



Wisconsin Trout

October 2010



Vetrano and Hewitt thanked for service

By Todd Hanson

The highlight of the Oct. 9 WITU State Council meeting was not the business side of the day, but a post-meeting dinner honoring Dave Vetrano and Laura Hewitt.

Both Vetrano and Hewitt announced they were moving on to new pursuits in the weeks leading up to the meeting, so a dinner in their honor was arranged at the Viroqua

Hills Golf Course that was attended by most council representatives.

Vetrano was with the WDNR for over 30 years, retiring as the Fisheries Team Supervisor in the La Crosse office.

Hewitt worked for TU National for over 13 years, most recently as Midwest Conservation Director, a position she started in 2000.

Continued on p. 5

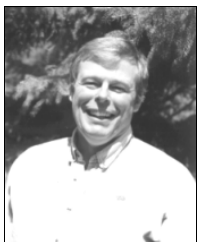
WE'LL MISS THOSE BIG SMILES

Retiring WDNR La Crosse Fisheries Team Supervisor Dave Vetrano holds an award given him by the WITU State Council Oct. 9 in Viroqua. The award features a mini-lunker structure milled out of solid metal by Kiap-TU-Wish member Randy Arnold. Former TU Midwest Conservation Director Laura Hewitt holds a plaque expressing TU's thanks for her 13+ years of service to the Kickapoo River Valley Project, TUDARE, and other efforts.

Welter accepts consultant post with TUDARE program

By Todd Hanson

John "Duke" Welter has resigned his post as chair of TU's National Leadership Council (NLC) to accept a part-time consultant position with TU's Driftless Area Restoration Effort program (TUDARE).



John Welter

Welter has chaired the NLC the past three years. He has also resigned from the TU National Board of Trustees. A familiar Wisconsinite will continue to head TU's Board of Trustees as former Wisconsin State Council Chair Jon Christianson of Mequon was elected to fill that spot during TU's annual meeting in September.

The leadership of the NLC is now in the hands of Larry Harris of West Virginia, while Tom Anacker of Montana begins his term as secretary.

Welter says he is encouraged about taking TUDARE to another level. "We set goals for TUDARE that have been so successful that it's time to set new goals," he said.

Welter plans to do more outreach to groups involved with economic development, tourism, and business.

According to TU National, "We will not be losing Duke's dedication to TU and our members. Instead, Duke will be working to further advance TU efforts by serving as a hired communications consultant focusing on our programs in the Midwest, particularly in the Driftless area."



A Publication of the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of Trout Unlimited
APRIL, 2010 VOLUME 3, ISSUE 8

APRIL MEETING INFORMATION

BY GREG DIETL

Fly Tying Meeting!

Thanks to Jonathan Jacob's perennial organization and recruitment efforts, we once again will be treated to the Annual Dry Fly Dick Frantes Fly Tying Event at the April membership meeting.

The meeting always draws a crowd so get there early for dinner. Please see Jon's enticement inside. The drawing for the fly box will also be held at the meeting. The date is Wednesday, April 7, 6 PM dinner, 7 PM for meeting and tying, Bob Smith's Sports Club, downtown Hudson. Please join us!

**Bob Smith's Sports Club, downtown Hudson,
Wednesday April 7th, 6 PM for dinner, 7 PM for
meeting and presentation.**



Tying a Woolly Bugger
by Scott Hanson

KIAP-TU-WISH CHAPTER



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

MEETING INFORMATION	1
PRESIDENT'S LINES	2
SCOTT'S SCOOP	3
MORE MEETING INFO	4
WINTER STONEFLIES	5
RUSH RIVER CLEAN UP	6
ST. CROIX BASIN	6
THE GREAT POOL	7

Check out all the good things inside this issue of RipRap!

Kiap-TU-Wish newsletter named best in the country

The Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter's *RipRap* newsletter edited by Scott Hanson was given TU National's Bollinger Award as the best chapter newsletter in the U.S. at TU's annual meeting in Waterville Valley, NH.

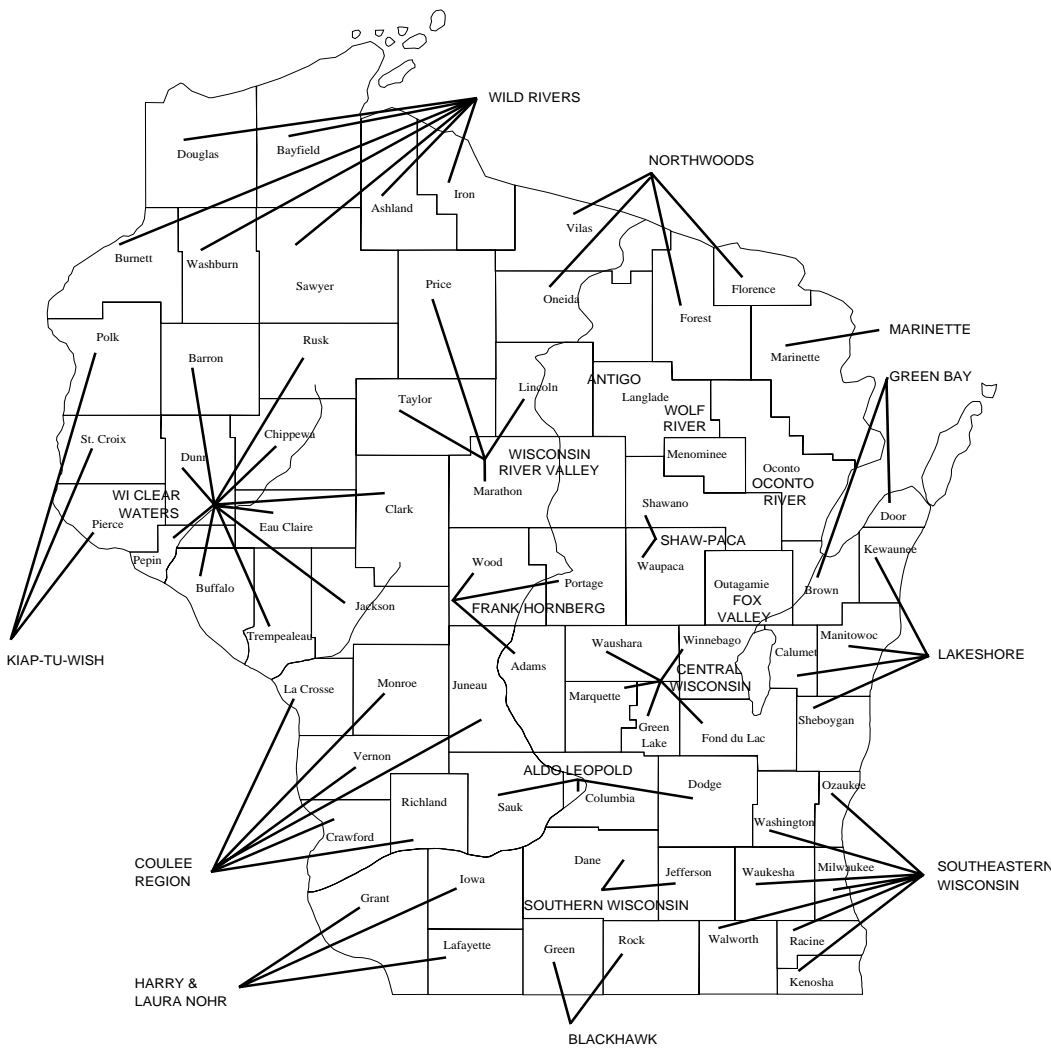
"*RipRap* is, simply put, a wealth of information," said TU's awards committee. "Any and all pertinent membership information is displayed on the front page including project work times, calls to action, chapter meetings, the President's Lines, board member information, etc. Topics are ordered and neatly titled for ease of navigation. Articles relate to a wide array of topics, including local fishing, poignant member stories, where to fish throughout the state, fly tying, and, of course, ecological concerns. These stories are not only a pleasure to read, but they are also edifying and truly capture the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter members' interest from issue to issue."

Congratulations to Scott and the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter! You can download back issues of *Rip-Rap* at <http://www.kiaptuwish.org/rip-rap-newletter>.

In this issue...

- State Council discusses regulation changes p. 3
- Member offers ideas on NE Wis. regulations p. 4
- First women's fly fishing school a success p. 6
- North Br. of Beaver Cr. gets a new culvert p. 7
- Council banquet celebrates WITU's 40th year p. 8
- Fly tying tip: overcompensate to correct p. 19

Wisconsin TU Chapters, Presidents, and Websites



Visit WITU online at:
www.WisconsinTU.org

- Aldo Leopold (#375):** Mike Barniskis, 805 S. Center St., Beaver Dam, WI 53916 (920) 356-0081; barniskis@yahoo.com
- Antigo (#313):** Scott Henricks, 213 Mary St., Antigo, WI 54409-2536 (715) 623-3867; henricks51@frontier.com
- Blackhawk (#390):** Bill Hoesly, 5688 West River Oaks Rd., Janesville, WI 53545 (608) 754 1420, bhoesly@charter.net; www.BlackhawkTU.org
- Central Wisconsin (#117):** John Tucker, PO Box 20, Saxeville, WI 54976 (920) 622-5401; jtucker1@new.rr.com; www.cwtu.org
- Coulee Region (#278):** Eric Rauch, 8088rauch@charter.net, www.CouleeRegionTU.org
- Fox Valley (#193):** Mark Peerenboom, 1509 S. Outagamie St., Appleton, WI 54914 (920) 738-0228; markp@new.rr.com; www.FoxValleyTU.org
- Frank Hornberg (#624):** Wyatt Bohm, 4367 Kubisiak Dr., Amherst, WI 54406 (715) 340-2977; wyattbohm@yahoo.com www.HornbergTU.org
- Green Bay (#083):** Paul Kruse, 500 Saint Jude St., Green Bay, WI 54303 (920) 494-4220; PaulKruse@tds.net; www.GreenBayTU.com
- Harry & Laura Nohr (#257):** Pete Esser, 1245 Westhill Ave., Platteville, WI 53818 (608) 348-9074; pesser@centurytel.net; www.NohrTU.org
- Kip-TU-Wish (#168):** Kyle Amundson; 249 Red Pine Circle, Hudson, WI 54016 (715) 549-5326; kdamundson@gmail.com; www.kiaptuwish.org
- Lakeshore (#423):** Wayne Trupke, 10723 English Lake Rd., Manitowoc, WI 54220 (920) 758-2357; wtrupke@lakefield.net; www.WisconsinTU.org/Lakeshore
- Marinette (#422):** Steve Wilke, 2526 Shore Dr., Marinette, WI 54143 (715) 732-4911 (H) (715) 923-0650 (C); swilke@new.rr.com
- Northwoods (#256):** Brian Hegge, 2898 Oak Ridge Circle, Rhineland, WI 54501 (715) 482-2898; lostskier@charter.net
- Oconto River (#385):** Bob Obma, 12870 West Shore Dr., Mountain, WI 54149 (715) 276-1170; bobobma@hotmail.com; www.WisconsinTU.org/OcontoRiver
- Shaw-Paca (#381):** Dave Ehrenberg, 324 East Fourth St., Manawa, WI 54949 (920) 596-3089; dehrenberg1@hotmail.com; www.WisconsinTU.org/ShawPaca
- Southeastern Wisconsin (#078):** Henry Koltz, 2300 North Mayfair Road, Suite 1175, Milwaukee, WI 53226 (414) 258-4300; hek@sdelaw.com; www.SEWTU.org
- Southern Wisconsin (#061):** Frank Kosmach, 1143 Bluebird Trail, Waunakee, WI 53597 (608) 849-8907 (H) (608) 410-8033 (W); kosmach@chorus.net; www.swtu.org
- Wild Rivers (#415):** Chuck Campbell, 30 E. 4th St., Washburn, WI 54891 (715) 373-0671; souper@ncis.net
- Wisconsin Clear Waters (#255):** Tim Meyer, PO Box 822, Eau Claire, WI 54702-0822 (715) 579-6795; apacheroad@charter.net; www.WisconsinTU.org/ClearWaters
- Wisconsin River Valley (#395):** John Meachen, 1111 Marquardt Rd., Wausau, WI 54403 (715) 675-4920, pastorjohn@gswausau.org; www.wrvtu.org
- Wolf River (#050):** Andy Killoren, N1493 Hwy. 45, Fremont, WI 54940; akilloren@centurytel.net.

Wisconsin TU State Council Leadership

- State Chair:** Kim McCarthy, 736 Meadowbrook Ct., Green Bay, WI 54313 (920) 434-3659 KMcCarthy2@new.rr.com
- Vice Chair:** John Meachen, 1111 Marquardt Rd., Wausau, WI 54403 (715) 675-4920 (H); pastorjohn@gswausau.org
- Secretary:** Todd Hanson, 4514 Elgar Ln., Madison, WI 53704 (608) 698-3867 (H); twhanson@sbcglobal.net
- Treasurer:** Gary Stoychoff, 1326 14th Ave., Green Bay, WI 54304 garystoychoff@att.net
- Past State Chair:** Bill Heart, 29450 Verners Rd., Ashland, WI 54806 (715) 682-4703 (H), (715) 209-0431 (C); wwheart@centurytel.net
- Vice Chair, Central Region:** Bob Haase, W7949 Treptow Ln., Eldorado, WI 54932 (920) 922-8003 (H); flytier@milwpc.com
- Vice Chair, Northeast Region:** Paul Kruse, 500 Saint Jude St., Green Bay, WI 54303 (920) 494-4220 (H); paulkruse@tds.net
- Vice Chair, Southern Region:** Henry Koltz, 18225 Hoffman Ave., Brookfield, WI 53045 (414) 331-5679 (C); hek@sdelaw.com
- Vice Chair, Western Region:** open
- Awards:** Todd Hanson (see above)
- Education:** Bob Haase (see above)

- Friends of WITU and Watershed Access Fund:** Doug Brown, R4800 Timber Ln., Ringle, WI 54471 (715) 574-4706; Decbrown@yahoo.com
- Legal Counsel:** Winston Ostrow, 335 Traders Point Ln., Green Bay, WI 54302 (920) 432-9300 (W); waostrow@gkllaw.com
- Legislative Committee:** Jeff Smith, 7330 Old Sauk Rd., Madison, WI 53717 (608) 836-5974 (H); riversmith@charter.net
- Membership:** John T. "Jack" Bode, W312 N6434 Beaver Lake Rd., Hartland, WI 53029 (262) 367-5300 (H); (262) 951-7136 (W); jbode@gkllaw.com
- National Leadership Council Representative:** Bill Heart (see above)
- National Trustee:** John Welter, 2211 Frona Pl., Eau Claire, WI 54701 (715) 831-9565 (W); (715) 833-7028 (H); jwelter@ameritech.net
- Publications:** Todd Hanson (see above)
- Resource Management:** John Meachen, (see above)
- Water Resources:** Bob Obma, 12870 West Shore Drive, Mountain, WI 54149 (715) 276-1170 (H) bobobma@hotmail.com
- Webmaster:** Jim Hlaban, webmaster@WisconsinTU.org

Contact TU National when you change addresses or chapter leaders

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

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

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Todd Hanson, editor
 4514 Elgar Ln.
 Madison, WI 53704
 (608) 698-3867
 twhanson@sbcglobal.net

Kim McCarthy, Chair
 736 Meadowbrook Ct.
 Green Bay, WI 54313

John Meachen, Vice Chair
 1111 Marquardt Rd.
 Wausau, WI 54403

Todd Hanson, Secretary
 4514 Elgar Ln.
 Madison, WI 53704

Gary Stoychoff, Treasurer
 1326 14th Ave.
 Green Bay, WI 54304

A western fishing trip reminds me of Wisconsin

By Kim McCarthy

WITU State Council Chair

During August I was lucky to be able to cross another fishing destination off of my to-do list. For many years I have heard about the great

back. I opted for letting the horses do much of the work.

