



Wisconsin Trout

April 2015

TU member action needed on budget

Here's how the state budget process works, and why each of us needs to let our legislators know how we feel. It may be the most important thing we do this year.

By Henry Koltz, TU National Trustee

Wisconsin's budget process is biennial. That means that our budget bills set how Wisconsin will spend money for two-year periods.

The budget creation process is complicated, and has many moving parts. In a nutshell, however, the process starts with Wisconsin's various government agencies making spending requests to the governor, generally in the fall of even numbered years. The governor, in turn, creates a proposed state budget, usually in the early spring of odd

numbered years.

The governor's proposed budget is then forwarded to the Wisconsin Legislature's Joint Committee on Finance, which includes members of both parties and from both houses of the Legislature. Joint Finance members take comment from other legislators, interest groups and citizens, then conducts budget hearings around the state. Joint Finance then modifies the governor's proposed budget, and then forwards its draft budget to the houses of the legislature for votes. Both houses will normally approve a version of the

budget. If those versions are wildly different, then a conference meeting between members of both houses comes up with a compromise version, which must be voted upon once more by both houses of the legislature, without further editing.

Once both houses of the legislature approve a budget bill, it then comes full circle back to the governor. The governor has the power to use a line-item veto, and if there is no attempt by the legislature to reject line item vetoes (which requires a two-thirds vote of both houses), then the budget is set to be signed

into law.

Currently, the Wisconsin Legislature is working on its 2015-2017 biennial budget. The governor has created his proposed budget, and it is currently with the Joint Committee on Finance.

The proposed 2015-2017 Wisconsin budget has several areas which concern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited. WITU asks its members to reach out to their legislators and politely inform them of our concerns. As mentioned in other articles

*Please see **BUDGET**, page 4*



WITU YOUTH FISHING CAMP, STREAM GIRLS, OTHER EVENTS PROVIDE VOLUNTEER OPTIONS

Stream Girls takes Girl Scouts out on the stream, teaches them about stream science and health, riparian vegetation, entomology and water flow. This year's event is at Jordan Park, near Stevens Point, June 19-20. We need volunteers! The girls' excitement is contagious. If you can help with macroinvertebrates, leading a stream walk, fly tying, fly casting or fishing, contact Heidi Oberstadt at heidi.oberstadt@gmail.com or 715-573-5104.

The WITU Youth Fishing Camp, the Outdoor Expo in Poynette and many local events also provide volunteer opportunities to reach our youth. See inside for more information.

Wisconsin TU license plates are available

By Henry Koltz, TU National Trustee

For the past two years, the Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited has undertaken incredible efforts to gain a specialized, fundraising license plate. That process involved a bill sponsored by Rep. Jim Ott working its way through committees in both houses of our legislature, and being voted through both the Wisconsin Assembly and Senate. Finally, last spring, on April 16, 2014, Gov. Scott Walker signed Wisconsin Trout Unlimited's license plate bill into law.

It is very gratifying to report that after such a long process, Wisconsin Trout Unlimited license plates are now available. The plates feature a leaping brook trout designed by nationally renowned graphic illustrator Neal Aspinall, as well as a small inset Trout Unlimited logo.

Each plate sold results in an annual \$25 contribution to Wisconsin Trout Unlimited. Not only will they make any vehicle look better, but they help increase the visibility of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited and provide a constant, passive revenue source to support our mission.

*Please see **LICENSE PLATES**, Page 3*

Vote at April 13 Spring Hearings

By Linn Beck, Council Chair

This year's Annual Spring Fish & Wildlife Public Hearings and Wisconsin Conservation Congress Annual Spring County Conservation Meetings are very important. The agenda will have questions pertaining to the proposed new trout regulations that will take effect on April 1, 2016. Citizens will have the opportunity to vote on the proposed new trout regulations and seasonal structure changes. These changes have been in the works for several years and include the proposed changes for the seasonal structure, an entirely new concept of identifying the trout regulations, and also a

number of changes to the bag limits.

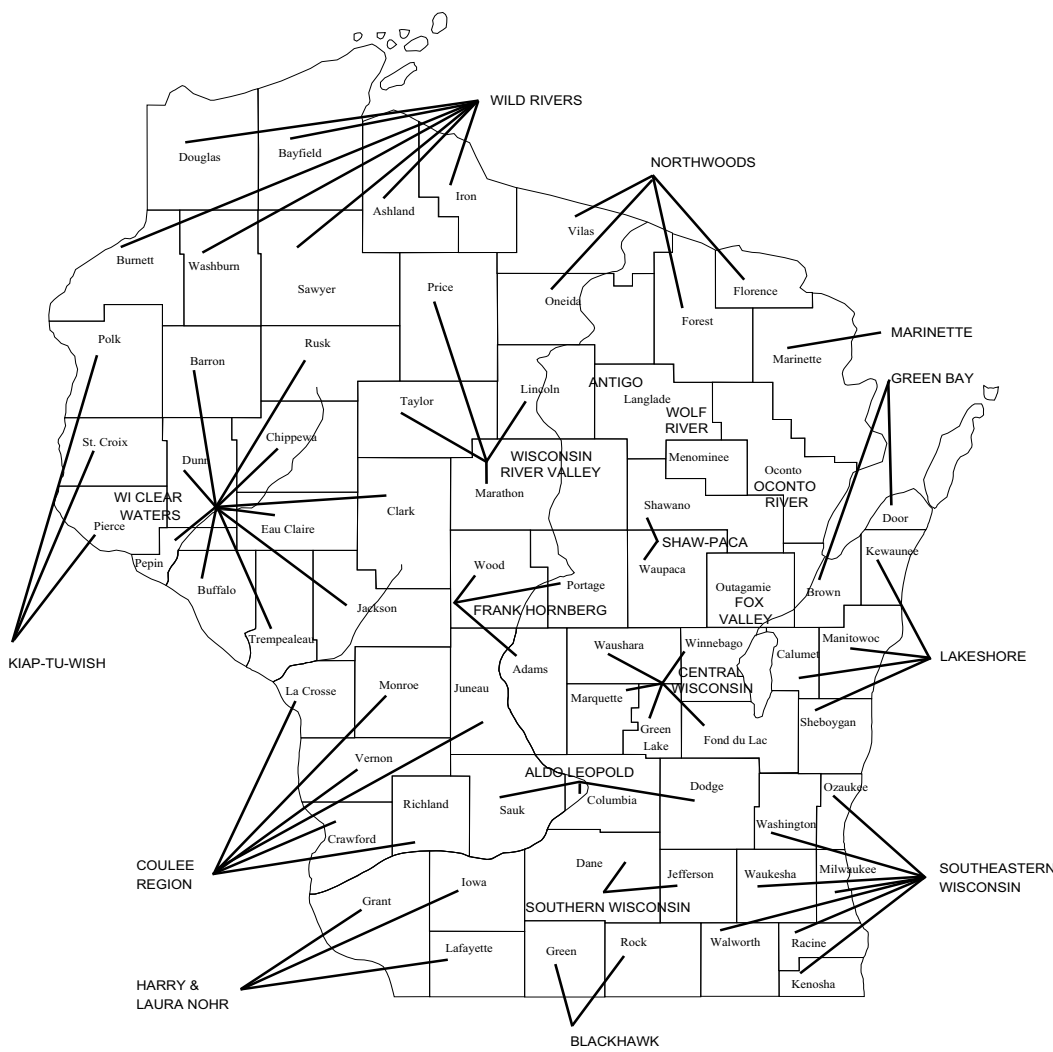
Since the last time we had any major changes to the trout season and regulations was about 10 years ago, the outcome from this will be something that will be around for maybe the next decade.

If trout anglers do not show up for the April 13 Spring Hearings, the balance of the people who do show up will be making the decisions about trout and trout fishing.

Please take some time and look over the proposed information listed in this article and remember that the hearings are the one chance to vote. It is very important that our

*Please see **HEARINGS**, Page 11*

Wisconsin TU Chapters, Presidents, and Websites



**Visit WITU online at:
wicouncil.tu.org**

- Aldo Leopold (#375):** Scott Allen, E4835 N Stoney Ridge Road, Reedsburg, WI 53959; (608) 495-1482; jscottallen12@gmail.com; aldoleopold.tu.org
- Antigo (#313):** Scott Henricks, 213 Mary St., Antigo, WI 54409-2536 (715) 623-3867; henricks51@frontier.com
- Blackhawk (#390):** Gordon Long; 4850 Cardamon Ln., Rockford, IL 61114 (815) 877-8614; gordyl10@yahoo.com; www.BlackhawkTU.org
- Central Wisconsin (#117):** Michael San Dretto; 467 Hawthorne St., Neenah, WI 54956 (920) 722-8478; msandretto@aol.com; www.cw-tu.org
- Coulee Region (#278):** Jim Cox, North 4311 Cty. Rd. M, West Salem, WI 54669 (608) 397-9448; cswoodworking@charter.net; www.CouleeRegionTU.org
- Fox Valley (#193):** Tom Lager, 1700 Spring Hill Ct., Neenah, WI 54956 (920) 540-9194; tomkarinlager@new.rr.com; www.foxvalleytu.org
- Frank Hornberg (#624):** Matt Salchert, 1800 Minnesota Ave., Stevens Point, WI 54481 (715) 321-1394; MattSalchert@Yahoo.com; www.Hornberg-TU.org
- Green Bay (#083):** Adrian Meseberg, 315 South Michigan Street, DePere, WI 54115 (920) 562-6129; president@greenbaytu.com; www.GreenBayTU.com
- Harry & Laura Nohr (#257):** Todd Templen, 10476 Lake Eleanor Rd., Dubuque, IA 52003 (608) 778-7271; trtemplen@gmail.com; www.NohrTU.org
- Kiap-TU-Wish (#168):** Tom Henderson, 1206 Eagle Ridge Trl., Stillwater, MN 55082; tomhenderson136@comcast.net; www.kiaptuwish.org
- Lakeshore (#423):** Gordy Martin, N7601 Royal and Ancient Dr., Elkhart Lake, WI 53020; squaretail@aol.com; www.WisconsinTU.org/Lakeshore
- Marinette (#422):** Doug Erdmann, 2418 Woodview Lane, Marinette, WI 54143 (715) 735-7407; derdmann2@new.rr.com; marinette-county.new.tu.org
- Northwoods (#256):** Laura MacFarland, 3116 Tremolo Trl., Rhineland, WI 54501 (715) 482-0394; lauramacfarland@gmail.com
- Oconto River (#385):** Tom Klatt; 1677 Forest Glen Drive Green Bay, WI 54304 (920) 621-9266; tktklatt@gmail.com; ocontorivertu.com
- Shaw-Paca (#381):** Nate Sipple, 931 E. Fifth St., Shawano, WI 54166; (715) 304-7581; shawpacaTU@gmail.com; Wisconsin-TU.org/ShawPaca; www.facebook.com/shawpacatu
- Southeastern Wisconsin (#078):** Jim Wierzba, 2817 W. Country Club Dr., Mequon, WI 53092 (262) 238-0282; hoke4me@aol.com www.SEWTU.org
- Southern Wisconsin (#061):** Matt Krueger; (608) 852-3020 mattjoman@gmail.com; www.swtu.org
- Wild Rivers (#415):** Bill Heart 29450 Verners Road, Ashland, WI 54806 (715) 209-0431; wwheart@centurytel.net www.wisconsintu.org/wildrivers
- Wisconsin Clear Waters (#255):** Bob Swanson, PO Box 822, Eau Claire, WI 54702-0822 (715) 354-3745; svee123@yahoo.com www.WisconsinTU.org/ClearWaters
- Wisconsin River Valley (#395):** Patrick Esselman, pesselman@charter.net; www.wrvtu.org
- Wolf River (#050):** Tim Waters, 409 Second St., Menasha, WI 54952; (920) 751-0654; MuddyWaters@new.rr.com; WolfriverTU.org

State Council Leadership

State Chair: Linn Beck, 160 W. 19th Ave., Oshkosh, WI 54902 (920) 216-7408 (H); chlbeck@att.net

Vice Chair: Mike Kuhr, 6103 Queensway, Monona, WI 53716; (414) 588-4281; mikek.trout@yahoo.com

Secretary: Tom Lager, 1700 Spring Hill Ct., Neenah, WI 54956; (920) 540-9194

Treasurer: Gary Stoychoff, 1326 14th Ave., Green Bay, WI 54304 garystoychoff@att.net

Past State Chair: Henry Koltz, 2300 N. Mayfair Rd., Ste. 1175, Milwaukee, WI 53226 (414) 331-5679 (H); hek@sdelaw.com

Vice Chair, Central Region: Bob Haase, W7949 Treptow Ln., Eldorado, WI 54932 (920) 922-8003 (H); flytier@milwpc.com

Vice Chair, Northeast Region: Paul Kruse, 500 Saint Jude St., Green Bay, WI 54303 (920) 494-4220 (H); kruser2@new.rr.com

Vice Chair, Southern Region: Jim Wierzba, 2817 Country Club Drive, Mequon, WI 53092 (262) 238-0282; hoke4me@aol.com

Vice Chair, Western Region: Bill Heart, 29450 Verners Rd., Ashland, WI 54806 (715) 209-0431; wwheart@centurytel.net

Awards: Todd Hanson, 4514 Elgar Ln., Madison, WI 53704 (608) 692-6914 (W); twhanson@sbcglobal.net

Education: Bob Haase (see above)

Communications: Chris Long, 5460 Reeve Road, Mazomanie, WI 53560 608-658-7901; chris.long@att.net

Friends of WITU and Watershed Access Fund: Doug Brown, R4800 Timber Ln., Ringo, WI 54471 (715) 899-0024; Decbrown@yahoo.com

Legal Counsel: Winston Ostrow, 233 N. Broadway #120, De Pere, WI 54115 920-362-6609 (W); waostrow@gklaw.com

Legislative Chair: Henry Koltz, National Trustee; hek@sdelaw.com; 414-331-5679

Membership: Linn Beck and Mike Kuhr (see above)

National Leadership Council Representative: Kim McCarthy, 736 Meadowbrook Ct., Green Bay, WI 54313 (920) 434-3659 (H); KMCCARTHY2@new.rr.com

Water Resources: Bob Obma, 12870 West Shore Drive, Mountain, WI 54149 (715) 276-1170 (H) bobobma@hotmail.com

Website: Chris Long, 5460 Reeve Road, Mazomanie, WI 53560 608-658-7901; chris.long@att.net

Women's Initiatives: Heidi Oberstadt, 456 Wadleigh St., Stevens Point, WI 54481; 715-573-5104; heidi.oberstadt@gmail.com

Are you getting emails from TU?

If you are currently not receiving news and event-related email messages from your chapter, the state council and TU National, then you are truly missing out on what's happening at all three levels. TU National manages the mailing list for the council and chapters, so update your address by going to www.tu.org, log in, then go to "Email Preferences." You can also call 1-800-834-2419 to make these changes, or to ask questions about making the changes via the web site.

WISCONSIN TROUT

Vol. 27, No. 2— April 2015

Wisconsin Trout is the official publication of the Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited and is distributed to the members of Wisconsin's 21 TU chapters. Non-member subscriptions are \$12.50/year. Publication dates are the first weeks of January, April, July and October. Deadlines for articles and advertisements are the 10th of December, March, June and September. For a current advertising rate sheet, contact the editor.

Photo/article contributions, letters to the editor and advertisements are welcomed. Submit to:

Todd Franklin, Editor
2515 Bigler Circle
Verona, WI 53593
(608) 516-3647
toddfranklinwistrout@gmail.com

State Council Officers

Executive Committee includes officers and vice chairs

- Linn Beck, Chair**
- Mike Kuhr, Vice Chair**
- Tom Lager, Secretary**
- Gary Stoychoff, Treasurer**

Chairman's Column

Fantastic journey

Linn Beck's rise from angler to leader is a story that could happen to any willing TU volunteer.

I would like to share with you a little bit about myself and my journey to become the State Council chair.

My journey started back in 1976, when some friends of mine from high school decided we should start a tradition of trout fishing. Each year we would gather together to figure out who would bring what to our outing, and we would spend opening weekend camping and fishing for trout. To this day we are all still getting together, and this year will mark our 39th opening day outing. So it's easy to see how my passion for trout has come into play.

My friends and I didn't join TU back then, but we would sometimes show up for workdays and then go fishing afterwards. Finally, in 1996 I joined TU and my journey took a huge turn for the better. I still wasn't too involved, but I would attend the banquets and try to give support where I could.

In 1999 I got married, and sometimes when you're building a relationship there's just not enough time to do everything you want to do. Fortunately, my wife understood

the passion I had for trout and trout fishing, and she encouraged me to get out and fish. This went on for several years, and with the state of our streams and more budget cuts coming into play, I would come home and complain about how the streams were getting choked off, and it was getting harder and harder to find a fun place to fish.

I don't know how she put up with me, as this was supposed to be my outlet, but instead it was making me tense. That was my cue to get involved, because if I wasn't going to do something about it, then I had no right to complain.

That's when my journey really changed. In 2006 I took John Gremmer's Introduction to Fly Tying and Fly Fishing, as up until then I was a worm and spin fisherman. John's class opened a new avenue and with it a new-found energy, and I wanted to get more involved. I don't think my wife knew what she was getting into when she encouraged me to start going to the board meetings. But one thing led to another, and soon a board position opened up and I was elected.

I became more involved and took on the role of water monitoring coordinator. What a great place to become better schooled on the dynamics of the waters in our area. I took a strong interest and wanted to learn all that I could. About a year later our work day coordinator decided to step down, and I moved into that role. Again, here was another fantastic opportunity to learn about habitat improvement and the impact it has on our waters.

One day the chapter leaders asked if I would become the vice president, which, of course, I accepted. And the journey accelerated from there. On to the president's position and then, when my term was done, Kim McCarthy asked if I would be interested in the position of vice chair for the Wisconsin State Council. Again, I was honored to accept to roll. Time flew by and now I find myself here, your State Council chair.

What a fantastic journey it's been, and I am really looking forward to this next chapter in my TU journey. I guess the one point I would like to make and emphasize is



NEW WITU CHAIR LINN BECK

Linn Beck's efforts at organizing the Youth Fishing Camp earned him a Tomorrow's Anglers Award at the State Council banquet.

that I never intended to become this involved, but I would never trade the past eight years for anything.

There are so many opportunities to help out your chapters, so if you have a particular strength that could help your chapter or you would simply like to get involved, I strongly encourage you to go for it. I know you won't regret it, and you might be surprised where your journey takes you.

Volunteers Needed for Wisconsin Outdoor Heritage Education Expo May 20 & 21

Volunteers are needed for the Wisconsin Outdoor Heritage Education Expo Wednesday, May 20 and Thursday, May 21 at the MacKenzie Center near Poynette. The event will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day and volunteers should try to be there by 8:30 a.m. The MacKenzie Center is located at W7303 County Highway CS. It replaces the Outdoor Expo that used to be held at the Dodge County Fairgrounds near Beaver Dam.

Schools bus the fifth- and sixth-grade students to the event, and we expect more than 2,000 students this year. Last year's event went well, but we could have used more volunteers. We had to cancel the fly casting because we did not have enough volunteers and some students were not able to tie a fly because we were short fly tiers. This is a great event where TU can reach out to thousands of students. All we need is more volunteers.

If we have enough volunteers, we will provide fly tying and fly casting. I would like to offer additional things if we could get the

volunteers for it. We could offer knot tying or an area where youths could observe and try to identify various aquatic insects. I have big charts to help with the identification and if they identify the insect correctly we could give them a DNR Wildcard with information about the insect. We did this a few years ago at Beaver Dam and it was very popular with kids wanting to identify additional insects.

We could also provide displays showing what we do to improve our streams and have someone explain why it is important to protect and preserve our streams. We could have information on ground water and why clean water is important or show and talk about invasive species. This is a great opportunity to reach out to kids and make a difference in their lives.

If you can help at this event, or you have ideas or questions, please contact Bob Haase at flytiter@milwpc.com or 920-579-3858.

Membership Committee adds Facebook page, new presentation

We're getting "social." The council now has an official Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Facebook page at facebook.com/WisconsinTU. Go ahead and "Like" us. This page, in addition to our new website at wicouncil.tu.org, will serve as a resource to inform the public of WITU positions on issues regarding our coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.

The council has put together a presentation to help chapters build membership and develop leaders. We previewed this at the recent TU Upper Midwest Regional Meeting and are ready to offer the training to chapter leaders across Wisconsin. Contact Council Chair Linn Beck for more info.

We would like to develop a resource for chapters to use when planning future meetings. If you've recently had a presentation or themed evening go over well, such as one chapter's "Night of the Hopper," consider sharing the details with other chapters. We'll compile a list of topics, presenters and contact info and make it available to chapter leaders. Send suggestions to Mike Kuhr at the email address below.

We're always looking for new Membership Committee members. If you would like to help build stronger TU chapters across our state, let me know at mikek.trout@yahoo.com.



LICENSE PLATE

Continued from page 1

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited does great things. It helps improve and protect cold water resources. It helps sustain the incredible economy and jobs that surround our streams. It works with kids to get them outdoors, and it works with those who most deserve our help: disabled U.S. military veterans.

Buying a license plate means that you support these things, and it means that you stand for putting your name on something larger than yourself, that will outlive us all. Buying a plate means that you're part of a legacy that is special in Wisconsin, and means that you're proud of the work we do.

I'm respectfully requesting that every Wisconsin TU member put a plate on each of their vehicles. This is our best chance to raise significant funds to help our work across the state, our work in Madison, and our work helping those who need it.

Thank you for all that you do for Wisconsin TU.

You can purchase your plates by following the instructions found at <http://www.dot.state.wi.us/drivers/vehicles/personal/special/trout.htm>

Consider Proper Release

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

Budget

Continued from page 1

printed here in *Wisconsin Trout*, Wisconsin TU requests that its members be concise when contacting legislators, be polite and courteous, and thank them for the time they take to hear your comments, and for their service to our state.

WITU's three areas of concern with the proposed 2015-2017 budget are:

- A freeze of stream bank easement acquisitions.
- Elimination of science positions within the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.
- Rendering the Natural Resources Board advisory-only.

The economic impact of angling

Any discussion of concerns in the budget bill will obviously involve economics. As such, it is incredibly important that WITU members be familiar with the incredible economic impact that angling has in Wisconsin. Angling, obviously, is inextricably interlaced with our mission, and the work that we perform.

To put the matter bluntly, cold-water resources and the anglers they attract are an absolutely huge economic engine for our state. A January, 2013 report released by the American Sportfishing Association (ASA) revealed that Wisconsin ranked ninth out of all states, with more than \$1.4 billion in fishing-related expenditures. Wisconsin also ranked third among most popular non-resident fishing destination states, with more than 335,000 visitors spending more than \$445 million each year. In short, fishing is incredibly big business in Wisconsin.

And what is good for our businesses is good for our citizens, and for our state government. Specifically, the ASA report found that angling supports more than 21,000 Wisconsin jobs, resulting in more than \$665 million in salaries and wages. The ASA report also found that angling results in more than \$148 million in local and state tax revenue. In sum, the ASA report found that recreational angling in Wisconsin results in a staggering \$2.2 billion annual economic impact.

What we do, and what you as members of TU do, doesn't just help our streams and trout. It helps local businesses. It helps people who want to be employed, and it helps our government generate tax revenue.

Wisconsin TU and stream bank access easements

WITU's first budget bill concern involves a proposed freeze on stewardship funding, and how that proposed freeze will negatively impact our group and the financial contributions to Wisconsin's coldwater resources that we bring to bear.

Based on an accumulation of our chapters' annual financial reports in 2014, WITU and its chapters provided more than \$1.1 million in contributions to stream restoration work, youth education and fishing events, and veterans activities. These contributions came in the form of cash, in-kind donations and volunteer labor hours.

