



# Wisconsin Trout

January 2015

## Don't miss State Council Banquet

By Kim McCarthy, Past Council Chair and Banquet Committee Chair

The 2015 Annual Meeting and State Council Banquet on Saturday, February 7 is almost here. Please mark the date on your calendar and plan to join us in Oshkosh. We will be returning to the site of last year's very successful banquet, the Oshkosh Waterfront Best Western Hotel and Convention Center.

Everyone was very happy with the location last year, so we are pleased to return this year. Ticket information is described later in the article. Room reservations for Friday or Saturday nights can be made by calling the hotel at 920-230-1900. A block of rooms is being held at a great rate, so be sure to mention the Trout Unlimited Banquet when you call. The expiration date for the special rate is January 16, so make those reservations ASAP.

Two excellent learning opportu-

nities are being offered during the day. Peggy Farrell will be offering the very popular Becoming an Outdoor Woman program, featuring fly casting, fly tying and jewelry making from whitetail deer antlers. Dennis Vanden Bloomen will be teaching a session of the DNR-sponsored Fishing Instructor Certification Class. See page 5 for more information.

To sign up for the Becoming an Outdoor Woman sessions please email Peggy Farrell at pfarrell@uwsp.edu. To sign up for the DNR Fishing Instructor Certification class, clip the form that appears on page five of *Wisconsin Trout* and send it to the address on the form. Note that there is a \$15 fee for the Instructor Certification Class.

The State Council certainly hopes that many of the people attending the Becoming an Outdoor Women or Fishing Instructor Certification classes will stay and join us for the evening banquet. Directions

for obtaining a ticket are later in this article.

More good news is that the same group of dedicated members who served as the Banquet Committee last year have all agreed to return in their same roles this year. My thanks go out in advance to Bill Heart, Henry Koltz, Linn Beck, Heidi Oberstadt, Jim Wierzba, Mile Kuhr and Todd Franklin for agreeing to once again serve on the committee. Rich Vetrano has also agreed to give us a hand once again with advertising. The Awards Committee, again led by Todd Hanson, will be honoring worthy members in a variety of categories.

In addition to the regular State Council Awards, we are also bringing back the Unsung Hero Award for the 2015 banquet. Every successful chapter has members working hard simply because they like TU and want to contribute to preserving coldwater resources and making the

chapter successful. The Unsung Hero Award gives each chapter a chance to thank one of those critical members. Most chapters have nominated an unsung hero, and we look forward to recognizing them at the banquet.

Our goal is to make the 2015 banquet the best State Council Banquet yet. All of the pieces are in place. The one thing we need is your attendance. Ask anyone who's been to a recent banquet and you'll realize why it has become a "don't-miss" event. If you still need tickets to the banquet, contact council Secretary Mike Kuhr at mike.kuhr@yahoo.com or 414-588-4281. Your chapter president may also have tickets available.

We look forward to seeing you in Oshkosh on February 7. The prize package will be fantastic, as will the socializing with fellow TU members from across the state.



Heidi Oberstadt

### UNsung HEROES TO BE RECOGNIZED AT BANQUET

The popular Unsung Hero Awards, introduced at the 2013 Banquet, paid tribute to a member from each chapter whose efforts may have been overlooked. This photo shows those recipients in 2013. Please consider attending the 2015 banquet on Saturday, February 7 in Oshkosh and help us show our support for these and all the other WITU award winners.

## Your vote matters at Spring Hearings

By Kim McCarthy, Past Council Chair

More than 7,000 people attended the 2014 Spring Fish and Wildlife Hearings and Wisconsin Conservation Congress county meetings that were held in every county statewide last April. Each spring these hearings allow citizens to comment and provide their input on proposed fish and wildlife rule changes, Conserva-

tion Congress advisory questions, and to submit resolutions for rule changes they would like to see in the future.

Although some people do not enjoy attending the Conservation Congress Spring Hearings held each April, it is important for our membership to get out and vote each year.

This year's hearings are particu-

larly important because the trout regulations and seasonal structure changes that have been in the works these past several years will be up for a vote. Major changes are being proposed for the seasonal structure, and an entirely new concept of identifying trout regulations is being proposed, as well. There are also a number of changes to bag limits being proposed around the state.

It has been more than 10 years since the trout seasons and regulations have undergone a major overhaul. Therefore it is likely that whatever comes from the latest efforts will be something that we all will have to live with for at least the next decade.

If trout anglers who have a vested interest in these changes do not show up for the Spring Hearings, then the balance of the people who do show up will make the decisions about trout. The potential exists to have people who don't fish for trout making the decisions about trout seasons and regulations.

You will find more information about the new proposals elsewhere in this newspaper. Take a bit of time

to become familiar with what is being suggested and then show up. These hearings are the one chance you have to vote. It's important that the voices of trout anglers are heard. This is a prime example of a situation where council or chapter leadership cannot do it for the membership. Every individual gets one vote, and the highest vote total wins.

Some people avoid the Spring Hearings because they can run quite long, but please note that the trout issues are expected to come up early (possibly first). Also, it is now possible to show up, pick up a ballot, vote and leave without staying for the discussions. The argument about the hearings being too long is no longer a valid argument. You can be in and out in just a few minutes.

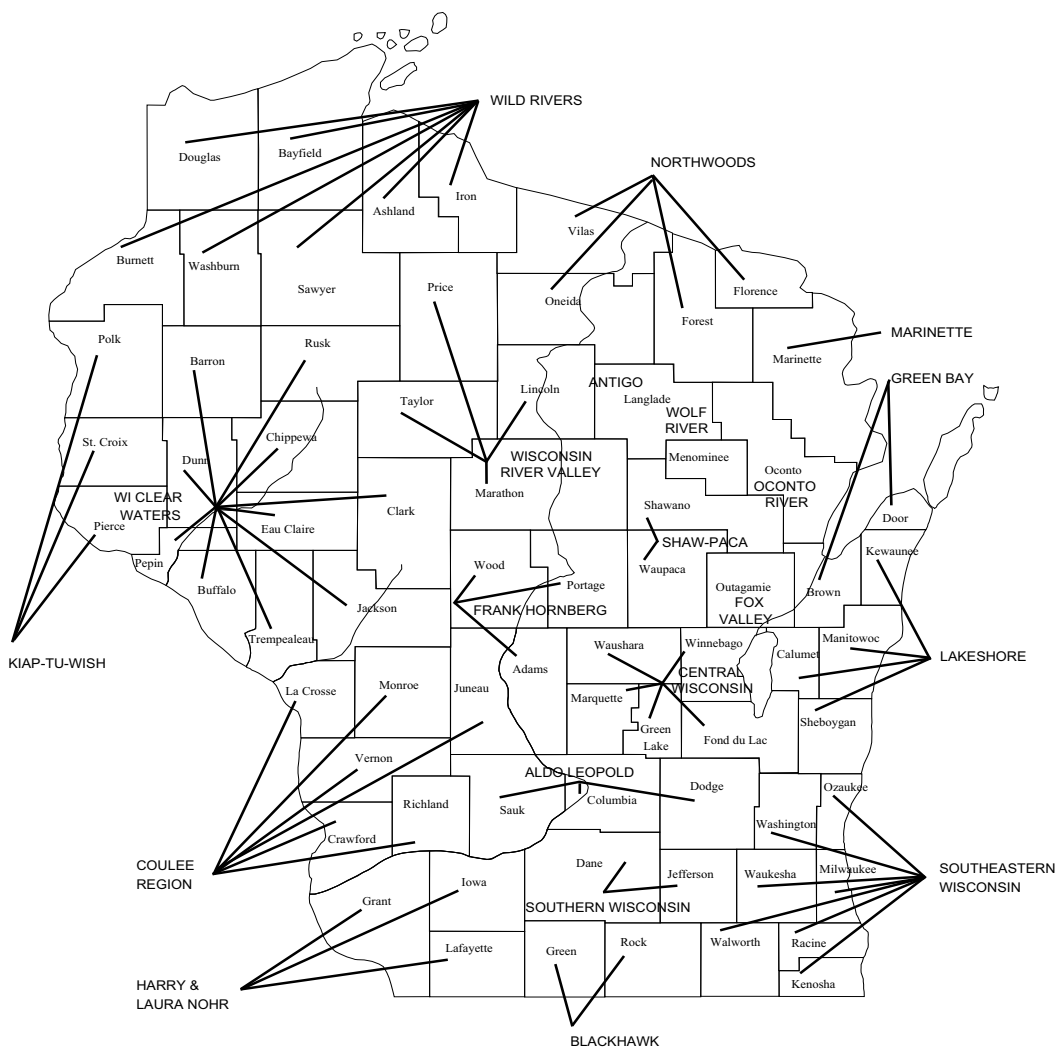
Study the proposals, and then vote. Sounds pretty democratic to me.

For information on how the Conservation Congress works and how the Spring Hearings fit into that process, go to [http://dnr.wi.gov/about/wcc/documents/WCC\\_Public\\_Input\\_Process.pdf](http://dnr.wi.gov/about/wcc/documents/WCC_Public_Input_Process.pdf)

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# Wisconsin TU Chapters, Presidents and Websites



Visit WITU online at:  
**www.WisconsinTU.org**

- Aldo Leopold (#375):** Mike Barniskis, 805 S. Center St., Beaver Dam, WI 53916 (920) 356-0081; barniskis@yahoo.com; alctu.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):** John Tucker; N5424 Sunny Hill Rd., PO Box 20, Saxeville, WI 54976 (920) 622-5401; jtucker358@gmail.com; www.cwtu.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., Rhinelander, WI 54501 (715) 482-0394; lauramacfarland@gmail.com
- Oconto River (#385):** Dale Halla; W2811 Zastrow Rd., Cecil, WI 54111 (715) 745-2099; lindadale.halla@gmail.com; www.WisconsinTU.org/OcontoRiver
- Shaw-Paca (#381):** Nate Sipple, 931 E. Fifth St., Shawano, WI 54166; (715) 304-7581; natesipple@gmail.com; WisconsinTU.org/ShawPaca
- 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:** Henry Koltz, 2300 N. Mayfair Rd., Ste. 1175, Milwaukee, WI 53226 (414) 331-5679 (H); hek@sdelaw.com

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

**Secretary:** Mike Kuhr, 3219 N. 77th St., Milwaukee, WI 53222 (414) 588-4281 (C); mikek.trout@yahoo.com

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

**Past State Chair:** Kim McCarthy, 736 Meadowbrook Ct., Green Bay, WI 54313 (920) 434-3659 (H); KMCCARTHY2@new.rr.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., Ringle, WI 54471 (715) 574-4706; Decbrown@yahoo.com

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

**Legislative Co-Chairs:** Staush Gruszynski, (920) 216-3793, staushgruszynski@gmail.com; Aaron Frailing, (920) 455-0656, aaron.frailing@gmail.com

**Membership:** Mike Kuhr (see above)

**National Leadership Council Representative:** Bill Heart (see above)

**Publications:** Todd Franklin

**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](http://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

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Contributions and letters to the editor are welcomed. Submit articles and photos by email to the editor:

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

### State Council Officers

Executive Board includes officers and vice chairs

- Henry Koltz, Chair
- Linn Beck, Vice Chair
- Mike Kuhr, Secretary
- Gary Stoychoff, Treasurer

## Chairman's Column TU'ers double down

### TU leaders prove how special we are

My college roommate was a great runner. He was tall, lanky, thin, and could run a mile with as much effort as it took me to walk down the hall. I'd try to go on runs with him, but it was not pretty. Maybe it was my hips already going to pot, or maybe it was just the fact that I much preferred running to the store to pick up a six pack than running a lap, but I could never keep up with him.

Despite being utterly useless as a running partner for my roommate, he'd still talk to me while we were out running. Sometimes it was more of a yell, since he was normally pretty far ahead of me. One thing I vividly recall him telling me, however, was his theory on running. He told me that in his mind, when he was feeling tired and frustrated, he would tell himself he had two options: He could simply quit, or he could double down his efforts and try twice as hard.

I never became a good runner, but I did pick up my roommate's theory on running, and I applied it to life. In short, when I've met with adversity, rather than just give up and quit, I've tried to double down and work twice as hard to achieve a goal.

I think my roommate's theory on running is especially applicable in TU.

I am proud to say that Wisconsin TU is exceptionally harmonious. Our chapters have great leaders, and our State Council has traditionally had great leadership. Our major programs, such as Friends of Wisconsin TU, our Youth Fishing Camp and our women's programs, all have incredible leaders. We are truly blessed.

One of the very specific things that makes Wisconsin TU's leaders incredible is that they don't give up. When they meet adversity, they don't accept the adage of "We tried that. It didn't work. Don't bother."

Quite to the contrary, my experience has been that when Wisconsin's leaders meet with adversity or encounter something that doesn't work, they end up finding other ways around, finding new ways to

get things done, and finding new ways to grow our group, expand our membership, and increase our reach. That attitude, and that refusal to simply go quietly in to the night runs top to bottom in our organization, and defines who and what Wisconsin TU is.

#### What we have is special

The manner in which our State Council and its chapters work together makes Wisconsin an envy of the TU constellation. Our chapters team up for educational initiatives. They work together on large scale and regional restoration programs, and they cross geographic boundaries to work together or help each other.

We may sometimes disagree, but we don't fight. Our council works with our chapters and we function as one when it comes to statewide initiatives. Our chapters and council

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work well together with the national office, and we are on the cutting edge of multiple national initiatives. And we do all of this as pure volunteers.

This is likely my last column as chair of our incredible group. It's been a great ride, and I've enjoyed this immensely. In fact, I will miss this more than I can put into words.

I want to reiterate how highly I regard you all. I have seen so many of you do so much for so many others for so little. The amount of sacrifice that I've seen by TU's volunteers is incredibly humbling. Many of you have awoken before



**HENRY KOLTZ WITH HIS TWO FAVORITE TU MEMBERS: HIS DAUGHTERS**  
Henry and his two daughters check out a bridge pool.

dawn to travel half way across the state to work on a stream project. Others have spent countless hours getting our youth outdoors, fishing or fly tying with veterans or taking young women to a stream shocking demonstration.

In my mind, TU works best when it is more than just a conservation organization. We work best when we are the best conservation service group out there.

When we work to improve streams, we increase the number of people who use those streams, and we increase the amount of money that flows into our state.

When we create a billion-dollar-plus annual economy around our coldwater resources, their value is highlighted, and we have more clout when it comes to protecting them.

When we work to get kids outside fishing, we improve the quality of life for future generations. We teach kids that there is more than video games, texting and television. We get them thinking about outside. The more youth that come to learn about coldwater resources, the more allies we'll have in protecting them in the future.

When we work with veterans, we give back to those who have given so incredibly much to us. In doing so we wield, in a very real sense, the freedoms they protect, and use those freedoms – fishing, getting

outside, being near moving water – to prove that TU realizes people come first, and that there is an inextricable link between cold, clean water and its ability to heal.

All of these things are inherently good. All of these things allow us to be a part of something good that will outlast us. They allow us to make a mark on this world, and to make a mark that will be here long after we're not. When you are a TU member engaged in a project, teaching a child, or helping a soldier, you aren't punching a clock for someone else. You're putting your name on something good, and making it clear what you stand for.

I am so incredibly impressed by what I've seen here – how many people I've seen stand up and help others, how much service I've seen given to those things and people that need it most, and how many miles of streams I've seen protected, made accessible and restored, and the huge economic benefits those things create.

Quite frankly, it's hard to acknowledge that my time is up. But it is, and the best part of what Wisconsin TU is about is that I know those who follow me will carry this success forward, and that we'll be in great hands as we continue to accomplish our mission and vision.

Thank you for all that you do for Wisconsin TU.

## Please Support WITU Youth Fishing Camp



### Volunteers and donations sought for second annual event July 16-19

The Wisconsin Council is planning its second annual youth fishing camp July 16-19. We are fortunate to offer this camp once again at Pine Lake Bible Camp, between Wild Rose and Waupaca.

The curriculum will be much the same, including fly, spin and bait fishing, knot tying, entomology, water safety, fly tying, spinner bait construction and much more. So we are now looking for a total of 16 boys and girls ages 12 to 16.

We again ask each chapter to sponsor a student, at a cost of \$250. Chapters are welcome to sponsor more than one student. If you know of a youth that may be interested, please contact your chapter leadership, Bob

Haase or myself.

We are currently seeking donations and loans of fishing equipment, including waders, boots, vests, chest packs and other fishing items. Although the DNR has generously provided fishing rods, additional fishing equipment would be much appreciated.

If you are interested in helping out as a mentor or volunteer, let us know. WITU will provide room and board for the weekend. Please consider helping out for one day or the entire weekend. Contact Bob Haase at flytier@milwpc.com or 920-579-3858, or Linn Beck at chlbeck@att.net or 920-216-7408.

—Linn Beck

# UNSUNG HEROES

*A tribute to chapter volunteers long overdue for the recognition they deserve.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Number of tickets at \$35 each \_\_\_\_\_

My check is enclosed (please do not send cash)

I will pay at the door

Please make payments to "Wisconsin Trout Unlimited."  
THANK YOU.

Send order form & check to:  
Mike Kuhr  
6103 Queens Way  
Monona, WI 53716

## Wisconsin TU 2015 State Council Banquet

Saturday, Feb. 7, 2015

Best Western Premier Waterfront Hotel and Convention Center  
1 North Main Street, Oshkosh WI 54901

Room Reservations may be made by phone at 920 230-6288.

Cocktails 4:30

Dinner Seating 6:30

Get your tickets now!  
Just \$35 per ticket.

For tickets or more info, contact Mike Kuhr at (414) 588-4281  
mikek.trout@yahoo.com  
or use the form at left.



## Becoming an Outdoors Woman Seminar in Oshkosh

The Wisconsin Council of TU has arranged to have a Becoming an Outdoors Woman session on February 7 in Oshkosh, to run concurrently with the annual meeting.

We hope that attendees of this seminar will also join us at our annual banquet that evening. Both events take place at the Oshkosh Waterfront Best Western Hotel and Convention Center. To sign up for the Becoming an Outdoor Woman sessions please email Peggy Farrell at pfarrell@uwsp.edu

The day's activities will follow this schedule:

9:30-10 a.m. Introduction to Becoming an Outdoors Woman program and group introductions

10 a.m.-11 a.m.: Fly casting lessons, with instruction from patient, experienced instructors. Learn the art of casting a graceful fly line. Equipment is included

11 a.m.-Noon: Fly-tying lesson. Learn how to tie a "mouse fly" that can be used for fishing or made into a pin for your favorite fishing hat or vest. Equipment and materials provided.

Noon-1 p.m.: Lunch, including samples of wild-caught trout and salmon to go along with your meal.

1 p.m.-2 p.m. Deer-antler jewelry making. Make a pendant or pin from a disk of whitetail deer antler. Materials and tools provided.