What makes the Winds different from many trout fishing destinations is that most of the good fishing takes place in high-elevation lakes that are either close to or just above tim-

berline. There are as many as 2,000 lakes in the Wind River Range, with roughly 60-80% supporting fish. All trout species are present. Golden trout are located in about 30 of the lakes and get much of the publicity,

but they are deep in August, so the decision was made to chase other species. I picked an outfitter who has been roaming the Winds for 28 years and let him pick a location that would provide good fishing. He didn't let me down. After seven hours on a horse — roughly 15 miles and 3,000 vertical feet later — we arrived at base camp from which we would spend the next week hiking to a different destination every day to fish and explore. The fish turned out to be cutthroats. All were beautiful wild fish, most in the 14-18" range. They prowled the shorelines looking for food and were anxious to eat terrestrials cast (sometimes not very accurately) in their path.

It might be a stretch to try comparing alpine lake fishing in Wyoming with spring creeks in Wisconsin, but there is one very important point to be made about both fisheries. The point is that both fisheries are the products of human efforts. Prior to the 1930s, the Winds were pretty much fishless. Then a gentleman by the name of Finis Mitchell decided money could be made in tourism if all that beautiful water had some fish. Finis began hauling trout in milk cans on horseback into the wilderness and planting them. Today descendants of those plants inhabit just about every suitable lake or pond and provide an important destination fishery.

The effort to restore Wisconsin's southwestern spring creeks has been much more expensive and has involved many more people, but the

results have been similar. A world-class fishery has been created that attracts people from a wide area who come to enjoy the tremendous fishery. Trout Unlimited has been a crucial part of the effort.

As I was fishing the Winds, a thought occurred to me that probably would have bordered on insanity 25 years ago. The thought was that the fishing in SW Wisconsin is just about as good as the fishing I was experiencing in the West. I never thought I would ever entertain that thought. The western fish might average a bit bigger, but the Wisconsin fish are certainly more numerous.

The development of our southwestern Wisconsin fishery has been a huge effort with many people involved. Two of those people are departing their positions. Dave Vetrano has used his fisheries position in the DNR La Crosse office to work tirelessly for the improvement of the fishery. Laura Hewitt has worked for Trout Unlimited to do the same. I'm sure Dave and Laura would be quick to point out that the fishery we now enjoy has come about because of the contributions of many people, and that is true. But leadership matters, and both Laura and Dave have been real leaders to keep the improvements moving along. The work to make the spring creeks even better will certainly go on, but both Dave and Laura will be missed. Both of them deserve our thanks and appreciation as they move on to new pursuits.



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.

fishing in the high country of the Bridger Wilderness in Wyoming's Wind River Mountains. Because the area is a federally designated wilderness area, the choices for visiting the area are by foot or on horse-

berline. There are as many as 2,000 lakes in the Wind River Range, with roughly 60-80% supporting fish. All trout species are present. Golden trout are located in about 30 of the lakes and get much of the publicity,

State Council reviews factors guiding reg update

By Todd Hanson

Representatives from 18 of 21 WITU chapters attended the State Council meeting at the Viroqua Hospital in Viroqua October 9.

W.D.N.R. Coldwater Fisheries Ecologist Larry Claggett was the featured guest. He gave a slide show in which he shared the type of information the W.D.N.R. now has available to it as the agency begins the two-year process of revising the state's trout regulations.

The W.D.N.R. recently entered about 10 years of stream survey results into a database. In addition to

the trout size and species data, W.D.N.R. added fields to the database to track such things as the size of the stream, its location within the state, and the regs in place on the stream.

The agency is now able to better analyze trout numbers to see if the data suggests various regulations are working as originally intended.

Claggett says D.N.R.'s timeline is to gather input on regulation changes from now until the middle of 2011. Proposed new regulations will be formulated by July 2011 in time to be considered at the 2012 Spring Hearings. New regulations wouldn't be implemented until 2013.

Claggett said the agency's trout team has never invited non-agency participation at its meetings, but it would welcome input from WITU's Resource Management Committee.

TU easement update

John "Duke" Welter and Dan Wisniewski presented the work of the ad hoc easement committee that was formed two years ago to review the state of TU's easement holdings and make suggestions for the future.

Welter said there are about 125 easements held by Wisconsin TU chapters. The committee's recommendation is that all of these easements be transferred to one entity

— the State Council — by the end of 2011 to simplify recordkeeping and help TU maintain its easement obligations to landowners.

Welter was asked if this transfer might hurt TU's easement-gathering abilities given the state organization's name will be on documents instead of a local chapter's name. Welter said that local chapters will still be the "face" of the easement in the minds of most landowners, and that chapters will still be the driving force in obtaining such easements.

Welter's committee also distributed a sample easement. Chapters

Continued on p. 9



REGULATIONS AND RESTORATION

W.D.N.R. Coldwater Fisheries Ecologist Larry Claggett (above) showed State Council meeting attendees a slide show with graphs analyzing various factors influencing trout populations. After the meeting, retiring W.D.N.R. fisheries supervisor Dave Vetrano (sixth from right) gave an on-stream tour of recent habitat work on Timber Coulee Creek at the mouth of Spring Creek involving major bank sloping.



Some ideas for changing NE Wisconsin trout regulations

By Mitch Bent

I read with interest the well-composed and thoughtful article by WITU State Council Chair Kim McCarthy (*"A regulation awakening"*) in the July issue of *Wisconsin Trout*. While I concur with most of Kim's sentiments, I'd like to offer a slightly different perspective about the regulations that apply to Northeastern Wisconsin trout waters.

Kim was correct when he wrote that emergency trout angling restrictions established by the Natural Resources Board in the late 1980s and early 1990s because of the severe drought resulted in many NE Wisconsin streams and spring ponds having some pretty decent populations of large brook trout by late 1991. As a result of a complete closure of trout angling from August 1989 through the 1990 season and a catch-and-release/artificial only season in 1991, Northeast Wisconsin DNR fishery crews found never-before-seen numbers of brookies in the 12-16 inch range during their 1991 trout surveys. When I fished during the 1991 catch-and-release season, I experienced some of the best — if not *the* best — brook trout fishing of my entire life.

Kim also was right when he said that the size structures of brookies in most NE Wisconsin waters "quickly returned to the previous small size structure when the *old regulations* [my emphasis] returned following the closure...." He used the discouraging trout population data gleaned from recent trout surveys on the upper reaches of the South Branch of the Oconto River — long considered the premier trout stream in Northeastern Wisconsin — to buttress his claim.

While it's true that brook trout size structures in 1992 reverted back to those found prior to the emergency restrictions from late 1989 through 1991, i.e., there were fewer larger-sized fish, the trout fishing regulations in NE Wisconsin in 1992 were not the "old regulations" of 10 trout/day and a six-inch minimum size limit. Rather, the 1992 trout fishing regulations were the *new five-category system* approved in 1989.

The angling rules on the South Branch Oconto from 1992 on included:

- two **category 2** (five trout/day, seven-inch size limit) segments, one from the Hwy. 32 bridge down to its confluence with the North Branch Oconto, and the other from the Cty. AA bridge up to the eastern Menominee Reservation boundary with Oconto Cty.;

- one **category 4** (three trout/day, eight-inch size limit on brooks, 12 inches on browns and rainbows) segment from the northern Reservation/Oconto Cty. border up to the headwaters; and
- one **category 5** "Special Regulations" section in Oconto Cty. from Cty. AA down to the Hwy. 32 bridge (then, three trout/day creel limit and 13-inch minimum size limit; now, one trout/day, 12-inch limit on brooks and 18 on browns; both with artificial-only requirements).

In short, once trout angling resumed in 1992, the rules governing it were much more restrictive in most cases than they'd been prior to the late 1989 closure. Yet, sadly, the number of larger-sized brookies in our NE Wisconsin trout waters declined substantially, even though the legal daily creel limits had been reduced by 50-70 percent in most of those waters from past seasons.

Since the implementation of the

past winter and said that, in his opinion, our trout regulations "protect the 'dinks' and put the harvest pressure on the smaller numbers of larger-sized fish...." I agree with that statement.

Prior to the use of the existing category system for trout angling rules, we had a 10 trout/day, six-inch size limit rule on nearly all of northern Wisconsin trout waters. That regulation allowed harvest on a sizeable range of the existing trout population pyramid in all waters. It was not uncommon for anglers back then to bring in full or partial limits of six and seven-inch brook trout. The overall population may have been "thinned out" more so than they are now, but the remaining trout had more elbow room ("fin room," if you prefer) and more of a food base for individuals to grow larger.

Now, legal trout harvest on NE Wisconsin waters has been shifted onto a much smaller portion of the

"I think it would be wise to look at the trout fishing regulations from a different angle. I'd say it's time to protect the larger ones from harvest and allow some of the smaller ones to be creeled instead. To use an old axiom of gardening, "Ya gotta thin the carrot patch in order to get bigger carrots."

category system for trout angling in Wisconsin (four categories now instead of the original five), I have experienced a distinct change in the composition of my brook trout catches, particularly in the upper stretches of the South Branch of the Oconto, where, as Kim noted ruefully, DNR population surveys show few brook trout over eight inches (the minimum legal size limit for brookies in the stretch above the Reservation). Whereas prior to the implementation of the category system I would catch and release a few brookies 8-10 inches long in the upper South Branch just about every time I fished it, now I'm lucky if I catch three or four brookies of that size in that stretch in an *entire season!*

Ironically, I also note that nearly every time I fish the upper South Branch Oconto, I catch oodles of small brook trout in a couple of two hours of fishing. And I experience similar results when fishing trout streams near my home in Antigo, i.e., lots of little trout and very few larger-sized ones. Angling acquaintances of mine from the area have related having similar experiences ever since the category system was put into place for trout fishing in Northeastern Wisconsin.

Thus, I've come to the conclusion over the last several years that perhaps some of the current trout angling regulations — established with the best of intentions, mind you — have backfired a bit. A retired DNR fisheries supervisor from northern Wisconsin wrote to me this

normal population pyramid. In category 3, 4, and 5 waters, the smaller numbers of larger-sized brook trout — which are the spawners for future generations of brookies — bear the entire brunt of the legal harvest. The result is that many category 3, 4, and 5 waters have huge numbers of smaller-sized brookies and very few of the more desirable larger-sized brookies, which is the exact opposite of what was thought would be achieved with the category system.

I encountered such a situation recently when I assisted the local DNR fisheries crew with some trout population surveys on a category 5 section of a well-known brook trout river north of Antigo. The category 5 rule there calls for a two trout/day creel limit, a 12-inch minimum size limit, and use of artificial lures and

1. Establish a *maximum* size limit rather than a *minimum* size limit for brook trout in waters where harvest is allowed (with perhaps only one brookie above said maximum size limit allowed in the daily creel).

2. Eliminate minimum size limits so that anglers may harvest some of the much-more-numerous smaller-sized brook trout, thus creating more space and food supply for the remaining brookies.

This type of regulation already has been applied to some Wisconsin trout waters, including the Clam River system in Burnett and Polk counties and several Vernon County trout streams.

As it stands right now, from my perspective, we have implemented regulations on some of the better Northern Wisconsin trout waters that protect the larger numbers of smaller trout to the detriment of the bigger, genetically stronger individuals in the populations. In basketball terms, we've eliminated the power forwards and centers from the squad and are playing the scrawny second-string guards. And we wonder why we can't get a rebound!

My suggestions here should not be interpreted as advocating a return the old 10 trout/day creel limit. The brook trout resource cannot stand that level of exploitation. We need some category 5 regulations to protect and enhance numbers of larger brook trout. And our general regulation (perhaps a melding of the category 2, 3, and 4 regulations into a single regulation) should also have as its goal the enhancement of larger-sized brookies by limiting the number of fish within the legal daily creel limit that may be over a certain size.

I think it would be wise to look at the trout fishing regulations from a different angle. I'd say it's time to protect the larger ones from harvest and allow some of the smaller ones to be creeled instead. To use an old axiom of gardening, "Ya gotta thin the carrot patch in order to get bigger carrots."

(Mitch Bent is a longtime member of Trout Unlimited. He was State Council Chair from 1984-86 and served as Wisconsin Trout editor from 1989-99. -Ed.)



Liked seeing first WITU sign-up sheet

Editor,

I just came back from a four-week road trip to find my most recent edition of the state TU newspaper.

It was great fun to see the article commenting on the first meeting of the State Council. I do remember many of the names on that sign-up sheet, most notably Dennis Bryan and Doug Hart.

Doug, of course, was a member of the first two Green Bay Packer NFL championship teams. I ran into him about a year ago down in Ft. Myers, Florida. He still looks like he could play ball. He had been doing some guiding for inshore fly fishing

down there, but when I talked to him recently he had moved up to the Twin Cities.

Dennis Bryan was a professor at UW-GB and a dedicated TU member.

Another member of that old Green Bay Chapter was Gary Stoychoff, who I see is still very active in TU affairs.

Nice job on the paper. I've just recently gotten back into TU and will be doing some trout fishing, so will continue to look forward to future editions.

Larry Swanlund
Hartford, WI



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DINNER: Vetrano and Hewitt celebrated at Viroqua event

Continued from p. 1

Vetrano: lunkers and wild trout

Vetrano told attendees he will likely be remembered for two things from his days working with trout at the WDNR.

First, he invented the LUNKER structure. Though we usually skip the capital letters in *Wisconsin Trout*, LUNKER is an acronym for Little Underwater Neighborhood Keepers Encompassing Rheotactic Salmonids. Thousands of lunkers have been installed in Wisconsin and other states.

Secondly, Vetrano was an early advocate of raising trout from freshly shocked wild fish rather than from brood stock held from year-to-year at hatcheries.

Hewitt: a wealth of experience

Hewitt began her TU career as manager of the Kickapoo Watershed Conservation Project in 1996. The Kickapoo project was a precursor to today's TUDARE program.

