

Wisconsin Trout

January 2012

Some trout streams damaged

Frack sand mining ignites western WI

By John "Duke" Welter

A number of events have arisen surrounding frack sand mining in western Wisconsin the past two months.

Some events involve trout streams in the area, while others are tied to social and economic concerns expressed by neighbors to proposed or active mines.

Meanwhile, the proposed changes to the state's water permitting laws contained in AB 24 would appear to weaken protection for water resources.

Recent events included:

- a moratorium on permitting new mine or processing plants in Eau Claire County until May, 2012, to allow towns and counties to study and possibly enact appropriate regulations;
- a pledge by the Wisconsin Towns Association that it would shortly have proposed model ordinances available for towns to consider;
- the organization of two new citizens' groups — Save the Hills Alliance and Chippewa Valley Conservation Alliance — that are working to share information among activists concerned about the impacts of frack sand mining and processing;
- an agreement by four sand min-

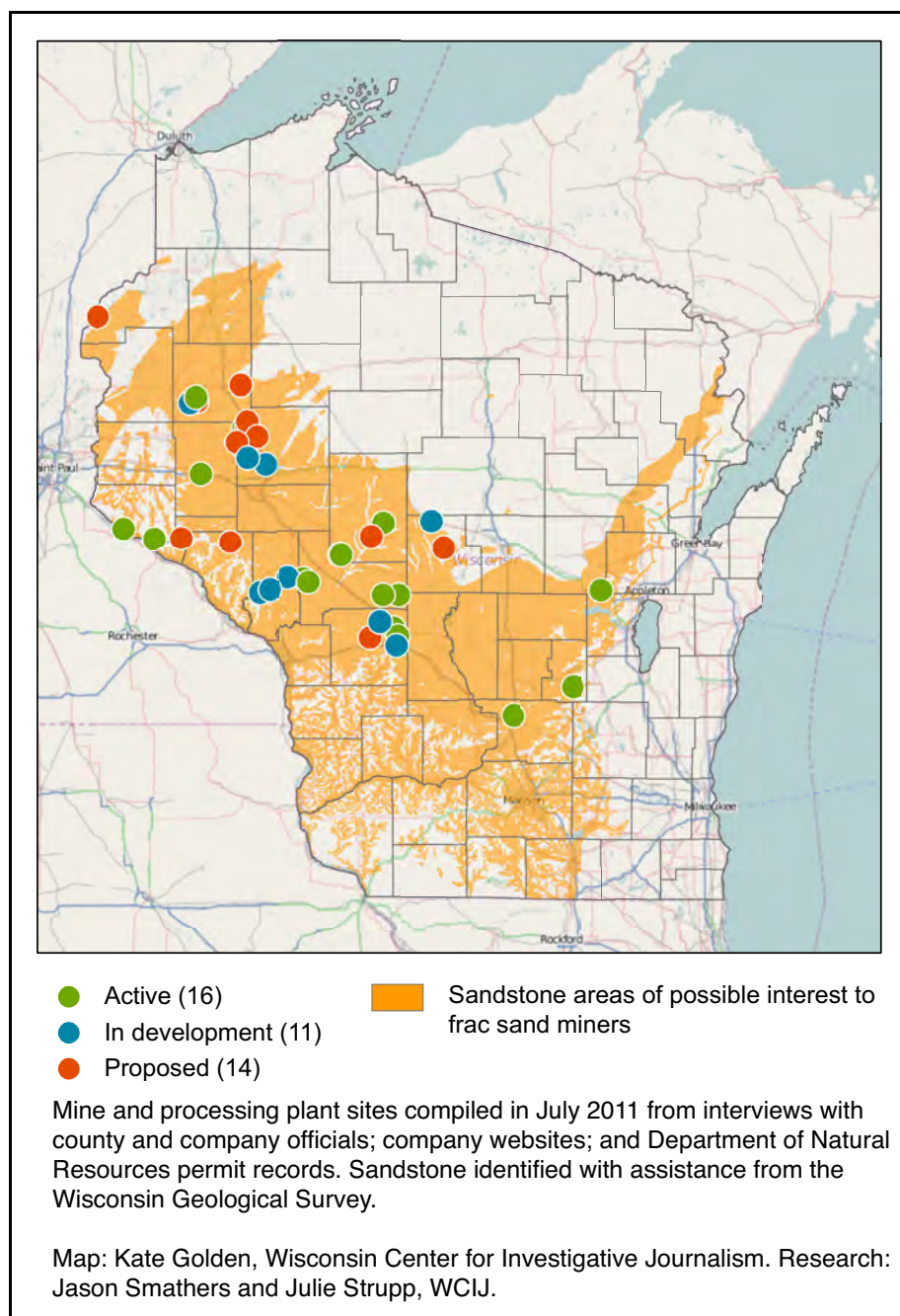
ing companies to pay at least \$6.5 million to repair and strengthen highways and roads in Chippewa County damaged by repetitive use by heavy trucks laden with sand on its way to processing plants or railways;

- the filing of a petition by a group of Chippewa County residents asking DNR to develop rules to control airborne silica sand particles (see separate story on p. 6);
- the citing and fining of a sand company, Superior Silica Sands, by Chippewa County Zoning Enforcement for allowing a flush of wash pond effluent and sediments from a processing plant to go into the North Fork of Trout Creek, a Class I trout stream northwest of Bloomer; and
- the proposed expansion of an underground sand mine at Maiden Rock, WI, to approximately treble the present underground mining area.

Duncan Creek the next trout stream to be impacted?

One proposed processing plant on Highway SS north of Bloomer would be located just east of Duncan Creek, a Class I trout stream with a strong brook trout population and a history of TU and DNR stream restoration work.

Continued on p. 6



Mining bills threaten coldwater resources

By Matt Dannenberg

Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters

Wisconsin's coldwater resources are some of the best in the nation. People travel from far and wide to participate in our culture of outdoor traditions and to experience our streams, lakes, and rivers.

Now pause for a moment and concentrate on a pleasant memory in nature. Maybe you were by yourself or sharing an experience with a friend or family member. Recount the thrill of setting the hook or the relaxing breeze around you. Pause.

As people with a strong connection to the outdoors, I am sure that was easy for you. We value what nature has to offer, so we volunteer to restore and conserve our natural resources. It is necessary and vital to share our experiences with others who do not have a strong relationship with nature, especially our decision-makers in Madison.

Recently Bill Heart — former TU State Council Chair and the WI League of Conservation Voters' November "Member of the Month" — shared an outdoor experience with me. He took me on a tour of the Penoque Range in Ashland/Iron counties, the site of a proposed mine by

the out-of-state mining company, Gogebic Taconite. Gogebic, a campaign contributor to the current administration, would be a benefactor of the proposed mining legislation. As we explored the endangered area, he pointed out small coldwater streams the company plans to fill.

"Bull Gus Creek isn't a trout fishing stream, but it is a spawning ground and a coldwater resource for the Tyler Forks River which is a great trout resource," Bill pointed out. "Filling it in will affect the greater ecosystem and fish wildlife in the area."

Since the proposal of the mine has arisen, Bill has been giving tours of the area so others can understand what is at stake. He has been active locally and has made the long journey to Madison to share his experience with legislators on multiple occasions.

Round 1: The Mining Wish List (May 2011)

Last spring, mining interests put their Christmas wish list together early. They attempted to fast track a 140-page bill containing extreme environmental rollbacks. Some provisions included giving eminent domain to mining companies so they could store wastes on adjacent

properties and draw groundwater from surrounding properties.

Many citizens stood up and spoke out against this bill which would have thrown away decades of environmental protections. This bill was not enacted.

Round 2: Polluters Over People Bill (October 2011)

After the Mining Wish List stalled, legislators remained quiet on mining throughout the summer.

In October, the *Polluters Over People Bill* (Special Session Assembly/Senate Bill 24) was introduced. It contained many of the provisions of the first mining bill, but went further in its rollbacks in that it applied not only to mining, but to other polluting interests in the state. This bill:

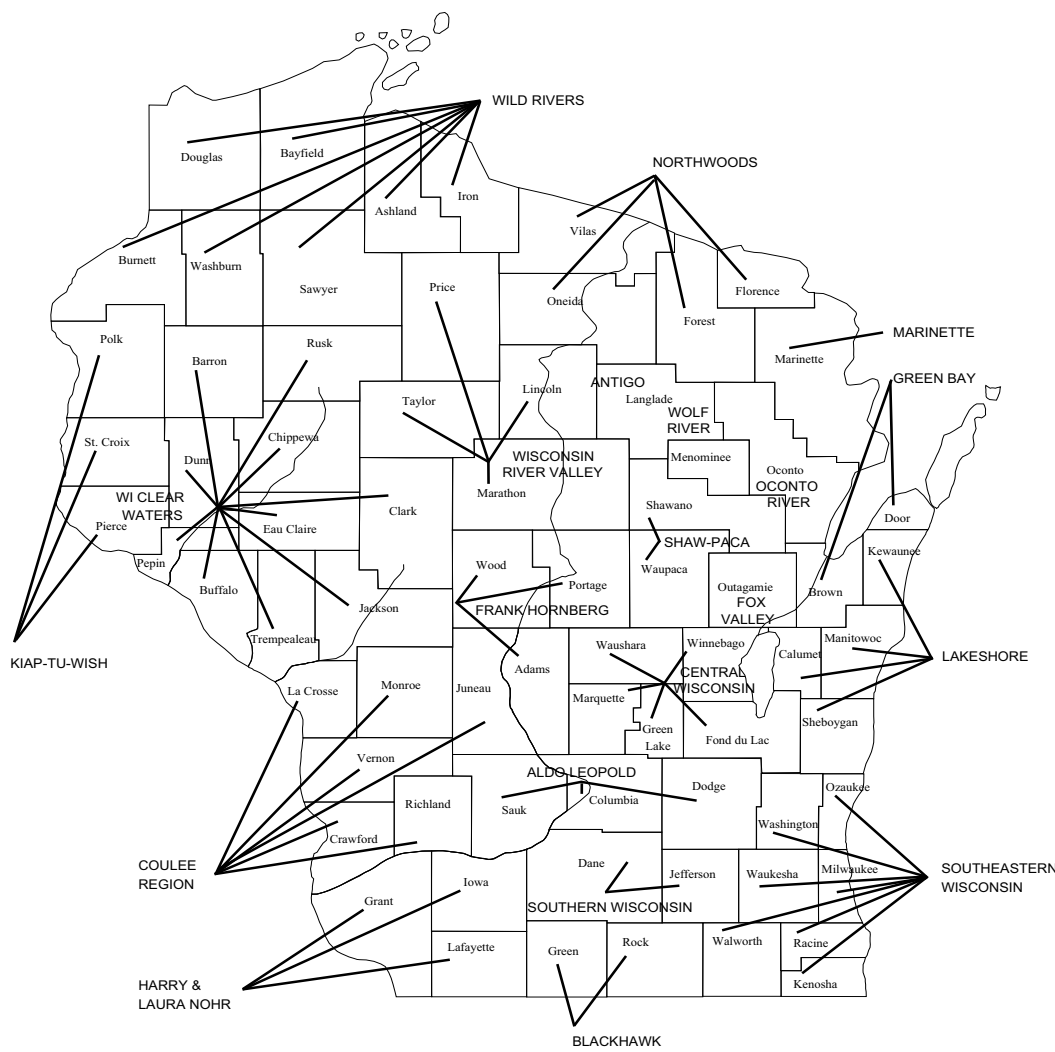
- rewards bad actors and polluting special interests,
- allows for presumptive approval of permits,
- cuts the public out of decisions that impact their waterways,
- guts Wisconsin's water quality protections,
- threatens water quantity in Wisconsin's lakes, streams, and high-capacity wells, and
- undermines Wisconsin's clean air protections.

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Contact TU National when you change addresses or chapter leaders

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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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New iron mining bill needs to be revised

By Kim McCarthy

WITU State Council Chair

2011 has turned out to be quite an interesting year for Trout Unlimited in Wisconsin. There certainly were high points, and much good conservation work was accomplished for us to be very proud of.

But all year long the threat of mining legislation that would undermine environmental protection around the state was foremost on the minds of everyone concerned about conservation.

On December 8 a bill that many feared would come was unveiled at a Madison press conference. The 183-page mining bill, written in large part by the mining companies themselves, would roll back many current resource protections. This bill is industry specific. It is written specifically to make it easier for an out-of-state strip mining and mountain top removal mining company to practice their art along the top of the Penokee Hills in Ashland and Iron counties in one of the most pristine areas of northern Wisconsin. The company, Gogebic Taconite, is a subsidiary of the West Virginia-based Cline Group.

The scope of the proposed mine is unprecedented in Wisconsin. The initial phase alone would involve a 1,000-foot-deep hole running for over four miles in length by one mile in width. The site involves many miles of trout streams and hundreds of acres of wetlands. The ultimate

size of the mine could reach 22 miles in length.

A project of this size and potential impact should certainly have involved the opportunity for the citizens of Wisconsin to be heard. Such was not the case. The 183-page bill was introduced on Dec. 8, and a single hearing was scheduled for Dec. 14 in Milwaukee. The people of Wisconsin were given six days to digest a 183-page bill. The hearing was scheduled 300 miles from the proposed mine site. In addition, provisions within the bill will not allow citizens to request contested case hearings or to file suits.

On Dec. 9 conservation groups met to digest the bill and clarify the scope of the environmental rollbacks contained in the proposed legislation.

The list of what has been uncovered within the bill includes:

- groundwater drawdowns are allowed,
- there are very few restrictions about where the enormous amounts of waste tailings can be dumped,
- endangered species can be destroyed if the mine feels they need to do so, and
- a mining company's reclamation and recovery liability may be discarded in as few as 20 years.

Proponents of the bill keep talking about the jobs that will be created. What is not in the bill are any provisions whatsoever that deal with job training, pay, or working conditions.



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

Finally, if there is any doubt about the environmental intent of this mining bill, one sentence can sometimes be extremely enlightening. The Legislative Reference Bureau drafted the bill and did an independent, non-partisan description of it. As they were looking at deadlines for DNR to issue permits and how much burden would be placed on the company to provide complete, accurate, and honest details in permit applications, they concluded the following:

"DNR may not consider the quality of the information provided in determining

whether the application is complete."

Trout Unlimited and its members will work diligently to oppose any and all conservation rollbacks. Impacts from mining can be extreme and long lasting, and this bill makes those kinds of impacts very likely. This is an irresponsible piece of legislation that should be seriously reconsidered.

Chapter project planning workshop April 14-15

Planning is underway for the seventh annual TUDARE Chapter Projects Planning Workshop, again to 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 restora-

tion 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.

