



Wisconsin Trout

April 2011

State budget's changes to the Stewardship Fund may hurt TU habitat work

By Kim McCarthy

With all of the political turmoil currently taking place in Wisconsin, many sportsmen and women have not had time to look at how Governor Walker's proposed budget would impact recreation in Wisconsin. This article deals with proposed changes to the very popular Stewardship Program.

Chair's Analysis The proposed budget threatens key provisions of the Stewardship Program that would very likely negatively impact TU's efforts to get public access for fishing and habitat work.

One key proposal in the budget of concern to TU would limit fishing easement acquisitions along trout streams to small parcels less than five acres. One explanation for the proposed five-acre limit is that stream fishing easements are narrow strips of land (generally 66 feet wide) which do not generally allow hunting or trapping. Many of them run through pastured areas where hunting and trapping would not be appropriate, and where insistence on hunting and trapping would make land owners unwilling to consider an easement. But Governor Walker's staff appears to be unsupportive of spending money on any lands — even fishing easements — where hunting or trapping are not allowed.

TU projects have generally been done only on lands that provide public access, so removing funding for stream easements would have a serious impact on TU's ability to perform habitat work.

Another consideration against this particular budget proposal is

that the five-acre limit means the strip of land can cover less than 4,000 feet of stream thread. Meander patterns mean a 4,000-foot piece of stream often travels less than a 40 acre land parcel. To have a significant impact on stream health, projects often take up two to seven times that length of stream.

The Walker budget would also cut out a cornerstone of the Stewardship Program called "payments in lieu of taxes" (PILT). PILT payments replace property taxes which would have been paid by private owners had the land remained in private hands. Over the last two decades, PILT payments have led to widespread support of the Stewardship Program by municipalities.

Another change proposed by the Walker budget would be to require local municipalities to pass a resolution supporting or not supporting each Stewardship acquisition in their community. While this would not allow municipalities to blackball a purchase, it would be a factor to be considered by DNR when deciding to recommend a purchase. Without PILT payments, it is likely that local community support for public land purchases would decline.

Another proposed change would give the Legislative Joint Finance Committee more authority over Stewardship purchases. In the past, approval by the Joint Finance Committee was required only if purchases exceeded \$750,000. Under the new proposal, Joint Finance Committee approval would be required for any purchase exceeding \$250,000.

Last month DNR Secretary Cathy Stepp announced that for the

Continued on p. 5



Stan Sirelka

TU'S CHRIS WOOD ATTENDS WITU BANQUET

TU's National President Chris Wood said Wisconsin TU is a model for state councils across the nation during his address at the State Council Banquet in Stevens Point Feb. 5. He also entertained us with the rollicking story of how he revealed the engagement ring to his future wife.

UW-SP study finds trout populations up statewide

Wisconsin brook and brown trout populations statewide have generally increased over the last 60 years, according to a new UW-Stevens Point analysis of the state's archive of trout surveys.

"We see a general, overall increase in the catch per stream mile of trout, and in trout in all the size ranges examined in fisheries surveys conducted since 1950," says Nancy Nate, Ph.D., the principal investigator and a scientist at the UW-SP Fisheries Analysis Center.

Nate and fellow researchers Andy Fayram and Joanna Griffin, fisheries analysts at the WDNR, dug into DNR databases for results from thousands of electrofishing surveys the DNR conducted between 1950 and 2010. The electrofishing catch per stream mile has long been used as an

Continued on p. 4

WDNR meetings getting input on trout fishery and regs

The WDNR is wrapping up a series of meetings across the state where the agency is getting input on how anglers view trout fishing and the current regulatory framework.

The meetings are part of Wisconsin's review of inland trout fishing.

DNR adopted its current category system of regulation 20 years ago. At that time the agency said it would review the trout regulations every five to 10 years. Those were internal reviews, and they led to some changes, like eliminating one of the origi-

nal five categories of regulation established in 1990.

"Trout fishing in Wisconsin has changed a lot in recent times, and we want to hear from anglers if they've changed their trout fishing habits, preferences, and hopes for the future," says Scot Stewart, the southern Wisconsin fisheries supervisor who is helping lead the effort.

"This time around, our trout team was putting together some ideas for possible changes for our 2010 review when we decided we needed to take a step back," says Marty Engel, a veteran fisheries biologist for Dunn, Pepin, Pierce, and St. Croix counties.

"We realize that the trout world has changed significantly since we moved to the category system and last asked anglers what they wanted from their trout fishery," he says.

"We think it's crucial to understand more about those changes before we go any further with our review."

Meeting participants have been telling DNR fish biologists what they like about trout fishing now and what they think could be improved. Participants are filling out a survey to give more specific feedback on everything from where and

Continued on p. 4

DNR on-line survey open through April

You can complete the same survey taken at the trout meetings by going on-line. A link to the survey can be found at <http://dnr.wi.gov/fish/trout/>. The survey will be available through the end of April.

In this issue...

TU presents options to land trust communityp. 4

Science findings offered at Driftless Area event.p. 5

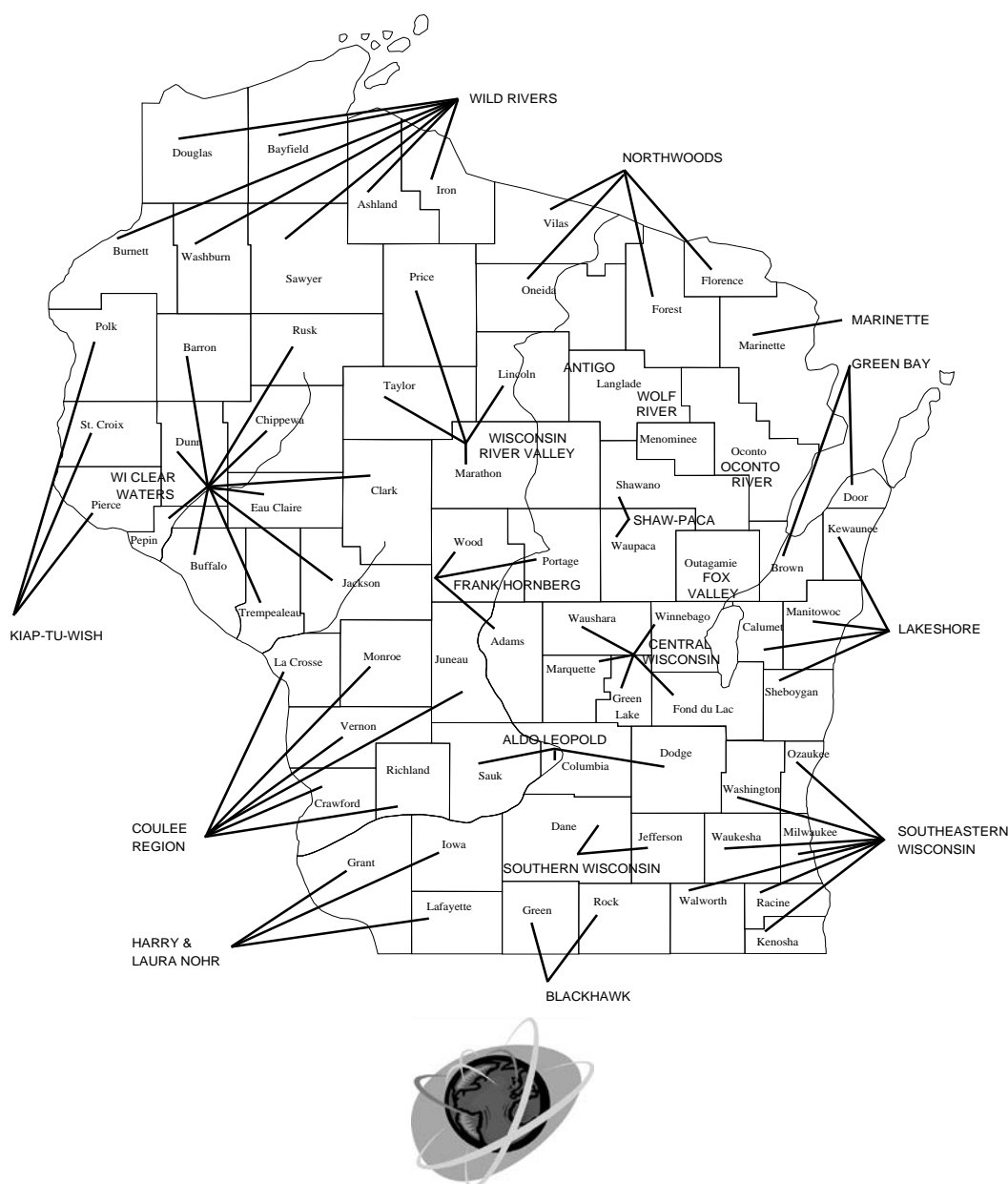
State Council honors 10 at annual banquetp. 6

WITU's Trout Management Principles.p. 9

Chapter president profiles: two gals in chargep. 16

Friends program grants \$36,000+ in 2010p. 20

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):** Vick Potocki, (262) 473-1824; vjpotocki@idcnet.com; www.BlackhawkTU.org
- Central Wisconsin (#117):** Linn Beck, 160 West 19th Ave., Oshkosh, WI 54903 (920) 233-5496; chlbeck@att.net, 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; wyattbohms@yahoo.com
- 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
- Kiah-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):** Hannah Hansen, R678 Mount View Ln., Athens, WI 54411 (715) 297-1569; hanimaxxx@yahoo.com
- 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):** Dick Berge, 67725 E. Deep Lake Dr., Iron River, WI 54847 (715) 372-5228 (H); flytyerb@cheqnet.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):** Linda Lehman, buglehman@yahoo.com; 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 KMccCarthy2@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:** Bill Heart (see above)
- 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@gklaw.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@gklaw.com
- National Leadership Council Representative:** Bill Heart (see above)
- 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).

WISCONSIN TROUT

Vol. 23, No. 2 — April 2011

Wisconsin Trout is the official publication of the Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited and is distributed to the members of Wisconsin’s 21 TU chapters. Nonmember subscriptions are \$12.50/year. Publication and distribution dates are the first weeks of January, April, July, and October. Deadlines for articles and advertisements are the 10th of December, March, June, and September. Contact the editor for a current advertising rate sheet.

Contributions and letters to the editor are welcomed. Submit articles and returnable photos (color or b&w) to the editorial office:

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

Of blue skies, green grass, and the rule of only so many spinning reels

By Todd Hanson

I was on State Street in Madison a few days ago and counted more than a dozen stores with signs in their front windows denouncing Gov. Walker's elimination of collective bargaining rights for some public employees. What was surprising, though, was how many signs there were supporting Walker's recall. When Tommy Thompson was Governor, he also had a bullying streak. Thompson often took positions that basically said, "Sue me if you don't like it." People didn't like it, they did sue, and the Wisconsin Supreme Court voted unanimously against Thompson about a half dozen times. Still, there wasn't any effort to recall Thompson like there is with Walker.

Editorial

I think I have an example our trout fishing readers will understand as to why Gov. Walker is moving from someone people disagree with to someone people increasingly distrust and are having serious second thoughts about. The example involves a wetland. Wetland protection is of prime importance to TU. If it weren't for wetlands to resupply groundwater, trout streams would dry up. Do you remember the flap over a proposed Bass Pro Shop store in Green Bay last January? Gov. Walker wanted to help Neenah auto dealer John Bergstrom develop a prime piece of property of his at the corner of Lombardi Av. and U.S. 41. Prime, that is, if it weren't for the fact that the land is a wetland and is off limits to uncontested development. Enter Scott Walker, who inserted a special provision in a bill declaring the site exempt from WDNR wetland review. Gov. Walker said the wetland exemption was needed to create jobs. In these times, that argument sounds awfully good to a lot of people on its face...but only if you ignore The Rule of Only So Many Spinning Reels.

Let's look at those potential Bass Pro Shop jobs. Can you think of one thing in a Bass Pro Shop that you couldn't buy at some other store? When people need a new spinning reel, they don't buy two reels. They buy just one. And if people buy that reel at a Bass Pro Shop, that means they didn't buy it someplace else. A new Bass Pro Shop will steal sales from a Cabela's which earlier took sales away from a Gander Mountain which earlier swiped sales from a Fleet Farm which earlier took sales from Ma's Bait and Tackle. If businesses lose sales, they reduce employee hours, eliminate jobs altogether, or, in the worst case, go out of business. There are only so many spinning reels to sell, and there are only so many jobs required to make those spinning reel sales.

Gov. Walker is smart enough to understand The Rule of Only So Many Spinning Reels, yet his reason for destroying that wetland to make way for the Bass Pro Shop store was jobs, jobs, jobs. It's as if he thinks if he says it enough, he'll get those Bass Pro Shop jobs and the existing sporting goods jobs won't be reduced. I think a lot of people are seeing Gov. Walker's arguments for a lot of unsavory things coming down the pike as being equally flawed and unsatisfying.

When I was in college, I was on the debate team. I remember one particular school always seemed to offer plans whose premises and conclusions were presented like this — the sky is blue; the grass is green; therefore we must abandon our recently adopted phosphorus reduction standards. What? How can you argue against the sky is blue (i.e., we need jobs)? How can you disagree that the grass is green (i.e., we need to give people the tools they need to make decisions)? It's the linkage between premises and conclusions that always seemed to be lacking in this teams' arguments. And it's this same absence of thoughtful, considered linkage that is missing in many of Gov. Walker's proposals. After all, if a bunch of trout fishers can understand The Rule of Only So Many Spinning Reels, shouldn't Gov. Walker?

But at least this Governor makes a case for something and sticks with it. There's honor in that. He would never put some policy change in a budget bill and argue it's necessary because it will help achieve a needed fiscal purpose only to reverse course 180 degrees and say that the policy wasn't really a fiscal matter after all in order to get it passed. Oops. So much for that.

When Trout Unlimited was formed in Wisconsin a little over 40 years ago, people were damming up trout streams for various developments. It strikes me that this is the kind of Governor who could suggest we return to such practices. He would propose it with a straight face and the promise of, yes, jobs. What's a little wetland? What's one little trout stream? Would this Governor change the trout regs on a whim saying it will create jobs? We'll keep an eye out.

As it turned out in Green Bay, Bass Pro Shops decided against putting their store on the Bergstrom wetland. A company spokesman was quoted in the *Post Crescent* saying, "We were unaware of any wetland issue and have not and will not be in favor of doing anything to harm wetlands wherever they might be." Good for them. That is exactly what Gov. Walker should have said. That he didn't tells us something important about how he may operate throughout his term.



STATE COUNCIL CHAIR KIM MCCARTHY ON TIMBER COULEE CREEK
Kim caught his share of trout on Timber Coulee Cr. during a recent trip to southwest Wisconsin.

Some thoughts on TU's impact across Wisconsin

By Kim McCarthy

WITU State Council Chair

It has been a long winter. As I write this, my home area is waiting for another couple inches of snow. We will take all of the water we can get here in the Northeast part of the state, but I would love to be thinking more about the early season and less about if I have enough gas for my snow blower.

Although long, the winter has been anything but dull. Some good, some to be determined, but there has been a lot going on with trout and the coldwater resource.

First up would be the raging success of our annual State Council meeting and banquet. The members of the banquet committee put a huge amount of energy into making our 40th anniversary celebration a success. And a success it was. All 21 chapters were represented at the annual meeting. Over 200 members and friends attended the annual banquet, and we realized a net profit of \$17,100 for the coldwater resources of the state. My thanks go out to all who worked on the banquet and to all who attended. It was a great event.

At the banquet I reported some composite numbers for Trout Unlimited in Wisconsin in 2010. I would like to repeat some of those numbers here so that more members get a feel for the enormous amounts of conservation work being accomplished by Trout Unlimited chapters around the state.

In the area of fund raising, all of the chapters and the State Council combined last year raised a total of \$968,000! Jeff Hastings' work with the DARE program added an additional \$600,000. Those funds helped finance 86 different conservation projects in 2010.

We know that Trout Unlimited members donate large amounts of time to the resource. How much? In 2010 total volunteer hours added up to 43,000. Those hours carry a value of another \$860,000. Tremendous!

Education has been a major growth area for TU in Wisconsin. Last year chapters were involved in 98 different education activities. We don't currently keep track of how many people are taking part in all of those activities, but it is a statistic we should begin to track because my guess is that the number is very impressive.

Our chapters should be very proud of the great amount of work that was accomplished in 2010. We know that TU is a real leader in conservation in Wisconsin, and the numbers give us a very good idea of how much we are accomplishing.

Next, let's talk about the regulations review that DNR is undertaking in 2011. This is the year DNR is beginning a review of trout regulations in Wisconsin. As part of that process, trout meetings are being conducted around the state. Trout fishers are being surveyed about what they like or dislike about the current regulation structure and about methods and harvest practices used by anglers.

By the time you read this, most of those trout meetings will be completed, but that does not mean that you don't have the time or the chance to comment. The DNR has a website offering an online survey about angling methods and regulations. The website can be accessed at <http://dnr.wi.gov/fish/trout>.

If you have not commented or attended a meeting, please take the time to visit the website and make your opinions known. It is important that TU members let the department know how they feel about the trout fishery in Wisconsin.

