

Wiscousin Trout

July 2011





TROUT FESTIVAL ORGANIZERS AND GROUNDS

Some of the planners of the Coon Creek Trout Festival posed with a ceremonial check they received from the Wisconsin Dept. of Tourism. Pictured are (back, I to r) Jim Schmidt, Jill Gettelman, Eric Rauch of Coulee Region TU, and Lenny Leis. In front are Renita Williamson, Jim Cox, Carol Ann Olson, Karen McGarvey, and WI Tourism Secretary Stephanie Klett. The festival will be hard to miss since it takes place in Veteran's Park located right where Hwy. 14 crosses Coon Creek in the village of Coon Valley. The park has some of the best handicapped fishing access in the state.

Coulee Region TU helping plan new Coon Creek Trout Festival

Trout Unlimited is spearheading an inaugural festival celebrating the Driftless Area's trout fishing and bringing TU's mission to the attention of local people and landowners.

The Coon Creek Trout Festival will take place Saturday, July 23, in Coon Creek in Vernon Co.

The WITU State Council recently contributed \$1,000 toward the

The Coulee Region Chapter of event's expenses. TU members are encouraged to contact Coulee Region TU President Eric Rauch on what skills and services they can provide for the event.

> Many local businesses have joined in to broaden the festival's appeal. Rauch hopes the festival will become an annual affair, with proceeds from this year's festival going toward next year's event.

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Copper Cr. high-cap well creating controversy

"The Department

does not consider

the need for a

proposed well in

the context of

completing its

review of

proposed high

capacity wells."

By Todd Hanson

One normally expects the application for a high-capacity well to make things clear and answer most of the questions of the WDNR and concerned citizens.

The opposite is happening in the case of a proposed high-capacity "emergency" well along the North Branch of Copper Cr. in Crawford

Co., a popular Class I trout stream that has significant public access and habitat improvements about one mile downstream of the planned well.

On June 24, the WDNR released a comment summary and response to the well application. This document lists 12 "proposed draft approval conditions" for

the well, and it notes that additional conditions may be added before the well is given final approval.

End uses of water still murky

The June 24 DNR response document offers responses to most of the questions asked during the public comment period, but those answers relating to the actual end uses of the water will still leave most people scratching their heads.

Who, if anyone, is lining up to buy the well's water? The well's owner has not supplied any specific prospective buyers, and the WDNR answers this question as follows:

"The Department does not consider the need for a proposed well in the context of completing its review of proposed high capacity wells. A landowner has the ability to apply for approval of a high capacity well even though the need may not be apparent.'

Among the draft approval conditions, the well's owner would be required to:

- case the well with cement to 175 feet, 50' deeper than proposed;
 - limit withdrawals to a "sporadic" basis as an "emergency or back-up

bulk water supply, avoid using the water for any primary water supply, including

- bottling it for sale to the public; reduce maximum daily water withdrawals from June
- 15 to Sept. 15; report all withdrawals to DNR

on a quarterly basis and make the well's metering available to DNR by remote access;

- install a water table monitoring well that records water levels on a continuous basis; and
- limit withdrawals even further based on observed flow conditions on the N. Br. of the Copper

WITU State Council Chair Kim McCarthy wrote a letter to WDNR hydrologist Larry Lynch this spring expressing TU's concerns about the proposed well (see the letter on p. 4).

Sen. Dan Kapanke also released letter (see p. 4) to the DNR's Lynch expressing some additional concerns.

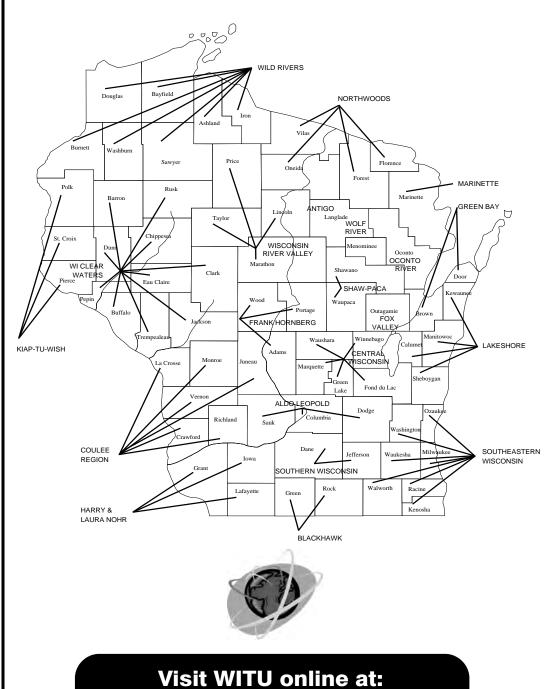
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FAST AND FURIOUS FISHING

The trout are always biting well at FVTU's annual Fishing Day for People With Disabilities held the end of April at Maine Creek Farm north of Appleton.

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Contact TU National when you change addresses or chapter leaders

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

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

WISCONSIN TROUT

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Trout fishing is great, and so are the threats

By Kim McCarthy WITU State Council Chair

Another early season has come and gone in the parts of the state that open in March. Wisconsin's Driftless Area in the spring is about as good as it gets for trout fishing. I reversed the situation and produced a world class fishery.

The important word here is "produced." Without intervention and a lot of work, these streams would still be terribly degraded. But because we followed the proper course of action for conservation, trout fishing

"We have an obligation as TU members to look at projects that could carry resource impacts from a conservation point of view. There is no denying that we need good, high-paying jobs, but there is also no denying that we can develop jobs while also preserving the resources that Wisconsin is famous for."

had the pleasure to fish with a number of friends and also spent time fishing by myself. Many of you have heard me make the statement that I never thought we would see this kind of a fabulous fishery in Wisconsin

For the last few years, I have been fortunate to have some time to explore the "Coulee Country." I like to tell fellow fishermen that I'm roaming around the Driftless Area trying to find a bad trout stream. I love getting up, picking a direction, and heading out to fish a couple of streams. Looking at a trout map of the Driftless Area looks like a page covered in spaghetti, and my goal has been to try to fish as many of those colored lines on the map as I possibly can. I'm nowhere near accomplishing the goal, but I have put one heck of a dent in the fishable

As for that business about finding a bad trout stream, I can tell you that it is very hard to do. Retired fisheries biologist Dave Vetrano once told me that virtually every moving piece of water in the driftless now has trout. From what I have experienced, he wasn't joking.

I think it is important to remember that the great fish populations we are now seeing in the driftless have not always existed. We know that years ago some folks thought that the driftless streams had been degraded to the point that they would never again be decent fisheries. But better farming practices, erosion control, habitat work, good regulations, and wild trout stocking

in the driftless is now generating an economic impact for the region that amounts to about \$1.1 billion per year.

We should not make the mistake of taking the driftless fishery — or any other trout fishery in Wisconsin — for granted. One of the things about spending time fishing alone is that I can ponder the conservation state of affairs. One of the thoughts that just won't stop popping into my head is the thought about how fragile trout fisheries can be. When thinking about the Driftless Area, I always remember what the area had been reduced to and the amount of effort and cash it took to bring it back. Failure to continue following good conservation practices could send the Driftless Area, and any other good trout fishery in the state, back into decline.

The threats to our fisheries are numerous and will probably increase with the current emphasis on deregulation and jobs at all costs. As I write this, there is a high-capacity well permit pending on Copper Creek in Crawford County that, according to DNR's own environmental assessment, could reduce flows in Upper Copper Creek by 40% if the well runs continuously at full capacity. No good, clear reason has been presented for drilling this well, and the end use of the water are fuzzy at best. By the time you read this, a permit could have been issued. It is our hope that the concerns expressed by the State Council will be addressed in the permit. But this is exactly the kind of threat that



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

could multiply and begin to impact the great trout fishery that has been created here.

Another issue about to explode in the state is iron mining. Large deposits of iron ore have been located in Iron and Ashland counties in areas that have many miles of class 1 trout streams. Representatives from the mining industry have been working on a bill to fast track development of iron mining. The pending bill is expected to allow mine developers to bypass many environmental safeguards that have existed in Wisconsin for years. Impacts to trout waters could be very severe.

As projects such as the two described above continue to appear, it will be important for TU members to remember first and foremost that we are a conservation organization. We have an obligation as TU members to look at projects that could carry resource impacts from a conservation point of view. There is no denying that we need good, high-paying jobs, but there is also no denying that we can develop jobs while also preserving the resources that

Wisconsin is famous for. That has always been an important, bipartisan part of the Wisconsin way of doing things.

So, the next time you are standing in one of Wisconsin's many good trout streams, ponder how fragile that resource is, how easily it could be lost, and how TU will continue to battle to keep coldwater resources in good shape.





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



HELP FOR THE LITTLE WOLF

Some of the crew took a breather on a new bank structure during a recent Fox Valley TU habitat day on the South Branch of the Little Wolf. Pictured are (I to r) Bill Repulski, Steve Devitt of the DNR, Jim Hlaban, Abe Wittenwyler of the DNR, and Todd Calder.





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COPPER CREEK: questions surround proposed well

Continued from p. 1

Locals organize

In May, the WITU State Council contributed \$500 to the group Save Copper Creek, a campaign being organized by the nonprofit Valley Stewardship Network.

The Save Copper Creek group was formed after an initial meeting of citizens with the Utica Town Board on May 16. The group has posted a number of suggested restrictions and safeguards on the pro-

posed well, most of which have been incorporated by the DNR in its draft approval.

Select DNR responses

The following are some selected DNR responses to the questions it received about the proposed well.

On end uses of the water: "...under proposed Condition 7, the owner must notify the DNR when a new user is granted access to the well and the DNR has explicit authority to deny access to the well if the pro-

posed use is not consistent with the high capacity well approval."

On prohibiting water going for irrigation, bottling, or CAFOs: "Proposed Condition 2 specifies certain uses which are not allowed under the approval including, but not limited to, agricultural irrigation, as a source of water for commercial water bottling or as a permanent source of water for a CAFO. The DNR also would have authority under Condition 7 to prohibit use of the well if a future use is

determined to be incompatible with the intent of the approval."

On the uniqueness of this well's stated purpose: "This would be the first high capacity well approved for this purpose. There are numerous wells dedicated to use as fire suppression wells but they are generally owned by a ... fire department or municipality. ...Some wells are designated as back-up water supplies by industrial users that need to maintain an emergency source of water to ensure continuity of operation."

Proposed High Capacity Well – Utica Township Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Comments

Mr. Lawrence Lynch Dept. of Natural Resources

Mr. Lynch,

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited recently became aware of the permit application for the construction of a high capacity well on the Darrell Long property in Utica Township within 550 feet of North Copper Creek. Trout Unlimited has several concerns about the proposed permit. As a result of those concerns we feel there are provisions that need to be included in permit language to protect Copper Creek.

Copper Creek is an important trout stream. A 2008 economic impact study by Northstar Economics states that trout angling in the driftless area generates a 1.1 BILLION DOLLAR ANNUAL economic impact to the driftless area. Copper Creek is an important part of the trout fishing activity in the driftless area, and it is the feeling of Trout Unlimited that every effort must be made to protect that valuable resource. I am attaching a copy of the economic impact study.

Our concerns about the proposed well along with the steps we feel are necessary to protect Copper Creek are:

* The well would be capable of pumping 500,000 gallons of water per day with the usage being described as sporadic. Our concern is that there is no definition of "sporadic" and no requirement that the well only be used sporadically. Language needs to be included in any permit carefully outlining the definition of "sporadic" as it applies to this permit.

*The DNR EA states that the anticipated use of the well is for emergencies. The definition of what constitutes an emergency is apparently left to the owner who plans to make a profit from water sold from the well. This language is much too vague. Trout Unlimited feels strongly that any permit needs to clearly define what constitutes an emergency for which water from the well may be used.

* DNR models apparently show that if the well were to be used at maximum capacity for 2 months the North Branch of Copper Creek could be lowered by as much as 30%. Continuous pumping could increase the

Dan Kapanke



Wisconsin State Senator - 32nd District

June 23, 2011

Lawrence Lynch, Hydro-geologist Drinking Water & Groundwater Bureau Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources 101 S. Webster Street Madison, WI 53707

Dear Mr. Lynch.

I am writing you concerning the proposed high capacity well application under consideration from Mr. Darryl Long. The proposed well would be located 1.7 miles northwest of the Village of Mount Sterling in Crawford County. I would like to express concerns I have regarding the application and discuss delaying the process until it has been fully vetted to ensure this permit is properly reviewed and all pertinent information is considered.

First, I want to thank you again for your assistance in understanding the high capacity permitting process and for your willingness to travel to the Utica Town Hall on May 24, 2011. I appreciate all the time you have dedicated to this permit application.

As you will agree, it is unique to request or a high capacity well with the intended end use as a backup water supply for a local municipality during emergency. In addition, Mr. Long has indicated that he intends to sell the water to individuals such as farmers. With that in mind, it raises legitimate questions regarding the details of the application.

The first question is whether there is a willing buyer of the withdrawn water. Based on discussions with local officials, it would appear there was neither a request nor articulated future need for emergency water services, which must call into question the implied validity of the stated end use on the application.

This leads to the next question of whether the end use was accurately portrayed on the submitted application. Based on the information discovered by the residents in the Utica Township and shared with you would appear to contradict the stated intended use on the application.

Although the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) may not have the resources to investigate the information in every application it receives, it is incumbent on the DNR to consider legitimate information it receives that calls into question the veracity of information in the application, and therefore, the integrity of the applicant.

Capital Address: P.O. Box 7882, Madison, WI 53707-7882 • Phone: (608) 268-5490 • Fax: (608) 267-517

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number to 40%. This is not acceptable to Trout Unlimited. A 30%-40% reduction in flow at a time that would coincide with seasonal low flows could be devastating to aquatic populations in Copper Creek by raising water temperatures and decreasing oxygen levels. If a permit is issued, water withdrawals must be limited to amounts that would not impact flow rates in Copper Creek.