It is rumored that a Liar's Contest will again be featured at the

Workshop's Saturday night banquet. Organizers are considering banning lawyers and politicians from participating. The workshop schedule allows significant fishing time if participants so choose.

For more information on the Westby workshop, contact [dwel-ter@tu.org](mailto:dwelter@tu.org).

Karst symposium set for March 26-28 in La Crosse

Sessions focusing on Driftless Area watershed restoration, fisheries science, forestry, and land use challenges will be featured in a wide-ranging "Driftless Symposium" set for late March 2012 in La Crosse.

Set at the La Crosse Radisson Convention Center, the symposium will take place March 26-28, 2012.

Partners in the Driftless Symposium include TUDARE, Southwest Badger RC&D Council, the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife

Service, and departments of natural resources from the four states of the unglaciated area.

A call for presentations will go out later this month.

Past TUDARE symposia have featured talks on scientific research going on around the area, notably including genetics, migration, and climate change. The Karst symposium broadens out topic areas to address a variety of resource challenges across the region.

For more information on the Symposium, contact darestoration.com/Symposium.html.

Consider Proper Release

It's working...so let's keep up the good work!



- 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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TUDARE tours new stream projects across Minn. & Wis.

By Duke Welter

TUDARE Communications

If just one Driftless Area restoration project — this one a mile and a half long on Minnesota's Pickwick Creek — reduces stream-borne sediment by 700 tons per year, how much reduction can be achieved with 14 miles of restoration?

Pickwick Creek in southeast Minnesota was one of four restoration sites visited by a bus load of observers on November 10. The tour was sponsored by TU's Driftless Area Restoration Effort (TUDARE).

Restoration specialists, volunteers, and TUDARE partners viewed some of last summer's stream project sites on the tour. Despite the season's first significant snowfall the day before, the Novem-

ber tour visited sites in Southeast Minnesota and Southwest Wisconsin.

Over 30 visitors came from Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, and Iowa to walk the project sites and have their questions answered by the restoration professionals.

Such tours give technical professionals the chance to see different techniques in use and question those who install in-stream structures and habitat features.

On Pickwick Creek, a Mississippi River tributary near Winona, MN, sediment loads will be reduced by over 700 tons per year, according to Minnesota TU Executive Director John Lenzewski.

"We need to get that message across for the entire region," Lenzewski said.

With about 14 miles of Driftless Area restoration completed this past season, that would translate into over 6,500 tons of sediment reduction from projects, per year.

The November tour was a larger version of informal tours organized



Todd Hanson

DESCRIBING THE WORK DONE ON PICKWICK CREEK

Minnesota DNR Area Fisheries Supervisor Steve Klotz (center) points out some of the challenges and approaches taken on a recently restored section of Pickwick Creek near Winona, MN. TUDARE Project Manager Jeff Hastings (far right) was one of the tour's hosts.



Todd Hanson

by TUDARE and TU volunteer project leaders over the past several springs and falls.

Such tours give technical professionals the chance to see different techniques in use and question those who install in-stream structures and habitat features. At the same time, the generalists get to compare notes on organizing and carrying out good projects with other project planners, ecologists, and funders.

The tour also visited a streamside rotational grazing area along Trout Run near Troy, MN. Like the Pickwick site, the Trout Run project was a collaboration between the Hiawatha and Win-Cres chapters of Trout Unlimited.

In Wisconsin, the bus first went

to Coon Creek above Coon Valley where a large restoration spearheaded by DNR fisheries biologist Jordan Weeks and the DNR crew led by Mike Leonard.

Then the bus moved on to the Little La Crosse River near Melvina along Hwy. 27 where Bob Micheel of the Monroe County Land Conservation Department has been carrying out significant restoration work with a variety of partners.

"We expect to have other tours next spring and fall in other parts of the Driftless Area where restoration projects are active," said TUDARE Project Manager Jeff Hastings.

For more information on upcoming TUDARE tour opportunities or to suggest sites to visit, contact Jeff Hastings at jhastings@tu.org.



Mark Reissetter



Mark Reissetter

TUDARE BUS TRIP VISITS SOME OF THE BIGGER RESTORATION PROJECTS IN MINNESOTA AND WISCONSIN

Some 30 tour participants found refuge from the coldest day of the season on the tour bus (above left) as they visited four restoration sites in Minn. and Wis. on Nov. 10. The Neprud property (above right) at the mouth of Spring Coulee

just north of the village of Coon Valley involved removing many tons of streamside sediment in order to taper Coon Creek's high banks. Duke Welter (top) examined a partner sign along Trout Run near Winona, MN.

MINING: bills threaten water resources, not just iron mines

Continued from p. 1

Relaxing water protections directly threatens Wisconsin's coldwater resources. This legislation affects the entire state, not just the Penokees.

The Polluters Over People Bill had just one public hearing where over 200 citizens voiced their opposition to the bill during the nine-hour hearing.

Round 3: Continuing Attacks on Multiple Fronts

Mining bills are emerging from several different committees, written behind closed doors without consultation of stakeholders and the public.

When it's difficult for experts to track these bills, one can argue that the public is certainly being left out of this process. We are witnessing the Legislature doing the bidding of

an out-of-state mining company rather than protecting our natural resources and health.

First Attack: NEW Polluters Over People Bill Introduced

With the Special Session ending and no vote being taken on the Polluters Over People Bill, Senator Neal Kedzie needed to write a regular session version of the bill so it would continue to move through the legislative process. The NEW Polluters Over People Bill is Senate Bill 326, and its partner is Assembly Bill 421.

We expect them to be taken up by the full Legislature in January. Please follow Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters for updates at www.conservativoters.org. We need to fight this terrible bill.

Second Attack: Assembly Announces LRB 3520/1

On December 8, the Assembly released the Assembly Mining Bill LRB 3520/1. This bill is very similar to the "Mining Wish List" that came out last spring.

This bill allows mining companies to bypass water, land, and public health protections that other industries are forced to follow. It takes the science out of decision-making, giving companies the option to provide information as they see fit when filling out permit applications.

This bill treats all mining projects the same statewide, without considering regional differences, other resources, or the scale of projects. Plain and simple, this bill allows for rubberstamping of potentially dangerous projects and allows polluters to bypass environmental protections.

This 180-page bill was introduced on December 8, and a single Milwaukee-area hearing was held the following Wednesday.

The Special Senate Committee on Mining has yet to release their bill at the time of publishing, but we expect them to draft a bill based on the Assembly version over the holidays.

What Can You Do?

As people who value our natural resources, we are charged to educate others about these radical proposals.

If we want to continue sharing and creating new memories on the beautiful waterways in Wisconsin, it is essential. Lands like the Penokee Hills that many cherish will be scarred forever.

Contact your legislators. No matter how indifferent you think your legislators may be, you should contact them. Every voice counts, and through collective action we can keep Wisconsin's air, water, and land beautiful for future generations to enjoy. Attend a public hearing or hold an in-district meeting with your legislator and your local chapter.

Invite a Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters organizer to present at your meeting and the meetings of other conservation groups you know. Encourage your local chapters to write a resolution opposing rollbacks to environmental protections.

Share your connection to the land with others and your decision-makers. Together we can protect our natural resources. Do not hesitate to contact us with questions.

You can e-mail info@conservativoters.org or call at (608) 661-0845.

(Matt Dannenberg is the Central WI Organizer for the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters. -Ed.)

This bill allows mining companies to bypass water, land, and public health protections that other industries are forced to follow. It takes the science out of decision-making, giving companies the option to provide information as they see fit.



Mark Reiser

WHERE IT ALL STARTS

One of the TUDARE Driftless Area tour participants followed a trail of water running into Spring Creek and found this well-tended spring near the parking lot of the Neprud property on Coon Creek.



Become a Driftless Sponsor

Dear Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Member:

Since 2005, TU's Driftless Area Restoration Effort (DARE) has helped expand watershed restoration across the unglaciated region of Southwest Wisconsin. With grassroots volunteers leading the way, we have worked with our neighboring states to raise money, train project planners, oversee projects, and protect resources across the Driftless Area.

The results are significant, but we could do more. Restored stream miles have trebled in the four Driftless Area states. Dollars applied to projects have more than doubled. Chapters inside and outside the region have strengthened their capacity to do watershed projects and other parts of TU's mission. Partnerships have been built based on projects, and they continue to grow. Agencies and other conservation groups that had never done projects are now willing to take them on with volunteer help.

And the number of miles of trout streams continues to grow. Through DARE and these projects, we've developed public access on miles and miles of restored streams. TU in the Upper Midwest is stronger for DARE's efforts, and the Driftless Area has better and more accessible fishing resources, and healthier rivers.

We would like to do more, but we need your help. Though we've raised significant project funding, little of that goes to support DARE. **No portion of your TU dues directly supports DARE.** Key support has come from foundation grants and contributions from some chapters, councils, and individuals.

If you support Driftless Restoration, **this is your chance** to make an individual, tax-deductible contribution to DARE. You can show your support with a nifty **"DRIFTLESS SPONSOR TROUT UNLIMITED" license plate holder** for a \$100 contribution. For a \$250 contribution, you'll receive the license plate holder and a TUDARE cap.

Thank for all you do for conservation. Together, we are making a difference.

Sincerely,

TUDARE staff and Volunteer Steering Committee

Jeff Hastings Henry Koltz Duke Welter
Project Manager VSC member DARE Communications

Thanks to Fred Young/Forest City Gear and Al Noll/Noll Consulting Services for helping underwrite the expenses of this letter.

YES! I'd like to be an inaugural Driftless Sponsor. Here's my check made out to TROUT UNLIMITED.

_____ \$125 SILVER (Premium: Driftless Sponsor License Plate Holder)

_____ \$250 GOLD (Premiums: License Plate Holder and a TUDARE Cap)

_____ OTHER (Undying thanks from your TUDARE partners)

Send to: Jeff Hastings, TUDARE Project Manager, E7740 Hastings Lane, Westby WI 54667

FRACKING: sand mining rush igniting western Wisconsin

Continued from p. 1

Preferred Sands has already obtained its permit to build that plant, and work is going on now to address

storm water and transport issues.

At a crowded public forum in Menomonie last week, sand companies said their trucks would be mak-

ing 550 round trips per day between mine sites northwest of Chippewa Falls to a processing site on the north edge of the city. Hours for transport are limited by agreement with local governments, which means trucks will be bringing loads on those roads every few minutes during daytime hours.

A meeting sponsored by the WI Towns Association on Dec. 1 was filled to its 200-person capacity with town elected officials and others trying to find ways to address the challenges posed by frack sand mining. It will be repeated in a larger venue January 12.

Widespread public interest has accompanied the mining boom. Neighbors to mine and processing areas are concerned about airborne dust particles, noise, highways crushed by heavy-laden sand trucks, and loss of the topography of their rural communities.

Mining companies often focus on wooded hillsides and ridges, which often provide some of the best wildlife habitat in their areas.

Some residents welcome the economic opportunities of mining or processing jobs in their communities. Other residents seek to benefit from payments for sand mined on their lands.

Thanksgiving conversations in many areas of west central Wisconsin were likely to carry a note of controversy as relatives and neighbors took different sides of the issue.

Water monitoring started

Chippewa County has implemented a water monitoring system with sophisticated technology on two trout streams (Como Creek and Trout Creek) near mining and processing operations.

Partners in the multiyear monitoring program include U.S. Geological Survey and WI Geological Survey, WDNR, Chippewa County, and several of the larger sand companies operating in the county.

TUDARE and TU's Kiap-TU-Wish and WI Clear Waters chapters are all supportive of the monitoring program. The water monitoring is intended to assess impacts on base flows, temperatures, sediment loads, and other parameters of the nearby mining operations.

A citizen's complaint submitted to the WDNR in November report-

ed a dump of sediment and effluent into Trout Creek, resulting in a citation to the company and a \$4,100 fine (*see separate story on this page*).

County Conservation Director Dan Masterpole said, "Superior Silica Sands responded immediately to remedy the violation, paid the citation, and is following the enforcement order."

TU members are concerned about impacts of frack sand mining and sand processing to coldwater resources, groundwater, and wetlands. But there has been little information available to assess impacts to these resources.

The Chippewa County monitoring program is intended to provide that information and allow policy makers and regulators to make better-informed decisions.

So far, the area where frack sand mining is concentrated covers Wisconsin's Dunn, Chippewa, Barron, Polk, Eau Claire, Trempealeau, and Monroe counties.

An active mine is operating near Plainview, MN, and another is proposed near Red Wing, MN, in the Hay Creek watershed where an ongoing MNTU-TUDARE restoration project is underway.

WI Clear Waters chapter leader Tim Meyer told the WITU State Council last September that the sand companies are looking for certain layers of sandstone — the Mt. Simon, Eau Claire, Wonewoc, Jordan, and St. Peter formations — to use for fracking.

The areas just north of the Driftless Area and along its northeast edge seem to be the major foci of the mining companies. They also target areas where towns are unzoned and where there is access to a rail line for transporting the sand to other regions.

In natural gas fields across North America, fracturing bedrock using a mix of sand, chemicals, and water has prompted a boom in energy development the past five years.

But fracking has also hurt groundwater and destabilized bedrock in some areas.

Under the 2005 Energy Act, frackers are exempt from federal clean water laws. That has left it up to states to enforce their own water protection laws and regulations, which has resulted in a patchwork of strong and weak enforcement.



SCENIC BLUFF TODAY, SAND PILE TOMORROW

Silica frack sand piles are dotting the landscape in Western Wisconsin (top). The sand is prized by the natural gas fracking industry for its hard, round quality (bottom left). Groups are organizing for a variety of aesthetic, health, and other reasons to regulate such mines.

Page 1 of 35

Before The State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

PETITION BY CITIZENS FOR THE PROMULGATION OF RULES TO GOVERN RESPIRABLE CRYSTALLINE SILICA EMISSIONS

TO: Cathy Stepp, Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources, and
The Natural Resources Board
P.O. Box 7921
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7921

The undersigned citizens of the State of Wisconsin hereby petition the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and the Natural Resources Board to conduct rule-making proceedings to revise and adopt rules governing the emissions of Respirable Crystalline Silica to the air from all significant sources, including bedrock sandstone mines and associated processing plants. Petitioners also request that these rules include revision of the hazardous air contaminant list to include respirable crystalline silica, promulgation of an emission standard that is protective of human health, and monitoring sufficient to demonstrate compliance with the standard under the authority given to the Department in sections 285.11(1) and 285.27(2)(b), Wis. Stats.