Recent studies out of UW-Stevens Point have shown that current miles of trout streams, numbers of trout, and sizes of trout are better than ever in Wisconsin. Sound regulations are important to keep the quality fishery protected into the future. As conservation-minded citizens, we cannot sit on the sidelines and leave the commenting to others. Make your voice heard.

We know that Trout Unlimited members donate large amounts of time to the resource. How much? In 2010 total volunteer hours added up to 43,000.

Land trusts hear TU leaders on partnership opportunities

Wisconsin TU has several opportunities for state land trusts to work as partners on projects and acquisitions, TU leaders told land trust leaders at a recent Gathering Waters land trust conference.

Gathering Waters is the umbrella organization for Wisconsin's approximately 50 local land trusts. Where land trusts are considering acquisition or protection of natural

places, and where those sites include coldwater resources, tantalizing opportunities can be presented.

State Council Chair Kim McCarthy and TUDARE's Duke Welter talked with land trust leaders about the State Council's Watershed Access Fund (WAF) and project planning opportunities. WAF can provide up to \$8,000 in combined State Council and local chapter

matching funds if two chapters are involved.

Through the project planning and funding resources available through TUDARE, TU chapters and other partners have already joined with land trusts on significant projects in Dane and Pierce counties. As a result, several trout streams have been preserved and restored.

Land trusts are facing possible reductions in funding at both the state and federal levels. Because of this, they showed great interest in working with TU.

For information on land trusts in your part of the state, or for information on land trust that specialize in preserving certain types of properties, go to www.gatheringwaters.org.



Trout stamp exhibit looking for old prints

Darrell Toliver of Sokol Associates in Plover, WI is looking for some of the more recent trout stamp prints for a planned exhibit on Wisconsin's trout stamp program.

The exhibit hopes to feature all of the trout stamp prints and stamps produced since the program's inception in 1978.

The prints the exhibitors are in need of are:

- 2000 inland trout print,
- 2005 inland trout print,
- 2006 inland trout print,
- 2007 inland trout print, and
- 2008 inland trout print.

If you have one of these prints, you can reach Darrell Toliver at (651) 269-8804 or by e-mail at DJTSOK@aol.com.

Volunteers needed for May's Wisconsin Outdoor Expo event in Beaver Dam

By Bob Haase

This year's Wisconsin Outdoor Expo will be held May 19-20 at the Dodge County Fairgrounds outside of Beaver Dam.

The program runs from around 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. each day. Last year we had around 930 students tie a fly, and a lot of them also tried their hand at fly casting.

We normally have over 3,000 kids and their chaperones attend the Wisconsin Outdoor Expo, and it takes a lot of volunteers to cover both the fly tying and fly casting. Last year we did not have enough volunteers to help with the fly casting, and we could really use some more volunteers in that area. We could use 6-8 volunteers each day for fly casting and 12-18 volunteers each day for fly tying.

The fly rods are furnished by the DNR, so all you need to bring is yourself to help with the fly casting. If you would like to help with the fly tying, just bring your vise and tying tools, including your scissors, half hitch tool or whip finisher, and a bobbin. All the materials for tying, including the thread, is furnished.

When we listen to all the things that are going on today that could negatively affect our natural resources, we realize how important it is to get kids involved in hunting, fishing, and other outdoor activities.

We realize how important it is to get kids involved in hunting, fishing, and other outdoor activities.

This is a chance for us to get kids interested in fishing by teaching them how to tie a fly and cast a rod. Maybe someday one or more of them might be representing us in the As-

sembly or Senate, or even as Governor or Secretary of the DNR. That fly you helped them tie might help them develop an interest in the outdoors which could affect their vote on important environmental issues.

We could also do a lot of other things at the Expo if we had the volunteers, such as teaching about aquatic insects, water monitoring, invasive species, stream restoration efforts, knot tying, or a variety of other things.

I would like to thank all the volunteers who have helped in the past, and I encourage your help again this year. You must know other chapter members or friends who might be able to help. If you can help, please call Bob Haase at (920) 922-8003 or e-mail me at flytier@milwpc.com.

STUDY: trout numbers in all sizes are up across the state

Continued from p. 1

indicator of trout abundance in streams. Fayram says it's the most comprehensive look ever at what's happening in Wisconsin's trout streams statewide. The DNR contracted with Nate to conduct the analysis to help provide information as part of its 10-year review of the trout program.

What Nate and her fellow researchers found was higher numbers per stream mile of trout statewide overall, and increased numbers per stream mile in each of the size ranges examined: brook trout over 7, 8, and 9 inches and brown trout over 7, 9, and 12 inches.

Role of regulations unclear

Not as clear, however, are the reasons *why* trout numbers increased, including the role regulations played, one of the original questions she hoped to answer.

"At the very least we can say that trout populations have continued to improve under Wisconsin's current regulatory structure," Nate says.

Veteran state fish biologists say the factors fueling trout number vary somewhat by region, but that changing land use and improved land management are factors. Habitat improvement work done by DNR, TU, and other partners, anglers' embrace of catch-and-release fishing, and DNR's shift to stocking more trout spawned from wild fish also are factors. Other factors are regulations, the acquisition of sensitive lands along streams, and beaver control in northern Wisconsin.

Nate also was interested in determining, to the extent possible, the effect of different trout angling regulations on trout populations as Wisconsin reviews its trout program and readies for a public participation process to learn how trout anglers' fishing habits and preferences have changed over the past two decades.

Before the current category system of regulation took effect in 1991, an angler could keep 10 trout over 6 inches from most streams. The current system placed all trout streams into one of five categories (now reduced to four) and applied base regulations to each category.

Among the "special regulation" streams (about three percent of Wisconsin trout water) there were 36 different regulation types that restricted gear, bag limits, seasons, and size limits in various combinations.

Nate found that this diversity of regulations, combined with the lack of contrast to streams with no regulations to serve as controls, made it hard to determine how a given regulation category performed compared to others.

In general, however, she found that streams with a daily bag limit of three and an 8-inch minimum for brook trout had the highest total density and density of fish greater than 9 inches among the four regulation categories.

Conversely, streams that had one of the "special regulations" had high densities of total brown trout and of brown trout greater than 12 inches, though the densities were only statistically higher than densities in streams with a daily bag limit of 5 and a 7-inch minimum.

SURVEY: DNR getting feedback on trout fishing

Continued from p. 1

how often they fish to how often do they harvest fish to what streams they consider good.

Feedback and survey answers will be used to help fine tune a statewide mail survey of randomly selected trout anglers scheduled for fall.

"Our trout team also will be reviewing the feedback, along with the mail survey results, as part of Wisconsin's trout review. We'll bring the results back out to you next year at this time, and then ask you to help us set management goals."

The good news, Engel says, is Wisconsin is starting from a very strong foundation. DNR staff past and present, conservation club members, and individual anglers have worked hard to improve fishing in Wisconsin.

For more information, contact Scot Stewart at in Madison at (608) 273-5967.



Elevate your fly fishing to a new level with the Original BlueSky Furler Leader. Sizes for all fish & fishing conditions. Amazing casting.

The Leader in Furler Leaders.™

Learn more at FurlerLeaders.com

BlueSky@netnet.net • Ph/Fax 920-430-1239
1163 Garland St., Green Bay, Wis. 54301 USA

River Cabin for Sale

Rustic cabin on the White River located just south of Wautoma between the confluence of the West Branch and the Cottonville bridge. New septic, metal roof, 3 bedrooms, propane heat, electric and well. Surrounded by DNR land on one of the area's premier trout streams and its classic Hex hatch. The perfect retreat or clubhouse. A rare opportunity for the serious outdoorsman. \$79,500. Call Russ Meyer 920-765-1644 or Dan Colligan 920-765-1983.

Driftless Area science event presents latest findings

By John Welter

Streambank sedimentation causes three times more soil loss than row crop agriculture does, according to recent research on SW Wisconsin Driftless Area streams.

Managed intensive grazing can keep farms in business and keep soil on the land, but it's often a big step for farmers to switch from feedlot agriculture to rotational grazing.

Cows or sheep can help control unwanted species such as wild parsnip, nettles, tree seedlings, and reed canary grass when they graze near streams, but this has to be done at the rights times and in the right amount.

Speakers made these points to over 100 attendees of TUDARE's "Science in the Driftless" symposium in La Crosse March 15-16.

Topics discussed included those noted above, as well as the impacts of hundreds of poorly functioning culverts and bridges, various scientific topics, and concerns underpin-

ning Wisconsin's current tiered trout regulation system.

Sediment is a major limiting factor in most area streams, but the problem can often be addressed by picking the right 15-20 per cent of a watershed for remediation, according to Winona State Prof. Toby Dogwiler. His studies in the Root River watershed southeast of Rochester, MN are leading him to focus on key slope areas and shapes on which to install conservation practices.

Genetic studies are suggesting that presettlement brook trout strains may still have remnants in some Minnesota streams, according to Dr. Loren Miller, who has been doing genetics research with MD-NR for over 20 years.

Other work is being done on Wisconsin brook trout by other researchers who hope to learn whether some strains here are unmixed with strains brought in from hatcheries in the northeastern United States for over a century.

BUDGET: changes may affect TU's stream restoration work

Continued from p. 1

remaining five months of fiscal year 2010-11 Stewardship acquisitions would be reduced by about 60%. Figures for target spending for fiscal years 2011-13 have not been announced.

The Stewardship Program has long had widespread support from the sporting community. As the population of Wisconsin increases,

quality lands will need to be protected to preserve Wisconsin's strong tradition of quality public recreation.

Changes to the Stewardship Program that result in the inability to protect lands that become available will make it more difficult to maintain that tradition. TU members should be very concerned about the proposed changes outlined above.



ROGER FAIRBANKS HONORED IN 1979
Roger Fairbanks (left) received TU's Trout Conservationist of the Year Award at TU's national meeting in Seattle, WA, in 1979. Standing next to Fairbanks is TU National Director Phil Bracewell (center) and WITU State Council Chair Tom Sopkovich (right).

Kiap founder Roger Fairbanks dies

Roger Fairbanks of Hudson, WI, a founder of the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter, died on Feb. 23 at age 88.

Fairbanks was named Trout Conservationist of the Year by TU National in 1979.

TU National Director Ron Koshoshek said at the time, "There is no one in my acquaintance more deserving of TU's top award.... While many TUsers are vigorous for a time and return after the original exuberance and with exhaustion to family and profession, both of which must be compromised to perform at Roger's level, he remains on the front lines. While others of us may, after a moment of accomplishment, be tempted by the notoriety that accrues to state or national offices, Roger has always refused such invitations in order to remain at the interface of conservationist and resource — where the real action is."

Watershed Access Fund

Thanks to our Watershed Access Fund contributors!

Since taking over this funding program last fall, I continue to be impressed with the level of financial support our members are willing to offer. Since our fund appeal letter went out last October, we have received over \$6,000 from over 60 contributors.

Our Watershed Access Fund is not very old. It's only in its second year of existence, but every financial award the program makes will provide permanent fishing opportunities for you and other trout fishers. These acquisitions also secure access that allows TU and others to make habitat improvements on these properties.

None of this is possible without your support. Please consider a generous contribution to the Watershed Access Fund. The need for access is critical for anglers to continue their passion for trout fishing. Access is also critical for TU to continue its successful stream improvement work. All contributions will be used solely for Wisconsin acquisitions.

2010/11 Contributors

Andrews, Duke	Minocqua	Byrnes, Clint	Beaver Dam
Antigo TU Chapter		Cook, Andrew	Sister Bay
Barnes, Edwin	Middleton	Craig, Grant	Green Bay
Bartynski, Jeff	Eau Claire	Dahlke, Dale	Knapp
Benedict, Mark	Madison	Danou, Chris	Trempealeau
Berg, Ron & Jolene	Chippewa Falls	Davidson, Bruce	Wauwatosa
Bhatia, Ashok	Whitefish Bay	Duplessie, Richard	Eau Claire
Born, Stephen	Madison	Emerson, James	Glidden
Bristol, Jerry	Ellsworth	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		Prine, Dick	Ashland
Harkins, Paul	Sparta	Rake, Randal	DePere
Hawk, John	Harshaw	Robertson, Steve	Verona
Heart, Bill	New Holstein	Rogers, William	Elkhart Lake
Heifner, Mark	Ashland	Ryan, Rosemary	Wauwatosa
Heil, Walter	Appleton	Sandretto, Michael	Neenah
Herman, Gilbert	DePere	Shaw-Paca Chapter	
Hill, James	Stoughton	Smith, Jeff	Madison
Hinde, David	Oregon	Southeastern WI TU Chapter	
Hoffman, Mike	Roscoe, IL	Spittler, Mike	Minneapolis
Hyer, Greg	Onalaska	Steudel, Charles	Mineral Point
Kendall, Alden	Cross Plains	Stockman, Wayne	Spring Valley
Kiap TU Wish TU Chapter	Duluth, MN	Swanson, Greg	Appleton
King, Gordon		Thurber, Noah	Stratford
King, Gordon (WPS Matching Grant)	Merrill	Vanden Elzen, Bill	Appleton
Koivisto, Jack		Van Ness, Peter	Lodi
Lindroth, Rick	Green Bay	Vollrath, Larry	Green Bay
Martin, Dean	Madison	Wachowski, Richard	Eau Claire
McCarthy, Kim	Blair	Wadsworth, Leslie	Madison
McGrath, Randy	Green Bay	Welhouse, Don	Kaukauna
Mille, Mark	Janesville	Wiemerslage, Paul	Hudson
Morrow, Jerome	Milwaukee	Wild Rivers Chapter	
	Baraboo	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")

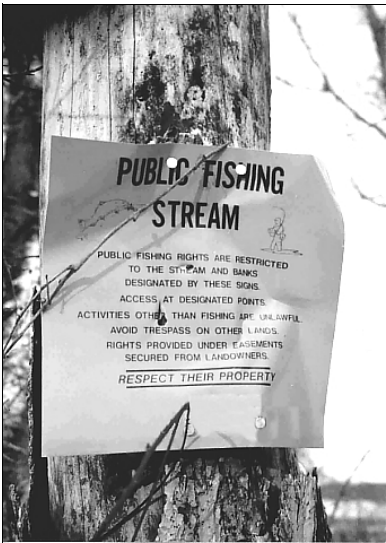
MAIL TO: TU Watershed Access Fund
% Doug Brown
R4800 Timber Ln.
Ringle, WI 54471

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____





2011 TROUT CHAMPIONS HONORED IN STEVENS POINT ON FEB. 5

State Council award winners included (left to right) Michele Maxson representing Fairmount Minerals Co., Rick Kyte, John Tucker representing the Central WI TU, Topf Wells, Tim Landwehr, John Welter, Alistair Stewart, Linn Beck representing CWTU, Henry Quinlan, George Boronow, and Bob Haase.

Council honors 10 at State Council Banquet

Ten individuals and groups were honored at the State Council’s annual meeting and banquet at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Stevens Point Feb. 5.

Resource Award of Merit — John “Duke” Welter

This year’s recipient of the State Council’s top honor, the Award of Merit, is someone who has helped our State Council, our chapters, and TU’s national organization speak out on key issues for almost 20 years — John “Duke” Welter.

Here in Wisconsin, Duke has fought to protect our streams from

impacts of mining, outdated small dams, uncontrolled water bottling, wetland losses, misguided development, and poor land uses.

He was one of the leaders of the effort to develop one of TU’s most innovative and volunteer-driven projects — the Driftless Area Restoration Effort (TUDARE). As this program has grown, it has strengthened chapters and reminded communities of the marvelous spring creek resources in their back yards.

During Duke’s four-year stint as State Council chair, he worked hard to improve the DNR’s Inland Trout

Stamp program. He has been involved in trout regulation improvements and recently helped us revamp our state easement program.

At the national level, Duke led our grassroots National Leadership Council for three years and served on TU’s Board of Trustees for seven years. In the process, he helped TU develop and implement its Stream Access policy, which has served a valuable purpose across the nation.

Our recipient has not restricted his advocacy just to Trout Unlimited. For 10 years Duke served on the Trout Study Committee of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress, and for the past seven years he has served on the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board. In those roles, he has been a strong voice for trout and healthy streams.

In addition, he has been involved in leadership of the state’s Stewardship program and an advocate for public access to lands for recreational opportunities. When his NRB term expires this May, Duke hopes to move on to other resource-related opportunities. And, perhaps, to fish a little bit.

Joan & Lee Wulff Conservation Award — Topf Wells

As Lee Wulff once said, a trout is too valuable to be caught just once. In that spirit, our annual Lee and Joan Wulff Conservation Award will

spend just the next year in the possession of this year’s recipient, Topf Wells.

Topf has been a champion for conservation throughout a long career in government. He began his public life as the Director of the Wisconsin Conservation Corps, then worked at the WDNR, and most recently he has been Chief of Staff for Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk.

Dane County has one of the most progressive, far-reaching local government conservation programs in the country, and Topf Wells has had a lot to do with that. Topf spearheaded Falk’s effort to dramatically increase the county’s Conservation Fund from less than \$1 million per year to \$3 million per year. Topf worked to direct a good share of those Conservation Fund dollars to purchase streambank easements and to fund stream restoration projects.