The EA in Section 25, paragraph two, dealing with alternatives states, "if the casing were to be set to a significantly deeper level, potential impacts to the North Branch of Copper Creek would be expected to be less severe." The casing depth in the permit application is 126 feet. Trout Unlimited asks that if a permit is granted the permit should require casing to a depth great enough to achieve the protection described in Section 25.

NR820.30 section (5) states that the department may require the owner of the high capacity well to implement a monitoring plan to document stream flow or lake level in the vicinity of any well located within a groundwater protection area, and, based on the results of the monitoring program may revise the approval. NR 820.30(4)(d) also states that the conditions that can be included in the approval may include monitoring of flow conditions "such that the fish populations and critical habitat are not adversely affected." It is the opinion of Trout Unlimited that monitoring be required as a condition of the permit, and that the permit contain language limiting pumping if stream flows decline.

In conclusion; Wisconsin Trout Unlimited has great concerns about this proposed high capacity well. It is our feeling that without the requirements and changes outlined above the well has the potential to do harm to a key trout stream in the driftless area. The protection of Copper Creek should be a primary concern when considering whether to grant the permit. If a permit is granted it needs to contain language that would guarantee the protection of Copper Creek. If it is not possible to incorporate language that would protect the creek, then Wisconsin Trout Unlimited would favor denial of the permit application.

Sincerely,

Kim McCarthy – Chair – Wisconsin Trout Unlimited 736 Meadowbrook Ct. Green Bay, WI 54313 Page 2 of 2 High Capacity Well Permit, Utica Township

If up to 500,000 gallons of groundwater are withdrawn, the initial proposed application will have a detrimental impact on the water resources in the region. Therefore, given the proximity to the North Branch of Copper Creek and private wells, I am requesting that the agency conduct an additional environmental assessment to address the true impact to the regional water resources.

During the Utica meeting, I listened intently to the numerous questions and concerns raised by those directly and indirectly affected by the proposed well. Overwhelming the message was clear that the residents believe they have presented a strong case for denial yet feel their concerns and substantiating information are futile and the permit is a foregone conclusion. As their elected official, I must be their voice to ensure their concerns are addressed while balancing the rights of a property owner to use their land. In this instance, the issue goes beyond the landowner's property lines and may have a detrimental effect on the regional ground and surface water supply.

As you are aware, Water Resources state statutes read

"The department shall serve as the central unit of state government to protect, maintain, and improve the quality and management of the waters of the state, ground, and surface, public and private." (§281.11)

The protection of the Class A trout streams, municipal water supply, and private wells are under the purview of the DNR. As the agency charged with the authority to protect the environmental integrity of our state resources it is imperative that residents of this state have confidence in that agency. I believe we can appropriately address this matter.

Finally, I want to make you aware that my State Senate office is currently investigating whether the proposed use constitutes "the production, transmission, delivery, or furnishing of ... water ... either directly or indirectly to or for the public." If that is the case, then the applicant is acting as a public utility since he plans to sell to individuals; therefore, he must be certified by the Public Service Commission as such and meet all PSC conditions and requirements of service. Again, if that is the case, the DNR should delay authorizing the withdrawal of water until the applicant obtains the legal authority to use the water in the manner that is the basis of the application.

As I understand, the final decision is under the purview of another DNR employee, I would appreciate it if you would forward this letter to the appropriate authorizing employee to ensure my concerns are understood prior to the final decision. Again, I appreciate the work you have done on this application as well as your commitment to ensure that all affected parties have an opportunity to express their thoughts and concerns on the high capacity well application. I look forward to working with the agency on this important matter.

Sincerel

Dan Kapanke 32nd State Senate







MORE SCENES FROM MAIN CREEK FARM

The Fox Valley Chapter's Fishing Day for People With Disabilities is one of their longest-running events. Many people have been coming back for 20+ years.

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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

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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.

2011 WDNR fisheries biologists

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Dodge County
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Hansen

Douglas County
L. Superior, Brule River and other L.
Superior Tributary Streams — Va-

cant All Other Inland Waters — Scott

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John Nelson

L. Winnebago — Kendall Kamke

Forest County Mike Vogelsang

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Dyck Mississippi River — Patrick Short **Green County** Kurt Welke

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Coastal Shore of Green Bay —

Tammie Paoli

Marquette County

Dave Bartz

Menominee County Al Niebur

Milwaukee County
Lakes — Matt Coffaro
Streams — Will Wawrzyn
Monroe County

_ Jordan Weeks Inland Waters

Oconto County
Inland Waters — Jordan Weeks
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L. Michigan — Tammie Paoli
Green Bay — Mike Donofrio &
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Coastal Shore of Green Bay —
Tammie Paoli

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Oneida County

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Lower Fox River — Steve Hog (920) 662-5480 Wolf River — Kendall Kamke Ozaukee County

Lakes — Sue Beyler Streams — Will Wawrzyn

Pepin County Inland Waters -

Inland Waters — Marty Engel Mississippi River — Brian Brecka Pierce County Inland Waters — Marty Engel

Mississippi River — Brian Brecka St. Croix River — Marty Engel

Polk County
Terry Margenau (715) 635-4162
Portage County

Thomas Meronek
Price County

Jeff Scheirer
Racine County
Inland Waters —

- Doug Welch & Rick Dauffenbach

L. Michigan — Pradeep Hirethota

Richland County
Gene Van Dyck
Rock County
Lower Rock Basin — Don Bush (re-

tiring) Rusk County Jeff Scheirer

Sauk County David Rowe (608) 635-8122

Sawyer County

Vacant

Shawano County Al Niebur Sheboygan County

Sue Beyler
St. Croix County
Inland Waters — Marty Engel

St. Croix River — Marty Engel
Taylor County

Jeff Scheirer

Trempealeau County Inland Waters — Dan Hatleli

Mississippi River — Dave Heath
Vernon County
Inland Waters — Jordan Weeks
Mississippi River — Dave Heath
Vilas County

Chara Cilbart

Steve Gilbert

Walworth County

Doug Welch & Rick Dauffenbach

Washburn County

Jamison Wendel

Washington County Lakes — Sue Beyler

Streams — Will Wawrzyn

Waukesha County

Sue Beyler & Steve Gospodarek

Al Niebur

Waushara County Dave Bartz

Winnebago County Kendall Kamke

Wood County

Justine Hasz
Other Management Areas
Treaty, East & West — Vacant Forest Service Liaison — Skip Som-

. Michigan: Kenosha, Racine, & Milwaukee ctys. — Pradeep

Hirethota L. Michigan: Sheboygan & Ozaukee

Vacant, call (920) 892-8756 . Michigan: Manitowoc & Kewaunee counties — Vacant

L. Michigan: Door County — Scott Hansen

L. Michigan: Brown County — Steve Hogler (920) 662-5480 L. Michigan: Oconto & Marinette

counties — Tammie Paoli L. Superior: Main Lake — Peter Stevens (715) 779-4035 Ext.12 L. Superior: Tributary Streams and

Rivers — Vacant

Chapter president profile

Mike Kuhr plans to keep the momentum going at SEWTU

By Bob Jozwowski

Our chapter's 2007 Camp Creek project was selected as a finalist in Redwood Creek Winery's "Greater Outdoors Project." Online and text message voting determined the winner — and SEWTU won!

Mike Kuhr wrote the grant for this project, and today he is the newest SEWTU president. The Redwood Creek award brought home \$50,000 for Camp Creek, and our grant was the subject of full-page ads in *Outside* and *National Geographic Adventure* magazines. Needless to say, this one accomplishment put SEWTU on the map.

Mike has been a TU member for seven years. He has been our Habitat Chair from 2009-2011 and a board member since 2008.

He is also the leader of the Project Healing Waters initiative that couples disabled veterans from the Milwaukee VA Medical Center with SEWTU members for fishing instruction and outings (see separate story in this issue). We've had several veterans participate in PHW Milwaukee who have left the VA Medical Center and have come back as volunteers to help other veterans in the program. That shows just how much of an impact the program can have on veterans. Mike says, "It's rewarding to see a positive change in someone's life, but humbling to know that no matter how hard we try, some wounds just won't heal."

Hailing from Neenah, Wisconsin, and knocking around the Fox Valley area for a while, Mike moved to the Milwaukee area 10 years ago. With his wife Jen and 3½ old daughter Hannah, the Kuhrs are now nestled in suburban Milwaukee. Mike says his daughter likes to have him read Dr. Seuss books to her, and every once in a while he will read *The Lorax* even though she would rather hear about *The Sneetches* or *Green Eggs and Ham*.

"I always make sure to emphasize the line, 'Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not,' says Mike. "It's one of my favorites."

Mike and Jen also have a 9-yearold yellow lab named Fisher (how appropriate is that!) adopted from an animal rescue at 118 pounds but now down to a more healthy 88 pounds.

Mike is an architectural designer with a degree from MATC and a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) accredited professional.

Mike was about six when his family was visiting his grandmother in NE Wisconsin.

"I remember playing on the riverbank while Dad was trout fishing upstream, and I saw him hook and land a 22-inch brown trout."

Mike later moved on to musky fishing and spent a fair amount of time chasing our state fish. In his 20s, he spent a lot of time camping on the Wolf River, and that's where he really got hooked on trout fishing.

"I am very fond of the Wolf River in Langlade County and the Tomorrow River (best name for a trout stream ever) in Central Wisconsin."

Today, Mike says some of his favorite fishing locations are in the Driftless Area.

Mike also spent time fishing the White River in Arkansas in 2010. "This was the first time I had ever really fished a tailwater, and I was amazed to find out that you can actually catch a 20-inch trout on a size 20 midge larvae."

Mike says the biggest fish he ever caught was a 33-inch, 20 lb. brown trout on the Milwaukee River on a fly that he tied himself.

In 2004 Mike attended his first SEWTU dinner meeting. While he had a lot of friends in the Fox Valley area, he didn't have many friends yet in Milwaukee with similar interests. At his first two meetings, he sat alone and didn't say much, but at the third meeting he found himself on a bar stool next to John Knitter, and from there his rise in the organization took root. And we are so happy he decided to come to that third meeting.

Mike admits that it will be hard to top the accolades that SEWTU has received in recent years — including 2008 WITU chapter of the year and 2009 TU National chapter of the year — so his focus will be on sustaining the momentum.

"We'll continue to partner with other chapters on workdays, keep educating the public about the importance of TU's mission, and work to get more kids interested in clean water, trout fishing, and conservation. I've been told numerous times by folks who have trout fished in Wisconsin for many years that this is the best it's ever been. I want to make sure that I can say the same thing to some young kid 40 years from now."

Amen to that!

(Author Bob Jozwowski is a member of SEWTU. He is currently the chapter's secretary. -Ed.)

HEALING: vets program a big hit

Continued from p. 7

Matt Kwitek and family have provided our program with fly rod outfits for the vets to use. On a typical outing, 10-12 TU volunteers serve as fly fishing mentors and are partnered up with a veteran. The mentors assist with fly selection, knot tying, casting, and retrieving. Most importantly, the mentors are there to share the experience with the veterans. These outings help ease the transition from military life back into civilian life for our veterans.

The VA staff typically provides lunch for the group after a morning of fishing. Special thanks also go to the folks at Wern Valley, River Wildlife, and Rushing Waters for giving us access to their fisheries.

In 2010 alone, TU volunteers put in over 1,100 hours at the VA Medical Center. That's an incredible testament to the strength of our program. Thank you to all the contributors and volunteers dedicated to making fly fishing a part of our veterans' journey through life and for helping them reconnect with the





MIKE KUHR AT WORK AND PLAY

Outgoing SEWTU Chapter President Henry Koltz (bottom left) drills a rebar hole on a lunker structure while new President Mike Kuhr assists during a recent Aldo Leopold Chapter workday on Bear Cr. in Sauk Cty. Mike shows off a nice trout (top) while fishing on the White River in Arkansas.

outdoors. Through these efforts, Project Healing Waters Milwaukee is truly "Healing Those Who Serve."

For more information about PHW, visit the website www.projecthealingwaters.org. You can also follow PHW Milwaukee at

www.phwmw.org. The galleries and calendar are updated regularly.

(Besides spearheading the Project Healing Waters Program, author Mike Kuhr was recently elected SEWTU Chapter President. A profile of Mike appears on this page. -Ed.)

Project Healing Waters Milwaukee: fun and healing for our country's veterans

By Mike Kuhr

SEWTU's PHW Milwaukee Program Lead

The horrors of war. Long periods of isolation. Sterile hospital walls. The veterans who have honorably served our country have seen it all.

Now, thanks to Southeastern Wisconsin TU volunteers and the Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing (PHWFF) organization, some of these veterans are seeing, and feeling, something new — a fish on the end of their fly line!

PHWFF is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled active duty military personnel and veterans through fly fishing, fly tying education, and outings. Over 90 programs nationwide are administered locally by TU chapters, FFF clubs, and local fishing groups. PHW Milwaukee is sponsored by SEWTU and hosted by the Zablocki VA Medical Center in Milwaukee.

The program offers veterans at the VA Medical Center an opportunity to learn the basic skills of fly fishing in a relaxed, group atmosphere. Fly tying improves dexterity and fine motor skills. Fly casting helps recover balance and timing.

"Project Healing Waters fosters our veterans' growth in self-confidence and self-esteem," says Sandi McCormick, a VA therapist who helps administer the program. "It helps to give them hope, perspective, and new coping mechanisms."

The whole experience leads to making new friends and building camaraderie.