This petition is filed pursuant to the provisions of 227.12 (1) and (2), Wis. Stats., and Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 2.05(2). A petition for rule-making must state the substance or nature of the rule requested, the reason for the request, the petitioners' interest in the requested rule, and a reference to the agency's authority to promulgate the requested rule (227.12 (2), Wis. Stats.). This petition fulfills these requirements and describes why rule changes are urgently needed.

I. THE NATURE OF THE REQUESTED RULES

The petitioners respectfully request the Department of Natural Resources and the Natural Resources Board to promulgate changes to NR 445, the Air Toxics Rule, that:

1. Revise Table List A of 445.07 to include Respirable Crystalline Silica as a Hazardous Air Contaminant under **NR 445.13**.
2. Establish an emission standard with a time period for the standard and threshold that is at least as stringent as **3 micrograms per cubic meter with a time period of annual**. This standard is consistent with the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA, CAL/EPA) Reference Exposure Level (REL) and is a level below which no adverse effects due to prolonged exposure would be expected in the general public.
3. Require monitoring that the Department deems sufficient to demonstrate compliance with the emission standard.

Citizen petition asks DNR to adopt silica sand rules

A group of citizens petitioned the WDNR to develop rules regulating silica sand dust last November.

The petition provides a comprehensive background on the medical literature relating to the inhalation of silica sand dust.

A copy of the petition can be downloaded at <http://wisair.files.wordpress.com/2011/11/rules-petition-crystalline-silica.pdf>.

TU adopts policy banning the stocking of non-native trout

By Larry Harris

National Leadership Council Chair

By now you have seen the recent resolution from the NLC which was approved at the annual meeting in Bend, OR. As NLC Chair, I have already received some questions from a few states as to the interpretation of this policy statement. Some of these questions were discussed at the NLC meeting, but need to be clear to all of the grassroots.

The intent of the resolution was to make clear to chapters and councils that *TU may not participate in the stocking of non-native hatchery trout in streams where this threatens an existing native trout population*. In some cases this resolution was well understood, for example, in Yellowstone country where once-stocked lake trout are decimating native Yellowstone cutthroats. In other areas, the resolution may need to be clarified.

This will be addressed by formation of an ad-hoc workgroup of NLC members, leaders, and TU staff from around the country. The goal will be to clarify the policy for protecting native fisheries from inappropriate hatchery stocking, so that all TU chapters and councils are working in the same direction.

I would like to emphasize that this policy is a directive for chapters and councils, and not the fisheries agencies, such as state DNRs or local fish and wildlife agencies. We understand that their goals are broader than our own, but often we can work together on common goals. Thanks to all of you for helping us accomplish this goal.

Long-running Waupaca R. project nearly done

By Bob Haase and Linn Beck

Four WITU central region chapters — CWTU, Fox Valley, Hornberg, and Shaw-Paca — decided in 2007 to work on a joint project to do some stream restoration work on a section of the Waupaca River that runs through the downtown business area. That project is now nearing completion.

W.D.N.R. Fisheries Biologist Al Niebur and Habitat Crew Coordinator Shawn Sullivan provided much of the planning and most of the construction. The majority of the funding was provided through trout stamp funds, with additional funding from the chapters.

The project involved bank restoration and the installation of bank covers and other habitat improvements.

Since the project was in an area with high foot traffic, the plan also involved building a kiosk to hold displays showing TU's work in stream restoration projects.

Bob Hunt provided the kiosk information and worked with Bill and Linda Walters from Optima Graphics in Appleton to create the graphics for the kiosk. The kiosk will provide a nice display about TU and stream restoration.

Rich Erickson from the Fox Valley Chapter is building the kiosk. It

will be installed early next spring.

Jim Hlaban from the Fox Valley Chapter, Dave Ehrenberg from the Shaw-Paca Chapter, and Al Niebur met with the city and riparian property owners to get the necessary approvals and permits.

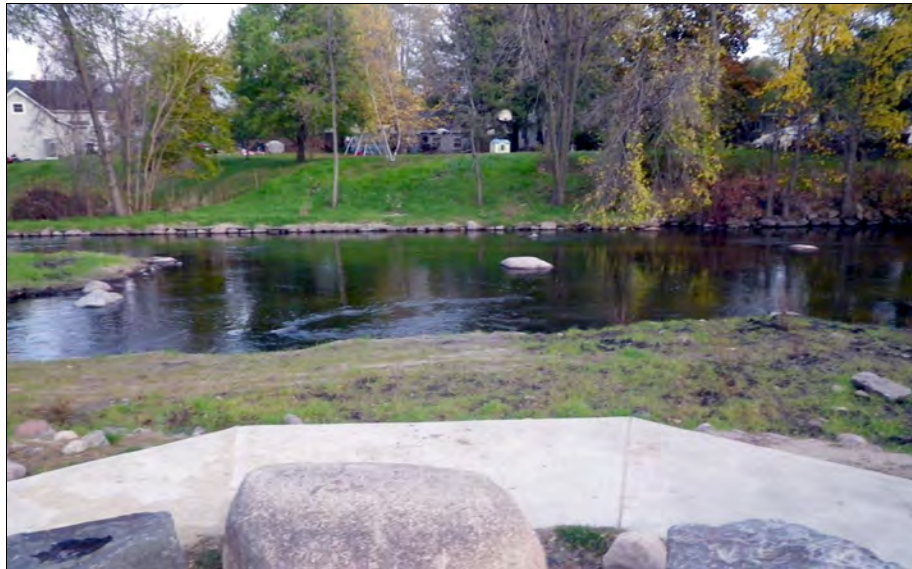
Al Niebur said that this was one of the most difficult projects he has ever worked on in terms of getting all the necessary approvals for the project. Whenever it seemed like all the approvals were in place, something else came up, such as working with the state's Bureau of

Endangered Resources because Blandings and wood turtles were found within the project area.

In order to get the W.D.N.R. water management permits, additional detailed plans had to be submitted, and then we were required to go through a flood plan analysis due to the site's location within the city limits and the potential impact for future FEMA funding. To accomplish this, we had to do additional surveying for elevation, channel dimensions, and the impact of stream narrowing structure placement.

In January of 2010, we had to submit more detailed plans to the W.D.N.R. archeologist and the Wisconsin Historical Society to make sure the project would not impact any cultural sites, such as Indian burial grounds.

This was one of the most difficult projects [Al Niebur] has ever worked on in terms of getting all the necessary approvals...



Rich Erickson

WAUPACA PROJECT WILL INFORM THE PUBLIC OF TU'S WORK

This picture shows a section of the Waupaca River where the work was done. On the left you can see the downstream tip of a new mid-stream island with bank covers. There are strategically placed rocks and bank covers on both sides of the stream. You cannot see it in the picture, but there is also some woody habitat placed in the stream. In the foreground is a sidewalk running up to the river. This spring, some wood structures that are being made this winter will be placed beyond the sidewalk and in one other location to provide handicapped fishing access.

All the riparian property owners had to be contacted for their permission to go ahead with the project. During the time it took to get all necessary permits, one of the properties was sold, and because of the time span, we had to contact all the property owners again for permissions. Two property owners would not agree or wanted considerations that were beyond the scope of the project, so the project was amended to exclude those properties.

All told, it took from 2007 to 2011 to get all the necessary per-

mits, and many members of the central region were beginning to wonder if the project would ever be completed.

If it weren't for Al Niebur and Shawn Sullivan from the W.D.N.R. and the dedication and persistence of numerous TU members, this project would have never happened.

I guess it proves that if you believe in something and work together to accomplish it, you can make it happen despite the obstacles. Thank you to everyone who helped make this project a success!

Watershed Access Fund

2012 access fund campaign underway

Our 2011-12 Watershed Access Fund campaign is now underway, and the initial response has been substantial. With the campaign just over a month old, 50 donations have already poured in. That type of support is what makes members of TU special, putting their own hard-earned money back into the programs that go to protect our resources and secure access. Thank you!

As 2011 comes to a close, I want to thank all of you listed on this page who have donated to this program. We had nearly 60 private donations and 4 TU chapters providing over \$5,000 in financial support so important lands can be acquired and protected for 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

- | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
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| Stephen Born | Madison WI | Greg Gerard | Hudson WI |
| R.G. Chamberlain | Markesan WI | Tony Goldberg | Madison WI |
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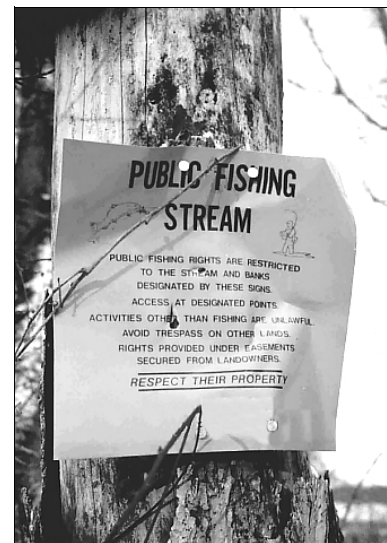
- | | | | |
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| Fred Mikolajewski | West Allis WI | Kiap-TU-Wish | Hudson WI |
| Gene Mueller | Monona WI | Marinette Co. TU | Marinette WI |
| Bob Obma | Green Bay WI | Southern WI TU | Fitchburg WI |
| Herb Oechler | Wauwatosa WI | | |

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 _____



Environmentalists lament erosion of broad support for protection

Wisconsin wetlands seen as threat to jobs

By Bill Lueders

Wisconsin Center
for Investigative Journalism

Call it Bud Harris' theory of environmental relativity. The professor emeritus of natural and applied sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay has found that when people look at the Bergstrom wetland, "They see what they want to see," depending on their perspective.

For wetland experts like Harris, the little patch of land less than a mile down the road from the stadium that hosts the world champion Green Bay Packers, is a rare and valuable resource that provides environmental benefits while supporting a rich array of flora and fauna.

To others, importantly including members of the state Legislature, it's an obstacle in the way of job creation, a sadly degraded patch of wasted opportunity.

During debate over this parcel on Feb. 2, ironically World Wetlands Day, one lawmaker called it "this puddle." Another blamed it for depriving kids of the hot dogs that might otherwise be going into their macaroni and cheese. More on this later.

In the end, the Legislature's Republican majority voted to exempt the Bergstrom wetland from the meddlesome reach of state bureaucrats. The bill they passed will let "less than three acres" of the parcel be filled, with no additional permits or process, so long as 1.5 acres of new wetlands are created for each acre affected.

Republican Gov. Scott Walker promptly signed it into law as Act 6 of 2011.

It was the same number as an earlier law giving Wisconsin what George Meyer, former head of the state Department of Natural Resources, calls "the strongest wetland protections in the country."

Act 6 of 2001, which plugged a loophole in federal wetlands regulation created by a U.S. Supreme Court ruling, unanimously passed both houses of the state Legislature. The Wisconsin Wetlands Association and Wisconsin Realtors Association, a self-proclaimed "unlikely partnership," issued a joint press release heralding the measure.

What a difference a decade makes. During the Feb. 2 debate, state Sen. Dale Schultz, R-Richland Center, blasted the protections in place for the Bergstrom wetland, saying, "This situation is the poster child for what's wrong with state policy and how it prevents develop-

ment and the creation of jobs in this state."

Walker evidently agrees. This fall, he called the Legislature into special session for a package of bills he called "Back to Work Wisconsin." These included a proposed re-vamping of the state's rules regarding wetlands preservation.

"Wisconsin produces a lot of ducks," says Gildo Tori, public policy director of nonprofit Ducks Unlimited's Great Lakes/Atlantic Region, based in Ann Arbor, MI. He cites data showing that ducks banded in Wisconsin were shot by hunters in more than 25 other states, as well as a study that found

Larson also believes property owners must go through too many hoops before they can seek permission to infill wetlands on condition that they create new ones.

Under current DNR rules, property owners must first consider "practicable alternatives," which Larson says can include doing the project somewhere else or not at all. And then they must try to minimize wetland damage, like by scaling back the size of the project.

What the Realtors Association would like, says Larson, is for mitigation to be considered early in the process "if there is a net environmental benefit." He believes it's possible to create new wetlands that are as good or better than the ones they replace, but acknowledges that wetlands advocates think this is seldom true.

Predicts Larson, "We probably won't ever agree on that."

Not good as gold

Erin O'Brien is the policy director for the Wisconsin Wetlands Association, a nonprofit

group devoted to protecting the state's remaining wetlands. It occupies a small office in downtown Madison, in a building with other environmental groups.

Wisconsin has a good track record when it comes to wetlands protection, says O'Brien: "The DNR and Army Corps of Engineers take their obligations seriously." Thanks to major investments in wetlands restoration, in part through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, a federal action plan, Wisconsin is now "restoring more wetlands than we're infilling."

But O'Brien notes that, with five million acres of wetlands lost, "it's going to be a long time before we're anywhere near where we used to be." And she's worried about the inroads being made by "groups lobbying to relax standards" regarding wetlands.

"We're the gold standard," she says of Wisconsin. "And the gold standard is being chipped away."

O'Brien calls the argument that low-quality wetlands can be readily replaced "a really good sales pitch." But she's not buying it: "A lot of the wetlands that are being restored these days are open water ponds, as opposed to historically intact systems."

Some wetland types, like bogs and fens, cannot be recreated at all, says O'Brien. And while her group is not dead-set against infilling, when necessary, even the best-case scenario involves the loss of wetlands in their current location. "We should be maintaining wetlands right where they are."

Moreover, environmentalists and developers disagree over what con-



BERGSTROM WETLAND IS NEAR LAMBEAU FIELD

The Bergstrom property is in the shadow of Lambeau Field. It has been called "one of the best urban wetlands" in Wisconsin. (Photos courtesy of the Wisconsin Center for Investigative Journalism.)

No details have yet been announced — the bill is still in drafting — but Walker has promised an "improved and simplified wetland permitting process" and to "achieve an overall increase in wetland acreage."

The bill, which the governor labeled "Wetland and Habitat Restoration," will likely make it easier for property owners to fill in wetlands deemed of marginal quality in exchange for mitigation — the creation of new wetlands of supposedly superior quality.

Whether you see this as good or bad — well, that depends on your perspective.

Striking a balance

Wetlands serve critical environmental functions — from preventing flooding, to improving water quality, to providing wildlife habitat. But for much of the nation's history, they were seen as wastelands, and filled in at will.

Wisconsin once had 10 million acres of wetlands, approximately 50 percent of which have been destroyed. Other Great Lakes states have fared even worse: Illinois, Indiana and Ohio have each divested between 85 and 90 percent of their original wetlands stock.

But the virtues of wetlands have gradually seeped into the nation's consciousness. The Wisconsin Supreme Court, in a 1972 ruling, decreed that "swamps and wetlands serve a vital role in nature, are part of the balance of nature and are essential to the purity of water in our lakes and streams."