In the past dozen years, Dane County has gotten easements on and restored over 50 miles of trout streams. Four years ago, Topf worked with Falk to establish a Permanent Streambank Easement Program to pay landowners to switch from limited-term to permanent easements.

With self-effacing charm, wit, and grit, he has worked tirelessly to guide, encourage, prod, and protect the county’s conservation and environmental programs, even during



AWARD OF MERIT, LEE & JOAN WULFF AWARD, AND GOLD TROUT AWARD WINNERS

The 2011 WITU State Council awards were presented by Chair Kim McCarthy Feb. 5 at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Stevens Point. The Resource Award of Merit was presented to John “Duke” Welter from the WI Clear Waters Chapter (top). The Lee & Joan Wulff Conservation Award was given to Topf Wells of the Southern WI Chapter (left). The Gold Trout Award went to Bob Haase from the Central WI Chapter.

tough financial times. Topf has worked with Falk to buy and restore wetlands, to better regulate manure spreading, to fund farm manure digesters, and to expand the county's wildlife and hunting lands.

Much of his work is behind the scenes, and he invariably gives credit to others, especially his boss, Kathleen Falk. But Falk would be the first to say that Topf Wells has left his indelible mark on conservation efforts in Dane County. He has been a true public servant and is fully deserving of our Joan and Lee Wulff Award.

Silver Trout Award — Central WI Chapter

Our chapter of the year award — the Silver Trout — goes to the Central Wisconsin Chapter. CWTU has long been one of Wisconsin TU's "overachievers." They seem to do it all, from education to training to conservation.

The chapter is being recognized this year for really stepping up their stream restoration efforts. CWTU's recent improvement efforts have focused on the Mekan River in Waushara County. They did this work with a grant from the Trout and Salmon Foundation and matching grants from Central and the Elliott Donnelley Chapter from Illinois. Led by stream workday Chair Line Beck and WDNR Supervisor Shawn Sullivan, the chapter improved 1,800 feet of the Mekan in 2010. The chapter also worked on Lawrence Creek in Marquette County and Cedar Springs Creek.

Last November CWTU got a second grant from the Trout and Salmon Foundation. With the matches from CWTU and EDTU, they have \$22,000 in the bank for future work on the Mekan. These funds will support improvements on about a mile of water over the next couple years. CWTU hopes that the beautiful work completed in 2010 will increase the interest in the Central Sand Hills Ecoregion Restoration Initiative recently proposed by Alistair Stewart and Bob Hunt.

Another CWTU success story has been their River Keepers initiative. In recent years, the chapter's water monitoring program has been in decline, going from 12 active teams to just 5 in 2009. Fortunately, John Gremmer and Jim Murphy jumped to the challenge of reconstructing the program. One of the first things they did was rename it to River Keepers, signifying an active group doing more than just monitoring. The leadership team has expanded from two to six active leaders. One of the new leaders, Rick Fahrenkrug, successfully applied for a \$5,000 grant that is being used to purchase needed equipment. More people were recruited, and training was provided in the spring. There are now 14 active teams testing 20 stream sites in a six-county area.

For these and many other reasons, Central Wisconsin TU is our chapter of the year.

Gold Trout Award — Bob Haase

Our Gold Trout award winner this year is Bob Haase. Bob's leadership within TU began as editor of the Central Wisconsin Chapter's newsletter. Later he served as chapter vice president, followed by a two-year stint as chapter president. He's also co-chair of Central's water monitoring program. And he's always there when a fly tying program for kids, senior citizens, or handicapped people is held.

Because of his love of fly tying and education, it seemed a perfect fit that Bob would volunteer to be

the State Council's Education Chair. In this position, Bob has lined up dozens of volunteers to teach fly tying and casting to the thousands of elementary school students who attend the annual Wisconsin Outdoor Expo. Every year the Outdoor Expo serves about 3,000 kids, and about 1,000 of them stop by the TU tent to tie their first fly or cast a fly rod. A couple years ago Bob volunteered to be the State Council's Central Region Vice Chair.

In between all this, Bob has been Executive Director of the Musky Clubs Alliance for 12 years. He works with 25 musky clubs on various research, education, and musky management projects. A lot of these activities are brought to the attention of the general public in a weekly 20-minute radio program Bob produces for KFIZ radio in Fond du Lac. Bob's "Outdoor Thursdays" program is one of the most popular shows on KFIZ.

Would it surprise you if we said that we're leaving a lot of Bob's outdoor education and conservation activities out of this summary? With all he does, we're happy that Trout Unlimited gets so much of Bob's time.

Gold Net Award — Rick Kyte

Our Gold Net Award winner is Rick Kyte of the Coulee Region Chapter. Rick volunteered as the Coulee Region TU chapter president from 2007-2010 and was an active member in the chapter long before that. Rick's nomination for the Gold Net Award stemmed from an e-mail he sent to fellow member Eric Rauch asking a simple question — "Eric, what's up with TU?"

In recent years, the Coulee Chapter went through some changes and had slipped into a state of limbo. The chapter had only one or two meetings a year, and sometimes only three people showed up. Eventually the chapter stopped meeting altogether.

Rick volunteered to be president and took the bull by the horns. To-

day the Coulee Chapter is securely footed again. The chapter continues to grow and has again become an

active group. The chapter has completed several habitat improvement
Continued on p. 8



GOLD NET AWARD, CORPORATE SPONSOR OF THE YEAR AWARD, AND CHAPTER OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNERS

The State Council's Gold Net Award was presented to Rick Kyte of the Coulee Region Chapter (top). Tim Landwehr of Tight Lines Fly Fishing Co. in De Pere (middle) was given the council's first-ever Corporate Sponsor of the Year Award. The Silver Trout Award for the top Wisconsin TU chapter was presented to the Central WI Chapter. Accepting on behalf of CWTU were (l to r) President John Tucker, incoming President Linn Beck, and John Gremmer.

AWARDS: State Council honors 10 at Stevens Point event

Continued from p. 7
projects and has taken part in many public youth activities.

Rick is also very involved with other community and environmental groups. He is the Director of Ethics and Leadership at Viterbo University in La Crosse. He is active in the Mississippi Valley Conservancy, the La Crosse Rotary, and the La Crosse County Conservation Alliance.

We thank Rick for all of his dedication to the environment and to conservation. Without him, today there might not be a Coulee Region TU.

Corporate Sponsor of the Year — Tight Lines Fly Fishing Co.

We have a brand new award this year. We want to recognize the businesses that have been supportive of the State Council. Our first winner in this category is Tight Lines Fly Fishing Co. in De Pere and its owner, Tim Landwehr.

Tight Lines has been a generous supplier of high-quality items for the State Council banquet for the past 10 years. Former banquet chair Dan Holland says he didn't even have to ask Tim for a contribution most years. Tim simply asked, "What do you need for the banquet?"

In addition to helping with State Council banquets, Tim organized and sponsored a movie night in De Pere. The proceeds of this movie night were used to fund a part-time DNR person to work on trout streams in central Wisconsin. This was truly beyond any expectations, and it demonstrated the magnitude

of Tim's commitment to Wisconsin's coldwater resources. For these and other reasons, Tight Lines Fly Fishing Company is our first Corporate Sponsor of the Year.

Resource Professional Award — George Boronow

We have given two Resource Professional Awards this year. The first goes to George Boronow. George recently retired as the Fisheries Supervisor for the DNR's Northeast Region. The TU chapters in George's area wanted to do more trout habitat work in central and northeastern Wisconsin. An idea developed to hire seasonal employees to work as limited-term DNR employees focusing on trout habitat work. Most of the pay for these employees would come from northeast region TU chapters.

George supported the idea and became the force behind the implementation of the concept. His efforts and support are the main reason the program became a reality.

This summer the program enters its third year. Already several miles of trout water have been improved. George is very deserving of recognition for his efforts to join with Trout Unlimited in this unique partnership.

Resource Professional Award — Henry Quinlan

Our second Resource Professional Award goes to Henry Quinlan. Henry has been a fisheries biologist with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in Ashland since 1996. As a "fed," Henry doesn't have the management authority of his state counterparts. So to conserve, pro-

tect, and enhance depleted coaster brook trout populations, Henry has worked for over 15 years to foster cooperation between the various resource parties involved. Henry has worked with state, federal, tribal, academic, and non-governmental partners to accomplish the following:

- He established a coaster brood stock management plan and started two coaster brook trout brood lines.
- He spearheaded the stocking of coasters at four locations in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan.
- He developed the innovative, solar-powered, PIT-tag technology being used on Whittlesey Creek to better understanding coaster movement between tributaries and Lake Superior.
- He has authored or co-authored many papers and reports that have expanded our understanding of coaster brook trout.

Henry will say that he doesn't have all the answers for what it will take to ensure coaster brook trout rebound for future generations. But Henry's dedication, commitment, and professionalism will surely help others figure out the answers.

Special Appreciation Award — Alistair Stewart

We have a Special Appreciation Award this year for Alistair Stewart. Although Alistair lives in Chicago, his heart is in the Central Sands area. As a member of the Central Wisconsin Chapter, Alistair is being recognized for his recent efforts to raise funds and generate enthusiasm

for habitat work on the Mekan River.

Alistair got two significant grants for CWTU recently from the Trout & Salmon Foundation. One grant was for \$5,000 and the other for \$6,000. These grants went even further because they were matched by Central Wisconsin TU and Illinois' Elliott Donnelley Chapter. Alistair has also gotten contributions from the Chicago Anglers Club.

Alistair is a CWTU board member, and he works actively on stream work projects. He also volunteers at CWTU's fly fishing school and TroutFest. And keep your ears open for a possible long-term restoration effort Alistair is working on with other CWTU members called the Central Sand Hills Restoration Initiative. If that proposal takes off, Central Wisconsin streams will get some major habitat improvement attention in coming years.

Special Appreciation Award — Fairmount Minerals Co.

We have a final appreciation award today for a company that has become an extraordinary partner on a major restoration effort on Pine Creek in Maiden Rock, Wisconsin. It all began when Al Nelson of the Wisconsin Sand Division of Fairmount Minerals contacted Andy Lamberson in 2007. Fairmount operates a silica sand mine just a couple miles away from the Pine Creek project. Al was looking for a way for his employees to fulfill their corporate objective of 40 hours of paid volunteer time per employee per year. The Pine Creek project was li-

Continued on p. 14



RESOURCE PROFESSIONAL AND APPRECIATION AWARD WINNERS

Resource Professional Awards were given to George Boronow of the WDNR (bottom left) and to Henry Quinlan of the US Fish & Wildlife Service (top left).

Receiving Appreciation Awards were Michele Maxson representing Fairmount Minerals Co. (top right) and Alistair Stewart of CWTU (bottom right).

No major trout-related items at ‘11 Spring Hearings

There are no major trout-related items up for a vote at the annual WD-NR Spring Hearings and Conservation Congress meetings to be held April 11 at locations across the state.

TU members attending the Spring Hearings may want to bring a copy of the recently developed Resource Management Guiding Principles (*see below*) to accurately present Wisconsin Trout Unlimited’s position on trout management. These principles were approved at the Feb. 5 State Council annual meeting. They were developed by the council’s Resource Management Committee to summarize Wisconsin TU’s position on trout management and regulations in advance of the WDNR’s 10-year review of the state’s trout regulations.

(Note that the principles do *not* advocate catch-and-release fishing, a common misconception about TU).

Trout Resource Management Guiding Principles

Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited
Adopted February 5, 2011

Trout Unlimited is a national organization of conservationists and trout anglers dedicated to conserving, protecting, and restoring North America’s coldwater fisheries and their watersheds. The Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited supports this mission at local and state levels through dedicated volunteers with a network of 21 chapters and over 4,300 members. The Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited is concerned about the future of the coldwater resources of the state.

Wisconsin Coldwater Resources

Wisconsin is blessed with an abundance and variety of coldwater resources influenced by the diverse geology and a climate that changes from south to north, and east to west. There are smaller, more fertile farmland streams in the south, while the north has less fertile forested streams and rivers that support trout. The coldwater resource includes 2,900 trout streams, hundreds of spring ponds (the highest concentration in the world), many inland lakes, and two Great Lakes that support trout fishing. There are over 10,000 miles of trout streams found in 68 of Wisconsin’s 72 counties, with 35 of these counties each having over 100 miles within their borders. Fifteen counties located along Lakes Michigan and Superior provide for coldwater angling opportunities on their numerous tributaries. Because of this diversity, one uniform fishing regulation or management action would not be effective across the entire state.

Users and Their Economic Impact

Trout fishing in Wisconsin has a multi-billion dollar impact to the economy of the state and supports thousands of small business jobs at gas stations, convenience stores, motels, restaurants, sport shops, and clothing and souvenir stores. Wisconsin is the second most popular fishing destination in the country, trailing only Florida in non-resident fishing license sales. A 2009 study of trout anglers revealed that trout anglers travel from all 50 states to fish trout in the Driftless Area, which includes much of southwest Wisconsin. The annual economic impact from these anglers is 1.1 billion dollars (“Economic Impact of Recreational Trout Angling in the Driftless Area” <http://www.tu.org/driftless>). Statewide, approximately 194,000 inland and 175,000 Great Lakes trout anglers annually purchase stamps which generate 3.6 million dollars ear-marked for specific management actions of Wisconsin’s coldwater resources. In addition to trout stamps, anglers support the entire coldwater program through user fees such as fishing licenses and a sporting goods tax, not by general tax payer funds.

We Want Good Fishing Made Even Better

Wisconsin’s Department of Natural Resources’ trout management program has been a national leader for over 50 years, and the Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited is committed to see that Wisconsin continues to build upon that heritage by following these guiding principles:

- Continue to manage first for native and wild trout.
- Continue the practice of science-based trout management.
- Support opportunities to harvest trout by a variety of fishing methods which are well-matched to the potential size and carrying capacity of individual coldwater resources.
- Support a variety of opportunities to fish over populations of trout whose size potential is not adversely affected by harvest.
- Support the simplification of trout regulations when reasonable and consistent with these principles.
- Support educational opportunities concerning trout regulations and management.

