



Wisconsin Trout

April 2014

Final push needed to make license plate bill law

By Henry Koltz

State Council Chair

Due in large part to the many calls and emails from Wisconsin TU members, the Wisconsin State Senate on April 1 approved a bill allowing for a Wisconsin TU license plate. All that remains is Gov. Scott Walker's signature.

We reported in the last issue of Wisconsin Trout that AB-173, known by us as the Wisconsin TU License Plate Bill, sponsored by Rep. Jim Ott (Mequon), had passed out of the Assembly Transportation Committee, which is chaired by Rep. Keith Ripp (Lodi). From there, the bill was scheduled for a vote by the Committee on Rules, chaired by Rep. Strachota (West Bend), and was then passed unanimously 92-0 out of the Wisconsin Assembly.

Ott had also sponsored a similar bill for WITU in the previous legislative session, but it unfortunately never passed into law.

Then AB-173 was referred to the Senate Committee on Transportation, Public Safety, and Veterans

and Military Affairs, chaired by Sen. Jerry Petrowski (Marathon). From there, Rep. Ott and many of WITU's 5,000 members swung into action, and commenced calling, emailing, visiting and writing letters, requesting that AB-173 be scheduled for a vote.

Sen. Petrowski did exactly that, and set AB-173 for a public hearing before his committee on February 12. Ott and WITU Chair Henry Koltz spoke on behalf of the bill. Sen. Bob Wirch, Mark Meyer, Thomas Stulp, Jennifer Giegerich, Steve Born, Brandon Scholz, Tony Goldberg, Scott Menske, Ivan Nohavica, Rick Frye, Kurt Weible, Staush Gruszynski, Tim Fraley, Matt Krueger, Todd Franklin, Topf Wells and Rep. Andre Jacque all appeared and signed in support of AB-173. No registrations were made in opposition, and that same day Sen. Petrowski called the bill for an executive vote, and it was passed out of committee unanimously 5-0. Thereafter, AB-173 became available for scheduling, and once again the State Council and Wisconsin TU members mobilized.



Todd Franklin

KOLTZ ADDRESSES SENATE COMMITTEE

WITU Chair Henry Koltz explains TU's mission to the Senate Committee on Transportation, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs February 12. WITU's

After countless emails, calls, and meetings with legislators, however, AB-173 remained unscheduled for a vote, with just one day of hearing remaining (April 1, 2014). On March 26, 2014, Henry Koltz and Brandon Scholz traveled to Madison, and met with the offices of numerous senators, including the offices of Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald (Juneau), Sen. Michael Ellis (Neenah), Sen. Glenn Grothman (West Bend), Sen. Jerry

Petrowski (Marathon), and Sen. Paul Farrow (Pewaukee), and made the case to schedule AB-173 for a vote on April 1. Calls and emails kept pouring in, and finally word came down that our bill was scheduled for a vote.

On April 1, 2014, AB-173 was called for a vote at roughly 3:30 p.m.

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Todd Franklin

SMILING, HAPPY TICKET SELLERS

Nikki Benishek, Amy Snyder and WITU and TU Women's Membership Coordinator Heidi Oberstadt (right) were clearly enjoying themselves while selling raffle tickets at WITU's annual banquet February 1 in Oshkosh.

State Council banquet an overall success

By Kim McCarthy

The State Council held its annual meeting and State Council Banquet February 1 at the brand new Oshkosh Waterfront Hotel and Convention Center. We found the new facility to be a fantastic venue for both the meeting and the banquet, and we will be returning to Oshkosh for our annual event again next year.

The new facilities proved to be a perfect match for the council event. Having plenty of space allowed us to bring back the DNR-sponsored casting class and allowed everyone to be very comfortable as they moved through displays and fund-raising raffles and auctions. We were also able to present break-out sessions on membership and advocacy.

The crowd of just under 200 helped the State Council raise almost \$15,000 to continue its work for the coldwater resources in Wisconsin. The council wants to express its great appreciation to all of our members who were in attendance at the event. We are looking forward

to even larger crowds in the future as the word spreads that the council banquet is a first-class event with a great prize package and a completely enjoyable atmosphere.

The council would like to offer thanks to those members who made up this year's Banquet Committee. Bill Heart, Heidi Oberstadt, Henry Koltz, Linn Beck, Mike Kuhr, Kim McCarthy, Todd Franklin, and Jim Wierzbza made up the 2014 committee. Each committee member skillfully handled an area of the banquet, and all of their efforts produced a great event.

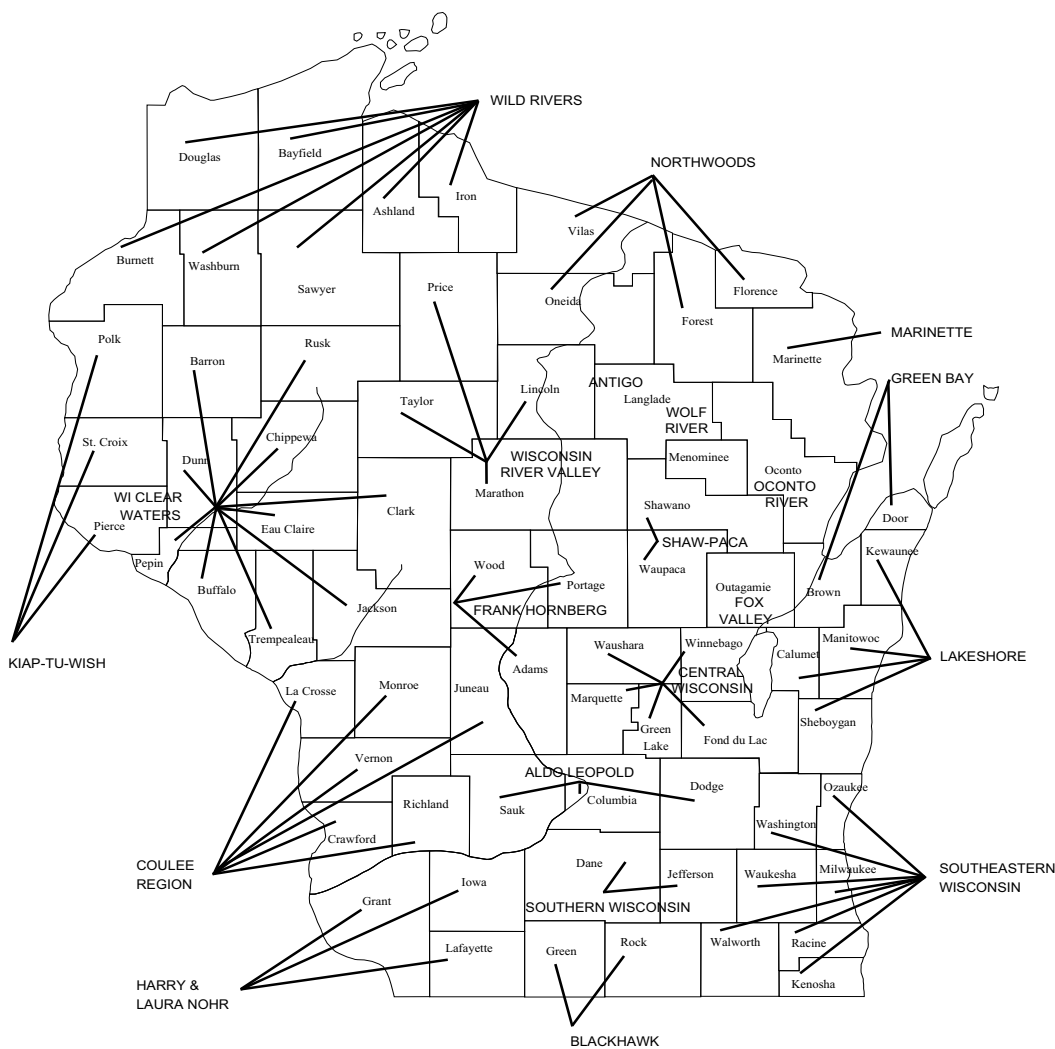
The banquet is also an opportunity to honor those members who have given tremendous amounts of time and effort to Trout Unlimited and the cold water resources.

Planning is already underway to make the 2015 event even better. Next year's banquet will be held Saturday, February 7, 2015. If you haven't been to a State Council banquet in a few years, you will be presently surprised at what a quality event it has become. We hope to see many of you at the next banquet.

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Contact TU National when you change addresses or chapters

TU National manages WITU's mailing list, so update your address by calling 1-800-834-2419 or e-mailing trout@TU.org. Address changes can also be done on-line by going to www.tu.org

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. Chapter numbers are listed above.

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TU a family worth growing

By Henry Koltz, State Council Chair

Back in 2009, the volunteers of the Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter were recognized by Trout Unlimited when it gave SEWTU its national chapter of the year award, the Gold Trout Award. The award was well earned, and based upon the incredible efforts, sacrifice and dedication of SEWTU's members. It was the second time that TU recognized a Wisconsin chapter with this award. The Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter had won it previously.

At the time I was fortunate enough to be SEWTU's president, and to stand and say a few words about what made our chapter tick at TU's national meeting. Make no mistake, I take no credit for the award. Our family of volunteers earned it, and I was simply the guy who was lucky enough to stand up and accept it, and to say a few words.

I noted that being a member of Trout Unlimited in Wisconsin isn't just being a member of a fishing club. It's not just showing up to a meeting a few times a year, or receiving a newsletter, or an e-mail here or there. Being a part of Wisconsin TU is being a part of a family, and that's what makes us so unique, so effective and so successful.

I noted that in my time as a leader at SEWTU, I got to know many of our members and I saw firsthand how they turned to TU when they needed something positive in their lives. Even when everything else might have been falling apart, TU was there, providing a chance to engage in something positive while surrounded by friends.

I witnessed individuals who, in the midst of a horrible economic downturn, were about to lose their homes and didn't know where they'd be laying down their heads the next week. But they did know that on Saturday morning they would be at a workday surrounded by friends. These friends would pick them up and give them a reason to be positive, all while working on a stream for little more than a pat on the back and a free bratwurst. How very American.

I witnessed individuals who had just lost their jobs and didn't know where their next paycheck would

come from. But they did know that they'd scrape together \$35 so that they could renew their membership, so that they could continue to work for others for free. Those members knew that while their unemployment was temporary, the disabled U.S. Military Veterans they worked with through our Project Healing Waters program suffer from issues that are *permanent*. TU provides perspective and a place for its members to do something very positive in the midst of a dark spot in their lives. How very Midwestern.

When outside groups look at Wisconsin TU right now, they see a roster of 5,000. The truth, however, is that we are so much larger.

Finally, I witnessed a long-time member who had just lost the love of his life, and who didn't know how he was going to cope with going back to an

empty home where every second of silence amplified the sounds that were now missing. But he *did* know that if he showed up to our casting clinic, he'd be surrounded by friends – his TU family – who would talk him through his grief, give him the hug he needed, and remind him that he was not alone. How very Wisconsin.

The concept of the conservation community being a family is not a new one. Theodore Roosevelt once said, "Of all the questions which can come before this nation, short of the actual preservation of its existence in a great war, there is none which compares in importance with the great central task of leaving this land even a better land for our descendants than it is for us."

When conservation is viewed in this broad sense, it is clear that we are all one family, and that our lands and waters are a gift to be passed down in a better condition than we received them. We are all in this together.

Thinking about this, I realized I am the only person within my immediate household who is a TU member. That makes absolutely no sense. My wife deserves an award simply for dealing with me, and does as much or more for TU than I do. For every workday she helps me prepare supplies and food. She selflessly gives up her evenings to watch our kids when I have meetings, or when I'm working at one of our events. She rearranges schedules, arranges rides, and is a taskmaster in our home. Most importantly, she understands TU's mission, embraces



HENRY KOLTZ WITH TU'S TWO NEWEST FAMILY MEMBERS

Henry and his two daughters spending family time on a stream somewhere in Wisconsin's Driftless Area.

es it, believes in it and understands why seeing it carried out is so important to me. But despite doing so much for TU, *she isn't a member*.

My kids, likewise, come fishing with me. They come to see what we've built, what we've protected, what we've restored. They hear me talk about the books I've read, about Leopold, about Yellowstone, and about how important cold clean water is. They are bombarded by trout art, flies, rods, materials, and family vacations which seemingly always involve moving water. But despite being so immersed in the mission of TU, *they aren't members either*.

I bet that most of you reading this column have someone under your roof who does more for TU than even they'd realize if they sat down and actually thought about it. They sacrifice, they give, they understand, and they aid and abet our mission.

First and foremost, I encourage everyone to sit that person down and tell them how much you appreciate the sacrifices that they've made so that you can do this thing that you love. It might seem awkward, but it's truth, and it's worth saying. Tell them, in no uncertain terms, how important their role is in carrying on and spreading the incredible spark that is TU, and tell them how much it means to you that they allow you to be an active member.

And then, finally, *sign them up*. Just like the SEWTU members I discussed earlier, make the sacrifice and find \$35 to make sure that your household's unofficial TU members

become official TU members.

This is my challenge to you, and it's an important one. When outside groups look at Wisconsin TU right now, they see a roster of 5,000. The truth, however, is that we are *so much larger*. If everyone steps up and signs up the one person in their life who is not a member on paper, but who is in fact a believer and supporter of what TU does, our ranks will swell significantly.

Larger ranks are important because Wisconsin TU is a voice for so many things. We're a voice for cold-water conservation. We're a voice for funding for public access to cold, clean, fishable water. We're a voice for the billions of dollars in annual economic impact and the countless jobs that trout angling brings to Wisconsin. We're a voice for getting children outside. We're a voice for anglers – whether they use bait, lures or flies – and the fisheries that they utilize. And we're a voice for working with disabled U.S. Military Veterans. These are incredibly worthy missions, and our voice in support of them must be strong, loud and numerous.

It's time that that we make our official ranks reflect our actual membership. Doing so will increase our clout, and increase the attention that must be given when Wisconsin TU speaks on an issue. I challenge you, Wisconsin TU, to make this happen.

Volunteer at WITU Youth Camp

With the development of our youth fishing camp, this is an exciting time for WITU. Thanks to the hard work of committee members Linn Beck, Bob Haase, Carmen Hardin, Ben Cheesman, Peter Geissal, Bob Jozwowski and Margaret Lebien, we have developed what we feel is very solid curriculum for the camp.

The camp is July 24-27 at the Pine Lake Bible Camp, south of Waupaca. The camp is open to the first 20 students to sign up.

There will be 14 areas of instruction, from knot tying to habitat restoration. The camp will cover fly-fishing and spin-fishing, and will cover lake and stream fishing. The curriculum is very rounded, and will include fishing excursions and a tour of the Wild Rose Fish Hatchery. Girls and boys from ages 12 to 16

are invited.

We hope each chapter will sponsor a child, and we will hold this opportunity for all chapters until April 30. Then we will open the enrollment to any chapter that would like to sponsor additional youth. The cost is \$250 per attendee, and covers accommodations and meals.

We are also looking for volunteers to help out with any aspect of the camp. This is a great chance to learn fly tying and lure making as a volunteer. We are still looking for 10-15 more volunteers. If you are interested, please contact Linn Beck at chlbeck@att.net or 920-379-2974; or Bob Haase at flytier@milwpc.com or 920-579-3858.

This is a great opportunity to help get youth involved with fishing, and maybe get involved with Trout Unlimited.

Council takes position on stamp questions

The State Council's executive officers and regional vice president, with input from the policy committee, recently voted and took a formal position as being **OPPOSED** to questions 32 and 33 in the Spring Conservation Congress ballot. The ballot can be found at http://dnr.wi.gov/About/WCC/Documents/spring_hearing/2014/2014SpringQuestionnaire.pdf

The council is not opposed to simplification and is intrigued by the idea of a single stamp if it would increase income flowing in to trout work.

But there is currently a lack of information concerning these questions, and we have received no guaranty that trout work would receive equal or greater funding than it currently receives under our existing trout stamp program. There is also no guaranty that funds would be segregated for only trout work, in the fashion that they currently are under our existing trout stamp program.

Because there is the possibility that trout work would receive less funding, and because our chapters have generally indicated in informal polling that they are in favor of increased trout work funding, the State Council is, at this time, opposed to these questions.

If additional information becomes available, or a guaranty is made a part of this question that trout work would receive equal or greater funding than it currently does, then the council's executive officers, regional vice presidents and policy committee might amend our position.

Thank you for all that you do for Wisconsin Trout Unlimited.
— Henry E. Koltz



PROUD RECIPIENTS OF WITU AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

The following received awards and recognition from WITU at the annual banquet February 1. From left: Todd Mau (Buffalo County), Pat Sutter (Dane County), Rich Erickson (Fox Valley), Bill Heart (Wild Rivers), Tina Murray (Shabazz HS/Project Green Team), Ivan Nohavica (SEWTU), Mark Green (accepting for Oconto River TU), Mike Barniskis (ALTU), Winston Ostrow

(WITU), Steve Born (SWTU), Tom Krauskopf (SWTU), Stefanie Fieck (representing the Fred Wolf family, Bob Selk (SWTU), Al Noll (Wisconsin Clear Waters TU), Michael Campbell and Jay Glanville (Cabela's). Brian Larson of the Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter and Rick Bauer, a landowner on Bear Creek in Pepin County, who received certificates of appreciation, were unable to attend the event.

Council bestows awards at annual banquet

The Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited honored 16 individuals, one council and one corporate supporter at the annual banquet in Oshkosh February 1. The council has been presenting awards since 1984. Thanks go out to Todd Hanson for overseeing the banquet awards and for assembling and editing the following award narratives.

This year the banquet was dedicated to the memory of Robert Hunt and Daniel Flaherty. The two had been involved in Wisconsin TU since its beginning. They later played key roles in establishing Wisconsin's trout stamp program. Both passed away recently.

Robert Hunt, a Wisconsin DNR

trout researcher from Waupaca, is credited with providing the underlying scientific research proving that in-stream habitat improvement techniques increase trout numbers and size.

Daniel Flaherty, an attorney from LaCrosse, used Hunt's research to advocate for the trout stamp program while he served on the state's Natural Resources Board from 1975-1981. The trout stamp program went into effect January 1, 1978.

Bill Heart — Award of Merit

This year we give our top honor, the Award of Merit, to Bill Heart.

Bill has served both his local Wild Rivers Chapter and the State Council for many years. His most recent service includes three years as State Council Chair and another three years as Wisconsin's representative on TU's National Leadership Council.

Under Bill's leadership, the State Council grew into a more effective organization, membership increased dramatically, and the State Council banquet began a rejuvenation process that turned it into the primary funding source for the State Council.

While serving as Wisconsin's NLC rep, Bill was responsible for the development and implementation of a badly needed regional meeting for the Midwest. This gathering has awakened the national organization to both the opportunities and the challenges in our part of the country.

There is one ongoing activity on Bill's resume that rises above all the others, and that is the leadership role he has played in organizing the opposition to the proposed Penokee Hills iron mine. Opposition to the mine has been the focus for Bill over the last several years. He has spent countless hours and a good deal of his own money leading tours of the proposed mine site and educating anyone who will listen about the damage the project will cause to coldwater systems.

There are few individuals who have donated as much time and energy to Trout Unlimited and coldwater conservation as Bill. For his tireless work, he is this year's Award of Merit honoree.

Tina Murray -- Joan and Lee Wulff Conservation Leadership Award

Noted angler Lee Wulff is famous for saying, "Game fish are too valuable to catch only once." In that spirit, our annual Joan and Lee Wulff Award for Outstanding Conservation Leadership is caught by a deserving person and then released for someone else to win one year later. This year the award is entrusted to Tina Murray. Tina has been a teacher at Shabazz High School in Madison since 1996. She is an avid fly fisher and member of the Southern Wisconsin Chapter. She has become a well-known pioneer in the TU community for engaging women in fly fishing and coldwater conservation.

Perhaps Tina's most innovative and far-reaching leadership arose from an idea she had about a decade ago. That's when she came up with a way to incorporate fly fishing as an integral component of a curriculum that introduces students to outdoor ecology. Through Tina's vision, determination, and organizational leadership, Shabazz High



AWARD WINNERS HEART, MURRAY AND MAU

State Council Chair Henry Koltz presented Bill Heart with WITU's top annual award, the Award of Merit. (left) Koltz presented Tina Murray of Shabazz High School with the Joan and Lee Wulff Award for Outstanding Conservation Leadership (below left) and Todd Mau, Buffalo County conservationist (below), with the newly named Robert Hunt Resource Professional Award.



Heidi Oberstadt

Todd Franklin photos



Todd Franklin photos

School started Project Green Teen in 2005.

The Project Green Teen course runs for many weeks. It ends with a five-day-long field trip to the Avalanche campground along the West Fork of the Kickapoo River. There students study the qualities of cold-water ecosystems and do hands-on trout habitat restoration. And then it's time for some fun as students are introduced to fly fishing through one-on-one instruction and mentoring from volunteers. Most of those volunteers are TU members, many of whom consider this to be a highlight of their year.

We know Project Green Teen is having an impact on its students by virtue of the fact that many of its graduates are pursuing college careers in various fields of natural resources. We fully expect one of them to catch and release this award some time in the future.

