



Wisconsin Trout

April 2012



Heidi Oberstadt

MIKE DOMBECK ADDRESSES STATE COUNCIL

Former US Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck entertained attendees at the WITU State Council Banquet in Stevens Point Feb. 4.

Dombeck thanks TU at annual meeting for conservation efforts

By Todd Hanson

A highlight of the annual WITU State Council meeting on Feb. 4 was an evening banquet address by former U.S. Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck.

He thanked Trout Unlimited for its continued strong efforts to protect the state's coldwater resources.

Dombeck noted that environmental battles require persistence. He should know. As Forest Service Chief during the Clinton administration, Dombeck initiated a controversial "Roadless Rule" in 2001 that halted or restricted road building on 58.5 million acres out of the 191 million acres of national forest land.

Though the Roadless Rule had broad public support from extensive public hearings, it was immediately challenged in the courts by various states. Dombeck noted that it took until just last year before a federal circuit court finally upheld the rule.

Dombeck is currently involved in a number of conservation activities in addition to serving as University of Wisconsin System Fellow and

Professor of Global Conservation at UW-Stevens Point.

Trout print display

Another highlight of the annual meeting was a display at the banquet of all the Wisconsin inland trout stamps and art prints produced since that program began in 1978.

The print exhibit was organized by Darrell Toliver to celebrate TU's recent efforts to revive the stamp and print program in conjunction with the WDNR (see separate story on p. 4).

The winning trout stamp artist, Virgil Beck of Stevens Point, was on hand to meet banquet attendees.

Resource threats abound

The annual business meeting included a number of presentations on a wide range of current threats to coldwater resources.

Guest Jennifer Giegerich of the WI League of Conservation Voters updated members on the proposed iron mining legislation moving through the State Legislature.

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Senate holdout Schultz stops iron mining law changes

By Todd Hanson

After the last TV camera left the State Capitol, the last press release was issued, and the last aide walked off the Senate floor to let the dust settle three weeks ago, one thing was certain — Senator Dale Schultz stopped the Penokee iron mine.

The State Assembly had already passed an iron mining bill that gave Gogebic Taconite, LLC all the key wetland protection exemptions and permitting process changes it wanted.

All that was needed for the mining company to proceed would be for the Republican-controlled Senate to pass the same bill.

But the Republicans controlled the Senate by just one member. When Schultz (R-Richland Center) began expressing serious concerns over the Assembly bill's provisions, observers wondered whether his ob-

jections were serious enough that they might translate into a "no" vote. They were.

Soon Schultz joined with Sen. Robert Jauch (D-Poplar) and others to offer amendments to the Assembly bill.

Competing bill offered

When the key changes Schultz and Jauch wanted were rejected by Republicans in the Senate, the two introduced a competing mining reform bill, SB 542. That bill would have kept enough critical environmental protections and public oversight provisions to get Schultz's support.

Schultz and Jauch's SB 542 was scheduled for a public hearing, but that was cancelled by Republican leadership two weeks after Gogebic Taconite released a statement saying it was abandoning its plans to mine in Wisconsin.

Gogebic Taconite President Bill Williams released the following statement on March 6: "Senate rejection of the mining reforms in Assembly Bill 426 sends a clear message that Wisconsin will not welcome iron mining. We get the message. GTac is ending plans to invest in a Wisconsin mine. We thank the many people who have supported our efforts."

How dead is dead?

Though a mining reform bill is dead for now, locals confirm that Gogebic Taconite's office in Hurley remains open.

When asked if the company had surrendered its mineral leases from

the Minnesota company that actually owns them, the company declined to answer.

There has been speculation that Governor Walker might yet call legislators back for a special session to consider a compromise mining bill, but that is in doubt due to the resignation of Senator Pam Galloway (R-Wausau) on March 16.

Galloway had been facing a recall election, but she cited family health concerns as the reason for her resignation. Her departure means the State Senate is now split 16-16 between Republicans and Democrats with four Senate recall elections taking place this spring.



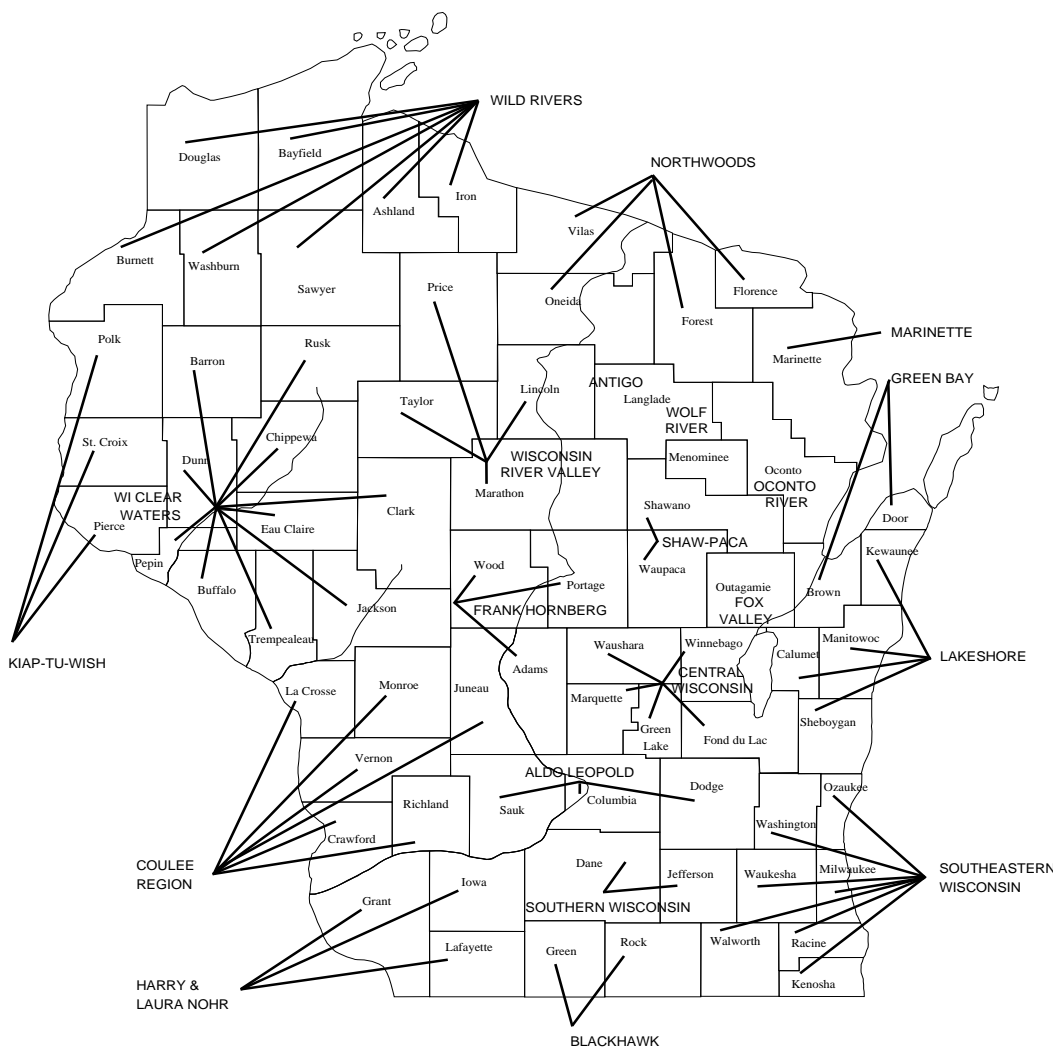
OFFERING AN ALTERNATIVE MINING BILL

State Senators Dale Schultz (R-Richland Center) (left) and Robert Jauch (D-Poplar) offered an alternative to the Assembly's mining bill, but it was rejected.

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Contact TU National when you change addresses or chapter leaders

TU National manages WITU's mailing list, so update your address by calling 1-800-834-2419 or e-mailing trout@TU.org. Address changes can also be done on-line by going to www.tu.org and signing in with your member number, which is found on your wallet card or *TROUT* magazine label.

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

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Do legislators really think environmental abuse is unavoidable?

By Kim McCarthy

WITU State Council Chair

This is a very interesting time in Wisconsin history. Resource issues that were settled in a commonsense matter, and in a spirit of bipartisanship, years ago are suddenly returning as issues that some think need to be revisited. It seems as if there are attempts being made to turn the clock back many years to a time when environmental abuse was considered to be an unavoidable way of doing business.

I'm talking about recent bills working their way through the Wisconsin State legislative process. It seemed Wisconsin had made the decision long ago that we could have a sound economy and provide jobs without destroying the environment. At one time that was the Wisconsin way. That is no longer the case as bills appear in rapid order to roll back protections and allow valuable resources to be sacrificed for questionable economic benefits.

Let's look at the recently passed wetlands bill as an example. In 2002

Wisconsinites of both political parties found that a loophole in Federal law left small, isolated wetlands unprotected. The state recognized the importance of those wetlands as water filters, wildlife habitat, and spring rechargers and acted quickly to protect them. Something happened that now seems almost unthinkable. The bill to protect those wetlands was passed unanimously. The effort by Wisconsin Trout Unlimited to get that bill passed was one of the largest efforts on behalf of a bill that TU has been involved with because we fully understood the connection between wetlands and trout streams.

Now, ten years later, that bill was basically overturned and many of the protections that passed without disagreement just ten years ago were repealed in a completely divided legislature.

So, what has happened in ten years? Are we supposed to believe that wetlands are no longer important? Do they no longer serve the important purposes they did in 2002? Of course they are still needed to recharge groundwater and



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.

provide wildlife habitat. But leaving wetlands alone turned out to be inconvenient for those who would profit by their destruction. We were told that by destroying wetlands for short term profits we could somehow improve economic conditions.

As a state representative said, "They are called wetlands because they are wet." So profits will now be made by building in wetlands where water will continue to collect because nature doesn't care if buildings have been placed in wetlands. And, of course, the taxpayers of the state will end up coming to the rescue of areas damaged by the flooding that is inevitable. Short-term profits will have been made by transferring long-term liability to the tax payers. In addition, springs will not have the recharge capacity they once had, and wildlife habitat will be diminished.

As I write this column, an attempt to pass an iron mining bill that would have allowed an out-of-state strip mining company to dig an enormous open-pit iron mine in one of Wisconsin's most pristine areas has stalled. The bill was written by corporate interests with virtually no input from the general public. It is likely that serious attempts will continue to be made to exempt iron mining companies from many environmental standards. We are being told that allowing out-of-state strip mining companies to develop giant iron mines with virtually no restrictions will overwhelm us with prosperity. The good citizens of West Virginia could probably tell us a lot about how turning mining companies loose on their environment has worked out.

And on and on it goes. These are difficult times for those of us who care deeply about quality-of-life issues. We absolutely believe that jobs and a productive economy are im-

portant. But we also absolutely believe that we can have those jobs and that economy while maintaining a quality environment. That had been the Wisconsin way of doing things.

Under the category of "been there, done that," let's remember that the reason we made the decision to protect the environment in the first place was because we didn't like the alternative. Years ago business was conducted without restraint. Folks looked around and realized there had to be a better way. We found that better way and the economy still prospered in Wisconsin. I doubt that returning to a system that has already been tried and rejected is going to be much of a solution to today's economic difficulties.

In light of what has happened and what is likely to happen in the near future, Trout Unlimited's position is worth repeating. We fully realize the need for and support activities that will bring good jobs and boost the economy. But we will continue to oppose plans that roll back environmental safeguards for short-sighted development.

Our 2012 Annual State Council Banquet was held in Wausau on February 4. I'm happy to report that it was another very successful banquet. It looks like the event will net about \$14,500 to support the efforts of your State Council for the next year.

This event could not have taken place without all of the help the council gets from the chapters. Whether it is making cash or merchandise donations, selling tickets, or pitching in to staff the event, the support received from chapters around the state is fantastic.

Thank you chapters! The State Council sincerely appreciates all of your support.



Find a way to attend council meetings

Editor,

I attended the recent annual meeting and fundraising banquet of the State Council and thought that the whole event went very well. The meeting ran smoothly and the banquet was very successful, raising in excess of \$14,000. There are a great many people responsible for these facts. However, in particular a huge Thank You goes to Kim McCarthy and Henry Koltz for their roles in the event.

On a different but related note, the location of the annual meeting is always a problem. Ideally it can be held at a centrally located site such as the Wausau-Stevens Point area. However, there are many possible reasons why that might not be feasible, e.g. hall availability, what area does the banquet staff travel from, yes, even cost should be taken into consideration.

This brings me to the point of this letter. I heard comments that some people would not travel a long distance to participate in the annual meeting. These comments were very disturbing to me. As we all know, Trout Unlimited is a national organization made up of a national headquarters, state councils, and local chapters. In order to be effective as a group, we need to be supportive of

one another up and down the chain. Without the support of TU National and the State Council, a chapter is in danger of becoming just another fishing club. Conversely, without the support of the local chapters, the State Council and TU National will founder in their efforts to carry out our mission.

Therefore I say to local chapters, you have an obligation to participate in the affairs of the State Council, even if that means some hardship for those attending meetings. There may be many valid reasons why certain people cannot attend these meetings, but there is always someone in the group who will step up and make the commitment, even it imposes some adversity upon them. Just as you need the support of the State Council, the council needs your support. Your opinions and ideas, even criticisms, will make us a stronger organization as whole.

Finally, in the short time that I have been active in the State Council, I have found it very fulfilling to work with a great bunch of dedicated people who share my views on the conservation effort and our coldwater resources.

Gary Stoychoff
Green Bay

Environmental sensitivity badly needed in wetland and other policy matters

Editor,

Bill Lueder's wetlands article served to remind us all of the importance of wetlands as natural water

repositories ensuring against flooding while filtering, restoring, and recharging both our groundwater and ultimately our surface waters. These

retained waters are the life blood of our natural environment and are the very natural symbol of life as flow or a process of exchange, as interconnectedness itself. In describing the attempt to simplify or eliminate some of the existing provisions of Wisconsin's benchmark wetlands protection law as economic impediments or "threats," Lueder's article also highlighted what seems like the fundamental conflict of ideas underlying most environmental issues of our time — the conflict between the materialistic, individual, economi-

cally based, and essentially short-term theory of value versus a naturalistic, communal, shared-interest based, enduring, and ultimately even spiritual theory of value.

It seems what is often missing from the public dialogue is an environmental sensitivity and appreciation which, in turn, results in the exclusion of environmental considerations entirely from the generalized discussion of most public and political issues.

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A WISCONSIN TRADITION RETURNS

Virgil Beck's painting of a brook trout chasing a Mepps spinner is the winner of the 2012 inland trout stamp print contest. Wisconsin TU has taken over the

artwork selection and printmaking aspects of the program, which was discontinued in recent years by the WDNR.