Prior to our involvement in the Project Healing Waters program, SEWTU volunteers Al Dalphonso, Glen Winston, Joe Valkoun, and others started a Veterans' Fly Tying Club. They built a successful program with the help of Pat Ehlers and The Fly Fishers fly shop in Greenfield.

In 2008, TU member Zoan Kulinski approached SEWTU with the idea of starting a PWH program. The transition was simple, and the Veterans' Fly Tying Club officially became known as Project Healing Waters Milwaukee in April 2009. Being associated with the national organization gives our local program name recognition and has provided new funding opportunities.

We currently offer fly tying sessions twice a week to serve different patient populations at the VA. Al, a navy veteran himself, and Glen, a.k.a. Mr. Beadhead, lead the Thursday morning group which serves outpatients in the Veterans Recovery Center. Evening classes have been led by Zoan, Jim Wierzba, Don Putning, and most recently, George Batcha.

These sessions are open to patients housed on campus in the domiciliary. We've also had volunteers take fly tying kits and materials over to the Spinal Cord Injury Unit at the VA to work with their patients.

Over the years, we have amassed a collection of fly tying materials that would make most tyers jealous. Local stores such as The Fly Fishers and Cabela's in Richfield have been big supporters from day one. The nonprofit Wings Over Wisconsin has made a substantial financial contribution to the program.

We've also been the beneficiary of two generous material donations from Ed Zabel and Herman Schutten and family. Both donated lifetime supplies of tying materials! Having access to all the various furs and feathers brings a level of creativity to our fly tying.

It's not always about tying flies. Sometimes our veterans just need someone to share their experiences with. Royce Dam understands this and has spent many a Thursday morning at the VA listening to and telling stories. Besides being an accom-

plished fly tyer, Royce is a World War II veteran who survived the horrors of Iwo Jima. Royce has donated several of his books and tying DVDs to the program. He'll often bring in several framed salmon flies to remind our vets that fly tying can be an artistic expression as well.

That creative spark must have rubbed off on participant Jeffrey Hopkins, because in 2010 he tied several flies featuring guinea feathers, and then built a shadow box to display them in. He entered the piece in the annual VA Creative Arts Festival and took first place at the local and regional levels. In October of 2010, Jeff was invited to the National Competition where he again took first place in the knotting division.

Jeff has come full circle through the Project Healing Waters program. He started as a participant, but has since moved on and now joins the group regularly as a volunteer and mentor. He's always been more than willing to help others in the group, and his actions show the positive effect this program can have on people. Jeff was recognized by PHWFF in 2011 for his achievements and received the Outstanding Individual Award. The award came complete with an Orvis 5 wt. fly rod and Orvis Battenkill reel.

Each winter we try to break up the tying with various activities. In 2010, volunteers Tim Johnson and Mike Hiebing taught the veterans how to make their own furled leaders. This spring, volunteers Larry Clowry, Rick Frye, and others helped veterans build their own fly rods. The fly rod kits were furnished by the Hook and Hackle Co.

The tying sessions are good therapy, but nothing heals like time on the water. Including our initial fishing outing in August of 2009, we've completed 10 outings.

Continued on p. 6

Watershed ACCE Fund

Council increases grant limits to make more impact

I want to thank all of you who donated to this program since our appeal letter last fall. We had donations from 58 individuals and four TU chapters. Recently, some changes have occurred with the program's grant funding. The Executive Council realized the original limit of \$2,000 was not big enough to really help on land purchases. So, at the last State Council meeting, WITU upped the grant request limit to \$5,000.

Because two chapters may each make a request for a single acquisition, and because each chapter has to match at 50%, the new limits could provide as much as \$15,000 for a single purchase or easement.

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

2010/11 Contributors

Andrews, Duke Antigo TU Chapter Barnes, Edwin Bartynski, Jeff Benedict, Mark Berg, Ron & Jolene Bhatia, Ashok Born, Stephen Bristol, Jerry Minocqua
Middleton
Eau Claire
Madison
Chippewa Falls
Whitefish Bay
Madison
Ellsworth

Byrnes, Clint Cook, Andrew Craig, Grant Dahlke, Dale Danou, Chris Davidson, Bruce Duplessie, Richard Emerson, James Florine, Craig

Beaver Dam Sister Bay Green Bay Knapp Trempealeau Wauwatosa Eau Claire Glidden Washburn Fox, Jerome Geurkink, Terry Gitter, James Two Rivers Belleville Stevens Point Grade, Donald Mosinee Fountain City Granum, James Green Bay TU Chapter Halbrehder, John Harkins, Paul Sparta Harshaw Hawk, John Heart, Bill New Holstein Ashland Heifner, Mark Heil, Walter Herman, Gilbert Appleton De Pere Stoughton Oregon Hinde, David Hoffman, Mike Roscoe, IL Onalaska Hyer, Greg Kendall, Alden Cross Plains Duluth, MN Kiap TU Wish TU Chapter King, Gordon King, Gordon (WPS Matching Grant) Merrill Koivisto, Jack Lindroth, Rick Martin, Dean Green Bay Madison McCarthy, Kim McGrath, Randy Green Bay Janesville Morrow, Jerome

Neitzel, Richard Tomah Novak, Gene Random Lake Wauwatosa Ringwood, IL Lodi Oechler, Herb O'Leary, John Pielsticker, Bill Madison Presser, Dennis Prine, Dick Ashland Rake, Randal Robertson, Steve Rogers, William Ryan, Rosemary Sandretto, Michael Shaw-Paca Chapter Smith Leff De Pere Verona Elkhart Lake Wauwatosa Neenah Madison Southeastern WI TU Chapter Minneapolis Mineral Point Spittler, Mike Steudel, Charles Stockman, Wayne Swanson, Greg Thurber, Noah Spring Valley Appleton Stratford Appleton Lodi Vanden Elzen, Bill Vollrath, Larry Wachowski, Richard Green Bay Eau Claire Wachowsh, Richard
Wadsworth, Leslie
Welhouse, Don
K
Wiemerslage, Paul
Wild Rivers Chapter
Wisconsin Clear Waters TU Chapter Madison Kaukauna Hudson

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
PA 4800 Timber Lp

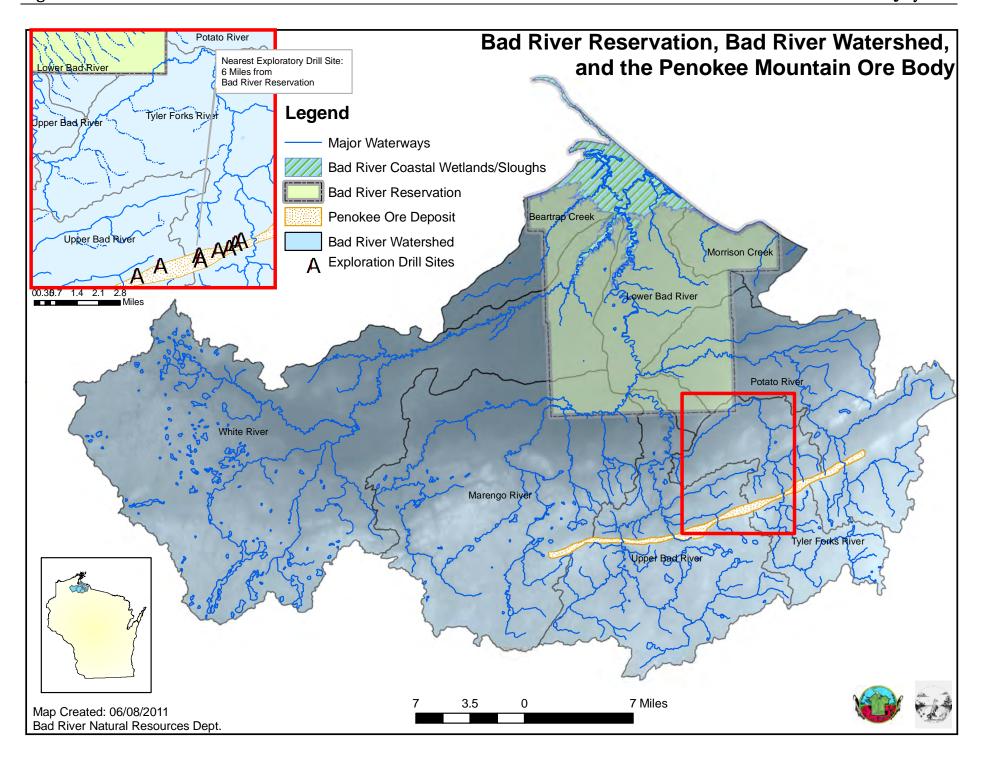
R4800 Timber Ln. Ringle, WI 54471

Name Address

City, State, Zip

Phone





Proposed iron mine would impact many trout streams Penokee Hills Education Project formed

Citizens from Ashland, Bayfield, and Iron counties concerned about a proposed iron ore mine in northern Wisconsin have formed the Penokee Hills Education Project (PHEP)

PHÉP has organized to address the fast-track proposal to begin iron ore (taconite) mining in Northern Wisconsin's Penokee Hills and Bad River watershed.

The Penokee Hills Education Project is sponsored by the Mining Impact Coalition of Wisconsin (MIC), a 501(c)(3) charitable organization based in Ashland. The Mining Impact Coalition's current Board of Directors has members from Ashland, Bayfield, and Iron

Mine reported to be on hold

As this issue of Wisconsin Trout was going to press, it was reported that Gogebic Taconite was putting their proposed mine on hold.

Senator Robert Jauch of Poplar was quoted in the Wisconsin State Journal as saying the company's effort to push a bill through "as quick as they could" was "the wrong way to go about

Jauch and others expect the Legislature to see a revised bill seeking to amend the state's iron mining laws again this fall.

Former WITU State Council Chair Bill Heart of Ashland is a member of PHEP and is an officer of MIC. He is at (715) 682-4703 or wwheart@centurytel.net.

The Penokee Hills and the Bad River watershed are located in Ashland and Iron counties. The hills have been targeted for an iron ore mine by a subsidiary of Floridabased Cline Group.

PHEP will educate the public about the risks to the Bad River watershed and the Penokee Hills should large-scale taconite mining be permitted.

The Bad River watershed is connected to Lake Superior and home to important wild rice beds, thousands of acres of wetlands, quality rivers and trout streams, and hundreds of species of birds and wildlife dependent on this extremely sensitive resource.

The Bad River Watershed is the homeland of the Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Ojibwe.

PHEP will provide a statewide resource for organizations, service clubs, media, and others who are interested in learning more about this region and the concerns that have resulted from the mining proposal. The project is modeled after the highly successful Wolf Watershed Educational Project that helped defeat the proposed Crandon Mine by mobilizing grassroots support for protecting natural and cultural resources threatened by mining.

PHEP is also concerned with legislation designed to enable iron ore mining by granting exemptions from and reducing protections in existing mining regulations. Wisconsin's

mining laws are designed to protect natural resources from all forms of mining including iron ore.

Draft legislation — which was recently withdrawn but which is expected to reappear soon — included revisions to current laws that would allow fast-tracking iron mining per-

Provisions in the bill would have also allowed the mining industry to trump public rights, limit public input, and override local zoning ordi-

The legislation also included sig-

nificant reductions of environmental protections, including dumping mine wastes into wetlands which would threaten streams, lakes, rivers, and drinking water.

PHEP strongly supports Native American sovereignty and is concerned about the lack of consultation by state officials with the tribe about the proposed legislation.

In May, the Bad River tribal government asked the legislators introducing the law to meet with them, but the bill's proponents have not responded.



INFORMING THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE PROPOSED MINE

A group of concerned citizens recently held a Mother Earth Water Walk celebration on the reservation of the Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Ojibwe to inform the public about the proposed mine and its impacts.

Wild Rivers TU members tour some Penokee trout streams

By Bill Heart

Wild Rivers TU officers Dick Berge, Jim Emerson, and I spent a day touring the proposed Penokee Mine site in Ashland and Iron counties in mid June.

We met at the junction of Ballou and Devils creeks in Ashland County and then drove a couple of miles on a woods road to Bull Gus Creek, a small Class III trout stream on the southern slope of the ridge of the proposed mine.

It is rumored that this area would be used for a huge dump for the tailings from the mine. The



tailing pile could be at least 640 acres and from 200 to 300 feet tall. It would be one of the largest "mountains" in the area. The source of Bull Gus is in a very large wetland protected by a dense growth of alders and tamarack.

I have seen a recent aerial photo of the area and it looks like that there are a number of beaver ponds on the creek. We thought about the potential of the huge brook trout that may lurk in these ponds, but decided that it would probably be a full day for that hike, and since we wanted to check out other streams, we saved





that for another day.

We then went back to Devils Creek, walked along a railroad grade, and spread out along the creek that is part of the WDNR's Devils Creek Fisheries Area. The creek is small and brush choked, and we only spent about an hour on it. We did see a few rises and caught five or six small brook trout at the bridge pool.

After a quick lunch, we went to the Tyler Forks River where it flows under State Hwy. 77. We split up and fished for maybe an hour. It was the first time for both Jim and Dick on the Tyler Forks, and they were both very impressed.

Dick had not been in the area for many years, and he agrees that TU needs to do as much as we can to protect the rivers and wetlands in this wild, beautiful area from being devastated by the proposed iron mine.

We all caught fish, maybe a dozen, with three or four in the 10-inch range and one nice 13-inch beauty (see photo). We will continue to work to protect these beautiful trout streams.

TYLER FORKS BEAUTY AND BOUNTY

Many a photo has been taken through the years of this old railroad bridge over the Tyler Forks River where it crosses State Highway 77 in Iron County just east of the proposed mine site (bottom). Tyler Forks River (top) is one of several brook trout streams that are near or directly cross the path of the proposed mine. It is not clear how Gogebic Taconite would mitigate damage to these outstanding and exceptional waterways.





