

# Wisconsin Trout

July 2010



**NOTED AUTHOR JOHN GIERACH ATTENDS WILD RIVERS MEETING**  
Larry Mann (left) and Wendy Williamson of the Hayward Fly Fishing Co. pose with noted fishing author John Gierach in June. Gierach was at a book signing and Wild Rivers Chapter meeting at the Sawmill Saloon in Seeley.

## Author John Gierach visits Wild Rivers area

By Chuck Campbell

When a mass e-mail from the Hayward Fly Fishing Co. announced that author John Gierach was coming, we knew it would be a big event for area fly fishers.

The noted fly fishing author was returning to northern Wisconsin to fish with Larry Mann and Wendy Williamson of the Hayward Fly Fishing Co. on the Namekagon and other area rivers.

John first came to the shop in 2005 when it had just opened with his fishing partner from the Boulder Boat Works. In 2006 he returned and liked the fishing and area a lot. It reminded him of his early years in Minnesota.

This year western rivers were blown out, and John returned on a book signing tour. Wendy recalls that she ran into John at a book signing and reading in 2003 where she talked bass fishing and gave him a card.

Wild Rivers chapter members and others gathered at the Sawmill Saloon in Seeley on June 9 to hear from the author in person. John

spent the day fishing with Wendy and Larry and talked glowingly about his encounters with muskies. He landed one and "moved two big fish." You could tell he really enjoyed his day on the water.

Our chapter conducted a short meeting while John ate. As we talked about the "Whack a Northern" event coming up in August, John let out a loud hoot. He really enjoyed the event's name and concept.

Rather than just talking, John asked that the group keep him going with their questions, which worked very well. There were many questions from this group of serious fly fishers, writers, and fans.

One asked why someone who can go anywhere come here to fish? He said that it was true that he could fish anywhere for anything, but he had only three locales that he wanted to do the most. One was a lodge in British Columbia, another was a quiet spot in the NE for Atlantic salmon, and the other favorite was fishing with Larry and Wendy for bass and musky.

Continued on p. 4

## WITU celebrates 40th anniversary in Waupaca

By Todd Hanson

The summer meeting of the WITU State Council was held at TW Martin's Public House in Waupaca June 26 with 18 of 21 chapters represented.

Chair Kim McCarthy began the meeting by noting a Wisconsin TU milestone — the formation of the State Council 40 years ago this July.

A State Council organizing meeting was held July 21-22, 1970, in Madison (see the original sign-in sheet below). At that time, there were just four TU chapters operating in the state — Wolf River, Green Bay, Southern WI, and Milwaukee.

WITU's 40th anniversary will be celebrated throughout the rest of 2010. It will also be a featured part of the annual meeting and banquet to be held at the Holiday Inn and Conference Center in Stevens Point Feb. 5, 2011.

### Central sand hills initiative

A highlight of the meeting was a presentation by Bob Hunt and Alistair Stewart of the Central WI Chapter regarding some early planning they and others have been doing toward the possible formation of a central sand hills ecoregion stream restoration initiative.

Stewart said the initiative would establish an environmental umbrel-

la for the coldwater fishery in the central sand hills ecoregion potentially modeled in part on the highly successful TUDARE project in the Driftless Area that encompasses southwestern Wisconsin and parts of Illinois, Iowa, and Minnesota.

Stewart distributed a discussion draft proposal and asked council members for their feedback in coming weeks. He noted that the Trout and Salmon Foundation — which has been involved in smaller habitat projects with TU in central Wisconsin the past few years — might be interested in helping fund a larger-scale effort in the area.

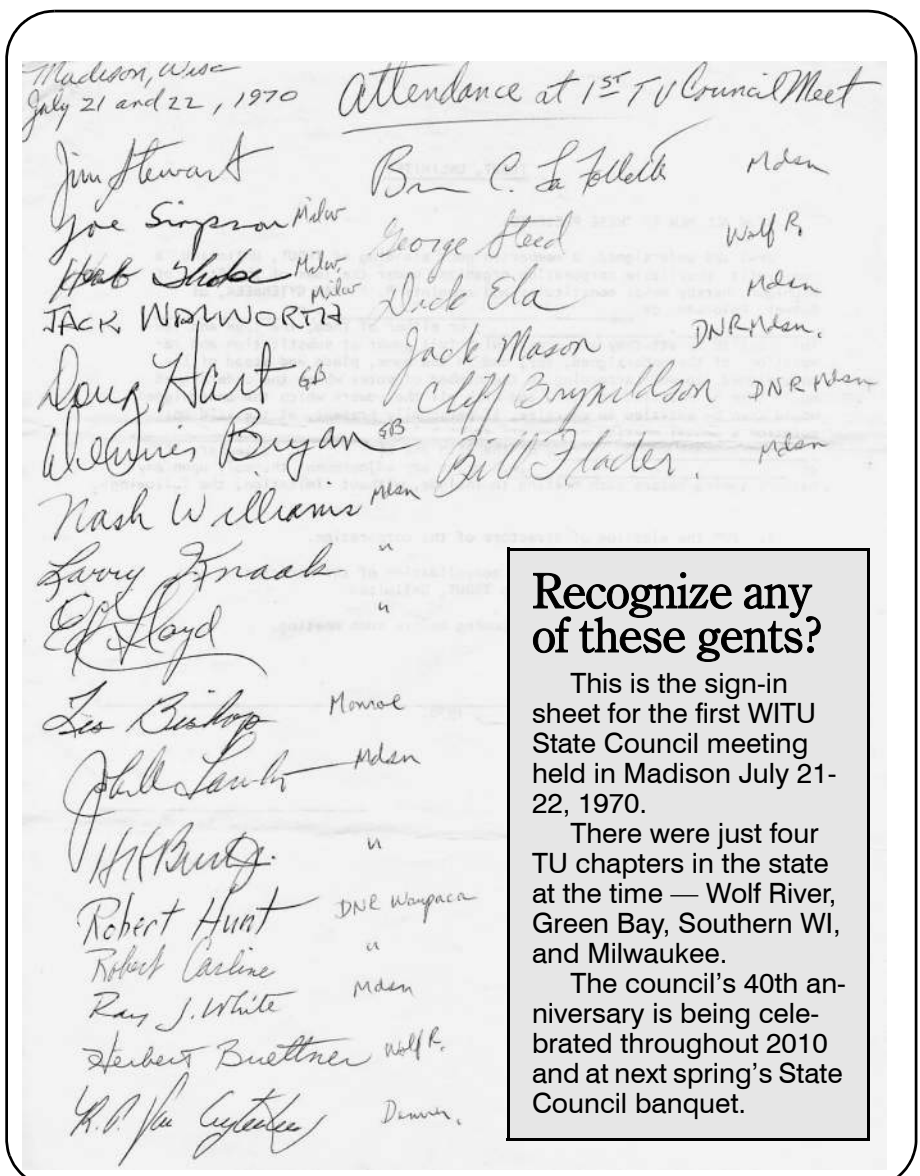
To review the draft, contact Hunt at (715) 258-2886 or Stewart at pairs4life@aol.com or (312) 730-5246.

### TU easement inventory

John Welter reported on the work of the ad hoc committee he is leading to inventory all land easements currently held by individual TU chapters and the State Council.

Welter is working with Bob Selk, Dan Wisniewski, and WITU legal counsel Winston Ostrow to catalog the estimated 150 easements held by various TU entities in Wisconsin. The group expects to finish its work by year's end.

Continued on p. 4



### Recognize any of these gents?

This is the sign-in sheet for the first WITU State Council meeting held in Madison July 21-22, 1970.

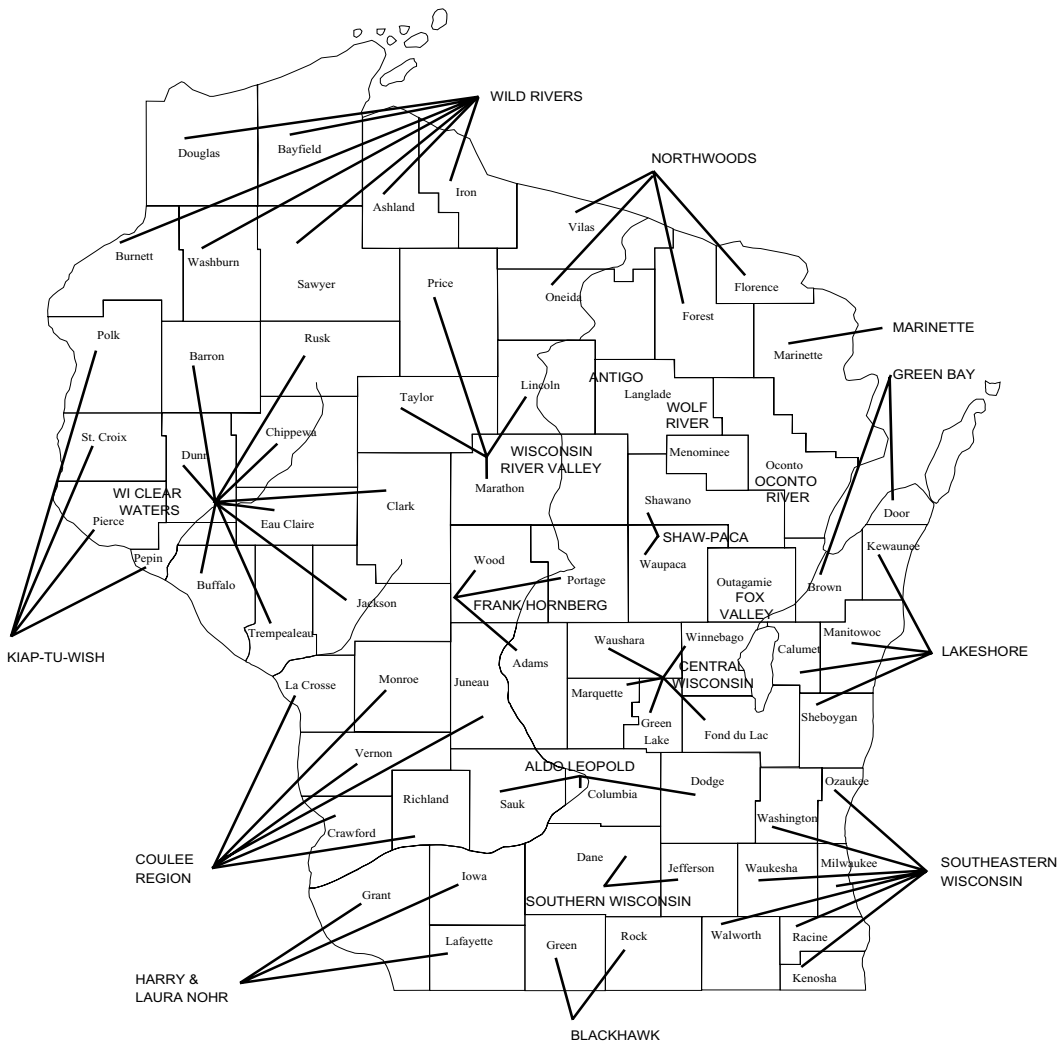
There were just four TU chapters in the state at the time — Wolf River, Green Bay, Southern WI, and Milwaukee.

The council's 40th anniversary is being celebrated throughout 2010 and at next spring's State Council banquet.

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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](http://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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# A regulation awakening

By Kim McCarthy

WITU State Council Chair

My introduction to protective regulations occurred in Yellowstone National Park in the 1970s and has left a permanent impression.

The story begins with a very typical road trip taken by me and a couple of buddies following my college graduation in 1970. We all enjoyed trout fishing and had heard stories about the wonderful fishing opportunities in Yellowstone.

Following a very long drive on a highway system that still had a long way to go before becoming the interstate system, we blundered into the town of West Yellowstone and found our way into the fly shop owned by the legendary Pat Barnes. The folks in the shop took pity on three novices and gave us some tips on where we might catch a few fish. Among the places suggested was Slough Creek in the Lamar Valley of Yellowstone. A couple of days later we found ourselves pitching camp at the campground and getting ready to start fishing the famous waters in the Northeast part of the park.

The regulations at that time called for artificial lures, and three fish could be harvested. Those harvested had to be at least 14 inches in length. Those fish were cutthroats, which are the native fish of the area. What I still vividly recall after all the years is that fishing around the campground and the lower meadow produced absolutely no fish better than 14 inches. All, or most, of the "keepers" had been kept.

Discussions with other campers and fishermen revealed that to find the larger fish that the Slough Creek area was, and is, famous for, we would have to hike miles upstream to where many fishermen were unwilling to go. The hike was on.

We decided to head for the nine-mile mark in the upper third meadow of Slough Creek where very few people fished at that time. My foot gear for that hike was a pair of rubber boots from an old cut-off pair of waders. When we got to the creek, I made two discoveries. One was that feet can hurt more than I ever imagined after nine miles in boots with

no support or decent tread. The other was that the upper creek was loaded with large fish. As a trout fisherman from northern Wisconsin where a 10-inch brook trout was (and unfortunately still is) considered a good fish, it was a jaw-dropping experience to see the sheer quantity of large beautiful cutts cruising in all of the pools. It didn't take much time to make the connection with the fact that harvest can have a great impact on the size structure of a fishery.

Within a few years of my first trip to northeastern Yellowstone, the fisheries staff made a decision that the native cutts needed more protection, and that other wildlife species needed the food source more than human anglers. One of the triggers for those thoughts was that park maintenance had been finding thousands of large cutthroat trout in park-provided trash bags in the garbage cans. I suspect that many of the folks who did that were tourists who had no way to properly care for their fish, so they tossed them. The decision was made to change the regulation to catch-and-release on all fish in the Lamar River drainage.

The results were astounding. That first trip resulted in a love affair between me and northeastern Yellowstone, and I was fortunate enough to be able to return annually. I watched the population of larger fish recover and re-populate all areas of the creek. It didn't take long. Within just a few seasons, larger cutts were spread throughout the stream. The only thing that had changed was the regulations. The other change was that I had learned the importance of decent footwear and was still able to hike the area without having to wipe blood out of my boots at the end of the day. Amazing how one day of extreme pain can teach some lessons.

So, what is my point? Other than reminiscing about Yellowstone, which I love to do, I do believe there are some comparisons that can be made with the way we are currently managing brook trout in northern Wisconsin. I think a stream like the South Branch of the Oconto is an appropriate choice to use in this comparison. Historical documentation shows that many years ago, the



**WITU STATE 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.

South Branch was full of large brook trout which, of course, are the native fish of northeastern Wisconsin. Those fish, like the cutts in easily accessible areas of Yellowstone, were also harvested until most of the larger fish were gone and only small fish remained.

Of course, at this point the comparison changes. Unlike the Yellowstone natives, the Wisconsin natives never did get the kind of protection given to the Yellowstone fish. A recent shocking of the upper South Branch revealed very few fish more than eight inches long. The current regulation allows harvest of fish over eight inches. We are left with only unanswered questions about our Wisconsin natives. Would the size structure have returned to a larger size if the natives had been given more protection?

One possible answer to that question might have been provided by the drought-related closure of the late 1980s. DNR staff report that during the drought closures — when times were tough for trout — the size structure of brook trout populations did become larger, but quickly returned to the previous smaller size structure when the old regulations returned following the closure. The drought closures demonstrated that brookie populations could increase in size in a relatively

short period of time if given some protection.