IT'S BACK! Wisconsin TU steps up to revive the trout stamp and print

By Tim Waters

At the State Council meeting in Viroqua last September, Chair Kim McCarthy laid out a proposal he'd received for reviving Wisconsin's trout stamp program.



VIRGIL BECK WITH THE NEW TROUT REGS
The 2012-13 WDNR trout regulations feature Virgil's winning brook trout print on the cover.

The WDNR had put an end to the program in recent years as part of budget tightening measures. Everyone agreed that reviving this Wisconsin tradition would be a good project for Wisconsin TU.

Darrell Toliver took a lead role in the program's revival. Darrell solicited artwork and photographs from artists around the state.

A committee was organized to determine a winner. Members of the Frank Hornberg Chapter decided on Virg Beck's beautiful rendering of a brook trout chasing a Mepps spinner. This became the cover of the 2012-2013 *Trout Fishing Regulations* booklet.

Darrell has also arranged for prints and commemorative stamps to be printed, and Virg Beck has signed and numbered the prints.

Artists and photographers interested in competing in the next trout stamp contest can contact

Tim Waters. This project is currently an annual one, with contest entries due on November 15. If WDNR goes to a semi-annual trout regulation booklet in the future, the print project will also become semi-annual.

Ordering information

Wisconsin TU is now selling the prints to individuals for \$125, plus shipping and handling. Each print will include a commemorative stamp. Stamps alone cost \$10.

WITU chapters will be allowed to purchase up to two prints for the reduced price of \$50 apiece for their fund-raising efforts. Anyone with questions or interest in purchasing the 2012 trout stamp print should contact Tim Waters at Muddy-Waters@new.rr.com, or visit Wisconsin TU at www.wisconsinTU.org under the "News" tab. Prints are also available on the Wolf River TU website at www.wolfrivertu.org.

PLEASE SEND ME:

___ 2012 trout print/s @ \$131 each (\$125 + \$6 S&H.) Price includes a trout stamp.

___ 2012 trout stamp/s only @ \$10 each.

Make check payable to:
WI Trout Unlimited,
% Gary Stoychoff, 1326
14th Ave., Green Bay, WI
54304.

ORDER FORM

2012 Inland Trout Stamp Print/Stamp

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Spring Hearing update Questions don't mention trout but could influence trout regs

By Todd Hanson

Except for one WDNR Spring Hearing question relating to allowing trout fishing year-round in stocked ponds that have no winter holdover potential, there are no trout-related questions on this year's Spring Hearing ballot.

However, several questions could affect trout fishing in major ways without ever mentioning the word "trout."

Questions 27-29 (see actual questions below) relate to "regulation development."

In recent weeks, some WITU leaders — including some who serve on the Conservation Congress — have expressed concern about these three questions.

First, most Spring Hearing questions beg for a "yes" answer, and a "yes" answer on these questions may lead the WDNR to think that trout fishers disapprove of the multi-tier regulatory system the

state has operated under successfully for 20 years.

Second, there is a small, vocal group in the state that has been calling for just the kind of broad oversimplification of the trout regulations that a "yes" vote on these questions might support.

Given this, WITU is urging members to speak up at their local Spring Hearing meetings to note that trout and other regulations are not so complex that individual lakes and streams can't have their unique biological needs addressed with varying regulations. We can and are figuring it out.

WITU has always supported the WDNR's efforts to regulate trout waters differently based on stream biology and management goals. The DNR's recent study comparing regulation types against observed trout sizes and numbers may yet lead to some regulatory simplification. That kind of science-based trout regulation change is supported by WITU.

QUESTIONS 27-31: Regulation Development

Fisheries management goals may be statewide or regional or designed for specific waterbodies or portions of waterbodies. There may be more than one regulation option to help meet a management goal, and the same regulation on different waters may not have the same result. They can affect anglers and fish populations very differently because of location, the mix of species, habitat condition, and several other factors. Fewer and more uniform regulations throughout the state may be less complex, but may not manage some waters to meet their needs. The following questions will help advise the Department when initiating and developing new fishing regulations. It may also help determine what fishing regulation changes could be made with little to no impact to a fishery, but that may reduce complexity for staff and anglers.

27. Is it important to you to have identical bag limits for a fish species on all inland waters, even if it means that some waters are not managed to their greatest potential and the diversity of angling opportunities is decreased?	27. YES _____ NO _____
28. Is it important to you to have identical length limits for a fish species on all inland waters, even if it means that some waters are not managed to their greatest potential and the diversity of angling opportunities is decreased?	28. YES _____ NO _____
29. Is it important to you to have identical seasons for a fish species statewide, even if it means that some waters are not managed to their greatest potential?	29. YES _____ NO _____

MEETING: Mike Dombeck speaks at WITU annual event

Continued from p. 1

At the time of the meeting, the State Assembly had already passed mining bill AB 426. This bill was handled by a jobs committee instead of the natural resources committee. Giegerich said the bill's removal of contested cases by the public is unprecedented in Wisconsin, and no

other state currently removes this protection.

Giegerich said all action now moves to the State Senate where it is hoped the most destructive parts of the Assembly bill can be changed.

The council also got updates on legislative changes affecting navigable water permits and the state's



SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE AT THE WITU STATE COUNCIL BANQUET

There were a number of ways to relax and enjoy the evening at the WITU State Council Banquet Feb. 4 at the Holiday Inn in Rothschild. A group of local musicians from UW-Stevens Point (above) entertained the crowd before the awards ceremony. Artist Bill Millonig of Campbellsport (right) had some of his paintings on display and worked on another painting for attendees. This was the first year the event was held in Rothschild.

2012 Spring Hearing Meeting Sites

All meetings are on April 9 and start at 7:00 p.m.

Adams	Adams County Courthouse, County Board Room A230, 402 Main Street, Friendship, WI 53934
Ashland	Ashland County Court House, Main Court Room, 201 Main Street West, Ashland, WI 54806
Barron	Barron Government Center, Auditorium, 303 E. LaSalle Ave., Barron, WI 54812
Bayfield	Bayfield County Courthouse, Upstairs, 117 E. 5 th Street, Washburn, WI 54891
Brown	Northeast Wisconsin Technical College (SC132), 2740 W. Mason St., Green Bay, WI 54313
Buffalo	Alma High School Gymnasium, S1618 STH 35, Alma, WI 54610
Burnett	Burnett County Government Center, Room 165, 7410 County Road K, Siren, WI 54872
Calumet	Calumet County Courthouse, Rm. B025, 206 Court Street, Chilton, WI 53014
Chippewa	Chippewa Falls Middle School, 750 Tropicana Blvd., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729
Clark	Greenwood High School, 306 W. Central Ave., Greenwood, WI 54437
Columbia	Wayne E. Bartels Middle School, Gymnasium, 2505 New Pinery Rd., Portage, WI 53901
Crawford	Prairie du Chien High School, Auditorium, 800 E. Crawford St., Prairie du Chien, WI 53821
Dane	Middleton Cross Plains Performing Arts Center, 2100 Bristol St., Middleton, WI 53562
Dodge	Horicon International Education Center, Lower Level Auditorium, N7725 STH 28, Horicon, WI 53032
Door	Crossroads at Big Creek, 2041 Michigan St., Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235
Douglas	Brule Town Hall, 5820 S. Maple St., Brule, WI 54820
Dunn	Dunn County Fish and Game Club, 1900 Pioneer Ave., Menomonie, WI 54751
Eau Claire	South Middle School, Auditorium, 2115 Mitscher Ave., Eau Claire, WI 54701
Florence	Florence Natural Resource Center, Basement Conference Rm., 5631 Forestry Dr., Florence, WI 54121
Fond du Lac	Theisen Middle School, 525 E Pioneer Rd., Fond du Lac, Wisconsin 54935
Forest	Crandon High School, Auditorium, 9750 US HWY 8 West, Crandon, WI 54520
Grant	Youth and Agriculture Building Main Auditorium, 916 East Elm Street, Lancaster, WI 53813
Green	Monroe Middle School, 1510 13th Avenue, Monroe, WI 53566
Green Lake	Green Lake High School, Small Gym, 612 Mill St., Green Lake, WI 54941
Iowa	Dodgeville High School, Gymnasium, 912 Chapel Street, Dodgeville, WI 53533
Iron	Iron County Courthouse, 300 Taconite Street, Hurley, WI 54534
Jackson	Black River Falls Middle School, LGI Room, 1202 Pierce Street, Black River Falls, WI 54615
Jefferson	Jefferson County Fair Park Activity Center, 503 N. Jackson, Jefferson, WI 52549
Juneau	Olson Middle School Auditorium, 508 Grayside Avenue, Mauston, WI 53948
Kenosha	Bristol Elementary School, Gymnasium, 20121 83rd Street, Bristol, WI 53104
Kewaunee	Kewaunee High School, Auditorium, 911 Third Street, Kewaunee, WI 54216
La Crosse	Onalaska High School, Auditorium, 700 Hilltopper Place, Onalaska, WI 54650
Lafayette	Darlington Elementary School, Large Group Room, 11630 County Hill Road, Darlington, WI 53530
Langlade	Antigo High School, Volm Theater, 1900 10th Ave., Antigo, WI 54409
Lincoln	Tomahawk Elementary School, 1048 East King Road, Tomahawk, WI 54487
Manitowoc	UW-Manitowoc, Auditorium, 705 Viebahn Street, Manitowoc, WI 54220
Marathon	D.C. Everest Middle School, Auditorium, 9302 Schofield Avenue, Weston, WI 54476
Marinette	Crivitz High School, Auditorium, 400 South Avenue, Crivitz, WI 54114
Marquette	Montello High School Community Room, 222 Forest Lane, Montello, WI 53949
Menominee	Menominee County Courthouse, W3269 Courthouse Lane, Keshena, WI 54135
Milwaukee	Nathan Hale High School, Auditorium, 11601 W. Lincoln Ave., West Allis, WI 53227
Monroe	Meadowview School, Cafeteria A103, 1225 N Water Street, Sparta, WI 54656
Oconto	Suring High School, Cafeteria, 411 E Algoma St., Suring, WI 54174
Oneida	Nicolet College, LRC Theatre, 5355 Campus Road, Rhinelander, WI 54501
Outagamie	Riverview Middle School Auditorium, 101 Oak St., Kaukauna, WI 54130
Ozaukee	Cedarburg Cultural Center, W62 N546 Washington Avenue, Cedarburg, WI 53012
Pepin	Pepin County Government Center, County Board Room, 740 7th Ave. West, Durand, WI 54736
Pierce	Ellsworth Senior High School, Auditorium, 323 Hillcrest, Ellsworth, WI 54011
Polk	Unity High School/Unity Community Ed., Auditorium, 1908 150th St. Hwy 46, Balsam Lake, WI 54810
Portage	Ben Franklin Junior High School Auditorium, 2000 Polk St., Stevens Point, WI 54481
Price	Price County Courthouse, Board Room, 126 Cherry St., Phillips, WI 54555
Racine	Union Grove High School, Performance Arts Center, 3433 S. Colony Ave., Union Grove, WI 53182
Richland	Richland County Courthouse, Upstairs Courtroom, 181 West Seminary, Richland Center, WI 53581
Rock	Pontiac Convention Center, 2809 N Pontiac Dr., Janesville, WI 53545
Rusk	Ladysmith High School, Auditorium, 1700 E. Edgewood Ave., Ladysmith, WI 54848
Saint Croix	St Croix Central High School, Commons, 1751 Broadway St., Hammond, WI 54015
Sauk	UW Baraboo Campus, Lecture Hall A-4, 1006 Connie Road, Baraboo, WI 53913
Sawyer	Winter High School, 6585W Grove Street, Winter, WI 54896
Shawano	Shawano Middle School, LGI Room, 1050 S. Union St., Shawano, WI 54166
Sheboygan	Sheboygan Falls High School, Auditorium, 220 Amherst Ave., Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085
Taylor	Fair Grounds, Multi-purpose building, Hwy 64/ Hwy 13, Medford, WI 54451
Trempealeau	Whitehall City Center, 18620 Hobson St., Whitehall, WI 54773
Vernon	Viroqua High School, Commons Room, 100 Blackhawk Drive, Viroqua, WI 54665
Vilas	St. Germain Elementary School, Gymnasium, 8234 Hwy 70 West, Saint Germain, WI 54558
Walworth	Delavan-Darien High School, 150 Cummings St., Delavan, WI 53115
Washburn	Spooner High School Auditorium, 801 County Highway A, Spooner, WI 54801
Washington	Washington County Fair Park, 3000 Cty Hwy PV, West Bend, WI 53095
Waukesha	Waukesha Co. Tech. College, Richard Anderson Ed. Center, 800 Main Street, Pewaukee, WI 53072
Waupaca	Waupaca High School, PAC-Auditorium, E 2325 King Rd., Waupaca, WI 54981
Waushara	Waushara County Courthouse, County Board Rm. 265, 209 S. St. Marie St., Wautoma, WI 54982
Winnebago	Webster Stanley Middle School, Auditorium, 915 Hazel Street, Oshkosh, WI 54901
Wood	Pittsville High School, Auditorium, 5407 1st Ave, Pittsville, WI 54466

wetlands.

Frack sand mining

Duke Welter reported on recent happenings in west central Wisconsin regarding the mining of sand deposits to feed the nation's exploding hydraulic fracking industry.

Such sand mining is up ten fold in Chippewa county alone, Welter said, with the prime targets being

deposits located near rail lines.

Impacts of concern to TU include groundwater recharge, groundwater depletion, and the discharge of waste chemicals to area waters and wetlands.

(Complete minutes of the annual State Council meeting are posted on the council's website at www.WisconsinTU.org. -Ed.)





2012 STATE COUNCIL AWARD WINNERS

Recipients of conservation leadership awards at the Feb. 4 State Council annual meeting in Rothschild included (left to right) WDNR Fishery Manager Al Niebur, Bob Van Hoesen representing Save Copper Creek, Henry Koltz, John Gremmer, Dan Wisniewski, Paul Kruse, Mike Barniskis representing the Aldo

Leopold Chapter, Craig Amacker representing Fontana Sports Specialties in Madison, WDNR Operations Supervisor Shawn Sullivan, Michael Stupich representing the Aldo Leopold Chapter, Eric Rauch, and Todd Franklin representing the Aldo Leopold Chapter.

Council honors 10 leaders at annual meeting

By Todd Hanson

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited honored 10 people, organizations, and businesses at the annual State Council meeting at the Holiday Inn in Rothschild on Feb. 4.