COUNTY MEETING LOCATIONS

2011 DNR Spring Hearings and Wisconsin Conservation Congress

Monday, April 11
7:00 p.m. at All Locations

- Adams** Adams County Courthouse, County Board Room A230, 402 Main Street, Friendship, WI
Ashland Ashland Senior High School, 1900 Beaser, Ashland, WI
Barron Old Barron County Courthouse, Lower Level Auditorium, 330 E. LaSalle Ave., Barron, WI
Bayfield Drummond High School Auditorium, 52440 Eastern Ave., Drummond, WI
Brown Northeast Wisconsin Technical College (SC132), 2740 W. Mason St., Green Bay, WI
Buffalo Alma High School Gymnasium, S1618 STH 35, Alma, WI
Burnett Burnett County Government Center, Room 165, 7410 County Road K, Siren, WI
Calumet Calumet County Courthouse, Rm. B025, 206 Court Street, Chilton
Chippewa Chippewa Falls Middle School Auditorium, 750 Tropicana Blvd., Chippewa Falls, WI
Clark Greenwood High School Cafeteria, 306 W. Central Ave., Greenwood, WI
Columbia Wayne E. Bartels Middle School, 2505 New Pinery Rd., Portage, WI
Crawford Crawford Co. Courthouse, Room 200, 220 N. Beaumont Rd., Prairie du Chien, WI
Dane Schwan Performing Arts Center, Monona Grove High School, 4400 Monona Dr., Monona, WI
Dodge Horicon City Hall, 404 E. Lake St., Horicon, WI
Door Sturgeon Bay High School Auditorium, 1230 Michigan St., Sturgeon Bay, WI
Douglas Solon Springs High School, 8993 E. Baldwin Ave., Solon Springs, WI
Dunn Dunn County Fish and Game Club, 1900 Pioneer Ave., Menomonie, WI
Eau Claire South Middle School Auditorium, 2115 Mitscher Ave., Eau Claire, WI
Florence Florence Natural Resource Center, 5631 Forestry Dr., Florence, WI
Fond du Lac Theisen Middle School, 525 E Pioneer Rd., Fond du Lac, Wisconsin
Forest Crandon High School Auditorium, 9750 US HWY 8 West, Crandon, WI
Grant Lancaster High School, Hillary Auditorium, 806 East Elm St., Lancaster, WI
Green Monroe Middle School, 1510 13th Avenue, Monroe, WI
Green Lake Green Lake High School, Small Gym, 612 Mill St., Green Lake, WI
Iowa Dodgeville High School Gymnasium, 912 Chapel Street, Dodgeville, WI
Iron Iron County Courthouse, 300 Taconite Street, Hurley, WI
Jackson Black River Falls Middle School, LGI Room, 1202 Pierce Street, Black River Falls, WI
Jefferson Jefferson County Fair Park Activity Center, 503 N. Jackson, Jefferson, WI
Juneau Olson Middle School Auditorium, 508 Grayside Avenue, Mauston, WI
Kenosha Bristol Elementary School, 20121 83rd Street, Bristol, WI
Kewaunee Kewaunee High School Auditorium, 911 Third Street, Kewaunee, WI
La Crosse Onalaska High School, 700 Hilltopper Place, Onalaska, WI
Lafayette Darlington High School Auditorium, 11838 Center Hill Road, Darlington, WI
Langlade Antigo High School, Volm Theater, 1900 10th Ave., Antigo, WI
Lincoln Tomahawk Elementary School, 1048 East King Road, Tomahawk, WI
Manitowoc UW-Manitowoc Theatre/Auditorium, 705 Viebahn Street, Manitowoc, WI
Marathon D.C. Everest Middle School Auditorium, 9302 Schofield Avenue, Schofield, WI
Marinette Crivitz High School Auditorium, 400 South Avenue, Crivitz, WI
Marquette Montello High School Community Room, 222 Forest Lane, Montello, WI
Menominee Menominee County Courthouse Basement, Courthouse Lane, Keshena, WI
Milwaukee Nathan Hale High School, 11601 W. Lincoln Ave., West Allis, WI
Monroe Tomah Senior High School, Cafeteria, 901 Lincoln Ave., Tomah, WI
Oconto Suring High School, Cafeteria, 411 E Algoma St., Suring, WI
Oneida James Williams Middle School, Auditorium, 915 Acacia Lane, Rhineland, WI
Outagamie Riverview Middle School Auditorium, 101 Oak St., Kaukauna, WI
Ozaukee Webster Middle School Commons, W75 N624 Wauwatosa Road, Cedarburg, WI
Pepin Pepin County Government Center, County Board Room, 740 7th Ave. West, Durand, WI
Pierce Ellsworth Senior High School Auditorium, 323 Hillcrest, Ellsworth, WI
Polk Unity High School, 1908 150th St. Hwy 46, Balsam Lake, WI
Portage Ben Franklin Junior High School Auditorium, 2000 Polk St., Stevens Point, WI
Price Price County Courthouse Board Room, 126 Cherry St., Phillips, WI
Racine Union Grove High School Performance Center, 3433 S. Colony Ave., Union Grove, WI
Richland Richland County Courthouse, Courtroom, 181 West Seminary, Richland Center, WI
Rock Pontiac Convention Center, 2809 N Pontiac Dr., Janesville, WI
Rusk Ladysmith High School Auditorium, 1700 E. Edgewood Ave., Ladysmith, WI
Saint Croix St Croix Central High School Commons, 1751 Broadway St., Hammond, WI
Sauk UW Baraboo Sauk County, Lecture Hall A4, 1006 Connie Road, Baraboo, WI
Sawyer Hayward High School Auditorium, 10320 Greenwood Lane, Hayward
Shawano Shawano Middle School, LGI Room, 1050 S. Union St., Shawano, WI
Sheboygan Sheboygan Falls High School Auditorium, 220 Amherst Ave., Sheboygan Falls, WI
Taylor Fair Grounds, Multi purpose building, Hwy 64/ Hwy 13, Medford, WI
Trempealeau Whitehall City Center, 36245 Park St., Whitehall, WI
Vernon Viroqua High School Commons, 100 Blackhawk Drive, Viroqua, WI
Vilas St. Germain Elementary School, 8234 Hwy 70 West, Saint Germain, WI
Walworth Delavan-Darien High School, 150 Cummings St., Delavan, WI
Washburn Spooner Agricultural Research Station, W6646 Hwy 70, Spooner
Washington Washington County Fair Park, 3000 Cty Hwy PV, West Bend, WI
Waukesha Waukesha Co. Tech. College, Richard Anderson Ed. Center, 800 Main Street, Pewaukee, WI
Waupaca Waupaca High School Auditorium, E 2325 King Rd., Waupaca, WI
Waushara Waushara County Court House, 2nd Floor Old Court Rm., 209 S. St. Marie St., Wautoma, WI
Winnebago Webster Stanley Middle School Auditorium, 915 Hazel Street, Oshkosh, WI
Wood Pittsville High School Auditorium, 5459 Elementary Avenue, Pittsville, WI



Chapter News



ALDO LEOPOLD FLY TYING

Instructor Jerry Gorman (left) shows Curt Deboer a few tricks during a recent Aldo Leopold fly tying event at the Beaver Dam Community Library.

Aldo Leopold Chapter

At our January chapter elections there were two changes to the board. First, after years of service, **Cody Doucette** stepped down from the board. Many thanks to Cody for all of his help and efforts over the years. The other change is that **Tim Hood** has joined the board. Thank

you, Tim, for stepping forward to help the chapter. The other board members and officers remain the same.

We just finished our fly tying class at the **Beaver Dam Community Library**. A great group of students helped make the class a success, and

instructors **Todd Franklin**, **Jerry Gorman**, and I did a great job leading the students through the fine art of winding hackle and dubbing bodies. I am already looking forward to next year's classes.

On January 18 we held a meeting in Baraboo to discuss our **Bear Creek** habitat improvement project. We brought together all the various parties to the project — the landowner, the **DNR**, **Sauk County Land Conservation Department**, **Sauk County Zoning Department**, **NRCS**, **UW Extension**, and our contractor, **Holtz Lime and Gravel**. The purpose was to review all facets of the project, determine potential roadblocks and how to remove them, discuss funding and work scheduling, and any other issues that might arise. The meeting was a great success, with many questions answered and issues resolved. The cooperation we are receiving from all of these entities and people is phenomenal, and we really couldn't succeed without all the help we are receiving.

We received big funding news on our **Bear Creek** project in February. After a very competitive review process, our project received \$8,000 from the Trout Unlimited **Embrace-a-Stream** program! Grant writer **Tom Gawle** penned a truly award-winning application, and our Bear Creek project team did a great job critiquing and refining the application. It is truly gratifying to receive this vote of support from TU National.

In early March we received additional big news on Bear Creek. Our **WHIP** contract proposal was fully funded at just over \$48,000! **Tony Pillow** of **NRCS** in Baraboo went the extra two miles writing up the contract proposal, really digging for every point possible in the scoring criteria. It paid off. Thank you, Tony!

Brent Bergstrom of **Sauk County Land Conservation Department** secured \$10,000 in county funds for the project, and **Dan Fuller** from **DNR** secured \$16,000 in trout stamp money. All told, including chapter funds, we now have about \$103,000 of the \$131,000 we need to complete the project. We hope to fill the remaining fund gap in the next few months.

Our first Bear Creek luncheon-building day will be June 11. We will be partnering with **SEWTU** on building the 44 lunkers needed for the project.

We are also having a workday April 22 on **Dell Creek** in **Sauk County**. If you are interested in joining us, contact **Todd Franklin**, workday chair, at (608) 516-3647.

Our chapter fund-raising picnic will be held June 22 at 5 p.m. at **Habermann Park** in **Lodi**. Many really great prizes await those who attend. The grand prize is a Sage VT2 4wt rod with reel and line worth over \$600. Join us for great food and great company.

—Mike Barniskis

Antigo Chapter

Well, here we go. It's March and the forecast is for more snow. In NE Wisconsin we can still use the water, but we're looking forward to spring. A couple of Antigo TU members and I had the pleasure of attending the State Council banquet in February. A great time was had by all, and it sounds like the event was a big success.

Like other TU chapters, we are in the mist of getting ready for our annual banquet. Our banquet will be held on Sat., March 26 at the **Knights of Columbus Hall** in **Antigo**. We're looking forward to a great banquet this year. Of interest, we will be raffling a three-animal **South Africa** hunting trip to the lucky winner.

We hope to have a great banquet to help fund the \$7,400 in pledges

for the coming summer projects. These projects include funding for beaver control in the **Nicolet National Forest**, fuel cost for the **DNR** dredge that will be working on **Carbone Springs** this summer, our portion of the two-man summer work crew in NE Wisconsin, and some new equipment for our area **DNR** personnel.

We are also looking at the first Saturday in June to hold our **Kids Fishing Day**. It's always a fun day for us and the kids. I'll let you know if a special dream comes true for the kid's day.

Finally we're also looking at a project on the outlet stream at **Trout Springs** in southern **Lanlade County**.

—Scott Henricks

Central Wisconsin Chapter

CWTU approved a chapter concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO) position at the January board meeting. This position paper was distributed for feedback at the February 5 State Council meeting.

Project Healing Waters fly tying classes resumed in January after taking a break for the holiday months. Contact **John Tucker** for details.

Once again, **Ira Giese** organized and led the **Master Fly Tying** classes for five sessions in January and February. Each evening a guest expert presented his favorite flies. As usual, the classes were filled to capacity.

Programs Chair **Bob Smaglik** arranged a program about caddis flies that was presented immediately following the January board meeting. As with last year's **Night of the Hex** presentation, the attendance was very good despite bad weather.

The chapter donated \$500 worth of books and DVDs about fly fishing to the **Winnefox Library System**. This is the second year that we have done this under the leadership of **John Gremmer**.

The chapter was well represented at the State Council Banquet where we were awarded the **Silver Trout Award** for best chapter. **Bob Haase** received the **Gold Trout Award**, and **Alistair Stewart** received a **Special Appreciation Award**. **David Seligman** was the MC and auctioneer. **Scott Grady** brought our very nice chapter display that he built for the occasion.

TroutFest '11 was February 26 at the **Fin 'N Feather** restaurant in **Winneconne**. There were 10 seminars, 20 fly tying demonstrators, youth fly tying, raffles, rummage sales, and numerous displays. Once again it was a very successful all-day

GREAT GIFT IDEA!

Interested in learning to fly fish?
Want to improve your skills and knowledge?

Consider attending the

35th ANNUAL FLY FISHING SCHOOL

sponsored by Central WI Chapter - Trout Unlimited

Held June 3-4-5, 2011 at beautiful
Camp LuWiSoMo near Wild Rose, WI

Comprehensive Curriculum

- Trout Stream Ethics
- Tackle Selection
- Fly Casting Techniques
- Stream Entomology
- Fly Pattern Selection
- Knot Tying & much more!

Our team of instructors have designed a unique learning opportunity including interactive classroom, on-stream instruction and a one-on-one guided fishing experience on the final day.

For more information and an application
visit www.cwtu.org

or contact Dan Harmon III at 920/235-1761 or
Russ Bouck at 715/824-3781 (in Feb-March only)

Class size limited to 24 students so don't delay!

Chapter News



event. Contact **Bob Smaglik** for more information about this annual event.

The March 21 board meeting at the Fin 'N Feather was followed by a presentation about invasive species. **Laura McFarland** of the **River Alliance** was the presenter.

Here are some upcoming events. Our annual **Casting Clinic** will be April 18 at **Marble Park** in **Winneconne**. This is an excellent opportunity to learn casting or improve your techniques. Casting Clinic Director is **Russ Bouck**.

This year's first **River Keepers** organization meeting will be April 19 at the **Fin 'N Feather** in **Winne-**

conne. Contact **John Gremmer** or **Jim Murphy** for more details.

Following the May 17 board meeting will be a program about our stream workday plans. **Linn Beck** is stream workdays chair.

The CWTU's 35th Annual **Fly Fishing School** will be June 3-5 at **Camp LuWiSoMo** near **Wild Rose**. **Dan Harmon III** is the school director.

We invite everyone to visit our website at www.cwtu.org for information about all our activities, fly patterns, and personal contact information.

—John Tucker

Coulee Region Chapter

Things are beginning to thaw in the Coulee Region, and by the time this update reaches you, we will be knee deep in the early trout season. Now is the time to start planning to attend the first annual **Coon Creek Trout Fest** set for July 23 in **Coon Valley**! Things are heating up for the event, with national sponsors such as **Winston** and **Simms** and new booths from the **Custom Rods Builders Guild** and **Broken Line Art**. Of course, there is always the rumor of a few hungry fish in the area! After a day of trout, fly fishing, food, and fun, pull up a chair, grab a beverage, and listen to the sounds of live music into the night!

We are currently contacting companies and individuals who may be interested in joining as a sponsor, having booth space, or helping out at the event. We recently received word that the **WI Department of Tourism** has awarded us a grant for event advertising, allowing us to expand the reach of our campaign and capture additional interest. This will be an incredible event to promote both TU and environmental- and outdoor-focused companies.

Fox Valley Chapter

The winter months have been a busy time for the Fox Valley Chapter.

Our January chapter meeting in recent years has been a presentation by one of the instructor chefs and several students in the **Culinary Arts** program at **Fox Valley Technical College**. This year the students in **Chef John's Apprentice Chef Program** presented a very informative program detailing the preparation of Southern Fried Trout, Smoked Trout Chowder, and a great Cajun Tartar Sauce. All of that was topped off with an Apple Cherry Crisp. Everyone in attendance was again impressed with the thorough presentations and the ability of the students to answer our questions. We are now planning for the third Thursday of January in 2012 for another program at FVTC.

Our February meeting was the annual "Funnite" event that was held at **Sabre Lanes**. The main purpose of the evening event is to introduce people, in particular youngsters, to the activity of fishing and to TU. **John Nebel** and **Lynn Ann Sauby** organize fly tyers for demonstrations and another group of tyers to work with kids in a "Tying Corral." The children had an opportunity to tie their own fly, learn a bit about the environment, and just had a good time with mom and dad on a winter evening. One young man, **Noah Krueger**, won the Scientific

If you are interested in participating in this new event, have ideas, or would like to volunteer at the event, please see our website at cooncreektroutfest.com and contact me directly via e-mail at 8088rauch@gmail.com.

Our chapter has been quite busy during these months away from the water, too. In January we teamed up with **Viterbo University** to screen the film **Red Gold** which explores the battle over a proposed gigantic pit mine in the **Bristol Bay** region of **Alaska**. **Jeff Skrede** and **Curt Olson** are both residents of the Bristol Bay area and were also in attendance to give a first-hand account of what this mine could do to harm the rich biological resources found there.

Our chapter's annual banquet was held February 25, and we had a big turnout, delicious food, fabulous prizes, and lots of talk about the upcoming season. Former CRTU President **Rick Kyte** was our keynote speaker, and he told some great stories about fishing, camaraderie, and family.

—Eric Rauch

Angler rod/reel combination that was donated by John Nebel.

Our chapter fundraiser, **Cabin Fever Day**, was held on March 19 at **Waverly Beach** on **Lake Winnebago**. The guest presenters for the day included **Charlie Chlysta**, **Bill Sherer**, **Tim Landwehr**, **Jim Oates**, **Jerry Darkes**, and **Tom Young**. The bucket raffles, silent auctions, fly tyers, DNR booths, tackle reps, guides, and suppliers made the event a successful fundraiser for our chapter. In the evening we had a supper event that included a presentation by **Bob White**. **Scott Grady** built and donated a beautiful cane rod that we were able to use as the main fundraiser for the day. The cane rod raffle was very successful, and the profits will be used for many of the chapter programs.

Our chapter has a number of stream work projects planned starting in April and running through next fall. **Jim Hlaban** has arranged for additional opportunities for our chapter to work with a group of young people from **Rawhide's About Face Program** again this year. We will also try a couple of mid-week Habitat Evenings this summer in an attempt to have chapter members who cannot meet on weekends take part in the stream projects. Please check our website at www.foxvalleytu.org for information dealing with times and locations. Please consider joining us on these



John Vollrath

IT WON'T BITE ME, WILL IT?

Youngster Harrison Boggs holds a fly made by Wyatt Bohm during the Frank Hornberg family fly tying workshop at the Portage County Public Library in Stevens Point on Feb. 19.

Habitat Days and at monthly programs.

This winter has been a long one, and many of us are looking forward to some early season fishing, planning for the regular season, and possibly organizing trips to other parts

of the country. Enjoy the beauty of God's streams, creeks, and lakes, and as our late chapter president Tony Trembl would close his columns, "We'll see you on a trout stream."

—Rich Erickson

Frank Hornberg Chapter

The Frank Hornberg Chapter had three very successful general meetings during the winter season.

On January 13 **Daniel Boggs** spoke on fly fishing in **Argentina**. Dan gave an attractive presentation of what a prospective fly fisher can expect in Argentine waters.

Tim Landwehr, owner of **Tight Lines Fly Fishing Company** in **De Pere**, spoke on Feb. 10. His topic was fly fishing for trophy small-mouth bass. Members of the audience were impressed with the bass pictures and videos, especially the underwater video of a bass catching a crayfish.

Brian Porter had the main presentation at the final general meeting on March 10. Brian is from **Musky Country Outfitters**, a company known for their fully outfitted fly fishing float trips for musky, smallmouth bass, northern pike, trout, and walleye in and around **Hayward**.

At this final meeting the chapter also had a raffle in which the grand prize was a Musky Country Outfitters guided trip. Our thanks to all three of our speakers — Dan, Tim and Brian — for entertaining us and expanding our knowledge of fly fishing. All three are fishing guides right here in Wisconsin, and we highly recommend their services.

The chapter also had three fly tying workshops. All of them were well attended by people tying and

people watching. We thank, in particular, chapter members **Brian Clancey** of the **Stone Lion** in **Custer** and **Gene Schulfer** of **Shooters Supper Club** in **Plover** for making their facilities available for the two evening workshops in January and March. The **Portage County Public Library** in **Stevens Point** was the location for the daytime family workshop in February.