The trout regulations in Wisconsin are due to be revisited within the next few years. Will brookies continue to be harvested at a rate that guarantees their size structure will remain small? Will we be satisfied to stay with a system that makes it likely that northern fishermen and women will never experience the thrill of catching a large native fish from a home water? Or will we set up a system that allows at least a few good waters to maximize their potential to grow larger fish? Answers to those questions will be written in the new regulations.

As I write this column, the trout in northern Wisconsin are once again experiencing difficult times. Water levels are being recorded that are lower than the levels that triggered the closures of the late 1980s. But this time no emergency measures are being considered. I would suggest that people fishing trout in northern waters should exercise restraint.

Trout fishers may need to take it upon themselves to practice emergency measures. Think about restricting your harvest, fishing early and late when water temperatures are down a bit, and avoiding the streams that are the lowest. Let's hope for some rain.

## DNR buys White R. property with Wild Rivers TU help

By Bill Heart

I wrote an article for *Wisconsin Trout* last June about an 80-acre parcel of land on the White River in Bayfield County that was adjacent to state land in the White River Fisheries Area.

The owner agreed to a conservation sale to the Bayfield Regional Conservancy (BRC). The BRC was to hold the land until state Stewardship Fund money was available.

The Wisconsin DNR Board recently voted to purchase this property from the BRC. The sale will close in July.

The Wild Rivers Chapter donated \$5,000 last year and another \$4,500 this year toward this purchase. Along with the Friends of the White River and many local individuals, we were able to raise well over \$20,000 for this fund. The BRC has also agreed to take all of the funds donated for this project and place them in a special White R. Acquisition Fund that can only be used for land in the White R. Watershed.

This has been a wonderful experience for our small Wild Rivers Chapter to partner with a local land trust to protect a very important piece of property. It has been a pleasure working with the WDNR, BRC, and the Friends of the White River to protect another part of the White River.

I have been working with the land managers for the White River Fisheries Area on a clean-up day on the property. After the purchase, we will be constructing a small parking lot for the 3/8-mile walk-in access to the White River.



**EXPLORING A NEWLY PRESERVED SECTION OF THE WHITE RIVER**

A canoe is often the best way to explore the remote White River in Bayfield County. Anglers and others will soon have access to another section of the river thanks to the efforts of TU and other conservation groups.



# COUNCIL: holds summer meeting in Waupaca

Continued from p. 1

TU National requested the easement inventory, noting that it does not want TU to get into the business of being a "qualified land trust organization." TU National does, however, want chapters and councils to work with land trusts and government agencies to get conservation easements. TU wants qualified land trusts to be the entities that work out any easements with tax implications for the land owner.

The upshot is WITU will likely not be able to take any "conservation easements" with tax implications, but TU we will still be able to obtain easements for habitat and access purposes.

Welter asked chapters to hold off on signing any new easements until the end of this year when his committee will have further guidance.

It is hoped the statewide inventory will be completed before the end of the year due to a sizeable incentive of banquet prizes being offered by TU National to councils that act quickly on this matter.

## First access fund grant made

Kim McCarthy noted that a first grant has been made from the State Council's recently approved Watershed Access Fund.

The fund has a \$19,000 balance, from which \$4,000 will soon be awarded to the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust (KRLT) toward the purchase of a property on the South Branch of the Kinnickinnic River.

The KRLT property is the site of a proposed 500-unit housing development that failed to materialize. The Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter has also contributed about \$15,000 toward this purchase.

Another access fund grant on Pine Cr. in Pierce Co. — and which was reported on in the January 2010 issue of *Wisconsin Trout* — is currently on hold.

McCarthy noted that the State Council is looking for a member to lead the new Watershed Access Fund, just as we have a member directing the operation of the Friends of Wisconsin TU program. If someone is interested, contact Kim McCarthy.

Chapters were reminded that the chapter matching contribution for the access fund is 50% vs. 100% for the Friends program.

## Friends grants increase for 2011

Kim McCarthy noted that the Friends of Wisconsin TU habitat grant program currently has an unusually high balance. With the 2010 membership drive now completed, the fund has over \$32,000 for chapter habitat projects.

To encourage Friends grant proposals, the council discussed temporarily raising the maximum grant amount from \$2,000 to \$4,000 from now until the June 2011 meeting. In addition, it was suggested the Friends program accept volunteer work at the rate of \$20/hour for the purposes of a chapter meeting its required 50/50 matching contribution.

A motion to this effect was made by Henry Koltz and seconded by John Welter. The motion passed. Chapters may contact Kim McCarthy for details of making Friends requests under these temporary rules.

## TU membership study OK'd

John Meachen gave a report from the council's new Trout Management Committee that he chairs.

Meachen said the committee feels there is a need for TU to build alliances with other sporting and conservation groups on how coldwater resources relate to them.

He said that TU also needs to get involved in the Conservation Congress' resolution process. There is currently some opposition to special trout regulations, and TU has often been in a reactive mode to these vocal people.

Meachen said his committee would like to conduct a small survey of our members to get a better idea of how our membership fishes and why they belong to TU. A motion by John Welter seconded by Bob Haase approved up to \$400 to develop and mail this survey.

## Other matters

Henry Koltz reported that the State Council's banquet committee is aiming to raise \$10,000 and double attendance at the event in Stevens Point on Feb. 5. The expanded committee has met several times. Chapters are asked to donate prizes to the event by contacting Koltz. The committee will also be asking chapters to bring a display board featuring some of their major accomplishments over the years.

Todd Hanson noted that the awards committee he chairs would like to introduce two more informal awards at the annual meeting. One award would recognize the four



## MEMBERS TOUR RENNOVATED WILD ROSE FISH HATCHERY

A number of State Council reps drove to Wild Rose after the meeting in nearby Waupaca for a tour of the new Wild Rose Fish Hatchery. The new coldwater raceways (top) use gravity to reuse water from building and are enclosed to help protect fish from contamination from the VHS virus. Rearing tanks (below) hold newly hatched fry whose eggs have been disinfected with iodine.

chapters with the highest percentage membership growth. Another would recognize a business that has been especially supportive of the State Council.

Kim McCarthy said that eight WITU chapters are scheduled for rechartering this year. He expects no problems. He also said that TU National will officially de-charter our Ocooch Chapter (Richland County) this fall and reassign its members to Coulee Region or other chapters selected by the former Ocooch members.

Bill Heart encouraged chapters to check the list of state-licensed fish farms, all of which are being relicensed. Chapters may want to review those in their county areas to see what access concerns there may be with individual fish farms draw-

ing water from public waterways.

Todd Hanson distributed CDs with old council newsletters and DVDs containing the State Council's 1996 *Consider Proper Release* video and the 1981 *A Question of Balance* beaver video.

National Leadership Council (NLC) representative Bill Heart will attend the TU National meeting in New Hampshire this September. Bill's NLC committee assignments involve the CEI, the Great Lakes, and the Driftless Area.

Wolf River Chapter President Andy Killoren showed attendees a video feature that recently aired on the *Northland Adventures* TV program. The piece showed the chapter's beaver dam removal efforts on Nine Mile Creek, a major coldwater tributary to the Wolf River.

# GIERACH: visits Wild Rivers area to fish

Continued from p. 1

The audience had lots of questions on his writing, how he broke into the business, and how he does it. One lesson he shared — carry a notebook to record the names, places, and memories like Whack a Northern.

Wendy talked about John Gierach later, saying that he is extremely busy, but she hopes this could be an annual trip. His coming is a feather in the cap for the fly shop. She described the character of the author as being always gracious and exactly like he writes. He is also very low maintenance, and his quote "all I need is dry and warm" is typical. He

said that he would be happy to do the book signing, but it could not cut into the fishing time!

I asked Daryl Pendergrass, Washburn library director, why his library had so many Gierach titles. He replied, "He's just that good." Gierach is good, and very prolific, with a long list of fly fishing books to his credit. You have to love the titles — *Another Lousy Day in Paradise*, *Even Brook Trout Get the Blues*, *Where the Trout Are as Long as Your Leg*, *Sex*, and *Death and Fly Fishing*. You get the idea.

Thanks to Daryl and the Washburn library, the Gierach book collection transports me from the

winter world of ice and snow to Colorado and the world of fly fishing the west.

A book review by Tom Bie described the John Gierach character and the reason I like to read him. He called Gierach folksy, down-to-earth, and one who preferred the company of good friends. In a sport where there is some pretension and a bit of elitism, his writing brings the reader down to earth. We enjoyed our chance to get the John Gierach experience in person and hope that he returns to move another musky as well as the local fly fishing community.

(Chuck Campbell is president of the Wild River Chapter. -Ed.)



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## SEWTU support helps bring an end to Menomonee R. barrier

By Don Behm

Removing 1,000 feet of concrete next year from the bed of the Menomonee River north of Wisconsin Ave. in Milwaukee will enable all fish — northern pike, walleye, steelhead and salmon — to swim freely from Lake Michigan through Wauwatosa and all the way to Menomonee Falls, state fishery biologists said on June 14.

Fish will migrate an additional 17 miles of the main river up to the Lepper Dam at Mill Pond Park, and all parks along the route will give the public access to an urban fishing

experience that now ends a short distance upstream of Miller Park, said Randy Schumacher, regional fisheries coordinator for the state Department of Natural Resources.

“There will be 10- to 12-pound steelhead trout swimming through Hart Park” in Wauwatosa, he predicted.

Construction of the concrete channel in 1965 separated fish in the lake from their upstream spawning habitat, Schumacher said. Eliminating the barrier also will reopen an extra 20 miles of tributary streams and more than 1,000 acres of wetlands to fish.

Spawning salmon in fall and steelhead in spring stack up in the river below Wisconsin Ave., unable to push through strong currents flowing through the narrow, steep slope of the concrete channel, according to Henry Koltz, president of the Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited. The conservation group supports the project, Koltz said.

The velocity of the current there is the last major barrier to fish movement along the Menomonee River in Milwaukee County, Schumacher said.

“In spring, it is quite common to see northern pike attempting to spawn up the river,” he said.

The Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District will receive a \$1.1 million grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to help pay for removing this obstacle, MMSD Executive Director Kevin Shafer said Monday.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service contributed \$200,000 to the project. MMSD will pay the remaining \$3.6 million in costs of the \$4.9 million project.

MMSD endorsed removing this stretch of concrete in its Menomonee River flood management plan and a 2020 facilities plan, but the federal grants ensured the work would be completed, Shafer said.

The river’s concrete bed is a public safety hazard in addition to a fish barrier, Shafer said.

“The concrete lining accelerates the flow of water, and it’s a concern for everyone living along the river,” he said.

Concrete in the riverbed from the Canadian Pacific Railway bridge downstream to Wisconsin Ave. will be replaced by deep pools and riffles lined with rocks and stones, Schumacher said.

The rocks will block stream flows, offering fish an opportunity to rest out of the current before moving on.

After the work is done in 2011, there will be 2,200 feet of concrete channel remaining in the river from Wisconsin Ave. downstream to I-94. This stretch of the river has a more gradual slope with lower velocities and does not prevent fish migration.

*(This story is from the June 14 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel and is reprinted with permission. -Ed.)*

## Nearly 3,000 kids attend annual Outdoor Expo in Beaver Dam

By Bob Haase

Around 3,000 students and chaperones attended the Wisconsin Outdoor Expo in Beaver Dam on May 13 and 14.

Some of the schools changed their scheduled attendance from Thursday to Friday because of the cold and rainy weather, but there was still a steady flow of students all day. Schools from all over southern and central Wisconsin attended this year’s event.

We had around 1,000 students tie a fly. We have 50 hooks in each fly tying package, and we can determine the number of students tying a

fly by counting the hooks replaced in each package. Many students also tried their hand at fly casting.

Every year our fly tying tent is one of the more popular events for the children, along with archery, the BB gun shooting range, hunting dog demonstrations, and all the other events that are available. Events where the children can actively participate in, such as the fly tying and fly casting, are more popular than those where kids simply observe.

We had 12 TU volunteers on Thursday and 18 TU volunteers on Friday helping with instruction. Events like this depend on volunteers, and we are fortunate that many volunteers come back every year. Some of them even take off work or travel great distances to help. A special thank-you goes out to all the members who took the time to help with this great event.

Expo organizers were not able to raise enough funds to hold a second event this year in Wausau, but they are still trying to raise funds to hold a similar event in Wausau in 2011.

There are a lot of other things that we could do at the expo. We could display aquatic insects and give children a DNR “wildcard” of the insect they identified correctly. We could also have a knot tying program. These things would require more volunteers, so think about how you might be able to help next year.

All of us have busy schedules, and there are a lot of things competing for our time. But getting youth involved in outdoor sports and conservation should be a high priority for all of us.

### TU TENT A POPULAR DESTINATION AT WISCONSIN OUTDOOR EXPO

Young people like the fact that TU’s offerings at the Wisconsin Outdoor Expo are hand-on experiences. Giving fly casting instruction to one youngster this year was (top) Ken Rizzo from SEWTU. Meanwhile, several fly tyers were always on duty under a big tent, including Bob Smaglik of CWTU.





# Dane County easements help trout fishers

By Todd Franklin

Dane County, home of Wisconsin's capital city of Madison, is also on the eastern edge of the state's phenomenal trout fishing zone known as the Driftless Area. The county's efforts to purchase public access to its streams is an extraordinary success story. Now, in addition to tremendous long-time support from groups such as Trout Unlimited, the involvement of a local land trust adds another key player.

Like any public figure, long-time Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk has her share of supporters and detractors, depending on the issue at hand. If you're an avid trout angler, however, you can't help but love her.

Not only does she enjoy fly fishing, but few county leaders in the country can match her enthusiasm and accomplishments when it comes to improving not only the health of trout streams, but the ability of anglers to access them. In fact, the WITU State Council recognized Falk for these efforts at our 2009 annual banquet.

During Falk's 13-year tenure, Dane County has restored about 50 miles of streams, and she insists more will follow as long as she's county executive. In addition, thanks to Falk's three-year-old Dane County Streambank Easement Program, more than 12 miles of trout waters now have perpetual public access easements.

Until now, the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of TU (SWTU) has helped negotiate voluntary 20-year easements on restored properties. Under this new program, Falk hopes to secure permanent easements on these TU easements before they expire.

"You have to get out and see these easements to really appreciate them," explained Topf Wells, Falk's chief of staff, and also an avid fly fisherman. "Twelve miles may not sound like much, but when you can stand on a bridge on the west branch of the Sugar River and realize that as far as you can see in either direction is public fishing, that's pretty amazing."

The long-term goal is to secure perpetual easements on the entire 50 miles of restored streams, while continuing to restore and secure access on additional streams. Besides allowing public access, perpetual easements guarantee that all the hard work and money spent to restore a stream won't be allowed erode away when temporary easements end and ownership falls into different hands.

Through the years, Falk has generated tremendous support from a variety of individuals and organizations, including the SWTU, the local Natural Heritage Land Trust, and most Dane County board members, who have often put politics aside to support Falk's overall conservation goals.

