



Wisconsin Trout

January 2011

Freshwater Hall of Fame inducts Robert B. Heding

By Todd Hanson

Retired WDNR land acquisition agent and trout stream restoration pioneer Robert B. Heding has been inducted into the National Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame (NFWFHF) in Hayward, WI.

Heding joins 31 others inducted into the NFWFHF's "special recognition" section since the awards were started in 1992.

Heding worked for the Wisconsin Conservation Department and its successor, the WDNR, for 41 years beginning in the 1940s.

"During the years 1958-1961, Heding prepared land acquisition plans for the then Wisconsin Conservation Department to purchase the major part of the trout streams of central Wisconsin," wrote Elward Engle in Heding's nomination letter. "This plan included approximately 80% of the resource. At the onset, Heding's plan to acquire land was met with opposition at the central office. The first thought was that we only need a place to park a stocking truck to unload hatchery fish."

"The plan, as prepared, was sent to the Wisconsin Conservation Department, the legislative bodies and the governor. The plan was large and costly and of a magnitude never before attempted. The new plan had a slow beginning but gradually increased with a number of land purchases yearly. The program has been in progress from its inception

to the present. An estimated 65% of the goals have been attained," says Engle.

In addition to promoting the outright purchase of land surrounding trout streams, Heding was an early proponent of securing perpetual easements as a most cost-effective way of protecting the trout resource and allow for habitat improvement. According to Engle, there are now about 100 miles of land under easement along trout streams in Central Wisconsin alone.

Early wild trout advocate

Heding was also an early proponent of reducing the stocking of trout into nearly every stream in the state.

"Heding believed that a sound approach to trout stream management would be to acquire the state's waters, carry out habitat improvement where necessary, and stop the stocking of hatchery fish."

"Heding believed that a sound approach to trout stream management would be to acquire the state's waters, carry out habitat improvement where necessary, and stop the stocking of hatchery fish," says Engle. "Research proved that Heding's plan was sound and became the accepted plan for future management of Wisconsin's trout streams."

Stream habitat pioneer

Heding was also a pioneer in the new field of trout stream habitat restoration. At one time, Heding was one five fish habitat managers in Wisconsin.

According to Engle, Heding developed habitat structures still used across the country, including bank covers, single win deflectors, in-stream boulders, bank rip-rap, and half-logs.



Jim Beecher

NICE BROWN FROM GORDON CREEK

A WDNR shocking crew revealed some nice trout in the parts of Gordon Cr. in Iowa Cty. where Southern Wisconsin TU did major habitat work in recent years.

Larry Claggett retires at DNR

By Todd Hanson

WDNR Coldwater Fisheries Ecologist Larry Claggett retired as head of the coldwater fisheries program on Dec. 30 after serving 32 years with the agency.



Larry Claggett

In an e-mail to associates across the state obtained by *Wisconsin Trout*, Claggett said, "I feel like I have made major contributions, with help from

many of you, to the trout management program and the improvement of trout fishing."

Claggett also expressed some concern for the future in his note.

"On the other hand this decision was precipitated by the political climate and the changes that are inevitably coming. ... It appears changes are on the horizon for...our habitat restoration program and trout fishing regulations. If I stayed, I would likely be prone to defend our past programs rather than change for the future. Therefore it may be better to have someone who is young, fresh, and flexible to deal with these changes."

TUDARE plans next steps after successful initial years

By John Welter

TUDARE Communications

With six years of success and experience, how should TU's Driftless Area Restoration Effort (TUDARE) move forward?

That was the question as over 40 TU leaders, conservation professionals, and agency personnel met

in Galena, IL, Nov. 13 to plan the next five years for TU National's largest-ever Home Rivers Initiative.

In June 2004 a handful of TU volunteers met in Galena, IL, and laid the plans for what is now TU's largest and most volunteer-driven Home Rivers Initiative. TUDARE was conceived and started by volunteers from Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois,

and Wisconsin with the help of TU staff.

Now TUDARE has been recognized by many partners, including all four states' DNRs, federal agencies, and county conservation departments.

Extensive training and increased financial support have led to an increase in watershed restoration projects across the Driftless Area's 24,000 square miles.

In addition, TUDARE's recent projects have become broader-based, restoring wetlands, adjacent uplands, and native prairies in watersheds for increased environmental and wildlife benefits.

TU's National Leadership Council recently endorsed TUDARE and committed to supporting it for the next five years. The Driftless Area of the Upper Mississippi River basin is a focus area for national environmental and conservation groups and

agencies right now because of several factors:

- Agricultural land uses impact water quality, soil erosion, and local economies.

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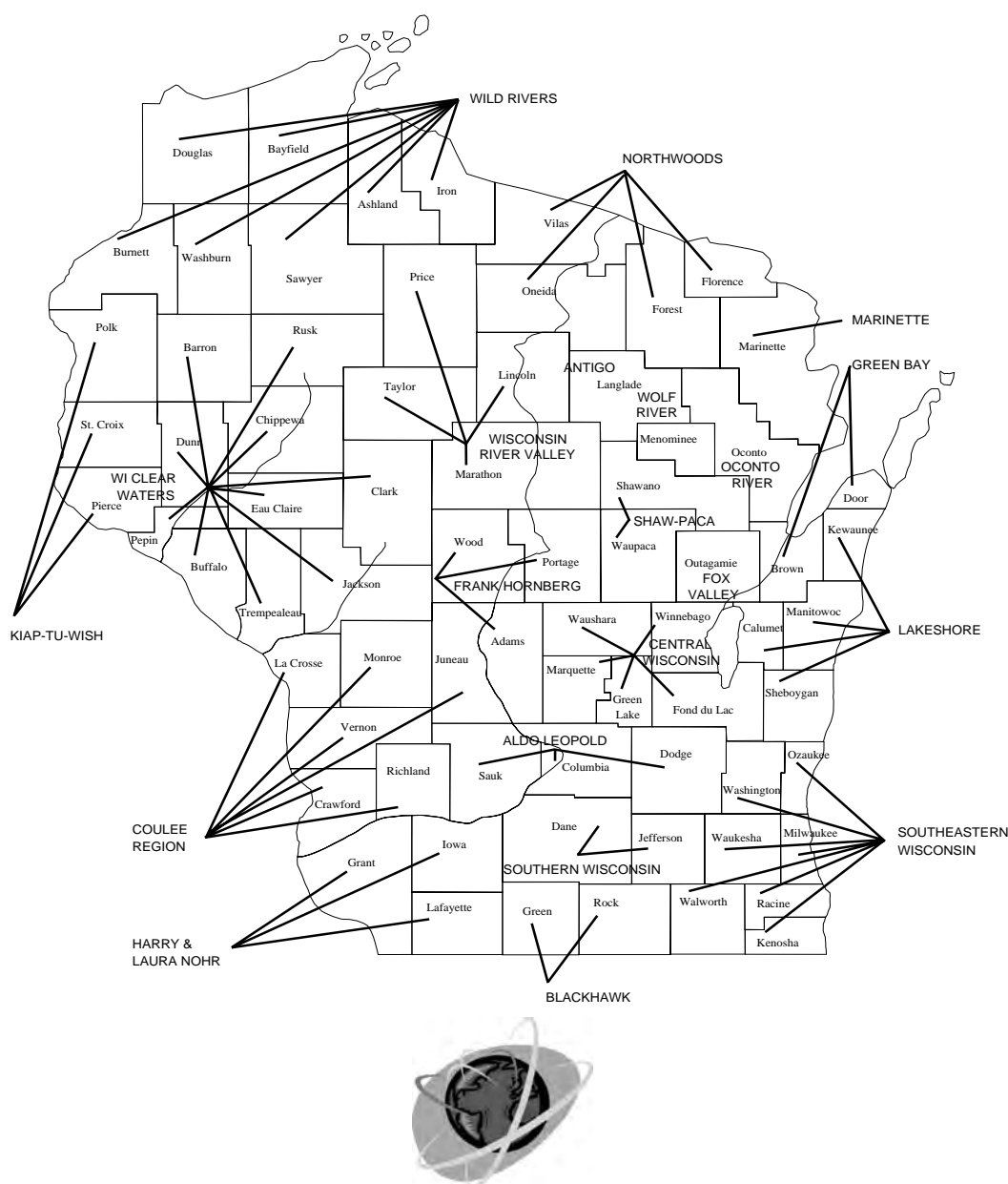
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Wisconsin TU Chapters, Presidents, and Websites



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Contact TU National when you change addresses or chapter leaders

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

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

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TU is giving kids the lifetime gift of fishing

By Kim McCarthy

WITU State Council Chair

As the State Chair, I receive plenty of messages offering ideas about trout and trout management in Wisconsin. Sometimes I agree;

tions are just too hard to understand. While I, too, share the concern that the future of trout fishing requires the recruitment of young anglers, I think that blaming the regulations is an oversimplification. This is a classic example of of-

My suspicion is that changes in society are having a much greater influence on youth activities than regulations will ever have. Divorce rates have skyrocketed, resulting in a much higher number of kids living with mom. Dad, the person most likely to introduce kids to outdoor recreation, is absent from many homes.

Social media, computer gaming, and television are also consuming incredible amounts of kids' time. Society is becoming more and more urbanized. And kids who do participate in sports such as soccer, football, basketball, and hockey are now spending much more time at camps, tournaments, and practices.

At middle and high school levels, sports are becoming year-round activities. Add up all the societal changes and the outdoor sports face serious competition for the attention of young people.

When we discuss regulations' impact on youth recruitment, let's also remember that fishing and hunting are learned activities. Kids are not born with attitudes about one regulation versus another. They know nothing about the sport they are trying. Everything is learned from the mentors who teach them, and they will develop the attitudes of their mentors. They don't remember previous regulations. Their frame of reference is the current regulation, and it becomes part of the learning experience. Some will be thrilled by the new experience, and we will have some new trout fishers. Some won't like the experience and will move on to other activities.

My guess is that their decision will primarily be based on how much fun they have when they try the new activity. I can't imagine a quicker way to turn a youngster off to out-

door sports than to have the mentor whining about how terrible things are at a time when the young person is excited about trying something new.

I recently did some reminiscing about the mentoring I received that turned me into the trout addict I became. What a great addiction. I can vividly recall the first trout I ever caught on Waupee Creek in Oconto County. It was a brookie, and that trout, to the delight of my mentor, hooked me for life.

A couple of years later, once again with the same mentor, I discovered the mystery of fly fishing as I watched a skilled fly fisher catch fish one after another on the North Branch of the Oconto while my lures were ignored. Mentor and I had some fly rods and basically knew nothing about the sport. We went to a local general store and bought some imitations that looked about like the bugs we had seen. Later I learned that the bugs were brown drakes. The next night I landed my first brown trout on a dry fly and was, once again, hooked for life.

This is the time of year that folks think about the perfect present. My all-time perfect present had nothing to do with the holiday season. It was the gift of trout fishing along with the love of outdoor sports taught by a patient mentor. Thanks, Dad.

And thanks to all of the TUs who are working to give kids the kind of mentoring that I was lucky enough to receive. Many of our chapters and members are providing that invaluable service. Skilled mentors who take their valuable time to show kids a good time in the outdoors are playing a critical role in recruiting the next generation of trout fishers.



WITU STATE COUNCIL CHAIR KIM MCCARTHY WITH A WESTERN TROUT

Kim brings a nice cutbow to hand on a recent visit to Slough Creek in Yellowstone Park. He tries to make a pilgrimage out west every year.

sometimes not. I try to weigh ideas by the level of facts that are (or maybe are not) used to support the idea.

One particular concept currently making the rounds is that the decline in the number of young people entering the sport of trout fishing is because of the current regulations. The theory goes that the regulations are too complex, and that kids aren't fishing because the regula-

fering a simplified solution to a complex problem.

There are far more factors at work in the decline of youth fishing than regulations. Nationwide, numbers of hunters and fishers are declining. No matter which area of the country, which outdoor activity, or which set of regulations, youth participation is declining. There must be more than the regulations at work.

Conservation leaders Dale Druckrey and Tom Helgeson pass

By Todd Hanson

Two longtime friends of Trout Unlimited — Dale Druckrey and Tom Helgeson — passed away in November.

Druckrey, 77, died unexpectedly of smoke inhalation from a fire at his home in rural Bonduel, WI, on Nov. 30.

Druckrey was a regular fixture at TU events around central Wisconsin. He may have belonged to only one TU chapter, but many chapters considered him one of their own.

Dale also served for nearly a decade as the Green Bay Chapter's State Council representative. In 2004, he was awarded the State Council's Joan & Lee Wulff Award.

The conservation efforts of many Wisconsin organizations drew Dale's time and financial support.

Besides being mourned by Trout Unlimited, there are fond memories of Dale being shared by the River Alliance of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters, the Clean Water Action Council, the Northeastern Wisconsin Land Trust, and other organizations.

Tom Helgeson, 71, died Nov. 12 of lung cancer. He was widely known as the founder and editor of *Midwest Fly Fishing* magazine.

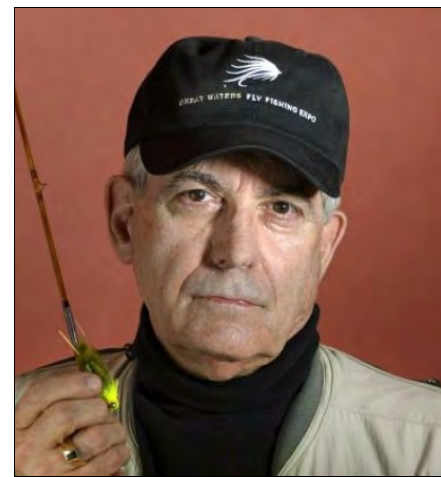
Helgeson also started the Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo.

Before getting involved in the above ventures, Helgeson was an editor at *Minneapolis Star Tribune* and the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*.

After his newspaper day, Helgeson ran the Bright Waters fly fishing shop in Minnesota.



Dale Druckrey (left) and Tom Helgeson



Helgeson focused more and more on resource protection as the years went on. He realized that peo-

ple would only be drawn to the sport of trout fishing if there were healthy, productive streams to fish.

CORRECTION

In the October *Wisconsin Trout*, some text in Mitch Bent's piece "Some ideas for changing NE Wisconsin trout regulations" was inadvertently hidden by the letters-to-the-editor graphic on that page.

The last sentence in column three that ended with the words "and use of artificial lures and..." should have continued as follows:

"I encountered such a situation recently when I assisted the local DNR fisheries crew with some trout population surveys on a category 5 section of a well-known brook trout river north of Antigo. The category

5 rule there calls for a two trout/day creel limit, a 12-inch minimum size limit, and use of artificial lures and flies only. In the two separate sections of that category 5 water in which we ran surveys, we collected tremendous numbers of five-to-seven inch brookies. But trout numbers dropped dramatically when we got past the eight-inch size range, four full inches below the minimum legal harvest size limit.

"When the DNR fisheries staff reviews our trout angling regulations, I feel it would be wise for them to think outside the box as far as what type of regulations are needed to achieve more larger-sized

brook trout in our Northeastern Wisconsin trout waters. Rather than increasing the minimum size limit to achieve that goal, it may very well be that we need to do two contrary things."