Todd Mau — Robert Hunt Resource Professional Award

Last year we saw the passing of Bob Hunt, Wisconsin's internationally recognized WDNR trout researcher and one of the founders of our Wisconsin TU State Council. To honor Bob, the awards committee has added his name to the Resource Professional Award recognizing professionals who work with us to improve coldwater resources. This year we recognize two such professionals, the first of whom is Buffalo County Conservationist Todd Mau.

Todd's leadership in Buffalo County has resulted in a burgeoning of stream restoration activity in recent years. He has garnered NRCS resources for stream projects with landowners whose properties border streams, and with other partners. As a result, Buffalo County has seen almost five miles of trout stream restoration in the last four years. Work has been done on Eagle Valley, Waumandee Creek, Danuser Valley, and Swinns Valley. Todd has obtained public access easements for these restoration projects, as well as several more miles waiting for restoration attention.

Todd has forged a partnerships with local teachers, students, WDNR fisheries personnel, local conservation groups, TU chapters, and TUDARE. You won't find Todd leading the rah-rah section at any meeting. He speaks quietly and thoughtfully, leaning on his 30+ years of experience as a professional conservationist. When he does speak, it is with common sense, humor, and an abiding conviction that healthy streams lead to healthier communities.

Oconto River Watershed Chapter — Silver Trout Award for Chapter Merit

The Oconto River Watershed Chapter is a very good example of a smaller chapter that quietly goes about the business of doing great conservation work, making it this year's winner of the Silver Trout Award for Chapter Merit. The chapter is active in many ways. The chapter has a strong sense of community involvement, providing fishing outings for a variety of Oconto County residents who wouldn't otherwise have the chance to experience the fun of fishing. The chapter also sends kids to conservation camps and has helped natural resource students with their educations.

At the state level, the chapter has been a strong supporter of the State Council, both with donations to the council's banquet and by attending state events. They have also been a key participant in the northeast regional structure that helps fund important habitat work in northern Wisconsin. The Oconto Chapter is well represented at work projects around Northeastern Wisconsin.

Oconto TU leads all other chapters in Wisconsin in its involvement with TU's Trout in the Classroom program. Oconto currently has this program up and running in four different school districts. This involvement is a key factor in educating hundreds of students about the ecology of trout and their habitat.

For all of their good work, the State Council is pleased to award the 2014 Silver Trout Award to the Oconto River Watershed Chapter.

Rich Erickson — Gold Net Award

Rich Erickson is approaching his 15th year as a member of the Fox Valley Chapter. He is a role model for all TU members, our children, and grandchildren. A retired teacher and active volunteer in his community and church, Rich still finds time to be a real asset to Fox Valley TU, for which he is this year's winner of our Gold Net Award.

Rich has served as board member or officer for more than half of his years in TU. For years he has been the pace setter on his chapter's habitat days, working most of the younger members into the steam bed. He has also been the key player in the planning and management of Fox Valley's Fishing Day for People with Disabilities event.

Most all trout fishing vendors in the state remember Rich as a result of their sore arms. That's because Rich has been procuring bucket raffle and silent auction items for his chapter's Cabin Fever Days fund-

OCONTO RIVER TU, RICH ERICKSON, MIKE BARNISKIS, IVAN NOHAVICA
Henry Koltz presents the Silver Trout Award for Chapter Merit to Mark Green of the Oconto Rover Chapter (left); Koltz presented Rich Erickson of Fox Valley TU with the Gold Net Award (above); Aldo Leopold Chapter President Mike Barniskis recieved the Jeffrey Carlson Volunteer Award (below).



raiser for the past 12 years. Give Rich something to build and he is right on it as soon as he designs it. There are many memorial Leopold benches and kiosks that bear his trademarks along our streams.

As with most people, Rich has a flaw — he does not tie flies. However he does a great job assisting fly tying demonstrators and selling TU at his chapter's fly tying demonstrations. Finally, Rich has also volunteered his services and worked many State Council banquets.

Mike Barniskis — Jeffrey Carlson Volunteer Award

We don't give out the Jeffrey Carlson Volunteer Award every year, but this year the honor goes to Mike Barniskis of the Aldo Leopold Chapter. Jeff Carlson worked for many years on coaster brook trout restoration. This award recognizes someone who, like Jeff, has taken a leadership role on a major project that either improves an entire stream, reach, or watershed, or which has preserved or restored a species in a body of water.

Mike has been president of the Aldo Leopold Chapter for more than a decade. Through his leadership, a dormant chapter has been revitalized. Of particular note for this award, Mike led the Aldo Leopold Chapter into being the guiding light and major financial contributor to the multi-year restoration effort on Bear Creek in Sauk County.

Six years later, three stream miles have been restored, and a fourth mile of restoration is on track for the summer of 2014. Mike's enthusiasm, optimism, and commitment has opened doors of cooperation with all of the various

groups, land owners, experts, funding sources, and chapter members who are key players in a project of this magnitude.

Mike's vision for Bear Creek is now casting a wider net, as the chapter changes its focus from the creek to the entire Bear Creek Watershed. Last summer, the chapter funded and installed water monitoring stations on Bear Creek to study thermal conditions and flag impact events.

Ivan Nohavica — Most Unsung Valuable Trout Award

Ivan Nohavica has capably served as treasurer of the Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter for nearly a decade. He has also lent his financial skills to the running of our State Council banquet the past five years. Any why stop there — Ivan played a significant role in the preparation and management of the finances and setup for the TU National meeting that Wisconsin TU hosted last fall.

Ivan does more than financial work, though. He is a stalwart at almost every one of his chapter's workdays. In fact, it is rare for him not to attend one, no matter where it is located around the state. He also takes the time to do legislative outreach, actively pushing several recent initiatives. He helps man his chapter's fundraising and sports show events, and the veterans involved with the Project Healing Waters program have benefited from his mentoring and camaraderie. He is a humble man whose contributions go way above and beyond the call of duty, which is why he is this year's Most Unsung Valuable Trout-er.

Council presents 18 awards at banquet



Todd Franklin photos

Cabela's-Richfield — Corporate Sponsor Award

This year's Corporate Sponsor Award is the Cabela's store in Richfield, Wisconsin. Store Manager Stephanie Crangle and Fly Shop Manager Jim Belanger in particular have helped us carry out Trout Unlimited's mission on a variety of fronts.

For instance, every year the Richfield store provides space and publicity for the Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter to conduct its spring fly tying classes. The store also helps SEWTU's Project Healing Waters program with discounted supplies and by giving veterans and mentors access to the store's stocked ponds.

Cabela's Richfield store has helped chapters across our region, and it regularly helps our State Council with prizes and manpower. Cabela's even provided significant donations to TU National's Annual Meeting held this past summer in Madison.

In recognition of Cabela's Richfield store being such a strong supporter of TU, we are proud to honor them with this award.

Steve Born, Tom Krauskopf, Bob Selk, Fred Wolf and Steve Born — Reel Partners Award

Thirty years ago, most Trout Unlimited habitat projects were low-cost affairs that a half dozen people with strong backs could accomplish on their own. Now imagine all of the parties involved in doing the following — diverting a major trout stream so it doesn't warm up by flowing into a popular park pond, creating a new habitat-rich streambed around the pond, and building a public walkway along this resource that connects a community with its high school.

Today we give a Reel Partners Award to five of the key players who made this scenario happen along Black Earth Creek outside of Mazomanie, Wisconsin. Three of these people are TU members — Steve Born, Tom Krauskopf, and Bob Selk. The two others are project area landowner Fred Wolf and local leader Scott Stokes.

They helped shape the leadership vision for the project. They then acted as key operational resources to assist with project administration and coordination, including grant writing, financial management, construction oversight, logistics, and trouble shooting. They even got DNR certification to patrol the construction zone for the endangered Blanding's turtle!

These men were partners. Reel partners. To recognize them, the State Council is commissioning a Leopold bench to be placed in their honor along Black Earth Creek. We hope that those who rest there get inspired to undertake their own partnerships to improve our streams and communities.

Winston Ostrow — Gold Trout Award

Every good organization needs a person it can rely on to keep it operating legally. Trout Unlimited is no exception. We are subject to many state and federal laws covering corporate and tax reporting. Strict requirements address our lobbying activities on behalf of clean water. Occasionally Wisconsin TU even becomes involved in lawsuits. For us, Green Bay attorney Winston Ostrow has been our go-to legal advisor for over 15 years.

In his day job, Win is a partner in the statewide firm of Godfrey & Kahn. When we need help with litigation, he heads a team of pros who advise us. From year to year, he keeps our corporate and tax records up to date and filed on time. And when a special issue arises and keen legal oversight is essential, Win has always been there for us.

Four years ago we were asked by National TU to review and catalog all the easements held by Wisconsin TU or our chapters. Win reviewed the assembled material to make sure the easements were properly recorded and executed. Then he helped revamp our easement forms and instructions to make sure no ticking land mines would come back and explode in our faces.

As a result, Wisconsin TU set a national standard for the handling of easements for public access and projects. For all this good work on our behalf, this year Wisconsin TU gives its Gold Trout Award to Win Ostrow.

Pat Sutter — Robert Hunt Resource Professional Award

Our second Robert Hunt Resource Professional Award goes to Dane County Conservationist Pat Sutter. For almost 30 years, Pat has been the first and most critically important person to work with dozens of landowners who have trout streams on their properties. He has persuaded most of those landowners to restore their streams. He then developed the technical plans for those restorations, cobbling together funding from a variety of local, state, federal, and nonprofit sources.

The State Council is familiar with the fruits of Pat's work, but here is the roll call of streams he has worked on: Black Earth Creek, Garfoot Creek, Vermont Creek, Sugar River, Badger Mill Creek, Fry Feeder, Deer Creek, West Branch Sugar River, Mount Vernon Creek, Primrose Branch of Sugar River, Gordon Creek, German Valley Creek, Pleasant Valley Creek, Kittleson Creek, Syfestad Creek, and the East Branch of Blue Mounds Creek.

In all those years and on all of those streams, Pat has been a great friend, ally, and partner of Trout Unlimited. The keys to his success have been his technical knowledge, which is considerable. But maybe



NOHAVICA, OSTROW, CABELA'S AND WOLF RUN LEADERS HONORED

SEWTU's Ivan Nohavica (top) earned the Most Unsung Valuable Trout Award; Jay Glanville and Michael Campbell accepted the Corporate Sponsor Award for Cabela's (second from top); Winston Ostrow accepted the Gold Trout Award (above); and Reel Partners Award winners are from left, Steve Born, Tom Krauskopf, Bob Selk and Stefanie Fieck (representing the Fred Wolf family). The Aldo Leopold Bench behind them will be placed along Black Earth Creek in their honor.





PAT SUTTER, AL NOLL RECEIVE AWARDS
WITU Chair Henry Koltz presents Dane County Conservationist Pat Sutter with the Robert Hunt Resource Professional Award (left). Al Noll of the Wisconsin



Clearwaters Chapter received a Certificate of Appreciation from the State Council.

Todd Franklin photos

more important has been the time, honesty, reliability, and the bedrock decency he shows to every landowner he deals with. The Golden Age of trout fishing in Dane County is now, and Pat Sutter has helped make that so.

Al Noll — Certificate of Appreciation

In the fall of 2012, the Wisconsin Clear Waters Chapter decided it was going to place a greater emphasis on maintaining its older stream restoration projects. These older projects were large-scale investments, not only in terms of dollars spent, but in terms of volunteer hours and commitments between various partner organizations.

Al Noll had just joined the Clear Waters board and was anxious to be involved in some capacity. Al took leadership of this simple concept, and he has since created an ethic that his chapter will continue to pursue.

He frequently meets with DNR personnel and walks numerous streams to identify areas of opportunity. Al organized chapter members who had not participated in activities in the past. During the course of

last year, TU and other local organizations mowed grass for angler paths adjacent to streams. Al also coordinated the removal of a quarter mile of willows, tag alders, and other plant material along the banks of Elk Creek. For Al's leadership in this effort, we award him a Certificate of Appreciation.

Brian Larson — Certificate of Appreciation

This year we award a certificate of Appreciation to Brian Larson of the Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter. Brian has taken on almost all of his chapter's major responsibilities at one time or another over the last decade. He has been chapter president when no one else was willing or able, and he has served on his chapter's board for many years. Throughout the years, he has always been the calm voice of logic in any given situation. Chapter members say he has been their conscience and teacher in many aspects of chapter work.

Perhaps the single most important thing that stands out in the minds of his fellow chapter members is Brian's tireless search for

habitat funding opportunities. Brian has quietly plugged away at grant writing for over a decade now. The funds his grant applications have brought in total around one million dollars. Thinking outside the box when it comes to grant writing, Brian has leveraged all kinds of kindred habitat improvements around the streams we work on to increase our ability to get grants. Whether it be eagles, frogs, snakes, prairies, or wetlands, he has found a niche for all of them in his grant applications.

Brian has done all these things because he believes that what TU does is important and matters greatly. He has never asked for thanks. Tonight we remedy that and thank him for all of his accomplishments.

Rick Bauer — Certificate of Appreciation

Our final award of 2014 is a Certificate of Appreciation for Rick Bauer, a landowner on Bear Creek in Pepin County near the City of Durand. Rick must know that the old saying "the squeaky wheel gets the grease" applies to stream restoration projects. Rick went about making his beloved Bear Creek a

restoration priority by first learning what stream project steps needed to be in place before, during, and following a project by attending the Westby Trout Stream Project Planning Workshop.

Rick also took it upon himself to host pre-planning project strategy workshops at his home, with all the key players in attendance. He then proceeded to lead the very first Bear Creek project on his property. Partners in this project included the Durand Sportsmen's Club, NRCS, Pepin County LCD, Clear Waters TU, WDNR, and many volunteers.

Rick hasn't stopped there. He has since become a Wisconsin Clear Waters board member and the chapter's stream project co-chair. He has continued to lead the effort on his home water by securing a number of private landowner easements. Rick has recently led a second restoration project on Bear Creek for a neighbor upstream of his initial project, hosted a kid's outdoor stream monitoring class at his property, and spread the word all around his local community about the many upsides to trout stream improvement.

EAS provides chapter support, yet relies on *our* support

Consider applying for Embrace-A-Stream grants, AND supporting EAS with your contributions.

By Henry Koltz, State Council Chair

Wisconsin has 21 chapters, and each is unique. But nearly every Wisconsin TU chapter has a devotion to in-stream and in-classroom projects. Such projects take money, however, and accumulating that money is often difficult. Fortunately, there is a national Trout Unlimited grant program dedicated to funding such projects.

TU's Embrace-A-Stream (EAS) grant program is a matching-grant program administered by TU, which awards funds to chapters and councils for coldwater fisheries conservation. Since its inception in 1975, EAS has provided \$4.2 million toward nearly 1,000 projects. Local TU chapters and councils contributed an additional \$13 million in cash and in-kind services to EAS-funded projects, for a total investment of more than \$17 million. In 2013 the average grant award was \$5,200, helping restore stream habitat, improve fish passage, and protect water quality in 16 different states.

EAS is a competitive, grant-application-driven program. Chapters must complete a grant application, describing their proposal, and giving pertinent data and objectives and outcome measurement devices for each project. TU's national office asks that chapters and councils submit proposals for projects that best address the needs of native and wild trout following TU's "Protect, Reconnect, Restore and Sustain" conservation model.

Unfortunately, EAS is underfunded, meaning each year there are more grant requests than there are funds available. Submitting a grant ap-

plication, even if unsuccessful, is a worthwhile endeavor, however. By sitting down and writing a grant application, a chapter will need to answer questions about what type of work will be done, and how it will be done (and by whom). That will require chapter members to write grant applications, and thus become familiar with the process of how stream projects come together, and who performs the work required to complete a large-scale project. This could include county land conservation departments, the DNR, NRCS and even members from one or more chapters.

Secondly, when putting together a grant application, a chapter will be required to evaluate, learn, and understand how projects are funded, and how a small amount of seed money, volunteer labor, and in-kind contributions can be leveraged through matching-grants (such as EAS, state, and federal grants such as WHIP grants) into large-scale projects.

Finally, when assembling a grant application, chapters will be required to focus on how a project will be used to grow and develop their chapters. They will need to provide goals such as membership increases, leadership increases, new committee formation, etc., and how such goals will be measured, as part of the grant proposal.

In short, learning how to create and submit an EAS grant application is valuable not only because it might lead to project seed money, but also because it helps chapters consider and actualize plans to increase their productivity and service to members. As a chapter leader myself, I've written several successful and unsuccessful EAS grants, which has made me a better leader,

while also improving our chapter.

As the Great Lakes representative for the EAS grant panel, I help make decisions about which grants are funded, and I have seen some great and not-so-great applications. I also see the effect that a lack of funds has upon grants, and how good grants remain unfunded as a result.

To help support the EAS program, we encourage all chapters to consider donating to EAS. True, donated money may travel out of state, but we must embrace the mantra of "One TU." What is good for trout and cold water in Wyoming, Maine or Tennessee is good for TU, which is good for Wisconsin TU. And what is good for Wisconsin TU is good for our chapters.

We also encourage individuals, businesses and other organizations to support EAS. When you or your chapter supports EAS, you are supporting cold water, as well as programs and efforts aimed as benefitting and restoring endangered, threatened, native, and naturalized trout and salmonid species across the nation. It's a great cause, and worth supporting.

Best of all, donations can be timed so that donors will receive gifts. So, for instance, if your chapter regularly donates to TU causes, why not donate to one where, for instance, you might receive a high-end rod, reel, or other prize that you can then use for a fundraiser or as a volunteer award, or for some other fine purpose?

Wisconsin has a reputation nationally as a strong TU state, and it would be fantastic to see Wisconsin lead all states in the number of EAS donors this year.

Chapter input sought on potential trout season changes

By Henry Koltz, State Council Chair

As most trout anglers in Wisconsin know, the Department of Natural Resources is working on refining our current trout fishing regulations. In a past issue of Wisconsin Trout, I've written about the general framework that will be proposed for implementation. WITU has been involved on both the DNR's trout regulation review committee, and as part of the Conservation Congress' trout study group, and will continue to remain engaged and a part of the trout regulation review process as it moves forward. The end result of the currently ongoing trout regulation review process will be questions which will appear as advisory questions on the annual spring Conservation Congress hearing ballots.

No questions regarding actual fishing regulations will appear on this spring's Conservation Congress ballots.

What will appear on this spring's Conservation Congress ballots are advisory questions regarding trout fishing seasons. This article is being written as an update as to the process and responses which WITU has undertaken in response.

The questions that will appear on the spring ballot were discussed at this past February's WITU meeting in Oshkosh, at which a clear quorum of chapters was present. In fact, the meeting was well attended.

In the past, questions regarding season extensions have been combustible. I am exceptionally proud of the manner in which we were able to discuss season changes, and the manner in which we were able to keep our discourse civil.

The executive committee is creating a process and environment where every chapter's concerns and voices may be heard regarding proposed season and regulation changes. Questions regarding season and regulation changes are not easy, and such discussions can very rapidly degrade into hardened positions and anchored rhetoric.

To avoid those situations, we will first identify those questions for which the chapters are generally in agreement. We will then plan to take a vote on those questions and articulate a formal position or positions.

With questions for which there is not a clear majority position by the chapters, we will poll the chapters as to their positions and ask them to articulate the basis for their positions. If that process reveals a clear majority as to a question, then a call for a formal vote from the chapters may be taken.

Quite simply, our executive leadership does not want any chapter, let alone any member, to feel that a position is being thrust upon them, or that they have not had an opportunity to be a part of the process wherein WITU formulates positions. WITU must reflect the will of its chapters, and this is the process by which it is endeavoring to do so.

To that end, WDNR has identified to WITU a set of four groups of questions regarding season changes which will be included on this spring's Conservation Congress ballot. Of those four sets of questions, we came to a unanimous consensus on two of them at our February 1 meeting.

First, we voted unanimously to support having one single, consis-

tent set of regulations to govern put-and-take urban trout ponds. As WITU understands it, when the DNR stocks trout into urban fishery locations (which are purely put-and-take), there will be a single set of rules which governs such situations. We agreed that regulation simplification of this type makes perfect sense. It allows enforcement wardens to deal with only one set of rules in all urban put-and-take fishery areas. Second, given that the fisheries at issue are intended solely to create fishing opportunities within urban areas where no natural reproduction or year-to-year carryover is expected, there is no biological argument to the contrary. As such, this is the official position of WITU, as voted unanimously by its chapters.

Next, we voted unanimously to support a question asking for the elimination of the one-week closure between the "early" catch-and-release season and the "regular season" opener. It is WITU's understanding that under this rule change the previously closed week would instead now simply continue to remain open under existing early season catch-and-release rules.

Biologists have told us there is no substantial biological reason for the one-week closure, and many in the room recalled that the closure was part of a compromise which occurred during prior rule-making discussions. It appears, based on the commentary elicited at the February meeting as well as the vote of the WITU, that there is now a unanimity of thought amongst the chapters that the week closure is no longer necessary. As such, this is the official position of WITU, as voted unanimously by its chapters.

At the February meeting, however, two sets of questions left WITU unable to formulate a firm position. As such, I have, as set forth in the process above, informally polled the chapters as to their positions on these two sets of questions.