WITU's contributions depend in large part upon the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) acquiring stream access easements. Specifically, once the DNR acquires an easement, in many instances WITU follows behind

performing hundreds of thousands of dollars of stream restoration work using non-state funds, in-kind contributions and volunteer labor. WITU's work helps leverage DNR funds, helps ensure that Wisconsin remains a premier destination trout fishery and helps to ensure that the economic benefits associated with angling continue.

Stream bank access easements do not involve the purchase of land by the DNR.

Stream bank access easements do not remove property from tax rolls.

Governor Scott Walker's February, 2015, proposed Executive Budget establishes a goal that the DNR "Acquire 33 miles of stream bank easements" in 2015, 2016 and 2017.

The 2015-2017 proposed budget, however, also contains a proposed moratorium on stewardship spending until debt service ratios reach a specific level, which most estimates believe would not occur for 13 years, or about the year 2028.

As such, under the proposed stewardship spending moratorium, the governor's proposed budget's goal of acquiring 33 miles of stream bank easements each year would simply not be achieved.

It is undeniable that access to streams is the key ingredient in trout angling's ability to generate economic benefits. Wisconsin has incredible trout streams, and anglers both from within and outside our state flock to our waters to fish. Continuing to acquire easements which do not involve a purchase of land and do not remove lands from local tax rolls will help ensure that the economic engine supported by trout angling continues to run.

WITU understands that achieving Governor Walker's goal of 33 miles of stream bank easement acquisitions in 2015-2017 will require roughly \$2 million each year, or \$4 million per biennium.

WITU urges its members to contact their legislators, and members of the Wisconsin Joint Committee on Finance, and ask them to restore stewardship funding in general. As it relates to our mission, WITU requests that its members specifically request that \$2 million of funding be provided each year for stream access easements acquisition (and not subject to a moratorium) in the 2015-2017 biennial budget bill.

Science Position Funding

As most members of Trout Unlimited are keenly aware, TU is dedicated to science-based management and stream restoration.

WITU's stream restoration work is performed hand in hand with DNR fisheries biologists, and completed using scientifically determined best management practices developed in part by the DNR's Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences Research Program. In short, when we work, we strive to make sure that we're working in areas of greatest impact and need, and using the best available restoration techniques. The DNR's scientific staff are an important part of this process.

In fiscal year 2013-2014, incredibly useful studies were performed by the DNR's Aquatic Sciences Research Program, such as:

- The long-term viability of brook trout and brown trout populations in Wisconsin's streams, in order to guide science-based

management decisions.

- Understanding the impact of stream flows and temperatures upon trout populations, and how land, groundwater levels and ambient temperatures may impact fisheries.
- Understanding and tracking gill lice (a parasite impacting Wisconsin trout populations)
- Understanding the impact of stream restoration work upon trout populations, to guide future stream work projects
- Understanding future trends for Wisconsin's coldwater streams and predicting changes, to guide and focus restoration and management work where most needed.

These types of studies are incredibly important to ensuring that the viability and economic impact of Wisconsin's cold water fisheries continue. Science guides sound management decisions. Sound management results in blue-ribbon fisheries. Blue-ribbon fisheries attract anglers, and the economic force that they bring to bear.

Likewise, scientific study allows the DNR to identify existing problems, such as gill lice, VHS, other diseases, etc. in our fish and game populations, and to formulate appropriate response activities. Scientific study also allows the DNR to anticipate changes in our resources, and to formulate best management practices to address such changes. WITU and its chapters, in turn, can use such information to

determine where to perform our work, and how to perform our work.

In short, the work of the DNR's fisheries scientists are critical to ensure the health of Wisconsin's angling resources, and to ensure that they continue to be an economic force for the benefit of our state and its citizens.

WITU urges its members to contact their legislators, and the members of the Wisconsin Joint Committee on Finance, and ask them to eliminate proposed reductions in DNR's science services division in the 2015-2017 biennial budget. WITU asks its members to request that scientific research funding aimed at maintaining and furthering the viability of Wisconsin's outdoor resources be continued, to support the economic engine that they sustain.

The Natural Resources Board

The Wisconsin Natural Resources Board is a seven-person group which sets policy for the DNR, and which exercises legal authority.

Streambank
access
easements do not
involve the
purchase of land
by the DNR.

The economic benefit of angling is described above. Other outdoor recreational activities have equally large economies which they support. For instance, hunting has a nearly \$4 billion annual economic impact in Wisconsin. Large economic impact figures presumably exist for the ATV and snowmobile industries, the timber industry, and all other manners of outdoor recreational activities and their associated industries. To be sure, our outdoor resources are an incredibly big part of Wisconsin's overall economy.

The NRB acts as a buffer between all of the aforementioned special interests and management of Wisconsin's resources. With so many user groups holding a stake in the use of our outdoors, the NRB performs the important function of taking all groups' interests into account when management decisions are made. Because the NRB consists of multiple members from various regions of the state, moreover, it avoids having a singular view dictate how multi-use resources are managed.

Because of the very large and numerous economic interests at stake, and the need to ensure that management decisions accommodate all user groups, WITU sees wisdom in having a multiple-member policy and rule-making committee govern management and use decisions.

WITU urges its members to contact their legislators and the members of the Wisconsin Joint Committee on Finance and ask them to remove those portions of the 2015-2017 budget will which would render the NRB advisory, and to ensure that the NRB retains its rule-making and policy-setting statutory authority.

Conclusion

Economic impacts, access, science and user-group harmony are critical for WITU's mission. We ask a lot of our members, and even more of our leaders. If there is one thing that you do for WITU this year, however, please let contacting your legislators to discuss these three issues be it. The work we do, how we perform that work, and the benefits that we are able to provide to our waters, anglers, children and U.S. military veterans are hanging in the balance.



Scott W. Grady
Rodmaker

Split Bamboo Rods

New, repairs, restoration, appraisals
Rodmaking Tools and Advice

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

www.homeaway.com/vacation-rental/p3478766

Bear Valley Outdoor Inn

Special rates for early trout season fishing...call (608) 583-3243 or email darcy@wicw.net

Central location for the many popular tourist attractions of Southwest Wisconsin. Private, fully furnished, clean, and unique accommodations.

Intersection of Hwy N & 130
2 miles North of Bear Valley

Youth Fishing Camp July 16-19

The second annual Wisconsin TU Youth Fishing Camp is July 16-19 at Pine Lake Bible Camp near Wild Rose, Wisconsin. The event begins with check-in from 1 p.m. Thursday, July 16 and will run until noon on Sunday, July 19.

The curriculum and format will be similar to last year, with some minor changes recommended by last year's volunteers. We will use the same format for selecting and sponsoring youths for the camp. There will be an open enrollment period until April 15, during which time each chapter can sponsor one child, based on a first-come, first-served basis. We will only be accepting 16 youths for the camp. After April 15 chapters may sponsor a second youth, if there are any openings left. If any chapter is considering sponsoring a youth, they should make their selection and application as soon as possible.

The camp is open to any youth between the ages of 12 and 16. The cost will be the same as last year at

\$250 per youth, which would be paid by the sponsoring chapter. It would be the responsibility of the parents or the sponsoring chapter with parental approval to transport the youths to and from the event.

We have the chapters sponsor the youths with the idea that the sponsoring chapter can work with the youths after the event to teach them more about fishing, environmental work or TU. We have had youths from last year's camp help out at chapter events and may be returning to help out with the camp this year.

There will be classes, demonstrations and hands-on training on all types of fishing using spinning gear and fly rods. Some of the areas covered include knot tying, fly tying, lure making, entomology, safety, sportsmanship and ethics, reading the water, and on-the-water fishing.

Last year's volunteers had as much fun as the students, and many plan to return this year. If you vol-

unteered last year and would like to help again this year please email or call Bob or Linn to confirm that you will be coming. If you were not able to make it last year but would like to help out this year, please let us know as soon as possible. Please provide your name, contact information (phone and email), the list of days and times you would be available, and any specific skills that you have such as fly tying, knot tying, fly casting, on stream fishing, entomology, etc.

WITU will pick up the cost of the meals for all the volunteers and provide on-site lodging for those staying overnight. All volunteers need to have background checks and we have a service through TU National that will provide this for us. This needs to be done at least one week before the event.

Not all students will have all the fishing accessories and equipment they will need, including everything from youth waders to forceps and nippers, floatant and tippet, fly

vests and nets. We hope sponsoring chapters might be able to help supply the youths with these needs, but we're seeking donations from anyone. Please help us build up an inventory of these key items that will be used this year and beyond. Contact Linn Beck or Bob Haase.

We will provide each youth a small plastic fly box with some flies to start out with and they will also be tying some of their own. If you have any extra flies that you would like to donate, please send them Bob Haase. We would also like to thank Jess Pottter from Angling Solutions in Berlin for donating enough small trout spinners for each youth to have a couple. He also plans on being at the camp to help them make another one for themselves.

If you have any questions, or need application forms and waiver forms, or anything else, contact Bob Haase at flytier@milwpc.com or 920-579-3858 or Linn Beck at chlbeck@att.net or 920-216-7408.

Conservation Lobby Day April 14

If you care about the future of environmental conservation in Wisconsin, then we expect to see you at the annual Conservation Lobby Day on Tuesday, April 14, organized by the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters. This is where conservation voters like you come from every corner of the state to share their natural resource values and expectations with their legislators in the Capitol.

Right now there are significant conservation issues on the move, which is why we need you to join your fellow conservationists for this incredibly important event. When we stand together, natural resources win!

Registration will begin at 9 a.m. at Monona Terrace, One John Nolen Drive, Exhibit Hall A. The program will start promptly at 10 a.m.

Governor Walker's proposed budget aims to freeze land-protection efforts, undermine science, further politicize natural resource management and more. At Conservation Lobby Day, you will get the inside scoop on how conservation could be impacted in this year's budget proposal and participate in a scheduled meeting with your state senator and representative's offices to discuss key conservation issues. You can read more about the 2015-2017 state budget at conservationvoters.org/issues/wisconsin-state-budget-2015-2017/

Conservation Lobby Day will focus on a few major conservation issues in the proposed 2015-2017 budget, including:

Stewardship

The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program protects vital lands and waters in Wisconsin, providing us with places to hunt, hike, fish, bike and canoe. But despite a long history of bipartisan support, Governor Walker's proposed budget would freeze the Stewardship Program until 2028. This unprecedented action would jeopardize the lands that make Wisconsin so special for the citizens of Wisconsin and for Wisconsin's economy. Learn more about the Stewardship Program at conservationvoters.org/issues/protecting-wisconsin-land/

Natural resource management

Wisconsin has always been a leader in conservation, in large part because Aldo Leopold created the Natural Resources Board to be the citizens' voice for our natural resources. The board, made up of well-informed citizens from across the state, helps the DNR set scientifically sound natural resource management policies. Governor Walker's proposed budget would strip the Natural Resources Board of its authority and make it advisory only, fundamentally changing Wisconsin's long-standing citizen-engaged natural resource management style.

Water

In recent years, we've seen attacks on the ability of local communities to protect water quality from runoff associated with frac sand mines and factory farms and attempts to limit our ability to protect groundwater from overuse. As pressures from pollution and overuse continue to grow, local communities need to be able to rely on local governments to protect their drinking water, lakes, rivers and streams. We need to ensure that state lawmakers do not take away their local decision-making authority. Learn more about local control by going to conservationvoters.org.

History of Conservation Lobby Day

Since the first Conservation Lobby Day in 2005, the event has grown from 100 citizens to more than 600. In that time, it has earned a reputation as the preeminent advocacy event of Wisconsin's conservation community. Time and again, Conservation Lobby Day proves that when citizens come together to make their conservation values known, legislators listen, and conservation victories soon follow.

Past Conservation Lobby Days have been followed by important policy victories, such as passage of the Strong Great Lakes Compact, reauthorization of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund, and an increase in landfill tipping fees to deter out-of-state waste.

We look forward to another powerful, effective and fun Conservation Lobby Day in 2015. See you on April 14th!

Wisconsin Women's Fly Fishing Clinics



Presented by Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited
http://www.swtu.org/wffc_womens_clinics.html
<https://www.facebook.com/SWTUWomensClinic>

BY WOMEN FOR WOMEN BASICS CLINIC

June 19 - 21, 2015

Learn how to choose proper equipment, tie knots, cast, read water, select the proper fly and time on the water. You will learn new tactics, regardless of your level of ability. Equipment available for use.

ON THE WATER SKILLS INTERMEDIATE CLINIC

June 17-18, 2015

Personalized instruction streamside. Tune up workshops by women instructors to refresh skills in casting, matching the hatch & reading the water. Fish WI finest trout streams with experienced anglers.



Location

Avalanche, WI (near Viroqua, in Wisconsin's Driftless Area)

Cost

\$195 until April 1st
\$225 after (+ reg fee)

For more information please visit the links above.

Registration: <https://www.regonline.com/builder/site/?eventid=1577962>
<https://www.regonline.com/builder/site/?eventid=1577961>

Council bestows awards at annual banquet

The Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited honored 15 individuals, one chapter and one corporate supporter at the annual banquet in Oshkosh February 7. The council has been presenting awards since 1984. Thanks go out to Todd Hanson for overseeing the banquet awards committee and for assembling and editing the following award narratives. Other award committee members include Kim McCarthy, Bill Heart, Henry Koltz, Linn Beck, Mike Kuhr and Todd Franklin.

Henry Koltz: Resource Award of Merit

Our Resource Award of Merit is reserved for someone who has made outstanding contributions to our natural resources. This year Henry Koltz received Wisconsin TU's highest award for his untiring work on behalf of our coldwater resources.

Henry's key role in the resurgence of the Southeastern Wisconsin chapter has been well documented. Having very few trout streams in his chapter area, Henry spent countless hours working with other chapters that were rich in streams, but lacked people power. By developing partnerships with these chapters, restoration has been done on many, many miles of trout streams.

This work was noted by TU National while Henry was SEWTU chapter president when SEWTU was named 2009 TU National Chapter of the Year at TU's 50th anniversary celebration in Michigan.

Henry has been very active with the State Council for a number of years. On becoming state council chair two years ago, he changed the complexion of our council by developing a much stronger committee structure for our organization. The new committee structure has led to many more people being involved with TU at the council level. Henry also serves on our banquet and awards committees.

Henry has used his legal background to assist the council in water-related court cases. His pro bono legal efforts allowed the State Council to participate in the famous Lake Beulah groundwater case, and he was instrumental in fighting the proposed high-capacity well on Copper Creek.

What may turn out to be one of Henry's crowning successes was his bulldog approach to developing the

Wisconsin TU license plate bill that the state legislature recently passed. Henry spent countless hours talking to legislative committees, lobbyists, legislators, and legislative staffers to get the bill passed. Many of his critical legislative contacts were made shortly after he had major hip surgery. During his recovery period, he could frequently be seen roaming the halls of the state capitol in his walker.

The income from the sale of TU license plates will provide funds for the State Council to continue our work to conserve, protect and restore Wisconsin's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds for many years to come.

When Henry has a vision of something that needs to be accomplished for the betterment of TU, there is no stopping him until his goal is achieved. For this reason, Henry received our Resource Award of Merit.

Stu Grimstad: Joan and Lee Wulff Award for Outstanding Conservation Leadership

Noted angler Lee Wulff is famous for saying, "Game fish are too valuable to be caught 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 one year later. This year Tina Murray has returned the award so it can spend a year with Stu Grimstad of the Frank Hornberg Chapter.

It is fair to say that if you are working with others to improve central Wisconsin trout streams, you know Stu. Consider the following. Stu was a founding member and past president of our Frank Hornberg Chapter. Stu helped start the Friends of the Tomorrow/Waupaca River organization and has served as its vice president for years. Stu helped start the Friends of the Little Plover River group. Stu is a member of the River Alliance of Wisconsin. Stu has worked with the Buena Vista Drainage District to come up with more trout-friendly management practices. And finally, Stu recently spent countless hours assembling alternatives to relicensing the Amherst dam on the Tomorrow River in hopes that the river could become free-flowing.

That's a lot of organizing and coordinating. But Stu also gets into the water in the true spirit of Trout Unlimited. Stu has helped secure

nearly two miles of easements on the Tomorrow River below Nelsonville since 1999. He has been in waders jetting posts and laying stringers to restore that reach ever since. A cabinet maker by trade, if you think you can't join a plank to within a quarter of an inch tolerance using a chain saw, you haven't worked with Stu.

Given all this, it should not surprise you that Stu has also been a trainer and mentor for his chapter's annual fly-fishing clinic. Many of those former students now look to the water for relaxation and renewal. We expect one of them to someday be up here accepting this award.

Doug Brown: Gold Trout Award

Over the years, Wisconsin TU chapters have been able to count on financial assistance from two State Council programs. Since 1990 our Friends of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited program provided seed money, often \$2,000 per chapter, for habitat projects.

Our newer Watershed Access Fund provides grants to help buy land or easements that secure angler access to trout streams. The impact of these programs is felt statewide, and both programs have been led in recent years by Doug Brown, the winner of our Gold Trout Award.



AWARD WINNERS KOLTZ, GRIMSTAD AND BROWN

Past Council Chair Henry Koltz receives the Resource Award of Merit from Kim McCarthy (lower left). Stu Grimstad (above) received the Joan and Lee Wulff Award for Outstanding Conservation Leadership. Doug Brown (below) received the Gold Trout Award





NORTHWOODS CHAPTER AND SELIGMAN HONORED

Accepting the Silver Trout Award for Chapter Merit for the Northwoods Chapter were Terry Cummings and Michael Koltz (above). Long-time Council Banquet MC David Seligman received the Gold Net Award (right)

So successful have Doug's efforts been that every worthy grant application was funded this past year. Under Doug's watch, a grant has never been denied due to lack of funding. In plain terms, Doug has made sure that Wisconsin's chapters have been able to get their stream projects off of the ground and into the water.

Doug is incredibly modest and will undoubtedly claim that he deserves no thanks. The simple fact is that the countless anglers who can access streams and take advantage of improved waters beg to differ. Likewise, Wisconsin's chapters who use stream restoration projects to generate chapter momentum beg to differ. Doug's impact, and the impact of the programs he leads, has simply been profound.

Northwoods Chapter: Silver Trout Award for Chapter Merit

Our 2015 Silver Trout Award was given to the Northwoods Chapter for their continuing work to conserve, protect and restore Wisconsin's coldwater fisheries.

For the past 40 years the Northwoods Chapter has hosted a successful banquet to help raise funds for coldwater conservation in the north woods. The majority of the proceeds from this year's banquet have been donated to the U.S. Forest Service to hire a full-time field person to help restore streams in the Chequamegon and Nicolet national forests.

Each summer a dozen or so Northwoods volunteers partner with the Forest Service and the DNR to host workdays focused mainly on the Deerskin and Brule rivers.

Northwoods recently developed a simple online survey asking members why they joined TU. By increasing consistent communications, Northwoods' membership committee has increased member participation in meetings and events over the past three years. In addition to increasing membership, they have hosted a Youth Conclave for 19 consecutive years to teach young people ages 10-16 the fine art of fly fishing and conservation.

Recently Northwoods TU hosted four programs to introduce wounded veterans to the sport of fly fishing. They did this by partnering with Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing and the Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center in Iron Mountain, Mich-

igan. The chapter is exploring the possibility of repeating their efforts at the VA Medical Center in Rhinelander in 2015.

The Northwoods Chapter's leadership and members have been very supportive of the State Council by being involved with council meetings, providing donations for our annual banquet, and attending the northeast regional meetings.

The State Council is proud to honor the Northwoods Chapter as this year's recipient of the Silver Trout Award for Chapter Merit.

David Seligman: Gold Net Award

When it comes to cold water, Wisconsin TU has always had one voice. Anyone attending a State Council banquet in recent years might assume that that deep voice belongs to David Seligman. That is because Dave has been gracious enough to volunteer his services as MC for our banquets for a number of years now. Dave is this year's Gold Net Award winner.

More than just volunteering to talk, however, David has been a key player at our banquets. He has set banquet timelines, managed when live auctions will occur, worked up scripts for major prizes, and encouraged bids. David's efforts have helped make our banquet a well-run event that generates a good amount of money to fund our State Council.

But David's MC efforts don't start and end with the State Council. David was responsible for running the banquet prize auction at TU National's annual meeting when it was held in Madison. He was responsible for contacting vendors and assembling an array of prizes, and his work was outstanding. All this produced a very significant fundraising effort that benefitted the State Council.

David's efforts on behalf of Wisconsin TU exemplify what makes our council great. He has a skill set that includes being a fine speaker, so he steps forward and does that. In this respect, Dave is an example of what so many others do for our council: They donate their unique skills, time and effort to see that our vision becomes a reality.

The council is thankful for all those who volunteer their skills for our cause. We are particularly thankful for David Seligman and all that he has done on our behalf.



Jim Wierzba and Stan Strelka: Most Unsung Valuable Trout Award

For nearly a decade, two individuals have helped transform Wisconsin Trout Unlimited's annual banquets into very effective fundraising events. Those individuals are Jim Wierzba and Stan Strelka, both members of the Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter. Tonight Stan and Jim are co-winners of our Most Unsung Valuable Trout Award.

As most regular banquet attendees have noticed, the quantity and quality of prizes available at the State Council banquet have risen substantially over the past several years. Jim and Stan spend a lot of time before each banquet procuring prizes, traveling to vendors and working out significant discounts on the council's behalf.

Along with there being more prizes, the quality of prizes has risen as well. Organizing and cataloging these prizes has become a bigger and bigger job. Thankfully, both Jim and Stan have been up to the task. Jim and Stan have a knack for knowing which prizes should be placed in a bucket raffle, which ones will work in a silent auction, and which ones deserve a special raffle or live auction.

On the day of the banquet, Jim and Stan spend hours accepting, organizing, labeling and setting out the prizes. During the event they sell tickets, work tables and sell individual special raffle tickets. Finally, Jim and Stan, much to everyone's relief, worked out the system we now use where rather than announcing the winners of dozens of prizes, winning tickets are posted on a board. That one thing alone has greatly sped up our banquets.

Jim and Stan have taken on a job with a great deal of stress and confusion, and despite that, they make everything come together and seem effortless. Wisconsin TU is proud to thank Jim and Stan, two of our most valuable unsung troutiers.

Wisconsin Orvis stores: Corporate Sponsor Award

Trout Unlimited is in the midst of an effort to double our total membership. That, to be sure, is a tall order. The result, however, will be increased clout and increased capabilities with regard to our mission. With more members, we can buy more stream access, do more stream restoration, provide more youth education, mentor more military veterans, and do more public outreach.



MOST UNSUNG VALUABLE TROUTIERS

Jim Wierzba and Stan Strelka received the Most Unsung Valuable Trout Awards for their years of efforts organizing the banquet.

More State Council awards

In our efforts to expand our membership, Wisconsin TU has had no greater partner than Wisconsin's Orvis stores, the winner of this year's Corporate Sponsor Award. At each Orvis store, Flyfishing 101 classes are held, at which TU members and chapters serve as instructors and leaders. All class participants are given a free TU membership. The result has been many new members, new future leaders and the possibility for even greater chapter growth.

In addition, Wisconsin's Orvis stores have been strong supporters of Wisconsin TU's women's initiative. Orvis has hosted women's events that involve new and diverse members in our organization. Wisconsin TU is, quite simply, a better organization when it is more diverse. Orvis has been a significant contributor to such efforts, and has our thanks.

Finally, Orvis has offered meeting space and event hosting for some of our chapters. Some Orvis employees are frequent speakers and contributors at our chapter meetings and events. In Southeast Wisconsin, for example, Orvis employees regularly help lead the chapter's annual casting clinic. The Milwaukee Orvis store also leads large youth education events along the Illinois border.

Wisconsin TU depends on solid partners such as Orvis, and we are thankful for their contributions and efforts on our behalf. We are proud to honor Orvis as our corporate partner of the year.

Linn Beck, Bob Haase, and Todd Templin: Tomorrow's Anglers Award

Since much of the work done by Trout Unlimited revolves around education, our awards committee has decided to create a new award this year. The Tomorrow's Anglers Award will honor members who go above and beyond to educate members and nonmembers alike, be they youth, women, veterans or the elderly. The first winners of this award are Linn Beck, Bob Haase and Todd Templin for their recent work organizing two high-impact youth education events last year.