When Falk was elected in 1997, the annual budget for the county's Conservation Fund stood at a mere \$1 million. Falk immediately succeeded in raising that to \$4 million. By 2009 it was at \$10 million.

This includes the county's "Land and Water Legacy Fund." Established in 2007, this fund has succeeded in protecting and restoring waters, wetlands, and green spaces. It also includes plans to expand public access for angling, hunting, hiking, and other outdoor pursuits.

One exciting facet of the Land and Water Legacy Fund is the aforementioned Streambank Easement Program, which started with a budget of \$100,000 and was increased to \$300,000 for 2009.

Although the 2010 budget dealt a huge blow to the county's overall conservation budget, the Streambank Easement Program survived with a reduction to \$250,000 for 2010.

Some argue that instead of cutting this type of funding, now is the time to ramp up acquisition and easement efforts, as property values

stretches of the West Branch of the Sugar River, efforts grew to include Gordon Creek and the German Valley Branch of Gordon Creek in far southwestern Dane County along the Iowa County border.

Since 2004 SWTU, in cooperation with the Dane County Land Conservation Department, the DNR, the USDA, and others restored more than five miles of stream in that watershed. Several miles of restored waters were added to Gordon Creek in 2008 thanks to a \$250,000 federal grant secured by TU.

the Badger Fly Fishers and its parent organization, the Federation of Fly Fishers, the Dane County Conservation League, and several Illinois TU chapters, for an overall total of \$23,500, according to Dan Wisniewski.

Wisniewski worked with a group of people including Falk, Wells, and DNR land acquisition expert Doug Haag to craft the county's Streambank Easement Program. With a varied resume involving state and county government, Wisniewski is involved with TU at the local, state, and national levels. For several years he served as the Wisconsin TU's National Leadership Council representative. He also served on TU National's Stream Access Work Group, which provides guidance to chapters and state councils regarding local public access issues.

## Partnering with land trusts

Of the money raised by the local SWTU thus far, \$7,500 was contributed to supplement the county's permanent easement purchases on Gordon Creek, with the rest committed to permanent easement purchases on Vermont Creek, a tributary of famed Black Earth Creek.

That project introduced a new partner into the mix, the Natural Heritage Land Trust (NHLT), which since 1983 has been protecting natural areas, wildlife habitat, working farms, healthy lakes and streams, and recreation land in the Dane County area, including the Black Earth Creek watershed.

Wisniewski says the Vermont Creek watershed is the ideal place to begin the new partnership. It is seven miles long with little development and tremendous potential for restoration and access.

While TU chapters excel at fund raising and providing labor to work on restoration, land trusts bring other important skills to the table. They excel at working with landowners, drafting easements, and writing grants.

Wisniewski, who recently chaired an NLC committee that proposed a new TU grant program to help TU chapters work with local land trusts on stream easements, explains why land trusts are great partners. "Restoring streams is where TU's interests and the interests of land trusts cross paths."

Some land trusts also know how to monitor and protect streams, he says. And, like so many TU chapters have done, some land trusts have developed a knack for recruiting volunteer labor for cleanup and helping with restoration projects.

When a land trust negotiates an easement with a landowner, there's one purpose: protect and restore the resource. That's TU's primary mission as well. But often these easements don't include public access, and by providing financial support, TU can try to bring the public access element into the negotiations.

During the next few years, Vermont Creek will be the focus of an SWTU joint effort with the NHLT. The two groups plan to work with the county and the DNR to talk to landowners along Vermont Creek about easements.

Just last year, Dane County began a restoration project on two properties totaling more than a mile of stream frontage near Vermont Creek's confluence with Black Earth Creek, Wisniewski explained. The restoration project was funded



## LOTS OF THESE SHOWING UP IN DANE COUNTY

Dane County's streambank easement signs are a model of clarity. Note that the easements are purchased through the Dane County Parks Department. Visit the county's parks department online for information and maps of current easements following the links at the end of this story.

are low and more landowners are showing an interesting in selling or negotiating easements. Those arguments fell on deaf ears at budget time, however.

## A growing need for access

As Wells sees it, now that trout anglers nationwide are discovering the rare concentration of spring creeks in the Driftless Area of Wisconsin, there's a growing need to create more opportunities to fish and provide more public access.

"Besides, repairing the damage to these streams is just the right thing to do," Wells adds.

With 400 miles of trout streams in Dane County alone, there is plenty of opportunity for continued restoration and public easement agreements.

After successfully retaining easements and restoring significant

Fortunately, the collaborating organizations have found tremendous landowner interest and cooperation.

"This is such a great story to tell," Wells says. "We've discovered, especially in the Sugar River and Gordon Creek watersheds, that there has been a generations-old tradition where landowners willingly allowed anglers access to their streams. So far we've had more landowner interest than we've been able to fund."

As a key partner in all of this, Southern Wisconsin TU is providing continued financial support. The chapter raised \$13,500 to supplement the county's streambank easement campaign. That money leveraged another \$5,000 from TU's State Council, plus funding from other conservation groups such as



by a \$150,000 DNR grant. SWTU currently has limited-term easements on these properties, but all parties involved hope the landowners will opt for permanent easements under the county's program.

The DNR is also doing some restoration work on three properties it owns farther upstream.

"Vermont Creek is already starting to look a lot different," Wisniewski says. "And we hope these improvements will encourage other landowners to participate in the renewal of Vermont Creek."

The county is currently negotiating easements with two more landowners, and the NHLT just secured a \$15,000 grant from the Madison Community Foundation for those easement purchases, he said.

Wisniewski, who helped lobby to maintain funding for the Streambank Easement Program during county budget time last fall, said the program's ability to leverage additional financial support was a major persuasion point.

For example, the \$150,000 received for the Vermont Creek project came from the DNR under its Targeted Resource Management Program. Various types of federal funding can also come into play. Then there's the support from TU, FFF, and other nonprofits.

"We explained to the county that TU thinks this publicly financed program is so good that we've convinced our members to supplement

it with private dollars," Wisniewski explains.

#### TU National interested

Wisniewski notes that the Dane County easement program is gaining support from TU National as



*"Restoring streams is where TU's interests and the interests of land trusts cross paths."*

—Dan Wisniewski

well. John "Duke" Welter, the Vice Chair of TU National's Board of Trustees and Chair of the TU National Leadership Council (and another Wisconsinite) and TU Trustee Paul Doscher of New Hampshire, helped convince TU's national leadership to develop a grant program to support local chapters that want to cooperate with land trusts. TU National has selected the Vermont Creek collaboration as one of two pilot projects in the nation that fo-

cus on involving TU chapters, local governments, and land trusts.

Last August the TU Board of Trustees adopted a plan to create the "Coldwater Land Conservation Fund." Doscher is assisting TU's

Stream program.

"Working with land trusts and public land conservation agencies to permanently protect key watershed and riparian lands is proving very popular both among our chapters and councils and also with the partner organizations," Doscher explains. "It is obvious that partnering with organizations whose central mission is land protection, and whose expertise lies in conducting land transactions and land stewardship, is the best model by which TU should engage in this work."

Doscher is working with several TU land protection experts, including Gillespie, TU Southeastern Land Protection Coordinator Damon Hearnem and TU Vice President for Eastern Conservation Elizabeth Maclin. They are working to create guidance documents for TU chapters and councils on how to work effectively with land trusts and for land trusts on how to work with TU. Part of these tools will be case studies of TU's successful collaborations on land protection with land trusts and public conservation agencies.

Meanwhile, in 2009 the Wisconsin TU State Council established its Watershed Access Fund "to make money available to assist in the direct acquisition of lands adjacent to coldwater resources or to assist in

*Continued on p. 8*

## A Q&A with Dane County Land Acquisition Specialist Sara Kwitek

*What could be more satisfying than having a job negotiating easements and protecting streams into perpetuity? That is the task of Sara Kwitek, who talked about her experiences for this story.*

### What is your job title and description?

My title is Acquisition and Planning Specialist with the Land Acquisition Division of the Dane County Land and Water Resources Department. I work on a variety of park land acquisition and planning projects. For the Streambank Easement Program, I work very closely with our Land Conservation Division. Land Conservation oversees the stream improvement projects and maintenance of easement corridors, while I'm responsible for negotiating the easements and taking them through our land acquisition process.



Sara Kwitek

### When sitting down with landowners to discuss easements, what are their typical concerns?

Typical concerns that I've come across relate to the impact the easement will have on their current uses of the corridor, as well as liability and management responsibilities. All of the streams that we

have permanent easements on have been restored, so our main goal is to maintain the work that has been done. For the most part, the easements allow landowners to continue their current farming or management practices as long as they follow a conservation plan developed by our department. The conservation plan also includes an operations and maintenance plan for the easement corridor that gives guidance on how the corridor should be maintained and outlines the landowner's roles and responsibilities. After I explain this to the landowners, they seem to be more comfortable with the idea of a permanent easement on their land.

### What does the operations and maintenance plan include?

The plan covers things like mowing, prescribed burns, herbicide application, maintaining grass cover, and maintaining any conservation measures, such as cattle crossings or any lunger/fish habitat structures that were installed as part of the stream restoration. It also covers any cropping or grazing that may occur within the corridor.

### What are the landowners' motivations and concerns?

The main motivations seem to be money and a desire to maintain the restored condition of the stream. The streams that we have permanent easements on have been restored in the past four or five years, and I think enough time has passed that the landowners are comfortable with the idea of public access and are really proud of how the wa-

ters and fish habitat has improved, and they want to continue to be good stewards. I've encountered very few individuals who have experienced problems or issues with people fishing on their property where a 20-year public access easement is in place. (All county-funded stream improvement projects are required to allow public fishing access for 20 years.) I think starting with a temporary easement combined with a restoration project is a good first step toward permanent protection.

### What's the first meeting with a landowner like?

The first time I meet with a landowner, I usually let them do most of the talking, which helps me figure out what their biggest concerns might be regarding a permanent easement.

### What are your biggest challenges with the easement program?

Now that the county has a permanent interest in these stream corridors, there is an expectation by the landowner and the public to maintain and manage the corridor for water quality and fish and wildlife habitat. We've developed a monitoring and maintenance strategy for the program that is intended to be carried out through a combined effort of the landowners, conservation partners, and the county.

### Could your Streambank Easement Program work elsewhere?

I definitely think that the program can work in other Wisconsin counties or nationwide. Although county government support is certainly a huge factor in our case, the growing number of land trusts could make this type of program successful without a county-funded program. I worked with the Natural Heritage Land Trust to develop a streambank easement template that would meet the Wisconsin DNR's easement requirements for grants. Therefore it could easily be used statewide by other land trusts or counties seeking state stewardship dollars for streambank easements.

### What about sharing your strategies on monitoring and maintenance?

We have talked a lot about our conservation program being a model for other counties, not only for securing permanent easements, but also for ongoing monitoring and maintenance of improved and eased trout waters. A lot of other counties are doing similar streambank improvement and restoration projects, yet struggle with maintaining them. If we're successful at maintaining our improved stream corridors, I think a lot of counties will be looking to our program as a model.

### So counties, just like TU chapters, can benefit from partnering with land trusts?

If other counties are interested in securing permanent streambank easements, I think partnering with a local land trust would be a good route to go. The land trust could help with the easement transaction and apply for grants, while the county could provide any assistance related to the improvement or management of the stream corridor as part of their county land conservation programs.



## EASEMENTS: Dane County and other programs helping fishers

Continued from p. 7

the acquisition of conservation easements or leases that allow access to and future restoration of coldwater resources."

The fund will help chapters to enter into partnerships with land trusts and agencies to provide public access to coldwater resources through direct land purchases or permanent easements or leases. Projects involving partnerships between chapters and land trusts or agencies will receive priority.

The fund's current balance already exceeds \$15,000. The council has approved a grant for land acqui-

sition along Pine Creek in western Wisconsin, according to WITU State Council Chair Kim McCarthy.

"We are also awaiting the completion of negotiations between DNR and a landowner along a river in northern Wisconsin. If the negotiations are successful, a grant request may come for assistance with that parcel. A third possibility is in the works in the Driftless Area. That is another one in which negotiations are currently underway.

"I think this fund is going to be a major success for TU. We have not awarded much yet, but the interest is there. It is also a good thing that what we are doing is going to match up very well with a new land acquisition program coming from the national organization.

### Win, Win, Win

Partnerships are nothing new in the world of coldwater restoration and protection. Nonetheless, it's a wonderful surprise to realize there are myriad land trusts that share many of the same goals as TU.

And in those instances where landowners are willing to negotiate public access into the easements, TU and its partners can take pride in the fact that they're providing opportunities for future generations of anglers. After all, more fishing opportunities means more young anglers will discover trout fishing and grow up to be stewards of the streams.

For additional information or to find out how to support these efforts, check out the SWTU website at [www.swt.org](http://www.swt.org), the NHLT website at [www.nhlt.org](http://www.nhlt.org), or the WITU State Council site at [www.wisconsin-tu.org](http://www.wisconsin-tu.org).

*(Todd Franklin is a part-time writer and guide, a full-time tile setter, and vice president of the Aldo Leopold Chapter. Contact him at [tfranklin3647@charter.net](mailto:tfranklin3647@charter.net). -Ed.)*

## A Dane County easement update

By Dan Wisniewski

It is hoped that the Dane County Board will approve the two Vermont Creek easements as well as six other permanent easements on German Valley Creek in the next two months. Spending for all Conservation Fund projects — including permanent streambank easements — was "frozen" during last fall's budget process.

In early June a board committee "unfroze" the easement funds. Two or three other board committees and the full board must approve the projects. Members of the first committee said they had gotten more than 15 e-mails from SWTU members urging them to support the easement funding for a great example of effective grassroots advocacy. A similar e-mail effort will target the full board in the next few weeks.

## Dane County easement maps

For maps of southwestern Dane County trout stream easements, check out these sources:

- [http://danedocs.countyofdane.com/webdocs/pdf/lwr/acquisition/Stream\\_Easements.pdf](http://danedocs.countyofdane.com/webdocs/pdf/lwr/acquisition/Stream_Easements.pdf),
- <http://danedocs.countyofdane.com/webdocs/pdf/lwr/parks/SugarRiver.pdf>, and
- <http://danedocs.countyofdane.com/webdocs/pdf/lwr/parks/GordonCreek.pdf>.

## Rosendale CAFO pollution permit hearing Sept. 21 in Fond du Lac

A contested case hearing in the matter of the petition for a contested case hearing on Wisconsin Pollution Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) Permit No. WI-0063959-01-0 issued to Rosendale Dairy, LLC will be held Sept. 21.

The hearing will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the Large Group Instruction Room (#UC113 and UC114) at the UW-Fond du Lac University Center, 400 University Drive, in Fond du Lac. It will continue, if necessary, on September 22 and 23 at the same location.

All witnesses who have filed testimony shall be present and made available for cross-examination unless all parties stipulate that such a witness need not be present. Rebuttal witnesses will be allowed if appropriate.

For information, contact the WI Division of Hearings and Appeals at

(608) 266-7709. Information on public WDNR hearings and meetings are posted at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/ce/news/hearmeet.html>.

## Embrace-A-Stream grants going digital

For the first time this year, TU's competitive Embrace-A-Stream grant program applications for chapters and councils will be distributed electronically to volunteer leaders.

Keep an eye out for the application package in late September.