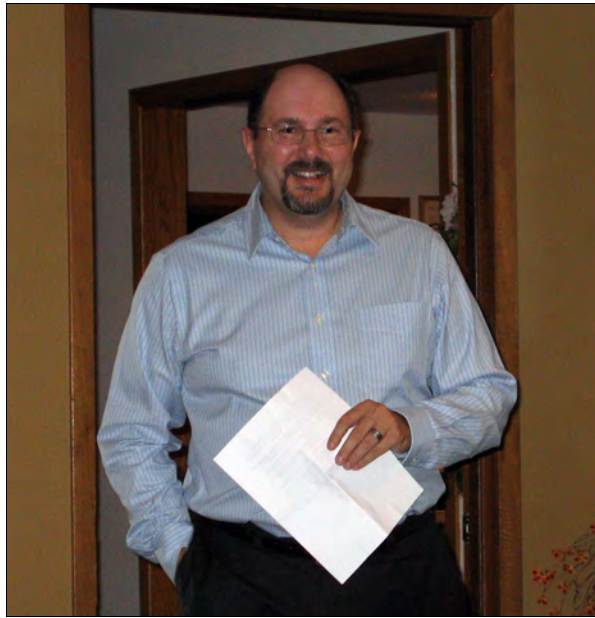
TUDARE Director Jeff Hastings praised Hewitt for writing many of the successful grants that have fueled the TUDARE program and made it the success it is.

Before joining TU, Hewitt served in the Peace Corps in the Dominican Republic and worked for the Nature Conservancy in Wisconsin.

Thank-yous and zingers

Various TU members stepped up to offer their remembrances of the two honorees. Most of those who spoke offered heart-felt appreciation, but there was some good-natured roasting, too. Some of the biggest laughs came from Vetrano and Hewitt themselves.

We wish both of these champions of trout the best in the future.



APPRECIATIVE TU FOLKS THANK DAVE VETRANO AND LAURA HEWITT FOR THEIR YEARS OF SERVICE

Many people stepped up to say thanks and wish Dave Vetrano and Laura Hewitt good luck in their future endeavors at a special dinner in Viroqua Oct. 9. Sharing their wit and wisdom were (top to bottom, l to r) Cy Post, Dave Patrick,

Rich Vetrano, Bill Heart, Steve Born, Jeff Hasting, and Dan Wisniewski. After the speeches, the night's honorees each received recognition plaques from State Council Chair Kim McCarthy.

First annual women's fly fishing event spends weekend teaching new skills

By Sue Fey

I pulled into the lush green campground on the West Fork of the Kickapoo River in Avalanche on Friday afternoon and nosed my Forester under the welcome shade of a tall maple.

The campground resembled a Subaru dealership, with a handful of domestic pick-up trucks



for balance and a pair of well-appointed Class B motor homes for inspiration. Well-pitched tents ringed the fire pit, creating a festive splash of color against the freshly mown lawn. Camp chairs had been deployed and coolers strategically positioned. Small clusters of women were toasting their temporary homesteads and the adventures ahead.

I tracked down the event organizers at the West Fork Sportsman's Club to put the finishing touches on a jam-packed 48 hours of fly fishing instruction, practice, and fun.

Three veteran organizers from teamed up to create this event to introduce women to the sport of fly fishing in a unique and supportive environment. They were Barb Cary of WI Women Fish and Tina Murray and Laura McFarland of the Southern WI Chapter of TU.

They organizers netted veteran fly fisher extraordinaire Nikki Seger of past Icebreaker fame to handle the equipment, techniques, and practical aspects of the sport. She would be ably assisted by Donna Smith of Chicago. Mike Miller was on board to deliver his legendary "Bugs in the Stream" seminar, and Kate Songer of the WDNR



fame would assist with a stream electroshocking along the way.

Dave Fowler donated a sweet 5-weight rod of his own making as the raffle kingpin. Many others

thunderstorms rattled the coulees at night, and buffeted the tents, well-pitched or otherwise. Temperatures languished in the high 80s with the heat index hovering around 100 degrees. The

mosquitoes were enthusiastic. Still, no one complained or seemed to care. Dozens of chilled bottles of water were consumed. Unnecessary items of clothing were shed. Bandanas were soaked in the cold streams and wrapped around various body parts.

This was an intrepid, jovial community of women, engaged in trying something they had always wanted to try. I doubt that a blizzard would've sent anyone packing.

As the weekend unfolded, these 21 beginners (well, a handful had been fly fishing before) embraced the demystifying of the odd, delicate gear. Participants practiced the apparent complexity of a smooth cast and the befuddling challenge of line management in moving water. And yes, most of them actually caught a trout! It was really splendid.

It's hard to imagine it going more smoothly. It's hard to imagine it being more satisfying. It's hard to imagine that it won't become a coveted annual event. And I imagine that in coming years,

"This was an intrepid, jovial community of women, engaged in trying something they had always wanted to try. I doubt that a blizzard would've sent anyone packing."

brought fly fishing booty to sweeten the door prizes and provide giveaways. The generous members of SWTU filled 21 beginner fly boxes with well-tied local trout catchers. SWTU and WI Women Fish threw in free memberships for all of the paying participants.

The weather was pesky. Big rains swelled the West Fork to a raging, muddy torrent. Bombastic



a handful of the women who caught their first trout at this event will be standing in the stream as 'buddies' for the newbies who will continue to sign up. Bravo to all who had the vision and the energy to get this magical class off the ground!

(Sue Fey is a former president of the Southern Wisconsin Chapter. -Ed.)

North Br. Beaver Creek gets a fish-friendly culvert

By Jim Bereza

Sometimes all you have to do is ask. That's what Robert Holley, a landowner on 21st Road who has worked with the WDNR before, did when he heard at a Town of Beaver board meeting last year that 21st Road was going to be paved.

As part of the project, the culvert on the North Branch of Beaver Creek would be replaced. Robert encouraged the town board to ask the WDNR for help with the culvert replacement.

In November 2009, Robert Patz, road supervisor for the Town of Beaver, contacted Al Stranz of the WDNR to ask about replacing the culvert. Stranz said that the 6' diameter culvert being planned was too small for the stream and that the town should consider putting in a larger structure.

Patz replied that the town did not have enough money for a larger culvert. Stranz then contacted Mike Donofrio, WDNR fisheries manager in the Peshtigo office, to see if fisheries and Trout Unlimited could help out.

Donofrio contacted the Green Bay and Marinette County chapters in April and May of 2010. He also contacted the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Green Bay and Marinette TU each pledged \$5,000 for the culvert, and the USFWS pledged another \$10,000. The WDNR found

another \$20,000 from the trout stamp fund. With the town's budgeted \$20,000, enough money was committed to get the project moving.

In September 2010, the 60-plus-year-old culvert was replaced with a bottomless arch aluminum culvert. It was installed at a height of 5' and is 20' wide. Within the span of five working days, the contractor had the stream diverted, the old culvert removed, the new one installed, and the diversion culverts removed.

Beaver Creek's old 6' diameter culvert was undersized and perched. Over the years, spring run-off would fill the upstream side and nearly wash over the road. The contractor, Dan Risner and Sons Excavating, found that there was at least an 18" difference between the upstream and the downstream sides of Beaver Creek at the culvert. There was also a plunge pool downstream of the culvert, locally referred to as Holley's Hole.

Various measurements by the WDNR's Al Stranz and Bobbi Jo Fischer at several locations upstream and downstream of the crossing helped determine the correct size and placement of the new culvert.

The new culvert will provide reduced water velocity and a natural bottom, both of which will contribute to safe fish passage.

The North Branch of the Beaver Creek in Marinette County was

identified as a top quality trout stream over 40 years ago by the WDNR. The active management plan for the stream includes buying property when it becomes available and in-stream improvements which the Green Bay and Marinette County chapters have helped with. The stream is largely spring fed and re-

mains cold through the heat of summer.

If you want to check out the new culvert, 21st Road is about one mile west of US Hwy. 141 on Cty. P.

(Jim Bereza was the Marinette County Chapter's first president. He is a past State Council Gold Trout and Gold Net award winner. -Ed.)



Seely CAFO story wins award

Ron Seely of the *Wisconsin State Journal* won an award on August 10 for his series this past year on CAFOs in Wisconsin entitled "Who's Watching the Farm."

The story won third place honors in the 2009-10 Society of Environmental Journalists' Kevin Carmody Award for outstanding investigative reporting in print.

All of the installments in Seely's report were reprinted in *Wisconsin Trout* and can be viewed by downloading back issues of at www.wisconsinTU.org.

"This series bravely took on the big factory farm lobby, exposing

weaknesses in government regulation and enforcement that are putting important water resources — and the citizens who rely upon them — at risk," said the judges.

"*Who's Watching the Farm* is an example of journalistic excellence, making an important contribution to the public debate just as the Department of Natural Resources is considering a further weakening of scrutiny of factory farms," said the SEJ.

SEJ's journalism contest is the world's largest and most comprehensive awards for journalism on environmental topics.

All boats must operate at slow-no-wake within 100' of shore

A new boating rule in Wisconsin is designed to make lakes safer while protecting shorelines and improving water quality.

Boaters are prohibited from operating their boats at speeds greater than slow-no-wake within 100 feet of lake shorelines.

The law applies to all lakes, including the lake flowages.

"The law will make it safer for people wading, swimming or fishing near shore, and it should help reduce conflicts between near-shore recreationists and boaters," said Scott Bowe, a WDNR conservation warden in Chippewa County.

Moreover, boats operating in shallow waters often churn up sediment and chop up vegetation, decreasing water quality, and potentially spreading invasive aquatic species.



OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW

Problems with perched culverts have come up many times over the years. A fine example of how people and government agencies can work together to remedy this situation occurred recently on the North Br. of Beaver Creek in Marinette County. An old 6-foot culvert (top) was removed (middle) and a wide, arched culvert installed (bottom).

Where We've Been and Where We're Going

2011 TU All-State Annual Banquet Celebrating Wisconsin Trout Unlimited's 40th Year!

Featured guest speaker Chris Wood, Trout Unlimited's new national Chief Operating Officer.

**FEBRUARY 4TH 5TH & 6TH
HOLIDAY INN CONVENTION CENTER, STEVENS POINT, WI
1001 AMBER AVENUE, STEVENS POINT, WI, 54481**

We've incorporated lots of new things into the 2011 Banquet. Here are just a few:

- Friday night hospitality room party, featuring brewery representatives (and beer) from around Steven's Point
- Displays from Wisconsin's Trout Unlimited Chapters, showing their history, projects, and activities!
- Cocktail hour with live music on Saturday, before the Banquet!
- Presentations throughout Saturday, February 5th by:
 - Simms wader company, from Bozeman, MT (concerning the elimination of felt souled wading boots)
 - Sage rod company, from Washington State (concerning fly rod and line maintenance and other topics)
 - Becoming An Outdoors Woman
 - Boy Scout Fly Fishing Program
- Great prizes from Orvis, Cabela's, Sage, Gander Mountain, and more!

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!

Just \$35 per ticket, which includes raffle tickets for use at the event. For tickets or more info, contact Henry E. Koltz, c/o 2300 North Mayfair Road, Suite 1175, Milwaukee, WI 53226 hek@sdelaw.com, 414-331-5679.

Early bird bonus (10 extra raffle tickets if checks received by Dec. 15, 2011)

There is no better way to appreciate the incredible amount of volunteer effort put forth by Wisconsin TU and its members than to attend our annual All-State Banquet. You don't want to miss this one!



Trout Stamp Bill Horthy of TU Support
Jon Wilcox, Republican state representative from Waubesa, reported on Jan. 23 that he will introduce a Trout Stamp Bill within the next few days. The bill Wilcox proposes would require an extra fee of \$1.00 for a stamp for any fisherman over 16 years of age going after trout. Proceeds from the stamps, to be used to improve trout habitat here in Wisconsin. The bill would stipulate that the new stamp income supplement rather than that spending (about \$175,000) that would be used for put-and-take stockings. TU's worked hard to support passage of a Trout Stamp Bill which failed last year. Last April the Quarterly



STEVENS POINT.—The University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point's College of Natural Resources has chosen Trout Unlimited as an "outstanding environmental organization". Arling Erickson, Toy Egppi, an officer of the state chapter, accepted the award at a recent UW-SP natural resource recognition dinner.



Gov. Andrew Earl signed a proclamation for 37. The designation was in honor of the 25th anniversary of Trout Unlimited Week, June 11 through June 15, 2011.



CONGRATULATIONS IN PORTLAND
Larry Meicher (center) Wisconsin Chapter member and State Council officerholder Steve Born and TU Director of Volunteer Operations Sara Johnson at the TU conference in Portland, OR.



MEETING: State Council focuses on regulations and easements

Continued from p. 3

are being asked to review this easement and get back to Chair Kim McCarthy with any questions.

The new easement is flexible and can be varied to account for easement width, equipment access, and fisherman access. The recommended easement period is perpetual.

River Alliance invasives signs

Laura McFarland of the River Alliance of Wisconsin also addressed the council.

She brought some samples of some signs that TU members could purchase at \$6 each and post at fishing access spots. The signs alert anglers to some invasive species that can be carried from river to river on waders and other fishing equipment.

Chapter financial reporting

Chapters were reminded that their annual financial reports are a TU National requirement. These reports can be done on-line at TU National's website by chapter treasurers.

Reports are due November 15. It is important to complete all reports by this date because doing so triggers the TU National rebate back to the State Council. Even one chapter missing the deadline adversely impacts this rebate amount.

Another chapter responsibility is filling out an IRS Form 990. There will be a TU on-line training seminar on this topic soon.

Election-year concerns

Kim McCarthy and others discussed lobbying and election-related requirements that apply to nonprofit organizations. Chapters are not allowed to endorse candidates. Chapters can contact Kim to get de-

tails on other nonprofit advocacy guidelines.

Kim also reminded chapters that they are forbidden from awarding "scholarships," so some other form of financial support should be used if your chapter wants to support individuals.

Possible amicus brief

Henry Koltz reported on a Waukesha County court case that deals with the WDNR's authority to review mid-capacity wells.

A court of appeals decision held that the WDNR can intercede in such wells whenever it sees a public trust problem. The Village of East Troy has appealed this to the WI Supreme Court.

Steve Born gave some background on the court decisions regarding high-capacity wells.

Henry Koltz moved, and Duke Welter seconded, to have WITU submit an amicus brief in support of the lower court decision if this goes to the high court. The motion passed.

TU National meeting report

Duke Welter reported on events at last month's TU National annual meeting. *(See the separate story on p. 1 relating to Welter assuming a position with the TUDARE program.)*

Welter said TU's conservation agenda has about 15 items and has been posted on the web.

Former US Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck, who is now a professor at UW-Stevens Point, will serve a two-year term on TU's Board of Trustees.