In fact, the state's wetlands are of national significance.

waterfowl hunters nationally generate billions of dollars of economic activity and support tens of thousands of jobs that, notes Tori, "can't be exported."

In early 2001, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a decision that the Army Corps of Engineers interpreted as limiting its regulatory authority to wetlands contiguous to navigable waterways. That removed federal protections from isolated wetlands, about 20 percent of the state's total.

The state DNR, anticipating this decision, compiled a list of potentially affected wetlands, which it made public. "The reaction was overwhelming," recalls Meyer, the former agency chief. "People said, 'Wait a minute. I like going there!'"

Meyer, now head of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, estimates that the resulting wetlands protection bill was backed by between two-thirds and three-fourths of state residents. Support was even greater in the state Legislature, where not a single lawmaker opposed it.

"It was something Wisconsin legislators agreed on," reflects Tom Larson, vice president of legal and public affairs for the Wisconsin Realtors Association. But now he believes the law has failed to do as was hoped — "strike a balance between environmental protection and economic development and private property rights."

One problem, says Larson, is that the current rules "don't differentiate between different sizes and qualities of wetlands." Thus "a small depression in farmland" may be afforded the same protections as a quality wetland.

Kate Golden

stitutes a worthy wetland.

“People will talk about how they support wetlands,” sighs O’Brien. “Then they’ll say, ‘But this wetland’s really a dog.’” More aggravating still, at least to her, is that the wetlands dismissed in this fashion were typically degraded by human activity.

O’Brien arranges a tour for reporters of Madison wetlands, including two within walking distance of each other on the city’s near east side.

The first wetland abuts Starkweather Creek, behind a gas station and an apartment complex. The parcel is dominated by reed canary grass, an invasive species. O’Brien says this is a wetland developers would, if they could, be clamoring to fill — because it’s already so degraded. And yet it still serves important functions — preventing flooding and helping purify water.

The second wetland, along a railroad track a few blocks away, also contains some reed canary grass. But here there are sedge tussocks — large clumps of vegetation with deep roots that draw from the groundwater, making it an extraordinary urban wetland.

What would it take to restore the first wetland to the quality of this second one? O’Brien shakes her head. That, she says, would be “next to impossible.”

Functional value

The Bergstrom property acquired its name because the proposed developer is John Bergstrom, head of the state’s largest car dealership, based in nearby Neenah, WI. The entire parcel occupies 21 acres, including 11 acres that were filled in sometime between 1998 and 2002; it’s not clear by whom, or whether this was done legally.

Lambeau Field and a strip mall can be seen in the distance. Cars and trucks traverse the property on three sides, mostly heavily on Highway 41, a major highway. The most visible areas, along the disturbed periphery, have been taken over by a tall, billowy invasive called Phragmites, or common reed. In the right-of-way near Argonne Street, someone has discarded a car battery.

“I suspect to an average person it’s not all that attractive,” admits Harris as he walks the parcel’s perimeter, not willing to trespass, on an overcast October day. “People don’t see the functional value.” Harris is one of three UW-Green Bay professors, to whom he ascribes a combined 60 years of relevant experience, who inspected the wetland with permission last year. In a memo to the Wisconsin Wetlands Association, the trio wrote: “To our knowledge few, if any, urban wetlands in the greater Green Bay area continue to provide this level of ecosystem services.”

Part of this wetland’s value, explains Harris, is that it has survived, even after being severed from its watershed by human actions. “About 90 percent of the wetlands in this area are gone,” he says. “Some people continue to feel there are better uses.”

An application to fill in wetlands on the Bergstrom site was submitted to the state DNR on April 30, 2010. Shortly thereafter, DNR wildlife biologist Dick Nikolai visited the site and found that it contained sedges and rare plants, as well as sandhill cranes, mourning doves and woodcocks. “This is one of the best urban wetlands in my tenure and deserves to remain functional and intact,” he wrote in his report.

Water management specialist Jon Brand declined to approve the project, noting the wetland’s high

functional value and the existence of a viable alternative, on property he described as “available.”

A DNR higher-up nonetheless green-lighted the permit, which prompted the Wetlands Association to file for a contested case hearing to review this decision. The request was granted but the hearing never held.



THOSE WHO KNOW SEE THE VALUE OF SUCH WETLANDS

Erin O’Brien of the Wisconsin Wetlands Association (top), walking in a Madison urban wetland, calls the choice between jobs and wetlands preservation “a false dichotomy.” “I suspect to an average person it’s not all that attractive,” says Bud Harris (bottom), professor emeritus of natural and applied sciences at UW-Green Bay, of the Bergstrom wetland. “People don’t see the functional value.”

And then, within a few days of taking office, Gov. Walker proposed a bill to let the Bergstrom project go forward. He called the current approval process by DNR professionals “kind of backwards,” explaining, “there should be more power in the hands of elected officials.”

Meyer, the former DNR chief, says the original bill “would have affected thousands of acres in Brown County.” In the end, its reach was narrowed to only the Bergstrom wetland. Meyer sees this as a positive sign of ongoing strong support for wetlands protection.

But, as he acknowledges, there is also growing political pressure for Wisconsin to amend its wetlands rules.

Wetlands vs. jobs?

In pushing to exempt the Bergstrom wetland earlier this year, GOP legislators framed the issue in terms of jobs versus excessive regulation. The developer had announced plans for a retail project, purportedly the mega-outlet Bass Pro Shops.

State Rep. Scott Krug, R-Wisconsin Rapids, chided opponents for “keeping job creation on the back burner in lieu of getting bureaucrats their lifetime achievement awards.” Others took this line of

reasoning even further.

“Right now, as we speak, there’s a mom and there’s a dad somewhere in the Green Bay area,” intoned Rep. Joel Kleefisch, R-Oconomowoc. “And they’re sitting with their kids at the dinner table and they’re eating mac and cheese with ‘em. And there’s a mom and there’s a dad who wish that they could afford

Kleefisch, calling the state’s wetland rules “an obstacle in the way,” challenged his colleagues: “This body has the ability, tonight, each one of you have the ability to say, ‘We’re going to remove that obstacle so that your mom or your dad can have a job.’”

By this time, serious questions had been raised about the claimed tie to Bass Pro Shops, a Missouri-based chain with 58 stores in 26 states and Canada. The company, whose customer base includes hunters and anglers, disclaimed any interest in destroying wetlands.

“We had one casual phone call from somebody on that property,” says spokesman Larry Whiteley, explaining the depth of his conservation-minded company’s involvement. “We didn’t know it was a wetland then.” And while a Wisconsin store remains possible, it likely won’t be on the Bergstrom site, “after the crucifixion we took for something we didn’t do.”

State Rep. Brett Hulsey, D-Madison, cracks that the furor has “created so much blowback the only business they’ll be able to locate there is a payday lender.” Paul Kent, an attorney for Bergstrom, says the plan is still to land “some kind of destination retail” at the site. But more than nine months after the exemption was granted, no development has occurred.

Walker, in calling for a special session that will include revisiting state wetlands rules, said his goal was to focus “like a laser beam” on job creation. That’s been met with skepticism by opposition Democrats, who note that the ongoing session has included bills on deer hunting rules, public school sex education, early morning alcohol sales and home self-defense.

Democrats also say Republicans seem more intent on pleasing special interests than creating jobs. GOP support for restrictions sought by the Realtors Association and others on siting wind turbines has led to the suspension or cancellation of five major wind energy projects which, the *Wisconsin State Journal* reported, would have provided “a relatively quick infusion of about \$1.6 billion in economic development and almost 1,000 temporary, full-time jobs.”

While business interests backing changes in state wetlands policy have considerable clout, O’Brien calls the choice between jobs and

Continued on p. 18

More information on wetlands

- Wisconsin Wetlands Association’s case history on the Bergstrom parcel http://www.wisconsinwetlands.org/BergstromCaseStudy_LowRes.pdf
- “Reversing the Loss of Our Nation’s Wetlands,” by former Wisconsin DNR attorney Michael J. Cain, *National Wetlands Newsletter*, March-April 2010 <http://czarnecki.files.wordpress.com/2010/07/eli-article-final-4-2010.pdf>
- “How We Won the Battle for Isolated Wetlands in Wisconsin,” 5/18/2001 <http://www.wsn.org/wetlands/wetlandsbattle.html>
- Army Corps of Engineers report critical of wetlands mitigation, September 2005 <http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/pdf/GAO05898.pdf>
- State of Wisconsin report on wetland mitigation program, 2001-2010 <http://dnr.wi.gov/wetlands/mitigation/documents/2011MitigationReportFinal.pdf>
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation study on the economic impacts of habitat types including wetlands, Oct. 10, 2011 http://www.trcp.org/assets/pdf/The_Economic_Value_of_Outdoor_Recreation.pdf
- Federal report on how the nation continued to lose wetlands from 2004 to 2009, but at a slower rate than in the past, October 2011 <http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/Docs/StatusTrendsWetlandsConterminousUS2004to2009.pdf>



Chapter News



Rich Erickson

FOX VALLEY CHAPTER ON PETERSON CREEK

FVTU members Tom Lager (in water on left) and Joe Bach (in water on right) pose with the WDNR crew on the chapter's last habitat day of the year in late September on the Peterson Creek.

Aldo Leopold Chapter

This winter we will be holding our annual fly tying class at the **Baraboo Public Library**. The class starts Wednesday, Jan. 25 at 6 p.m. and runs for five consecutive weeks. The fly tying class is free and is a great way to spend cold winter nights, so please join us if you can.

On Jan. 21 we will have a public presentation on trout fishing the **Driftless Area**, our **Bear Creek** project, and fly tying at the **Baraboo Library** from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m.

The engineering plans for the 2012 phase of our **Bear Creek** project have been drawn up by **Brent Bergstrom** from **Sauk County** and **Tony Pillow** of **NRCS**. **Gene Van Dyck** from the **DNR** will once again help us by processing the permits for the project, so a huge thank you to Gene for this invaluable assistance.

On Nov. 4 the chapter was notified that we have been awarded \$2,000 by the **Trout And Salmon Foundation** for our **Bear Creek** project. We are grateful that the foundation found our project worthy of support and want to thank **Jim Budelman** of the foundation for his advocacy of our project.

Late last September there was a fish kill on **Rowan Creek** in **Columbia County**. The exact cause is still under investigation, but here is what we do know. Something came into the **Poynette** sewage treatment plant that "killed" the plant so that it no longer was properly "digesting" waste. As a result, the discharge from the plant saw a significant rise in pH. That high pH, along with some other complicating factors, became lethal to trout. Over 100 fish were found dead.

The DNR was notified promptly, and they were at the stream immediately. They recovered some dying fish and water samples, so they have really good data to work from in determining how this happened. The DNR is legally only able to address the sewer plant's discharge, so dealing with the cause of the plant "kill" is Poynette's responsibility, but the DNR is working with them to try to prevent any future recurrence. At this time, the DNR is continuing its work on this kill, and the chapter is monitoring the process to see if we need to get involved in any direct way.

—Mike Barniskis

Antigo Chapter

Happy winter to everyone! This December finds me at home cutting up venison and wishing the weather was warmer.

We have just returned from our **NE region** meeting held at **Buettner's Wild Wolf Inn**, and boy, can we spend money. Our eight NE TU chapters have funded over \$43,000 worth of projects for the area fish mangers and the **Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest**. Antigo TU did our part by chipping in \$6,900.

This fall we rounded up a work crew and repainted three project signs at previous project sites. They needed a face lift.

We also spent a day with our DNR crew looking at the **Karberger** spring pond dredging project where Antigo TU is funding the fuel cost for the dredge.

We also went over to the two-year project funded by the NE re-

gion and trout stamp monies on the lower portion of the **Evergreen River** in **SE Langlade County**.

Boy, is the work being done here impressive! Come and see the work done here by **Tanya Meives** and the DNR crew.

Our annual fund raising-banquet will be held on Sat., March 31 at the **Knights of Columbus**. We are starting to work on our banquet already. We will again hold our **Kid's Fishing Day** on Sat., June 2 at **City Park**.

We are working with the **City of Antigo** in placing a floating dock on **Remington Lake**. The city has purchased the dock and Antigo TU is welding and putting the steel railings on the dock for safety. Hope to see you at the State Council meeting and banquet in February.

—Scott Henricks

Central Wisconsin Chapter

As 2011 comes to a close, I have been looking back through all the reports from our committees, and I am very pleased with everything that CWTU accomplished this year.

Starting with our **River Keepers**, our committee co-chairs **John Gremmer**, **Jim Murphy**, and **Rick Fahrenkrug** really did a wonderful job getting our program back up to speed. They were able to get 19 teams formed with over 90 River Keepers made up of TU members and citizen volunteers.

These teams monitored 23 sites each month, doing water velocity, water clarity, along with water temperature and dissolved oxygen tests. They also took macro invertebrate samples at the beginning and the end of the monitoring season. This info was entered into the **Water Action Volunteers (WAV)** website.

Altogether these volunteers put in over 2,900 hours for the summer. Anyone interested in joining a team next year can check out our website or go onto the River Keepers website for information.

Other organizers for the **River Keepers** that helped put this together were **Phil Peterson**, **Jeff Wegand**, **Bob Smaglik**, **Mike Schaefer**, and **Lynn Druke**.

Our **Workday Program** headed up by chair **Scott Bahn** had another great summer on the **Mecan River** with the completion of five new bank covers, along with brushing and clearing. They were able to complete about 2,500 feet of stream restoration.

This was accomplished with help of several other TU chapters, including **Elliott Donnelley**, **SEWTU**, and **Wisconsin River Valley**. The total number of different volunteers was just over 60, with a total just over 1,000 hours for the year. Other workday committee members were **Gary Herlache** and **Chris Northway**.

Our program committee is headed up by **Bob Smaglik** with **Dave Johnson** helping out. They really did a great job with our **Casting Clinic**, with **Russ Bouck** leading the way for this. Another big program was **Trout Fest**. Some of the meeting programs included **The Night of the Hex**, a kayak fishing demonstration, **Ross Mueller** with late season trout fishing, and **David Seligman** and **Bob Haase** on how to take a western trip (or any fishing trip) on a budget.

A large round of applause and a huge thank you goes out to all the committee heads, TU members, and all the volunteers for all the time they put into the programs that helped us have a very successful year. **THANKS!**

As we go into 2012, we will start the year strong with our **Master Fly Tying Class** starting the first week of January, our Trout Fest on Saturday, Feb. 25 at the **Fin-n-Feather** in **Winneconne**, and **John Gremmer** with his introduction to fly tying and fishing class in April at **Winneconne High School**. Please check out our website at ww.cwtu.org for more info. Tight lines.