ALDO LEOPOLD TU'S BEAR CREEK PROJECT BRINGS VOLUNTEERS FROM MANY CHAPTERS TO SAUK COUNTY

About 40 volunteers from Aldo Leopold TU, Southeastern WI TU, Southern WI TU, and Illinois' Lee Wulff TU assembled 50 lunker structures along Bear Creek

in southern Sauk Co. on June 11. Aldo Leopold TU hopes to make Bear Creek a multi-year restoration effort.

Aldo Leopold Chapter

In May we learned that our **Bear Creek** project has been awarded \$40,000 through the **US Fish & Wildlife Service's National Fish Habitat Action Plan**. With this award, the 2011 portion of the project is fully funded! The contractor plans to start work on the site in late July, with the project expected to take a few weeks to complete.

We are now working on finding funding for the 2012 portion of the project. We have submitted a request for a \$50,000 **River Management Grant** from the **DNR**. By the time you read this, we'll know if we have received the grant.

On June 11 a major contingent from SEWTU came to the Bear Creek project site for a joint lunker building day. SEWTU has a trailer full of all the tools and supplies needed to construct the lunkers, and they brought a team of hard-working, energetic folks. All told, around 40 volunteers from SEWTU, ALC-TU, SWTU, as well as folks from the Lee Wulff Chapter from Illinois cut, nailed, and drilled away the morning and early afternoon. In about four hours we constructed 50 lunkers, enough for the entire 2011 project. We can't thank SEWTU enough for all of their help. We literally couldn't have done it without you. After the hard work was over there were brats to be had, with brownies for dessert. Todd Hanson supplied some excellent homemade root beer to round out the meal.

On April 23 we had a workday on **Dell Creek** just downstream of the South Ave. bridge. About 16 folks split up into work teams to cut back brush and treat the stumps to help keep the stream banks clear. Dell has been improving as a fishery for a number of years now thanks to **Sauk County LCD** and **DNR** efforts to improve water quality and habitat. Its great to be a small part of those efforts.

A proposed high-capacity well in Columbia County posed an odd concern for nearby Lodi Spring Creek. Instead of de-watering the creek, the well might have increased streamflow. The proposal was to pump groundwater out of the Crystal/Mud/Fish Lake watershed into **Lodi Marsh**, the headwaters of Lodi Spring Creek. The idea behind the proposal was that lowering groundwater levels in the lake's basin could help alleviate flooding near the lakes. Cold, clean groundwater is usually a good thing for a trout stream, but there would have been unknown biological effects on the marsh and trout stream from all that extra water. Given the concerns for increased downstream flooding and the possibility of setting a really bad precedent, opposition to the well proposal was strong. The proposal was withdrawn, and the well appears to be a dead idea, but we'll keep an eye on it.

—Mike Barniskis

Antigo Chapter

On June 4 the Antigo Chapter held our annual Kid's Fishing Day at the **Antigo City Park**. The weather was great. I think we may have had our largest crowd of kids and parents. The kids caught over 700 brook and rainbow trout from the fishing tank. Each kid had the chance to get a prize from the fish pond, and we served over 300 ham-

burgers and 300 hotdogs to all. A great thank you to our area DNR area fish manager **Dave Seibel** and his daughter for running the casting contest for the day.

The largest fish caught was a 16" rainbow trout by **Anna Haupt**. **Pete Curran's Taxidermy** will mount the monster for free.

We also gave away a girl's and boy's bike at the end of the day. We still think that there is no better way to get kids and their parents interested in fishing than events like this.

In April the chapter was involved in helping a natural resources student at **UW-Stevens Point** with their education. Our chapter was again involved with the other **NE region** chapters in funding a summer habit program.

We also helped funding beaver control in the **Nicolet National Forest**.

We are also funding the cost of fuel for the DNR dredge for their upcoming work on Carberger Springs.

We have a project set up this summer to repaint signs at three previous habit improvement projects that were done on the East Branch of the Eau Claire River.

—Scott Henricks

Central Wisconsin Chapter

Our chapter have been very busy. An important priority for us was to upgrade our website to be more user- and administrator-friendly. We feel this was accomplished. **Brian Tesch** did the layout, design, and the initial training. We now have six people trained to be administrators for the website.

One of the upgrades allows everyone who goes on the website the opportunity to interact with blogs and forums. This upgrade also makes it easier to maintain. There is a fly tying section with patterns, resources and how-to videos, a section on our River Keepers, a section for our workdays, a media section, plus many more informative areas.

In March we held our chapter elections. New board members include **Dave Johnson** and **Jeff Wegand**. New officers are:

Linn Beck — President, Bob Smaglik — Vice President

David Seligman — Secretary, and **Mike Schaefers** — Treasurer.

April brought us such wonderful weather, but we still accomplished a few things between the snow flakes.

April 18 found us at our annual Casting Clinic held at Marble Park in Winneconne. Russ Bouck was the facilitator, and the event was attended by 38 participants and members.

April 26 was the organizational meeting for our CWTU River Keepers, with coordinators **Jim Murphy** and **John Gremmer** presenting the program. CWTU River Keepers is the name adopted by our water monitoring group. We now have 17 active teams with over 100 members and citizens who are monitoring 20 sites on various streams and rivers in our area.

May was a little kinder in the weather department. On May 14, the **DNR** and some of our members participated in a **Boy Scout Jamboree** fun day on the **Mecan River**. This event was attended by 140 scouts broken down into morning and afternoon groups. There were four stations set for the scouts. There were fly tying, fly fishing, fly casting, water monitoring, and a



habitat stations. Scouts took turns going thru all of the stations and then were treated to a stream shocking session. A big thank you goes out to Chris Northway, Jim Murphy, Ira Giese, Dave Johnson, Jerry Smet, Mike Niemczk, along with Ted Johnson, Shawn Sullivan, and Scott Bunde of the DNR for taking time out of their schedules to do this.

May 15 found our River Keepers at a training session for our new monitoring members on the **Waupaca River** at **Riverside Park** in **Waupaca**. This event was attended by over 30 new members. They learned about the monitoring kits, collecting samples of water and invertebrates, and the reasons behind the monitoring.

Our first workday session was May 21 on the **Mecan River**. This was our joint workday with **Elliot Donnelley TU** from **Chicago**. Attendance for this year was 38 workers, including members of **CWTU**, **ED-**

TU, SEWTU, and Wisconsin River Valley TU along with the DNR. We had Scott Bunde from the DNR do a stream shocking on the completed bank covers from last year's workdays, and what a great surprise to see the results of all the hard work. Fish sizes had increased 30-40 percent over the previous shocking from the year before, with numbers also being up.

Brushing and construction of bank covers were tasks for the day. We completed our final structure from last year, and it is now ready for final landscaping. There were two crews that jetted in 46 pilings, and we were able to cover one section of our new structure with planking. A third crew worked on a couple of areas with brushing. Please check out our website for directions and details on upcoming workdays, and please join us if you

—Linn Beck

Coulee Region Chapter

Fishing has been GREAT in the Coulee Region, and CRTU has been busy putting the fishing touches on the first annual Coon Creek Trout Fest! Please see www.cooncreektroutfest.com for details and please consider volunteering for a shift to help out the day of the event. To volunteer, contact at 8088rauch@charter.net or (608) 787-1883.

In addition to the festival planning, we finished our spring meeting schedule with an Eric Rauch field trip meeting to the USGS Fisheries Science Center on French Island in La Crosse. The tour was guided by Fisheries Biologist Randy Hines. Randy was able to take us thorough the entire facility and explain to us how the center in La Crosse concentrates on fish health and invasive for

the entire Midwest. The group was able to view studies in action concentrating on many aspects of fresh water health from zebra muscles to Asian carp. The invitation for other TU chapters or youth groups to make the tour is always open if interested.

Coulee TU is also working on a brushing project on Mormon Coulee Creek in La Crosse County. This section of stream had habitat improvements done in the 90s and now needs some maintenance to keep the brush down.

CRTU is also keeping a close eye on the high-capacity well proposal on **Copper Creek**, and we have contacted local groups offering assistance in changing zoning descriptions for the area.

—Eric Rauch

Fox Valley Chapter

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

On March 19 we held the 10th annual Cabin Fever Day fund-raising event. The event funds our chapter programs for the next year. The beautiful cane rod donated by Scott Grady was won by Mark Heifner. We are currently planning for CFD 2012 to be held on January 28, 2012.

Our April general membership meeting was an informative Power-Point by Ira Giese from the Central WI Chapter about fly fishing for bluegills. He shared some great tips and suggestions for flies and poppers to catch these abundant fish.

The April meeting was also election night and the following individuals were elected:

Secretary — Rich Erickson and

Treasurer — Greg Haasl.

Two new board members were also elected. Al Johnson and Duane Velie replace Bob Doornbus and Greg Swanson who FVTU thanks for their contributions to the chapter. At the present time, the chapter's president and vice president positions are vacant.

April 9 was our first habitat day of this year, and we had a beautiful spring day for working to reinforce and rebuild bank structures on **Davis Creek. Elward Engle** was again

the leader of the crew. Elward provided background information about the purchase of the property and pointed out stretches of the creek where bank structures had been placed in prior years.

April 30 was a cool and rather damp day, but the chapter's 33rd **Annual Fishing Day for People with** Disabilities at the Main Creek Farm was still a successful day. The weather kept some of the fisher people in the lodge, but the fish were very cooperative for those who spent time fishing from shore. A special thank-you goes to the Killoren Family for allowing FVTU to use their pond and lodge. Jim Cuhel and Rich Erickson organized the day, and other chapter members helped out with baiting hooks, netting fish, and cleaning trout. A big thank-you to Beth Spencer and her group of friends who did the cooking of the burgers/brats and handled the KP duties.

Our May 14 habitat day was the start of our summer restoration work on the **South Branch of The Little Wolf River**. Rock was placed on the structures that were placed in the stream last summer. **Jim Hlaban** has also arranged to have additional habitat evenings this summer, so members who are not able to attend the weekend events can help out during the week. The first evening event was held on June 8, and that group continued the work started in



BOY SCOUTS CHECK OUT A MECAN RIVER TROUT

Central WI TU members helped out at a district Boy Scout camporee near Wautoma on May 14. The WDNR electrofished a bank cover that was installed recently on the Mecan River near Hwy. 21.

May. We have habitat days scheduled on the second Saturday of each month through the month of September. Please check our website for information.

On June 4 chapter members Gordy Braun, Al Johnson, Joe Bach, Tom Lager, Jim Cuhel, Duane Velie, and Rich Erickson assisted the Heckrodt Nature Center with a Kids Fishing Day at Jefferson Park in Menasha. Many young people tied their first fly and caught their first fish on a beautiful Saturday morning. A young fisherman, Micah Nichols, won the drawing for the L. L. Bean Fly Rod/ Reel combo that FVTU offered as a prize.

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

—Rich Erickson

Frank Hornberg Chapter

The Frank Hornberg Chapter held its annual **Fly Fishing School** Friday through Sunday, May 20-22, at the **Riverside Bible Camp** south of **Amherst** on the **Tomorrow River**. The instructional schedule was modified somewhat on Saturday by the threat of rain. By contrast, the weather on Sunday was perfect for casting practice and personalized fishing expeditions. Twenty-two

chapter members and spouses assisted with registration, instruction, food preparation, clean-up, and purchasing.

Special thanks go to **Stu Nelson** for coordinating the teaching materials, **Dan Boggs** for lead casting instruction, and **Paul and Laureta Peck** for preparation of a delicious Saturday dinner.

Continued on p. 12



COULEE TU GETS AN UPDATE ON AQUATIC INVASIVES

Randy Hines of the US Geological Survey in La Crosse holds an unwelcome visitor to the Midwest — a baby asian carp. Hines gave Coulee Region TU a tour of the agency's La Crosse facility where some invasive species are raised in order to learn how to better control them.





WHO TOOK ALL THE WATER?

No, a trout stream wasn't diverted for this picture. This is a demonstration trout stream bank cover located at the Brown County Reforestation Camp north of Green Bay. GBTU members recently repaired the structure.

Continued from p. 11

The **Point Brewing Company** contributed a quarter barrel of root beer.

We have scheduled a busy summer of stream work on the **Tomorrow River**. The first workday on April 23 had to be cancelled because of high water in the river. But rain and the threat of thunderstorms did not stop chapter members from jetting in posts in preparation for the placement of Christmas trees on the first work evening on May 12.

Many hours of work are still required to complete the **WDNR** rehabilitation project on the **Bob Lea** section of the river. This is a major undertaking, and the Hornberg

Chapter welcomes members of other chapters to assist us with this project.

The chapter sees the adoption of revised by-laws as an opportunity to strengthen and modernize our organizational structure. We will be forming new subcommittees to make publicity, the recruitment of new members, and the operation of the fly fishing school more efficient. Chapter member Heidi Oberstadt will create a completely new, more attractive website for the chapter. Also, we have tentative plans for a social fishing day to include spouses and families. It will be an exciting summer, filled with work and play. —John Vollrath

Green Bay Chapter

The Green Bay Chapter is in the midst of a busy summer of activities that will benefit our coldwater resources and enhance our image in the community.

We began these efforts on April 28 when 10 TU members showed up at the **Reforestation Camp** (the NEW Zoo) to help stock 250 brown trout for kids to catch along the **Habitat Education Walking Trail** along **Haller's Creek**. This was an excellent turnout with short notice, and the work did not take very long to finish. Trout were provided by the **DNR hatchery** in **Lakewood**.