Another Wisconsinite, former WITU State Council Chair Jon Christianson, was elected Chair of TU's Board of Trustees.

Wisconsin's National Leadership Council (NLC) representative Bill Heart updated attendees on his work with TU National's Great Lakes Work Group.

Heart said this work group has discussed the Asian carp situation and the coaster brook trout restoration plan. Bill hopes to work with resource professionals in the Midwest to help implement the coaster plan.

Wisconsin to host a national meeting?

Bill Heart asked council representatives what they thought about hosting a TU National meeting in the near future. Wisconsin last hosted a national meeting in Oshkosh over 20 years ago.

Heart outlined which annual meeting duties would need to be organized by Wisconsin members.

Attendees were supportive of the idea, thinking it would be a great way to draw attention to the work being done as part of the big TUDARE program.

Madison and Spring Green were suggested as possible locations that are close to the Driftless Area. Kim McCarthy took the names of a half dozen members who will pursue the idea of hosting such a meeting.

TUDARE update

Jeff Hastings reported that about 10 different grants have been received by TUDARE in recent months. Money has been especially plentiful for work in Minnesota.

A McKnight Foundation grant was obtained to help pay for Duke Welter's communication services.

WITU banquet plans

Henry Koltz's banquet committee is expecting a great event. The banquet will be Feb. 5-6 at the Holi-

day Inn in Stevens Point. It will celebrate WITU's 40th anniversary.

This year there will be no side events scheduled during the time of the business meeting. The meeting will end by 2:30 p.m. so attendees can attend various informational sessions. *(See the information on the opposite page for more information about this exciting, revamped event.)*

State Council awards

Todd Hanson reported that the awards committee will be asking for nominations soon.

One new award will be going to a business that has been supportive of the State Council. The awards will also recognize the Wisconsin chapters with the highest percentage membership growth over the past year.

Legislative committee

Jeff Smith said the legislative committee met a couple weeks ago to discuss the issues it will pursue.

Groundwater protection is our key issue, and nonpoint pollution is also a concern. Targeted runoff management rules are expected to be re-written soon, and the committee will also follow this process.

Jeff also mentioned the contact he had with a group called the Bull Moose Coalition.

Members felt WITU should also remain committed to the effort to return WDNR Secretary appointment power to the Natural Resources Board.

Pepin Co. to WI Clear Waters

The State Council voted to move Pepin County from Kiap-TU-Wish to the Clear Waters Chapter upon the request of those two chapters.

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 for permanent access to this trout stream.

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
Bhatia, Ashok	Madison	Duplessie, Richard	Eau Claire
Born, Stephen	Ellsworth	Emerson, James	Glidden
Bristol, Jerry		Florine, Craig	Washburn

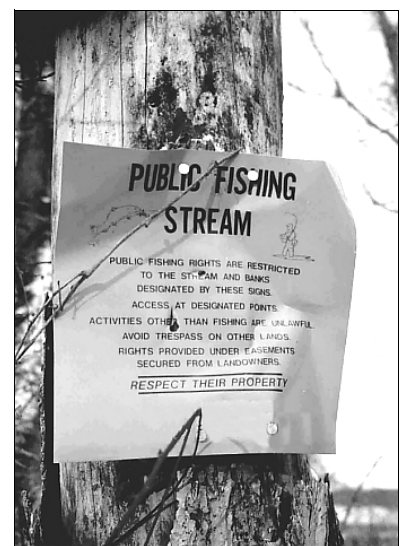
Fox, Jerome	Two Rivers	Neitzel, Richard	Tomah
Geurkink, Terry	Belleville	Novak, Gene	Random Lake
Gitter, James	Stevens Point	Oechler, Herb	Wauwatosa
Grade, Donald	Mosinee	O'Leary, John	Ringwood, IL
Granum, James	Fountain City	Pielsticker, Bill	Lodi
Green Bay TU Chapter		Presser, Dennis	Madison
Halbrehder, John	Sparta	Prine, Dick	Ashland
Harkins, Paul	Harshaw	Rake, Randal	DePere
Hawk, John	New Holstein	Robertson, Steve	Verona
Heart, Bill	Ashland	Rogers, William	Elkhart Lake
Heifner, Mark	Appleton	Ryan, Rosemary	Wauwatosa
Heil, Walter	DePere	Sandretto, Michael	Neeah
Herman, Gilbert	Stoughton	Shaw-Paca Chapter	
Hill, James	Oregon	Smith, Jeff	Madison
Hinde, David	Roscoe, IL	Southeastern WI TU Chapter	
Hoffman, Mike	Onalaska	Spittler, Mike	Minneapolis
Hyer, Greg	Cross Plains	Stuedel, Charles	Mineral Point
Kendall, Alden	Duluth, MN	Stockman, Wayne	Spring Valley
Kiap TU Wish TU Chapter		Swanson, Greg	Appleton
King, Gordon	Merrill	Thurber, Noah	Stratford
King, Gordon (WPS Matching Grant)		Vanden Elzen, Bill	Appleton
Koivisto, Jack	Green Bay	Van Ness, Peter	Lodi
Lindroth, Rick	Madison	Vollrath, Larry	Green Bay
Martin, Dean	Blair	Wachowski, Richard	Eau Claire
McCarthy, Kim	Green Bay	Wadsworth, Leslie	Madison
McGrath, Randy	Janesville	Welhouse, Don	Kaukauna
Mille, Mark	Milwaukee	Wiemerslage, Paul	Hudson
Morrow, Jerome	Baraboo	Wild Rivers Chapter	
		Wisconsin Clear Waters TU Chapter	

Here is my contribution of \$100 or more to the Watershed Access Fund

(Make your check payable to "Wisconsin Trout Unlimited")

MAIL TO: TU Watershed Access Fund
% Doug Brown
R4800 Timber Ln.
Ringle, WI 54471

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone _____





Chapter News



Arian Hilgenbruf

BLACKHAWK FLY CASTING INSTRUCTION

Joseph Meyer (in the water) led a fly casting session organized by the Blackhawk Chapter in June.

Aldo Leopold Chapter

Having missed the July chapter news, I missed thanking all of the people who helped make our fund-raising picnic a success. A little over \$800 was raised at the picnic. Thank you to everyone who donated prizes and time to make it successful, including Tom Gawle, Eric Lorenzen, Clint Byrnes, Russ Bouck, Todd Franklin, Michael Stupich, John

and Cody Doucette, Bill Gatzke, the Korbel Company, Cabela's, and many others.

Next year's picnic should be a good one as well, with a 4wt Sage VT2 complete with reel and line already awaiting one lucky raffle winner.

An additional \$1,000+ was raised through our spring appeal

letter, the appeal once again coordinated by Michael Stupich. Our chapter members are generous, with many new contributors joining returning donors, and we thank you all. The money raised at the picnic and through the appeal letter has been earmarked for our Bear Creek project.

Additional funds for the Bear Creek project have come from a generous \$2,000 donation from the Badger Fly Fishers. Thank you Badgers for your continued support of our chapter's projects. We were also awarded \$4,000 through the Friends of Wisconsin Trout program. Those two contributions, plus the funds raised through our picnic and appeal letter, bring the amount of money the chapter has raised for the project to a little over \$15,000. This is an excellent base from which to leverage more funding.

To that end, our Bear Creek project team has applied for funding through the USFWS NFHAP program (great work on the grant writing Tom G!). We will hear if we were successful sometime in the winter/early 2011. We have secured a commitment for 10% of total project cost from the Sauk County Land Conservation Department. A number of other funding sources are be-

ing or will be pursued as well, so we are well along our way to breaking ground in spring of 2011.

The DNR has provided us a great set of baseline data for the project, having shocked the entire one-mile section of stream we are focusing on, as well as producing IBI reports for two sections of the stream. Dan Fuller and Mike Rennie from the DNR Poynette Fisheries office did the yeoman work on this extensive survey. Many thanks to both of them. Dan will be providing day-to-day oversight and management of the stream work once it begins. Since he grew up fishing and hunting the Bear Creek valley, Dan is really excited to be working on the restoration, and we are very glad to have his assistance.

Tom and Sally Gawle have just completed their second year of water monitoring on Lodi Spring Creek, covering the Ryan pasture section. They give up one weekend morning each month for this task, showing great dedication to the resource. I want to give them a big thank-you for their efforts.

We'll begin planning our winter activities soon, with another fly tying class definitely on the agenda.

—Mike Barniskis

Antigo Chapter

Hope the summer has been good for everyone. In the NE region along with the rest of the state, we have gotten some needed rain this summer. This water will not replace the water that we have been short because of the extended drought we have experienced. But we hope that the dry spell has been broken and we can return to a more normal rainfall pattern.

We have been kept informed and working with Tanya Mevies our area DNR Fisheries Technician on the three stream improvement projects being done this summer. We had a meeting last month, and Tanya stated that work had started on the Evergreen River which is the last of the three that are being done this summer.

We are planning a meeting soon with our chapter and the DNR personnel and a local land owner to plan an improvement project on the outlet of Trout Springs downstream. This spring pond was

dredged about 10 years ago, and the downstream run of this stream contains a great area for small and growing brook trout.

In the beginning of September the Antigo Chapter stocked trout into Remington Lake on the NW side of the city of Antigo. This small lake has been made into an urban fisheries area, and is a kids' fishing spot.

Here's an idea to help your chapter raise some money. One of our board members has been busy setting up a 100-square raffle on a great Matthew's hunting bow. He's sold the 100 squares for \$10 each and will be giving away the bow on the Monday night football game between the Packers and the Bears. This is a great way to help raise some money for trout. Way to go, Ron!

Our fund-raising banquet will be on the last Sat. of March 2011. Thanks

—Scott Henricks

Blackhawk Chapter

We had a number of positive comments on our two fly casting sessions in May and June for members and others interested in fly fishing. We are looking for ideas on how this can be improved. There was a picnic for all the participants. Joseph Meyer from the One More Cast fly shop in Countryside, IL was the guest instructor in June. The membership provided the instruction at the May conclave.

Our speaker for the July meeting was Dennis Franke. His topic was the status of Black Earth Creek and Mt Vernon Creek in Dane County.

Tom Kautz brought attention to the fact that we have a brook trout stream in Rock County in the Beloit area. This was published in the Janesville Gazette. There was some discussion about enhancing this area and the possibility of easements.

Our speaker for the August meeting was Todd Hanson. Todd edits WITU's quarterly newspaper

Wisconsin Trout and has published the book *Map Guide to Improved Trout Waters of Wisconsin*. The book has colored maps showing public lands and easements. Todd explained the nuances of his book.

It has been noted that stream restoration has been at a standstill because of the rain and flooding. Some of the work on the high-gradient streams has been blown out because of the flooding.

We had considerable discussion regarding our taking on a stream restoration project of our own. Things to consider include:

- getting the DNR to do the planning,
- getting easements,
- getting permits for work, and
- obtaining a contractor.

This planning needs to start in December in order to have it in place for the spring and summer. All stream work in Wisconsin has to be completed by the end of Septem-

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Chapter News



ber in naturally reproducing trout streams.

—Arlan Hilgendorf

Central Wisconsin Chapter

CWTU and WDNR had five stream restoration workdays from May to September just south of state highway 21 on the **Mecan River**. Six lunger structures were built as well as bank covers on two bends, plus brushing and rock work.

The May workday is always a special time for us since we partner with the **Elliott Donnelley Chapter** from **Illinois**. We had 36 people working on the Mecan on May 15. **Linn Beck** is the stream workday chairperson. Other committee members are **Scott Bahn**, **Gary Herlache**, and **Chris Northway**.

On April 19, **Russ** and **Sue Bouck** hosted our **Annual Casting Clinic** at **Marble Park** in **Winneconne**. This instructional session is free to the public with training for beginners and a tune-up for the experienced. Food was prepared by **Linn Beck**, **Jerry Strom**, and **Tracy Moran**, and the program was well attended.

Dan Harmon III directed the activities of our **34th Annual Fly Fishing School** June 4-6 at **Camp LuWiSoMo**, with the help of many volunteers for instruction and on-stream guiding. Attendance was down this year, possibly due to the economy, but those who attended were committed and enthusiastic. A year-round campaign is underway to increase attendance, and the future continues to look bright for this program.

Our water monitoring teams have been renamed the **River Keepers**. Substantial start-up efforts by **John Gremmer**, **Jim Murphy**, and **Rick Fahrenkrug** have breathed new life into this program. Other committee members are **Phil Petersen**, **Bob Smaglik**, and **Mike Schaefer**. There are currently 14 active teams with 109 River Keepers doing monthly testing. Next year's target is to add six more teams.

During the summer months of June, July, and August, CWTU holds board meetings outside in a picnic environment. The June meeting was hosted by **Mike Schaefer** and **Bob Haase** at Mike's home in Oshkosh. The July meeting was hosted by **John** and **Laura Tucker** at their Pine River home. The August meeting was hosted by **Bob Smaglik** and **Gary Herlache** at Scott Park in Omro.

CWTU had substantial involvement at the **May Wisconsin Outdoor Expo**. Nearly 1,000 kids went through fly tying and casting classes. Chapter involvement included **Jerry Smet**, **Rand VanderSchaff**, **Don Price**, **Bob Haase**, **David Seligman**, **Ira Giese**, **John Tucker**, **Bob Smaglik**, and **Dick Kraus**.

Coulee Region Chapter

Our chapter's summer picnic was well-attended in August and member **Jim Cox** was the lucky raffle winner of a Simms backpack and other items donated by the **Driftless Angler Fly Shop**.

We are in conversation with the village of **Coon Valley** about helping to host a summer event called **Trout Fest**.

Members **Cy Post** and **Jeff Hastings** represented the chapter at **Youth Outdoor Fest** that helps kids learn how to fly cast.

At our June meeting the board voted unanimously to support "**America's Commitment to the Clean Water Act**."

We have now had a year's involvement with the **Project Healing Waters** program teaching fly tying and casting to patients of the **John H. Bradley VA Outpatient Clinic** in **Appleton**. The classes have been small, ranging from 3-6, but six is the most we can handle in the room provided for our use. Twice a month fly tying classes have been provided, along with some casting practice. On June 14, we took five vets on a fishing outing at **Twin Ponds Fishery**, hosted by the owner, **Tom Diny**. The PHW committee includes **John Tucker**, **John Gremmer**, **Jim Murphy**, and **Rick Fahrenkrug**.

Bob Hunt and **Alistair Stewart** have prepared a draft proposal for a **Central Sand Hills Ecoregion Restoration Initiative** modeled after the highly successful **TUDARE** project in Southwestern Wisconsin. The **Central Sand Hills** is one of 16 ecoregions identified by the WDNR in its 50-year statewide plan as containing important land and water areas most deserving of protection. Some 201 trout streams totaling 907 miles are located in the ecoregion's portions of nine counties and the entirety of **Marquette County**. Presentations of the draft proposal have been given to the CWTU board, at a stream restoration meeting in Wild Rose, and at a **State Council** meeting.