Linn Beck and Bob Haase

We'll speak first about Linn and Bob for the daunting task they took on of organizing and running the State Council's very first Youth Fishing Camp last July. Linn and Bob brought focused purpose and diplomatic leadership as co-chairs of the planning committee. They invited questions, comments and criticisms. They also kept volunteers focused on the task at hand. And they handled matters under discussion with patience and courtesy.

Linn and Bob's pre-planning for the Youth Camp covered fundraising, location scouting, rooming arrangements, transportation, permission forms, recruiting volunteers, curriculum development, safety and student sign-up. Linn and Bob wanted the very first Wisconsin TU youth fishing camp to be an amazing experience for everyone involved, and they succeeded.

But it's not just for this year's

Youth Camp that Linn and Bob are being honored. They have both been involved with the annual Wisconsin Outdoor Expo in Beaver Dam ever since it started. That event serves more than 3,000 youth each year, and many thousands of youngsters have left the TU tent proudly holding a fly they tied while sitting next to Linn or Bob.

Wisconsin TU is a stronger organization because of Linn and Bob's work. By bringing the vision of a Youth Fishing Camp to reality, they have opened a door for the next generation of Wisconsin TU members.

Todd Templin

Our third Tomorrow's Anglers Award goes to Todd Templin of the Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter.

This past summer, Todd led the State Council's sponsorship of the 2014 Teen Summit, a yearly event put on by TU National. The Teen Summit is a competitive entry camp. An application process is used to select exceptionally high-quality students who demonstrate an interest in coldwater conservation. The students come from across the country, and the event is a showcase for the hosting council. These are students who have the potential to become future leaders within TU.

Todd led the Wisconsin Council's effort to host this event. He secured volunteers to take kids fishing and staff a welcome barbecue. He also scouted fishing locations and worked with TU National staff to coordinate transportation. Todd and the Nohr Chapter also planned and put on a stream restoration workday for the students.

Todd even went so far as to secure Driftless Area fossils, which were taken home by campers so that they could remember their time here in Wisconsin. Due in large part to Todd's efforts, the event was a glowing success, and Wisconsin's event has set the bar very high for future Teen Summits.

Tracy Hames: Robert Hunt Resource Professional Award

Two years ago we saw the passing of Bob Hunt, Wisconsin's internationally recognized DNR trout researcher and one of the founders of our Wisconsin State Council. To honor Bob, the awards committee has added his name to our Resource Professional Award recognizing people whose job it is to improve coldwater resources. This year we recognized two people, the first of



CORPORATE SPONSOR, RESOURCE PROFESSIONAL, TOMORROW'S ANGLERS AWARD WINNERS

Eric Helm accepts the Corporate Sponsor Award for Wisconsin Orvis Stores from Henry Koltz (above).

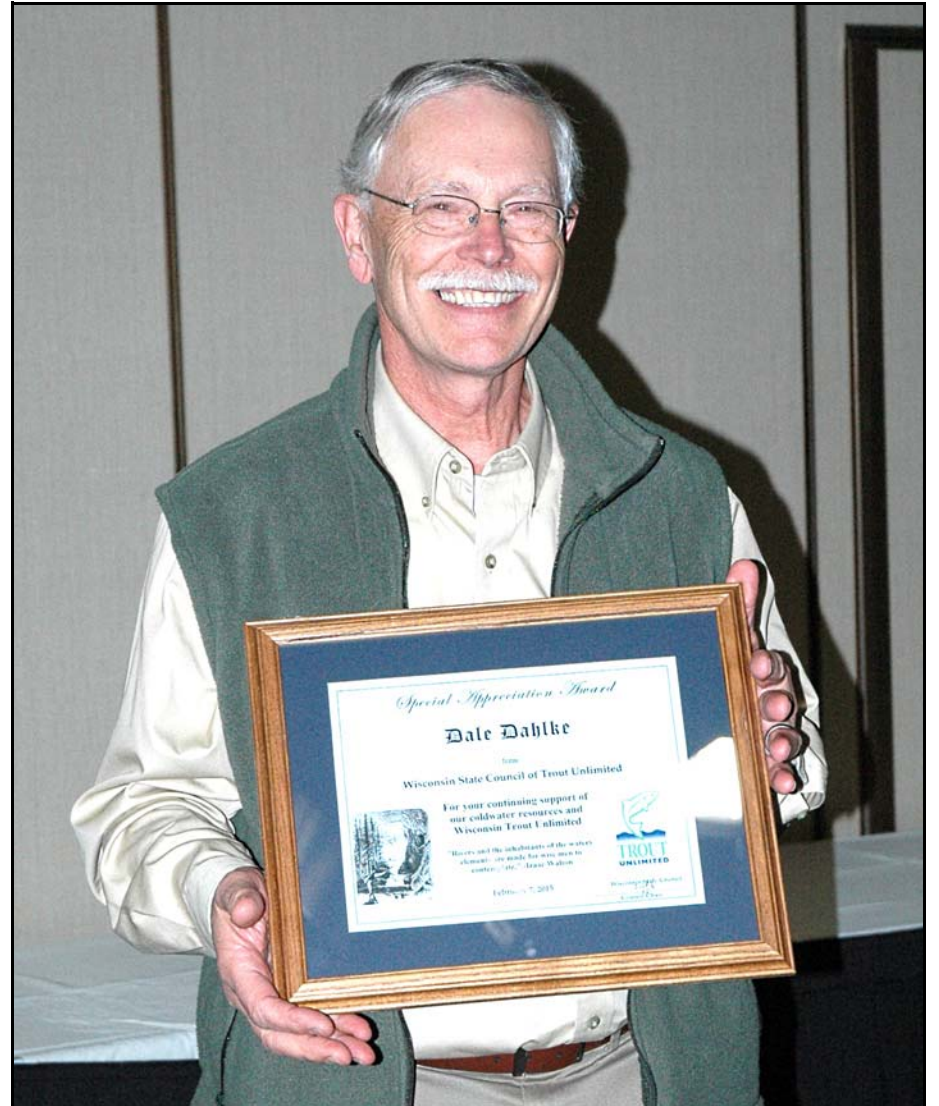
Executive Director Tracy Hames of the Wisconsin Wetlands Association (top right photo) received the Robert Hunt Resource Professional Award.

A new award entitled Tomorrow's Anglers Award, was bestowed upon Todd Templin, Linn Beck and Bob Haase. (right)





TONY PILLOW, DALE DAHLKE RECOGNIZED
 NRCS Technician Tony Pillow (above) received the Robert Hunt Resource Professional Award, while Dale Dahlke earned a Certificate of Appreciation.



whom is Tracy Hames.

Tracy became the Executive Director of the Wisconsin Wetlands Association in 2011 after spending 20 years as a waterfowl biologist for the Yakima Nation in Washington State. While there, Tracy restored 21,000 acres of wetland, riparian and grassland habitats. In doing so, he gained a deep understanding of how wetlands, rivers and streams function at the watershed scale. He brought that knowledge to Wisconsin and has been sharing it tirelessly ever since.

You'll find Tracy traveling the state in his Chevy Tahoe, often on his own time and dime, educating Wisconsin citizens about the role of wetlands in watersheds. In the last year alone, he delivered talks in more than 20 communities.

Using the wetlands of the Penokee Hills as an example, his talks have emphasized how headwater wetlands benefit our coldwater resources and the health of downstream waters. His love and respect for these resources shines through, leaving audiences with a greater appreciation of the importance of wetlands.

While skilled at the podium, Tracy truly shines in the field. He shares his knowledge generously, giving dozens of public and private tours each year. Whether he's educating people about the mine, delivering general talks about the role of wetlands and watersheds, or providing direct advice to wetland landowners, Tracy is always available and enthusiastic about promoting the need for wetland conservation. Our wetlands, trout streams and other waters are better off because of his efforts.

Tony Pillow: Robert Hunt Resource Professional Award

Our second Robert Hunt Resource Professional Award went to Natural Resources Conservation Service Soil Conservation Technician Tony Pillow.

While in Iowa County, Tony worked on Big Spring, Blue River, Harker Creek, Gordon Creek and other streams, helping local TU chapters contact landowners and ac-

quire permits.

In Juneau County, Tony plans to restore and enhance 2,000 feet on the Little Lemonweir River in 2015. He will also be providing his design experience to a project on One Mile Creek south of Mauston.

Tony's project design skills are now on display at the well-known Bear Creek project in Sauk County, and his ability to secure funding sources has literally paid for the majority of this large-scale project.

Tony has a natural way with people, and landowners seem very comfortable working with him. This caring attitude allows him to get along with people from all walks of life, as anyone who has met Tony can attest to.

Tony is a "get out and get dirty" type of guy. During the Bear Creek project, you would often find him on the site, performing surveys and overseeing construction. Tony was there at every LUNKER-building day these past four years, dripping sweat and swinging a maul, with his wife at his side.

The Robert Hunt Resource Professional Award could not go to a more deserving person than Tony Pillow.

Dale Dahlke: Certificate of Appreciation

Following a career as a biology educator, counselor and coach, Dale Dahlke of the Wisconsin Clear Waters Chapter is now putting his skills to use in furthering the mission of Trout Unlimited. For his ongoing work, we want to recognize him with a certificate of appreciation.

Dale has regularly conducted training sessions in fly casting and fly fishing for youth and other groups. Students have come from middle and high schools, UW-Stout, and other environmental groups. His skills as an educator are also apparent in presentations Dale conducts on conservation of coldwater resources, entomology, identification of invasive plants, prairie restoration and ichthyology.

Dale also volunteers for and coordinates physical work to assist in the restoration of trout streams, the removal of river barriers and prairie

restorations.

In conclusion, Dale has demonstrated a willingness to donate his expertise, along with plenty of time and effort, to improve trout fishing and coldwater resources. We thank him tonight with a certificate of appreciation.

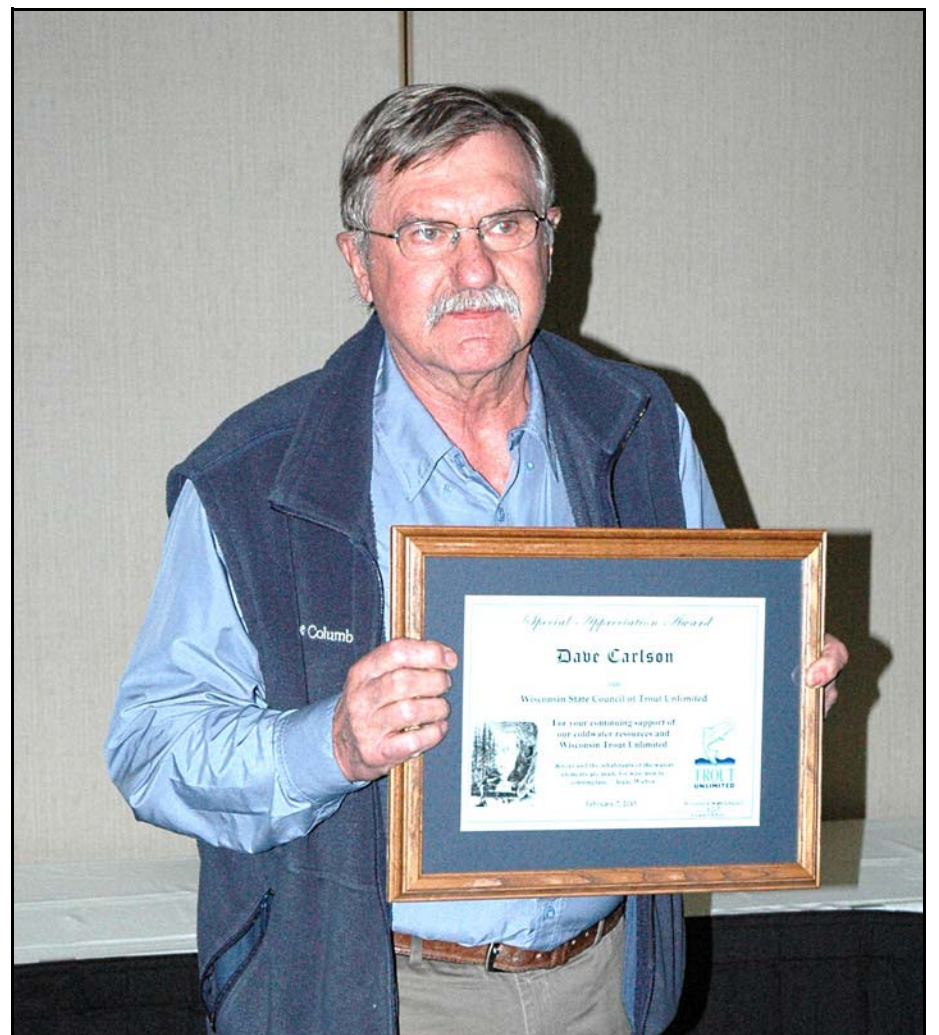
Dave Carlson: Certificate of Appreciation

Dave Carlson from Eau Claire is one of our state's best-known outdoor broadcasters. For the past 34 years, he has produced award-winning weekly outdoors shows covering fishing, hunting, resource protection and policy. For his shows,

including "Northland Adventures," "Northland Journal" and "TV-13 Outdoors," he wrote and produced more than 1,700 segments. "Northland Adventures" was seen on 23 stations in a dozen states.

Dave is known for the quality and, when necessary, the hard-hitting nature of his coverage of resource issues. Dave confronted policymakers and others when the story required it, and he never pulled his punches. He is respected for that work, as well as for his excellent coverage of the outdoor activities cherished by outdoors people.

Dave's love of coldwater resource issues led him to produce many stories about TU and our



DAVE CARLSON RECEIVES CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION
 Outdoor broadcaster Dave Carlson was recognized for his 34 years of producing award-winning weekly shows that often dealt with environmental issues of importance to TU.



Heidi Oberstadt

EACH CHAPTER CHOSE AN “UNsung HERO” TO BE RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR CHAPTER EFFORTS

Linda Anderson, Wolf River; Linda Lehman, Wisconsin River Valley; Jeff Preiss, Lakeshore (accepted by Gordy Martin); Scott Allen, Aldo Leopold; Terry Cummings, Northwoods; Joe Bach, Fox River Valley; John Vollrath, Frank Hornberg; Ron Machajewski, Blackhawk; Mike Schaefer, Central Wisconsin; Aaron Frailing, Green Bay; Gordon Grieshaber, Harry and Laura Nohr; Jerry Weatherwax, Shaw-Paca; Dan Sumnicht, Oconto River; Dick Berge, Wild Rivers; Rick Frye, Southeastern Wisconsin; Tim Meyer, Wisconsin Clear Waters; Not pictured: Patrick Hasburgh, Southern Wisconsin; Curt Rees, Coulee Region;

work on streams, advocacy and education. His was a major voice in getting the word out about the value of healthy streams and the need for people to speak and work for them.

Dave's peers respect his work as well. Dave has received more than 40 "Excellence in Craft" awards from the Outdoor Writers Association of America. He has also received honors from the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, and in 2008 he was named TU National's Conservation Communicator of the Year.

Outside the field of communications, Dave has worked hard to advance conservation. He was a founding member of the Chippewa Valley Chapter of Pheasants Forever, was instrumental in developing the 1,000-acre Hallie Marsh Wildlife Area near Chippewa Falls, and led an effort to organize the Eau Claire County Stewardship Program.

Dave retired in 2014, but he continues to write for state and regional outdoor publications.

lars. In short, Wisconsin TU chapters know how to effectively leverage their investments.

Over the past two years, Wisconsin TU has been fortunate to receive the assistance of Rep. Jim Ott of Mequon to further these efforts. Ott drafted and sponsored bills to award Wisconsin TU a fundraising license plate. These efforts culminated this past fall when Assembly Bill 173 was passed and signed into law.

People can now buy a license plate to show they support TU, whose work transcends political divisions. That is something all Wisconsin residents can applaud.

Passing a bill is not easy. Many fail. In fact, most fail. Wisconsin TU is very aware of this fact. We could not be more thankful that Ott stood behind our group and led the bill he authored to passage. The council proudly recognizes Rep. Ott for his efforts on our behalf.

Jim Ott: Certificate of Appreciation

As our members know, Wisconsin TU performs an incredible amount of volunteer service each year. That service includes in-stream habitat restoration work, children's education events, working with U.S. military veterans and performing community outreach.

When tallied, the volunteer labor and cash contributions associated with such activities measures in the millions of dollars. Wisconsin TU's streamwork is always performed where there is full public access, which in turn attracts anglers, which in turn helps create a total economic impact that has been measured in billions of dol-

Brandon Scholz: Certificate of Appreciation

In addition to the incredible efforts on our behalf by Rep. Ott, our license plate bill may not have come to fruition without the efforts of Southern Wisconsin TU member Brandon Scholz.

Scholz works for the Capital Group in Madison. Well known to legislators and their staffs, he donated his efforts and considerable talents to help ensure that our bill got on the radar of the Wisconsin Legislature.

Notably, Scholz diverted time from his already full schedule to educate our State Council's officers about what would be required

to pass our bill. He also discussed how and when we should make contact with legislators.

In addition, he took time to meet with key legislators alongside Wisconsin TU officers as we pushed for passage of our bill. He traveled to the capitol on numerous occasions and spent hour upon hour there on our behalf.

One of the things that makes Wisconsin TU incredible is that we are all volunteers. We have no paid staff, and we depend on the generosity of individuals like Scholz who believe in our mission. Shepherding a bill to passage through the legislature is no easy task. It requires incredible commitment, a strong legislator be-

hind the bill and countless contacts from citizen supporters. All of that work requires coordination and a leader. In this instance, that leader was Brandon Scholz, and Wisconsin TU is thankful for his efforts on our behalf.

Soon, license plates will adorn vehicles from Ashland to Beloit and everywhere in between. All of those plates will feature a leaping brook trout and the TU logo. TU will be more visible as an organization, and we'll have a solid funding source for years to come. For that, we thank those who authored, sponsored, and helped see our bill to passage. At the front of that effort was Brandon Scholz.



www.FontanaSports.com

Check out our Fly Fishing Classes



Gear up with Fontana Sports for your spring Trout and Steelhead adventures.

High Quality Equipment & Clothing for Travel & Adventure Sports

231 Junction Road
Madison, WI 53717
608.833.9191



MIKE'S SERVICE AT LANGLADE

JUNCTION OF HWY. 55 AND 64



Fly Shop & Sporting Goods

Need a special pattern? Ask Mike!

• Custom Tied Flies •

MICHAEL & ALICE KLIMOSKI
Owners

(715) 882-8901
4505 STATE ROAD 55
WHITE LAKE, WISCONSIN 54491

2015 State Council Banquet a huge success

By Kim McCarthy, Banquet Committee Chair

“What a great evening,” was a phrase we heard a lot from guests who attended the 2015 State Council Banquet. And there were plenty of guests. Attendance was great, with 215 people being served dinner.

By virtually any measurement — fun, good company, good prizes, good food and successful fundraising — the February 7 State Council Banquet was a success. Treasurer Gary Stoychoff reported that we raised more than \$19,000. TU members and friends from every corner of Wisconsin came together to honor the Unsung Heroes from Wisconsin chapters, as well as a deserving group of WITU award winners. And their contributions help the State Council continue to be a leading advocate for clean water and smart trout management. State Council leadership thanks to all of you who attended.

This kind of successful event doesn't come together without hard work donated by many people. The banquet committee was incredible, and included Jim Wierzba, Bill Heart, Henry Koltz, Linn Beck, Mike Kuhr, Heidi Oberstadt and Todd Franklin. Each of the committee members ran an aspect of the banquet, and all were done flawlessly.

Our donors came through in a big way this year. Thanks go out to the many chapters who made donations of flies, equipment or cash. A number of individuals contributed prizes for the event. Most notable were creations from Dan Holland, Randy Arnold and Virgel Beck, each of which raised a significant amount of funding for the State Council. Our prize package was tremendous, totaling over \$18,000 in value, and it simply would not be possible for the council to assemble that kind of prize package without a huge amount of help from our chapters and the individuals who care greatly for the work that we do.

I also want to thank the many people who perform so many tasks on the day of the banquet. Their efforts are critical to making an event like this run smoothly. Whether they were staffing the entry tables, setting up the prizes, checking out prize winners, selling tickets for the buckets or card raffles, or

demonstrating how to tie some very nice flies, we had an enthusiastic group willing to donate their time. That group consisted of Stan Strelka, Paul Kruse, Mike San Dretto, Mike Kuhr, Jen Kuhr, Aaron Frailing, Aaron Karst, Tom Lager, Rich Erickson, Chris Northway, Gary Stoychoff, Amy Snyder, Nikki Benishek, Matt Salchert, Bob Haase, Dick Berge, and Mark Rhiner-son.

Bob Haase again took charge of making sure that the chapters had fly boxes to fill. Once again those boxes produced significant income for the council.

We also have a very generous group of donors that provide auctions prizes. Guided trips from Wendy and Larry Mann, Damion Wilmot, Patrick Hager, Charlie Piette, and Duke Welter, as well as a beautiful carving by Jerry Landwehr, all became highly sought after prizes in the auction. These donations are greatly appreciated and raise a good deal of funding for trout work.

The awards program has become the highlight of the evening. Wisconsin Trout Unlimited has become a force in the conservation community because of the incredible efforts of many of our members, conservation professionals, corporate sponsors and others. Honoring them gives the State Council a chance to show our appreciation for their efforts. Meanwhile, awards ceremony speaker Steve Born always adds a humorous touch to the event, and we hope he'll continue entertaining us in the years to come.

A key to any banquet's success is having an accomplished master of ceremonies, and we have been blessed to have the best. David Seligman has been our MC for a number of years and his work is much appreciated.

If you missed the 2015 State Council Banquet, please join us on Saturday, Feb. 6, 2016. We will return to the Oshkosh Waterfront Hotel and Convention Center for the third year. The 2016 event planning is already under way to assure another great evening. If you'd like to get involved with the banquet planning committee, contact me at kmccarthy2@new.rr.com.

Past State Council Chair Kim McCarthy has served for several years as the Banquet Committee Chair. He is also starting his term on TU's National Leadership Council.

Hearings

Continued from page 1

voices be heard, and that we exercise our right to vote on these issues.

These hearings sometimes take time, but the trout issues are expected to come up early.

The meetings will be held at 7 p.m. in every county. For more information go to <http://dnr.wi.gov/About/WCC/springhearing.html>

QUESTIONS 11-13. Trout regulation package

Please vote on your support for each overall trout proposal. If you have comments on individual streams or regulations, please give the department feedback on the Fisheries Comment Cards.

The department has conducted a review over the past four years of Wisconsin's inland trout fishing regulations using input from trout anglers and fisheries biologists. Through public stakeholder meetings and surveys, the department reached out to trout anglers and the broader community to better understand the public's perceptions and desires for trout angling opportunities in Wisconsin. The department has reviewed the public and scientific input to develop new regulation proposals that address the following goals: (1) retain or improve traditional opportunities for quality trout fishing, (2) expand seasonal fishing opportunities for all anglers, and (3) simplify regulations.

Proposed statewide and regional fisheries management rule changes

QUESTION 11. Inland lake and pond seasons, length limits, and daily bag limits

Wisconsin has “put-and-take” lakes and ponds in which trout are stocked but are not expected to live through the following winter. This does not include spring ponds which drain to streams. The put-and-take lakes are typically stocked annually with the majority of stocked trout being caught by anglers shortly after the season opens. Seasons on all lakes and ponds currently have various opening and closing dates.

Length and bag limits also vary across the state. To simplify regulations for lakes, including stocked put-and-take lakes, the department proposes (1) an open season from the first Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March, which matches the general game fish open season, and (2) a daily bag limit and length limit that matches the base regulation of the lake's county. County base regulations will either allow 5 trout of any length to be kept per day or allow 3 trout to be kept per day if they are at least 8 inches. A small number of lakes will have special regulations that differ from their county base regulation.