Next up was the annual rehabilitation day on our Walk Through Educational Trout Stream at the Brown County Reforestation Day. While doing this work, we discovered that one of the structures was in dire need of total rebuilding. The structure was built about 15 years ago, and during our work it was apparent that age had taken its toll on

it. So a few dedicated members got together on a weekday and rebuilt the structure. At the start it did not look promising due to some cemented-in posts, but with a little ingenuity, we got the job done.

Looking ahead to the rest of the summer, we are going to partner with the Oconto River and Marinette chapters in working on area streams in partnership with the US Forest Service and the DNR. Streams to be worked on include the 1st South Branch of the Oconto, McCaslin Brook, and Round Creek.

We are also sponsoring several students to a conservation camp in **Marinette County**.

Finally, we are again teaming up with the Brown County Social Services and the Green Bay Exchange Club to stage the annual Kid's Fishing Day at the Izaak Walton League ponds in Bellevue.

—Gary Stoychoff

Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter

Our 2011 annual banquet was Friday, May 6, at the **Dodger Bowl** in **Dodgeville**. We had family-oriented prizes, raffles, and fun. The grand raffle prize was a \$500 **Cabela's** gift certificate. We have done very well as far as the financial part, although we were missing a number of members who are normally there.

The 2011 stream project is about 1.3 miles of **Six Mile Branch**. Six Mile Branch runs into the **Blue River** after **Big Spring** runs into Six Mile Branch. These streams are a few miles WNW of **Highland**. Work should start in a couple weeks and lunker structures have already been completed as there were only about

a dozen needed. Thanks to all those who did the building. Grants have already been awarded to the project for a lot of the roughly \$134,000 cost.

The Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter awarded grants to three area schools in May. Teachers and schools receiving awards for environmental projects are:

- Jeff Crase, Belmont Community Schools, Belmont,
- Jane Laufenberg and Amy Kratochvill, St. Clement School, Lancaster, and
- Tara Hutchcroft, School District of Potosi, Potosi.

In the past eight years, our chapter has provided over \$14,000 in grants to public schools in support of conservation education. This includes the purchase of educational materials and scientific data collection equipment, field project sup-

port, the study of local streams and rivers, the sampling of water quality, the observation of aquatic animals, visiting the River Museum, studying watersheds and erosion, as well as reading the inspiring words of **Aldo Leopold**.

The following schools have been recipients of one or more of these special grants since 2004:

Platteville High School, Iowa-Grant Elementary School, Benton Middle School, St. Mary's School-Platteville, School District of Potosi, Barneveld School District, Cassville High School, Mineral Point High School, St. Joseph's Catholic School-Hazel Green, Barneveld School, Highland Middle School, Holy Ghost School-Dickeyville, Iowa Grant Middle School, Pecatonica Middle School, and Winskill Elementary in Lancaster.

—Brian Larson

Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter

The chapter received \$40,000 from the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP) for the Pine Creek project. We hope to complete this project by summer's end.

We also plan to finish the seeding and mulching work on Parker Creek (a tributary to the Kinnickinnic River). Board member Randy Arnold has been coordinating efforts with the DNR.

The board also authorized \$700 to help fund a **UW-River Falls** macro-invertebrate study on the **Kinnickinnic River**.

The chapter led casting instruction on **Earth Day** at the **Freedom Center** in **Prescott**. This is a nature center that coordinates efforts with local conservation entities including the **National Park Service**. We are looking to doing another fly casting clinic at the **Kinnickinnic State Park** on June 18 for kid's day.

Our Spring Appeal fundraiser was once again very successful, and it will help provide the seed money needed for future projects.

Our chapter by-laws were modified thanks to **Gary Horvath** and passed by the chapter. They have also been submitted to the State Council.

Have a good summer fishing everyone.

-Kyle Amundson

Lakeshore Chapter

Lakeshore TU held its 28 annual **Conservation Banquet** on March 26. The banquet made a profit of \$6,278 which will be used to support stream project work, educational activities, and other conservation activities. The banquet was co-chaired by Jeff **Preiss** and **Jeff Yax**. Lakeshore TU would like to thank all of the businesses and chapter members who made contributions toward making the banquet a success. Chapter member Bill Rogers was presented the Silver Trout award at the banquet for all of the time he has donated to chapter activities.

Also, in March, we completed two days of teaching fly tying and fly casting to the **Reel E'M in Club** at **Longfellow Elementary School** in **Sheboygan**. This has become a yearly event for us at Lakeshore TU. Members **Dave and Patti Zerger** supervise this club as well as a **Trout in the Classroom** program. They also find numerous other conservation-oriented activities for the club members to partake in.

Our chapter has had two work-days and a work week this spring. On April 2, 12 Lakeshore TU members spent the day working on the **Onion River**. The day was spent removing trees and other debris that had fallen into the river over the winter. We also did some brushing along the river where it was encroaching on the stream.

On April 24, three members worked at the **Fisherman's Park** in **Manitowoc Rapids**. We had planned on finishing the walking path we had started last fall, but ended up spending the day removing trees that had fallen over the path due to heavy

snow. We will finish the walking path in the near future.

After spending the last two years without a fish manager and being frustrated with the **DNR** bureaucracy in helping us continue our work on the **Onion River**, we finally have a new fish manager. His name is **Travis Motl**, and he has done a great job in getting permits, a DNR work crew, and equipment together for a work week on the Onion River.

Our work week took place from May 31-June 3 and it went great. Beside the DNR crew, we had eight or nine TU members each day, plus the Michels Corp. out of Brownsville which donated the use of an excavator and a skidster along with operators and laborers. This made the work go very fast and smooth. With two excavators and two skidsters, we installed 24 lunker structures at five sites as well as installing several weirs and placing numerous large rocks in the river. The banks were sloped, seeded, and mulched each day.

The work was finished ahead of schedule, and the improvements greatly enhance the river. Besides **Travis Motl**, we need to thank **Larry Doebert**, our stream project chair, for his work in organizing and supervising the project.

Our May meeting is always our annual election meeting. This year, for the first time in several years, we have some new officers. Officers elected were:

President — Gordy Martin, Vice President — Wayne Trupke,

Secretary — **Jeff Yax**, and Treasurer — **Jeff Preiss**.

Elected to the board of directors



were **Larry Doebert, Jerry Bau-** —Wayne Trupke **man**, and **Dave Zerger**.

Northwoods Chapter

Saturday, July 23 will be our 18th Annual Fly Fishing Youth Conclave. It will once again be at the Cedric A. Vig Outdoor Classroom in Rhinelander. Kids form 10-16 years of age are welcome. They will learn how to tie flies, cast a fly rod, tie knots used for fishing, and learn how to distinguish bugs for what fly to use when out on the water. Lunch is provided. Attendance is limited, so please call

Terry Cummings at (715) 362-2187 or tcmuddler@charter.net.

On Saturday, August 13, we will have a workday on the **Deerskin River**. Work starts at 8 a.m., with lunch at Noon and then a couple more hours of work. Call **Josh Kunzman** for questions at (715) 482-

—Hannah Hansen

Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter

Our spring series of monthly meetings wrapped up in May, and we'll be meeting informally on the stream throughout the summer months. We'll resume our formal all-chapter meetings on Tuesday, Sept. 27 at the Thunder Bay Grille, which is located at N14W24130 Tower Place in Pewaukee (behind the Mobile station, just north of County Highway J's intersection with I-94). Dinner (optional) at 6:00, meet and greet at 7:00, meeting to start at 7:15. Our meetings are open to the public and run monthly from Sept. thru May.

Our April Meeting featured Mat Wagner, owner of the Driftless Angler Fly Shop in Viroqua. Mat's presentation featured new techniques on how to add subtle motion to your flies while fishing. We also elected new officers, all of whom will serve two-year terms:

Mike Kuhr — President, Stan Strelka — Vice President,

Ivan Nohavica — Treasurer, and

Bob Jozwowski — Secretary.

We would like to extend our gratitude to the outgoing officers, Henry Koltz, Todd Durian, and Chris Weber for their service to our chapter and their dedication to our coldwater resources. We'd also like to thank Ivan for his past and ongoing service as chapter treasurer. No doubt, the bar has been set pretty high

Our May Meeting featured our 2nd Annual Member Travelogues. Attendees were treated to presentations of our members' fishing adventures. Sharing these stories has become our way of kicking off the summer. Highlights included Rich **Vetrano** on Fishing the **White River** in Arkansas, Rod Den Boer on Fly Fishing Brazil, and Henry Koltz on fishing the West Fork of the West (Cutthroat-a-Thon 2010). Then Jim Wierzba shed some light on what Henry plans to do with his free time now that he is no longer president (a future career in writing perhaps?). After a fair amount of ribbing, the chapter presented Henry with a banner in recognition of his work on behalf of SEWTU.

On April 16, we took part in the annual Spring River Cleanup. John Knitter, our site captain, arranged for us to work on the Menomonee River this year to show our commitment to the Menomonee River concrete removal project. This project will greatly increase fish passage in the river and has the potential to create a first class urban fishery. Despite the wet weather, a good crew turned out to pick up trash in and around the river near Miller Park. Thanks to all who participated.

On May 21, SEWTU returned to Paradise Springs Creek near Eagle to help the DNR and Gary Borger TU (Illinois) with a bank stabilization project. Volunteers installed bio-logs, raked elodea (aquatic invasive) from the stream, and assisted the DNR with staking out a future project on the Scuppernong River. This represents the conclusion of our work on Paradise Springs Creek in which nearly a half mile of a ditched stream channel has been restored to meanders and brook trout habitat. As always, the workday concluded with SEWTU's signature brat fry.

On June 11, SEWTU returned to the **Driftless Area** to assist **Aldo Leopold TU** with their **Bear Creek** project in **Sauk County**. Volunteers built lunker structures which will be installed later this summer. We surrounded this workday with our Chapter Outing at the **West Fork Sports Club** in **Avalanche**. A weekend of fishing, campfires, restoration, shared stories, and new friends...it just doesn't get any better than that!

Future workdays include:

- July 16 at Rosenow Creek in Oconomowoc,
- August 20 on the Mecan River with CWTU, and
- Sept. 17 at Van Slyke Creek in Fontana with Blackhawk TU.

We'll work from 9 am until Noon and then enjoy a brat fry lunch. For the latest details, check www.sewtu.org or join our e-mail list by sending a request to sustain@sewtu.org.

We have been very active in youth outdoor events as well. We co-hosted the annual **Youth Fishing Day** at **Sandy Knoll Park** in **West Bend** on April 16. Nearly 200 youngsters turned out to enjoy a day of fishing. Thanks to **Chris Weber** for helping set up the event and all the volunteers for making it a success.

SEWTU members Al Dalphonso, Spencer Gore, Don Price, and others made the trip to Beaver Dam on May 19 and 20 to tie flies with kids at the Youth Outdoor Education Expo. SEWTU volunteers will also lend a helping hand at the Kid's Fishing Day at Cabela's in Richfield on June 18.

On Tuesday, July 26, we'll hold our annual Casting Clinic in Greenfield Park from 5:30 until dusk. This is a great opportunity for those who would like to try fly casting and a chance for the rest of us to brush up on our skills. Experienced casters Larry Wirth, Erik Helm, and others will be on hand to instruct. SEWTU leaders Chuck "Wagon" Beeler, Stan Strelka, and Jay Zawerschnik will make sure there is plenty of food to go around.

We're partnering with the **Orvis Store** in **Milwaukee** this summer to



Lakeshore TU begins new habitat projects on the Onion River

The Lakeshore Chapter of TU is working with the WDNR and local contracting company Michels Corp. on a new group of habitat projects on the Onion River in Sheboygan County.

The 100-square-mile Onion R. watershed has undergone sustained reclamation and restoration efforts since the late 1990s to help trout and other wildlife. Many of these efforts have been reported in *Wisconsin Trout*.

Michels is preparing five to six sites along the river for the installation of lunker structures.

"We are very pleased to be underway on this project, and we're excited about the opportunity to work with Trout Unlimited and the DNR to restore one of the great watersheds in the state," said Tim Michels, vice president of Michels Corp. "These efforts are part of our continuing commitment to environmental sustainability, and we hope to continue capitalizing opportunities to protect and restore natural wonders across our great state."

The Onion River is the only Class I trout stream in southern Wisconsin. It once saw its natural trout population almost vanish. Headwater alterations caused the narrow, cold stream to grow wider and warmer which, combined with nearby agricultural practices, made it almost impossible for trout to inhabit the river.

Beginning in the late 90s, Lakeshore TU and other environmental groups, with the support of local businessman Terry Kohler and the Sheboygan County Land and Water Department, began purchasing areas around the Onion to allow restoration efforts to take place. These efforts were aided by a restoration plan developed by the DNR.

While Onion R. trout have begun to make a comeback, population levels are still only at approximately 10 per 100 feet of stream — well below the original levels prior to environmental changes.

help with their Fly Fishing 101 classes. The three-hour sessions are an effort to make fly fishing easy, fun, and accessible. As an added bonus, anyone who takes the class receives a one-year membership to TU. This program is occurring at many Orvis stores across the country this summer, and it has the potential to bring in thousands of new TU members nationwide. Over 125 people have already registered for the classes in Milwaukee!

Our **Project Healing Waters** (PHW) program participants took some time this spring to build their own fly rods. Thanks to volunteers **Al Dalphonso, Larry Clowry, Rick Frye**, and others for leading the rod building classes. Now we're back to fly tying with **Al and Glen Winston** leading our morning group. **Mike Kuhr** and **George Batcha** are leading the evening classes.

Our PHW steelhead outing had to be canceled due to high water in March. We did hold a successful outing on May 2 at **Greenfield Park** in **Milwaukee**. Veterans managed to catch a few rainbow trout that were stocked in the lagoon as part of the

urban fishing program. Future outings are planned for:

- June 27 at Wern Valley Sportsman's Club,
- July 25 at Menomonee Park, and
- August 22 at Rushing Waters Trout Farm.