Winners were chosen from the nominations submitted by members to the State Council's awards committee over the past two months.

Resource Award of Merit — Dan Wisniewski

The State Council's Resource Award of Merit is reserved for someone who has made outstanding contributions to our resources.

In past years, it has been awarded to world-renowned trout researchers like Bob Hunt, policy-makers like former Natural Re-

source Board chairs Christine Thomas and Herb Behnke, TU leaders like Nash Williams, and even a writer or two, such as George Vukelich.

What they have in common has been a significant and positive impact on our state's or nation's natural resources.

This year's recipient, Dan Wisniewski, has earned this accolade by virtue of a career in governmental positions where he managed and protected public lands, was a trusted advisor to two governors on resource issues, and helped develop key land acquisitions for fisheries protection.

On top of all that, Dan helped develop and grow the Northwoods Land Trust and was a key leader of the state's Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund.

In 2008, we awarded Dan the Gold Trout Award, annually presented to a top volunteer at the chapter level. The Award of Merit recognizes Dan's contributions at a variety of levels, for he is truly a versatile performer.

Dan has served TU as a board member and officer of the Southern Wisconsin Chapter, our state's representative to TU's National Leadership Council for six years, a key contributor and chair of the TU Driftless Area Restoration Effort steering committee, and a longtime member of our State Council's Legislative Committee.

As the state's top volunteer at the national leadership level, he played a key role in ensuring that TU would continue to be involved in disputes over public access to lands. He also helped develop national and state TU programs to fund acquisition of access rights to streams and rivers.

Dan truly knows how to get things done, and Wisconsin Trout Unlimited is grateful for that.

Lee & Joan Wulff Conservation Leadership Award — Paul Kruse

As Lee Wulff once said, a trout is too valuable to be caught just once. In that spirit, our annual Lee and Joan Wulff Conservation Leadership Award — which features one of Lee Wulff's hand-tied flies donated to us by Joan Wulff — will spend just the next year in the possession

of this year's recipient, Paul Kruse of the Green Bay Chapter.

Paul joined the Green Bay Chapter in 1995 and immediately became heavily involved in the affairs of the chapter. He attended a great many habitat projects and worked diligently on the chapter's banquet committee.

He was also involved in governing the chapter. He was elected to the board of directors in 2000. He eventually became vice president and then president of the chapter.

During this time, he was also active in the affairs of the State Council. For many years, Paul was a Green Bay delegate to meetings where he voiced the opinions of the chapter.

Paul is very active in keeping up with the activities of our Legislature in Madison. He served as Legislative Chair for the State Council for a brief period of time.

He now serves as Vice Chair of the Northeast Region where he has been instrumental in that region's large expenditure of funds that benefit our coldwater resources.

The above are just some of the reasons why Paul Kruse is this year's winner of the Lee & Joan Wulff Conservation Leadership Award.

Gold Net Award — John Gremmer

This year's Gold Net Award winner is John Gremmer from the Central Wisconsin Chapter.

John has provided leadership for many of his chapter's most innovative endeavors, including Trout Fest, the chapter's master fly tying classes, various fly casting clinics, and the chapter's unique water monitoring program.

John has also been responsible for introducing new technology to his chapter. He has purchased computers and LCD projectors for the chapter, and he has developed PowerPoint presentations about the chapter that have been taken out to various service clubs and organizations.

Many new members have joined the chapter after taking one of John's classes or being involved in a chapter event. Many of these new members are now board members or officers.

John has also personally introduced many people to the sport of



RESOURCE AWARD OF MERIT AND LEE & JOAN WULFF AWARDS

WITU State Council Chair Kim McCarthy (top right) presented the organization's top award, the Resource Award of Merit, to Dan Wisniewski (top left). Paul Kruse (bottom right) was presented the traveling Lee & Joan Wulff Conservation Leadership Award.

Jim Beecher photos

Heidi Oberstadt

trout fishing, taking them with him and teaching them the needed skills.

The Central Wisconsin Chapter would not be what it is today if it were not for the time and leadership John Gremmer has given his chapter.

Gold Trout Award for Service — Henry Koltz

Our Gold Trout Award is being presented to Henry Koltz of the Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter. About eight years ago, SEWTU underwent a resurgence under the leadership of many, including Rich Vetrano, Chuck Beeler, and Henry Koltz. At that time, Henry became heavily involved in the chapter's habitat efforts.

In 2006, Henry met with members of the Ocooch Creeks Chapter and helped organize a workday on Ash Creek, a small brook trout stream in the heart of the Driftless Area. He took a big risk setting up a workday in another chapter's territory three hours from home, but the gamble paid off. SEWTU volunteers drove half way across the state to work that day, and they have continued to turn out ever since.

SEWTU now hosts about eight workdays per year, many outside of SEWTU's territory and in partnership with other chapters.

Since 2006 and under Henry's leadership, SEWTU has restored many miles of streams, brought in hundreds of thousands of dollars for stream restoration, and has tallied thousands of volunteer hours each year.

While president of his chapter in 2009, SEWTU was named TU National's Chapter of the Year. Henry has been named a TU National Stream Champion in *Trout* magazine, and his chapter was featured in *Field & Stream* as a Hero of Conservation during this time.

Henry knew that as a chapter with many members but few trout streams, SEWTU needed to find ways to partner with other TU chapters to be a successful organization. He made us all realize that it's our coldwater resources that are important, not the lines on a map.

Henry has also become a valuable TU leader at the state level. Using his legal background, Henry helped develop TU positions on recent water-related court cases, and he has authored or helped author amicus briefs filed on behalf of WI-TU with the Wisconsin Supreme Court, pro bono.

Henry is currently Wisconsin TU's Southern Region Vice Chair and serves on TU's awards and banquet committees.

We are thankful that Henry doesn't just enjoy catching trout, but that he values helping our trout resources improve and thrive.

Silver Trout Award for Chapter Merit — Aldo Leopold Chapter

One of the main qualifications for our Silver Trout Award for Chapter Merit is the completion of a major trout habitat project. We are happy to give this year's Silver Trout Award to the Aldo Leopold Chapter for their huge Bear Creek project on the Ron Fargen property in Sauk County.

Chapter President Mike Barniskis found a number of dedicated leaders in members Tom Gawle, Todd Franklin, Eric Lorenzen, and others. They used their skills to turn what could have been a little chapter project into a multi-year effort involving numerous TU chapters and many partner organizations.

Last year's work on Bear Creek cost over \$130,000, and ALTU is trying to match that dollar figure for

a second round of work on Bear Creek in 2012.

The Aldo Leopold Chapter hasn't won the Silver Trout Award since 1990, but success breeds success. Don't be surprised if the skills learned — and the satisfaction gained — on their Bear Creek project are applied to other trout waters in coming years.

As Todd Franklin wrote in his recent story on the Bear Creek project, "I visited the site in August to see the progress, and I experienced a feeling of satisfaction and pride that I have never felt before. Looking at crystal clear water flowing along the graded, boulder-covered banks, the dark, deep trout 'hides' and the various plunge pools, I kept saying to myself, 'We did it!'"

Corporate Sponsor — Fontana Sports

Fontana Sports Specialties in Madison is this year's Corporate Sponsor Award winner. Fontana has been a destination for outdoor enthusiasts in the Madison area for decades, and trout fishing has always been a mainstay of Fontana's business.

Instead of just selling trout fishing gear, Fontana has also been a constant supporter of Trout Unlimited's conservation and habitat values. Fontana has been a longtime advertiser in our *Wisconsin Trout* newspaper. They have donated countless prizes to our Southern Wisconsin Chapter. And Fontana's fly fishing department manager, Craig Amacker, has shared his fishing wisdom and experiences with TU chapters across the state.

We thank Fontana and its owner, John Hutchinson, for all they do on behalf of TU and trout fishing.

Resource Professional — Shawn Sullivan

WDNR Operations Supervisor Shawn Sullivan is this year's winner of our Resource Professional Award. Shawn works out of the DNR's Wild Rose office, and he has taken the lead role on a very impressive string of stream restoration projects in the central region in recent years.

Trout Unlimited's Central Wisconsin, Fox Valley, Hornberg, and Shaw-Paca chapters have all worked with Shawn on habitat projects.

Five years ago these chapters joined forces on an ambitious project in downtown Waupaca. That project encountered many obstacles, but because Shawn and others didn't quit, the City of Waupaca now has a wonderful habitat project. That project includes handicapped fishing access and an educational kiosk that informs the public about DNR and TU trout habitat work.

Shawn has also been involved in a burst of other habitat work in central Wisconsin, including work on Chaffee Creek, the Mecan River, and Lawrence Creek.

Certificate of Appreciation — Save Copper Creek/Bob Van Hoesen

We are presenting a Certificate of Appreciation to the Save Copper Creek organization in Crawford County and its Administrative Coordinator Bob Van Hoesen.

Continued on p. 8



GOLD TROUT, GOLD NET, AND SILVER TROUT AWARDS

The Gold Trout Award was presented to Henry Koltz (top right) of SEWTU. The Gold Net Award went to John Gremmer (middle right) of the Central WI Chapter. The Silver Trout Award was given to the Aldo Leopold Chapter, and it was accepted by chapter members (bottom, left to right) Tim Hood, Todd Franklin, Michael Stupich, and Mike Barniskis.

Jim Beecher photos

AWARDS: council honors 10

Continued from p. 7

This organization is a great example of what a dedicated group of citizens can do when one of their prime resources is threatened.

When an individual filed a permit application to drill a high-capacity well along Copper Creek in Crawford County, a group of local citizens discovered that the proposed well could do serious damage to Copper Creek. They banded together to form Save Copper Creek to challenge the drilling of the well.

The group discovered inconsistencies in the permit application and called these to the public's attention. They raised funds, hired a consultant, met with local and state politicians, raised concerns with DNR, used TV and radio interviews to increase public awareness, and lobbied for protective ordinances.

Save Copper Creek should be an example to all of us about how a small group of dedicated, concerned citizens can battle to save a coldwater stream from senseless development. Although the Copper Creek well battle has not yet ended, the fighting spirit of the group should serve as a reminder to us all about the importance of getting involved when resources are threatened.

Certificate of Appreciation — Al Niebur

We have a Certificate of Appreciation this year for Al Niebur, the WDNR Fishery Manager for Shawano, Waupaca, and Menominee counties.

Al has been involved in planning and approving a number of stream restoration projects, but he went above and beyond the call of duty on a recent project in downtown Waupaca. The project involved bank restoration, bank covers, and other habitat improvements.

Al said that this was one of the most difficult projects he has ever worked on in terms of getting all the necessary approvals. Whenever it seemed like all the approvals were in place, something else came up, such as working with the state's Bureau of Endangered Resources because Blandings and wood turtles were found within the project area.

In order to get the WDNR water management permits, additional detailed plans had to be submitted. Then came a required flood plan analysis due to the site's location within the Waupaca city limits and the potential impact for future FEMA funding. To accomplish this,

Al had to do additional surveying for elevation, channel dimensions, and the impact of stream narrowing structure placement.

All of this was tackled, however, and the result is a beautiful, informative habitat project that the City of Waupaca can be proud of.

Certificate of Appreciation — Bob Micheel

Our final Certificate of Appreciation is for Monroe County Soil and Water Conservationist Bob Micheel.

In 2002, Bob was awarded the Conservation Achievement Award from the Wisconsin Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society. Of particular interest to Trout Unlimited, Bob has always included trout habitat into the plans he has developed over the years to help landowners control farm runoff.

For several years, Bob worked on Coles Valley Creek, a class I brook trout stream running between Sparta and Tomah. By partnering with the WDNR, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, NRCS, and Monroe County, he helped secure funding for habitat improvements throughout the length of Coles Valley Creek. We know he's persuasive because he got over 20 landowners along Coles Valley — virtually all of them — to participate in the project.

Another of Bob's larger projects was highlighted last November during a TUDARE tour of Wisconsin and Minnesota habitat projects. There Bob showed off recent work on the Little La Crosse River that runs along Hwy. 27 near Melvina.

For nearly 20 years of work on behalf of trout and water conservation, we thank Bob Micheel.

Most Unsung Valuable Trout — Eric Rauch

Occasionally we give out the Most Unsung Valuable Trout Award to a member. This year we have one for Eric Rauch of the Coulee Region Chapter.

Eric had a great idea for a regional trout festival. Luckily for TU, Eric decided to plunge ahead before knowing how much work it would actually entail. Eric made it happen by inspiring people from across the state to help with a piece here and a piece there. The result was last summer's Coon Creek Trout Festival.

Plans now call for this to become an annual event that highlights the trout resource in the Driftless Area. We thank Eric for his vision and leadership.



CORPORATE SPONSOR AWARD, CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION, AND MOST VALUABLE UNSUNG TROUTER AWARD

State Council Chair Kim McCarthy (in all photos) presented the Corporate Sponsor Award to Fontana Sports Specialties and its owner, John Hutchinson, of Madison. It was accepted by Craig Amacker (top left, on right). The Resource Professional Award went to the WDNR's Shawn Sullivan (2nd from

top, on right). Certificates of Appreciation went to Save Copper Creek and its Administrative Coordinator, Bob Van Hoesen (2nd from bottom, on right) and the WDNR's Al Niebur (bottom left, on right). The Most Valuable Unsung Trout Award went to Eric Rauch (bottom left, on right).

Jim Beecher photos

Bob Hunt set to enter the WI Conservation Hall of Fame

Internationally recognized trout researcher Bob Hunt of Waupaca will be inducted into the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame Saturday, April 21, at 10 a.m. in the Sentry Theater in Stevens Point. The public is invited.

Hunt is being inducted along with his brother, Richard, a former WDNR wildlife management professional, forestry researcher Nils Folke Becker, and industrialist/conservationist Phil Sanders.

Brothers Richard and Robert Hunt spent their professional careers in wildlife and fisheries management. Together they performed 69 years of extraordinarily productive work with the Wisconsin Conservation Department and its successor, the Department of Natural Resources.

Bob Hunt was a founding member of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited, and he has been involved in many significant TU efforts over the years. It was Bob's research on the key components of successful trout release technique that led to WITU's Consider Proper Release campaign that was later picked up and promoted by TU National to every chapter in the country.

Contact the Hall of Fame at (715) 346-4992 for more information.



Heidi Oberstad

HEIRLOOM FLY BOXES AT COUNCIL BANQUET

Custom-built wooden fly boxes filled with each chapter members' flies were a hit again at this year's State Council banquet.