Those two contrary things that Bent went on to suggest — and the rest of his piece — were continued correctly in column four.

(NOTE: The WDNR is just beginning the process of updating the state's trout regulations. This is a two-year effort that should result in a proposal for the public to vote on 15 months from now at the 2012 Conservation Congress spring hearings. We'll keep TU members posted on the work

of the DNR's "trout team" as they gather input and consider options for revising the trout regulations. -Ed.)



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Wisconsin TU 2011 All-State Banquet

BE A PART OF THE FUTURE

Celebrating Wisconsin Trout Unlimited's 40th Year!

February 4th 5th & 6th
Holiday Inn Convention Center, Stevens Point, WI
1001 Amber Avenue, Stevens Point, WI, 54481

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

- *Friday night hospitality room party, featuring brewery representatives (and beer) from around Steven's Point*
- *Displays from Wisconsin's Trout Unlimited Chapters, showing their history, projects, and activities!*
- *Cocktail hour with live music on Saturday, before the Banquet!*
- *Will feature displays from retailers such as Orvis, Tight Lines Fly Fishing Shop, Cabela's, bamboo rod manufacturers, fly tying demonstrations, and more!*
- *Will have a HUGE selection of top-of-the-line prizes to be won, thanks to generous donations from various Wisconsin chapters.*

Throughout the day on Saturday, February 5, there will be seminar presentations by: Simms wader company, from Bozeman, MT (*elimination of felt souled wading boots*) Sage rod company, from Washington State (*fly rod and line maintenance and other topics*) Also programs on *Becoming An Outdoors Woman* and the *Boy Scout Fly Fishing Program*

For those arriving on Friday, there will be a **Hospitality Room** with beverages from local Wisconsin brewers, snacks, and trout-related movie viewing. The Hospitality Room will be open on Saturday night after the conclusion of the banquet as well.

Get your tickets now!

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

There is no better way to appreciate the incredible amount of volunteer effort put forth by Wisconsin TU and its members than to attend our annual All-State Banquet. It's a great place to meet and greet Wisconsin's coldwater elite, and who knows – you might even learn a thing or two in the process! This year's banquet will celebrate 40 years of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited. We'll reflect upon where we've been, and look forward to where we're going. You don't want to miss this one!



TUDARE: next steps planned

Continued from p. 1

- Changing land uses improve or harm water quality, fish habitat, and recreational opportunities.
- Poor land practices can send harmful nutrients down tributaries and the Mississippi and contribute to the hypoxic or “dead” zone in the Gulf of Mexico.

TU leader Steve Born of Madison told attendees that developing a regional identity for the Driftless Area is a key, long-term goal. The area shares common landforms, history, natural resources, and resource challenges. The region is also interdependent economically. The area is connected by its waters, which offer us challenges as well as opportunities. TUDARE's efforts should be toward finding sustainable, durable solutions that can be monitored and maintained.

Don't forget the economy and the culture, said recently retired WDNR fisheries leader Dave Vetrano of La Crosse. This region is a system, economically linked, and assembling networks across the region can help TUDARE's efforts.

By recognizing there is a \$1.1 billion annual impact from recreation-

al angling alone, communities can benefit from encouraging watershed restoration and other similar efforts.

“Two Galena meetings, five years apart: it went from a small, largely unnoticed gathering of TU volunteers to an event that filled a conference room and brought people not only from TU, but from state and federal governments, federal agencies, land trusts, and a variety of nonprofits interested in widescale restoration projects,” said Brett Lorenzen, who chairs TUDARE’s Volunteer Steering Committee and is Iowa’s TU State Council chair.

"It speaks to the great motivation of our members, as well as the fact that local leaders at all levels see the value of enhancing the region's coldwater fisheries as well as restoring major parts of our watersheds."

Attendees looked at key areas for growth of the project, including projects and partnerships, outreach and communications, and education and science. Their suggestions will be compiled into a draft five-year plan and circulated widely.

Like the 2004 meeting, the Gale-na get-together was hosted by the Il-linois State Council of TU.

New TUDARE events and work

By Jeff Hastings, TUDARE Project Manager

This past year was one of our most successful in moving forward our agenda for the Driftless Area. We wrote, or helped to write, grants that brought in an additional three million dollars to accelerate stream restoration projects. Some of these projects are highlighted in our recent newsletter, and other projects we hope to highlight in future newsletters.

We also secured a couple of grants to help with our outreach and hired a half-time Outreach Coordinator, Duke Welter. Many of you know Duke and know he will be a great asset in helping us create a regional identity for the Driftless Area. Duke has also been instrumental with helping me improve our website, workshops, and newsletters.

Finally, I want to give a big shout out to our volunteers that we count on so much to help us with the funding, running our workshops, and making the stream restoration projects happen.

Notable TUDARE-aided projects across the region included several in southeast Minnesota and southwest and western Wisconsin.

- On upper Trout Run east of Rochester, MN, Hiawatha TU aided contractors who restored a 3,100-foot reach which had been a hard-used feedlot, junkyard, and erosion source.
- On the upper reaches of Mill Creek north of Chatfield, MN, the same partnership restored the stream where it had flowed through consistent 8-10-foot banks of eroding deposited soil that had badly degraded insect and fish habitat.

Wisconsin TU Award Criteria

Trout Unlimited Resource Award of Merit

- Recipient can be a person, corporation, or organization and may be a nonmember.
- Award can be presented posthumously.
- Award is given for outstanding contributions to conservation (does not need to be given for trout or salmon contributions).

Lee and Joan Wulff Conservation Leadership Award

- Recipient to be an individual who has demonstrated outstanding service in the field of conservation.
- Recipient to be selected by the Exec. Committee of the State Council.
- The award consisting of a framed collection of flies tied by Lee Wulff remains with a recipient for one year and then travels to the next year's recipient.

Trout Unlimited Gold Trout Award for Service

- Recipient must be a member in good standing of Wisconsin TU.
- Award will be presented to any person who has been an officer of the State Council, a national director, or any committee chairperson.
- This individual must have served at least one year of his or her term.

Trout Unlimited Gold Net Award

- Recipient must be an individual who has been a member in good standing of WITU for a period of at least five years.
- Recipient must have participated in at least one major state or chapter fundraising event in the last five years.
- Recipient must have worked on or attended at least five TU resource projects in the last five years.

Silver Trout Award for Chapter Merit

- Recipient must be a WITU chapter that has restored, enhanced, or protected Wisconsin's trout or salmon resource.
- The total value of the project, including the value placed on man-hours and materials,

must total at least \$3,500.

- The project must involve trout and salmon resources available to the public to fish. Projects for private use only do not qualify.
- The end result of the project must demonstrate a long-term commitment or benefit to the trout or salmon resource.

Jeffrey Carlson Volunteer Award

- Recipient must be a WITU member who — following the example of Jeff’s work over many years on coaster brook trout restoration — has taken a leadership role on a major project that either improved an entire stream, reach, or watershed, or which preserved or restored a species in a body of water.

Resource Professional Award

- Recipient must be a state fish manager or other conservation professional who has shown concern for the trout resource over and above his or her normal duties.

Certificate of Appreciation

- Recipient can be a member of Wisconsin TU or be someone indirectly related to the trout and salmon resource (e.g., the recipient can be a landowner on a project, an educator, a media representative, a contributor of certain equipment, or a related conservation organization).
- Recipient can be someone in an organization for his or her efforts within that organization (e.g., a WDNR employee).

NOTES: All award nominations must be submitted to the awards committee as a written narrative describing the candidates' accomplishments, be that nominee an individual, chapter, or other. Nominations should be submitted to the committee at least 60 days before the annual banquet. Successful recipients will be notified by the committee at least 15 days prior to the banquet. All award recipients will be asked to be present at the awards banquet. The judgment and selection of all award recipients will be made by the awards committee, and their selections will be final.

Past Wisconsin TU Award Winners

[illegible]

A Wisconsin Trout *book excerpt*

An Entirely Synthetic Fish recounts how rainbow trout became hatchery stars

Discovered in the remote waters of northern California, rainbow trout have been artificially propagated and distributed for more than 130 years by government officials eager to present Americans with a chance to get back to nature by going trout fishing.

Proudly dubbed “an entirely synthetic fish” by fish managers, the rainbow has been introduced into every state and province in North America and to every continent except Antarctica, often with devastating effects on the native fauna. Author Anders Halverson’s award-winning book *An Entirely Synthetic Fish: How Rainbow Trout Beguiled America and Overran the World* reveals a range of characters, from 19th century

boosters who believed rainbows could be the saviors of democracy to 21st century biologists who now seek to eradicate them from waters around the globe. The book won the 2010 National Outdoor Book Award in the Natural History Literature category.

Ultimately, the story of the rainbow trout is the story of our changing relationship with the natural world. This excerpt from the chapter entitled “A Fullscale Military Operation” may remind some of several Wisconsin fish poisonings undertaken before trout were stocked into our waters. (Also see the note at the end of this excerpt on how a donation to Trout Unlimited can earn members a free copy of this fascinating book.)

By Anders Halverson

Above Flaming Gorge, the Green River drains most of southwestern Wyoming and a small chunk of northeastern Utah. It’s a big watershed. In fact, if it weren’t for some fancy political maneuvering by the Colorado congressional delegation in 1921, most people would probably recognize it today as the true origin of the Colorado River.

For millions of years, the Green flowed unchecked through this high alpine desert, through a country of low buttes dotted with sagebrush, through a country of seemingly unceasing wind. And when it reached the southern end, in what is now Utah, the river carved through the brilliant vermilion rocks of the Uinta Mountains, creating a classic western canyon known as Flaming Gorge. The birthplace of the Green, though, was in the snows of Wyoming’s Wind River Range. And when the spring came, and the sun got higher in the sky, the locked-up water was released in a torrent, carrying huge volumes of sediment downstream. The river was so thick with mud that witnesses insisted you could walk across it. Banks were scoured away and deposited elsewhere and large sandbars appeared and disappeared from one season to the next.

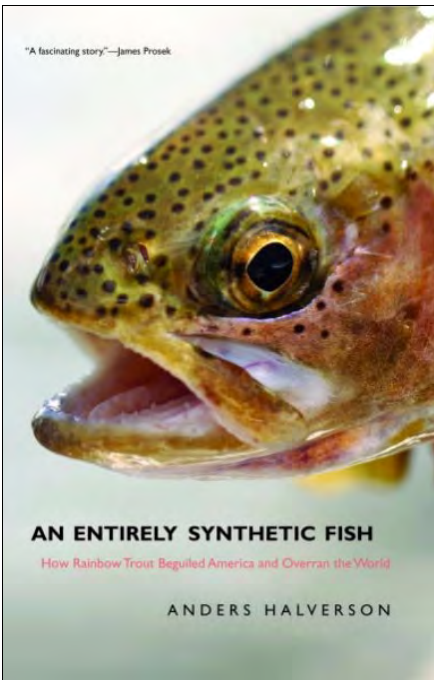
The temperature, the scouring floods, the muddy water — together they made the Green a challenging environment in which to live, and a unique fauna developed in response. Four large fish dominated the main stem of the river. On the smaller end of the scale, though still up to three feet long, there were the humpback chub, the bonytail, and the razorback sucker, all of which have a large hump or keel behind their heads, a feature that may help them maintain position in the swift waters of the Colorado. And then there was the Colorado pikeminnow, the largest minnow in North America, a fish that could reach six feet in length and weigh up to a hundred pounds. These leviathans were the top predators in the river, eating everything from fish to unsuspecting waterfowl, and they were known to migrate hundreds of miles in search of food and spawning sites.

The early settlers in the region seem to have taken some pleasure in catching and eating the native fish, especially the pikeminnow. The meat was tasty — some compared it to salmon — and catching one could be the experience of a lifetime. Anglers used rabbits, birds, whatever they could find, as bait. In an interview many years later, one old-timer recalled his grandfather tying one end of a clothesline to the bumper of a pickup, the other end to an enormous hook and a piece of chicken. When the line went taut, he backed up the truck and hauled out a pikeminnow that he claimed was every bit as big as a junior high schooler.

Pickup trucks and clotheslines, though, didn’t really qualify as sport, and the fish themselves

weren’t pretty, at least to anglers who had been trained to see trout and salmon as the standard by which all others should be judged. The natives didn’t fight as long, they were bonier, and sometimes they even ate trout eggs. Suckers and chubs were especially scorned. These were rough fish, trash fish, undesirables.

In one of the first attempts to reengineer the river’s fishery, in the nineteenth century, the U.S. Fish Commission introduced German carp. These fish, too, thrive in warm and muddy water. Spencer Fullerton Baird, the first commissioner, was



“In 1962...the fish and game managers of Utah and Wyoming were inspired to try a massive rotenone project of their own. They decided to ‘rehabilitate’ the Green River above Flaming Gorge by killing all of the fish in the watershed, native and nonnative alike, and then introducing millions of rainbow trout.”

an especially strong advocate for these hardy fish, believing they would provide a valuable food source to the growing nation. Within a couple of decades, though, the carp had fallen into disgrace. Americans never seemed to develop a taste for the fish, and farmers and anglers alike complained that they uprooted vegetation, muddied the water, provided lousy sport, and drove out more valuable species of fish. By the middle of the twentieth century, carp in the Green River had become just another one of the undesirables.

And so, when the Utah and Wyoming fisheries managers learned that the Bureau of Reclamation was going to build some dams on the Green River — one at Flaming Gorge and another, known as the Fontenelle Dam, about 150 miles upstream — they smelled an opportunity. The projects, they knew, would dampen the floods, remove the sediment, and cool the water by releasing it from the bottom of the reservoirs. The river, in other words, would soon be ideal for trout.

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Rotenone is a powerful piscicide, a chemical that kills fish and other animals with gills. Our understanding of just how it functions has evolved over the years — it seems to somehow interfere with respiration — but whatever the mechanism, it works. Drop enough of it into a lake or river and, soon thereafter, dead or dying fish and aquatic invertebrates will pop to the surface. It’s even effective, according to that 1954 movie classic, against the Creature from the Black Lagoon.

Various plants in the pea family produce rotenone, and South American Indians have been using their ground-up roots for hundreds of years to catch fish. American fisheries biologists began experimenting with it early in the twentieth century. Most of these applications, though, were in small ponds or lakes. Few dreamed it could be used in moving waters, where it would be rapidly diluted and washed downstream.

For the generation that entered the workforce after World War II, though, few things seemed impossible. Many fisheries managers were graduates of the fish and wildlife departments that had only recently opened their doors at various universities, and they were eager to test out their new knowledge. And thanks to the Dingell-Johnson Act of 1950, which taxed recreational fishing products throughout the country and passed the funds back to the states to improve sportfishing, there was plenty of money available.