—Linn Beck

Fox Valley Chapter

The Fox Valley Chapter has started the winter schedule of meetings, which have a slower pace than the activities of the spring and summer months. We are also in the final stages of preparing for our annual fund-raiser, **Cabin Fever Day**, which will be held on Sat., Jan. 28.

Our October activities included assistance with a fund-raiser, a trout plant, and a chapter meeting.

Chapter members **Joe Bach**, **Duane Velie**, and **Al Johnson** assisted the **Bubolz Nature Preserve** with their annual fund-raiser called **Romp in The Swamp** on Oct. 22. The members helped the youth in attendance tie what was most likely their first fly.

On Oct. 19, members **Jim Hlaban**, **Jim Jenkin**, **Duane Velie**, **Gordy Braun**, **Bill Repulski**, **Harold Zellner**, **Nancy Rose**, and **Rich Erickson** met at the Rose farm on the **Waupaca River** and helped the DNR scatter plant 18,000 trout in the Waupaca.

Our Oct. 20 chapter meeting was a presentation by **Laura McFarland** of the **River Alliance of Wisconsin** dealing with invasive species and how they are transported between rivers, streams, and lakes. Laura presented some very interesting information to the chapter, and she encouraged us to learn more about invasive species and how we can prevent them from spreading to our favorite fishing waters.

Our Nov. 17 meeting was our second annual **Movie Night**. We were able to take part in a night of hex fishing without getting lost or donating blood to the mosquito population by watching *Night of the Hex*.

Our Dec. 15 meeting was a casual evening that we are calling the third annual "Tie and Lie Evening." Members did some tying, showed others a favorite fly, or shared an interesting fishing story with those in attendance. Truths and half-truths were shared with those in attendance. **Bob Kinderman**, the chapter chef, prepared a couple of his favorite recipes for those in attendance. Bob has a monthly recipe in our chapter newsletter.

Our Jan. 19 meeting will be our annual chapter meeting at **Fox Valley Technical College**. A number of student chefs will join **Chef John** to demonstrate several recipes that can be used to prepare some of the fish we catch. If you are interested in joining us for the evening, please call **Rich Erickson** at (920) 982-9080.

We are completing the planning and preparations for our annual fund-raiser called **Cabin Fever Day** to be held on Jan. 28. There will be a number of presenters throughout the day this year with a round table discussion with all of the presenters at about Noon. They will be sharing their thoughts about "Where to Fish in Wisconsin."

Cabin Fever Day will be held at a new venue this year — **Fox Valley Technical College**. Please check our new website. We're now at www.fox-valleytu.webs.com, for additional information on Cabin Fever Day.

There is not any snow on the ground, but the decorated houses and Christmas trees have many of us thinking of Christmas and the holidays and those special times that we will be having with family and friends over the next few weeks. Re-

Chapter News



lax and enjoy this great season. All of us from Fox Valley TU wish you and your families a merry Christmas and happy new year. Enjoy His cre-

ation and "We'll see you on a trout stream."

—*Rich Erickson*

Frank Hornberg Chapter

The Frank Hornberg Chapter finished 2011 with a final workday at the **Bob Lea** farm on Sat., Dec. 10. We joined forces with the **Fisheries Society** students at **UW-Stevens Point** to assemble lunger structures for the DNR stream rehabilitation project on the **Tomorrow River**. Turnout for this event was very good in spite of the cold weather, so assembly went quickly and smoothly. We are always pleased to see students at our events.

It has been a very productive year for river work at the **Rolling Hills Road** bridge, the **Welton Road** site, the **Bob Lea** farm, and **Stedman Creek**.

Also, our joint workday with the **Friends of the Tomorrow/Waupaca River** cleared the river of fallen trees upstream from the **Rising Star Mill** in **Nelsonville**. That section of the river is now unobstructed and open to canoeing for the first time in many years.

Paul and Loretta Peck supplied the food for our workdays. We didn't always know beforehand what they would bring, but we always knew that it would be very good.

Our secretary, **Ken Pierce**, has new job responsibilities that conflict with his presence at board meetings. We thank him for his faithful service to the chapter in the year just ended. Fortunately, he is still able to come to our work events.

We are gearing up for our annual **Fly Fishing School**. It is scheduled for May 18-20 at the **Baptist Bible Camp** south of **Amherst**. **Jan Tully** arranged for the printing of brochures describing the school. We have already distributed the brochures to selected fly fishing shops and sporting stores in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Illinois. We offer a complete package of first-rate instruction, room and board for a very reasonable price.

Brian and Jacki Clancey will be hosting our first fly tying workshop of 2012 at **Clancey's Stone Lion** in

Custer Jan. 17 at 7:00 p.m. **Brian and Jacki** will have the establishment open just for us that day. Anyone who appreciates fine food and a friendly atmosphere will enjoy time spent at the **Stone Lion**. Fly fishers can come that evening to share their fly tying skills.

Our second fly tying workshop will be at the **Portage County Public Library** in **Stevens Point**. This is a family-oriented affair, and it will run from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Sat., Feb. 11. We encourage fly tyers and the general public to bring the kids and grandkids. It is never too early to learn about the art of fly tying.

The final fly tying workshop for the winter season will be Tuesday, March 20, at 7:00 p.m. at **Shooters Supper Club** in **Plover**. Chapter member **Gene Schulfer** kindly makes his meeting room available for this event. He also makes a room available for our monthly board meetings. Our thanks to **Shooters** for its on-going support of our chapter.

The Frank Hornberg Chapter has scheduled three public meetings during the early winter months of 2012. **Norb Wozniak** and **Dan Boggs** made the arrangements for our speakers.

Mat Wagner, owner of the **Driftless Angler Fly Shop** in **Viroqua**, will speak on Jan. 12.

Tom Meronek, fisheries biologist with the **DNR**, will speak on Feb. 16.

Damian Wilmot, guide for the **Fly By Night Guide Service**, will be the speaker on March 15.

The January and February meetings will be at 7:00 p.m. at the **Portage County Public Library** in **Stevens Point**. The March meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. in the downstairs meeting room at **Shooters Supper Club** in **Plover**.

All of these presentations should be very good. Naturally, they are free and open to the public. Members of other chapters are more than welcome.

—*John Vollrath*

Green Bay Chapter

On Dec. 1, the **Green Bay Chapter** (www.greenbaytu.com) staged its annual **Awards and Dinner Meeting** at the **Sports Corner Bar** in **De Pere**. The purpose of this meeting is to celebrate the Christmas season with some good cheer, fine food, and entertainment with others who have worked hard throughout the year to further the mission of Trout Unlimited.

Members and guests also honored those whose efforts for trout make them deserving of the various awards.

We started out the awards portion of the evening recognizing those who have contributed greatly to the success of our annual fund-raising banquet by presenting **Gold Banquet Sponsor** plaques in the business, artist, and individual categories.

The business gold banquet sponsor award went to **Arlyn Bradley** of **Bradley's Gun Shop**. For many years, Arlyn has helped us obtain the firearms used for prizes at the banquet. He has donated prizes and

also attended the event so that winners could register their firearms that evening and take them home with them.

The artist award was presented to **Jack Berendt** as a result of his many years of donating a variety of hand-crafted items for use as prizes during the evening.

Our individual banquet award went to **Wally and Laurel Heil** for their many years of contributions to the banquet's success.

The **Unsung Hero** award went to **Jim Vanden Branden** for his behind-the-scenes work in getting door prizes for the banquet and work at the podium during the event.

The night continued with the presenting of various awards to deserving individuals. The first award was a **Certificate of Appreciation** presented to **Natalie Hill**. Natalie spent a great deal of time rebuilding our chapter's website, making it into the vibrant information tool it is today.

We then inducted **Mike Renish**, **Harold Becks**, and **Ken Hutjens** into

the **President Club** for their outstanding attendance at work projects over the past year.

Next up was the prestigious **Member of the Year Award**. This was given to **Bruce Deuchert**. Bruce is active in chapter meetings and work projects, and he also chairs our very successful banquet.

Finally, we presented **Tom Nelson** with the **Silver Trout Award**, the highest award the chapter hands out. Tom has been active in all facets of the chapter for many years, hav-

ing served as president, attended many work projects, and donated heavily to our banquet's success.

The chapter will now turn our attention to planning and executing our annual fund-raising banquet to be held Feb. 16 at the **Stadium View Banquet Hall**. In view of the large amount of funds requested for habitat work from the **DNR** and **Forest Service**, we working even harder than in the past to have a successful event.

—*Gary Stoychoff*

Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter

Work is complete on our 2011 stream project of 1.3 miles of **Six Mile Branch**. **Six Mile Branch** runs into the **Blue River** after **Big Spring** runs into **Six Mile Branch**. These streams are a few miles WNW of **Highland** in **Grant County**.

Grants have already been awarded to the project for a total of the about \$145,000.

We have extended our project work and are going to start working on a lower portion of **Six Mile Branch** below **Pine Road** where **Big Spring** enters this fall. This is a fairly channelized section, and we will be pulling back the banks and adding some protection. Next summer we will add more structures for cover.

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Fox Valley
TROUT UNLIMITED

2012 Cabin Fever Day

Fishing Expo

NEW VENUE!

Saturday, January 28, 2012
9 am - 4 pm
\$10 donation/under 18 free
Fox Valley Technical College
1825 N Bluemound Dr
Appleton, WI

Show Events Include

- Silent Auction
- Door Prizes
- Bucket Raffles
- WI Guides
- Fly Fishing Shops
- Fly Tying & Rod Building Booth
- Fishing Equipment Reps
- and Used Equipment Sale

Informative seminars
will be presented
throughout the day
by area experts!
Lunch is available

Visit www.foxvalleytu.org for more info!
Sponsored by Fox Valley Trout Unlimited



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We have some discussions on the **proposed mining law** and are doing what we can to keep it from impacting coldwater streams. We may have a film festival next year with speakers to emphasize the destruction caused by mining.

Reel Recovery, a men's cancer group, has contacted us for support,

Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter

Kiap-TU-Wish had our annual banquet on Dec. 8, and we raised about \$4,500. We will now be looking forward to starting a long-term stream restoration project on the **Trimbelle River**.

The Trimbelle has excellent water quality and a huge potential to offer another outstanding fishery in **Pierce County** alongside the **Rush** and the **Kinnickinnic**.

Rob McKim from **The Nature Conservancy** spoke to our chapter recently. He gave an outstanding talk on what they have stood for in

and we are looking into helping them. **Casting for Recovery**, a group helping women with cancer recover by getting them involved in fly fishing, may also get help from us. More on this later as we determine our level of participation.

—*Brian Larson*

the past and how they hope to progress in the future.

We handed out several awards at our banquet, including:

Volunteer Appreciation for **Tom Schnadt** and **Bob Lorenzen**,

Gold Net Award to **Randy Arnold** all the project organization he does, and

Golden Trout Lifetime Achievement Award to **Gary Horvath** who has served the chapter in every capacity for the last 20 years.

Gary was involved with the chapter when we worked with the city of

River Falls to develop a new watershed management plan for the **Kinnickinnic**, and he has also been one of our past grant writers.

Thanks to all of these folks for their volunteerism.

—*Kyle Amundson*

Lakeshore Chapter

Lakeshore TU has completed work on the upper stretches of the **Onion River** on the **Bonhoff** property. Several cribs and structures were placed along sweeping bends, giving trout perfect cover. Trout were being caught literally the week after the project was completed. It was a large project and will only improve the habitat for all species, especially the trout!

We are currently working with DNR Fisheries Biologist **Travis**

Motl to discuss even more improvements farther upstream at the confluence of **Mill** and **Ben Nutt** creeks. Once permits are granted, the work should be completed in late summer.

Chapter members also held fly tying and casting instruction at the **Kiel Middle School** for students. It was a great success.

—*Gordy Martin*

Northwoods Chapter

Northwoods will be having a meeting on a Monday in January. Please check our website, www.wisconsinintu.org/northwoods or our

Facebook page for the date and who will be speaking.

Thank you, and have a great winter.

—*Hannah Hansen*

Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter

Our formal all-chapter meetings will continue in 2012 at the **Thunder Bay Grille**, which is located at N14 W24130 Tower Place in **Pewaukee** (behind the Mobile station, just north of County Hwy. J's intersection with I-94). An optional dinner is at 6:00, a meet and greet is at 7:00, and the meeting starts at 7:30.

Our meetings are open to the public and run monthly from Sept. thru May. Stop out, get acquainted with some old friends, and make some new ones.

We've had some great speakers this fall, including **WI Conservation Congress Trout Committee Chair Mike Reiter**, filmmaker **Robert Thompson**, and **Capt. Pat Ehlers**, owner of **The Fly Fishers Fly Shop**.

At our November meeting, SEWTU recognized several individuals for their volunteer efforts. Volunteer award recipients included **George Batcha**, **Jim Folda**, **Jason Freund**, **Bob Jozowski**, **Chris Weber**, and **Jay Zawerschnik**.

We also presented **Capt. Pat Ehlers** with an award for his continued support of SEWTU's conservation efforts.

Our membership committee is in the process of finalizing our slate of spring speakers. Rest assured this lineup will feature informative and relevant presentations relating to our coldwater resources. Meetings will be held on the following Tuesdays: Jan. 24, Feb. 28, March 27, April 24, and May 22. The March meeting, always a chapter favorite, will feature the drawing for our spring raffle!

We concluded our 2011 workday schedule with projects on **Genesee Creek** and **Bluff Creek**.

On Oct. 15, volunteers headed out to **Genesee Creek** and built 800 feet of boardwalk. The boardwalks will be used by **Carroll University** students to access field stations adjacent to the creek. This workday, led by Carroll University professor and SEWTU member **Jason Freund**, is part of a multi-year project which included the removal of a small roller mill dam on the creek.

On Dec. 10, about 35 volunteers bundled up and braved the cold weather at our **Bluff Creek** workday near **Whitewater**. We assisted a DNR crew with brushing, relocating rock, creating a walkway, and raking invasive vegetation. We're grateful to our many friends south of the border (**Gary Berger TU** and **Oak Brook TU**) for making the trip up to help out at Bluff Creek. We ended the morning with our traditional brat fry and a bowl of hot soup courtesy of **Jim** and **Nancy Bailey**.

Our fall education activities included the **DNR's Root River Steelhead Facility Open House** in **Racine** on Oct. 8, in addition to a few stops at local retailers **Orvis**, **Cabela's**, and **The Fly Fishers**.

