven, Angela, Joseph, and Jeanne.

Ryan Hagen

Hagen, 62, of Nelsonville, died Jan. 15. He was WITU State Council Secretary in 1981. He also served

several times as president of the Fox Valley Chapter and was active in many chapter activities.

Ryan worked in managerial and accounting positions. Later in his career, he was a computer programmer. He was also the owner of Hagen Hackle & Tackle.

Ryan enjoyed taking people trout fishing. One of those who counted him as a mentor was Ed Culhane, who spent many hours on the water with Ryan and turned some of those trips into award-winning outdoor columns as a reporter for the Appleton *Post-Crescent*.

"We called him 'the chairman,'" remembers Culhane. "which meant his vote counted for more than ours did. And why not? Ryan was a gifted fly fisherman, one of the best of his generation. There were times when it was just a pure joy to watch him, to marvel at his elegant, effortless casts, to see his intense concentration, his almost mystical ability to spot fish based on the tiniest of clues, often invisible to me and others."

Ryan is survived by wife Patricia (Alm) Raddatz of Nelsonville, son Brad of Gilbert, AZ, and daughter Amy (Tim) Boucher of Pine River, WI.

CONGRESS: meets April 12

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The second advisory question asks about starting the regular trout season one week earlier than it does now. The season currently opens on the Saturday closest to May 1.

On-line discussion

TU members who would like to discuss any of these proposals are encouraged to visit the State Council's web site at www.WisconsinTU.org. Click on the "forums" tab.

About the WI Conservation Congress

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC) is the only advisory body in the state where citizens of Wisconsin elect delegates to represent their interests in natural resources — both local and statewide — by working with the Natural Resources Board and the DNR to effectively manage the state's natural resources for present and future generations. The WCC's mission is:

- To work together with citizens on a local level to gain opinions regarding management of Wisconsin's natural resources.
- To work with local and statewide organizations regarding management and support of Wisconsin's natural resources.
- To work with local and statewide organizations, educators, and citizens regarding outdoor

opportunities for youth, men, women, and minorities.

- To consider the results of the DNR Spring Rules Hearings and to assist the Natural Resources Board and the DNR in unifying the results of the hearings.
- To consider citizen-submitted resolutions on matters pertaining to the management of natural resources.
- To request that the Natural Resources Board support or oppose legislation or rule changes pertaining to natural resource management.
- To receive and discuss technical data and to pass on to the Natural Resources Board, advice and recommendations relative to matters pertaining to natural resources.

LETTERS: objects to Glennon concept

Continued from p. 4

that portion of, for instance, the Namekagon River which happens to flow through his property.

In the aforementioned article excerpted from Mr. Glennon's book, he is at pains to disparage the potential for effective regulation of water resources through public ownership based upon his offering only the most negative and stereotypical description of our public agents, elected politicians and public employees, as having motives corrupted by political self-interest and powerful special interest pressures on the one hand and as professionally compromised by bureaucratic inefficiencies on the other hand. I will resist the temptation to be equally cynical in describing private economic entities as always and entirely motivated by self interest in the form of economic gain and advantage and as incapable of incorporating the public interest into their decisions as natural resource holders. What I will say is that if and when we are systematically not well served by our public servants and elected officials, we as citizens are almost surely to blame for not fulfilling our responsibilities as voters and as citizens.

If given public support and adequate resources, there is every reason to believe our own state government acting through the WDNR can fully and adequately do the job that the people expect. Again, the source or wellspring, if you will, of a successful public ownership and management of the state's groundwater resource will be the people themselves and their active and ongoing engagement in support of public ownership, and this is where a citizen conservation organization like Trout Unlimited has a crucial role to play.

In my opinion, the public education and resource advocacy roles that TU has assumed for itself are every bit as important and necessary as the direct and necessarily limited resource protection and enhancement work we do on our coldwater streams inch by inch and foot by foot. To be effective, the citizenry must necessarily depend upon the specialized information and leader-

ship offered by resource and public interest advocacy groups like TU operating in the public sphere.

I don't know what it means that the Glennon article advocating a private-ownership and market-based management system for groundwater appeared in *Wisconsin Trout*. I do know that I strongly believe that such an approach would be inconsistent with the public management and publicly regulated private use of our resources long advocated by Wisconsin TU, would be inconsistent with the public trust doctrine long established in the legal tradition of Wisconsin, and would be inconsistent with the public's inherent interest in the highest standard of conservation and protection of the resource itself. I think it is crucial now and until groundwater legislation becomes enacted that Wisconsin TU is clearly and unequivocally and prominently on record in public support of legislation which directly or indirectly applies the concept of the public trust doctrine to the management and regulation of all our groundwater. The groundwater resource is too important and the long term practical and legal consequences of primary comprehensive groundwater legislation too profound to allow for experimentation with the unpredictable outcomes of a market-based approach to groundwater!

By advocating now for public trust doctrine principles, TU has the opportunity to help make history in establishing a strong system of public interest management of our state groundwaters and to make major progress in ensuring the long-term protection of our interrelated ground and surface waters as an environmental reality for Wisconsin and as a state cultural and social conservation value as well!

Rolf Skogstad
Hixton, WI

(TU members are part-time resource folks. Robert Glennon studies water issues full-time, so if he has a solution he thinks would work for most of us in most situations, your editor would like to know about it. See www.WisconsinTU.org for a continuing discussion of this issue. -Ed.)

Trout-related Congress questions

QUESTION 52 – Wolf River trout regulations

The department desires to manage the trout fishery in the Langlade County portion of the Wolf River with two objectives: 1) as put-and-take for recently stocked trout which our studies have shown to have a low annual survival rate, and 2) for catch-and-release fishing for carry-over, quality sized trout (larger than 12"). This approach will allow anglers, if they so chose, to harvest small, recently stocked trout while at the same time protecting the relatively few but highly regarded larger, quality-sized trout that have survived and carried over from previous years' stocking. This rule change would allow harvest of some stocked trout in a situation where the majority don't survive from one year to the next but still protect the larger, carry-over trout that provide for the quality fishing opportunity and experience that many anglers desire. The Antigo and Wolf River Chapters of Trout Unlimited support this regulation change.

Current regulations on the Wolf River are a 12-inch minimum size restriction for brown and rainbow trout and an 8-inch minimum size restriction on brook trout with a 3-fish per day aggregate bag limit, except for a catch-and-release, artificial lures only zone between the Soo Line Railroad Bridge and Dierks Irrigation Hole. This proposal will eliminate these 3 sections of varying regulations allow for a single regulation for trout on the Wolf River in Langlade County.

Do you favor making the trout regulations during the regular season (first Saturday in May through September 30) on the Wolf River in Langlade County the following: daily bag limit of 3 trout under 12", artificial lures only? The October 1-November 15 catch-and-release season will be retained for the entire length of the Wolf River in Langlade County.

52. YES _____ NO _____

QUESTION 59 – Waupaca River trout regulations

In the Waupaca River downstream of Waupaca Dam, recent temperature monitoring and trout population surveys indicate this section of river supports a limited trout fishery due to the warm summer water temperatures caused by the upstream impoundment. Larger sized trout are present and indicate a small number do over summer from year to year, however, the primary fishery is still comprised of catchable size (7-11") stocked trout. The department would like to manage this fishery as a put-and-take fishery; however the current size limit (12" minimum length limit) would prohibit anglers from keeping stocked trout. This regulation will provide anglers with increased opportunity to harvest stocked trout by reducing the minimum size limit. In addition, the proposed regulation change would extend up to the special regulations water at River Road in order to minimize complexity of regulations throughout the Waupaca River.

Do you favor decreasing the minimum size restrictions on all trout to 7", and increasing the daily bag limit to 5 fish from 3 fish on the Waupaca River below River Road (Waupaca County)?

59. YES _____ NO _____

TROUT STUDY COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 87 – Extension of the inland trout season

The inland trout season in Wisconsin presently closes on September 30th. Some trout anglers feel that an extension of the season through the end of October would provide added fishing opportunity and allow sportspersons an added opportunity during the fall fishing and hunting seasons. Several other states have later closure dates or are open year around. It is anticipated that fishing pressure would be light at that time of the year and pose no threat to the trout population in inland streams.

Would you support the inland trout season to open the first Saturday closest to May 1st and continue through October 31st?

87. YES _____ NO _____

QUESTION 88 – Open the Wisconsin inland trout season one week prior to the regular fishing season opener

The inland trout season has opened for many years on the Saturday closest to May 1st, concurrent with the regular fishing season opener. Participation in the total opening day fishing experience by the general public has decreased in recent years. Opening the regular trout fishing season one week prior to the regular fishing opener would increase participation by anglers for both trout and other species.

Would you support the inland trout season to opening one week earlier than the general fishing opener?

88. YES _____ NO _____

2010 Spring Hearing Locations (All meetings start at 7:00 p.m. on April 12)

Adams	Adams County Courthouse, County Board Room, 402 Main Street, Friendship, WI 53934
Ashland	Ashland Senior High School, 1900 Beaser, Ashland, WI 54806
Barron	Old County Courthouse, Auditorium, 330 E. LaSalle Ave., Barron, WI 54812
Bayfield	Bayfield County Courthouse, County Board Room, 117 E. 5th St., Washburn, WI 54891
Brown	Southwest High School, School Auditorium, 1331 Packerland Dr., Green Bay, WI 54304
Buffalo	Alma High School, Gymnasium, S1618 STH 35, Alma, WI 54610
Burnett	Burnett County Government Center, 7410 County Road K, Siren, WI 54872
Calumet	Calumet County Courthouse, 206 Court Street, Rm. B025, Chilton, WI 53014
Chippewa	Chippewa Falls Middle School Auditorium, 750 Tropicana Blvd., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729
Clark	Greenwood High School, Cafeteria, 306 W. Central Ave., Greenwood, WI 54437
Columbia	Portage Junior High School, 2505 New Pinery Rd., Portage, WI 53901
Crawford	Crawford Co. Courthouse, 2nd Floor Courtroom, 220 N. Beaumont Rd., Prairie du Chien, WI 53821
Dane	Schwan Performing Arts Center, Monona Grove High School, 4400 Monona Dr., Monona, WI 53716
Dodge	Horicon City Hall, 404 E. Lake St., Horicon, WI 53032
Door	Sturgeon Bay High School, Auditorium, 1230 Michigan St., Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235
Douglas	Superior Senior High School, Cafeteria, 2600 Catlin Ave., Superior, WI 54880
Dunn	Dunn County Fish and Game Club, 1900 Pioneer Ave., Menomonie, WI 54751
Eau Claire	South Middle School, Auditorium, 2115 Mitscher Ave., Eau Claire, WI 54729
Florence	Florence Natural Resource Center, 5631 Forestry Dr., Florence, WI 54121
Fond du Lac	Thiessen Middle School, 525 E Pioneer Rd., Fond du Lac, Wisconsin 54935
Forest	Grandon Area School District, 9750 US HWY 8 West, Grandon, WI 54520
Grant	Lancaster High School, Hillary Auditorium, 806 East Elm St., Lancaster, WI 53813
Green	Monroe Middle School, 1220 16th Avenue, Monroe, WI 53566
Green Lake	Green Lake High School, Small Gym, 612 Mill St., Green Lake, WI 54941
Iowa	Dodgeville High School, Gymnasium, 912 Chapel Street, Dodgeville, WI 53533
Iron	Mercer Community Center, 2648 W Margaret Street, Mercer, WI 54547
Jackson	Black River Falls Middle School, LGI Room, 1202 Pierce Street, Black River Falls, WI 54615
Jefferson	Jefferson County Fair Park Activity Center, 503 N. Jackson, Jefferson, WI 52549
Juneau	Olson Middle School, Auditorium, 508 Grayside Avenue, Mauston, WI 53948
Kenosha	Bristol Elementary School, 20121 83rd Street, Bristol, WI 53104
Kewaunee	Kewaunee High School, Auditorium, 911 Third Street, Kewaunee, WI 54216
La Crosse	Onalaska High School, 700 Hilltopper Pl., Onalaska, WI 54650
Lafayette	Darlington High School, Auditorium, 11838 Center Hill Road, Darlington, WI 53530
Langlade	Antigo High School, 1900 10th Ave., Antigo, WI 54409
Lincoln	Tomahawk Elementary School, 1048 East King Road, Tomahawk, WI 54487
Manitowoc	UW-Manitowoc, Theatre/Auditorium, 705 Viebahn Street, Manitowoc, WI 54220
Marathon	D.C. Everest Middle School, Auditorium, 9302 Schofield Avenue, Schofield, WI 54476
Marquette	Crivitz High School, Auditorium, 400 South Avenue, Crivitz, WI 54114
Menominee	Montello High School, Community Room, 222 Forest Lane, Montello, WI 53949
Milwaukee	Menominee County Courthouse, Courthouse Lane, Keshena, WI 54135
Monroe	Nathan Hale High School, 11601 W. Lincoln Ave., West Allis, WI 53227
Oconto	Sparta Meadowview School, A103 Cafeteria, 1225 North Water St., Sparta, WI 54656
Oneida	Suring High School, Cafeteria, 411 E Algoma St., Suring, WI 54174
Ozaukee	James Williams Middle School, Auditorium, 915 Acacia Lane, Rhinelander, WI 54501
Pepin	Riverview Middle School, Auditorium, 101 Oak St., Kaukauna, WI 54130
Pierce	Webster Middle School, Commons, W75 N624 Wauwatosa Road, Cedarburg, WI 53012
Polk	Pepin County Government Center, County Board Room, 740 7th Ave. West, Durand, WI 54736
Portage	Ellsworth Senior High School, Auditorium, 323 Hillcrest, Ellsworth, WI 54011
Price	Unity High School, 1908 150th St., Balsam Lake, WI 54810
Racine	Ben Franklin Junior High School, Auditorium - Room 1208, 2000 Polk St., Stevens Point, WI 54481
Richland	Price County Courthouse, 126 Cherry St., Phillips, WI 54555
Rock	Union Grove High School, 3433 S. Colony Ave., Union Grove, WI 53182
Rusk	Richland County Courthouse, Courtroom, 181 West Seminary, Richland Center, WI 53581
Saint Croix	Pontiac Convention Center, 2809 N Pontiac Dr., Janesville, WI 53545
Sauk	Ladysmith High School, 1700 Edgewood, Ladysmith, WI 54848
Sawyer	Saint Croix Central High School, Commons, 1751 Broadway St., Hammond, WI 54015
Shawano	UW Baraboo Campus, A4 Lecture Hall, 1006 Connie Road, Baraboo, WI 53913
Sheboygan	Winter High School Cafeteria, 6585W Grove Street, Winter, WI 54552
Taylor	Shawano Middle School, LGI Room, 1050 S. Union St., Shawano, WI 54166
Trempealeau	Sheboygan Falls High School, Auditorium, 220 Amherst Avenue, Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085
Vernon	Fair Grounds, Multi purpose building, Hwy 64/ Hwy 13, Medford, WI 54451
Vilas	City Center Gym, 36245 Park St., Whitehall, WI 54773
Walworth	Viroqua High School, Commons, 100 Blackhawk Drive, Viroqua, WI 54665
Washington	Saint Germain Elementary School, 8234 Hwy 70, Saint Germain, WI 54558
Waukesha	Delavan-Darien High School, 150 Cummings St., Delavan, WI 53115
Waushara	Spooner Ag Research Station, W6646 Highway 70, Spooner, WI 54801
Winnebago	Washington County Fairgrounds, 3000 City Hwy P.V., West Bend, WI 53090
Wood	Waukesha Expo Center, North Hall, 1000 Northview Rd., Waukesha, WI 53188
	Waupaca High School, Auditorium, E 2325 King Rd., Waupaca, WI 54981
	Waushara County Court House, 2nd Floor Old Court Rm., 209 S. St. Marie St., Wautoma, WI 54982
	Webster Stanley Middle School, Auditorium, 915 Hazel Street, Oshkosh, WI 54901
	Pittsville High School, Auditorium, 5459 Elementary Avenue, Pittsville, WI 54466

Council honors 11 at annual awards event

The WITU State Council honored 11 groups and individuals for their efforts on behalf of coldwater conservation at the annual meeting in Stevens Point Feb. 13.

We are saddened that our Gold Net Award winner, Steve Hill, passed away from a heart attack less than two weeks after the awards ceremony. (See separate story on p. 4.)

Resource Award of Merit — Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters

The Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters (WLCV) has worked hard and effectively on high-priority issues in recent years, and many of these issues have been crucial to the future of our state's coldwater resources.

The WLCV has stressed wetland protection and water quality and quantity in our streams and lakes. This year, one of their three priority issues is to strengthen the state's groundwater law, including revising the definition of springs that would trigger environmental reviews before nearby pumping would be allowed.

Two years ago they adopted TU's push for a significant increase in funding for nutrient management planning and implementation. They also included reauthorization of the Stewardship Fund as a priority three years ago.

WLCV's efforts have also been crucial in moving forward legislation that would restore to the Natural Resources Board the power to appoint the WDNR secretary.

WLCV has trained many Wisconsin volunteers to run campaigns through their Environmental Leadership Institutes. They have also developed Conservation Lobby Day into a strong annual event to bring conservationists together with their legislators. Each election cycle, the WLCV's Legislative Scorecard enables voters to review the voting records of their legislators on key environmental and natural resource issues.

Without WLCV's leadership on conservation issues, our state would not have achieved many of its conservation successes in recent years.

Gold Trout Award — Bill Heart

Our Gold Trout Award winner is Bill Heart. Bill is no stranger to our State Council awards, having won the Gold Net Award in 2005 and the Jeffrey Carlson Leadership Award in 2007. We honor Bill again this year for the great job he has done as our State Council Chair the past three years.

It doesn't seem possible that it has been 14 years since Bill first got involved with Trout Unlimited by helping Wild Rivers President Jeff Carlson with the chapter's newsletter. When Jeff died unexpectedly in 2001, Bill stepped forward to lead the chapter for the next six years, championing Jeff's coaster brook trout restoration dreams at every chance.

Other than maybe a chain saw repair shop, there are few businesses as valuable to TU as a printer. Over the years, Bill's Heart Graphics shop has helped TU by printing hats and shirts, fly pattern books, newsletters, programs, posters, signs, and other things. He even helped scan old newsletters to preserve Wisconsin TU's history.