The first set of questions deals with changing the opening of the early "catch and release" season to January 1 either: (a) statewide; or (b) where the early season already exist. As of the writing of this article, 12 chapters have provided feedback regarding this question. As to opening the season on January 1 statewide, seven have responded in favor and five against. As to opening the season where the early season already exists, chapters have responded two to one in favor (with eight speaking in favor, and four against).

In general, those chapters that have spoken in favor of advancing the opener to January 1 have cited the following as critical in their decision making process, in no particular order: (a) Wisconsin has no native spring spawning trout; (b) weather will be a self-limiting factor, and will deter significant fishing pressure; (c) in many regions (notably in the north) streams will be iced

over, so opening on January 1 versus in March shouldn't affect the resource.

Those who have spoken against advancing the opener to January 1 have generally cited the following factors: (a) concerns about mortality related to handling fish in cold weather; (b) increased opportunities for poaching; (c) increased opportunities for harvest of illegally sized fish.

Once feedback has been received from the remaining chapters regarding the January 1 opener, the executive committee may decide to put this set of questions to a statewide vote, requesting a yes or no vote on each sub-question from the chapters. Prior to that, our executive committee will provide an email update to the chapters, more fully articulating the basis for yes or no positions received during the informal polling period. Each chapter will then be able to consider that information when making its final vote.

The second set of questions which the WITU was unable to come to a clear consensus on at the February meeting regarded extending the season statewide to October 15 as a: (a) catch-and-release season; or (b) catch and keep. With respect to these questions, 12 chapters have responded. Of the chapters responding, four were in favor of extending the season, while eight were against doing so. This sentiment was the same as to both questions, regardless of whether the season extension was catch-and-release, or catch-and-keep.

Those chapters responding in favor of extending the season generally cited the following factors: (a) increased angling opportunities; (b) information supplied by biologists that extending the season would not negatively impact spawning fish or fish population or size regimes.

Those chapters responding against extending the season generally cited the following factors: (a) concerns about spawning fish being on redds, and being easily susceptible to angling pressure; (b) concerns from biologists about pressure on spawning fish and fish populations; (c) concerns about poaching; (d) concerns about issues associated with easement acquisition/user group interference between bow hunters and fisherman.

As with the set of questions regarding a January 1 opener, the executive committee will again send an e-mail to all chapters more fully articulating the reasoning provided to it by the chapters for their straw poll position. With such information in hand, we may call for a vote regarding extending the season to October 15.

Accordingly, if your chapter has not yet responded to our call for straw-poll positions on the questions above, please ensure that it does so immediately. Second, please be on the lookout for further e-mails regarding the foregoing season questions.

The executive committee is creating a process and environment where every chapter's concerns and voices may be heard regarding proposed season and regulation changes.

Potential Fee Increase?

Each chapter has been asked to provide feedback on a proposed \$5 increase in the trout stamp fee.

Here is some history: The price of a trout stamp has not increased for at least a decade. In that time, however, the price of materials, labor and notably fuel has increased. As such, the funding which our trout stamp provides for trout work and habitat improvement simply does not accomplish as much as it once did.

This has resulted in an advisory question to gauge public response to an increase in the price of a trout stamp. The rationale for the proposed increase of \$5, as opposed to a smaller number, is that fee increases are something which should be done infrequently, and should be calculated to have a lasting effect. Raising the cost of a trout stamp by \$1 or \$2 every few years is not a process that is desirable, nor is having constant debate about fee increases at the Conservation Congress level.

Of the 10 chapters responding at this point, eight have offered an unqualified "yes" in support of the fee increase. Some of the rationales which have been offered by chapters in support of the increase are 1.) that the increase is badly needed to keep pace with increased costs, 2.) it has been a significant amount of time since any increase occurred, and 3.) when viewed in real world terms, the increase is still minimal and about the cost of two gallons of gas, or the cost of one fast food lunch.

Of the two chapters that did not support an increase, one "not now – maybe in a few years," and the other responded "yes, but only at a \$2 increase." In the instance of the "not now" response, the concern was that the increase could make trout angling for out-of-state anglers too expensive, when combined with other higher, out-of-state fees. In the instance of the "yes, but only a \$2.00 increase," the fear was that residents and TU members in the concerned chapter area would simply view \$5 as too high of an increase (i.e., too big, too fast).

In any event, as with the season questions, we continue to await responses from a number of chapters. Please provide your chapter's input, to help the State Council determine if we can call this question to a vote, and take a firm position.

—Henry Koltz



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Outdoor Expo in Beaver Dam Cancelled for 2014

Volunteers needed for possible alternative event at MacKenzie Center near Poynette

The Wisconsin Outdoor Expo that has been held in Beaver Dam for the last few years has been cancelled for 2014.

Part of the problem was that the coordinator for the Expo resigned with short notice, and they have not been able to find a replacement. This not only affects fund raising, but it also affects the coordination of the event. They hope to bring the Expo back to Beaver Dam in 2015.

There is a chance that a smaller version of the Expo might be held at the Mackenzie Environmental Education Center near Poynette on the same dates, May 15 and 16. Mark LaBarbera from the Professional Outdoor Media Association has been working with Scott Gunderson from the DNR to make this happen.

If this can be worked out, we will need volunteers to teach fly tying and possibly fly casting. If you are available on either or both

days, let Bob Haase know and he will contact you if this becomes a reality. You can reach Bob at 920-922-8003 or email him at flytiter@milwpc.com.

Gill lice found throughout state

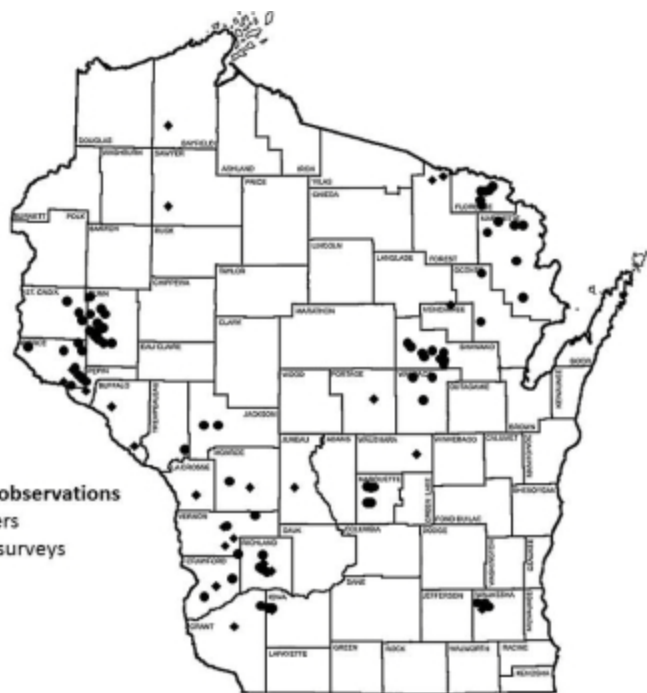
Trout anglers reported 52 observations of gill lice in 2013, and WDNR stream surveys found gill lice present at 69 stream sites. Some streams were reported multiple times by anglers, or were surveyed at multiple sites by WDNR. These results show that gill lice are widespread across the state with the exception of the Lake Superior basin. Gill lice were not found at any of the six streams surveyed in the Lake Superior basin.

The DNR surveys included data collection on the prevalence and intensity of gill lice infections. Prevalence refers to the percentage of brook trout infected with gill lice and intensity refers to the number of gill lice found on an individual brook trout. There was a broad range of observed infection prevalence and intensity among streams, but relatively few streams had both a high prevalence and intensity of infection.

Ash Creek is one stream with high prevalence and intensity. Infec-

tion prevalence in Ash Creek was 82 percent for age-0 brook trout and 92 percent for age-1 and older trout in October 2013; intensity averaged 5 (maximum 16) gill lice per age-0 brook trout and averaged 23 (maximum 97) gill lice per age-1 and older brook trout. Brown trout are present in Ash Creek but are not susceptible to infection by this species of gill lice. Impacts on individual brook trout growth and condition were inconclusive, but stock-recruitment data indicated a 77 percent decline in brook trout recruitment in 2012 and 2013, compared to 2007-2011. Such impacts by gill lice on brook trout recruitment risk a shift in community dominance towards brown trout when they are present.

Information and map provided by DNR Coldwater Fisheries Research Scientist Matt Mitro. For more information on gill lice research, contact Mitro at 608-221-6366 or Mathew.Mitro@wisconsin.gov



Streams where gill lice have been found so far:

- Dunn County:** Annis Creek, Bolen Creek, Gilbert Creek, North Branch Gilbert Creek, South Fork Hay River, Tiffany Creek, Wilson Creek
- Florence County:** Lamont Tanguet Creek, Montagne Creek
- Grant County:** Big Spring Creek
- Iowa County:** Big Spring Creek
- Jackson County:** Allen Creek, Vosse Coulee Creek
- Marquette County:** Macintire Creek, North Branch Beaver Creek, Sidney Creek, South Branch Pembonwon River, Wausaukee River
- Marquette County:** Caves Creek, Klawitter Creek
- Oconto County:** East Thunder Creek, South Branch Oconto River

- Pierce County:** Cady Creek, Pine Creek, Plum Creek, Rocky Branch, Rush River
- Richland County:** Ash Creek, Fancy Creek
- Shawano:** Hydes Creek, Mill Creek, North Branch Embarrass River, Wilson
- St. Croix County:** Beaver Creek, South Fork Willow River, Tiffany Creek
- Trempealeau County:** South Fork Beaver Creek
- Vernon County:** Tenney Spring Creek
- Waukesha County:** Rosenow Creek
- Waupaca County:** Hydes Creek, Little Wolf River, Spaulding Creek

Women's fly fishing clinics in June

Sign up now for the annual Wisconsin Women's Fly Fishing Clinics, hosted by SWTU at the West Fork Sportsmens Club in Avalanche, along the banks of the West Fork Kickapoo. You will receive instruction from top-notch female anglers from all over the country. These clinics sell out quickly. The early registration deadline has been extended to May 1.

In the "On The Water Skills Intermediate Clinic," participants will receive one-on-one instruction on several picturesque trout streams of southwestern Wisconsin's Driftless Area. Each participant will have the opportunity to fish with three different guides, learning new skills from each unique experience over the course of a day and a half. Most of our "guides" are volunteers from TU chapters who have experience instructing, and who know these waters very well. This intermediate clinic runs from Wednesday, June 18 at 3 p.m. to Friday, June 20 at 11 a.m.

In the "By Women, For Women Basic Skills Clinic," participants will learn about equipment, knots, fly casting, reading water

and fly selection. Equipment will be available for use. This clinic runs from 3 p.m. Friday, June 20 through Sunday, June 22 at 1 p.m.

The West Fork Sportsmens Club is located on County Highway S, Avalanche, WI. All participants will receive a one-year membership to the club and two nights of camping (Friday and Saturday). We strongly encourage you to stay on site. There is plenty of room for trailers and a limited number of electrical hook-ups are available. There is running water and flush toilets. Showers cost six quarters for three minutes. We do recommend bringing drinking water, as the water does not taste great. Alcohol is permitted in the campground.

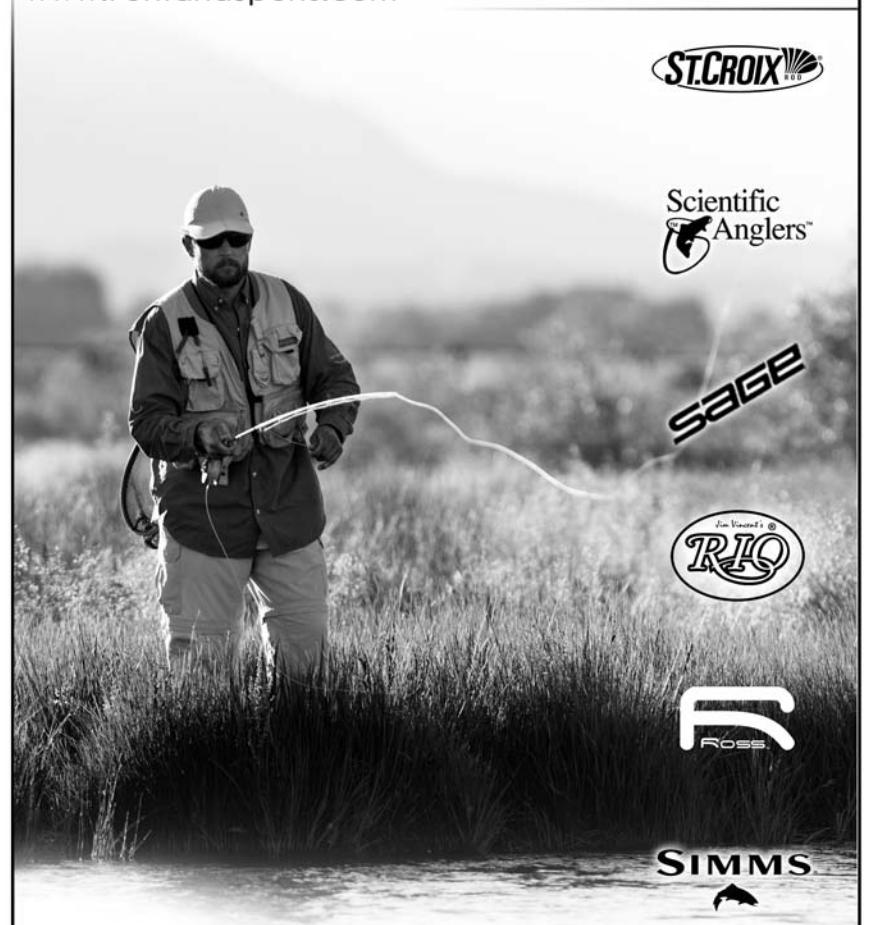
If you decide to stay elsewhere, please become familiar with the location of the camp before making reservations. Other accommodations may be found at the Driftless Angler website.

Registration for either clinic is \$195 for first-time Participants and \$225 for returning participants. Registration after May 1 is \$225 for all.

For more information go to swtu.org/wffc_womens_clinics.html.



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Reel Recovery returns to Onalaska

Volunteers sought to serve as "fishing buddies"



A SMILE SAYS IT ALL

A cancer survivor has a successful outing with Reel Recovery "fishing buddy" and Coulee Chapter member Cy Post.

By Anthony Larson, Wisconsin State Coordinator for Reel Recovery

This year marks the third year that Reel Recovery, a non-profit group that takes men with cancer on destination-based fishing retreats, has come to Onalaska, Wisconsin.

The retreat first came to Onalaska in September of 2012. "We had such local, media and community support that it was nearly impossible to not want to come back," explained Reel Recovery Executive Director Stan Golub. "With two cancer centers, and hospitals within a short drive from our location, coupled with world-class multi-species fishing, Onalaska is a great fit for us logistically and geographically."

Reel Recovery provides men with cancer with a two-and-a-half-day event consisting of: workshops called courageous conversations, where participants talk about how cancer impacts their lives; three short fishing trips of two and three hours; pairing participants up with community members and volunteers, called "fishing buddies," for paired and small-group outings.

With the exception of transportation and lodging, the event is fully funded for the participants, including fishing equipment, lodging and meals. Participants choose the locations to fish, whether on the Black and Mississippi Rivers, trout streams, or even Lakes Onalaska and Neshonoc. It's really all about what's biting and where the fishing buddy is best skilled.

Last year, Coulee Chapter president Jim Cox and member Cy Post volunteered to be fishing buddies for the retreat. "It was a great experience, one that I enjoyed very much," Post said.

The retreat is scheduled for September 10-12. A fundraiser is scheduled for April 12 at Stony Creek Inn at Onalaska from 6-9 p.m., with casino games, a fly-tying contest and door prizes.

To learn more about Reel Recovery, visit their website at www.reelrecovery.org, or contact Wisconsin State Coordinator Anthony Larson at 608-769-7809 or coulee_region_adventures@yahoo.com.

Upper Midwest Regional Meeting May 2-4

Join fellow anglers and TU volunteer leaders from across the Upper Midwest May 2-4 in Lewiston, Michigan. Anyone committed to building effective TU chapters and councils should consider attending.

Learn to develop your governance skills and practices, discover solutions to your leadership challenges, and increase your understanding of the key trends and coldwater conservation issues impacting the Upper Midwest region. TU regional meetings are occasions to be inspired, by the work of TU staff, lessons from leaders and conversations with newfound friends.

The total cost is \$125 and includes participation in all seminars and workshops, breakfast and lunch Friday and Saturday and breakfast on Sunday morning. There will also be a barbecue dinner Saturday night. Attendees may register for any one day individually as well:

- * Just the Friday Women's Specific Seminar (\$40)
- * Just Saturday's Workshops and Seminars (\$40)
- * Just Sunday morning's Workshops and Seminars (\$20)
- * Or just the Saturday Barbecue (\$25)

Friday, May 2

This day-long session is designed to arm volunteer leaders with tools to help grow and maintain your women's membership and encourage the women in TU to become leaders within our organization. We will offer leadership training, membership growth/retention, event/activity planning, and time for networking, too! For details, contact Heidi Oberstadt, TU's Women's Membership Coordinator, at 715-573-5104 or hoberstadt@tu.org.

If you've never fished in north-

ern Michigan you are in for a treat. There are many popular fishing destinations nearby, including the North Branch of the Au Sable River. More information will be provided directly to those that indicate on the registration their interest in the fishing option.

Saturday, May 3

Saturday's full-day session will include group discussions, concentrated workshops and opportunities for council and chapter leaders to share successes and discuss common challenges. A detailed agenda will be provided online soon.

Join us on Saturday evening for an outdoor barbecue at the Lovells Historical Society museum/township hall. The museum is very close to the North Branch of the Au Sable River. The museum has artifacts and displays reflecting the history of this famed fishing hole in the 19th century. This is always a great time and the perfect opportunity to get to know TU members from other parts of the region, and possibly wet a line.

Sunday, May 4

Sunday's sessions will follow the same format as Saturday; however, we will end around noon to allow attendees to fish.

Lodging

Accommodations for the Upper Midwest Regional Meeting will be provided by the Garland Lodge & Resort, 4700 North Red Oak Road, Lewiston, Michigan 49756. For reservations call 989-786-2211. A block of rooms was being held until April 1, but it's worth asking if any rooms at this rate are still available. Ask for the Trout Unlimited Upper Midwest Regional Meeting Room Block.

TUDARE Workshop in Westby April 12-13

Workshop features project plans, chapter strengthening tools

By Duke Welter, TUDARE Communications

How can I find ways to use my skills to help my chapter and Trout Unlimited? How can our chapter develop its project-building capacity? What does it take to plan a good learning event for women? How will we keep New Zealand Mud Snails out of our home waters? And, perhaps most important of all: "From where will our next generation of chapter leaders come?"

You've probably asked yourself some of those questions. The answers may well be found at the Westby Workshop April 12 and 13 at Living Waters Bible Camp near Westby, Wisconsin. The workshop is sponsored by TUDARE and the state TU councils of Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Illinois. More than 450 participants have had high praise for the past workshops they attended.

Experienced speakers will offer ideas for new members, long-standing members looking for new ways to contribute, and those considering taking on leadership roles in their chapters. Many of them got their start in TU by attending some of the eight past workshops and bringing home ideas to their chapters and councils.

The workshop will offer tracks on basic and advanced project planning, as well as ways for chapters to strengthen their education, conservation, fundraising and communications efforts. Presenters will also address subjects including: Developing a Trout In The Classroom program, successful women's events, project maintenance

programs, stream monitoring and invasive species control programs.

Brennan Sang from TU National will be on hand to talk about the new national website and provide hands-on training and technical assistance with the new tools. As part of the communication session Saturday afternoon, Brennan will provide a 15-minute overview and project update, focusing on how local chapters can use the news tools in their communications strategy around stream projects, development (membership and fundraising), and general public relations and community outreach. Afterward, he'll set up his laptop in another room to answer questions and provide support on an individual basis for the rest of the afternoon.

On Sunday morning, attendees will be able to plan their own projects, including stream restoration projects, and other types of projects. They will work with templates that have been used successfully by TUDARE and chapters across the country, with aid from experienced project planners. Also offered Sunday morning will be training in stream monitoring using a protocol developed for TUDARE by Kiap-TU-Wish TU member Kent Johnson.

Chapters around the region are encouraging their members to attend the workshop. Many chapters help cover the \$65 registration fee, which includes three meals at the bible camp and workshop materials. Lodging costs are separate. Registration runs through April 4, after which signups will be accepted only if space allows.

Costs are kept low by contributions from chapters and help from state councils around the region.

The workshop has been attended by volunteers from Indiana to Nebraska. "These techniques can be used by any TU chapter and any other group interested in developing strong collaborative projects," said TUDARE Project Manager Jeff Hastings. "We will try to keep the costs of the workshop very reasonable so chapters can send several people. That way some can focus on project planning and some on chapter development sessions."

Participants may stay at a nearby hotel including the Vernon Inn in Viroqua or the Old Town Inn in Westby, or at the bible camp. Some fun usually breaks out in connection with these workshops: A Saturday night dinner has featured a liar's contest and some regular hilarity. After sessions on Saturday, participants may tour restoration project sites or take advantage of some of the great area trout streams. The workshop usually concludes by early afternoon on Sunday.