Thank you to all the volunteer fly fishing mentors who make these outings possible.

SEWTU would like to thank Josh Radlein for volunteering to chair our membership committee. Josh will also be taking on the management of our e-mail contact list (no small task) and updating our website. If you would like to receive SEWTU e-mail alerts or have ideas for improving our website, contact us at sustain@sewtu.org.

Thanks for all you do, have a great summer, and we'll see you on the river!

—Mike Kuhr

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Consider Proper Release



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



Continued from p. 13

Southern Wisconsin Chapter

The first half of 2011 was busy and successful for SWTU!

SWTU has deepened its commitment to support stream improvements on Black Earth Creek (BEC) as part of a major project to maintain and develop recreational opportunities for Lake Marion and associated Village of Mazomanie parklands. Our board of directors has approved a commitment of \$10,000 for the project, including \$1,700 taken from the chapter's endowment fund.

The SWTU-supported portion of the BEC project — significantly expanding stream work associated with Mazomanie's abandonment of the last dam on BEC — will improve fish habitat along the BEC corridor and extend trout waters by over one mile. Other aspects of the Mazo-BEC project include improved wildlife habitats, replacement of BEC as a source of water for Lake Marion, restoration and development of wetlands, improvement of floodplain functions, and the development of recreational trails. The plan would also develop the Eva Wolf Conservancy, an 8.6acre parcel donated to the Village by the Wolf family.

Chapter members Bob Selk and Tom Krauskopf are leading the Mazo-BEC stream restoration effort for SWTU. Our chapter joins

funding by the Village and Town of Mazomanie, Wolf Run Association, **DNR**, and federal agencies. Bob and Tom took a lead role in securing a grant of \$250,000 to support the project through the Dane County Partners for Recreation and Conservation Program (subject to final approval by the **Dane County Board**). This is an exciting and large-scale project that we'll be sharing much more information on in the coming years!

You are invited to eat some fantastic food, share great conversation, and learn more about this project at our annual Streamside **Picnic.** It will be held on Saturday, July 16 in Mazomanie. We'll be treated to a stream shocking demonstration and a tour of the major environmental restoration project. Check our online calendar to learn more...we'd love to see you there!

Also this past spring, we held our annual Meicher Madness Auction, raiding over \$3,000 for to protect our coldwater resource. Many thanks to all who donated items and bid generously. Thanks, too, to our dynamic auctioneering duo of Topf Wells and Mark Maffitt.

We also took to the streams with a large workday party on April 30! The event spanned four sites and included posting numerous invasive species signs. We had over 50 SW-

TU members and a half dozen studoing fabulous work, partnering with other groups and making a real difference in the life and health of our local streams. Many thanks to all who helped out, especially Dennis Presser, our workday chair, for putting it all together.

Our April chapter meeting brought change to our chapter leadership. Frank Kosmach ended his successful term as president. Our new officers include:

> President — Jordan Konisky (who has been serving on our board), and

Secretary — Tim Steines.

We have three new board members in Kelly Belshaw, Terry Becker, and Chris Risbrudt. Additionally, Dave Sanders was elected as our chapter's delegate to the State Council.

It was another extremely successful collaboration with the Malcolm Shabazz High School's Project Green Teen program. Chapter members helped these students get to know our coldwater resource by assisting with fly tying, casting, and more. The chapter also provides rod/reel combos for the students to use that they can purchase at a discount if they choose. All of this leads up to a week of fishing and project work at the Avalanche campground in May, at which many chapter members assist and instruct. Once again, we owe a great thanks to **John Gribb** who led this large, successful educational initiative!

Please stop by www.swtu.org for more news about our chapter and to check out our calendar of events.

—Drew Kasel

Wild Rivers Chapter

The 12th Annual Kids' Fishing Day was held on June 4 at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center. There were 348 kids who enjoyed the fishing experience. Trout Unlimited members helping were Bob Stanley, Jim Emerson, Roger Gustafson, Metro Maznio, Don Sutliff, and Dick Berge.

Meanwhile, on the same day kids were also fishing at the Les Voight Hatchery in Bayfield. In what has come to be known as the unofficial start to summer in the very northernmost part of Wisconsin, several hundred kids, parents, grandparents, and volunteers came to the Bayfield Hatchery to teach and learn about fish. Kids Day activities include casting, fly tying, hatchery tours, games, and knots. But the goal is always to attend enough classes to qualify for fishing in the hatchery ponds. These aren't ordinary ponds, but large ponds with very large fish from Lake Superior.

After kids have taken their casting and tying and other preliminaries, they are allowed to cast for the giant rainbow and brown trout. splake, and salmon that sometimes reach 30 inches. There are real battles waged between the hungry beasts and the kids who, in some cases, are not much bigger than the fish. After lots of splashing and excitement, the fish are released and the kids go on to their hot dogs and pop. Thanks to Rolland Kiel and Chuck Campbell for the fly tying lessons, and to Chris Higgins for the casting lessons.

On April 29 Jim Emerson, Gary Bernhart, and Dick Berge drove to Tomahawk to pick up 2,000 trees our chapter purchased for \$1,000. The trees were planted a few days later in the Whittlesey Wildlife Refuge to help stabilize the watershed. Helping Vic's Tree Service were Dan Bloomquist and Dick Berge.

Road cleanup on Highway H south of Iron River took place on

May 14. Roger Gustafson headed up the group of TU volunteers.

An outdoor education class from Washburn High School enjoyed fly tying and fishing on May 20 with TU members Jim Emerson, Chuck Campbell, Rolland Kiel, and Don **Sutliff.** This is an annual event with Ms. Collins' class.

Other summer projects in the works include the Little Sioux River and assisting with a woody debris project on Whittlesey Creek.

A huge concern for our chapter is the threat that the iron mine in the Penokee Hills presents to streams and groundwater there. Member Bill Heart keeps us informed on what is going on. Read his article elsewhere in this issue.

Our annual Expo and Auction was held in early April at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center near Ashland. Roger LaPenter spoke about fishing on Chequamegon Bay and Damian Wilmot shared his experiences fishing the Brule River. Several agencies were present to discuss their activities in the area.

The auction featured new auctioneers, including Karl Kaufman, Keith Behn, Rolland Kiel, and Dick Berge. This untested group was able to draw \$5,471.50 from a willing audience. Guided fishing trips, pies, and lots of flies were some of the sought-after items. The total income from the six-hour event was \$6,580 which will be used for local habitat

Other club donations include:

- \$1,000 to the White River Acquisition Fund,
- \$1,000 to **Bayfield Cty. Commit**tee for Responsible Land Use,
- \$1,000 to the **TUDARE** program,
- \$250 for **Kids' Fishing Day**.

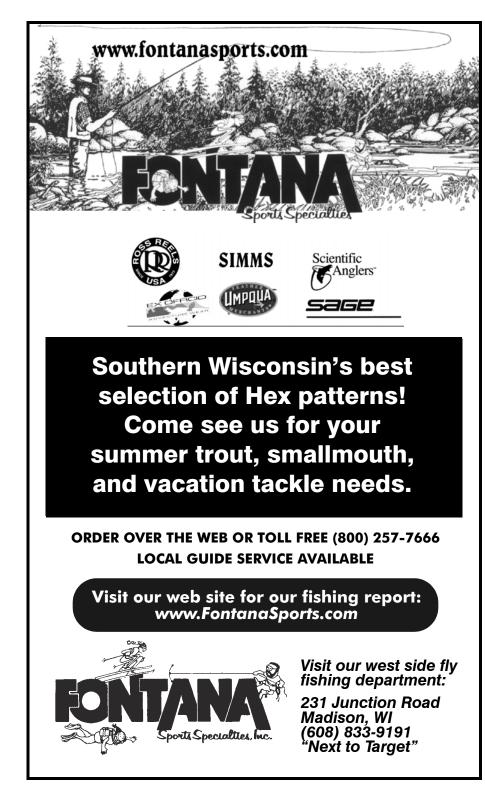
Thanks to member Gary Bernhart, we now have a chapter website. Check out our newsletter and other Wild Rivers news at www.wisconsintu.org/wildrivers.

—Dick Berge

Wisconsin River Valley Chapter

Hello all from the WRVTU Chapter. Hope you are all getting out and enjoying some fishing now that summer is in full swing. With summer here, our chapter quiets down so we can all get some of our own fishing in, enjoy trips with family, and, for the lucky ones, make trips out west (eh, hem, John Meachen and Montana).

But that doesn't mean we had a quiet and non-productive spring. We had our 2011 Annual Banquet at Memories Ballroom in Marathon on Saturday April 9. This is our one and only fund-raising event for the year. Attendance was down from years past, and we feel the economy downturn has finally caught up to us. The event was still a success, and





we want to thank Linda Lehman. John Meachen, Bob Pils, Gene Koshak, Al Hauber, Henry Kanemoto, Brian Marnholz, and Doug Brown for helping with the event. A special thanks to Brian Marnholz who is a big reason for the success of this event. Thanks also to Gene Koshak, who has been instrumental in getting raffle items and securing prizes from various companies over all these years.

On May 19-20, Linda Lehman (our boss, or as we refer to her, czarina) attended the Youth Outdoor Education Expo in Beaver Dam. Over 3,500 kids came to the **Dodge** County Fairgrounds to learn about outdoor sporting activities.

The following is from Linda, "The most disappointing part of volunteering for this event is knowing that we do not have enough hands to help all the kids that come into the fly fishing tent to help them tie

their first fly or to show them how to cast a fly rod. If you are a fly tyer or can demonstrate casting or can help out in other areas of the Expo, please contact Bob Haase. In the two days of this year's Expo, over 800 kids tied flies." (See the separate story in this issue on one member's experience at the Expo.)

Czarina Lehman was not done yet, attending a workday on the **Me**can River on May 21, tackling the task of invasive removal and placing bank structures, all in the rain. Kudos to you, Linda! Your 50 cent rain slicker died in a most noble cause.

Seems that our president has more energy than most, because on June 4 she headed over to the Kiwanis Club Kids Day here in Wausau to help kids tie flies. She helped two kids as young as five years old, as well as a young boy from London, UK. She also came back with a fun story of young Jordan. Jordan was celebrating his 7th birthday this June, and the pictures she saw were from a salmon fishing trip. Jordan caught four big fish. She asked if he worked out so he had the strength to reel in the big fish.

"No," he said.

"How are you able to land those fish?" Linda asked.

He looked at her as though she asked the most bizarre question and said, "I'm almost seven!"

This summer our chapter has no stream work projects on the docket. We will review past years' projects on the **Plover R.** as well explore the idea of tackling a new river.

Our monthly meetings will start back up in September. Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of each month at Gander Mountain in Mosinee. Business meetings start at 6 p.m. —Doug Brown

Wolf River Chapter

In May we started our third year of water testing on feeders of the Wolf River. This testing will continue until September.

Upper Ninemile Creek is now beaver- and dam-free. A trip for late June is currently being planned to explore parts of the lower section for any remaining beaver activity.

The chapter is selling fund-rais-

ing raffle tickets. We also had prints made of original drawings by Cap Buettner of hatches on the Wolf

The prints are being sold for \$20 apiece. Anyone interested in either raffle tickets or a print can contact **Tim Waters** at (920) 751-0654 or MuddyWaters@new.rr.com.

—Tim Waters



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 Outagami counties.

Officers of the new chapter are: President, Dr. Tom Poullett; 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 Summer 1991 Wisconsin Trout...

"Friends of Wisconsin T. U. **Funds Habitat Work**

The Executive Council of the Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited has announced the first projects that will receive funding from the Council through its "Friends of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited' program. The Executive Council voted on recommendations at its April 20th meeting in Madison.

Three projects have received financial assistance from Wisconsin T.U. through the "Friends" program. They

1) West Fork Kickapoo River project (Vernon County): This project, being carried out under the direction of DNR Fish Manager Dave Vetrano with help from the Coulee Region T.U. Chapter and the West Fork Sportsmen's Club, has gained statewide significance since its initiation.

2) Black Earth Creek project (Dane County): One of the premier spring creeks in Wisconsin, if not the entire Midwest united States, Black Earth Creek has suffered severely over the years from stream bank destruction by cattle, channelization, urban sprawl, effluent discharges and

3) Saul Spring Pond dredging (Langlade County): An important source of cold water for the South Branch of the Oconto River, as well as a vital spawning area and recruitment source for both the river and itself, Saul Spring Pond in eastern Langlade County had undergone severe deterioration since the mid-1970's.

Do you have any old newsletters?

The stories in this Looking Back feature come from scans of old WITU newsletters. Because we are missing some back issues, we occasionally ask members for help in completing our collection. If you have some old WITU newsletters, contact Todd Hanson at twhanson@sbcglobal.net. Maybe you have what we need!

From the July 1981 WITU Quarterly Report...

LEGAL BEAGLE by Mitch Bent

CABINET GOVERNMENT - In the winter state council newsletter, I wrote on cabinet government and how it adversely impacts natural resource decisions. I also reported that it was likely that the governor, who was thwarted in his last attempt to politicize the Natural Resource Department by making the secretary a gubernatorial appointment rather than an appointment by an independent citizens' board (i.e., Natural Resources Board), would try again this session to get such legislation passed. A bill has been introduced into the State Senate that would make the heads of the DNR, Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection, and Veterans' Affairs gubernatorial appointments, thus creating cabinet government for the last three state agencies not directly under the governor's thumb.

From the July 2001 Wisconsin Trout...

New wetlands bill a victory for all parties

By Jeff Smith

WITU Legislative Chair

The most pressing issue on TU's legislative agenda has been legislation protecting isolated wetlands that were unprotected following a January Supreme Court ruling that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers had no permitting jurisdiction.