As State Council Chair, Bill lubricated the workings of the State Council with his easy-going nature and an occasional jar of maple syrup. We are quite sure we'll continue to benefit from Bill's efforts on behalf of coaster brook trout, the White River, and other coldwater conservation efforts.

Silver Trout Chapter for Chapter Merit — Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter

Although our Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter is no stranger to organizing large-scale, multi-year habitat projects — and putting together the funding and volunteer cadre it takes to successfully complete this type of project — this outstanding western Wisconsin chapter was thrust into the spotlight recently with the Pine Creek restoration project.

Pine Creek received special showcase attention for being located at the northwestern end of the Driftless Area. This TUDARE project is consistent with the mission of Trout Unlimited and the national conservation agenda. The project provides native eastern brook trout conservation, protection, and restoration.

Pine Creek is also unique in that its brook trout are somewhat isolated from the competition of invasive stocks of brown trout since it drains directly into the Mississippi River.

The Pine Creek project was spawned in 2006 as the Western Wisconsin Land Trust (WWLT) was in the process of purchasing two large properties that encompass the majority of Pine Creek. In 2009, Kiap-TU-Wish completed the third and final phase of this project along with partners WWLT, WDNR, Wisconsin Industrial Sand, Twin Cities TU, WI Clear Waters TU, and local landowners.

This very successful project could not have been possible without solid, active leadership and planning by many volunteers in the chapter.

Some of the highlights from Kiap-TU-Wish's big Pine Creek project include:

- restoring 3,600 feet of stream-bank and nearby riparian areas;
- working with Fairmount Minerals' employees who logged over 1,500 volunteer hours;
- facilitating over \$100,000 investment by WDNR, TU, and the USFWS;
- securing grants through Embrace-A-Stream, National Fish Habitat Action Plan, TUDARE, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; and
- getting public fishing easements through the entire area.

Congratulations to the members of the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter who



WLCV, BILL HEART, AND KIAP-TU-WISH HONORED AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 2010 WITU Award of Merit was given to the WI League of Conservation Voters, represented by Executive Director Kerry Schuman (top). Gold Trout Award winner Bill Heart (center left) received his award from incoming State Chair Kim McCarthy. The Silver Trout Award for Chapter Merit was accepted by Kiap-TU-Wish members (bottom, l to r) Greg Dietl, Jonathan Jacobs, State Chair Bill Heart, Randy Arnold, John Carlson, and Bob Diesch.

deserve recognition as a premier Silver Trout Chapter recipient.

Lee and Joan Wulff Conservation Leadership Award — Chuck Beeler

Over the past few decades, there has been one true constant in the Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited. And that constant is named Charles “Chuck” Beeler.

Chuck’s leadership was part and parcel to the incredible upsurge that SEWTU has had over the past few years. He played a significant role in getting many of the chapter’s current board members involved with the chapter. Chuck refused to let SEWTU stay inactive, and the leaders he sought out led to the chapter receiving the WITU Silver Trout Award in 2008 and the TU National Gold Trout award in 2009. For that alone, SETWU is thankful.

But that’s just the tip of the iceberg. If you are a local outdoor retailer, odds are that you know Chuck well. Some of us are convinced that he wakes up in the morning and immediately heads out to set up youth outreach activities at places like Gander Mountain, Cabela’s, and Sportsman’s Warehouse.

When our previous Sports Show host John Gosz passed away suddenly several years ago on the eve of the Sports Show, there was little wonder who would step up and carry the event home. Chuck did, of course. And since that date, he’s led our Sports Show presence by manning our booth, coordinating raffle ticket sales, rangling prizes, coordinating volunteers, and spreading the good word of coldwater conservation with literally hundreds of thousands of sports show attendees.

In short, while some award nominations require stretching, this one surely doesn’t. It requires condensing. Chuck has been incredibly active, always involved, and a TU leader for decades. Thank you for everything you do. You are truly greatly appreciated.

Gold Net Award — Steve Hill

Our Gold Net Award winner this year is Steve Hill of the Aldo Leopold Chapter. In early 2003, a few Aldo Leopold members decided to revitalize the chapter. Steve Hill was one of those who stepped forward to help lead the chapter, serving as a very active board member since 2003 and as treasurer since 2004.

You know, when Steve served in the Navy, apparently he didn’t hear about how you should never volunteer for anything, because he is always one of the first to volunteer, no matter what the task.

But Steve has gone beyond serving TU at the chapter level. He has been running the Friends of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited habitat program since 2007. Because the Friends program has positively affected every region of Wisconsin, it can honestly be said that Steve’s efforts are truly statewide.

Before he went statewide, Steve was a humble chapter treasurer who also happened to organize Aldo Leopold’s workdays for years. Being treasurer means watching the chapter’s money, but Steve also decided to help make the chapter money, so he has begun organizing the chapter’s annual fundraising picnic for the last six years.

Perhaps the single biggest aid Steve has given the Aldo Leopold Chapter has been his donation of all printing for chapter newsletters and mailing for seven years. As owner of Budgetprint in Whitewater, Steve donated not only the printing, but the talents of his staff in graphic design, layout, and mailing. As a small

chapter with limited resources, this has made a huge difference in our chapter’s success.

Steve also knows that educating the next generation of fishermen and women is just as important as saving the streams. For instance, our fly tying class wouldn’t be the same without Steve’s leadership and instruction, something he’s done for four years now. Sharing his skill and experience in fly tying and fly fishing has also led him to volunteer with Project Healing Waters.

In short, Steve has been a great asset to both the Aldo Leopold Chapter and to the State Council, for which we say thank you.

Jeffrey Carlson Volunteer Award — Jim Waters

We occasionally present our Jeffrey Carlson Volunteer Award to someone who has taken a leadership role on a major project that either improved an entire stream, reach, or watershed, or which preserved or restored a species in a body of water. This year’s winner is Jim Waters of the Wolf River Chapter.

Jim has played a major role in re-organizing the Wolf River Chapter. Through the efforts of Jim and others, the chapter moved from a few members several years ago to a chapter which today has a roster of 125.

Since re-organization, Jim has taken the lead in the chapter’s restoration of the Upper Wolf River fishery. Under Jim’s leadership, 14 chapter members have been trained in the Water Action Volunteers program, with some members receiving Level 2 WAV status this year.

Additionally, Jim requested and received training from the DNR for the chapter in stream restoration work and trapping. Jim led the development of the five-year Ninemile Creek Restoration Initiative. After surveying the Nine Mile Creek by air and canoeing its upper reaches to assess its habitat, it was determined that beaver activity had heated the water, reduced the flow, and blocked access to spawning habitat. Over the past year and a half, 106 beaver have been harvested, 20 dams blown up, and countless other dams removed by hand.

Beyond the Nine Mile Creek Project, Jim helped secure a commitment from the DNR which led to the removal of beaver and their dams and stream restoration work on Evergreen and Spring creeks this year. Major stream restoration is targeted for the Hunting in 2010. Other high-quality tributaries of the Wolf have been selected for improvement as well.

Besides doing all of this, you could probably find Jim every weekend the past two summers with his wife Sharon selling brats at Mike’s Mobil on the corner of highways 64 and 55 to raise money for the restoration work of his beloved Wolf River and Ninemile Creek.

Most Unsung Valuable Trout — Randy Arnold

This year’s Most Unsung Valuable Trout Award goes to Randy Arnold. Randy has been a dedicated volunteer on TU restoration projects throughout Western Wisconsin, not just those of his Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter. His expertise with the chain saw is best exhibited by the miles of trout streams freed from the encroachment of invasive box elder, Siberian Elm, and buck thorn brush. He has spent hundreds of hours clearing trout habitat restoration sites, often times alone. Randy is usually the lead man directing or instructing volunteer crews on

the construction of lunger structures or other habitat applications.

In 2004, Kiap-TU-Wish was given a used power straw chopper/mulcher that was being replaced. Though it was in sorely worn condition, the mulcher proved to be an improvement over tedious hand mulching on the chapter’s larger

projects.

Unfortunately, as time progressed, the machine broke down ever-more-frequently. Soon repairing it far outweighed its usefulness, and we decided to end the mulcher’s career.

Continued on p. 8



AWARD WINNERS CHUCK BEELER, STEVE HILL, AND JIM WATERS
 Chuck Beeler (top left) was awarded the Lee & Joan Wulff Conservation Award, Steve Hill (center left) won the Gold Net Award, and Jim Waters won the Jeffrey Carlson Leadership Award.



SERIOUS AND SILLY — SCENES FROM THE 2010 WISCONSIN STATE COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING

State Assembly Rep. Louis Molepske, Jr. of Stevens Point (above left pointing) addressed the State Council on various conservation issues of interest to TU at the Feb. 13 annual meeting. Meanwhile, Clint Byrnes (above right without silly



Bill Priebsicker photos

hat) roasted outgoing State Council Chair Bill Heart, as has become Clint's tradition in recent years. Byrnes gave Heart numerous trinkets of dubious value, including a Pass Lake Kid shirt and a voodoo good luck candle.

AWARDS: eleven honored

Continued from p. 7

However, Randy looked at the worn-out machine and said he could not only put it in good repair, but actually improve its design. We were all skeptical. After a couple months, Randy called to say the mulcher was finished. We interpreted "finished"

to mean it was time to haul the machine to the bone yard, but upon arrival, the machine was totally unrecognizable. Randy had completely redesigned, rebuilt, and repainted the mulcher, placing it on a custom-built new trailer specifically designed and built by Randy to ac-

commodate its true function. Randy also redesigned some features and parts that increased its efficiency, safety, and reliability. This rebuilt mulcher has since saved countless hours of labor, and all of this was done at Randy's personal expense.

Randy has brought his engineering know-how to bear on many other technical tasks that are a part of trout stream restoration. Through his selfless dedication, ingenuity, and volunteerism, he is indeed a most unsung valuable trout.

Special DNR Personnel Award — Rob Herman

Rob works out of the Black River Falls WDNR office. He is a heavy equipment operator attached to fisheries management and is a member of the Regional Fisheries Team and the Field Operations Team under supervisor Pete Segerson.

Rob has organized and forged many partnerships with local sportsmen and schools to be able to complete many stream habitat restoration projects in Trempealeau, Jackson, and Buffalo counties. He has invested many of his personal assets in order to be able to leverage funds and volunteer hours from many sources. Rob is very dedicated to habitat restoration, and his success is documented in many before/after photos of habitat work and pictures of electrofishing results.

Rob works in an area of the state that often doesn't receive the recognition his habitat work deserves. Give him a call and take a walk along some of his projects, and you'll know what we mean.

Certificate of Appreciation — Paul Smith

Paul is the Outdoor Editor of the Milwaukee *Journal Sentinel*, and has gone to lengths to aid Trout Unlimited through his reporting and through the outdoors section of the paper and web site.

Since taking over the reigns of the outdoor section, Paul has actively chronicled stories of great import to TU. Over the past few years alone, Paul has written stories about the DNR's job vacancies and their impact on our resources, Chinook salmon spawning, the negative impacts of a fish kill on a stream in southwest Wisconsin, a TU Project Healing Waters program at the VA in Milwaukee, a fishing show highlighting local trout, Milwaukee River dam issues, and TU National's

top chapter award going to SEW-TU.

In short, Wisconsin is lucky to have such a fine outdoors voice at the helm of its largest bullhorn, and we are lucky to have Paul as an ally, member, and friend.

Certificate of Appreciation — Paul Krahn

Paul is a project manager with the Vernon County Land and Water Conservation Department in Viroqua. When Jeff Hastings left Vernon County to lead the TUDARE program, Dave Patrick of the Blackhawk Chapter says he lost a friend and a fellow trout stream rehabber. Then the Vernon County area lost Roger Widner, further limiting the number of trout stream restoration contractors with experience.

Up stepped Paul Krahn, who facilitated work on Elk Creek and Tenny Springs. It's worth noting that the restoration work Paul oversaw stood up to two 500-year floods before grass was even growing above the lunkers.

Paul strikes a balance with land owners, DNR, TU, and contractors. Like his predecessor, he seems to be able to find the funds to complete the stream work. He is a hands-on worker who is there on Saturday-workdays. TU is glad to be able to call him our friend.

Certificate of Appreciation — Greg Wahl

Greg Wahl is being given our final certificate of appreciation for his insight and understanding of the true importance of our coldwater fisheries. Greg has bought forth some of the most important natural fish-producing properties on the West Fork of the Kickapoo R. He has spent many hours and lots of money establishing waters and restoring them before and after the devastating floods of the past couple years.

Greg's insight about establishing a natural brook trout rearing nursery is paramount to keeping the West Fork a top producer for years. Without his consistent participation, this work would not exist. The Greg and Beth Wahl Foundation clearly shows his dedication.

Greg has not only helped with coldwater fisheries here in Wisconsin, but also in his home waters near Sterling, Illinois.

Greg's heart is in the right place, and he is deserving of our appreciation.



AWARD WINNERS RANDY ARNOLD AND ROB HERMAN

A Most Unsung Valuable Trout Award was given to Randy Arnold (top) of the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter. Rob Herman (bottom) was awarded the Special Appreciation DNR Award.



WITU Looking Back

From the Spring 1980 WITU Newsletter...

TROUT STAMP REVENUES TOP \$350,000 IN 1979

MADISON, WI--Preliminary tabulations indicate that Wisconsin trout stamp sales in 1979 produced more than \$352,000 in revenue, according to Stan Kmiotek, Bureau of Fish Management in the DNR.

Funds generated from the sale of the stamps is used for trout stream habitat improvement only on publicly owned or publicly controlled lands. Any money left over at the end of a year is carried over to the following year for future projects.

As of January 1st of this year, trout stream habitat improvements funded by trout stamp funds had been completed on 23.1 miles of stream.

From the April 2000 Wisconsin Trout...

Company now pursuing Big Spring location

Perrier pulls plug on Mekan springs site

By John Welter

After a storm of public protest about plans by the Perrier Group of America (PGA) to bottle and market water from the Mekan River watershed, Perrier is now focusing on a different spring in Adams County.

TU leaders met with Gov. Tommy Thompson and Perrier representatives Rodney Allen and Rob Fisher on March 13. They were told by Allen that under no circumstances will PGA seek to obtain water from the Mekan or its tributaries.

The TU representatives meeting with Perrier included John (Duke) Welter, State Council Chair, Steve Born, National Resource Board Chair, and Dave Beckwith, a member of the National Board of Trustees who arranged the meeting.

TU's water concerns

TU's representatives stressed a number of points, including:

- full public disclosure of testing procedures, data, and ongoing monitoring results,
- planning for mitigation of impacts,
- testing by independent agencies, and
- support by Perrier of stream and spring rehabilitation efforts and acquisition of public rights in coldwater resources.

PGA is currently investigating the Briggsville area east of Wisconsin Dells. Perrier has hired crews to drill at least three test wells around Big Spring on privately owned farmland containing several springs.

County passes moratorium

Meanwhile, a moratorium on zoning changes was passed March 15 by the Town of New Haven in southeastern Adams County where Big Spring is located. Presently no areas in New Haven are zoned for

industrial use.

Town officials said they are not against Perrier's plans, but feel the moratorium will give local officials some breathing room to examine their current land use practices.

Central blows whistle

After Central Wisconsin Chapter members first blew the whistle in December on Perrier's plans for the Mekan River, Wisconsin TU joined the chapter in bringing public attention to the threat to the watershed.

The protest against PGA's Mekan River plans was led by TU and joined by hundreds of concerned citizens over the past three months.

Central Wisconsin Chapter leaders have expressed the chapter's continued opposition to Perrier taking water from any springs where the removal would adversely affect trout populations.

TU demanded the WDNR conduct a full environmental impact statement (EIS) and hydrogeological survey to determine baseline flows in the Mekan watershed before Perrier pumped the first drop of water for bottling.

TU was joined in the demand by the River Alliance of Wisconsin, Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter, Wisconsin Wetlands Association, and the Madison Audubon Society.

TU's State Council also opposed use of the Mekan Springs State Natural Area as a well site by Perrier, in a resolution passed at its February annual meeting.

The Natural Area received that designation in recognition of its natural values, which include several spring ponds, rare wetlands, endangered species, and fish and waterfowl habitat.

From the April 1990 Wisconsin Trout...

Wisconsin T.U. launches new fund-raising venture

Members and friends of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited will soon be receiving an invitation to assist the Wisconsin State Council in its operations to protect and enhance the state's coldwater resources by becoming a "Friend of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited". The program, which was approved at the January, 1990, annual State Council meeting in Stevens Point, will allow T.U. members and others to make tax deductible contributions to the State Council to fund its operations involving communication, land acquisition, legal advice on coldwater resource issues and other important aspects of conservation that the Council is involved in.

By annually contributing one hundred dollars (\$100.00), a "Friend of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited" will receive a limited edition "Friend of Wisconsin T.U." pin, plus a Certificate of Membership. All members will be listed in each issue of Wisconsin Trout, the official publication of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited.

Over the years, the Wisconsin Council has been actively involved in many issues pertaining to the coldwater resource — mining threats to the Wolf River watershed; pushing for adequate funding for beaver control on trout waters; involvement in rules and regulations regarding wastewater discharges into the state's waterways; fee title and perpetual easement acquisitions along prime trout waters; and, helping to establish the Inland Trout Stamp program that provides revenues for trout habitat improvement statewide.

As threats to our trout waters increase, the Council's involvement in issues affecting the coldwater resource must also increase. To do so requires adequate funding. That is why the "Friends of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited" program has been established. Individual members, local chapters, businesses and foundations are formally invited to participate in this new venture. Watch your mail for a letter inviting you to join.

Or, if you wish to get a jump on things, send your check for \$100.00 payable to Wisconsin Trout Unlimited to: Trout Unlimited, 1282 Monterey Trail, De Pere, WI, 54415. Your donation will be acknowledged right away, and you will have helped start the Wisconsin Council on the road to better provide for the trout fishery resource we all appreciate so much.



A Wisconsin Trout article reprint

Who's watching the farm? Tracking a rising tide of waste in Wisconsin

The *Wisconsin State Journal* recently ran this three-part story on the state of farm manure management in Wisconsin. The series — written by award-winning environmental reporter Ron Seely — covers such topics as how the WDNR inspects farms for manure management compliance, how

the state issues permits for concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs), and how recent livestock siting rules have been written with the input of large commercial agribusiness interests. The series offers an important look at a topic of keen interest to TU's water quality mission.