The Root River Open House allowed us to expose TU to over 1,000 attendees, many of whom were youngsters. Volunteers tied flies and helped teach kids how to cast a fly



Ray Weiss



Mike Kuhn

SEWTU HELPS VETS FISH THE SHEBOYGAN RIVER IN KOHLER

SEWTU's Larry Wirth (top left) shows veteran and Project Healing Waters participant Mike "Santa" the finer points of roll casting on the Sheboygan River at River Wildlife in Kohler on Oct. 24. The Sheboygan R. below the Kohler Dam has some nice holding water for lake-run salmon, steelhead, browns.

Chapter News



rod. Thanks to all who volunteer at these important public events. You're great ambassadors for our organization.

On Oct. 18, SEWTU hosted our **Annual Habitat Fund-raiser** to support future stream restoration efforts. The event was held at the **Charcoal Grill and Rotisserie in New Berlin**. This fun-filled evening featured food, drink, live music, and lots of raffle prizes! Net proceeds totaled over \$11,000.

Special thanks go out to **Chuck Beeler, Stan Strelka, Jim Wierzba, and Jay Zawerschnik** for their efforts in organizing the event. We'd also like to thank the many volunteers who showed up early to help set up. And thank you to all the generous donors who made this night a huge success!

Our **Project Healing Waters** program is still busy tying flies at the **VA Medical Center**. **Al Dalphonso, John Knitter, and Glen Winston**

lead our morning group. **George Batcha, Rick Frye, and Don Putning** continue to lead the evening classes.

We closed out our fishing outings for 2011 with a trip to the Sheboygan River on Oct. 24 (see pictures on opposite page). Low water levels allowed us to outfit some of our vets with waders and pursue our quarry (fall-run trout and salmon) while safely wading in the river.

Special thanks to **River Wildlife in Kohler** for sharing their little piece of the Sheboygan River with our veterans. Thank you to all the volunteer fly fishing mentors who make these outings possible.

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 cold-water resources wouldn't be the same without you.

—Mike Kuhr



Todd Hanson

SWTU BRUSHES A SECTION OF VERMONT CREEK

SWTU said goodbye to hundreds of box elders along Vermont Cr. just above where it runs into Black Earth Cr. this fall.

Southern Wisconsin Chapter

Kirk Deeter — a noted **Colorado** guide, author, and magazine contributor — is the featured speaker at our annual **Icebreaker** fund-raising event to be held Sat., Jan. 14. Kirk will be speaking on "25 Tips to Improve Your Fly Fishing" and "Fly Fishing Beyond Trout."

We're very excited to hear Kirk speak, and are also pleased to welcome **Craig Amacker** who will present some local flavor, speaking on "Tips for Fishing Southwestern Wisconsin." You can round your time at the Icebreaker in our tying room, taking a chance on some fantastic bucket raffle items, enjoying a lunch on-site, and just enjoying some time with fellow lovers of our coldwater resource!

Be sure to bring a young nature lover with you, because we will once again have a **Youth Stream Explorer Room**. This is a great learning opportunity to pass along some of the skills and understandings that will help build future coldwater enthusiasts. All youth under age 12 are ad-

mitted for free with a paid parent admission.

We'd love to see you at the **Icebreaker** on Jan. 14 at the **Promega Center in Fitchburg**, just south of **Madison!** It's a friendly, professional, and relaxed atmosphere.

Between the end of trout season and the snow flying, we were very busy with a number of very productive stream workdays. We had great crews, trained saw operators, and almost enough helping hands... we can always use more helpers! Working with the local governments and landowners, we made a tremendous difference on some important local waters and will be excited to drift a fly through them in the spring.

In the areas of conservation, outreach, and education, SWTU had an absolutely fabulous 2011, and we look forward to building upon that success in 2012.

Learn more about us, our events, and activities at www.swtu.org.

—Drew Kasel

Wild Rivers Chapter

Wild Rivers Chapter members **Bill Heart, Rolland Kiel, and Dick Berge** helped with the annual shocking survey of **Whittlesey Creek** this fall. We assisted the **US Fish & Wildlife Service** crew headed by **Glenn Miller** by carrying equipment, netting fish, and picking the

place to have lunch.

Most of the fish captured were young-of-the-year Coho salmon, with lesser numbers of brook and rainbow trout. It is always satisfying to spend time on the river with the dedicated, hard-working professionals from USF&WS



GERMAN VALLEY BRANCH BEFORE AND AFTER A HAIRCUT FROM THE SOUTHERN WISCONSIN CHAPTER

Here is the same bend on German Valley Branch before and after SWTU held a brushing workday this fall. German Valley Branch is a small tributary to Gordon

On Friday, Sept. 16, members **Rolland Kiel, Joe Janquet, Charlie Gritzner, Gary Bernhardt, and Dick Berge** were given a tour at the **Iron River National Fish Hatchery** to see the automated fin clipping and tagging trailers used by the US Fish and Wildlife Service to manage their fisheries. **Dale Bast**, the hatchery manager and member of our advisory board, led this tour.

Two trailers were located among the rearing races in the hatchery. During the tour we observed the clipping of the adipose fin and the tagging of fingerling lake trout. The fingerlings were brought into the trailers and sent through a sorting bin for sizing to six gates, where they were lined up electronically as they went through the gates. After the first gate, they moved to a second gate where the fin was clipped, and then they were sent to the next point to get a microdot tag in the nose.

The line was constantly monitored by computer, so if at any time there was an irregularity or misalignment, the fish were transferred to a bin to be checked and handled by hand.

The completed clipped and tagged fish were returned directly to the rearing races. There were few fish that had to be checked by hand, and fish losses were minimal.

It took four people to operate the trailer. Over 5,000 fish per hour were clipped and marked. What an impressive site it was to see those trailers in action.

Rolland Kiel and **Dick Berge** attended the **Northland College Volunteer Fair** in September where they talked with many interested students, faculty, and members of other organizations. Everyone expressed enthusiasm about the chapter's efforts on the **Little Sioux River** restoration project.

Our chapter hopes to have additional work sessions next year that include volunteer students and members from other organizations. We're optimistic this extra help will let us make great strides in improving habitat on the Little Sioux.

Planning is underway for our annual **Expo/Auction** on March 24. Check our website for details at www.wisconsintrout.org/wildrivers.

—Dick Berge

Wolf River Chapter

The Wolf River Chapter has worked hard on the **Ninemile Creek Restoration Initiative (NCRI)** the past three years, including river cleanup, water testing, temperature

monitoring, brushing, brush bundling, tree planting, and beaver management.

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Jim Beecher photos

Creek southwest of Mt. Horeb in Dane County. The stream has long-term easements and some pending Dane County permanent easements.



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Working with **Cory Bruce** of Rep. Mursau's office and **Russ Habeck** of the DOT, we were finally able to get a sign marking **Ninemile Creek** at the bridge on Hwy. 55. This sign will go up sometime next spring.

Trapper **Duane Fronck** has been

hired by the chapter to continue his work trapping beaver on **Ninemile Creek**. Other than one trouble spot near our access point, the creek is beaver and dam free. According to Duane, "The creek is flushing out well with lots of rocks and gravel bottom being uncovered from the

silt. Banks are starting to undercut in some places as well."

We now have an updated and re-formatted website designed by **Greg Waters**. Check it out at www.wolf-frivertu.org/. Thanks to **John Nebel** for loaning me an original **Cap's Hairwing** tied by **Ed Haaga**. It took

me three hours to get a good picture of it!

Dates for our general membership meeting, board meeting, and spring workdays are currently unscheduled. They will be available on our website when they are set.

—*Tim Waters*

After fire, fly fishers, and friends come through for Trapper

By Joe Orso

When Trapper finally laid his head to rest two Fridays ago — after getting home from the Westby fish fry earlier that afternoon to find smoke billowing out of his log cabin home, after being kept from busting in by the firefighters, after feeling desperation "because there's nothing you can do but watch it burn, watch all of your things burn," after his truck broke down later that evening, and so after he had run back to the clubhouse in the park in Avalanche, Wis., cold because he was dressed for a fish fry, not winter, and all of his winter clothes were now gone, along with almost everything else — the nightmares began.

"I sat right there hoping something else didn't happen and that's when the nightmares first hit," he told me a week later, sitting in his temporary home in the park. "I don't remember them. I'd wake up tensed up, shivering and crying."

For many, 51-year-old Trapper is synonymous with this valley off Hwy. Y between Westby, Viroqua,

and La Farge.

Fly fishers come here from around the state and the nation to

fish its streams that flow into the Kickapoo River.

Trapper keeps an eye on folks'



La Crosse Tribune

Luckily, the care he has shown to the land and people is coming back to him.

Trapper guesses he meets thousands of fly fishers every year, and since the fire he has heard from fishers in New Mexico, California, Maine and elsewhere.

As we chatted, he showed me online messages from fly fishermen wishing him well and promising money and other materials.

One Facebook message he read out loud came from a lieutenant sheriff in Sheboygan, Wis.: "En route to Avalanche with a closet full of clothes and a case of MREs."

A few minutes later, Barry Reynolds walked in. "I've got a big bag of clothes for you and the best food the Army has to offer," he said to his friend of about 20 years. Reynolds, 44, said Trapper is the closest thing to family he has in this area.

"Trapper is the caretaker of this valley to a lot of us," he said. "The guy lives and breathes this valley. This is where his heart and soul is. He dedicates his life to what's going on here at a lot of his own personal cost."

And so when something like this happens, Reynolds said after driving three and a half hours to make the delivery, "you stop what you're doing, you get out here and help — you don't think twice."

As we chatted about fly fishing, a couple stopped by to drop off food gathered by their local church, wished Trapper "Merry Christmas," and left.

Luckily, all was not lost in the fire.

"The hardest thing I could have lost is sitting in my truck right now," Trapper said, getting choked up at the thought, "my two dogs."

If you'd like to help, a fund has been set up at the Westby Co-op Credit Union by Trapper's friends. You can make checks out to "Bryan Trapper Voldahl" and send them to WCCU, PO Box 70, Westby, WI 54667.

(This story by freelance columnist Joe Orso originally appeared in the Dec. 18 La Crosse Tribune. It is reprinted with permission. -Ed.)

land when they're not in town; he helps them when they're in town; he cares for the waters, he helps stock them with trout; he's heavily involved with local sportsmen's clubs; he manages forestland, he sells firewood; he's a journeyman carpenter.

As Bob Blumreich, 64, a friend from Viroqua who is one of the leaders in the fly-fishing community, puts it: "He's a mountain man who was born about 150 years too late. He's a very good steward of the valley. He loves the West Fork (of the Kickapoo). He wants to protect it."

In recent years, Trapper, whose given name is Bryan Voldahl, had been restoring the home he purchased in 2004. The historic log cabin was built in 1871 by Bent Olsen, he said.

The shell of the home, which wasn't insured, is still there, and Trapper plans to rebuild after gutting the interior.

But that's all down the road. Right now, he is still figuring out where he is going to stay this winter.

Three impaired waterways "graduating" to trout streams

Wisconsin now proposes to make official what anglers and residents along two streams in Buffalo County and a third in Dane County have experienced in recent years: the water quality in these waters has improved and trout are taking hold.

Eagle Creek and Joos Valley Creek in Buffalo County, and German Valley Creek in Dane County, are proposed to be removed from Wisconsin's impaired waters list, the payoff from years of partnerships and investment by government, private landowners, and conservation groups to keep soil and manure on the land and out of the water — and to restore in-stream habitat.

"What better story is there than saying that together we've restored these streams that were once mud holes and are now functioning, viable trout streams?" says Jim Amrhein, the DNR water quality biologist in southern Wisconsin who formally submitted the proposal to remove German Valley Creek from the Impaired Waters list.

"We're so lucky to live in a county (Dane County) willing to put dollars toward this kind of effort. We now have anglers from Iowa and Illinois coming here, spending their money and supporting Wisconsin jobs."

Continued on p. 17

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Feedback sought on Lake Michigan salmon stocking

Five years after cutting the number of Chinook stocked in Lake Michigan by 25 percent, Wisconsin and three other states are reviewing if the reduction worked and asking anglers to weigh in on the change.

"We cut the lake-wide stocking quite a bit five years ago to better balance the trout and salmon out there with the available food supply. We said at that time we'd review how it worked," says Bill Horns, Great Lakes fisheries specialist for the DNR.

"Anglers report that the Chinook and Coho they caught in 2011 were big and robust, so we're not hearing a lot of concern from anglers, but we want to follow through on the promise we made to revisit the issue."

Horns invites anglers to review information on the agency's website about the Lake Michigan stocking strategies workshops and to e-mail him at William.Horns@Wisconsin.gov or call at (608) 266-8782 with their feedback on how the stocking reductions worked and suggestions to guide fu-

ture trout and salmon stocking on Lake Michigan.

Anglers also can attend a Lake Michigan Stocking Strategies conference being planned for next summer. Stocking decisions for 2013 and beyond will be based on the data presented and discussed at that public conference.

"So far, we've had a good cross-section of the angling public represented in limited workshops to scope out the process," says Brad Eggold, who supervises DNR's southern Lake Michigan fisheries team. "Now we want to reach out to more anglers to help us get ready for the public meeting this summer."

Fishing clubs weighing in

Representatives from fishing groups across the Great Lakes region have met with fish biologists from Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, and Illinois to formally launch the review of salmon and trout stocking policy in Lake Michigan. They are discussing the process, the information needed, and stocking options for Michigan State's Quantitative Fisheries Center staff to run through computer models to see how the different scenarios would affect fish and forage populations.

Fishing club representatives present at the earlier workshops included:

- Duane Nadolski, a member of the Ozaukee Great Lakes Sport Fishermen chapter and also a member of the Wisconsin Federation of Great Lakes Sport Fishing Club;
- John Hansen, a member of the Milwaukee Great Lakes Sport Fishermen chapter and Racine Salmon Unlimited, and
- Todd Pollesch, who is Wisconsin's sport fish advisor to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission.

Mark Hassenburg, a member of the Kenosha Great Lakes Sport Fishermen chapter, and **Henry Koltz of the Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited**, are expected to also participate in the final workshop in late January to finalize options and presentations for the summer conference.

Stocking reduction the "right move"

DNR fish biologists believe the lake-wide reduction was successful in its goal of assuring the stability of the salmon forage base, especially alewives. While the lake-wide stocking reduction was 25 percent, most of the reduction was in Michi-

gan, where there's been good natural reproduction. But Wisconsin also sliced its stocking by 21 percent starting in 2006, Horns says.


"We think the reduction was the right move at the right time, especially when we look at what's happened in Lake Huron," he says. "Today, the Chinook fishery of Lake Huron has collapsed, while Lake Michigan remains strong."