First it was California, where, beginning in 1952, two ambitious managers poisoned almost three hundred miles of the Russian River and its tributaries so that they could introduce more desirable species. Montana followed suit in the Maria River and the Clark Fork. In the south, the Little Tennessee was poisoned and then filled with nonnative rainbow trout. Not even the national parks were spared. The fauna in Abrams Creek in Great Smoky Mountains National Park was erased, and it too was replaced with nonnative rainbows. All in all, in the decade that followed the Russian River experiment, managers poisoned countless waters on behalf of the rainbows and other game fish. Under the Dingell-Johnson program alone, twenty-five hundred miles of streams and 225,000 acres of lakes were poisoned in thirty-four states, and that was likely just the tip of the iceberg. Many other lakes and streams were treated using other funding sources.

In 1962, therefore, the fish and game managers of Utah and Wyoming were inspired to try a massive rotenone project of their own. They decided to “rehabilitate” the Green River above Flaming Gorge by killing all of the fish in the watershed, native and nonnative alike, and then introducing millions of rainbow trout. It was a big watershed, about 15,000 square miles, about the same size as Connecticut and Massachusetts combined. There were almost 450 miles of the river and its tributaries that would need to be treated. But given what other managers had already done elsewhere, it wasn’t too much of a stretch, logistically or philosophically.

Again, the money part was easy. Agency personnel projected that more than a hundred thousand anglers would fish the area, spending upward of a million dollars every year. They argued that the project would be a boon to local economies and generate much more in taxes than the approximately \$150,000 it would cost. And since sympathetic congressmen were easily persuaded to appropriate most of the funds for the



project, it would cost the states close to nothing.

To disperse the rotenone, the agencies decided to create poisoning stations along every ten miles of the Green and its tributaries. At each station, a fifty-five-gallon drum of rotenone would drain its contents into drip lines stretched across the river. The planners concluded it would be best to stagger the times at which the spigots were opened. Each station would begin operation as soon as the rotenone from the upstream station passed by, thus ensuring a consistent front of rotenone flowing downstream, killing and pushing its victims in front of it.

To make sure no fish survived in the backwaters, the agencies decided to employ airboats. Once the project began, the crews of these boats would speed up and down the river, spraying extra rotenone into all the nooks and crannies they could find. A helicopter, too, was brought in, to spray any sloughs that might be disconnected from the river itself during low water levels.

The Bureau of Reclamation initially planned to finish the dam and begin filling the reservoir sometime in September 1962, and the fish and game agencies planned to begin the rotenone project the moment they did so. That way, they reasoned, the poison would not flow any farther downstream — it would simply collect in the filling reservoir until time and sunlight broke it down into harmless byproducts. Once it was gone, they would introduce the rainbows.

It seemed like a sound plan until the bureau postponed completion of the dam until November. At that time of year, the water in the Green River would be cold, and, for whatever reason, cold water limits the effectiveness of rotenone; it simply doesn't kill the fish the way it's supposed to. So the fisheries managers came up with a new plan. Instead of using the dam to detoxify the rotenone, they would use another chemical, a neutralizing agent known as potassium permanganate. Nobody had ever done anything like it before, but it seemed feasible. The only question was where to set up the detoxification station.

Ultimately, they decided to use a bridge in a place known as Browns Park, just over the border in Colorado. The Coloradans didn't mind. The head of the Colorado Department of Fish and Game was fully supportive of the project, wishing only that they would allow the rotenone to run a little farther downstream and kill a few more of the undesirables in his state before they neutralized it. With a couple of exceptions, nobody seemed to give much thought to the fact that the detoxification site was only sixteen miles above Dinosaur National Monument.

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Born in 1916 to parents who loved traveling and the out of doors, Robert Rush Miller had seen much of the West by the time he finally settled down at a boarding school in California at the age of ten. He spent much of his teenage years hiking and exploring the deserts of eastern California and western Nevada. On these sojourns through the Mojave Desert, he became fascinated by the fishes he found in nearly impossible places — like the tiny springs in the middle of Death Valley that were separated from the nearest running water by miles of scorching sand.

Miller was the type of person who was more comfortable in the out of doors and with other species than he was with other people. Hard of hearing from a very young age, Miller was socially awkward even when he was at his most upbeat. And when depression struck, as it did periodically throughout his life, he became even more withdrawn. It was a condition that eventually led him

“Miller et al. divided the world into native and nonnative, whereas agency officials thought in the categories of sport and trash fish. Miller and his colleagues saw degradation where their opponents saw progress. And the ichthyologists expected unpredictability, while the agencies anticipated a logical and straightforward outcome to their attempt to manipulate the ecosystem.”

to seek help at the Mayo Clinic.

Miller, though, was no shrinking violet. His fascination with the native fishes of the West gave him a singular focus that quickly drove him through a Ph.D. program and into a position of prominence in the field of ichthyology and a tenured job at the University of Michigan. At a time when scientific groups like the Ecological Society of America had firm rules against taking any position on policy matters, Miller was unafraid to speak out against the rampant dam building and other projects that threatened native species.

Not surprisingly then, when Miller learned of the agencies' plans for the Green River, he quickly took up the fight. He sought to defend his beloved native fishes the way a mother bear might defend her cubs. And just as he had in so many of his endeavors, Miller soon joined forces with another ichthyologist named Carl Hubbs.

I wish I could have observed these two men interacting, because it is surely one of the most complex relationships imaginable. Consider the ties: Hubbs had been both authority and mentor to Miller as his Ph.D. adviser at the University of Michigan. Shortly thereafter, when Miller married his daughter Frances, Hubbs became Miller's father-in-law. In contrast to the introverted Miller, Hubbs possessed a supreme self-confidence. He was a type-A personality, a steamroller of a man who had become one of the foremost scientists of the day.

Somehow, though, they achieved a partnership of equals that was one of the most productive in the history of the field. (A great deal of credit probably goes to their wives, Laura Hubbs and Frances Hubbs Miller, who played an integral role in all of their work.) Instead of the turf battles that typify so many academic relationships (let alone in-law relationships), Miller and Hubbs shared their ideas and their passion for the native fishes of the American West. On their countless collecting trips (almost always accompanied by Laura and Frances and frequently by their children and grandchildren), they gathered thousands of specimens, many of them species never before known to science. They generated and frequently coauthored a large body of work, all of which is still cited today.

And when they decided to try to stop the fish and game agencies from poisoning the Green River, they did so with the same zeal and thoroughness that characterized their other efforts. Neither man is alive today, but some of their offspring are, and so are some of their colleagues. Together with their letters, many of which are archived at the University of Michigan, they tell the story, a tale both of resolve and of frustration. For, although Miller and Hubbs persuaded their fellow ichthyologists in academia to pass a resolution opposing the project, and although they sent copies of the resolution along with their personal pleas to more than four hundred magazine editors, congressmen, government officials, conservation organizations, and other influential people, they got almost no traction. Nobody seemed to care about the callous destruction of the West's native fish.

Miller blamed agency public relations specialists who he believed had successfully molded public opinion to view such operations as the logical, inevitable manifestation of progress. “The public is often brainwashed by vicious and wholly one sided propaganda,” Miller ranted in one letter. “Words such as ‘rehabilitation’ and phrases such as ‘recontamination of the stream’ (by *native* fishes) are used with reckless abandon.”

It was not just the public. With a few notable exceptions, many scientists who privately opposed the project publicly kept their mouths shut. Many were apparently fearful of government reprisals, and admitted as much in their letters to Miller. Government agencies threatened to cut funding for those universities that allowed their faculty to speak out against the Green River rehabilitation project and, in at least one case, they seem to have followed through with it. Conservation organizations were likewise curiously quiet on the issue, a phenomenon for which I have no adequate explanation, except to speculate that the movement and the thinking behind it had simply not grown large enough at that time to encompass mostly unknown fish from an underwater realm that was out of sight and therefore out of mind.

As for the state and federal agency personnel who were planning the project, they largely dismissed Hubbs and Miller's concern for native fish as unfounded or out of touch. Agency officials argued that no species would be eliminated from the earth, because they would survive in other sections of the Colorado River. Miller conceded

the point, but noted that the Green River contained the last sizable refuge for many of these fish and that “the noose is getting awfully tight.”

Around and around they went. Would any of the fish downstream be harmed, especially in Dinosaur National Monument? Was the humpback chub, found largely upstream from Flaming Gorge, a distinct species? Or was it the same species as another chub commonly found downstream? In some cases, it reached ridiculousness; at one point the combatants began arguing about whether rotenone could really be called a poison if it actually suffocated fish by constricting the capillaries in their gills.

Ultimately, the debate went nowhere, because the two sides were arguing about science and logistics while their real differences were in the realm of value and worldview. Miller et al. divided the world into native and nonnative, whereas agency officials thought in the categories of sport and trash fish. Miller and his colleagues saw degradation where their opponents saw progress. And the ichthyologists expected unpredictability, while the agencies anticipated a logical and straightforward outcome to their attempt to manipulate the ecosystem.

And so, positions on both sides hardened and exasperation set in. “Dr. Miller does not understand that the public demands the maintenance of usable sport fish populations and that public officials will either work to this end or be removed from office,” fumed one U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service official. “His sense of values do not line up with reality. The people of the Southwest are more than tired of well-meaning individuals promoting the preservation of everything in sight for posterity.”

In the end, he was probably right, at least in terms of the reality of the day. Almost everybody who knew about the operation supported it, especially the locals. Miller, Hubbs, and their few allies lost. The operation would proceed as planned.

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At 8:00 A.M. on September 4, 1962, the men in charge of the uppermost drip stations opened the spigots. Rotenone sprayed into the river, turning it a milky white. At about the same time, the airboats began buzzing up and down the river while the helicopter chopped the air overhead. The project had all the features, according to one witness, “of a full-scale military operation.”

As the rotenone front progressed downstream, it drove large schools of desperate fish in front of it, a sight that deeply impressed itself on those who saw them “thrashing about and struggling for air on the surface of the river.”

The poisoning continued for three days and nights, ultimately using more than twenty thousand gallons of rotenone. A multitude of curious onlookers from nearby towns and ranches thronged the banks. Assured by agency personnel that the rotenone posed no risk to human health (it has since been shown to cause symptoms related to Parkinson's disease), many scooped up the dead and dying fish and brought them home for dinner.

By the end of the three days, about 45 tons of fish were dead and the aquatic invertebrates were almost completely destroyed. The Green River and its tributaries were virtually devoid of visible life, an ecological clean slate. The operation, in other words, was a complete success. Or at least it seemed that way to most of the exhausted personnel as they packed up their equipment and headed home.

Thirty miles downstream from Flaming Gorge,

*Continued on p. 8*

“The poisoning continued for three days and nights, ultimately using more than twenty thousand gallons of rotenone. A multitude of curious onlookers...thronged the banks. Assured by agency personnel that the rotenone posed no risk to human health (it has since been shown to cause symptoms related to Parkinson's disease), many scooped up the dead and dying fish and brought them home for dinner.”

# Wisconsin’s changing climate: Water resources are a reflection of the state’s changing climate

By Carolyn Rumery Betz

Scattered storms dropped 1 1/2 inches of rain on southern Wisconsin in 30 minutes in late May while boaters up north sat dry-docked because launching ramps remained high and dry. Are these simply short-term weather events, or do they represent long-term climate change?

Dozens of Wisconsin scientists have come together to form the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts (WICCI), an interdisciplinary project drawing from multiple agencies and specialties. They have conducted thorough analyses of weather records collected at dozens of observation stations statewide for the past 56 years.

Their conclusion is that Wisconsin’s climate is changing. Wisconsin is becoming “less cold,” according to Chris Kucharik, UW-Madison assistant professor of agronomy and atmospheric and ocean sciences. Northern Wisconsin has become drier, but southern and western Wisconsin have become much wetter, by as much as seven inches per year.

Water resources are changing as a reflection of these changing climate patterns, too. Long-term ice cover data on Wisconsin lakes show lakes are freezing later and breaking up earlier. Geneva Lake in southeast Wisconsin

did not freeze at all during two winters in this decade, something that has never before been documented.

Groundwater and lake levels also reflect changing climatic conditions and their variability across the state. Water levels in most groundwater-dependent lakes in north-central and northeastern Wisconsin are at their lowest levels in the past 60 years. In contrast, water levels in groundwater-fed lakes in southern Wisconsin have risen.

Stream flow also mirrors these historic trends-where precipitation has increased in the state, so has stream flow.

Projections show that average temperatures in the state will warm by four to nine degrees Fahrenheit by the middle of the century, yielding fewer nights below zero and more days above 90 degrees.

Precipitation is much more difficult to predict, but winter and spring precipitation is likely to increase by 20 percent.

Combined with warmer temperatures, there may be less snow, and more rain and freezing rain. Higher temperatures may also lead to more spring thunderstorms and heavy rains.

All of these changes will affect Wisconsin dramatically, from the kinds of fish and plants that can live here, to crop selection and cultivation, and recreation choices.

## SYNTHETIC: the rainbow trout story

*Continued from p. 7*

though, at the detoxification station on the Browns Park bridge, there was trouble. Traveling only about one mile an hour, the rotenone front arrived at the station a full day after the poisoning part of the operation had ended. When it did, everything began to go wrong. The potassium permanganate was the wrong consistency, making it difficult to spread evenly. A cold front arrived, causing temperatures to plummet and fierce winds to pick up. And worst of all, for reasons that were unclear at the time, the rotenone concentration in the river as it reached the bridge was much higher than expected. There was not enough potassium permanganate to neutralize all of it.

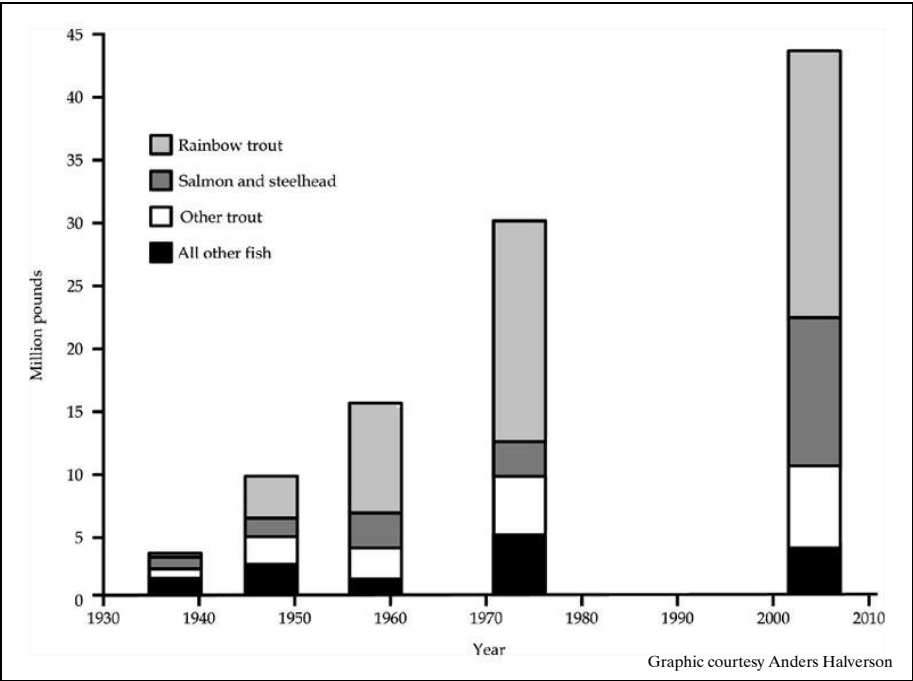
Imagine somebody below the bridge, in the middle of the night, with temperatures well below freezing. Imagine them holding a flashlight, staring into wind-whipped water that had turned dark red from the potassium permanganate, trying to gauge the health of a fish submerged in a cage. If the fish looked sick, they would radio up to the bridge and tell them to throw more potassium permanganate into the river. Imagine maintaining this effort for three and a half days, and you probably have some idea of what it was like. And so, while some of the personnel roared off in their trucks to scour the countryside for more potassium permanganate, others began thinking of ways to preserve what they had. They decided to cut the amount they were putting into the river to the bare minimum

necessary to neutralize the chemical. But since the most reliable method they had for determining rotenone concentrations was a bio-assay — a fancy term for putting fish in a cage, dropping them in the water, and watching to see if they died or showed signs of distress — this was a dicey operation at best. Needless to say, some of the rotenone got through and continued flowing downstream. And a few days later, dead and dying fish were found in Dinosaur National Monument.