To update your e-mail address or leadership role, please contact Volunteer Operations Coordinator Rob Keith at [rkeith@tu.org](mailto:rkeith@tu.org).



FRANK KOSMACH AT THE FLY TYING BENCH

Frank Kosmach is taking on the leadership of the Southern Wisconsin Chapter with the same enthusiasm he brings to his fly tying.

### Chapter president profile

## Frank Kosmach new Southern WI president

By Henry Haugley

I first met Frank Kosmach in my advanced fly tying class three or four years ago. He was quiet, but very attentive. It soon became clear to me that Frank was an excellent fly tyer. He would do the patterns and show me his work right away the next week.

As I got to know Frank, I found out he lived in the area and has a family. Also he has gone out west in the fall by himself to fish for "his" vacation.

Some time later I approached Frank about being on SWTU's board, and he said he would like to get involved. And so I also got him to take on the special bucket raffle we have at each meeting (all chapter members' names go in a bucket, but you must be present to win the prize that continues to grow month after month if unclaimed). For a year Frank did a wonderful job running that event.

*"If you can run meetings at work with 30 people and oversee their work, you have all the skills you need to deal with a room full of trout fishers!"*

A year later we were looking to find a new chapter president, but we were running into snags. After some work with Frank, he said he would go for it, but his biggest hang-up was still that he didn't feel fully qualified.

So I asked him again what he did for a living, and he told me he runs a division of Marshall Erdman Associates, a company that builds big medical buildings with a staff of 30. I told Frank, "If you can run meetings at work with 30 people and oversee their work, you have all the skills you need to deal with a room full of trout fishers!"

Between work and family, Frank still has time to fish. Black Earth Creek is one of his favorites. We know Frank will do a wonderful job leading our Southern Wisconsin Chapter.

*(Henry Haugley is a longtime member of the Southern Wisconsin Chapter. -Ed.)*

## Smith rejoins Legislative Committee

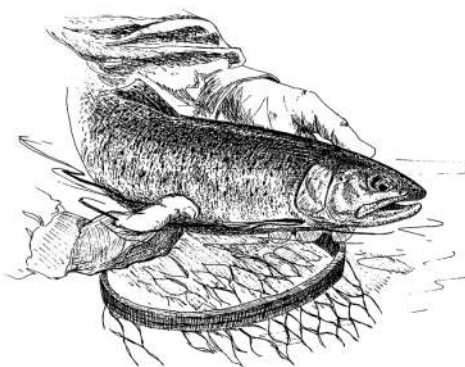
Jeff Smith of Madison has resumed chairing the WITU Legislative Committee that has been chaired recently by Paul Kruse of Green Bay.

Joining Smith on the committee are Kim McCarthy, Dan Wisniewski, Tom Krauskopf, and Bob Selk.

## Consider Proper Release

The future of trout fishing is in your hands.

Practice these CPR steps to help ensure the fish you release have their best chance of survival.



1. **Don't play fish to exhaustion.** Instead, use a landing net to bring fish under control before they're played out.
2. **Handle fish in the net.** Grasp them across the back and head for firm but gentle control. Use the net fabric as your "glove."
3. **Turn fish belly up while removing hooks.** This disorients fish momentarily for easier, quicker handling.
4. **Don't remove swallowed hooks.** Just cut the line...doing so saves two-thirds of deeply hooked trout.
5. **Don't keep fish out of the water more than 10-15 seconds.** Fragile gills are damaged after that...especially in cold weather.





# WITU Looking Back

## From the very first WITU State Council newsletter dated September 1970...

*State Council Formed, July 22, 1970*

*Pete Van Gytenbeek, "Van", National Executive Director of TU from Denver was on hand along with delegates from the Green Bay, Wolf River, S.E. Wisconsin and the Southern Wisconsin Chapters. After a flurry of foot-shuffling and a few oblique glances around the room, the following members and delegates were elected to the State Council's various management and executive posts: Chairman, Jim Stewart, Madison; Vice Chairman, Dennis Bryan, Green Bay; Secretary, Fred Horn, West Bend; Treasurer, Dick Ela, Madison; Water Management, Ray White, Madison; Legal and Legislative Officer, John Lawton, Madison; Publicity, Public Relations and Publications, Jack Walworth, Milwaukee; Membership, Ed Lloyd, Madison; Fund Raising, Joe Simpson, Milwaukee; Division of Scientific Information, Vacant.*

## From the Summer 1980 WITU Newsletter...



STEVENS POINT---The University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point's College of Natural Resources has chosen Trout Unlimited as recipient of its annual award to an "outstanding environmental organization".

Arling Erickson, Poy Sippi, an officer of the state chapter, accepted the award at a recent UW-SP natural resources recognition dinner.

Trout Unlimited was cited for its works in protecting cold water resources of Wisconsin, for monitoring legislation affecting the environment and for providing research monies to UW-SP and other institutions and agencies for improving trout habitat.

## From the Summer 1990 Wisconsin Trout...

Responding to an increasing number of complaints about the burgeoning population of beavers in Wisconsin, the Department of Natural Resources has drafted a "Beaver Management Plan" (BMP) that has been approved by the Natural Resources Board (see accompanying article).

Beaver numbers began rising in the 1970s, with the initial consequences of the increasing populations being felt most severely in northern Wisconsin. Trout streams were one of the resources most negatively impacted by the rising beaver numbers. Miles upon miles of formerly good, cold-flowing trout waters reverted to sluggish, stagnant ponds as beavers moved into areas, dammed the streams to create flowages and felled surrounding trees and brush for food and lodge construction.

Initial reaction by the DNR was slow in coming, as wildlife managers and DNR staff far-removed from the problem areas paid scant heed to the complaints of northern Wisconsin citizens and fishery managers and were unwilling

to comprehend the enormity of the problem. In the mid-1980s, a subsidy-trapping program was approved to focus trapping efforts on beaver on Class I trout waters in the north where beaver dams were undermining the trout fishery potential of streams and ponds. While successful to some extent, the program got bogged down during the 1987-88 biennial budget effort when the Legislature modified the subsidy program under the guise of creating more opportunity for subsidized trapping of beaver.

The legislative changes actually decreased trapping efforts, because there was no flexibility in the subsidy offering to encourage trapping. At the same time, fur prices also dropped, and, with trapping efforts subdued, beaver numbers exploded across northern Wisconsin and became worse in West Central and Southwestern Wisconsin. Agricultural lands saw more frequent floodings due to beaver activity, where the animals could not find native vegetation to build dams, they used cornstalks to create the dams

## From the Summer 2000 Wisconsin Trout...

### TU keeping tabs on permit process

By Todd Hanson

Last spring's intense TU involvement to stop the Perrier Company from tapping into the Mecan River watershed is now over, but TU is keeping tabs of Perrier's ongoing water extraction activities.

Perrier continues to pursue a water bottling operation on the Big Spring in Adams Co.

This is a less sensitive watershed in that past land use has degraded the streams and wetlands, but both

have good restoration potential.

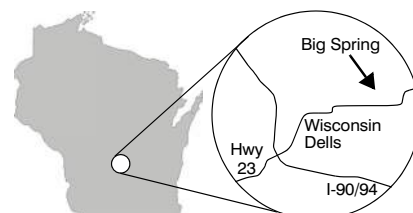
#### Perrier's testing plans

Perrier is conducting groundwater, surface water resource, and wetland testing.

The company is also monitoring for an environmental assessment.

An "environmental assessment" is not as thorough as the rigorous environmental impact statement, but TU Midwest Conservation Director Laura Hewitt reports

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## CHAPTER NEWS

*Continued from p. 15*

### Wolf River Chapter

The Ninemile Creek Restoration Initiative (NCRI) entered its third year with a tree-planting project coordinated by the WDNR and our chapter On Sunday May 16, some 28 volunteers joined foresters **Ryan Brown** and **Dave Beer** of the WDNR in planting 1,500 trees along lower Ninemile Creek. The trees were planted west of Hwy. 55 and included red pine, white spruce, dogwood, and cedar.

The NCRI gained statewide attention on May 23 when "Northland Adventures" aired a TV segment on Ninemile Creek. WRTU president **Andy Kiloren** and WRTU trapper **Duane Fronick** took host **Dave Carlson** and cameraman **Dave Roll** on a canoe trip to trap some beaver on May 3. The show also featured an interview with **Jim Waters**, WRTU vice president.

Langlade County pilot **John Kielcheski** brought Jim and his video camera on a second aerial recon of upper Ninemile Creek. The first flight in 2008 revealed 50 years of beaver damage. The latest flight shows the progress of the valley's recovery so far. Thanks, John!

The demolition of the remaining beaver dams is currently being planned for later this summer in conjunction with the **Forest Service**. Trapper **Duane Fronick** has been working hard to trap the remaining beavers.

We are also planning a brushing day for **Ninemile Creek** on July 17. We will meet at the parking lot on Hwy 55 next to the creek at 8 a.m. A

lunch will be served at Noon. If interested in helping, bring waders and gloves, and call Jim at (715) 740-1840.

The Wolf River Chapter has one fund-raiser each year, our brat stand. The stand is located on the corner of highways 64 and 55 at **Mike's Service Station in Langlade** and features homemade sauerkraut. We are there most weekends during the summer. The chapter would like to thank **Mike Klimoski** for letting us set up at his station.

I just returned from a trip to **Grant County** with my oldest boy. Great job to all those involved in the work being done on the **Blue River**.

—*Tim Waters*





## Chapter News

### Antigo Chapter

Hope the summer is starting well for you all. At least in the past two weeks, we in the Antigo area have gotten a little rain which is welcomed, but we are still 51 inches of rain short in the past five years.

We held our annual banquet on March 27, and had 220 people attend. It was a great banquet, and our gross income was down from last year, but not bad considering the poor economy.

The Antigo Chapter was proud to sponsor an upper classman at UW-SP in the tune of \$750.

On June 5 we held our annual **Kid's Fishing Day** with just over 400 kid attending. It was a great day of fishing and casting contests, with a prize for each child and hamburgers and hot dogs for everyone. The fish from **Silver Moon Springs** were VERY large, with many brookies in the 12-16 inch range and some BIG rainbows. The largest fish caught was a 19-inch rainbow that was mounted free by **Curran's Taxidermy** in Antigo.

Just a quick feel-good story. At the end of the day, we give away a

girl's and boy's bike. We line the kids up and give each one a ticket and then draw a winner. An 11-year-old girl, **Brianna Stanke**, won the girl's bike. Next to her was a small girl that was heartbroken that she didn't win the bike. Well, Brianna turned and gave the other girl the bike she just won. Just when you might think people don't care anymore, you see great things happen. God bless this little girl.

We will be starting the three projects on the **Hunting, Evergreen, and Prairie** rivers in the next week. This is our combined NE-funded project for 2010. We'll keep you posted on the progress!

On Monday, June 14, the Antigo Chapter stocked **Remington Lake** in town with trout for the kids to catch, and it's good to see them go after them.

Sorry to be so short, but I'm leaving to go fishing in **Canada** this week. So Good fishing to everyone, and keep praying for rain in NE Wisconsin.

—Scott Henricks

### Blackhawk Chapter

We have designated money for the following projects:

- **Coon Creek** above Coon Valley, \$3,000 and
- **West Fork** (Groves property), \$4,500.

A motion passed to earmark \$500 to the **Kickapoo Valley Stewardship Program** for water monitoring. There will be 53 monitoring sites with 37 trained workers and volunteers checking the sites for wa-



#### WE CAUGHT THIS MONSTER ALL BY OURSELVES

Two proud girls (below) show off the huge trout they caught at the Antigo Chapter's annual Kid's Fishing Day while some adults (top) catch a bite to eat.

ter quality and to identify sources of contamination.

On April 26 BTU had our spring banquet at the **Pontiac Convention Center** in Janesville. We had raffles, silent auctions, door prizes, table prizes, bucket prizes, as well as having a number of businesses in the area making monetary donations to the cause of stream restoration and promoting interest in the sport of fishing.

On April 17, Blackhawk members cleared brush on a **Little Sugar River** tributary south of **New Glarus**. We had 11 members participate in this project.

Then on May 8, nine chapter members worked with the **Shabazz School** students on the **Kappler** property on **Reads Creek**. We cleared some willows in one section of the stream and removed a beaver dam. We earmarked **\$1,500** for this stream restoration project.

On May 15, BTU built 59 lunger structures for **Hefty Creek** on the **Blum** property on **Hefty Creek Road** which is located south and west of **New Glarus**.

**John Miller, Dave Patrick, and Arlan Hilgendorf** put on a fishing clinic recently for second graders at the **Lincoln Elementary School** in **Janesville**. The presentation included the different types of tackle, rods, and other equipment for bait casting, spin casting, and fly casting. Some of the students were able to try fly tying and fly casting.

We had fly casting lessons for our membership in the months of May and June. Some members need a little help, and we have a number of new members from our fly tying classes last winter who are first-time fly fishers. The first session was put on by the membership with the June session being directed by **Joseph Meyer**. Joe also did a fly casting seminar at our June 21 regular meeting at the park on **Turtle Creek**.

A workday will be scheduled for the purpose of completing the **handicapped fishing pier** on the **Little Sugar River** in **New Glarus**.

—Arlan Hilgendorf

### Fox Valley Chapter

Fox Valley TU has started the spring/summer activities, and we have had the support and assistance of several other groups on our habitat projects.

On March 20, Fox Valley TU partnered with the **Central WI TU** for a one-day seminar dealing with stream work and ecology. **Shawn Sullivan** and **Al Niebur** from the **DNR** presented an informative program to the group at the **Wild Rose Fish Hatchery**.

Our April general membership meeting was an informative narrative and slide presentation by **Mike Miller**, a **DNR Stream Ecologist**. Mike's presentation dealt with trout fishing opportunities in the state of Wisconsin.

The April meeting was also election night and the following individuals were elected (at the present time, the president and vice president positions are vacant):

Secretary — **Rich Erickson** and Treasurer — **Greg Haasl**.

Two new board members were also elected — **Joe Bach** and **Mark Heifner**.

April 10 was our first **Habitat Day** of this year, and we had a beautiful spring day for working to reinforce and rebuild bank structures on **Davis Creek**. **Elward Engle** was again the "leader" of the crew which also included a number of students from **Central and South America** who are students at **Fox Valley Technical College**. Elward provided background information about the purchase of the property and pointed out stretches of the creek where bank structures had been placed in prior years.

April 24 was a cool and rather damp day, but the chapter's 32nd annual **Fishing Day for People with Disabilities** at the **Main Creek Farm** was still a successful day. The weather kept some of the fishers in the lodge, but the fish were very cooperative for those who did spend

time on the dock. A special thank-you goes to the **Killoren** family for allowing FVTU to use their pond and lodge. **Del Schwaller, Tom Beyer, Barb Bermel, and Rich Erickson** organized the day, and other chapter members helped out with baiting hooks, netting fish, and cleaning trout.

Our May 8 habitat day was the start of our summer restoration work on the **South Branch** of the **Little Wolf River**. We will be working on this project for several years, and we will be looking to have other TU chapters help us complete the project. On that particular Saturday, we had members of the **SEWTO** chapter working with us to form a crew of about 20 workers. Please consider joining us for upcoming project days July 10 and August 14.