By Ron Seely

Wisconsin is churning out permits for industrial-scale farms to spread millions of gallons of manure on state fields but provides little oversight after that, inspecting them only once or twice every five years, a *Wisconsin State Journal* investigation has found.

At stake is the health of thousands of homeowners who draw their drinking water from wells near the giant farms or the fields where the manure is spread.

By the end of this year, Wisconsin will have permitted close to 200 of the megafarms to open or expand. In the seven years the state Department of Natural Resources has been in charge of overseeing the operations, no permit request has been turned down, while neighboring states, including Illinois and Michigan, have refused some permits because of threats to water quality. Nor have any Wisconsin permits been revoked even after repeated rule violations.

"The push is always to write permits, write permits," said Mike Vollrath, a former large farm inspector with the DNR who now works in the agency's drinking water section.

The large farms have been a driving force behind the growth in the

state's dairy sector, which now adds \$26.5 billion a year to the state's economy, and have received strong support from Gov. Jim Doyle and the state Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. Advocates also credit the farms with giving us cheap milk while boosting jobs and keeping families in the dairy business.

But a review of the state's oversight of the huge farms turned up weaknesses and missteps, including farms operating without permits, a dearth of on-site inspections and a monitoring system that consists largely of inspectors filling out paperwork at their desks. The *State Journal's* investigation focused on the agency's regulation of so-called factory farms, operations that house at least 700 dairy cows, for example, or 2,500 pigs. The farms are officially known as concentrated animal feeding operations, or CAFOs.

Despite the flaws uncovered by the newspaper, the DNR is considering making the permits easier to obtain and requiring even less scrutiny of many factory farms. The effort to streamline the process by having the DNR issue so-called "general" permits comes at least partly in response to pressure from

the Dairy Business Association, an agri-business lobby that has unprecedented influence within the regulatory agency.

Todd Ambs, who heads the DNR's Division of Water, said the permitted farms are the most heavily regulated farms in the state. But he said the regulation is a "work in progress," largely because the size of the agency's inspection staff has not kept pace with the growth of the large farms.

"We have roughly the same number of people doing permits as we did 15 years ago," said Ambs. "It's simple math."

Ambs said the agency's goal is to inspect the large farms at least once during the five-year life of the permit — generally when the farm's permit is issued or renewed — but added that "we haven't done as well as we would like to."

Records show the DNR carried out full inspections on 19 farms in 2009, all conducted as part of the farms' initial permit. No other on-site inspections were recorded that year, or in four of the preceding five years. In 2006, the records show, one farm was inspected outside the initial permitting process.

Gordon Stevenson, chief of the DNR's runoff management section, said there may be times when inspectors don't even make it out to a farm for an initial permit inspection. In other cases, inspections may have been done but not recorded.

"I can say candidly that all that information is not duly recorded in the files," Stevenson said.

Big operation, big risk

The number of large permitted dairy farms in Wisconsin has grown rapidly in the past 15 years, from eight in 1995 to 154 by the end of 2009. Currently, the DNR has nearly 42 pending permit applications.

Chief among the requirements in those permits is the safe handling and disposal of manure, which is produced by the farms in amounts that are difficult to comprehend. One cow can produce as much waste as 18 people. Multiply that by 3,000 or 4,000 cows and you have farms that produce as much waste as some small cities produce in sewage.

But unlike cities, which treat their waste, most of the large farms dispose of manure the same way farmers disposed of it in the Middle Ages — by spreading it on fields as fertilizer. Only about 25 of the large farms use digesters or treatment systems.

Still, so great is the volume of manure that many factory farms do not own enough nearby land to adequately dispose of the waste and instead must haul it to distant fields owned by other farmers. Though farms are required to submit detailed spreading plans before receiving a permit, the plans deal mostly with the nutrient needs of a crop.

Laurie Fischer, executive director of the Dairy Business Association, said the manure is an important source of fertilizer and reduces the need to use petroleum-based chemical fertilizers.

But in recent years, livestock manure from farms has become one of the most frequently found contaminants in rural wells. While smaller farms also spread manure on fields, the great volumes of waste produced by factory farms pose a growing threat to surface waters and private wells, conservationists say.

"My position is big operation, big potential for harm," said Bill Hafs, a county conservationist in Brown County, which has one of the largest concentrations of factory farms in the state.

Tap water ran brown

That potential has sometimes been realized. It was in Brown County that more than 100 private wells were contaminated by spring runoff in 2006. Hafs, who helped investigate the incident, said some people fell ill with stomach cramps, nausea, diarrhea, and chills. Though no single farm was found responsible, a DNR investigation did turn up a break in a manure-spreading pipe at a nearby factory farm.

Other incidents of well contamination have been directly linked to factory farms. In March 2004 in Kewaunee County, Judy Treml turned on her tap and out flowed brown water that smelled like manure. The family stopped using the water but the damage had already been done: Samantha, Treml's 6-month-old daughter, became violently ill with vomiting and diarrhea and had to be rushed to the emergency room.

The Tremls' well had been contaminated after tens of thousands of gallons of manure was spread on nearby frozen fields by Stahl Farms. The DNR insisted at the time that the spreading hadn't violated the farm's permit. The Wisconsin Department of Justice eventually fined the farm \$50,000 for spreading illegally. The farm also paid the Tremls \$80,000 in civil damages.

That incident also prompted changes in manure spreading laws. It is now illegal to spread liquid manure when the ground is frozen or snow-covered. Factory farms are also required to maintain lagoons capable of holding at least six months' worth of manure.

Even so, problems continue to surface. In 2006, the Nehls Brothers farm in Dodge County was ordered to pay more than \$42,000 to reimburse three private well owners whose water was contaminated by manure spread by the farm. And enforcement records show several permit violations by factory farms late last year. Among those cited in recent months was Stahl Farms, the same farm involved in the Treml case.

Key findings in this manure series

In its investigation of the state's oversight of factory farms, the Wisconsin State Journal found:

INFREQUENT INSPECTIONS: Inspection of the state's factory farms is infrequent because of a state Department of Natural Resources inspection staff that has not grown along with the number of the big farms. Many of the farms are inspected just once every five years despite the millions of gallons of manure the farms spread on fields every year and the threat to neighboring wells.

STATE ACCEPTS ALL: No permit requests have been turned down by the DNR, nor have any permits been pulled when farms violate the terms of the permits. Even repeated violations have gone unpunished. Wisconsin's permissive approach contrasts with Illinois, where a quarter of all permit requests have been turned down since 1996.

UNAPPROVED EXPANSION: Some farms have simply expanded without first obtaining the necessary permits from the state. A review of DNR data show 16 pending applicants were already operating above the 700-cow limit, beyond which a permit is required.

NO GROUNDWATER MONITORING: The DNR does not require most farms to monitor groundwater beneath fields on which they are spreading manure or near neighboring private wells. The agency does recommend that homeowners near the farms get their own water tested.

INDUSTRY INFLUENCE: The DNR's oversight of factory farms is strongly influenced by the Dairy Business Association, a powerful agri-business lobby that has worked closely with the DNR to speed the permitting process and encouraged approval of a more streamlined "general" permit that would make it even easier for farms to gain approval. The lobbying group has been heavily involved in writing factory farm rules at both the DNR and the state Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.

FAVORABLE SITING LAWS: A DATCP siting law approved four years ago has made it easier to locate factory farms. Local communities encouraged to adopt the siting law have found it gives them little say in where or how a farm expands.

Farmer: I drink the water, too

Farmer A.V. Roth, who has applied for a permit from the DNR to expand his Crawford County pig farm to more than 2,500 pigs, said he's doing everything he can, including ensuring adequate manure storage and following a spreading plan, to avoid contaminating groundwater or the nearby lower Wisconsin River — DNR or no DNR.

"Why would I pollute the water in this area?" Roth asked. "There have been five generations on this farm. I plan on passing it on to my daughter. She's going to be here. I won't let this farm pollute the water. It's just plain and simple. It's ridiculous to even think I would let that happen."

Few disagree that there is a real threat posed by the large farms to the environment and to water supplies. "These are not zero-risk permits," said Tom Bauman, a runoff management engineer with the DNR.

Even the rule the DNR uses to regulate the operations acknowledges that the large farms will pollute and that manure runoff "will reach waters of the state."

Yet that threat does not always translate into heightened vigilance at the DNR.

In 2000, when factory farm permit applications started to climb, the DNR had four full-time employees and one part-timer working out of the agency's central office in Madison, assisted by seven regional employees, working on permits and inspections. Today, with more than four times the number of factory farms, the size of the central office staff is unchanged while the number of regional employees has grown to 10. Two of those regional positions are vacant, however, with no immediate plans to fill them, Ambs said.

Inspectors are also charged with keeping tabs on thousands of smaller farms, so they rely on operators to self-report permit violations.

Does that happen? Wastewater specialist Casey Jones said some operators will call to report broken pipes or overtopping manure storage lagoons. But the frequency of such reports is difficult to track because the source of complaints about the farms — whether from the farmer, a DNR inspector, or a member of the public — is not something that is regularly noted in agency records.

Is simpler permit the answer?

To pay for more inspectors, critics of the program say, the department should consider increasing the \$345 fee the farms pay for their permits. Municipalities pay thousands of dollars for similar permits.

But Ambs said the most effective way to give inspectors more time in the field would be to have them spend less time on the initial permits. That's the idea behind the proposed general permit, a simpler permitting system for dairy farms with 4,000 or fewer cows. Under such a system, the state would not be required to conduct an environmental assessment and hold a public hearing if the farm meets certain requirements. Hearings on the proposal are scheduled for March and April.

A few of the state's largest farms, such as the 4,000-cow Rosendale Dairy near Ripon, have received more attention. Jim Ostrom, one of the Rosendale owners, said a DNR inspector was a frequent visitor while the farm was being built. The farm recently received approval to expand to 8,000 cows.

"In our case, I feel the DNR has been extremely thorough and extremely diligent," Ostrom said.

Ostrom said the large farms are necessary to provide food for a growing world population and said he doesn't believe the expansion threatens the environment. "We're designed, built and permitted with more scrutiny than any dairy this state has seen," he said. "It's a badge of honor when you get through it."

But Tremel, whose daughter was sickened after the family's well was tainted by manure, still casts a wary eye at the millions of gallons of manure that continue to be spread on the land around her home. She's doubtful the DNR has learned from her nightmare and fears that, as the big farms have continued to grow, the agency is leaving families such as hers at risk.

"Have things gotten better?" Tremel asked. "I don't see it. I don't think anything has changed."

When Ron Leys and other members of the Crawford County Board approved a livestock farm siting law four years ago, they thought they were giving themselves more control over where big farms go.

Then came a proposal from a pig farm to expand on hilly ground just a few hundred yards from the boundaries of the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway.

And Leys, chairman of the county board, discovered the siting law afforded little protection. Instead, it appeared, the rules — which had been written by the state Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection — largely block challenges by local communities to factory farms.

"These guys have put the handcuffs on us so tightly that we can't move," he said.

The law sets standards for location, odor and air emissions, manure spreading and runoff management, and manure storage. Town or county boards have the choice of adopting the rules or relying upon their own zoning rules.

The problem, Leys said, is that the state regulations are weak and the law prevents a local town or county from setting tougher standards without an expensive legal challenge.

Local officials throughout Wisconsin are coming to the same realization.

In Rock County, residents in the town of Magnolia now are in court because the state board that has final say over where large farms are located overruled the conditions the town put on a proposed farm expansion. Those conditions, which included tougher standards to protect surface and groundwater, were upheld in circuit court. The case is now before a state appeals court.

Warned of possible suit

In the Taylor County town of Little Black, officials have been warned by DATCP that they could open themselves to lawsuits if they try to pass stricter controls on odor from a proposed factory farm, for example, or tougher laws to protect their groundwater from the proposed farm's high-capacity wells.

"We are being pushed and bullied," said Neil Micke, a member of the town's planning committee.

Since the state's livestock facility siting law was put in place in 2006, none of the 50 requests to build or expand a farm has been turned down.

When the law was passed by the state, it required DATCP to conduct a review of the legislation after four years. That review is under way. Critics of the law, such as Leys, are hoping the review will prompt changes that will swing the pendulum back toward local control.

Among them is Matt Urch, who owns a small grass-fed livestock operation in Vernon County and has been involved in efforts to prevent construction of a nearby factory farm on the outskirts of Viroqua.

"I am outraged that the state of Wisconsin deemed it necessary to pass a law designed to protect the economic interests of factory farms by stripping away the ability of local citizens to pass common-sense measures to protect the health and safety of both people and the environment," said Urch.

Backers: law restores balance

Supporters of the law say it is a necessary corrective to the not-in-my-backyard attitude of many local governments, some of which even adopted moratoriums against the large farms. Many of those who pushed for the law argued that dairy farming, a crucial contributor to the state's economy, was suffering because of the inability of some dairies to grow.

At legislative hearings on the bill, supporters, such as Roger Cliff, a lobbyist for the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation, said the law would ensure the state's livestock industry could grow and thrive. And Rod Nilsestuen, state agriculture secretary, said the law was necessary to reverse a decade of dwindling milk production that threatened Wisconsin's cheese industry.

Agriculture officials also cite a survey by DATCP that they said showed most permits reviewed under the siting law have been non-controversial, an indication the law has widespread acceptance.

But critics charge the law is written so narrowly that challenges are nearly impossible.

The law says, for example, if a town or county chooses to adopt its own zoning rules or siting regulations, those rules must be based on "reasonable and scientifically defensible findings of fact" that "clearly show that the standards are needed to protect public health or safety."

That narrow language precludes standards that are based on broader concerns such as public welfare or quality of life, said Jamie Saul, a staff attorney for Midwest Environmental Advocates.

Especially affected by the siting law are those who live next to the farms, Saul said. For example, the law requires the farms' huge manure lagoons to be at least 350 feet from neighboring property lines — about the length of a football field, including the end zones. But that distance pales in comparison to the size of the pits, some of which are designed to hold tens of millions of gallons and cover an area the size of a small lake.

No groundwater standards

The law also doesn't regulate construction of the farms in areas where groundwater is especially susceptible to pollution because the underlying rock is highly fractured. Liquid manure improperly spread in those areas can work its way through the soil and rock to drinking water supplies.

Nor does it address lights — which at most factory farms remain on all night — noise, truck traffic, or potential decreases in neighboring property values. And it does not set any limits on a farm's use of high-capacity wells, which pump millions of gallons of water a day and can affect nearby private wells.

At peak use, the wells planned for the proposed 4,000-cow dairy in the town of Little Black, for example, would pump more than four times the amount of water used by the 500 residents of the nearby village of Stetsonville.

An expert hired by the town also found that the proposed manure spreading plan shows the farm to be considerably short of the acreage it needs to safely spread waste without damaging surface or groundwater.

But town officials hoping to challenge the farm said they received a warning from DATCP in an April 21, 2009, letter.

"If you choose to pursue local requirements beyond the scope of the state siting law, the town will expose itself to unnecessary legal challenges from applicants and other interested parties that the town may not be able to defend," the letter stated.

The letter was signed by David Jelinski, who was then director of Land and Water Resources for DATCP. Last month, Jelinski went to work for the Dairy Business Association, a lobbying group for factory farms that helped write the siting law.

Dairy lobbyists shape policy

As the number of factory farms has grown in Wisconsin, so has the power of the Dairy Business Association, a lobbying group that has gained unprecedented influence over the permitting and regulation of the giant farms — in some cases, crafting the law itself.

Correspondence and memos obtained through the state's open records law show the association is heavily involved not only in shaping policy but also has intervened in the state's handling of individual permit applications.

The DBA is the most powerful advocate on behalf of the state's biggest dairies, those with 700 or more cows, requiring them to get pollution permits from the DNR.

Continued on p. 18

At a glance: WI siting law standards

The state's livestock facilities siting law requires large farms to meet standards in five areas:

- **Location of structures.** Includes setbacks, such as 350 feet from the nearest property line for manure storage structures.
- **Odor and air emissions.** Farms are required to meet a standard based on a predicted odor score. Odor is not regulated if all structures are at least 2,500 feet from nearest neighbor.
- **Manure management.** Sets guidelines where manure may be spread but does little to address spreading in areas where fractured bedrock could more easily lead to pollution of groundwater.
- **Waste storage facilities.** Sets standards to minimize the risk of structural failure or the potential for discharge to surface and groundwater, although many old storage units are difficult, if not impossible, to inspect.
- **Runoff management.** Includes a variety of requirements related to discharge from feed storage facilities and waste storage facilities, but monitoring wells are not required at all farms.



Chapter News



OUR FIRST FLY ROD

After completing their fly tying class, two lucky teens won a fly rod courtesy of the Blackhawk Chapter. Holding their outfits are (l to r) Tom Nelson and Tyler Schiefelbein. Behind them are Blackhawk fly tying instructors (l to r) John Miller, Arlan Hilgendorf, and Don Studt.

Aldo Leopold Chapter

Good friend, mentor, and Chapter Treasure **Steve Hill** passed away February 24th after suffering a heart attack (see separate story on p. 4). Steve had just been awarded the Gold Net Award by the State Council for his many contributions to TU, and the award announcement covers those quite well. What isn't described in that description is how much fun it was to spend time with Steve, on the water and off, and how his generosity and good humor could make a good day of fishing into a great day. I will miss you Steve, and I promise to fish dries more often, really.

After seven years on our board, **Bill Brashear** has stepped aside due to outside commitments. Bill was a major influence on my getting involved in TU. Thank you, Bill.

The chapter business meeting in February saw **Todd Franklin** elected vice president. Todd has also assumed the task of workday coordinator. With Steve's passing, **Michael Stupich** is our new treasurer. Thank

you to Michael and Todd for serving the chapter.

A **Bear Creek** work project team has formed. **Eric Lorenzen, Tom Gawle, Michael Stupich, Todd Franklin, Peter VanNess**, and I will be spearheading the Bear Creek project. We are currently completing a **River Management Grant** application, with many other funding options also to be pursued. **Jeff Hastings** has been a fount of help and information for us. Thanks, Jeff.

Our winter fly tying class was a great success. The students tied some great flies and should all be proud of their skills. I am already looking forward to next year's class.