*(Excerpted from An Entirely Synthetic Fish: How Rainbow Trout Beguiled America and Overran the World by Anders Halverson. Copyright 2010 by Anders Halverson. Reproduced by permission of Yale University Press, PO Box 209040, New Haven, CT 09620 www.yale-books.com. Anders Halverson is a journalist with a Ph.D. in aquatic ecology from Yale University. He lives in Boulder, CO. -Ed.)*

### Get a free copy of A Completely Synthetic Fish

Yale University Press is offering a free copy of *A Completely Synthetic Fish* when you contribute \$25 to Trout Unlimited. For details, go to [https://www.tumembership.org/flyfishing\\_library/](https://www.tumembership.org/flyfishing_library/).



## New TU books help chapters buy land or get easements

How can TU chapters and councils help permanently protect cold-water fisheries? How can land trusts work with TU to speed up trout stream protection?

These are some of the questions addressed in TU’s new series of guides that lay out the foundation of the Land Protection Project.

Created to be both accessible and detailed, these guides will help both TU chapters and land trusts partner to conserve important cold-water streams and watersheds.

***A Guide for TU Chapters: Working with Land Trusts***

This book covers everything a TU volunteer needs to know about working with land trusts.

Starting with the whats and hows of land trust operations, the handbook also covers the details of conservation easements and TU’s role

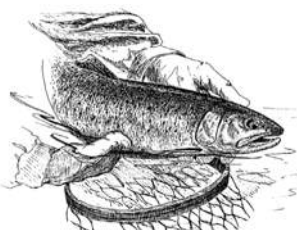
in their creation, public angling access, funding and technical support, and communicating with landowners. *(See an excerpts from this book on the next page and on p. 17.)*

***A Guide for Land Trusts: Working with Trout Unlimited***

This book covers the basics of TU’s structure and history and focuses on how TU can help land trusts conserve, protect, and restore coldwater streams and watersheds.

Leveraging more funding with fisheries science, fundraising, grant programs for transaction costs, and restoration projects and easement drafting for coldwater issues are some of the topics covered.

Both of these books can be downloaded as Acrobat files from the TU National website at <http://www.tu.org/easternlandprotection/tools-resources>.



### 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.



Ownership or conservation easement? Points to consider

The following are a few of the factors involved in the fee ownership vs. conservation easement decision from TU's new publication *A Guide for TU Chapters: Working with Land Trusts*.

Factors favoring ownership

- Property contains very sensitive natural resources.
- Public access and use is a significant conservation objective.
- Resources on the property require intensive management

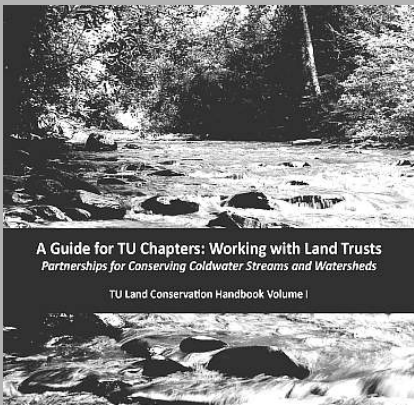
or restoration.

- Surrounding or adjoining lands are owned in fee by the land trust or other conservation organization or agency.
- Funding is available for the transaction and purchase price (if not a donation).

Factors favoring conservation easements

- The landowner wishes to retain ownership and management of the land.

- Conservation objectives include productive use (e.g., farming or forestry).
- Private ownership is compatible with the conservation objectives.
- The land trust has the capability and finances to monitor and enforce the easement.
- Restrictions that protect the resources can be negotiated and can be reasonably monitored and enforced.



WITU Looking Back

From the April 1971 WITU Newsletter...

New Central Wisconsin Chapter

Doug Hart, Green Bay Packer defensive halfback, and Jim Stewart, Wisconsin T. U. State Council Chairman, delivered key addresses at a tremendously successful first meeting of the Central Wisconsin Chapter.

A standing-room-only crowd of 250 trout fishermen and conservationists from surrounding eleven counties left no doubt you were in the heartland of some of Wisconsin's finest trout waters. The new chapter will include Waushara, Winnebago, Waupaca, Fond du Lac, Adams, Green Lake, Portage, Wood, Juneau, Marquette, and Outagamie counties.

Officers of the new chapter are: President, Dr. Tom Poulette; Vice President, Arling Erickson; Secretary, Al Hazelbush; and Treasurer, Ray Piel. Three members of the board of directors were elected as follows: Russ Younglove, Berlin; John Clark, Wild Rose; and Pastor Ries, Mt. Morris. Other members who were instrumental in forming the new chapter are Bob Heding, Oshkosh; Dave Wilcox and Alfred Polakowski, Berlin; plus many more.

From the January 1991 Wisconsin Trout...

Acting on the advice of Department of Natural Resources fish managers, the Natural Resources Board approved an emergency rule at its December meeting to restrict the "early trout season" in eight southwestern Wisconsin counties (Columbia, Crawford, Grant, Green, Iowa, Lafayette, Richland and Sauk) to a "catch-and-release" season, with only artificial flies and lures permitted for trout angling.

In addition, staff received approval from the Board to take to public hearings a "permanent rule" that would restrict the inland trout fishing season in 11 northeast Wisconsin counties

(Florence, Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto, Oneida, Shawano and Vilas) and six southwest Wisconsin counties (Columbia, Grant, Iowa, Lafayette, Richland and Sauk) to the same restrictions (artificial only, "catch-and-release") as those applied to the early trout season.

The early trout season would run from January 1 - May 3, and the regular trout fishing season would go from May 4 - September 30. Stocked trout lakes would not be subject to the emergency and/or permanent rules, but would rather be governed by the new inland trout fishing regulations.

From the January 2001 Wisconsin Trout...

Is Wisconsin ripe for

Whirling Disease?

By John Welter

Wisconsin's coulee region streams — famous for their trout angling opportunities — have the potential to host an outbreak of whirling disease, according to a recent UW-La Crosse study.

However, no whirling disease has yet been found, and anglers and agencies can work to prevent its introduction into the streams, says DNR Fisheries Biologist Dave Vetrano of La Crosse.

Whirling disease is carried by a

parasite that lodges in an aquatic worm, Tubifex tubifex, for part of its life cycle. The study, conducted by UW-La Crosse Assoc. Biology Prof. Daniel Sutherland, found the worms "like a shag carpet" in streams in the Timber Coulee system near Coon Valley.

The whirling disease cycle exists in many systems around the nation, but in recent years has been found to devastate trout populations, primarily rainbows,

From the Jan. 1981 WITU Quarterly Report...



Ed Zern, right, of Scarsdale, N.Y., fishing editor for Field & Stream magazine and director of the American Motors Conservation Awards program since its inception 27 years ago, was in Beaver Dam recently to receive an award of merit from Trout Unlimited in Wisconsin.

Presently the award was Clint Byrnes of Beaver Dam, member of T.U.'s Southern Wisconsin Chapter and coordinator of the Crystal Creek restoration project which received a national conservation award from American Motors in 1979.

Zern, who received a national award from the Outdoor Writers Association of American in 1979 for distinguished service to conservation, was in Wisconsin to attend the National Grouse Society Convention in Wisconsin Rapids.

1981 WITU Chapter Membership Totals

| Chapter Name      | Basic | Active | Membership |
|-------------------|-------|--------|------------|
| Twin Cities       |       |        | 1          |
| Wolf River        |       |        | 14         |
| S. Wisconsin      |       |        | 168        |
| S.E. Wisconsin    |       |        | 100        |
| Green Bay         |       |        | 47         |
| Central Wisconsin |       |        | 171        |
| Fontinalis        |       |        | 13         |
| Klap Tu Wish      |       |        | 89         |
| Fox Valley        |       |        | 65         |
| Ojibseau          |       |        | 41         |
| Northwoods        |       |        | 53         |
| S.W. Wisconsin    |       |        | 27         |
| Coulee Region     |       |        | 19         |
| Antigo            |       |        | 47         |





## Chapter News



Jeff Preis

### GIRLS RULE...CHECK OUT THESE WOOLY BUGGERS

Two 8th grade girls from Kiel Middle School show off the woolly buggers they tied recently under the direction of Lakeshore TU members.

### Aldo Leopold Chapter

The fall and early winter have been focused on grant writing for our **Bear Creek** project. Master wordsmith **Tom Gawle** has been burning up hard drives and wearing out keyboards writing some really outstanding applications.

We've already had success with the **Dutton Foundation**, which donated \$2,000 toward the project. In early December we submitted a **TU National Embrace-A-Stream** application.

Also in early December we submitted a grant request to **The Conservation Alliance**. To be considered for a Conservation Alliance grant, we needed to be nominated by a

member company. The Appleton Wisconsin-based portion of **Jansport** nominated us, for which we are grateful. Both of these programs will announce their decisions early in 2011.

In late November the DNR approved our choice in contractor to do the work — **Holtz Lime and Gravel** from **Loganville**. Holtz has been doing trout stream rehab projects for over 10 years, primarily in **Monroe County**, but they have also done work in **Sauk County**.

The next step is working with the landowner in applying for **WHIP** and **CCPI** funding. By mid-January that process will be completed.

## Coulee TU and local groups starting Coon Creek Trout Fest

By Erick Rauch

Coulee Region TU is planning a big new event for the summer of 2011 as we hold the first-ever Coon Creek Trout Fest at Veterans Park in Coon Valley on July 23.

Coulee Region TU has teamed up with the Coon Valley Business Association and The Driftless Angler Fly Shop in Viroqua to hold this event.

The plan is to have a very diverse event that will have something for everyone and draw folks to the area to showcase trout, TU, and the Coon Valley area. Main events will include:

- fly fishing and tying lessons,
- a trout derby,
- booths showcasing local artists, crafts, and businesses,
- information from national and regional fishing sponsors, and
- displays by area guides.

Kids and adults will enjoy a bobber race, inflatables, and a classic car show.

In addition to all of the trout-related activities, there will be food and beverage vendors, raffles, and live music in the main tent!

This event will be free to the public! We are in the planning stages now, and if anyone is interested in getting involved or has suggestions please feel free to contact me.

This is going to be an incredible new event on the Wisconsin fest calendar, so don't forget to mark it down! Oh, and you might want to bring along a rod or two. I think there are a couple good trout streams in the area!

In late January we will be holding a meeting of the various stakeholders and government entities to review plans for 2011 and to make sure no major roadblocks remain that can delay the project. Our first planned workday is scheduled for June 11 when we will build lunkers for the project.

Our winter fly tying class will be held in late January and early February. If you are interested in the

class, contact **Mike Barniskis** at (920) 356-0081 or check our chapter website for details.

Oh, and our newly designed website should be up and running by the time you read this, so check out [www.acltu.org](http://www.acltu.org) or [acltu.com](http://acltu.com) for details about the tying class, our workdays, and for updates on the Bear Creek project.

—Mike Barniskis

### Antigo Chapter

Hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas. I hope that the coming year in NE Wisconsin will have the rain that we got in 2010. That would go a long way in helping our trout.

Our upcoming spring fund-raising banquet will be held Saturday, March 26, at the **Knights of Columbus Hall** in **Antigo**. We hope to have another great banquet.

We have started contact with a local landowner on **Trout Creek** southeast of **Antigo** to do some in stream improvements. This location fits well with state lands and **Trout Springs**, which was dredged by the DNR about 10 years ago. Antigo will work with the owner and local DNR personnel to see just what we can get done.

We attended our winter **NE Region** TU meeting at **Buettner's Wild Wolf Inn** on Dec. 4. This is always a good meeting, and we had eight chapters and various **WDNR** and **National Forest Service** people in

attendance. Our region's TU chapters again answered the call and pledged our money to get a lot of **GREAT** work done for the coming summer.

The Antigo Chapter donated \$7,440 for work to be done next summer. We are supporting beaver control in the **National Forest** and in **Lincoln** and **Langlade** counties. We are also helping buy fuel for the DNR's spring pond dredge and contributing toward the NE Region's summer work crew. This will be the third year that the eight chapters in our region have pooled our money to get more work done in our region for the trout.

We will again have our annual Kid's Fishing Day on the first Saturday in June. We have planted trout this fall in **Remington Lake** in town for the kids to catch. It's really fun to see the kids in the winter ice fishing.

—Scott Henricks

### Blackhawk Chapter

Our treasurer paid for rock on the **Coon Creek** project. This about completes the earmarked money for this project.

Blackhawk TU also recently gave a fish locator to **Rich Satis** for storing and moving our equipment trailer.

**Chris Newberry** requested that BTU write a **TU Embrace-A-Stream** grant proposal for the **Legler School Branch** of the **Little Sugar River**. This would serve as an **Outdoor Education Lab**.

We are looking into doing some stream work on **Kent Creek** and a spring creek leading into it. This project is in **Rockford**. Some of the members have walked the area and have observed spawning fish, some of which are in excess of 12 inches.

**Young** and **Alfors** are on the nominating committee for election of officers. The election will take place at the December 20 meeting.

The regular December meeting will feature the BTU White Elephant Xmas Party. Gag gifts and

treats are in order. As a rule, there are a lot of laughs and a good time is had by all. The election of officers will be held at this meeting.

BTU received a \$250 donation from the **Wisconservation Club** of **Fort Atkinson**.

Our Lie and Tie Session will be announced at a later date either in December or January. Members will get together and tie flies for the club to be given at raffles. Pizza and soft drinks will be served. The main purpose of this session is to get bunch of flies for our local raffle.

Our fly tying classes will start the first Tuesday in January. The fees are \$20 for nonmembers and \$10 for members. Sessions run Jan 4, 11, 18, and 25, Feb. 1, 8, 15, and 22, and March 1 and 8 from 7:00-8:30 each night. People can sign up at **Gander Mountain** or contact **John Miller** at (920) 563-9085, **Don Studdt** at (608) 751-0302, or **Arlan Hilgendorf** at (608) 754-0112.