2 p.m.-3 p.m.: Fly casting revisited. A little more practice and coaching to hone your technique and go home ready to practice on your own in preparation for the spring trout fishing season.

3 p.m.-3:30 p.m.: Final thoughts and questions.

Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) is a non-profit, educational program offering hands-on workshops to adult women. We encourage a supportive environment conducive to learning, making friends and having fun. No experience is necessary and BOW is for women of all ages and fitness levels.

Workshops are held in 38 states and six Canadian provinces. Participants can take classes in topics including fly fishing and fly tying, shooting sports, camping, canoeing, snowshoeing, ice fishing, rock climbing, nature photography, archery, wildlife habitat, and dozens of other outdoor activities.

The program began right here in Wisconsin in 1991 and nearly a quarter century later, we're still going strong. Women from all over the country come to Wisconsin to experience the "flagship" BOW program where camaraderie and trying new things go hand in hand. When a BOW participant catches her fish, cheers and congratulation echo on the stream.

"Stepping outside your comfort zone and succeeding at something you never dreamed you'd try is very empowering," says BOW Director Peggy Farrell. "BOW women discover things about themselves that they never knew existed, and it builds confidence in them."

A schedule of Wisconsin BOW events and seminars for 2015 can be found at <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/bowWI/Pages/Events.aspx>

# Learn to be a fishing instructor

Fishing instructor certification will be offered from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 7, 2015, in Oshkosh at the Best Western Premier Waterfront Hotel and Convention Center. The class will take place concurrently with the annual meeting of WITU, which will hold its annual banquet that evening.

This certification class will be presented by DNR Director of Angler Education Theresa Stabo and Dennis Vanden Bloomen, UW-Stout fly-fishing instructor and past-president of the Wisconsin Clear Waters Chapter of TU.

The DNR's Angler Education Program provides training for adult volunteers to offer fishing programs in their schools and communities. Adults who attend angler education workshops receive free materials that

they can use to introduce children to basic fishing skills and help guide adventures in local water resources investigations. The program links fishing to science, social studies, language arts, fine arts and physical education.

The program has two main levels, "Junior Angler" for grades 4-8 and "Hook, Line, & Thinker" for high school students. A subset of materials appropriate for younger learners is also available. The materials are aligned to Wisconsin's state academic standards, making the program an easy fit in the classroom.

Materials available from the DNR, at no charge, include Scott Rod Company fly-fishing booklets. Fly-tying equipment and materials are also available. The DNR has 100 St. Croix fly rods and reels for in-

structor use through the equipment loaner program.

TU members, fishing club members, youth leaders, classroom teachers and civic leaders are encouraged to attend as a team or form one at the workshop. Successful models include after-school fishing clubs, summer enrichment classes, school-family events, and Boy Scout Fly Fishing merit badge training.

Participants will also be given complimentary raffle tickets if they attend the State Council banquet held later that evening. This class is limited to 25 people. Reserve your seat and register by filling out and mailing the form below, or by contacting Theresa Stabo at 608-266-2272 or by email at Theresa.Stabo@wisconsin.gov.

### Fly Fishing/Angler Education Instructor Workshop Registration

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone, including area code \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Date and Time: Saturday, February 7, 2015, 11:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Location: Trout Unlimited Annual Meeting  
Best Western Premier Waterfront Hotel and Convention Center  
1 North Main Street - Oshkosh, WI

To help us tailor this workshop, please tell us about the types of groups with which you would use the Angler Education Program.

- \_\_\_ Scout Leader – Ages of Scouts: \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ Teacher, Grade & Subjects: \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ After School Provider or Youth Development, Age of children in your program: \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ Adults, Describe: \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ Other, Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Remember; only a light snack will be served. Please eat lunch before you arrive.

**Trout Unlimited Banquet Tickets will be available at the meeting for \$35.00.**

*Workshop participants who attend the banquet will receive 10 complimentary raffle tickets from Trout Unlimited.*

Please indicate if you plan to purchase a banquet ticket at the meeting (they are not available through the DNR):

- \_\_\_ Yes, I plan to attend the Trout Unlimited Banquet at a cost to me of \$35.00
- \_\_\_ No, I won't be attending the Trout Unlimited Banquet.

Please print, complete and mail at least five days prior to the workshop. Remember to include your \$15.00 Workshop Commitment Fee, refundable upon arrival at the workshop. Your commitment fee becomes a donation to the Angler Education Program if you fail to attend without calling to cancel three days prior to the workshop. Please make the check payable to *Department of Natural Resources* and write *Angler Education* on the memo line.

Mail to:

Dennis Vanden Bloomen  
P.O. Box 1425  
Eau Claire, WI 54702

Questions? Contact  
Dennis Vanden Bloomen OR Theresa Stabo  
715-232-2311 608-266-2272  
VandenBloomd@uwstout.edu Theresa.Stabo@Wisconsin.gov



# A basis for expanding trout fishing seasons

By Matthew Mitro,  
DNR Science Services

In 1933 H. W. MacKenzie was newly appointed as the director of the Wisconsin Conservation Department. One of his first tasks was to implement a new law that gave the Conservation Commission and the Conservation Department the authority to establish fishing and hunting regulations.

The new law also granted the authority to organize advisory committees. MacKenzie, a former chief game warden for the state, was known for having the firm convictions that fish and wildlife belonged to all the people of Wisconsin, and that the satisfactory enforcement of fish and wildlife laws was predicated on those laws being supported by most hunters and anglers.

With these guiding principles, MacKenzie set out to engage all interested citizens to share their opinions and advice on what the new regulations should be.

This experiment in rule making begun by MacKenzie was considered, at the time, both radical and sensible. And I think it is fair to say it has also been successful. The rule-making process is not without its critics and has never pleased everyone, but here we are in 2015 working through a similar process to review and develop new trout fishing regulations.

The Wisconsin DNR's Bureau of Fisheries Management today plays a central role in this process. Key to this process has been the gathering of scientific data on the status of our trout fisheries and what they could be, as well as public input.

## Reaching out for input

The Wisconsin DNR has reached out to trout anglers through public meetings and surveys, and we have reached out to the broader community through stakeholder meetings, to better understand the public's perceptions and desires for trout angling opportunities in Wisconsin. We have 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 fishing opportunities for all anglers, and (3) simplify regulations.

Again, these proposals are based on surveying what the public wants and on the scientific findings of fisheries monitoring and research. Public input will again be solicited on these proposals at the 2015 Spring Fish and Wildlife Hearings.

## Goal to expand seasons

I would like to address one of these goals and explain why we think it would be positive for trout fishing in Wisconsin.

We are proposing an expansion of both the early catch-and-release season and the regular open season in order to provide more trout fishing opportunities for all anglers.

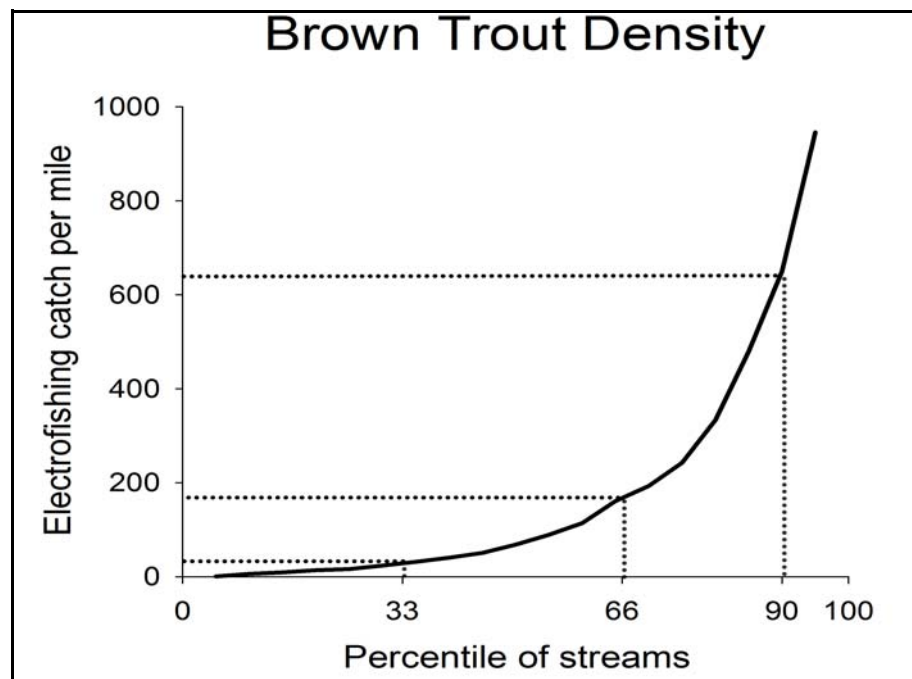
The early catch-and-release season on waters where it currently exists would be expanded by moving the opening date from the first Saturday in March to the first Saturday in January and by extending the season to the first Friday in May. This would eliminate the five-day closure prior to the regular open season.

The regular open season would be extended by about two weeks to October 15 on all inland streams. Together, these season extensions would provide more opportunities

for catch-and-release fishing (about 10 weeks) and more opportunities to potentially harvest trout (about two weeks).

A question we may ask is: can our inland trout fisheries support additional fishing pressure from expanded seasons? It may help to rephrase this question as to what impact increased fishing mortality and fishing pressure in general may have on trout population dynamics. But first let's quantify projected changes in catch and harvest, keeping in mind that we will retain the use of size limits and bag limits to limit harvest depending on the season and the stream.

Our 2012 survey of resident Wisconsin trout anglers included the collection of creel data for the 2011 trout season. For the regular open season ending September 30, anglers caught on average about 46.1 trout per mile and harvested 14.5 trout per mile for the 13,000 miles of trout streams across the state.



The average length of the regular open season is 150 days. Extrapolating these data from the 150-day season to a 165-day season ending October 15 indicates anglers may catch an additional 4.6 trout per mile and potentially harvest about 1.5 more trout per mile.

Changes in early season catch are more difficult to project. The closure of the five-day gap between the current early and regular seasons would increase the average early season length from 55 days to 60 days and may increase catch by about 9 percent.

Moving the early season opening date to January would add 63 days on average to the early season. Decreased effort observed in 2011 in March (4.3 days fished per angler) versus April (7.3 days fished) suggests anglers would expend even less effort in February and January when conditions are usually colder and daylight length is shorter. We may see minimal fishing effort in cold winters like in 2014 and more effort in warmer winters like in 2012.

How do these catch statistics compare to trout populations in streams? The number of trout per mile documented in our stream surveys varies over a continuum as represented, for example, in the accompanying graph for brown trout six inches and larger. The 0 to 33rd percentile range represents the one-third of our streams with up to about 30 trout per mile. These are typically smaller headwater streams or possibly lower quality streams.

Streams in the middle percentile range had densities of about 30 to

165 trout per mile. And the 66th to 90th percentile range had densities from 165 to 650 trout per mile.

Our "best of the best" streams above the 90th percentile had densities of more than 1,000 trout per mile. But even this statistic does not capture just how densely inhabited some streams can be. In a recent survey of Spring Coulee Creek we captured about 1,000 brown trout in just a quarter of a mile.

## Impacts of more pressure

So, back to our original question, what impact may such an increase in fishing pressure have on trout population dynamics?

To begin with, effort, catch and harvest will not be distributed equally but will vary based on the quality of the stream, with lower numbers of trout caught from smaller or lower quality streams and more trout caught from larger or better quality streams. And size and

peak spawning times occur in late October and early November.

So, the majority of active spawning does not occur until after October 15th. Here it may help to consider stock-recruitment relationships to understand that population-level impacts of fishing in early October will be limited.

A stock-recruitment relationship can be thought of as the relationship between the number of eggs spawned in a stream and the number of survivors at a later date.

Such relationships for trout in streams are typically asymptotic. That is, at lower trout spawning stock densities the number of survivors or new recruits to the population increases, often very rapidly, with increases in the number of spawning adults. Thereafter, for broad ranges of stock size, the number of survivors reaches an upper limit. Variability in this relationship can be substantial and is introduced by factors such as winter mortality, spring flooding, or other changes in environmental conditions.

This is the key to understanding the impacts at the population level, or lack thereof, by any increases in fishing pressure attributable to the proposed season extensions.

Habitat and environmental conditions are significantly more important to the well-being of our stream trout populations as compared to any projected changes in fishing pressure associated with proposed extensions of fishing seasons. Projections of fishing pressure are based on a current survey of when trout anglers fish and what they catch.

Trout will be protected by size and bag limits designed to attain management goals pertaining to trout size, catch rates and harvest.

## Habitat issues a key factor

Some changes in environmental conditions, such as spring floods, are unpredictable. Habitat degradation, unfortunately, is an ongoing problem. Trout streams are threatened by a legacy of poor land use practices, ongoing urbanization and increasing demands on groundwater.

Efforts by the Wisconsin DNR, Trout Unlimited and other organizations have made great gains in recent decades in reversing the degradation of our coldwater streams. Continued efforts addressing habitat will reap great rewards in more productive, robust and resilient trout populations.

It is also our hope that by increasing the opportunities for trout fishing in Wisconsin streams, whether by extending seasonal opportunities or improving stream access, we recruit more people to trout fishing.

And for those who already enjoy the pursuit of trout fishing, we hope to provide more of an opportunity to do so.

Extended seasons will have a positive impact on the local economies surrounding our trout resources. And any increase in license sales will factor positively in bringing federal Sport Fish Restoration dollars to Wisconsin.

But more importantly, new trout anglers will gain a personal connection to a precious resource that, to reiterate the words of H. W. MacKenzie, belong to all the people of Wisconsin. And we need more people to care about trout if we are to continue and expand our successes in natural resources stewardship.

bag limits will be in place to protect fisheries.

Catch-and-release regulations are well-suited for protecting trout during the early season regardless of its length. Trout growth rates are greatest at this time of year. Water temperatures and daylight are increasing with the onset of spring and food and oxygen availability are at optimum levels for supporting metabolic processes that promote growth. Mortality of released trout is also lower in spring because trout are typically less stressed when caught in colder water.

We benefit in the production of trout biomass by releasing trout at this time of year. In late spring and summer, higher water temperatures and lower oxygen availability somewhat negate the increased availability of food in terms of growth in larger trout. Mortality of released trout may also be higher because of warmer summertime water temperatures. Harvesting trout at this time, should an angler choose to do so, may have less of an impact on lost production.

Potential harvest during the proposed season extension into October may likewise have a relatively lower impact on lost biomass production compared to harvest earlier in the year. Rather, the question at this time of year is the lost potential for reproduction in streams that support trout reproduction. Spawning in Wisconsin streams may begin as early as the beginning of October or even in late September. Weekly spawning data collected over the past decade from multiple wild trout populations in Wisconsin indicates

# Green Bay State Council meeting highlights

By Mike Kuhr, State Council Secretary, Membership Chair

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited welcomed representatives from 17 of its 21 chapters in Green Bay for its October State Council meeting.

Highlights included an update from DNR Statewide Trout Coordinator Joanna Griffin, the latest news on New Zealand mud snails, discussions on what to do with a council-owned property near Oconto, a pledge of support for the 2015 Youth Fishing Camp, and changes to the Watershed Access Program.

## Trout regulation update

The council welcomed DNR Statewide Trout Coordinator Joanna Griffin, who gave us an update on proposed changes to the state's trout regulations. After gathering input from anglers and biologists alike, the DNR's Trout Review Task Force came up with a proposed set of changes to the regulations. Under the proposal, the category system would be simplified. The systems would look similar to a traffic light – green, yellow, and red. Green means “go fish,” with a five-fish bag limit with no size limit and no bait restrictions. Yellow means “caution,” with a three-fish bag limit, 8-inch minimum size limit and no bait restrictions. Red means “stop” and check the regulations. The red category features 12 different regulations, each with a specific management goal.

Griffin said of the thousands of trout stream miles in the state, about 49 percent would fall into the green category, while 35 percent would fall under the yellow category. The remaining 16 percent would

fall into the red category. It was noted that within the red category, 2.25 percent of trout stream miles would be managed as trophy waters: catch and release, artificial lures only.

These proposals, along with proposed changes to the trout season, will be voted on by the public at the 2015 Spring Hearings. If they pass, they will be presented to the Natural Resources Board for approval, and implemented starting in 2016.

Griffin also stated that the DNR is looking to create brook trout refuges and a series of best management practices to ensure healthy populations in the future. The goal is to identify which streams have the best chance to hold brook trout in the future and protect those areas deemed most resilient to climate change.

## New Zealand mud snails

Laura McFarland of the River Alliance of Wisconsin (and Northwoods TU) briefed the council on New Zealand mud snails. Fortunately, as of this writing, sampling has found no trace of the snails outside of Black Earth Creek. DNA sampling is currently being performed at 28 sites on popular trout streams. The results from this testing should be available in February. We are encouraging anglers to stay vigilant as we try to limit the spread of this invasive species. Thus far, 24 wader-cleaning stations have been placed on popular Wisconsin trout streams. The River Alliance has additional stations available for chapters.

## Oconto County property

The council, at the request of TU National, is considering options to relinquish ownership of an old fish

hatchery property in Oconto County. Currently, Oconto River TU uses the property and pays the taxes and insurance. TU has made an effort in recent years to eliminate the liability that comes along with property ownership and has urged the council to sell the land. It was suggested that the local chapter form a “Friends Group,” a separate entity from TU, so the council could transfer ownership to this new group. This would eliminate the liability for the council, satisfy TU National's request, and still provide the local chapter with access to the property.

## Youth Fishing Camp

With the success of WITU's first ever Youth Fishing Camp, it is time to look towards the 2015 camp. The event will once again be held at the Pine Lake Campground in central Wisconsin from Thursday, July 16 through Sunday, July 19. The 2014 camp had 15 students and 40 volunteers, and we're hoping to increase those numbers in 2015. As such, the council voted to approve an expenditure request of \$4,200 to cover the costs associated with the 2015 Camp.

## Watershed Access Fund

The WITU Watershed Access Fund is used to obtain access to coldwater resources, either through direct land purchases or through obtaining easements or leases. These funds are meant to make it easier for chapters to enter into partnerships with land trusts and other public agencies for the purpose of providing additional public access. These funds have been under-utilized in recent years and changes to

the program were approved at the meeting. Chapters will now be able to request up to \$7,500 per project. In addition, the council will now be able to request funds for projects that fit the purpose of the fund. Up to two chapters are allowed to request funds for a single project.

## Strategic planning

The council is currently putting together an ad hoc committee to draft a new 3-5-year strategic plan. The committee will include officers, regional vice presidents and committee chairs. Communication Chair Chris Long has volunteered to mediate the efforts. The plan will set goals for the council and each of its committees, and should be a valuable tool for future leaders.