Our June 12 habitat day and a special day with some young men from **Rawhide** on June 17 were also spent working on the South Br. Little Wolf project.

On June 5, chapter members **Gordy Braun, Duane Velie, Joe Bach, Tom Lager, and Rich Erickson** assisted the **Heckrodt Nature Center** with a **Kids Fishing Day** at **Jefferson Park** in **Menasha**. A young fisherman, **Kevin Radtke**, won the drawing for the **L. L. Bean** fly rod/reel combo that FVTU offered as a prize.

We have been busy, but we must remember that our efforts at the local level are to continue to protect our natural resources and preserve our important green spaces and the life in it. Our past prez **Tony Trembl**, would conclude his remarks with, "Until then, we'll see you on a trout stream." And **Tom Lager**, writer of "Let's Talk Bugs," always reminds us to "enjoy His creation." It is that time of year to get out and enjoy the great streams, rivers, and ponds that we have here in Wisconsin. Check our website at [www.foxvalleytu.org](http://www.foxvalleytu.org). —Rich Erickson

### Frank Hornberg Chapter

The **14th Annual Frank Hornberg Fly Fishing School** was held on the weekend of May 21-23 at the **Riverside Bible Camp** on the **Tomorrow River**. Many chapter mem-

bers helped with instruction, food preparation, clean-up, and general errands.

Special thanks go to **Stu Nelson** for organization and preparation of



# Chapter News



materials, **Paul and Loretta Peck** for an outstanding Saturday dinner, and **Mary Duecker** for scheduling tasks.

Our chapter continues to help with the **USDA/WDNR** habitat restoration project on the **Tomorrow River** upstream from **Lake Meyers Road**. On June 10 we positioned Christmas trees in the river to narrow the flow. This is a three-year project, and we expect to devote more labor to the project as it develops.

**Mary Duecker** has served faithfully as secretary of our chapter since July 2002. Her term of service ended in June of this year. We are very grateful for her sense of professionalism and her devotion to the chapter. If anyone deserves the title of heart and soul of our chapter, it is surely **Mary** and her husband, **Wayne Duecker**. They have invested countless hours in the large and small tasks needed to bring our projects to completion.

## Green Bay Chapter

As is usual this time of year, the Green Bay Chapter is celebrating another successful banquet and planning ways to leverage the funds raised to better our coldwater resources and trout habitat.

As always, we have an ambitious work project schedule lined up. Work project chairman **Lee Meyer** has arranged for our chapter, the **Marinette Chapter**, and the **Oconto River Chapter** to work with the **DNR** and **US Forest Service** on habitat improvement projects. We are also working with the **DNR** to schedule projects that the chapter can perform without **DNR** supervision. These projects will be on the **First South Branch** of the **Oconto River** and will mainly consist of removing debris from the stream and banks to allow for better water flow. We have worked there in the past and, following the work, have seen dramatic increases in the flow.

We will also travel north to the **Laona District** of the **Nicolet National Forest** to work with **Tom Moris** and his crew, probably on **Spencer Creek**. This is another stream that we have previously worked on. There we installed brush bundles and deepened the stream and, again, saw dramatic improvement in the conditions that trout need to survive.

Chapter members will also have opportunities to collaborate with the **Shaw-Paca** and **Fox Valley** chapters to work with the **LTE** crew that the northeast chapters have funded again this year. This was a very successful collaboration with the **DNR** last year and will be the same this year.

Besides the work projects, that chapter has other endeavors for the summer months. We kicked the summer off with our annual picnic for members and guests. The chapter provides the main dish and essential items such as silverware, plates, soda, and coffee. Attendees bring a dish to pass and a willingness to have a good time with others who share their interests in the great outdoors.

We will also again stage our **Kid's Fishing Day** at the **Isaac Walton League** ponds on Green Bay's east side. This event is just what the name implies, teaching young people about the joys of fishing. We have worked to stage this event with

Members of the Hornberg Chapter were saddened by the May 11 death of our own **Dave Engebretson**, victim of an aggressive brain cancer. Dave was the lead casting instructor for our Fly Fishing School since its inception 14 years ago. In the words of **Stu Grimstad**, "He was one of the finest fly casters and overall fly fishers the area has seen. Fellow fly casters always marveled at his effortless style and flawless execution, which lifted the practice to the level of art." He will be sorely missed.

We have a full schedule of tasks for our 2010 workdays on the **Tomorrow River**. In addition to on-going restoration at the **Welton Road** site, we will be clearing an obstructed culvert in **Nelsonville** and jetting out the overhead on **Stedman Creek**. Helping hands are always welcome. Chapter events are listed on our website at [www.hornberg-tu.org](http://www.hornberg-tu.org).

—John Vollrath



### A BIT ABOUT BUGS

Jeff Dimick shows attendees of the 2010 Frank Hornberg Fly Fishing School how mayflies differ from stoneflies.

## Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter

Our annual banquet was April 30 at the **Dodger Bowl** in **Dodgeville**. We had a good turnout and did well with our fundraising. Thank you to all who contributed to its success.

One of this year's stream projects is on the **Blue River** just downstream from the work we did last year.

*Continued on p. 12*

the **Brown County Social Services PALS** program and the **Green Bay Exchange Club** for many years, and it seems to be more successful each year, rain or shine.

Finally, the chapter provided several sponsorships for youths to attend conservation camps in the state. These camps do a great job of teaching our youth about our outdoors and the threats to our environment.

—Gary Stoychoff

### BLACKHAWK HARD AT WORK

Posing next to a sign recognizing their work on Little Sugar R. near New Glarus are (top, l to r) **Don Studt**, **Arlan Hilgendorf**, **Dave Patrick**, **John Lusk**, **Ron Eborle**, and **Bill Merrick** with **Chris Newberry** and his son kneeling. **Shabazz High School** students (below) helped the chapter remove a beaver dam on Reads Cr.







## Chapter News

Continued from p. 11

Our new project involves about 2,700 feet of stream adjacent to **Snowbottom Road**. We also have plans to do 1.3 miles on **Six Mile Branch** contingent on getting enough funding late this season.

We have several school grants recipients for 2010. These grants typically pay for travel expenses or special equipment and are going to:

- **Iowa-Grant Elementary Middle School** — **Tim Donovan**,
- **Highland Community Middle School** — **Shannon Straka**,
- **School District of Potosi** — **Tara Hutchcroft**, and
- **Winskill Elementary** — **Marcia Chambers**.

Our summer interns are busy at work. Each summer we have provided funding for a summer intern and assistant to do stream studies on our trout streams. They come from the students at **UW-Platteville** campus and are supervised by one of the professors. They do shocking, determine flows, study the makeup of the stream bottom, and see which plants and invertebrates are present. Over time we will get a picture of what our stream work is doing.

—*Brian Larson*



### Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter

The chapter has been very active this spring as we held our two chapter meetings in April and May. The fly tyers meeting in April featured chapter members, including some of the board members and was, as usual, a social hit.

On a more serious note, local DNR fisheries biologist **Marty Engel** once again graced us with his appearance at our season-ending May meeting. Marty gave a presentation on groundwater and the ramifications of a long-term drought.

We continue to partner with the **DNR** to work on **Parker Creek**, a tributary to the **Kinnickinnic**, with the removal and cleanup of invasive flora. Work has continued on most Saturday mornings.

The board voted to donate \$15,000 to the **Kinnickinnic River Land Trust's Quarry Road** acquisition. This piece of property was at one time slated for a 500-unit hous-

ing development, but because of the economic downturn, it was available on the open market. **KRLT** went in to action and crafted a plan for acquiring and eventually handing the property over to the **DNR** for long-term management. This project will help protect the **Kinnickinnic** in its most vulnerable location, the river corridor just upstream from **River Falls**.

The chapter once again engaged in the **Rush River** spring cleanup day, which is hosted by **Sarah Sanford** and the **Ellsworth Rod & Gun Club**. The turnout, even in the rain, was fantastic, as 160 volunteers collected and disposed of over two tons of trash. **Mike Wemlinger** was the winner of our fly box raffle which included 150 hand-tied flies by chapter volunteers. I know he and **Emily** are planning a trip out west, so I'm sure the flies will be put to good use.

—*Kyle Amundson*

### Lakeshore Chapter

Lakeshore TU members have been quite busy this spring. We held our annual **Conservation Banquet** on March 27 with the result being a \$7,750 profit. This was over a \$2,000 increase over last year's profit. Banquet co-chairs **Jeff Preiss** and **Jeff Yax** did an outstanding job of putting the banquet together, and banquet MC **Ron McCormick** kept the evening moving smoothly. Lakeshore TU would like to thank all of the people who worked at, donated items to, or attended the banquet

for your contribution toward making this a successful event.

Lakeshore TU also sponsored six workdays this spring. Three of the work days were held on the **Onion River** where brushing and fallen tree removal was done on the length of the river. We also replaced washed out rocks on many of the in-stream structures.

The **Onion River** was in excellent shape for the start of the inland trout season. We also have an ongoing project at the **Fisherman's Park** in **Manitowoc Rapids**. We spent three days there removing unwanted trees (mostly large fallen box elders) and burning the branch wood. The goal is to reclaim much of the overgrown area back into usable park area and to create a walking path along the **Manitowoc River**. We will resume work there this fall.

On Friday, April 23, Lakeshore members worked with a class of 13 junior and senior high school students from **Plymouth High School**. We worked on the **Onion River** on the **Lester Schmitz** property. They started the day by helping to remove fallen trees from the river and then filling in washed out rock. When the work was done, they were taught fly casting by Lakeshore TU members and then taken fishing. A few students even caught a trout. This was followed by a cookout before they returned to school at day's end.

Chapter member **Gary Drasch** has taken over the duties of running our Lakeshore TU website at [wisconsintu.org/lakeshore](http://wisconsintu.org/lakeshore). Gary has made several improvements to the site. Gary has added new categories to the site and also added some pictures and maps. We certainly appreciate Gary's expertise.

**Sage**-certified fly casting instructor and Lakeshore TU member **Lou Jirikowic** helped chapter members brush up on their casting skills with a demonstration and clinic following our May 17 meeting. This was a great opportunity for many of us to get some hands-on instruction and tips on how to improve our casting for varying situations.

Our May meeting included the annual election of officers and board members. The following members were elected:

President — **Wayne Trupke**,

### FOX VALLEY KIDS, YOUNG AND OLD

FVTU member Tom Lager (top left) works with a boy at the fly tying bench, while another youngster (top right) proudly shows off the rod and reel package he won at the chapter's Kid's Fishing Day event. Longtime members Del Schwaller and Gordy Braun (center, l to r) take a breather while knee deep in the South Branch of the Little Wolf. The entire Little Wolf work group posed for a group picture at the end of the day.



## Chapter News



V. P. — **Ron McCormick**,  
Secretary — **Jeff Yax**, and  
Treasurer — **Jeff Preiss**.

Directors include **Jerry Bau-**  
**man**, **Larry Doebert**, and **Dave**  
**Zerger**.

We do not hold meetings in the summer, and our next meeting is slated for Monday, Sept. 20 at **The Anglers Avenue** in **Sheboygan**. This is a new location for meetings as we are going to experiment with having meetings alternate between Manitowoc's **Club Bil-Mar** and Sheboygan. We will let members know where the meetings are through our newsletter and also on our website.

### Northwoods Chapter

Several members showed up for our workday on the **Bearskin** on June 12. Maintenance was conducted on several sections of the stream where we had brush bundled in the past.

We will hold our annual **Youth Fly Fishing Conclave** at the **Cedric A. Vig Outdoors Classroom** in **Rhineland** on July 24. It's a full day of activities for kids between the ages of 10 and 16 to learn about the fine art of fly fishing. Classes will be taught on fly tying, knots, entomology

### Oconto River Watershed Chapter

We are having **Jeff Maroszek** of the Oconto **NRCS** office talk to us next month on their streambank stabilization programs with a view toward joint efforts. We would like to stabilize our quality coldwater streambanks.

Trout in the classroom continues to be good fun. The program developed with **Ms. Windus** at **Lena High School** has worked well. They have one of our chilled aquariums. Trout started out as eggs and now have grown to where the largest one just ate a small one. We did a Power-Point on "The Nature of a Trout Stream" that went well. We later spent a complete day with a class on what trout eat, followed by tying some soft hackle flies and casting lessons. We then went to **Beaver Creek** to net aquatic insects and survey the ecosystem. This went well and will be offered to other schools where we have worked in **Antigo**, **Gillett**, **Suring**, **Oconto Falls**, and **Oconto**.

The Oconto Watershed Chapter continues work, currently on the **First South Branch** of the **Oconto R.** with beaver damage remediation. We are looking over some of the

### Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter

SEWTU has now concluded its spring series of monthly meetings, with our final meeting having been held in May.

SEWTU's formal all-chapter meetings will resume in September 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 interested is welcome to attend.

If you are an SEWTU member reading this who hasn't been out to one of our meetings, stop by and see what we're about. The atmosphere is relaxed, and you'll find nothing

but friendly faces and good fishing stories, some of which are occasionally even true.

On May 22, 12 chapter members participated in a chainsaw safety course. This was set up by chapter member **Larry Doebert** and took place on the **Earl Theel** property. Since so many of our work projects require the use of chain saws and brush cutters, we felt this would be an asset to our chapter. The class was taught by **Jim Olive** through the **Forest Industry Safety & Training Alliance**, and it was excellent. I would recommend it to any group that does a lot of chainsaw work.

—*Wayne Trupke*

gy (bugs), and fly casting. Lunch is provided. All is free of charge to the kids. 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 with the **U.S. Forest Service**. More on this Deerskin River workday will follow in the next newsletter. Contact **Joshua Kunzman** for more information.

—*Brian Hegge*

streams emptying into the lower river with a history of yielding older brookies for projects in a year. Our area typically shows good reproduction, but few fish living long enough to become trophies.

We are doing current stream projects with beaver remediation on the **First South Branch** jointly with **Green Bay TU** folks and working with the **Wolf River Chapter** on **Nine Mile Creek**.

We are also looking at funding for both research on the northern trout fishery and pilot projects with a view to habitat for the older fish. The Oconto system yields small numbers of 16-18 inch older brook trout, so we know that the potential is there. The **South Branch** population studies show 1,962 three-inch young of the year fish per mile of the South Branch with only 55 per mile over 8" and zero three-year-old fish. We are asking our smart friends for ideas on making life more enjoyable, and longer for time to grow, for our native brook trout.

Our fund-raising banquet this spring is back to our normal range in attendance and fiscal results.

—*Bob Obma*

was excellent and was well received by the 110 attendees present.