May 12 we will have our annual chapter fund-raiser and picnic at **Habermann Park** on the banks of **Spring Creek** in Lodi. Many great prizes will once again be raffled off, and excellent food and company make it a night you don't want to miss. We'd love to see you (and your wallet), so join us and help support our Bear Creek project.

—Mike Barniskis

Antigo Chapter

Good day to everyone, and think spring! Spring with some rain would even be better.

Our annual fund-raising banquet will be held on Sat. March 27 at the **Antigo Knights of Columbus Hall**. Doors open at 5:00 p.m., and dinner will be served at 7:00. We hope to have a great evening.

On March 9, **Dave Seibel**, our area fish manager, held a public open house to inform the public on the states of the **McGee Lake** trout restoration project. This was started in the summer of 2006 with the removal of all fish from the lake. Then the restocking of native brook trout began. The process was slowed because the DNR was only able to restock the lake using native fish in the same watershed. VHS virus was the main reason the DNR could only use these limited numbers of fish.

The McGee project has gone well — the fish are established in the lake and reproduction is happening. We felt that it would help to delay the projected opening of fishing on McGee one more year, or to 2011. This would help establish a larger number of fish to be caught.

The general consensus agreed with the recommendation to keep the lake closed to fishing in 2010 and open it in 2011.

We have set the date for our annual kids fishing day as Saturday, June 5, at the east side of **City Park**. This is always a fun day for all.

We look forward to helping the DNR with the three projects in **Langlade County** this summer. Parts of the **Prairie, Hunting, and Evergreen** rivers are slated for work. This project is part of the two-year TU NE Region's work projects.

We have been contracted by a new group forming a lake district for **Moose Lake** in southeast **Langlade County** to help reclaim the lake for better water quality and fishing. Moose lake is a spring-fed lake that has an inlet and outlet and is part of the **Red River** watershed.

The Antigo Chapter will again sponsor an upper classman at **UW-Stevens Point** in natural resources. This will be awarded this April in the name of our late board members **James Smith** and **Dean Curran**.

—Scott Henricks

Blackhawk Chapter

Bill Merrick has the Blackhawk TU web site up and going. The web site includes meeting minutes, picture of stream projects, fishing successes, and upcoming events. Check it out at www.Blackhawk-TU.org.

The chapter banquet is scheduled for Monday, April 26, at the **Pontiac Center**. This is the same site as last year's banquet. The doors will open at 5:30 and the meal will be served at 7:00. We are still in need of prizes and donations.

We are offering corporate tables at this year's banquet. There are two levels — \$1,000 tables (eight banquet tickets and a \$100 raffle ticket packet) and \$500 tables (four banquet tickets and a \$50 raffle ticket packet).

Blackhawk had two fly tying classes this past year, one class for beginners and one for the advanced. We had 23 people participate in the two classes, and they ranged in age from 15-70+. The group included three ladies. Two of the youths will be awarded a fly fishing combo at the end of the session. During the process we picked eight new members. The instructors were **Bob Stevens, Don Studt, John Miller, James Ducy, Dave Brethaur, and Arlan Hilgendorf**.

We conducted a fly tying and casting demonstration at the **Pheasants Forever Youth Day** on March 20. This day gives young people a chance to experience a number of outdoor hunting, fishing, camping, and conservation activities. Members **Rich Engle, Vic Potocki, John**

Miller, and Arlan Hilgendorf are involved in this activity.

We will also be one of the sponsors of Madison's **Malcolm Shabazz High School's** summer program. This program involves conservation, stream restoration, environmental studies and fishing activities, as well as hands-on experience of building lunger structures.

We also put on a fly tying demo at the **Orvis Store** in **Middleton** on Feb. 5.

Recent chapter projects and donations include:

Elk Creek — \$3,000,
Shabazz H.S. — \$500,
West Fork — \$2,700,
Hornby Creek — \$2,200, and
Reads Creek — \$5,000.

Workdays will start some time in March once the sites are finalized. Possible sites are:

Green County — clear brush,
South Bear — build about 50-65 lunkers,
Elk Cr. and Black Bottom — clear brush,
Black Bottom — clear brush,
West Fork — restoration below Avalanche bridge, and
North Fk. Bad Axe — stream restoration.

Our April regular meeting will feature a session on prepping for the coming season. Topics include rod and reel care, knots, lines and leaders, and what you will need in your vest.

The June 21 regular meeting will meet at the park on **Turtle Creek** as we did last year. **Joe Meyer** will conduct a fly casting seminar.

—Arlan Hilgendorf

Central Wisconsin Chapter

On January 18, following our monthly board meeting, there was a program about the Wisconsin Hex hatch open to all members and the public for free. The turnout was tremendous. Among the presenters were **Tom Young, David Seligman, Russ Bouck, and Shawn Sullivan**. Our program chair, **John Gremmer**, was the MC.

Once again, **John Gremmer** taught "Introduction to Fly Fishing and Fly Tying" for **Fox Valley Technical College**. The fly tying classes met weekly for six weeks, beginning January 19, and were very well attended. The course includes a casting clinic in April and a fishing outing in May.

Ira Giese led the Masters Fly Tying Class for five weekly sessions beginning January 21. The instructors for the first four classes were **Rich Mlodzik, Greg Vodak, John Gremmer, and Mat Wagner** of the **Driftless Angler**. Each presented three flies. For the final session, three students — **Jim Murphy, John Tucker, and Bill Millonig** — each tied one fly. It appeared that a good time was had by all 27 students.

Trout Fest 2010 was held at the **Fin 'N Feather** in **Winneconne** Feb. 27. There were 10 mini-seminars, raffles, fly tying demos, artisans, used equipment sales, youth fly tying, plus information tables for water monitoring, stream rehabilitation, and more. Attendance and participation were good. **Bob Smaglik** was the TF committee chair for the second year and did another excellent job.

Other major activities coming up are the **Annual Casting Clinic** on

April 19, and the Annual Fly Fishing School from June 4-6.

We received notification that our **Trout and Salmon Foundation** matching grant application was approved for \$4,000, with matching funds also coming from the **Elliott Donnelly Chapter** of Illinois and the **Central Wisconsin Chapter**. These funds will be used for restoration projects on the **Mecan River**. We thank **Alistair Stewart** for preparing the successful grant request. The **Angler's Club of Chicago** also contributed \$500 to this project.

Our water monitoring program has been renamed "**River Keepers**." Considerable efforts led by **John Gremmer, Jim Murphy**, and a growing list of volunteers are being applied to grow and rejuvenate this program and to increase the number of streams being monitored. A training program for all volunteers will be held in Waupaca on April 25.

Central's contribution of \$500 to the **Winnefox Library System** in 2009 has led to the purchase of 23 books and DVDs by the libraries. More will be purchased in 2010. The list of available books and DVDs can be seen through the CWTU web site.

Participation in the "Project Healing Waters" program at the **John H. Bradley VA Outpatient Clinic** in **Appleton** has started to grow following a presentation to the full clinic staff on January 22, followed up with handouts for the clinic staff that they can give to their patients. Our current limiting factor is the size of the conference room available for our use.

Chapter News



It will handle six students and four volunteers comfortably, and that is our current level of participation. Our approach to teaching has to be very flexible since the class attendance can change from meeting

to meeting. This program is about mental and physical therapy for veterans who are patients of the clinic, and we are attempting to meet their needs.

—John Tucker

Fox Valley Chapter

The winter months have been a busy time for the Fox Valley Chapter. We had our January meeting at **Fox Valley Technical College**, the February Funnite meeting was held at **Sabre Lanes**, and the 9th annual chapter fund-raiser, **Cabin Fever Day**, was held on January 30.

The past few years, our regular January meeting has been a presentation by **Chef Aaron** and several students in the culinary arts program at **Fox Valley Technical College**. The students demonstrate several recipes for fixing and preparing fish. This year the students in Chef John's apprentice chef program presented a very informative program detailing the preparation of trout, salmon, bluegills, and walleye pike. Everyone in attendance was again impressed with the thorough presentations and the ability of the students to answer our questions. We are now planning for next year's culinary event the third Thursday of 2011.

Our chapter fund-raiser, **Cabin Fever Day**, was held on January 30 at **Waverly Beach** on the north shore of **Lake Winnebago**. The guest speaker for the day was fly fisherman, fly tier, and author **Ross Mueller**. The bucket raffles, silent auctions, fly tyers, DNR booths, tackle reps, guides, and suppliers made the event a successful fund-raiser for our chapter.

In the evening we had a dinner event that included a presentation by Ross entitled "Hex Fishing." **Scott Grady** built and donated a beautiful cane rod that we were able to use as the main fund-raiser for the day. The cane rod raffle was very successful, and the \$1,500 plus in profits will be used for many chapter programs.

On February 13 several chapter members helped out with the raffles and silent auctions at the WITU State Council event that was held in **Stevens Point**.

Our February meeting was the annual "Funnite" event at **Sabre Lanes**. The main purpose of the evening event is to introduce peo-

ple, in particular youngsters, to the activity of fishing and to TU. **John Nebel** and **Lynn Ann Sauby** organized fly tyers to give demonstrations and to work with kids in a "tying corral." The children had an opportunity to tie their own fly, learn a bit about the environment, and just have a good time with mom and dad on a winter evening. One young lady, **Shea McCarthy**, won the Redington rod/reel combination that was donated by **Sage/Redington**.

Our March meeting was a presentation by **WDNR Fisheries Biologist Dave Vetrano**, who has been a leader of the transformation of Wisconsin's **Driftless Area** into a trout fishing paradise.

Our chapter has a number stream work projects planned. These start in April and run through next fall. **Jim Hlaban** has arranged for additional opportunities for our chapter to work with a group of young people from **Rawhide Boys Ranch's** About Face program.

We will also be working with several Northeast Wisconsin TU chapters and a three-person crew from the DNR on a number of projects that are being jointly funded by the TU chapters. Please check our web site at www.foxvalleytu.org for information dealing with times and locations. Please consider joining us on these habitat days and at monthly programs.

Two longtime members of Fox Valley TU have passed away in recent months. **Fran Elliot** and **Ryan Hagen** were workers for the environment, mentors, fishermen, organizers, and — friends. (See separate story on Ryan on p. 4)

This winter has been a long one, and many of us are looking forward to some early season fishing, planning for the regular season, and possibly organizing trips to other parts of the country. Enjoy the beauty of God's streams, creeks, and lakes, and as Tony would close his columns, "We'll see you on a trout stream."

—Rich Erickson

Frank Hornberg Chapter

Beginning in 2010, the Frank Hornberg Chapter will be participating in a major habitat restoration project on the **Tomorrow River**. The project will extend upstream 4,400 feet from the **Lake Meyers Road** bridge, and it will take three years to complete. Primary funding is from the **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service**. Partners, along with Trout Unlimited, are the **WDNR Bureau of Fisheries and Habitat Protection** and land owners **Robert Lea Jr.**, **Shawn Lea**, **Phil Martin**, and **Charlotte Martin**. The chapter will be directing future workdays to this project.

Our series of speakers at the winter meetings was very successful. **George Kraft** presented results of studies on how high-capacity wells affect groundwater. **Michael Bozek** explained a scientific study correlating riparian vegetation and stream temperatures. **Rich Osthoff** gave us

good tips on how to fish various western rivers inexpensively. **Jay Thurston** detailed conditions for fishing success on the limestone streams of **Vernon County** and the **Driftless Area**. Chapter member **Norb Wozniak** did an excellent job of lining up speakers and facilities this year.

We sponsored three fly tying workshops during the first three months of 2010. Special thanks to chapter members **Gene Schulfer** of **Shooters Supper Club** and **Brian** and **Jackie Clancey** of **Clancey's Stone Lion** for hosting workshops.

The chapter's annual Fly Fishing School will be held again this year at the **Riverside Bible Camp** on the **Tomorrow River** south of **Amherst**. The school runs the weekend of May 21-23, and it includes room and board. Students in the past have been very complimentary of the instruction, food, and facilities. **Stu**



Jim Jenkin photos

LUCKY WINNER AT FVTU'S CABIN FEVER DAY

TU members John Nebel (top left) and Rick Erickson present Shea McCarthy with the fly fishing outfit she won at this year's Cabin Fever Day event held Feb. 13 at Waverly Beach in Menasha. Meanwhile Ross Mueller gave away some of his hex fishing secrets in a well-attended seminar.

Nelson at (715) 344-8281 and **Michael Mather** at (715) 824-2530 have more information.

The Hornberg Chapter is now sponsoring a scholarship for a **UW-Stevens Point** student majoring in either water resources or fisheries. This year's scholarship winner is **Nathaniel Stewart**, a resident of **Port Edwards** and a fisheries major.

During the summer of 2008, he worked for the WDNR out of the Wisconsin Rapids office restoring trout streams in Portage and Adams counties. We are pleased to provide financial assistance to students in the **UW-SP College of Natural Resources**.

—John Vollrath

Green Bay Chapter

Members of the Green Bay Chapter (www.greenbaytu.com) are spending the winter months dreaming about fishing trips to be taken this coming summer. **NOT!** Actually, we have been planning our annual fund-raising banquet and putting together a busy summer of work enhancing habitat on area streams.

First up, of course, is our banquet, which will provide the funds needed to continue our efforts on trout streams. The banquet will be March 25 at the **Stadium View Banquet Hall** in **Green Bay**. Banquet chair **Bruce Deuchert** and his committee are working hard to continue the tradition of having the finest conservation banquet in Northeast Wisconsin.

Speaking of working hard, work project chair **Lee Meyers** is putting together an ambitious schedule for members to work on trout habitat. We are going to join forces with oth-

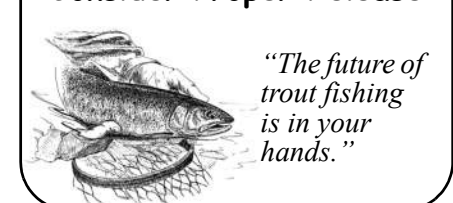
er chapters in the NE Region to work with the fisheries technicians the DNR is hiring with funds provided by the chapters in the region. They are going to work in the **Wau-paca** area. We will also again work with the **US Forest Service** in the **Laona** area and with the DNR in Northeast Wisconsin.

Finally, we will also stage our annual Kid's Fishing Day and are sponsoring students to attend conservation-orientated camps in Wisconsin.

—Gary Stoychoff

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Consider Proper Release





Chapter News

Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter

This year's annual meeting will be held at 4 p.m. on March 21 at the **Stonefield Apartments in Dodgeville**. As part of the general business to be conducted at the meeting, members will vote on the slate of candidates for chapter officers and two openings on the board of directors.

The program will be a presentation on our summer intern activities. A potluck supper will follow. Bring a dish to pass. Dishes and utensils will be provided.

We are hosting a series of presentations on climate change in SW Wisconsin by representatives of the **Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts (WICCI)**. WICCI is a partnership of citizens and scientists whose goal is to develop practical information for Wisconsin businesses, farmers, communities, and governments on climate change effects and how we can respond to

them. The first presentation, conducted October 25 by retired Professor **John Magnuson** of **UW-Madison**, provided an informative introduction to the issues, particularly as they may play out in southwest Wisconsin.

The next WICCI program will be April 11 at 2 p.m. at the **Stonefield Apartments in Dodgeville**. This presentation keys on environmental changes and their impact on family farms and will be presented by **Professor Bland**. A chili supper will be provided after the presentation.

Our annual banquet is scheduled for Friday, April 30, at the **Dodger Bowl Banquet Hall in Dodgeville**.

This year's stream project is on the **Blue R.** just downstream from the work we did last year. It involves about 2,700 feet of stream adjacent to **Snowbottom Road**.

—*Brian Larson*

Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter

Kiap-TU-Wish resumed brushing work on **Parker Creek** in early March. Parker Creek is a tributary of the upper portion of the **Kinnickinnic R.** near **River Falls**. The chapter worked with the DNR, landowners, and local residents in 2009 on 3,922 feet of the creek. Lots of undesirable species of brush and trees were removed. Stream work began in May and went until July 2009.

Brush and tree removal began again this March in preparation for stream work this spring and summer. Many, many box elders are being removed. Volunteer response has been good, and the weather has cooperated. Overall, two miles of riparian corridor will be restored and enhanced.

—*Greg Dieltl*

Lakeshore Chapter

By the time you read this, Lakeshore TU will have held our **27th annual Conservation Banquet**. The event was held on Saturday, March 27, at the **Club Bil-Mar in Manitowoc**. We hold our monthly meetings there and have held every banquet at the Bil-Mar. It's past and present owners have work very cooperatively with all sportsman's groups in Manitowoc County.

Our banquet was co-chaired by **Jeff Preiss** and **Jeff Yax** and is our major fund-raiser each year. The proceeds from the banquet allow us to work on our **Onion River** project as well as make contributions to worthwhile conservation and educational projects.

We are also in the process of working with the **Reel Em In Club** at **Longfellow Elementary School** in

Sheboygan. The club has about 30 members, and we are in the process of teaching them how to cast a fly rod, tie flies, and do some basic entomology. The club is run by Lakeshore TU member **Dave Zerger** and his wife, **Patti**, who teaches at Longfellow. The club meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month, and they cover a variety of outdoor activities and conservation projects. One of their ongoing projects is a Trout in the Classroom program where they raise trout from eggs until they are big enough to plant into a local public fishing quarry. Under the direction of **Chuck Wolff**, we have recently completed our annual fly tying class. This is run through the **Manitowoc Recreation Department** and is held each Tuesday in February. The class is geared toward beginning fly tyers with each student learning the basics of tying and covering wet flies, streamers, nymphs, and dry flies. This year's class consisted of 12 students, with instruction from Lakeshore members **Jeff Preiss**, **Bill Rogers**, **Tom Steinberg**, **Al Spindler**, **Jeff Yax**, and **Wayne Trupke** as well as **Chuck Wolff**.

We have set each Saturday in April as an **Onion River** workday. These days will be devoted to maintenance on the stream. Since the Onion River runs mainly through a wooded area, it needs a lot of main-

tenance, especially following the winter months. Scheduling each Saturday in April allows for rainouts and flooding conditions and ensures that we will get our work done. All workdays start by meeting at the Hwy. E bridge at 8:00 a.m. with work wrapping up around Noon.

We are also planning for some workdays at the **Manitowoc Rapids** fisherman's parking lot. This area has been allowed to become overgrown, and we have held a few workdays there doing clearing and brushing. There is also a plan to create a pathway along the river.