In Lake Huron, naturally reproduced Chinook flooded the system in the early years of this decade and depleted the alewife population. The problem was exacerbated by the invasion and proliferation of quagga mussels, which started changing the lake ecosystem and contributed to the alewife decline there, he says.

Wisconsin anglers' reports of catching bigger, more robust fish were backed up by the fish that turned up in DNR egg collection facilities this fall. Both the number and size of fish was up.


For more information, contact Bill Horns at (608) 266-8782 or Brad Eggold at (414) 382-7921.

**Great Lakes Trout and Salmon Stamp Revenue and Expenditures Report
Fiscal Years 2006-2011**



Eggen Hatten holds world record 41 pound 8 ounce brown trout caught north of Racine on July 16, 2010. Photo by Paul A. Smith, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Administrative Report 66
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources



Bureau of Fisheries Management & Habitat Protection
Madison, Wisconsin
October 2011

NEW GREAT LAKES STAMP REPORT RELEASED
A report on the activities funded by the WI Great Lakes Trout and Salmon Stamp over the past five years is now available at the DNR website.

	Patron Cards	Two-day licenses	One-day licenses	Great Lakes Trout and Salmon Stamps
1982			27,586	245,890
1983			34,783	279,552
1984	217		35,282	239,971
1985	265		34,312	237,571
1986	286		46,569	226,243
1987	366		45,023	224,283
1988	449		83,615	208,811
1989	567		88,431	175,314
1990	713		84,526	151,769
1991	1,024		83,566	139,715
1992	2,847	45,884		113,442
1993	12,243	43,769		109,566
1994	24,566	43,514		111,208
1995	34,927	40,644		109,569
1996	43,915	40,570		109,866
1997	50,036	41,827		111,227
1998	54,011	41,223		113,809
1999	67,221	40,601		111,741
2000	77,443	38,052		114,926
2001	81,340	51,943		116,453
2002	81,934	44,248		123,994
2003	81,112	44,351		122,653
2004	74,822	41,016		126,894
2005	70,410	44,995		129,744
2006	60,778	49,204		129,240
2007	57,516	53,420		136,978
2008	56,096	48,670		130,766
2009	51,757	48,953		133,281
2010	47,762	43,967		131,841



REPORT A BEAVER DAM

WDNR trout officials need your help identifying the locations of beaver dams on trout streams. E-mail your field observations to richard.stewart@wisconsin.gov or mail them to:

Scot Stewart
3911 Fish Hatchery Road
Fitchburg, WI 53711

Online survey gathering input on managing beavers

The public has one month left in which to give the DNR advise on how to manage the state's beaver population via an online survey.

The agency wrapped up a series of public informational meetings last fall. A total of 65 participants attended the meetings in La Crosse, Oshkosh, Rhinelander, and Hayward.

A considerable amount of money is spent annually to control beavers on Wisconsin's trout streams. According to the DNR publication *Expenditures of Inland Water Trout Stamp Revenues Fiscal Years 2008-2010*, "in 2008, 750 miles of trout stream were kept free of beaver dams in northern Wisconsin. In 2009 and 2010, over 1,500 miles of trout stream were kept free of beaver dams."

At the fall 2011 WITU State Council meeting, members reported seeing more beaver activity in recent years on smaller streams in southwestern Wisconsin.

The DNR's Scot Stewart told State Council members to report their beaver sighting directly to him so he can forward that information directly to the right regional personnel (*see the report form on this page*).

"This is an effort to gather information and public comments as we work to update Wisconsin's beaver management plan," said John Olson, furbearer ecologist for the state Department of Natural Resources. "We want to hear how citizens view beaver, beaver management and those issues and concerns important to them involving beaver, such as damage control, wild rice management, wetland ecosystems, water quality, trout, roads, disease, forest impacts, and agriculture."

You can take the online survey at <http://www.uwex.edu/erc/survey/>.

DNR survey trying to learn why people quit trout fishing

More than 800 anglers who haven't fished for inland trout the past three years are getting a chance to tell the state why they've hung up their rods and are no longer seeking the wily trout in Wisconsin.

The DNR mailed out surveys earlier this month to more than 800 randomly picked fishing license holders who had once been trout anglers but who had not bought a trout stamp that would allow them to fish for trout in Wisconsin's inland waters since 2008.

"What we're trying to find out is what are the reasons that people are no longer fishing, and is there anything we can do about that," says Marty Engel, a DNR fisheries biologist stationed in Baldwin.

"Obviously, angler retention is as important to us as any business. We want to know what the reasons are, and if there is anything we can do to address things like access or regulations, or anything else under our control."

The survey is part of Wisconsin's current review of inland trout fishing. Participants at public meetings last spring got to tell DNR fish biologists what they like about trout fishing now and what they think could be improved.

Meeting participants also filled out a survey to give more specific feedback on all aspects of trout fishing and management in Wisconsin, and nearly 2,000 completed the same survey online.

Second mailing upcoming

A second mail survey went out this fall to randomly selected trout anglers. DNR researchers are using results from the previous surveys available at the public meetings and online to help fine-tune the questions for the mail survey. The second mail survey also asked about angler effort, catch, and harvest.

Jordan Petchenik, a DNR social researcher, worked with trout researchers on the survey that seeks to find out why some anglers have quit fishing.

Petchenik worked with DNR's licensing staff to run a query of the automated licensing system to see how many people bought a trout stamp for every year from 2004-2008 but stopped buying the stamp after 2008. That total was 2,268. Those people received a letter to verify their address was still current. The survey design called for 800 of them to get a survey in the mail to fill out and return. The surveys were mailed out the second week of October.

"We know that the people who dropped out for the last three years had been dedicated trout anglers at one time because they had purchased trout stamps for five consecutive years," Petchenik says.

Results from the mail survey of anglers who have fallen away from the sport in Wisconsin won't be available until the beginning of 2012.

CREEKS: once impaired, these creeks are now trout streams

Continued from p. 14

German Valley Creek

In the 1970s, the seven-mile-long German Valley Creek — a spring-fed tributary to Gordon Creek with its headwaters southwest of Mount Horeb — was suffering from habitat degradation due to erosion from farm fields and stream banks, and from manure from barnyard runoff. It had never been considered to have potential to be a trout water.

But starting in the mid-80s, federal, state, and local governments worked to enroll farmers in the federal Conservation Reserve Program, which paid farmers to take highly erodible land out of production. By the 2000s, more than 20 percent of the land in the watershed was enrolled in CRP. Consequently, stream flow improved and water temperatures dropped.

That got people, particularly landowners along the stream, excited, and Dane County applied for state grant funding to help restore streamside and in-stream habitat. DNR worked with the county on the projects and with Trout Unlimited. The fish response to in-stream habitat work has been modest but steadily increasing through time, state fisheries biologists report.

In Buffalo County, the story was much the same.

Joos Valley and Eagle creeks

"We began working with the farmers, placing electrical fencing above the creek streambanks in the pastures to keep the cows out and

creating crossing areas," according to Tom Schultz, Buffalo County conservation technician.

"We also used DNR priority watershed money to cost-share with farmers for manure storage areas," he says. When several farmers felt they couldn't afford their share of the storage structures, the Fountain City and Alma Rod and Gun clubs helped decrease the farmers' costs.

Once the cows weren't trampling the streambanks, the county began work to help stabilize the banks and prevent streambank erosion. Volunteers from the rod and gun clubs helped install hundreds of structures in the creeks to provide cover for trout.

Trout populations seem to be responding in Eagle Creek, according to Dan Hatleli, DNR fisheries biologist in Black River Falls.

Right now, Eagle Creek is classified as a Class III trout water, but a 2011 survey of upper Eagle Creek found young brook trout, indicating natural reproduction, and a habitat restoration project along the creek is helping. Crews restored 3,515 feet of streambank this year through a project funded by the trout stamp program and NRCS.

Some bank stabilization and habitat structures were placed in Joos Valley Creek in 1991 and 2001, and trout have been found during DNR surveys in some years.



WITU Looking Back

From the January 1972 WITU Quarterly Report...

Nash Williams Elected to National Board

Nash Williams, prominent attorney and sportsman, was elected by the Wisconsin Council of TU to serve as a Council Director on the National Board of TU at a Council meeting in Wautoma on December 11. Jim Stewart, as a director-at-large is our other representative on TU's National Board of Directors. Council Directors are elected for one year terms and Directors-at-large for three year terms, with both having equal voting rights and responsibilities on the Board.

From the January 1992 Wisconsin Trout...

Early, regular trout season will open

With the drought of the late 1980's officially over, and with both surface water and groundwater levels back to normal, the department of Natural Resources fisheries staff has decided to "return to normal" as far as inland trout angling goes in 1992.

The "early" trout season in the eight southwestern Wisconsin counties of **Columbia, Crawford, Grant, Green, Iowa, Lafayette, Richland and Sauk** will open on Jan. 1, 1992, and run through Sept. 30. The remainder of the state's inland trout waters will be open to trout fishing at 5 a.m. on Saturday, May 2, and also run through Sept. 30.

All areas of the state open to trout fishing will be governed by the five-

category inland trout fishing regulations that have been in effect since 1990.

According to **Larry Claggett**, DNR trout fishery specialist for the DNR's Bureau of Fisheries Management, good rainfall the past two years has helped replenish groundwater, and the absence of harvest on trout in areas that were closed or restricted to "no-kill" fishing has helped provide two year classes of trout in most streams. Fish management is now confident that the trout fishery can withstand angling pressure, and will thus allow the emergency order restricting trout angling in southwestern and northeastern Wisconsin to end.

From the March 1982 WITU Quarterly Report...

SB 351, which prohibits tubing and rafting on the Bois Brule River (Douglas County) and limits boating and canoeing has been passed by the Legislature and awaits Governor Dreyfus' signature.

Fertilizer spill harms Flume Creek! Rusty pipes on storage tanks of the Colrud Farm Supply Co. in Rosholt resulted in the leakage of liquid nitrogen fertilizer into Flume Creek, a class I trout stream in Portage County, in early December. DNR officials said that about 500 dead brook trout were found after the spill was discovered. DNR will be pursuing legal and/or civil damages against Colrud. Restoration of the 8.2 miles of affected stream will begin once the toxicity is gone.

From the January 2002 Wisconsin Trout...

Wisconsin hunting and fishing licenses now available online

Wisconsin hunting and fishing licenses can now be purchased over the Internet. The new service became active Oct. 30.

"The ability to purchase hunting and fishing licenses online is one example of how Wisconsin's E-government initiative is making state services more accessible and convenient to our citizens and our visitors," said Governor McCallum.

"It took a lot of work and planning to get us to this point — there are other states using the Internet to sell hunting and fishing licenses, but we're part of a very small number that allow the customer to actually print a valid license" said DNR Secretary Bazzell. "From this point forward, hunters and anglers will be able to

purchase licenses from their home, business or through the services of a resort or campsite that offers Internet access.

Customers can access on-line license sales site at www.wildlifeli-cense.com/wi or through the DNR web site at www.dnr.state.wi.us.

Most DNR recreational license types will be available for purchase online. Some license types like fishing, small game, and turkey can even be printed at home for immediate use. Licenses that include a backtag, carcass tag or harvest report are not printable but will be mailed to the customer within seven days. Visa or MasterCard are accepted for payment and there is a \$3 convenience fee for this service.

\$40,650 in habitat work funded by NE chapters

By Paul Kruse

WITU NE Region Vice Chair

The Northeast Region of Wisconsin TU held its regional meeting on the banks of the Wolf River at Buettner's Wild Wolf Inn the first Saturday in December and allocated \$40,650 toward various habitat projects in the area.

Seven of eight chapters in the region were present. As a follow-up, the chapter that couldn't be at the meeting due to inclement weather later agreed to fund \$1,000 dollars of work in the region.

Multiple professionals from the area's natural resource agencies such as the WDNR and U.S. Forest Service were also present.

Funding was agreed upon for:

- a two man LTE brushing crew that will work in Langlade County during the summer of 2012;
- spring pond dredging for Karberger Springs, plus equipment for various projects that are needed for in-stream habitat work out of the Antigo DNR office;
- dredging for Hemlock Springs in Marinette County;
- ongoing temperature monitoring on the N. Br. Oconto, Big Wausaukee Creek, and Squaw Creek; and
- brushing and improvement repairs on Wisconsin Cr., Riley Cr., and Woods Cr. that the Northeast Region of Trout Unlimited will assist with.

Funding for trout habitat projects were not the only subjects covered at the meeting. Each chapter covered some of their major accomplishments for 2011.

The Antigo Chapter had great participation at their Kids Fishing Day, dealt with some is-

sues involving a floating dock project, and finished some spring pond dredging.

Green Bay had excellent participation at their Kids Fishing Day, held successful Christmas and awards dinners, and conducted five habitat projects throughout the summer. They also made improvements to the Educational Walk-through trail located at the NEW ZOO that showcases models of all TU's trout habitat improvement methods.

Oconto held a handicapped fishing day, did their *Trout in the Classroom* program, and participated on work projects with neighboring chapters in Oconto and Marinette counties.

Northwoods had two habitat projects, a kids' fly-fishing event at Oneida County Youth Heritage Days, and moved their banquet to a week-day to improve attendance.

Marinette had a good banquet, put on a four-week trout fishing seminar, held three kids' fishing days in conjunction with their local recreation department, held a chapter picnic, and spent some money on temperature monitors.

Wolf River worked on water monitoring, installed two park benches in honor of Dale Druckrey and Jim Waters, worked on beaver populations in Ninemile Creek, and collaborated with the Wisconsin State Snowmobile Group on two culverts that crossed trout streams.

Shaw-Paca had an active 2011 with a good banquet, putting *Trout* magazine in local libraries, holding fly tying classes as a service project, organizing a kids' fishing pond event, and gave out a couple scholarships to teens for college and younger kids for summer camps.

In the afternoon, the regional chapters had some great presentations by Staush Gruszynski, Chip Long, and Bob Obama. Staush covered what the Wisconsin League of Conservation

Voters is about and updated us on the new mining bill and SB/AB24. We learned some ways that TU groups in Northeast WI can get involved in the fight to protect coldwater resources. Staush stressed the urgency behind contacting your state legislators about the mining bill and SB/AB24 and having each chapter follow in the State Council's footsteps by drafting their own resolution.

Chip Long, fisheries biologist out of the Peshtigo Service Center, gave a presentation about the habitat crew that was funded by the NETU in Marinette and Oconto counties last summer. The habitat crew was well worth the money and did tremendous work to increase stream restoration and habitat for trout in NE Wisconsin. Long's slide show went through the trials, tribulations, and successes of the work crew.