11. For lakes and ponds, including put-and-take lakes and ponds stocked with trout, do you favor a statewide open season from the first Saturday in May to the first Sunday in March, which matches the general game fish open season, and a daily bag and size limit that matches the county base regulation?

QUESTION 12. Inland stream seasons

The current general open season for trout fishing runs from the first Saturday in May to September 30. Many trout streams also have an early catch and release season that runs from the first Saturday in March to the Sunday preceding the first Saturday in May. To address the goal of expanding seasonal trout fishing opportunities and to reduce confusion about the 5-day closure between the early and general seasons, we propose expanding the early catch and release season on waters where it currently exists to begin on the first Saturday in January and extending to the Friday preceding the first Saturday in May. This would eliminate the 5-day closure prior to the general open season for trout fishing.

In addition, to further address the goal of expanding seasonal trout fishing opportunities, we propose to extend the regular general trout fishing season to October 15 on all inland streams. Extending the season by two weeks to October 15 will provide more opportunities for catching or harvesting trout without impacting spawning or generating

user conflicts along streams. (This proposal would be effective January 1, 2016.)

12. Do you favor expanding seasonal trout fishing opportunities on inland streams by:

- beginning the early catch and release season (on streams where it currently exists) on the first Saturday in January and ending on the Friday preceding the first Saturday in May, and

- extending the end of the trout open season by two weeks from September 30 to October 15?

Question 13. Inland stream length limits and daily bag limits

To address the goals of retaining or improving traditional opportunities for quality trout fishing and simplifying regulations, the department reduced the number of regulation categories that will be applied to Wisconsin's trout streams. Management goals for the regulations vary, but include allowing additional harvest opportunities, improving the range of sizes of trout, protecting species from harvest in some waters, and expanding opportunities to catch trophy-sized trout in other waters.

- Green category: no minimum length limit; daily bag limit of 5
- Yellow category: 8-inch minimum length limit; daily bag limit of 3
- Red category: special regulations; length, bag and possession limits vary by water. Special regulations categories would be reduced from about 40 to about 10, including the following:
 - 10 trout of any size may be kept per day
 - 5 trout may be kept per day, brown and rainbow trout may be any size and brook trout must be less than 9 inches
 - 5 trout may be kept per day, brown and rainbow trout may be any size and all brook trout shall be immediately released
 - 5 trout may be kept per day only if they are less than 12 inches
 - 3 trout may be kept per day only if they are less than 12 inches

- 3 trout may be kept per day, brown and rainbow trout must be at least 12 inches and brook trout must be at least 8 inches
- 2 trout may be kept per day if they are at least 12 inches
- 1 trout may be kept per day if it is at least 14 inches
- 1 trout may be kept per day if it is at least 18 inches
- All trout caught shall be immediately released

The total daily bag limit (combined daily limit of all waters fished) of trout from inland waters will be five in total, but only 2 may be lake trout, except as listed in specific waters

13. Do you favor the proposed changes to inland trout regulations that pertain to size limits and bag limits as listed above in order to improve opportunities for quality trout fishing and simplify regulations?



Elevate your fly fishing to a new level. The Original BlueSky Furred Leader. Sizes for all fish & fishing conditions. BlueSky - the leader in furred leaders.™

FurredLeaders.com

BlueSky@netnet.net • Ph/Fax 920-822-5396

1237 Yurek Rd., Pulaski WI 54162 USA

Early season: Don't run from the runoff

By Mark Pavlovich

That moment we have all been waiting for: Trout season is open. Some years the temps outside will remain in the lower teens with piles of snow showing no signs of surrendering. Other years the melt comes quickly and the transition to spring is swift and unyielding. In either situation, fishing for trout can present a number of challenges.

By fishing with intent, planning your days and knowing what kind of flies to use, the problem posed by melting snow and ushered in rains (or lack thereof) becomes more of an inconvenience than a detriment to fly fishermen.

Watch the weather

The first habit to develop in the early season is to watch the weather closely. Now, this may seem like a no-brainer at first, but getting to know the forecasted weather in a given week will help to reveal when you can expect to successfully be out on the water, as well as help to align an angler's expectation of success.

In those years when winter seems to be sitting tight and spring still seems like a dream, the angler can expect cold conditions and frozen fingers. This doesn't mean that fishing should be altogether abandoned, rather that one's effort should become more focused. Watch the weather forecast day to day, identify when the temps will be at their highest (often between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. this time of year)

and hit the water at those times. Fish will be concentrated in the deeper holes, so your efforts out in the cold should be focused on those spots, saving you from fishing every good-looking run and riffle along the way.

In years like the current one, when spring is eagerly awaiting transition, reading weather forecasts becomes a necessary tool in heading off the snow melt, which causes an increase in water flows and in areas of high agriculture and grazing, heavy discoloration (chocolate milk) and seemingly impossible fishing conditions. On these days it is best to fish before temperatures reach their highest and snow begins to melt. Often you can fish until stream visibility retreats to inches, in which case your fishing efforts on that piece of water are done for the day.

Headwaters and springs

But anglers who don't want to accept this reality, can drive to the headwaters of a given creek and often find clear water that has been unmolested by agricultural runoff, or where water flows seem more stable. Likewise, identifying natural spring feeder creeks in the early season is extremely beneficial in that it offers the angler clear, warmer (on average) fishable water, where oftentimes during periods of heavy melt trout will hold in until larger creeks reach full clarity once again.

In the early stages of seasonal transformation, warmer days, com-



Kyle Zempel

DARK STREAMERS HAVE THEIR PLACE IN SPRING

As snowmelt begins to dissipate and water temperature, flow and clarity all begin to reach stable levels, larger streamers will attract hungry trout.

plimented by cooler nights, means creeks that were muddy on a previous evening have reset back to ideal clarity as dropping overnight temps slow the progression of melting snow.

Next, not only is it imperative to know what the ambient conditions for the week will be, but also how that affects the water temps. Water will be cold in the early season no matter what, but as the temps begin to increase, overall fish become more active and overall fishing picks up dramatically. At certain temperature thresholds a change of even one to two degrees in water temperature can greatly affect the amount of action experienced by an angler at this time of year. Carry a thermometer on you at all times and keep track of changing water temps from one day to the next, even one section of stream to the next and how that correlates to your fishing experience.

Warming average water temps will also signal the ending of spring runoff and the stabilizing of streams in terms of flow and clarity. Again, spring-fed creeks will be warmer, on average, and clear, making them worthy of fishing attention during these periods of volatility. Warming water will also mean that trout are starting to spread out from deep holes and slow runs to riffles and seam water as they begin to start feeding. As water temps begin to change from the mid to upper 30's into the low to mid 40's, the angler can expect to see fairly dramatic changes in trout-feeding activity.

Fly selection

Finally, the question of what flies to use during this period of time comes into question. In cold, early season conditions I like small dark-colored (black, olive or natural hare) nymphs with a good bit of weight to them, fished deep and slow through holes where fish tend to concentrate at this time of year. With cold water, fish are sluggish, but they still have to eat to make it through. They are less likely to chase around for bigger meals which require more energy to hunt as well as to digest, so my best luck has been by concentrating on deep holes and using small dark nymphs to tease trout out of holes.

This may take persistent casting and drifting until you get your fly in just the right feeding lane as trout won't move far for food. As ambient temps increase and snow begins to melt, I like to fish brighter colors and flies with some flash, which can

help to cut through discolored water. Pink squirrels, zen scuds and flash-backed nymphs are all good go-to flies.

Last, as snowmelt begins to dissipate and water temperature, flow and clarity all begin to reach stable levels, I like to use larger flies to attract hungry trout. Black, olive or turkey leeches, zonker flies (black) or basically any other dark-profiled streamer should do well to attract trout. My most ideal condition at this point of the early season is water temperature in the mid 40's, where the water has a slight stain of dissipating spring melt.

In my experience, hungry trout that have successfully overwintered, and are now in more ideal feeding temperature water, are eager to move to larger streamers. Plop them into the water with an aggressive presentation in likely holds (outside seam water, eddies and long slow runs), strip and twitch them and more often than not fish will move to your fly and take it with aggression.

Early season hatches

One last thing to be aware of as this season progresses is the potential to get caught up in one of the early season's insect hatches. Blue-winged olives, midges and little black stoneflies are all among the first bugs to come off in the early season. I like to carry both emerging and adult patterns of all of these flies so that I am prepared in the event that they begin coming off while I am present.

The early season can be volatile and conditions are constantly changing. It can be cold, muddy and overall frustrating at times, but the early season should not be written off because of these factors. As anglers, we seek to be informed about fish habits and tendencies. If the same methods worked all season long, then much of our passionate pursuits might be lost.

Early season is a great opportunity to make you a more well-rounded, attentive angler, and to understand how certain conditions affect one another and which methods work best under them. It causes the angler to become more adaptive, something that is so necessary in this sport.

Kyle Zempel and Mark Pavlovich are with Black Earth Angling Co., which offers guided fishing for Driftless Area trout and Lower Wisconsin Riverway smallmouth. Reach them at BlackEarthAngling.com, letsfish@blackearthangling.com or 715-571-0807.



Black Earth Angling Co.

Take a walk with us.

Driftless Trout & LWR Smallmouth Guide Trips

Call: 715.571.0807

www.BlackEarthAngling.com



No mudsnail evidence beyond Black Earth Creek

MADISON, Wis. — Results from a multi-state environmental DNA sampling effort did not detect any genetic evidence of New Zealand mudsnails in Illinois, Iowa or Wisconsin outside of Black Earth Creek in Dane County, Wis.

The New Zealand mudsnail was found in Dane County's Black Earth Creek in 2013, which was the first appearance of the snail in the Midwest outside of the Great Lakes basin. Although they measure just one-eighth of an inch in length, New Zealand mudsnails multiply quickly and alter resources used by trout and other stream animals.

The discovery of the New Zealand mudsnail in a Midwest trout stream spurred aquatic invasive species program coordinators from all three states to develop a joint plan to identify the range of the invader. With the help of a \$30,000 grant from Mississippi River Basin Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species, the Wisconsin DNR was able to coordinate the collection of water samples across 45 sites in Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin.

The samples were then screened for traces of the snail's DNA by the U.S. Geological Survey Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center in La Crosse and the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

These genetic sampling techniques have been shown to be more sensitive in detecting rare organisms than conventional sampling methods.

Wisconsin DNR Aquatic Invasive Species Monitoring Coordinator Maureen Ferry said the project has provided a baseline understanding of the distribution of these snails.

"We can be reasonably confident that New Zealand mudsnail populations do not exist at the sites we sampled," said Ferry. "This tells us

that continued prevention efforts are worthwhile in trying to stop the spread of this harmful invader."

Ferry said the research also provided insight on the effective use of eDNA monitoring for invasive species in streams.

"We learned a great deal through this multi-state effort and continued to refine our eDNA techniques to augment traditional monitoring efforts," Ferry said. "Both methods combined greatly increased our ability to detect invasive species."

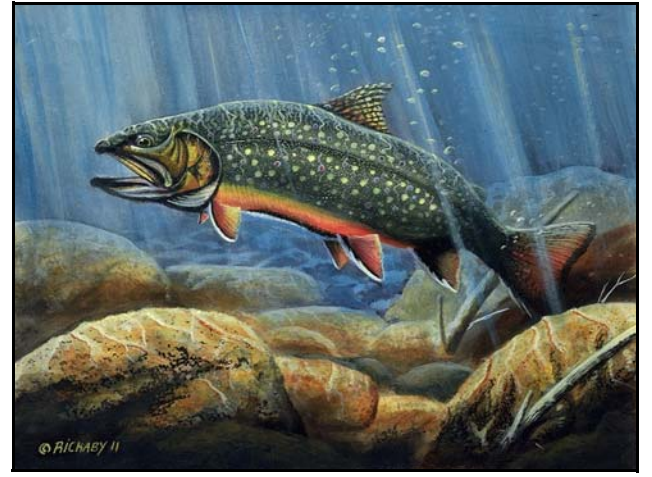
Aquatic invasive species program managers are encouraged by the results of the sampling effort. The limited distribution of New Zealand mudsnails in one stream in Wisconsin gives managers time to implement awareness campaigns to help water users prevent the spread of the snails outside of their known location.

"The Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers guidance of cleaning debris and draining water from gear are good first steps," said Bob Wakeman, aquatic invasive species program coordinator for the Wisconsin DNR. However, given the hardiness of these snails, additional steps are encouraged, including scrubbing gear with a brush to remove the hard-to-see snails, freezing gear or soaking it in hot, 120° F water.

"By taking these steps," said Wakeman, "all water users can protect Wisconsin waters from the impacts of invasive species."

To learn more, visit DNR.wi.gov and search "New Zealand mudsnail." For the complete USGS report on the eDNA monitoring project, visit <http://goo.gl/rZVh7S>.

CONTACT: Maureen Ferry, DNR aquatic invasive species monitoring coordinator, 608-261-6450; Maureen.Ferry@wisconsin.gov



Support WITU with purchase of 2012-14 trout stamp prints

Wisconsin TU has 2012-14 trout stamps and prints for sale. Chapters can purchase prints for a reduced price of \$50 for their fundraising efforts.

Individuals can buy prints for \$125, plus shipping and handling. Print purchasers will also get a commemorative trout stamp at no charge.

Contact Tim Waters at MuddyWaters@new.rr.com.

Highlights of annual meeting in Oshkosh

By Mike Kuhr, Council Vice Chair

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited welcomed representatives from 19 of its 21 chapters to the Best Western Premier Waterfront Hotel in Oshkosh for its February 7 State Council meeting.

Highlights included guest speakers Bob Clarke of Friends of the Central Sands, and Paul Cunningham, Joanna Griffin and Scot Stewart of the Department of Natural Resources. The council also elected new officers and discussed changes to our regional alignment and regional vice president roles. The council also pledged support for the 2015 Stream Girls Program.

Groundwater issues in the central sands region

The council welcomed Bob Clarke from the Friends of the Central Sands, who gave an update on their recent efforts to protect our water resources. The group formed in 2011 around concerns that large farms were impacting the local waterways. The group filed three lawsuits in 2011 regarding groundwater and high-capacity well permitting.

Recently, a judge ruled in their favor, saying that the DNR would need to consider the cumulative impacts of nearby wells when permitting a new well. Surface water levels, water use rights, and property rights are all issues playing out in the Central Sands region. The Friends group continues to focus on groundwater issues and will look to partner with TU on future endeavors.

Stream Bank Protection Program Update

Paul Cunningham from the DNR

addressed the Council regarding stream bank easement purchases being pursued by the State. Recently, the DNR streamlined its purchase process and they are currently working with nearly 400 property owners to acquire new easements. As of February the DNR has made offers on 57 miles of stream frontage, while another 60 miles are in the discussion stages.

It was noted that the program is funded by Stewardship dollars, which in the proposed budget is set to be frozen until 2028. The budget also directs the DNR to purchase 33 miles of stream bank easements per year, essentially an unfunded mandate. He said the DNR was doing all they could to get as many easements purchased before the end of the fiscal year (June 30).

Trout regulation review update

The council welcomed Joanna Griffin and Scot Stewart of the DNR, who gave an update on proposed changes to the state's trout regulations. After gathering input from anglers and biologists alike, the Trout Review Task Force came up with a proposed set of changes to the regulations. The proposal can be found at the following web address: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/outreach/TroutRegReview>

This proposal will be presented at the 2015 Spring Hearings, which will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, April 13 in all counties. The DNR is asking that citizens vote on the proposal as a whole and provide specific regulation feedback on comment cards to be collected at the meetings. If passed, the proposal will then be presented to the Natural Resources Board for approval, and

implemented in 2016. Other proposed changes to the trout season will appear on the Spring Hearing ballot as separate questions.

Council elects officers, regional VP's, NLC rep

The council held elections for officer positions, regional vice presidents and National Leadership Council (NLC) representative. A slate of candidates was put forth from the Nominating Committee, and nominations were also taken from the floor. Newly elected officers include: Chair Linn Beck, Vice-Chair Mike Kuhr, Treasurer Gary Stoychoff and Secretary Tom Lager. All of our regional vice presidents were elected to a new term: Northeast, Paul Kruse; Central, Bob Haase; Southern, Jim Wierzba; Western, Bill Heart. Former Council Chair Kim McCarthy was elected to serve as NLC Rep. Outgoing NLC Rep Bill Heart and outgoing Chair Henry Koltz were both thanked for their years of service to the council.

Council approves regional realignment

The council voted to approve a Regional Realignment Plan. This plan should better align chapters within their geographic regions. All of the relocated chapters were in favor of the move. Under the plan, Wild Rivers moves to the Northeast Region, Shaw-Paca moves to the Central Region and Aldo Leopold moves to the Southern Region.

The council formally approved job descriptions for each of the regional vice presidents. The vice presidents will be responsible for presenting regional updates and

voicing chapter concerns to the council, working with chapters in their region on funding requests and advocacy issues, and developing better communication between the chapters. This builds on the "One TU" mantra.

2015 Stream Girls gets council support

Under the leadership of Heidi Oberstadt, the council will once again sponsor a Stream Girls program in 2015. It will be similar to the program we ran in 2013. Stream Girls is a collaboration between TU and the Girl Scouts where girls get to learn about river ecology, entomology and fishing. This year's event is June 19-20 at Jordan Park near Stevens Point and the Plover River. The Council voted to approve an expenditure request of \$500 to cover the costs associated with the 2015 program.

Great Lakes AIS principles approved

The NLC's Great Lakes Workgroup is developing policy principles regarding Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) in the Great Lakes Basin. A draft proposal was presented to the council and it received its full support. Some of the principles include separating the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Basins, improving ballast water treatment plans and better monitoring for Asian carp. The NLC Workgroup is moving toward recommendation of a TU National Policy regarding AIS in the Great Lakes, which would include these principles.

The next council meeting is Saturday, May 16 in Viroqua.



Chapter News



Mike Stapleton

ALDO LEOPOLD'S FLY TYING CLASS ALWAYS ATTRACTS SOME KIDS

ALTU member Chad Volkmann coaches Braxton Powell of Oxford as he creates a wooly bugger with his newfound tying skills. This year's five-week class, held in Portage, attracted 16 students.

Aldo Leopold Chapter

After 12 years this will be my final chapter report. By the time you read this Scott Allen will have taken over as chapter president. I am proud of the work our chapter has accomplished during my tenure. I like to think that I was helpful in directing the energies of our great members but I know that the passion for trout that created those energies is all their own. It has been a privilege and honor to work with so many great people both in our chapter and across the state. Thank you to everyone who has helped me over these past years.

The chapter's 2015 Beginner Fly Tying Class, held at the Portage Public Library, finished up another successful run with 16 eager students cranking out a lot of good-looking patterns, some of which even ended up in the chapter fly box at the state banquet. A couple new members were recruited, and also possibly a few more available hands at our upcoming workdays. Thanks to the fly tying class "staff," including Mike Stapleton, Tom Gawle, Sally Gawle, Dave Murphy, Jim Peters and Chad Volkmann for growing another good crop of fly tiers and potential TU supporters.

On March 18 Nate Nye, DNR Fisheries Biologist, gave us an update on the health of a number of our local trout streams, an overview of DNR projects they have completed over the past couple years, and a look ahead to their future plans for stream restoration. Thank you, Nate!

On April 22 Jean Unmuth from the DNR will present a report summarizing the multi-year data collected on our Bear Creek water monitoring project. The meeting is at Suzy's Steak and Seafood House, 2701 CTH CX in Portage at 6 p.m.,

Blackhawk Chapter

Fisherfolk, especially trout fisherfolk, are inherently optimistic, right? That's why even in the depths of a brutal winter our chapter has been involved with learning, funding and planning.

On the incoming learning side, we've had great chapter meeting presentations by Rich Osthoff in January and Jay Thurston in Febru-

ary, and on the outgoing side we've held our usual 10-week fly-tying class in Janesville, plus provided four chapter instructors for the beginner's fly tying classes at the Orvis shop in Madison in February.

For funding, the chapter has provided a fly-fishing outfit and a large box of desirable chapter-tied flies for the state banquet, as well as an-

other flyfishing outfit to the Madison chapter's Ice Breaker event in January. In addition, we've given \$500 towards the Shabazz School project this spring, and \$1,500 towards the Weister Creek Project (to make up for a 2014 unfulfilled promise by another organization).

Our January Scott rod-and-reel raffle netted \$550, which has been sent off to TUDARE. In February we were pleased to be able to provide another \$5,000 for the Weister Creek Project, thanks to a generous contribution from Robert Schafer, a long-time member of the chapter. Most recently the chapter has approved the expenditure of \$4,500 for improving the Legler Branch of the Little Sugar River in Green County, a feeder stream for foraging trout. This work will be completed in 2015, with a dedicated permanent access to the stream now in place.

Our annual Spring Banquet is the primary source for the funding we are able to provide for these projects, and this year's event will be Monday, April 27, beginning at 5:30 p.m. As usual, the event is at the Pontiac Convention Center in Janesville, just a short hop from the Highway 14 junction with I-39/90. So it's convenient for all you guys and gals in the southern third of the state. Tickets are only \$40 each, or two for \$70, and you will have dinner, great auction items including watercraft, tools, chain saws, trips, crafts, a bicycle, and even some fishing stuff. Plus visit with a friendly bunch of people. And it's all over by 10 p.m. Please join us for the evening, and help us continue funding our stream projects. As for planning, we already have three work days on deck: brush and beaver dam removals at the Paul Hayes property on the West Fork of the Kickapoo, north of Bloomingdale, on April 11; helping the Shabazz School Project Green Teen folks at the West Fork on May 11; and for the first time for the chapter, removing Box Elders in the Weister Creek Project area, also in May. I'm optimistic. Spring is here!

—*Michael Barniskis*

Central Wisconsin Chapter

We kept ourselves busy during the cold months here in central Wisconsin with a long list of activities and events, with many more scheduled through the spring and summer. A high point for those of us who enjoy fly tying is the Masters Fly-Tying program coordinated by Ira Giese. The classes are one night a week for five weeks in January and February. Each class is led by a different tying expert.

It was great having the State Council Banquet in our Chapter's territory this year. We are very proud of our members who received awards at this event; David Seligman, the Gold Net; Mike Schaefer, an Unsung Hero; Linn Beck and Bob Haase, the Tomorrow's Anglers award.

We had an excellent turnout at our annual TroutFest February 28 in Winneconne. This free, full-day event was packed with activities, including 10 fishing-related seminars, two-dozen fly tyers demonstrating their skills, youth fly tying and raffles, to name a few. This event is more about public relations, and

stoking interest in trout fishing, but we do make some money from raffles and used equipment sales.

Everything looks good for the start of our stream-restoration projects. We were just awarded an Embrace-A-Stream grant for the West Branch of the White River. We also have grants for the Mecan River, the White River and Chaffee Creek. Funds have been secured for supplemental DNR crew staffing, and our annual Work Day Fund Drive is under way. Our first work day is May 16, jointly with the Elliott Donnelly TU Chapter from Chicago, working on the White River.

The March 10 Board meeting was important for us. We reviewed the plans for meeting this year's 12 objectives, and elected Dr. Mike San Dretto as our new president. We also recently elected Jeff Treu to our board, and appointed Bob Burke as chapter historian. The program following this board meeting was a celebration of Lee Wulff, with many members demonstrating how to tie Wulff's flies.

Coming up are the following ma-



John Gremmer

THEIR FIRST FLY IS ALWAYS THE ONE THEY REMEMBER MOST

CWTU member Steve Fisher helps a young fly tyer create his first fly at CWTU's TroutFest '15. More than 350 people attended this all-day event, which featured 10 seminars, 30 tyers, and many other related displays and spokespeople.