Organizers welcome suggestions for sessions on any topic, keynote speaker ideas, questions and volunteers. For more information, contact Duke Welter at 715-579-7538 or dwelter@tu.org.

Registration information can be found at http://www.tu.org/sites/default/files/tudare_stream_project_planning_workshop_2014.pdf

A complete schedule is available at <http://docs.tudare.org/westby/>

Capital Brewery donates to TUDARE

In an event on February 25 celebrating the successful sale of the first run of Driftless Ale, Capital Brewery donated \$1,000 each to TUDARE and the Driftless Area Land Conservancy.

The brewery produced a thousand 22-ounce “bombers,” featuring a distinctive label that highlighted features of the Driftless Area, including trout fishing.

By the end of the event at the brewery in Middleton, nearly all of the bottles had been sold, though a few more cases are still available at Capital’s gift shop.

Capital’s CFO Richard King and President Scott Wiener said they were committed to conservation and hope to continue their collaboration with TU and DALC, perhaps with another version of a Driftless Area beer.

Duke Welter of TUDARE accepted the donation and praised the company for its environmental ethic and described TU’s restoration efforts. Dave Clutter, executive director of the land trust, accepted their donation.

WITU seeks forestry liaison

The Wisconsin State Council is searching for a member to serve as a liaison to the Wisconsin DNR’s Forestry Best Management Practices Working Group.

WITU currently has members serving on other DNR working groups dedicated to fisheries and stream crossings, and this is a great opportunity for us to have an impact on forestry management.

What happens in uplands and forests can have a direct effect on streams, as well as wetlands that impact streams. As such, having a TU member step up and fill this position is important, and I urge any TU member who is interested in filling this role to please step up and volunteer.

All that is required is that the volunteer attend working group meetings, provide input on behalf of TU in support of management practices which will best protect cold water streams, and then provide short reports that can be disseminated to TU’s state-wide leadership.

This is a great opportunity to get involved as a TU leader while helping to guide forestry management and protect our resources. If you are interested, contact Henry Koltz at hek@sdelaw.com.



Todd Franklin

HANSON GOES OUT WITH A BANG, MANY BEERS, AND SYRUP TOO

Former Wisconsin Trout Editor Todd Hanson was “roasted” by our expert roaster, Clint Byrnes, who also asked chapters to give Todd a six pack of craft brews from their chapter area. For years, Todd had provided one of his famous Brookie Beers to Wisconsin Trout contributors.

Griffin named DNR Trout Coordinator

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources recently selected Natural Resource Staff Specialist Joanna Griffin as Statewide Trout Coordinator. This position was formerly held by Larry Claggett, who retired in late 2010 after working for the department for 32 years. Since Claggett’s retirement, the duties were covered by a variety of other DNR staff members. The DNR is now at a point where it can reallocate those duties to a single specialist.

Griffin grew up in a small town in southern Vermont. After graduating from Vassar College, she moved to Woods Hole, Massachusetts and began a graduate program through the Boston University Marine Program. She studied the effects of nitrogen loading on littoral zone fish populations in estuaries of Cape Cod, and there she also met her husband, Martye Griffin. After graduate school, she worked for two years at Marine Research, Inc., an environmental consulting firm in Falmouth, Massachusetts.

They moved to Madison in 2000 and she started her first job at the DNR as the assistant propagation coordinator. Since 2001, she has held multiple project positions at the DNR and University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point involving the Fisheries Management Database. In 2009 she was hired as academic staff through UWSP as the Fisheries Database Manager/Outreach Specialist and the fishing tournament coordinator. In 2011, she became a staff specialist with the Fisheries Management Section, working on a panfish management plan, trout habitat reporting and trout stream classification.

Joanna and Martye live in Madison and have two children, Maya, 9, and Noah, 7.



DNR STATEWIDE TROUT COORDINATOR JOANNA GRIFFIN

Holland mystery novel available

Long-time TU member and prolific writer Dan Holland of Plover has recently released his latest work, a murder mystery entitled “Dead Angler’s Don’t Lie.”

The novel tells of an unlikely romance between a self-acquainted “trout bum” and a university professor, which leads to numerous harrowing adventures, culminating in a seemingly inexplicable murder. The search for the murderer discloses an improbable motive for the crime.

Set in Alaska, Michigan, Montana and Utah, the narrative focuses on the synergy between life, love and fly fishing.

The book is available on Kindle and can be searched by title or author.

Donate to council via Thrivent Lutheran Financial

If you are a TU member and have investments with Thrivent Lutheran Financial, you may have the ability to make charitable donations to groups of your choosing through Thrivent Financial’s Thrivent Choice program.

The Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited is now a listed entity within the Thrivent Choice program.

If you are a Thrivent member and have the ability to make Thrivent Choice donations, we would be honored if you’d consider including the Wisconsin Council of TU within your charitable planning, and making a donation to our cause.

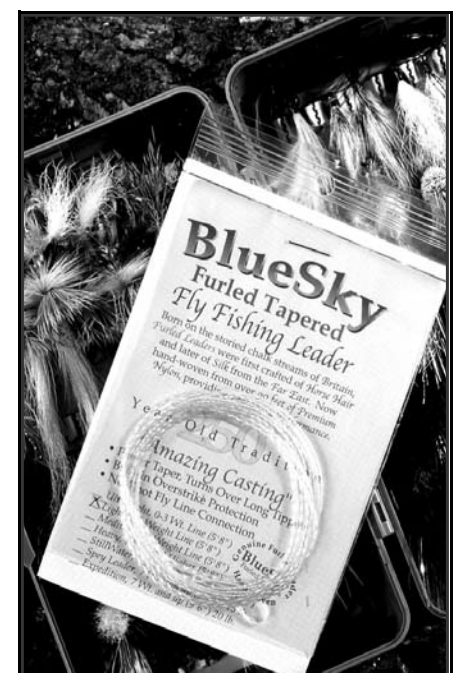
Volunteers needed for Stream Girls

The second annual Stream Girls event, a collaboration between WITU and the Girl Scouts of America, will be held June 19-21 in Stevens Point. Instructed by WITU volunteers, the girls will learn about streamside vegetation, fish habitat, water quality, fly tying and more. Fly tying was very popular at last year’s event.

The program runs from 8 a.m. to noon. Volunteers are needed for all three days, especially on Saturday, when they will add younger girl scouts and take all of them fishing.

This is a unique and wonderful opportunity for both organizations, as TU seeks to enhance youth and women membership, and the Girl Scouts are looking for positive male role models for their girls. It’s a perfect combination, and there is nothing better than watching those little girls study bugs or tie flies.

For more information or to volunteer for this event, contact Heidi Oberstadt heidi.oberstadt@gmail.com.



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Chapter News



Mike Stapleton

SCHULTZ ENJOYS ALTU FLY TYING CLASS

ALTU's annual fly tying class was as successful as ever, thanks to the efforts of volunteer instructors and Class Committee Chair Mike Stapleton. Here Sen. Dale Schultz watches ALTU Board Member Dave Murphy show some basic tying techniques.

Aldo Leopold Chapter

Our 2014 Beginner Fly Tying Class was a runaway success this year, with 17 students, our largest class ever. The five Wednesday classes, held at the Portage Public Library, resulted in a lot of deadly flies being tied and a new squad of fly tiers being unleashed upon the unsuspecting fish of the world. Thanks to our Fly Tying Committee of Mike Stapleton, Tom Gawle, Dave Murphy, Jared Sagal, Pat Helland, Jim Peters and Mark Winscher for teaching the classes and sharing their knowledge.

After a multi-year effort, WAV monitoring on Lodi Spring Creek has concluded. The DNR has the data needed to develop "build-out" plans for the watershed, modeling the effects upon the creek that various developments would have. These models will help local governments when they are assessing proposed developments and should help protect the stream. Thanks to chapter volunteers Tom and Sally Gawle, Tim Hood, Peter Van Ness, and Eric Lorenzen for their WAV efforts over the last few years.

Monitoring efforts on Bear Creek are kicking into high gear. Last year we installed data loggers for a planned 5 year study of temperatures within the watershed. WAV monitoring will be beginning this summer. We could use more volunteers for the WAV monitoring! Chapter members are encouraged to participate but anyone is welcome to help us on this effort. If you are interested in being a volunteer WAV monitor please contact Tom Gawle at 920-356-1628 for details.

Our chapter's contributions the WITU Banquet were noticeable. Tom Gawle's watercolor painting "Before The Cast" was simply beautiful. Thanks to the efforts of Mike Stapleton, a truly impressive collection of flies were assembled for the chapter fly box. We actually had to get a second box because we had too many to fit into the one box we were supplied. Our boxes netted \$215.00 for the State Council, the highest total for any box

this year by far. Thank you to all who donated flies for this worthy effort.

On March 23 we manned a booth at the Spring Outdoor Adventure Show in Baraboo, and talked to many interested attendees about fishing, workdays and everything trout fishing and TU. Thanks to Scott Allen for taking the lead on this.

We have three chapter work days scheduled this spring. April 19 we will once again be working on Manley Creek near Devil's Lake State Park. May 17 we will start work on a stretch of Honey Creek in western Sauk County. June 21 we will be building LUNKERS for the 2014 Bear Creek project. Details can be found on our new chapter website, aldoleopold.tu.org. You can also contact work day chairs Scott Allen at jscottallen12@gmail.com or Todd Franklin at toddfranklin@tds.net.

Speaking of our new website, many thanks to newly elected chapter vice-president Scott Allen for his hard work creating our new website. TU National has made it easy for chapters to create websites associated with the National site and Scott has done a fine job with our site.

At our most recent meeting, we elected officers, with Tom Gawle remaining as secretary, Michael Stupich as treasurer, Mike Barniskis as president. Rounding out the board are Tim Hood, Mike Stapleton, Dave Murphy and Todd Franklin. There are two board openings, so if you are interested, please contact us.

June 18 we will host our annual fund-raising picnic at Habermann Park in Lodi. The event officially kicks off at 5 p.m. with free food and drinks. A great raffle and silent auction provide opportunities to win some very nice gear, including a Sage 2-wt. rod/reel/line combo. Everyone is welcome, so bring family and friends to help us celebrate another year of success as a chapter.

—Mike Barniskis

Antigo Chapter

Hello to you all. Although it seems that spring has been delayed, we are hard at work on our annual fund raising banquet. The banquet will be Saturday, March 29 at the Edison club in Antigo. Donor support has been great this year. We hope to have a great banquet and raise money for our cold water resource.

Our Antigo TU Kids Fishing Day will be Saturday, June 7 on the east side of City Park. Again we will have a fish tank for the kids to catch trout, as well as prizes, food and a casting contest. The Antigo Fire Department will have the fire safety trailer present. This year I would like to thank members Ron and

Charlie for their work in applying for grants to help put on the Kids Fishing Day. Two groups have responded and have provided \$3,000 to help fund our day with the kids. I can't say Thank You enough.

We're looking forward to spring, and to start some brushing projects. We also plan to check the water flow on Mayking Creek to see if we need to remove more rocks from a dam that we lowered last fall.

In April we will sponsor an upperclassman at UWSP. Eric Hendrickson is in his last year of school and is studying water resources management.

— Scott Henricks

Blackhawk Chapter

The winter weather down here in Janesville has been great ... for staying inside and planning chapter activities for the coming months. In January the chapter approved a contribution of \$2,700 for stream work in Green County this year. It will be used for brushing, clearing and treating existing restored sites along the Little Sugar River and Hefty Creek. We also contributed \$500 to Project Green Teen towards their work on the West Fork of the Kickapoo May 9-16 2014. From past experience, we know those teens may be "green," but they sure do work with enthusiasm, and keep our cutters and advisers hopping.

In March, the Board approved an initial matching grant of \$5,000 toward the Weister Creek Project in Vernon County's Kickapoo Valley Reserve. The project, covering the upper 2.6 miles of the 4.4 miles of the Kickapoo's East Fork within the Reserve, will take three years to complete, at an estimated cost of \$2.5 million.

On the educational front, the Arrowhead Library System (Rock County) has requested that Blackhawk TU develop a presentation

about various aspects of trout fishing, to be given at the seven system libraries in its district throughout this spring and summer. Bill Lazor, Blackhawk TU's treasurer, volunteered to head up the task and is putting together a program which will include equipment, "Bugology" and a couple of fly tyers. Bill already has his first presentation date on Saturday, May 17.

At our February meeting our own John Lusk showed his visor-capped video of the trout trip he and fellow chapter members Dave Patrick and Dick Alfors took out west last fall.

Banquets seem to be the primary source of revenue for TU chapters, and this year ours will be on Monday, April 28, at the Pontiac Convention Center in Janesville, just off I-39/90. Without that revenue, we can't provide the funding or do the projects for which Blackhawk TU is known. Please come join us if you can. We have a solid track record for good food, friendly folks (well, mostly), great raffle and auction items, and ending by 9:30 p.m.

— Dave Hinde

Central Wisconsin Chapter

Our chapter has initiated its first Stream Work Day Fund Drive. We have been fortunate to receive very nice matching grants each year for specific projects. The money donated to our new Work Day Fund can be used for any of our stream projects without the restrictions usually noted in the grants, giving us a little more flexibility.

We were recently awarded another nice matching grant from the Trout and Salmon Foundation for work beginning this year on Chaffee Creek. The Chaffee is a major tributary to the Mecan River where we have been making improvements the last three years. The first work day on the Chaffee will be Saturday morning, May 17. The Elliott Donnelly Chapter (EDTU) from Chicago always partners with us on this first work day of the year, hence we call it the Chicago Work Day. EDTU has been very generous to us and we always enjoy their help.

Our TroutFest was Saturday February 22 at the Fin 'N Feather supper club in Winneconne. This popular event was again well attended. The 11 presentations were packed. People rummaged through the sale items, gathered at the information booths, and enjoyed watch-

ing the many fly tiers. We were able to sign up 10 new members. A good day. Thank you goes to Bob Smaglik for organizing the event again.

Three people from CWTU attended the River Alliance Advocacy training class at the February 1 State Council Meeting. We now have six people trained by the River Alliance. However, many more than these trained people have also been advocating for the protection of our ground water.

Our Riverkeepers monitoring program is always looking for volunteers. Contact John Gremmer for more information at jgremmer@charter.net

Rick Fahrenkrug of Neenah, one of the leaders of CWTU's River Keeper program was named Wisconsin's Volunteer Water Monitor of the year. Fahrenkrug received this award from Kristen Stepenuck, UW-Extension/WDNR, Water Action Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program Director, at the Annual Volunteer Stream Monitoring Symposium, on February 15, in Stevens Point. Congrats, Rick!

The schedules for all our chapter meetings and events are available on our website, www.cwtu.org.

— John Tucker

Chapter News



CWTU'S MEMBER EARNS AWARD; TROUT FEST A SUCCESS
 Rick Fahrenkrug of Neenah, one of the leaders of CWTU's River Keeper program, was named Wisconsin's Volunteer Water Monitor of the year. Fahrenkrug received this award from Kristen Stepenuck, UW-Extension/WDNR, Water Action Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program Director, at the Annual Volunteer Stream Monitoring Symposium, on February 15, in Stevens Point. Congrats, Rick!
 Meanwhile, CWTU's annual Trout Fest was a huge success again, as this young boy (right) learns from some of the best tyers around -- CWTU's volunteers.



Coulee Region Chapter

Our annual banquet was held on February 28, and as expected, it was a great night. We were at capacity at the Cedar Creek Country Club in Onalaska with well over 100 attendees. While the outside temps were quite cold, the atmosphere in the banquet room was lively and fun. There was plenty of fish talk and camaraderie, and attendees enjoyed some top-notch food. Many of our guests left with great prizes. Top prizes included a Rick Kyte custom-made fly rod, a GoPro camera, and a walleye trip to South Dakota. Thanks to all who attended and made it a successful event.

Our next chapter meetings will be on April 16 and May 21. Keep your eye on our Facebook page and www.couleeregiontu.org for details about time and location.

Trout Fest will be on July 26,

2014. This family-centered event is in Coon Valley, WI and has a lot to offer to each member of the family. There is plenty of delicious food and cold beverages to choose from on the grounds. The vendor tent has everything from crafts to fishing equipment. There are fly casting demonstrations and lessons, and we will also have fly tiers showing off their skills. Kids can enjoy the park, bouncy house, but most importantly, fishing! Coulee Region Trout Unlimited sponsors the kids fishing event, and all kids have to do is show up. We provide rods, bait and help. We stock Coon Creek with trout that morning to enhance the kids' chances of catching a feisty fish.

— Curt Rees

Fox Valley Chapter

The winter months have been a busy time for the Fox Valley Chapter. Our annual fund-raiser Cabin Fever Day fundraiser was January 11 at the Grand Meridian in Appleton. Although we had to contend with a minor ice/rain storm the previous day, there were about 155 people who attended the day's events. FVTU thanks all of the attendees, presenters and exhibitors who contributed to another successful event. We were able to raise approximately \$5,600 for our chapter habitat programs. Scott Grady donated another custom built cane rod that also generated \$1,200 for our habitat work. Thank you, Scott.

Our January chapter meeting at

Fox Valley Technical College featured an excellent presentation by Chef John and the students in the Culinary Arts program. We enjoyed various seafood offerings and an incredible dessert.

In February Wolf River chapter member Tim Waters gave a presentation on fishing the Wolf River, sharing information on when to fish, how to fish and fly selection. Thanks, Tim, for sharing your knowledge of the Wolf River with our chapter.

Our March chapter meeting was a presentation by A. J. Dudek. His talk, titled "Fishing the Rocky Mountain National Park," gave us information and tips to help plan for

a trip to this western destination. The FVTU chapter is currently selling raffle tickets for a Miller Welder. We are only selling fifty tickets at \$25 each with the drawing being held during our April 17 chapter meeting. All of the funds raised through this raffle will be used for our Habitat project work this summer. If you are interested in purchasing a ticket please check our website at www.foxvalleytu.org. Ticket holders do not have to be present at the time of the drawing. There are only a couple of days

left before the official start of Spring and hopefully some serious melting of the heavy snow cover. Many of you have probably enjoyed some time out in a stream during the early season and many others are prepping for the "official opener" – enjoy this exciting time of change. Also, enjoy the beauty of God's streams, creeks and lakes, and as our late chapter president Tony Tremel would close his columns. "We'll see you on a trout stream."
 — Rich Erickson



FOX VALLEY CHAPTER MEMBERS EAT WELL
 Our January chapter meeting at Fox Valley Technical College featured an excellent presentation by Chef John and the students in the Culinary Arts program. We enjoyed various seafood offerings and an incredible dessert.

Rich Erickson



Chapter News

Frank Hornberg Chapter

The Frank Hornberg chapter's first public meeting of the year was on January 30 at the Lincoln Center in Stevens Point. Abe Downs spoke on smallmouth and muskie fishing. At our February meeting, Pete Cozad spoke on fishing the Driftless Area. We appreciate our speakers' willingness to share their fly-fishing knowledge on these topics.

Our first workday was on Saturday, March 8. We helped assemble lunker structures for the DNR rehabilitation project on the Keener Road section of the Tomorrow River. We expect to spend more time helping with this project in the coming months.

Our annual chapter dinner and

meeting to elect officers was on Thursday, March 13. Matt Salchert continues as our chapter president. All of us appreciate Matt's tireless and enthusiastic efforts to promote the activities of the Hornberg Chapter.

Our annual fly-fishing school is Saturday, May 17. For a change of pace, this year it will be a one-day event. As in prior years, it will be held at the Bible Camp on the Tomorrow River, south of Amherst, next to Stedman County Park. This is a great opportunity for anyone new to fly fishing to learn the science and the basic skills of the sport.

— John Volrath

Green Bay Chapter

The new year started with a bang, and we've only just begun. In January we hosted a movie night that doubled as a chapter fundraiser at the local Cabela's. The movie was "Where the Yellowstone Goes," which follows a group of friends on a 30-day driftboat journey down the Yellowstone River. The storyline provides the viewer intimate portraits of the cities along the river, the people who make their living on and around the river, and offers excellent insight on the history and controversies surrounding the river. How did they ever manage to place an oil pipeline right through the river and expect it to never leak? The evening was a great success, thanks for attending.

Kudos to our members who attended the state meeting and banquet. The entire day was a great mix of administrative meetings, educational meetings, some great fly fishing training education and a wonderfully entertaining banquet. We can't wait until next year!

Our first chapter meeting was a great success, and was well attended. Local DNR Fisheries Specialist Tammie Paoli provided a bevy of new and historical information about the conditions and ongoing issues of trout streams in northeast Wisconsin.

In February we held our 39th annual Conservation Banquet to raise money to support our work on streams, and in the community. In spite of inclement weather, it was

one of the best-attended banquets in recent years. There was a great dinner, and many wonderful prizes were auctioned and raffled off. Financially, this may have been our most successful banquet ever.

On March 1st, the chapter was also a happy participant in Cabela's Spring Outdoor days that allowed us an opportunity to tie flies for children of all ages. Over the two days, several chapter members manned a table and demonstrated fly tying. Our 'Sensei,' Randy Rake, was a great teacher.

Our March meeting was another informational and educational event. A representative from The Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust discussed the work it is doing preserve land in northeast Wisconsin.