LETTER: environmental sensitivity needed in wetland policies

Continued from p. 3

Clearly, I am among those who believe that what is needed is a return to a political and social environment in which environmentalism itself has regained the status of one of the few fundamental measures by which all public issues and policies must be debated and judged. Indeed, I am sometimes uncomfortable with the degree to which we as trout anglers and TU members see coldwater stream conservation as simply converting streams into angling venues rather than restoring, preserving, and protecting streams as wild, fully functional natural environments.

What has displaced environmentalism as a broadly accepted funda-

mental parameter of public debate is clearly revealed in the title to Lueders' article, "Wisconsin wetlands seen as threat to jobs." It is quite plain that we are living through a period when the prevailing notion is that the economy and economic prosperity are the measures of all things. This notion seems also to be ever increasing in its cultural predominance within the context of our perceived ongoing economic and public budgetary distresses. It now seems almost conventional wisdom that a valid public policy is one which stimulates or enables economic activity and that any policy which limits economic activity is unacceptable.

The strategy of outdoor recreation, conservation, and environ-

mental groups of quantifying and then proclaiming the economic value of their pastimes and projects to attract and maintain popular and political support may seem realistic and astute. However, I have argued in these pages before that this practice of relentlessly commercializing our personal relationships with the natural world will ultimately lead to continuing abuse and damaging exploitation of our natural environment as primarily an economic resource in the popular conception.

We should not fail to overtly and consistently address the fundamental values conflict between the vision of the natural environment as an economic resource to be exploited versus the vision and understand-

ing of nature as the community of life which nurtures and sustains us. If we do, we are failing as conservationists and as citizens to do what is necessary to enhance and promote the possibility of an ecological awakening.

We as TU members have done well in speaking out in these pages as conservationists on the statewide issues of mining and wetlands. We can do even more. Become leaders by consistently and courageously speaking and acting as embodiments of the better angels of our environmental selves.

Rolf Skogstad
Hixton, WI

(This is an edited version of the letter submitted. -Ed.)

Watershed Access Fund

2012 access fund campaign underway

Our 2011-12 Watershed Access Fund campaign is well underway. The response already has surpassed last year's donations in a short time, with nearly 75 donations and approaching \$7,000 in funds raised.

That type of support is what makes members of TU special, with members putting their own hard-earned money back into the programs that go to protect our resources and secure access. Thank you!

With 2011 now behind us, I want to thank all of you listed on this page who have donated to this program. The donations from private individual and four TU chapters will provide financial support to let us acquire and protect access to our coldwater resources.

The current grant request limit is **\$5,000**. Because two chapters may each request for a single acquisition, and since each chapter would have to match at 50%, the new limits will provide as much as \$15,000 for a single purchase or easement. So for all you chapters looking for purchase help, this should go a long ways.

2011/12 Contributors

Dale Bakke	Stevens Point WI	Bruce Davidson	Wauwatosa WI
Edwin Barnes	Middleton WI	Erwin Dohmen	Port Washington WI
Ronald Berg	Chippewa Falls WI	Richard Duplessie	Eau Claire WI
Stephen Berg	Highland WI	Robert Franzkowiak, Sr.	Brown Deer WI
Stephen Born	Madison WI	Greg Gerard	Hudson WI
R.G. Chamberlain	Markesan WI	Tony Goldberg	Madison WI
Terry Cummings	Rhineland WI	James Goodwin	Sturgeon Bay WI

Robert Haglund	Green Bay WI	Herb Oechler	Wauwatosa WI
Jack Halbreher	Sparta WI	Robert Pelowski	Franklin WI
Gerald Haunschild	Neenah WI	Randal Rake	De Pere WI
Bill Heart	Ashland WI	Anne Readell	Madison WI
Mark & Jan Heifner	Appleton WI	Steve Robertson	Verona WI
Gilbert Herman	Stoughton WI	Frederick Seybold	Madison WI
Andrew Holverson	Wauwatosa WI	John Shillinglaw	Appleton WI
Greg Hyer	Cross Plains WI	Ronald Smith	Cudahy WI
Ed Inderrieden	Mequon WI	Mike Spittler	Minneapolis MN
Dan Jansen	DeForest WI	Wayne Stockman	Spring Valley WI
Bill Jordan	Appleton WI	Charles Urban	Chicago IL
James Kennedy	Cross Plains WI	Hugh Waber	Madison WI
Paul Kosin	Minocqua WI	Richard Wachowski	Eau Claire WI
Andrew Kosmider	Milwaukee WI	Don Wagner	Gillett WI
James Laudon	Plover WI	John Wahlers	Berlin WI
Brian Madsen	Ellsworth WI	Jim & Sharon Waters	White Lake WI
William Maggard	Mequon WI	Donald Welhouse	Kaukauna WI
Richard Mandelin	Montreal WI	Fred Young	Roscoe IL
Bob Mazanec	Saint Paul MN	Anonymous	
Kim McCarthy	Green Bay WI		
Randy & Janice McGrath	Janesville WI	Antigo TU	Antigo WI
Fred Mikolajewski	West Allis WI	Kiap-TU-Wish	Hudson WI
Gene Mueller	Monona WI	Marinette Co. TU	Marinette WI
Bob Obma	Green Bay WI	Southern WI TU	Fitchburg WI

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

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

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

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____





Chapter News



I'LL HAVE ONE OF THESE AND ONE OF THOSE

A fish preparation demonstration featuring culinary arts students at Fox Valley Technical College has become a staple winter event for FVTU. This year's event was so tasty, they'll do it again the third Thursday in January of 2013.

Aldo Leopold Chapter

At the 2012 State Council banquet our chapter was awarded the **Silver Trout Award**. This award was given to us in honor of our 2011 **Bear Creek** habitat improvement project (BCHIP).

We are very proud to have received the award and thank the State Council for the honor. I want to thank everyone (and there are dozens and dozens of you) who helped make BCHIP a reality.

One of the people who made BCHIP happen was **William Far-gen Sr.** William owned the land on

Bear Creek that we are working on. On January 3, 2012, William, age 86, passed away. His lifelong connection to the stream and the land enabled our project to happen.

One of the most gratifying things I have heard about the project was something he said last summer. When asked what he liked about the restoration work he said, "The stream sounds better." He is right. When a stream is healthy, it sings a song, one we all can hear if we but listen for it. He could hear it. Thank you for your support, William.

Blackhawk Chapter makes impression on young fly tyer

By Dave Hinde

This year's Blackhawk fly tying classes were held in the Community Room at the Basics Natural Food store in Janesville.

Fifteen students, led by 6 instructors, spent 10 weekly sessions learning to tie 21 fly patterns in the well-lit, comfortable room.

Everyone involved with the classes seemed well pleased, but one student, Trevor Allen, age 12, who was accompanied by his trout fishing Dad, Brian, was even more excited. Here's the e-mail Trevor

sent to his grandparents (printed here with permission):

I don't know if you've heard, but I've been taking a fly tying class with my Dad. In the class we learn to tie flies for fly fishing. The teachers of the class are a few older men from a club called Trout's Unlimited. The club has lots of members and does a lot of things for the environment and streams/ponds. Last night at class the main teacher gave me an Altoids can, so I opened it and there were ten flies in it. About half way through class one of the teachers said, "We have an award to give. Every year we have an award that goes to a member of the class who is young and makes it through the class." He pulled out a metal tube from a plastic crate and walked over by me. He handed it to me and said "This award goes to Trevor." He told me to look inside, so I did and in it I found a St. Croix fly rod, which is a top of the line brand started in Wisconsin. He also handed me a Berkley 558 fly fishing reel. I was really excited. Now I can use the flies that I've made, and go fly fishing at some streams with my Dad. One of my friends that goes fishing just bought a fly rod and reel, so now I can fly fish with him at our local ponds that we have plans on biking to during the summertime.

Kudos to those instructors, and "Welcome aboard, Trevor!"



Trevor Allen (center) with John Miller (left) and Bud Hilgendorf.

Our 2012 winter fly tying class was well attended and a lot of fun. Eleven students spent five Wednesdays at the **Baraboo Public Library** learning the ins and outs of tying flies. Thank you to **Mike Stapleton, Eric Lorenzen, Jerry Gorman, Tom Gawle, and Todd Franklin** for teaching the classes, and thanks to the students for helping to make the class a success.

Chapter elections were held February 29. The officers stayed the same with one addition to the board, **Todd Bennett** of Portage. Thank you, Todd, for volunteering to help the chapter.

HOG magazine is distributed to over 900,000 Harley-Davidson owners. **HOG** has a \$100 trip challenge — take a trip on your Harley for under \$100, write a story about it, and you might get published in the magazine. Last fall chapter member **Tom Gawle** took an "on the cheap" two-day trout fishing trip in the Driftless Area on his 2010 Dyna Superglide Custom. His article about that trip, "Angling for a Ride," appeared in the vol 14/2012 issue of **HOG**. Well done, Tom!

Upcoming chapter workdays are March 24 on **Rocky Run in Columbia County** and April 21 on **Manley Creek in Sauk County**. These will be brushing days, clearing the stream corridor of unwanted woody plants.

Blackhawk Chapter

Our banquet is coming up. It will be Monday, April 30 at the **Pontiac Convention Center in Janesville**, and we'd love to have members of other chapters present. We'll be having lots of door prizes, bucket raffles, silent auction items, and our usual canoe raffle, so we hope we will be able to fund many TU projects later on this year. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 7:00. Tickets are \$40 each, or two for \$70. Contact **Terry Vaughn** at (608) 362-4295 for banquet and raffle tickets.

Since our September report we've funded \$200 for the installation of half-logs on **VanSlyke Creek** near **Fontana**, \$500 to the **Friends of WITU**, \$2,000 for rock for the **Neprud** stream restoration project on **Coon Creek in Vernon County**, \$500 to the **Shabazz School "Project Green Team,"** \$250 to the **Valley Stewardship Network** which sponsors the volunteer network of stream monitors in the **Kickapoo River** watershed, and \$8,000 for three stream projects in **Vernon County**.

In addition, the chapter held a special raffle in December, from

June 2 will be our 2012 luncheon building day on **Bear Creek**. We will team up with the **SEWTU** chapter (and others) to build the lunkers needed for BCHIP 2012. Currently it looks like we'll need around 60 luncheon structures, so everybody is welcome to help out. Look for more detailed location and time information to come at our chapter website, www.alctu.org.

Planning and funding for BCHIP 2012 are going well. On February 20 we met with the **DNR, Sauk County, NRCS, and Holtz Lime and Gravel** to review plans, schedule work, and take care of any remaining needs for this summer's work. I am really excited about the work; the plans look great, the stream has such promise, and once again we have a great team of people to work with. Funding is looking very promising, but we are awaiting results of the **EQUIP** and **WHIP** applications. Hopefully by the end of March we will know if we have fully funded this year's work.

Our chapter picnic will be held Wednesday, June 13, at 5 p.m. Once again we will be at **Habermann Park in Lodi**. Great raffle prizes, great food, and great company. What more can you ask for? Hope to see you there!

—Mike Barniskis

which we were able to send \$500 to the **Reel Recovery** program.

We did some willow removal along **Elk Creek** on March 17, with several other work days coming up in May and June on streams in **Green** and **Rock** counties, including the only known stream in **Rock County** that has naturally reproducing populations of brook trout.

Six chapter members attended the State Council meeting in **Rothschild** in February, and at the banquet's silent auction the collection of flies tied and donated for the event by our own master craftsmen garnered the highest winning bid from all the WI chapters!

At our latest monthly meetings, we've been fortunate to have the following presenters:

- **George Douglas** (author, editor, and **Ohio** steelhead guide),
- **Duke Welter** (**TUDARE** Communications Director, aka — well, never mind), and
- **Kurt Welke**, the fisheries biologist at the **DNR's Fitchburg** office.

They all did a great job!

—Dave Hinde

Central Wisconsin Chapter

CWTU started 2012 off with a bang with our recently completed **Trout Fest**. **Bob Smaglik** and **Dave Johnson**, our program coordinators, really set the bar high for next year. Bob and Dave put together ten 20-minute seminars that were fantastic. Some of the seminars included reading and understanding water, fishing trips on a budget, Lyme disease, and identifying poisonous streamside plants, to name a few. We also had over 25 fly tyers, each doing his own favorite fly, along with different vendors with a variety of items.

Several things stood out for the day. We had five full tables of items for the rummage sale, which most items sold. There were huge num-

bers of raffle items and great door prizes. This year's event was attended by close to 400 people, and I believe a great time was had by all. Thanks to everyone who made it possible.

I would like to acknowledge a fantastic accomplishment by one of our members. A lot of you know **Bob Hunt** and all he has done for the **DNR, Trout Unlimited**, and trout in his lifetime. Because of this, Bob will be inducted into the **Wisconsin Conservation Hall Of Fame** on April 21. He will be inducted along with his brother, **Richard, Hans Folke Becker, and Phil Sander** at the **Sentry Insurance Building Theater in Stevens Point**. Doors will open at 9:00 a.m. for anyone inter-

Chapter News



ested in attending. Please join me in congratulating Bob on this wonderful and great achievement.

As 2012 gets going, it will be a very busy first couple of months. On March 19 we had **Elward Engle** give a presentation called "Wild Flowers Along the Stream."

We will be having our annual casting clinic Monday, April 16, at **Marble Park in Winneconne** hosted by **Russ Bouck**. The evening will start with burgers and brats at 5:00 p.m., with the casting clinic and a kayak program right after.

April also will see **John Gremmer** with his "Introduction to Fly Fishing and Fly Tying" class meeting every Tuesday starting on April 10 and running through May 29 from 6-9 p.m. at **Winneconne High**

Coulee Region Chapter

Our chapter banquet was held on February 24, and we had a record number of attendees (about 120). It was a great evening of fish talk for the upcoming season and also to lay out some of the big projects coming up for our chapter.

School. Please check out our website for more info or contact John at (920) 582-7802 (home) or (920) 379-9263 cell. You can also e-mail John at jgremmer@charter.net.

February also brought CWTU some sad news as we had two members pass away. **Gene West** was a past president, vice-president, treasurer, and board member. Others may have known him from stopping in the fly shop out in **Wild Rose** and talking fishing and flies. **Bob Stemper** was a member for several years and had property along the **Pine River**. He was a gracious host for one of our summer board meetings at his home there. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their families.

—Linn Beck

Jim Cox, Eric Rauch, and David Dornblaser took time to explain the stream improvement projects on tap for 2012, the May 19 **Spring Pig Roast** (details of which are at www.couleestreams.com), and also the **Second Annual Trout Fest** to be

held on June 16 in **Coon Valley**.

Special recognition was given to **Mary Post** for her years of support to CRTU, **Curt Rees** as a new member in charge of the CRTU newsletter, and to **Eric Rauch** for his continued dedication.