Chapter News



John Gremmer

SHIRTS WERE SELLING LIKE HOTCAKES

CWTU President John Tucker (right) shows off a t-shirt that was a popular sale item at CWTU's TroutFest '15. FVTU's Norm Christnacht (left) and Joe Bach (middle) each took a t-shirt home.

major events: John Gremmer's Fly Fishing classes begin April 13 for four Mondays. Contact John at 920-379-9263. The 38th Annual Fly Fishing School, May 30-31 at Riverside Bible Camp in Amherst. Contact Dan Harmon 920-235-1761. The Casting and Kayak Fishing Clinic is June 9 at Marble Park in

Winneconne. We also have an Exhibition Booth at the Greater Wisconsin Outdoor and Sportsman Festival, June 12-14 at the Sunny-view Expo Center in Oshkosh.

Current information for CWTU activities and events is available at www.cwtu.org
—John Tucker

Coulee Region Chapter

The Coulee Region Chapter's banquet was February 27 at the Cedar Creek Country Club in Onalaska. We had about 85 people in attendance and it was a great evening of fish talk and camaraderie. Some of the top prizes of the evening were a pond boat built by Rick Kyte, a beautiful 3-weight rod crafted by Cy Post, and a Winston rod donated from the Driftless Angler. All proceeds from the banquet will be used for coldwater fisheries conservation in the Coulee Region.

CRTU President Jim Cox shared some of the future local conservation projects we plan to work with involving the Mississippi Valley Conservancy and the River Alliance. Jim is coming to the end of his time as president, and we greatly appreciate his hard work and dedication over the past few years. He has put in countless hours to coordinate our chapter meetings, make the CRTU portion of TroutFest a success, and track down and organize hundreds of prizes for the chapter banquet each year. Jim's wife Margaret and his daughter Nicole have also been instrumental in all the TU work that Jim has done. A million thanks to the Cox family!

Pete Cozad guides out of the Driftless Angler in Viroqua and he hosted the Cozad's Driftless 1 Fly fundraiser event on March 28 to benefit youth outdoor activities in the Driftless Area. Ten teams of four anglers participated in the event, and the proceeds (entry fee and raffle items) were donated to Coulee Region TU for the purpose of supporting kids' fishing and outdoor activities. The end-of-day festivities were held at the Driftless Angler fly shop with food and beverages from the Driftless Cafe.

CRTU sponsors the kids' fishing event at TroutFest and we will also use these proceeds to sponsor fly-tying activities for kids in the Coulee Region. Many thanks to these sponsors of this fundraiser: Driftless Angler Fly Shop, Driftless Cafe, Jonathan Marquardt from Bad Axe Designs, Driftless Brewing Company, Mend Provision, Stony Birch Studios, Tight Lines Fly Fishing Company, Bryn Loelove Photography, Chicago Fly Fishing Outfitters, Dave Gellatly, wood carver Jan Breitsprecher, and Grey Goat Fly Fishing for helping support this event.
—Curt Rees

Fox Valley Chapter

The winter months of January and February have been a very busy time for the Fox Valley TU chapter. We had our chapter fundraiser on January 24, the January 29 chapter meeting, the state council meeting and banquet on February 7, the chapter meeting on February 19, planning for the March 19 chapter meeting, planning for an April chapter fishing weekend, planning for the May 16 Special Needs and Handicapped/Disabilities Persons Fishing Day, the Habitat Days, and chapter board and fundraiser meetings. This busy agenda is very similar to those of many of the other state TU chapters.

Our very successful, fourteenth annual chapter fundraiser, Cabin Fever Day, was held at the Grand

Meridian in Appleton. The chapter thanks all of the vendors, fly tiers and presenters, including Ira Giese, Black Water Fly Fishing, and Wendy Williamson, Scott Grady for donating his handmade cane rod, chapter volunteers, and most importantly those individuals who attended the event. There were people from Canada, Michigan, Minnesota, Illinois, Ohio and Wisconsin. Thanks to all of these individuals the FVTU chapter was able to raise \$8,000 for the coldwater fisheries and their watersheds in Wisconsin. Thank-you for your support. We are in the planning stages for the 15th annual CFD event January 23, 2016 at same venue, the Grand Meridian in Appleton.

Our January chapter meeting

was a presentation by Chef John Balistri and several students at Fox Valley Technical College. Our chapter records indicate that this was either the 25th or 26th annual presentation by the students from the Culinary Arts program at FVTC to the FVTU chapter. Chef John and the students prepared a number of specialties including an excellent pan-smoked salmon and an incredible maple syrup cake desert. The chapter also had a number of special guests that evening - people who have supported our chapter in a variety of ways. Those individuals were: Bill and Linda Walters, Scott and Carolyn Grady, Russ and Sue Bouck, Jon and Megan Pyatskowitz, and Andy and Luann Killoren.

A number of chapter members attended the state council annual meeting in Oshkosh, and 14 chapter members attended the evening banquet. All of us were there to support our former chapter president, Joe Bach, who received one of the Unsung Hero Awards that were presented at the banquet. Congratulations to Joe.

Our February chapter meeting was an excellent presentation by Charlie Piette from Tight Lines titled "Fishing the Deschutes River." On a cold and windy night, Charlie's experiences and pictures of the Deschutes were just what the doctor ordered. Our March chapter meeting was also at the Capitol Center and was a presentation by guide Chris Jape titled "River Smallmouth Fly Fishing in NE Wisconsin."

Don Clouthier is planning a new event/activity for our chapter for our April meeting. We are planning a fishing trip to Southwest Wisconsin from April 24-26. Details about the trip will be online and on our Facebook page as they are finalized

over the next few weeks. Please check those two sources for information.

Our chapter habitat days for this year will begin on April 18 and, as we have done for many years, we will meet with Elward Engle on the Davies Creek. The Davies Creek feeds the Pine River and this is the location of one of the first Habitat Projects that FVTU participated in years ago. Our May-through-September habitat days will be joint efforts with the Central Wisconsin Chapter on Chaffee Creek and the West Branch of the White River. All of these habitat days will be the third Saturday of the month, with the possibility of a couple of additional days added to the schedule. Monitor our website for information.

On May 16 we're sponsoring the 37th annual Fishing Day for People with Disabilities at the Main Creek Farm Pond north of Shiocton. There will be additional information on the website and the Facebook page in mid-March.

The chapter will be involved in other activities throughout the spring and summer months so please check our website at www.foxvalleytu.org and our Facebook page that chapter member, Jen Erickson, updates almost daily.

There are only a few days left before the early trout season begins and I know many of us are waiting for and anticipating some warm spring days in the next couple of weeks. As you plan for the spring and summer that will come - enjoy the beauty of God's streams, creeks, rivers and lakes. And, as our late chapter President Tony Tremel would close his columns and comments, "We'll see you on a trout stream."
—Rich Erickson



Tom Lager

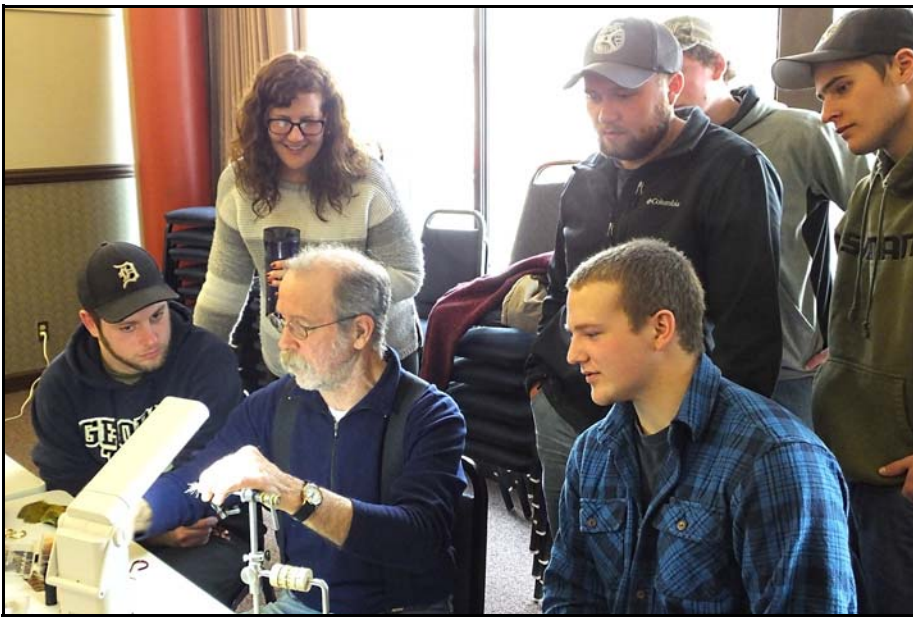


Rich Erickson

FVTU HOLDS SUCCESSFUL CABIN FEVER DAY AND CULINARY EVENT
(Top) FVTU's 14th Cabin Fever Day event attracted people from all over the midwest and raised \$8,000 for coldwater fisheries.
(Bottom) Chef John and a student from the Fox Valley Technical College Culinary Arts Program demonstrate how to make pan-smoked salmon to FVTU members.



Chapter News



John Vollrath

GATHER AROUND AND SEE HOW IT'S DONE

Janeau Tully ties a fly, observed by Heidi Oberstadt and students from UWSP. The occasion was the Frank Hornberg Chapter Fly Tying Workshop at the Portage County Public Library in Stevens Point on February 21.

Frank Hornberg Chapter

The Frank Hornberg Chapter is off to a good start in 2015. Tim Landwehr, owner of Tight Lines Fly Fishing Co., was the featured speaker at our January public meeting at Shooters Supper Club in Plover. Tim used pictures and videos to show what it is like to fish the Secure and Pluma Rivers at the base of the Andes mountains in Bolivia. He is an enthusiastic speaker who conveys the excitement of fishing in its various forms. Many thanks to Tim for an enjoyable evening.

We scheduled three fly-tying workshops for the winter season this year. The workshop for January was in the Portage County Public Library in Stevens Point. One of the February workshops was at Clancey's Stone Lion Pub in Custer. We were pleased that Brian and Jackie Clancey, who are both members of our chapter, opened the Stone Lion just for us on a Tuesday evening. Attendance was very good, with fly tyers filling the entire meeting room. The second February workshop was on a Saturday at the Public Library in Stevens Point. More than 30 tyers and observers were in attendance, including several students from UW-Stevens Point. The final work-

shop was March 21.

Several members of our chapter contributed to the success of the State Council Banquet in Oshkosh. Dan Holland solicited trout flies from well-known tyers and Janeau Tully constructed a shadow box to display the flies. Dan then offered the shadow box as the prize for a card raffle at the banquet. Matt Salchert was busy selling raffle tickets. Heidi Oberstadt photographed speakers and the winners of awards. Heidi was also on the planning committee for the event.

Elsewhere in this issue you will learn that Stu Grimstad, our chapter president for three terms, was the recipient of the 2015 Joan and Lee Wolff Award for Outstanding Conservation Leadership. We believe Stu's long-time commitment to the preservation of the natural environment put him in a special position to deserve this award. Our heartiest congratulations!

As in prior years, the Hornberg Chapter is contributing money in 2015 to UW-Stevens Point to support their scholarship program for students in the fisheries program. We also plan to start soliciting funds for chapter-specific programs aimed

at the recruitment of future fisher-people. We are still working on the details. But our goal is clear; we want to do our part to create more continuity and diversity in the trout fishing community at large.

We continue planning for our annual Fly-Fishing School. This year it will be Saturday, May 16, on the Tomorrow River in Nelsonville. Note

that this is a change of location from past years. Interested parties should check our newly-updated website at hornberg-tu.org for contact information and other details.

Hornberg members will receive email notifications of times and places of work days during the summer months. Stay tuned.

—John Vollrath

Green Bay Chapter

On January 17 and 18, Green Bay Trout Unlimited and Cabela's held a community outreach fly-tying event. Over the two days, we had about two-dozen customers and tied up approximately 40 Packer Woolly Buggers. Saturday was by far the bigger day for attendance as Sunday featured the Packers in a thrilling overtime loss to the Seattle Seahawks.

In attendance from GBTU were Dave Ostanek, Adrian Meseberg, Paul Kruse, Doug Seidl, Pat Hill and Mike Renish. Brian Mease was the master fly tyer working for Cabela's. Dan Ferron and Al Jamir were guest tyers.

In February we held our 40th annual conservation banquet at the Stadium View Bar and Grill in Green Bay.

While we have seen attendance numbers in the mid-200's over the past few years, it appears that this year's banquet went over 300. A big part of the high turnout was likely a result of an excellent campaign of advertising, coupled with the high quality of the event in the past.

State Council Chair Henry Koltz made the trip to Green Bay to be our master of ceremonies. He did an amazing job, and it was an honor having him as host.

GBTU Board member Dave Ostanek's sister won the GBTU Raffle grand prize of \$1,000 and Dave himself won one of the \$100 prizes. This year's 50/50 raffle went over \$2,000, and was won by Roger Denil, a 30-year GBTU member. The lucky winner of the fishing kayak was Jeremy Vogels. One of our special raffle items was a Wisconsin-made Henry 30-30 rifle. Tickets were limited to 125 and were \$10 each. Every ticket sold. The same held true for a 9mm pistol in which 125 tickets were all sold at \$5 each. Live auction items included a framed, autographed Jordy

Nelson jersey, wood carvings of a brook trout (by Dick Prehn), yellow perch (by Dave Van Lanen) and loon, and much more.

This year's Conservation Committee completely outdid themselves, with an amazing amount of effort and dedication. A big thank you goes out to the committee of Dennis Gussick, Janet Smith, Lee Meyers, Jim and Kim Vanden Branden, Jack and Arlene Koivisto, Wally and Laurel Heil, Mitch Bent, John Deuchert, Matt Norum, John Montquin, Jan and Gary Stoychoff, Pat Hill, Doug Seidl (and grandson), Daniel Kruse, Heidi Oberstadt, Aaron Frailing, Henry Koltz, and Adrian Meseberg. A huge thanks goes to Bruce Deuchert and Paul Kruse for leading the group. A final thank you goes to the Stadium View Bar and Grill for the excellent food and service.

In March Brian Mease, Adrian Meseberg, Dave Ostanek, Paul Kruse and Mike Renish hosted our second 2015 fly tying clinic at Cabela's. This time around we tried some basic, yet a little more advanced, patterns for the beginners. Of course, we will have the Packer Bugger on standby, but Adrian has found some basic walleye patterns he wants to instruct.

Later this month GBTU will lose one of our most active members. Secretary, Treasurer, membership chair and Northeast Wisconsin Regional representative Aaron Frailing is moving to Colorado. In his time in the chapter Aaron has definitely made a positive impact on the coldwater resources of Northeast Wisconsin. While he will be missed by us, I am sure he will find a way to cope somewhere on a beautiful Colorado stream.

—Adrian Meseberg and Mark Renish



Photos by Mark Renish



John Vollrath

GREEN BAY TU TEAMS UP WITH CABELA'S FOR A COMMUNITY OUTREACH FLY-TYING EVENT

On January 17 and 18 Green Bay Trout Unlimited and Cabela's held a community outreach fly-tying event. Over the two days, they helped about two-dozen "customers" and tied up approximately 40 Packer Woolly Buggers. (left) Adrian Meseberg with a proud young fly tyer. (right) Dave Ostanek teaches a young lady

Chapter News



Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter

We are planning several work days this spring; a burn on Big Spring, a stile on the Blue River and some cribs for Six Mile branch.

We had a Lie and Tie in Dodgeville in January to share stories and fly patterns and make some flies for the Wisconsin TU Banquet. We had about a dozen participants.

We also taught fly tying and casting at a Skills Day put on by the Grant County Outdoors Sports Association at Southwest Wisconsin Technical College in Fennimore.

Our elections were in March, as was our member meeting with our summer interns, where we will hear

the results of their stream studies.

Our annual banquet is coming up the Friday just before the regular fishing season starts.

Our education committee will soon be asking for grant requests for projects related to our coldwater resources. We have given out more than \$10,000 to local schools in this effort.

This coming year we will be working on about 4,500 feet of Six Mile Branch, about 3,000 feet of Pompey Pillar, and about 2,000 feet of the Blue River. Total cost of these projects is about \$185,000.

—*Brian Larson*

Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter

The Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter is expanding its project work this year. There will be at least two major projects.

Habitat improvements will continue downstream on the Trimbelle River southeast of River Falls. This year's stretch is 1,760 feet. The previous two years' work totaled 4,138 feet of stream.

In addition, more than 1,700 feet of the Kinnickinnic River will be improved. Dan Wilcox has been the project manager/DNR liaison for the Trimbelle work and Mike Alwin for the new Kinni project.

The Trimbelle work will be highly visible from Highway 65, and will be a showcase. The work on the Kinni will be on a level parcel with a recently-built parking lot. It will incorporate a large bend in the river; people will start a few feet from their car, fish either up or downstream for about a quarter mile, and find themselves back near the car! The level site should be helpful for people who are less mobile.

Under the direction of volunteer coordinator Randy Arnold, volunteer crews have been removing box elders and brush nearly every week since mid-December.

To avoid the cost of debris removal, the slash has been burned on site each work day. A typical day has between 12 and 22 volunteers working in teams of one chain saw and 3 or 4 people feeding the fires. This

makes each day a social event culminating in a hot dog roast. With one day to go, volunteer time totals more than 1,000 hours already.

Due to remodeling, our former meeting venue has not been available for several months. After trying several alternatives, we have settled on Junior's Restaurant in River Falls. It is located at the south end of Main Street in the Best Western hotel. Attendance for the past two months has been excellent at 55 and 42 people respectively.

In addition to the monthly meetings in River Falls, we held a sub-chapter meeting in Amery in February. Twenty-two people attended. Arrangements were made by John Carlson. A major topic is the possible replacement of a perched culvert.

Hans Jung retired from the board after eight years of service. Loren Haas was elected to replace him. Allison Jacobs and Tom Schnadt were re-elected. Other members have one or two years remaining in their terms. Hans will continue to be active, leading our long-range planning team.

Regarding our Trout in the Classroom program, the eggs have hatched and fry are actively feeding in Brian Burbach's fifth-grade classroom at North Hudson Elementary school. Board member Greg Olson is the liaison with the school.

—*Tom Henderson*

Lakeshore Chapter

Lakeshore Chapter is very excited with the potential removal of the dam at Camp Evelyn Girls Scout Camp on the Mullet River. Preliminary assessments regarding the removal of the dam have been put in motion and we are now in the process of figuring out exactly how and when the dam is going to be removed. Larry Doebert has been working very hard on this project and will inform us all about any news regarding the dam removal in the coming months. The Mullet River will have several miles of class II stream open once the dam is removed, certainly a big win-win for all parties involved if it does eventually come down.

The Onion River will have its annual work days in April and May. Anyone interested in helping out can call Gordy Martin at 773-308-6156 for details. We will be doing clean up and brushing to improve

the quality of fishing.

Lakeshore has slowly been aligning ourselves with SEWTU Chapter for a whole host of reasons. Jim Wierzba has been a major help with our chapter regarding work days and other issues that we as a small chapter have to contend with. Jim has helped me extensively with coordinating work days on the Onion and now we are embarking on doing yet even more work locally. Nichols Creek and even LaBudde Creek have been mentioned for possible stream work, mostly brushing and making it more fishable for us all. Lakeshore Chapter greatly appreciates all the effort from Jim and his chapter. Thank you very much!

Have a great season everyone, and if you have any questions regarding our chapter, please give me a call.

—*Gordy Martin*

Northwoods Chapter

The snow is melting fast, which means the meeting season will be coming to an end soon. However, there are still two more opportunities to join us for good fun. On April 14 DNR fisheries biologist Greg Matzke will teach us everything from basic trout biology to how he manages trout in Forest and Florence counties. Greg's presentation was wildly popular last year and we are excited to have him back. Join us in Eagle River at the Wild Eagle Lodge, 4443 Chain O Lakes Road from 6-8 p.m.

On May 12, we will be electing new directors at our kick-off the fishing season BBQ. We are always seeking enthusiastic leaders. If you are interested in serving on our

board of directors, please contact us in the coming weeks.

Thanks to USFS fisheries biologist Sue Reinecke for her presentation on Alvin Creek at our February meeting. Our chapter will be hosting three workdays this July in partnership with the USFS on Alvin Creek, a tributary to Brule Creek in Forest County. We also owe thanks to DNR fisheries biologist Steve Gilbert for his presentation on inland lake trout management in the Northwoods at our March meeting.

To learn more about our workdays and other upcoming events, follow us at [facebook.com/NorthwoodsTU](https://www.facebook.com/NorthwoodsTU).

—*Laura MacFarland*

Oconto River Watershed Chapter

The chapter has added two additional school districts to its Trout in the Classroom program. The "eyed" eggs hatched in early December, which was earlier than usual, and students are now seeing the progression of the fry. Oconto Falls High School and Marion High have been added starting in November of the first semester. Students at Gillett, Lena, Oconto and Suring School Districts, in addition to the new participants, are feeding the fish and monitoring water conditions.

The banquet committee is preparing for the annual fundraising banquet set for April 23 at Romy's Holiday Inn at Kelly Lake. Banquet Chair Dan Sumnicht reported 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 23. Youth can also apply for the WITU Fishing Camp to be held July 16-19.

Plans are being made to participate in DNR and USFS work days planned 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.

Our chapter meetings are held monthly, excluding May and November, on the first Wednesday of each month. Meetings are held at the Lone Oak Gun club just North of Gillett starting at 7 p.m.

—*Dale Halla*

Shaw-Paca Chapter

The end of 2014 and beginning of 2015 has been a constructive time for the Shaw-Paca chapter. The main focus of the chapter over the winter has been growth and expansion of our membership and board. The addition of a Facebook page and a chapter email has been a great avenue for getting information out to our existing members and potential members alike. We're also work-

ing at getting our newsletter back up and running, in both a mailed and e-version as well. For the coming year, our goal is to get more of our members to attend our monthly meetings. Communication is key and hearing from more of our members will give us a clearer picture as to the direction that our chapter needs to head. We have several presenters scheduled for 2015 that will be talk-



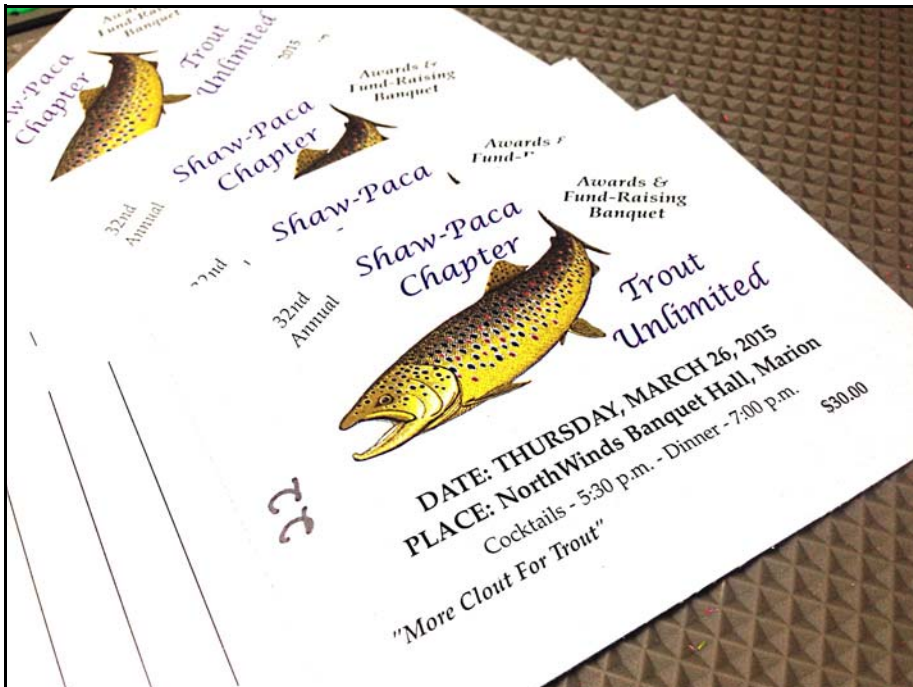
Tom Henderson

CUT, PILE, BURN. THEN ROAST HOT DOGS

Under the direction of Randy Arnold, volunteer crews have been removing box elders and brush from the Kinni nearly every week since mid-December. To avoid the cost of debris removal, the slash has been burned on site each work day. This makes each day a social event culminating in a hot dog roast. With one day to go, volunteer time totals more than 1,000 hours already.