There were very contentious discussions when the Assembly decided to take the issue on a series hearings "on the road" after the Senate passed a bill almost immedi-

TU worked closely with the Wisconsin Wetland Association and other groups to communicate the importance and immediacy of the issue to legislators.

Early in this process State Council Chair Jon Christiansen asked you to write to your Senator or Representative to express your concerns, and a lot of you responded. A number of legislative staffers commented on the effectiveness of the TU communications.

For those of you who did communicate with your Representative, give yourself a pat on the back. (We will try not to ask you to write letters on legislative matters very often. When we do, however, you can be certain the issue will be important. Thanks for the wetland effort.)

Satisfactory legislation is now in place to give DNR the authority to protect isolated wetlands.

Make your own fly sinkant and mud at home

By Henry Kanemoto

There are two types of products made to condition leaders and flies so they are more effective — "mud" degreasers and liquid sinkants.

New leaders that are fresh from the package have a shiny, water-repellent coating left over from the manufacturing process. In most circumstances, we can simply use the leaders as is, but when fishing for picky fish, the reflection from a shiny leader can spook fish. Dulling the leader and using a sinkant to quickly sink the fly is a common practice in still water fly fishing in England.

Leader degreasing "muds"

Some fly fishers will use the some mud from the river to rub down their leader to condition the leader.



This is effective, but usually not as effective as using a product such as Orvis Mud, which is made just for this purpose.

Semi-solid products like Orvis Mud are made from Fuller's Earth (a fine bentonite clay) mixed with a surfactant and an anti-drying agent.

You can buy real Fuller's Earth, but two cheap substitutes are common non-clumping kitty litter or the oil-absorbent clay from an auto supply shop. The surfactant you add to either of these ingredients is unscented dish detergent and the anti drying agent glycerin.

Glycerin can be obtained in a pharmacy. It is sold as an anti-constipation agent, but in the homemade mud, it keeps the mud from drying out and caking.

Grind and crush the clumps in the kitty litter or clay, or sift it to get only the finest particles. Mix it with the liquid detergent and a few drops of the glycerin to get the consistency of a thick paste. Then store it in a 35 mm film canister in your fly vest. Rub it on new leaders to remove the sheen and the water repellent coating before using the leader.

Liquid sinkants such as Gherkes Xink are used to speed the sinking of flies and leaders/tippets. They do this by lowering the surface tension of water that normally allows our leaders and flies to float on the top.

Chemically, they are knows as liquids or coat solids.

This wetting of the fly and leader with a sinkant gets the fly and leader down into the fishing zone faster. This means more time in the strike zone, which translates to a longer and more effective drift.



Homemade liquid wetting agents for flies and leaders are even easier to make than muds. There is no need to ever buy liquid sinkants such as Xink. For photo finishers, Kodak Photo Flo is a good substitute. For the rest of us, propylene glycol is readily avail-

able as it is the main ingredient in the antifreeze that is used to winterize home plumbing systems.

Put some in a small bottle and rub it into your nymphs and streamers as a wetting agent. It will keep those pesky marabou fibers from clumping on your wooly buggers. They will instantly wet and the plumes will look like they should from the very first cast.

(Henry Kanemoto is a member of the Wisconsin River Valley Chapter. This story originally appeared in his chapter's The Riffle and Pool newsletter. Henry's tips have appeared a number of times in Wisconsin Trout with the author's permission. -Ed.)

Johnson, Rasmussen fill WDNR water posts

Ken Johnson, a 32-year veteran of the Department of Natural Resources, has been appointed to lead the agency's Water Division staff.

Johnson will oversee more than 600 professional staff working in drinking and groundwater, fisheries management. and surface waters programs across the state.

Johnson began his career with DNR in 1976 working on northeast Wisconsin drinking water systems to help carry out the federal Safe Drinking Water

In 1977, Johnson joined DNR's central office in Madison where he reviewed and processed hydrologic and hydraulic analyses of bridges, dams, and other water resources projects.

He left DNR to serve as a consulting engineer in the mid-1980s, but returned in 1985 to serve as deputy chief of the water regulation permit program. He was promoted to Lower Rock River Basin Leader in 1996 and then promoted to Water Leader in 2005. In that job, Johnson supervised about 100 employees working in all phases of DNR's water programs in south central Wisconsin.

Johnson succeeds Bruce Baker, who has retired after 40 years of government service.

Russ Rasmussen has been appointed to the position of Deputy Administrator for the DNR's Division of Water.

Rasmussen has worked for the State of Wisconsin for 19 years, spending the last 13 years with DNR in several capacities, most recently as the Director of the Bureau of Watershed Management.

Rasmussen holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a Masters of Business Administration degree from Edgewood College in Madison. He has 16 years of private sector experience.

Sinking agents

surfactants for "surface active agents." They are also known as "wetting agents" because they allow a liquid to quickly mix with other

GATES OPEN AT 10AM COON CREEK TROUT FESTIVAL **JULY 23RD 2011** COON VALLEY, Wisconsin **LOCAL AND NATIONAL VENDORS** Simms **KIDS TROUT DERBY** Redington FLY FISHING & TYING The Driftless Angler **LESSONS Scot Fly Rods FISHING GEAR DEMOS** Flying Pig Fly Rods **GAMES & PRIZES Three Rivers Outdoors** KAYAK AND CANOE **DEMOS Fontana Sports** ART & CRAFT VENDORS **Donahe Split Cane Rods** BOBBER RACE **Wisconsin DNR CAR SHOW US Fisheries FOOD & BEVERAGES Project Healing Waters** FISHING & **Coulee Region Adventures ENVIRONMENTAL TUDARE PRESENTATIONS Badgerland Pheasant Farm Custom Rod Builders** LIVE MUSIC ALL **Broken Line Art Work DAY AND INTO** THE NIGHT! **River Wood Designs AND MANY MORE**

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BWO: fast water

Continued from p. 19

Look at the hackle at the center of the fly and the eye of the hook and see how much easier it is to tie off using this method. Also, by carefully wrapping over the stem of the feather as you advance the thread to the eye of the hook you create a more durable fly. Have you ever had your hackle dangling from the tie in point after catching a fish? This will help prevent that.

Flies don't have to be fancy to catch fish. They just need to be fancy to catch the fisherman. Flies do have to represent what the fish want to eat, and this fly seems to work in a number of situations as I catch a lot of fish on this and other flies like

I think part of the success of this fly is its ability to stay afloat longer and create a better silhouette for the fish to see in the fast refracted water of a riffle.

Habitat crew resumes work on NE WI trout streams

By Paul Kruse

NE Region Vice Chair

The Northeast Wisconsin TU Chapters came through in a BIG way this year to the tune of \$15,000 by pooling their funds to make our regional trout habitat crew a reality once again.

The crew is just one of many projects our region's chapters partake in as stewards of our natural resources and trout stream watersheds.

The crew was the brainchild of State Council Chair Kim McCarthy with help from now-retired DNR Supervisor George Boronow.

In 2009 the LTE crew managed to complete 21,500 linear feet of habitat work in Marinette and Oconto counties.

In 2010 the DNR's LTE crew moved to Shawano and Waupaca counties and completed another 13,400 linear feet, including repairing old habitat structures, installing new overhead bank covers, putting in wing deflectors, and hauling rock to complete the structures.

The 2011 DNR habitat crew is under the direction of Mike Donofrio, DNR fisheries supervisor out of the Peshtigo Service Center.

The LTEs started work on May 16 and have set their sights on these projects.

Streams in Marinette County K.C. Creek

Work will consist primarily of brush removal. In-stream habitat devices that had been installed by the Youth Adult Conservation Corp (YACC) during the latter 1970s are beginning to deteriorate. Improvements to devices are planned (pending approval from the Marinette County Forestry Committee) during year 2012. First line field work activities to this project are planned for this year's crew and will consist of removal of unwanted woody debris.

Eagle River

Streambank brushing will need to be conducted. Strategic thinning of conifers from along streambanks is required. These trees will be used for brushing bundling material on another stream project in Oconto County.

N. Br. Beaver Creek, Little S. Br. Pike R., and Upper Middle Inlet Cr.

These three stream project areas all need routine maintenance with brush encroachment removal on bank covers and riprap, plus unwanted woody debris removal from stream devices.

Streams in Oconto County South Br. Oconto R.

The S. Br. Oconto in this location has had its stream habitat degraded by beaver dams. The stream is slowly rehabilitating itself from the aftermath of the dams, however brush bundling the inside bends would accelerate the healing process. Plans call for a co-operative effort with TU members on this brush bundling.

S. Br. Oconto R., 1st S. Br. Oconto R.

Both these stream habitat locations require routine maintenance with brushing and riprap.

Hemlock Pond

Plans call for dredging this spring pond in 2012. Site preparation work consisting of tree re-

moval for the access road is required. They will cut and remove conifers for use on a brush bundling project.

Volunteers from the Marinette, Green Bay, and Oconto chapters of TU will be assisting the LTEs every third Saturday of the month throughout the summer, with an additional workday scheduled for August 6.

We will also be assisting the U.S. Forest Service Fisheries Techs with habitat projects Saturday, July 16, on Round Creek and August 20 on McCaslin Brook in the Nicolet National Forest.

I highly recommend that if you enjoy the trout streams of NE Wisconsin, you spend a few hours some Saturday helping out. You will be impressed at the habitat work that can get done in a few short hours by working with the LTEs, and you'll walk away with a sense of accomplishment.



N.E. HABITAT CREW ROLLS INTO 2011

TU volunteers regularly help the WDNR's habitat crew. Posing after a recent morning of work are (bottom, I to r) are DNR trout crew member Joe Watson, DNR crew leader Mitch Semrow, DNR crew member Eric Wingers, and Green Bay TU members John Deuchert, Bruce Deuchert, Paul Kruse, Randy Rake, and Jeff Ladwig, Pictured on the top row, I to r, are Matt Norm, Brian Witz, Adrian Messenberg, Gary Stoychoff, Pat Hill, Brian Hill, and Roger Prestin of Marinette TU. Also helping was the picture-taker, GBTU Work Project Coordinator Lee Meyers.



Lakewood fish hatchery closes due to budget cutbacks

Fish production has ended at Lakewood Rearing Station in Oconto County this spring, and the site — often a summer stop for tourists — is temporarily closed.

The facility ended production and closed in May after the retirement of Joe Golbach and the transfer of a second employee to another DNR program. Two people are needed to operate the rearing station and the DNR was not able to fill the vacant positions because of the need to balance the budget, according to Al Kaas, DNR fish culture section chief.

The Lakewood hatchery reared rainbow trout, brook trout, and brown trout. Where possible, other DNR fish hatcheries will raise more trout to make up for the loss of Lakewood's production, but the overall number of catchable-size fish for stocking will decrease due to the need to hold positions vacant to balance budgets, Kaas says.

Longer term, the DNR is examining a range of alternatives ranging from rebuilding to leasing to decommissioning, he says.



Outdoor Education Expo provides this volunteer with a chance to teach kids...and learn from them

By Todd Franklin

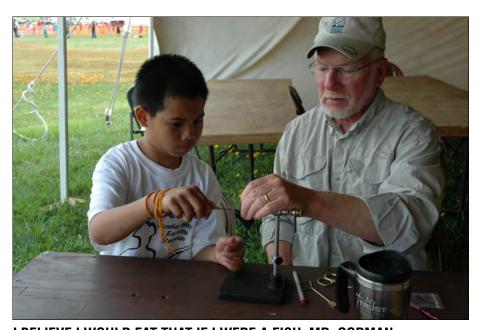
In what was definitely the most satisfying experience of my volunteer career with Trout Unlimited, I recently helped nearly 50 youngsters tie their first — and hopefully not their last — fly.

Hopefully, many of them will be hooked for life. I know I'm now hooked on teaching, and I hope other TU members give this experience a try.

More than 3,000 youngsters from throughout Wisconsin embarked on a journey to the sixth annual Wisconsin Outdoor Education Expo in Beaver Dam on May 19 and 20. And thanks to the help of TU volunteers, more than 900 of them tried their hand at fly tying. Each enthusiastic little angler went home with the fly they tied and encouragement to try to catch a fish with it some day.

A number of students also tried their hands at fly casting on the first day of the event. On the second day, volunteers focused exclusively on fly tying. Had more volunteers been available, fly casting would have been available on both days, according to Bob Haase. He has organized TU volunteers for this event since its second year, after Larry Meicher got things started the first year.

"The only factor limiting how many kids get to tie a fly or how many get to try casting is how many volunteers we have," Haase explains. "I'd like to expand this effort to include informational displays on stream restoration and water monitoring. We could also demonstrate other activities, such as knot tying, but we would need more volunteers to make this possible." Besides fly tying and casting with TU volunteers, the sixth annual event featured hands-on exhibits relating to archery, fishing, firearm safety, trapping, sporting dogs, camping, trail recreation, conserva-



I BELIEVE I WOULD EAT THAT IF I WERE A FISH, MR. GORMAN
Jerry Gorman of the Aldo Leopold Chapter shows Nathaniel Phonesavanh from
Edison Middle School in Janesville how to tie a fly. Jerry has been a frequent
volunteer at the Outdoor Expo and other fly tying events.

Volunteers at this year's expo came from a number of chapters, including Central Wisconsin, Southeastern, Wisconsin River Valley, and Aldo Leopold.

tion heritage, and more.

Unlike some of the water and wind that challenged volunteers in previous years, this year's event was blessed with wonderful weather. As a first-timer, for me the biggest challenge was trying to move fast enough to give every interested child a chance to try tying a fly, which, in my case, was Bob's Panfish Bugger, designed by Haase himself. Fortunately, Haase invited me to sit at his table, so I could always glance over and see the "master teacher" at work. Literally thousands of children have tied their first fly under his tutelage, and I was honored to learn from him.