We have a variety of plans for the summer, including four or five stream-work projects. We will be working in the Door County area, where there has been minimal trout habitat restoration in recent years. We are also planning several other events, including the third stocking in a five-year plan of Floy Tagged Brown Trout in the lower Oconto River, a June picnic, the annual fishing trip, and the July kids fishing day.

It will be a busy summer for the chapter, but one we're ready for, after such a long and cold winter. Will we be glad to see mosquitos? Here's to warmer (but not too warm) temps, and tight lines to all!

— Aaron P. Frailing



Cheryl Ostrow

A FUTURE TROUTER WITH FOCUS

Green Bay TU Chapter President, Randy Rake teaches the art of fly tying to an intrigued future trout at Cabela's Spring Outdoor Days on March 1.

Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter

Well, it has been a long, cold and snowy winter. I think everyone is eager for spring and hoping for a slow steady melt to provide a ground water recharge. Fishing for the March opener was coooooold! The fish seemed willing enough to bite and several came to dry flies, even in the extreme weather. Then it was back to the cabin for hot coffee and fly tying with friends.

A reminder and request for anyone fishing our local streams: Please Clean your waders prior to and after fishing. With the discovery of New Zealand mud snails and the existence of other invasive species, the time and effort to do so is important and very much appreciated.

The Nohr Chapter participated in the Grant County Sportsman's Alliance "skills day" in late February. It was very busy, with a steady stream of local kids and parents trying casting and fly tying from 10 a.m. 3 p.m. It was very encouraging to see so many children and adults interested in trout fishing.

On the project front, we have more than a mile of project work on

the plate for this coming season, including the upper section of Six Mile Branch. We will also be finishing up work on the Blue River and Big Rock Branch. Local landowners continue to contact us about future work and easements for different watersheds in the area. We were contacted just last week by a new landowner interested in selling an easement and looking for habitat improvement on two miles of stream in a local watershed that has limited examples of either.

Planning for our annual banquet has begun. The banquet will be held the Friday prior to the regular season opener (May 2) at the Arthur House in Arthur, Wisconsin. Arthur is located on Highway 80 about midway between Platteville and Montfort, Wisconsin. We look forward to a fun-filled family event. We are currently taking donations for raffles and auctions at the banquet, so please consider making a donation. Donations may be sent to Todd Templen, 10476 Lake Eleanor Road, Dubuque, IA 52003.

— Todd Templen



Tom Henderson

TP, DIESEL FUEL AND A MATCH IS ALL IT TAKES

The Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter continued its winter brushing and box elder clearing along St. Croix County's Parker Creek and on the upper Trimble River in Pierce County.

Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter

We continued our winter brush and box elder clearing along St. Croix County's Parker Creek and on the upper Trimble River in Pierce County. With sufficient dead, dry wood and a roll of toilet paper soaked in diesel fuel, fires start easily, even with the air temperature below zero degrees. Nearly every weekend about a dozen volunteers, under the direction of Randy Arnold, have been preparing the banks and corridors for stream habitat work.

Rock has been delivered for the second season of work on the upper

Trimble. It was necessary to make use of frozen ground to support heavy trucks. With the stumps cut high and the small wood burned, dozers will remove stumps as soon as the spring runoff subsides.

Meanwhile, Margaret LeBien has organized some weekend retreats for women only, including casting instructions and fishing information. Some of these are for graduates of the Casting for Recovery program, and are fully enrolled already.

— Tom Henderson

Lakeshore Chapter

Lakeshore Chapter is planning a very busy Spring schedule. Our planned project for stream restoration work below County Highway U is scheduled for this summer. We decided to do this later in the year because that section of the stream will be much easier to work with once it gets a little drier, given all the snow this winter.

Our scheduled Onion River work days will be the first two Saturdays in April. Our big push for cutting shrubs/invasives will be on Saturday, May 17. The Southeast Chapter will be lending a helping hand, and we look forward to anyone else wanting to join in! We will meet at the County Highway E Bridge at 8 a.m. on all scheduled work days.

Chapter News



Following all work days we plan to have a barbecue and some basic casting/fishing techniques for anyone wishing you learn a little from the vast group of fisherman that know the Onion and surrounding streams. Our work days usually last until around noon or 1 p.m., so be sure to bring a rod for the afternoon hatch!

For any information on the Onion River and our work day schedule, contact Jeff Preiss at 920-208-1135, or Gordy Martin at 920-876-3510.

Northwoods Chapter

We owe a great deal of thanks to Greg Matzke and Steve AveLalleant from the Wisconsin DNR for their recent presentations to our chapter on Trout Biology and Management 101 and Beaver Management, respectively.

On Monday, May 12 we will host a Cook-out & Casting event plus chapter elections at Trees for Tomorrow from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Chapter leaders who know a thing or two about casting will be on hand to help improve your casting and cook you a brat. All we ask in return is that you help select the future leaders of Northwoods Trout Unlimited (or become one yourself).

On Saturday, June 28 we will host a Family Fly Fishing Fair at Trees for Tomorrow. This is a new-and-improved rendition of our Youth Conclave, and we encourage the entire family to attend, not just the kids! All ages are welcome to join us to learn how to better cast, identify bugs, tie knots and tie flies. Registration is required. Contact Terry at tcuddler@charter.net to register.

Oconto River Chapter

The Chapter has added an additional school district for its Trout in the Classroom participants. The "eyed" eggs have hatched and students are seeing the progression of the fry. We added Suring High School in November. Students at Oconto, Lena, Gillett and Suring School Districts are feeding the fish and monitoring water conditions. The school coordinators that include this project in their curriculum include Lara Nichols at Oconto, Roberta Windus at Lena, Greg Zeitler at Gillett and Sean Wagner at Suring.

The Chapter's "member of the year" for 2013 was awarded to Pete Vanderwegan. Pete has worked on habitat projects, Trout in the Classroom setup at the Oconto County Fair. He also attends most monthly meetings. He even fished with Dr. Bob and has tied flies with him. Congratulations to Pete on winning this prestigious award.

The banquet committee is preparing for the annual fundraising banquet set for April 24, 2014 at Romy's Holiday Inn at Kelly Lake. Banquet Chair Dan Sumnicht re-

Lakeshore TU is hosting its annual TU banquet at City Lights in Manitowoc on Saturday March 29. Silent raffles, a live auction and door prizes for kids are just part of the banquet. Fly boxes filled by some great chapter tyers will also be part of the auction. It's a really good time and always fun to catch up with what is going on with the chapter. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. For more information please call Jeff or Gordy at the above numbers. — *Gordy Martin*

We look forward to hosting three workdays this summer in partnership with the Wisconsin DNR. The dates and locations of these workdays have not yet been determined.

The 40th Annual Conservation Banquet will be in September at Holiday Acres Resort in Rhineland. Stay tuned for the exact date.

Finally, our chapter is currently attempting to revive a Project Healing Waters program at the VA Medical Center in Iron Mountain. We are seeking volunteers to help this spring and summer to join in Iron Mountain to get wounded veterans hooked on fly fishing. If think you might be interested in lending a hand, please contact me at the e-mail address below to learn more.

To receive more frequent updates from the Northwoods TU Chapter, please "like" us on Facebook at [facebook.com/Northwoods-TU](https://www.facebook.com/Northwoods-TU) or contact me at lauramacfarland@gmail.com to sign-up for our e-newsletter.

— *Laura Macfarland*

ported that prizes were already being accumulated. Letters will soon be sent to past banquet participants. Ticket information is available from Mitch Meunier at True Value in Gillett (920-855-2844).

The chapter is seeking young people from the Oconto River area to attend the environmental camps offered by UW-Stevens Point. Various camps for ages 7-18 are offered. An application is available from Moni Brunner at 920-855-6669. Campers will be announced at the chapter banquet April 24.

We are making plans to participate in DNR and USFS work days in our area. Members will work with Green Bay and Wolf River Chapters placing brush bundles, rocks and logs to improve habitat. Dates and work locations will be published in the chapter newsletter.

We hold chapter meetings monthly (excluding May & November) on the first Wednesday of each month at the Lone Oak Gun Club just north of Gillett at 7 p.m.

— *Dale Halla*

Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter

Our chapter remained active throughout the winter months. Our regular monthly chapter meetings shifted to the Thunder Bay Grill as our previous meeting site was a casualty to real estate development/progress. At our November meeting we present award plaques to deserv-

ing individuals and recognize their contributions to Trout Unlimited and our chapter. The November meeting also sees the return of Pat Ehlers of The Fly Fisher as our featured speaker. This year Pat gave a presentation on remote fishing trips that provided real insight into fre-

quently asked questions about equipment, logistics, accommodations and surprises to expect along the way. It worked out especially well that Pat was the speaker, as he was also our first award recipient. Henry Koltz served as the Master of Ceremonies for the award presentations and was ably supported by Josh Radlein. Awards were presented to five additional individuals for their various contributions.

Pat has always generously donated his time and prizes for our fundraising efforts. This is the ultimate example of a win:win relationship partner between a TU chapter and a third party and we are very fortunate to have him. Next up was Erik Helm of Orvis. Erik has been the driving force behind the Orvis Fly Fishing 101 sessions, in which participants receive a one-year membership to TU. This past year, we added nearly 150 new members through this program. He has also been a lead instructor at our annual casting clinic.

We also recognized four of our members for their contributions. Pete Pritzlaff was recognized for his many contributions in the areas of education and outreach and as a donor of extraordinary handmade trout nets to our chapter, the state council and this year, to the TU National meeting. Dr. M. Scott Connor was recognized for his contributions to our fund-raising efforts. He is an avid fisherman who also regu-

larly brings a number of friends with him to our events and they make their presence known. Next up was Wayne Mudek, a long-standing volunteer in our habitat workdays, and a regular at our chapter meetings. We could not do the things our chapter does without members such as Wayne. Last but not least, Dave Menke was also recognized for his numerous contributions. It is rare when a workday does not include Dave. He is also a regular volunteer at our Project Healing Waters outings.

December begins to slow down for us, given the holiday season, but we remain active. Greg Schick has organized a group of our members who meet twice a month at an area community center to tie flies and exchange tips. Many of us are guilty of relying too much on a few patterns, so here we learn to tie what others consider their "go to" patterns, and maybe expand our horizons in the process. Our last workday of the calendar year was held on Saturday, December 14. We worked in our home waters on Scuppernong Creek with the DNR, including Fisheries Biologist Ben Heussner and his team. We installed biologists and brush bundles to redirect stream flow and increase velocity to scour the stream bottom and enhance habitat. Special thanks to Ray Weiss and Jim Wierzba, who lead our efforts, and to Henry Koltz and Rick Frye who organize our traditional



Mike Kuhn

PREPARING TIC TANKS

In February SEWTU launched their "Trout in the Classroom" program in two schools in the Milwaukee area. Patrick Koney, who teaches second grade at the Trowbridge School of Discovery and Technology in Milwaukee, and SEWTU's Rick Frye (right) set up a TIC tank.

brat fry after the work is completed.

Our last chapter meeting of the calendar year also serves as our Holiday Party and member gift exchange. This was held on Tuesday, December 17. In lieu of an outside speaker, we use this evening to view one or more fly fishing films and enjoy each other's company. The room typically resounds with cries of "Eat It" as the fish in the films do their part to keep us motivated in the off season. This year we also asked our members to bring non-perishable food items to the meeting. A significant number of items were collected and donated to a local food pantry for those less fortunate.

January is probably our slowest month in terms of activities, but each of our committees does meet that month to plan the year's schedules. On January 15 we began a six-

week series of fly-tying sessions hosted by Cabela's, another of our corporate partners. They provide the location and tying materials and collect the sign ups. Each session was attended by twenty or more novice fly tyers. SEWTU provides the fly tying instructors. Special thanks to Al Dalphonso who leads this effort, as well as Herb Oechler, Rick Frye, Ron Wojak, Ben Trauchler, Jim Folda, and Jim Wierzba who helped instruct, and Chuck Beeler who coordinates with Cabela's.

On Saturday, January 18 nearly three dozen of our members made the trip to Madison to support the Southern TU Chapter's Ice Breaker event. I believe a number of the outstanding raffle prizes made the return trip to Milwaukee and everyone learned much from the guest speakers Pat Ehlers and Kelly Gal-



Chapter News

loup. The chance to learn new nymph- and streamer-fishing tactics was much appreciated and led to healthy debate during many car rides home that day. Our January chapter meeting was held January 28. Our guest speaker was David Fowler, a senior project manager for the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District. Prior to joining MMSD, David was a fisheries biologist in the State of Michigan for over 20 years. He provided an interesting education on water tables and runoff. He also brought us up to speed on the work MMSD is doing to remove obstacles on the Menomonee River, which will open nearly another 30 miles of this river system to anadromous fish runs. Nearly 80 members and guests attended this presentation despite very cold weather. We made a special effort to get guests to this meeting and more than 10 new individuals joined us that evening. It was a great start to a new year.

February started with a bang as many of our members made the journey to Oshkosh on February 1 to participate in the State Council meeting and fund-raising banquet. The trip was especially important as one of our chapter members, Ivan Nohavica was an award recipient in recognition of his many contributions. Special thanks to Ivan for all he does.

The Cabela's fly-tying sessions continued and the series ended on February 19. Also in February we launched our "Trout In the Classroom" program in two schools in the Milwaukee area. Special thanks to Boyd Roessler, Rick Frye and Mike Kuhr.

On February 25 we hosted another very well attended chapter meeting. Our guest speaker was Chris Willen, owner and lead guide of Musky Country Outfitters. He gave an outstanding presentation on fishing for musky with a fly rod and the questions kept coming well after his formal presentation ended. At this meeting we once again hosted many first-time attendees, as many of our members brought their musky-fishing friends along that evening. We also recognized Mike Kuhr for his past leadership of our Project Healing Waters initiative and formally transitioned responsibility to George Batcha.

In February SEWTU launched its "Trout in the Classroom" program in two Milwaukee-area schools. Special thanks to Boyd Roessler, Rick Frye and Mike Kuhr.

March sees a significant upswing in our activities. A number of volunteers manned our table at Cabela's during their Great Outdoors event. March 5 saw the return of the Fly Fishing Film Tour, sponsored by Pat Ehlers and The Fly Fishers. More than 250 individuals participated in a night of short films, while Pat and his partners provided a significant number of raffle prizes to keep people on their toes. Of special note

Southern Wisconsin Chapter

SWTU started the year with a fabulous, fun and educational Ice-breaker event. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and we welcomed visitors from across the Midwest. Our featured speaker, Kelly Galloup, talked about "Technical Nymphing" and "Streamers," sharing very interesting and new perspectives on both. Pat Ehlers of

was a special raffle of a Loomis rod, Lamson reel and Rio line, as well as other prizes that were donated by Pat and SEWTU. All proceeds from that raffle directly benefit the SEWTU chapter and more than \$2,000 was raised that night.

We are looking forward to our chapter's first ever Womens' Initiatives to be hosted in partnership with Orvis. These events, March 12, March 26 and April 29, will introduce women to fly fishing and TU's conservation mission. The events will be held at the Orvis store in the Bayshore Mall from 5-6:30 p.m. Each woman who attends a session will receive a free one-year membership to TU, courtesy of Orvis. In addition to gaining fly fishing knowledge, they will get a chance to network with other like-minded individuals. Special thanks to Heidi Oberstadt of TU and Jen Ripple of Dun Magazine, who will attend the first evening. They have both been very helpful to us as we planned the events.

Our March chapter meeting will be on March 25 at the Thunder Bay Grille. Erik Helm, fishing department manager at Orvis, will give a presentation on spey casting techniques and their applicability to Wisconsin fishing. Our April meeting will be April 22, and Ann Miller will present "Understanding Hatches: The Key to Better Fly Fishing". The presentation will focus on how insect hatches are associated with an assortment of variables, with an emphasis on habitat. Ann will also have copies of her book "Hatch Guide for Upper Midwest Streams" available at the meeting.

As we look further into calendar year 2014, we have much to keep us occupied. Our Habitat Committee has already laid out a schedule that will include eight workdays. The big event in the spring is our joint effort with Pat Ehlers and The Fly Fisher to put together a unique, showcase event. We will be bringing Tim Rajeff to Milwaukee on May 14. Many of you may know his background as a champion competitive caster and his role as a fishing host on OLN. He also is the owner of the Echo Rod company and the North American distributor of Airflo fly lines. We expect this event will generate tremendous interest and will open attendance up to our fellow chapters. Please watch for more details in the future.

For information about these upcoming events and other activities within our chapter, please visit our website at www.sewtu.org. If you would like to receive SEWTU email alerts with details associated with our events, please contact us at sustain@sewtu.org. If you get involved, we can guarantee you will make a difference, have fun and meet and make new friends who will share their knowledge and help you identify future fishing destinations. Tight Lines.

— Jim Wierzba

Milwaukee also shared a unique perspective on "Becoming a Better Predator with a Fly Rod."

Normally, we would be bragging that the cold and snow depth did not affect our stream workdays, but not this winter. We've shifted a few of them to the coming months, which means more upcoming opportunities to lend a hand and improve

stream habitat. We'd love to have you join us, so check the calendar or newsletter at swtu.org for information.

While we haven't been out hacking brush, our conservation efforts have been at a fever pitch over the discovery of New Zealand mudsnails in Black Earth Creek. We've reached out to the DNR and county officials, brought experts in to talk about it, educated our members on proper gear cleaning, and promoted volunteers to go gather stream samples or help examine them.

A new local event was a big success, as the Fly Fishing Film Tour came to town on January 6. We were

able to have a table, raffle off a fly rod and share the TU story with scores of coldwater lovers who hadn't yet heard it. It was a wonderful night of film, laughter and increased membership.

Be sure to check out our newsletter and online chapter calendar at www.swtu.org. There you'll find all of our activities and events, including details of our Annual Casting Clinic. It's set for Saturday, April 12 at Salmo Pond (Hwy. 14, west of Cross Plains). It's free and everyone is invited to come learn about casting, bugs, gear, reading the water and more!

— Drew Kasel



ANOTHER FUTURE TYER AND TROUTER

Jim Emerson of the Wild Rivers Chapter oversees the development of a new fly, and a new fly tyer, at a recent chapter event.

Wild Rivers Chapter

Wild Rivers chapter members held fly tying sessions in January and February at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center near Ashland. The sessions were open to the public, but the main objective was to tie flies to raffle and auction off at our March fundraiser at the Wesleyan Church in Hayward.

The Expo/Auction featured speakers, artists, guides, fly tyers, fly casters, and other events. The auction along with the raffle is our chapter's yearly fundraiser. We have some major culvert projects in the planning for this next year and hope for a successful event.

— Dick Berge

Wisconsin Clear Waters Chapter

The Wisconsin early catch and release season is open and unfortunately it is nearly impossible to find open water to fish. Chapter Members attended the TU State Council Banquet on February 1, 2014 and the proposed changes to the trout regulations were discussed. One of the changes was to move the catch and release opener to January 1. It's hard to imagine fishing that early in the year given the variability of our weather in western Wisconsin.

WI Clear Waters TU nominated three individuals for State TU awards this year and all three were accepted. Todd Mau, the NRCS agent from Buffalo County was given the "Resource Professional Award", Al Noll and Rick Bauer were given the "Certificate of Appreciation Award". We are very fortunate to have such talented individuals who are members of this chapter.

The January and February chap-

ter meeting featured Driftless Area guides as speakers. Our two remaining chapter meetings for the season are March 20 and April 20. Wildlife artist Scott Zoellick will speak at our March meeting. Our April meeting is one we always look forward to. DNR personnel will discuss trout-shocking surveys on a number of area streams.

Our annual funding raising banquet is 6 p.m., Thursday, April 24 at the Clarion Hotel in Eau Claire. The card raffle prize is a 13-foot Wenonah Fusion Canoe. We will be offering a number of live auction items which include guided fishing trips by chapter members and area guides. Come and join us for an enjoyable evening.

This chapter has aggressively pursued stream restoration projects. Thanks to strong grant writing skills, we were awarded a TU Embrace-A-Stream grant and a Friends of Wisconsin TU grant for 2014, for a total of \$4,500. We have four stream projects scheduled for 2014, which include Waumandee Creek, Gilbert Creek, Sand Creek and Duncan Creek. We will also be funding wild trout transfers, which we initiated in 2013. Our stream enhancement effort has been broadened to include outlying areas and we will be working on the chapter-owned property in April. Other chapter workdays will be scheduled throughout the season.

This year's Annual Driftless Area Trout Fishing Camping Trip May 15-18. Make your reservations at the Esofea-Rentz Memorial Park online as we did last year. Last year it worked pretty well to have the campsites up near the park entrance and that way we could reserve some electric sites (#10-14) along with

some tenting sites (#14-17) and still stay within close proximity to all the beer coolers. Generally, meals are on your own, but once we determine who will attend, there may be opportunities to plan meals together. If the weather is nice, plan for evening campfires and hopefully another group trout fry on Friday night. If anyone has questions or hasn't attended before, please call 715-579-6795 or email Tim Meyer at apacheroad@charter.net.