—Arlan Hilgendorf

### Central Wisconsin Chapter

The CWTU **Annual Conservation Banquet** at the **Wautoma WWII Veterans Memorial** on October 16 was a success. Over 120 people attended to enjoy the food, prizes, raffles, and auctions. The financial results were excellent, and Banquet Chair **Laura Tucker** has agreed to chair the 2011 banquet, which will be our chapter's 40th anniversary.

**Tracy Moran** was a very effective MC. Awards Committee Chair **Dan Harmon III** presented the Brookie Award to chapter treasurer **Scott Grady** for his tireless work on behalf of the chapter. Dan also presented the "Ozzie" Award to **Dick Kraus** for lifetime achievement.

Earlier this year, our water monitoring program was renamed "River Keepers," and a substantial effort was made by the organization team to grow and energize this program. The results have been extraordinary, with the number of active monitoring teams growing from 5 to 14. We now monitor 17 sites, and our mailing list includes over 100 active "Keepers."

There was a buffet dinner for the River Keepers before the November 8 board meeting. The organization team includes **John Gremmer**, **Jim Murphy**, **Rick Fahrenkrug**, **Phil Peterson**, **Bob Smaglik**, and **Mike Schaefer**.



# Chapter News



Our five workdays on the **Mecan River** using matching grant funds from the **Trout & Salmon Foundation** (with matches from the **Central Wisconsin** and **Elliott Donnelley** chapters) produced some very attractive results. You can find the improvements by walking downstream from the Hwy. 21 crossing. Funding is in place for more improvements next year. Our workday chair is **Linn Beck**, who is also our chapter vice president.

Our programs and events chair **Bob Smaglik** has arranged the following programs for the short term, all at the **Fin 'N Feather** in **Winneconne**.

## Coulee Region Chapter

In October **Randy Hines**, a biologist from the **USGS**, gave a presentation on aquatic invasive species. We learned that there are over 50,000 non-native species in the US and that over \$100 billion dollars in damages and losses occur each year due to these invaders.

Trout fisherman can help in this matter by discarding their felt-soled wading boots and not intentionally transporting fish from one area to another.

In November chapter member **Jim Cox** gave a presentation on his

The December 13 program, "The Natural History of Wisconsin Rivers," will be presented by **Nelson Ham**, professor of geology at **St. Norbert College**.

The January 17 program, "Night of the Caddis," will provide useful and interesting information about fishing caddis fly hatches.

Finally, this year's **Trout Fest '11** will run from 9-4 p.m. on February 26. There will be 10 mini seminars, raffles, fly tying demos, guides, vendors, and more. The program is free, and the public is welcome. Contact **Bob Smaglik** for more information at (920) 859-0174.

—John Tucker

fishing trip to **Yakutat, Alaska** in May. He shared some great photos and stories about his trip, coho salmon, using Wal-Mart yarn for flies, halibut fishing, whale sightings, and bears!

We are gearing up for our annual banquet on February 25, 2011.

See also the separate story on p. 10 in this issue on how we're working with local groups to start the new **Coon Creek Trout Fest** this year.)

—Curt Rees

## Fox Valley Chapter

The Fox Valley Chapter has started our winter schedule of meetings which have a slower pace than the activities of the spring and summer months. We are also preparing for our annual fundraiser, **Cabin Fever Day**, which will be held on Saturday, March 19.

Our October activities included assistance at a fundraiser and a chapter meeting. Chapter members **Joe Bach**, **Duane Velie**, **Bill Repulski**, **Tom Lager**, and **Jim Jenkin** assisted the **Bubolz Nature Preserve** with their annual fundraiser called **Romp in The Swamp** on October 16. The members helped the youth in attendance tie what was most likely their first fly.

Our October 21 chapter meeting was a presentation dealing with groundwater issues and the future of groundwater in Wisconsin. **Melissa Mallot** from **Clean Wisconsin**, an environmental organization in Madison, presented some very interesting information to the chapter.

Our November 18 meeting was to have been a presentation dealing with the **Wolf River**, but that had to be cancelled. **Mark Peerenboom** stepped in and said "time for a DVD and popcorn" and showed the DVD "The Rise" at the meeting.

Our December 16 meeting was a casual evening that we are calling "The 2nd Annual Tie and Lie Evening." It was a night for members to do some tying and show others a particular favorite tie or to share an interesting fishing story with those in attendance. Truths and half truths were shared with those in attendance. **Bob Kinderman**, the chapter chef, will be preparing a couple of his favorite recipes for those in attendance. Bob has a monthly recipe in our chapter newsletter.

Our January 20 meeting will be our annual gathering at **Fox Valley Technical College**. A number of student chefs along with **Chef John** will be demonstrating several recipes that can be used to prepare some of

those fish we catch. If you are interested in joining us for the evening, please check our website for specifics and call **Rich Erickson** at (920) 982-9080 to let him know how many people will be attending with you so the chefs can prepare.

We are also planning and preparing for our annual fundraiser called **Cabin Fever Day** to be held on March 19. There will be a number of presenters throughout the day this year. Our event will be held at **Waverly Beach** again this year, and the evening program will feature **Bob White**.

Please check [www.foxvalleytu.org](http://www.foxvalleytu.org) for additional information on **Cabin Fever Day**. And also check the ad on this page for all the details.

The Fox Valley TU and everyone else in the state lost a true friend and champion of the environment when **Dale Druckrey** passed away in late November. Dale really cared for and voiced his concerns about the land, rivers, and lakes of Wisconsin — in particular Northeast Wisconsin. Many of our chapter members have had opportunities to fish, canoe, hunt, snowshoe, and just enjoy the Wisconsin outdoors with Dale. Thanks, Dale.

The snow storm that is dumping a few inches on my driveway as I write this and the decorated houses and Christmas trees have many of us thinking of Christmas. We look forward to the holidays and those special times that we will be having with family and friends over the next few weeks. Relax and enjoy this great season.

From all of us at Fox Valley TU, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and "We'll see you on a trout stream."

—Rich Erickson

## Frank Hornberg Chapter

A group of Hornberg Chapter members toured the new facilities at the **Wild Rose State Fish Hatchery** on October 9. Highlights of the tour were the new education building, the new coldwater hatchery building, and the ever-popular outdoor raceways filled with mature breeding stock. The tour ended with lunch in beautiful downtown Wild Rose.

**Keven Halvorson**, a technician with the **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)** in Portage County spoke at the November 11 public meeting at the **Portage County Public Library**. He was assisted by **Jason Spaeth** and **Tom Meronek** from the **WDNR**. Kevin gave us a detailed outline of how proposals are constructed and evaluated for the **Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)**. This is a source of possible funding that other chapters should know about.

The chapter also elected officers at this meeting. **Janeau Tully** nominated the slate of officers recommended by the board of directors. The slate was then elected by members present at the meeting. New officers are:

**Wyatt Bohm** — president,  
**Dan Holland** — vice president,  
**Jean Klein** — treasurer, and  
**Ken Pierce** — secretary.

Obviously oblivious to the weather, the Hornberg Chapter has scheduled two workdays during the winter season. The first was on December 11 and the second will be on January 15.

On a warmer note, we will have three fly tying workshops during the winter months. The first will be on January 18 at **Clancy's Stone Lion in Custer**. The second will be on February 19 at the **Portage County Public Library in Stevens Point**.

*Continued on p. 12*



# CABIN FEVER DAY

## fishing & show

### Waverly Beach, Menasha

### 9 am - 4 pm

### March 19, 2011

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## Chapter News



### GREEN BAY AWARD WINNERS

A number of people were honored at the Green Bay Chapter's annual dinner and awards meeting. Being honored were (top, l to r) Jack Koivisto and Dave Lieburn, (middle, l to r) Randal Rake and Mark & Tina Watermolen, (bottom, l to r) Lee Meyers and Adrian Meseberg.

### Continued from p. 11

The third will be on March 15 at **Shooter's Supper Club** in **Plover**. The **Stevens Point** workshop will be during the day on a Saturday, so it is an opportunity to bring family members — children and grandchildren in particular — to see the art of fly tying.

**Dan Boggs** will be the speaker at our January 13 public meeting at the **Portage County Library** in **Stevens Point**. Dan is a fishing guide who now lives and works here in Stevens Point. He will be speaking on fly fishing in **Patagonia**.

**Tim Landwehr**, owner of **Tight Lines Fly Fishing Company** in **De Pere**, will be the speaker at our February 10 public meeting at the **Portage County Public Library** in **Stevens Point**. Tim will be speaking on fly fishing for trophy smallmouth bass.

**Brian Porter** from **Muskie Country Outfitters** in **Hayward** will be the speaker at our March 10 meeting at **Shooter's Supper Club** in **Plover**. This meeting includes a dinner, recognition of our corporate sponsors, door prizes, and a raffle for a day of guided fly fishing. Members of other TU chapters are cordially invited to this meeting as well as all of our other public meetings.

After **Mary Duecker** retired from her position as secretary in June, two more members of our chapter wound down their administrative tours of duty in the final months of this year.

**Michael Mather** has served as our vice president since 2008. He was our president for several years before that. Mike has always been a passionate promoter of fly fishing, and our chapter is grateful for his years of service in our cause. If you fish the **Tomorrow River**, chances are you will see Mike there eventually. More than anyone else in our chapter, Mike *looks* like a fly fisherman.

**Wayne Duecker** has always been the chapter member we could trust to get things done. Working with **Mary Duecker**, he edited our newsletter, took charge of advertising our fly fishing school, and was out there on the water cutting trees and hauling rocks. He also knew how to add levity at just the right moments during board meetings.

Even if Mike, Mary, and Wayne's names don't appear on the list of board members and officers right now, they will still be working with us on the water and helping with our public events. Thank you so much, all three of you.

We are pleased to welcome **Dan Boggs**, **Heidi Oberstadt**, and **Jim Laudon** as new members of the board of directors. Also, **Jim Laud-**

**on** and **Ken Pierce** have taken on the job of printing and distributing *Franktalk*, our newsletter.

—John Vollrath

### Green Bay Chapter

The Green Bay Chapter ([www.greenbaytu.com](http://www.greenbaytu.com)) has several items of interest to report. First, we are in the process of rebuilding our website to take advantage of new technology and attract younger people to our organization. **Natalie Hill**, the wife of board member **Brain Hill**, has generously volunteered to steer the chapter through the process of getting this done. Watch our website for the results.

Secondly, we held our annual **Dinner and Awards** meeting recently. About 40 members and guests attended the event at the **Sports Corner Bar** in **De Pere**. After a period of great socializing, a fine meal, and some wonderful entertainment, the chapter recognized individuals and businesses who have greatly helped the chapter attain the success we have had in furthering our mission.

We began with awards relating to our banquet fund-raising efforts. The first award was our **Unsung Hero Award** which recognizes a person whose efforts behind the scenes often go unnoticed but are crucial to our success. **Lee Meyers** was so honored for his work developing the PowerPoint presentation that depicts some of our successful projects from the previous year and to portray prizes and winning ticket numbers, allowing the banquet to proceed at a faster pace.

Next were the **Banquet Gold Sponsor Awards**. These plaques recognize outstanding contributions under each of several categories. The **Business Award** went to **Mark** and **Tina Watermolen** of **Nelson**

**Machine** in **Green Bay**. The **Individual Award** was presented **Dave Lieburn**. The **Artist Award** will be presented at a later date.

We then turned to chapter awards. The first of these was the **President's Club** induction. The purpose of this award is to recognize individuals who have given greatly of their time to working on streams through work projects and other endeavors. This year's inductee was **Adrian Meseberg**.

This was followed by the **Member of the Year Award**. **Randy Rake** earned this award through his efforts as chapter vice president, banquet committee member, work project attendance, and his work in setting up the chapter e-mail list and distributing chapter information via that list.

Finally, we presented the **Silver Trout Award** to **Jack Koivisto** in recognition of many, many years of working in all facets of what it takes to have an effective TU chapter. Jack has been on the board of directors and is currently chairing our **Education Committee**, in which role he appears at events on behalf of the chapter and is a regular attendee at work projects.

Lastly, the banquet committee, led by Chairman **Bruce Deuchert** is hard at work preparing for the February 17 event. We have surveyed attendees as to their preferences for the affair and will be taking their views into account as we move forward with our only fund-raising event.

—Gary Stoychoff

### Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter

Our 2011 projects included restoring about 1.3 miles of **Six Mile Branch** and the balance of **Big Spring**.

**Ray White** of **Edmunds, Washington**, visited our chapter on October 21 and toured our planned and completed stream work. Mr. White spoke to the chapter membership that evening regarding his concerns and ideas on stream rehabilitation practices. The meeting was well attended.

Members of the chapter have prepared a PowerPoint program that outlines the Nohr Chapter's stream improvement work. The purpose of the program is to inform area public and private groups of the chapter's environmental efforts. So far the program has been presented to the **Grant County Economic Development Council**, the **Grant County Sport Alliance**, and the **Wisconsin Riverway Board**.

—Brian Larson

### Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter

The Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter had a busy fall. President **Kyle Amundson**, vice president **Greg Dietl**, and former president **Andy Lamberson** traveled to **Maiden Rock** to visit **Fairmount Minerals** to present them with a conservation plaque.

Fairmount Minerals' conservation contributions have been unparalleled in the history of our chapter. For the past three years, Fairmount has donated tens of thousands of dollars in labor and money. They have contributed another \$26,000 to help us finish the project with the DNR next year. The artwork for the plaque (a brook trout painting) was done by chapter board member **Greg Meyer**.

We held our annual banquet on Dec. 2, and board member **Jon Jacobs** was our MC. For our evening presentation, chapter members

**Emily Wemlinger** and **Sarah Sanford** regaled us with their travels to **British Columbia** where they and their husbands fished for cutthroat and bull trout. The stories and pictures were very entertaining.

Chapter *Rip-Rap* Editor **Scott Hanson** received **TU National's Bollinger Award** which was announced at the national banquet last fall. We were honored to have **Duke Welter** make the trip from Eau Claire to present the award to Scott.

Members from Kiap-TU-Wish joined **Clear Waters Chapter** members to kick off the **Western Wisconsin Habitat Planning Committee** to plan for future projects. This effort was led by Duke Welter and was hosted at the **Kyode's Den** out of **Menomonie**.

—Kyle Amundson



# Chapter News



## Lakeshore Chapter

On October 13 our **Onion River Committee** met with the area's new **WDNR** fish manager **Travis Motl**. We were encouraged that Travis seems very willing to work with us on restarting our work on the Onion River.

We have been without a fish manager for two years and have been limited to doing only maintenance work on the river. Each time we have had a project scheduled it was canceled by the DNR for some reason. We hope to start work again this spring.

We also recently completed two workdays on the **Onion River** and two workdays at the **Fisherman's Park** in **Manitowoc Rapids**. The work on the Onion was to remove trees that had been blown into the stream during two wind storms this past summer.

The work at Manitowoc Rapids consisted of finishing removal of box elder trees that had taken over much of the park and creating a walking path along the **Manitowoc River**. The trees are now removed, and we have begun lining the path with wood chips. We will finish the path in spring and then plant more desirable trees. We also plan on building some benches for the park.