Our first work event of the year was on Saturday, March 5. Twenty chapter members and students from the **Fisheries Society** at **UW-Stevens Point** assembled in-stream structures. The event was organized by **WDNR** fisheries technician **Jason Spaeth**. The structures will be placed in the **Tomorrow River** as part of a **USDA/WDNR** rehabilitation project bordering the **Chuck Egle** property downstream of **Amherst**. An assembly line made the work go faster, and all participants enjoyed a lunch of hamburgers, beans, potato chips, and soft drinks.

The Hornberg Chapter's 2011 **Fly Fishing School** will be on the weekend of May 20-22. This popular weekend event includes personalized instruction, food, and lodging, all for a very reasonable price. Information and an application blank are available on our website at www.hornbergtu.org. Click on "Fly Fishing Workshop."

—John Vollrath

Green Bay Chapter

The Green Bay Chapter, having planned and executed another very successful fund-raising banquet, is now planning the most effective uses for these funds on behalf of our coldwater resources.

Toward this end, we have committed money for the **US Forest Service** for beaver control and habitat

restoration. We have also designated funds to go to the **DNR** for habitat improvement and the hiring of **LTEs** to perform in-stream work. Additionally, Work Project Chair **Lee Meyers** is planning an ambitious summer work project schedule.

Continued on p. 12



Chapter News

Continued from p. 11

We are planning more work on our educational trout stream project at the **Brown County Reforestation Camp** and streams such as the **1st South Branch of the Oconto** and **Round Creek**.

We will also join the US Forest Service for a day's work on a stream in the **Laona** district. We will be

partnering with the **Oconto River** and **Marinette** chapters in working on these streams.

Finally, we are funding sponsorships for students to attend conservation camps, teaching fly casting to various groups, and staging our popular **Kid's Fishing Day** at the **Izaak Walton League Pond** in **Green Bay**.
—Gary Stoychoff

Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter

This year's annual meeting was March 27 at the **Stonefield Apartments** in **Dodgeville**. Special guests at the meeting will be **UW-Platteville** interns who will be presenting an update on the progress of their work. This meeting is always an enjoyable time to catch up with old friends and meet new ones.

Our 2011 annual banquet is Friday, May 6 at the **Dodger Bowl** in **Dodgeville**. Doors opens at 6 and dinner will be at 7. Our grand raffle prize is a \$500 **Cabela's** gift certificate. Expect lots of family-oriented

prizes, raffles, and fun. Dinner tickets are \$30 for adults and \$15 for those under 18. Contact **Gordon Grieshaber** at (608) 987-2190 for tickets or questions.

Our planned 2011 stream projects include about 1.3 miles of **Six Mile Branch** and possibly some work on **Big Spring**. Six Mile Branch runs into the **Blue River**. Big Spring runs into Six Mile Branch. Both streams are a few miles WNW of **Highland**.
—Brian Larson

Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter

It is on a sad note that I report one of our founding members, **Roger Fairbanks**, passed away on February 23. Roger held the Kiap executive secretary position and was recognized by **TU National** for his conservation efforts. He was also a very active community member in **Hudson** for many years. The community will surely miss him.

The chapter spent a day burning brush on **Parker Creek** with the **DNR** as we get set to do some stream work on Parker. **Tom Henderson** provided a wonderful lunch of chili, hot dogs, and hot cider.

We are also gearing up to finalize our **Pine Creek** project, which has yielded tremendous results in trout populations due to the habitat im-

provement. The in-depth analytical stream work done by board member **Kent Johnson** was vital to this work, and it is a real testament to his scientific prowess. Kent will be leaving the board this month, and I want to thank him personally for his involvement. I know of no one who has done more work in the field for Kiap-TU-Wish than him. Thanks, Kent.

The **Tom Helgeson Midwest Fly-fishing Expo** will be held April 1-3 in **Blaine, MN** at the **National Sports Center**. I hope TUers from around the state can make it up to the Twin Cities.

The chapter is looking to possibly perform work on a semi-urban tributary to the **Kinnickinnic River** called **Rocky Branch**. The feeder creek is very overgrown and runs mostly through a city park ravine. There is currently a decent trout population which would only im-

prove with the stream work.

Chapter members **Tom Henderson**, **Greg Meyer**, and **Kyle Amundson** were slated to attend **TUDARE's** Stream Restoration Workshop in Westby. I am truly looking forward to this, and I hope to meet many new faces there.

Our strategic planning committee, led by **Duke Welter**, has drafted a plan that Kiap hopes to ultimately model its goals after. The outline was very detailed and comprehensive. Great job!

Our **Rush River Cleanup** will be held April 23. It will once again will be coordinated by **Sarah Sanford**. This year will certainly be a challenge after the deluge we received at the end of last summer. Sarah has warned us to expect anything and everything in the river this year.
—Kyle Amundson

Marinette County Chapter

The Marinette County Chapter concluded its annual four-week trout fishing educational program on March 8. The classes were conducted by **Dale Lange** with help from **Doug Erdmann** and other chapter members. Basic trout habitat and feeding information was provided, along with a session on basic fly tying. The final session involved basic fly casting at the **Marinette Civic Center** tennis dome. Attendance averaged 25 people.

At the February meeting, our revised chapter bylaws were approved and plans for the upcoming fundraising banquet were discussed.

Our annual banquet will be April 25 at **Schussler's** in **Peshtigo**. Information and tickets may be obtained from **Dale Lange** at dhlange@centurytel.net or (715) 582-1135.

Following our February meeting, member **Doug Erdmann** presented a program on the **Driftless Area** in Wisconsin.

The March meeting featured **Chef Bernie Meintz** of **Schussler's** who discussed proper cleaning, preparation, and cooking of various fishes.
—Steve Wilke

Northwoods Chapter

Our 37th **Annual Banquet** will be April 16 at **Rhinelanders' Holiday Acres Resort**. Call **Brian Hegge** for tickets at (715) 482-2898 or visit **Mel's Trading Post** in **Rhinelanders**.

Thank you **Paul Tornow** and **Lee Kuepper** from **Alaska's Angling Addiction** for coming to speak after our February meeting. It was great fun!
—Hannah Hansen

Oconto River Chapter

The Oconto River Chapter continues working on trout habitat, classroom teaching, and our magnificent obsession with larger brook trout. Our banquets have recovered to the reasonable range from the decline of recent years.

We do collaborative stream projects with several chapters:

the **First South Branch of the Oconto**, **Main South Br. Oconto**, and **McCaslin Brook** with **Green Bay TU**,

the **Evergreen** and **Nine Mile Creek** with **Wolf River TU**, and

Sparta Creek with **Fox Valley TU**.

We got into this way of doing things when habitat projects and permits were scarce because of shifting government oversight personnel, and it has worked well for us. We get more done working with bigger crews, get exposed to more streams, and enjoy the company.

We have working arrangements with the **Oconto**, **Oconto Falls**, **Antigo**, **Lena**, and **Gillett** schools. We

provide chilled aquariums and fertile trout eggs for their biology classes to raise. We do classroom talks on:

- the nature of a trout stream,
- trout spring ponds, and
- searching for bigger brook trout.

If you can use a PowerPoint with a note sheet, let us know.

We had a biologist from **Shawano**, **Chip Long** from the **Peshtigo DNR**, and **Tom Moris** of the **Laona Fish and Wildlife office** of the **Nicolet National Forest** pay us a visit. They discussed their experiences and suggested areas where we might want to help their work. We recently secured the first stream easement for **Shawano County**, where easements have been hard to get.

We will be recruiting volunteers to do a creel census the opening weekend and later on at **McGee Lake** in **Langlade County** this May. We will be on the net with other chapters on this.
—Bob Obma

Shaw-Paca Chapter

The only trout fishing going on up here as of early March will be ice fishing. At this time we are preparing for our annual banquet at the **Northwinds Hall** in **Marion** on April 7. Tickets are available. Send

me a check for \$30 to PO Box 446, Marion, WI 54950 if you want to attend.

We are sponsoring a **Coldwater Research Grant** for two **UW-Stevens Point** students — **Ben Kissing**

www.fontanasports.com

Fontana Sports Specialties

ROSS REELS
SIMMS
Scientific Anglers
EX OFFICIO
UMPQUA
SAGE

Spring is here. Bluewing Olives are hatching and steelhead are running. Time to see us, gear up, and go fishing!

ORDER OVER THE WEB OR TOLL FREE (800) 257-7666
LOCAL GUIDE SERVICE AVAILABLE

Visit our web site for our fishing report:
www.FontanaSports.com

Visit our west side fly fishing department:
231 Junction Road
Madison, WI
(608) 833-9191
"Next to Target"

Fontana Sports Specialties, Inc.

Chapter News



er of **Mosinee** and **Mitchell Olds** of **Kimberly**. Ben is majoring in fisheries and Mitchell is studying watershed management.

We have finished our annual fly tying class under the direction of chapter member and master tyer **Jerry Weatherwax**. Attendance ranged from 10-15 students weekly. We are offering sponsorships for

two high school students to the **Central Wisconsin Environmental Station** for the **Careers in Natural Resources** or **Becoming an Outdoor Leader** camps.

We are also going to offer a sponsorship to the **Timbertop Camp** at **Glacier Hollow** for students with learning disabilities.

—Lee Kersten

Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter

SEWTU's February meeting featured **Erik Helm**, fishing supervisor from Milwaukee's **Orvis Store**. He talked about Milwaukee-area streams' migratory fish runs, notably for steelhead, salmon, and brown trout. Given our chapter's location, this talk was very well received, and it appears that a few more anglers will be out on the water this spring armed with superior knowledge about how to catch chromers. SEWTU's January all-chapter meeting featured **Jim Pippel** who spoke about constructing bamboo rods. He gave a great PowerPoint program covering everything from bamboo culm selection to guide wrapping. We thank Jim for driving up from Illinois to speak to us.

Our March meeting had **Tim Landwehr** of **Tight Lines Fly Shop** in **De Pere** present tips for catching monster smallmouth bass. Our March meeting also featured our raffle prize drawing from SEWTU's booth at this year's **Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Sports Show**.

Our April 26 meeting will feature **Mat Wagner** of the **Driftless Angler Fly Shop** in **Viroqua**. Mat has become something of a regular spring speaker for SEWTU. This year he's discussing going big, going deep, and going heavy for big trout. This promises to be a great presentation, full of information you won't want to miss.

Also in April, SEWTU will have its bi-annual elections, with a new slate of officers being elected. If you would like to be a part of deciding who leads SEWTU heading forward, this is a very important meeting to attend.

Finally, in our last meeting before our summer send-off, SEWTU's May 24 meeting will feature member travelogues. This was one of our best-received meetings last year and featured 10-minute PowerPoint presentations from our members' fishing adventures. Last year we covered the **UP**, **Milwaukee's tributaries**, **Utah**, and **northern Milwaukee** tributaries. Some of what was presented was even somewhat true! If you would like to give a presentation, contact **Henry Koltz** to reserve your slot at hek@sdelaw.com.

On our workday front, the two workdays planned over the winter were both cancelled due to inclement weather. The work planned on **Allenton** and **Scuppernong** creeks will be rescheduled. Wisconsin weather — gotta' love it.

We'll host our annual **Milwaukee River Cleanup** headed by chapter stalwart **John Knitter** on Saturday, April 16. This workday will be on the **Menomonee River** as part of our commitment to the Menomonee River concrete removal project that is now funded and slated to commence this summer. We will meet near **Miller Park**. For more details, visit www.sewtu.org. As always, we'll work from 9 a.m. to about Noon.

On May 21 SEWTU will head

back to the **Southern District** of the **Kettle Moraine** where we'll work with the **DNR** installing biologists at **Scuppernong Creek**. As most know, this is a great continuing project which has created nearly half a mile of newly fishable brook trout water. Stop on out and be a part of this great project.

On June 11 SEWTU will lend aid to the **Aldo Leopold Chapter** and help build a significant number of lunger structures for use at their new **Bear Creek** project. We'll surround this workday with a fishing outing, so if you'd like to get out in to the **Driftless Area**, help complete a large-scale restoration project, and in general have a great time, mark this date down! As always, we'll work from 9 to Noon.

SEWTU also anticipates having workdays on July 16 and Aug. 20. The locations of these workdays is still being firmed up.

On Sept. 17 SEWTU will return to **Van Slyke Creek** in **Fontana** for another workday. Van Slyke Creek is the subject of long-running workday between SEWTU and the **Blackhawk Chapter**.

On our education front, we have recently completed our regular yearly community fly tying series at **Cabela's**. This year's classes ran from January 19 to February 23 at the **Richfield** store location. Some classes featured upwards of 20 participants, and SEWTU thanks all of our members who volunteered with the classes.

Over the weekend of March 12, SEWTU, manned its annual outreach and membership booth at the **Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Sports Show**. Under the leadership of **Chuck Beeler**, SEWTU reached out to over 100,000 attendees at this event, spreading TU's mission of conserving, protecting, and restoring coldwater resources.

We also ran our annual raffle at this event. All funds raised, as with all of our fundraising efforts, will go right back in to our chapter's activities and projects.

SEWTU's next education event is our regular **Youth Fishing Day** event at **Sandy Knoll Community Park** in **West Bend** on April 16. SEWTU will co-lead this event, which regularly sees hundreds of children and parents get exposed to fishing and the outdoors. This is a very important event for us. Anyone interested in doing something truly good should mark down this date and contact either **Chris Weber** or **Henry Koltz** for more details.

On our **Project Healing Waters** front, Coordinator **Mike Kuhr** is joined by **Al Dalfanso**, **Joe Valcoun**, **Herb Oechler**, **Jim Wierzba**, **John Knitter**, **Zoan Kulinski**, and others teaching fly tying classes as the **Milwaukee Veterans Administration**.

Recently, our PHW crew has shelved fly tying lessons and begun providing rod building instructions as part of a national competition.

With respect to our ongoing



SEWTU RECEIVES EXTERNAL PARTNER AWARD FROM WDNR

Wisconsin's SEWTU Chapter and Illinois' Gary Berger Chapter were awarded WDNR External Partner Awards for their work on recent restoration projects on Paradise Springs, the Scuppernong River, and Genesee Cr. in Waukesha County. Henry Koltz of SEWTU (at podium) thanked the WDNR for the award.

Project Healing Waters program, Mike and his band of volunteers have now completed multiple fishing outings with VA Project Healing Water attendees, one at Lakeshore State Park and others local fishing ponds. If you have rods, vices, or tying equipment that you'd be willing to donate for use at this or our other youth-related events, please contact **Henry Koltz**.

On our membership front, SEWTU held a special membership event at **Pat Ehler's The Fly Fishers** in **Greenfield** on St. Patty's Day. The event featured raffles, fly tying demonstrations, and a donation to SEWTU for every sale made.

Also on the membership front, SEWTU was named **Cooperator of the Year** for 2011 by the **WDNR** for all of the work our members have done supporting the DNR and its projects at multiple locations across southern Wisconsin. The award presentation was made on March 2 in **Wisconsin Dells** as part of the WDNR's annual fisheries meeting.

On our fund-raising front, SEWTU volunteers ran this year's **State Council Banquet**. The event was very successful, raising over \$17,000 for the State Council. As the guy who pressed most of our members into service on this and ensured

them they would not have to do more at the event other than run their select component of the event, I want to say THANK YOU to all. You've always done more than asked, it's incredible of you, and the State Council is now better off financially as a result. You've left a lasting mark, and my words won't do justice to the effort you put in. Thank you again.

This April I'll be done as the leader of this ragtag, motley crew. I want to say thanks to all of SEWTU and WITU's members for a great ride. The metrics are easy to recite. Over the past several years we've won everything from Wisconsin Chapter of the Year (the Silver Trout) to TU National's Chapter of the Year Award. Our chapter has been named as **Heroes of Conservation** by **Field & Stream** magazine, and now we've been named as **Cooperator of the Year** by the **WDNR**.

Our members have put in tens of thousands of volunteer hours at workdays, education events, fund-raising events, and membership events. It's been a complete honor to serve as your leader. You deserve every accolade you've received, and your actions are inspiring. Keep it up.

—Henry Koltz

Southern Wisconsin Chapter

SWTU hit the new year running with our fantastically enjoyable (and successful!) **Icebreaker** event. Our guest speakers, **Jerry Hubka** and **Rick Takahashi**, co-authored **Modern Midge: Tying and Fishing the World's Most Effective Patterns**. They showcased great fishing advice and innovative fly tying techniques with skill and humor.

We were also very pleased to have **Mat Wagner** of the **Driftless Angler** speak on "Drag is Not Evil." Everybody left with some new techniques or flies to tie! The event itself raised nearly \$8,000 for our coldwater restoration and education efforts.

We also held our annual **Nash Williams Banquet**, a lovely evening of great food and warm camaraderie. At the banquet, our chapter pre-

sented awards to several very deserving individuals:

- **Jim Kanvik** — Service Volunteer,
- **Jim Gentry** — Education Leadership,
- **Topf Wells** — Conservation, and
- **Henry Haugley** — Award of Merit.