## Donate to council via Thrivent Lutheran Financial

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

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

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



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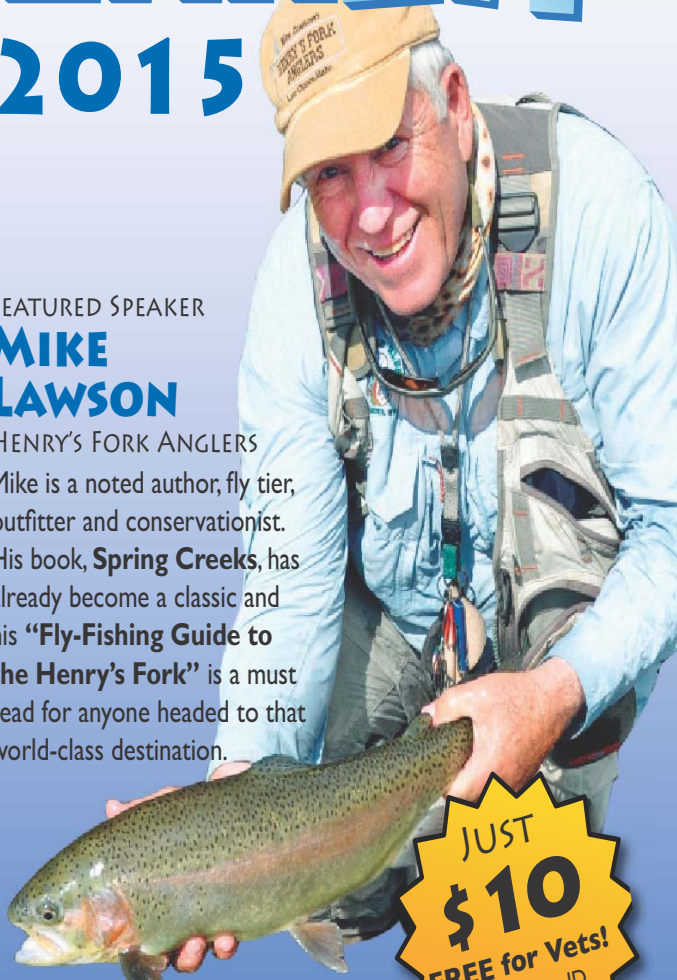
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## WITU Legislative Committee sets major goals

By Aaron Frailing, Legislative Committee Co-Chair

The 2013-2014 Wisconsin legislative session resulted in some great gains for Wisconsin Trout Unlimited. From the passage of the Wisconsin Trout Unlimited License Plate bill to a phosphorous bill, Wisconsin Trout Unlimited made gains in establishing itself in the Wisconsin capital as a defender of coldwater resources in the state of Wisconsin. We hope to expand on that success during the 2015-2016 Legislative session.

The 2015-2016 Wisconsin State Legislature features many new faces, with 25 new assembly representatives and seven new senators. With these new representatives and senators, 70 percent of the state legislature is new since 2010.

With all of these newly elected individuals, there is an opportunity to both introduce and educate new legislators about the coldwater resources here in Wisconsin. With this opportunity, it is now more important than ever to highlight the important work of chapters around the state. By highlighting the important work our chapters accomplish statewide, we show the significance of our accomplishment to our communities and our legislators.

We continue to grow relationships with veteran and new decision makers, including many in key leadership and committee positions. Because of these new faces, it is important for us to keep the focus on coldwater resources in championing issues that are unique to TU's core mission of conserving, protecting and restoring North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited is approaching this through many different paths. The first approach is by addressing a number of legislative issues. These issues include groundwater quality, groundwater quantity and the impact of high-capacity wells, the ongoing issues associated with frac sand mines, regulating aerial manure spraying, the continued monitoring and regulation of concentrated animal feeding operations, attempting to ensure the establishment of funding for culvert replacement through the national

transportation bill, and ensuring environmental monitoring of culvert placements at the state level. Wisconsin Trout Unlimited will address these issues in the legislature through face-to-face meetings, asking members to contact their elected officials and issuing position papers that will highlight Wisconsin TU's views on these issues.

We will also continue cooperating and partnering with the DNR, including its conservation easement program in correlation with the new northeast Wisconsin Trout Coordinator.

Trout Unlimited is also looking at issuing a statewide audit to reflect the economic impact of coldwater resources in Wisconsin. This effort will be similar to a study several years ago that identified more than \$1 billion dollars in economic benefit from coldwater resources in the Driftless Area alone. Furthermore, we will work hard to highlight the great work chapters are doing in partnership with other organizations and agencies, as well as our efforts with military veterans and the success of WITU's regional efforts, such as our northeast regional funding coalition.

The success of these efforts is not possible without chapter support, and our effectiveness is always greatest at the chapter level. That is why we are asking for your help. In recent years several individuals from our various chapters participated in advocacy training provided by the River Alliance of Wisconsin. WITU will continue to work with those who have shown an interest in improving their advocacy efforts. The WITU Legislative Committee will also reach out to chapters to identify individuals in each chapter who are interested in legislative advocacy and will be willing to serve as liaisons in their local chapters and communities.

We will be working with conservation partners and developing TU-specific tools that will allow for both increased visibility and success at the local and state level. Please watch for communication from our legislative committee as we enthusiastically look to involve local chapters to ensure that this legislative session provides continued successes for Wisconsin TU.

## Midwest Regional Meeting March 27-29 in Twin Cities

The Midwest Regional Meeting is intended to help newly-active or not-yet-active members learn and network and have some fun. It will take place March 27-29 in the Twin Cities at a site to be determined, and will offer presentations and panels on TU's emerging programs, fund-raising, events and teaching opportunities in your community. National senior staff will also attend and present on various conservation, policy and business topics.

A survey will shortly be sent to the region's chapter and council leaders, asking them to suggest topics they'd like to see addressed at the meeting. If you have a chapter need, a program you'd like to hear about, or other suggestions, contact one of the planners listed below. Once the agenda is set, a registration form and agenda will be emailed to all members who have current emails listed with TU.

If your chapter has identified potential future leaders, this is a time to encourage and enable them to attend. It helps potential leaders to see the range of opportunities TU offers, and can help your chapter as they pick out areas of interest in which they want to work.

Last year's meeting in Michigan featured great topics, plus a barbecue at the Lovells History Museum, which highlights the long history of trout fishing on the nearby Au Sable River. This year, you can anticipate a good social event and hosted trout fishing not far from the meeting site.

National TU's Volunteer Operations Director, Jeff Yates (jyates@tu.org) is organizing this effort. Wisconsin TU members on the planning committee include Linn Beck, Bill Heart, Henry Koltz and Duke Welter, most of whose email addresses are in the masthead on this issue. Other members are drawn from TU chapters and councils in Minnesota, Illinois and Iowa.

—Duke Welter, TUDARE Communications Director

## WITU Legislative Action Plan

In an effort to further the conservation of coldwater resources, the Legislative Committee is broadening its approach to legislative action for issues that impact WITU and its chapters. This is a living document, which will grow and change over time, but it will only succeed with participation from all chapters.

### Committee goals

The goals of this committee in the next legislative session will be to:

- \* Increase direct interaction with elected officials.
- \* "Caucus" with other statewide environmental groups on issues of concern to coldwater resources.
- \* Strengthen communication between the council and local chapters on legislative action.
- \* Encourage chapters to build relationships with elected officials in their areas.
- \* Develop a "tool box" of advocacy tactics for local chapters.

### Increase direct interaction with elected officials:

During the last legislative session, many legislators were surprised by the strength and frequency of the responses they received in their offices from Wisconsin TU members when we asked them to contact their legislators. Many legislators are now aware and will definitely be more cognizant of the role Wisconsin TU plays regarding conservation issues. This provides WITU with an opportunity to establish itself as a non-partisan, reliable advocate for coldwater resources.

WITU is looking to take advantage of this opportunity. Council leaders and volunteers from chapters statewide will make regular visits to the capitol to meet with key decision makers. We will make our presence known at the capitol to affirm our role as a key stakeholder on conservation issues.

### "Caucus" with other statewide environmental groups on issues of concern to coldwater resources.

In recent years, the Wisconsin legislature has taken up issues of significant concern to coldwater resources. These issues aren't only of concern to TU, but also to other statewide environmental groups.

TU has benefitted in the past from caucusing with these groups when the opportunity arises, to trade intelligence and develop general strategies on legislative and advocacy approaches (be they collaborative or independent) to environmental issues. This group includes Clean Wisconsin, Midwest Environmental Advocates, River Alliance of Wisconsin, Sierra Club, Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters, Wisconsin Wetlands Association, Wisconsin Wildlife Federation.

### Work with local chapters:

When TU members in Wis-

consin are engaged and reach out to their elected officials, they have a massive impact on the legislature. It is important that we continue to improve response time to conservation issues. With the sometimes-rapid pace of legislative action, this is critical, and will require all the shareholders to share information on a real-time basis.

The Legislative Committee won't be able to accomplish this alone, so we will establish a network of individuals to share this information. Each chapter would be best served to identify someone as a liaison to work with the committee to participate in quarterly teleconferences, share legislative information with their chapter and help advance legislative action at the local level.

This entire process will provide a direct line of communication from legislators to the State Council, to local chapters, to members with personal connections to legislators, completing the circle.

### Encourage chapters to build relationships with elected officials in their areas.

We are our best messengers on our issues. We cannot let the hard work of restoring the resource go unnoticed only to have one piece of bad legislation wipe it away. This means that much of the same work being done on the state level can be done on the local level, too.

Building off the success of the advocacy training collaboration with the River Alliance, chapters will be encouraged to build relationships with their elected officials. This will include invitations to chapter events and work projects, visits to their offices and attending local meetings to make sure local elected officials know of the important work we do at the local, state and national level.

### Develop a "tool box" of tactics for chapters.

When chapters engage in legislative action, one major obstacle is a lack of resources. In order to ensure chapter success, the committee will provide chapters with tools needed to succeed as well as guidance on how to use them appropriately.

Those tools include:

- \* Legislative contact information aligned with chapter boundaries
- \* State Council Legislative Committee contacts.
- Issue papers on key conservation issues that are scientifically accurate and vetted by National TU and DNR, but also provide the official TU position.
- \* Pre-drafted communications that allow chapters to easily disseminate messages.
- \* Sample Press Releases to be issued to local media sources to help spread our messages.
- \* Sample legislative communications.
- \* Instructions for sending action alerts to members.
- \* Best-practice documents for ongoing success.



# Beloved WRVTU Member Herb Hintze passes

By Rev. John Meachen

On Thanksgiving Day Wisconsin Trout Unlimited lost one of its earliest leaders and an untiring servant of trout and the cold water they inhabit. Herb Hintze of Wausau died at the age of 87. The family asked if I would put together a few thoughts about his involvement with TU that would be shared at his funeral. The following was read at Immanuel Lutheran Church on behalf of the Wisconsin River Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Herb was a chapter leader for much of its existence.

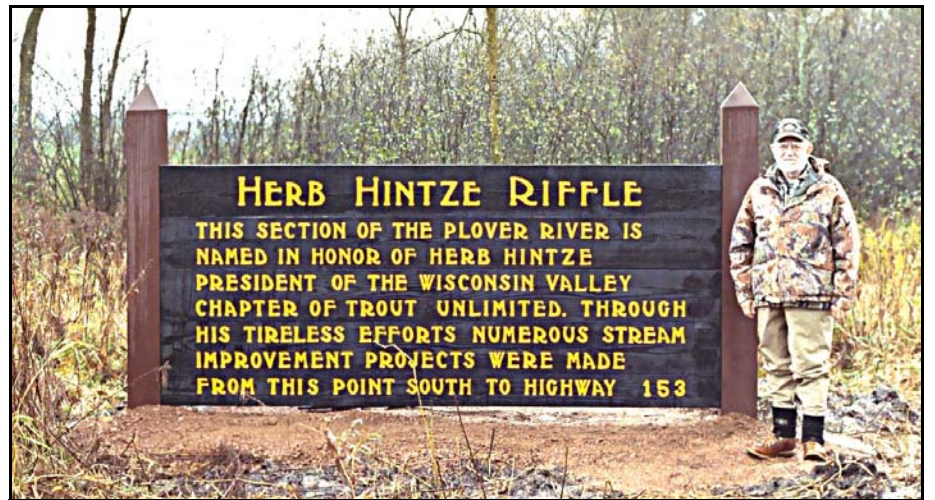
Herb was a passionate man. His late wife Alice might have cringed at that description, but Herb was passionate about the things that he loved. He was passionate about his family, especially his bride. He was passionate about his work, his neighbors, his friends and his dogs. Herb had a special, almost obsessive passion for water, living water, living water that flows clear and clean.

Herb spent a good portion of his life working, giving and fighting for coldwater streams and the trout that live in them. Maybe you don't know this, but trout in streams spend their

entire lives swimming against the current. Without that struggle against the current they die. So it would be for Herb. Herb swam against the currents of pollution, poor farming practices, exploitation and apathy to take up the work of coldwater conservation.

For many years Herb led a group of like-minded lovers of clean water, the Wisconsin River Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited, to preach and live out the gospel of caring for God's creation. Herb taught that cold, living water is the source of all life downstream. Herb would raise money, cajole DNR officials, pester merchants for donations, and organize volunteer work crews. He loved to teach kids how to fish, how to tie a fly and to love the outdoors. All that time he was also teaching them to swim against the current for good.

His true love was the Plover River in Marathon County. Herb worked to secure conservation easements from landowners to restore more than 20 miles of highly degraded water. Armed with undying persistence and a lot of homemade apple pies, Herb sat in many farmers' kitchens and convinced all but



## HIS TRUE LOVE WAS THE PLOVER RIVER

Herb Hintze was a key player in the restoration of the Plover River and helped secure easements with many local landowners.

two landowners to open their land to restoration and fishing access. Today the Plover River runs cold and clear, due in large part to Herb's work. The last time Herb was at the Plover, his mind was slipping a little, but he still held "class" with a group of Wausau East biology and chemistry students. On that day more than 20 kids heard the call to swim against the current for the life of the

river and for all.

Today we come to this holy place knowing that Herb no longer swims against the stream. We give thanks for his legacy. More than that, we give thanks for the true living water that gave him life, claimed him in baptism, sustained him and carries him now."

Well done, Herb, and Godspeed.

## Cold-weather fishing tips for the early season



By Mat Wagner,  
Driftless Angler Fly Shop

Early season will be on us before we know it, and March is typically not the most comfortable month to be on the water. With a few tweaks to your fishing approach, fishing the cold early season can still be comfortable and successful.

The main thing to keep in mind is that the trout are cold, too, and they will be sluggish. So slow down your presentations. Fish deep, slow and methodically. Coldwater trout will not move very far to take a fly. Midges, winter stoneflies, scuds and heavy attractor nymphs will work well when rolled along the bottom.

Competition-style flies are excellent for this type of fishing as they tend to ride hook point up, which means less snags on the bottom. Also try double-nymph rigs to double your chance of getting a fly in front of a fish.

Target deeper pools and runs and places where springs are active. Fish

will not be up in the riffles feeding.

Pick your days. Sun is actually beneficial, as it will increase the water temperature and get both bugs and fish moving around. It is also a good idea to fish the warm hours of the day. You can sleep in, because things really do not get rolling until 10 a.m. at the earliest. Things will start to shut down when temperatures start to drop at about 3 p.m.

Keeping warm and dry is essential to staying comfortable in the early season. Layer properly, which means no blue jeans under your breathable waders, and make sure your head and hands are covered. A wicking layer, followed by insulating layers, followed by a wind- and water-proof shell are essential in the cold.

Keeping your hands and feet moisturized is overlooked by many anglers, but makes a huge difference. On the spring creeks, the water temperature is sometimes warmer than the air temperature. Keeping your feet out of the frozen snow and in the warmer creek will keep your feet warmer. Finally, having a warm-up plan is a good idea. Walking around on the bank (where legal) might make you look crazy, but it will raise your body temperature and keep you warm.

The biggest problem in cold weather is keeping ice out of your guides. Your fly line traps microdroplets of water, which freeze when they come in contact with the cold metal of your guides. The

more your fly line moves through the guides, the more ice builds up. To remedy this, make sure your line is clean and treated. The smoother the fly line, the less water droplets that hold on. If you fish a lot in the cold weather, it is wise to buy a 'winter fly line'. You don't want to tear up your expensive line scraping it through ice.

There are various products available to help keep ice off, and some anglers will even use cooking spray. After years of forgetting the tub of Ice-Off Paste, I started using fly flotant. It is an excellent substitute and it is always handy somewhere in my pack.

When heading out to fish cold weather, expect the worst and prepare for it too. If you are warm and comfortable, you will have an excellent day of fishing with the water pretty much to yourself. If you fish enough, you will find that magical day or two where everything falls into place and the fishing is outstanding. Just make sure you stay warm, dry and as comfortable as possible and you will tilt the odds in your favor.

# Hidey Ho from Heidi O.

Women's Initiative Chair Heidi Oberstadt



Since you last heard from me, I've learned to tie all my knots by myself, and I've caught enough fish that I've stopped counting. I'd even go so far as to say that I'm an independent angler. Times have certainly changed. I just finished up my one-year contract with National TU. I'm hoping to apply for the next one when it comes up, but I've learned a lot this past year and I'm ready to share it with Wisconsin TU.

I'm here with a couple updates for you regarding the Women's Initiative. We had wonderful turnout

with our 2014 activities. I'm proud to report that TU, nationally, has now recruited more than 5,000 new women members since this initiative started in 2012.

Wisconsin is helping to lead the charge, as we have signed up 170 women via the free trial membership alone in the past two years, and we have hosted many events to help encourage engagement among our members. This year, we had two educational events: the Wisconsin Women's Flyfishing Clinics in the Driftless Area, and a new Women's



## STREAM GIRLS GOES NATIONAL; WINE, WOMEN AND WATER A SUCCESS

The second annual Stream Girls event in Wisconsin will be June 19-20, so please consider volunteering. Thanks to Heidi's efforts for National TU, three additional states will be hosting a Stream Girls event this year. Meanwhile, the Green Bay Chapter sponsored a successful event entitled "Wine, Women and Water." (left)

Weekend Trout School. The Green Bay Chapter sponsored "Women, Water, and Wine," a social event focused on sharing what we do in TU with women in the community. We also had our first official "Family Work Day," sponsored by the Southeast Wisconsin Chapter.

I can't tell you how excited I am that we have folks across our state working to help, not only by signing up new women, but by reaching out to our existing women members and encouraging them to become more involved. We're currently holding strong with 408 women members in Wisconsin, and I'd love to continue to grow that number.

We have a new Facebook group called Wisconsin Women of Trout Unlimited. If you're a woman, please consider joining. It's brand new, but I'd like to grow this group to be a social place for us to share our conservation, education and fishing stories. Come on over and

introduce yourself.