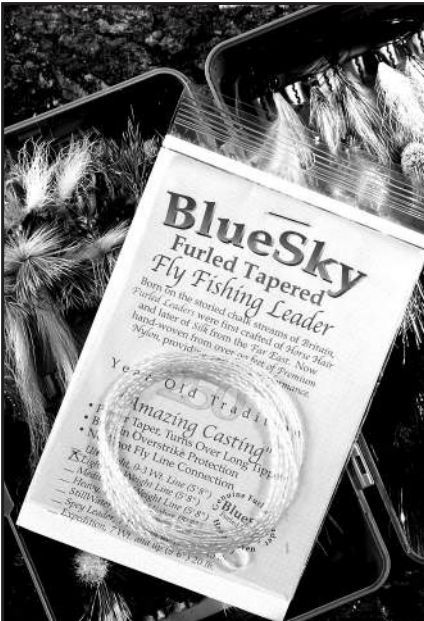
Our March meeting also featured SEWTU's annual Sports Show Raffle Drawing. The cedar strip canoe and paddles were won by **John F. Nelson**. The rod and reel and shotgun combinations were won by **Jay Zawerschnik**, **Robert Pelowski**, and **Robert Estlund**. SEWTU thanks all of our sponsors, including **Stan Strelka**, **Gander Mountain**, and **Cabela's**.

SEWTU's April 27 meeting featured **Mat Wagner** from **The Driftless Angler** fly shop in **Viroqua**. Most of our members are well aware of Mat's shop, and some of us are more-than-regular customers. Mat spoke on "Fishing the Dog Days" when Wisconsin's weather turns hot. This talk provided a great deal of information about tactics for when the sun shines bright and temperatures rise through the summer. A nice crew turned out, including **WITU Chair Kim McCarthy**.

May's meeting was something completely new, and featured a number of activities. First, several tables were set up where members could meet with other members familiar with fishing a particular area of Wisconsin and discuss tips on how, when, and where to fish. Secondly, a swap meet was conducted. Finally, four SEWTU members presented travelogues on various fishing trips they had been on. Presenters included **Dan Asmus** on fishing the U.P., **Todd Durian** on fishing Milwaukee-area Great Lakes

tributaries, **Mark Manion** on salt water destinations, and **Henry Koltz** on **Dutch John** and the surrounding area. The crowd was exactly as respectful as they should have been, and between cat-calls, hoots, and hollars, a good time was had by all.

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## Chapter News

Continued from p. 13

On our workday front, a great contingent of SEWTU members turned out on April 10 to man our turned out on April 10 to man our yearly **Estabrook Park** location at the **Milwaukee River Cleanup**. Led as always SEWTU Political Liaison **John Knitter**, our volunteers removed heaps of trash from the **Milwaukee River**.

On May 8, SEWTU traveled to the **Little Wolf River** outside of **Iola** with the **Central Wisconsin** and **Fox Valley** chapters. Although the weather was snowy and the temperatures cold, a good deal of work was performed, including brushing, brush bundling, and jetting in posts for overhead bank structures.

For our upcoming workday on Saturday, July 10, we will aid the **Gary Borger Chapter** of Trout Unlimited in its first-ever **Embrace-A-Stream** restoration project. Gary Borger TU is a consistent friend to SEWTU. It is a chapter on the rise. We'll help GBTU and the WDNR install mini-lunker structures in **Paradise Springs Creek**, seed work areas, and perform multiple other functions. We may even gather seeds so that the DNR will have a bank of native prairie seeds.

We'll have a similar workday on **Aug. 28** with **Gary Borger TU** at the same site. Directions to the meet-up location for both workdays is available at [www.sewtu.org](http://www.sewtu.org).

SEWTU will also have an August workday in the **Driftless Area** at **Elk Creek** in connection with our 2010 **Embrace-A-Stream** **TUDARE** project. Stay tuned for a final date for this workday. We'll surround this workday with a chapter fishing outing.

In September and October, SEWTU anticipates workdays at **Van Slyke Creek** and **Genesee Creek** respectively. Dates are not yet firm.

Finally, SEWTU has purchased a workday trailer through the generous donations of members. We are now looking to fill the trailer with workday equipment. If you have a generator, nail gun, air compressor, or associated tools that you would be willing to donate, they will certainly go toward 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](mailto:hek@sdelaw.com) if you can help!

On the education front, 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**.

On April 10, we once again coled the **Washington County Kids Free Fishing Clinic** under the leadership of **Dan Asmus**. This is a yearly SEWTU event, and one that our members have helped to make a truly wonderful tradition. As in years past, SEWTU volunteers helped kids fish for stocked rainbow trout in a pond located within **Sandy Knoll County Park**. This event is many kids' first introduction to fishing, and this is a great way to get kids tuned in and turned on to what SEWTU is about. SEWTU thanks all those who made this a great event!

On May 13 and 14, SEWTU volunteers helped out at the **Wisconsin Youth Outdoor Expo**. The event is held yearly in **Beaver Dam** at the **Dodge County Expo Grounds**, and thousands of children pass through the event's door. SEWTU's volunteers provided casting and fly tying instructions under the leadership of Wisconsin TU stalwart **Bob Haase**. (See the separate WI Outdoor Expo story on p. 5 of this issue.)

On June 12, we manned a booth at the **Gathering Waters Festival**, which is a yearly outdoors event held at the **Lakeshore State Park** in **Milwaukee**. Despite competing with several other festivals, an air show, and inclement weather, SEWTU volunteers taught casting and providing information to the community about our mission of coldwater conservation.

On the membership front, SEWTU held its annual **All Chapter Fishing Outing** at the **West Fork Sportsman Club** grounds at **Avalanche** June 18-20. Members got out and fished, survived some interesting weather on Friday night, and even managed to catch a few fish before settling around the campfire.

As always, a good time was had, and instruction was provided to those new to the sport.

On **June 17**, SEWTU was co-host of a VIP event at the new **Orvis** store at **Bayshore Mall** in **Whitefish Bay** north of Milwaukee. Members drank free bourbon, talked about fishing, and purchased some incredible items. A good time was had by all, and SEWTU looks forward to having another trout fishing gear shop in our area!

On July 27, SEWTU will hold its annual **Casting Clinic** at **Greenfield Park** in **Greenfield**. This is a great event where many of our members have either learned to cast, or in some cases "re-learned" to cast! This year **Pat Ehlers** from **The Fly Fishers** will provide instruction. As always, this event will be led by long-time chapter leaders **Larry Wirth**, **Chuck Beeler**, **Stan Strelka**, **Jay Zawerschnik**, and others. There will be skill challenges, and a great dinner. Stop on out. The event runs from 5:30 to dusk.

Under the leadership of **Mike Kuhr**, chapter members **Al Dalfonso**, **Joe Valcoun**, **Herb Oechler**, **Jim Wierzbza**, and **John Knitter** will again teach fly tying classes at the **Milwaukee Veterans Administration**. With respect to this ongoing

**Project Healing Waters** program, **Mike** and his band of volunteers have now completed multiple fishing outings with VA Project Healing Water attendees at **Lakeshore State Park** and other 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, please contact **Henry Koltz** at [hek@sdelaw.com](mailto:hek@sdelaw.com).

Finally, SEWTU is glad to see that a project that we have been involved in — namely, the removal of a concrete fish passage barrier on the **Menomonee River** — appears about to happen. SEWTU's involvement included bringing the various agencies involved in this project together for meetings and tours of the river to keep pushing this project forward. (See the separate story on p. 5 of this issue.)

As a reminder, SEWTU has established habitat, education, fundraising, and membership committees. If you are an SEWTU member interested in becoming a part of a committee, please contact **Henry Koltz** for information. This is a great chance for any and all to get involved. Step up and be a part of the progress. You'll be glad you did.

—Henry Koltz

### Southern Wisconsin Chapter

It's been a busy 2010 with fantastic success for SWTU. Each March we hold our "Meicher Madness Auction." Last year we named it after the late TU stalwart and chapter member **Larry Meicher**. This year's auction offered a tremendous array of items generously donated by our members, who then reached deep with their bids, resulting in \$3,500 raised to protect our coldwater resource. Many thanks to all who took part, along with our stellar auctioneering duo of **Mark Maffitt** and **Topf Wells**.

April saw our largest ever Casting Clinic. Organized by **Jeff Smith**, this event is free to anyone and features stations dedicated to casting, bugs, gear, and reading the water. This year's event had 45 attendees, all of whom received some valuable instruction and many of whom went on to join our chapter.

Our April chapter meeting brought change to our chapter leadership. **Dave Sanders** ended his term as president. We are all very thankful for Dave's great leadership and hard work these past two years. Our new president is **Frank Kosmoch**, who has served ably on our Board of Directors. **Steve Wald** has stepped into the role of Vice President, and **James Beecher** and **Brian Schwelling** were elected to our board of directors. Additionally, **Mike Mihalas** was elected as our State Council delegate.

SWTU members once again donated a great deal of flies, experience and, most especially, time in assisting with the **Malcom Shabazz High School's Project Green Teen** program. Members helped through-

out the year with fly tying, casting, and more. In May, this culminated in a week of fishing and project work at the **Avalanche** campground, at which event many members served as guides and instructors. Many thanks to **John Gribb** for his enthusiastic leadership on this important education initiative.

May also saw a successful workday, the first under new Project Co-Chair **Chris Denzin**. It was a great Saturday morning for swinging an axe, as our crew cleared brush along **Black Earth Creek**. We'll have several more workdays this year, and we'll take all of the workers we can get! Just check our chapter calendar at [www.swtu.org](http://www.swtu.org) to find out the when and where.

Our June meeting featured our second "garage sale." This one was from the estate of **Bill Maund**, who was very active in the chapter in the 1970s and 80s. Half the money raised from the sale of Bill's outdoor gear and fishing equipment was donated to the chapter for use in conservation efforts.

In July, we are looking forward to our annual **Streamside Picnic**. It will be held on Saturday, July 10, in **Mazomanie**. Apart from the fantastic food, we'll also be treated to a stream shocking demonstration and a tour of the major environmental restoration project being planned for that area. Check our online calendar to learn more. We'd love to see you there!

Please stop by [www.swtu.org](http://www.swtu.org) for more news about our chapter and to check out our calendar of events.

—Drew Kasel

### Wild Rivers Chapter

The 2010 **Fishing Expo & Auction** was the first held at the **Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center** in **Ashland**, and the first to dedicate the proceeds to a single project. Many thanks to **Rose**, **Kevin**, and **Mike** of the **Visitor's Center/Whit-**

**tlesey Creek Refuge** for all their help.

The expo's proceeds, about \$4,500, have been donated to the **Bayfield Regional Conservancy White River** property fund to help pay for the former **Hanson farm** property. Thanks to auctioneer/MC



## Mike's Service in Langlade

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# Chapter News



**Duke Welter**, who worked the event in spite of his recent knee replacement, and to auctioneers **Henry Haugley** and **Mark Maffitt**. **Roger LaPenter**, **Rob & Jo Kemkes**, and **Joyce Kiel** did a great job feeding the crowd, and **Dick Berge**, **Rolland Kiel**, and **Jim Emerson** kept track of the bids and the dollars at the auction, no easy job.

Thanks also to all who donated fishing gear, guided trips, food, and flies, or who spent money at the auction. We were invited back in 2011, and we look forward to holding another expo next year.

Holding the April chapter meeting in **Seeley** not only provided an opportunity for members to enjoy fishing the **Namakagon River**, but we got to hear from two of our favorite speakers as well. **DNR Biologist Frank Pratt** has been working forever on his project to place large woody structure in the **Namakagon River**, and this is the year that it will happen. The project will place 50 big wood structures in the river near **Capp Creek**.

**Donovan Dums** spoke about his guiding adventures in **Russia** and **New Zealand**. Welcome to our newest members **Donovan Dums** of **Seeley**, **Jacob Obletz** of **Mason**, **Dave Buren** of **Cornucopia**, **Jim Lean** of **Washburn**, and **Brad Smith** (transfer) of **St Paul, MN**.

The chapter is involved with the **Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge** in a two-year tree planting project on **Whittlesey Creek**. The chapter purchased 2,500 conifers costing \$1,500 for this year and will do the same next year. Thanks to **Rolland Kiel** for helping to pick up the order in **Tomahawk**, and to **Rolland & Joyce Kiel** and **Chuck Campbell** for helping with the planting. The trees are being planted on former farm fields on the lower part of **Whittlesey Creek**.

The annual **Fin Clip Saturday** was a fun day as usual, with lots of hardworking volunteers and great food. Thanks to **Rex and Peg Dollinger**, **Dick Prine** and his nephew **Porter**, **Rolland and Joyce Kiel**, **Jim Emerson**, **Dave Buren**, and **Logan Route** for helping clip part of the 100,000 brook trout the **Red Cliff Hatchery** will plant in 2010. Tribal Biologist **Matt Symal** took the group on a tour of the hatchery and **Joe Duffy** prepared the excellent whitefish lunch.

Chapter members and others received an update on the **Bayfield**

**Regional Conservancy** and its conservation projects from **Sheri Eggleston** at the May meeting. A check for \$4,500 was presented to Sheri by chapter member **Logan Route** to be used for the **White River Acquisition Fund**. The donation came from the 2010 Fishing Expo & Auction. Thanks to Logan and everyone who volunteered and made donations for the event.

Thanks to **Roger Gustafson**, **Jim and Jane Emerson**, and **Chuck Campbell** for working on the **Adopt a Highway** cleanup day at **Delta**. The crew enjoys this job twice a year, and the food at the **Delta Diner** plays a part in it.

The annual Fisheries Techniques course at the **NGLVC** with **Washburn High School** students in **Ms. Collins'** class was another good volunteering opportunity. **Dick Berge** and **Chuck Campbell** helped the students learn to tie a woolly bugger. **Mike** and **Kevin** of the refuge and center staff taught the students about careers, how to filet a fish, and fishing instruction at the center pond.

The chapter is working with Visitor Services Manager **Kevin Lowry** at the **Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center** to hold a fly casting class for women on July 10 from 2-4 p.m. Students can use their own rods if desired, and the chapter has equipment for those who do not.

Thanks to **Larry Mann** and **Wendy Williamson** of the **Hayward Fly Fishing Co.** and to author **John Gierach** for organizing the special appearance and book signing on June 9 at the **Sawmill Saloon** in **Seeley**. This has to be one of the most memorable chapter meetings or events ever. Lots of serious fly fishers were there with their questions for John and boxes of books for signing.

The annual **Whack a Northern** event on the **White River** in **Bayfield County** will take place on Saturday, **August 7**. The day-long canoe trip brings canoes from several chapters and includes a cookout at the park in **Mason**. At least two parties plan to camp on the river the night before. The northern catch is quickly cleaned and cooked to feed the entire group. Visitors are welcome, so contact a chapter member for information if you are interested in this day-long paddle and northern fishing event.

—Chuck Campbell



## WOLF RIVER CHAPTER PLANTS TREES ALONG NINEMILE CREEK

Almost 30 people helped plant trees along **Ninemile Cr.** in **Langlade County** on May 16. Pictured here are (back row, l to r) **WDNR Forester Ryan Brown**, **WRTU President Andy Killoren**, **WRTU board member Clyde Park**, and **WDNR forester Dave Beer**. Kneeling are (l to r) **WRTU Vice President Jim Waters**, **WRTU board member Bill Kellner**, and **WRTU board member Bill Livingston**.

ing classes and for controlling invasive species along our streams.

The chapter's top education award went to **Steve Josephson**, who has been a mainstay of teaching events in recent years, and who also ably shepherds our annual **Chapter Sponsors** program. Steve teaches at **Manz Elementary School** in **Eau Claire**, and his experience shows when the chapter puts on teaching programs, whether at the school, college, or adult levels. For making the commitment to help others learn the skills of fishing and how to enjoy our coldwater streams, Steve was awarded the **Clarence W. Wilson Chapter Award for Education**. C. W. Wilson, or "Willie," for years not only taught our fly tying classes, but also worked hard leading and carrying out projects on **Duncan Creek** and other sites.