We are so very pleased and proud to have these fine conservationists making a difference in our chapter and the region.

Looking ahead, we are very excited about our workday party on Saturday, April 30. **Dennis Presser**, workday chair, is coordinating with other organizations on a large, coordinated workday to make a difference on a number of local streams.

Continued on p. 14



Chapter News

Continued from p. 13

This will be a major event, and we are looking for assistance from anyone, anywhere. Please visit swtu.org and check the latest newsletter or our chapter calendar for more information on what is happening and who you can contact for more information. We can use you!

Be sure to check out our online chapter calendar at www.swtu.org.

Wild Rivers Chapter

The news from Wild Rivers country includes election results. In a landslide, **Dick Berge** took the chapter presidency. **Rolland Kiel** is vice president, **Jim Emerson** is treasurer, and **Dan Bloomquist** is secretary. New board members include **Gary Burkhardt**, **Donovan Dums**, and **Dan Bloomquist**.

Most of the headlines here in Wild Rivers country have to do with the progress, or lack thereof, of the two projects that seek to bring development and a threat to area trout streams. **Bill Heart** briefed the State Council on the iron mining development proposed for the **Penokee** and **Gogebic** ranges in **Ashland** and **Iron** counties. The **Bad River Watershed Association** is working to keep interested groups involved and informed. The regulatory process, once begun, is expected to take 5-7 years. However, some members think that in the current political climate, this process may be accelerated.

While the chapter has not taken action on the issue, the fly-in residential development known as **Waypoint** has been a major concern. The proposal includes a 3,000-foot runway, 20 hangers, and 20-100 homes, all sited in the headwaters area of **Pikes Creek** in northern **Bayfield County**. Pikes Creek is a class I trout stream with lots of public land. It is the site of the **Les Voight** hatchery and one of the few remaining quality estuaries on Lake Superior. On February 24, the **Bayfield County Board of Adjustment** overturned a conditional use permit

There you'll find all of our activities and events, including details of our and events, including details of our **Annual Casting Clinic** set for April 16 at **Salmo Pond** located just off Hwy. 14 west of **Cross Plains**. This event is free and everyone is invited to come learn about casting, bugs, gear, reading the water, and more!

—Drew Kasel

for the project. Thanks to **Shari Eggleston** and the group of area residents who have fought this project since 2008. The protection of the wetlands and the potential harm to the water quality were important reasons for overturning the earlier decisions. While the fight to protect the Pikes Creek watershed is expected to continue, many residents and other Pikes Creek fans are savoring this victory.

Our annual **Fishing Expo & Auction** will be held at the **Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center** in **Ashland** on April 9. The first auction was held way back in 2003. The inspiration for this event came from the **Southern Wisconsin Chapter**. The program will include presentations by **Damian Wilmot** of the **Fly by Night Guide Service** and **Roger LaPenter**. Damian is a member and has many years of experience guiding on the **Brule River**. He will speak on guiding and fishing the north country.

Roger has supported chapter activities throughout our history. He plans to speak on fishing **Chequamegon Bay**. Roger suggested that the chapter return to serving chili made with quality ingredients. **Duke Welter** has served as MC and auctioneer for most of the events, but will not be available this year. His services will be missed, and we are diligently searching for a replacement. Thanks to **Henry Haugley** and **Mark Maffitt** for their annual trip north to help Wild Rivers with this event.

—Chuck Campbell

Wisconsin Clear Waters

We had hint of spring and then cruel Father Winter just slammed us back down under another foot of snow! By the time you read this I expect that many members of WITU will have officially made a fishing trip as part of the 2011 early trout season. I know that mousies are not legal in the early season, but I'm not sure about tip-ups.

Our own **John "Duke" Welter** received the **WITU Resource Award of Merit** at this year's Annual Banquet in **Stevens Point**. Congratulations, Duke!

We have a group of chapter members heading out to the **Big-horn River** soon.

We will have members at **Cottonwood Camp** from about March 27 till April 2. Let us know if any other WITUers are making the trip West around that time.



NEW WILD RIVERS OFFICERS

New Wild Rivers Chapter President **Dick Berge** (center) poses with chapter Secretary **Dan Bloomquist** (left) and new board member **Donovan Dums**.

Wisconsin River Valley Chapter

Another long, snowy winter is hopefully coming to an end. With it, the early C&R trout season has opened, and the regular season just over a month away. But February was a busy month for our chapter.

Our February meeting featured a presentation by **Lee Kuepper** and **Paul Tornow** from **Alaska's Angling Addiction**. You can visit their website at www.alaskasanglingaddiction.com. They gave a very informative talk on the fishing in Alaska, particularly within the **Kenai Peninsula**. Besides the famous salmon and rainbow trout fishing, they showed photos of gigantic slobbering northern pike, which was quite a surprise. They also provided a solid understanding of the **Pebble Mine** issue that is so critical to not just those who live in Alaska, but to all those who could be affected by this type of mining.

On Feb. 18-20 we had a booth at the first-ever **Central Wisconsin Sport Show** held at the **Patriot Center** in **Cedar Creek** between **Wausau** and **Mosinee**. The event was well attended, and we let the public know what exactly TU is and what our chapter does. We also helped nu-

merous kids tie their first fly. A big thanks to **Linda Lehman**, **John Meachen**, **Bob Pills**, **Mike Pierce**, **Gene Koshak**, **Doug Brown**, and **Anika Brown** (my eight-year-old daughter) for participating at the booth.

February 27 found us at an ice fishing contest to support **Crossways Camp**. This event was held on **Mission Lake** in SE **Marathon County**. The event helped raise money for the facility. Thanks to **Linda Lehman**, **Henry Kanemoto**, and **John Meachen** for helping at the event. About 50 people attended the event.

We are putting the final touches on our 2011 **Annual Banquet**, which will be held at **Memories Ballroom** in **Marathon** on Sat., April 9. Tickets are available by contacting **Brian Marnholz** at brilane@charter.net.

Our monthly meetings are held the second Monday of each month at **Gander Mountain** in **Mosinee**. The business meetings start at 6 p.m.

I hope you all had a good winter, and good luck on the fishing season ahead. Tight lines!

—Doug Brown

Wolf River Chapter

Wolf River Vice President **Jim Waters** died January 8 after a year-long battle with cancer. Jim's leadership was instrumental in the re-organization of the Wolf River Chapter. He also was a force in developing our five-year-old **Ninemile Creek Restoration Initiative**. Whether it was trapping beavers, removing dams, planting trees, or sell-

ing brats to raise money for the chapter, Jim was there every day. He loved the Wolf River and refused to acknowledge the perception of its decline as a sustainable trout fishery. We will miss him greatly, but his enthusiasm and determination will never be forgotten.

—Tim Waters

AWARDS: council honors 10 at event

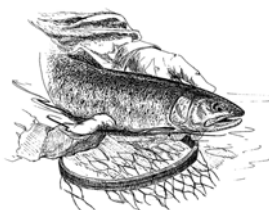
Continued from p. 8

erally in their back yard!

According to Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter President **Greg Dietl**, "Fairmount made a huge contribution toward reaching our project goals. We would not have completed nearly the amount of bank restoration, seeding, and mulching without them. In addition to hundreds of employee work hours, Fairmount also provided much-needed heavy equipment, water pumps, and other tools."

Since becoming involved on Pine Creek, Fairmount employees have logged nearly 550 man-hours on the project. In addition, the company recently donated \$26,000 for the purchase of rock to be used as riprap in the final phase of the program in 2011. This donation will be leveraged with donations from the Kiap-TU-Wish, Twin Cities TU, and others. So join us now in recognizing Fairmount Minerals and their many, many employees for adopting the Pine Creek project as their own.

Consider Proper Release



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



WITU Looking Back

From the April 1971 WITU Newsletter...

Wisconsin Will Host 1972 National T. U. Meeting

Wisconsin is the site for the 1972 National T. U. Membership Meeting next summer. A host of famous TU'ers will pay us the honor of traveling to the Badger State. Portland, Oregon, is the location for this year's convention.

From the April 1991 Wisconsin Trout...

DNR Director feels outdated dams are harmful to Wisconsin

By Lee Kernen
Director of the Bureau of
Fisheries Management,
Wisconsin Department of
Natural Resources

I don't like most of the dams in Wisconsin, and wish they could be removed immediately. I'm not advocating destruction of major flowage dams such as those on the Flambeau or Petenwell, and major hydroelectric dams are important to electricity production.

I'm talking about the hundreds of five- to 15-foot head dams that many years ago started out as important mill dams - dams that are more than 100 years old and today do nothing but hold silt and hurt our fisheries.

Jack Zimmerman, DNR area fish manager in Wisconsin Rapids, played a major role in removing one such outdated structure.

The Nelsonville Dam and a 30-acre impoundment on the Upper Tomorrow River had existed in eastern Portage County since 1860. The old Nelsonville Pond warmed downstream trout waters and created habitat for carp, suckers and northern pike, which spread into the stream to the detriment of trout.

Nelsonville was one of the millponds responsible for the spread of carp in the Tomorrow River prior to the 1970s. In

1971, considerable time and money was put into chemical treatment of the Tomorrow River to remove rough fish from the system.

The mill and dam were purchased by the DNR in 1984 for \$40,000. The pond was drained and the historical mill building was given to the Portage County Historical Society. A private fund was established through the FishAmerica Foundation and Trout Unlimited to assist landowners along the millpond with erosion control. Trees and shrubs were planted on the old pond bed for beautification.

In 1988, we discovered that the old concrete base of the dam was still holding back more than four feet of water, preventing the stream from returning to its original level. In the meantime, the Historical Society had cleaned and restored the old mill building and began using it as a museum and for art shows.

After securing an additional \$50,000, DNR removed the old dam and replaced it with twin culverts.

The upstream section of the Upper Tomorrow returned to its original level, but the downstream section (350 feet) became clogged with sand and debris. In 1990, we narrowed and deepened the downstream section while installing boomcovers to improve trout habitat.

From the April 1981 WITU Quarterly Report...



Southeastern Banquet

Bernard "Lefty" Kreh thrilled over 250 guests with his casting demonstrations at the Second Annual Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter T.U. Benefit Banquet which was held at Milwaukee's beautiful Performing Arts Center on Saturday, Feb. 14, 1981. Following the banquet, Lefty gave individual casting tips to T.U. members until past midnight.

From the April 2001 Wisconsin Trout...

TU trying to plug gap from court's wetland ruling

By Jeff Smith with Stu Grimstad

On January 9th, the US Supreme Court ruled that the Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps) does not have permitting authority over wetlands that are not connected to navigable waters.

This means that isolated wetlands nationwide are currently unprotected. This, in turn, means that 30% of Wisconsin's wetlands (over 1,500,000 acres) can currently be filled in and developed, completely unchecked.

These types of wetlands feed groundwater and serve as habitat to a variety of wildlife.

In response, the State Senate passed SB 37, which gives Wisconsin's DNR the same authority the Corps previously had. The State Council's Legislative Committee supports this bill (known as the "status quo bill") and testified on its behalf before the Senate Environmental Resources Committee.

The bill is not doing as well in the State Assembly. Political insiders have indicated that developers are asking members of the Assembly to vote against or delay passage of the bill, thus allowing the development of previously protected wetlands.

From the April 2001 Wisconsin Trout...

Council creates new award honoring late Jeff Carlson

By John Welter

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited honored the late Jeff Carlson, president of the Wild Rivers Chapter and a dedicated trout conservationist, at the WITU's annual meeting in Oshkosh February 3.

Carlson, 39, died at his parents' Ashland home January 4, 2001, within a week after being diagnosed with cancer.

Coaster brook trout advocate

Carlson spearheaded Wisconsin TU's coaster brook trout restoration initiative through a half-dozen years of tireless work and led citizen efforts to create the Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge near Ashland.

Whittlesey Creek, located at the western end of Chequamegon Bay, is seen as a prime spawning site for restored coaster populations in Lake Superior and its tributary streams.

Carlson worked tirelessly to protect the Whittlesey Creek area from a golf course and other development, writing letters to newspapers and lawmakers and pushing for funds to create the refuge.

well as a full roster of officers and board members. The chapter remains committed to coaster brook trout restoration efforts and habitat work in other areas.

Memorial award established

A Jeffrey Carlson Volunteer Award has been created by the State Council, to be awarded to a Wisconsin TU volunteer who, following Jeff's example, has worked in a leadership role on a major habitat or resource restoration project over more than one year.

A plaque recognizing Jeff's contributions will be placed at Jeff's home on the White River near Mason and dedicated the last week in June, 2001. Dates are tentative.

Funding in Jeff's name in the amount of \$2,000 was also pledged by the council to the purchase of a key piece of coaster brook trout spawning habitat at the mouth of the Gratiot River in the Kewaunee Peninsula in Upper Michigan. Other contributions are expected to be made toward habitat improvement and other work on Wisconsin streams where coasters can be restored.

Chapter president profiles

Two energetic gals take the reins of chapters

Linda Lehman is WI River Valley's new face for the future

By Doug Brown

Please meet Linda Lehman, WRVTU's newest president and only the third president in the chapter's history. Although this is an accomplishment in itself, the fact that Linda has only been involved with TU since 2006 clearly reflects her dedication to our trout resources.

Linda was born and raised in Antigo. One of eight children, she was introduced to fishing at age nine by her grandmother. She fished on Spring Brook and Phlox Pond with a cane pole. Linda and her two younger brothers (and sometimes her Mom) raised money as kids by hunting and selling night crawlers in the summer. Who knew those initial steps would bring her to leading a Trout Unlimited chapter?

Linda married her husband, Jim, in 1986, and they have one son, Derek. Linda also has a stepson, Ian, who is 30 and lives in Minneapolis. She works for Eastbay Corporation in Inventory Control.

Besides fishing, Linda enjoys gardening and crocheting. You may have seen one of her handmade afghans at either our local banquet or the State Council banquet. Her sewing room has now also become her TU office.

Although Jim doesn't fish, he is an avid bicyclist, and this provides for interesting trips where Jim bikes the countryside while Linda explores the local streams.

Trout fishing didn't come to Linda till she was 37. As with any beginner's luck, her first trout was a huge salmon on the Manitowoc River. She was fishing with a friend who fly fished, and he told her to try it. Soon a monster king salmon was on the line (see picture). With that, Linda was proverbially hooked on fly fishing. She recalls the pure adrenaline rush from hearing the reel screech.

The next year Linda attended a fly fishing school offered by the Central WI Chapter. She also bought her first fly rod from Tight Line Fly Shop in De Pere. With her new zest for fly fishing for trout, Linda contacted Herb Hintze, the founding president of WRVTU for some information on local streams and to find some other women to fish with. She met Herb and, with gazetteer in hand, ended up spending the entire day tying flies with Herb.

Linda joined our chapter in 2006 by becoming a board member. And now she is president.

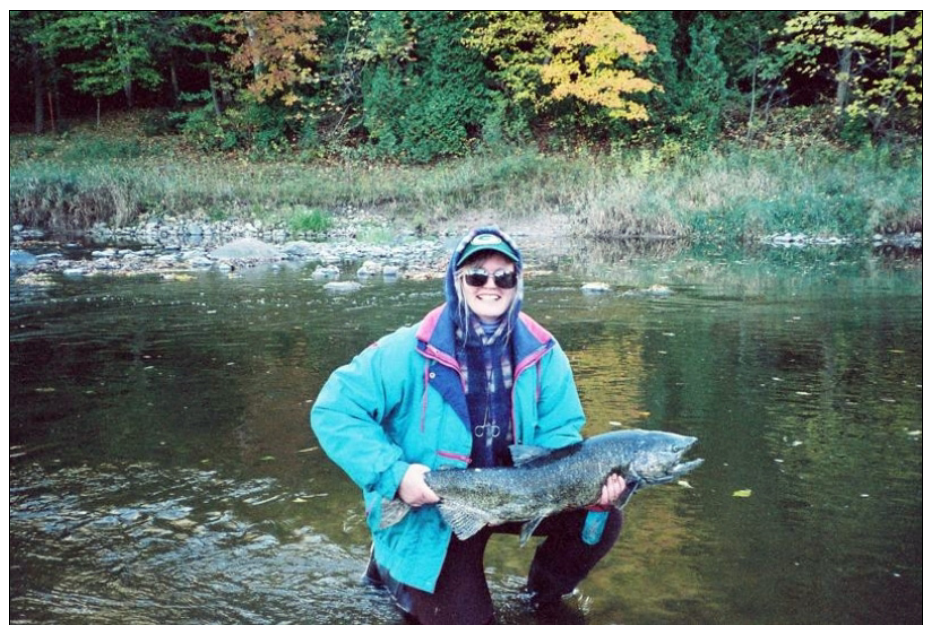
"I feel like catching up on everything TU has done. I want to tap into the wealth of knowledge and passion about what TU does."

Linda is also passionate about introducing kids to fishing. She has been helping at the Outdoor Education Expo in Beaver Dam since 2006. She truly feels getting as many kids into fishing as possible will be our hope for managing and taking care of our streams and natural resources in the future. Getting to the kids and teaching them at an impressionable age is important.