Eric is behind many of our big chapter events and stream projects, and he was the driving force for the very successful Trout Fest this past summer. As a token of our appreciation, Eric was given a new Abel reel to use on his many musky fly

fishing trips.

Our March 21 meeting was co-sponsored by **Viterbo University**. It featured a presentation from **Karl Green**, a community natural resource educator from the **UW-Extension**. Karl shared information about frack mining, the use of frack sand, where these sand deposits are located in the Coulee Region, and the issues that arise when this sand is mined.

—Curt Rees

Fox Valley Chapter

The winter months have been a busy time for the Fox Valley Chapter. We had our January meeting at **Fox Valley Technical College**. The February meeting was held at the **Appleton Public Library**. Our 11th annual chapter fund-raiser, **Cabin Fever Day**, was held on January 28.

Our January chapter meeting in recent years has been a presentation by one of the instructor chefs and several students in the culinary arts program at **Fox Valley Technical College**. This year the students in

Chef John's apprentice chef program presented a very informative program detailing the preparation of a variety of seafood dishes and an excellent smoked turkey. Everyone in attendance was again impressed with the thorough presentations and the ability of the students to answer our questions.

We have now set the third Thursday of January in 2013 for the next FVTC cooking program.

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TU's habitat work featured in *Outdoor Wisconsin* story

By Linn Beck

SEWTU President Mike Kuhr contacted me with an opportunity for TU to do a segment on the *Outdoor Wisconsin* public television show last August. Deb Wolniak of *Outdoor Wisconsin* had an opening after a different project fell through, so she contacted Mike. He made a pitch for a segment on TU's stream restoration efforts and youth education opportunities, and Deb liked the idea.

This is where it became interesting. We had about two weeks to line everything up. We contacted Shawn Sullivan, the fish habitat supervisor for the DNR's Wild Rose station, and he was absolutely up for it. So from there it all fell into place.

The taping took place on the Mekan River between Coloma and Wautoma, a section of stream that had been targeted for our workdays for the last couple of years. It still needed a couple of structures constructed, so it worked out great.

Shawn and DNR employees Steve DeVitt and Abe Wittenwyler demonstrated the building of a bank cover from beginning to end, with Deb getting right into the water and nailing some stringers and deck boards. After the construction portion was done, Shawn did an interview detailing the function and purpose of the structures.

Next up was Mike, who spoke on Trout Unlimited's mission statement and how TU is trying to get more youth involved in activities. After Mike's segment, I spoke some on our youth programs. Finally, we had Tracy Moran of CWTU do a fly fishing segment with Deb's son, Alex, as another part of the youth segment. Alex had gotten his start on fly fishing by tying a fly with Dan Asmus at a youth tying expo.

The whole session of taping and interviews took about three and a half hours to complete. Speaking for all, I felt this was a wonderful experience. I think that we really had a great opportunity to portray TU's mission and show viewers that we are more than just a fishing club. Hopefully all who saw the story came away with the same feeling, and maybe some are even thinking about getting involved with or supporting TU. To see this story, go to www.mptv.org/video/ and click on the drop-down arrow to the right of "Program." Select *Outdoor Wisconsin* from the list. The episode is *Outdoor Wisconsin #2807*.

SHOWING TROUT HABITAT WORK IN ACTION

SEWTU President Mike Kuhr (top) and CWTU President Linn Beck (center) were interviewed for a recent *Outdoor Wisconsin* television story on habitat restoration on the Mekan River in Central Wisconsin. Show co-host Deb Wolniak (bottom center) was in the water to interview WDNR Operations Supervisor Shawn Sullivan (bottom left).





Chapter News

Continued from p. 11

Our February 16 meeting was a presentation by chapter member **Steve Heuser** titled "Internet Fly Fishing." Steve highlighted websites that are related to fly fishing, and he also covered fishing applications that can be used on our smart phones. All of this information will definitely enhance our fishing experiences.

Our chapter fund-raiser, **Cabin Fever Day**, was held January 28 at Fox Valley Technical College. The guest presenters for the day included **Bob Haase, Damian Wilmot, Tom Lager, Matt Wagner, Steve Heuser, and Tim Landwehr**. The bucket raffles, silent auctions, fly tyers, DNR booths, tackle reps, guides, suppliers, and rummage sale made the event a successful fund-raiser for our chapter.

Scott Grady again built and donated a beautiful cane rod that we were able to use as the main fund-raiser for the day. The cane rod raffle was very successful, and the profits will be used for many of the chapter programs.

Our chapter has a number of stream work projects planned start-

ing in April and running through next fall. **Jim Hlaban** and **Joe Bach** have arranged for additional opportunities for our chapter to work with a group of young people from the **Rawhide About Face** program again this year.

We will also try a couple of mid-week habitat evenings again this summer in an attempt to have chapter members who cannot meet on weekends take part in some stream projects.

We will also construct a kiosk in the **City of Waupaca** along the **Waupaca River** to display information about the work that was completed by the DNR last fall. Please check our newly revised website at www.foxvalleytu.org for information dealing with times and locations of the habitat days and evenings. Please join us at one of these habitat days or monthly programs.

A number of chapter members have stepped forward and offered to fill some officer positions that have technically been vacant for some time. **Joe Bach** is now the chapter president and **Tom Lager** is the vice president. **Chris Witten** and **Scott Heinritz** have agreed to be board

members.

There are only a few days left before the official start of spring, and this unusually warm winter has many of us looking forward to some early season fishing, planning for the regular season, and possibly or-

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

—*Rich Erickson*

Frank Hornberg Chapter

The Hornberg Chapter has already had three work events this year. On January 11 several members of the chapter helped DNR personnel move left-over Christmas trees from the **Little Plover Park** to our second **Tomorrow River** work site on **Welton Road**.

Tom Literski supplied a truck and trailer, which made the task much easier. We were amazed at the number of trees that could be weaved and packed in one trailer load.

On February 2 chapter members were at work again, moving saw logs (donated by **Tom Literski**) to the barn on **Jim Henke's** farm. We will use the lumber to construct lunger structures.

Finally, on February 18 a loyal group of members used chain saws to cut trees donated by **Sarah Meadows** for use as pilings. **Stu Grimstad** and **Matt Salchert** supplied trucks to move the pilings to the work site on Welton Road. With this supply of materials, we are prepared for a busy summer of work in the water.

Our January and February general meetings at the **Portage County Public Library** were well attended. The scheduled speaker for the January meeting was **Mat Wagner**, owner of the **Driftless Angler Fly Shop** in **Viroqua**. A snow storm on January 12 prevented him from coming to **Stevens Point**. Our own **Daniel Boggs** graciously stepped in and gave the presentation we would have heard from Mat. His demonstrations of casting techniques brought forth many good questions from the attentive audience.

We had two guest speakers at the February 16 general meeting, also at the **Portage County Public Library**. The first speaker was **Kevin Halvorson**, Soil Conservation Technician for the **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service**, who gave us an update on the two **USDA/WDNR** rehabilitation projects on the **Tomorrow River**. Work upstream from the **Keener Road** bridge is now complete, and if permissions and funding are secured, similar work will be done below the bridge. Work on the **Bob Lea** property between the farm bridge and **Lake Meyers Road** is essentially finished, and work above the farm bridge is projected for the future.

The second speaker at the February meeting was **Tom Meronek**,

fisheries biologist in the Natural Resources Division of Water and Fisheries Management of the **WDNR**. Tom presented a history of trophy fishing regulations in Wisconsin.

This was of local interest, since the first river for which regulations were proposed in the 1970s was our own **Tomorrow River**. Tom compared the history of regulations to the history of brown and brook trout in various sections of the **Tomorrow River**. The audience at this meeting found the data to be quite interesting, and there was a spirited discussion of trophy fishing regulations.

We wish to thank **Dan Boggs** and **Norb Wozniak** for lining up the speakers for these two meetings. A special thanks to Dan for his last-minute substitution at the January meeting.

The March 15 meeting was a celebration of the 20th anniversary of the chartering of the chapter. This special event included a display of historical pictures, documents, awards, and other memorabilia. The guest speaker was **Damian Wilmot**, a well-known fishing guide based in northwest Wisconsin, who described how he guides fly fishers at night on the world-famous **Bois Brule River**.

The following charter members of the chapter were recognized: **Cheri Baltus, Richard Behm, Kevin Buckley, James Cahow, Mary Cahow, Jeff Dimick, Jeff Fuge, Jim Henke, Ken Kreager, Peter Pfiffner, Clifford Piantino, George Rogers, and Norbert Wozniak**.

The late **Dave Engebretson** and **Virgil Peters** were remembered. There was also a recognition of the following presidents of the chapter: **Jeff Dimick, Stu Grimstad, Jim Friedrich, Jim Henke, Michael Mather, and Wyatt Bohm**.

Jean Klein organized this special anniversary meeting with the assistance of **Norb Wozniak, Stu Grimstad, and Stu Nelson**. **Wendel Nelson** assisted with historical research.

Our new website at www.hornberg-tu.org is up and running. **Heidi Oberstadt** created the website and did the necessary work to make it operational. Please note that there is a hyphen in the name of the website between "hornberg" and "tu." If you leave out the hyphen, you will be directed to our old, outdated site.

—*John Vollrath*

Green Bay Chapter

The Green Bay Chapter's winter months were highlighted by another very successful fund-raising banquet. The banquet committee consisted of Chairman **Bruce Deuchert, Dennis Gusick, Wally & Laurel Heil, Brian Hill, Pat Hill, Bill Holton, Jack Koivisto, Paul Kruse, Kim McCarthy, Adrian Meseberg, Lee Meyers, Paul Mongin, Leo Nikowitz, Randy Rake, Janet Smith, Gary & Jan Stoychoff, and Jim & Kim Vanden Branden**. They put together a wonderful event that raised

over \$19,000 that will be used to benefit our coldwater resources.

Having raised the money, the chapter has made some appropriations that directly benefit out trout streams. We are supporting habitat crews, beaver control efforts, and more through the Northeast Region of the State Council. These funds will be used by the **DNR** and the **Forest Service** to improve trout fishing in our area.

We are also going to sponsor young people to conservation camps

Coulee TU holding pig roast and fly fishing film event

By David Dornblaser

Coulee Region TU is inviting all Wisconsin TU members to the chapter's Driftless Area Pig Roast and Fly Fishing Film Tour event at the Norskedalen Nature and Heritage Center outside of Coon Valley on Saturday, May 19.

Everyone is welcome, including all TU members, their families, local Driftless Area landowners, DNR and other professionals, along with anyone interested in coldwater conservancy.

The preliminaries start with free fly casting lessons, Driftless Area fishing hints from local guides, and general camaraderie from 3:30-5:30 p.m. We plan to have presentations by the **WDNR** and other stream professionals during the afternoon. Details on these presentation will be posted on the **CRTU** website as we get closer to the event.

Since we will be at the Norskedalen Nature and Heritage Center, this would be great time to explore their beautiful grounds. Norskedalen really is a remarkable, family-friendly place, and it would take far longer than a single afternoon to explore the historic Bekkum homestead, arboretum, Skumsrud Heritage Farm, the hiking trails, the visitor center, etc. Norskedalen is located in the Timber Coulee watershed, and superb fishing opportunities will be all around us.

The main event starts at 5:30 p.m. when there will be a social hour with a cash bar featuring beer and wine in the Norskedalen shelter house. At 6:30 p.m. the pig roast starts which will include two pigs and whole roasted chickens. We will have all the fixings and great side dishes as well. And, there will be freshly baked Amish pies for dessert. Yumm!

After dinner we will have presentations covering the Driftless Area stream improvement projects that have recently been completed, plus those that are planned for this year and 2013. TU chapters that are currently engaged in or have recently completed projects in the Driftless Area are invited to give a brief presentation of their efforts.

Additionally, our 2011 honoree, Dave Vetrano, will be introducing John "Duke" Welter as this year's banquet honoree. We are honoring Duke for his many years of TU leadership and coldwater stewardship. Duke was recently honored by TU National with the prestigious Ray Mortensen Award.

The Fly Fishing Film Tour begins at sundown. Note that we will be presenting the full Fly Fishing Film Tour presentation as described at <http://flyfilmtour.com>.

Tickets to the Pig Roast and Fly Fishing Film Tour are only \$25.00 per person and are available now. You may purchase your tickets by visiting the **Driftless Angler Fly Shop** in **Viroqua** or www.driftlessangler.com. You can also purchase tickets in advance by mailing a check to Coulee Region TU, c/o Robert Hubbard, 483 Lark Lane, West Salem, WI 54669.

For more information, including information about accommodations, guides, and the Driftless Area, please visit www.couleeregiontu.org/pigroast.htm.

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and stage our annual **Kid's Fishing Day**. Finally, we will work with the DNR, the Forest Service, and the

Oconto River Chapter to hold at six workdays on area streams.
—Gary Stoychoff

Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter

This past fall we extended our 2011 project work and worked on a lower portion of **Six Mile Branch** below **Pine Road** where **Big Spring** enters. This is a fairly channelized section, and we will be pulling back the banks and adding some protection. Next summer we will complete the structures and ground work, and we will tie the work into Big Spring by cleaning it up a hundred feet or so above the confluence.

On February 29 we had a round table discussion on Act 21 and its possible impacts on wildlife regulations and the ability of the WDNR to apply scientific-based regulations.

Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter

Kiap-TU-Wish is continuing our prep work for the upcoming **Trim-belle River** restoration project as de-brushing near the headwaters has been held on most Saturdays. We will also be looking at setting up temperature monitors to assist us in measuring overall project effectiveness on a long-term basis.

We will be losing two longtime board members in March, **Jon Jacobs** and **Greg Dietl**. Their contributions have been immeasurable, as Jon has served in most every capacity for the chapter over the past 20 plus years. Greg, who was my predecessor as president, has assisted me in every aspect of the office and more. Thanks much to both of you.

On the other side of this equation, we are gaining new board members **Tom Schnadt** and **Allison Jacobs** (Jon's daughter). Thank you Tom and Allison for stepping up to the challenge.

The chapter will be participating in the **Tom Helgeson Flyfishing Expo**. It's always a great gathering with many booths to visit, seminars to listen in on, and rods to cast. Hope to see others from around the state there.

Board member **Greg Meyer** is setting up a photo contest among our members with prizes to be awarded. Winning pictures will be displayed at our banquet and at our opening September meeting this fall.

Chapter members **Kent Johnson**, **Greg Dietl**, and **Kyle Amundson** held a meeting with **Fairmount Minerals Co.** to gain answers to address questions by some of the chapter members concerning sand mining. Fairmount Minerals provided us with detailed information regarding their sand mine operations, and they truly showed us how they strive to be ecologically sound. They make a concerted effort in every aspect of their business to address any issues and to remain environmental-

We are looking forward to a slight departure from our regular agenda and having a talk of fishing bluegills near the end of April.