At the September board meeting, the chairs of our seven newly reorganized committees presented their annual reports and plans for the coming year. This is a major part of our plan to improve planning and documentation of the good work that we do throughout the year.

The CWTU annual **Conservation Banquet** is on Saturday, October 16, at the **WWII Memorial Hall** in **Wautoma**. The doors open at 5 p.m. with dinner at 6:15 p.m. We have many fine things for the auctions and raffles. The major raffle item is a 13-foot **Precision Search** sit-on-top kayak with paddles. Raffle tickets are \$10, and you don't have to be present to win. For more info, check our website, www.cwtu.org. You can also contact **Banquet Chair Laura Tucker** at (920) 540-5293 and ltucker1@new.rr.com or **John Tucker** at jtucker1@new.rr.com and (920) 475-2271. The Tuckers are in the process of moving to live full time at their Pine River home. Their new mailing address is PO Box 20, Saxeville, WI 54976-0020.

—John Tucker

The **Coon Creek** restoration project keeps progressing, and phase two of the project should be completed by spring 2011. Many thanks to the **DNR** crew members for their tremendous work to make this huge project a success. We are starting to gear up for our **Winter Banquet**, to be held Feb. 25, 2011.

—Curt Rees



SOUTH BRANCH WORK AND REMEMBERING RYAN

Fox Valley TU members built some new structures during a habitat day on the South Branch of the Little Wolf. Some of the workers included (top, l to r) Roger Genske, Steve Devitt (DNR), Bill Repulski, Tom Lager, and Gordy Braun. FVTU also dedicated a Leopold bench in memory of longtime member Ryan Hagen. Pictured resting on the bench are (l to r) Ryan's son-in-law and daughter, Tim and Amy Boocher, their son, Forrest, and Ryan's wife, Pat Raddatz-Hagen.

Fox Valley Chapter

The Fox Valley Chapter's activities this year have again been centered on stream work and the building and refurbishing of structures that were placed in the **South Branch of the Little Wolf R.** years ago.

We have continued the work that our chapter started in 2009. The

June, July, and September habitat days dealt with brush bundling, replacing underwater posts, and fastening underwater planking to the posts. There were several habitat days held on weekdays this summer because we had a group of young men from the **Rawhide** organization

Continued on p. 12

WITU chapter membership totals

701	Southeastern WI	173	Frank Hornberg
692	Southern WI	144	Lakeshore
353	Central WI	140	WI River Valley
328	WI Clear Waters	133	Oconto River
248	Kiap-TU-Wish	105	Harry & Laura Nohr
231	Green Bay	101	Aldo Leopold
198	Coulee Region	95	Marinette County
198	Wild Rivers	95	Northwoods
185	Fox Valley	81	Shaw-Paca
177	Blackhawk	72	Wolf River
		43	Antigo



Chapter News



RECOMBINING THE FLOW ON THE OCONTO RIVER

This summer the Green Bay Chapter helped return a portion of the 1st South Branch of the Oconto River to its former channel. The work blocked off a growing cutoff channel (top) to provide faster, colder water flow to the main river after the work was done (bottom).

Continued from p. 11

assist with the stream restoration project.

Our August 14 habitat day was a joint event with several members of the **Oakbrook, Illinois TU** chapter and the **Hornberg Chapter**. We spent the morning moving and removing windfalls that were in the **Waupaca River**. The removal of the windfalls helped to increase water

flow and also helped to create and improve access to portions of the river.

On August 14 we also had our chapter picnic and the dedication of a Leopold bench in memory of **Ryan Hagen**. **Mark Peerenboom** organized the memorial event activities which included Ryan's wife and his daughter and family (*see picture on the previous page*). **Tom Beyer** craft-

ed the cedar bench, and **Chuck Knoeck**, **Rich Erickson**, and **Mark Peerenboom** constructed a small platform deck for the bench. The deck and bench have been placed on a bend in the Waupaca River on the **Nancy Rose** property. The bench overlooks a bend in the river where Ryan enjoyed fishing.

Our first chapter meeting of the fall/winter season was on September 16 at the **Bubolz Nature Center** which is located just north of **Appleton**. **Bruce Smith** delivered an excellent presentation dealing with weather and how to use readily available weather information from NOAA and the Internet to enhance

your fishing trips. Future meetings will be on the third Thursdays in October, November, December, January, February, and April.

We are in the planning stages for our annual fund-raiser, **Cabin Fever Day**. We will be holding the event March 19, 2011 at **Waverly Beach** on the shores of **Lake Winnebago**. Please check the January *Wisconsin Trout* for more information. Also check our website at www.foxvalley-tu.org for updates.

Enjoy the great fall weather, and in the words of **Tom Lager**, our "Let's Talk Bugs" writer, "Enjoy His creation."

—*Rich Erickson*

Frank Hornberg Chapter

Hornbergers have been on the water this summer doing more than just trout fishing. We continue our restoration efforts on the **Tomorrow River**. At **Welton Road** we placed structures, rocks, and Christmas trees at strategic locations to narrow the flow and deepen the channel. Our past work is really paying off there. Trout fishers will be surprised by the depth of water in some of the newly created holes.

Stream modifications for the **US-DA/WDNR** project upstream from **Lake Myers Road** are now all marked off with stakes in the water. In June and July our chapter positioned a large number of Christmas trees at one of those locations. It is already silting in nicely. One pleasant way to see our work is to float from **Nelsonville** to **Amherst** in a kayak. Each year we see more people who enjoy our favorite trout stream from that perspective.

On August 14 the Hornberg Chapter and the **Friends of the Tomorrow/Waupaca River** organized a river clean-up of the **Waupaca River** from **Buchholz Road** to the **Nancy Rose** farm. Members of the **Fox Valley** and **Oakbrook Illinois TU** chapters helped us clear the river of fallen timber, snags, and trash. We are grateful to **Nancy Rose** for providing facilities as well as fresh-picked sweet corn for lunch. The **Oakbrook TU** chapter provided custom-made brats. Yum yum. Our Hornberg Chapter and local **DNR** personnel provided tools for stream work. **Stu Grimstad** organized the work parties. Our thanks to everyone who helped make this event a grand success.

The annual **Shooters Supper Club** workday was on August 29 at the **Bob Lea Farm** location. Shooters owner and chapter member **Gene Schulfer** gave his employees the day off for this event. **Mike Mather**, **Jim Gitter**, **Bud Nehring**, and **Janeau Tully** directed the work and explained the principles of stream rehabilitation. The **Portage County Gazette** published pictures of the event in its September 3 issue.

We are very grateful to **Paul** and **Loretta Peck** for providing hot food, salads, and deserts for our summer workdays. Lunch always hits the spot after a few hours moving rocks in the river, especially with cool refreshments and served from tables set up under trees next to a burbling trout stream. Hornbergers' delight.

Our fall camping and fishing weekend was at **Avalanche** September 24-26. Our chapter also scheduled a field trip to the **Wild Rose State Fish Hatchery** on October 16 to see the new coldwater fish production facilities.

We are in the planning stage for our winter season public meetings and fly tying workshops. We expect to have four meetings in November, January, February, and March. We will have three workshops in January, February, and March. Details to follow.

—*John Vollrath*



HARRY AND LAURA NOHR CHAPTER CONTINUES ITS WORK ON THE BLUE RIVER IN GRANT COUNTY

Another section of the Blue River was improved this year by the Nohr Chapter. Trees and brush adjacent to Snowbottom Road were choking the river before the work (above left). Afterward, the banks are brushed, stabilized, and sloped. Note the huge boulder that was previously hidden.



Chapter News



Green Bay Chapter

The Green Bay Chapter (greenbaytu.com) has wrapped up another season of productive work on area trout streams. Work project chair **Lee Meyers** filed the following report:

"We were able to work all five dates (even though there were a lot of good rains) that were scheduled for this summer: June 12 and 26, July 17 and 31, and August 21. We averaged 13.4 TU members per workday (more than in 2009), highlighted with 21 volunteers showing up on July 17. This expands to 536 hours of work for the coldwater resources of northeast Wisconsin.

"Three TU chapters were involved — **Green Bay, Oconto River, and Marinette** — and there were several new volunteers that got involved. This trout stream habitat work was done under the guidance of **Cliff Sebero** of the **DNR** at **Peshigo** and **Tom Moris** of the **USFWS** at **Laona**. A summary of the work accomplished includes removal of a 3-foot-high beaver dam, removal of a beaver cache, and installing five log structures to improve stream meander and water current flow.

"One location actually included restoring the stream flow to the old channel and blocking off the new cutoff channel (*see pictures on opposite page*). This provided more room

for trout and recreated a nice riffle. The crew also installed four brush bundles and refurbished two others that narrowed the stream channel and improved the water flow to improve the habitat for brook trout.

"All totaled, we installed 700 feet of log and brush structures, but those structures along with the removal of the beaver dam had a positive impact on the brook trout population over one to two miles of trout stream in northeast Wisconsin. This work was done in the **Nicolet National Forest** on the **1st South Branch of the Oconto River** near **Pat's Lake Road** and on the upper **McCaslin** near **Diamond Roof Road**."

The chapter also staged another very successful **Kid's Fishing Day**. Even though the event was postponed because of bad weather, over 100 kids and adults participated in the event. Additionally, member **Jack Koivisto** taught fly casting to kids through a program sponsored by the **Brown County Library System**.

The chapter is now focusing on our annual fundraising banquet which will return to the **Stadium View Banquet Hall** on February 17, 2011, and on finding worthwhile uses for the money raised at this event. —*Gary Stoychoff*

Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter

This year's stream project was on the **Blue River**. It involved about 2,700 feet of stream adjacent to **Snowbottom Road**. We also have plans for doing 1.3 miles of **Six Mile Branch**. This work is contingent on getting funding late in the season and having enough time to do it.

Highland Public School had an educational outing on **Big Spring** on September 8 with funding from the education grant we gave them. **Joe Schmelz** of the **NRCS**, who is also a Nohr TU member, talked to the students about the work and what it means for the fishermen and the environment. Our summer interns have been busy doing stream studies under the direction of **Professor Kris Wright** of **UW-Platteville**. Each

summer we have provided funding for a summer intern and assistant, **Robert (Bobby) Burk** and **Cody Austin** respectively this year, to do stream studies on our trout streams. They come from the student body of **UW-Platteville** campus. They do shocking, determine flows, study the makeup of the stream bottom, and see what plants and invertebrates are present.

This type of program has spread to several other UW system campuses. The interns took a break from their normal research work for the Nohr Chapter to show children from the **Platteville Library** summer program some of the stream work they do. —*Brian Larson*

Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter

Kiap-TU-Wish has been active over the summer with bank improvement and de-brushing the banks on **Parker Creek**. This effort will continue in conjunction with the **DNR** on a volunteer basis.

We have also been applying for matching grants to the **Fairmount Minerals Co.** to try to finalize the **Pine Creek** project next summer. This will also be done in cooperation with the **DNR**.

Lakeshore Chapter

Lakeshore TU has a combination of both good news and bad news about our progress on the **Onion River**. Since we lost our fish manager in 2008, we have been butting heads with the **DNR** trying to get permits to continue work on restoring the Onion. Our work has been relegated to maintaining the work we have completed.

In August the **DNR** announced that they have hired a new fish manager for the Lakeshore area. His

name is **Travis Motl**, and he is scheduled to meet with our **Onion River** committee on October 13. Hopefully this will mark a new beginning of work on the **Onion River**.

In related matters, we have scheduled workdays for October 16 and 23 for removal of trees that have been blown into the river during our recent wind storms.

We have also scheduled workdays on October 30 and November 6 at the **Manitowoc Rapids Fisher-**



Pete Esser

NOHR INTERNS SHOW STUDENTS WHAT'S IN THE STREAM

The Nohr Chapter's **UW-Platteville** interns showed students at **Highland Public School** the type of work they are doing on **Big Spring Creek**.

man's Park. We should finish removing encroaching trees and start to work on the walking path along the river. All of our workdays start at 8:00 a.m. and finish around noon.

On September 27 and 28 several **Lakeshore** members helped instruct eighth graders at **Kiel Middle School** on fly tying and fly casting. This is done through a physical education class fishing unit taught by chapter member **Steve Walsh**. **Lakeshore** TU members who volunteered their time for this were **Bob Jones, Tom Mockert, Bill Rogers, Bruce Balisterri, George Close, Frank Kushnier, Jeff Preiss, Wayne**

Trupke, Tom Beschta, Ken Zimmerman, and Chuck Wolff. We are scheduled to return to **Kiel Middle School** on October 25 and 26 to continue our instruction.

Starting with our September 20 meeting, we are alternating sites for our meetings. Our September, November, January, March, and May meetings will be held at **The Anglers Avenue** in **Sheboygan**. All other meetings, plus our banquet, will be held at the **Club Bil-Mar** in **Manitowoc**. All business meetings start at 6:30 p.m.

—*Wayne Trupke*

Northwoods Chapter

The **Northwoods Chapter** held our annual **Youth Fly Fishing Conclave** at the **CAVOC** or **Cedric A. Vig Outdoors Classroom** in **Rhinelander** on July 24.

We had close to 20 kids learn about the nuances of fly fishing. Chapter volunteers instructed kids on casting, entomology, knot tying, and tying flies.

The specimen tray collected from the **Bearskin** contained a full

assortment of bugs, including mayflies, stoneflies, hellgrammites, dragon flies, nematodes, and scuds.

A **Federation of Fly Fishers** instructor taught kids how to hit a three-foot circle with a cast, something even I have trouble with. **Terry Cummings** and **Aaron Nelson** did a great job organizing the event and getting door prizes from sponsors.

Continued on p. 14



Mike's Service in Langlade

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Chapter News

Continued from p. 13

Special thanks also to **Hannah Hansen, David Brum, Al Brooks, Robert and Phyllis Tabbert, Jim Vraborsky, Peter Geissal, Abby Staszczuk, and Wayne Parmley.** **Vicki Houston** provided publicity for the event, and **Wayne Parmely** helped with fly tying.

The Northwoods Chapter had a great turnout for the workday on the **Deerskin River** on August 14 with the **US Forest Service.** We continued to remove alders and build brush bundles on another section of the stream downstream from the old fish hatchery.

This is the third year we have removed alders from the Deerskin, and the river is quickly digging deeper channels where before you couldn't get through the alders they were so thick. **Josh Kunzman** showed his culinary skills preparing a hot lunch that included steak

sandwiches and a shore lunch of *Esox masquinongy* that unfortunately died after being caught on a fly!

The other good news the chapter received was that the second tree drop in the **Border Brule River** occurred at the end of August. The **US Forest Service** and **Michigan Department of Natural Resources** dropped another 230 trees into the Brule downstream from the **Iron River** on 1.25 miles of river bank.