Chapter News



Nate Sipple

SHAW-PACA HOSTS 32ND ANNUAL BANQUET

Shaw-Paca TU's annual banquet was March 26 at the North Winds Banquet Hall in Marion. The board worked hard at procuring some amazing prizes and auction items for this event.

ing about a variety of topics, from peacock bass in the Amazon to steelhead on the Brule River. These are topics that everyone should enjoy, so keep an eye on the newsletters and Facebook page for information on when these events will be.

At the Wisconsin Council's Northeast Regional Meeting, we were happy to pledge \$5,000 to the Wild Rose work crew to further their efforts in the area. It's always a pleasure to support local crews and know that our dollars are going to a great cause. Our main funding source for the year, our annual ban-

quet, was March 26 at the North Winds Banquet Hall in Marion. The board worked hard at procuring some amazing prizes and auction items for this event.

Shawano and Waupaca Counties boast an incredible wealth of trout streams, from free-stones to spring creeks, and all they need is a little attention and help. With talks of easements and improvements in the near future, things are looking bright for the future of trout fishing in Shawano and Waupaca Counties. www.facebook.com/shawpacatu; shawpacatu@gmail.com
—Nate Sipple

Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter

Our chapter remained active throughout the winter months. Our focus this quarter was education and outreach. Our final work day of the 2014 schedule was held in early December and with that behind us we take several months off from habitat projects until April of 2015.

Project Healing Waters continued to engage with military veterans via twice-weekly fly-tying sessions and special events. Special thanks to George Batcha, Rick Frye and Al Dalphonso for leading our chapter's PHW efforts.

Our monthly chapter meetings, held at the Thunder Bay Grille continued in December, January and February and all were well attended, which is a testimony to the quality of our speakers and the passion of our chapter members. Thank you to our volunteers who always step up.

Due to the holidays, December is a relatively light month. Approximately two dozen hardy volunteers joined us in December for our Scuppernong Creek work day. The effort, lead by Ray Weiss and Rick Frye, teamed with the DNR to continue the work from last year. We have been placing biologists to narrow and manage the stream channel with brush-bundle back fills behind them. Unlike last year when a major snow storm impacted our efforts, Mother Nature cooperated and seasonally warm weather made for a pleasant day.

We ended 2014 with our annual Holiday Party. In lieu of a guest speaker, we sponsored a gift exchange and viewed several fishing films during this chapter meeting. Once again, we collected non-per-

ishable food items for a local food bank and all who brought food items were entered in a special raffle. We have much to give thanks for and our members proved to be very generous with their donations. Special thanks to Taylor Todd and Abby Mertz who oversaw this event and the chapter's substantial donation to the food pantry.

A group of our members get together twice a month to tie flies and exchange helpful hints. All skill levels are welcome and it provides an excellent opportunity to rebuild your fly inventory prior to the start of next year's season. This group meets the first and third Tuesday of each month. After a holiday siesta in December, our regular fly-tying program picked up again in January. Special thanks to Greg Schick and the other volunteers who host this event at the Oak Creek Community Center.

On January 14 we began a string of six fly-tying classes held once a week on Wednesdays in conjunction with Cabela's. Al Dalphonso leads this effort and is ably supported by Jim White, Herb Oechler, Rick Frye, Ron Womack, Jim Wierzba and others. Our volunteers worked with approximately 30 individuals who signed up for the sessions. We often have repeat participants from past years, but see a number of new participants, many of whom become active in our chapter.

The following Saturday about 30 of our members made the drive to Madison to participate in the Southern Chapter's Ice Breaker event. The quality of the speakers and raffle prizes keeps our members moti-

vated to make the drive regardless of the weather.

In January we returned to our normal monthly chapter meeting format with guest speaker Pat Ehlers of The Fly Fishers. Pat is a long-time friend and sponsor of our chapter and it was a great way to kick off a new year. Pat presented a topic on saltwater fishing with outstanding photography and numerous helpful hints for anyone interested in trying something new in pursuit of bonefish, permit and tarpon.

February was anything but a slow month. The Cabela's fly tying sessions continued as did our Oak Creek tying group. Meanwhile, our Project Healing Waters group maintained their regular schedule. The month started with a bang on February 7 with our active participation in the State Council Banquet in Oshkosh. Our chapter was well represented in terms of volunteers who did the work, prize donations, attendees and award winners. I won't repeat the award winners as I am sure they appear elsewhere in this newsletter. Special thanks to Herb Oechler who organized our chapter's fly box and to all the fly tiers

who donated so generously to the box. It realized one of the top bids in the auction.

In February we began our efforts with a local Boy Scout troop whose members are in pursuit of the Fly Fishing merit badge. On February 18 Cabela's allowed the troop to join our regularly scheduled fly-tying session and approximately a dozen scouts attended, most with a parent in tow. Additional sessions with the troop will occur in March and April and culminate with a fishing trip. Additional thanks go to Erik Helm and Orvis who will lead the scouts in a fly-casting session on April 11. We also returned to Cabela's on February 28 to support their Captain's Day Event.

February was also a month in which we were able to mentor the recently formed Five Rivers College TU Chapter at Carroll University. This student organization is lead by Cory Widmayer and the faculty advisor is our own Jason Freund. We partnered with that chapter for two fly-casting sessions on campus in February. Several of our members lead casting instruction and networked with the students. A number of very nice rod-and-reel combos



Abby Mertz

SEWTU HOSTS CADDIS EVENT; THE FLY FISHERS HOSTS FILM TOUR

SEWTU hosted its first ever "Night of the caddis" event. They borrowed this idea from the Central Wisconsin Chapter. Here Mike Kuhr and Jason Freund show their favorite caddis patterns. In March Pat Ehlers and The Fly Fishers sponsored the IF4 film tour stop in Milwaukee (below) and were kind enough to make SEWTU the beneficiary of much of the proceeds.



Abby Mertz

Chapter News



were given as prizes.

Members George Batcha and Taylor Todd are working with the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee to establish an organization on that campus, so we expect to see a jump in the number of younger members in our chapter.

February concluded with a chapter meeting and first ever "Night of the _____" (fill in the blank) event. We borrowed this idea from the Central Wisconsin Chapter, which has been doing this for more than a decade. We decided to honor the humble caddis fly with our first session. Approximately 10 of our members set up shop and tied caddis fly patterns which allowed other attendees to mingle and ask questions and exchange helpful tips.

Jason Freund then presented the biology of caddis flies as well as information about the most prevalent and important caddis flies in Wisconsin, and gave a compelling argument on why one should use these patterns.

Jason was followed by our second guest speaker, Gordy Martin of the Lakeshore Chapter who discussed helpful hints to fish caddis fly patterns in terms of where, when and how. The pictures of large fish caught on caddis fly patterns certainly reinforced the message. This meeting drew more than 80 attendees so we will be bringing it back next year.

In March Pat Ehlers and The Fly Fishers sponsor the IF4 film tour stop in Milwaukee and were kind enough to make SEWTU the beneficiary of much of the proceeds. It is a great example of a win-win partnership and this year's event was held on March 4 at Sprecher Brewery. Approximately 325 attendees were treated to several hours of short fishing films and a bevy of raffle prizes.

Of special note is the lead raffle sponsored by Pat and his suppliers which this year raised more than \$2,500 for our chapter on this raffle alone. When all the proceeds are totaled we hope to double this amount, clearly a significant impact on our coldwater conservation efforts. Thanks again to Pat and to our member Kyle Klamar, who leads SEWTU's participation. We also want to thank the more than 20 volunteers who helped to set up and break down the theater and perform any other task that was needed.

March also saw the annual Journal Sentinel Sport Show at the State Fair Grounds. We have manned a booth there for years. We also use this venue to sell raffle tickets for another fundraiser, with the winning tickets to be drawn at our April

chapter meeting. In addition to manning our own booth, a number of our members also assist at the youth fly-tying exhibit, which runs the entire time of the show. Special thanks to member Chuck Beeler, who leads our efforts at the booth, and to all the volunteers who give generously of their time.

At the March meeting Scot Stewart of the DNR presented the proposed changes to the state's trout regulations. This was a chance for our members to ask questions and understand the proposed changes in advance of the Conservation Congress/Spring Hearings Monday, April 13. We want to make sure our members understand the increased fishing opportunities embedded in the proposed changes and the rationale for other changes, so that they can intelligently cast their votes at the hearings statewide.

At the March 24 meeting we will also welcome Randy Berndt of the UP Fly Angler, who will discuss fishing opportunities in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Our membership skews to the Driftless Area for their fishing and we want to expose them to another option. I regularly fish the UP and northern Wisconsin and often have these gems to myself.

Here is also a "tease" for our upcoming schedule beyond March. Our partnership with Orvis for the Fly Fishing 101 sessions will start on April 4 and by the end of the sessions we hope to add another 175 members to our ranks.

Our work days will begin in April with our traditional Menomonee River clean up to support this important salmon, steelhead and lake-run brown trout fishery.

Our annual Kid's Fishing Clinic in West Bend, in partnership with the Kiwanis Club, will be April 11 and on April 28.

Our chapter meeting will feature Mat Wagner of The Driftless Angler. At our April meeting we will also elect our new officers and my term as president will end.

For information about these upcoming events and other activities within our chapter, please visit our website or Facebook page for all the details. 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

Southern Wisconsin Chapter

SWTU started the year with an educational and enjoyable Icebreaker, our largest fundraiser of the year. Fishing tips were shared, flies were tied, friendships were renewed, fishing plans were made and many prizes were won. This year's event featured Mike Lawson, who shared greatly of his time and talents. With topics like "Spring Creeks" and "Fly Fishing Approach and Presentation for Wary Trout," you can bet that everyone left inspired and ready to put new ideas to use.

Our thanks goes out to all who made the Icebreaker possible, but especially Jim Beecher, who chaired

the event for a second year. Jim did a marvelous job of assembling the event, coordinating volunteers and making certain that everyone had a wonderful time.

We also want to extend our thanks and congratulations to Pat Hasburgh, who received an Unsung Hero Award at the State Council Banquet in February. Pat lends his time and a wide array of talents to SWTU. He creates graphic designs, wields chainsaws at workdays and even prepared the lunch for our Icebreaker. Way to go, Pat!

Our Stream Team is ready to kick off our 2015 stream workdays, and you are welcome to join us in mak-



SWTU HOLDS ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL ICEBREAKER EVENT

SWTU'S Dan Jansen talks fly rods with Matt Mitro and his daughter, Katya, in the Stream Explorers Room. Katya was grinning ear-to-ear later in the day after winning a Tenkara rod!

ing a difference for our habitat. We currently have days scheduled for the following Saturdays: April 4, April 25 and May 9. Check out the Newscasts on swtu.org to learn more about the when, where and what of these events. They do a lot of good and our team members have a lot of fun.

We are excited about 2015, and

the difference we will make locally and by working with chapters from across the state. Learn more about us and what we have going on by checking out our newsletter and online chapter calendar at swtu.org. You can also find and like us on Facebook.

—Drew Kasel

Wild Rivers Chapter

Wild Rivers January meeting was held at the Sawmill Saloon. There was a good discussion about the chapter co-sponsoring an informational meeting in February concerning a proposed hog CAFO that may be sited in the headwaters of the South Fork of Fish Creek, which flows into Chequamegon Bay of Lake Superior, just a few miles from the water intake for the city of Ashland.

We did decide to sponsor the event, which was held on February 28. More than 250 concerned citizens listened to four speakers who talked about the reasons that the proposed CAFO should not be sited in Bayfield County.

The proposed CAFO would house about 26,000 hogs in three facilities and would produce significant amounts of manure. The manure would be injected into the

clay soil very near a number of headwater streams. The Bayfield County Board recently voted to invoke a year-plus moratorium to enable the board to research the possibilities.

Also at the board meeting Max Wolter, DNR Fisheries Biologist from the Hayward office, discussed the trout fishery data of the Namekagon River and its tributaries over the past 10 years.

Wild Rivers has held a number of fly-tying sessions this winter at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center in Ashland. The events were well attended and a number of potential chapter members were able to tie their first flies. Many members helped the chapter fill our State Council fly box for the council banquet held recently.

We are also tying for our upcoming Fishing Expo. The Expo will



NORTHLAND COLLEGE STAFFER LEARNING TO TIE FLIES

Kat W., a Northland College staff person stopped in at a Wild Rivers TU fly tying event and learned how to tie a few flies. Dick Berge taught her well and was impressed at how well she did. She will be working with the chapter as a Northland College contact for the Expo.



Chapter News

again be held in Ashland, and for the first time it will be held on the campus of Northland College in the hopes to get a number of students involved in the chapter. The Expo will be held on Saturday, April 11 from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. and will include many area agencies and non-profits that can discuss issues in the region. There will also be food, fly tying and casting instruction, and our famous live auction of new and used equipment.

Wild Rivers recently received a Friends of Wisconsin TU grant, along with a National Embrace-A-Stream Grant to do restoration work on a tributary of the White River. The DNR recently purchased a parcel of land near the upper White that was the site of an old

hatchery dam. The chapter will re-plant native tree species on this formerly-impounded tributary of the White River, in the Bad River watershed. This restoration is needed to stabilize soil, provide shade to maintain cold water temperatures, and re-establish natural streamside ecology.

And the best news in Wild Rivers country is that Gogebic Taconite (GTAC) finally figured out that there are too many wetlands in the Penokee Hills, so they have decided to close their office in Hurley and suspend operations. GTAC blamed the EPA regulations of those wetlands as the reason that they are throwing in the towel.

—Bill Heart

Wisconsin Clear Waters

Progress on Gilbert Creek restoration has started early this spring. Clearing brush and trees and scraping the turf has been completed on the first approximately .2 miles. Due to other projects progress has been sporadic.

This work is .4 miles downstream from the Highway 29 Bridge, west of Menomonie. The project will include state land and easements to develop a significant stretch of restored stream to combine with the previously completed projects on Gilbert.

Fairmont Santrol (the sand mine company on Menomonie's east side) has committed to providing equipment and volunteer/employees to work on brush and tree removal when the DNR staff is ready. The Clear Waters TU Chapter members will also have the chance for volunteer work with clearing the land, building LUNKER structures, planting cover on the stream bank and other tasks. We will keep you informed of progress.

Two other projects will also be part of our TU/DNR partnership during 2015. This will be the completion of work started at Sand and Duncan Creeks. Delivery of rock is also expected to be initiated this fall on Danuser Creek.

The State Council presented a number of awards at the recent State Council Banquet. Three were awarded to Clear Water TU members.

Dave Carlson was honored with a Certificate of Appreciation Award. He was acknowledged for his television episodes, which often featured trout or some form of stream fishing. More recently his writings and shows have emphasized conservation, particularly water resources. Most recently Dave was a driving force in the development of the Eau Claire County Stewardship Program and the 1,000-acre Hallie Marsh Area. Although he has retired from broadcasting, he continues his conservation work. We wish him well in his worthwhile and critical endeavors.

Dale Dahlke of Knapp received the State Council's Certificate of Appreciation award. He has combined the techniques and aesthetics of fly fishing and casting with the biology of the trout stream environment to further the organization's goals. After a career as a biology teacher, he brings unique skills and knowledge of conservation of cold-water resources, entomology and identification of invasive plants, prairie restoration and ichthyology.

He has provided these lessons to students in high school, middle school and various other youth groups. He provides training to various groups, as well as assisting in the design and physical restoration of trout streams. The chapter is also appreciative of Dale's advocacy for clean water and healthy and accessible environments.

Tim Meyers was nominated by the Chapter for the Unsung Hero Award. Tim is always there to help out, and he volunteers for almost any duty. Most notable was the three years he provided leadership to the chapter as its president. Congratulations, Tim.

Hopefully spring will come early this year. To initiate this thought, we moved the Wisconsin Clear Waters Trout Unlimited Banquet to earlier in the spring. It was held March 26 at the usual venue, Clarion Suites. A number of opportunities to take home a prize included two card raffles, eight live auctions, numerous silent auctions and bucket raffles.

The live auction included seven fishing trips. The card raffles featured an opportunity to win a Sage Method 9-foot, 6-weight fly rod. The second card raffle offered a one-day guided drift boat trip for two, with two nights lodging on the Bighorn River. We also held our famous silent auction of used fishing items donated by chapter members.

Once again the Clear Water Chapter of TU will sponsor a trip to fish in the Driftless Area of Southwestern Wisconsin. This year there

is a change in venue. The county park in Sidie Hollow will serve as this year's "Trout Central." Full camping facilities are available there, including a trout stream meandering through the park. The park is located a few miles southwest of Viroqua. Reservations for camping should be made through the Vernon County Parks and Recreation Department.

Numerous outings featuring fly casting and/or trout fishing are being offered this spring and summer. Many of these are designed to assist youth, women or beginners. Knapp Open Fishing Day is June 6 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Sponsored by WI Clear Waters TU and the Knapp Lions, this date is the free fishing day in Wisconsin. Casting lessons, casting and fly fishing equipment will be available, as well as a stocked pond.

The State Council is sponsoring a three-day youth fishing camp July 16-18 in Waushara County. TU chapters can nominate one youth to attend and volunteers are needed. Please contact Mike Shanley at mikeshanley51@gmail.com.

Two programs are being developed with the Beaver Creek Conservatory. One is fly casting and fly tying as part of a larger outdoor skills program. The second is a parent/child float trip on the Eau Claire River. Contact Jim Schweibert at Beaver Creek Conservatory for more information.

—Bob Swanson, Al Noll

Wolf River Chapter

We would like to congratulate Linda Anderson, our 2014 Unsung Hero. Linda is the glue that holds all the pieces together for our chapter. Thanks, Linda!

Our Spring Meeting was March 28 at the White Lake Community Center in White Lake. We had a full plate this year, as our agenda included elections for two board members, brat stand dates, stream brushing projects, casting class, beaver control on Ninemile Creek and explorations.

Beavers are again our main concern on Ninemile Creek. According to the Forest Service's fall beaver colony survey, there are two colonies with numerous dams. Trapper Duane Fronek will be locating the colonies for removal this coming spring.

Please visit our web site at WolfRiverTU.org for updates on all of our projects.

—Tim Waters

Trout stamp program returning to DNR

By Linn Beck, Council Chair

Starting in 1977 the DNR began an annual contest for artists to submit prints for consideration as the following year's inland trout stream and Great Lakes trout stamp. One winner was chosen for each stamp, which would also appear on the trout regulation booklet. The artists also had the opportunity to produce prints of the stamp to sell to collectors. The DNR provided an actual stamp to those who paid the fee for the privilege of fishing for inland trout or Great Lakes trout/salmon. The stamps were to be affixed to the paper fishing licenses and signed by the holder for authentication.

When the DNR started an automatic license program in 1999, actual stamps were no longer needed, but were available for anyone who wanted one. The stamp program was discontinued in 2010.

TU members Darrell Tolliver and Tim Waters offered to handle the judging and production of the prints if

the State Council approved and funded it. In 2012 the first print with stamp rolled out and was available to the chapters for fundraisers and also to individual collectors. The winning print was put back on the cover of the DNR trout regulation booklet. The council has produced the print and stamp for the last three years.

The DNR recently indicated they would like to take the program back, and the State Council's Executive Committee voted unanimously to do so. The DNR plans to announce the contest in the 2016 trout regulation booklet for the 2017 season. They are considering alternating between adult artists and youth artists each year.

We encourage our chapters and members to support WITU and purchase any of the remaining prints from 2012-2014. They are \$50 for chapters and \$125 for individuals. With the purchase of the print you also will get the stamp. Stamps are available for individual purchase at \$10 each. Contact Tim Waters at MuddyWaters@new.rr.com.

Strategic planning efforts under way

By Linn Beck, State Council Chair

Following the lead of National TU, the State Council has decided to develop a strategic plan to be put into implementation upon completion. With predicted sales of the new WITU license plate, the council has decided that a key focus of the strategic plan will be determining the best use of the additional revenue, while also focusing on how to develop more funds.

A strategic plan is vital to keeping an organization moving forward. It's a powerful approach that helps organizations figure out what's really important and what to do about it. Without a plan it is very easy to miss or "forget" about the things that make it successful.

We have put together a committee comprised of the executive committee, regional chairs, and three chapter leaders. The goals

of the committee will be to develop a three- to five-year plan for all items, consisting of where we want to be, what we need to do to achieve the goals and how to maintain the goals we have set. We will use the "S.M.A.R.T." concept to achieve specific, measurable, attainable goals, with relevant information, and do it all in a timely manner.

As we develop and put in place the strategic plan for the state council, we encourage all the chapters to work on and develop their own strategic plans. If you need help getting started, please feel free to contact me for assistance.

Watch for more information on our strategic planning efforts in the upcoming months. This is an exciting time for Wisconsin Trout Unlimited and should be an incredible journey as we go forward.

Microbead legislation advances

By Mike Stapleton,
WITU Legislative Committee

To fly tyers, a microbead might be something you slide onto a very small hook or can never find when you drop one on the floor. But to those following recent environmental issues, microbeads have become a subject of growing concern in the Great Lakes, our oceans and throughout Europe.

Microbeads are tiny plastic beads between 0.0004 and 1.24 millimeters in diameter which have become common ingredients in personal care products such as facial scrubs, soaps and toothpaste. Due to their very small size they are not removed by most wastewater treatment plants and end up in surface waters. Once there, they soak up toxins present in the water. Looking like fish eggs, the beads are consumed by aquatic life, including small fish. Beads have been found in the stomachs of Great Lakes perch, as well as in fish-eating birds, indicating that the beads, and the toxins adhering to them, can move up the food chain.

Here in Wisconsin, Assembly Bill 15, introduced in late January by Rep. Mary Czaja (R-Irma), and Senate Bill 15, introduced by Sen. Robert Cowles (R-Green Bay), would prohibit both the manufacture and sale of personal care products containing plastic microbeads after December 31, 2018. Several Great Lakes states have already adopted such bans, and a number of

others are currently considering similar action.

Past WITU Chair and National TU Trustee Henry Koltz submitted a letter of support for AB 15 prior to a public hearing on February 2 before the Assembly Committee on Environment and Forestry. Both AB 15 and SB 15 received unanimous approval and recommendation for adoption from their respective committees. On Tuesday, March 5, SB15 was passed by the Senate by a unanimous voice vote. As of the time of our publication deadline, AB 15 had not yet been scheduled for floor action by the Assembly.

The good news here is twofold. First, both bills appear to have broad bipartisan support as indicated by the large number of cosponsors from both parties and unanimous votes at the committee level. Second, industry is out in front of this one, with many manufacturers of these products pledging to phase out the use of plastic microbeads. At the Assembly public hearing on AB 15, no one registered in opposition.

It is still worthwhile for you to contact your representatives and urge them to support AB 15 when the bill comes up for a vote before the full Assembly. The Great Lakes and its fisheries are facing a number of threats these days, and it's good to see that we have the ability to respond to at least one of them in a cooperative manner.

TU members discuss groundwater, advocacy

By Mike Stapleton,
WITU Legislative Committee

A group of 22 concerned individuals representing Trout Unlimited and the Central Sands Water Action Coalition met in Wautoma on a very cold February day to discuss some very "hot" topics. These included legislative proposals relating to high-capacity wells and their impact on ground and surface water resources, particularly in Wisconsin's Central Sands area.

TU members representing the Central Wisconsin, Frank Hornberg, Aldo Leopold, Southern and Southeast Wisconsin Chapters were present, with the Central Sands Coalition being represented by individuals from a number of its member organizations, mostly lake protection groups. The River Alliance of Wisconsin sponsored the meeting.

Although there was discussion of two recent bill drafts, LRB-1446 and LRB-0995/2, the main thrust of the meeting concerned the kind of direct citizen engagement with legislators that we need to pursue in order to have a meaningful impact on these measures as they work their way through the legislative process.