A number of speakers held the audience riveted, for the most part, with reports on the chapter's restoration projects and classes (**Dale Dahlke**), how to find and read our electronic newsletter (**Lon Christianson**) and on the genesis of the very successful program **TU** runs with **VA hospitals** around the country (**Tim Valentine**). Tim was a participant from the beginning with the first **Project Healing Waters** at **Walter Reed Army Hospital** in **Washington, D.C.** and inspired many of our guests about possibly beginning to work with recovering veterans through our chapter. **Dennis Vanden Bloomen** has not only served as our chapter president for five years, but he has led earlier efforts to help obtain grant funding for our projects. He also developed a specialized angler education instructor curriculum and a cadre of at least 21 certified instructors within the chapter. Over \$500,000 in grants to supplement our chapter's own resources has been raised through his efforts, a phenomenal accomplishment. For his efforts, Dennis was awarded the **Don Cheney Conservation Award**. The late Don Cheney was a strong supporter of our chapter's projects, and gave of his own money to fund them over the years. His love of healthy streams and good conservation showed through when he attended

chapter meetings and told us of his fishing around the world — wherever his work took him and he could pack his trusty **St. Croix 9-foot, 6-weight fly rod**.

Trout populations are healthy across our area, especially where projects have improved habitat, fish biologists from the **DNR** reported to chapter members at our April 8 meeting. The biologists included **Marty Engel** from the **Baldwin** office (**St. Croix, Pierce, and Pepin** counties), **Bob Hujik** from **Eau Claire** (**Eau Claire, Dunn and Chippewa** counties), and **Dan Hatleli**, **Pete Segerson**, and **Rob Herman** from **Black River Falls** (**Trempealeau, Jackson, and Buffalo** counties).

Engel has been conducting extensive research on sample sites across the counties he covers. He reported outstanding brook and brown trout populations in the **Rush River**, where stocking has been dramatically reduced in recent years. Whether natural reproduction will produce enough fish to withstand heavy fishing pressure (albeit much of it catch-and-release) remains to be seen, but early indications are promising. Other solid populations of brown trout are found in the **Kinnickinnic** and **Trimbelle** rivers and **Arkansaw, Elk, and Plum** creeks, while brook trout are strong in **Cady, Duncan, Pine, Wilson, and Parker** creeks, the **South Fork of the Hay River**, and parts of the **Rush River**.

To the south, restoration efforts are proceeding on **Traverse Valley Creek** outside of **Independence**, **French Creek** near **Taylor**, **Pigeon Creek** above **Pigeon Falls**, and **Swans Valley Creek** (which might be near **Hale**, but we're not sure). We are working with local conservation clubs and schools, and we have helped with funding and supported grants from **TUDARE** and **Friends of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited** for some of them. Our chapter holds access easements on a number of those waters where work is being done.

—Tim Meyer

Continued on p. 9

## Wisconsin Clear Waters Chapter

Work has begun on the **Elk Creek** restoration project in **Chippewa County** just north of **Hwy 29** on the state land. This project will be completed by June 30, 2010. Our next project is on **Trout Creek**, also in **Chippewa County**, and located farther east along **Hwy. 29**.

Clear Waters chapter received an award for our success and outstanding use of the **DNR River Grant** program funds for our work on **Gilbert Creek** in **Dunn County**. Since the inception of the river grant program in 2000, the **DNR** has awarded over \$3.1 million through 181 planning grants and 41 management grants. Over 100 organizations in over 50 counties have benefited from these funds.

To mark the 10th anniversary of the river protection grant program, the **DNR** partnered with the **River Alliance of Wisconsin** to celebrate

this first decade of the grant program at the **River Alliance's Spring Confluence** meeting at the **Madison Club** in **Madison** on May 1. As part of the celebration, **WDNR Secretary Matt Frank** presented awards to 10 past recipients to highlight their accomplishments.

The chapter's **Earth Day Conservation Banquet** April 22 gave us good financial support for our projects and other efforts. It also gave attendees both a convivial social event and some outstanding presentations. Preliminary figures indicate we were able to raise over \$6,000 through the banquet and from our loyal chapter sponsors. These dollars will all be spent in our area, helping provide matching funds for projects in **Chippewa, Trempealeau, and Jackson** counties, and for other efforts including equipment for our fly tying and cast-





# Casting for common ground

*The Project Green Teen program at Madison's Malcolm Shabazz City High School has been mentioned often in this newspaper, and many of our members consider helping with the program a highlight of their year. For as much as we have covered the work of the Shabazz students, we've never gone into great detail on the program's origins and goals. That background is found in this story that was originally published in the June 2010 issue of Wisconsin Natural Resources magazine.*

## By Ed Culhane

We hiked downstream, crossing the river three times, till we reached the mouth of a tributary, a lesser-known trout stream, and began fishing our way up. It was a meadow stream, snaking through a high-ridged valley. Foraging dairy cows watched us with sleepy indolence. Up ahead was a narrowing where swifter water dug a deeper pool, and we could see rising trout. We advanced in a semi-circle, angling away from the stream so the trout would not see us. We made an odd couple — an outdoor writer in his 50s and a 16-year-old girl from Madison who'd never been fly fishing — not that there was anyone around to notice. I hadn't planned on this. I'd been drafted as a guide at the last minute. Now, more than anything, I wanted this quiet girl beside me to catch a wild trout....

### Headquarters

Base camp was at the Avalanche campground on the West Fork of the Kickapoo River in Vernon County. Three Madison teachers and their 17 Project Green Teen students from Malcolm Shabazz City High School had laid siege to the clubhouse.

They'd be here for seven days in early May, 2009, a colorful beachhead of youth and ethnic diversity in a campground normally and chiefly occupied by older white guys with whiskers and creaky knees — or in other words, people like me.

I'd been tracking the students for two days, taking photographs and notes. I'd come to understand that something special was going on, something unexpected, something beyond the service projects and the cool streamside classes led by scientists from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

So far, I'd reached one conclusion. Head teacher Tina Murray, who created this program six years ago, is some kind of wizard.

The idea came to her when she was off by herself, catching trout, absorbing the natural beauty

around her. She thought of her students, inner city teenagers whose experiences were too narrow and limited to include something as esoteric as fly fishing.

"I thought, wouldn't it be great if the kids could experience this," Murray said. "It would add some peace and strength to their lives."

Somehow, through force of will, she convinced a whole bunch of people to volunteer their time and expertise to make it happen. In the end, she and her colleagues turned these beautiful spring creeks into the centerpiece of an ecology-based program so engaging and powerful it is transforming the lives of at-risk high school students.

"Society is too ready to dismiss these teenagers," Murray said. "There's this bizarre belief that after middle school you can't change them. These guys are idealistic, and after this program, they are committed."

Project Green Teen is a second semester option at Shabazz in which standard classes — English, social studies, math, science, and health — are reworked as tools to understand stream ecology and the relationships between surface waters and the people who live, work, and play around them. This week-long field trip is the culmination.

### A morning's work

Early Saturday the school group gathered in an open field at Read's Creek Nursery outside the tiny hamlet of Readstown, greeted by volunteers from the Blackhawk Chapter of Trout Unlimited, stacks of oak blocks and planks, reinforcing steel rods, generators, power drills, sledge hammers, and, best of all, nail guns.

They were divided into teams, and with coaching from the TU crew started to build large, crib-like LUNKER structures. These will be anchored below the water line into the outside banks of streams degraded by erosion. The LUNKER projects stabilize the banks creating shaded cover for trout.

Next came three, short concurrent sessions. In one, science teacher Robert Banks led forays into the woods in search of morels. In another, Jeff Hastings, national TU project manager for the Driftless Area Restoration Effort, talked about stream rehabilitation and how a partnership between the DNR and TU has restored hundreds of miles of trout stream.

The third session was Blackhawk TU official Fred Young, CEO of a multi-million-dollar, high-tech engineering company, talking to the students about getting ahead in life. He's been hiring people for 45 years. He told them he screens for attendance. He is willing to invest in people who can be trusted to show up.

"The next thing I look for is attitude," he said. "What I am looking for is that in at least one of your subjects, you excelled at it. Grades are the last thing I care about. I am looking for a spark of creativity."

### A different high school

Malcolm Shabazz is an alternative high school that draws students from the four public high schools in Madison. With an enrollment of about 130, it is designed for students who for one reason or another don't fit in at a mainstream high school. Some are unusually quiet. Others, more outwardly rebellious, display their nonconformity with tattoos, facial piercings, or bright hair.

"I'm not a good test taker," said Julia Rowe. "I failed every test. I never did my homework. I didn't see the point in filling out worthless worksheets."

For some of these students Shabazz is not just an alternative, it's a lifeline.

"Shabazz is pretty much my savior," said Heidi Kelley.

There's a process for getting in. The student's family must be involved. Each prospective student spends one full day shadowing a Shabazz student. A committee decides who will get written



invitations. Those not invited receive a written explanation.

“We don’t have a lot of tests in our curriculum except in math and science,” said Meghan Murphy. “We’re all in the same class but not all at the same level. We help each other through whatever we are doing.”

At Shabazz, the question is always asked: “What are you going to do about it?”

“Shabazz is community service based,” Emma Urbas said. “We take what we learn in the classroom and apply it in the outside world.”

In the Green Teen Program, which is composed of 17 to 20 students each year, they plant trees, remove invasive plants, and pull rubbish out of streambanks. “We work as a team,” Murphy said, “so we get to know each other really well.”

While the educators at Shabazz rely less on standardized tests and grades, preferring a pass-fail approach and written evaluations, they are running a fully accredited high school whose students take the same college entrance exams as everyone else. Three of every four Shabazz graduates enter college.

Before the year was out, Rowe had received a four-year scholarship in the environmental resources program at Northland College in Ashland. Urbas was accepted at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point where she will study water resource management.

**Headwaters**

Saturday afternoon finds the team in their waders perched on a rocky outcropping. A few feet to their right, the trout stream called Seas Branch surges from the hillside. This is the source, where groundwater bursts from the earth, cool and clear, and becomes one of the most beautiful things on earth — a trout stream.

Mike Miller, a DNR stream ecologist, faces the explorers from the opposite bank. The newborn Seas Branch foams into whitewater at their feet, running between teacher and students, dancing over moss covered rocks.

The chance to get in the water, collect fish and look for aquatic bugs isn’t just about learning. It’s fun.

The students are learning how land use — development, farm practices, conservation, manure management — affects the stream. They learn how to measure the creek’s health. They take its temperature, measure levels of dissolved oxygen, and determine its electrical conductivity.

Still, a rock that Miller takes out of the stream is covered with life forms — tiny crustaceans, caddis fly larvae

“It is critically important that upcoming generations do a better job than the last,” he said.

**Home cooking is best when it is shared**

Food preparation is part of their education and everyone serves on cooking and cleanup crews. Teacher Martha Vasquez is helping them examine eating habits and options. They are reading *Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal*.

At dinner, students talk about their day. “My favorite part was when we were in the stream, walking in the water,” Martha Price said.

“I used to think fish were kind of gross looking, but when I saw the brook trout — they were really pretty.”

Alex Wolfe liked using electricity to briefly shock trout, a technique used to study fish populations. And he liked the nail gun. With few exceptions, they all loved the nail gun.

“I felt like I was the most powerful person in the world with it,” Sarah Bortz said.

“We were just like machines,” Murphy said. “We got that done so fast and so effortlessly.”

Then Wolfe got to the heart of it.

“I know now that I really like being outside,”

It took three starts before it took, before he found a program, natural resources, that thrilled him.

“I started with a 2.0, and graduated on the dean’s list,” he said. “I started as a temporary worker for the DNR. After 30 years, I still can’t believe they pay me to do this.”

**The fly rod as a bridge between generations**

It’s Sunday afternoon and we’re gearing up for the first of five evenings of guided fishing. Amazed, I watched as some of the best fly fisher-



he said, “and I love nature.”

**“No animals got hurt in the making of this film.”**

Dave Vetrano, DNR fisheries team supervisor out of La Crosse, showed up Sunday morning with a beefed-up fish shocking operation in the persons of DNR fisheries technicians Kevin Mauel, Beth Stuhr, and Jim Webster. Several large trout, suckers, and a dogfish were captured and each species, in turn, was displayed for the students in a portable aquarium that sits on a pole. Then the fish were released unharmed.

“Form follows function,” Vetrano said, describing the functions of the swim bladder, the lateral line, the general shape of each fish, and how these adaptations help the fish survive. Trout have been around for thousands of years, but other species, like gar, date back hundreds of millions of years. Long before Tyrannosaurus rex roamed the earth, fish were swimming around in the ocean.”

Vetrano establishes his credentials by describing the inauspicious beginnings of his college career.

“I flunked out,” he reported. “I had to stay out for six months. I lost my student deferment and got drafted.”

men in the state started showing up. Several I recognized. Others I knew by reputation. Several are professional guides. A good percentage of them are older. Some are retired.

How was this possible? Some of these guys command fees of several hundred dollars for a guided fishing trip, and yet here they were, unpaid volunteers, reporting, some of them, for a week of duty.

Murray started this journey seven years ago by attending meetings of Trout Unlimited chapters and talking about her idea. She wanted her teens to experience fly fishing, but she didn’t have the necessary skills to teach them. Not much happened at first until John Gribb of Mount Horeb, an officer with the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited, picked up the challenge.

“There was a little reluctance in the beginning,” Gribb said. “I asked her what I could do. She said, ‘Get guides.’”

This was the program’s fifth year. Skeptics have become believers. Each spring more guides show up. Those who come keep coming back.

“I could tell we were being tested the first two years,” Murray said. “We’ve proven ourselves. We’ve crossed some invisible barrier.”

By Monday night, there was a guide for every student.

“It’s good for us,” Gribb said. “It’s good for the kids. I feel rewarded.”

Murray quickly assigns the matches. For the next five evenings, no student will have the same guide twice. There were maybe 10 of them this first night, which meant many would end up guiding two students, which is not ideal, especially with excursions limited to 3 ½ hours.

I was standing by my car, camera ready, watching with amusement as these gnarly, weather-worn outdoorsmen in their beat-up waders, generally a conservative bunch, were paired with rebellious, free-thinking, body-pierced teenagers.

Murray came by, stopped, and looked at me. She’d figured out by now that I was a fly fisher.

“Did you bring your waders with you?” she asked.

I’d found Jamie Tanaka, 16, standing off by herself while a guide worked with another student. She’d attended two casting clinics, but this was her first time fly fishing. She was quiet. We fished the West Fork with the others for a while, but then I’d taken her on a hike. I like fishing where there aren’t other people around, and this little coulee stream has often been generous.

Now we could see rings on the water. We stayed low and crawled the last 30 feet on hands and knees, watching out for cow patties.

*Continued on p. 18*

inside casings made of twigs or pebbles, mayfly larvae, stonefly nymphs.