Instructor Jeff Bartynski has a pretty talented class of beginner fly tiers for this year's fly tying class at Gander Mountain. They have progressed from the Woolly Bugger, to a beadhead nymph, and on to tying wings, hackles and bodies of dry flies. It always amazes me to see how some people are just naturally artistic. The first flies out of their vises look very good, have the right proportions and will undoubtedly catch fish! Jeff does a superb job of explaining the functionality of each fly they tie, and what set of fishing conditions each fly pattern is best suited for. One class participant, Bob Amundson, is certainly not a beginning fly tier, but Bob has been coming to this fly tying class for a number of years just for something to do and a night out away from the house and the TV. Another past participant, Brian Moore, shows up for every class to help Jeff with the beginners and give more one-on-one assistance. It's a good hobby, and this was one winter when a good hobby is a necessity.

— Bob Swanson

Wisconsin River Valley Chapter

WRVTU has been busy setting up logistics with the DNR on Prairie and Rib River projects. Discussions and preliminaries for work on the Prairie River in 2015 have been approved by the board and are being submitted to the DNR. A proposed "float" on the Rib River is in the works. Chapter leaders and DNR officials will look for areas in need of improvements. We are excited about the promise of stream improvements on these watersheds and we're exploring future projects in our four-county area.

Our board has been very busy finalizing plans for our upcoming 31st Conservation Banquet on May 1 at the Hangar Lounge Bar/Restaurant located within the VFW Post 388 building. Doors open at 5 p.m., with dinner at 6:30 p.m. For tickets contact Betsey Hager at 715-848-3783 or betsey01@mac.com. Tickets are \$40 each and 2/\$75.00. Sponsor tables are available on a first-come basis at

\$345. Sponsor tables include six event tickets, 30 bucket-affle tickets and six drink tickets. Our bucket raffles will include sports- and outdoor-related items, but also a "handy-person" bucket, a "child's" bucket with Lego kits and assorted items, and even items for the ladies. Special gun raffles will also be provided, as well as silent and live auctions. Our big-ticket item is a 9' 9 wt. Sage 990-4 Method rod matched up with an Orvis Large Arbor Clearwater reel, pre-loaded with 9 wt. line and backing. Talk about power! Please place your ticket order prior to April 22.

The chapter was recently featured in a Wausau Daily Herald article titled "Cold delays start of trout season, frustrates anglers." It can be found at this web link: <http://www.wisconsinoutdoorfun.com/article/20140302/WDH04/303020019/Delay-trout-season-has-fly-fishing-anglers-knots>

— Patrick Esselman, Jr.

Wolf River Chapter

On March 15 we held our general membership meeting. Tim Waters (that's me) was elected president. It's the first election I have won since third-grade student council! Andy Killoren, our previous president, was elected vice president. Bill Livingston, our previous vice president, was elected to fill the vacated board member spot. Laurie Netzow was elected to fill George Rock's board position. George is the president of the White Lake Historical Society, and Laurie writes and publishes our newsletter. Welcome Laurie and thank you, George.

Andy will be running our brat

stand Memorial Day weekend at Mike's Service Station in downtown Langlade. We'll be open all weekend, so stop by for a brat and our famous home-made kraut.

Our two work days have been set. On Saturday June 21 we will work on Spring Creek, and on August 16 we will work on Ninemile Creek. We are also planning a couple of explorations where suspected beaver activity is occurring.

For details on any of our projects, or contact information, please visit our web site at WolfRiverTU.org.

— Tim Waters

Watershed Access Fund

Strong start for 2014

By Doug Brown

The 2012-13 fundraising has come to an end and the response was amazing again this past year. WITU can't thank you enough. We raised nearly \$8,200, with 81 private donations and 5 donations from chapters.

Within the first few months of the 2014 campaign we have already exceeded all of last year's donations, and are nearing \$9,000.

Your contributions go good use, as all grants are used solely for improving access on Wisconsin streams. Thus far we have awarded four grants, helping to secure access to Pine Creek in Pepin County, the Kinnickinnic River in St. Croix County, and the White River in Waushara County. The current grant request limit is \$5,000. Because two chapters may each request for a single acquisition and each chapter would have to match at 50%, the new limits would 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. Another change is the matching 50% from the chapter can be in the form of volunteer hours to be applied against. Please consider a generous contribution to the 2014 Watershed Access Fund. The need for access is critical for anglers to continue their passion for trout fishing. Access is also critical for Trout Unlimited to continue its successful stream improvement work.

2012/13 Contributors

Jason Anderson	Mukwonago WI	Tim & Anne Connor	Fitchburg WI
Dale Bakke	Plover WI	Thomas Crabb	Monona WI
Edwin Barnes	Middleton WI	Terry Cummings	Rhineland WI
Carlton & Diana Beduhn	Oshkosh WI	Richard Duplessie	Eau Claire WI
Blaine Biedermann	Fitchburg WI	Robert Feldman	Mayville WI
Barton & Colleen Blum	Waupaca WI	James Flesch	Fox Point WI
Stephen Born	Madison WI	Dan Geddes	Appleton WI
D. Scott & Linda Bruce	Iron River WI	Chuck Geiger	Baileys Harbor WI
Will Burlington	Madison WI	Terry Geurkink	Belleville WI
Linda Buzzar	DeForest WI	Donald Grade	Mosinee WI

Dan Grauer	Wausau WI	Dennis Presser	Madison WI
Jeanne Grodevant	Tomahawk WI	Randall Rake	De Pere WI
Roger Gustafson	Iron River WI	Carl Rasmussen	Neenah WI
Hugh Gwin	Hudson WI	Steve Robertson	Verona WI
John Halbrehder	Sparta WI	Michael San Dretto	Neenah WI
Stephen Hawk	Madison WI	Paul Schleif	West Bend WI
Ashton Hawk	Madison WI	Jeff Schmoeger	Cottage Grove WI
John Hawk	New Holstein WI	Daniel Schultz	Appleton WI
Bill Heart	Ashland WI	David Seligman	Ripon WI
Jan & Mark Heifner	Appleton WI	Chuck Sethness	Land O' Lakes WI
Cline Hickok	Hudson WI	John Shillinglaw	Madison WI
Charles Hodulik	Madison WI	Jeffrey Smith	Madison WI
Andrew Holverson	Wauwatosa WI	Michael Spittler	Minneapolis MN
Mary & Doug Hudzinski	Sun Prairie WI	Charles Steudel	Mineral Point WI
Daniel Jansen	DeForest WI	Wayne Stockman	Spring Valley WI
Andrew & Victoria Jicha	Green Bay WI	Ann Tisdale	Milwaukee WI
William Jordan	Appleton WI	Robert Towns	King WI
Chris Kerbaugh	La Crosse WI	Tim Van Volkinburg	Whitefish Bay WI
David Kinnamon	Bayside WI	Marten & Karen Voss	Eau Claire WI
Paul Mack	New Richmond WI	Dick Wachowski	Eau Claire WI
Brian Madsen	Ellsworth WI	John Wahlers	Berlin WI
Maria Manion	Minneapolis MN	Donald Welhouse	Kaukauna WI
Kim McCarthy	Green Bay WI	Paul Wiemerslage	Hudson WI
Tom Mertens	Oncida WI	Steve Wilke	Marinette WI
Gary Mueller	Monona WI	Dr. Donald Williams	Fort Atkinson WI
Cris Meyer	Middleton WI	Dan Wisniewski	Middleton WI
Mark Mille	Milwaukee WI		
Eric Nelson	Chili WI	Kiap TU Wish TU	
Micheal Niemczyk	Oshkosh WI	WI ClearWaters TU	
Herb Oechler	Wauwatosa WI	Shaw-Paca TU	
Winston Ostrow	De Pere WI	Marinette Co. TU	
Jay Pare	Mazomanie WI	Wild Rivers TU	

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

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

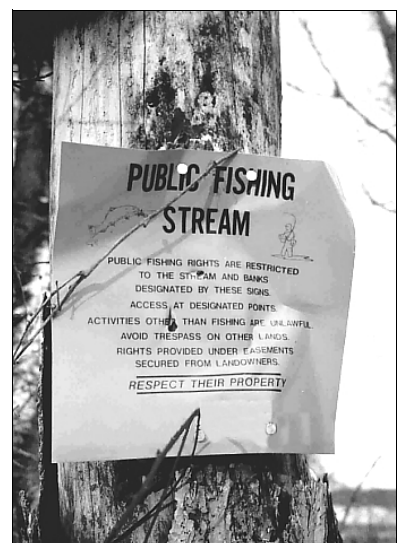
MAIL TO: TU Watershed Access Fund
% Doug Brown
R4800 Timber Ln.
Ringle, WI 54471

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____



DNR gearing up to acquire more easements

The streambank protection goal for this biennium is to provide angling access and habitat protection along many of our premier stream fisheries. The DNR's specific objective is to purchase riparian easements along 100 miles of stream during the next biennium. This will cost an estimated \$6.3 million. Plans are to use local implementation teams, outreach efforts, coalition building and a streamlined acquisition process.

The Bureau of Fisheries Management and Facility and Lands have drafted a roadmap which describes how the DNR will adapt to the new Stewardship legislation and implement the Streambank Protection Program. This document outlines the changes needed for streamlining the transaction process and developing local implementation teams with our partners to successfully accomplish our goal of providing angling access and protecting habitat on many of our premier streams.

History, Authority, Justification

Since its inception in 1989, the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program has gone through various revisions reflecting changing constraints, opportunities and needs. The 2014-2015 budget made changes to the program, including a reduction in funding for land acquisitions and a cap on the amount of funding used for fee title acquisitions. Thus, the new acquisition parameters for the program will require that the DNR adjust its approach to land protection.

With the new funding level and the requirement that only one-third of acquisition funds be spent on fee title purchases, the DNR is adapting how to most effectively apply Stewardship dollars to meet ongoing recreation and conservation goals. In particular, the DNR is assessing what habitat and recreation priorities can be addressed using easements. One option is to re-energize the Streambank Easement (SBE) program, which for a number of reasons has seen declining acquisitions over the last 10 years.

The SBE program was created in the original Stewardship legislation with the goal of protecting water quality and fish habitat of streams considered highest priority for protection from urban and agricultural runoff. In February 1991 the NRB approved the initial list of 64 streams covering almost 638 miles in the southern and southeastern part of the state, and an acreage authority of 10,205 acres. Shortly thereafter, in May 1991, the NRB approved an additional 82 streams and 679 miles in other parts of the state.

The SBE program has been popular with landowners and anglers. Landowners enjoy the ability to sell part of their rights in their property and in some cases get assistance from the DNR or local conservation clubs in restoring the stream corridor, while anglers enjoy access to streams that provide high-quality experiences. In addition to fishing, the public can hike, watch wildlife, snowshoe and cross country ski. From the DNR's perspective, these narrow easements are advantageous because they are cost effective (the DNR is only acquiring the relevant access and habitat management rights) and, because the land remains in private ownership, payments-in-lieu-of-taxes (sometimes referred to as PILT) are not required.

Despite being a popular and effective program, some administrative obstacles have led to a decline in the number of easements acquired over the last decade. Maybe

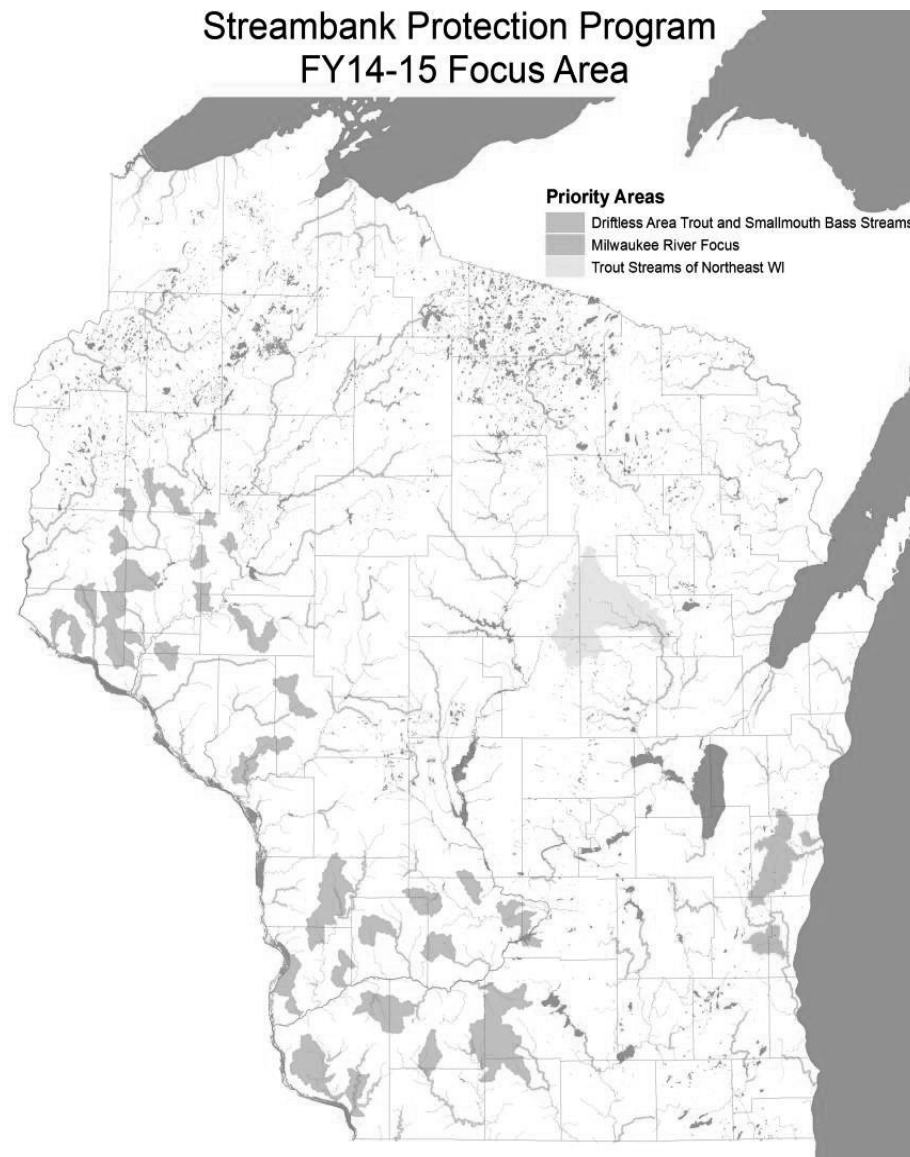
most notable is the amount of time and expense that goes into appraising the value of each easement. Because the DNR is the primary purchaser of streambank easements, nearly all of the comparable sales of easements that appraisers use to calculate the value of a specific easement are other DNR purchases. This can lead to questions about the accuracy of the appraised values and at times prolonged negotiations with landowners. Further, the cost of appraising an easement can approach the value of the easement, an illogical situation. Consequently, although a highly regarded

the Milwaukee River, and trout streams of northeast Wisconsin.

Driftless Area

In the Driftless Area only 6.5 percent of the sub-watersheds have more than 50 percent of their trout stream miles in public ownership. For nearly a third of the 325 sub-watersheds with trout streams, the only public access is from roads. According to feedback from anglers, uncrowded settings and public shore access are the two most important attributes which influence an angler's "favorite fishing spot."

The Driftless Area has a history



FOCUS AREAS FOR DNR EASEMENT ACQUISITION

The DNR will focus on three areas to obtain streambank easements during the next two years: Milwaukee and Sheboygan River area, northeastern streams and the Driftless Area. Within those areas are priority watersheds, shown above.

program, the amount of staff time and expense needed to see an easement purchase through the whole real estate process has led to a decline in easement acquisitions over time.

The primary goal of this effort is to develop a streamlined appraisal and acquisition process for streambank easements so that the DNR can acquire easements along 100 miles of trout and smallmouth bass streams in this biennium. The DNR intends to construct an abbreviated easement valuation that will recognize the increased value to the public of longer reaches of streams with public access, the quality of fisheries present, the market rate of land in the county, and other factors. With a simplified process in hand, the DNR also seeks to prioritize the watersheds within which it will focus acquisition efforts and work with partners on restoration projects.

Geographic Emphasis

In consultation with the Bureau of Facilities and Lands and Wildlife Management, Fisheries Management has defined three primary areas of geographic emphases for the biennium: trout and smallmouth bass streams of the Driftless Area,

of easement purchases by the DNR, and our angling public supports the use of Stewardship funds on easement acquisition. The DNR is developing a master plan for more than 200 of its properties, encompassing 35,000 acres along trout and smallmouth bass streams in the Driftless Area.

As part of the planning process, the DNR drafted an extensive background document (a "regional and property analysis," or RPA) describing the properties, habitat quality and potential, the fisheries, and future challenges in the Driftless Area. Information in the RPA ranges from fish abundance to habitat quality to human population density.

In an effort to present the information simply and consistently, each watershed and sub-watershed is evaluated for how well it "performs" for a particular metric, relative to the other watersheds and sub-watersheds. These scores are then presented in a "report card" format. Contemporary data on sport-fisheries performance, combined with habitat models which depict current and future fish species distributions, provides resource managers with spatially powerful tools. These science-based ap-

proaches enable managers to make wise investments of limited staff and financial resources. The selection of sub-watersheds to focus on in the Driftless Area during 2014-2015 was primarily based on this "report card."

Goals for the Driftless Area are to convert some of our red-ribbon stream fisheries to blue-ribbon fisheries; improve public access and protect riparian habitat on some of our "weaker" blue-ribbon sub-watersheds; work with our partners on white-ribbon stream rehabilitation efforts.

Geographic choices in the Driftless Area involve a two-pronged approach. The first approach is to acquire riparian habitat protection and secure angling access on many of our outstanding performing fisheries (blue and red ribbon sub-watersheds). These blue and red ribbon stream systems harbor abundant quality-sized trout, and furthermore, are self-sustaining via natural reproduction. Here, providing access is key.

Inexpensive management measures such as posting access signs and low-level landowner compliance monitoring are the primary management costs, as little stream rehabilitation work is needed. The second approach is the selection of sub-watersheds where the DNR collaborates with its many partners (TU, conservation clubs, county land conservation DNRs, Natural Resources Conservation Service, etc.) in stream rehabilitation and acquisition projects. These white ribbon rehabilitation sub-watersheds are typically underperformers (sub-par abundance of quality-size fish), yet possess excellent habitat potential and good resilience to the effects of climate warming.

Milwaukee and Sheboygan River area

Fisheries and Wildlife Management field staff collaborated to select 11 sub-watersheds located primarily in Sheboygan, Ozaukee and Washington counties. Sub-watershed selections were based on geographic interests of our partners, spatial connectivity, Streambank Protection streams currently eligible, contemporary water quality/habitat conditions, fisheries potential, and threats of degradation of water quality caused by agricultural or urban runoff.

The focus area represents 25 percent of the analysis area. Two primary opportunities for partnership in this focus area include: 1) Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewage District will be securing protection of riparian corridors as they implement their Milwaukee River TMDL (in Ozaukee and Washington Counties); and 2) The Sheboygan River Area of Concern (AOC) project where natural resource damage assessment funds may be used acquire riparian habitat protection and public access.

Trout Streams of Northeast Wisconsin

The Fisheries Management program is in the process of recruiting a trout habitat coordinator for the northeast Wisconsin. This position will be located in Shawano. Forty percent of this person's time will be spent working with DNR real estate agents in obtaining access and habitat rights to trout resources in northeast Wisconsin.

Local Implementation Teams (LIT)

Local implementation teams are a critical element to the program's success.

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Get your cleaning tools ready; NZ mudsnails are here to stay

By Deborah Seiler, UW-Extension

As the ice melts and trout anglers around the state head out to their favorite streams, many are also packing a scrub brush and water jug to give a new invasive snail the brush-off.

Last October, the DNR confirmed the Midwest's first ever inland discovery of a troublesome invasive species, the New Zealand mudsnail, in Black Earth Creek in Dane County. The snails, which are so tiny that they look like grains of sand, were found in one of the hundreds of samples DNR's biologists collect every year to track the health of Wisconsin waters.

New Zealand mudsnails are a potentially harmful aquatic invasive species (AIS) that first arrived in the United States in the late 1980s and quickly spread through western streams – often on the waders and gear of recreational stream users. Known to grow at densities of up to 500,000 per square meter, the snails have potential to harm native food webs and trout fisheries.

AIS Monitoring Specialist Maureen Ferry says that biologists can't predict the impact mudsnails will have in Wisconsin's waterways. While in some western streams they've been harmful, in others they have had minimal impact, or the snail populations have crashed after an initial boom.

"Until we learn more, we want to be on the safe side," says Ferry. "We've identified some cleaning methods that work and are asking everyone who gets in and out of the water to take a few minutes and scrub off." Ferry says that although Black Earth Creek has the only confirmed population, thick ice this

winter has made it challenging to survey other at-risk waterways in the state since the discovery.

This makes cleaning precautions even more important. "We know we have a great partner in trout anglers, who will be heading out soon," says Ferry. "We're also getting the word out to other groups like researchers, field staff and stream restoration companies."

Steve Wald, president of the Southern chapter of Trout Unlimited, says that his members are ready to do what it takes. "We recognize that anglers can be a major vector for invasive species, so we also feel a strong responsibility to prevent the spread," says Wald. "We believe in a strong connection between enjoying and protecting the resources."

DNR decontamination specialist Erin Vennie-Vollrath says anglers will need to use different cleaning

techniques for mudsnails than they may have for other invasive species. "They're hard to see and they like to cling," explains Vennie-Vollrath. "They're also able to close themselves into their shell with a special trap door called an operculum."