If your chapter needs a Women's Initiative Chair, please consider stepping up to help. I offer lots of support and encouragement, and we're already planning some awesome activities for this coming year.

Our Stream Girls program has expanded beyond my wildest dreams. It started here in Wisconsin, and the seeds are sprouting everywhere with events in Wyoming, Washington and North Carolina this year.

Our next Stream Girls event will be June 19-20, 2015 in Stevens Point. We'll need lots of volunteers. Past volunteers know how much fun it is to share our knowledge and excitement with these girls.

If you have any questions, or want to be involved with the Women's Initiative, or just want to get more women involved in your chapters, email or give me a call at Heidi.oberstadt@gmail.com or 715-573-5104.

# Bring on frozen fingers

WI early season opens March 7th



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**Craftsman's Corner**

# Schroeder bamboo rods are simply elegant

*Don Schroeder rods are beautiful, but made to be fished*



**AT HOME IN HIS SHOP**

Don designed and built his own milling machine. He has also repaired many other high-end rods from other rod makers.

For Don Schroeder, it all started innocently enough, with the Field and Stream book club. One of the picks for his initial books was what has become known in the bamboo fly rod world as "The Bible," entitled *The Master's Guide To Building a Bamboo Fly Rod* by Everett Garrison and Hoagy Carmichael. Little did he know at the time, but this would be a life-changing decision. That was in the late 1970's. In 1979 Don built his first rod.

Over the next 16 years, Don would build rods, do restorations and repairs and slowly build up

his reputation as a top notch rod maker.

Don claims he is not a salesman, but it must have been quite the sales job when he talked to his wife Sally about quitting his full time job to become a full-time bamboo rod maker.

In 2015, Don will celebrate his twentieth year as a full-time rod maker. After making about 600 rods, none of them stand out in Don's memory. This is because he treats all of his rods as being the best he can produce. Every one of them is special.

Don is a self-taught rod maker.



**SIMPLE AND ELEGANT**

Don builds hex (6 sided) and quad (4 sided) rods in the 3-8 line weights, from 6' to 9' in length.

Rod makers pre-internet days were very tight lipped and didn't want to share any information with someone else. By studying "The Bible" and other books, and used rod dealer catalogs, Don developed his own style for the reel seats and other cosmetics. He learned what was important in rod design and makes rods with his own taper designs.

If asked, he will tell you he likes Payne rods best of the rod designs from the classic era. A medium-fast-action rod with simple elegant wrappings and hardware is what you will find in every Schroeder rod. Don's rods are beautiful, but made to be fished. Over the years, he has had some rods come back for a fresh coat of varnish. He smiles when he knows his rods are fished hard.

Not all rod makers do repair work and restoration of high-end rods made by others, but Don has

always viewed this as a way to learn and understand how others did things. He has learned a lot over the years. Many consider Don's work as the best. Payne, Leonard, Edwards, Thomas, Young and others' rods have all passed through his shop.


Some day Don may retire from the rod-making business, so if a special rod is on your list, give Don a call or check out his website at

*A medium-fast-action rod with simple elegant wrappings and hardware is what you will find in every Schroeder rod. Don's rods are beautiful, but made to be fished.*

<http://www.dgschroederrod.com/>.

*If you know someone who is crafting items for trout fishers, let me know and maybe we can tell their story here in Craftsman's Corner. If you know of a craftsman who you'd like to see featured in the Craftsman Corner department contact Scott Grady at [oossg@vbe.com](mailto:oossg@vbe.com).*

Fox Valley Trout Unlimited announces the



## 14th Annual Cabin Fever Day!

a fishing expo


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**Saturday, January 24, 2015**  
**Grand Meridian, Appleton** **9 AM - 4 PM**  
**2621 N. Oneida Street**

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**Show Events include:**

- Expert Speakers
- Silent Auction
- Bucket Raffles
- Casting Clinic
- WI Guides
- Fly Fishing Shops
- Fly Tying
- Rod & Net Building Booths
- Fishing Equipment Reps
- HUGE Used Equipment Sale



\$10 at the door, spouses and under 18 free



## Support WITU with purchase of 2012-14 trout stamp prints

Wisconsin TU has 2012-14 trout stamps and prints for sale. WITU 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](mailto:MuddyWaters@new.rr.com).

## Council plans membership, leadership workshop

The Wisconsin Council of TU is planning a workshop to help chapter leaders and members learn and improve their efforts related to membership recruitment and retention, and also leadership development and retention. We are willing to offer this workshop to individual chapters, or in a regional setting where several chapters can send representatives.

The membership portion will cover the challenges of recruiting members, including proven ideas and methods that have helped several chapters increase and maintain their membership base. This will be followed by the leadership portion which will help develop skills to identify, recruit, train and retain chapter leaders, along with ideas on building a successful executive board for operating a chapter.


This workshop will be open to all chapter leaders and all TU members who are considering becoming a chapter leader, or becoming more active within their chapter.

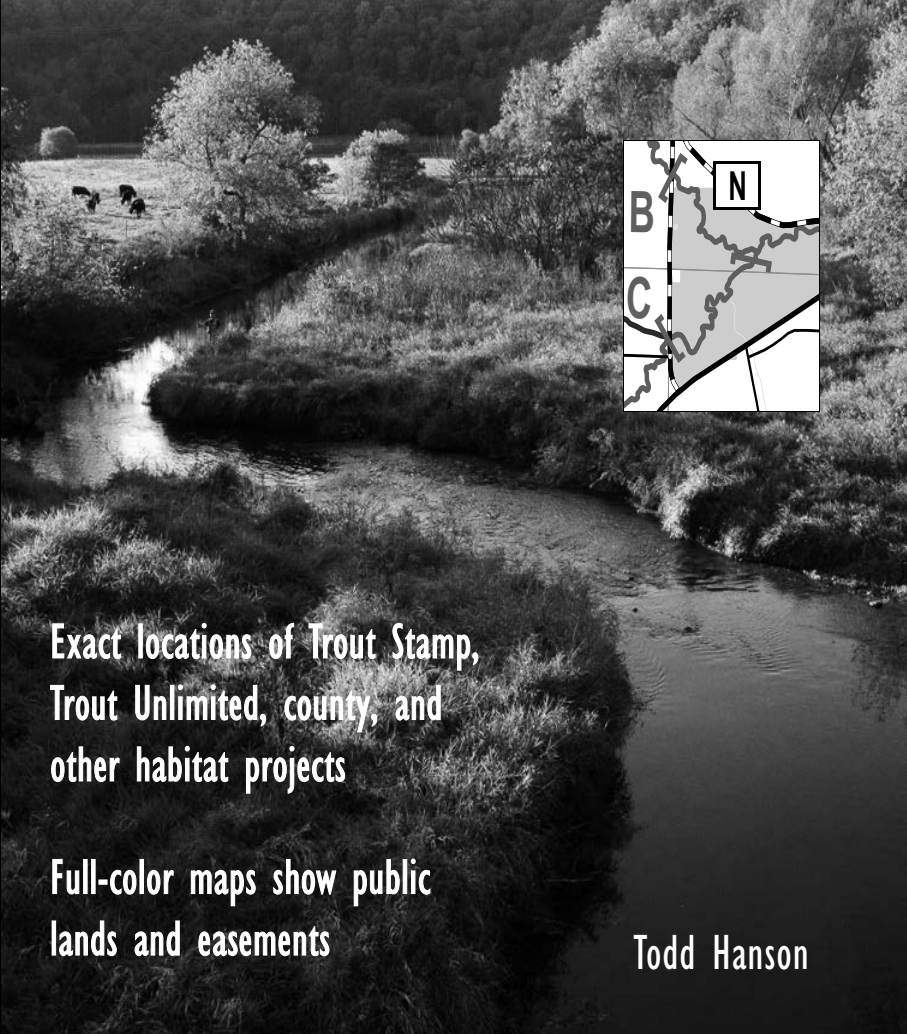
We also encourage all members who want to share their talents with their chapters to contact their chapter president and let them know you'd like to get involved with your chapter's operations or activities. You won't regret getting more involved with TU.

## Help update new trout stream map book

Map Guide to

# Improved Trout Waters of Wisconsin





Exact locations of Trout Stamp, Trout Unlimited, county, and other habitat projects

Full-color maps show public lands and easements

Todd Hanson

Former Wisconsin Trout Editor Todd Hanson is seeking additions and corrections from TU members as he updates his book *Map Guide to Improved Trout Waters of Wisconsin*.

In particular, Hanson is interested in the location of habitat sites that were missed in the first edition, habitat techniques that were used at sites but not mentioned in the first edition, and the names of groups that contributed to habitat projects, but were not given credit in the first edition.

The second edition of the book will include the locations of all new trout habitat projects that have been constructed since the book came out in 2008. Many new maps will be included for

streams that have received their first habitat work. The book will also feature larger type, and streams will be organized by county.

Members can contact Hanson at [twhanson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:twhanson@sbcglobal.net) or at (608) 692-6914.

The second edition will be available this spring. Look for a special discount coupon in this April's *Wisconsin Trout* newspaper.

*Editor's Note: Hanson recently donated a large supply of his first edition to all chapters in attendance at the Green Bay State Council meeting last October. Chapters can use them however they'd like, such as for fundraising events. Be sure to thank him the next time you see him.*



This year's banquet will again feature a raffle for a shadow box featuring flies by such masters as Dick Berge, Bob Haase, Tim Landwehr, Mark Rhinerson,

## Banquet offers chance at shadow box

Those who attended the 2009 WITU annual banquet may recall a raffle for a shadow box featuring flies by famous fly tyers outside of Wisconsin, including Dan Bailey, Don Gopen (inventor of the muddler), Kelly Galloup, Dave Whitlock and Joe Brooks.

This year's banquet will again feature a raffle for a shadow box, but it will have a distinctively-Wisconsin flavor. Featured flies include those by such masters as Dick Berge, Bob Haase, Tim Landwehr, Mark Rhinerson, Pat Ehlers and the late Tom Rice. The collection, assembled by Dan Holland of the Frank Hornberg Chapter, will also include flies by nationally-known tyers such as Rainy Riding (creator of the western Grand Hopper), Earl Little and Doug Swisher. The artwork and framing will be provided by Stony Birch Studio of Wisconsin Rapids. This one-of-a-kind collector's item will be raffled off at the TU State Council Banquet in a special raffle.

If you come to the banquet, be sure to thank Dan Holland for assembling the shadow box. Dan will also be selling copies of his recently-published book of poetry, "A Poet's Gift to Anglers," with all proceeds going to the State Council. He will inscribe copies for those who purchase the book.

## Are you getting emails from TU?

Did you receive an email recently announcing the State Council upcoming banquet in Oshkosh?

Did you receive any email announcements from your chapter this past year regarding work days, banquets and other important chapter events?

Did you receive any email announcements recently from TU National regarding important environmental issues affecting TU members?

If you answered "no" to any of these questions, 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](http://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.

# Project Green Teen

Your help needed for program that empowers and educates teens through conservation.



Robert Banks photos

## FISHING AND PROJECT WORK PART OF THE PGT PROGRAM

SWTU's John Gribb, who has organized volunteers for PGT for the past 10 years, provides some fishing instruction (above). After a day of building LUNKER structures, these teens let their spirits, and bodies, take flight. (right)

By Tina Murray

Project Green Teen (PGT) is gearing up for its eleventh year of youth education and conservation. TU chapter members from across the state have assisted in this great program, teaching teenagers about our coldwater resources. Thank you to all who have made PGT an award-winning environmental education program.

Take a minute and think back through your journey in the sport of fly fishing. Can you remember the moment when you stopped thinking about all the details of getting things right and became part of the stream? Remember when the fishing part became second nature? Remember when you realized that fishing had become a part of your soul for the rest of your days? Remember realizing that this was good for your life and a good thing in life, something to be respected and protected?

This magical and cherished gift is given to teenage youth through the experiences of PGT. What do they get from it? Existentialism and empowerment in protecting our resources. One definition of existentialism is: "A philosophical theory or approach that emphasizes the existence of the individual person as a free and responsible agent determining their own development through acts of the will."

What gets accomplished through existentialism? Roughly 15 percent of former PGT students have now completed college degrees in Natural Resources. Colleges across the nation seek students from PGT and offer them scholarships for resource management programs. 25 percent have taken positions that are either conservation related or involve outdoor education. 80 percent report they continue "trying to catch those

damn fish." A full 75 percent report that they "head to nature when life gets stressful." And 100 percent of them who are old enough to vote, do so.

In January a new crop of youth will begin this amazing process and experience all the confoundedness and wonder that coldwater conservation and fishing offers. The course runs from January through June.

PGT always needs volunteers. Thanks go out to John Gribb for organizing volunteers the past 10 years. They will now be organized by Rich Lahti, who can be reached at lahtirich@yahoo.com or 608-516-4480. Please contact Rich if you have questions, can volunteer at a clinic or have donations.

### Volunteers needed

- 6-8 fly tiers; Feb 24 and 25, 12:45 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. Shabazz - Fly Tying Classes
- 10-12 fly casters; dates to be determined; two afternoon casting clinic dates typically in March or April
- 18 guides each of five days; May 10-14, Avalanche, conservation and fly-fishing trip

Activities are listed on the Project Green Teen calendar at <http://bit.ly/18TFuSy> and on the SWTU calendar <http://bit.ly/1vCLAHY>

### Fishing equipment donations sought:

- Flies tied for fly boxes (18 each,



please)

- Waders, preferably the non-leaking type. If they have leaks, please circle the leaks so we can fix them without having to search for them.
- Wading shoes, particularly some smaller sizes for the girls
- Wading belts
- Sun hats. We have ball caps, but occasionally need coverage of ears and necks.
- Old fishing shirts, rain coats, fly vests
- Rod-and-reel rigs that are ready to be handed down to a youth to keep at the end of the course and for free fishing weekend in June

### Consider a financial donation

Other than staff salaries during school hours, PGT is not funded through the schools. But the major experiences for these teens happen in the real world, not in the classroom. This is where the kids "get it," and this is where we need volunteers and financial support.

Shabazz staff have traditionally written grants and sought donations to be able to take the kids out into the real world and learn about nature. It has taken a lot of extra time and effort that is no longer sustainable for the staff, due to new re-

quirements on teachers statewide. Grants have also become so competitive that without a professional grant writer, we are marginally successful.

The Shabazz staff is dedicated to teaching PGT environmental education in the real world. We have created a five-year sustainability plan to take us to 2020, and are currently training new staff to carry PGT into the future.

With continuing support from TU members and other funding sources, and with continued grant writing by staff, we can keep PGT thriving and ensure the program's existence. Donations are tax deductible. Please send to: PGT/ Shabazz, 1601 N. Sherman Avenue, Madison, Wisconsin. Include your return address if you'd like a tax deduction sheet. Donations can remain anonymous. Checks can be made out to Shabazz. Please put PGT in the memo line.

These funds cover the costs of activities not held in classrooms, such as field trips to Black Earth Creek for entomology lessons, conservation work days and the big Avalanche trip. Gas, saws, nippers, safety goggles, gloves, water testing nets and kits, transportation vehicles/arrangements, peanut butter & jelly, firewood, tarps, minor tools, binoculars, guide books, first aid kits, lodging, food for the Avalanche trip, safety equipment, walkie talkies, rod holders, duct tape, etc. You get the idea.

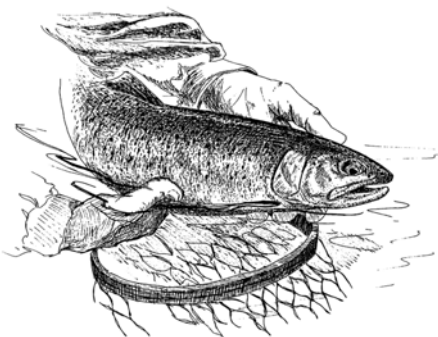
Here's to another great year of youth education and building strong inter-generational relationships!

If you have questions, concerns, magical funding sources, or a dependable van to transport students, please contact Tina Murray at [tmurray@madison.k12.wi.us](mailto:tmurray@madison.k12.wi.us) or 920-345-6556.

To learn more about PGT please visit these sites:

<http://bit.ly/1tp81Ka> or [http://oldweb.madison.k12.wi.us/shabazz/Trips/pgt/pgt.htm](http://http://oldweb.madison.k12.wi.us/shabazz/Trips/pgt/pgt.htm)

*Roughly, 15 percent of former PGT students have now completed college degrees in natural resources. Colleges across the nation seek PGT students and are offering them scholarships for resource management programs.*



## Consider Proper Release

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

1. **Don't play fish to exhaustion.** Instead, use a landing net to bring fish under control before they're played out.
2. **Handle fish in the net.** Grasp them across the back and head for firm but gentle control. Use the net fabric as your "glove."
3. **Turn fish belly up while removing hooks.** This disorients fish 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.



## Chapter News



Mike Stapleton

**ALTU/SEWTU LUNKERS INSTALLED IN RECENT ROWAN CREEK PROJECT**  
The DNR has just completed a major renovation of about a quarter mile of Rowan Creek in Poynette. They installed eight ALTU/SEWTU LUNKERS in the project. The ALTU/SEWTU LUNKERS were constructed with concrete and steel.

### Aldo Leopold Chapter

As part of our 2013 Bear Creek LUNKER day we constructed 10 LUNKERS for the DNR to use on one of their projects. The DNR has just completed a major renovation of about a quarter mile of Rowan Creek, adjacent to and upstream of Highway 51 in Poynette. They installed eight of the 10 LUNKERS we constructed.

Those of you familiar with the site know that this was a real jungle, heavily overgrown with buckthorn, huge willows, and having several willow logs completely blocking the stream. The stream was significantly narrowed, banks were rip-rapped, LUNKERS installed, plunge pools created, and some older structures and riprap were beefed up. And the buckthorn is gone, at least for now, as are most of the willows. Nate Nye, DNR fisheries biologist in Poynette, indicated that the DNR hopes to highlight this site due to its high visibility and easy access.

Thanks to organizer Mike Stapleton, our winter fly-tying class is ready to go. With the great turnout we had last year in Portage, we were encouraged to stick with the same location for a second year. So the 2015 class is again being held at the Portage Public Library, on the following dates (all Wednesdays, from

6-8 p.m.): January 28; February 4, 11, 18, 25, and March 11. There will be five classes as usual; the last one on March 11 is reserved in case we have a weather cancellation.

Our annual elections will be held March 18. The exact location hasn't been set but will be posted on our website. The meeting will start at 6 p.m. I strongly encourage chapter members to join the board or serve as an officer. It is extremely rewarding and fun, and you can make positive changes to our local trout streams. We hope to see you there.