Our 2012 stream project is the lower end of the **Blue River** off **Shemack Road**. There are about 3,000 feet below and 1,000 feet above the bridge that can be worked on. The stream is very deep here and will cost a bit more for pulling back the bank soils, but there is good substrate and many large redds have been seen here.

—Brian Larson

ly friendly. We say thanks to Fairmount Minerals and can only hope other mining companies will follow their model.

—Kyle Amundson

Lakeshore Chapter

Work on the **Onion River** will continue this summer with help from our chapter and the DNR. The upper reaches of the Onion where **Mill Creek** and **Ben Nutt Creek** join to form the Onion are scheduled for work to begin in mid-summer. Lunker structures, cribs, and overall stream repair work will further improve the habitat and water quality in that section.

If you are interested in helping out or just seeing how all this work

is done, please give us a call! Contact **Gordy Martin** at (920) 876-3510 or **Wayne Trupke** at (920) 758-2357. Any help would be greatly appreciated, and it will ensure good fish karma!

The Onion is already fishing well this early season with some nice black stonefly hatches, caddis, and, of course, midges being seen on the improved sections from last year's work.

—Gordy Martin

Northwoods Chapter

We will be having our 38th annual fund-raising banquet on Tuesday, April 17 at **Holiday Acres** in **Rhinelander**. The meal choices will be haddock, barbecue ribs, and steak.

Early bird specials for tickets bought before April 1 are only \$30.

After that they will be \$40. Contact **Brian Hegge** by e-mail at brian.hegge10@gmail.com or call (715) 482-2898 for tickets. Come for a great night of prizes and fish tales.

—Hannah Hansen

Oconto River Chapter

The chapter is busy planning our annual banquet/fund-raiser scheduled for April 26 at **Romy's Holiday**

Inn at Kelly Lake. **Dan Sunnicht** is chairing the event.

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GATES OPEN AT 10AM



COON CREEK

TROUT FESTIVAL

JUNE 16TH 2012

COON VALLEY,

WISCONSIN

LOCAL & NATIONAL VENDORS

KIDS TROUT DERBY

WISCONSIN DNR AQUARIUM

FLY FISHING & TYING LESSONS

HUGE TENT WITH ART & CRAFT VENDORS

FISHING GEAR DEMOS

KIDS GAMES & PRIZES

KAYAK AND CANOE DEMOS

BOBBER RACE

CAR SHOW

FISHING & ENVIRONMENTAL PRESENTATIONS

RAFFLES AND GIVEAWAYS

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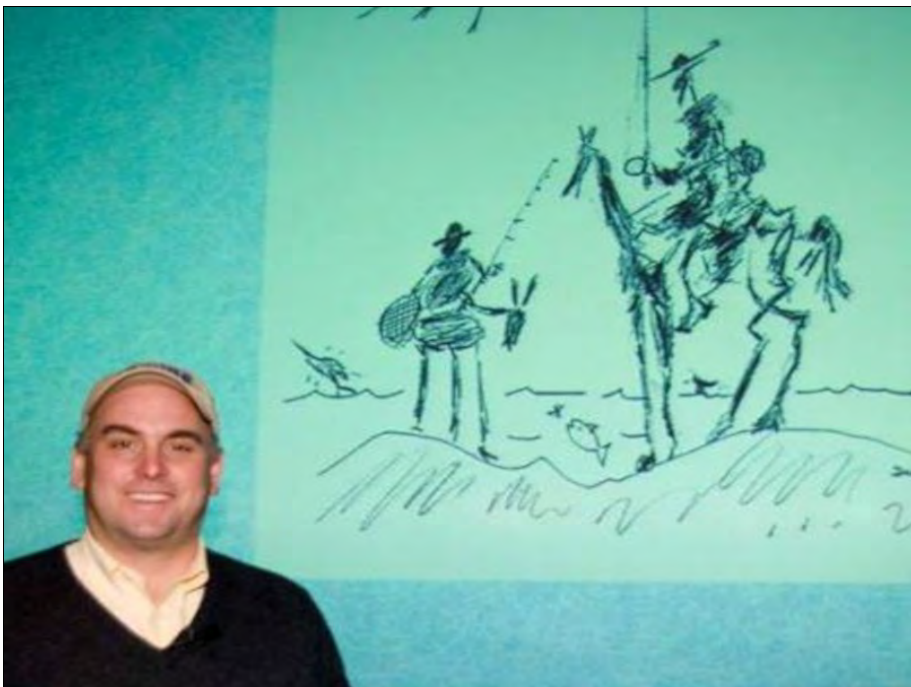


1. Don't play fish to exhaustion.
2. Handle fish in the net.
3. Turn fish belly up while removing hooks.
4. Don't remove swallowed hooks...just cut the line.
5. Don't keep fish out of the water more than 10-15 seconds.

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



Chapter News



KIRK DEETER HEADLINED SWTU'S ICEBREAKER

Kirk Deeter was the headline speaker at this year's Icebreaker event in Madison. His most recent book is *The Little Red Book of Fly Fishing*, co-authored with the late *Denver Post* outdoors writer Charlie Meyers. On Feb. 29, TU National announced that Deeter will assume the editorship of TU's *TROUT* magazine. In addition to his new responsibilities at *TROUT*, Deeter is an editor-at-large for *Field & Stream*, writes the FlyTalk blog at fieldandstream.com, and serves as co-publisher of *Angling Trade* magazine.

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Ticket information can be obtained from **Mitch Meunier** at **True Value** in **Gillett** by calling (920) 855-2844.

The chapter will also send kids to camp at the **UW-Stevens Point** environmental camps this summer. Information on the camps can be funneled through **Moni Brunner** at (920) 855-6669.

The chapter has established a **Trout in the Classroom** program at

three schools in NE Wisconsin. **Oconto, Lena, and Gillett** school districts have setups and active fish projects. **Mark Green** is coordinating this endeavor for us.

Our membership meetings are held monthly (excluding May and November) on the first Wednesday of each month. Meetings are held at the **Lone Oak Gun Club** just north of **Gillett** starting at 7:00 p.m.

—Dale Halla

Shaw-Paca Chapter

We are in the process of selecting a UW-Stevens Point student to receive our **Cold Water Research Grant**. Our criteria are that the student be of junior status with at least a 3.25 GPA, enrolled in a course involving coldwater resources, and reside within our chapter area.

Our fly tying class was held on Tuesdays from Jan. 17 through Feb. 21. Chapter member and master tyer **Jerry Weatherwax** led the class, assisted by several chapter mem-

bers, including **Pete Sippel**. Attendance ranged from 7-14 per session, so it was another successful class.

We also sponsored two high school students to the **Natural Resources Careers** camp at the **Central Wisconsin Environmental Station** to be held this summer.

Our annual fund-raising banquet will be March 29 at the **Northwinds Banquet Hall** in **Marion**.

—Lee Kersten



WRVTU MEMBERS GIVE FLY TYING DEMONSTRATIONS

Mike Pierce was one of several Wisconsin River Valley TU members who gave fly tying demonstrations at the Central Wisconsin Sports Show at the Patriot Center in Wausau Feb 17-19.

Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter

Our formal all-chapter meetings will continue in 2012 at the **Thunder Bay Grille** located at N14W24130 Tower Place in **Pewaukee** (behind the Mobile station, just north of County Highway J's intersection with I-94). Dinner (optional) is at 6:00, meet and greet at 7:00, with the meeting starting at 7:30. Our meetings are open to the public and run monthly from September thru May. Stop out, get acquainted with some old friends, and make some new ones.

At our January meeting, **Luke Roffler** from the **Ozaukee County Fish Passage Program** gave us an update on fish passage improvements underway on the **Milwaukee River**.

In February, **Matt Krueger** from the **River Alliance of Wisconsin** gave a very informative presentation about aquatic invasive species.

Our March meeting featured **Gordy Martin** from **Tie-1-On Guide Service**.

Our April 24 meeting will feature **Mat Wagner**, owner of the **Driftless Angler**. We'll also draw the winners of our spring raffle prizes — a cedar strip canoe and paddles, Weatherby .308 rifle, Cabela's fly rod and reel outfit, and a Shimano spinning rod and reel at our April Meeting.

At our May 22 meeting, we'll once again give our members a chance to speak about recent fishing trips that they've taken. If you are interested in sharing information about one of your recent adventures, please contact Mike Kuhr at miked.trout@yahoo.com.

Our Habitat Committee has been putting together a great slate of projects for the 2012 year. We'll kick off on Sat., April 21, with the **Spring River Clean-up**. This year we have a site on the **Menomonee River** near **Miller Park**. We'll meet in the parking lot off of Canal St. (near the **Sausage Haus**) at 9:00 a.m. and work until Noon. We'd like to thank our site captain, **John Knitter**, for organizing our involvement in the event. John, **Rick Frye**, **Todd Durian**, and **Rich Vetrano** have been participating in volunteer stream monitoring on the Menomonee over the last year. Recently, **Rick Frye** and **Bob Jozowski** took part in a stream impediment survey on the river. No doubt, things are looking up for our urban watersheds!

SEWTU will once again return to the **Driftless Area** for work on **Camp Creek** in 2012. We've been awarded an **Embrace-a-Stream** grant to help fund the project. We owe a big thank you to **Henry Koltz** and **Jim Wierzba** for writing a great grant proposal. Details are being worked out for a workday in May.

We'll also be in the Driftless Area on June 2 for a luncheon building workday on **Bear Creek** with the **Aldo Leopold Chapter**. Check our website for the latest details.

In addition to habitat work, our chapter has been active in education and outreach events. We recently concluded our winter fly tying classes at **Cabela's** in **Richfield**. Our volunteers held introductory classes at the store for seven consecutive weeks this winter. Thanks to **John Knitter** for organizing the event and all the volunteers who helped make it happen.

We had a booth at the **2012 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Sports Show** which took place March 7-11. Volunteers helped spread the word about TU's mission to protect our coldwater resources and also managed to sell quite a few tickets for our spring raffle. Thanks to **Chuck Beeler** for coordinating the event and all the volunteers who worked a successful booth. We'd also like to thank those who shared their passion for fishing with the next generation of anglers in the kid's fly tying area.

On Saturday, April 14, we'll join forces with the **DNR** and the **West Bend Kiwanis** to sponsor the **Annual Kid's Fishing Day** at **Sandy Knoll Park** in **West Bend** from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Kids 15 and under are welcome to come and fish the pond. We need help running this event! Volunteers are asked to RSVP to **Chris Weber** at chriswebercomet@yahoo.com.

On Wednesday, April 18, the **Fly Fishing Film Tour** will come to **Milwaukee!** Sponsored by **The Fly Fishers Fly Shop** and hosted by **Sprecher Brewery** in **Glendale**. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. with the show starting at 7:00. We expect this event to sell out, so get your tickets in advance online at www.flyfilm-tour.com. We'll raffle off an Echo Edge84 8 wt. rod and reel outfit that evening with all proceeds benefiting SEWTU. Thanks to **Kyle Klamar** and **Josh Radlein** for organizing our involvement in the event.

Our **Project Healing Waters** program is eagerly waiting the upcoming fishing season. **Al Dalphonso**, **John Knitter**, and **Glen Winston** lead our morning fly tying sessions at the **VA Medical Center** in **Milwaukee**. **George Batcha** and **Rick Frye** continue to lead the evening classes. Our first fishing outing has been scheduled for Friday, April 27. Contact **Mike Kuhr** at miked.trout@yahoo.com for more information.

Finally, we'd like to thank our political liaisons **Herb Oechler** and **John Knitter** for keeping our chapter well informed about the controversial mining bill that has been making headlines over the last year.

If you would like to receive SEWTU e-mail alerts with details about upcoming events, contact us at sustain@sewtu.org. Thanks for all you do. Our coldwater resources wouldn't be the same without you.

—Mike Kuhr

Southern Wisconsin Chapter

2012 has been off to a rousing start for SWTU! In January, we started the year with an enjoyable, enlightening, and successful **Icebreaker** event. It's our biggest fundraiser of the year, and we had a great turnout from around the state. Thanks to all who attended!

We heard nothing but praise for our featured speaker, **Kirk Deeter**,

who educated, entertained, and inspired with his remarks and wonderful pictures. **Craig Amacker** provided some excellent "local flavor" and got everyone thinking about different places — and species — to fish in Wisconsin.

We also held our annual **Nash Williams Banquet** — a somewhat more refined and formal dinner

Chapter News



event where many members bring their significant others. At the banquet, our chapter awarded Golden Trout awards to three members who make a difference:

- **John Gribb** — Youth Education Volunteer,
- **Bob Selk** — Distinguished Service Award, and
- **Drew Kasel** — Outstanding Volunteer Leadership

Congratulations and thank you! In February, we took advantage of the mild winter to hold our first stream workday of the year. Thirty-four volunteers showed what teamwork, a positive attitude, and the right mix of power tools can accomplish in a morning! All told, roughly 1,000 feet of a public easement on **Vermont Creek** is now cleared of dense brush and invasive species like box elder and buckthorn.

March also saw our annual **Meicher Madness Auction**, an always-enjoyable evening of generous

donations and lively bidding, all in the spirit of friendship and raising funds for our coldwater resource.

This spring will also see at least two more stream workdays, including a large multi-site workday event on April 28 with a cookout afterwards. We are coordinating with other preservation groups on this event and can use all the help we can get, so visit our website to learn more about how you can get involved.

Be sure to check out our newsletter and online chapter calendar at www.swt.org. There you'll find all of our activities and events, including details of our **Annual Casting Clinic** which is set for April 14 at **Salmo Pond** just off Hwy. 14 west of **Cross Plains**. It's free, and everyone is invited to come learn about casting, bugs, gear, reading the water, and more!

—Drew Kasel

Wild Rivers Chapter

The Wild Rivers Chapter's efforts to remove toxic fishing products from the environment took another step forward in December. **Erica LeMoine**, **Loonwatch** program coordinator for the **Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute**, talked to chapter members at the December meeting about the **Get the Lead Out** program and detailed the effects of lead sinkers and jigs on loons, eagles, swans, and other aquatic wildlife. Chapter members discussed ways they can work on projects that will instill strong conservation ethics in kids by outfitting their tackle boxes with non-lead tackle. Erica plans to work with the chapter on the **Get the Lead Out** program at the **2012 Fishing Expo**.