This trait makes mudsnails resistant to common cleaners like

bleach and ammonia, as well as able to survive up to 26 days out of water if they are in a cool, damp environment. Sometimes, mudsnails can even survive passage through a fish gut. Also, because the snails reproduce asexually, just one snail can start a new population.

Fortunately, most mudsnails and their tiny young can be removed from waders and other gear with vigorous scrubbing and rinsing with clean tap water. To ensure no snails are missed, gear can be soaked in a 2 percent Virkon solution for 20

"We recognize that anglers can be a major vector for invasive species, so we also feel a strong responsibility to prevent the spread."

Wader wash stations in Wisconsin

If you have traveled to the greater Yellowstone area to fish, you might be familiar with wader wash stations being used in other parts of the country to help curtail the spread of invasive species. The River Alliance, Trout Unlimited, and the Wisconsin DNR have partnered to bring wader wash stations to Wisconsin. Seven wash stations have been built by Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited and Webelo (Boy Scouts) volunteers with financial support from the River Alliance, Northwoods, Coulee Region, and Wild Rivers chapters to be placed at the following fly shops before the 2014 fishing season.

The Driftless Angler in Viroqua

Superior Fly Angler

The Hayward Flyfishing Company

We Tie It in Boulder Junction

The Orvis Store in Madison

Fontana in Madison

These wash stations are easy to build and help raise the profile of invasive species among anglers. If your chapter is interested in building and maintaining a wash station, contact Laura MacFarland, River Alliance of Wisconsin, at lmacfarland@wisconsinrivers.org or 608-257-2424, ext. 110 for more information.

minutes. Virkon is a chemical that kills the mudsnails but does not harm gear. Vennie-Vollrath says that, on field days, DNR biologists now keep a covered tub of the solution in their vehicles for a quick and easy way to soak their waders in between stream sites. A second jug or spray bottle of clean tap water lets them rinse off the chemical before entering a new stream.

Since the snails' discovery last October, Ferry has been heading a rapid response team that includes experts and stakeholders from DNR, the UW-Extension, River Alliance of Wisconsin, Trout Unlimited, Dane County, Southwest Badger Conservation District and additional government and university experts.

In addition to creating cleaning guidelines and an outreach plan, the team has put together a monitoring strategy to survey more than 100 at-risk water access points this spring – as soon as the ice melts – to determine if the New Zealand mudsnails are present anywhere else in Wisconsin. The state's Water Action

Volunteers are also joining the search.

"Our partner groups in the Driftless Area have really been leading the charge," says Deborah Seiler, an invasive species outreach specialist with UW-Extension. "Whether it's building a wash station or sharing the word with their clubs and friends, the response has just been phenomenal. Even though a new invader like this can be discouraging, the big picture view is that Wisconsin citizens have kept hundreds more invasive species out of our lakes and rivers by making it a priority to clean their gear and boats," says Seiler. "We can take these snails in stride."

To learn more about New Zealand mudsnails and prevention, visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/invasives/fact/newzmsnail2012.html>. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Jeannie Scherer at (608) 275-3283 for outreach opportunities or Kris Stepenuck at (608) 264-8948 for citizen monitoring opportunities.

DNR plans team approach to spur easement purchases

Continued from previous page

The use of implementation teams is recognition that a multifaceted team approach involving partnerships with Trout Unlimited and other conservation clubs, Conservation Congress, local landowner advocates, and county staff will be most successful in reaching our easement acquisition goal. Initially there will be eight local implementation teams statewide. As acquisition in existing focus areas cease and new focus areas are defined, this number may change.

DNR staff will be appointed as team leaders and primary contacts. They will include a combination of fisheries biologists, real-estate personnel and possibly fisheries technicians. They will be responsible for recruiting external partners to the team, assigning team tasks, and ensuring open lines of communication through regular meetings of team members. External partnership will not be limited and will include a variety of entities.

Local Implementation Teams will be responsible for the development and implementation of outreach methods, maintaining contact with landowners, and finalizing negotiations for stream bank easements within their assigned focus area. Guidance outlining the acquisition process, negotiation protocol,

recommended materials, and timelines will be developed to assist teams in their acquisition efforts.

Easement Valuation

The DNR's real estate staff intends to replace the conventional appraisal process with an abbreviated methodology for establishing an offering price for streambank easements. Traditionally, the DNR has hired contract appraisers to write appraisals that determined fair market value or an offering price for the potential purchase of streambank easements from willing sellers. The DNR anticipates encountering a high volume of applicants through this new initiative and the DNR's real estate staff recommends developing an abbreviated valuation process.

Under this new streambank easement initiative, target areas for proposed purchase of stream bank easements have been identified across the state. Prior to contacting landowners within these target areas, the DNR proposes to complete a sales study of the target area. This study could be completed by DNR staff or by a contract appraiser using comparable sales data or other market-based information (listings, recent DNR purchases, local assessment information) to determine an average land value for recreational, agricultural and

residential properties within the target area. Once the sales study is complete, the DNR will evaluate the information and specific circumstances that will influence easement values within the target area. Depending on the circumstances, the DNR will establish a base value for all easements within the target area using a front foot unit of measurement or the DNR will establish a formula for determining the value for each individual easement using the comparable sales study as the basis for the valuation.

Landowners will be contacted by core work team members to determine individual landowner interest in selling a streambank easement within the target area. Any landowner that expresses interest will be encouraged to complete a short application with assistance from a core work team member. This application would contain specific details on the nature of the proposed easement which will be specific to each landowner. This will allow the DNR to capture the unique characteristics of each potential purchase and make valuation judgments based on the sales study and the unique circumstances of each transaction. The final offering price would be detailed in a brief valuation memo that would be completed by the real estate program.

Outreach Partnership with Trout Unlimited

The DNR hopes to collaborate with TU chapters on implementation and outreach, such as forming local coalitions, advertisements and billboards, newsletters, hosting open-house meetings, creating landowner testimonial videos, and training outreach methods to TU volunteers.

Conversion of limited-term easements to permanent easements

Statewide, anglers have enjoyed the benefits of non-profit conservation organizations' and counties' past efforts to also establish fishing-access easements. These are often limited-term easements (20 years) which eventually lapse. The DNR will collaborate with our non-profit conservation organizations (NCOs) and county partners to contact easement holders who are near the end of their easement term. These landowners often view conservation programs favorably and may be willing to sell a permanent easement to the DNR.

This information was compiled from several DNR documents. For more information on the DNR's streambank easement program contact Paul.cunningham@Wisconsin.gov.

Pros, cons and otherwise in the new farm bill

By Brett Lorenzen

Since 1985, the farm bill has represented our nation's commitment to helping farmers conserve natural resources through public investment in conservation on private agricultural (and forested) lands. The 2014 Farm Bill Conservation Title in large part renews this commitment, and has been widely hailed by conservation groups as a major reform effort.

But much of that excitement is muted once you look at the details. For the first time since 1985, the new farm bill reduces overall funding for conservation programs. Worse, most of the cuts that were made bore heavily on programs that fund Midwest restoration efforts, and our trout streams in particular were largely traded away for conservation wins elsewhere.

In the big picture, the final bill directly cuts Conservation Title funding by roughly \$4 billion over 10 years, and that number increases to \$6.1 billion under the automatic sequestration process (that was not changed or modified by the farm bill). Overall, conservation funding bore 20 percent of the overall farm bill cuts, despite being only about 7 percent of total funding. While there are some wins in the bill, they are offset by the losses we'll experience locally.

A Closer Look at Conservation Funding

When looking at the Farm Bill from the "trout perspective," two questions must be asked. What funding is there to support, encourage and conduct restoration work? What policies and funding are likely to increase existing pressures on streams and rivers? We also then have to look at what was promised for the five-year bill, and what Congress actually funds annually.

It's impossible to cover the whole farm bill, but I will focus on the key programs that affect trout streams.

Easement Programs

If there was one big wish for the farm bill, it was that Congress would place greater emphasis on easement programs, particularly permanent easements, to make better use of taxpayer money and ensure more permanence in our conservation efforts. The USDA and Farm Services Agency (FSA) managed almost a dozen individual easement programs, such as the Wetlands Reserve and the Grasslands Reserve. These programs place specific types of critical resources into 25- to 40-year easements to ensure permanence. A greater focus on easements would have an obvious impact on our restoration potential.

The final farm bill combines the existing easement programs into the new Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP). The bill authorizes USDA to give priority to land that is expiring from CRP, and establishes a permanent funding baseline for the new combined program. This means that if Congress fails to pass a new farm bill five years from now, wetland and grassland conservation efforts will not once again be stranded without funding to enroll new acres. The final farm bill also reduces the waiting period to become eligible for wetland easements from seven years to two years.

In addition, "no-year" money, meaning any mandatory funds not used in a particular year, will remain within the Title for later use, rather

than being sent back to the Treasury. The bill also reduces the income eligibility limit for farm bill conservation programs to \$900,000 (\$1.8 million for married couples filing separately) while removing both the previous distinctions between farm and non-farm sources of income and the possibility of a waiver.

While the final farm bill does es-

tements are made to these entities.

Once again, if we want to ensure that appropriate levels of funding are devoted to biological practices over steel and cement, conservationists will need to monitor Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) spending and keep the pressure on to maintain funding balance.



FARM BILL CUTS COULD AFFECT PROJECT FUNDING

In the new farm bill, conservation funding that pays for such things as stream restoration bore 20 percent of the overall cuts, despite being only about 7

establish a permanent funding baseline for ACEP, the tradeoff is that the overall funding level for the three underlying programs is barely half what it was in the last farm bill cycle. At the very least, we hope the new program will make it easier for NRCS staff to understand and promote conservation options, and that we'll see more consistency in leasing approaches that lay groundwork for greater reforms in 2019.

EQIP and WHIP

The Environmental Quality Incentives Programs (EQIP) and Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) are the largest source of funding for private land restoration, and are programs TUDARE leverages heavily. Going into the process, the primary debates related to our regional work centered on increasing funding for organic farms that want to undertake conservation efforts; reducing the amount of EQIP money going to irrigation and CAFO projects (nearly 40 percent of EQIP funds are spent on irrigation equipment and waste storage facilities for concentrated animal feeding operations); capping the total payments for an individual producer for a given year; and protecting the funding for wildlife-specific work in light of the WHIP program being eliminated.

The wins for EQIP include a five percent funding floor for WHIP as it is rolled into the EQIP program. The bill cuts EQIP funding only slightly, but nearly that entire cut comes from the consolidation of WHIP into EQIP. That means the entire cut came from programs of the greatest benefit to restoration projects.

Unfortunately, the bill makes no changes to the Organic Initiative, maintaining a separate payment limit of \$80,000 per contract (and burdensome administrative requirements). This lack of reform is an insult to organic producers, given that the final farm bill increases the payment limit for general EQIP from \$300,000 to \$450,000 per contract. As a result, large CAFOs and farms expanding irrigated acres are likely to walk away with even more of the total funding. The bill includes no reforms at all to how or when pay-

Regional Conservation Partnership Program

In recent years, the USDA has placed an increased emphasis on targeting funds and building public-private partnerships. Our own Driftless Area Landscape Conservation Initiative is one such program (under the Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI)), as are the more formal Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative (CBWI) and Great Lakes Conservation Initiative (GLCI). It was expected that they would formalize these programs in the new bill.

The resulting Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP) is the result of a consolidation of CCPI and the Agricultural Watershed Enhancement Program (AWEP), along with the CBWI and GLCI. The new program retains baseline funding from CBWI and AWEP, both of which had permanent funding from the 2008 Farm Bill. In addition to this baseline, like its predecessor, CCPI, the program pulls funding from other existing conservation programs, referred to in the statute as "covered programs."

As with CCPI, the list of covered programs includes EQIP and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). RCP now also pulls funding from the conservation easement programs, allowing the potential for more comprehensive projects. The final farm bill dictates that seven percent of funding for covered programs be reserved for RCP. This is on top of the \$100 million-per-year baseline that is transferred from AWEP and CBWI.

The farm bill provides increased flexibility to shape regional programs to meet local needs, and allocates 25 percent of total RCP funding to states. USDA national headquarters is allocated 40 percent, and the remaining 35 percent is to be allocated for projects in designated Critical Conservation Areas. The bill directs USDA to establish no more than eight of these areas, but leaves it to the department to determine what those areas will be. It is expected that the Great Lakes and MRBI locally will become formal critical areas, and the Driftless will likely remain a tar-

geted, but not critical, area. We expect them to announce the critical areas in April or May.

Unfortunately, the final bill does not direct NRCS to prioritize RCP projects that address rural development and conservation goals simultaneously, nor does it authorize NRCS to use RCP to help producers mitigate and adapt to climate change. Perhaps most disappointing is the fact that the new RCP language does not allow the secretary to offer cooperative agreements through RCP to partner organizations that want to provide technical assistance and expertise to producers through a partnership project. Instead, partners will have to apply for a cooperative agreement separately and sequentially rather than being able to request and receive this support through the project proposal process. This restriction is inequitable, and means that potential partners will withhold their proposals because they do not know whether they will be able to get support for technical assistance (i.e., TU will still not be able to collect payment for staff time dedicated to delivering government-funded projects).

It is also possible that the Great Lakes could benefit from these changes, but that is yet to be seen. Congress never showed the level of commitment to the lake program that was necessary, and agriculture has grown to replace heavy industry as the biggest threat to the lakes. While it still isn't the comprehensive approach we need, at least the USDA will have the potential to better target what little money is available at problems throughout the region, and coordinate them with other efforts.

CRP

While the Conservation Reserve Program does not fund stream restoration, it has an obvious impact on water quality. Many of our worst problems start in the uplands, and CRP pays to take marginal and highly-erodible land out of production.

The list of wins for CRP is very short. Of the 24 million acres funded, it establishes a two-million acre reservation for grassland acres, with a focus on renewing expiring contracts. It also allows for a seamless transition from CRP to other conservation programs. In a small win, it adds riparian buffers to the list of conservation practices for which producers may receive incentive payments. However, it does not add contour strips, wildlife habitat buffers, shallow water areas for wildlife, windbreaks, shelterbelts, or wetland buffers, all of which are equally needed and would greatly benefit our work.

The 2014 Farm Bill ratchets down CRP's total acreage cap over five years from its current level of 32 million acres to 24 million acres. While this tracks market trends, it is still two million acres less than is already enrolled in the program. The savings from reducing CRP acreage was used to fund the new ACEP easement program.

Unfortunately, the farm bill does not include an acreage reservation to protect the sensitive CRP acres that are enrolled through the continuous CRP (which is the best funding approach for stream corridors). USDA currently enrolls roughly 20.5 percent of CRP acres through the continuous sign up, which provides more permanent habitat. It'll be up to conservation

groups to keep the pressure on the USDA to maintain, and ideally improve, that balance. The final bill also made no progress at all toward creating a much-needed long-term easement option within CRP.

The Opposing Forces

As with most multi-faceted government bills, the biggest threats to conservation usually aren't what you get or don't get for conservation efforts, it's what others get or don't get to subsidize the activities that lead to the need for conservation efforts in the first place. In this respect, the 2014 Farm Bill did us very few favors.

Energy Programs

While some of the energy programs have obvious benefits for our streams, others, namely the biofuel programs, have tended to cause more problems than they solve. Corn ethanol, in particular, is a major offender, as corn is about the worst crop to be planted in a stream corridor.

Unlike the Conservation Title, the Energy Title stayed out of the red, and will receive \$879 million in new money over 10 years to invest in renewable energy and energy efficiency programs on farms and in rural communities. This sum almost exactly matches the amount for the energy title in the 2008 Farm Bill. The USDA will also have great flexibility to use some of that money to provide infrastructure, such as blender tanks, for the ethanol industry.

Commodity Programs

The 2014 Farm Bill reattaches soil and wetland conservation requirements (known as "conservation compliance") to crop insurance premium subsidies, and establishes a Sodsaver provision to protect our remaining native grasslands. These are, in general, "big" wins. However, they carry more weight in name than they will in practice. In general, a lot more effort is being put toward expanding production than protecting land.

Congress reinstated the pre-1996 rule that farmers who purchase subsidized crop insurance will have to develop conservation plans when they grow crops on land subject to high rates of erosion. Recipients of crop insurance subsidies will also be prohibited from draining or filling wetlands, unless they mitigate those wetland losses. Since 1996 these conservation requirements applied to payments from commodity, conservation, and farm loan programs; but not to federal crop insurance.

The new compliance requirements for crop insurance subsidies, however, differ from existing compliance requirements for commodity, loan, and other farm bill programs in several problematic ways. First, the bill provides \$10 million for wetland banking so that producers can buy credits to mitigate environmental degradation. The final conference report language, though not the statutory language, directs the USDA to limit mitigation to a 1-to-1 ratio (one acre drained to one acre mitigated), rather than directing USDA to ensure that overall net environmental benefits are not lost. This is a problem because the environmental benefits of natural wetlands exceed those of constructed wetlands. Moreover, wetland mitigation efforts, especially wetland creation, often simply do not work; and requirements that mitigation benefit the same watershed where the

drainage occurred are weak (if they exist at all). The statutory language remains focused on total benefits and values, however, so hopefully USDA will follow normal rules and ignore the contradictory report language.

The bill grandfathers in producers who destroyed wetlands previously, and they will be able to receive crop insurance subsidies without having to mitigate prior wetland drainage. And one of the more cringe-worthy provisions says producers who receive subsidized crop insurance are required to self-certify that they are in compliance with these provisions. The bill states that if USDA does not review a certification in a "timely manner," the producer must be held harmless even if found to be out of compliance. The farm bill does not, however, define "timely manner" and thus risks creating a major loophole through which producers can destroy wetlands without losing their eligibility for crop insurance subsidies.

With respect to Sodbuster, anyone who has read this bill would be challenged to defend what we got in the end. Under past rules, the program basically made any land plowed for the first time anywhere in the nation ineligible for farm program payments forever. The 2008 Farm Bill gutted that rule, and it applied only if a state's governor asked for it (None did.), resulting in more than two million acres of virgin prairie meeting the plow in the last five years. In an effort to "compromise," the new bill makes the rule effective in six Midwest states only. And if new land is plowed, it is subject to a 50 percentage point reduction in the amount of taxpayer subsidy for crop insurance for four years. After four years, it is treated as if it had been plowed forever. Whether or not this is a speed bump or a barrier will largely be determined by the price of corn. If it's more profitable to plow the land even with the penalties, it will be plowed. That is the exact problem Sodbuster was supposed to solve.

The bill does nothing to address insufficient funding for investigation and enforcement of these conservation requirements. The current very low rate of spot checks (under 1 percent) and great regional disparity in enforcement will continue.

The bill also contains little real subsidy reform at all, despite public posturing. While it does eliminate direct payments, it did not actually eliminate the money. Congress simply rolled it into new and even more favorable crop insurance programs, including shallow loss programs that allow farmers to ensure up to 85 percent of their annual income. And there are no limits on the commodity payments. Even a Senate-passed provision that would have modestly reduced insurance premium subsidies for millionaires and multi-millionaires failed to make the final bill.

This lack of subsidy reform is the new farm bill's greatest failing. As long as farmers can collect potentially unlimited insurance subsidies, and ensure that no matter the quality of the land they farm that they will never risk more than a 15% annual loss, pressure to convert more land to production, much of it from existing conservation land, will continue. And unlike direct payments, crop insurance subsidies are hidden from the public.

And, of course, no changes were made to the payments offered to crop insurance companies. They are still allowed to collect a 14 percent

annual "overhead" for their work selling policies (remember, TU gets nothing for selling conservation projects to farmers.). If the insurance programs save taxpayer money with more efficiency, they are allowed to keep it. They are still guaranteed over a billion dollars in annual profits, and, if they ever lose money in a given year, taxpayers will cover the costs for them.

Congressional Math

We all know Washington politicians live in a different universe than the rest of us, especially when it comes to the laws of accounting and mathematics. As the crop insurance discussion notes, it takes some creative math to see reform in this bill, and if you start looking at the creative math, there are even more cuts to come.

To avoid getting into the incredibly deep weeds that surround this issue, a simple example will highlight the challenges. In the new bill, EQIP is funded at about \$500 million a year, but only for the first four years. In the fifth year, that funding is cut in half. On paper, this doesn't look like much, and the total investment still looks good. But, if the budget rules in place today are in place in five years, that will mean that going into the next farm bill the "baseline" for EQIP will only be \$250 million. And if we want to put back that \$250 million they left out for the final year, we will have to make cuts elsewhere in the next bill. By using this gimmick in various programs, they have already set the stage for another billion dollars in conservation cuts for the 2019 farm bill.

Those tricks are not limited to the Conservation Title. There are built-in cuts in other programs that will create demands to cut elsewhere (i.e., conservation). Another gimmick allowed Congress to project some of the expected increased costs of crop insurance 10 years out, so that they did not show up in the 10-year budget window used to "score" the cost of the bill. Those costs will start adding up now, so even if they address such nonsense in the next farm bill, we'll still have five years of unbudgeted future expenses piled up that will have to be covered with even more cuts.