Larry Doebert, our Onion River project chair, has arranged for Lakeshore TU members to take a chainsaw safety course. The course will be offered on Saturday, May 22. More information will become available as we get closer to the course date.

We have also gotten some very good news recently. It appears that we will finally get to complete work on a section of the **Onion River** that was delayed last summer due to a mix up with the DNR. We have also been told that we will be getting a new fish manager. We lost our fish manager during the summer of 2008 and have been without one since then. This will give us a better conduit in working with the DNR, which is vital to us.

—*Wayne Trupke*

Marinette County Chapter

The Marinette County Chapter will hold its 27th Annual Fund-raising Banquet on Monday, April 26th, At **Schussler's in Peshtigo**. Ticket prices are \$30 each, and there will be a wide variety of unique, one-of-a-kind live auction items, plus door prizes, silent auctions items, bucket raffles, and instant bluelight raffles. This is the major fund-raiser for the chapter, and the money that is raised is used to fund several projects in the northeast region of Wisconsin.

Any chapter or individuals who would like to make a donation or donate an item it would be greatly appreciated. For further information or to purchase tickets please contact **Dale Lange** at (715) 582-1135 or mail him at N2095 Cty. BB, Marinette, WI 54143.

Our chapter just completed its annual trout fishing seminar. This four-part series included trout habitat and what trout need to survive, fly fishing gear and other needed accessories, how to select the best rod and reel for the beginner, and fly tying and how to identify insects and the flies they imitate. On the program's last night, participants are able to learn about and cast various fly rods. There were 25 people attending this year's program, and they ranged in age from 9 to 73! It was enjoyed by all, and plans are to have it held again next year.

—*Dale Lange*

Northwoods Chapter

The Northwoods Chapter held our 36th Annual Banquet on March 27 at **Holiday Acres in Rhinelander**. Many thanks to our volunteers, donors, and sponsors who keep coming back year after year to help fund our projects.

We will hold our annual Youth Fly Fishing Conclave at the **Cedric A. Vig Outdoors Classroom (CAV-OC)** in **Rhinelander** on July 24. It's a full day of activities for kids ages of 10-16 to learn about the fine art of fly fishing. Classes will be taught on fly tying, knots, entomology (bugs), and fly casting. Lunch is provided, and everything is free of charge. Call Terry at (715) 362-2187 if you can help or have a son, daughter, or grandchild you'd like to enroll.

Our workday on the **Deerskin River** is tentatively scheduled for August 14 in conjunction with the



LADIES FLY CASTING INSTRUCTION AT THE STATE COUNCIL BANQUET

Fly casting instructor Darrell Toliver conducted a special casting clinic just for the ladies as part of the WITU State Council Banquet in Stevens Point Feb. 13.

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U.S. Forest Service. More on this Deerskin River workday will follow in the next newsletter. Contact **Joshua Kunzman** for more information.

If you want to receive future notices about Northwoods TU activi-

ties, send your e-mail address to lostskier@charter.net and you will be added to the list. We are no longer publishing and mailing printed newsletters.

—*Brian Hegge*

Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter

SEWTU's meetings are held at the **Thunder Bay Grille**, located just off of the intersection of I-94 and Pewaukee Road at N14 W24130 Tower Place in **Waukesha** (behind the Mobile station). Dinner starts at 6:00ish, and our meeting and speaker follow at 7:30ish. Our meetings run from September through May, and anyone is welcome to attend.

SEWTU's January 26 meeting featured **Bill Schultz** of New Berlin, WI. Bill spoke on "Kayaking for Door County Smallies," something he knows a great deal about. Since 1995, Bill has spent 130 days catching and releasing 3,500 smallmouth bass in the beautiful clear waters of Door County. When you add his river fishing, he has caught and released over 12,000 smallies during the past 15 years. Bill shared what you need to know to have a successful fishing experience on one of the top smallmouth fisheries in the country.

Our February 23 meeting featured our chapter's good friend **John "Duke" Welter**. Over 50 members turned out to hear Duke speak about the work that SEWTU has done in the Driftless Area, where the TUDARE program is heading, and the current state of TU's national office. All of the funds raised from SEWTU's meeting raffle for February was donated to our Project Healing Waters program.

The March 23 meeting featured **Dave Ruetz**. Dave's background is in aquatic biology, with training in entomology. He worked for the **U.S. Forest Service** as a fish biologist in Montana, and is a licensed guide in the Missoula area. Dave has been a regular columnist in *Fly Tye* magazine, and he's a frequent contributor to *Midwest Fly Fishing*. Dave spoke on "Wisconsin Hatches."

SEWTU's April's meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 27. Our speaker will be **Mat Wagner** from **The Driftless Angler** fly shop in **Viroqua**. Most of our members are well aware of Mat's shop. Mat has spoken to our chapter before, and he was incredibly well received last year when he talked about fishing in muddy water after a rain.

Finally, for our last meeting this spring will be May 25 when we try something completely new. We're going to give members a chance to get up and talk about great trips that they've been on. Anyone tech savvy enough to create either a slide show or a PowerPoint presentation is urged to do so. Presentations should be only 10-15 minutes long (no need to go crazy), and should simply be about where you went, how you got there, travel tips, fishing tips, and the fish you caught (or didn't!). This is intended to be light hearted and vaguely informative (no need to give away holes or rivers, though). If you are interested in carving out 10 minutes, please contact **Henry Koltz** at hek@sdelaw.com.

The May meeting will also feature a gear exchange, sale, and swap meet. Bring you used equipment and see if someone else can put it to use!

On our workday front, on Feb. 6 a brave band of over 45 volunteers from SEWTU, **Gary Borger TU**, and **Oakbrook TU** gathered at the **Southern District of the Kettle Moraine Fisheries Building** outside of **Eagle, WI**, to do a great deal of conservation work despite snow and temperatures well below freezing.

This workday was led by our good friends from the **WDNR**. First, a crew of over 30 volunteers built a remarkable number of mini-lunker structures. Second, a smaller group (aka the folks who brought neoprene waders) headed to **Scuppernong Creek** to remove invasive vegetation which was choking shut areas of the creek we'd previously improved.

At the conclusion of the workday, a veritable feast was provided by the **Gary Borger Chapter** its conservation chair **Jim Bailey**, along with incredible donated treats (bacon wrapped duck liver, to be exact, and some soup) provided by other members of SEWTU.

SEWTU has a busy workday schedule planned for 2010, including:

April 10 — **Milwaukee River** cleanup led by chapter political liaison **John Knitter**,

May 8 — **Little Wolf R.** project with the **Central Wisconsin** and **Fox Valley** chapters,

June 26 — **Elk Creek** in **Richland County**.

Additional workdays are planned in July, August, September, October, and December. Stay tuned to our web site's calendar of events for the dates and specifics of these workdays.

Finally, SEWTU has purchased a trailer through the generous donations of members. We are now looking to fill it with tools and equipment. If you have a generator, nail gun, air compressor, or associated tools that you'd be willing to donate, they will certainly go to a worthy cause. We're also looking for hand tools, such as rakes, hammers, limb saws, etc. Please contact **Henry Koltz** at hek@sdelaw.com if you can help!

On the education front, SEWTU has remained incredibly busy. Over the last quarter, SEWTU has manned conservation education booths featuring mission information, fly tying, and casting instructions at local retailers including **The Fly Fishers**, **Cabela's**, and **Gander Mountain**.

Notably, SEWTU ran a fly tying course on January 14, 21, and 28, through the generous help of **Pat Ehlers** at his shop, **The Fly Fishers**, in **Milwaukee**. At the class, which was for pure beginners, members had a chance to tie their first flies. At the final class, Pat himself showed off new materials which have become available in the industry, and how to use them to tie some truly incredible flies. A great time was had by all, and some of us even learned a thing or two.

SEWTU also recently completed a series of weekly fly tying classes at **Cabela's** in **Richfield**. Led by

members **Will Kuester**, **Pete Pritzlaff**, **Herb Oechler**, **John Knitter**, **Al Dalfanso**, and others, the free class included many children and first-time tyers.

Under the leadership of SEWTU's Project Healing Waters Coordinator **Mike Kuhr**, **Al Dalfanso**, **Joe Valcoun**, **Herb Oechler**, **Jim Wierzba**, **John Knitter**, and others continued teaching fly tying classes as the **Milwaukee Veterans Administration**. Mike and his band of volunteers have now completed multiple fishing outings with VA attendees, one at **Lakeshore State Park** and others at local fishing ponds. If you have rods, vices, or tying equipment that you'd be willing to donate for use at these or other events, contact **Henry Koltz** at hek@sdelaw.com.

On the fund-raising, membership, and education fronts, SEWTU recently completed manning its annual booth at the **Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Sports Show** held at the **Milwaukee State Fair Park**. SEWTU met and interacted with over 100,000 attendees at the event, spreading the message of what TU is all about. At this year's sports show, we secured a cedar strip canoe, made possible through donations from **Stan Strelka** and **Professional Insurance Services**, a beautiful firearm donated by **Cabela's**, and spinning and fly fishing combinations made possible by **Gander Mountain**. As always, we sold a lots of raffle tickets to benefit the chapter's work.

As a reminder, SEWTU recently established habitat, education, fund-raising, and membership committees. All committees have met and are increasing our chapter's capacity. If you are an SEWTU member interested in becoming a part of a

committee, contact **Henry Koltz** for information. This is a great chance for members to get involved. Together we are making a great impact on the resource and having a great time doing it. Step up and be a part of the progress. You'll be glad you did.

Finally, at the 2010 WITU State Council Banquet, SEWTU was honored to see its own **Charles "Chuck" Beeler** win the Lee & Joan Wulff Conservation Leadership Award. Anyone who knows Chuck knows that this award was completely deserved. Chuck was the glue that held SEWTU together through some lean years, and he has always been incredibly active on our behalf.

When the Sports Show booth needed leadership, Chuck volunteered. When it came time to search out and gather raffle prizes, Chuck volunteered. When the chapter needed a president, Chuck stepped up. When SEWTU needed food for its annual SFP casting clinic, Chuck cooked for the event. When a new face walks through our doors, Chuck is one of the first to make him or her feel at home.

And these aren't just things that Chuck has done recently. These are things that Chuck has consistently done for longer than most of us have even been members of TU. It would, to be blunt, take up entirely too much space to list all of the accomplishments and efforts that Chuck has taken on behalf of our chapter (and if you've ever read the mini-novels I call chapter updates, you know that's quite a thing to say!).

Suffice it to say that SEWTU is very fortunate and honored to have an individual of Chuck's caliber as one of ours. Thanks, Chuck!

—*Henry Koltz*

Southern Wisconsin Chapter

This year started off with a tremendously successful **Icebreaker** event. We were honored to have noted Michigan guide, author, and innovator **Bob Linsenman** as our primary speaker. All who attended learned much, told many tales, enjoyed fabulous chili, and had chances to win incredible raffle items.

The event raised over \$8,000 to be used for our coldwater restoration and education efforts. Thanks to all who attended, and we look forward to seeing you next January!

Our amazing **Alaska** trip raffle was also a great success, raising over \$4,000 to put toward our coldwater resources. Much thanks to **Jordan Konisky** for promoting and managing the raffle.

A drawing was held at our March meeting, and **Dave Sanders** came up the big winner.

We were proud to receive a certificate from the WDNR recognizing our \$3,000 contribution toward habitat work on **Black Earth Creek**.

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EXPERIMENTING WITH NEW MEDIA TO TEACH FLY TYING

The Wisconsin Clear Waters Chapter has been experimenting with YouTube videos and other online resources to teach fly tying.



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This work is below **South Valley Road**. The contribution allowed the DNR to greatly improve this section of stream by installing sweepers made from locally recycled trees as well as some boulders.

Filling the capable shoes of outgoing project chair **Mike Grimes**, we're very excited to have **Chris Denzin** and **Denis Presser** now serving as project co-chairs. Chris will coordinate the traditional stream workdays, working closely with the local DNR and landowners.

Dennis has the task of helping to develop a county-wide stream maintenance program. He will work with the county, DNR, and other conservation groups to establish a trained team of volunteers who will provide a condition report of all improved streams in Dane County. This will

identify maintenance issues to be corrected by the appropriate group or agency.

We're proud of the many (and ever growing!) number of miles of improved and accessible trout waters in Dane County and are committed to doing our part to improve and maintain them. Keep an eye on our monthly *Newscasts* or www.swtu.org to find out more about stream monitoring and our 2010 workday opportunities.

Be sure to check out our online chapter calendar at www.swtu.org. There you'll find all of our activities and events, including details of our Annual Casting Clinic which is set for April 17 at **Salmo Pond** located just off Hwy. 14 west of **Cross Plains**. It's free and everyone is invited to learn about casting, bugs, gear, reading the water, and more!

—Drew Kasel

Wild Rivers Chapter

It's that wonderful time of year when the book, the Birkie, the great mid-winter ice fishing (yeah, sure) have all passed, and that best of all

seasons — open waters — waits.

Steve Therrien spoke at the February meeting and did his best to get Wild Rivers Chapter members



AUTHOR BOB LINSEMAN HEADLINED STU'S ANNUAL ICEBREAKER.

Trout fishing author Bob Linsenman (top left) was the featured speaker at this year's Icebreaker sponsored by the Southern Wisconsin Chapter. Linsenman posed with Icebreaker MC Topf Wells while attendees (below) browsed the many items up for bid at the event.

thinking about what is to come. Steve talked about why fly fishers do what they do, and it was among the best presentations we have ever enjoyed. Thanks to Steve for the thought-provoking presentation. You can enjoy more of his work at **Trout Shadows**.

This year's WITU State Council Banquet will be remembered for the roast given to our going Chair Bill Heart. Bill was properly roasted after his three years of service and many accomplishments. Thanks for the great job, Bill, and good luck in your new role as WITU's representative on TU's National Leadership Council.

The Wild Rivers chapter events schedule gets busy at this time of year. We have a fly tying day, fin clipping at the **Red Cliff Hatchery**, the **Arrowhead Fly Fisher Banquet**, the big fly fishing show in Minneapolis, and then the **Fishing Expo & Auction** on April 10.

One of the major strengths of our chapter is the support we receive from our VP **Dick Berge**. Dick has done a fly tying instruction column in each of our newsletters, and he leads many fly tying events every year. Dick and **Bill Heart** are in the process of editing *Favorite Flies III*, the third in a series of fly pattern books by Dick Berge. The patterns are local and state-wide favorites suggested by Dick and many area guides and shops.

The chapter's project being done in conjunction with the **Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge** has changed. The chapter had committed \$2,000 to a headwaters improvement project. **Mike Mlynarek**, refuge biologist, suggested that money would be better used to buy trees for planting in 2010 and 2011.

Wisconsin Clear Waters

Many TU chapters offer fly tying classes in winter. Our Clear Waters Chapter has many excellent fly tyers, including **Jeff Bartynski**, **Tom**

Chapter volunteers will also help pick up trees and plant them on the refuge. Other new projects approved by the board include a new chapter handout or brochure that highlights our chapter's activities and mission and invites people to join.

The 2010 Fishing Expo and Auction will be held at the **Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center** April 10. The speakers for the afternoon program are **Jim Bartelt** and **Larry Mann**. The proceeds from the 2010 Expo will be donated to the **Bayfield Regional Conservancy's** White River Land Acquisition project. The former **Hanson farm** property has been acquired, and the BRC is actively working to raise funds to complete the purchase. This year when donations are made to the Expo, people will know that their donation will go to acquiring this beautiful part of the **White River**.

Chapter veterans have heard it all before — we are a group of senile oldies, a bunch of fished-out geezers. Attending a chapter meeting is like being in a Grumpy Old Men replay. Well, the board will have no more of it. They stayed up late and voted to establish an education committee. This committee will promote TU's philosophy and environmental education with strong emphasis on women and families.

One of the committee's goals for 2010 is to conduct a fly casting clinic for women. An effort to recruit a group of interested women who will organize and conduct activities is underway. Welcome to our newest member, **Tina Dahlke**, an experienced angler with an interest in this newest chapter activity.

—Chuck Campbell

Morgan, and **Clarence Wilson**, who have been instructing our class at **Gander Mountain** for quite a few years. Clarence Wilson has not been in the best of health lately, so Jeff and Tom are doing the instruction this year. The 2010 class is exceptionally large, and **Jack Kins**, **Bill Pearson**, **Duke Welter**, **Steve Josephson**, and others, have been helping out when they can. This class of 26 is fairly diverse, with a total of six females, two husband-wife couples, and a good mix of "mature adults" and younger folks, too.

With this group of 26, it has been a challenge to give all of them a good view of the instructors demonstrating the tying techniques. We have been experimenting with other methods. There are many high-quality videos showing many of the standard flies being tied that you can see online at web sites like **YouTube**. We found an easy and free YouTube downloader program that allows us to be able to copy video clips to an external drive.

We have all been amazed at how this group has made progress in their tying skills. They are a no-nonsense, dedicated group. They get there on time and get right to work. In the past we have had much smaller classes. It was pretty easy for the instructors to demonstrate how to tie each fly by just gathering around in front of his vice or looking over his shoulder from behind. At **Gander Mountain**, we have an overhead LCD projector available so we have been bringing a notebook computer and an external drive or CD with

Chapter News



the videos and playing them for the “fly of the week” that the instructors have chosen. Some videos are better than others, but many give excellent views and instructions for our large class.

Rob Herman received Wisconsin TU’s Special Appreciation DNR Personnel Award in February. Rob works out of the **Black River Falls WDNR Service Center**. He is a heavy equipment operator attached

to Fisheries Management and is a member of the Regional Fisheries Team and the Field Operations Team. His supervisor is **Pete Seger-son**. Rob has organized and forged many partnerships with local sportsmen and schools in order to complete many stream habitat restoration projects in Trempealeau, Jackson, and Buffalo Counties. Congratulations, Rob.

—*Tim Meyer*

Wisconsin River Valley Chapter

Now that winter is over, we can get to the serious business of fishing the early catch and release season. But that doesn’t mean our chapter was quiet for the winter.

Our January meeting took a left turn when our scheduled speaker, **Dave Carlson** of the *Northland Adventures* TV program was not able to attend due to a family situation that arose that day. **John Meachen** (el presidente), quickly responded and we offered an impromptu movie night featuring the *Trout Bum Diaries: Volume 2, New Zealand*. Popcorn was also provided, but seeing such beautiful country and fat-slobbering fish was the real winner.