A short drive and class is reconvened a mile downstream. The Seas Branch has grown, fed by rivulets and springs. Now comes the fun part. Using a small fish shocker they briefly stun trout so they can be examined. That’s followed by screening creepy looking aquatic bugs out of river silt to be classified. Some water bugs are more sensitive to pollution than others. Their presence is an accurate barometer of stream health. Stoneflies, like cockroaches, we learn, were crawling around millions of years before there were trees.

Miller has been a Shabazz volunteer for four years, he told me at dinner.



# SHABAZZ: casting for common ground

Continued from p. 17

Tanaka appeared dubious about this at first, but she didn't say anything. The trout were 25 feet downstream. I tied on a caddis dry fly and showed Jamie how to cast it out and feed line downstream so the fly floats naturally toward the trout and the trout sees the fly before leader and line.

On one of her first casts, a trout rose and took her fly, and in a slow, tentative motion, she lifted the rod.

tip high, on her feet now, she stripped in line and held tight while the trout tore up the stream and tried power dives, fighting furiously.

I heard a squeal of delight and looked up to see Jamie fully engaged, vibrating with excitement, as if the rod carried an electric charge. We landed the trout, looked admiringly at its bright colors, and released it.

Having spoken few words on the way out, we chatted easily all the

Project Green Teen is a second semester option at Shabazz in which standard classes — English, social studies, math, science, and health — are reworked as tools to understand stream ecology and the relationships between surface waters and the people who live, work, and play around them.

The trout, of course, jumped off the hook. I told Jamie about getting a little mean, setting the hook with purpose. Another cast, another rise and bang, she set the hook. But the trout rushed her, caused the line to go limp, and escaped.

"You're doing great," I said. "I forgot to tell you about stripping in line real quick so you can keep tension on it."

The trout were still rising. Normally spooky, they get like this sometimes, focused on feeding. Tanaka's next cast and drift were perfect. A trout rose to her fly and she set the hook. Keeping the rod

way back. Jamie had spotted a morrel that would be added to others waiting in the kitchen. It was a good catch and she was pleased with herself.

No more than I, master fishing guide.

### Flames in the dark

Each night, from 9 to 11, a campfire blazed and the students shared reflections, talking about what they were learning and doing and what it meant in their lives.

Murray said the nightly campfire and shared reflections were a powerful part of the field trip.



### TINA MURRAY STARTED THE PROJECT GREEN TEEN PROGRAM

The idea for the Green Teen program came to Shabazz teacher Tina Murray in a moment like this — catching trout and thinking of how the experience could add some peace and strength to the lives of her students.

"I think that's the thing that puts it inside the kids," Murray said. "It's in the reflections. After that, they own it."

(Author Ed Culhane is the regional public affairs manager for the

WDNR West Central Region based in Eau Claire. This copyrighted story from the June 2010 issue of Wisconsin Natural Resources magazine is reprinted with permission of the publisher. -Ed)

# 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 last February went into this new fund,
- At that banquet, 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.

Below is our very first listing of charter contributors. Thanks to all of you!

A first grant from the new fund will soon be made to the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust in the amount of \$4,000 to help purchase a parcel on the S. Br. of the Kinnickinnic R. Your contributions made this important purchase possible.

### 2010 Contributors

- |                    |                |                    |             |
|--------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Andrews, Duke      | Minocqua       | Byrnes, Clint      | Beaver Dam  |
| Antigo TU Chapter  | Middleton      | Cook, Andrew       | Sister Bay  |
| Barnes, Edwin      | Eau Claire     | Craig, Grant       | Green Bay   |
| Bartynski, Jeff    | Madison        | Dahlke, Dale       | Knapp       |
| Benedict, Mark     | Chippewa Falls | Danou, Chris       | Trempealeau |
| Berg, Ron & Jolene | Whitefish Bay  | Davidson, Bruce    | Wauwatosa   |
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Here is my contribution of \$100 or more to the Watershed Access Fund

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## Bob's Tying Tips

Advice from  
the bench of  
Bob Haase

### A short course in dubbing

By Bob Haase

Many people have problems with dubbing. The best way to learn how to dub is to practice using different kinds of dubbing materials, different kinds of dubbing techniques, and different kinds of dubbing waxes.

There are lots of different dubbing materials, and some are easier to use than others. Begin with a dubbing material that is easy to use, such as a super fine dubbing mix, and experiment with different kinds and methods of using dubbing wax and moistening your fingers with water.

#### Waxing your fingers

Most people use a dubbing wax and apply it to the thread to help the dubbing stick. Another method that I often use is to apply the wax to my fingers instead of the thread. Some waxes work better than others for this method. SortKwik is sometimes used by banks for sorting money and can often be found at office supply stores such as Staples. By applying a light film on your fingers, it makes it a lot easier to apply the dubbing.

Regular dubbing waxes and waxes such as ski wax, also work great. You can also make your own mixture by melting waxes and blending them to get the consistency you want. A good mix is part toilet bowl wax ring and paraffin. Simply rub your

thumb and forefinger over the wax, and then rub your thumb and forefinger together to make them a little sticky to help spin the dubbing around the thread.

#### Waxing your thread

The most common method of using dubbing wax is to apply the wax to your thread. Dubbing wax comes in regular and super

sticky, as well as special mixes that you might make yourself. I use the super sticky sometimes

when using dubbing materials that are more difficult to use. Do not

put any more wax on your thread than is necessary to make the dubbing stick. Some threads come slightly waxed, but it is often necessary to add additional wax to these threads.

#### Doing both

If you really have a problem with dubbing, try applying the wax to your thread and your fingers. Once you get the hang of dubbing,

eliminate one or the other and only apply it to your fingers or the thread. This also works good with using dubbing that is harder to apply.

#### Using water on a sponge

You can also use a sponge soaked with water to moisten your fingers when applying dubbing. It is better to do this than lick your fingers, especially when using animal dubbing such as a squirrel or rabbit dubbing that you may have mixed yourself.



## Trout tip High water fly fishing

By Henry Kanemoto

If you sometimes have less success fishing in early spring, perhaps it is a good time to review successful strategies for fast, high, and dirty water. These conditions are difficult for even the most experienced fisher.

There are three major changes that determine how we need to fish. First, when the streams and rivers are higher, *most fish need to move* and find new holding lies. Secondly, when the water gets dirty, there is *less light penetration* and the fish have difficulty seeing their food. Thirdly, the fish will be *feeding opportunistically*. So almost any fly that looks like food placed close enough to the fish will likely be successful. A strong visual profile and motion will be more important than exact representation.

Under high water conditions, most fish will not be in their usual holding places. Avoid the temptation to automatically fish those same places you always do. You must approach fishing your home waters just as if you were in foreign territory, and in a very real sense you are. This is not the same river you fished when water flows are normal. *You need to re-read the river.*

High, fast water usually forces *both predator fish and baitfish* to the edges, closer to the banks. The bank edges will also contain any food that gets washed into the river. *Bank areas become prime lies* during high fast flows. Since there is less light penetration, the fish do not need the same amount of depth to feel secure. In the soft water at the edges, fish may be shallower than normal — *they may be at any depth.*

The exception is in deep pools where fish on the bottom are protected from the current. You will need to use less or more weight depending on the water level you are fishing. *Experiment. Try different areas.*

Since there is less light penetration, you need to use patterns that increase visibility. I usually try a larger and darker pattern than usual. The fish will be looking for silhouettes and motion, and a black woolly buggie or a black leech type of pattern provides this *dark silhouette*. Flashy streamer patterns are

less effective because there is less light to be reflected. A dark silhouette is actually more visible to fish.

In low visibility conditions, fish will rely on sound to locate prey. Flies that have a prominent *acoustic signature* will attract predators even before they can be seen. These flies have a front collar or clipped stiff head, which pushes water when retrieved, sending out underwater vibrations.

You will also have to be *more accurate and varied* in your presentation. A fish can't hit your fly until he sees it or feels it, and you may have to put it right in front of him. A common error is to make identical casts from the same position and assume you have covered all the water. You need to *change your casting position and vary your casts, mends, and retrieves* in order to cover prime lies from top to bottom, and side to side.

If you think there is a good holding spot, don't give up on it until you have put the fly on the mark from every angle. The usual close enough is not good enough in high water conditions.

Finally, contrary to normal conditions when bright days make fishing more difficult, fishing on sunny days can be more productive. The sunny days will allow the fish to see the flies more easily. In summary:

- Learn to read the water — blind casting rarely works in these situations. Fast, dirty water will often push the fish to the banks.
- Use flies that are easier for the fish to see or hear. Go bigger, go darker, and use impressionistic flies.
- If you find a likely holding area, don't give up until you have covered it top to bottom and side to side.
- When the sun comes out, the fishing may pick up. Don't let sunny days put you off.
- Above all, don't get discouraged. You're fishing aren't you?

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

## Things to keep in mind when applying dubbing

### 1. Don't apply too much dubbing

One of the most common problems in dubbing is applying too much dubbing material to the thread at one time. Take the amount you think is right and cut it in half.

### 2. Only twist in one direction

Make sure you are only twisting the dubbing on the thread in one direction.

### 3. Shorten the thread

Most of us know that we should only twist the dubbing in one direction, but it also helps to shorten the amount of thread that we have out. When dubbing a longer section of thread, there is more thread to twist. You can also grasp the thread at the point of the bobbin and this will keep the thread from twisting more in the direction you are twisting the dubbing.

### 4. Try using different kinds of thread

Some threads are slightly waxed and others are not, making them easier or more difficult to apply dubbing. The new kevlar or GSP threads are smoother and do not usually accept dubbing as well. Experiment with different threads to see what works best for you.

### 5. Holding the bobbin or thread

It makes a difference if you hold the bobbin or the thread at the end

of the bobbin when wrapping the dubbing. If you hold the thread just at the end of the bobbin it will cause the thread to twist and make a tighter dubbing application than just holding the bobbin as you normally would.

### 6. Use the least amount of wax needed

Don't apply any more wax than is necessary to get the job done. As you become better at applying dubbing, you will find that you need less. You will also find that it varies with the type of dubbing material that you are using.

### 7. Understanding the different kinds of dubbing materials

There are many different kinds of dubbing materials, both natural and synthetic. They all have different characteristics and work better for specific applications. Some are more buoyant and float better, while others absorb the water and sink faster.

Some are easier to work with than others, and some are designed for specific applications. Knowing the characteristics of the different kinds of dubbing materials will help you decide which kinds of dubbing to use for specific fly patterns and applications.

You may want to purchase some dubbing materials with a friend and split them to allow you to try a variety of dubbing materials such as quick decent dub and other special blends. You may also want to learn how to make and blend your own dubbing for special applications.



# Friends transition and 2010 campaign off to a good start

By Doug Brown

## Friends of WITU Chair

I would like to say "thank you" to all of you who donated in this year's fund-raising event. The notes sent to me on thoughts of Steve Hill are very touching, and although I never met Steve, I can see his accomplishments with this program and the people's lives he touched.

I only hope I can continue the hard work that John Cantwell started over 20 years ago and that Steve Hill ran with.

I would also like to send a special thanks to Kim McCarthy, Todd Hanson, Gary Stoychoff, and John Cantwell on helping me with such a smooth transition. I also want to thank Jodi Luebbe for helping put the thank-you mailings together. I owe her a beverage for her time. A last thanks to my 7-year-old daughter, Annika Brown, for helping put the stamps and labels on the envelopes. You know, with all this great help, this job isn't all that bad!

Since the 2010 Friends fund-raising event started in March, the pro-

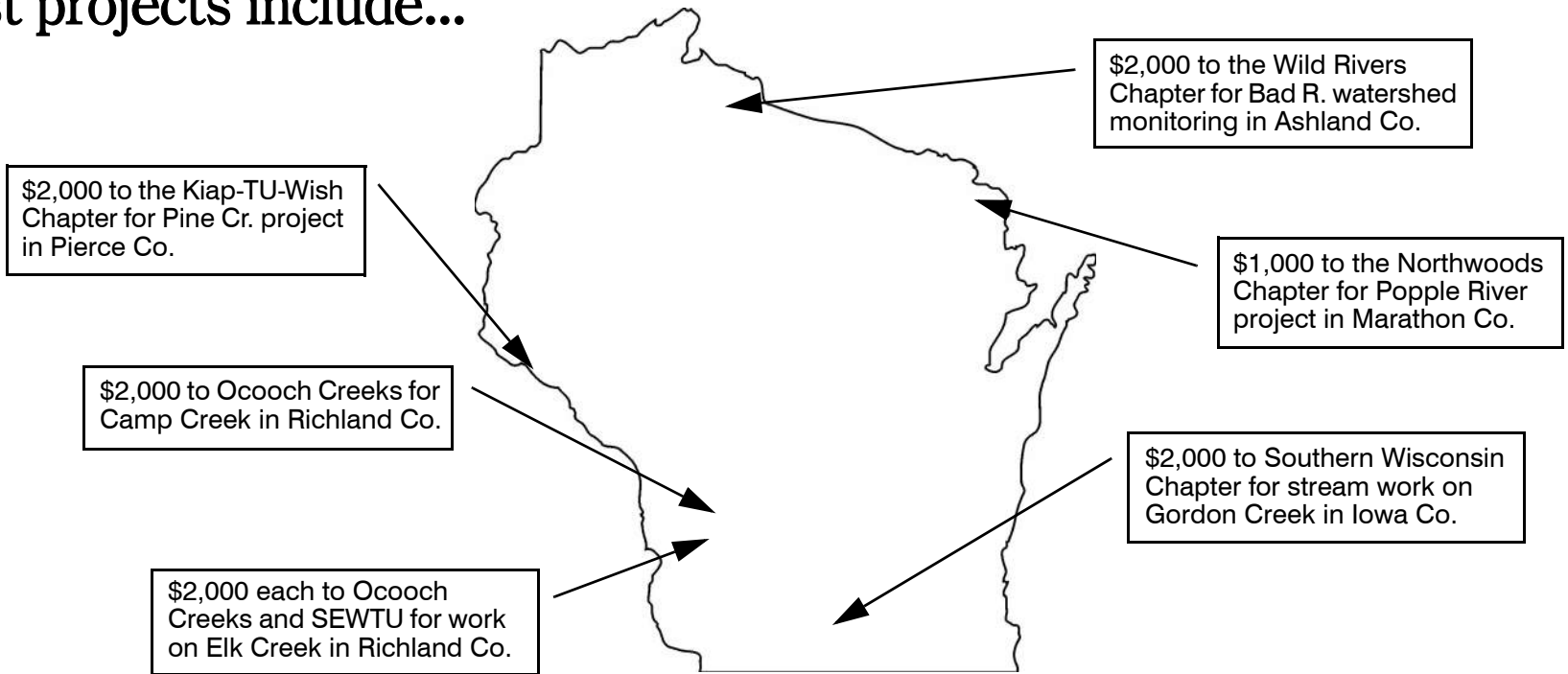
gram has generated:

- 117 private donations,
- 6 TU chapter donations, and
- \$13,468.61 in total funds.

Not a bad start! And for any of you who have thoughts of donating or haven't quite gotten around to it, the Friends program is always willing to accept money. This year, with a \$100 donation you get a Blue Sky furled leader in either light (3-5 wt.) or medium (6-8 wt.). Any donation amount is accepted, and the money goes right back into YOUR streams. Thank you all again.



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



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