Nutrient Problems

While not a specific line item in the farm bill, the increasing focus on nutrient management problems is becoming a financial vacuum in the conservation funding space. With the consolidation of so many programs in this farm bill, and a focus on targeting, it is likely that programs will be giving priority to projects with nutrient reduction benefits.

While this could benefit our work with respect to phosphorous problems (a typical bank-leveling project can often eliminate phosphorous problems on a site), the nutrient management problems we face go far beyond anything public funding alone can address. They are going to require a massive change in the way we view land management responsibilities. With WHIP gone, habitat benefits alone are no longer a strong pitch, and we'll need to be creative in adapting our project pitches and approaches to ensure we align with changing funding priorities. Thus, we need to work to ensure that nutrient problems do not unfairly raid conservation budgets, and to recognize that we have to pitch the nutrient benefits of our work to keep funding flowing.

Annual Appropriations

And, finally, the biggest unknown is whether Congress and the President will even fund what they pledged. While some of the most important farm bill money is "mandatory" spending (meaning it is budgeted in advance each year), it is generally limited to the easement programs (Congress has to pay annual costs of easements already signed). But much of the restoration-related funding must be appropriated annually. From 2002 to 2012, Congress actually appropriated almost \$8 billion less for farm bill conservation programs than they authorized in the two farm bills that covered that period. It is expected that this trend will continue, and to ensure the programs that matter most to us receive full funding, we'll have to keep the pressure on Congress every year.

Conclusion

While it's certainly a good thing that the farm bill is finally done, and the losses experienced by the conservation community overall could have been worse (especially since many of the big groups traded away the farm for conservation compliance right at the outset, a decision which turned out to be a major tactical blunder). The chorus of politicians and NGOs claiming "reform" with this bill are simply trying to convince you they got what they wanted and "won" to preserve their funding and membership dollars. But this farm bill is not a true "winner" for anyone but crop insurance agents ethanol, and row-crop farmers.

Fortunately, in the Midwest we've become adept at funding restoration work with a diversity of sources, and the immediate cuts to the farm bill should have only a nominal impact on our efforts in the short-term. DALCI funds were pledged before the farm bill was settled, and should be maintained. The amount of funding available overall for habitat projects is much smaller, but it is in programs we are very comfortable with and we should be competitive in drawing it to our area.

Nonetheless, the bottom line is conservation took a serious beating in this farm bill, and the next one is five years away and already has about \$3 billion in additional cuts built into it. The next time around, it is going to be essential that we have educated a much larger group of people, and that we are putting pressure on Congress, and everyone else in the chain, to fund every dollar they pledged for the next five years, and make sure that the baby-steps toward reform initiated in this year's bill are taken much further in 2019. And that includes putting pressure on TU National to get more seriously involved and to stand up for Midwest streams. If we aren't much more engaged the next time around, a loss in 2019 like we experienced this year would leave us engaged in a serious search for new funding sources amidst an onslaught of new threats to our streams.

Brett Lorenzen is the state chair of IowaTU, and chairs the Volunteer Steering Committee for TUDARE. By day, he coordinates activities in the Upper Midwest for the Environmental Working Group.

With WHIP gone, habitat benefits alone are no longer a strong pitch (for stream restoration funding).

The amount of funding available overall for habitat projects is much smaller.

February Wisconsin State Council meeting report

By Mike Kuhr

State Council Secretary

The State Council welcomed representatives from 19 of its 21 chapters to the Best Western Premier Waterfront Hotel in Oshkosh for its February 1 meeting. Meeting highlights included a discussion of the ongoing trout regulation review, updates on the DNR's Stream-bank Easement Program and plans for the first ever WITU Youth Camp. After the meeting we held two break-out sessions, featuring advocacy training and chapter building.

Trout regulation review

The council welcomed Mike Staggs, Joanna Griffin and Scot Stewart from the DNR to provide a progress report on the current trout regulation review. Recent data has shown an increase in both size and numbers of brook and brown trout in Wisconsin waters. Prior to the regulation review, several angler surveys were conducted. Lack of time was the number one reason anglers cited for no longer pursuing trout.

With these factors in mind, fisheries managers were asked to evaluate the management goals for the streams in their areas. The initial proposal takes a stoplight approach to trout regulations: Green means go and harvest (five- trout daily bag,

no minimum size); yellow means caution (three trout, eight-inch minimum size); and red means stop and check the regulation book. Special regulations will be broken down into about 15 different rules, each with its own management objective. This is perhaps the biggest change in the proposal. Regulations will be based on a clearly identified goal for each water body.

The proposal will continue to be tweaked in the coming months. Expect a formal rollout of the plan, and public meetings this summer. The entire rule package will be put on the 2015 Spring Hearings for the public to vote on. Changes would then take effect on Jan. 1, 2016.

Spring Hearing questions

The council voted to take positions on several advisory questions that will appear at the 2014 Spring Hearings. For more details, read Council Chair Henry Koltz' column on page three.

DNR easement plans

Special guest DNR Fisheries Ecologist Paul Cunningham gave the council an update on the DNR's plan to increase the number of easement purchases over the next 2 years. Funds totaling \$13 million have been allocated for the purchase, and stream bank easements will be a large portion. The DNR's

goal is to purchase 100 miles of streambank access. The appraisal process will be streamlined and high quality fisheries will be prioritized. The DNR hopes to work closely with TU chapters, which are encouraged to contact their local fisheries managers if they have leads on potential easements.

WITU 2014 Youth Camp

Linn Beck and Bob Haase reported on plans for our first ever WITU Youth Camp. See article in this issue.

Elections

Several State Council positions were filled via elections at the February meeting. The following people were nominated and elected to serve their area as a regional vice president: Northern – Bill Heart; Northeast – Paul Kruse; Central – Bob Haase; Southern – Jim Wierzba. Bill Heart was also nominated and elected to serve his fifth term representing Wisconsin on the National Leadership Council. Due to term limits, this will be Bill's last term on the NLC.

Todd Hanson honored at Lunch
Former Wisconsin Trout Editor Todd Hanson was the guest of honor during the lunch break. The council honored Todd for his dedication to our resources and years of service as editor of our beloved

newspaper. Clint Byrnes amused the crowd with some great anecdotes about Todd's career and each chapter presented Todd with a 6-pack of craft brews from their local areas. Todd, we hope you enjoy "retirement."

Women's Initiative Update

Heidi Oberstadt briefed the council on several upcoming women's events. The upcoming Upper Midwest Regional Meeting will feature a full day of women's initiative sessions. WITU and the Girl Scouts of America will hold the 2nd Annual Stream Girls program this summer near Stevens Point. The pilot program has really impressed the TU community, and TU National has hired Heidi on to help establish similar programs across the country. Make us proud, Heidi!

Break Out Sessions

WITU arranged for two break-out sessions after the council meeting. Folks from the River Alliance of Wisconsin led an advocacy training session. The program is intended to help chapters better engage their elected officials concerning our coldwater resources. Linn Beck and Scott Criqui lead a discussion about strategic planning and chapter building. Chapter leaders can expect more leadership training sessions at future events.

Pump up your membership with water monitoring

By John Gremmer

The Central Wisconsin Chapter's River Keepers program is now in its tenth year of monitoring central Wisconsin streams. In 2013 we had 28 teams monitoring 35 sites. Our email list contains 161 volunteers. We put on presentations for local service groups and help local schools learn about streams and water monitoring. Being a TU member has never been a prerequisite for being a River Keeper volunteer. The only requirement is an interest in learning about our water resources. And age doesn't matter, as we have volunteers from with ages in

the single digits to the eighties.

At last fall's CWTU banquet we were happy to see so many River Keepers in attendance. Many of these people, after being involved in monitoring with the River Keepers, have joined CWTU. Usually the gateway to TU in our chapter is through fly fishing, but now we have another gate into the organization: water monitoring.

Besides increasing membership numbers, water monitoring supports our mission of protecting, preserving, and enhancing our water resources. First, our monitoring establishes benchmarks on water temperature, water clarity, stream

flow, macro invertebrate life, dissolved oxygen, and riparian habitat quality. This is very important to have in case of some degradation that might occur through human or natural activities. We have data that shows what it was like before the degradation occurred. Our data has already been used at a DNR hearing on water use on the Waupaca River.

Secondly, water monitoring gets people involved in our water resources and many of them become advocates for the stream they monitor. Thirdly, water monitoring teaches people about the physics and biology of streams. Through this they learn the value of our water resources. Additionally, water monitoring gets more TU members actively involved in chapter activities. Not everyone can do stream work or be a leader. Lastly, water monitoring is fun and elevates chapter "esprit de corps."

We started 10 years ago when 10 CWTU members drove to Madison to become trained water monitor by Kris Stepenuck, Water Action Volunteers Stream Monitoring Program Director for UW-Extension and the DNR, and also DNR biologist Mike Miller. From there we recruited members, trained them, formed teams, selected stream sites, started monitoring. Soon team leaders began posting the data online.

The data we collect is available to the WDNR and to registered WAV monitors on the Water Action Volunteers website at watermonitoring.uwex.edu/wav. This is a well designed site that has all the information you need to run a water-monitoring program, including training videos, recording forms, contact people, etc.

At the present time Rick Fahrenkrug and I coordinate the activities of the CWTU River Keepers. We orchestrate two group meetings and one training session each year. We

order new equipment, organize old equipment, communicate with members, verify team data for the WAV website, recruit new members, help new teams get started, and see that we stay focused. Team leaders are the heart and soul of the organization. They are responsible for scheduling monthly monitoring, seeing that the data is accurately collected, and then posted online.

A typical monitoring session takes about an hour. We monitor once a month from May through September, although some teams start in April and end in October. We provide the monitoring tool kit to the teams. Team members supply their transportation and waders or hip boots.

The CWTU River Keepers has an extensive webpage where you can read about our efforts, see images of our teams, see a list of the streams we monitor, see a map of the sites we monitor, find contact information, and learn about some of our recognition. Go to cwtu.org and select River Keepers from the top navigation bar.

We are more than happy to help other chapters get involved in water monitoring. Our 2014 organizational meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 22 at the Fin 'N Feather Restaurant in Winneconne. This is a great chance to learn about our process. Our training session will be 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, April 26 at Riverside Park in Waupaca. Contact me, John Gremmer, at 920-379-9263 or jgremmer@charter.net for more information.

John Gremmer, is a retired biology and leadership teacher, and past CWTU President, who is currently the Chapter Program Chair and Co-River Keeper Coordinator for CWTU. Check out John's photography at http://www.flickr.com/photos/j_henry_gl/



CWTU RIVER KEEPERS WAUPACA RIVER TEAM

The Waupaca River Team has monitored for nine years. The team monitors above and below the city of Waupaca. They gather information on the effects the dam and city have on the quality of the water. They will start interpreting their data after the 2014 monitoring season. From the left are John Gremmer, Winneconne, Jan Brantingham, Winneconne, Nancy Rose, Waupaca, Bob Gayeske, Winneconne, David Brantingham, Winneconne, (missing are Tom Poulette, Waupaca, Tom Young, Waupaca, Keith Bassage, Appleton)

UV-set polymer makes Bob's Peacock Midge durable

By Bob Haase

I enjoy tying a variety of flies, from small trout and panfish flies to large musky/pike flies. Some of these are easy patterns that take only a couple minutes to tie, while others can take hours. Of course, the best flies are those that are easy to tie and catch fish.



Midges usually fall into that category because they are usually easy to tie and they often catch fish. The Peacock Midge is a fly that I started tying when I realized that I could use UV-set polymer to hold the peacock herl in place, making it a more durable fly. If you were to wrap peacock herl around a midge, even wrapping the herl around a 14/0 thread, it would not be very durable.

Senate passes license plate bill

Continued from page 1

AB-173 was passed by a wide majority, with 26 senators voting "aye," and seven senators voting "nay."

First and foremost, Wisconsin TU would like to thank Rep. Jim Ott for authoring and leading our bill. We also thank all of those Assembly and Senate members who signed on as co-sponsors of our bill. Finally, we would like to thank Rep. Keith Ripp for scheduling our bill for a vote in the Assembly Transportation Committee, Assembly majority leader Patricia Strachota and other leadership for scheduling our bill for a vote in the Assembly, Senator Jerry Petrowski for scheduling our bill for a vote in the Senate Transportation, Public Safety, and Veterans

MATERIALS LIST
Bob's Peacock Midge

Hook: Mustad C49S or C53S or equivalent, sizes 14-18

Thread: Any color 70 or 140 denier

Bead: To match hook size

Body: Thread or Krystal Flash

Ribbing: EFine peacock herl

By imbedding the herl into a thin layer of UV-set polymer, it makes this fly very durable.

Tie a few of these and also think about other flies you might try this technique on. Midges usually have a smooth, segmented body, but this is one of those situations where not copying nature can cause fish to react in a positive way.

Begin with a standard scud hook, such as a Mustad C49S, or a longer, curved nymph hook, such as a Mustad C53S or equivalent. Put the appropriate size bead on for the hook being used. Wrap the thread down the bend of the hook as shown and attach a peacock herl. Any peacock herl will work, but I like using a finer peacock herl such as those supplied by Natures Spirit. You can attach one strand of Krystal Flash to wrap over the thread body or just use a thread body as shown. Wrap to the bead, building up the thread to form a body.

Secure the thread with one half-hitch and then coat the body with a thin layer of UV-set polymer.

Wrap the peacock herl around the body, spacing it evenly, to form a segmented body. While holding on to the herl, shine the UV light over the body to cure the polymer. This sets the peacock herl into the polymer and makes it very durable.

Tie down the peacock herl and trim off. Now build up the thread so it is slightly smaller than the overall size of the bead, then whip finish. Add a small amount of UV-set polymer to form the head as shown, which is larger than the body. Be careful not to get any in the eye of the hook.

Also shown is the same technique using a longer, curved nymph hook such as the Mustad C53S.

and Military Affairs Committee, and Senate majority leader Scott Fitzgerald and other leadership for scheduling our bill for a vote in the senate.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, the State Council would like to thank YOU, Wisconsin TU's members and supporters, for your vigilance, activity and efforts. None of this happens without the work you've already done for our streams, our youth and our veterans, and the work you did to call legislators' attention to our bill.

What remains is a signing with Gov. Scott Walker, which should be set in the next few months. Look for a mention of this news in TU's national Trout magazine, and thanks for you all that you do for Wisconsin TU.

Internet a limitless resource

By Bob Haase

The internet is an amazing resource for accessing information about tying techniques, specific patterns, entomology and locating materials and equipment. Although many tiers use and access the internet, I thought I would share some of the websites that I use and find helpful.

I often search out specific fly patterns and look at as many different patterns as I can when trying to create a new pattern for my collection. About the time I think I have created something new, I find a similar pattern that was created many years ago. We have a lot of new synthetic tying materials that are available to us today that we didn't have even a few years ago. Taking old patterns and substituting new materials can provide new patterns that were not possible before. By searching the internet for pattern ideas and combining the best parts of each pattern you can create some great new patterns that you can't find at any fly shop.

YouTube provides video demonstrations on how to tie many great patterns and also show new tying techniques. You may want to search YouTube for "Davie McPhail" or "tightlinevideo" to get step by step instructions on tying some great patterns.

It is sometimes difficult to find specific tying materials that many shops don't carry. I try to support local fly shops as much as I can but there are times when you need something they don't carry. You can search by the item name or by the

manufacturer's name to locate the material. If it is discontinued you can sometimes find it on E-bay.

Sometimes it is how you word your searches such as looking for information on caddis insects. Just do a Google search and use the words "images caddis insects" and you will get detailed photographs of caddis. If you use the words "images caddis" you will get a combination of the insect along with some fly patterns. If you use the words "images caddis fly patterns" you will get mostly fly patterns representing the caddis with a few insect pics thrown in. The key is to use the word "images" first as it will take you to "Google Images" to complete the search for what you requested.

Just about everything you need to know about fly tying is on the internet, you just need to know how and where to search for it. I have listed just a few sites that you may want to check out if you don't already use them. There are many great sites for fly fishing as well those that provide information from fly casting to mapping programs such as Google Maps or the Wisconsin DNR Public Access Land Atlas showing land that is state owned or has a fishing easement.

- [animatedknots.com/](http://animatedknots.com/maps.google.com/google.com/img/youtube.com/midcurrent.com/flyangleronline.com/globalfishfisher.com/flytying123.com/hipwader.com/www.flytier.com/www.intheriffle.com)
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First Women's trout school planned in the northern Driftless Area

The first annual Women's Trout School on the. The school is presented by Confluence Fly Fishing Midwest in support of Trout Unlimited's Women in Conservation Initiative. This instruction-packed course will prepare women to fish more enjoyably on the tricky spring creeks and beguiling streams of the Midwest.

Subjects covered include selecting small stream gear and tackle, leader design, casting and mending for drag-free drifts in tight surroundings, indicator nymphing, essential flies for the Driftless Area, stream conservation, presentation approaches and more.

Space is limited to only six women to ensure a relaxed atmosphere with time for discovery and discussion. There will be lots of hands-on practice on the Kinni River. As a

bonus, there will be a guided fishing experience with the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter's best instructors.

The Trout School is not recommended for absolute beginners. However, women with any amount of previous fly fishing experience are strongly encouraged to attend.

Tuition is \$250 for TU members and \$290 for non-members. This includes two nights lodging, all meals, expert instruction, one-half day of guided fly-fishing, all equipment, materials and flies required for the school, course notebook with handouts for future reference, kayak rental and private river access.

For more information and to register for the Women's Trout School, please contact Trish Hannah or Margaret LeBien at confluenceflyfishing@gmail.com.



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2014 Friends campaign is off and running strong

By Doug Brown, Friends of Wisconsin TU Chair

The 2013 Friends of Wisconsin TU campaign came to an end this winter, and we are excited to announce that this past year we received more than 127 private donations and 10 chapter donations, totaling nearly \$16,000. Where Am I Publications also donated from proceeds of its map/guide book, which shows public access and various stream restoration projects on streams across the state.

A letter announcing the 2014 campaign will soon be arriving in your mailbox.

The Wisconsin TU chapters that were awarded grants this past year have already put most of that money into your streams. Please consider making a donation to Friends of Wisconsin TU so we can continue to fund worthwhile projects. Your donation will benefit our trout waters for generations to come. Requests for grants from chapters continue to come in.

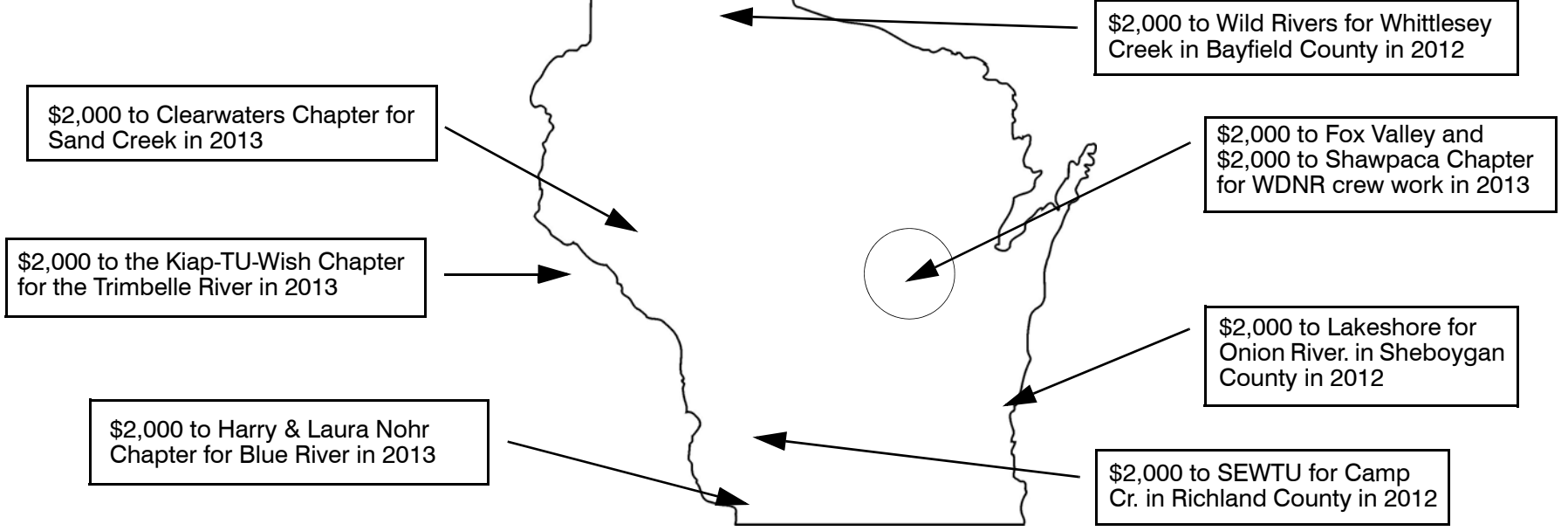
With the spring here and the trout season open, be sure to get out and enjoy a stream that has received help from a Friends grant.

I wish you a terrific 2014 Trout season and Tight Lines to you.



A Friends grant recipient: the Trimbelle River

Approaching \$200,000 in grants since 1991. The latest projects are...



Here are our Friends of Wisconsin TU

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- Charles Barnhill
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- In memory of Theron Meyer by Tim and Tom Meyer

*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

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