Our February meeting was our scheduled “Movie Night” and we showed *Trout Bum Diaries: Volume 1, Patagonia*. On a less-than-nice night out, watching a movie of chasing big brown and rainbows in a part of the world that many of us will never get to quickly allowed us to forget we were deep in winter.

The March meeting featured **Laura Macfarland** of the **River Alliance of Wisconsin**. She gave a talk on invasives in our rivers and the long-term impact they will have. This was not exactly a feel-good talk, but it was an important one in protecting our coldwater resources!

We are busy in planning for our annual banquet that will be held April 10 at **Memories Ballroom** be-

tween **Wausau** and **Marathon City** on Cty. NN.

In addition, **Henry Kanemoto** is busily putting together our 1st Fly-fishing School. The three-day course will be offered May 21-23. For those interested in attending, contact Henry at picaboo@charter.net or (715) 359-9818. The course will be held outside **Hatley** at the **Waypost Camp**. Our chapter cannot thank **Henry** enough for taking on the bulk of this endeavor.

Other news involves our own **John Meachen**, who has been contacted by a higher power (the WITU State Council) and is now the Vice Chair of the State Council. Congratulations to John for accepting this position.

Also, with the very sad news of **Steve Hill’s** passing, chapter member **Doug Brown** will now chair WITU’s Friends of Wisconsin TU habitat program. Doug will also keep an eye on John to make sure he does not shirk his responsibilities leading our chapter given his new tasks at the state level.

Currently, our chapter is in need of a vice chair and board member due to recent vacancies. We hope some of you will help fill these positions.

Tight Lines to you all as we can finally fish!

—*Doug Brown*

Wolf River Chapter

The **Ninemile Creek Restoration Initiative** is proceeding this spring with on-going beaver trapping by White Lake trapper **Duane Fronick**. Brushing and bundling is currently being scheduled for April and May above the bridge at Hwy. 55. There is also a tree planting being planned for this summer on Ninemile Creek, repairing the damage done by a large beaver dam near the creek’s confluence with the **Wolf River**. If anyone is interested in helping with brush bundling or tree planting, please call **Jim Waters** at (920) 740-1840 for specific dates and times.

With the success of last year’s beaver dam blasting, the chapter is once again planning on hiring the **Department of Agriculture** this July. The cost of blowing the dams is substantial. Any chapters interested in helping financially are encouraged to contact **Jim Waters** at the above number. We would like to give a HUGE thank-you to **Dale Druckrey** and to the **Frank Hornberg Chapter** for their generous donations to this important project.

Explorations of the **Evergreen River** and **Ninemile Creek** were taken this winter. Members of various TU chapters participated, and the beaver dams previously removed showed no signs of new activity.

Our chapter is very proud to congratulate former board member and current vice president **Jim Waters**

for receiving the **Jeff Carlson Leadership Award** from the **Wisconsin State Council** of Trout Unlimited. Part of the plaque reads “For His Unwavering Leadership On The Wolf River Watershed. This Leadership Helped In The Restoration Of The Tributaries Of The Upper Wolf River Fishery.” Jim is currently recovering from pancreatic cancer surgery. The biggest challenge is keeping Jim resting, not an easy task!

Our annual membership meeting was held March 13 at the **Wolf River Town Hall** in **Langlade**. Elections were held for all four officers and three board members. All positions were unopposed, including:

Andy Kiloren — president,
Jim Waters — vice president,
Linda Anderson — secretary, and

Jennifer Wild — treasurer.

The new board members elected are **Clyde Park**, **George Rock**, and **Bill Kallner**.

Jo Ann Eisch was awarded the “Volunteer of the Year 2009” for her work at the brat stand last summer.

During the meeting, a lively discussion was held on the proposed regulations changes for the **Wolf River**. Our chapter formally states that it is against the proposal as worded.

—*Tim Waters*



NEW OFFICERS OF WOLF RIVER CHAPTER

Several new officers and board members posed for a picture after the chapter’s March 13 meeting. Pictured (l to r) are incoming President **Andy Kiloren**, Secretary **Linda Anderson**, and board members **Bill Kallner**, **Clyde Park**, and **Bill Livingston**.

Trout fishing tournaments need DNR applications

Organizers of certain fishing tournaments in Wisconsin — including all tournaments held on official state trout streams — will need a permit starting April 1, 2010.

“If you plan on holding a fishing tournament in 2011, we recommend that you apply in the open period that starts April 1 and runs through June 30, 2010, to have the best chance of getting your desired dates and waters,” says **Joanna Griffin**, tournament coordinator for the Department of Natural Resources.

All applications received during the open period will be reviewed by Aug. 1, 2010, and in the unlikely event that another tournament conflicts with an organizer’s choice of dates or waters, DNR fisheries biologists will discuss options with the tournament organizers, **Griffin** says.

Permit applications from tournament organizers applying after June 30, 2010, for events in 2011 will be considered on a first-come first-served basis.

Under the state rule that became effective in May 2009, some tournaments in Wisconsin must get a permit, and there is a cap on the maximum amount of tournament fishing allowed on individual waters.

Tournaments need a permit if any of the following apply:

- The tournament targets any trout species on waters classified as trout streams,
- The tournament involves 20 or more boats, or 100 or more participants,
- The tournament is a catch-hold-release tournament with an off-site weigh-in, or
- The total prize value is \$10,000 or greater.

For more details on the fishing tournament rule, to submit an application, contact **Joanna Griffin** at (608) 264-8953.

Wisconsin River Valley TU Fly Fishing School

May 21-23
at Waypost Camp



Learn to fly fish this spring with a knowledgeable group of instructors at Waypost Camp located near Hatley. You will learn proper casting, choosing and rigging of equipment, knots, stream biology, selecting the right fly, and how to read a stream. Instruction will finish Sunday with a mentored on-stream experience.

This school includes instruction, equipment for your use, two nights lodging, and all meals for \$250. For full information and a registration form, go to wrvtu.org. Direct any questions to **Henry Kanemoto** at picaboo@charter.net or 715-359-9818.

MANURE: Who's watching Wisconsin's farms?

Continued from p. 11

Each of the farms produces millions of gallons of liquid manure that is stored in large lagoons and spread on fields. In some cases, waste has run into nearby streams or polluted nearby wells.

Despite the volume of waste, an investigation by the *Wisconsin State Journal* found inspections by the DNR have been spotty, with some farms being checked only once during the five-year life of their permit.

At the same time, the *State Journal* found, the DBA has pressured the agency heavily to streamline permitting and further ease oversight. For example, it was largely the DBA that engineered a little-publicized change in the DNR's handling of factory farm permits in March 2008.

Speeding up the state review

According to a March 24, 2008, memo from DBA Executive Director Laurie Fischer to DNR Deputy Secretary Patrick Henderson, the agreement prompted the agency to speed up its processing of permit applications and even agree to issue approvals for farm building plans automatically if they aren't approved in a certain amount of time. Fischer noted such automatic approvals are authorized in the law and said the DBA was simply pushing the agency to follow the practice.

Last May, the DNR signed an agreement with the lobbying group in which the agency agreed to pursue a number of substantial changes in the regulation of factory farms, changes that some say weaken oversight. Those include the creation of a "general" permit, which would streamline and expedite permitting of the farms, and the sharing of some regulatory reviews between the DNR and the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection — a practice criticized by some because of DATCP's role as an advocate for farming in the state. The DNR retains the authority to give final approval to farm plans.

The close involvement of the DBA in regulatory matters is representative of changes at an agency that has become increasingly politicized over the last several years, said former DNR Secretary George Meyer, who now is executive director of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation.

Meyer said it is not unusual for the agency to adjust permitting practices with input from both the public and industry but added that "in recent years the agency has become rather one-sided in consulting with industry on such permits."

Helping farms navigate rules

Fischer defended the DBA's close relationship with DNR regulators, saying the regulations for large farms are so complicated that groups such as hers are necessary to help farmers work through the bureaucracy.

"Why are we at the table?" Fischer asked. "It's because we have so many regulations. It is important for us to be at the table. What we can do is bring the farmer and the agency together."

Jerry Meissner, DBA president and owner of a 2,000-cow dairy near Marshfield, said the organization and DNR officials meet regularly. He said it isn't unusual for DNR Secretary Matthew Frank to attend the meetings.

"That's no different than him dealing with other agencies," said Meissner. "He's brought a lot of

credibility back to the DNR. ... Our sitting down with the regulators is totally appropriate."

Opponents of the big farms argue that the DBA has much more access to regulatory agencies than smaller and less well-funded groups.

"We don't think that a corporate-based organization has any business meddling with our state agencies," said Edie Ehlert, who heads the Crawford Stewardship Project of Crawford County, which is campaigning for more strict oversight of the large farms. "It's the people who are supposed to be represented by our agencies, not large corporate interests."

Among the companies the DBA lists as paying sponsors for its lobbying work are numerous large agribusinesses including Pfizer Animal Health Group, Wick Buildings, Arm and Hammer Animal Nutrition, Cargill Animal Nutrition and Eli Lilly & Co.

Bruce Baker, deputy administrator of the DNR's Division of Water, said he was sometimes uncomfortable with DBA's demands.

"They were asking for things that were just totally not appropriate for us to be negotiating as the regulatory agency," Baker said.

'We wrote the law'

Baker compared the DNR's dealings with DBA to negotiations with paper companies years ago or to more recent cooperative efforts with cranberry growers on regulating their industries. The agency, for example, signed a document called a "cooperative agreement" with cranberry growers in 1982 to deal with regulatory compliance and other issues.

In an e-mail on February 19, 2009, Baker said sharing regulatory reviews with DATCP, which had been suggested by DBA, is not "an appropriate detail for the agencies to be negotiating with outside organizations."

After signing the agreement with the DBA last March, which included a proposal for the general permit, the agency made it a priority to write the rules to implement the new class of permit. Over subsequent months, drafts of the rules bounced back and forth between the DBA and DNR, giving the group a direct hand in its authorship, records show.

Todd Ambs, who heads the DNR's Division of Water, said the work on the general permit was not done entirely at DBA's behest. DNR staff also pushed for general permits, he said, which are authorized under the law that regulates the large farms.

The DBA was also deeply involved with DATCP in writing the factory farm siting law, which has come under fire for encouraging construction of the big farms and limiting the power of local governments to influence the projects. In a column written for the association's September newsletter, David Crass, a lawyer who frequently represents the lobbying group and owners of large farms, encouraged DBA members to send the association questions about the siting law.

"After all," Crass noted, "we wrote the law and are in the best position to tell you what it means."

Former regulator, now advocate

The closeness of the ties between DBA and the agencies that regulate the industry was further underscored when the lobbying group announced on Feb. 12 that it had hired

David Jelinski — who helped write and implement the siting law as director of DATCP's Land and Water Resources Bureau — as its government affairs director.

Baker attributed some of DBA's heavy-handed approach to inexperience in dealing with a regulatory agency. "The thing it showed me," Baker said, "was that as an industry group, they had a lot to learn about the role of a regulatory agency. ... I was surprised by the DBA's lack of understanding or its inexperience in knowing where you draw the line in what you are asking for."

Others who monitor factory farms say the close relationship between the DBA and the DNR raises questions about the regulatory agency's independence.

Jamie Saul, a lawyer with Midwest Environmental Advocates, said he is particularly disturbed by the formal agreement the agency signed with DBA with little public notice.

"I think for me it symbolizes what really is the core issue here," said Saul. "And that is that this particular lobbying group has been able to elbow its way into the higher levels of the regulatory agency. That kind of access is unprecedented."

Factory farms nothing like family farms of old

Although many of them are still essentially family operations, the factory farms now being approved in Wisconsin bear scant resemblance to traditional dairy farms with their herds of 70 to 100 cows, their red barns and fields grazed by Holsteins.

At Rosendale Dairy near here, a red barn is in sight, just a series of long, white metal buildings, a parking lot of tanker trucks and enormous lagoons where liquid manure is stored. The dairy eventually will house 8,000 cows and produce

more than 92 million gallons of waste a year.

Neighbor Karen Krentz said the smell coming from the farm, especially in the warm months when manure is being spread, is nothing like the smell from the small farms she grew up around.

"It doesn't really smell like manure," said Krentz, who lives near the Rosendale Dairy in a house surrounded by fields on which manure from the farm is spread during warm months. "Manure I can handle. This smells like raw sewage."

Krentz bought her home — which is down the road from the house where she grew up and where her mother, Lucille, still lives — while Rosendale Dairy was in the very early stages of construction.

She moved from Madison to help care for her ailing father, who has since died. Both Krentz and her mother, 80, love the country. But neither feels she can stay because of the truck traffic and odor from the nearby farm.

In the fall, Krentz said, the manure trucks run from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. She shuts her windows and doors and goes to a back room of the house. "But there is no way I can get away from it," she said.

Though Krentz thought she would stay in the home the rest of her life, she is now considering selling. But she worries the proximity of the farm has destroyed the property values of both her home and that of her mother.

Dozens of neighbors express similar sentiments. Elaine Swanson, who has lived for 30 years just east of where Rosendale Dairy is now located, said she and her husband, Severin, are reluctant to invite friends to their home during times when the farm is spreading manure. The odor is just too strong.

Continued on p. 19

'Stepped enforcement' means it takes years to resolve problems

Even when large farms violate the terms of their permits, it can take years to resolve the problem.

The reason: "stepped enforcement," a progressive form of punishment in which violators are first put on notice that they are out of compliance and given an opportunity to fix the problem. Failure to do that results in a subsequent "notice of violation," which is followed by one or more meetings with the offender.

Only if the problem remains unresolved is the violator referred to the Department of Justice for prosecution.

"It's a very time-consuming process," said Gordon Stevenson, chief of the DNR's runoff management section. "If you are embroiled in enforcement, you are not doing much else... So if we can get things resolved by other means, that's what we try to do."

A review of the agency's enforcement actions against the big farms found it sometimes takes two or more years for a case to work its way through the system. In one violation involving illegal agricultural runoff, the incident happened in 1998 and the case wasn't resolved for 10 years, according to DNR records.

In some cases, the farms are violating the law even before they've applied for a permit.

Jennifer Nelson, who works with the Crawford Stewardship Project, a group fighting factory farms in southwest Wisconsin, found that many of the dairy farms now seeking permits to operate as factory farms have already exceeded 700 cows, the number beyond which a permit is required.

"That happens," Stevenson acknowledged. "I know we have farms that are over (size limits) that have not applied for permits."

Still, the agency defends its enforcement record against the big farms.

Stevenson said actions against the farms increased last year because additional staff time was devoted to enforcement. The number of notices of violation issued against factory farms increased from 5 in 2008 to 30 in 2009. Even so, only 2 of those 30 enforcement actions resulted in referral to the Department of Justice for prosecution.

GROUNDWATER: new bill introduced in Assembly

Continued from p. 1

The bill calls for government to establish two kinds of groundwater management bodies if certain levels of groundwater depletion are reached or impending:

- Groundwater Management Areas (GMAs) — a geographic area of the state where coordinated management of groundwater is needed to avoid or mitigate significant adverse environmental impacts from excessive withdrawals, and
- Groundwater Attention Areas (GAAs) — areas where the projected water use trends are likely to qualify the area for designation as a GMA within the following 20 years.

An innovative provision not seen in earlier laws relates to setting stan-

dards for the use of “graywater” for toilet flushing and other purposes.

According to the LRB, “This bill requires the Department of Commerce to promulgate rules that establish standards for graywater and rainwater systems and that authorize the use of graywater and rainwater within the building, or on the property surrounding the building, from which the graywater was generated or from which the rainwater was collected. Graywater is wastewater generated from the use of a clothes washer, sink, shower, or bathtub.”

“I hope we become part of the solution, not part of the problem,” says WITU Legislative Chair Paul Kruse. “Call or e-mail your state legislators and ask them to support AB 844.”

MANURE: Who’s watching the farm?

Continued from p. 18

Swanson, who helped start a group called People Empowered to Protect the Land, said residents also are beginning to monitor and test local waters because the DNR requires no such testing.

Jim Ostrom, one of the Rosendale Dairy owners, said: “We take people’s concerns very seriously. It’s a discussion we have every day with our staff.”

He said the farm’s manure lagoons are covered to reduce odors, and the farm is working to perfect a manure treatment system that will help cut down on odors related to spreading as well as threats to water quality.

Most troubling to many residents near Rosendale is that the farm was built with little or no prior involvement of the residents in the town of Rosendale.



Chuck Campbell

BILL HEART WITH BANQUET SPEAKER TOM HELGESON

A surprisingly unshaven outgoing State Council Chair Bill Heart (left) thanks our 2010 banquet guest speaker Tom Helgeson for a job well done. Helgeson is publisher of *Midwest Fly Fishing* magazine and runs the Great Waters Fly Fishing Expos held annually in Chicago and Minneapolis.

Neither the town nor Fond du Lac County had passed the state siting rules that give local governments some — albeit limited — control over how and where such farms will be built. At the time Rosendale Dairy was built, all the owners needed was a building permit from the town, according to Mike Murray, siting program manager for the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.

Eventually, according to town board attorney Steve Sorenson, the town did adopt the siting ordinance. But the Rosendale Dairy already was well under construction. The town held a public meeting to allow residents to voice their concerns.

The town board was a little better prepared when the dairy proposed expanding from 4,000 to 8,000 in December, having by then adopted the state siting law. But Sorenson told officials they were “opening themselves up for future issues” if the extension was denied. The board approved the expansion.

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Public hearings on livestock permit changes scheduled

Public hearings on a WDNR proposal to issue standardized water protection permits known as “general permits” instead of individual permits for some large-scale livestock operations continue at locations across the state through April 13.

Switching to the general permits would allow WDNR staff to spend more time in the field inspecting those livestock operations to make sure they are following requirements for manure storage, handling, spreading, and other activities, according to Gordon Stevenson, who leads the DNR runoff management section.

General permits would also allow DNR staff to issue the permits on a more timely basis. Stevenson says that the general permits will require the same amount of information to be submitted, and the DNR will give the application documents the same level of scrutiny to ensure compliance with permit requirements.