That's why there's no reason to be afraid to give it a try. You can just saddle up next to experienced teacher like Jerry Smet, Don Price, Jerry Gorman, Spencer Gore, Al Dalphonso, or Linda Lehman. Watch them work with a few kids, and you'll see how easy it is. Besides, the kids' enthusiasm makes it easy.

What volunteers can expect

As Haase had explained to me during a quick demo before the school buses started rolling in, the trick is to quickly take care of the complicated steps, then let them do as much as they can. Before I knew it, I was getting into a rhythm. I was learning as I went, and these kids were teaching me how to teach.

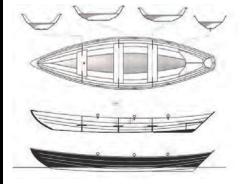
Included with the tying materials were two of those miniscule Ziploc bags filled with hooks and beads, and although the beads were put on the hooks ahead of time, many had fallen off.

Continued on p. 19



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Bob's fast-water blue winged olive

By Bob Haase

This fly does not include any upright wings or other fine details as it is designed for fast water and riffles where the water is refracted so the trout cannot see it as well.

The amount and density of hackle helps create a larger silhouette





for the fish to see and also helps the fly afloat longer in fast water.

Start the thread and advance it to the hook's bend. Tie in a few hackle fibers for a tail. I usually take a few more fibers than normal for this fly, but not too many. Dub the body half way to the eye of the hook and stop.

Cover the hook shank with thread and tie in your wing hackle as shown. Wrap the feather forward to just before the eye of the hook and then reverse direction and tightly wrap the feather backward to just

over the edge of the dubbing. Wrap the feather to make it as dense as possible without overdoing it.

Tie the feather off by wrapping the feather twice around the thread and then bringing both up at the same time. This will wrap your thread completely around the stem of the feather rather than just over the top making a more durable tie off of the hackle. This is a technique you may not be familiar with.

Next cut the feather off of the thread and advance the thread to

MATERIALS LIST Bob's Fast-water BWO

Hook: Mustad 94840 or TMC 100 #18-20

Thread: Griffith Sheer 14/0,

gray

Tail: Dun hackle fibers **Body:** BWO dry fly dubbing **Wings/hackle:** Dun hackle or saddle feather, palmered

the eye of the hook by rotating your vise (if you us a rotary vise), weaving the thread so as not to mat down the hackle fibers. This also adds durability to the fly. Whip finish and you are done.

NOTE: If you look at the hackle where it meets with the dubbing, you will notice that the fibers angle backward toward the back of the hook. If you were to start in the middle and advance to the eye of the hook, the fibers would angle toward the eye and make it more difficult to tie off (and form your head).

Continued on p. 16

EXPO: my volunteer experience

Continued from p. 18

Quickly noticing how tiny these kids' fingers were, my first step was asking them to extract a hook and bead from the bag and place the bead on the hook. I would always comment how lucky they were to have little fingers, and they seemed to like that.

Of course, my fly featured green beads that matched the tall grass below us. A few youngsters learned how quickly a bead can roll or bounce and end up on the floor. The handful of kids who lost their grip on the grass-green bead and fearfully watched it fall into an ankle-high jungle of thick, green fair-ground turf were always relieved when I joked how there's no point in even looking.

"You're not the first one to do hat." I'd chuckle with a smile, "And I don't think we're ever going to find it down there. Sometimes that happens when you're tying flies. No big deal. Just grab another one," I'd say. Then they would hand me the beaded hook and I'd place it into my vise and quickly start the thread and snip the tag end. Then I'd have them lay down a thread base on the entire shank. As they figured this step out, I had time to snip some hairs from a piece of black rabbit zonker strip and remove the fuzz. By this time they'd usually be at the bend of the hook with the thread, and I'd ask them to stop so I could show them a pinch wrap and place the zonkerhair tail on the shank. I would hold the butt ends straight up and have them use my scissors to snip them off close to the shank. I asked each of them not to snip my fingers off. Most of them found this amusing.

After quickly lashing on an emu feather (we had fun with that, too)

and a three-inch piece of green chenille, I would let them wrap each of these forward to the bead. I would bind each of these down with the bobbin, while they held the butt ends and took care of the snipping. And finally, I would show them how to do a half-hitch with a hollow ball point pen, then I'd let them do their own. Some thought three was plenty. Others were determined that their fly needed 20 half-hitches. Some of them had so much fun tying half-hitch knots and sliding them down behind the bead with the pen, I didn't have the heart to stop them.

The toughest part of the day was asking those who begged me to tie a second fly to wait their turn so everyone could at least tie one. Unfortunately, I don't think many of those most enthusiastic kids ever got a second chance at the vise. Perhaps more volunteers would have made this possible.

Your turn next year?

This is an experience that I encourage every TU member to try. I was touched by how interested these kids were in tying their first fly and how excited they were to take it home to try catching a fish with it. We all know that too many kids are suffering from nature deficit disorder, and helping with this event is an easy and satisfying thing we can do to get kids hooked on the outdoors. I can only hope that I may have hooked a future TU leader on the sport of fishing.

If you're not a fly tyer, there are still ways to get involved. The event needs help with casting, of course. Haase would also love to have volunteers to teach knot tying. The kids are eager to learn. We just need more teachers to teach.

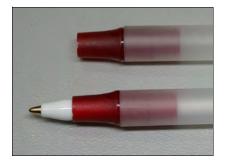
Bob's Tying Tips

Advice from the bench of Bob Haase

Make your own half hitch tool from ballpoint stick pens

They do make larger half hitch tools for making a half hitch behind the bead on larger bead head flies, but you can also modify a ballpoint pen to serve the same purpose. One of the flies that we had the kids tie at the Wisconsin Outdoor Expo in Beaver Dam was a bead head panfish fly (shown). I had already modified a few pens by taking the ink refill out of the pen, cutting the tip off a little, and then drilling it out to make it the right size for a 6/0 glass bead. I wanted to include a pen/half hitch tool in every pack of tying materials, so I needed to modify a few more

During the last State Council meeting in Stevens Point, I no-



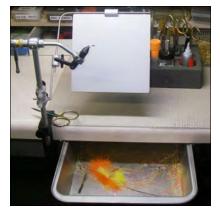


ticed that the pens the Ramada handed out looked like they might be about the correct size with the ink refill removed. I took them home, tied a fly, and they worked perfectly. I didn't even have to modify them. I feel that a series of half hitches is actually better than a whip finish when tying off behind a bead, and it was easier to teach the kids to do this at an event like the Expo.

Baking pan material collector

Material collectors that fasten to your vise work OK, and I always use them when tying on location. One of the problems with them is that if you fasten them above the table they tend to get in your way, and if you fasten them below the table they miss some of the materials such as when clipping deer hair.

I have a permanent tying station at my home and cottage and made the counter top the correct height for my tying, which is about 27 inches just like a computer table. I tie a few thousand





flies every year and wanted to make my computer station as comfortable as possible.

For a material collector, I used a baking pan and mounted it using shelf bin brackets. This way I can slide the baking pan over my lap and it is large enough to collect most of the materials and is handy to clip materials over the top of it.

You can purchase plastic bin wall brackets at Menards that come with pre-drilled screw holes. Just screw them to the bottom of the table on each side of the pan so that the pan can slide in and out. This way you can pull the pan out as far as you want and also pull it out completely to dump the materials.

Add extra cushion to hair stackers

Most hair stackers come with a foam or rubber cushion on the bottom, but they still make a lot



of noise when you tamp them on the table. If you've ever attended a fly tying class, you can easily tell when someone is using a hair stacker.

I often tie flies late at night, which creates another problem. If I tamp the hair stacker on the tying table, my dog thinks someone is at the door and begins to bark, which can wake my wife up.

To solve this problem, I added another self-adhesive rubber cushion to the bottom of my stacker. Now I can tamp it in the palm of my hand and it doesn't make any noise, wake up my wife, or hurt my hand.

Please consider volunteering at next year's Expo. And, of course, seek out opportunities to work with kids within your own chapters. You won't regret it.

Thanks go out to Bob Haase, the instructors mentioned above, and the other volunteers who helped out this year, including Mike Kuhr, Mike Schaeffers, Scot Stewart, Mike

Barniskis, Brian Thalacker, Mike Porter, and John Tucker.

(Todd Franklin of Beaver Dam is currently vice president of the Aldo Leopold Chapter. His stories have appeared in many publications. If you would like to get on the list to volunteer at next year's expo, give Bob Haase a call right now. His number is (920) 922-8003 -Ed.) Page 20 Wisconsin Trout **July 2011**

Our 2011 Friends campaign is off to a strong start

By Doug Brown Friends of WITU Chair

The start of the 2011 Friends of Wisconsin TU fundraising campaign is doing quite well, and I thank ALL of you who have contributed so far this year.

I am continually impressed with the financial support for this program. We have had donations from 117 individuals and nine TU chapters totaling in excess of \$12,000! With this early, outstanding support, we should easily eclipse last year's donation mark.

That means only one thing — YOUR trout streams will benefit, providing a long-lasting tribute to what generous donations can do. Countless miles of our coldwater resources will see some needed instream rehab which, in turn, will benefit our trout friends.

This year's gift for a donation of \$100 or more is a StreamWorks HatLight, which can come in handy for evening fishing outings (can you

say the Hex hatch?), or working around the garage, basement, or what have you. Handy it is.

Contributors will also be listed in four consecutive editions of Wisconsin Trout. Thanks again to Tight Lines Fly Fishing Co. in De Pere for their cooperation in helping us secure this premium.

If you have not yet donated, please consider it, knowing that your financial commitment will benefit YOUR streams, and more importantly, the trout in them.



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De Pere WI

Pardeeville WI

Mazomanie WI

Watertown WI

Eau Claire WI Stoughton WI

Gillett WI

Berlin WI Nekoosa WI

Appleton WI Kaukauna WI

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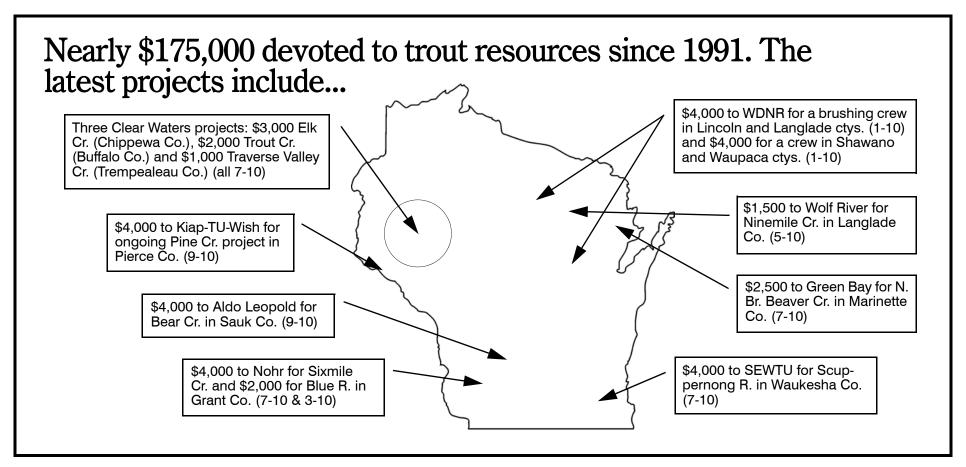
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Mineral Point WI

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John Cantwell	Fitchburg WI		
R. G. Chamberlain	Markesan WI		
Rick Christopherson	Norwalk WI		
Robert Chybowski	Mazomanie WI		
Anne & Tim Connor	Fitchburg WI		
Dave & Susan Conroy	Elgin IL		
Andrew Cook II	Sister Bay WI		
Terry Cummings	Rhinelander WI		
Dan D'Angelo	Oconomowoc WI		
Richard Diedrich	Grafton WI		
Richard Duplessie	Eau Claire WI		
Richard Evans	Mequon WI		
Alan Finesilver	De Pere WI		
Dr. William Flader	Madison WI		
Daniel Flaherty	La Crosse WI		
Dave Frasch	Chippewa Falls WI		
Michael Funk	La Crosse WI		
Richard Galling	Hartland WI		
Scott Geboy	Fox Point WI		
Dan Geddes	Appleton WI		
Gordon Grieshaber	Mineral Point WI		
Gerald Haen	Kaukauna WI		
Dean Hagness	Custer WI		
R. Chris Halla	Appleton WI		
Jon Hanson	Madison WI		
Bill Heart	Ashland WI		
Walter Hellyer	Fish Creek WI		
John & Judith Hutchinson	Sun Prairie WI		

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Thomas Janssen	Appleton WI	Jim Slayton
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John Kenealy	Waukesha WI	Bill Stokes
Gordon King	Merrill WI	Michael Stupich
Ralph Klassy	Phillips WI	Dennis Vanden Bloome
Jordan Konisky	Verona WI	Greg Vodak
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Anna Magnin	Marshfield WI	Roger Wangen
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John Nebel/LA Minerva	Menasha WI	Donald Williams M.D.
Herb Oechler	Wauwatosa WI	Christopher Willman
Winston Ostrow	De Pere WI	Nancy & Roland Wood
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Dennis Presser	Madison WI	Frederic Young
Randall Rake	De Pere WI	Robert Zimmerman
Ron Rellatz	Merton WI	Dennis Zuniga
Bill Rogers	Superior WI	-
Thomas Rogers	Princeton WI	PLUS THESE WITU C
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Jeff Schmoeger	Cottage Grove WI	Antigo TŪ
James School	Kaukauna WI	Kiap-TU-Wish TU
Mike and Carol Schultz	Suamico WI	Lakeshore TU
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