In terms of stream projects for the chapter, the Plover River is done, and the Prairie River is nearly complete. She thinks the chapter needs to look at another watershed. There has been some talk of taking on the Rib River which spans three of the chapter's counties.

She also wants to look at the initial work done on the Plover and Prairie. Many of those initial easements are coming to a close, and maintenance of the initial stream work should be done.

Linda's passion for Trout Unlimited is hard to hide. Her positive attitude and outlook for where WRVTU is heading is contagious. Another positive thing members en-



LINDA LEHMAN AT HOME AND ON THE WATER

Linda Lehman relaxes with her son, Derek, and husband, Jim (top). A friend was on hand to record her first salmon on a fly caught on the Manitowoc R.

joy at our monthly meeting is her homemade cookies, which are truly a delight. Anyone who can make cookies as good as that clearly has the ability to lead the WRVTU

chapter in the future.

(Doug Brown is a member of the WI River Valley Chapter. He also leads WITU's Friends and Watershed Access programs. -Ed.)

Northwoods TU's Hannah Hansen got hooked on TU at the age of 14

By Laura McFarland

In 2010 the Northwoods Chapter elected a new president, Hannah Hansen.

Hannah has been active with the club since she was 14 years old when she attended the chapter's Youth Conclave event in 2004. That day she was the lucky winner of a St. Croix rod — and she was hooked.

Once Hannah became old enough to drive, she became a regular fixture at Northwoods TU events. She has served on the board for several years prior to stepping up to serve as president.

Hannah brings a youthful enthusiasm to the organization. Although she does not get out to fish nearly as much as she would like because she is often too busy tending her horses, that hasn't stopped her from stepping up and taking a leadership role in the chapter.

Hannah says that if there is one thing that she hopes to achieve as president, it is an increase in members. During his speech at the WITU State Council banquet this year, Chris Wood, CEO of Trout Unlimited, recognized the Northwoods Chapter for hosting their 17th Annual Youth Conclave in 2010. Han-

nah's involvement is a testament to the importance such events have on the recruitment of new leaders for the future of Trout Unlimited. You just never know when you will meet your next chapter president...is it that eight-year-old you taught to cast last year?

(Laura McFarland is a member of the Northwoods Chapter and is Invasive Species Project Coordinator at the River Alliance of WI. -Ed.)

Consider Proper Release



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



Scott W. Grady
Rodmaker

Split Bamboo Rods
new & repairs

Bamboo Rodmaking Classes
makes a great Xmas gift!

Call or email Scott for details at
920/687-0987 or oossg@vbe.com



HANNAH HANSEN WITH FRIEND DUSTY

Hannah holds a concho signifying she was logged 1,000 miles on the trails with her quarter horse, Dusty.

Snowshoeing with Dale

By Mark Peerenboom

“And you never realize, when you are in the day, how its memory will resonate through the years or how you will come to think of it as something rare and beautiful and fleeting.” — Ed Culhane, Jan. 20, 2010, in his eulogy for Ryan Hagen

Today I am 4,300 miles from the woods where Dale Druckrey and I would walk in winter. Here below Valencia on the coast of Spain, the sky is blue, and in the sun it feels like 60 degrees. I am sitting on a terrace on the side a hill which overlooks the Mediterranean. It is filled with green plants, bushes, and trees of various shapes and sizes. Some produce soft edges and others bear spikes, thorns, and needles.

My wife and I have rented a guest house from a couple, a man from England and a man from Hong Kong. Their main house is on another terrace below. Tomorrow they will fly to Sri Lanka for vacation.

This is not Dale Druckrey’s world, although Dale told stories of traveling in northern Europe in the 1950s while he was on leave from the army. In winter Dale stayed close to his wood-burning kitchen stove, listened to public radio, tending his fence line, feeding his dogs, and splitting wood for his fire.

This was the time of year I would pick Dale up at his house northeast of Bonduel for a snowshoe hike. The unpainted house welcomed the brush and undergrowth right up to its siding. Any other arrangement would require Dale taking time away from more important things.

That day we turned off onto a forest service road that runs through a large tract of undeveloped land an hour and a quarter north of Bonduel. After driving several miles, Dale told me to stop. Shod in snowshoes, we broke trail off a steep ridge. This required moving diagonally down and across its steep, tree-faced bank. The pitch was sharp and the snow deep. Our footing sometimes

gave way, and we’d slide even as we moved at a slightly downward angle. It became impossible footing for my dog. I stopped often and waited for him, resting myself. I’d sometimes dig out and strap back on my buried snowshoes. Dale would be ahead.

And then, below us and to the right, was the headwaters of the trout stream we came to explore. The stream was flat and wide, meandering through a frozen bog which, in summer, protects it from easy fishing access. Dale turned back, smiling and pointing to elevated ridges beyond the river bottom and on the distant horizon. The hills were similar to the ridge we were on. Our northern country terrain doesn’t often offer such expansive “big country” views. Dale was pleased.

At the bottom of the ridge and around the corner was the spring pond which helps feed the trout stream. Dale delivered the pond as promised. We paused briefly to survey the pond and pledged to each other to be in a canoe pursuing its brook trout some summer day.

Rather than backtrack, we used Dale’s sense of direction and his memory and take grown-over, abandoned logging roads. Dale knew just when to get off one road and walk cross-country to another. The roads often split, but Dale took the correct fork each time. I followed Dale as we looped back to the car.

So now, sitting on a sunny terrace on the coast of Spain, I am remembering this trip with Dale, as well as other trips. Their memories bring sadness now mixed with the joy. I will no longer be stopping at that unpainted farmhouse northeast of Bonduel. The man who took me to remote spring ponds, guided me to the tops of unexpected rock outcrops, and paddled me up scenic rivers looking for the cold water that holds trout, is no longer there.

I miss you, Dale Druckrey. Thank you for taking me to the places that you did. I was just hoping for a few more.

(Mark Peerenboom is a member of the Fox Valley Chapter. -Ed.)

WLCV names new conservation lobby fund after Dale Druckrey

The Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters (WLCV) has created a new fund to support their annual Conservation Lobby Day and named it after longtime TU member Dale Druckrey.

Dale died in a house fire in Bonduel last November. The new fund will help support WLCV’s annual

event in Madison where the conservationists across the state bring issues of concern to them before their legislators.

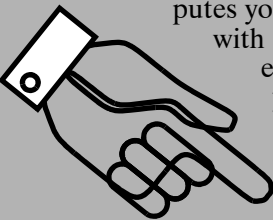
For more information about the fund or the annual Conservation Lobby Day, contact WLCV Development Director Angela West at (608) 661-0845.

WI stream access laws summarized in wallet card

Are you unclear on what the Wisconsin laws are regarding stream access? Wisconsin’s stream access laws have changed twice since 2001, so *Wisconsin Trout* periodically prints this wallet card to summarize the current laws.

The card is two-sided. The side below gives a concise summary of your current rights and responsibilities regarding stream access, while the facing side has relevant excerpts from the current state statutes.

The WITU State Council hopes this card will come in handy to settle any disputes you may have with landowners who feel you are trespassing.



No reg changes since ‘03

Anglers and other stream users may remember that Wisconsin law was changed in 2001 to allow people to walk the exposed banks of rivers up to the “normal high-water mark.”

However, that expansion of rights was *reversed* just two years later, and anglers have ever since been required to follow the old “keep your feet wet” rule while fishing.

Of note in the current law is a provision that anglers can legally walk on private property to get around an “obstruction.” The WDNR interprets an obstruction to include “deep water.”

This obstruction provision is not yet widely known, so this wallet card will help fishers and land owners understand the current law.

CLIP AND CARRY

WI State Council
of Trout Unlimited

2011 WI Stream
Access Wallet Card

Keep this handy stream access wallet card with you when you fish. It describes your rights and responsibilities when accessing public waters that flow through private property in Wisconsin.

Can I fish streams that flow through private lands?

Yes, all trout streams are considered “navigable” and, therefore, are public property. Streams are public even though the land on both sides of them may be private. Without permission, you may not cross private lands to enter or leave a stream. Enter the water at bridge crossings, public lands, or private lands under public easement.

Do I have to stay in the water?

Yes, but there is one exception. Wisconsin law was amended in 2001 to say you may exit the water “to bypass an obstruction.” (See statute text on other side.) Re-enter the water after the obstruction has been passed.

What counts as an obstruction?

According to the WDNR, “Obstructions could consist of trees or rocks, shallow water for boaters, or deep water for wading trout fishers. The bypass can involve areas up to the ordinary high water mark and should be by the shortest route possible.”

Can I walk on the exposed shoreline up to the “ordinary high water mark”?

No, that provision in the statutes was only in effect for two years. Anglers must now follow the previous “keep your feet wet” rule. But you may still leave the water legally to bypass obstructions.

What if I come upon a fence across a stream?

Land owners may not obstruct navigable waters in a way that “impairs the free navigation thereof.” If you can pass under or over a single strand of barbed wire, the stream remains navigable. However, if several strands of wire or some other intentional obstruction prevents passage, the land owner is in violation of the law. Do not cut the wire. Instead, contact the WDNR to investigate the illegal obstruction.

How does the “no interference” with hunting, fishing, or trapping statute apply to my fishing?

Animal right activists have generally preferred to harass hunters and trappers instead of anglers. Nevertheless, fishing is included in a 1989 WI statute that makes it illegal for someone to “interfere or attempt to interfere with lawful hunting, fishing or trapping with the intent to prevent the taking of a wild animal....”

This statute not only protects you from physical interference, but it protects the animals as well — someone cannot interfere with your fishing by “harassing a wild animal.” For fishers, this may be interpreted to mean that someone cannot interfere with your fishing by throwing rocks into water you are about to fish. Land owners blocking your legal access or preventing you from navigating around obstructions may also be violating this statute.

See WI statute text on other side

Bob's Viagra Caddis Emerger: no doctor needed after four hours

By Bob Haase

The finished fly shown below is floating in a dish of water. I always



keep a dish of water near my tying area to test my flies to see how they float and position themselves in the water. I call this the Viagra Caddis Emerger because it stays up forever and you can fish it for more than four hours without calling a doctor! I have placed this fly in water at 9:00 a.m. only to find it still floating at 10:00 the next morning. I know I will never get a drift that long.

This fly started out as a bluegill fly for me, and a couple years ago I started modifying it for trout fishing. The olive pearl core and a few wraps of fine wire cause the fly to hang down like this once it becomes wet. Initially it will float on the surface. I can look through the glass dish to see how the fish will see the fly from below and the CDC puffs attached as wings look like an adult emerging from the shuck. I alter the size of the foam head and wraps of fine wire to get it to float or sink slowly like an emerger that could not break through the film. Practice will help determine the correct size of the foam head and the number of wraps of wire need to get the fly to perform as desired. You can also just dub the head like a Tabou Caddis instead of using foam, and it will sink rather than float. I also tie this as a black caddis emerger using black Pearl Core and black CDC puffs. Tie some of these up and try them and you will not be disappointed! Start by wrapping the thread to the hook bend. Tie in a piece of ol-

MATERIALS LIST Viagra Caddis Emerger

- Hook:** Mustad C53S or TMC200 #14 & #16.
- Thread:** Gray or Black 14/0 Gordon Griffith Sheer thread or equivalent (70 denier).
- Body:** Squirrel & Caddis Green Ice Dub mix and wrapped pheasant after feather.
- Wing:** CDC Puffs.
- Tail:** Olive or Black Pearl Core.
- Head:** Packaging foam (can be colored with permanent markers)
- Weight:** Fine copper wire or Hairline Quick Descent dubbing.



ive Pearl Core as shown. Burn or super glue the end so it doesn't fray. Wrap about 5 or 6 wraps of fine wire next to the Pearl Core. Wrap the thread over the wire and advance it to about 1/8" before the hook eye. Dub from the front of the hook to just over the Pearl Core with a the Green Ice Dubbing mix. Next fasten a pheasant after feather or a similar after feather as shown. Tip the fly down if you have a rotary vise and twist the thread around the feather to reinforce it. By tipping the fly down it brings the point of the hook up out of the way. Wrap the after feather over the dubbing, leaving space to see the dubbing between wraps. Allow space for a strip of packaging foam. The foam strip should be around 1/4" wide and a little less than 1/8" thick. If you do not have the appropriate color, you can color it with a permanent marker. Tie in the foam securely, trim, and position the thread in front of the after feather. Next fold the foam back and tie down with thread to form the head. Make the foam head just large enough to float the fly. Trim the foam and make a few more wraps to secure it. You can also use white foam or color white foam with a chartreuse marker to better see the fly in the water. Tie in a small CDC puff on each side just behind the head. The puffs do not float the fly, but rather represent the emerging wings. Tie off and put a drop of head cement just behind the head. Air bubbles form on the foam

head and feathers, and the Pearl Core also works as an attractor to the fly. Fish see this as an adult cad-dis just emerging from the shuck and know they must take it quickly before their meal is gone!

Relevant Wisconsin Statutes (Key portions underlined)

- §30.134 Use of exposed shore areas along streams.**
 - (1) DEFINITIONS. In this section:
 - (a) "Artificial ditch" means a ditch, channel, canal or other stream of water that has no prior history as a stream.
 - (b) "Exposed shore area" means the area of the bed of a navigable body of water that is between the ordinary high-water mark and the water's edge.
 - (c) "Highway" has the meaning given in s. 340.01 (22).
 - (d) "Riparian" means the owner, lessee or occupant of land that abuts a navigable body of water.
 - (2) AUTHORIZATION. Members of the public may use any exposed shore area of a stream without the permission of the riparian only if it is necessary to exit the body of water to bypass an obstruction.
 - (3) RESTRICTIONS; MEMBERS OF PUBLIC. (a) In using an exposed shore area of a stream, as authorized under sub. (2), a member of the public may not enter the exposed shore area except from the water, from a point of public access on the stream, or with the permission of the riparian. (c) Use of an exposed shore area of a stream by members of the public does not grant an easement or other right to the exposed shore area that is greater than the right granted to the public under this section.
 - (4) RESTRICTIONS; RIPARIANS; OTHERS.
 - (a) No riparian may prohibit a member of the public from using, as authorized under this section, an exposed shore area of a stream.
 - (b) No riparian may charge a fee for the use, as authorized under this section, of an exposed shore area of a stream.
 - (c) No person may obstruct a highway with the intention to impede or prohibit access by the public to an exposed shore area of a stream.
 - (5) EXCEPTIONS. The right granted to the public under this section to use an exposed shore area of a stream does not apply to any of the following:
 - (a) An exposed shore area of an impoundment on a stream.
 - (b) Any artificial ditch.
 - (c) Any location on a stream where there is no surface water flowing in the stream.
- §30.15 Penalty for unlawful obstruction of navigable waters.**
 - (1) OBSTRUCTIONS PENALIZED. Any person who does any of the following shall forfeit not less than \$10 nor more than \$500 for each offense:
 - (a) Unlawfully obstructs any navigable waters and thereby impairs the free navigation thereof.
 - (b) Unlawfully places in navigable waters or in any tributary thereof any substance that may float into and obstruct any such waters or impede their free navigation.
 - (c) Constructs or maintains in navigable waters, or aids in the construction or maintenance therein, of any boom not authorized by law.
 - (d) Constructs or places any structure or deposits any material in navigable waters in violation of s. 30.12 or 30.13.
 - (3) EACH DAY A SEPARATE VIOLATION. Each day during which an obstruction, deposit or structure exists in violation of sub. (1) is a separate offense.
- §29.083 Interference with hunting, fishing or trapping.**
 - (1) DEFINITION. In this section, "activity associated with lawful hunting, fishing or trapping" means travel, camping or other acts that are preparatory to lawful hunting, fishing or trapping and that are done by a hunter, fisher or trapper or by a member of a hunting, fishing or trapping party.
 - (2) PROHIBITIONS (a) No person may interfere or attempt to interfere with lawful hunting, fishing or trapping with the intent to prevent the taking of a wild animal by doing any of the following:
 - 1. Harassing a wild animal or engaging in an activity that tends to harass wild animals.
 - 2. Impeding or obstructing a person who is engaged in lawful hunting, fishing or trapping.
 - 3. Impeding or obstructing a person who is engaged in an activity associated with lawful hunting, fishing or trapping.
 - 4. Disturbing the personal property of a person engaged in lawful hunting, fishing or trapping. [Remaining portions of the statute deleted. -Ed.]