Public hearings on the proposed revisions will begin at 1 p.m. and will be held:

- March 26, Wausau** — North Central Technical College, Center for the Health Sciences Building Auditorium, 1000 W. Campus Dr.
- April 1, Grand Chute** — Grand Chute Town Hall, Board Room, 1900 Grand Chute Blvd.
- April 6, Viroqua** — Firehouse Restaurant and Lounge, Lower Level, 804 South Main St.
- April 8, Eau Claire** — Ramada Inn Convention Center, Lower Ballroom, 205 South Barstow St.
- April 13, Fitchburg** — Fitchburg Community Center, Oak Hall, 5520 Lacy Rd.

Under state and federal law, large farms must get water protection permits when they reach 1,000 animal units (roughly 700 milking cows) because of the volume of their manure and the increased potential risk it poses to Wisconsin waters if a spill or runoff occurs. Currently each operation must undergo an individual review process for a permit.

Under the proposed revisions, the state would create two classes of general permits covering operations of different sizes:

- one for dairy farms starting at 1,000 animal units, the same threshold now triggering farms to get a permit, and the equivalent of 700 milking cows; and
- the second permit would only be used for those operations with fewer than 1,000 animal units that have not addressed livestock-related runoff issues that the DNR determines are best addressed by a permit.

More information is available on the Agricultural Manure Management Web pages of the DNR Runoff Management program.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Gordon Stevenson at (608) 267-2759 or Russ Rasmussen at (608) 267-7651.



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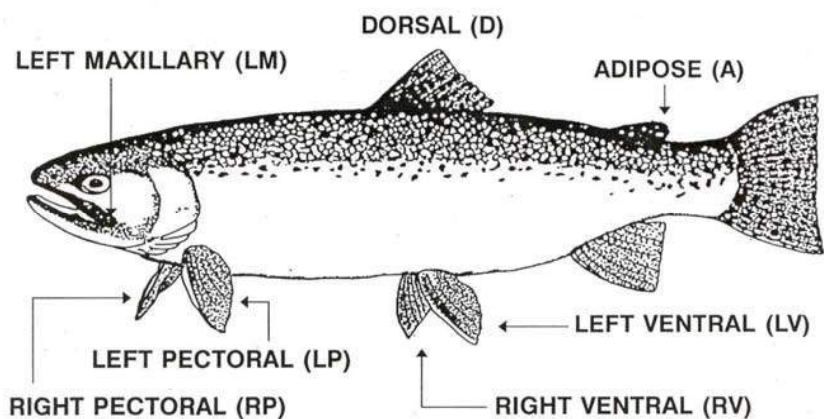
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Lake Michigan steelhead fin clip identification table

YEAR	LOCATION	FIN CLIP	NUMBER	STRAIN
RAINBOW (STEELHEAD) TROUT				
2004	Sister Bay	LP	4,997	Arlee
2004	Ahnapee River	LP	4,997	Arlee
2004	Manitowoc River	LP	4,996	Arlee
2004	Sheboygan Harbor	LP	5,008	Arlee
2004	Milwaukee Harbor	LP	4,996	Arlee
2004	Kenosha Harbor	LP	4,998	Arlee
2004	Sister Bay	RV	10,083	Kamloops
2004	Ahnapee River	RV	10,057	Kamloops
2004	Manitowoc River	RV	10,025	Kamloops
2004	Sheboygan Harbor	RV	10,064	Kamloops
2004	Milwaukee Harbor	RV	10,148	Kamloops
2004	Kenosha Harbor	RV	10,020	Kamloops
2004	Kewaunee River	LM	40,824	Chambers Creek
2004	Root River	LM	31,039	Chambers Creek
2004	Kewaunee River	ALV	35,950	Ganaraska
2004	Root River	ALV	27,881	Ganaraska
2004	Kewaunee River	RM	33,590	Skamania
2004	Root River	RM	35,145	Skamania
2005	Various WI sites	ALP	53,035	Arlee
2005	Various WI sites	LV	50,972	Kamloops
2005	Kewaunee River	ALM	37,815	Chambers Creek
2005	Root River	ALM	27,058	Chambers Creek
2005	Kewaunee River	ARV	28,233	Ganaraska
2005	Root River	ARV	27,975	Ganaraska
2005	Kewaunee River	ARM	40,009	Skamania
2005	Root River	ARM	35,930	Skamania
2006	Various WI sites	LP	61,285	Arlee
2006	Various WI sites	RV	58,570	Kamloops
2006	Kewaunee River	LMLV	34,430	Chambers Creek
2006	Root River	LMLV	27,398	Chambers Creek
2006	Kewaunee River	BV	34,585	Ganaraska
2006	Root River	BV	26,948	Ganaraska
2006	Kewaunee River	RMRV	30,731	Skamania
2006	Root River	RMRV	34,452	Skamania
2007	Various WI sites	ALP	65,866	Arlee
2007	Various WI sites	RV	60,968	Kamloops
2007	Kewaunee River	LM	24,193	Chambers Creek
2007	Root River	LM	22,890	Chambers Creek
2007	Kewaunee River	ARV	33,311	Ganaraska
2007	Root River	ARV	35,044	Ganaraska
2007	Kewaunee River	RM	25,245	Skamania
2007	Root River	RM	35,210	Skamania
2008	Various WI sites	LP	59,987	Arlee
2008	Kewaunee River	ALM	33,541	Chambers Creek
2008	Root River	ALM	24,839	Chambers Creek
2008	Kewaunee River	ARV	43,510	Ganaraska
2008	Root River	ARV	22,789	Ganaraska
2008	Kewaunee River	ARM	34,186	Skamania
2008	Root River	ARM	34,556	Skamania



These fin clip patterns are for the Lake Michigan and Green Bay waters of the State of Wisconsin only. Trout and salmon with other fin clip patterns can originate from other states, and would be considered "strays" in Wisconsin waters. Fin regeneration makes some clips difficult to see. Note: These are not total numbers of trout and salmon stocked, only those that have been fin clipped. For non-specific locations listed in the summary please see the latest Wisconsin's Lake Michigan Salmonid Stocking Summary (PUB-FH-828 2009).

*Tagged fish: Your cooperation in returning these tags to the address below or the address listed on the tag, along with the species of fish, length, weight (if known), date and location caught will be greatly appreciated. This information will help us make the Lake Michigan fishery even better.

*When releasing a tagged fish, please leave the tag in place.

SOURCE: WDNR

These fin clip patterns are for the Lake Michigan and Green Bay only. Trout and salmon with other fin clip patterns can originate in other states and are considered strays in Wisconsin waters. Fin regeneration makes some clips difficult to see. These are not total numbers of trout and salmon stocked, only those that have been fin clipped. For information about the stocking and fin clips of brown trout, lake trout, and salmon in Lake Michigan, consult http://dnr.wi.gov/fish/lakemich/Finclip_List_2008.pdf.

Trout-related highlights from 2010 fishing report

The following are the trout-related highlights from the WDNR's newly released 2010 *Wisconsin Fishing Report*. The booklet is published annually and is available for download at the DNR's web site.

Spring pond project aims to restore native brook trout

DNR fisheries crews from Antigo and Woodruff are midway through dredging spring ponds near Boulder Junction to improve brook trout habitat and natural reproduction of this angler favorite.

The eight small interconnected spring ponds are located two miles south of Boulder Junction and form the headwaters of North Creek, a tributary to Trout Lake. The system has historically been a Class I brook trout water capable of producing fish larger than 12 inches, but natural siltation and beaver activity have nearly halted natural trout reproduction. The DNR and local anglers also have noticed a steady decline in trout numbers during the past 20 years.

Dredge operations will resume again in late May 2010 to complete the work. Past projects have shown that trout respond quickly without the need for stocking, which preserves the genetic stock and wild character of the trout.

Once the project is complete, it's expected to take about five years for the trout population to rebound. Northwoods Chapter of Trout Unlimited is an important partner in this project and has paid for all diesel fuel to operate the dredge. (via *Mike Vogelsang, fisheries supervisor, Woodruff.*)

Antigo-area trout waters

Stream trout are doing well despite a seven-year drought. In 2009, trout numbers were up substantially from the previous year in most streams surveyed.

This includes the East Branch of the Eau Claire River, Hunting River, Evergreen River, Spring Brook and Red River.

In-stream trout habitat projects were started on the Hunting River (Highway T wayside reach) and the Evergreen River (between the railroad bridge and Menominee Reservation off Highway M). The Hunting River project is a two-year project slated for summer 2010 completion. The Evergreen River project may take two more summers (2010 and 2011) to finish. (via *Dave Seibel, fisheries biologist.*)

Bearskin Creek

Despite a seven-year drought, a survey of Bearskin Creek found excellent brook trout natural reproduction. Most trout were seven inches or smaller.

The largest brook trout was 12 inches and the largest brown was 8.2 inches. Look for stocked brown trout in Dorothy Lake; rainbows are planned for Perch, Hawk and Little Bass lakes. Brook trout will go into Mercer Springs and Brown, Gudegast, Scott and Starks creeks. (via *John Kubisiak, senior fisheries biologist, Rhinelander.*)

Wood Creek

Harsh conditions stemming from prolonged drought and beaver dams forced trout to concentrate in spring-fed reaches of Wood Creek southeast of Rib Lake. A July 2009 survey at five stations confirmed that natural reproduction sustains a viable fishery with brook trout up to 13 inches long and brown trout to 17.5 inches. Size and numbers for both species were highest near Trout Avenue. For now anglers should avoid the headwater reaches downstream from Wood Lake where there has been extremely low stream flow and no trout. (via *Jeff Scheirer, fisheries biologist, Park Falls.*)

Washburn trout pods

Trout anglers will want to check the updated website co.washburn.wi.us/departments/forestry/info/huntfishwild.htm. Locations for 18 backwoods trout ponds in the Washburn County Forest can be found there. Two-inch long brook trout stocked at ice out grow to nice eating size by fall and can reach 18 inches in just a few years. The best fishing is in fall and first ice when most other trout waters are closed. (via *Steve Gilbert, fisheries biologist, Woodruff.*)

Waupaca County trout streams

Anglers looking for action-oriented fishing should try Radley Creek. Although overall trout numbers are down from recent years, this stream still out-produces most area streams. Recent electro-fishing surveys show above average density with over 29 percent of the adult catch over the legal size limit (nine-inch minimum).

Anglers can access the stream from many properties and parking areas in the Radley Creek Fishery Area.

Recent electrofishing surveys conducted on the Waupaca River show a promising trout fishing future. Young-of-the-year numbers were up 200 percent from the last time the river was surveyed and 180 percent higher than the 10-year average. Total adult numbers are down from past years, however, density of larger trout (greater than 15 inches) have been holding steady in the special

regulations water. Anglers have a good chance of catching a trophy trout with densities of 15-plus inch fish as high as 42 trout per mile.

The "wild trout" stocking program has been very important to bolstering trout populations in the Waupaca River. Annually, the river is stocked with 18,000 feral brown trout fingerlings. Past studies have shown that stocked "wild trout" comprise almost 40 percent of the adult population. (via *Al Niebur, fisheries biologist, Shawano.*)

Onion River in Sheboygan Cty.

Trout anglers have it pretty good on Sheboygan County's Onion River. Thanks to lots of help from area conservation clubs and angler trout stamp dollars, the Onion no longer needs brown trout stocking.

Generally, if you fish from Highway E upstream for several miles you are going to catch only wild brown trout with a possible stocked rainbow in the mix. Thanks to all the habitat work and a protective 15-inch size limit, one bag and artificial lures-only fishing regulation, this stretch of the Onion holds a very good wild trout population. (via *Ben Heussner, fisheries biologist, Waukesha.*)

Dane County streams

Trout anglers will enjoy a wide range of trout experiences in Dane County. DNR crews and partners worked extensively in 2009 to add in-stream habitat, remove nuisance vegetation and establish convenient access. Fly fishing anglers will appreciate the tree-free banks of Kittleson Valley Creek, West Branch Sugar River and perennial favorite, Black Earth Creek. Dane County streams generally have a bag limit of three with a nine-inch minimum size limit. That provides spinner and bait anglers lots of choices. Quality, harvest-size fish are abundant in Elvers Creek, Primrose Branch and Story and Garfoot creeks. The opportunity to land a true trophy can be had on the Upper Sugar River and Mt. Vernon Creek. (via *Kurt Welke, fisheries manager, Fitchburg.*)

Grant and Iowa county streams

Trout populations here are in the best shape in 40 years for overall numbers, average size and distribution. Brook trout reproduction and distribution appears to be at an all time high. The entire coulee region should provide outstanding trout fishing for the foreseeable future. Adult wild brown trout average 10 to 14 inches with big trout measuring 14, 15, 17 and 18 inches, and trophies measuring 19 or 20 inches. (via *Gene Van Dyck, fisheries biologist, Dodgeville.*)

Sauk and Columbia county streams

Stocking wild strains of trout has been documented to provide two to three times better survival in trout streams. About 80 percent of the streams in these counties are stocked. The better streams in Columbia County are Rowan, Rocky Run, Jennings, and Lodi Spring. While in Sauk County, try Dell, Honey, Rowley and Manley creeks for native brookies.

Habitat work conducted on four stretches of Honey Creek (Class II brown trout) in western Sauk County is showing positive response and receiving high angler use. More work was done in fall of 2009. Deeper water along with habitat features have created living space for larger size fish. A project on 800 feet of a feeder stream to Lodi Spring Creek in southwestern Columbia County was conducted during April 2007. Here a channelized drainage ditch for 50 years was converted back to a trout stream. It responded by August 2007 with increases in the native population of brown trout of 10 times for young-of-year and yearlings, five times for nine- to 11-inch fish and doubling of the number of 12-plus inch fish. The summer 2008 survey found another doubling of both the nine to 11 and 12-plus inch size groups. (via *Dan Fuller, fisheries technician, Poynette.*)

Neenah Creek

Good trout fishing should be expected here. Neenah Creek was surveyed in 2009 upstream from the confluence of Peppermill Creek. The survey captured 145 brown trout ranging from four to 14.4 inches with an average length of 8.1 inches. These results are similar to those found in the creek in 2008. The healthy trout population is supported through natural reproduction and habitat improvements initiated in 1983. (via *Justine Hasz, senior fisheries biologist, Wisconsin Rapids.*)

Big Roche-a-Cri Creek

Big Roche-a-Cri Creek was surveyed in 2009 west of Highway G. The survey captured 418 brook trout and two brown trout.

Continued on p. 21

FISHING: DNR report offers trout news and spots

Continued from p. 20

The brook trout ranged in size from 4 to 13.4 inches with an average length of 7.1 inches. These results show more brook trout in the stream than in a 2008 survey, with a slightly lower average size. The healthy brook trout population in this portion of the Big Roche-a-Cri is supported through good natural reproduction and habitat improvements installed in this section in 1980. Good trout fishing should be expected at this site. (Via Justine Hasz, senior fisheries biologist, Wisconsin Rapids.)

Buffalo and Jackson county streams

Ongoing surveys of area trout streams found better reproduction of brook and brown trout and more 10- to 12-inch brook trout in 2008 than in the previous few years. Overall, adult trout densities were stable. This reproduction increase was reflected in 2009 surveys, which found higher adult densities and stable to higher densities of legal size fish - most notably for brook trout. These increased densities should provide anglers with more legal and larger trout in 2010.

The Department of Natural Resources and cooperative hatcheries will stock about 35,000 brook, 37,000 brown and 16,000 rainbow trout to area waters prior to the 2010 season opener.

Also waiting for anglers are improved fishing conditions in several streams as a result of habitat restoration projects. Streams receiving restoration efforts in the past couple years are Pine Creek, Traverse Valley Creek, Borst Valley Creek, and Bruce Valley Creek, all in Trempealeau County; and Pigeon and French creeks in Jackson County. These projects were initiated and completed through efforts between landowners, local conservation clubs, county land conservation staff, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Trout Unlimited and the Department of Natural Resources.

Each project area has a public fishing easement, granted by the landowners, which allows anglers to access the stream by land and water. (Via Dan Hatleli, fish biologist, Black River Falls.)

Dunn County

Nestled in northwest Dunn County is some of the best brook trout water in the county. The upstream four miles of the South Fork of the Hay River is listed as Class I (self-sustaining) trout water from the Barron/Dunn county line downstream. The remaining 17 miles, which passes through

Connorsville and Boyceville is Class II water (requires supplemental stocking). Trout surveys in 2009 show the Class I portion to contain up to 5,000 brook trout per mile with six to 10-inch fish being abundant. Anglers seeking trophy brook trout (14 inches or more), should try the Class II waters between Connorsville and Boyceville. Recent and past surveys show this area to have low brook trout densities but excellent potential for quality (greater than 12 inches) and trophy brook trout up to 18 inches.

While Dunn County boasts many brook trout streams, only one high-quality brown

streams should experience great fishing in 2010. Above-average reproduction in 2007 and 2008 produced two huge year classes of trout. While these fish are still relatively small, they should provide opportunities for anglers looking to catch some fish or just wet a line. Fisheries survey crews captured brown and brook trout up to 27 and 17 inches, respectively. Also, one local angler caught a 28.5-inch brown trout from an area stream. In addition to healthy trout populations, nearly one mile of trout stream improvement work was done this past year. (Via Jordan Weeks, fisheries biologist, La Crosse.)

Pierce County

Plum Creek in southeastern Pierce County near Plum City contains approximately 12 miles of tremendous Class I brook and brown trout waters. Monitoring surveys conducted from 1999-2009 reveal Plum Creek brook trout populations range from 1,500 to 6,000 per mile with an additional 500 to 1,250 brown trout to boot.

While six- to 10-inch brook trout are most common, a few trophy (14-plus inch) brook trout are present. The brown trout population averages larger (eight to 15 inches), with fish topping 20 inches. The Class I portion of Plum Creek begins just downstream of Nugget Lake County Park Dam and continues south to the Pierce/Pepin county line. For a cheap thrill, check out the trout pond (closed to fishing) in the town park within the Village of Plum City. You will be amazed by the size and girth of the brown and rainbow trout there.

The Trimbelle is an exceptional brown trout stream located just west of the town of Ellsworth. It is a moderate size Class II brown trout stream for more than 20 miles and originates southeast of River Falls, entering the Mississippi River near the village of Diamond Bluff.