Reports coming in from fishers say that the trees dropped last year are already acting as great cover for trout and other fish in the river, and no movement of the trees was observed after the spring melt. They are tough to fish, the way nature designed tree tops to be. We look forward to providing money to the Forest Service to anchor the trees to the bank, which is only being required by our own **WDNR.**

We had our first meeting on October 11 at the **Rhinelanders-Oneida**

County Airport and will continue with meetings on either the first or second Monday of the month depending on room availability at 7:00 p.m. for the rest of the year. The

October meeting focused on planning activities for the next year and elections.

—*Brian Hegge*

Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter

SEWTU's formal all-chapter meetings resumed in September. They are held at the **Thunder Bay Grille** located just off of the intersection of I-94 and Pewaukee Road. Dinner starts at 6:00, and our meeting and speaker follow about 7:30. 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.

September's meeting featured **Dr. Phillip Moy**, fisheries and invasive species specialist for the **UW Sea Grant Institute**, which is run in conjunction with the **WDNR.** He spoke about Asian Carp and their entrance into **Lake Michigan**, efforts to contain them, and their possible effects on the lake. This was an incredibly informative talk, and one which was equally well received by our members.

October 26 is the date of our annual chapter awards. We will also have **Paul Riccuiti** speak. Paul is the Midwest Regional Coordinator of **Project Healing Waters.** He will speak about Project Healing Waters' program, its locations (such as SEWTU's), and the impact it is having on American military veterans. This will definitely be a very important meeting, and one where we recognize some of our chapter's best leaders over the past year.

On November 16 we will welcome back one of our favorite speakers, **Pat Ehlers** of **The Fly Fishers** in Greenfield, WI. Pat is an incredible angler, an ever better guide, and puts on a tremendous presentation. Pat will give a presentation entitled "**Becoming a Better Predator,**" which will focus on

methods and means that we anglers can use to increase our ability to catch fish.

December 14 will be our annual Holiday Party. This is an informal meeting where we'll eat, drink, be merry, and look back at the accomplishments of the past year. We'll also watch a movie or two. As always, we'll have our purely voluntary gift exchange. If you would like to take part, please bring a wrapped gift costing \$15 or less. Gifts are generally fishing-related, but they don't have to be. If you do not wish to participate in the gift exchange, that is AOK, but still attend the meeting.

On our workday front, SEWTU helped the **Gary Borger Chapter** of TU in its first-ever **Embrace-A-Stream** restoration project on July 10. Gary Borger TU is a consistent friend to SEWTU and is a chapter on the rise. SEWTU helped **GBTU** and the **WDNR** perform multiple tasks, including removal of invasive elodea plant matter from **Paradise Springs Creek**, removing invasive vegetation around Paradise Springs, gathering seeds for a native prairie seed bank, and seeding areas that had previously been cleared. All in all, it was a great workday, with over 50 participants turning out to work.

On August 28 we headed to the site of our **Friends of Wisconsin TU** grant project on the **Scuppernong River.** This project involves literally picking up and moving the Scuppernong River from the ditch it was placed in back in 1940 to its original streambed. The **WDNR** was able to find the original streambed using aerial photography and on-the-ground soil survey techniques.

At this workday, just shy of 70 volunteers traveled in from two states, including **Gary Borger TU, Elliot Donnelly TU, Lee Wulff TU, and Blackhawk TU,** to build about 35 lunger structures, remove elodea from **Paradise Springs Creek,** and help a local **Eagle Scout's** project of gathering native seeds. **Paul Smith** from the **Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel** was on hand, and a nice feature story appeared in the outdoors section of the paper the following week.

On September 18 we performed work at the **Nash Family Project** on **Elk Creek,** which was SEWTU's 2010 **Embrace-A-Stream Grant** project in **Richland County.** This project featured about one half mile of stream corridor restoration, including bank sloping, nongame features, and stream structure placement. At our workday, we removed, and chemically treated, invasive willows which were being used by local beavers to dam and destroy the creek. Over 25 individuals from all across Wisconsin — from **Merrill** to **Janesville** — stopped out to help, and made the workday a success.

We will return to **Genesee Creek** October 16 to a location owned by **Carroll University.** Under the leadership of SEWTU board member **Jason Freund,** we'll build wooden boardwalks, remove in-stream debris, and take out buckthorn where it is choking the stream. As we like to say around these parts, buckthorn is also known as "job security." We'll



Brian Hegge photos

BRUNCH AND BRUSH BUNDLING ON THE DEERSKIN

The Northwoods Chapter joined forces with the US Forest Service to continue their brush bundling efforts on the Deerskin River (bottom). Meanwhile, Josh Kunzman's lunch (top) included an *Esox masquinongy* that was an unintended victim of a fly earlier in the day.

Chapter News



work from 9:00-Noon, ending with a free lunch.

On the education front, SEW-TU has likewise remained incredibly busy. On June 12 we manned a booth and provided fly casting demonstrations at **Lakeshore State Park** in **Milwaukee** as part of the **Gathering Waters Conservation Festival**. With the **Milwaukee Air Show** going on at the same time, the lakefront was busy, and casting with World War II-era warplanes circling overhead was certainly a unique experience.

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

We held our annual **Casting Clinic** at **Greenfield Park** in **Greenfield** on July 27. This was 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** provided instructions for attendees. As always, this event was led by longtime chapter leaders **Larry Wirth**, **Chuck Beeler**, **Stan Strelka**, **Jay Zawerschnik**, and others. There were skill challenges, and a great dinner, and it went exceedingly well until the mosquitoes decided that they wanted to eat as well.

On September 16 we led fly casting and tying demonstrations at the **Milwaukee Riverkeeper's Annual River Bash** event, and on October 9 we led a similar booth at the **Root River Steelhead Rearing Facility** in **Racine** as part of its open house event.

On the membership front, SEW-TU held two all-chapter fishing outings at the **West Fork Sportsman Club** grounds at **Avalanche**. The first was June 18-20, and the second was September 17-19. At both events, members got out and fished before settling around the campfire.

Southern Wisconsin Chapter

It was a busy summer for the Southern Wisconsin Chapter! Perhaps of most lasting significance is the "big win" on **permanent stream easements** in **Dane County**. The initiative, led by **Dan Wisniewski**, resulted in two permanent easements protecting one mile along **Vermont Creek** (there was a great article about Dane County's unique permanent easement initiative in the last issue of *Wisconsin Trout*).

The **Dane County Board** voted at its August meeting to approve spending county funds on the easements. Our chapter contributed over \$16,000 toward such easements. This money was raised over the past two years from our own members as well as **two Illinois TU chapters**, **Badger Flyfishers**, and the **Dane County Conservation League**. We also partnered with numerous other trusts and foundations resulting in every dollar from our chapter members leveraging five dollars in matching funds!

SWTU will continue to do all we can to encourage and support future permanent easements, which create critical habitat and access protections...permanently!

Despite the gloomy forecast, it turned out to be a beautiful June

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

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

Of great importance to our chapter's sustainability, we will hold our annual **Habitat Fundraiser Event** on Tuesday, October 19. This event will be held at the **Charcoal Grill and Rotisserie** at 15375 West Greenfield Avenue, New Berlin, from 6:00-10:00 p.m. This is a raffle event and will feature incredible prizes, including fly rods, clothing, equipment, jewelry, cameras, radios, trips, and more. This is our chapter's largest yearly fund-raiser and provides us with money to make the projects you read about possible.

This year a benefactor gave our chapter a new work trailer. This has made workdays even more productive. A portion of the funds raised at this event will be used to fill our trailer with equipment!

This year's speaker is **Jon Christianson**, who is TU's new national **Chairman of the Board**. You won't want to miss this event. Reserve a ticket by e-mailing **Henry Koltz**, or buy one at the door!

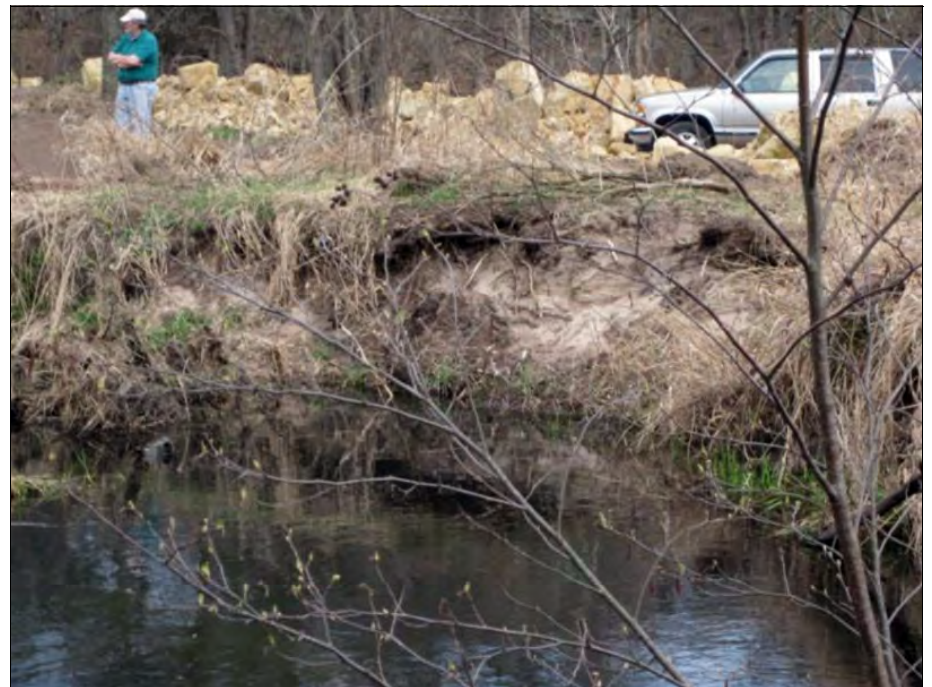
As a reminder, SEW-TU has established habitat, education, fundraising, and membership committees. Joining one of these committees is a great way to get involved.

—Henry Koltz

day for our **Annual Special Fishing Day** for people with disabilities. Again organized by **John Schweiger**, many chapter volunteers gathered at **Kalscheur Ponds** to help 55 fantastic folks hook into some very big fish.

We took time for a little fun at our chapter picnic in July at **Lake Marion** near **Mazomanie**, the site of a proposed major restoration project. It started with a stream shocking demonstration by **Kurt Welke** of the **DNR** and his trusty crew. In addition to the fantastic food and camaraderie, **Stephen Born** led a walking tour covering the geologic and cultural history of the **Black Earth Creek** watershed, as well as what restoration work is being proposed and why. We all left with full bellies and knowing a bit more than we did when we woke up that morning.

Our big event will focus on the teeny-tiny this year! Be sure to mark Saturday, January 15, on your calendars for our annual **Icebreaker** event. We are excited to have the co-authors of the very hot book **Modern Midges** as our keynote speakers. **Rick Takahashi** and **Jerry Hubka** have been acclaimed for their work on "Tying and Fishing



Tim Meyer photos

ELK CREEK BEFORE AND AFTER

Wisconsin Clear Waters continues to work on Elk Creek in Chippewa County. Here a high-banked bend has been cut down and lunkers installed.

the World's Most Effective Patterns." Rick and Jerry will cover many aspects of fishing and tying midge patterns, certainly a powerful (if too overlooked) weapon in the fly fisher's arsenal.

We are also excited to welcome back **Matt Wagner** of the **Driftless Angler** to provide his expertise on

spring creek fishing. The event will again be held at the spacious **Promega Center** in **Fitchburg**. We hope to see you there!

Learn more and stay up-to-date on these and our many other activities by visiting www.swtu.org!

—Drew Kasel

Wild Rivers Chapter

Wild Rivers country is blazing with fall colors and chapter members struggle to take advantage of the Coho runs and get out in the woods. The late summer has been very busy with the many events that the chapter supports with volunteers.

The chapter worked with **Kevin Lowry** of the **Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center** and **Wendy Williamson** from the **Hayward Fly Fishing Co.** to hold the first fly casting class for women event on July 10. Thirteen women signed up, and about 10 were there for the afternoon class. Wendy covered all aspects of using fly gear for fishing, starting with the care and setting up of the rod, reel, and line. She also covered how to handle the line and a fish and practiced the important casts on the pond.

The students had lots of questions for Wendy and learned a lot about Wendy's guiding life with clients on the area rivers. Thanks to Wendy for an excellent class and to Kevin for organizing this event.

One of the Wild River's Chapter's premier events, the **Whack a Northern**, was held on August 7 with a lighter-than-normal turnout of whackers and a much lighter-than-normal northern pike catch. The **White River** remains high, just like all Wisconsin waters this year. The high water provided a nice paddle, and the weather was great. With no fresh northern to fry, chief cooks **Dick Prine** and **Bill Heart** prepared corn on the cob and some panfish provided by **Keith Behn**. There were more than enough salads and deserts to go around.

Special thanks to **Dick Prine** for his efforts despite knowing that he was scheduled for knee replacement surgery in a few days. Dick is making a great recovery and will be back on the Brule this fall.

The chapter will be working with **Mike Mlynarek** of the **Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge** and others on a new **Whittlesey Creek** project next year. Mike reports that

Continued on p. 16



Chapter News



Jim Beecher

THE BORN IDENTITY? TOUR GUIDE.

Long active on matters affecting Black Earth Creek in Dane County, Steve Born (right) wrapped up a tour of river's headwaters at Zander Park in Mazomanie during just before the Southern Wisconsin Chapter's annual picnic.

Continued from p. 15

the project will mostly involve adding small complexes of logs. **Interfluve, Inc.** is doing the design and construction oversight, the same firm that did the work on a similar Whittlesey Creek project in 2004.

The current project is a demonstration and experimental effort by the **US Fish & Wildlife Service,**

WDNR, Bayfield County Land and Water Conservation Dept., cooperating landowners, and hired contractors. The techniques used will help us refine future habitat restoration efforts. The Wild Rivers Chapter will help with pre-installation data collection for design purposes, pre-installation fish and aquatic invertebrate sampling, and, of course,

good old log cabling and other tasks during installation.

Mike also furnished information on the new culvert that the chapter helped out with in 2009 on **Cozy Corner Road:** The first post-installation fish survey was conducted in August at the **North Fork Whittlesey culvert** using backpack electrofishing equipment. A few young-of-the-year Coho were found in the culvert and over 100 were captured above.

The annual fall electrofishing survey of **Whittlesey Creek** was organized by **Glen Miller** of the **USFWS.** This year's survey ran from September 7 to September 21. The entire stretch of Whittlesey Creek was surveyed, starting at the mouth and running the entire length of the stream, including the **North Fork.** This fall stream experience is one of the most interesting that chapter members volunteer for. Volunteers help net fish, log data, and handle gear on one of the most beautiful streams in the area. The survey is important in the **coaster brook trout** restoration effort, and the chapter has fielded many volunteers for this survey. This is a great opportunity to meet and work with the fisheries biologists who are directly involved in the coaster brook trout restoration work on Whittlesey Creek. Chapter

members **Rolland Kiel, Don Sutliff, Peter Freiburger, and Dave Buren** volunteered on the survey.