Jean Unmuth from the DNR has been coordinating our water monitoring of Bear Creek. After our chapter election on March 18 she will present and explain these efforts. I am looking forward to finding out what effects all of the restoration work has had on the water quality of this western Sauk County stream.

We are also planning a presentation with the DNR's Nate Nye regarding fish shocking data for Bear Creek, based on the data that DNR technicians have collected these past few years. No date is set yet, but check our chapter website for updates.

—Mike Barniskis

### Antigo Chapter

We hope everyone had a great holiday season. This past fall some chapter members went to the upper part of the Mayking flowage and removed some trees that had fallen into the stream.

We planted some trout into Remington Lake on the west side of Antigo. This is an urban fishing pond for the kids and disabled citizens in our area. It's nice to see some people out on the ice fishing this time of year.

On December 6 we attended the winter WITU Northeast Regional meeting at Buettner's Wild Wolf Inn

### Blackhawk Chapter

During the cold winter months our chapter's attention is focused on the future. At our November meeting DNR Southern Region Fisheries Supervisor Scot Stewart ventured

in Langlade. All eight chapters of the northeast region were present, and we had a great meeting. Our eight chapters helped fund more \$52,000 of projects for our northeast region. We are proud to be part of this multi-chapter effort to help our coldwater resources.

The Antigo Chapter fundraising banquet will be held again on the last Saturday in March. Watch for more information about this important event, as we hope to see you there.

—Scott Henricks

south from Fitchburg to bring us up to date on the proposed new trout regulations.

For the State Council banquet in Oshkosh in February, the chapter is

donating a fly rod/ reel/line combo, plus a full box of chapter-tied flies. Those "in the know" will be on the lookout for that package, given the expertise of our fly tiers.

Access to a stream, even with an easement in place, can be a problem, and chapter members have been looking at a proposed solution to one physical difficulty: those darn fences which have no gates. A new type of stile was installed on the Seas Branch of the West Fork of the Kickapoo this fall, and we are contemplating building and installing similar ones in the coming year.

Another spring project under consideration for us is the removal of three beaver dams and lots of wil-

lows along Reads Creek. In addition to a significant monetary contribution to TUDARE earlier this year, we are currently holding a raffle for a TU-edition Scott Radian rod and Bozeman reel, which will conclude in January. Proceeds from that raffle are pledged to also go to TUDARE.

Our annual fly-tying classes will be on Tuesday nights at the Basics Natural Food Store in Janesville, beginning January 6 and running for 10 weeks.

At our November meeting Terry Vaughn became our chapter president and Gordon Long is now our vice president.

—Dave Hinde

### Central Wisconsin Chapter

Our after-board-meeting informational programs continue to draw large crowds. Stand up presentations and panel discussions on topics of interest to fishermen and conservationists usually last for an hour, immediately following monthly board meeting. These are held from September through May at the Fin 'N Feather restaurant in Winneconne. John Gremmer has been instrumental in keeping the programs scheduled for months in advance.

The last chapter stream work day was September 20 on Chaffee Creek. This year, our five work days consisted of three on Chaffee and two on the White River. The Fox Valley chapter works with us and the Wild Rose DNR team with good results, using matching grant funds from the Trout and Salmon Foundation. The Elliott Donnelley TU chapter from Chicago has also been a major contributor of funds and manpower. Our work day coordinator is Scott Bahn.

Our River Keepers program continues to grow, with new teams being added every year. There are now more than 30 teams monitoring 40 sites. This activity attracts many people, some who are more interested in environmental protection than fishing. John Gremmer is our contact for anyone interested in joining.

Our annual conservation banquet was October 4 at the WWII Memorial building in Wautoma. While the attendance was lower

than in 2013, this was our second-most profitable banquet ever. The 2015 banquet is scheduled for October 10 at the Best Western in Oshkosh. We have a large and enthusiastic committee for 2015, so a big success is anticipated. Banquet co-chairs are Laura Tucker and Jeff Wegand.

Chapter Objectives and Committee structure for 2015 are ready for presentation to the Board in December, with the expectation of implementation in January.

TroutFest will be Saturday, February 28 at the Fin 'N Feather in Winneconne. This annual all-day event is free to the public and is well attended. There are at least 10 interesting presentations, dozens of skilled fly tyers showing their work, raffles, used equipment sales, and really friendly people having a good time. The event coordinator is Bob Smaglik.

The 38th Annual Fly Fishing School is scheduled for the weekend of May 30-31, 2015, at the Riverside Bible Camp, Amherst. The school is open to 24 students with a fee of \$195. Onsite housing is available for \$10/night. Contact Dan Harmon (920-235-1761) or Russ Bouck (715-824-3781) for more information and registration forms.

CWTU activities and event schedules are available at the chapter website at [cwtu.org](http://cwtu.org).

—John Tucker



### COULEE REGION CHAPTER HOSTS FUN DECEMBER MEETING

Steve Miller watches Rick Kyte demonstrate a favorite fly pattern at the Coulee Region Chapter's December meeting. It was a fun evening of fly tying, exchanging tying materials and sharing tips on rod building.

# Chapter News



## Coulee Region Chapter

The Coulee Region Chapter was host to UW-LaCrosse professor of biology, Roger Haro, during our October meeting. Haro shared his recent research on the impact that mercury has on ecosystems.

Our December meeting was a fun evening of fly tying, exchanging tying materials, and sharing tips on rod building. Attendees gained knowledge and more gear for the upcoming season.

Our annual chapter banquet will be February 27 at the Cedar Creek Country Club in Onalaska. Find more information about the banquet and other chapter events at [couleeregiontu.org](http://couleeregiontu.org) and our Facebook page.

Thanks to Mike Warren for donating 20 percent of his 2014 Tues-

day guide trips (because Tuesday starts with TU) to our chapter to help support local stream improvement projects. He plans to do the same in 2015. Go to [troutbuddy.com](http://troutbuddy.com) for more information on this most generous guide business.

We were a sponsoring partner of the documentary film "Mysteries of the Driftless," which came to the big screen in 2013 and then won an Emmy last November. The film explores the Driftless Area of Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois and does a remarkable job of highlighting the unique history, ecosystems and topography of the Coulee Region. This excellent project can be viewed on the Untamed Science YouTube channel.

—Curt Rees



Al Johnson

### FOX VALLEY'S AL JOHNSON REALLY SAW THIS. NO LIE.

Fox Valley TU's December meeting featured their annual "Tie and Lie Night." Members and friends tied flies and told stories/fibs/lies about the past fishing season. This included Al Johnson's story about a car he saw roll into the Missouri River this past summer. He even had a picture of the driver scrambling up the river bank.

## Fox Valley Chapter

The Fox Valley chapter has started the winter schedule of meetings and is preparing for Cabin Fever Day.

Our October chapter meeting featured a presentation by Gordon Martin from Tie 1 On Fly Fishing Guide Service out of Elkhart Lake. Gordy discussed fishing Lake Michigan tributary streams. This was our first chapter meeting at The Capitol Centre on the north side of Appleton.

Our November meeting featured our annual movie/video night. This year we also had the opportunity to have Jonathan Pyatskowitz present information about his new position as the trout habitat and easement coordinator for northeast Wisconsin.

Jonathan's office is located in Shawano. He will be designing plans for and obtaining easements for trout habitat in northeast Wisconsin. The TU chapters will be working with Jonathan to help him succeed.

Our December 18 chapter meeting was our annual "Tie and Lie Night." Members and friends tied flies and told stories/fibs/lies about the past fishing season. This included Al Johnson's story about a car he saw roll into the Missouri River this

past summer. He even had a picture of the driver scrambling up the river bank.

Our January 29 meeting is our annual event put on by the students in the Culinary Arts program at Fox Valley Technical College. If you are interested in attending that event, please check our website for information.

We are also planning and preparing for our Cabin Fever Day Jan. 24, 2015 at the Grand Meridian. This major fundraising event provides an opportunity for our chapter to help fund the DNR LTE crews that work in northeast and northcentral Wisconsin during the summer months.

Please check our website at [foxvalleytu.org](http://foxvalleytu.org) for additional information on Cabin Fever Day and our other activities.

New chapter member Jen Erickson has created a Facebook page for our chapter, so please check it out and use it to keep informed about our chapter activities.

We hope you enjoyed the holiday season. From all of us at Fox Valley TU we hope you have a happy new year. We'll see you on a trout stream.

—Rich Erickson

## Frank Hornberg Chapter

Our chapter has been using a Tomorrow River staging area on Welton Road for several years. It was a convenient location for water access and for storing some of our equipment. That includes our trusty jon boat, the famous TU Titanic. When the DNR purchased the property with plans to open it to the public, we decided to move our equipment to a different location. An informal group of Hornbergers got together last fall and did just that. It turned out to be our final work event for the year.

Fishing forays and kayaking floats this past summer revealed a number of places where the Tomorrow River has had its way with structures we installed in the river several years ago. We may devote some work days this summer to make repairs on these structures. Members should stay tuned for specifics on the times and places of these work days.

The Friends of the Tomorrow/Waupaca River named Hornberg Chapter member Stu Grimstad their "Outstanding River Friend" for 2014. In giving Stu this award, they noted his "long standing stewardship and advocacy for the Tomorrow River and all of Wisconsin's waters." In their words he "has been a tireless advocate for the River ... organizing and participating in hundreds of hours of stream restoration." Our chapter agrees with their assessment and we offer our heartiest congratulations to Stu for this award.

As in prior years, our chapter will

sponsor fly-tying workshops in January, February and March of 2015. We expect to hold one of them at Clancy's Stone Lion in Custer with the remaining ones in the Pinery meeting room of the Portage County Public Library in Stevens Point.

We are also making arrangements for our first general meeting of the winter season in January, 2015. Hornberg Chapter members for whom TU National has email addresses will receive email notification of all these events, once details of time and place are established. (Note: see the final paragraph of this report.)

We are in the planning stage for our signature event, our annual Fly Fishing School. We should have the specifics of time, place and manner finalized early in January, 2015. We will soon begin soliciting student applications. Naturally, we welcome applications from members of other chapters, non-members, friends, families, youngsters and oldsters. Keep it in mind.

Hornberg members, please read "Are you getting emails from TU?" on page 2 of Wisconsin Trout. In 2015 we will communicate with our members by using the email addresses that TU National has on record for dues-paying members of TU. If you still want emails from us and you are not a dues-paying member of TU or you do not want TU National to have your email address, let us know and we will use a separate contact list just for you.

—John Vollrath

## Green Bay Chapter

With summer coming to a close, the Green Bay Chapter transitioned from work projects and play into business and meeting mode.

In an effort to shorten the meetings and make our meetings more

program/presenter friendly, we changed our meeting format. Starting in August we began holding our "program meeting," the one with our presenter, food and drinks; at 6:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of



Aaron Fratling

### CABELA'S EARNS GREEN BAY TU AWARD

Scott Anderson (left) of Cabela's accepts the GBTU Business of the Year Award from GBTU President Adrian Meseberg.



## Chapter News



Adrian Meseberg

### GREAT TRADE FOR GBTU!

GBTU traded the hatchery system they inherited from Flo Parfitt to Green Bay Southwest teacher Tom Sebranek for a bunch of fly-tying kits.

each month. The presenter is at the start of the meeting, as opposed to the end, in order to give them the leeway to leave if needed, and the opportunity to eat with us if they so choose.

At 6 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month we hold our "business meeting." These meetings are where our chapter leaders vote on important decisions involving the chapter. While officers and board members are the primary decision makers, votes over \$1,000 require a vote of all members in attendance. For larger money votes, transparency, input and ideas, all members are encouraged to attend. After each business meeting our Conservation Committee comes together for the planning of this all-important fundraiser.

The new meeting structure seems to be working. We have been able to handle our business in less than two hours. All of our speakers have stuck around after their presentations to eat and get to know the group better. The program meetings have all been about 1.5 hours. We have even seen new members in the seats, which has been great.

Of course, without funds, none of us would be able to help our coldwater resources. While we have enjoyed the fruits of a very successful Conservation Banquet for years, we realized the importance of diversifying our revenue stream. Last year we hosted an effective and very entertaining movie night, raising \$1,000. This year we have added a GBTU Raffle to the mix. Tickets cost \$50 each, there are only 100 available, and it pays out ten spots (first place is \$1,000, second place is \$500, third and fourth place earn \$200 each, and fifth through tenth place earn \$100 each). Winners will be drawn at our Conservation Ban-

quet on Thursday, Feb. 19 and you need not be present to win. If anybody wants a 1-in-10 shot to at least double your money, while helping our coldwater resources, call Aaron Frailing at (608) 395-8200, email him at [apf.gbtrout@gmail.com](mailto:apf.gbtrout@gmail.com), or purchase them directly from a link on the right sidebar on our website at [greenbaytu.com](http://greenbaytu.com).

Speaking of our website, our technology team is in the process of developing a new site. Our current one is lovely, but not as user friendly as we'd like. We hope to create one that is aesthetically pleasing and easy to use. If it does not work as envisioned, we can always stay with the one we have. If the new one turns out amazing, we will redirect traffic from the old one to the new. So far a frame has been designed, and it is looking very nice.

On November 13 several GBTU members helped Tight Lines' Tim Landwehr host a fundraiser entitled "Flies, Films and Foam." The event was a "Best of Fly Fishing Film Tour." Tickets were limited to 150. The evening sold out and raised more than \$4,000. Thanks Tim, Kim McCarthy and everybody who attended and volunteered.

Earlier this summer GBTU was contacted by De Pere resident Flo Parfitt about acquiring her late husband Gary's personal hatchery system. She wanted to make sure his work and equipment did not go to waste. After months of wondering what to do with it, we contacted our friend and Green Bay Southwest science and ag teacher Tom Sebranek. He has a hatchery system set up with several types of fish being raised by his students. He happily traded us 13 fly tying kits (he had a bunch of them) for the equipment. We now have about 20 kits.

On December 4 we held our annual awards dinner at Titledown

Brewing in Green Bay. Between 30 and 40 attendees gathered together to honor those who have given so much of their time and energy to TU. This year's award winners included Dave Ostanek and Doug Seidl (President's Club) and Cabela's

(Business of the Year). Paul Eversen, from Every Entertainment graced us with his vocals on songs from Frank Sinatra to Neil Diamond to Christmas classics and more.

—Adrian Meseberg

### Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter

The Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter completed its stream work on Big Rock Creek, just west of Highland in Iowa County.

We will be working on some of our project on Six Mile Branch, which is another tributary of the Blue River. However, we are still waiting for the stream-access paperwork to be worked out on several other locations.

Chuck Steudel, Carol Murphy and Dave Swanson worked with Highland Middle School teacher Abbie Ramel. They were involved in taking a field trip to Big Spring Creek on October 14, 2014. They spent time looking at the ecology of Big Spring, which is one of our well-known stream restoration projects. About 60 students participated in this field trip.

—Brian Larson



### A BUDDING ECOLOGIST?

Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter members worked with Highland Middle School teacher Abbie Ramel for an ecology field trip to Big Spring Creek. Here sixth grader Ethan Klukas inspects a water sample.

### Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter

In October, Kiap-TU-Wish chapter completed its third habitat project on the Trimbelle River, southeast of River Falls. The 2014 project was downstream of the work done in 2013, in the headwaters area.

Unique to this project was the use of native prairie plants. We have felt for some time that native prairie plants, with their deep roots, would be desirable in our project corridors, but we didn't quite know how to accomplish this. Chapter member Dan Wilcox drove a solution to this dilemma. An active member of the Prairie Enthusiasts, Dan knew of someone who has land in the CRP

which requires occasional mowing. The owner had planted the field to native prairie grasses and forbs. Dan made arrangements for the mowed plants to be baled, seeds and all. These bales were chopped and spread as mulch on the project site.

Duke Welter also furnished some milkweed seed. Finally, Dan obtained seeds of four species of grasses and 12 species of forbs that were gathered from a DNR seed farm located a few miles north of the site. These seeds were broadcast on the corridor, keeping them more than 50 feet from the stream.

—Tom Henderson

### Lakeshore Chapter

The Lakeshore Chapter has some very exciting news. The dam on the upper Mullet River by the Girl Scouts Camp is coming down! The dam was built many years ago to create a "pond" atmosphere for the camp, and it was really a bad idea for long-term viability of the river. I'm sure it initially added some value to the camp, but it is now more of an eyesore, so the camp agreed the demolition of the dam would be a good idea.

This is huge news for the Mullet River as a whole. The Mullet is

north of the Onion River, starting in the town of Glenbuelah and picking up several major springs before connecting with LaBudde Creek and eventually flowing all the way to Plymouth.

The removal of this dam will be great. The Mullet is already a Class II stream with wild browns and brookies inhabiting the river. This project will take several years to develop a plan, involving the DNR and Lakeshore TU. Much of the Mullet is on private property and hopefully all parties involved will welcome re-



# Chapter News



removal of the dam and the ensuing work once the dam is gone. Above the dam the silt and debris is shocking, so it will take a few years for the river to find its natural path.

Unfortunately, work days will not

happen soon. First, the dam has to come down. Then we need to assess what work will be needed. Either way, this project will be great news for the Mullet River.

—Gordy Martin

## Marinette County Chapter

In November, the Marinette County Chapter worked with the DNR and Frank's Logging and Excavating of Peshtigo to remove a 100-foot culvert from a tributary to Smith Creek. The stream had been altered to build ponds for a golf

course and the original stream channel was restored. This will result in more cold water reaching Smith Creek. The Marinette Chapter paid the \$200 cost to remove the culvert.

—Doug Erdmann

## Northwoods Chapter

Our chapter hosted our 40th Annual Conservation Banquet in September. In our continued attempt to shake things up, we moved our banquet from the spring to the fall and moved the location from Rhineland to Minocqua. While our attendance numbers and profits remained relatively unchanged, we were very pleased to see many new faces. We continue to strive to recruit new members and new leaders.

The Northwoods Chapter was proud to be a part of the northeast region this month as the nine chapters gathered together to fund 100 percent of the requests made by the USFS and DNR this year, a total of \$52,500. Our chapter contributed \$2,000 to fund the USFS seasonal fisheries technician, one of six individuals who be working on trout streams in the forest next summer.

We look forward to hitting the streams next summer with these budding biologists during our workdays.

A huge thanks to retired fisheries biologist Duke Andrews for sharing his "Vision for the Deerskin River" with us at our November meeting. Duke recommended working with local resource managers to develop a plan for the river, including increased brushing to convert more streambank from alder thicket to meadow. This will enhance fishability and increase sunlight to promote aquatic plant growth invertebrates. Representatives from our chapter are meeting with USFS and DNR fisheries biologists this month to talk about stream enhancement priorities for the future.