Annual surveys show Trimbelle holds 500 to 2,400 trout per mile. The most common sizes range from eight to 15 inches with an occasional fish exceeding 20 inches. The best trout water is found between Highway 35 south and Highway 10. However, anglers may be surprised by the number of quality fish found upstream of Highway 10, especially in areas that have been restored through in-stream habitat improvement work. (Via Marty Engel, fisheries biologist, Baldwin.)



trout stream is found here. Elk Creek originates in Chippewa County and passes into Dunn County just east of the Village of Elk Mound at Interstate 94. It is classified as Class I brown trout water for three miles. Some of the best fishing on Elk Creek can be found just upstream from Elk Creek Lake off 410th Avenue. Surveys show brown trout populations range up to 3,500 trout per mile and are intermixed with a small population of brook trout. Brown trout average eight to 15 inches with fish reaching over 20 inches. (Via Marty Engel, fisheries biologist, Baldwin.)

La Crosse, Monroe, Vernon, and Crawford counties

Anglers fishing coulee region trout

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Watershed Access Fund

Thanks to our Watershed Access Fund contributors!

WITU's new Watershed Access Fund is off to a rousing start. Consider the following:

- All the proceeds of the State Council's annual banquet in Stevens Point on Feb. 13 went into this new fund,
- Scott Grady donated one of his custom bamboo rods for a special raffle to benefit the fund, and
- Members are generously contributing to the fund as a result of a recent fund-raising appeal.

The State Council will recognize contributors by listing their names in each issue of *Wisconsin Trout*, just as we do with the Friends of WITU program. Below is our very first listing of charter contributors. Thanks to all of you!

But there's still time to contribute to this new fund. To make a contribution, use the form on this page.

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DeLorme icon update available for "Improved Trout Waters"

Where Am I Publications, Inc. has just released an addendum to its *Map Guide to Improved Trout Waters of Wisconsin* book that will help trout fishers use the book more effectively with newer editions of the DeLorme atlas.

Soon after *Map Guide to Improved Trout Waters of Wisconsin* was published, the *DeLorme Atlas and*

Gazetteer changed its page numbering system — the map of Elk Cr. that once appeared on p. 33 of the atlas now appears on p. 75, etc.

The new addendum will let those with more recent DeLorme atlases continue to use the locator feature in *Map Guide to Improved Trout Waters of Wisconsin* (see icon replacement sample at left).

The two-page Adobe Acrobat addendum can be downloaded free at the document-sharing web site www.scribd.com. Use that site's search feature and enter "DeLormeIcon." Or e-mail a request for the addendum to info@WhereAmIPubs.com.

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Gart's foam bluegill fly a floater kids love to tie

By Bob Haase

This is probably one of the best bluegill flies I have ever used. I find that it fishes as good or better than most cork poppers.

There are a number of variations of this fly, which was originated by Dave Gartside. The version I show here is my variation and uses foam rather than chenille for the body.

Start the thread and wrap it back to the bend of the hook. Take a piece of hackle or other appropriate feather and tie in the tail as shown. Advance the thread toward the eye of the hook and stop where shown

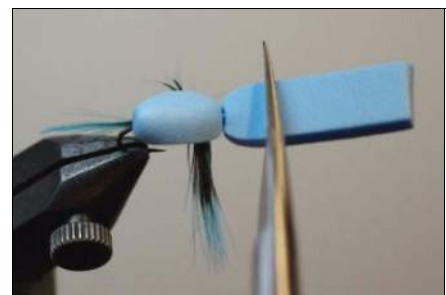
in the picture. (NOTE: using a stranded thread like Ultra Thread or Danville works better for tying foam as it does not cut into the foam as easily.)

Next cut a strip of foam about 1/4 inch wide and about 1-1/2 to 2 inches long. Trim the end as shown on one end, which is the end you will tie in.

Tie in the foam by beginning where you have the thread tied in near the eye of the hook. I usually place a few drops of super glue over the thread before tying in the foam, but be careful not to get the glue on your fingers as you wrap the foam. (I do not use the super glue when tying with kids.) Tie the foam to the hook by making a series of thread wraps, spacing the thread about 1/8 inch apart.

Tie to just over the bend of the hook and make two thread wraps and tie back to where you started while continuing to space the thread as described. The foam should wrap around and under the hook as you tie. Stop about 1/3 the length of the hook back from the eye.

Tie in the hackle feather as shown. Softer hackle feathers such



MATERIALS LIST
Gart's Foam Bluegill Fly

Hook: Mustad #3366 or R50 (94840) or equivalent hook in size 10 or other sizes.

Thread: 140 Denier or 6/0, same color as the foam.

Tail: Hackle fibers.

Body: 2MM CraftFoam.

Hackle: Any neck hackle or other appropriate feather.

as pheasant body feathers or hen saddles work well. Any neck hackle will also work. I usually make the tail out of a piece of the same feather that I use for wrapping. Make about two to three wraps of the feather depending on the fiber count of the feather to achieve the amount of fibers as shown. Tie off the feather and use your thumb and forefinger to push the hackle fibers down to the sides and back slightly. (You will bring the foam down over the top and this will aid in tying down the foam without trapping the fibers with the thread.)

Next bring the foam over the back and pull carefully, but firmly, toward the front of the fly to slightly stretch the foam as you anchor it just behind the eye of the hook. Make 3-5 wraps of thread over the foam, and then bring the thread under the foam just behind the eye and make few more wraps just under the foam. Whip finish or make a series of half hitches.

Now take your scissors and cut the foam as shown just about the thickness of the body (1/4") in front of where you tied in the foam to form the fly's head. Your fly is now complete.

You can also use this fly by tying it about 2 to 3 feet behind a spinning float and fishing with a spinning rod and reel.

(For those of you interested in helping out at this year's Wisconsin Outdoor Expo in Beaver Dam this May, this will be one of the three flies we'll be tying with the kids.)

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Bob's Tying Tips

Advice from
the bench of
Bob Haase

Try a couple new kinds of thread this year

I have decided to talk about something that I feel is so important, that I will only write about one tying tip in this issue, and that is fly tying thread.

When I first started tying over 50 years ago, we did not have many choices when it came thread selection. Most of the thread that I used was a nylon thread made by **Guidebrod** or **Herter's** and could be used for both fly tying and rod winding. We did not have many sizes or colors of thread to choose from, and when I was tying down to sizes 26 to 32, I had to split the thread into four strands to get it small enough.

The thread is what holds everything together on a fly, and the characteristics of the thread and the ability to pull down tight enough will affect the integrity and durability of the fly. Many tyers start out using a certain kind or brand of thread and stay with it, choosing to use only that

bonds materials, and the way it handles.

I also like the **GSP** thread (Gel Spun Polyethylene) when I need the extra strength in a smaller diameter, but the **Kevlar** is also good and now comes in more than one size like GSP and in different colors, and is less expensive than the GSP. These threads are more difficult to work with than nylon or polyester, more expensive, and are more slippery, which can affect the way they bond the tying materials as well as affecting knot strength because of slipping.

For an overall general-purpose thread, I like both the **Wapsi Ultra Thread 140 Denier** and the **Uni-Thread in 6/0**. I like the 8/0 Uni-Thread better than the Wapsi 70 denier because I think it is a little stronger, even though they are similar in diameter. Wapsi has one of the largest color selections of any manufacturer, and if I have two or more



thread. I know tyers who use only **Uni-Thread** and nothing else. To me that is like going back to when I first started tying.

Today we have many threads to choose from, and knowing which threads are available and the characteristics of each of them is very important. *My tying tip is to buy at least one or two different kinds of thread this year and learn the characteristics, advantages, disadvantages, and useful applications of those threads.*

One thing you may want to look for when comparing threads is the versatility of the thread, such as how you can vary the characteristic by spinning the thread to flatten or sharpen it. Other things include how flat it lays, breaking strength compared to similar diameter of another brand, knot strength, availability of colors, available sizes, and how well it holds various materials in place. Thread fraying, how well it slips when making knots, and just overall feel are also important.

When you use and compare the characteristics of each kind of thread, you will probably find specific applications for one thread over another. As an example, I like the stranded thread like the **Danville** or **Wapsi Ultra** thread for tying foam flies. I can flatten the thread so that it does not cut the foam as easily. I like the **Gordon Griffith 14/0 Sheer** or the **Benecci 12/0** thread for tying on smaller sizes from 18 to 26. I like the strength, the way it

threads that are similar, I might select one just because I want that specific color.

It would take a few pages to cover all the different brands and kinds of threads and their characteristics, and even then each person will have his own opinions and favorites when it comes to selecting a thread. I encourage you to take the time to try different brands and kinds of thread and give them a fair chance. They may not work exactly like the thread you are using now, and you may have to use it a while before you really appreciate the characteristics and advantages of the thread.

Generally you will want to use the smallest diameter thread you can and still bite into the material to bond it to the hook. I also feel that if you don't break your thread occasionally, you are not putting enough tension on the thread.

Most of us also make too many wraps of thread while tying flies, and this can cause problems when tying down in the smaller sizes. If you have problems with thread build-up when tying smaller sizes, you may want to tie a few flies using a larger diameter thread. By doing this, you will realize how many unnecessary wraps you are making.

Look for more insightful installments of "Bob's Tying Tips" in upcoming issues of *Wisconsin Trout*.



Trout tip

Try the three-point grip to prevent open loops

By Henry Kanemoto

Beginning fly casters are most often taught the thumb-on-top grip. It is a familiar grip, since it is the same grip one uses for spin or bait casting. However, it is often the worst grip to teach a beginning fly caster because it almost guarantees that the beginner will cast a wide, open loop.

If you hold your rod with your thumb on top, your rod is aligned with your thumb and the rod handle lies parallel to the creases in your palm at 90 degrees to your forearm. Gary and Jason Berger taught me the three-point grip as a better grip for teaching fly casting.

The three-point grip holds the rod with the heel of the hand, the index finger to the upper portion of the handle on one side, and the thumb on the opposite upper portion of the grip. *If the rod does not naturally line up with the forearm, you have the wrong grip.*

Jason's book, *Nature of Fly Casting*, shows this by having you drop your hand to your side. Look down at the space between your thumb and your index finger. You will see that it lines up with your forearm. Notice that in the above photo, the rod is lined up with that space and with my forearm.

There is an easy test for the three-point grip. Take your thumb and index finger off of the grip. If the rod handle remains cradled between your ring and little finger and against the fat (the little finger side) portion of your palm, you have it just about right. If the rod slips out of your palm when you take your thumb and index finger off of the grip, you have it wrong.

To see the difference between the two grips, grab a pencil or pen and hold it with the thumb-on-top grip. The pen will be at a right angle to your forearm. Switch to the three point grip and the pen falls into line with your forearm.

A simple pantomime casting demonstration will show the differences between these two grips. Make a "gun" with your rod hand by making a fist and then extending your thumb and index finger. Your index finger will be the rod with the three-point grip, and your thumb represents the rod with the thumb-on-top grip.

Raise your casting hand so that it is opposite your ear. Your upper arm should be parallel to the ground and your index finger pointing at 1-2 o'clock. This is a very natural "stop" position for teaching the back cast. The three-point grip will place the rod tip pointing to 1-2 o'clock.

Now look at the position of your thumb. It is pointing just past 3 o'clock toward the ground. To get our thumb to point at 1-2 o'clock we must forcibly cock and hold our wrist forward in an unnatural position.

This is a major reason why casters who are taught the thumb-on-top grip tend to "naturally" bring the rod tip back too far during the back cast. If you want to keep the rod from going back to 3 o'clock, you need to hold the rod so that it lines up with your forearm and not your thumb. Keep that concept in mind.

I was taught to cast with the thumb-on-top grip and continue to do so. However, I favor teaching beginning fly casters the three-point grip. Beginners who hold the rod with the thumb on top will naturally flop the back cast. Simply changing how they hold the rod will cure this common casting flaw.

If you are a beginning fly fisher and have trouble with wide casting loops, try the three-point grip. It is a simple cure for what seems to be a major casting problem.

(Henry Kanemoto is a member of the WI River Valley Chapter. This story originally appeared in his chapter's The Riffle and Pool newsletter. -Ed.)

New Friends campaign features furlled leader premium

By Doug Brown

Friends of WITU Chair

Our Friends program lost a key friend recently. Steve Hill, who has directed the Friends program the past four years, died of a heart attack Feb. 24.

Steve will be missed. He felt so strongly about trout habitat restoration that he stepped forward to use his skills as a fund-raiser to help the program flourish and grow. As you think about renewing your membership in the Friends program for 2010

— or considering joining the Friends for the first time — know that Steve would thank you for your financial support this year as he did in the past.

I have stepped forward to carry on the work of the Friends program that was begun by John Cantwell and continued by Steve. I will do my best to keep the program strong.

2010 campaign underway

By now you have received an invitation in the mail to join the Friends of Wisconsin TU. I encourage you to be generous in 2010 as

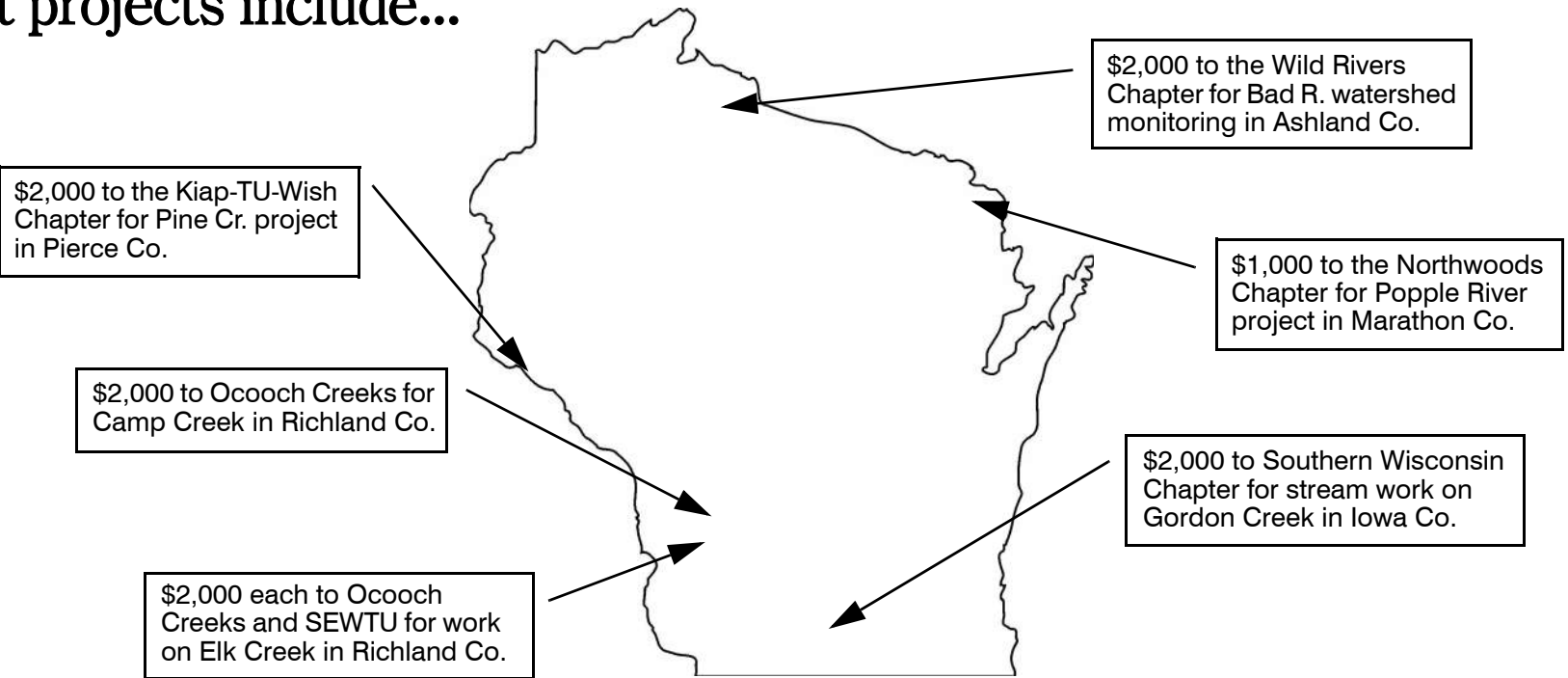
you have in the past. Your contribution is likely to come right back to you in the form of financial support for one of your chapter's projects.

Our premium for members this year is a BlueSky furlled trout leader. If you've never used a furlled leader, this is a great chance to try one.

Finally, it is interesting to note that the Friends program is now 20 years old. Check out the news clip of the founding of the program in the "Looking Back" feature on p. 9 of this issue.



Over \$150,000 devoted to trout resources since 1991. The latest projects include...



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One last round of applause for our 2009 Friends of WITU

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- Bruce C Davidson
- David L Douglas
- John H Saemann
- Stephen Wilke
- Jeff Schmoeger
- Harley Whitmarsh
- Christopher Willman
- Gregory A Jensen
- Daniel Simon
- Lowell Lutter
- Charles Hodulik
- Bill & Kathy Pielsticker
- Harold Miller
- N. E. Wozniak

- Fitchburg WI
- Racine WI
- Blair WI
- Marinette WI
- Oshkosh WI
- Menasha WI
- Wautoma WI
- Grafton WI
- Verona WI
- Custer WI
- Milwaukee WI
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- Mineral Point WI
- Junction City WI
- Wauwatosa WI
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- Kaukauna WI
- Fond du Lac WI
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- Wisconsin Rapids WI
- Madison WI
- Lafayette LA
- Eau Claire WI
- Trempealeau WI
- Wauwatosa WI
- Bloomington MN
- Union Grove WI
- Marinette WI
- Deerfield WI
- Grafton WI
- Augusta WI
- Hartford WI
- Oregon WI
- St Paul MN
- Madison WI
- Lodi WI
- Stone Lake WI
- Stevens Point WI

- Daniel Flaherty
- Brian Hegge
- Randal Rake
- Mike & Sue Arneson
- Gordon King
- Don A. Wagner
- Terrance Cummings
- Jerome Fox
- William Rogers
- Custer WI
- Gilbert Herman, Jr
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- Joseph Steuer
- Joey Jantz
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- Jon Hanson
- Dale Sevig
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- Jeff Jackson
- Michael Funk
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- Gillett WI
- Rhineland WI
- Two Rivers WI
- Superior WI
- Stoughton WI
- Madison WI
- Naples FL
- Sheboygan WI
- Nekoosa WI
- Madison WI
- Lakeland FL
- Hartland WI
- Mineral Point WI
- Rockford IL
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