Fly tying sessions were held at the **Great Lakes Visitor Center** on January 21 and March 10. These were opportunities for chapter tyers

to introduce kids to the joy of fly tying. It also provided a time for members to tie flies for our March 24 Expo/Auction.

We recently presented an inscribed Sage fly reel to **Chuck Campbell**. Chuck served as Wild Rivers president from 2006-2010, and his contributions included chapter growth, expanded youth activities, enjoyable member activities, and meaningful habitat projects. His wit and organizational skills enabled our chapter to function effectively and smoothly. As past president, Chuck continues to lead by organizing habitat projects and also by using his writing skills to communicate chapter activities.

Chuck, we hope your new reel will stop those big rainbows you hook off the river mouths of Lake Superior.

—Dick Berge

Wisconsin River Valley Chapter

Many thanks to **Henry Kanemoto**, **Gene Koshak**, **John Meachan**, **Bob Pils**, and **Mike Pierce** for demonstrating their tying skills and to **Brian and Larry Marnholtz**, **Pat Hager**, **Doug Annika**, and **Brooke Brown** for all their help at the **Central Wisconsin Sports Show** at the **Patriot Center** Feb 17-19. Also thanks to **Pat Esselman** for the use of the tables and chairs.

The winner of the raffle was **Lawrence Wokatsch**. The prize was a deluxe fly tying vise and tying tools from **Cabela's**. Mr. Wokatsch is a pike fisherman who has some favorite fishing spots up north, way up north. His son has tied quite a variety of impressive flies for him, and now Mrs. Wokatsch is interested in learning about tying.

Our chapter has been working hard this winter at putting together

our annual banquet. We decided to change things up from years past by moving the banquet to May and on a weeknight, as well as changing venues.

This year, the banquet will be held on **Thursday, May 10**, at the **Rothschild Pavilion**. Doors will open at 5:30. The new location is easily accessible off of Hwy. 29 in Rothschild, just east of the I-39/Hwy. 29 interchange. For more information, please contact **Linda Lehman**, for more details or to order tickets.

I also wanted to express a special thanks to our board for their help and support, especially the last few months while I was tending to a family emergency. Thank you so much!

—Linda Lehman

Wolf River Chapter

Our general membership meeting was held March 10. Officers were nominated and elected:

- Andy Killoren** — President,
- Linda Anderson** — Secretary, and
- Jennifer Wild** — Treasurer

Board members **Jim Robinson** and **Tim Waters** were re-elected to their positions.

July 21 is our scheduled workday

on **Ninemile Creek**. We will be brushing and bundling the section east of Highway 55 to **East Hollister Road**. If another workday is needed to finish that stretch, we will schedule one later this year. Check our website for more details.

We will also be running the brat stand this year in **Langlade**. Targeted weekends are Memorial weekend, July 7 weekend, July 28

weekend, Labor Day weekend, and September 8 weekend. We will again be at **Mike Service Station** on the corner of highways 55 and 64.

Beaver damage was spotted on one of the many feeders of the **Wolf River** through satellite imaging. We are currently planning an exploratory expedition to pinpoint the location of the dam. Anyone interested is encouraged to contact me through the website.

The club is attempting to install a box at the parking area along **Ninemile Creek** on Highway 55. We will be setting it up with survey slips. If you fish this creek this spring and summer, please fill out the survey. This will help us with stream management and complement the data from our temperature monitors. We will post the results of the surveys on our website.

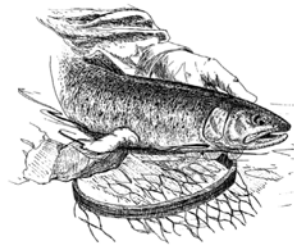
The date for our fall **Appreciation Dinner** has been set for October 13. Please check out our new website at www.WolfRiverTU.org for more info.

—Tim Waters



CHUCK'S GOING FISHING
Former Wild Rivers Chapter President Chuck Campbell (right) accepted an inscribed Sage fly reel recently from Dick Berge for his work on behalf of the chapter.

Consider Proper Release



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

Heroes of Conservation

A Wisconsin teacher leads teens in a community effort to improve trout waters > BY KRISTYN BRADY



Tina Murray, Madison, Wis.

A teacher at Malcolm Shabazz City High School, Murray conceptualized a service-learning curriculum combining flyfishing, ecology, and conservation in 2005. She approached Trout Unlimited chapters and the Wisconsin DNR for help, pulling together 75 volunteers to mentor the students of Project Green Teen, now entering its eighth year. "It's an amazing recipe of teachers and community partners," says Murray, who spends much of her own time working on the program. The teens integrate their classroom lessons with work to stabilize stream banks, remove invasive plants, and clean up rivers.

Field & Stream names SWTU's Murray "conservation hero"

Field & Stream magazine has named Southern Wisconsin TU member Tina Murray a "hero of conservation" in its April 2012 issue.

Murray was honored for her work with the Project Green Teen program that she started and directs at Madison's Malcolm Shabazz High School.

The Green Teen program has been featured many times in *Wisconsin Trout*. TU members from across the state volunteer every spring to serve as mentors to high school students getting hands-on experience in conservation, habitat restoration, and trout fishing.

To learn more about volunteering with Project Green Teen, contact Tina at tmurray@madison.k12.wi.us.

Wisconsin Outdoor Expo help needed May 17-18

By Bob Haase

The Wisconsin Outdoor Expo will be held at the Dodge County Fairgrounds outside of Beaver Dam May 17 and 18. The program runs from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. both days. Between 3,000 and 4,000 kids and their chaperones attend the event every year. Last year we had 918 kids tie a fly, and many of them also tried their hand at fly casting.

We always talk about ways to get our youth more involved in hunting, fishing, and outdoor sports, and this is a great opportunity to do that. The kids who attend get a chance to tie a fly and try their hand at fly casting, but we could do even more.

We could have a display showing what we do with stream monitoring and stream restoration work, or we could show aquatic insects and help kids try to identify them. Other activities could include knot tying or fish identification.

There is a lot we can do, but it all takes volunteers. It takes a minimum of 4-6 volunteers each day to teach fly casting, and a minimum of 10-16 each day to demonstrate fly tying. The more volunteers we have, the more students we can accept.

With up to 2,000 students attending each day, we have an opportunity to reach a lot of kids.

The fly rods we use are furnished by the DNR office out of Oshkosh, so all you need to bring to help out with fly casting is yourself. If you would like to help with fly tying, all you need to bring is your vise and basic tying tools such as a scissor, bobbin, half hitch tool, and whip finisher. All the materials and directions for tying the fly are provided.

We have a lot of repeat volunteers because people realize what a great program this is. If you have volunteered in the past, maybe you can talk a friend into coming along with you this year.

It seems like this year more than ever we have dealt with legislation that could negatively affect our environment such as the wetland bill and the mining bill. We need to do everything we can do introduce our kids to hunting, fishing, and other outdoor activities so that they understand the importance of protecting our environment. There are not many events that provide us the opportunity to do that like the expo.

Bob Haase and Todd Franklin are co-chairs for this year's TU in-

volvement at the expo. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Bob

at (920) 922-8003 or flytier@milwpc.com. or Todd at (920) 219-9550.



THE FLY YOU'RE TYING IS AS ALMOST AS COOL AS THAT HAT
Mike Schaefer from the CWTU helps a youngster tie a fly at a recent Expo.



WITU Looking Back

From the January 1972 WITU Quarterly Report..

"Fishing is almost always either feast or famine, and either extreme can become equally boring. A fly fisherman who died was conducted by an archangel to a dream river, and was told that it was his to fish alone. He promptly began pulling out enormous trout on every cast. After the fourth day in this fishing paradise, he complained that he was beginning to get a little tired of fishing. He complained to the archangel, saying that he was getting tired of taking a fish on every cast and that if this was his idea of Paradise.....
...."That's where you're wrong," said the archangel "this is Hell."

From the March 1982 WITU Quarterly Report...

Roger Fairbanks was appointed chairman of a new task force committee called Hydro-Electric Task Force at the recent State Council meeting. All matters pertaining to hydro-dams on Wisconsin Trout Waters should be directed to Roger at 1004 So. Front Street, Hudson, WI 54016.

DNR has received 50,000 brook trout fingerlings and 200,000 eggs from Canada. These are wild brook trout stock from Lake Nipigon. The trout are shoal spawning fish which are expected to do well in Lake Superior where they will be stocked. The fingerlings will be stocked during the fall of 82 and the eggs will be hatched and the resulting fish will be stocked in the fall of 1983. The first stocking should produce fishing in 1983 and hopefully will produce progeny in subsequent years.

From the Spring 1992 Wisconsin Trout...

Two chapters fold, consolidate

While the news of the formation of a new T.U. chapter in Stevens Point was welcome news for Wisconsin T.U., there was also some bad news. Two former T.U. chapters, the Fontinalis Chapter in the Rice Lake area and the Chequamegon Chapter in Ashland, Bayfield and Douglas counties, have closed shop.

The members of the Fontinalis Chapter were transferred to the Ojibseau Chapter headquartered in Eau Claire,

while T.U.'s from Chequamegon were transferred to the Wild Rivers Chapter based in the Hayward-Cable area of Sawyer County.

Wisconsin T.U. regrets the closures of these chapters, but it had to be done in order to remove active chapters from the roster. We hope that someday individuals will step forth to reinvigorate the T.U. presence in those two important regions of the state.

From the April 2002 Wisconsin Trout...

254 miles of new trout water added

DNR updates state's official trout waters

The 2002 Trout Streams Book — a county-by-county collection of all official Wisconsin trout waters and their classes — is now available, according to Larry Claggett, DNR coldwater fisheries ecologist.

The book can be accessed online at the DNR Fish Web site at www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/fhp/

fish/faq/troutclass.htm. Copies are also available in paperback.

This comprehensive list of trout streams has been updated for 2002 using the latest trout survey information. Since the last publication of the *Wisconsin Trout Streams* in 1980, numerous changes have occurred.

- the total number of trout streams has increased by 254, and the

miles have increased by 809.

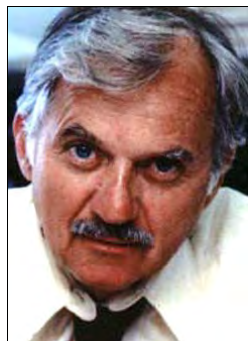
- the miles of class 1 trout streams have increased by 600 miles,
- the miles of class 2 have increased by 401 miles, and
- the miles of class 3 have decreased by 192 miles.

Most of the increases have occurred in the southwestern and west central counties of Iowa, Rich-

land, Vernon, Pierce, Dunn, and Trempealeau. The reasons for these changes are numerous, including changing land use patterns, land conservation measures, habitat restoration and protection, and wild trout stocking.

Former WDNR trout program director Stan Kmiotek passes

Stan Kmiotek, the WDNR biologist who first directed Wisconsin's trout habitat program after the trout stamp was introduced in 1978, passed away on Feb. 23 in Madison at age 93.



Stan Kmiotek

In 1950, Kmiotek was hired by the WI Conservation Dept. (the predecessor of the WDNR) as one of the agency's first aquatic biologists.

It was Kmiotek who compiled the information for and published *Wisconsin Trout Streams* for the agency in 1968.

He also oversaw the annual trout stamp print contest for the agency.

TU's Southern WI Chapter awarded Kmiotek its Gold Trout Award in 1982 "for meritorious ser-

vice to the coldwater resources 1950-1982."

In later years, Kmiotek toured some of the famous trout streams of England with his wife, Margaret.

He also enjoyed playing the guitar and harmonica. Until recently, he played in the After Five Bluegrass Band.



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WI stream access laws summarized in wallet card

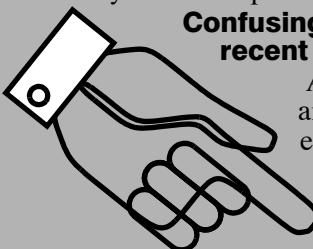
Having trouble remembering what Wisconsin law says about stream access?

Stream access laws have changed twice since 2001, so WITU has created the wallet card below to summarize your rights.

The card below gives a concise summary of your current rights and responsibilities regarding stream access.

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

Confusing recent change
Anglers and other stream



users may remember that Wisconsin law was changed in 2001 to allow people to walk the exposed banks of rivers up to the "normal high-water mark."

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

Of note in the current law is that anglers can legally walk on private property whenever they encounter an "obstruction."

The WDNR has interpreted an obstruction to not only include such things as fallen trees, but also "deep water."

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

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"Next to Target"

WI State Council of Trout Unlimited 2012 Stream Access Wallet Card

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

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

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

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

Can I walk on the exposed shoreline up to the "ordinary high water mark"?
No, that provision in the statutes was only in effect for two years. Anglers must now follow the previous "keep your feet wet" rule. But you may still leave the water legally to bypass obstructions.

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

How does the "no interference" with hunting, fishing, or trapping statute apply to my fishing?
Animal right activists have generally preferred to harass hunters and trappers instead of anglers. Nevertheless, fishing is included in a 1989 WI statute that makes it illegal for someone to "interfere or attempt to interfere with lawful hunting, fishing or trapping with the intent to prevent the taking of a wild animal..."
This statute not only protects you from physical interference, but it protects the animals as well — someone cannot interfere with your fishing by "harassing a wild animal." For fishers, this may be interpreted to mean that someone cannot interfere with your fishing by throwing rocks into water you are about to fish. Land owners blocking your legal access or preventing you from navigating around obstructions may also be violating this statute.

2012 WI Natural Resources Board

			Term Expires
David Clausen Chair	1265 58th Avenue Amery, WI 54001 DNRNRBCHAIR@Wisconsin.gov	608-516-4328 (Cell)	05/01/2013
Preston D. Cole Vice-Chair	Department of Public Works Commissioner's Office 841 N. Broadway, Room 501 Milwaukee, WI 53202	414-286-3302 (Office)	05/01/2013
Christine L. Thomas Secretary	College of Natural Resources UW-Stevens Point Stevens Point, WI 54481	715-346-4185 (Office)	05/01/2015
William Bruins	Homeland Dairy N2899 State Highway 49 Waupun, WI 53963	920-346-5293 (Home)	05/01/2017
Terry N. Hilgenberg	Coldwell Banker Hilgenberg Realtors P. O. Box 555 Shawano, WI 54166	715-526-6148 (Office)	05/01/2017
Gregory Kazmierski	Buck Rub Outfitters Ltd. N13 W28400 Silvernail Road Pewaukee, WI 53072	262-470-5440 (Office)	05/01/2017
Jane Wiley	2400 Park Road Wausau, WI 54401	715-359-2475 (Home)	05/01/2015

Coon Creek Trout Fest needs TU volunteer help

By Eric Rauch

Coon Creek Trout Fest 2012 will take place June 16, and we have been working away since last year's event to make 2012 even better!