—Laura MacFarland

## Oconto River Chapter

On November 24 the chapter kicked off its Trout in the Classroom project by delivering "eyed" eggs to the students at Suring, Oconto, Lena and Gillett School Districts. Oconto Falls High and Marion High have also joined the other schools and will be adding Trout in the Classroom curriculum.

Dale Halla is heading up the project this year. Eggs began to hatch around December 1, which is earlier than usual, and the tiny brook trout will provide a wonderful project for the classes involved. Special thanks to Tim Winkle at Silver Moon Springs Trout Ranch for supplying the eggs. Thank you to the

school district coordinators who have included this project in their curriculums: Lara Nichols at Oconto; Roberta Windus at Lena; Greg Zeitler at Gillett; Sean Wagner at Suring; Dan Loken at Marion and Rachael Kroeplen at Oconto Falls.

Our chapter board will propose a 2015 activity schedule at an upcoming meeting and will prepare a budget accordingly. Member-of-the-year and Best-Lunch awards will be discussed at the January meeting, and awards will be presented at the February meeting.

The banquet committee was established and a tentative date for the banquet was set for April 25,

2015. Banquet Chair Dan Sumnicht said the banquet would be much like previous years.

We held elections, and our new officers are President Tom Klatt, Vice President Roger Firgens, Vice President Pete Vanderwegan, Secretary Dave Kalous, Treasurer Nor-

man Christenson, Director Don Wagner and Director J. Scherbarth.

Our membership meetings are held at 7 p.m. at the Lone Oak Gun club, north of Gillett, on the first Wednesday of each month, except May and November.

—Dale Halla

## Shaw-Paca Chapter

We are making plans for our 32nd annual banquet at Northwinds in Marion on March 26. You should be seeing our mailings soon.

We have continued our program of supplying Trout Magazine to our local high school and public libraries, and renewed our support of several environmental organizations.

Our scholarship committee is in the process of selecting a student at

UW-Stevens Point for our annual coldwater research grant. We are also looking forward to working with our new northeast trout coordinator.

Our new president, Nate Sipple, has many good ideas for our chapter, so we are looking forward to 2015.

—Lee Kersten

## Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter

Our chapter members remained active throughout the late summer and fall months and even found time to fish with friends and family before the season ended. Our focus this quarter was fundraising, with our annual fundraising banquet October 28.

We also launched other initiatives to add to our bank balance in advance of next year. Our fall work day schedule supported our coldwater conservation mission with work days in September, October and December.

Project Healing Waters continued to engage with military veterans via fly-tying sessions and fishing outings. Our monthly chapter meetings at the Thunder Bay Grille began again in September, and were well attended.

A key characteristic of our fall schedule, much like summer, seems to be a burst of activity each month in a very small window of time. I guess this leaves time for our members to pursue their own interests, but relies on the generosity of our volunteers as we "go back to the well" multiple times in a short period of time.

I want to take a moment to thank our volunteers who always step up. In September our Project Healing Waters (PHW) team hosted veterans for a fishing outing on the Milwaukee River in Thiensville. Attendees got a chance to learn more about the Ozaukee County fish-passage program. Twice-weekly fly-tying sessions also continue, thanks to George Batcha, Rick Frye and Al Dalphonso, who lead our chapter's PHW efforts.

September also saw a first for our chapter with the establishment of a Trout Unlimited chapter at Carroll University. This chapter is part of the National TU's 5 Rivers Program. Board members Jason Freund, a professor at Carroll, is the chapter's advisor. Additional thanks go to Stan Strelka and Rick Carr, who helped this chapter get started and mentored the students. A few weeks after forming, the students were able to meet their peers from other campuses at TU's national conference for college chapters.

In September we launched a regular fly-tying program that continues through spring. A group of our members get together twice a month to tie flies and exchange helpful hints. All skill levels are welcome and it's a great opportunity to rebuild your fly inventory prior to the start of next season. This group

meets the first and third Tuesday of each month. Special thanks to Greg Schick and the other volunteers who host this event at the Oak Creek Community Center.

Our chapter remained focused on the Estabrook Dam on the Milwaukee River. The original dam was severely damaged a number of years ago, and options to remediate it have been discussed for a number of years. A study completed in late summer identified four options, which range from replacement of the dam to complete removal with remediation of the industrial pollutants and sediment that accumulated behind the old structure.

Our board of directors was asked for their input and voted unanimously in favor of removal, as this represents the lowest cost and restores the river to its original condition. It also allows free fish passage, reduces flooding risks and directly ties to TU's mission of restore and reconnect.

The issue is politically charged and the local landowners would like the return of their "lake" by replacing the dam. Our members were not shy about offering their opinions to Milwaukee County leadership, and continue to keep the pressure on. Special thanks to Herb Oechler and Mike Kuhr for following this issue for years.

We were excited to start our monthly chapter meetings again and hosted the first of our fall meetings in September at the Thunder Bay Grille. This past year, our chapter sponsored two "Trout in the Classroom" programs for elementary school students. Boyd Roessler, a member and teacher who leads one of these efforts, presented his school's program to our members. He was assisted by the DNR's Ben Huessner, who facilitated the necessary permits and trout for the program.

We also paid tribute to one of our recently deceased board members, whose family graciously donated much of his fishing and fly tying equipment to our chapter. We hosted a silent auction of some of these items that evening and many more items went to our fundraising banquet for prizes.

Our Habitat Committee sponsored a work day in September on Whitewater Creek in Walworth County. We teamed with Luke Roffler, the newly appointed DNR biologist for Walworth County, to create brush bundles and tree-drop habitat improvements for this fish-



Josh Radlein

## LARIMER VISITS SEWTU

Well known steelhead guide and fishing personality Tom Larimer spent a late-afternoon fly-tying demonstration for about 30 members and guests of SEWTU. He taught them several of his most popular tube-fly patterns. He then made presentation at SEWTU's regular chapter meeting, with a presentation on steelhead fishing, comparing west coast and Midwest fishing similarities and differences.



## Chapter News



Mike Kühr

### SEWTU PLACES "BIOLOGS" IN SCUPPERNONG CREEK

About two dozen hardy volunteers came out for SEWTU's Scuppernong Creek work day. SEWTU has been placing "biologs" to narrow and manage the stream channel, with brush-bundle back fills behind them.

ery. We hope to return next year to continue the progress. Special thanks to Henry Koltz and Jim Wierzba for leading the work day effort.

October activities were also bunched in a small window and October 11 was an especially busy day. Our October work day was conducted on Ulao Creek, north of Milwaukee. A group of our volunteers worked with the Ozaukee County Fish Passage program as well as several other conservation-minded groups to restore the stream banks with tree plantings and other improvements. Special thanks go to Ray Weiss for leading these efforts.

October 11 was also the first time our chapter participated in the Shorewood "Fish and Feather Festival." Our volunteers, lead by Rick Frye, manned an information booth and provided casting instruction and fly-tying demonstrations. We received much positive feedback and plan to return to the event next year. Thanks to Rick for establishing our relationship there.

We also had several volunteers attend the annual Root River Steelhead Facility Open House. Thanks to Don Putning and other volunteers, who made guests aware of SEWTU and our coldwater conservation mission.

Project Healing Waters veterans and volunteers were back on the water in October for the last of this year's fishing outings, which was hosted by River Wildlife at Koehler, Wisconsin on the Sheboygan River. It seemed we saved the best for last, as the veterans found salmon, brown trout and steelhead, providing plenty of photo opportunities to help motivate participants this winter. Thanks to all the volunteers who paired with the veterans and mentored them through a great day of fishing.

We also saved the best for last in terms of our October calendar. We held our annual fundraising banquet October 28 at the New Berlin Hills Golf Course. About 90 of our members joined in a night of festivities, with numerous raffle and silent-auction prizes. Stan Strelka, assisted by Chuck Beeler, Ivan Novhava, Jim Folda and many other volunteers, helped run the event.

In November Jason Freund represented SEWTU at the Riveredge Nature Center's Student Research

Symposium, which sponsors a contest for high school and college students across several areas, dealing with conservation.

The big event of November was the return to Wisconsin of noted steelhead guide and fishing personality Tom Larimer, who spent a good part of the day with our chapter. Tom presented a late-afternoon fly-tying demonstration for about 30 members and guests. He taught them several of his most popular tube-fly patterns. He then made a presentation at our regular chapter meeting, with a presentation on steelhead fishing, comparing west coast and midwest fishing similarities and differences.

In November a unique fundraising opportunity dropped into our lap. One of our member's nephews is a member of the ownership group of Teton Reels. The company is ceasing business operations and sought a non-profit group to purchase much of their remaining inventory. They offered us the reels at a deeply reduced price, so we could make them available to our members, while raising funds for coldwater conservation.

The idea was hatched during a fall fishing trip to Montana and took wing from there. Special thanks to member Barry Wichman for bringing the idea to us and making the transaction come to life, just in time for the holiday shopping season.

The month of December is also front-end-loaded, due to the holidays. About two dozen hardy volunteers joined us December 6 for our Scuppernong Creek work day. The effort was led by Ray Weiss and Rick Frye, and teamed with the DNR, to continue the work from last year. We have been placing "biologs" to narrow and manage the stream channel, with brush-bundle back-fills behind them. Special thanks to all of our volunteers who made our eight workday efforts a success this past year.

We will end this year with our annual Holiday Party December 16. In lieu of a guest speaker we will sponsor a gift exchange and will view several fishing films. Once again, we will also collect non-perishable food items for a local food bank. All who bring food items will be entered in a special raffle. We have much to give thanks for and expect our members to be very generous with their dona-

tions. Special thanks to Taylor Todd and Abby Mertz for overseeing this event and the chapter's donation to the food pantry.

For information about our events and activities visit our website or

Facebook page. If you would like to receive SEWTU email about our events, contact us at [sustain@sewtu.org](mailto:sustain@sewtu.org).

—Jim Wierzba

### Southern Wisconsin Chapter

Well known guide, fly tier and founder of the Henry's Fork Anglers, Mike Lawson is the featured speaker at our annual Icebreaker event January 17. Mike's book, *Spring Creeks*, has been called a modern classic. One of his presentations will focus on Spring Creeks and Tailwaters. His other presentation will be Fly Fishing Approach and Presentation for Wary Trout. In the middle of a long Wisconsin winter, we are hoping that Mike will warm your coldwater heart with his informative and engaging presentations.

The day-long event will also feature some of the region's most innovative fly tiers, a Trout Fishing 101 session, and our legendary array of bucket raffle items. We again invite retired and active military personnel to our event, and they will receive free admission with their military ID.

Bring the kids! Those under 12 get in for free when accompanied by a parent. They can visit our youth

education room. The day's program also features young Henry Cyrns, who will be giving some pointers on teaching fly tying to kids.

We'll see you on Saturday, January 17 at the Promega Center in Fitchburg, just south of Madison. You'll enjoy a friendly, roomy, professional and relaxed atmosphere. Read our latest newsletter at [swtu.org](http://swtu.org) for more on the day's schedule and a map to the Promega Center.

This fall has found our Stream Team making a big difference at the new Falk/Wells Wildlife Area along Pleasant Valley Creek. Our board also sought input from our members on the proposed trout regulations, which informed our response to the DNR. We have also stepped up our strategic planning efforts, beginning with a full survey of our membership to help make sure we're focusing on the right things.

Learn more about us, our events and activities at [swtu.org](http://swtu.org).

—Matt Krueger and Drew Kasel



Ric Genthe

### TOPF AT WORK ON HIS NAMESAKE AREA; NEW CHAINSAWS FOR SWTU

Kurt Osterby, Mary Ann Doll and Topf Wells work together to clear a tree at the Falk/Wells wildlife area, which is named, in part, after Topf.

Below, Bob Harrison (right), President of Badger Fly Fishers, presented two Stihl chainsaws to SWTU Conservation Committee Co-Chair Jim Hess. The donation included safety gear, extra chains and more.



Jim Beecher

# Chapter News



## Wild Rivers Chapter

In October, Wild Rivers was asked to be involved in a roundtable discussion hosted by the Brule River Preservation group, which is working to protect the Brule River for future generations. There were many partners at the table, with many ideas for protecting the Brule watershed. Wild Rivers will continue to be at the table with this forward-thinking group.

Chuck Campbell and Bill Heart attended the Northland College Volunteer Fair and signed up six students who were interested in volunteering with the chapter.

We discussed holding our annual Fishing Expo on the Campus of Northland College, reserving a great venue at for our April 11, 2015 Fishing Expo. Since announcing the date and venue of the Expo, many of the resource professionals who have attended in the past are excited to be part of the event. The chapter is currently working on speakers, food

ideas and possible workshops at the Expo. We are looking forward to meeting many students and other potential volunteers.

We held our October meeting and program at the Delta Diner. Dennis LaBare, a lifelong fly fisherman, TU volunteer and former chairman of the Mid Atlantic Council of TU, spoke about Tagewahnahn, his book about Maine's Grand Lake Stream and its famous landlocked salmon.

Dennis also spoke about a "A Passion for Grouse," a beautifully done work on grouse, grouse dogs, the people and culture of the grouse-hunting sport.

The White River Fishery was the topic for the November meeting. See my column, "From the Heart," in this issue of Wisconsin Trout for more information on a very sobering topic.

—Bill Heart

## Wisconsin Clear Waters

The bulk of our 2014 stream-restoration projects were not accomplished due to heavy rains through early July. These projects are targeted to be completed in the summer of 2015. The wild trout transfers for 2014 were completed and the quality of the fish surveyed has indicated positive results.

Due to the extreme precipitation events that occurred in the Chippewa Valley during the summer of 2014, the Sand Creek restoration project was not implemented. It will be delayed until the spring of 2015. According to DNR trout habitat biologist John Sours, the Sand Creek project will be their first project of the 2015 field season, and he is confident it will be completed, barring another record-setting weather pattern.

Six-miles long, Sand Creek and its major tributary, Spring Brook, originate in a series of spring-fed wetlands in northwest Chippewa and southern Barron counties. The creek is in a part of the Red Cedar River watershed, downstream of the terminal moraine of the most recent Wisconsin glacial advance.

The considerable distance from the coarse till of the Mikana member glacial advance limits the amount of gravel available within the creek substrate. Consequently, a relatively thin layer of glacial sand outwash is the primary component of the substrate throughout the creek and watershed. Cambrian Wonewoc sandstone bedrock (Eau Claire Formation) immediately underlies this thin sand overburden and is often exposed on the stream bottom.

Springs and ground water infiltration emanating along this bedrock boundary provides consistent thermal regimes for naturally reproducing brook and brown trout.

DNR fish and habitat surveys beginning in 1948 consistently noted the overall poor habitat conditions plaguing the creek. Annual trout recruitment was very poor and supplemented annually with stocking of brown trout. Beginning in 1953 stream bank protection easements were gradually acquired to provide a buffer from cattle and agricultural runoff.

DNR and conservation clubs un-

dertook habitat projects, and the trout population gradually responded as habitat improved. Naturally reproducing populations of brook and brown trout established themselves. The last substantial projects were completed in 1982-88, with Trout Unlimited as a partner, and provided excellent results. Stream electrofishing surveys consistently captured brown trout larger than 20 inches and revealed excellent trout populations. Average trout-per-mile numbers reached 2,500-2,800 adult fish, and the size structure consistently exceeded the state average for streams this size (12 cfs) and larger.

But annual trend electrofishing has documented a gradual decline in trout numbers as good habitat is reduced. This downward trend is the reason for this project.

Unfortunately, a great percentage of trout are concentrated in the areas of the long-ago habitat improvement work. Considering the most recent habitat work is at least 25 years old, much of it has deteriorated to a point where it is marginally functional. Our project will rehabilitate past work, and extend into new areas, with the goal of increasing wild trout populations, including larger trout.

The goals for the initial Sand Creek project are to repair and increase the amount of quality cover habitat areas for 2,300 linear feet of the stream near the village of Sand Creek. Wooden under-bank structures, logs, root wads and boulders would be placed in suitable locations. Plunge pools and weirs will also be installed to provide and maintain deep, aerated pools and runs. Past habitat work will be rebuilt or enhanced to the original or improved function. Any areas of stream-bank erosion would be shaped and stabilized with rock. The project duration would be 2.5 weeks, pending weather.

The DNR has committed Trout Stamp dollars to cover a portion of the expenses, due to their commitment to the unique and exceptional large brown trout potential of this piece of water.

Xcel Energy and WI Clear Waters TU chapter have also committed funding to the project. Clear Waters TU will conduct additional

local fundraising and volunteer solicitation from local organizations, as we have in most of our chapter projects. Xcel Energy has been an important partner in several of our previous projects, including Gilbert Creek in Dunn County and Elk Creek in Chippewa County

Our off-season activity started on October 4, 2014. Unfortunately the Eau Claire area had a record early snowfall. We had planned a Saturday morning of clean up on our Elk Creek property, only to be welcomed with wet snow and cold temperatures. Given these poor conditions, only six hearty souls came out for the work day. While the numbers were slim, we accomplished a good amount of work. The crew concentrated on removing and killing invasive foliage. Primarily we targeted buckthorn and honeysuckle.

This work was done as a result of a review of the property by a county expert on invasive species. He also recommended mowing the canary grass two or three times a season to keep the grass under control. Future work efforts will continue with attacks on the buckthorn, honeysuckle and other brush. We are always looking for volunteers, so please contact a chapter board member if you are interested in helping.

We are planning on doing some preliminary brush work and tree removal with our partners this winter on Gilbert Creek, west of Menomonie. More information about dates and times will be available early next year.

## Wisconsin River Valley Chapter

We helped students from Wausau West High School with their Plover River Stream Study. With heavy rains in early October, the water levels were the highest I have seen on the Plover River. It was no surprise that we had a record number of kids falling into the river this year. Thanks to Bob Pils, Al Hauber, John Meachan, Elizabeth Andersen and the DNR staff for their time and participation in this annual field trip.

My personal thanks and gratitude to Herb Hintze, who was my teacher, my mentor and my friend. It was Herb's invitation that got me started in helping with the Wausau West Plover River field trip and the Sporting Heritage Youth Day at the

We're again offering our fly-tying classes, in a series of five sessions, with master tier Jeff Bartynski teaching new and beginning fly tiers the skills necessary to tie flies to catch fish. This is a hands-on program, with all tools and materials provided. Class dates are January 15 and 29, February 19 and 26, and March 5. All classes are from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. and will be held at the First Congregational Church, 310 Broadway Street, Eau Claire. The class fee is \$25, which covers the cost of materials. To register, or if you have questions, contact Gary Welch via email at gkwelch@charter.net. Class size is limited to 12 participants, so be sure to register early.

Hopefully spring will come early next year. To further this thought, we have moved the Wisconsin Clear Waters TU Banquet to earlier in the spring. It will be held March 26 at the usual venue, Clarion Suites in Eau Claire. Further information will be provided by mail this month.