Chapter members who participated in the workdays were **Larry Doeber**, **Tom Mockert**, **Al Spindler**, **Bill Rogers**, **Mike McGill**, **Jeff Preiss**, **Dave Pozorski**, **Jeff Yax**, **Dave Zerger**, **Ken Zimmerman**, and **Wayne Trupke**.

On October 25 and 26 we completed teaching fly tying and casting

at the **Kiel Middle School**. We began the classes in September, as was reported in the last *Wisconsin Trout*.

Following our November 15 meeting, **Ross Mueller** presented a program titled "Hexes and More." As always, Ross' program was filled with useful and practical information. If your chapter has not seen this presentation, I recommend it.

Also at our November meeting, chapter member **Dave Zerger** told us about recent activities of the **Reel 'Em In Club**. This is a club that Dave and his wife **Patti** run at **Longfellow Elementary School** in **Sheboygan**. Our chapter is one of its major sponsors. The club was started several years ago, and this year it has about 60 members. They recently finished an indoor fishing tournament complete with prizes. Their next venture will feature a cooking with invasive species program, with the cooking being done by **Dan Small** and others. Dave also reported that this year's Trout in the Classroom project has been delayed until January because of a shortage of trout eggs available in September.

Lakeshore TU banquet co-chair **Jeff Preiss** announced at our November meeting that tickets for our annual banquet will be available at our January meeting. The banquet will be held at the **Club Bil-Mar** in **Manitowoc** on Sat., March 26. Jeff also asked members to start thinking about what they will be donating to the banquet and to let him know.

—Wayne Trupke

## Marinette County Chapter

**Dale Lange** and **Steve Wilke** attended the NE regional meeting in **Langlade** on Saturday, Dec. 11. Our chapter pledged \$7,600 in support of projects and equipment for the **WDNR** and **National Forest Service**, including stream improvement and beaver trapping.

**Doug Erdmann** has prepared a revised list of chapter bylaws to be discussed at the January 9 meeting at the **Dome Lanes** in **Marinette**.

Our chapter banquet is scheduled for Monday, April 25 at **Schusslers** in **Peshigo**.

**Doug Erdmann** is chairing the "Fill the Fly Box" project for the State Council Banquet this February.

This year Marinette TU held three separate youth fishing days — one in **Peshigo**, one in **Marinette**,

and a new one in the **Coleman/Pound** area.

The ones in Marinette and Peshigo were held the 3rd week in June and have been going for about 20 years with help from their recreation departments.

This year **Roger Prestine** helped start the Coleman/Pound area one. The event was held in July and took place at **Montana Lake**. The first-year event featured over a dozen young anglers and was a success. This is the way that our other fishing days started, and they have grown to serve around 100 participants, so hopefully the same growth will happen here. This is a great way to get the future fishermen and women started and hopefully get a good grasp for what TU is all about.

—Steve Wilke

## Northwoods Chapter

The Northwoods Chapter has elected a new president, **Hannah Hansen**. **Brian Hegge** stepped down and is now vice president. Thank you for your years spent as president, Brian!

We now have a page on **Facebook**. If you wish to find us, look up Northwoods Trout Unlimited.

Mark your calendars for our banquet to be held Saturday, April 16, at **Holiday Acres** in **Rhineland**.

—Hannah Hansen

## Oconto River Watershed Chapter

The chapter is finishing a good year. We continued our long-term community projects with ecology exhibits and fly demonstrations at the **County Fair** and **Fourth of July** festivals. These are popular and result in new member sign-ups.

Our large trailer trout tank is well received for fishing at these events, while a smaller tank pro-

vides fishing at the local senior citizen's home. A local pond is used for our annual fall fishing day for the developmentally delayed.

We have been ramping up stream rehabilitation projects, working jointly with other chapters as some new projects become available through our new DNR area staff. We have worked on the **First South**

**Branch of the Oconto R.** with **Green Bay TU**. We've also worked on the **Evergreen R.** with the **Wolf River Chapter** and **McCaslin Brook** with the **US Forest Service**. The working and social relationships are fun, and we see a lot of water.

The **Trout in the Classroom** program continues with eggs hatching in aquaria at **Lena** and **Oconto**. We teach wildlife high school classes with PowerPoint presentations on "The Nature of a Trout Stream." Fly tying, casting, and a stream field trip to observe and net food organisms makes a full-day program. An autumn class with a spring field day made a good combination for the class earlier this year.

We share in the enthusiasm for **Bigger Brookies**, the holy grail of trout management. Since successes have been intermittent, in 2011 we are inviting speakers with experience and expertise at management for this goal to speak at our meetings in **Gillett**.

**Linda Stoll** of the **College of Natural Resources** at **UW-SP** works and

writes on small community economic development and livability. It turns out that community amenities attract talented citizens and employees. We all know that a trophy trout fishery is the ultimate amenity. She will share some development expertise with us at the January 4 meeting at the **Lone Oak Gun Club** in **Gillett**. Our thinking is that she will be able to share experience with us with a view to helping raise community support for trophy fishing regulations.

We look forward to big fish ideas from other chapters and invite all to our meetings. We will keep you posted. **Al Niebur** of the **Shawano DNR** office and **Tom Moris** of the **Laona Fish and Wildlife** office will share biologists' experiences and challenges on trophy management. **Sean Sullivan**, who works with **Al**, impresses us as the kind of young manager developing new ideas with promise for the future, so we look forward to what he thinks as well.

—Bob Obma

## Shaw-Paca Chapter

Our annual fly tying class is scheduled for January and February. Class dates are Jan. 18 and 25 and Feb. 1, 8, 15, and 22. Session will be held at the **Pella Town Hall** from 7-9 p.m. We advertise this event in our local schools and businesses as well as local newspapers. It is open to the general public.

Our annual fund-raising banquet will be Thurs., April 7 at the **Northwinds Banquet Hall** in **Marion**.

Our library project continues. We have renewed subscriptions to TU's national magazine *Trout* for high schools, colleges, and public libraries in our area.

Continued on p. 14

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## Chapter News

Continued from p. 13

We are in the process of awarding our annual Shaw-Paca Trout Unlimited **Coldwater Research Grant** to a student majoring in that area to a student at **UW-Stevens Point**. More details to follow.

### Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter

Our October All-Chapter meeting on October 26 featured SEWTU's annual chapter awards presentation. This year we gave awards to **Zoan Kulinski**, **Glen Winston**, **Ed Zabel**, and **Scott Criqui**. SEWTU is proud to be affiliated with our award winners, and is very thankful for all of their efforts.

October's meeting also featured **Paul Riccuiti**, who is the **Project**

At our November meeting, **Dave Vetrano** spoke to us on the history of fishing in southwestern Wisconsin, an area I refer to as "Coulee Land." Thanks, Dave!

—Lee Kersten

**Healing Waters' Fly Fishing Midwest Regional Coordinator**. Paul spoke about Project Healing Waters and the positive impact that the program — at locations such as the **Zablocki VA Center in Milwaukee** — are having on American military veterans. This was a great meeting and was well received by all.

On November 16 we welcomed back one of our favorite speakers,

**Pat Ehlers** of **The Fly Fishers in Greenfield**. Pat has been a great supporter of SEWTU, and always puts on an incredible presentation. Pat's presentation was entitled "**Becoming a Better Predator**," and focused on methods and means that anglers can use to catch more fish.

On December 14 we hosted our annual holiday party. As is the case every year, this was an informal meeting, where we ate, drank, were merry, and took a look back at what SEWTU accomplished over the past year. At this meeting, we traditionally screen a trout related movie, and this year was no exception. This year's film was *Rising from the Shadows: The Return of the Cutthroat Trout*, an award-winning production of **Montana Public Broadcasting**.

This Jan. 25 we'll have a unique speaker concerning a topic which our chapter hasn't heard about in the past many years. Specifically, we'll have **Jim Pippel** speaking regarding building bamboo rods. This will be a meeting that you just won't want to miss.

Our Feb. 22, March 22, and April 26 meeting speakers have not yet been confirmed. Check your e-mail.

The May 24 meeting will reprise our member **Trip-Report-A-Thon**. This was one of our best-received meetings last year, and featured 10 minute PowerPoint presentations from our members about their 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.

On September 18 SEWTU did work at the **Nash Family Project at Elk Creek**, which was SEWTU's 2010 **Embrace-A-Stream** grant project in Richland County. This project featured about one half mile of stream corridor restoration, in-

cluding bank sloping, nongame features, and stream corridor structure placement. At our workday, we removed and chemically treated invasive willows which were being used by local beavers to dam and destroy the creek. Over 25 people from all across Wisconsin — from Merrill to Janesville — stopped out to help.

On Oct. 16 we did more work at nearby **Genesee Creek**. Under the leadership of SEWTU board member **Jason Freund**, we worked alongside members of the **Gary Borger Chapter** and **Carroll University** to build wooden boardwalks, remove in-stream debris, and remove buckthorn where it was choking and depriving sunlight from the stream. As we like to say around these parts, buckthorn is just another way of saying "job security."

We returned to **Paradise Springs Creek** on Dec. 4 along with our good friends and constant partners from the **Gary Borger Chapter**. Despite a blowing snowstorm, over 25 members turned out and installed spawning gravel, removed elodea, and installed biogel bank stabilization devices (long tubes of coconut fibers), continuing work which has been ongoing for several years under the leadership of the **WDNR**.

Jan. 22 will find us working in the northern section of our territory at **Allenton Creek** between **Milwaukee** and **Fond du Lac**. There we'll work with the DNR to open the stream corridor and remove encroaching vegetation to make the stream more accessible (and possibly more fishable) this spring.

We expect to be back at **Paradise Springs** in February.

In April we'll work for the first time at a new Milwaukee-area river clean-up location. As part of our commitment to the **Menomonee River Concrete Removal Fish Passage Project** — a joint project with the **DNR, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District, the Southeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission**, and many others — we'll work cleaning up the Menomonee River. See our website for location details.

On our education front, we have several events coming up. First, we'll begin our annual fly tying classes at **Cabela's Richfield** location Jan. 19. We'll tie flies every Wednesday for six weeks. This is one of our chapter's best outreach programs. If you're interested in pitching in or attending the classes, please contact me.

Next, we have our annual booth at the **Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Sports Show** in March. Under the leadership of SEWTU stalwart **Chuck Beeler**, we'll reach out to over 100,000 attendees, spreading TU's mission of conserving, protecting, and restoring coldwater resources. We'll also run our annual raffle at this event. The raffle features some truly incredible prizes, and all funds go back in to our chapter's activities and projects.

So that our members are aware, we will not be mailing out raffle tickets this year. If you would like to purchase tickets, contact Henry Koltz to make arrangements to pick them up at one of our many events or from board members in person.

Under **Project Healing Waters** Coordinator **Mike Kurh**, members **Al Dalfanso**, **Joe Valcoun**, **Herb Oechler**, **Jim Wierzbza**, **John Knitter**, **Zoan Kulinski**, and others continue to teach fly tying classes as the **Milwaukee Veterans Administration**.



### KIDS CASTING IN KIEL

Lakeshore Chapter President Wayne Trupke (top, right) gives some casting advice to an 8th grade student at Kiel Middle School. Chapter members also removed downed trees after a storm hit their Onion River project site (below).





# Chapter News



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

On our fund-raising front, on Oct. 19 we hosted our annual **Habitat Fundraiser Event** at the **Charcoal Grill and Rotisserie** in **New Berlin**. The event featured a raffle with incredible prizes, including fly rods, clothing, equipment, jewelry, cameras, radios, trips, and more. This is our chapter's largest yearly fundraiser.

Someone recently donated a new work trailer to the chapter, and this has made workdays even more productive and successful. A portion of the funds raised at this event have already been used to fully deck the trailer with equipment, from air compressors to nail guns to chain-

saws to generators to spray bottles to hand tools and more, this trailer is ready to work. If you are a chapter building lunkers or are otherwise in need of some power this spring and summer, please keep SEWTU in mind as a work partner. The chapter would like to thank both **Ray Weiss** and **Jim Wierzba** for all of their tireless work in outfitting the trailer.

This year's banquet's speaker was **Jon Christianson**, who is TU's newest national **Chairman of the Board**. Jon's talk on the State of TU was incredible, and a great time was had by all. Plus over 75 prizes valued at over \$10,000 were raffled off. The event raised just under \$10,000 in new funds for SEWTU. Thank you to **Stan Strelka, Jay Zawerschnik, Chuck Beeler, Jim & Jane Wierzba, Mike & Sue Arneson, Rich Vetrano, Ivan Nohavica, Todd Durian**, and others for all of their help making this event a complete success.

—Henry Koltz

## Southern Wisconsin Chapter

Midges...those tiny little specs are one of the hottest trends in fly fishing. And why is that? Because it's been proven that teeny-tiny flies can catch fish. Big fish. Lots of fish. Skittish fish. Aggressive fish. Fish that won't strike anything else.

Learn more about midges and prepare for the next season by attending our annual **Icebreaker** event on Saturday, January 15. See the big

ad below for more details on this great event.

We are very pleased that our keynote speakers are **Rick Takahashi** and **Jerry Hubka**, the men who've literally written the book on midges! Rick and Jerry co-authored *Modern Midges: Tying and Fishing the World's Most Effective Patterns*, a book that's opened up a lot of eyes around the country. They'll be presenting twice:

once on "Fishing Small — Midges Equal Trophy Trout" and once when they'll give a fly tying demonstration.

We're also very excited to be welcoming back **Matt Wagner** of **The Driftless Angler**, who will give a talk on "Drag Is Not Evil."

You can round your time out in our tying room, take a chance on some fantastic bucket raffle items, have a lunch on-site, and just enjoy some time with fellow lovers of our coldwater resource.

And bring a young nature lover with, because our **Youth Stream Explorer Room** will be better than ever! We are excited about this great learning opportunity to pass along the skills and understanding that

will help build future coldwater enthusiasts. All youth under 12 will be admitted for free with a paid parent admission.

So join us January 15 at the **Promega Center** in **Fitchburg**, just south of **Madison**. It's a clean, professional, and relaxed atmosphere. Learn more about us, our events and activities at [www.swtu.org](http://www.swtu.org).

On the conservation front, this summer our chapter restored over 3,000 feet of **Gordon Creek** in **Iowa County**. Many thanks to **Mike Schmidt, Jim Gentry, and Jim Kanvik** for their time and commitment toward this critical restoration effort.

—Drew Kasel

## Wild Rivers Chapter

Wild Rivers Chapter reported an excellent year for activities and volunteering in 2010. The chapter is one of WITU's smaller chapters, but we held or helped at 23 events with 121 volunteers participating.

Plans for 2011 include several added events and much more volunteering. Some of the events are unique to our chapter, like the **Whack a Northern Day** on the **White River** and **Fin Clip Saturday**, where we clip coaster brook trout prior to their planting in **Lake Superior**.