Now that we have one successful year under our belts, we feel like we have the ability to continue to make Trout Fest the premier environmental gathering in the Driftless Area.

Last year we had over 700 attendees, 60 booths, and 100+ kids fishing. We also had over 50 volunteers helping make the event run smoothly (even through a torrential downpour), and for that Coulee Region TU would like to say thank you.

We need your help again this year. We are currently looking for volunteers to help out with all aspects of the festival, from bartend-

ing and fly tying, to t-shirt sales and tent volunteers.

If you would like to be a part of this growing event, please e-mail Eric Rauch at 8088rauch@charter.net and me know if you have any preference of work area.

In addition, we are still looking to book fishing and outdoor-related booths and vendors, so if you know of someone who would be interested, contact us at the above e-mail address. You can also check out the website at www.cooncreektroutfest.com. Booths are only \$25.

This is a free event for the public, so we hope to have over 1,000 attendees this year.

Finally, if you have any innovative ideas or things you would like to see us incorporate into the festival, please drop us a line. We would love to include your idea on fest day! Hope to see you all there.

April 14 Vetrano family benefit coincides with project workshop

A benefit for the Dave Vetrano family will take place at the Chaseburg Rod & Gun Club Saturday, April 14, at 6:30 p.m.

Dave's wife, Gennean, was recently diagnosed with cancer. The Vetranos have a teenage daughter, Jess.

The Chaseburg Rod & Gun Club is located west of Chaseburg, WI at S1269 Sportsman Lane, Stoddard, WI. A catered meal will be provided.

For more information, contact TUDARE Project Manager Jeff Hastings at (608) 606-4158.

The Vetrano benefit is the same weekend as the seventh annual

TUDARE Chapter Planning Workshop which will be held at the Living Waters Bible Camp near Westby. This workshop will be held April 14 and 15.

The workshop is again expected to focus on all aspects of planning and carrying out watershed restoration projects. In past workshops, hundreds of TU volunteers, agency personnel, and members of other conservation groups have assembled plans for their own projects. Participants have come from seven states and dozens of TU chapters.

For more information on the Westby workshop, contact John Welter at dwelter@tu.org.



CHAPTERS HELP FUND WDNR SUMMER HABITAT WORK
GBTU's Paul Kruse (right) presents the WDNR's Shawn Sullivan a check to help fund the WDNR's summer habitat crew members.

TU funding makes 2012 trout work crew possible

By Paul Kruse

Central Region Vice Chair

Four Wisconsin TU chapters — Shaw-Paca, Fox Valley, Central WI, and Southeastern WI — have helped fund a three-person trout habitat crew under the direction of Shawn Sullivan, WDNR fisheries operation supervisor out of the Wild Rose field office.

The crew will be hard at work improving trout habitat for 10 weeks this summer in Shawano and Waupaca counties.

The contributing chapters also got a matching \$4,000 grant from the Friends of WITU program.

The three-person trout habitat crew will work on development and maintenance of area trout streams and perform maintenance work on past restoration projects.

These positions will also be responsible for helping with Saturday TU workdays in the area.

Due to DNR budget constraints and personnel shortages, the crew's planned 2012 work would not have been scheduled this year without TU's help. The TU chapters will fund two of the habitat crew positions, and WDNR trout stamp monies will fund the third position.

Shawano County work

In Shawano County, the crew

plans to do 1,700 feet of habitat work on Wilson Creek. The Wilson Creek project will be the crew's largest in the sense that it will require heavy equipment in order to accomplish major restoration work to this critically important coldwater tributary of the Middle Br. Embarrass River.

Experienced technicians will be responsible for the development of this project, and the crew will be under their direction doing maintenance.

Also on the slate of trout stream candidates is a 2,000-foot stretch on the S. Br. Embarrass River and maintenance on bank covers on the N. Br. Embarrass near Bowler.

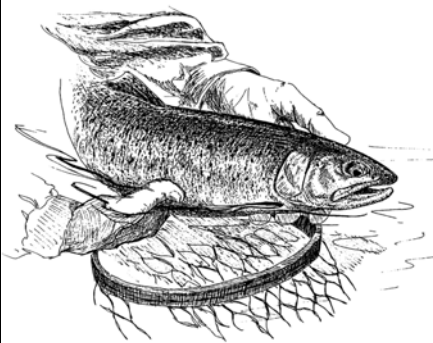
Waupaca County work

In Waupaca County, a Peterson Creek project will receive 1,000 feet of improvements that include 3-4 bank covers, mid-channel boulders, and brush bundles.

They will also perform maintenance on the Waupaca River upstream of County Hwy. Q.

Leer Creek or the S. Br. of the Little Wolf will get 3-4 bank covers installed as part of this busy summer schedule. Maintenance or brushing work will take place on Spaulding, Whitcomb, Murray, and Radley creeks.

Consider Proper Release



CPR is working...keep it up!

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

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For information please contact:
Christine Haag
608-354-8432

christine@conservationrealestateservices.com



Bob's Tying Tips

Advice from
the bench of
Bob Haase

Help for getting beads onto a hook instead of the floor

By Bob Haase

There are a number of ways to put beads on the hook, and some work better than others.

Most people grasp the bead between their thumb and forefinger and run the point of the hook through the bead, bringing it around the bend and onto the hook.

Many times in the process of doing this the bead slips off or out of your fingers and onto the floor never to be found again.

The following are some alternate ways of putting beads onto the hook.

Use the palm of your hand

Lay the bead in the palm of your hand. Using the hook, roll



the bead around until you can find the small hole end of the bead and run the hook into the hole and onto the hook. If the bead slips off it will usually fall back into the palm of your hand instead of onto the floor.

NOTE: Some of the newer micropoint hooks do not need to have the barb crimped down in order to put the bead on the hook, but depending on the size of hook and bead you are using, you still may need to crimp the barb down.

Use a bead tweezers

Another method is to use a bead tweezers. There are different kinds of bead tweezers, and some work better than others.

I like the Deluxe Beadzers distributed by Wapsi Fly. They



have a small cupped indentation at the tips to hold the bead and keep it from slipping out.

Wapsi also distributes another Deluxe Bead Tweezers with a cupped indentation that can be locked to hold the bead in place.

Both of these work better than your fingers for holding a bead securely.

Try Scotch tape

You can also use a piece of Scotch tape to hold the bead.

This method works well if your hands are not steady or you're working with small beads.

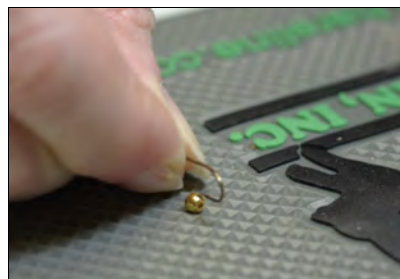
I take about a two-inch piece of tape and stick it to the bottom of my thumb. Then I fold the tape over my forefinger and keep it in place with pressure against the tape with my middle finger against my forefinger.

I then place the bead small hole down on a flat surface and press the tape (forefinger) against the bead.

The bead will stick to the tape (small hole up) so that you can easily insert the point of the hook into the bead.

Try the new "bead pad"

Hairline Dubbin came out with what they call a bead pad



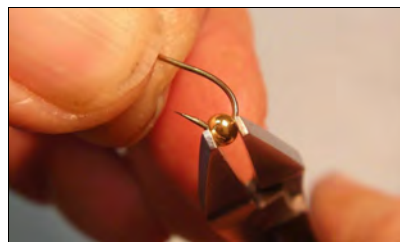
awhile ago. The surface has indentations to keep the beads on the pad from rolling all over your table.

You simply put some beads and hooks on the pad, and when you need another bead on a hook, just use the hook to roll the bead into position to put the hook through the hole.

I find this works pretty well, and you can also flip the pad over and use it as a glue pad. It has a surface that glue will not stick to. Most people who have tried them, like them.

Clamps force problem beads

A final problem some people have is forcing the bead around



the bend of some hooks. I sometimes use a one size larger bead than specified, and the bead doesn't always want to go around the bend of the hook.

I use a Dr. Slick Barb Crusher Scissors Clamp to grip the bead and help force it around the bend of the hook. This clamp has flat, smooth blades that grip most beads well. It works great for a lot of other tying procedures and is one of the most valuable tools I have at my tying bench.

Give these methods a try and see which one works best for you.

Bob's Flashabou Nymph is pure attraction that catches trout

By Bob Haase

Sometimes we tie flies to realistically imitate a specific insect, and at other times the flies we tie don't really imitate anything specific.

The Flashabou Nymph is one of those flies that does not imitate anything specific, but the fish don't seem to care.

This has become my go-to nymph for fishing here in Wisconsin and in Western waters. Even in technical waters like Poindexter

drop of head cement on at this point.

NOTE: If you tie off using a whip finish behind a bead head or on foam where it is compressed in one spot, the thread stacks in the same place and can come loose. I feel that a series of half hitches makes for a stronger knot in these situations.

Tie up a few of these and give them a try. If you get the same results with this fly as I've had, you will always want a few of them in your fly box.

MATERIALS LIST

Bob's Flashabou Nymph

Hook: Mustad 3906B or TMC 3761 (bo5h 2XL) in 16 and 18.

Thread: 70 denier black or olive.

Tail: red goose biot.

Body: Holographic Flashabou, Mirage Flashabou, or opal tinsel.

Bead: gold brass or tungsten

Wings: two white goose biots

Collar: peacock black Ice Dubbing or peacock Super Bright



Slough in Montana, the fish took these when they declined to take anything else. I am not sure what makes this fly work so well, but tie some up and try them out.

Begin by placing the bead on the hook and wrapping the thread to the bend of the hook. Tie in a single red goose biot as shown, wrapping over the biot all the way to the bead.

Tie in a piece of flashabou or opal tinsel. I like using the mirage flashabou, the holographic flashabou, or opal tinsel.

Wrap the thread to the bead, building up the thread slightly as shown. Try to keep the thread base as smooth or flat as possible for the next step.

Wrap the flashabou or tinsel to the bead and tie off.

Then dub a collar using peacock black ice dubbing or peacock Super Bright. This will also serve to lay a base to tie in the white goose biots. Laying a base of dubbing like this makes it easier to tie in the biots.

Tie in two white goose biots as shown. This is similar to the way you might tie them in for a Prince nymph.

Then trim the biots and lightly dub over the biots.

Tie off by making a series of half hitches behind the bead and put a



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Friends 2012 campaign underway

By Doug Brown

Friends of WITU Chair

With 2011 behind us, I would like to say **Thank You** to all of you who donated in last year's Friends of Wisconsin TU fund-raising event.

It was a good year for the Friends program with all of your donations. More importantly, we have funds for our chapters to do various stream projects that will help our coldwater resources for many years.

The 2012 Friends donation request is in the mail. You should have either received it, or you'll get it shortly. A lot of grants have been approved for 2012, but we need your continued support so chapters can have the financial resources to do the projects that help our trout streams.

For example, the Aldo Leopold Chapter is looking to complete a two-year project that rehabs nearly two miles of Bear Creek in Sauk County. Your donation will help this

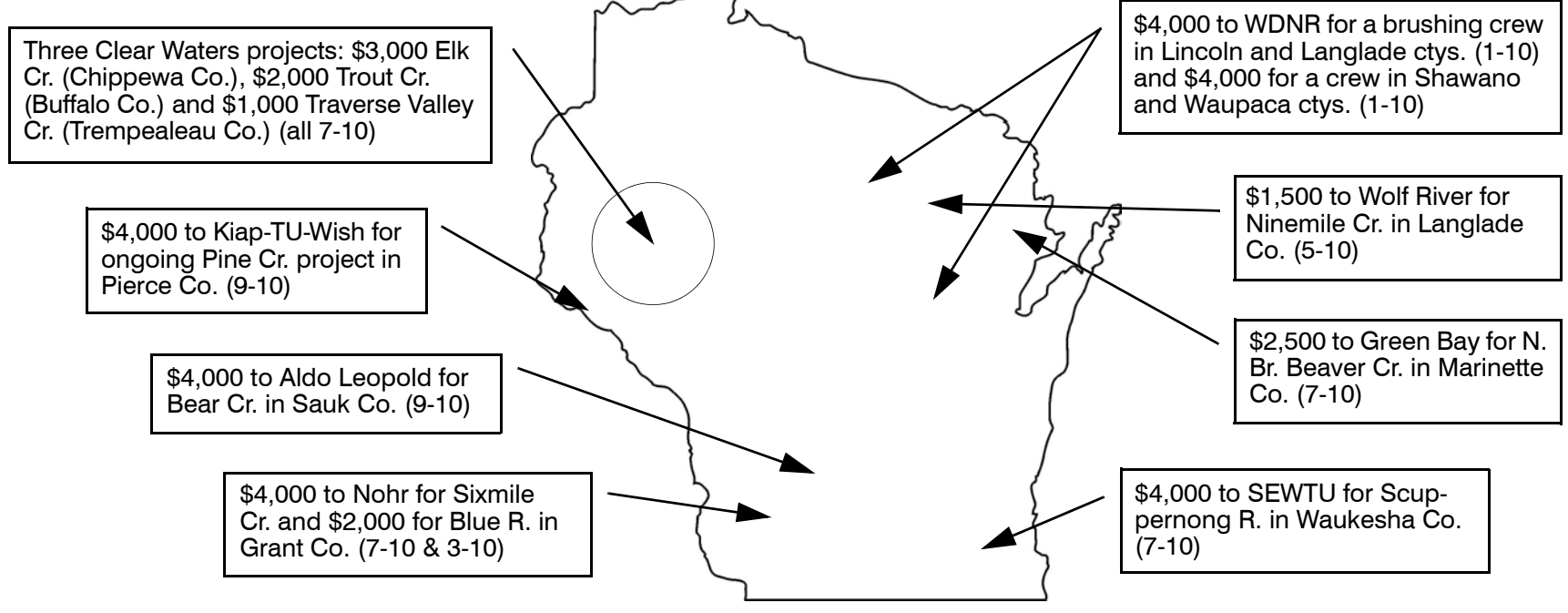
become a reality.

This year, with a \$100 donation you get a Stream Works Fly Box to dry your flies. It attaches easily to your vest or fits in a small pocket. The fly box also has the TU logo on it.

Any donation amount is gladly accepted, and the money goes right back into YOUR streams. Donations can be sent to Doug Brown, Friends of WITU, R4800 Timber Ln., Ringle, WI 54471. I can also be reached at Decbrown@yahoo.com.



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



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Enclosed is my check for \$100, \$250, or more payable to Wisconsin Trout Unlimited.

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