Please check your closets, rod cases and fishing vests and jackets. Do you see any rods, flies, creels that someone else could make better use of? How about fishing books, trout prints or wall decorations? Please contact Bob Swanson at svec123@yahoo.com or 715-354-3745 or Al Noll at nolla@uw-stout.edu. All items will be placed in the silent auction and receipts will be available for all donations.

—Bob Swanson, Al Noll, Gary Welch & Tim Meyer

Wausau School forest in August. Getting my "feet wet" with these events led to me traveling to the Wisconsin Outdoor Education Expo in Beaver Dam, and now Poynette (in May), as well as the Kiwanis Kids day in Wisconsin Rapids and the Youth Fishing Camp in Waupaca.

I have met some fabulous people and some really great, interesting and talented kids. None of this would have happened if Herb and I had never met. With each event, these things continue to bring me great joy and happiness. Thank you for everything, Herb. I will never forget you.

—Linda Lehman

## Wolf River Chapter

We participated in December's Northeast Regional meeting at the Wild Wolf Inn, along the picturesque Wolf River. The seven northeast Wisconsin Trout Unlimited chapters met with representatives from the DNR and the U.S. Forest Service. We financed three two-person habitat crews from the DNR's Wild Rose, Antigo and Peshtigo locations. We also funded a seasonal fisheries technician and the new trout coordinator. The Wolf River Chapter did its part, donating profits from our summer brat stand for the Antigo crews.

We would like to thank Bob Out-house for donating a fine trailer to the chapter. We will use it for storing all our brat stand equipment. Thank you Travis Stuck for letting us use your trailer last summer.

We have not yet set a date for our spring meeting and summer work days and brat stand days.

Please see our website for updates at WolfRiverTU.org. We will be electing two board members and a secretary. If you or someone you know may be interested in any of these positions, please contact us through our web site.

Beavers are once again working Nine Mile Creek. Our trapper, Duane Fronek, will be trapping the busy beavers this spring. According to the U.S. Forest Service's fall beaver colony survey, there are two dams in the main creek, two on Poor Farm Springs and one on Little Emil Springs.

Laurie Netzow does an awesome job with our newsletter. For a hard copy, email Laurie at lznetzow@me.com. For a digital copy, email muddywaters@new.rr.com.

—Tim Waters

# Driftless Area projects shaping up for 2015

*Volunteer opportunities abound for those willing to get a little dirty.*

By Duke Welter  
TUDARE Communications

With a range of projects already lined up for the 2015 work season, volunteers and chapters will have plenty of opportunities for involvement. They may include winter brushing days, spring and summer structure-building days, seeding, mulching and tree planting. Some chapters also offer numerous work days focused on maintaining past project sites, such as removing unwanted vegetation or invasive species. In 2014, restoration work took place on more than 14 miles of streams across the region despite early weather challenges and high water.

From the “Red Cabin” site on the Kinnickinnic River near River Falls to projects in the Blue River watershed in the southern Driftless, dozens of work sites will be under way. A late start to last year’s projects put some on hold last year, but with good weather they will be ready to get going about the first of May.

One of the first opportunities will be from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 24 at the Cade/Theyer property on the North Fork of the Bad Axe River, west of Viroqua. Working with Mississippi Valley Conservancy, Coulee Region TU and TUDARE, volunteers can help remove streamside box elders and other brush where they are invading, and enable prairie restoration along a project site. A hot chili lunch will be served. For more information, email [dwelter@tu.org](mailto:dwelter@tu.org) or [achurch@mississippivalleyconservancy.org](mailto:achurch@mississippivalleyconservancy.org).

TUDARE and TU chapters working in the Driftless Area often partner up with local county conservation departments and private clubs, land trusts and others to carry out valuable maintenance and restoration work. If you’re interested in



## THESE VOLUNTEERS WORKED THEIR TAILS OFF, AND THEY’RE STILL SMILING

Projects throughout the Driftless Area will provide plenty of opportunities for volunteers. From a LUNKER-building day such as this one, to brushing work to prairie planting.

getting involved, contact us and we’ll connect you with a project in an area where you’d like to work. It’s a great way to discover new streams for future fishing, and to meet landowners and local volunteers.

High priority projects for 2015 include:

- The Red Cabin site on the Kinnickinnic River and continuing work on the Trimble River, led by Kiap-TU-Wish TU in the River Falls area
- Gilbert, Bear and Duncan creeks near Eau Claire led by Wisconsin Clear Waters TU
- Borst Valley and Elk Creeks in Trempealeau County
- Jager Valley and Danuser Valley in Buffalo County
- Several Monroe County projects led by the Monroe County Land

Conservation Department (LCD)

- Weister Creek in the Kickapoo Valley Reserve near LaFarge.

Vernon County LCD and Wisconsin DNR will be working on several projects in the Kickapoo River Watershed, notably work on the West Fork of the Kickapoo and Otter Creek. Other projects are likely in Iowa and Grant counties led by Harry & Laura Nohr TU, in Dane County with Southern Wisconsin TU and in Sauk County with Aldo Leopold TU. Blackhawk TU usually does projects around the southern half of the Driftless Area and will be helping with the Weister Creek project among others. Several other chapters, including Chicago-area chapters, will be working with the above projects and others.

For information on projects, as well as contact information regard-

ing volunteer opportunities, contact Duke Welter at [dwelter@tu.org](mailto:dwelter@tu.org) or Jeff Hastings at [jhastings@tu.org](mailto:jhastings@tu.org). You can also contact your own chapter or other chapters. Chapter contact information is always available on page 2 of *Wisconsin Trout*.

The Westby Project Planning workshop will be folded into the Midwest Regional Meeting March 27-29 in the Minneapolis area. Attendees will be able to learn more about project planning and organization-strengthening. It’s a great time and place to learn what TU does in the Midwest, to find ways to help your chapter function better and to get to know other TU members across the region who share the same goals and passions.

Minnesota TU will also have a full slate of projects on their 2015 agenda, the majority located in its Driftless counties.

## Help support women’s fly fishing clinics

The Wisconsin Women’s Fishing Clinics presented by the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited each June provide numerous opportunities to help and volunteer.

Flies are needed for the fishing portion of these clinics, so if you are able to tie flies that work well on Driftless streams in mid-June, please consider making a donation. Fly boxes with flies are provided to 22 women students, so please consider tying two dozen of each fly you’d like to donate.

Fishing assistants or “hosts” are always needed for the fishing portion of these classes, so if you’re a patient instructor who is excited about getting more women into the sport, please consider donating your time. The Intermediate clinic needs both male and female fishing hosts on Wed., June 17 at 5 p.m. and on Thursday, June 18 at 11 a.m. The basic clinic needs women hosts on Saturday, June 20 at noon. If you haven’t been a host before or would like a refresher, we have a mini-clinic from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. called “river buddy in training.” In this session you will learn best practices on how to guide or teach others on the stream. Fishing with the students starts at 3 p.m.

Both clinics have a relaxing and fun campfire each night with formal training on story embellishment strategies.

Finally, please consider a financial donation, as financial support is always welcome to help cover the cost for attendees who might otherwise not be able to afford the class fee. If you are able to help with any of these requests, please contact organizers Tina Murray at [t.murray.t@gmail.com](mailto:t.murray.t@gmail.com) or Laura MacFarland at [lauramacfarland@gmail.com](mailto:lauramacfarland@gmail.com)

The By Women For Women Basics Clinic will be held June 19-21 and the On the Water Skills Intermediate Clinic will be held June 17-18. Both will take place in Avalanche, WI along the banks of the West Fork of the Kickapoo River. For more information go to [swtu.org/wffc\\_womens\\_clinics.html](http://swtu.org/wffc_womens_clinics.html)



Maria Manion

## TUDARE Project Tour visits sites in Minnesota and Iowa

Autumn colors accompanied a busload of restoration professionals and volunteers on October 15 as the TUDARE Project Tour visited sites in northeast Iowa and southeast Minnesota. More than 75 people, including 25 TU restoration and executive staff from around the nation, toured sites and talked with the people who had restored them. Sites included Waterloo Creek near Dorchester, Iowa (Iowa DNR and TU volunteers), South Canoe Creek at Seed Savers Exchange near Decorah, IA (SSE staff and TU volunteers) and Pine Creek near Rushford MN (Contractors working with Minnesota TU, Hiawatha and Win-Cres TU volunteers). Pine Creek has seen extensive restoration the past five years, and the tour group observed the results of changing techniques as well as both freshly-completed and matured restoration sites.

Topics of conversation included the development of various restoration approaches, how to build partnerships to carry out projects, and the value of federal Farm Bill conservation dollars and other agency funds to pay for them. Most of TU’s restoration staff work in western or Appalachian Mountain waters, so they got their first look at some of the customized approaches developed in the Driftless Area.

—Duke Welter

# Tasty trout, venison and other wild recipes

Share your favorite wild recipes with your fellow TU members

By Duke Welter

Chances are, if you're reading this, you're an active outdoorsperson. You probably fish. You may even choose to keep some of the fish you catch. You may enjoy nature's other bounties, as I do. *Wisconsin Trout* Editor Todd Franklin appreciates that, and asked me to offer a few recipes with which to savor that bounty. His hope is that other TU members will be inspired, and send us *their* favorite recipes for trout, wild game or other culinary favorites.

My favorite all-time outdoor meal was serendipitous. My son Karl and I had spent a morning chasing morels through the hills of Dunn County, overlooking a trout stream where TU had helped organize a nice restoration project.

Morel-hunting was spotty, and we were finding human footprints in every place likely to hold a morel or two. But we found a few, and as we walked, the April day was so nice that actually finding some morels became less important than enjoying the time afield.

What we did find, however, were wild leeks (ramps) and tender young fiddleheads. Not all ferns provide tender fiddleheads, but these were just right. The recipe was simple: Sauté in olive oil, salt and pepper, and enjoy.

If I recall correctly, we paired that dish with wild rice and pecans, along with some venison tenderloins cooked in my favorite fashion -- a

takeoff on a Brazilian recipe for tender beef. Simply butterfly the tenderloin, spread flat and let rest. Heat a cast iron frying pan to almost red hot and sprinkle a good coat of garlic salt on the pan. As it starts to smoke, lay down the butterflied tenderloin. Turn after 30 seconds, cook another 30-45 seconds, remove, and serve. It should be well-seared and pink in the middle.

## Trout recipes

As for trout recipes, I regularly keep some trout in the 10-12-inch range, because that's the size of my pan and there are plenty of them in most of the streams I fish. After removing the gills, gutting and carefully examining whatever they've been eating (to tell me what flies to tie before I fish again) I take one of three approaches.

Rolled in a mix of parmesan and breadcrumbs spiced with seasoned salt, smoked (Spanish) paprika, a pinch of granulated garlic and pepper, I sauté them in olive oil.

Or, opened from underneath and splayed skin side down on buttered foil on the grill, I add a bit of melted butter, lemon and salt and pepper.

The third is one most every kid who started trout fishing at places with campfires used: put them in a double-layered tinfoil pouch with your choice of spices, a bit of butter and a sliced onion. Close up the tinfoil and cook until steam comes out, then turn and do it again. Open it up and you will find that the trout has been nicely infused with those

flavors. My theory is that the "orange" the trout flesh, the richer the taste.

If you have been stumped for what to do with venison shanks, here's a tasty way to utilize this meat, which is close to the bone and flavorful, but has lots of stringy integument if you don't cook it to a state of tenderness.

## Venison shanks

My good friend and fellow TU member Ed Moersfelder of Polk County provided a tasty recipe for venison shanks. He says he used to look forward to veal shanks cooked this way, but now the venison version is his favorite deer recipe. Here's his approach for venison shanks a la Moersfelder.

"Wrap each one in aluminum foil with red wine and a little bit of onion soup mix, but not too much if you don't like salt. Or, combine onions, garlic and spices in with the wine instead of the soup mix. I bake them 2-3 hours at 350 degrees and eat 'em. A hearty ale is a good accompaniment.

I have found that this cooking method breaks down the stringier stuff and leaves the meat tender. You can cook them slower and less hot, perhaps three hours at 300 degrees. Be sure to check the progress to make sure the liquid hasn't leaked out and left your venison dry. My tin foil pouch is double-layered, and I put the whole arrangement in a cake pan in case it leaks.

## Apple River Valley venison shanks

- two shanks per person, bone in or fileted
- ¼ packet onion soup mix per shank, or to taste
- ¼ c. red wine
- granulated or minced garlic, thyme, bay (all optional, though garlic's highest use is spicing venison)
- salt and pepper

Make a double-thickness pouch of tinfoil and lay shanks on it. Add soup mix and spices. Fold over pouch and carefully close seams around ¾ of pouch. Add wine and close pouch completely. Set in a baking pan (in case of leaks) and bake 3 hours at 300 degrees. Check once to make sure liquid hasn't leaked. If so, add liquid, re-seal and cook until tender. Serve with a hearty red wine

Enjoy these recipes, and please consider sharing your favorites with all Wisconsin TU members by sending them to me at [Dwelter@tu.org](mailto:Dwelter@tu.org). Maybe one of you has a well-tested recipe for a stuffed venison haunch, corned venison sweet potato hash, or pheasant with cream sauce and sautéed apples, or better.

# Watershed Access Fund

## 2014 a banner year!

By Doug Brown

The 2014 Watershed Access Fund fundraising campaign has come to a close, and I want to sincerely thank all of you for your financial support this past year!

This has been one of the best years for support with nearly 100 donations from individuals, organizations and our own TU chapters. We raised nearly \$10,000 this year! I cannot say thanks enough to all of you for supporting this important fund.

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.

Please consider a generous contribution to the 2015 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.

## 2014 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 Meuller	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")

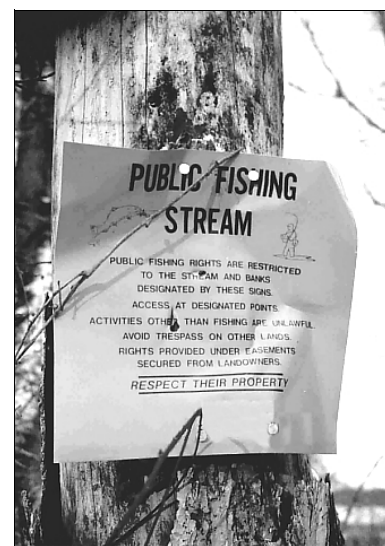
MAIL TO: TU Watershed Access Fund  
% Doug Brown  
R4800 Timber Ln.  
Ringle, WI 54471

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



## From The Heart

News and views from Bill Heart

The Penokee Hills have been pretty quiet since early fall. In late September, Gogebic Taconite (GTAC) said that the leaves were starting to turn so it was time to suspend operations for the potential iron mine for the winter. One of their comments mentioned that they were very surprised at the amount of wetlands in the Iron County land where they were planning to stack their tailings and waste rock, something that we have known for the past couple of years.

You would think that with the leaves down it would be much easier to locate those wetlands that would be at risk. What are they up to? Who knows, hopefully they will finally understand why other mining companies decided that with the low-grade ore and the amount of water present, it just was not economically viable to mine the Penokees.

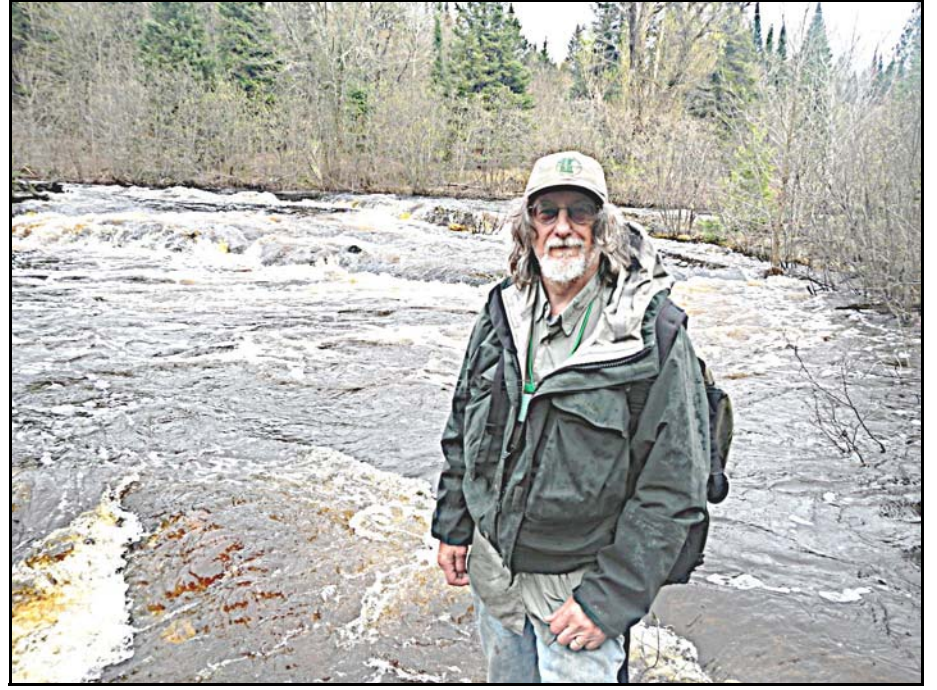
My late summer and fall in the Penokees was quite productive. I fished a number of wonderful little streams that would be at great risk from a potential mine. I am sure that a few of them had not been fished in decades. These streams run through alder swamps with sections of open, hummock-filled meadows where the stream deepened and was full of brook trout. I should have used an old Snoopy rod with worms or

spinners, but I fought the brush with my fly rod.

This is big country up here in the Penokees with very few roads and bridges. It is a lot of work getting into these wild streams, but I am already planning to hike into even wilder areas to explore other stream sections. Some may have to be overnights.

There is more to the north than the Penokees. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Fish Manager, Scott Toshner gave a very sobering talk on the fishery of the White River at the Wild Rivers Chapter meeting in November. Scott ran through a number of graphs detailing the past and present brown trout populations in the White River, along with most of the information gathered by the creel survey that took place during the 2014 fishing season.

As you can see in the graph, trout numbers have dropped more than 200 fish per mile in eight years. This has probably been caused by a number of reasons. There was a fairly large fish kill in the summer of 2012 resulting from a high water event after an extended hot weather streak. Also in the population survey work this spring, there seemed to be a low number of fish in the 8-14-inch range. One cause could be two years of low recruitment in



**BILL HEART ON THE TYLER FORKS RIVER IN THE PENOKEE HILLS**

the tributaries to the White.

An interesting factor found by the recent creel survey was that anglers seem to realize that the fishery has a few problems. The number of anglers was down considerably, and the harvest by those anglers was very low. The White is down for now, but past data shows that its brown trout populations can vary quite a bit from year to year. Next year the White River survey of fish populations, angler harvest and angler opinions will continue, and will hopefully give us a better idea of trends. After that, Scott will be working on a final report, which will put all this information together and be available in 2016.