The demand for outdoor education has increased statewide, and our numbers reflect it with nine events that included instruction in

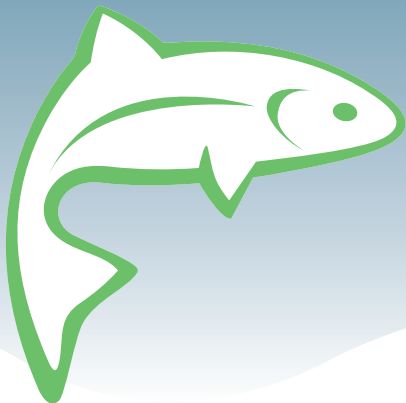
fishing, fly casting, and fly tying. Sharing knowledge with someone who wants to learn about the outdoors and the environment has its own reward, but many thanks to all who took the time to volunteer.

The **Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge** donated \$50 to the chapter. The card reads, "Thank you for your hard work and commitment to Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge." It was signed by **Mike Mlynarek** and **Kevin Lowry**. The note continued, "Please use this toward Wild Rivers Chapter TU expenses such as printing, postage, fly tying materials, etc. THANKS!"

*Continued on p. 16*

# 28th Annual IceBreaker

## Southern Wisconsin TROUT UNLIMITED



Saturday January 15th 2011

8:30 AM to 4:00 PM

Promega Corporate Center

5445 E. Cheryl Pkwy.

Madison, WI 53711

N43° 0.297 W89° 25.135

### All Day Demonstrations by

- The Regions Premier Fly Tiers
- Mike Miller's Amazing Aquatic Invertrabrates
- Wisconsin DNR
- Dane County Land Conservation
- Youth Event – Stream Explorers Education Room

9:45 to 12noon

Fly Tying – Casting – Aquatic Invertebrate Identification – Stream Ecology

Free admission for youth 12 & under with paid parent admission

Great Hot Lunch available in the Cafeteria 12:00 to 1:30

Refreshments available all day

Bucket Raffles, Silent Auctions & 100's of Door Prizes

Admission \$10.00 at the door

Go to [www.swtu.org](http://www.swtu.org) for more details

Featuring :

**Rick Takahashi & Jerry Hubka**

authors of

"Modern Midges - Tying & Fishing the Worlds Most Effective Patterns"

Rick Takahashi



Jerry Hubka



With Matt Wagner of the Driftless Angler  
– sharing Spring Creek fishing secrets







## Chapter News



Chuck Campbell photos

### WILD RIVERS IN ACTION

Wild Rivers volunteers Jake LaPenter (top left) and Fr. Gary Bernhardt set up fly casting gear at a recent retreat for high school students in Ashland. Meanwhile, a Wild Rivers clean-up crew (bottom) shows off their bounty. Pictured are (left to right) Jim & Jane Emerson, Rolland & Joyce Kiel, Jo Kemkes, Roger Gustafson, and Rob Kemkes.



### Continued from p. 15

This was a nice gift to receive after a month when so many Wild Rivers members took their time to volunteer.

The return of **Fr. Gary Bernhardt** to the chapter after a seven-year absence has to be one of the best chapter happenings in 2010. Fr. Gary had been assigned to a parish in **Louisiana**, but he is now in **Ashland**. Chapter members **Jim Emerson**, **Jake LaPenter**, and **Chuck Campbell** helped Fr. Gary demonstrate fly casting and tying at a recent retreat for 15 young men. His energy and good spirit are most welcome.

The chapter received a big box of trout fishing books from longtime member **Phil Wallace**. Thanks to Phil's thoughtful donation, the chapter will be holding a better auction and many more raffles in 2011.

The October meeting came close to topping the meeting we had in June with **John Gierach** for attendance and excitement. It was billed as an opportunity to hear from area guide **Aron Kastern** about fishing for large trout. Aron's guide service is named **Unlimited Trophy Outfit-**

**ters** for a good reason. Chapter members showed up with lots of questions on how to be successful on area streams. Aron revealed the secret technique — start early, stay late, and spend the time in between dredging large streamers in good water. If you are interested, check out Aron's website and take a trip with a very hard-working and knowledgeable guide.

Our chapter has been preparing for the 2011 **TU State Council Annual Banquet** with a \$500 donation, working on a new chapter table, tying flies for the chapter fly box, and paying for travel for members who attend. Thanks to **Rolland Kiel** for donating a travel fly rod and reel outfit for most of the donation. The chapter is looking forward to the event. Thanks to the Banquet Committee for getting all of the chapters involved, and for properly celebrating Wisconsin Trout Unlimited's 40th year.

—Chuck Campbell

### Wisconsin Clear Waters

The **Western Wisconsin Watershed Trout Habitat Planning Meeting** was held Monday, December 6, at **Kyotes Den** on Hwy. 29 three miles west of **Menomonie**.

The agenda included a review of 2010 western Wisconsin habitat projects, a 2011-12 project planning session, and a question and answer session on "How the heck do I start a trout stream project?" This event was sponsored by the **Kiap-TU-Wish** and **WI Clear Waters** chapters.

Our fly tying class will be Jan. 20, Jan. 27, Feb. 3, Feb. 17, Feb. 24, and March 3 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at **Gander Mountain**. The charge is \$20/person, and the class may be limited to about 12.

**Jeff Bartinsky** and **Tom Morgan** will be the main instructors. Other chapter members with fly tying experience often come down and give additional help.

We will also present a fly casting demonstration on Jan. 20 at **UW-Stout** from 10-11 a.m.

Our Clear Waters Chapter will be going through TU's re-chartering process in 2011.

A major new trout habitat project on **Bear Creek** is underway in **Pepin County**, and a planning meeting was held Dec. 8 at **Rick Bauer's** home near **Durand**. Bear Creek flows from east to west and is a tributary of the **Chippewa River**.

The meeting included a slide show explaining the new **Pepin County Buffer Incentive Program (PCBIP)**. The meeting was sponsored by the **Bear Creek Watershed Committee**.

Summaries of the two project planning meetings will be publicized in the next *Wisconsin Trout*.

—Tim Meyer

### Wisconsin River Valley Chapter

As I write this, a big storm is about to hit with projections of 12-18" of snow on top of the 2" of snow and the freezing rain we had yesterday, so I guess it is official. Winter is here, and it will be a long time till we can cast a line again.

On October 12 and 14 we partnered with the **WDNR** and **Wausau East** and **Edgar High** schools' biology and chemistry classes to present **Plover River Days**. This is an annual event that gets the kids on the stream for a host of activities that show the intricacies of a trout stream. Edgar High School brought 22 kids, while Wausau East had 90 kids participate.

It is always a good day on the water, showing the kids the dynamics of a trout stream. The day was held at the **Herb Hintz Riffle** section. Thanks to **Linda Lehman**, **Herb Hintz**, **Al Hauber**, **Bob Pils**, **Gene Koshak**, **Henry Kanemoto**, **Jim Sward**, **Chuck Sauer**, and **John Meachen** for helping out.

We also had our fall elections and the officers are:

**Linda Lehman** — President  
VP — open,

**Brian Marnholtz** — Treasurer, and

**Doug Brown** — Secretary

**Chuck Sauer** is our web guy and newsletter editor.

We also thank **John Meachen** for the last three years of his dedicated work as president. John will continue to help serve in whatever fashion is needed (just don't tell him). Thank you, John!

We are busy preparing for our 2011 annual banquet, which will be held at **Memories Ballroom** in **Marathon** on Saturday April 9.

We will be participating at the **Central Wisconsin Sport Show** being held Feb. 18-20 in the **Cedar Creek** area between **Wausau** and **Mosinee**. We will have a booth and give a fly casting seminar, as well as demonstrating fly tying and telling attendees what TU is all about.

Our monthly meetings are held the 2nd Monday of each month at **Gander Mountain** in **Mosinee**. The business meetings start at 6 p.m. We hope you all had a wonderful holiday season and tight lines!

—Doug Brown

### Wolf River Chapter

The Wolf River Chapter has completed another successful year of water testing on nine streams that feed the **Wolf River**. More brushing

and bundling was completed on lower **Ninemile Creek**, and beaver control was done on its upper stretches.

Continued on p. 17



### SOUTHERN WISCONSIN CHAPTER RESTORES ANOTHER STRETCH OF GORDON CREEK

This summer the Southern Wisconsin Chapter continued its multi-year work on Gordon Creek in Iowa County. The project area is not far from the Dane-Iowa



Jim Beecher photos

county line. Over 3,000 feet of stream were improved this year. The chapter maintains a map of the Gordon Cr. work sites at [www.swtu.org](http://www.swtu.org).



# Fly fishing instructor course offered at annual meeting

By Dennis Vanden Bloomen

Fly fishing instructor certification will be offered from Noon to 5 p.m. during the State Council annual meeting in Stevens Point Feb. 5. This certification class will be presented by WDNR Director of Angler Education Theresa Stabo and UW-Stout Fly Fishing Instructor Dennis Vanden Bloomen. The WDNR's Angler Education Program provides training for adult volunteers to offer fishing programs in their schools and communities.

## CHAPTER REPORTS

Continued from p. 16

Chapter members also worked with the DNR on their continuing stream restoration work on the **Evergreen River**. Our annual **Evergreen Snowshoe Expedition** is currently being planned. Please check our [www.wolfrivertu.org](http://www.wolfrivertu.org) for details. We lost a good friend in **Dale Druckery**. We would like to extend our condolences to his family. Dale was heavily involved in many of our projects. When the **Ninemile Creek** Restoration Initiative sought financial support to blow major beaver dams, Dale was the first to step forward with a check. Whether planting trees, monitoring streams, or exploring headwaters for beaver damage, Dale was there. We will miss him. —*Tim Waters*

Adults who attend angler education workshops receive free materials that they can use to introduce children to basic fishing skills and help guide adventures in local water resources investigations. The program links one of Wisconsin's most venerable traditions to science, social studies, language arts, fine arts, and physical education through first-hand explorations of fish and their habitat. Fishing equipment and other supplies are available for loan to instructors at the DNR's 42 tackle loaner sites. The program has two main participant levels — Junior Angler for grades 4-8 and Hook, Line, & Thinker for high school students. A subset of materials appropriate for younger learners is also available. Materials available from the DNR at no charge to chapters include Scott Rod Co. fly fishing booklets. Fly tying tools and materials are also available. TU members, fishing club members, youth leaders, classroom teachers, and others are encouraged to attend as a team or form one at the workshop. Successful models include after-school fishing clubs, summer enrichment classes, school-family events, and Boy Scout Fly Fishing merit badge training. Workshop participants will also get free raffle tickets if they attend the State Council banquet held that night. This class is limited to 25 people. Reserve your seat by contacting Theresa Stabo at (608) 266-2272 or [Theresa.Stabo@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Theresa.Stabo@wisconsin.gov).

# The costs of acquiring land and conservation easements

One of the most common ways TU helps land trusts is by raising funds to cover the costs of land protection projects. These transaction costs often occur whether the land or easement is being donated or purchased. TU's Coldwater Land Conservancy Fund specifically provides matching grants for these expenses. Transaction costs can include:

- Appraisals** of the value of a proposed purchased property or easement. Land trusts are required under charitable trust law to pay no more than the fair market value. If an easement or land is being purchased from a private landowner, the land trust must have an appraisal or market analysis that accurately determines the value. The cost can vary widely but can be as little as a couple hundred dollars to \$10,000 or more.
- A **land survey** is needed for most projects. Having a clear, recordable survey for each conservation property is a requirement of most land trusts and many public funding programs for land conservation.
- Legal review** is essential, for both the land trust and the landowner. Some land trusts seek the costs of their legal fees from the landowner and others try to raise that money separately. Generally, the landowner is responsible for his/her legal or financial assistance expenses. Land trusts will either ask the landowner to cover their legal costs or seek to raise funds to cover these costs from other sources.
- Staff expenses** are a substantial cost for most land trusts. Land protection specialists who work for land trusts are trained to efficiently and effectively negotiate complex easement terms and provide the proper documentation for easement baseline reports. The costs to a land trust can vary, but a few thousand dollars in staff costs per project is not uncommon.
- Recording fees and transfer taxes**, while not a major cost, are a direct expense the land trust incurs to get every deed and conservation easement deed properly into the public records.
- Purchase costs** are often the largest of the expenses. If the transaction is not an outright donation, land trusts may purchase the easement or fee property for the full or partial appraised value. Fee purchases are often more expensive on a per-

- acre basis, and projects often range from hundreds of thousands into the millions of dollars. Because landowners retain ownership of land in conservation easements, these purchases are often more affordable for the land trust. In either scenario, trusts often work with multiple partners, including state agencies and other non-profit organizations to raise the funds necessary to complete purchase transactions.
  - Interest payments** can often be significant. In some situations, land trusts will take out a bridge loan in order to purchase a property in a timely manner, and then sell the property for permanent conservation to another entity such as state or federal government agencies. The period between purchase and "take out" by the agency can often be several years or more and significant interest expenses can accrue.
  - Easement stewardship costs** are an important concern of land trusts. A land trust will seek a stewardship contribution that is sufficient, if invested in an endowment, to generate annual income sufficient to monitor the property. This number varies from land trust to land trust, but can range from a few thousand to tens of thousands of dollars depending on the size and complexity of the property and easement document.
  - Fee land stewardship** for properties to be owned and managed by the land trust can include various capital expenses like gates, signs, parking lots, bridges, boundary marking, biological inventories, habitat restoration, fences, etc. Each property will be unique and a land trust will want to know it has adequate resources to appropriately care for every new property it acquires.
- (Excerpted from A Guide for TU Chapters: Working With Land Trusts. Read more about this new book on pp. 8-9 in this issue, including how to download a copy. -Ed.)

# Watershed Access Fund

## Thanks to our Watershed Access Fund contributors!

Since the Watershed Access Fund kicked off in November, it has been off to a good start. We've received over 50 donations totaling \$4,500 in just the first month...a very promising start. A big "thank you" to all who have contributed. And if you are considering a gift, keep in mind there is no ending time frame. A special thanks to our Southern Wisconsin Chapter for their very generous contribution of \$500! There are several access projects under consideration. The money raised by this fund will help secure these properties for future generations as well as allow for in-stream work to benefit our trout. All monies raised will be used solely for access along Wisconsin trout streams. Grants are available at a maximum of \$2,000. Several grants have already been issued in 2010. Thank you again to all who have contributed. Your trout fishing will benefit.

### 2010 Contributors

|                    |                |                    |             |
|--------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Andrews, Duke      | Minocqua       | Byrnes, Clint      | Beaver Dam  |
| Antigo TU Chapter  | Middleton      | Cook, Andrew       | Sister Bay  |
| Barnes, Edwin      | Eau Claire     | Craig, Grant       | Green Bay   |
| Bartynski, Jeff    | Madison        | Dahlke, Dale       | Knapp       |
| Benedict, Mark     | Chippewa Falls | Danou, Chris       | Trempealeau |
| Berg, Ron & Jolene | Whitefish Bay  | Davidson, Bruce    | Wauwatosa   |
| Bhatia, Ashok      | Madison        | Duplessie, Richard | Eau Claire  |
| Born, Stephen      | Ellsworth      | Emerson, James     | Glidden     |
| Bristol, Jerry     |                | Florine, Craig     | Washburn    |

|                                   |               |                                   |               |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| Fox, Jerome                       | Two Rivers    | Neitzel, Richard                  | Tomah         |
| Geurkink, Terry                   | Belleville    | Novak, Gene                       | Random Lake   |
| Gitter, James                     | Stevens Point | Oechler, Herb                     | Wauwatosa     |
| Grade, Donald                     | Mosinee       | O'Leary, John                     | Ringwood, IL  |
| Granum, James                     | Fountain City | Pielsticker, Bill                 | Lodi          |
| Green Bay TU Chapter              |               | Presser, Dennis                   | Madison       |
| Halbrehder, John                  |               | 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 \_\_\_\_\_





# Kids' fly pattern contest announced by sponsors

By Bob Haase

The Wisconsin State Council of TU, Tight Lines Fly Fishing Co. of De Pere, and Dutch's Trading Post of Fond du Lac have announced a fly pattern contest.