Bob Obama discussed what methods are being used to produce larger brook trout in Northwest Wisconsin and how these methods could be used in NE Wisconsin. Bob stated that there are not many unique ideas being used in this area, and there are a plethora of opportunities in applying the methods being used around the state to produce bigger brook trout.

The chapters rounded out the day by covering local issues such as the location of gate placement on roads leading into spring pond sites in Northeast region and funding for a creel census on McGee Lake.

Finally, there was a discussion of the DNR's recent efforts at revamping the state's beaver management plan in 2012 and how TU can contribute to the process. (See the separate story on p. 16 in this issue for more on the beaver management plan and how to report beaver activity on trout streams near you.)

WETLANDS: once proudly protected, now seen as a drag on jobs

Continued from p. 9

wetlands preservation "a false dichotomy." She argues that, under current law, "there are many development projects around the state that have been developed while also avoiding and minimizing the impacts to wetlands."

Todd Ambs, formerly the DNR's water division administrator, agrees. "I have yet to see any concrete evidence that the way we are protecting our wetland resources in

Wisconsin has in any way harmed the business activities of the state."

Data provided by the state DNR show that 87.5 percent of the more than 6,500 permits for wetland mitigation between 2002 and late September 2011 were approved. And the average time of processing fell from 135 days in 2003 to 30 days last year.

The Realtors Association's Larson calls these numbers misleading, because they don't count projects

rebuffed earlier in the process. "Unfortunately," he says, "many projects never move forward or are dramatically scaled back."

Ambs, now president of the national River Network in Portland, OR, bristles at this, saying "applicants that work with the department can often find a middle ground where they can complete the project and protect the environment."

Beyond that, Ambs knows of no case "where wetland mitigation and

human restoration of a wetland can adequately compensate for destroying a wetland that Mother Nature took 10,000 years to create."

But such talk may not matter as much to Wisconsin lawmakers as the wishes of developers — as represented by that family in Green Bay, still waiting for those hot dogs.

(Author Bill Lueders is the Money and Politics Project director at the Wisconsin Center for Investigative Journalism. The project, a partnership of the Center and MapLight, is supported by the Open Society Institute.)

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BROOKHAVEN LAKE

IN MICHIGAN!



TIPS: learning how to substitute tying materials

Continued from p. 19

You can also substitute the thread specified by finding thread from another manufacturer with similar characteristics, and even change the color with a permanent marker where it shows.

By learning the characteristics of the hooks, threads, feathers, hair, foam, and other tying materials, you can usually find a good substitute for materials specified for most fly patterns.

This also opens up a whole new element of creativity in your tying by substituting materials that can sometimes improve on what is already a great fly.

www.Brookhaven-Lake.com

Jeff Johnson Direct 313-510-0928

Bob's CDC and foam black caddis effective and easy to tie

By Bob Haase

I have been trying for a few years now to come up with a black caddis pattern that I and the fish like. I have found a few that I liked, but the fish did not like them as well as I did.

One of the problems is that I usually tie the black caddis in a size 16 most of the time, but I also tie them in size 14 and 18. I have tried using black elk hair, deer hair, hare's foot, and other synthetics, but I was not happy the way they floated, and apparently the fish weren't either.



This pattern is about as easy to tie as anyone could want, and it only takes me about two minutes to tie one. They float great on the water, and the CDC puffs look like wings.

The problem with CDC is that when you get fish slime on it, the flies do not float very well. But by using a foam body, that solves that flotation problem, and the CDC puffs move in the water giving a good imitation of wings.

I use this same method for tying

other flies, such as a BWO with an olive foam body and dun CDC puff wings, or a PMD with a white foam body that I color cream with a permanent marker and ginger or cream CDC puff wings.

You can also use the same body method and palmer hackle for the wings instead of CDC puffs.

Begin by taking a black 1/16" diameter foam cylinder and burning the end with a lighter to make it round. If the foam catches on fire, just blow it out and it sometimes leaves a nice little tapered end. You easily get two flies out of a cylinder and sometimes three on the smaller sizes.

Start your thread on the hook and wrap about half way back. Then bring it forward to somewhere between half to one third back.

Place a drop of super glue on the hook at the point where the foam cylinder is tied in and spread the glue with the nozzle back toward the bend of the hook.

Next tie in the foam as shown and hold down with your finger on the foam so that it glues the foam to the hook as pictured. Clip off the foam close to the hook and give a

MATERIALS LIST
Bob's CDC Foam Black Caddis

Hook: Mustad 94840 or TMC100 #14-16

Thread: black 7/0

Body: 1/16" diameter black foam cylinder

Legs: Peacock Ice Dubbing

Hackle: amber, gray, and brown dry fly hackle

Wing: 2 black CDC puffs

few more wraps of thread to secure.

Spin a small amount of peacock ice dubbing on your thread and wrap as shown. Then take a velcro brush or other dubbing brush and pick it down to form legs as shown.

Tie in two or three CDC puffs to form the wings. The reason I say two or three is because CDC puffs vary in density, and sometimes you'll need three to equal what two normally provides.

Wrap the thread to form a head and whip finish. Apply a small amount of head cement and you are done. It doesn't get much easier than this!

You can also tie tan caddis the same way with a tan foam cylinder and various shades of tan to brown or gray wings. When you tie size #14, go to the 3/32" foam cylinders.

Now use your imagination and use the foam as shown in step #2 and make a parachute post and turn this into a parachute black caddis. You can also bring the foam up a little farther and form a hump on top and tie this as a para-loop.

Bob's Tying Tips

Advice from the bench of Bob Haase

The more you tie, the more materials you'll substitute

By Bob Haase

One of the questions I often get asked — especially from tyers who are just starting out — is about the substitution of various fly tying materials.

Tyers look up a recipe or fly pattern on the Internet, and it calls for a TMC100 hook. They say they don't have this hook and wonder if the fly can be tied on any other hook.

Or they might want to tie an elk hair caddis and don't have any elk hair and wonder if anything else might work.

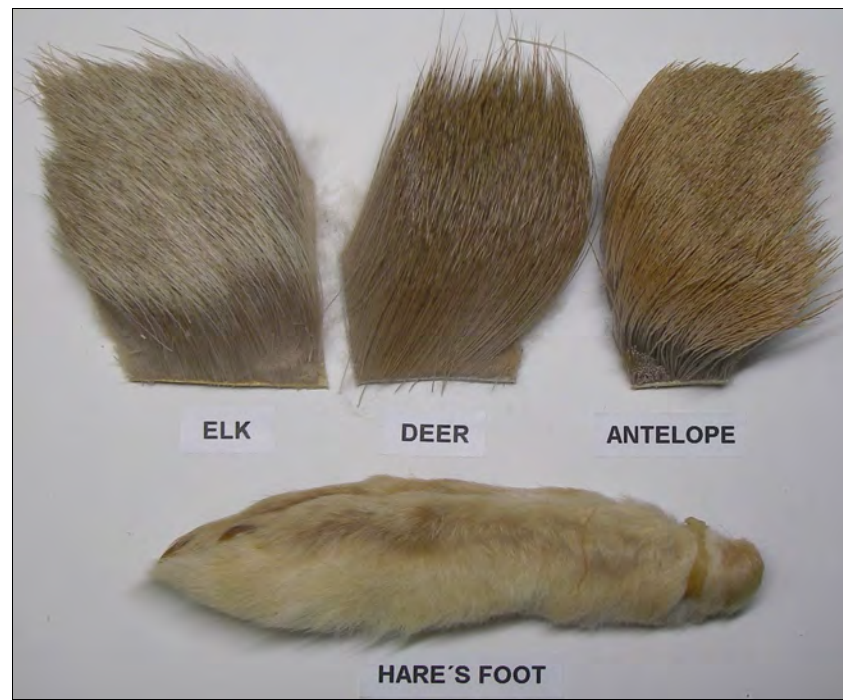
Another thing they say is that the pattern calls for gray thread

An example — the elk hair caddis

I will use the elk hair caddis as an example. A version of the elk hair caddis pattern should be in everyone's fly box, but there are lots of changes that can be made to the original pattern that may make it better.

Grand Rapids, MI fly tyer Dennis Potter uses opal tinsel for the body of the fly, and this adds another element that seems to really attract fish to bite. He calls it an "Opal Caddis."

You can also substitute the elk hair with deer, antelope, caribou, and snowshoe rabbit foot hair.



and wonder if they can use any other color. Or the pattern calls for 140 denier thread and wonder if they can use 6/0, which is basically the same size, but a different rating system.

There are certain fly patterns that call for a specific material for which there may not be a good substitute, or maybe one material may work better than another. But in most cases, there are plenty of substitutes for most tying materials for most patterns.

Sometimes people will not tie a specific pattern because they don't have the materials called for in the pattern, not realizing that they have something that would work just as good — and sometimes better — already in their inventory of materials.

Know material characteristics

One thing that really helps when substituting materials is knowing the characteristics of the material called for, the characteristics of the materials that may work as a substitute, and how these may affect how the fly will perform on or in the water.

Many times the material that you may use as a substitute may work better than the material called for. One of the advantages of tying your own flies is your ability to tie the fly the way you want it and work toward making improvements on flies that are already good patterns.

All of these have their own characteristics and color variations, yet provide a good substitute.

You can also substitute natural elk hair with synthetics such as polypropylene yarn like McFlylon or thin foam for the wings.

If you do not have the correct color of the material you are looking for, you can blend materials. You can blend hair by mixing different colors in your hand and stacking it, and you can get a blended color that can substitute for the color you are looking for.

You can do the same with synthetic materials such as Antron, poly yarn, or other materials by taking a small piece of two or more colors and rolling them between your fingers and pulling and stacking to create the shade of color you are looking for. This also applies to blending colors of dubbing.

Another simple, but sometimes less permanent, method on some material is to simply color it with a permanent marker.

Substituting hooks

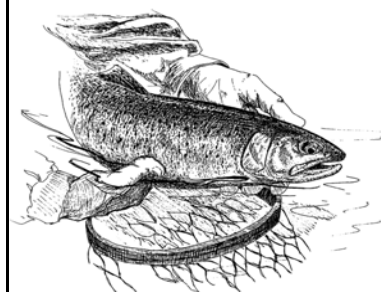
Although each hook manufacturer has hooks that are not made by another manufacturer, you can usually find a comparable hook from another manufacturer that will work.

Mustad hooks are not tempered as much, and because of this they can be bent to form specific shapes to meet your needs.

Continued on p. 18

Consider Proper Release

It's working...so let's keep up the good work!



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.

Friends grants totaled \$37,000 since 2010

By Doug Brown

Friends of WITU Chair

The 2011 Friends of Wisconsin TU fund-raising campaign has come to an end, and I thank ALL of you who contributed this past year.

I am continually impressed with the financial support for this program. This year we raised nearly \$15,000 in contributions from over 130 individuals and nine TU chapters. Thank you ALL for your fantastic financial support.

Since 2010, your Friends program has returned an incredible sum of \$37,000 in grants to eight TU chapters and the WDNR.

The Friends program has been a great success over the past 20 years, but none of our work can come true without your continued support.

YOUR trout streams have benefited with these grants, and the work that has been done stands as a tribute to your generosity.

Countless miles of our coldwater resources have benefited with in-

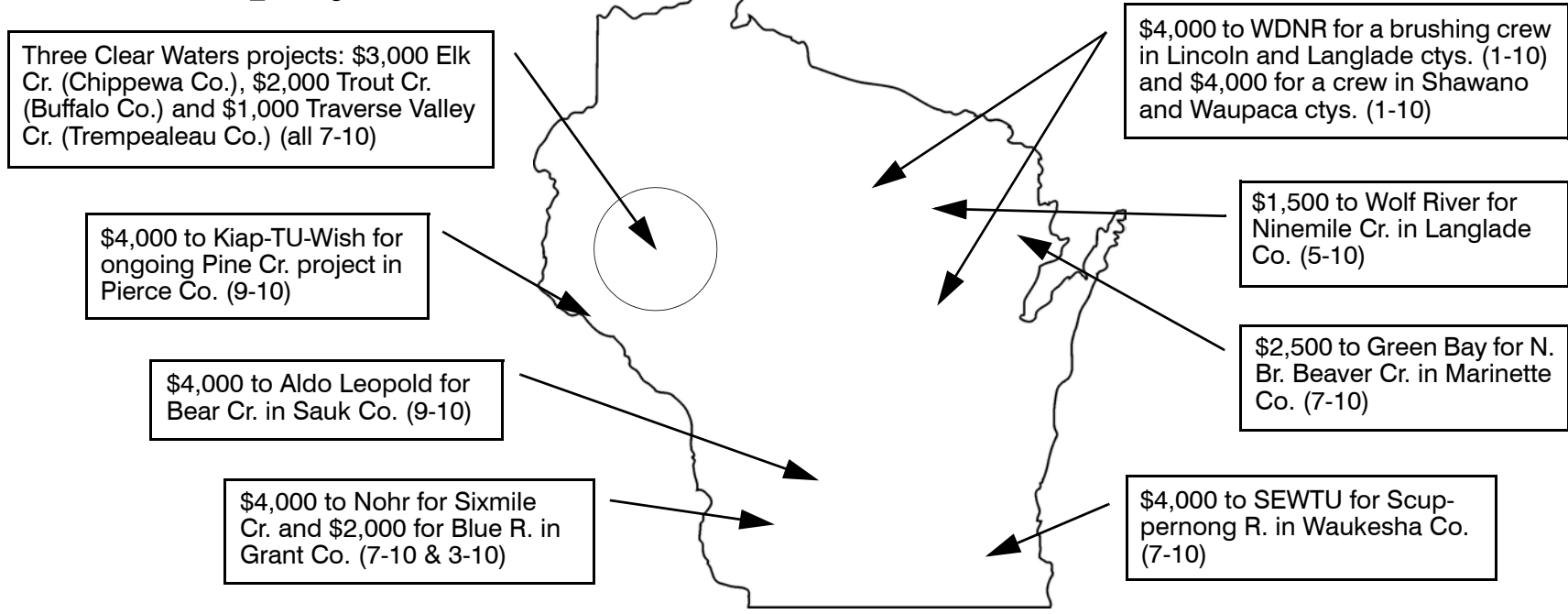
stream rehab and, in turn, our trout friends have benefitted, too.

Later this winter, the official 2012 Friends of Wisconsin TU campaign will kick off. I anticipate the donation request letter will be mailed out in late February or early March. Please look for it in the mail.

Finally, I know many of you really enjoyed this year's premium, the handy Streamworks LED cap light. Thanks again to Tight Lines Fly Shop in De Pere for their help in securing this gift.



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



Friends of Wis. TU

Thanks to our 2011 Friends of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited

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

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

Name _____
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