TU has credibility

WITU found success with this approach during our efforts to pass a TU License Plate Bill. According to Helen Sarakinos, Policy and Advocacy Director for the River Alli-

ance of Wisconsin, TU enjoys a great deal of credibility in the legislature at this time, and we should be contacting our legislators whether or not they are directly involved in these issues. They will be impressed by personal contact, and will take notice if a particular issue is brought up by numerous constituents. Bob Haase of CWTU reported on his own contacts with his legislators who, he told the group, were genuinely grateful for information he provided, and he strongly urged others to pursue closer relationships with their own legislators.

As the meeting was drawing to a close, Elward Engle, a retired DNR employee and long-time member of Central Wisconsin TU, spoke about his observations over the years of trout spawning activity in the headwaters of Radley Creek southeast Portage County. Elward estimated that streamflow is perhaps less than half of what it used to be, and in riffles where he used to see spawning brown and brook trout in great numbers, more recent observations revealed riffles being covered by sand and silt, with very few spawning pairs being seen.

This is why we need to be involved. The impacts of water withdrawals are real, and they are seriously impacting public water resources. Our direct involvement is necessary in order to insure the sustainability of those resources.

Watershed Access Fund

Spring 2015 update

By Doug Brown

The 2015 fundraising campaign is in full swing and the initial response has been terrific! We have already surpassed \$8,100 from 80 donations, including three chapter donations. Thank you so much for your support!

This kind of financial support has been put to good use. The Watershed Access program has provided grants to preserve fishing access to the Pine Creek in Pepin County, the Kinnickinnic River in St. Croix County and the White River in Waushara County.

Some recent new changes to the program funding have been enacted by the State Council. A single chapter can request up to \$7,500. Two chapters can request this amount for single project. The council can request up to \$15,000. Chapters will attempt to match at least 50 percent in funds, and they can count volunteer labor towards their match. The State Council has the option to waive the chapter match under certain circumstances.

For 2015, please consider making a generous contribution to our 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.

2015 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")*

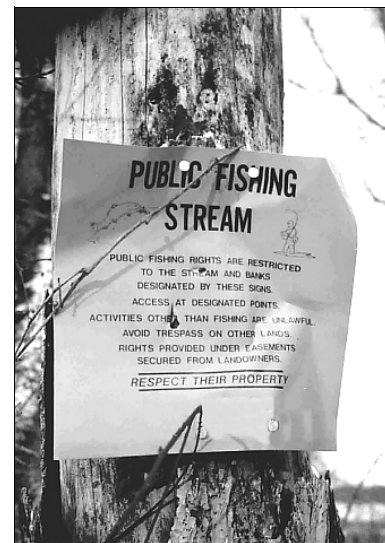
MAIL TO: TU Watershed Access Fund
% Doug Brown
R4800 Timber Ln.
Ringle, WI 54471

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____



Consider “Tenkara” on Driftless streams



“TENKARA” TECHNIQUES CAN WORK WELL IN THE DRIFTLESS AREA

“Tenkara” fishing techniques can be adapted to many types of fishing situations, including trout fishing in Wisconsin’s Driftless Area spring creeks.

By Mike Lutes of Badger Tenkara

For starters, let’s be clear about a couple of issues. The fishing techniques described here are not really “tenkara” in the traditional sense. Tenkara, which loosely translated means “from heaven,” is a fixed-line fly fishing style used in mountainous regions in Japan. Since we have a noticeable shortage of mountains here in the Driftless region, what we are doing is not strictly tenkara. Calling what we do “tenkara” may offend some purists, but let’s face it, tenkara just sounds a lot cooler than “fixed-line fly fishing.” For better or worse, all fixed-line fly fishing in the U.S. has been lumped under the “tenkara” heading.

Secondly, like so many other articles, this article will not expound on the simplicity of tenkara and the wonder of fishing “with only a rod, line and fly.” I have reels. I like them. I just really like tenkara, too. And if you spend any time talking to tenkara fisherman or reading about tenkara, you will find that you can make it just as complicated as “regular” fly fishing if you so desire.

I promise not to tell you how tenkara makes me feel “more connected to the fish.” I’m not sure the presence or absence of a reel on my fly rod has much of an impact on my personal relationship with the fish. I suppose you could ask the fish, but I don’t think they’d have much to say on the subject.

Tenkara in the Driftless region

If you do much reading about tenkara, you will find a lot of people recommend a similar formula: a rod somewhere around 12 feet long

(give or take a foot or so), roughly 12 feet of fluorocarbon level line attached to 3-4 feet of 5x tippet. The typical tenkara fly is a sakasa kebari, a reverse-hackle fly associated with tenkara in Japan. I tried to like this set up. I really did. It just seemed cool. But I wasn’t catching many fish. Over the past three years my partner, Matt Sment, and I have refined our tenkara technique to catch trout in the Driftless region. After a lot of trial and error, we have dialed in a formula that is working well for us. Let’s break it down.

The rod

We tend to favor tenkara rods somewhere around the 11.5- to 12-foot range. Shorter rods are a disadvantage, as you are already limiting your reach with a tenkara set up. We sometimes fish longer rods, but much beyond 12 feet and some of the rods get ungainly to cast. Since the majority of the streams in the region run through meadows and valleys, the longer rod is really not a problem. In fact, I think it helps cut down on snags, since most of the snags you encounter on the Driftless streams are the result of bank-side brush, not trees.

The line

Here is where we really start to depart from the orthodoxy. You will find a lot of the tenkara “experts” praise fluorocarbon level line. Level line is also popular, though not used exclusively, in Japan. We tried really hard to like level line, but we just don’t. It has a lot of line memory, so any time you rig or re-rig, you are spending time straightening out your line. We find it hard to cast well, particularly to full extension. It

also tends to tangle much more than other types of line, particularly if you have not solved the line memory issue. It is not terribly wind resistant, which can be an issue in our region. It is also difficult to see, even in HiVis colors. On the plus side, it is fairly inexpensive and it excels at keeping line off the water, making it that much easier to get a drag free drift.

We use floating line almost exclusively. We like a very-light-weight floating line. It has little to no line memory and casts easily. You can keep most or all the line off the water without too much trouble. Level line has the edge here, but just by a little. It can turn over heavier or bushier flies without any difficulty. It does not tend to tangle and it is durable. We have tried many different types of line of our own making and from other manufacturers, and the light weight floating line still wins for us.

We typically use a length of line roughly the same length as the rod, perhaps a little longer. If you are fishing floating line longer than the length of the rod, it can tend to get heavy and not work as well. With level line, some anglers will fish line lengths as long as 1.5 or even 2 times the length of the rod, but we just have not felt the necessity to do that in most of the circumstances we fish. I like to tie about 10 inches of HiVis nylon line to the end of my floating line. It acts an indicator when I am fishing subsurface and makes it easier to tie on tippet. Matt usually fishes without the nylon end piece, and it certainly is not necessary.

Most of what you read about tenkara will tell you to use three to four feet of 5x tippet at the end of your line. Our catch rate improved with longer lengths of tippet. About six feet seems to be the “dialed in” length. We mostly use 5x tippet for Wisconsin trout, which is what the rod distributors typically recommend. The concern is that heavier tippet may put the rod at risk for breakage. When we fish for small-mouth bass, we just use cheap six-pound test for our leader and we have yet to break a rod. In fact, we have yet to have a customer return a rod because he or she broke it on a big fish.

The flies

Here again we depart from orthodoxy. The sakasa kebari, a reverse hackle wet fly, is the fly most associated with tenkara. There are many patterns, developed both in the U.S. and in Japan. Tenkara anglers tend to use rather large sakasa kebari, with size 8 and 10 being popular. U.S. anglers do sometimes use smaller variants, particularly when fishing pressured waters. The kebari is an attractor fly that does not imitate any particular bug. The reverse hackle pulsates as it moves through the water, which is what is believed to be what gives it its fish attracting qualities. It is a good fly, but we hav-

en’t had much luck using it on spring creek trout.

Some tenkara anglers have taken a “one fly” approach, where they only fish the kebari. They believe technique and presentation trump fly selection every time. I think there is a lot to learn from this approach, but unfortunately, some “one fly” anglers have taken to the philosophy like religious zealotry, to the degree that they make the dry fly purist look uncommitted. On the plus side, the “one fly” approach has helped anglers like me look in their fly boxes and ask themselves “do I really need all this crap?” On the other side of the spectrum, some tenkara anglers have adopted the “any fly” approach: just tie on whatever you grab out of the fly box. They also emphasize technique over fly selection.

So, I present to you our simplified break down on fly selection for tenkara trout fishing in the Driftless region:

March and early April

Fishing can be pretty variable here, as is the weather. The streams tend to run cold during this time, so the fish typically hold deep in the deeper pools. My two go-to flies this time of year are the bead head killer bug (BHKB) and a small streamer of some sort, usually about a size 12. I use either a bead head woolly bugger or a leech pattern, depending on which one I feel like tying or can get a good deal purchasing.

I believe that the BHKB imitates a scud, which is a major food source for Driftless trout. This fly is simply cast and dead drifted. The BHKB is a consistent producer all season long.

Using small streamer patterns also works really well this time of year. If you are feeling lazy, they can simply be dead drifted, which works more often than you would think. You can also twitch them as you retrieve. When I first tried fishing streamer patterns with tenkara, I looked at some online forums for advice and all I could find was one guy who said he used his tenkara rod to troll streamers behind his kayak. I’m sure other anglers were using them, too, but the practice didn’t seem too popular early on. Taking some time to cast into clear water and twitch your streamer back to you can be instructive. I think you would be surprised how much easier it is to make life-like movements with a fixed line set up versus a standard fly-fishing rig.

Mid-April to early June

In some ways, this is the best time to fish the Driftless region. The weather tends to be very pleasant. The fish are active. Stream-side weeds are not out of control yet and insects haven’t reached the nuisance level. There are a variety of hatches that take place during this time frame: caddis, sulfurs, olives and so

BADGER TENKARA

Group Instruction / Guided Trips / Rods and Kits from \$85

www.badgertenkara.com

on. Fish tend to be more surface-focused. I usually carry some caddis in about size 14 and some smaller olive patterns this time of year. If I can't catch fish with these flies, I will switch to a subsurface pattern. I like to fish the caddis because the tenkara setup allows you to twitch them on the surface fairly easily, which can entice some exciting strikes.

Mid-June through August

I'm not sure who coined the term "foam hatch," but I'd like to buy that guy a beer. That pretty well describes mid- to late-summer fishing in the Driftless region. Foam hoppers, crickets, beetles and ants are all highly productive. My favorite is the beetle, but you will find anglers that swear to any number of terrestrial patterns. Fish these flies tight to the bank and hold on. When the fish won't go for the foam, I switch to a bead head killer bug or a small streamer.

September

September weather can vary, as can the fishing. Early in the month you can still find fish feeding on terrestrials. Surface flies like the caddis and BWO can still be a good bet, but if the fish are not tuned into surface feeding, go subsurface.

Tenkara techniques in the Driftless region

While my fishing log is in a sad state, I think I can say that I catch more fish on tenkara than on my standard fly fishing gear. Here are my top nine reasons why I tend to

catch more trout with tenkara:

- My fly spends more time in the water. I am freed from spending time messing with fly line. No feeding line out or taking line in, tangling line about my feet and so on. Also, you really do not need to false cast at all with tenkara, so you spend less time doing that and subsequently spook fewer fish with your line.
- I fish more often. Setup time with tenkara is minimal. It's not a big deal to pull my rod out and fish for 30 minutes on my way to or from work. I can keep my rod collapsed with the line wrapped around the handle, so it's easy to grab it and fish.
- You can usually achieve a drag-free drift, which is a big deal for both subsurface and surface flies. It is easier to maintain a nice drift with tricky currents if you can keep most or all your line off the water.
- Delicate presentations are easier to achieve with a tenkara rod.
- Flies are easier to manipulate. Do a side-by-side comparison of a tenkara rod and a regular rod with one of your buddies. Try manipulating both a surface fly like a caddis and a streamer and see which one looks more life-like.
- You will have fewer snags. Although you would think with such a long rod that you would snag more with tenkara, but I have found the opposite to be true. Since we fish a lot of meadow and valley streams, it is mostly stream-side weeds and brush that your backcast hangs up on, particularly when you are wading



Chris Stewart

GO-TO DRIFTLESS FLY FOR TENKARA-STYLE FISHING

The author's favorite early-seasons flies include this bead head killer bug (BHKB) or a small, size-12 wooly buggler or leach pattern.

- in the creek. The extra length of the tenkara rod keeps you out of the weeds.
- Less fly switching. Again, I'm not a "one fly" disciple, but by sticking to a handful of patterns I spend more time fishing and less time changing flies.
- I am stealthier. Too many of us just aren't stealthy enough. Or we think we can just make that 40-foot cast and not worry about spooking fish. With tenkara, stealth just becomes part of the package. You practice it a lot more and get better at it. You become better at "picking your shots" and planning your approaches.
- I have more fun and I am more

relaxed. I think we all know we tend to catch more fish with calm, positive mental state than an anxious or angry one.

- Finally, one of tenkara's biggest strengths is that it lends itself readily to experimentation and personalization. There is a growing movement of tenkara anglers worldwide that is adapting the style to their own unique conditions, local species and personal preferences. We are excited to be finding our tenkara here in the Driftless, and encourage you to explore your tenkara this season.

Reach Badger Tenkara at badgertenkara.com

ORVIS®

GEAR UP FOR THE SEASON

PRESENT THIS AD INTO THE MADISON OR MILWAUKEE LOCATION

ENJOY \$25 OFF YOUR PURCHASE OF \$50 OR MORE

This offer is valid on full-priced merchandise only at Orvis retail stores and dealers. Offer not valid on purchase of merchandise at orvis.com, or through any outlet store, sale event, or catalog. Not valid with any other promotional offer. Not valid on Gift Card purchases, previous merchandise purchases, or sale items. Limit one ad per customer, ad must be presented for discount. No cash value. Coupon valid through 6/28/15.

164766

Hidey Ho from Heidi O. Women's Initiative Chair Heidi Oberstadt

Hi, Wisconsin TU folks!
Since you last heard from me, I went fishing in Washington state for the first time and caught my first steelhead. Now that I have that under my belt, I'm ready to tackle some big fish here in Wisconsin!

Several exciting things have happened here in the last few months. Our Wisconsin State Council sponsored a Women's Fly Fishing seminar, for the very first time. I'm so thankful to have the support of our leadership as we pursue our goals of diversifying our membership!

The women from the Wisconsin Women's Flyfishing Clinics came to instruct our class, and the consensus was a resounding, "Awesome!" This seminar was one of a kind for us, and we're hoping to continue expanding our programs with women in the future.

Carmin Hardin, a TU member and attendee, said, "The best part though, for me, was talking with the other women and learning what brought us all to this place. For some it was the chance to reconnect with nature or to create stronger family bonds. For others, it was a way to celebrate the beautiful gift of

life we are given. What was portrayed as a simple half day clinic on fly fishing was really much more, just like fly fishing." Many thanks to Amy, Nikki and Tina, for their work to put this event together.

If you missed this event, but are looking for some by-women-for-women instruction, more information about the upcoming Wisconsin Women's Flyfishing Clinics can be found on the Southern Wisconsin (SWTU) website: http://www.swtu.org/wffc_womens_clinics.html

Speaking of SWTU, I bundled up on a cold January night to head down to Madison for a women's social event. Happy hour at Ale Asylum? You don't need to ask me twice. The women from SWTU and the alumni from the women's clinics came to share stories and laughs. We had a great time!

I made the rounds on the eastern side of the state, too- I set up shop at Fox Valley's Cabin Fever event, and Central Wisconsin's TroutFest. Our Women's Initiative now has an official booth! It has been a wonderful opportunity to connect both with the women at our events and the women who are secretly lurking



THEY SAY YOUR FIRST STEELHEAD WILL HOOK YOU FOR LIFE

Heidi Oberstadt's role as a Women's Initiative leader at the local, state and national levels has blessed her with some great fishing opportunities, such as this recent adventure in Washington State.

among our membership. Come on out and join us, ladies! I'd love to meet you all and get some women fishing outings on the books.

Speaking of gatherings of women anglers and conservationists, please keep your eyes on our Wisconsin Women of Trout Unlimited Facebook page. We are posting any upcoming events and interesting articles there for our women to keep in touch.

Last, but certainly not least, please consider volunteering for Stream Girls 2015. It is a two-day program designed to get Girl Scouts on the stream, learning about the science behind trout habitat and sharing our passion for the sport of fishing.

Thanks for reading, friends. I hope to see you out on the stream!



Heidi Oberstadt photos

STATE COUNCIL'S FIRST WOMEN'S CLINIC AN OVERWHELMING SUCCESS

These happy women learned plenty about fly fishing, including how to consider the sport on a personal, even spiritual level.

Fishing clinic all about connections for this attendee

She learned that fishing is more than just fishing. It's about connecting to water, friends and family.



Amy Koltz

THESE GIRLS LOVE THEIR TROUT STREAMS

According to their mother, the adorable Koltz sisters enjoy playing in



ENJOYING THEMSELVES AT ALE ASYLUM

The Southern Wisconsin chapter hosted a women's gathering at Ale Asylum in Madison recently, with plenty of fish stories to go around.

By Amy Koltz

"We all have a body of water with which we feel a strong connection. Take a moment to imagine that body of water – what it looks like and how it makes you feel." This is a paraphrase of a visualization exercise at the 2015 Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Women's Fly Fishing Clinic held in Oshkosh last February.

Connecting to water on one's own terms was a recurring theme from the clinic, which was held in conjunction with the State Council Meeting. Nikki Seger, Tina Murray and Amy Klusmeier trained 10 women of varying skill levels during the free four-hour clinic. The instructors created a welcoming and engaging environment in which to learn the basics of fly fishing. Beyond that, they also invited participants to connect with each other and to consider the sport on a personal, and even spiritual, level.

Clinic participants were taught and practiced fly casting, learned to tie several essential knots, and learned about "trout food," including caddis and mayflies, their life cycles, and related fly patterns. As an added bonus, participants had the opportunity to tie a few flies under the guidance of TU volunteers John Tucker, Bob Haase, Dick Berge, Mark Rhinerson and others. They were patient, encouraging instructors and all participants walked away with several of their own hand-

tied flies.

Interspersed between learning fly fishing's basics technical aspects, we considered how, as women, we learn and connect with the sport in ways that are often different than our male partners and friends. Our goal should be getting on the water rather than worrying about having the perfect casting technique or top-of-the-line-gear. However, they did point out we should use appropriately sized rods, and boots and waders designed for women. Additionally, we discussed fly fishing not as a sport, but as a means to connect to things important to us, including friends, family, nature and the divine.

As most reading this know, my husband is an avid fly-fisherman, and a TU leader. Together, he and I are raising two young girls who might enjoy playing in streams even more than their father. The clinic and its wonderful instructors helped me connect my concept of quality family time even more firmly to cold, clean water, and the art of fly fishing. I now have a renewed enthusiasm for getting out on the water with a fly rod in hand. I am eager to meet more women anglers and to encourage the next generation.

Hopefully the Women's Fly Fishing Clinic will return to next year's State Council Banquet. I will undoubtedly attend again, and I urge all women reading this to consider attending as well.

Driftless Rambler

With Duke Welter

TUDARE Communications Director

Great symposium

As a substitute for having a wintertime social life, I thrive on participating in a good symposium. These get-togethers are places where ideas and science and research take center stage, and the participants get a chance to question and test and improve on those ideas in discussions.

The recent Driftless Symposium in La Crosse was the eighth one sponsored by TU's Driftless Area Restoration Effort and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. More than 170 people from around the area gathered to talk about what's going on with watershed restoration, important policy decisions and developments affecting the region, and important research to those concerned with our streams and rivers. Among the subjects covered were:

- One of the first-ever watershed restoration efforts that turned into a phosphorus credit-trading opportunity, in Monroe County.
- Developments regarding gill lice in brook trout.
- New techniques being used in habitat-improvement efforts.
- Reports from guides regarding what their clients like and don't like about the waters where they fish, including habitat restoration work.
- Minnesota's hot political topic: strengthening a requirement that all streams be bordered by a 50-foot vegetated buffer to protect them from nearby land use impacts.
- Efforts to catalog Karst features in Minnesota's 24 Driftless counties, including springs, sinkholes, algific slopes and the like. This inquiry gives the state much-needed knowledge to better protect its surface and groundwater from various threats.

One other feature was a fast-paced set of five-minute check-ins from 15 different partner groups on what they have to offer partnerships working the Driftless Area. They included some you might find unlikely, like the League of Women Voters and their regional conservation effort, and some who were new to the discussion, like pre-columbian archeologists working to preserve historical archeology and the native peoples' past. When TUDARE got started 10 years ago, such a range of partners would have been a pipe dream. Today, we could offer three times as many potential partners as we saw at the symposium. They enrich and broaden every part of the regional watershed restoration effort, and building a better-appreci-

ated cultural identity for the Driftless Area. I was struck, at the same time, by the lack of media attention to this potpourri of ideas. Wisconsin Trout was there, of course, but not many others.

West Yellowstone Wild Trout Symposium

Traveling another step on the symposium trail, last fall's Wild Trout Symposium in West Yellowstone left an observer deluged with a range of new ideas about some familiar topics. Among them:

- A hooking mortality study of baited circle hooks for trout fishing by the Idaho Department of Fish & Game in some small mountain streams. Circle hooks, once the angler is used to them, generally produce lip-hooked rather than deep-hooked fish. They are required in some salt-water near-shore fishing situations in some states. Now, these Idaho fish were cutthroats, and this wasn't a huge study, but it suggests some things that circle-hook research has shown in other places, such as salt: primarily, bait fishing with circle hooks can reduce hooking mortality from somewhere in the range of 40 percent to a rate that compares with hooking mortality from fly-caught fish, about 5 percent, or spin-caught fish, about 7-9 percent. With more circle hooks becoming available in the sizes used by trout anglers, why wouldn't we be encouraging their use by anglers, sale by vendors, and research by scientists?
- A literature review of hundreds of research articles on the topic of impacts of stocked trout over naturally-reproducing wild trout populations, done by a very frank and curious biologist for a state fish and game department that stocks a lot of fish, questioned the assumption that the stockers would adversely impact the wild fish population. He suggested the research is becoming "less compelling" and that scientists should reexamine their paradigms and discuss what they've found with the public. Looking at Iowa streams where hundreds of thousands of hatchery rainbows are stocked over naturally-reproducing browns every year, why not push for a study where stocking is halted on some streams and not others and look for significant impacts?
- Special regulations have always been a feature of the Wild Trout



James "Big Rack" French

DUKE WELTER "CATCHING" A NICE RAINBOW TROUT ON THE CLARK FORK IN MONTANA

Symposia, and this time around the research reiterated that some of the places they are used don't show hoped-for effects on trout populations. Fisheries managers consider many to be mostly justified by social pressures by particular groups of anglers. Interestingly, managers are increasingly accepting the idea that in brown trout waters, with fussy fish, bait angling is compatible with special regulations. That can be seen in some of the southeast Minnesota streams where catch-and-release is required and bait fishing is allowed.

- Finally, from Wisconsin, DNR Fisheries Scientist Matt Mitro reported on his ongoing gill lice research. On Ash Creek in Richland County, gill lice were first observed in 2010. By April 2012 25 percent of brook trout had them, and by October 2012, 90 percent had them. Clearly, there's something coming in and it's having an effect on brook trout populations. Mitro says the key impact so far seems to be that where brook and brown trout share a stream, a gill lice infestation stresses the brookies and enables the brown trout to outcompete them. Stay tuned. And consider visiting a symposium some time.