Wild River's chapter members **Rolland and Joyce Kiel, Jim Emerson, Dick Berge, and Chuck Campbell** demonstrated fly casting and fly tying at the **Bad River Watershed Association's Outdoor Expo at Copper Falls** on August 14. The Expo offered talks on lots of outdoor topics as well as a nice picnic. **Bill Heart** was there as well working on the picnic food line.

The annual **Iron River National Fish Hatchery Open House** was held September 11. Wild Rivers members were there to demonstrate fly casting and fly tying. This is one of the most enjoyable volunteer days for us each year, with lots of families touring the facility. Thanks to **Rob Kemkes, Don Sutliff, and Chuck Campbell** for helping out at the event.

The chapter was also a part of the **Northland College Volunteer Fair in Ashland.** The college event brings students together with groups needing help. Wild Rivers received lots of interest in volunteering at chapter events in 2011, and we were asked to help with fishing programs by several groups.

—*Chuck Campbell*

Wisconsin Clear Waters

This was a wet summer! The weather again provided countless tests for the area stream restoration projects, both the older work and the work that was in progress during the soggy summer of 2010. It is really amazing to see what these streams have to withstand during high-water events — unprotected banks collapse, trees roots are washed out causing trees to collapse, and all this additional sediment is carried downstream where it settles out in the first slack water. Each foot of bank that is stabilized reduces the amount of sediment that ends up in the stream and improves the health of that stream.

I have walked many of the old and new projects recently and have to say that there was minimal damage anywhere that stream stabilization work took place. The streams withstood flood waters up to 10' above current water levels as evidenced by the deposits of grass and other refuse in the trees.

The weather seems to have leveled off recently, and I have been getting out to local streams where trout fishing seems to be very good. Water levels are ideal now and fish are active and feeding to get ready for fall spawning. Some creeks that I have fished and had good success are **Plum Creek in Pierce County, Elk Creek in Chippewa County, and Traverse Valley in Trempealeau County.**

I will be leaving for a trip to **Montana** with my brother, Tom, and cousin, Bill, from Florida on September 17 and plan to fish **Big Spring Creek** and the **Gallatin** among others. I hope to return in time to fish the last week of the season here in Wisconsin. Good luck!

Here are some updates on the habitat improvement work the **WDNR's John Sours** has overseen in **Chippewa County:**

"**Elk Creek** restoration was completed through the state land upstream of **Hwy. 29** and also completed work through the private

landowner's property south of Hwy. 29 and south of the DNR parking lot. These look to be fine projects and the presence of trout has been verified by many TU members, including the local young fisherman and project volunteer, **Zach Mohr,** who lives nearby and bikes over to fish there as often as he can.

"**Trout Creek** work was completed through the **Clarence Rinneck** property. This is a unique trout stream which appears to have an isolated native brook trout population and no record of stocking. **Dr. Mike Bessert** of **UW-Stout** took some fin samples and is working on determining whether Trout Creek contains the only "heritage" brook trout strain known to exist in Wisconsin."

The following are updates on the habitat improvement work the **WDNR's Rob Herman** has overseen in **Trempealeau** and **Jackson** counties:

"**Traverse Valley Creek** (Trempealeau Cty.) work was completed on private land about four miles west of **Hwy. 93** on **Cty. X.** This is a short section, but it is a good start on a creek with great brook and brown trout potential. This creek still gets stocking, but the fish grow quickly. It is a place with 12" brook trout if you know where to look.

"**Bruce Valley Creek** (Trempealeau Cty.) work was completed on private land on a stretch on **Cty. D** a few miles north of **Cty. E.** (turn east on **Cty. E** from **Hwy. 93** at **Elk Creek** and then north on **Cty. D**).

"**Pigeon Creek** (Jackson Cty.) work was still in progress in September on the private land which has been an ongoing project for a few years. It is along **Hwy. 121** just west of **Northfield.**"

Two longtime board members are stepping down, **Jack Kins** and **Dick Prine.** We appreciate their service and hope they will stay active in chapter activities. Jack has been a board member and active with all the projects and the chapter longer

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Chapter News



than anyone can remember. Dick has been active with both our Clear Waters and the **Wild Rivers Chapter**. Both have promised to stay active with TU and the chapter.

Two new members have joined the board, **Tim Valentine** and **Gib Magaw**. Those of you who attended our **2010 Annual Banquet** last April will likely recall Tim Valentine's talk about his participation at **Walter Reed U.S. Army Hospital** in organizing the first vets' fishing program in what has become a major national effort involving TU and almost 100 veterans' hospitals, **Project Healing Waters**.

According to Tim, "After growing up in Blaine, MN, and then completing my undergraduate work in Duluth, I was commissioned as US Army officer and left the Midwest to seek fun, travel, and adventure. After a brief stay in Texas, we moved to Germany where we worked and traveled for four years. We started our migration back to the Midwest with a seven-year stay in Western Massachusetts to complete some professional work and graduate education, including a two-year visit to Washington, D.C., eventually making our way to Eau Claire in 2006. I currently work for **CIGNA HealthCare** as a Product Manager.

"Besides fly fishing and tying, I enjoy hunting, hiking, and wood-

working. I've been happily married to **Kristina Bourne** who teaches in the College of Business at the **UW-Eau Claire**. We have a three-year-old boy who caught his first fish this summer, a bluegill, that he proudly ate for breakfast."

While **Gib Magaw** of Eau Claire is an avid and lifelong angler and hunter, he learned a lot about TU this year as he joined our volunteers working on just about every stream project work night on **Elk and Trout** creeks. He's been an active volunteer in **Habitat for Humanity**, an organization which can show TU plenty of project organizing tips.

Gib says, "After careful consideration, I have concluded that I joined TU for more than just the trout fishing. I also wanted to join a local organization that did conservation projects where I could help, knowing that it would be an opportunity to meet and get to know the most active members."

Gib spent his career in the electrical industry and has traveled widely. Later in his career he worked developing training programs and curricula for apprenticeship programs. His contributions were published and are now widely used in the **National Joint Apprenticeship Training** program for electricians.

—*Tim Meyer*

Wisconsin River Valley Chapter

Well, summer is gone, and with the intense amounts of rain we have all experienced, our trout streams have plenty of water, but that makes it difficult for us to fish. Looks like our streams will be going into the fall in wonderful shape with the level of water.

We had a stream improvement project this summer in conjunction with the **WDNR** on the **Prairie River** north of **Cty. J** in **Lincoln County** on a property recently purchased by the **WDNR**. The project rehabbed just over half a mile of stream. This project is nearing the completion off all rehab work on the **Prairie**.

On August 28 we participated in **Sporting Heritage Day**. We had a beautiful sunny day. Activities started at 8:30 a.m. with 243 kids ages 8-18 registered for the event. Volunteers from our chapter included **Bob Pils**, **John Meachen**, **Linda Lehman**, and **Al Hauber** (fly casting). We also welcomed a young man named **Logan Wimme** from Wisconsin Rapids who heard we needed some help. A very skilled tyer (especially with bass flies), Logan is just 13 years old. He revealed later that he started tying at age six. Fly tying ran from 8:30 to Noon. After lunch we headed out to cast flies on the lawn. It was a great event for the kids and very well attended.

Our formal chapter meetings started back up in September with a Swap Night and Meet/Greet after our board meeting. This gave old and new members a chance to get reacquainted, as well as to bring in items to trade or give away.

Our October meeting is scheduled for a Lie and Tie Night and will also be our formal voting for officers for 2011. El Presidente **John Meachen**'s reign of terror over our chapter will come to an end as he has dutifully served us for three years. We can't thank John enough for all of the hard work he has put in. **Thank you, John!**

All of our monthly meetings are on the second Monday of each month starting at 6 p.m. for the board meeting and 7 p.m. for the general meeting at **Gander Mountain** in **Rothschild**.

On October 12 and 14 we and the **WDNR** hosted **Plover River Days** for biology and chemistry class students at **Wausau East** and **Edgar High School**. This is an annual event that gets the kids on the stream for a host of activities to see the intricacies of a trout stream. Last year's event brought us snow, so hopefully the weather will cooperate for the kids and teachers this year.

Hope you all had a wonderful fishing season and tight lines!

—*Doug Brown*



AND THEN YOU SIMPLY REEL IN THE 20-INCHERS

Wild Rivers Chapter members Rob Kemkes (left) and Don Sutliff (right) showed visitors how to fly cast during a recent open house at the Iron River National Fish Hatchery in Iron River.

Wolf River Chapter

The Wolf River Chapter again hired **Kelly Thiel** of the **US Department of Agriculture** to blow beaver dams on **Ninemile Creek**, a part of the **Ninemile Creek Restoration Initiative**.

On September 8 WRTU President **Andy Kiloren**, board member **Bill Kellner**, trapper **Duane Fronick**, and **Kelly Thiel** canoed up **Ninemile Creek** where five large dams were blown. A flying log damaged one of the canoes!

Twenty-five large dams have been blown in the past two years, with well over 100 problem beavers removed. The remaining dams in the area were abandoned check dams, too small to blow. Duane and I removed these by hand on September 27.

I was amazed at the progress of this small creek in eastern **Langlade County**. It now winds through the treeless valley with a steady current, exposing long-buried boulders and a fine gravel bottom. Heavy rains hit the river four days earlier, and the water was high. The lower banks were covered with silt, deposited by

the scouring floods that rushed through the dam-free section we canoed.

Water monitoring wrapped up for the year on September 12. Eight locations were tested once a month, and nine locations were monitored for temperature. **Carolyn Lipke**, level two **WDNR Citizen-Based Stream Monitoring Coordinator**, spent a day in August with President **Andy Kiloren** verifying our equipment and procedures for testing.

The WRTU general membership meeting will be held at the **Wolf River Town Hall** in **Langlade** on October 16 at 4 p.m. After the meeting we will host our third annual Appreciation Dinner and Dance. The dinner will be held from 5-6 p.m. and costs \$6. Beer is 25 cents. Live music and a dance will follow. Bring a friend. Everyone is welcome!

Finally, our brat stand was again a great success. Thank you to everyone who helped out, especially **Mike Klimosky** at **Mike's Service Station** in **Langlade**.

—*Tim Waters*



PRAIRIE RIVER GETS A TUMMY TUCK

The Wisconsin River Valley Chapter has had many a workday on the **Prairie River**. The photo above shows a section that had widened significantly over the years. They used a backhoe to rearranged rocks to narrow the channel.



WITU Looking Back

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

Governor Knowles Joins T.U.

Governor Knowles participated in the State Council formation by accepting a membership in TU. He was photographed in his office receiving the membership along with several T.U.ers. We are hoping to receive club publicity in the state and local newspapers and magazines featuring the Governor Knowles photo and a news release covering the State Council formation. The photograph was made compliments of Madison Chapter member, internationally famous photographer, Bill Wollin.

Doug Hart, Green Bay Packer, Attends State Council Formation.

Defensive halfback, Doug Hart, from the Packers assisted in getting the State Council off to a good start. Good luck to Doug and his teammates for the '70 season (football that is).

From the Summer 1980 WITU Newsletter...

Tom Sopkovich Elected Midwest Regional V.P.

Tom Sopkovich, long active in Trout Unlimited, has been elected Midwest regional vice president at the just completed national directors meeting in Snowmass, Colorado. The regional vice president is a position which acts to coordinate both the problems and accomplishments within the region and represent the region on the national executive committee.

Tom is certainly qualified to coordinate the chapter and council activities within the Midwest region. Some of his past chapter and council efforts include watershed coordinator for Southern Wisconsin Chapter, president of the Southern Wis. Chapter and also the Southeastern Wis. Chapter, state council water resources manager, treasurer, chairman and council national director.

From the Fall 1990 Wisconsin Trout...

Central Wisconsin T.U. honored at National meeting

The Central Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited was named the recipient of the **Gold Trout award** for 1990 at the Annual Trout Unlimited meeting held in Bend, Oregon, September 5-9. The award is the highest that is bestowed upon a chapter by the National organization.

The award was presented September 8th at the Awards Luncheon, and State Council Chairman **Dick Kraus**, a current member and past president of the chapter, accepted the award on behalf of Central Wisconsin.

The chapter was nominated for the award as a result of the many and varied activities it has undertaken for the benefit of the coldwater resource

and those who use it. Included in those activities are: its ambitious schedule of work activities; its continuing (14 years) Fly-Fishing School held each spring; and its self-sustaining educational fund which provides book donations to schools, sponsorship of area youths to conservation workshops and seminars; and the **Bill Beck Memorial Scholarship Fund**, which sponsors graduate study in coldwater research.

Along with that, that chapter has maintained a strong working relationship with local staff from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and has participated actively in the acquisition, improvement and restoration of public fishery areas in Central

From the Fall 2000 Wisconsin Trout...

Perrier battle draws high-profile attention

By Todd Hanson

Just days before the WDNR approved the Perrier Company's high-capacity well permit on Sept. 20, Perrier headlines spilled over the state's front pages and into the national press.

Time magazine's Sept. 25 edition carried a full-page story chronicling the resolve of central Wisconsin people in their nine-month fight against Perrier.

Said author Steve Lopez, "[Perrier] had learned nothing about the state's long-standing conservation ethic, or that lecturing Badgers on

the environment is the p.r. equivalent of telling them how to make cheese."

Doyle supports EIS

While the *Time* story was hitting newsstands, Wisconsin Attorney General James Doyle broke his silence on the matter with a highly publicized letter to DNR Secretary George Meyer.

Doyle's Sept. 19 letter asked the DNR to conduct the more thorough environmental impact statement (EIS) that numerous groups — including WI Trout Unlimited — have called for in recent months.



WITU named U.S. 'council of the year'

Trout Unlimited initiated a new award for the year's outstanding state council at its national convention August 12 in Syracuse, NY, and Wisconsin TU was named the first-ever recipient.

The award recognizes the council that has been "the most exemplary in its conservation work while attracting new members, mentoring volunteer leaders, and reaching out to other conservationists."

The Tomorrow's Trout State Council Award for Excellence was awarded from a field of 30 other state councils.

During a luncheon ceremony, TU President and CEO Charles Gauvin presented a handcrafted fish carving award to WITU Chair John "Duke" Welter.

In addition to its efforts against Perrier's Mekan plans, WITU was also cited for advocating for dam removals on two trout streams.

Bob's Tying Tips

Advice from
the bench of
Bob Haase

Sometimes overcompensating is the best help for tying woes

By Bob Haase

I believe that fly tying should be fun, but for some people it can also become frustrating. Sometimes the little things cause the greatest problems. That is why I try to share various fly tying tips that have made my tying easier and more fun!