The purpose of the contest is to come up with some new fly patterns

that can be used for youth and beginning fly tying programs. Chapter and State Council youth tying programs are always on the lookout for new and interesting patterns that are suitable for youngsters.

Prizes will be awarded for the top three flies submitted as follows:

- 1st Prize — \$75 gift certificate from Tight Lines,
- 2nd Prize — \$50 gift certificate from Dutch's, and
- 3rd Prize — \$25 cash from the State Council.

The Wisconsin TU Executive Committee will judge the flies at the State Council Banquet to be held in February in Stevens Point.

Each person can submit up to two flies, and they will be judged on three criteria (*see box*).

A pattern sheet will be developed for the winning flies and possi-

bly other entries. These patterns will be made available on the State Council website and other outlets for use by TU chapters and individuals teaching beginning fly tying.

Wisconsin TU Education Chair, Bob Haase will coordinate the contest. Send entries to him at W7949 Treptow Ln, Eldorado, WI 54932.

Entries must be received by Feb. 2, 2011, and each fly submitted should include the following:

1. Name, address, and phone number of the entrant.
2. Name of the fly.
3. Recipe and tying instructions for tying the fly.
4. Sample of the finished fly.

If anyone has questions, they can contact Bob at (920) 922-8003 or flytier@milwpc.com.



## Pattern judging criteria

Flies will be judged on how well they meet these criteria:

- Ease of tying (40%).
- Overall appearance (40%).
- Suitability of catching panfish by a beginner using a fly rod or a spinning rod with a spinning float. (20%).



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## A Wisconsin Trout book review

# Craven's *Basic Fly Tying* a hit in a crowded field

By Mark Peerenboom

It went like this. My friend Chuck mentioned this cool book which had been recommended to him in John Gremmer's fly tying class. I saw John a few days later in our master fly tying class and asked what was so good about this book. He said John Nebel recommended it, and that it had stellar photography which depicted in detail each step in the construction of all of its patterns.

With my shelf sagging under the weight of the basic fly tying books of Skip Morris, Dick Talluer, Gary Borger, Ted Leeson, and Jim Schollmeyer, did I need one more? John and John must have a ton of books, but they hadn't hesitated. I made the purchase, and I'm glad I did. Here's why.

Charlie Craven is an expert fly tyer. He is qualified by Malcom Gladwell's definition that it takes 10,000 hours of practice to make one. In Malcom Gladwell's book *Outliers: The Story of Success*, Gladwell states that what Bill Joy, Bill Gates, and the Beatles have in common — and what sets them above their peers — is their desire to practice their craft over 10,000 hours. Charlie Craven started tying at age eight and began tying commercially at 12. He tied every day until his mother told him to go to bed. Later in his life he opened a fly shop and continued to teach and tie. During this time he came into contact, made friends, and learned from all the great tyers.

Reading his book, you see that Charlie is a good teacher. Through his observation of his students he has developed a clear, concise, and meticulous style. He knows how people learn and what works. Above all, he knows that the only magic is in practice, practice, and practice and building on small baby steps.

The book's general format embodies Charlie's teaching method of starting with simple tying techniques; learning those, and then adding more complex procedures. As a learner, I appreciate learning incrementally, moving from simple to more complex patterns and incorporating techniques which I have previously learned.

Following this process, the reader will learn 17 patterns, but will have acquired the skills to tie most fly fishing patterns.

Other books take similar approaches, but what makes Charlie's book a stand-out is the photography. Charlie is also a first-class photographer. His photographs are clear, detailed, and perfectly match the narrative's instructions.

Each pattern's construction sequences are photographed. As an example, Charlie provides 40 photographic sequences for his parachute BWO pattern, which demonstrates Charlie's attention to detail in communicating his instructions.

I went on-line to read what others thought. All 27 Amazon.com reviews gave it five stars or a perfect score. Well-seasoned tyers were as equally impressed as beginners. Most mentioned the photographs as the outstanding feature.

Beyond Charlie's book, which I highly recommend, is his website, Charlie's Fly Box, at [www.charliesflyboxinc.com](http://www.charliesflyboxinc.com). The website has 163 patterns. Each pattern shown has the same great photography and narration that you will find in his book. For example, I clicked on the site's latest pattern, Tequeely, which is a hot Wisconsin smallie pattern. This is a pattern I have been looking for and there it was, perfectly demonstrated. Charlie Craven is a true gift to the fly tying community.



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## Minnesota-Iowa "Improved Trout Waters" book sales to help Friends

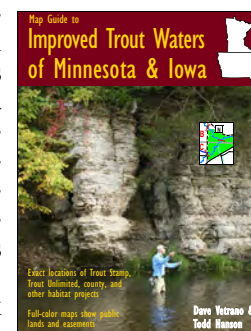
A second "Improved Trout Waters" book by recently retired WDNR fisheries leader Dave Vetrano and Wisconsin Trout editor Todd Hanson will benefit the Friends of Wisconsin TU habitat program.

The book's publisher will contribute 5% of sales through Feb. 28 to the Friends program for restoration projects in Wisconsin. Purchasers get an added 5% discount off the cover price. (*See the flyer in this issue for details and an order blank.*)

The new Minnesota-Iowa map guide is based on the popular 2008

book covering Wisconsin trout streams and follows a similar format of showing improvement sites located across the two states.

The book also shows state-owned lands, easements, and access spots for the streams covered.





# Bob's Tying Tips

Advice from  
the bench of  
Bob Haase

## Tips for tying on location

By Bob Haase

I do a lot of tying on the road. Here are some things that help make this a smooth process.

### Use shelf liner to prevent spills

I think all of us have spilled fly head cement, super glue, or another solution onto our tying surface. It is usually bad enough when we do this at home, but it's even worse when we do it on location at someone's home, school, or another location.

I always carry a rolled up piece of solid vinyl shelf liner with me when I tie on location. The shelf liner usually comes 12 inches wide, and I cut it to a length of around 18 inches long. You can purchase this solid vinyl shelf liner at Walmart, Menards, and many other stores. Just make sure that the sheets are solid vinyl, not those with an open mesh.

The liner not only works to protect the tying surface, it also works great when cleaning up your mess. Simply pick the liner up by the edges and carrying your material to a waste container or plastic bag.

### Stay organized with a tool caddy

You will notice in the picture that I use a Renzetti foam tool

floor. The Garbag is one of the least expensive materials collectors and can be attached to most tying vises.

### Bring plastic bags for clean-up

Depending on where you are tying, you don't always have a container handy to dispose of your scrap tying materials. It is important to pick up your tying mess and leave your tying area as clean as you found it.

We all get plastic bags whenever we go shopping, and I try to keep a few of these with my traveling tying kit.

### More on-the-road considerations

If you don't do that much tying on location, it is not as important to have a separate tying kit filled with the tools, materials, and supplies needed for tying. The advantage of having a separate tying kit for tying on location is that you are less likely to forget something. Plus it is ready to go at a moment's notice.

You may be able to get by with a small tool box with just the tools and materials needed for tying your favorite flies, or you may need to consider going to larger or multiple containers for holding more materials.



holder which works great for holding my tools and also for holding my bottle of fly head cement so that it does not spill.

Consider purchasing more than one of these Renzetti tool holders so that you have one permanently at your tying station at home and another one with a duplicate set of tying tools for traveling on location. By doing this you'll be less likely to forget one or more of your tying tools.

I actually have two of these at my tying station at home. One is filled with the tools that I use most often. I keep this one right in front or to the side of my tying area. The other one is filled with specialty tools that I don't use all the time but want handy when I need them.

You will also notice I use a "materials collector" attached to my vise to collect tying waste rather than have it drop to the

## Bud's #1 Ant a high floater

By Arlen Hilgendorf

Lots of foam is showing up in fly patterns these days. Here's a nice ant pattern I use that makes use of this great material both to float the fly and to help you see it on the water.

Begin by cutting a strip 1/8th x 1/8-inch of black art foam about 2 hook shanks long. Cut strips of orange and white art foam the same width. Also cut 4 black rubber cilia strips the same length as the hook.

Lay a thread base the length of the hook shank. Tie the piece of black art foam at a point half way up the hook shank with the foam ex-

with 3 turns. Repeat the procedure in above to tie in the legs.

Trim the orange indicator strip to 3/16 inch. Whip finish, super glue your wraps, and go fish!

I sometimes tie this fly with all orange and use it as an indicator with a dropper.



### MATERIALS LIST

#### Bud's #1 Ant

**Hook:** 2x heavy, 2x long size 8-14.

**Thread:** Black 6/0 or 8/0.

**Body:** Black art foam/black ice dubbing.

**Wing:** White art foam.

**Legs and antennae:** Round rubber cilia strips.

**Indicator:** Orange art foam.

tending to the back. Super glue the thread onto the hook shank.

Dub the abdomen with 3 turns of ice chenille.

Bend the black foam strip over and tie it down with 3 turns of thread at the mid point of the hook shank.

Tie in the piece of white art foam for the wing at the midpoint. with 2 turns of thread. Trim the wing so it is even with the end of the abdomen.

Tie in the leg on the far side first so it extends slightly beyond the bend of the hook bend with 2 turns of thread. Repeat with the near side legs. Place three turns of thread around the fly at the mid point on top of those already there.

Advance the tying thread up the shank of the hook to a point 2 hook eyes behind the eye of the hook. Tie the black foam strip down at this point with 3 turns of thread.

Place the orange art foam on top of the tie-in point and tie it down

### BUD'S #1 ANT

Bud's ant in various stages. The finished fly is seen from the side in photo three and from the top in photo four. It is helpful to see this pattern in color. Download this issue at the State Council's website at [www.WisconsinTU.org](http://www.WisconsinTU.org). Scroll down under the "news" tab for the link.



## Mike's Service in Langlade

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### NEXT ISSUE: PART TWO

In the next issue I'll show pictures of my travel kit and describe some of the things I take with me on the road.

I'll go over some ideas for organizing and making your travel kit more compact. The idea is to have a little of everything rather than a lot of a little.



# Thanks again to all of this year’s Friends contributors

**By Doug Brown**  
**Friends of WITU Chair**

As 2010 comes to a close, I would like to say “thank you” to all of you who made a contribution in this year’s Friends of Wisconsin TU fund-raising campaign.

It was another good year for the Friends program. We had a big number of contributors and, more importantly, generated funds for our local TU chapters to do various stream projects that will help our

coldwater resources for years to come.

Since the 2010 Friends fund-raising campaign started in March, the program has generated:

- 126 private donations,
- 6 TU chapter contributions, and
- \$14,200 in total revenue.

And for any of you who have thoughts about contributing to this fund but haven’t quite gotten around to it, we’re always willing to accept money. As a special incentive, this year we’re offering a

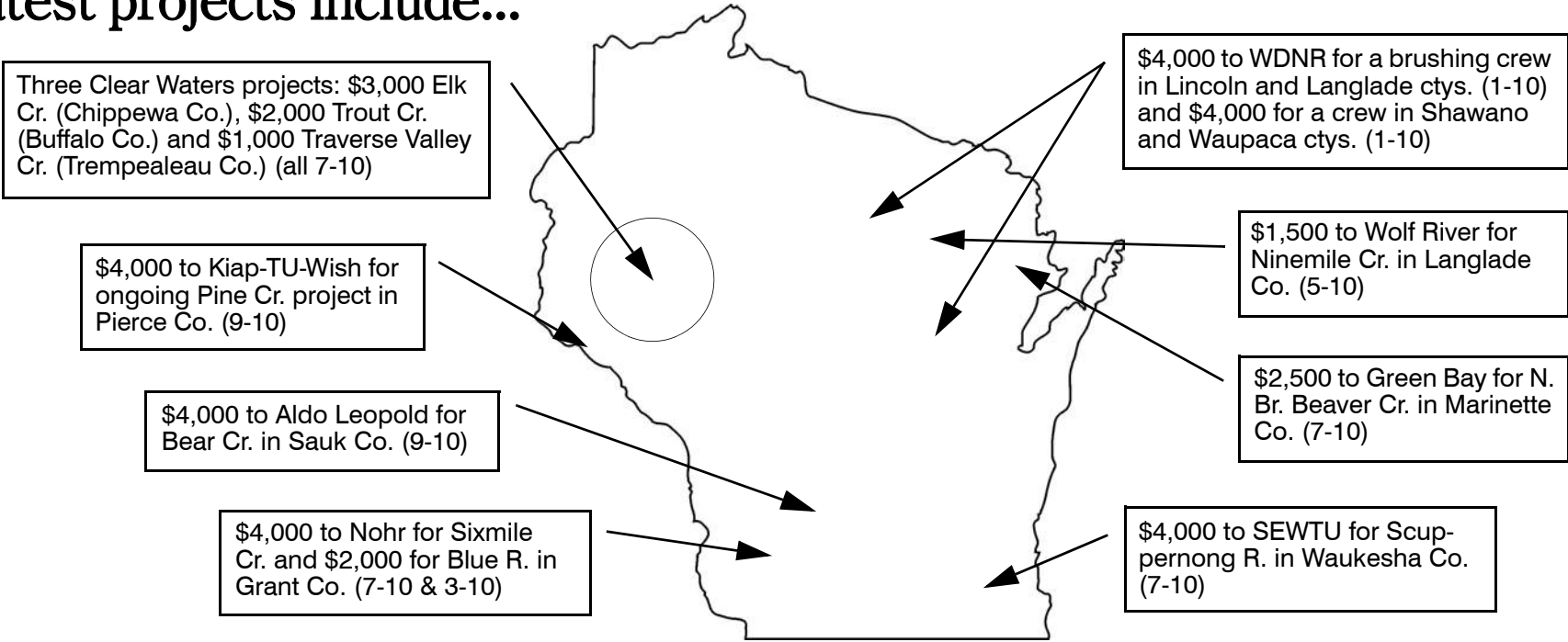
BlueSky furred leader in light (3-5 wt) or medium (6-8 wt) for every \$100 contribution.

As you know, your money goes right back into YOUR local streams. Check out the updated list below of recent projects funded by the Friends program. Maybe you’ve visited one of these streams. If not, know that your contribution is helping your fellow trout anglers.

Contributions can be sent to Doug Brown, R4800 Timber Ln., Ringle, WI 54471. And thanks again.



## 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

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