Arnold, Kiap keep wood chips flying

One of the most active chapters doing wintertime stream project work this year has been the Kiap-TU-Wish chapter, working on the Red Cabin stretch of the Kinnickinnic near River Falls. Kiap has long

had a wintertime tradition of these brushing days a couple Saturday mornings each month, interrupted only by terrible wind chills or blizzards. These days, the sparkplug of that effort is Randy Arnold, a Renaissance guy who invites, teases, urges, cajoles, bribes and otherwise entices local folks to come out and saw, buck, stack and burn the box elders along the stream before a springtime project begins. Not content to wield a chain saw with abandon, Randy cooked hot dogs and heart-shaped cupcakes for a Valentines Day morning session with his crew of a dozen hard souls. And he brought them out there with a ditty adapted from Carole King's "Too Late Baby," repeated here without permission:

You stayed in bed all morning just to pass the time

There's something wrong here, can be no denying

There's a stream we've been changing Woodchips have been flyin'

It's not too late baby to put your time in

Together we really can try to remake it

You can take pride by helping our side

Transform this stream with your stake in it

Thanks, Randy and your hardy Kiap stream group.

Getting emails?

Have you received any recent emails from either your local chapter, the State Council or National TU? If not, then you are truly missing out on much of the activity of TU.

TU National manages the mailing list for Wisconsin TU and the chapters, so if you want to receive emails, you need to make sure that TU National has your current email address.

Go to tu.org and log in, then go to email preferences and make sure they have your current email and mailing address. If you have questions about this process call 1-800-834-2419.

Writers, photographers sought

Whether you're an experienced or aspiring writer or photographer, Wisconsin Trout is always looking for passionate people to join our editorial team.

Help us show and tell the amazing stories about what TU members are doing at the local, state and national levels. There are dedicated people out there putting forth a lot of time and effort to help us accomplish key objectives, from working with kids or veterans to restoring streams. Their stories should be told.

Perhaps you'd like take pen and camera and document an important environmental subject that affects our coldwater resources.

If you're willing to use your skills to make Wisconsin Trout a better publication for Wisconsin's TU members, please contact Editor Todd Franklin at toddfranklinwistrout@gmail.com.

“Friends” group fights to protect the public’s water resources

By Bob Clarke

Bob Clarke, a founding member of Friends of the Central Sands, presented the following speech at the February State Council meeting in Oshkosh.

For more than 20 years we’ve enjoyed our little piece of heaven here in the Central Sands area of Wisconsin. Having grown up on a lake in Minnesota, my wife and I wanted to raise our children so that they too would appreciate life “at the lake.” After searching, we purchased a small home on the shores of Pleasant Lake near Coloma, Wisconsin. During the summers we would sit on our dock reading a book while the children played in the water. We hiked along the nearby streams and ponds. We fished, ice skated and swam. But that all changed in the late summer of 2010.

CAFO spurs formation of “Friends”

It was then that we learned of the pending construction of the Richfield CAFO (concentrated animal feeding operation) near our home. This proposed dairy operation would initially house 5,000 animals and was scheduled to be built the following summer. However, after learning the history of this corporation, we recognized that the proposal was likely just the beginning and would eventually become a much larger operation.

Along the way we met a couple that have since become our dearest friends. Bill and Mary Vance had a long history of managing the health of our lake. Teachers by training, they were instrumental in our ability to gather information and help make sense of all that we were learning. They helped us to understand the importance of this issue and the need to do something, anything to push back.

As a result of this threat we formed the Friends of the Central Sands. We work to promote a healthy Central Sands landscape through natural resource stewardship, community involvement, scientific knowledge and advocacy.

Over the next several months we learned everything we could about CAFOs. We feared that despite words to the contrary, the impact on our community would largely be negative. Impacts would include significant increases in truck traffic on our roads, enormous amounts of animal waste spread on nearby fields, as well as stench and air pollution. But most importantly we learned that the high-capacity wells required

for this operation would have a substantial impact on our lake and nearby streams. With more than 2,000 high-capacity wells in the Central Sands, we had no idea of the larger impact that similar wells were already having in the region.

Wells affecting region’s groundwaters

The Central Sands region runs from the Wisconsin Dells on the south, to Stevens Point in the north, and roughly encompasses parts of the counties of Marquette, Waushara, Adams, Wood, Portage and Waupaca. Increased pumping from the aquifer, primarily for industrial agriculture, is having a detrimental impact on area lakes, streams and wetlands.

Many of these have been drying steadily over the past several years. This is all occurring during a time when we have actually been experiencing above-normal precipitation. Pleasant Lake, the shores upon which we reside, has also been dropping. Across the street from my home are the headwaters of Chafee Creek. This creek is an important tributary to the famed Mecan River and has been undergoing visible changes.

Pro-water, not anti-farm

It has become obvious to many natural resource professionals and hydrologists that unfettered groundwater pumping for industrial agriculture is to blame. I would like to make it clear, however, that we are not anti-farm. It is obvious that I like to eat. I love meat and dairy. I enjoy potatoes, but if you would ask my wife, I don’t eat enough vegetables. But what we really are is pro-water. We believe in the richness of our area and in the richness of our water resources.

The impact from the pumping has had an egregious effect in our region, and it wasn’t going to get any better. Who knew that slight temperature changes or chemical composition of the water would impact the ability for trout to spawn? Changing the ground water flow into our lakes and streams has this impact. I never made the connection that during the summer heat, when crops would require more water, the streams themselves need the water as well.

After much education and investigation, we sprang into action. We forced a public hearing on the permitting of this new CAFO in 2011 when nearly 500 people attended.



LITTLE PLOVER RIVER, MINUS THE WATER

The Little Plover River has experienced periodic low flows for years and has lacked sufficient flows during dry periods. It is considered one of the most endangered rivers in the U.S. by the advocacy group American Rivers.

Legal battles begin

In July, 2011 the first of our three lawsuits challenging the permitting of this CAFO was filed. We challenged the construction of the site itself, specifically the plans and specifications. For example, we were concerned about potential leaks from the lagoons around the site. We also challenged the way in which the manure was spread and monitored on nearby fields. The case with the widest impact and which received the most attention concerned the pumping of groundwater.

I must share with you that although we were challenging the DNR and their permitting processes, we have met many wonderful DNR representatives along the way. There are so many dedicated people within the agency who have spent their entire career protecting our resources. It is the lack of manpower, financial resources and political will that often gets in the way of fulfilling their mission.

Over the next year we held many rallies. Many letters to the editor were written, and we held our first major event, Water Reality.

We created a short video that can be viewed on our website www.friendsofCS.org. “Not Standing Still: The Degradation of Wisconsin’s Water,” features Elward Engle and George Kraft, who explains what is happening to our water. This video was supported in part by the Central Wisconsin chapter of Trout Unlimited and WI Lakes.

We continued to educate anyone who would listen. We hired attorneys and expert witnesses. We gathered even more information. In 2013 our day in court finally arrived. Actually, we had our three weeks in front of an Administrative Law Judge. Those three weeks of hearings were some of the most difficult weeks of my life. It was very difficult to sit and listen to people talk about “facts” that were simply false and stories created to convince others why their assault on our resources were highly regulated and as such perfectly safe. Based on historical precedents, however, those words were not at all comforting.

These were difficult times. Friends turned against us. We were

shunned and yelled at. My family was publicly shamed and humiliated. We were harassed. We were called many names. But there’s one name that I wear with pride. And that is the label I was given. I am an activist. An activist! And the more I learn, the happier I am to carry that title.

We quickly realized that our fight affects everyone across the state of Wisconsin. In 2011 the Supreme Court of Wisconsin ruled in its Lake Beulah decision, that the Wisconsin DNR has the authority, and in fact a duty, to consider potential adverse impacts posed by high-capacity wells when they are presented with concrete scientific evidence of the potential harm to state waters. We met that test. We presented concrete scientific evidence of potential harm. So our case, which was also joined by others, was the first to test this Supreme Court decision.

Many other organizations have also taken up the cause to protect our groundwater. Our friends at the River Alliance, Wisconsin Lakes, Clean Wisconsin and the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters are among the many organizations that have been educating their members and working toward a solution to the problem.

But as they say, no good deed goes unpunished. In 2013 there was an effort to undermine our legal challenge. In the dead of night, language was inserted into the state’s budget bill blocking any challenges to a high-capacity well permit based on cumulative effects. After citizen uproar, the language was amended so that it was not made retroactive and directly impacting our case. Unfortunately, the bill did pass so that language is law today.

In December of 2013 we won an earlier appeal when the court unanimously decided in our favor concerning the DNR’s issuance of their Environmental Assessment in the permitting of the Richfield CAFO. This affirmed our position that the DNR did not adequately consider cumulative effects in the creation of this Environmental Assessment.

Then on September 4, 2014 we learned of the big decision in our case. The judge ruled that the Department of Natural Resources must take into account the cumula-



A PIER TO NOWHERE...AT LEAST NOWHERE WET

Waupaca County’s Long Lake, near Plainfield, was once a trophy bass lake, but now suffers from a lack of water. In 2006 it dried up completely.

tive impacts of groundwater pumping when considering new high-capacity well permits. It was a big win! In fact, in his 25-page ruling, the judge took the DNR to task for ignoring their own scientists by not taking the cumulative effects of high-capacity wells into consideration when permitting another one.

To illustrate the issue, imagine putting many straws in a glass but only looking at the impact of one of those straws on the water. The DNR, he said, while acknowledging that cumulative effects of pumping has in fact caused damage to our resources, they were very narrow in their view of their authority to regulate these wells.

This is a game changer. This changes the discussion for the entire state. The judge upheld the premise that the waters of the state are a right guaranteed under the public trust doctrine of the Wisconsin Constitution and that the DNR has both a duty and responsibility to manage this resource appropriately.

But it wasn't over. We held our breath until October 5, the last day for appeal. That day passed with an appeal. A significant weight was lifted from our shoulders. It is very hard to explain, but for so long we have been focused on this decision and now it was here. We won, but at a cost exceeding \$350,000, which was born solely by personal donations. After three years, three months, and 22 days, not that I am counting, we were finally free of all of our legal cases on November 14, 2014.

Since winning this case, much has happened. The judge ruled that the DNR does in fact have authority to require ground monitoring wells at a CAFO site. This was an interesting case because it was brought by the same corporation we were fighting. This time they didn't agree with the DNR and sued them to prevent additional groundwater monitoring. The corporation's response was that they thought the ruling was unfair.

Not too many months ago another CAFO formally known as Optiz

was seeking an approval for a higher-than-normal background nitrate level in the groundwater at their site. This is the same operator that was fined \$65,000 in 2013 by the Department of Justice for groundwater contamination. Now known as Burr Oak Heifers, they were seeking to raise the level from 10 ppm of nitrate to 28 ppm. The DNR at times agrees to an Alternative Concentration Limit or ACL. This belies common sense. The legal limit, the safe limit, is 10 ppm. Above this level it is recommended that pregnant women and young children not drink the water. Because of public outcry the DNR has backed down from this higher level. In fact, they are requiring additional water monitoring wells on this site as well.

More bills looming

We are now entering a critical time for groundwater legislation. There are some new bills being proposed that will have tremendous impact on our resource. One of these is being proposed by Sen. Richard Gudex (R-Fond du Lac). This bill essentially grandfathered all high-capacity wells so that they will not be subject to additional restrictions. These wells can be repaired or replaced and will also carry with the land. While this appears to protect the well owner, it also means that any current high-capacity well, regardless of use or pumping history, would be grandfathered. Historically the DNR has used these opportunities to review the well in consideration of events that may have changed overtime. Under this bill, it also doesn't matter if the use of the high-capacity well changes or happens to be located 20 feet from the stream. This is simply a bad idea.

At this time we understand that another bill is in the works by Rep. Scott Krug (R-Nekoosa) and Sen. Robert Cowles (R-Green Bay), but have not seen any details. A more recent bill by Sen. Mark Miller (D-Monona) and Rep. Cory Mason (D-Racine) appears to be taking a much better approach to groundwa-

ter management. Given the political environment I am not sure if this bill will gain the attention it deserves. This is a bill that we could most likely support. It will be a very interesting spring for certain.

Regardless, all of us need to contact our legislators to let them know that we are paying attention to the issue of groundwater. This is especially true if you live and vote in a different part of the state outside of the Central Sands area. Elected officials from the entire state need to know that this is a critical issue. We need sensible water policy that is based on science. We cannot go backwards. We must have a policy that repairs damage already done and prevents even more damage. This is everyone's water.

But there are other threats to our water. Frac sand mining is a burgeoning industry in the western part of the state. More CAFO's are on the horizon and manure spills are a growing problem. They spill not just on the land but in the ditches and on roadways where it finds its way to streams or sometimes down other people's wells.

Friends of the Central Sands may have been started as a result of a CAFO, but we are much more than that. We work for resilience in the Central Sands landscape by protecting our water resources. This vision requires protecting habitat along lakes, streams and wetlands while restoring key habitats that have been degraded. But, to be successful, we need partners to help execute these goals. It's not enough to just prevent further ecological degradation in the Central Sands region. We must also be on the offensive and look for opportunities to increase ecological health. This requires policy and regulatory change, public support, financial resources, active restoration and working with partners to protect ecologically important lands.

A few years ago, good friends Alastair Stewart and Jeff Wegand invited my son and I to a local stream for a fly-fishing lesson. They told us to bring some headlamps to

use after dinner. Headlamps? We thought we were going on a Trout Unlimited version of a snipe hunt. After some embarrassing lessons and a quick dinner, we headed back to the stream. After sunset we were treated to an amazing life-changing event. We witnessed our first hatch. It was a very surreal moment. But this, my friends, is what it is all about. It was in this moment that I knew what we were doing was right.

The mission of Trout Unlimited is to conserve, protect and restore America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds. But we can't conserve what is wasted. We can't protect if we don't act. We cannot restore what is already lost. We must work together on our common goal: To protect our water resources.

This is the time upon which future generations will see a turning point in the state of our water resources. Let's make sure they are thankful for what we have done. Let's not regret standing by while our streams and water resources are destroyed. I was nobody. Together we are somebody. Now is the time to act. Now is the time to speak out. Let's continue to find ways to work together to make a lasting impact and leave a lasting legacy.

A part-time resident of the Central Sands for nearly 30 years, Bob has a strong passion for the environment. He has been an active supporter in the preservation of the environmental resources in many pristine places including the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. On a local level he was stirred to action when the Richfield Dairy, a large CAFO, was proposed near his home on Pleasant Lake near Coloma, Wisconsin. Bob also serves on the Board of Directors for Sustain Rural Wisconsin Network, the Steering Committee for the Central Wisconsin Water Action Coalition, the Board of Directors for Wisconsin Lakes, and is a founding member of the Friends of the Central Sands. He is also a member of the Central Wisconsin chapter of Trout Unlimited.

Legislative proposals emerging on groundwater, high-capacity wells

By Mike Stapleton,
WITU Legislative Committee

Bob Clarke's moving presentation to WITU chronicles the stresses being placed on the Central Sands aquifer, the surface water resources that depend on it, and the costly litigation required to protect them.

Adverse impacts resulting from conflicts between competing users of the Central Sands aquifer have led to the development of a number of proposed legislative remedies, one of which has been introduced, one which is still in draft form, and one still in the drafting stage.

SB-72, the Water Sustainability Act

A bill being called the Water Sustainability Act, drafted by Sen. Mark Miller (D-Monona) and Rep. Cory Mason (D-Racine), was introduced March 10 as Senate Bill 72. Senator Miller's website states: "The goal of this legislation is to appropriately manage our water resources so the reasonable use doctrine is fully realized; that every person has a right to use water but not to the point where

it threatens the water supply."

The bill establishes a process and standards for designating areas as groundwater management areas, and the Central Sands region is specifically mentioned as an area that will be considered for such designation. In areas receiving such designation, the DNR would develop and adopt a groundwater management plan, the goal of which would be to achieve sustainable hydrologic conditions. Numerous provisions are created, repealed or amended with respect to high-capacity wells. Significant among the proposed changes are:

1. Current law provides that high-capacity well approval or application cannot be challenged based on the DNR's lack of consideration of the cumulative impacts of the proposed well and existing wells. SB72 would require consideration of the cumulative impacts of the proposed well together with existing withdrawals.

2. Under current law a high-capacity well approval generally remains in effect indefinitely. SB 72 provides that approvals issued after the bill's effective date are limited

to 10 years. For wells approved prior to the Bill's effective date, approvals would remain in effect for varying periods of 8-16 years.

SB72 has been referred to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

A bill draft, LRB-1446/1, drafted by Sen. Richard Gudex (R-Fond du Lac), has been circulated for co-sponsorship but has not yet been introduced. This bill would provide that for an existing approved high-capacity well, no additional approval is required for repair or maintenance, reconstruction of the existing well, replacement with a well of substantially the same depth if located within 75 feet of the existing well, or for transfer of the well approval to a new owner of the property.

Significant in this proposal is that elimination of further review for an existing well and the stated modifications effectively confers a "water right" to the property in perpetuity which runs with the land and would guarantee existing and subsequent owners the right to extract the amount of water allowed under the original permit. Also of concern is that while replacement with a new

well is limited to substantially the same depth as the existing well, the definition of "reconstruct" allows for the deepening of the well. Actions permitted by this bill are subject to continued compliance with the standards and conditions of the existing high capacity well approval.

A third proposal is still being drafted by Sen. Robert Cowles (R-Green Bay) and is expected to be circulated for co-sponsorship within several weeks. No other details on this draft were available.

The Friends of the Central Sands and other groups have waged an important legal battle to protect their cherished portion of the state, and have accomplished a great deal. We are urged by Clarke to "act, to speak out, to work together on our common goal, to protect our water resources." It behooves all of us to follow these various proposals closely as they are drafted, introduced, debated and work their way through the legislative process, and to participate actively in that process for the protection of the water resources of our state.

Friends of Wisconsin TU Spring 2015 update

By Doug Brown, Friends of Wisconsin TU Chair

The Friends of Wisconsin TU is celebrating its 25th campaign! Since the program's inception in 1991 we have raised more than \$250,000. The financial commitment of our members is simply fantastic! Thank you all for your continued support!

With spring here, stream restoration projects will be starting soon. Five chapters have recently been granted funds for stream work in 2015. A lot of work will be done this summer with donations from members like you.

One of the grants went to the Wisconsin River Valley TU Chapter for work on the Prairie River.

The project will span two years and will restore nearly a mile of the river.

Habitat improvement will include creation of islands and narrowing of the river to create deeper holding water, as well as increase flow rates.

A huge thank you to Fraaza Rock and Sand in Ringle for significant price reduction on supplying the large number of rocks and boulders needed for this project.

Requests for grants continue to roll in from our chapters, so please consider making a donation. I hope you have a fantastic 2015 trout season!

Tight Lines.



A Friends grant recipient: Bear Creek, Sauk Co.

Providing habitat improvement grants since 1991. The latest projects are...

\$2,000 to the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter for the Upper Kinni in 2014

\$2,000 to Clearwaters Chapter for Waumandee Creek in 2015

\$2,000 to Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter for Six Mile Br. in 2014

\$2,000 to Wild Rivers for White River in Ashland County in 2015

\$2,000 to Wisconsin River Valley for Prairie River Project in Lincoln County in 2015

\$2,000 to Marinette and \$2000 to Wolf River for NE Region work in 2015

\$2,000 to Aldo Leopold and \$2,000 to Southeast for Bear Cr., Sauk Co., 2015

Here are our Friends of Wisconsin TU

- Mike and Sue Arneson
- Edwin Barnes
- Charles Barnhill
- Jeffrey Bartynski
- Jim Bayorgeon
- John and Susan Bleimehl
- Stephen Burn
- Jerry Bristol
- Robert Buley
- Casey Calkins
- Lynn Christiansen
- Rick Christopherson
- Russell Cison
- Lawrence Clowry MD
- Andrew Cook II
- Terry Cummings
- Bruce Davidson
- Richard Diedrich
- Dennis Drazkowski
- Richard Duplessie
- Harley Erbs
- Richard Evans
- John Ewen
- William Flader, M.D.
- Jim Flesch
- Erik Forsgren
- D. James Fruit, Jr.
- Richard Galling
- Donald Grade
- Gordon Grieshaber
- Dean Hagness
- Jon Hanson
- Henry Haugley
- Ashton Hawk
- Stephen Hawk
- William Heart
- Brian Hegge
- Walter Heil Jr
- Bob Hellyer
- Walter Hellyer
- Dan and Nancy Hill
- Phyllis Hunt
- John & Judith Hutchinson
- Jeff Jackson
- Charles James
- Thomas Janssen
- Andrew Jicha
- John Kenealy III
- Lane Kistler
- Joe Kubale
- Big SkyMT
- MiddletonWI
- MadisonWI
- Eau ClaireWI
- AppletonWI
- VeronaWI
- MadisonWI
- EllsworthWI
- HolmenWI
- BrookfieldWI
- MiddletonWI
- NorwalkWI
- PhillipsWI
- WauwatosaWI
- Sister BayWI
- RhinelandWI
- WauwatosaWI
- GraftonWI
- North PrairieWI
- Eau ClaireWI
- RhinelandWI
- MequonWI
- NeenahWI
- MadisonWI
- Fox Point, WI
- FremontWI
- HartlandWI
- HartlandWI
- Mosinee WI
- Mineral Point WI
- CusterWI
- Madison WI
- Sun Prairie WI
- ColumbusOH
- MadisonWI
- AshlandWI
- RhinelandWI
- De PereWI
- Boulder JunctionWI
- Fish CreekWI
- SpencerWI
- WaupacaWI
- Sun PrairieWI
- Oconto FallsWI
- MilwaukeeWI
- AppletonWI
- Green BayWI
- WaukeshaWI
- MilwaukeeWI
- DaneWI

- Jonathan Levine
- Christopher Long
- Douglas MacFarland
- Anna Magnin
- Richard Mandelin
- Jim & Billie March
- Kathleen and Robert Martini
- John McMullen
- Cris Meyer
- Ron Miller
- Bob Obma
- Cheryl and Winston Ostrow
- LawrencePaplham
- Richard Pfiffner
- Dick and Jodie Prine
- Ron Rellatz
- Bob Retko
- Steve Robertson
- Thomas Rogers
- Dan Rorabeck
- Jeff and Mary Schmoeger
- James School
- Jim & Marie Seder, Milw. Valve Co.
- Robert Selk
- John Shillinglaw
- Brent Sittlow
- Jim Slayton
- Robert Smith
- Thomas Smith
- Michael Staggs
- Michael Stapleton
- John Storer
- Gary Stoychoff
- Michael Stupich
- Greg Swanson
- Robert Tabbert
- MilwaukeeWI
- MazomanieWI
- DousmanWI
- MarshfieldWI
- MontrealWI
- LaCrosseWI
- RhinelandWI
- TomahWI
- MiddletonWI
- De PereWI
- Mountain WI
- De PereWI
- FranklinWI
- AmherstWI
- RidgelandWI
- Merton WI
- Cedarburg WI
- VeronaWI
- PrincetonWI
- HudsonWI
- Cottage GroveWI
- KaukaunaWI
- New BerlinWI
- MadisonWI
- MadisonWI
- HudsonWI
- WausauWI
- MilwaukeeWI
- GenoaIL
- PoynetteWI
- Pardeeville WI
- HudsonWI
- Green BayWI
- WatertownWI
- AppletonWI
- Lac du FlambeauWI

- AthelstaneWI
- WauwatosaWI
- WausauWI
- StoughtonWI
- Eau ClaireWI
- MadisonWI
- GillettWI
- KaukaunaWI
- MarinetteWI
- Fort AtkinsonWI
- AugustaWI
- MiddletonWI
- OshkoshWI
- Stevens PointWI
- RoscoeIL
- BerlinWI

TROUT UNLIMITED CHAPTERS

- Aldo Leopold
- Antigo Coulee
- Clearwaters
- Coulee
- Kiap-TU-Wish
- Lakeshore
- Marinette Co.
- Oconto River

IN MEMORIAM

In memory of Roger Moon by Betsy Wilson of Madison

In memory of Roger Moon by Peggy Yessa of Madison

Yes, I want to join the "Friends" of Wisconsin TU. Enclosed is my check, payable to Wisconsin Trout Unlimited.

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

Name _____

Address _____

City, State Zip _____ Phone # _____