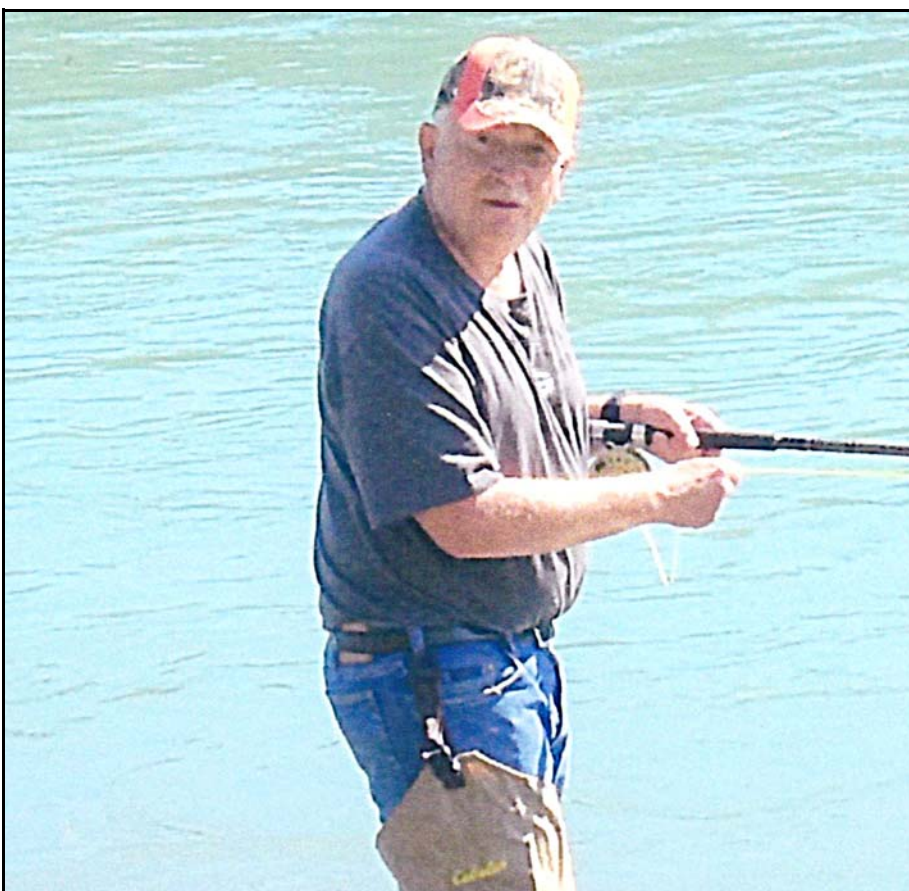
Proposed regulation changes

may also factor in if they are voted on at the spring 2015 Conservation Congress hearings. Regulation changes are proposed in the section from the dam to Pike River Road on the White River, and the Long Lake Branch of the White from the White River to Taylor Lane, with an 18-inch minimum length limit and a bag limit of one fish. The tributaries of the White River and the Long Lake Branch of the White River are proposed to change to an eight-inch minimum length limit and a bag limit of three fish. These regulations are more conservative than the current regulations. Please remember to get out and vote at the spring hearings.

### Chapter President Profile

## “Dale Halla, Fishing Central!”

*An original member of the Oconto River Chapter, he has served as a leader ever since.*



**Dale Halla enjoying some quality fishing time on the Kenai in Alaska.**

**By Dave Brunner,  
Oconto River Watershed Chapter member**

Dale Halla was born in Pulcifer Wisconsin on the banks of the Oconto River, Jan. 19, 1950.

From that day, the Oconto River has been in his blood. Dale has lived in the area ever since, going to grade school in Pulcifer and high school

to 150 members per year.

Dale has fished and hunted throughout North America, especially in Colorado, Wyoming, Montana and Canada. He recently spent three weeks with Linda and family members in Alaska, fishing for salmon. This was his third trip fly fishing the Kenai River for kings, pinks, and sockeye.

Besides being an excellent fly fisherman, Dale

in Gillett, where he excelled in football and met his wife, Linda Hanson.

Fishing was always his first love, with trout being on the top of his list.

After high school, Dale attended UW-Whitewater, earning a degree in business. He then joined the bank in Gillett and later in Oconto Falls. After 37 years community service, he decided to retire.

Dale was one of the original members of the Oconto River Watershed TU Chapter. He and several others met with Mitch Bent of Green Bay after a fly-tying session and organized the Oconto River Chapter in 1983. Richard Laycock was elected as the first president and Dale was elected secretary/treasurer.

Since that time Dale has served as president three times, and has held many chapter positions. Our membership has held steady at about 120

hunts deer and turkey and claims to be a lousy golfer.

One of his favorite fall excursions is trapping muskrat in the Townsend area with his trapping buddy, Chuck. On one of his trips, Chuck was motoring them across the lake and ran up on a stump, flipping the boat, landing them both in the water. Dale stayed with the boat and Chuck swam to shore to find help. They both ended up taking an ambulance ride to the Oconto Falls Hospital, and I believe they now wear life jackets.

A second close call he had was when he found a nice duffle bag while coming home from a meeting. He picked it up and put it on the living room floor saying, “This is my lucky day!” His wife Linda opened it up, and inside was a dead cat. Dale was kicked out of the house, along with the bag and the contents.

### Chapter keeps Dale busy

Dale continues to work on stream projects on the South Branch and North Branch of the Oconto. He was in charge of our booth at the Oconto County Fair in August, displaying live trout, promoting our successful Trout in The Classroom program that is now in several schools in a variety of school districts, including Gillett, Lena, Oconto Falls Suring and Oconto.

Last September, Dale helped with a fishing day for the residents of Woodland Village Nursing Home in Suring. We also hosted a fishing day for the disabled in September. Participants are treated to a picnic lunch and then the fishing fun begins. Trout are supplied by Silver Moon Fish Hatchery in Elton, Wisconsin.

Our chapter is thankful to have Dale as our chapter president and for all the years of dedicated service he has given us. We hope to have him for many more years to come.

By the way, if you call Dale on his cell phone, don't be surprised if he answers “Dale Halla, Fishing Central.”

## Bob's Tying Tips

Advice from  
the bench of  
Bob Haase

### Bob's Tying Tips

#### Use metal-cutting shears for hard-tanned hides

I get a lot of fly-tying materials such as deer, elk or bear hair from my taxidermist friends. I then cut the materials into smaller pieces that can be more easily stored and shared with other tyers. I used to use a utility knife for cutting the hide, but some of the hides were hard-tanned and difficult to cut. One day I slipped and received a cut almost to the bone in my finger. I have found that cutting hard-tanned hide is much easier and safer if done with a metal-cutting shears or battery-operated wheel-cutting shears that have become available in recent years.

#### Taxidermists and hunters a great source

I used to do some taxidermy work, but mostly fish and birds. Over time I've met many local taxidermists, and asked them to save their trimmings for me. They usually just throw these trimmings out, and they're happy give them to someone who can use them.

I get all kinds of furs such as deer hair, elk hair, bear hair, wild boar hair and sometimes unusual hairs from other animals. I sort through and trim the best pieces into smaller pieces about 3-4 inches and store them for future use. A good small patch of deer or elk hair in a fly shop might cost from \$2 to \$5, but I get them for free. If your taxidermist is a fisherman, you might want to thank them by tying up some flies for them. If they are not, find a way to thank them.

The same holds true for your friends who hunt. You may not hunt ducks, but you probably know someone who does. They sometimes breast the ducks out and throw all those good feathers away.

I have been a hunter all my life and I usually get at least one turkey every year, which gives me

plenty of feathers. When you have surplus feathers you can share them with other tiers and sometimes come up with other uses for different fly patterns.

I don't know why anyone would purchase a natural bucktail in Wisconsin when all you need to do is to talk to a few deer hunters and have them save their tails for you. It is critical that you de-bone the tail, scrape the skin to get rid of the fat, wash them in a multi-purpose anti-bacterial detergent that is also a degreaser, and rinse them thoroughly. After you do this you shake the water out and rub borax into the skin and let them dry.

If you get some squirrels you can take a scissors and cut the fur off of the sides and back, then put the hair in a blender or coffee grinder and make some nice dubbing. You can also mix this with other dubbings such as ice dubbing to create your own custom blends.

Trappers are another good source of furs. They usually know of people that have skins tanned and people that make products out of the skins and have scrap pieces of fur. There are a lot of good sources for free fly-tying materials.

#### Nuke 'em

Never bring any materials into your fly-tying area unless they have been put into a microwave to kill any insects or insect larvae. Putting them in a freezer does not work. Just look at the stoneflies crawling on the ice in the spring and you will know why. I put the materials into a microwave for about 20-30 seconds and let it stand for one minute. Then I hit it for another 15-20 seconds. I have been doing this for years and have not had insects in my materials. I also store them in plastic boxes with a strip of cedar closet lining. Purchase some cedar closet lining and cut them into 8-10 inch strips. Put one piece in every box or container of fly tying materials.



A metal shear works great on tough deer hides.

## Consider Proper Release

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

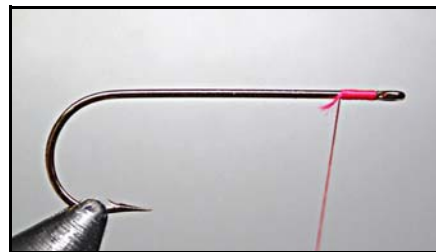
1. **Don't play fish to exhaustion.** Instead, use a landing net to bring fish under control before they're played out.
2. **Handle fish in the net.** Grasp them across the back and head for firm but gentle control. Use the net fabric as your "glove."
3. **Turn fish belly up while removing hooks.** This disorients fish 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.

## Bob's walleye streamer

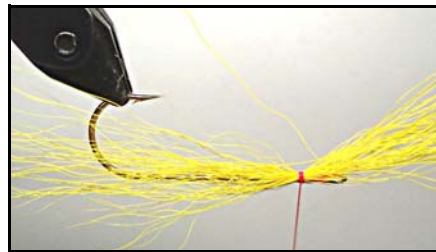
By Bob Haase

Flies have been used for walleye fishing for years. In the 1950's it was a well-kept secret on the rivers of the Winnebago system. Some fishermen fished with fly rods and others developed a method of pulling flies with spinning rods. They used a three-way swivel and attached a bell sinker on the bottom and two or three flies tied off the other swivel. When the sinker hit the bottom they pulled the flies in the current causing a darting action the walleyes couldn't resist. Flies used in this fashion often outfished live bait.

This fly is similar to a well known trout fly called the Mickey Finn. You can use these same flies in sizes 4-12 for trout. These streamers can be modified from what I have shown here using krystal flash instead of lateral scale flash. Most walleye flies do not use any flash and some look pretty crude, but they still catch fish. I tie this pattern for many fisherman in the professional walleye circuit, and it has been one of the more successful streamers used. I modified this pattern from one tied by Jess Piottter of Berlin, Wisconsin and he has tied thousands of these flies for years. I consider Jess one of the better walleye fly tiers in Wisconsin.



Step 1 - Start the thread and wrap it back about 1/4" or more. Using a 140 denier thread, make the thread wraps firmly on the hook shank. Most walleye streamers are tied with a bare hook shank, but you can wrap them with tinsel, and I would recommend that when downsizing this fly for trout.



Step 2 - Cut off a small piece of bucktail, hold onto the tips and pull out the excess hair at the butt. Now reverse your fingers and pull out any excessively long hairs at the tip. This helps reduce bulk, as you don't want to use too much hair. What I have shown here would be considered the maximum amount. If you have a rotary vise, turn the hook upside down or place the hook upside down in a non-rotary vise, then tie in the hair as shown, leaving about 1/2 to 3/4 of the hook shank length of hair beyond the bend of the hook.

### MATERIALS LIST Bob's walleye streamer

**Hook:** Mustad 3261GL or equivalent; sizes 2-4  
**Thread:** fluorescent color 140 denier  
**Body:** bare or tinsel wrap  
**Tail:** none  
**Hair:** bucktail



Step 3 - Holding your scissors at an angle as shown, trim the hair off before the eye of the hook. You could also point your scissor at an angle toward the bend of the hook and this works also to create a tapered cut that will make a better looking head when completed. After trimming the hair, make a few more wraps to securely fasten the hair. It is the quality of each wrap of thread that is important... not how many.



Step 4 - Rotate your vise so the hook is up or remove the hook and re-fasten the hook so the fly is upright. Cut another piece of bucktail (usually in a contrasting color), pull out the excess hair as in step two and fasten it like in step three.



Step 5 - Now tie in a piece of lateral scale flash or a few strands of krystal flash as shown. I find the lateral scale flash has more flash and attracts more walleyes. I use a smaller width of lateral scale flash or what is called kink flash for trout streamers. Wrap more thread to form a nice shaped head and tie off. I put a coat of fly head cement and then either UV Set Polymer or Gloss Coat over the head to finish it.

These streamers can also be used in larger sizes for catching big trout in Wisconsin, the western streams, or on the White River in Arkansas. All white or white and light gray is a good color for the White River. When the carp spawn and the walleyes are feeding on the carp fry near shore on Lake Winnebago, you can wade fish with a fly rod to catch some nice walleyes. These flies can also be used to catch walleyes in other waters of the state, such as in northern Wisconsin. Use some of the same principles shown here for other streamers as well. Don't use any more hair on your flies than I used here and a little less is sometimes even better. You can always trim some off at streamside. Other streamer hook styles might be better for trout, but this hook seems to work best for walleyes on the rivers of the Winnebago system.

# Friends of Wisconsin TU donations reach \$14,000!

By Doug Brown, Friends of Wisconsin TU Chair

Thank you for making the 2014 fundraising campaign another roaring success! The financial support this year has been fantastic, and we have surpassed \$14,000! We received 130 donations from individuals and from seven TU chapters.

These donations provide important financial support for chapter projects throughout the state. This fund awarded grants to several of our chapters this past year, including Kiap-TU-Wish's Red Cabin Project and Harry and Laura Nohr's Six Mile Branch project. Over the years stream projects across the state have benefited from this pro-

gram and your support. Four chapters have recently been granted funds for stream work in 2015.

We continually look for financial assistance to help fund important work in our streams. Your donation goes right back into the stream, improving habitat and fishing opportunities for future generations.

Please consider a donation of any size, as we continue to receive grant requests from our chapters for habitat work. I hope you had a wonderful holiday season, and I hope you get out and enjoy the upcoming early trout season.



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 Danuser Creek, Buffalo Co., 2014

\$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 2014

\$2,000 to Fox Valley and \$2,000 to Shawpaca Chapter for WDNR crew work in 2013

\$2,000 to Lakeshore for Onion River. in Sheboygan County in 2012

\$2,000 to Aldo Leopold for Bear Cr., Sauk County., 2014

### Here are our Friends of Wisconsin TU

- Mike and Sue Arneson
- Edwin Barnes
- Charles Barnhill
- Jeffrey Bartynski
- Jim Bayorgeon
- John and Susan Bleimehl
- Stephen Born
- Allon Bostwick
- Jerry Bristol
- Robert Buley
- Casey Calkins
- Cason & Associates LLC
- Lynn Christiansen
- Rick Christopherson
- Russell Ciscen
- Lawrence Clowry MD
- Andrew Cook II
- Terry Cummings
- Bruce Davidson
- Richard Diedrich
- Dennis Drzkowski
- Richard Duplessie
- Richard Evans
- John Ewen
- William Flader, M.D.
- Jim Flesch
- Erik Forsgren
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- Richard Galling
- Gordon Grieshaber
- Dean Hagness
- 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
- Jonathan Levine
- Big SkyMT
- MiddletonWI
- MadisonWI
- Eau ClaireWI
- AppletonWI
- VeronaWI
- MadisonWI
- Port WashingtonWI
- EllsworthWI
- HolmenWI
- BrookfieldWI
- BerlinWI
- MiddletonWI
- NorwalkWI
- PhillipsWI
- WauwatosaWI
- Sister BayWI
- RhinelandWI
- WauwatosaWI
- GraftonWI
- North PrairieWI
- Eau ClaireWI
- MequonWI
- NeenahWI
- MadisonWI
- Fox Point, WI
- FremontWI
- HartlandWI
- HartlandWI
- Mineral Point WI
- CusterWI
- 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
- MilwaukeeWI

- Christopher Long
- Douglas MacFarland
- Anna Magnin
- Richard Mandelin
- Jim & Billie March
- John McMullen
- Cris Meyer
- Ron Miller
- Cheryl and Winston Ostrow
- LawrencePapham
- Richard Pfiffner
- Dick and Jodie Prine
- Ron Rellatz
- 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
- Gary Stoychoff
- John Storer
- Michael Stupich
- Greg Swanson
- Robert Tabbert
- Gary Tielens
- Chuck Urban
- Jeff Vandenheuvel
- GregVodak
- Martin Voss

- MazomanieWI
- DousmanWI
- MarshfieldWI
- MontrealWI
- LaCrosseWI
- TomahWI
- MiddletonWI
- De PereWI
- De PereWI
- FranklinWI
- AmherstWI
- RidgelandWI
- MertonWI
- VeronaWI
- PrincetonWI
- HudsonWI
- Cottage GroveWI
- KaukaunaWI
- New BerlinWI
- MadisonWI
- MadisonWI
- HudsonWI
- WausauWI
- MilwaukeeWI
- GenoaIL
- PoynetteWI
- Green BayWI
- HudsonWI
- WatertownWI
- AppletonWI
- Lac du FlambeauWI
- AthelstaneWI
- WauwatosaWI
- WausauWI
- StoughtonWI
- Eau ClaireWI

- Doug Wadsworth
- Don Wagner
- Donald Welhouse
- Stephen Wilke
- Donald M. Williams
- Christopher Willman
- Dan Wisniewski
- Nancy and Roland Woodruff
- Norb Wozniak
- Robert Wyman
- Frederic Young

- MadisonWI
- GillettWI
- KaukaunaWI
- MarinetteWI
- Fort AtkinsonWI
- AugustaWI
- MiddletonWI
- OshkoshWI
- Stevens PointWI
- Beaver DamWI
- RoscoeIL

### TROUT UNLIMITED CHAPTERS

- Aldo Leopold
- Coulee
- Lakeshore
- Clearwaters
- Marinette Co.

### IN MEMORIAM

- In memory of Nancy Voight by Ken Voight
- In memory of Dale W. Vreeland by Kenneth Vreeland
- In memory of Bob Hunt by the Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter
- In memory of Janet Moldenhauer by the UW-Oshkosh Foundation
- In memory of Theron Meyer by Tim and Tom Meyer
- In memory of Peter Cullen by Kathleen Poster

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 # \_\_\_\_\_