The following tips are examples of how you can correct tying problems by *overcompensating* for those problems. Sometimes you just need to concentrate on the element you are having problems with as you tie a pattern.

Too much thread build-up

As you tie on smaller hooks, it is easy to get too much thread build-up on the hook which results in too large or incorrectly proportioned bodies or heads. First make sure that you are using the correct size thread for the size hook you are using. If you are using the correct size thread, then go to a larger size thread. For example, if you should be using an 8/0 (72 denier) thread, go to a 6/0 (140 denier) thread or even a 3/0 (240 denier) thread. Pay attention to every wrap of the thread that you make and see if you can tie the fly with the larger diameter thread.

Tie three or more flies with the larger thread and then go back to the recommended thread size. You normally find that you are making more wraps of the thread than are necessary, and when you go back to the correct size thread, you will no longer have a problem with too much thread build-up.

Crowding the head of the fly

Another common problem is not allowing enough space for the head of the fly. This sometimes only occurs on particular patterns. To correct the problem, tie the fly pattern you are having problems with and stop *way short* of the spot you would normally stop before the head of the fly.

The first fly you tie should look out of proportion, and the head should look too long or large. As you tie another fly of the same pattern, gradually allow less space until you stop at the right place and you are not crowding the head. You will be surprised at how easy it is to correct this problem using this technique.

Breaking the thread

This is not as bad a problem as some people think. If you never break the thread, you are probably not placing enough tension on the thread. First make sure that you do not have a sharp edge or cracked ceramic on your thread bobbin that is causing the problem. You can check this by putting your thread in another bobbin and seeing if the problem continues.

Also make sure that you are using the correct size and kind of thread for the fly you are tying and the materials you are using. I encourage you to experiment with different brands and kinds of thread as they have different breaking points for similar diameters. For example, I find the Gordon Griffith 14/0 thread to be almost as strong as 8/0 Uni Thread and stronger than the 70 denier Ultra Thread. I like the characteristics of the thread and prefer it for tying on small hooks.

Put a bare hook in the vise and wrap a thread base, putting tension on the thread until it breaks. Repeat this until you know where the breaking point is. Then repeat the process with another brand and size of thread until you know the breaking points of the threads you are using.

Also remember that you can increase the strengths of some threads by tightening the thread by spinning it in one direction. When you are more familiar and comfortable with the breaking points of each thread, you will find that you will do a better job of selecting the correct thread for the fly you are tying. You may also find that you are putting more tension on the thread, creating a stronger fly by knowing how much tension to use.

Determining the correct length and amount of material

Sometimes it is difficult to judge the correct length or amount of materials to be used on a fly. To determine the correct length, you can look at various charts or pattern recipes. If you consistently end up with the material too long or short, overcompensate for a couple flies by making it longer or shorter than what you feel is the correct length. You can also do the same for the amount of materials used by using more or less than you think is the correct amount.

As an experiment, tie four elk hair caddis flies, increasing the amount of hair on each fly. Compare them and check for appearance and durability. Pull on the hair to make sure it stays in place and also put them in a dish of water to see how they float.

Many tiers have a problem with tying upright wings. They make the wings too short or too long. Tie a series of flies with different lengths of wings, just like you did by adding more hair on the elk hair caddis. Compare the flies to see which you like best or think most closely resembles the way the fly should look.

(NOTE: select the fly you like best using the correct amount and length of materials and tie 10 more flies to see how uniform you can make them. Once you do this, it will become automatic and you will not have as many problems determining the correct length and amount of materials.)

Foam cylinders make for a "super floating" caddis

The elk hair caddis is a fly that everyone should have in his or her fly box, and there are many variations of this fly.

A couple things that I like about the elk hair caddis is that it is easy to see in the water and usually floats pretty well. The adult caddis skitters across the water, so in order for the fly to imitate that, it has to float high on the water.

There are a lot of good caddis patterns, but some do not float as

Separate and bring together with your fingers the stub ends of the elk hair and, while holding them together, clip the elk hair off like you would for a normal elk hair caddis head as shown.

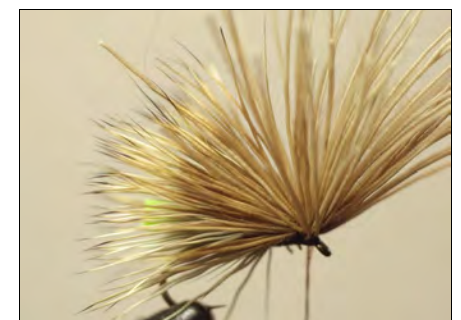
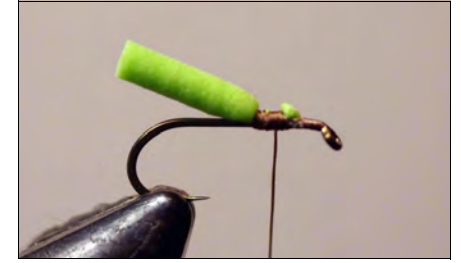
MATERIALS LIST Bob's SF Caddis

Hook: Mustad 94840 or TMC100, size 14. Also sizes 16 and 12.

Thread: Brown 6/0.

Body: Foam cylinder 1/16" diameter, brown or fluorescent green. (Trim cylinder slightly for size 16.)

Wing: Elk hair.



well as others. In order to increase the buoyancy of the fly, I have used a 1/16" foam cylinder for the body, plus I use almost twice as much elk hair by applying it in two steps.

Because of its exceptional buoyancy, this is a good fly to use when fishing a dropper. It does not skitter across the water as well when using a dropper, but it is a good indicator (top fly). By the way, "SF" stands for Super Floater!

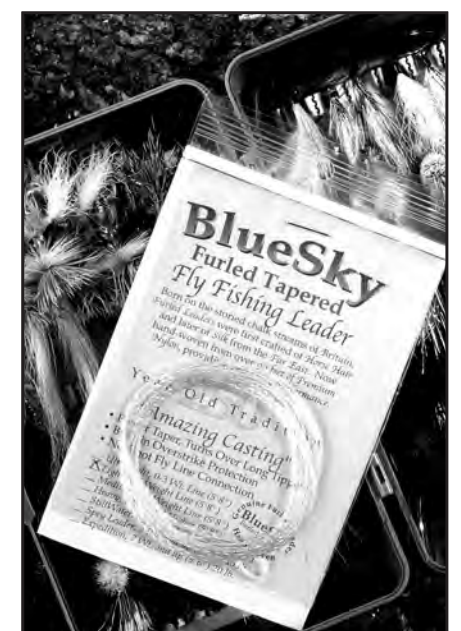
Start the thread and advance it about 1/3 the way from the eye to the end of the hook. At this point, tie in the 1/16" diameter foam cylinder. I tie it with either a dark brown or a fluorescent green color. The end of the foam should stop at about the end of the hook.

Cut off the foam close as possible to the hook shank as shown. This is the entire body, and you will not wrap anything else around the hook shank. This allows the hook point to drop a little below the fly, which sometimes will provide better hook-ups with the fish on surface flies. The foam cylinder also provides more buoyancy for the fly.

Next cut off a hunk of elk hair about the size you would normally select for an elk hair caddis, which would be about 3/4 the diameter of a lead pencil. Pull the under-hair out and put it in a hair stacker to stack the hair. Tie it in as shown right in front of the foam cylinder.

NOTE: You will need to allow enough room to tie in a second clump of elk hair, so don't crowd toward the eye of the hook too much. Trim the hair as shown.

Prepare and tie in a second clump of elk hair as close as possible to the first clump. Tie in the second clump of elk hair. This second clump should be slightly smaller than the first. I sometimes use a lighter color of elk hair for the first clump and a slightly darker color for the second clump. Bring the thread forward in front of the elk hair, whip finish, and cut your thread.



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"The future of trout fishing is in your hands."

Flurry of new Friends projects funded with increased grants

By Doug Brown

Friends of WITU Chair

It has been quite a positive year so far since the 2010 Friends of Wisconsin TU program kicked off this past winter.

You generously donated nearly \$14,000, and with that, quite a few projects are being completed (see the updated map on this page).

Earlier this year, the program had quite an excess balance, and the State Council's Executive Board decided the \$2,000 maximum grant

amount would be doubled to \$4,000 for a period of time.

And with that, six projects were funded at the \$4,000 level.

The last two projects were on Bear Creek in Sauk County sponsored by the Aldo Leopold Chapter and Pine Creek in Pierce County sponsored by the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter.

In order to maintain this program so funds are available for all chapters, the Executive Board has now reduced the grant amount back to \$2,000.

Each chapter is only able to get one Friends grant per year.

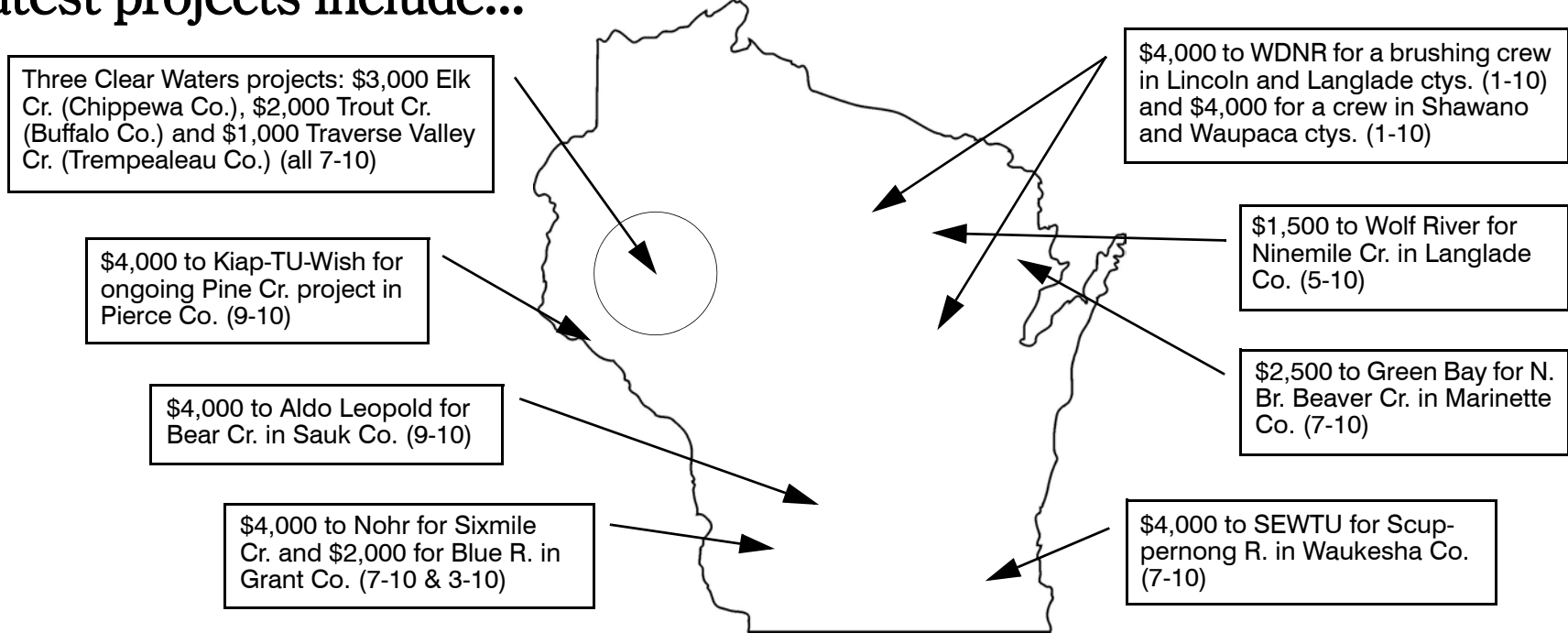
Your continued financial support is welcome. With a \$100 contribution, you receive your choice of leader by Blue Sky Furred Leaders and your name will appear in *Wisconsin Trout*.

Thanks to all of you who donated. Your fellow chapters also thank you for the grants they received to continue doing high-quality habitat work on our cold water resources.

If any of you have questions, feel free to contact me at (715) 574-4706.



Nearly \$175,000 devoted to trout resources since 1991. The latest projects include...



Friends of Wis. TU

Here are your 2010 Friends of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited

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- Charles Barnhill
- Jeff Bartynski
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- De Pere WI
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- Hartland WI
- La Crosse WI
- Hartland WI
- Fox Point WI
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- Appleton WI
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- Madison WI
- Madison WI
- Ashland WI
- Oshkosh WI
- Rhineland WI
- Boulder Junction WI
- Fish Creek WI
- Neenah WI
- Stoughton WI
- Brussels WI
- Madison WI
- Lodi WI
- Cross Plains WI

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- James School
- Delmar Schwaller
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- Oconto Falls WI
- Hudson WI
- Hudson WI
- Madison WI
- Waukesha WI
- Merrill WI
- Sparta WI
- Lansing IA
- Sparta WI
- Madison WI
- Dousman WI
- Ellsworth WI
- Fond Du Lac WI
- Marshfield WI
- Blair WI
- Rhineland WI
- Green Bay WI
- Rio WI
- Madison WI
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- Madison WI
- De Pere WI
- Merton WI
- Cedarburg WI
- Verona WI
- Princeton WI
- Union Grove WI
- Neenah WI
- Amery WI
- Deerfield WI
- Kaukauna WI
- Appleton WI
- Madison WI

- John Serunian
- Dale Sevig
- John Shillinglaw
- Thomas Siebert
- Brent Sittlow
- Jeff Smith
- Charles Steudel
- Chip Stinger
- Winston Strow
- Mike Stupich
- Bruce Sullivan
- Greg Swanson
- Gary Tielens
- Royden Tull
- Dennis Vanden Bloomen
- Gretchen Vanden Bloomen
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- Doug Wadsworth
- Don Wagner
- John Wahlers
- Roger Wangen
- Richard & Martha Ward
- Prof. William Weege, Jr.
- Donald Welhouse
- Paul Wiemerslage
- Stephen Wilke
- Christopher Willman
- Roland & Nancy Woodruff
- Norb Wozniak
- Frederic Young

- SUPPORTING CHAPTERS:**
- Aldo Leopold TU
 - Antigo TU
 - Green Bay TU
 - Kiap-TU-Wish TU
 - Lakeshore TU
 - Wild Rivers TU
 - WI Clear Waters TU

- Fitchburg WI
- Lakeland FL
- Appleton WI
- Elkhart Lake WI
- Hudson WI
- Madison WI
- Mineral Point WI
- West Bend WI
- Green Bay WI
- Watertown WI
- Racine WI
- Appleton WI
- Athelstane WI
- Madison WI
- Eau Claire WI
- Eau Claire WI
- Stoughton WI
- Madison WI
- Gillett WI
- Berlin WI
- Nekoosa WI
- Appleton WI
- Arena WI
- Kaukauna WI
- Hudson WI
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- Oshkosh WI
- Stevens Point WI
- Roscoe IL

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