WI State Council of Trout Unlimited

Stream Access Wallet Card

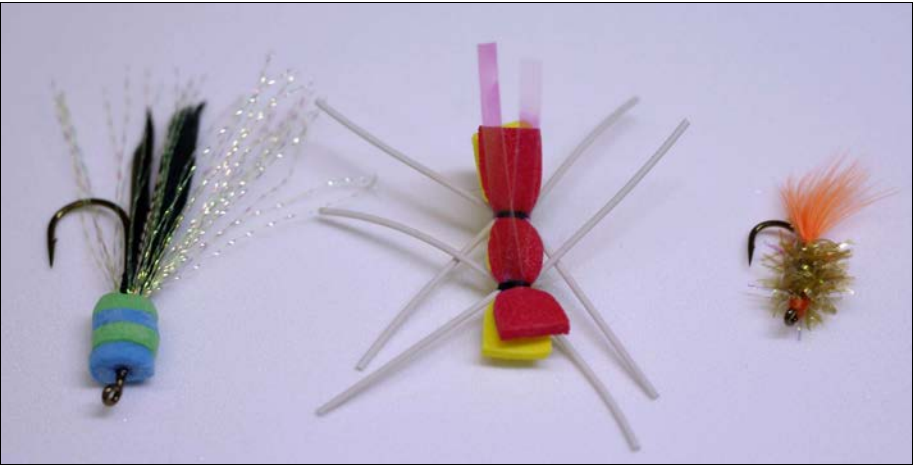
(See other side for a summary of your stream access rights)

Fly contest winners announced

By Bob Haase

Winners were selected Feb. 5 in the WITU fly pattern contest co-sponsored by Tight Lines Fly Fishing Co. in De Pere and Dutch's Trading Post in Fond du Lac. The purpose of the contest was to come up with some new patterns for youth and beginning fly tying. Mike Kuhr from Milwaukee took first place for his "Orange & Gold Lil' Gumdrop" (below on right). Pam Van Erem from De Pere

took second place for her fly called the "Sandwich Fly" (below middle). Mikayla Wehrle from New London took third place for her fly called the Kayla Popper (below left). Kayla's popper was interesting in that she used a paper punch make round pieces of foam to form the multi-colored popper head. We would like to thank everyone who submitted an entry to the contest. These flies will be added to some of the flies we tie during youth or beginning fly tying programs.



Bob's Tying Tips

Advice from
the bench of
Bob Haase

More tips for tying flies
when you're 'on location'

By Bob Haase

Here is part two of my tips for tying "on location."

Take a little of a lot

When I tie on location at a fly tying event or traveling out west fishing, I like to have a little of everything with me. I don't need to have the same quantity of each item that I have at home, but I try to "take a little of a lot rather than a lot of a little."

When I am tying at an event, I try to demonstrate many of my tying tips, or show a variety of fly patterns that I feel are a little different. When I travel any distance to fish, I like to have my tying stuff along and be able to spend some time at night tying what I think the fish might like the next day. I would rather be able to tie a large variety of patterns, rather than tie a lot of a few patterns. But when I plan on tying a specific pattern at an event such as "hex patterns," I take extra of just the materials I need for those patterns.

Get organized with
larger kit boxes

I have consolidated my portable (on location) tying tools and materials into two boxes. One of the boxes contains all my tying tools, vise, light, hooks, thread, marking pens, piece of shelf liner, and all the other specialty items. The other box contains most of my tying materials.

I have looked for a long time to find the right kinds of boxes that work best for me. The box on the right was made by Stanley, but is no longer made. It has a



bottom section on wheels that is detachable. I only use the bottom section and fill it with just the materials I need if I am tying on location and have a long distance to get to the tying area. With the things I carry in this box, I still have room for a limited amount of tying materials if I only plan on tying a couple of patterns.

The other box is a Plano Model 781 that I got at Menards for under \$17. Its lift-out tray (temporarily placed in the lid in this picture) holds long items such as



flashabou, pheasant tail feathers, strips of foam, and boxes of beads and items placed in 2x3 plastic bags, dubbing boxes, extra head cement, solvent, super glue, and other miscellaneous items. On the bottom left is a container that holds all my chenille, rubber legs, and a variety of other materials. I try to put a small section (about 1-2 feet of all the colors I normally use) of the various materials such as chenille, poly or Antron yarn, scud back, rubber legs, floss, etc. in each bag.

On the right are expandable file folders that have been trimmed in height to fit and each is labeled with the feathers, hair, or other materials it holds. The folders are trimmed in height to allow the lift out tray to fit into the box.

Repackage items into
ziplock bags

No matter which boxes you buy, by putting small amounts of each color material into plastic bags, you can fit a lot more mate-



rials into your travel kit as compared to taking the materials on the cards or container they came on. By having uniform size bags that fit into another storage box, you can cram a lot of materials into a small space and still easily find them when needed.

I also make up dubbing containers to hold the dubbing that I use most often. I have one extra dubbing box that I put in extra dubbing or specialty dubbing mixes that I make if I think I might need them.

Use specialty boxes

Wapsi makes a box specifically for holding 2 x 3 plastic bags (the size that most beads and other similar items come in. My box has tungsten beads in the left compartment, brass beads in the center, and glass beads, dumbbell eyes, and cone heads in the right compartment. I have another box that contains eyes, small foam cylinders, and specialty items.

I have another box like this that contains all my specialty hooks that I don't often use. This allows me to carry a lot of items in a small space. I use Craft Mate boxes that have lockable lids (found at JoAnn Fabrics) to hold all the hooks I use most often.

This is an example of one way to organize your on-location tying materials.

Depending on how often you tie on location and the variety and kinds of flies you tie, you will arrange your on-location tying kit differently.

The initiation of a
trout fisherman

By Zach Mohr

I first got into trout fishing two years ago. What compelled me to start was I saw it on TV. I knew of this creek near my house, Elk Creek, so I decided to fish it. At first I used a spinning rod, but I didn't catch too much. After talking to Grandpa, I decided to try fly fishing. Grandpa "hooked me up" with a fly rod and line for an early birthday present.

Yes, it was tough at first. Every other cast I would catch a tree or something. Eventually I got the hang of it and caught one. It was a 7" brown trout. After that first fish I just wanted to catch more. The more I fished, the more I lost flies — and for a dollar a piece! I was soon going broke. Then I asked for a fly tying kit for my birthday from Mom and Dad. Since my birthday is in November, I couldn't use my flies right away.

After hearing this story you might ask yourself, "How did Zach become part of Trout Unlimited?" My hunter safety instructor, Don Dukerschein, got me Tim Meyer's e-mail at the FLW Walleye tournament. After going to TU's fly tying class, it all started from there.

I have had plenty of good times on the creek. Not all of them are about the fish. In the early season last year, I went out to fish after cutting wood and caught my biggest one so far. It was a 16" brown, the first fish of the year. He bit a yellow and black woolly bugger I tied that winter. He gave me a really good fight in the fast current with multiple jumps. After almost swamping my knee boots, I successfully landed him.

A really exciting thing was happening on the creek around that time also. There was a restoration project going on. I went to work nights on the creek and helped plant grass and mulched. It was kind of like waiting for Christmas when the creek was being worked on. I would fish the new spots after the crew was done with that section. When the restoration was complete, I was proud that I could make a difference in my fishing.

There were a lot of other fun times on the creek, too. One time I was fishing the south side when a fork buck jumped out of its bed eight feet away from me. He then crossed the creek and walked away. I saw plenty of more wildlife in the creek bottoms, including muskrats, woodchucks, opossums, herons, and a goose nest.

Another good time at the creek was when I went mouse fishing. I was still fishing for trout but using a mouse fly. I went on a full moon night in late August. I had an old head lamp, two back-up flashlights, batteries, and four mouse flies to bring along. The second hole I fished I actually caught one! It wasn't as big as I hoped it would be, but it was still a fish. What happened was he missed the fly and somehow got caught up by the tail. When he hit it was controlled chaos. I heard a splash, turned my light on, tried to pick up line, and my knot broke when the fish came ashore. It was still a hoot.

Now that trout season is over, I am starting to tie flies for next year and making bluegill poppers to sell to Grandpa's buddies. Dad and I are going to Canada fishing next year in July. We might fish for some northern, and I am going to try to catch one on my fly rod. I had a good time fishing this year, and learned a lot. I look forward to learning more next year through TU and my own experiences.

(Author Zach Mohr is age 14. He is a middle school student in the Elk Mound School District, and he's a member of WI Clear Waters TU. -Ed.)



Mike's Service in Langlade

**We have
what works!**

EVEN MORE IN STOCK — We carry necks and saddles, hooks, and other fly tying supplies! Don't get caught empty-handed. Most flies custom tied to order...must provide pattern.

**We have all the
sports licenses**

Stop and ask Mike what's working. Or call ahead for info on where and how to fish the famous Wolf River.

715-882-8901 • Hwy. 64 & 55, Langlade

Friends grants totaled over \$36,000 in 2010

By Doug Brown
Friends of WITU Chair

With winter coming to an end, the early catch-and-release season open, and the regular fishing season just a month away, this is the time of year we request your support for the Friends of Wisconsin TU program.

The 2011 request will be arriving at your door shortly. This year's gift for a donation of \$100 or more is a nifty little StreamWorks HatLight which can come in handy for those

evening outings. Don't forget to return it to your fishing vest, because you may end up using it for tasks all around the house.

Last year was a banner year for the Friends program. We received 130+ private donations, plus eight contributions from our 21 local chapters. We raised over \$14,000 for the program.

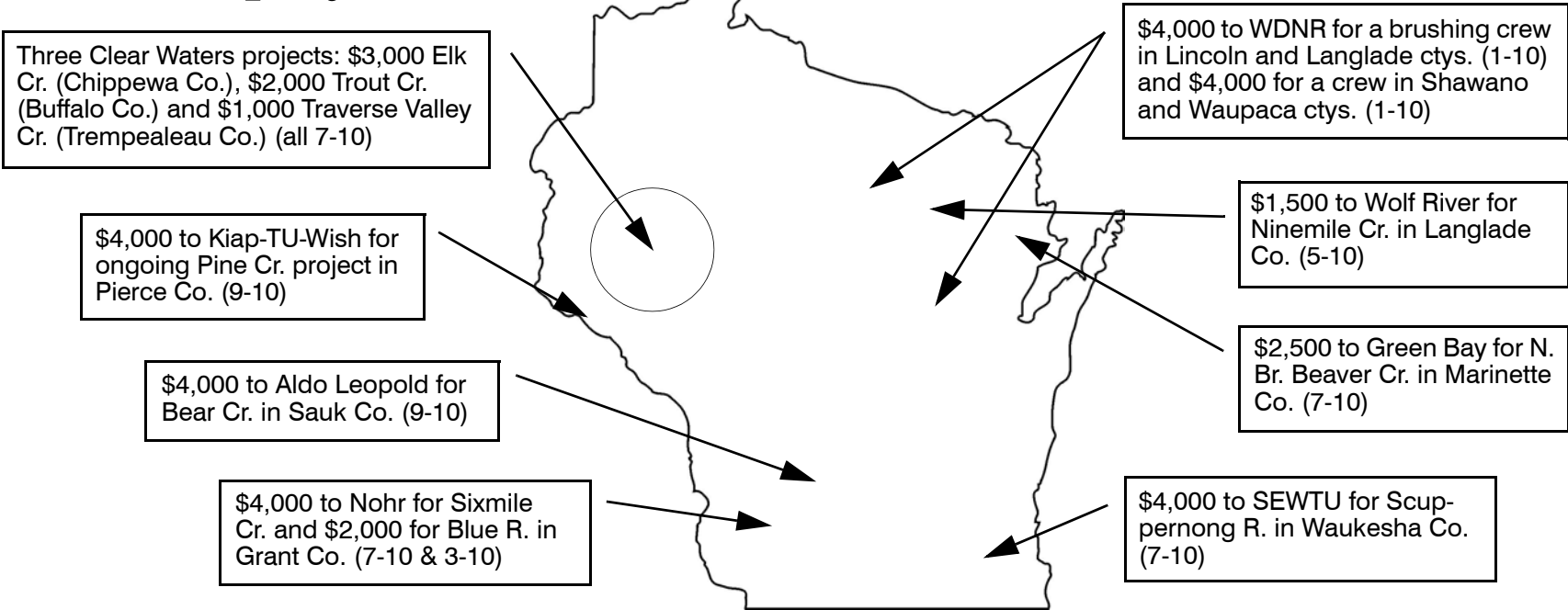
But equally impressive was the amount of grant money awarded by the program. By distributing some surplus funds that had built up in re-

cent years, over **\$36,000** in grants were issued last year! Numerous chapter requests and a couple of DNR requests were funded, and the recipients are putting that money to work on a stream near you right now.

All of this starts with your generosity. When you receive your 2011 Friends appeal letter, please consider donating, knowing that your financial commitment will benefit **YOUR** streams, and more importantly, the trout fisheries in it.



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



Friends of Wis. TU

*Thanks again to
our 2010 Friends of
Wisconsin Trout Unlimited*

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Dr. H. A. Anderson | Madison WI |
| David Arnold | Minnitonska MN |
| Gary Balwierz | Beldenville WI |
| Paul Banas | Madison WI |
| Edwin Barnes | Middleton WI |
| Charles Barnhill | Madison WI |
| Jeff Bartynski | Eau Claire WI |
| Jim Bayorgeon | Appleton WI |
| George Bereza | Marinette WI |
| John & Susan Bleimehl | Verona WI |
| Stephen Born | Madison WI |
| Allon Bostwick | Fond du Lac WI |
| Doug Brown | Ringle WI |
| Gerald Campbell | Madison WI |
| R.G. Chamberlain | Markesan WI |
| Rick Christopherson | Norwalk WI |
| John Clark | Wisconsin Rapids WI |
| Terrence Clark | Cottage Grove WI |
| Lawrence Clowrey, MD | Wauwatosa WI |
| Anne Connor | Fitchburg WI |
| Terry Cummings | Rhineland WI |
| Bruce Davidson | Wauwatosa WI |
| Dale Druckrey | Bonduel WI |
| Richard Duplessie | Eau Claire WI |
| Richard Evans | Mequon WI |
| Alan Finesilver | De Pere WI |
| William Flader, MD | Madison WI |
| Daniel Flaherty | La Crosse WI |
| D. James Fruit | Hartland WI |
| Michael Funk | La Crosse WI |
| Richard Gallinger | Hartland WI |
| Scott Geboy | Fox Point WI |
| Dan Geddes | Appleton WI |
| Donald Grade | Mosinee WI |
| Mike Griffith | Madison WI |
| Dean Hagness | Custer WI |
| R. Chris Halla | Appleton WI |
| Henry Haugley | Sun Prairie WI |
| Ashton Hawk | Madison WI |
| Stephen Hawk | Madison WI |
| Bill Heart | Ashland WI |
| Robert Heding | Oshkosh WI |
| Brian Hegge | Rhineland WI |
| Bob Hellyer | Boulder Junction WI |
| Walter Hellyer | Fish Creek WI |
| Robert & Lynette Hering | Neenah WI |
| Gilbert Herman | Stoughton WI |
| Peter Hickey | Brussels WI |
| Charles Hodulik | Madison WI |
| Tim Hood | Lodi WI |
| Greg Hyer | Cross Plains WI |
| Jeff Jackson | Oconto Falls WI |
| Jonathon Jacobs | Hudson WI |

- Layton James
Daniel & Sheree Kehoe
John Kenealy III
Gordon King
Jordan Konisky
Clifford Kremmer
Don Larson
Joe Lehner
Richard Lindroth
Douglas MacFarland
Brian Madsen
Mike Magers
Anna Magnin
Jim & Billie March
Dean Martin
Bob Martini
Kim McCarthy
Dorothy Meicher
Ronald Miller
Doris & Randall Montague
Jeff & Lynette Moore
Lowell North
Herb Oechler
Richard Pfiffner
R Pierce
Dennis Presser
Dick & Jodie Prine
Bob Ragotzkie
Randal Rake
Ron Rellatz
Bob Retko
Steve Robertson
Thomas Rogers
John Saemann
Michael San Dretto
Steve Schieffer
Jeff Schmoeger
James School
Delmar Schwaller
Jim Seder
Robert Selk

- Hudson WI
Madison WI
Waukesha WI
Merrill WI
Verona WI
Sparta WI
Lansing IA
Sparta WI
Madison WI
Dousman WI
Ellsworth WI
Fond Du Lac WI
Marshfield WI
La Crosse WI
Blair WI
Rhineland WI
Green Bay WI
Rio WI
De Pere, WI
Madison WI
La Crosse WI
Hillsboro WI
Wauwatosa WI
Amherst WI
Rockford IL
Madison WI
Ridgeland WI
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
New Berlin WI
Madison WI
- John Serunian
Dale Sevig
John Shillinglaw
Thomas Siebert
Brent Sittlow
Jeff Smith
Robert Stanley
Charles Steudel
Chip Stinger
Winston Strow
Mike Stupich
Bruce Sullivan
Greg Swanson
Gary Tielens
Royden Tull
Dennis Vanden Bloomen
Gretchen Vanden Bloomen
Greg Vodak
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
Marinette County TU
Wild Rivers TU
WI Clear Waters TU

- Fitchburg WI
Lakeland FL
Appleton WI
Elkhart Lake WI
Hudson WI
Madison WI
Ashland 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
Marinette WI
Augusta WI
Oshkosh WI
Stevens Point WI
Roscoe IL

*Yes, I want to join the "Friends" of Wisconsin TU.
Enclosed is my check for \$100, \$250, or more payable to Wisconsin Trout Unlimited.*

MAIL TO: Friends of Wisconsin TU
% Doug Brown
R4800 Timber Lane
Ringle, WI 54471

Name	
Address	
City, State Zip	Phone #