



# Wisconsin Trout

Spring 2016

## Council banquet an overwhelming success

By Mike Kuhr, Council Vice Chair and Banquet Chair

The numbers are in, and any way you look at it, our 2016 State Council Banquet was a huge success.

More than 200 people gathered in Oshkosh to show support for our coldwater resources. We handed out more than \$23,000 in prizes. After the bills were paid, Treasurer Gary Stoychoff reported that we raised more than \$17,000.

TU friends and members from every corner of the state came together to honor a deserving group of WITU award winners. Their contributions will help the Council continue to advocate for cold, clean, fishable water in Wisconsin.

The most important number – “One TU,” represents the volunteer efforts that made this event successful.

The Banquet Committee was outstanding in both planning and

execution. The Council is fortunate to have Bill Heart, Heidi Oberstadt, Henry Koltz, Jim Wierzba, Kim McCarthy, Linn Beck, and Todd Franklin working on its behalf.

Our donors really came through this year, and the prize package was our most valuable in recent memory. A big thank you to all the chapters that made prize and cash donations.

Also, a number of individuals contributed prizes for the event. Most notable were creations from Randy Arnold and Virgil Beck, each of which raised a significant amount of funding for the Council. It would not be possible to assemble that kind of prize package without a huge amount of help from our chapters and the individuals who care greatly for the work that we do.

The Council thanks the many volunteers who performed so many

Please see **BANQUET**, Page 21



### CHAPTER FLY BOXES A FAVORITE AT BANQUET

Organized by Bob Haase, the chapter fly box section of the silent auction has become popular with attendees, competitive for chapters seeking the highest bid, and a great revenue generator at the State Council banquet.

The Oberstadts

### LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

## Successes, failures in recent slate of bills

Thanks to TU members, we saw promising results in the last legislative session.

By Henry Koltz, National Trustee and WITU Legislative Committee member

The past session of the Wisconsin Legislature has been exceptionally busy, and as a result, Wisconsin TU's Legislative Committee has been equally busy. The committee would like to thank Wisconsin TU members who responded to our calls for action by calling, mailing, giving testimony and meeting with their legislators on our behalf. We are incredibly humbled by your efforts and we are very proud to represent your interests.

### DNR land sales

2013's Act 20, and policies and procedures approved by the Natural Resources Board (NRB), required the DNR to make 10,000 acres of state-owned land available for sale. As part of that process, the DNR identified parcels of land around Wisconsin which could be sold. On that list were numerous spring pond parcels located in northern Wisconsin, notably in Langlade County, and other parcels adjacent to trout streams.

Wisconsin TU actively engaged in efforts to convince DNR to remove such parcels from its list of land for sale. To that end, our chapters, members and leadership actively worked with the DNR to express the incredible value of such parcels, given their unique status on a truly worldwide basis, and given the economic engine that they help fuel. Wisconsin TU's leadership, as well as our Legislative Committee, spent hours on the phone with DNR

discussing this issue and urging that the parcels be retained.

Thanks to all of our efforts, and the efforts of many other concerned organizations and citizens, the DNR recommended that the spring ponds, along with the vast majority of other parcels of interest to Wisconsin TU, be retained. Thank you to everyone who helped make this result a reality, and thanks to the DNR for hearing, understanding and addressing our concerns.

### AB 600/SB 459 – Dredging in lakes, etc.

AB 600/SB 459 is a very large bill, which ultimately passed both houses of the Wisconsin Legislature, and which is available for signature into law. This bill makes changes regarding the title to certain filled navigable waters, allows DNR to set the level and flow of navigable waters, allows DNR to create a general permit allowing riparian owners to remove up to 30 cubic yards of material from inland lakes, and up to 100 cubic yards of material from outlying waters, deals with piers and boathouses in lakes, and further deals with seawalls, riprap and boat shelters. In addition, the bill deals with utility permitting procedures and non-point water pollution.

Of the greatest concern within this large bill to Wisconsin TU, however, was that as proposed it would have exempted discharges which result from sedimentation or stormwater detention basins, and associated conveyances from permitting requirements. Such unregulated discharges could then

negatively impact streams to which they are connected.

Wisconsin TU appeared in Madison and testified in opposition, and notably regarding those components of this large bill that would negatively impact coldwater systems.

Thankfully, an amendment was affixed to this bill which made significant changes to the bill, and which, from TU's perspective, removed discharge permitting exemptions from drainages and roadside ditches, which serve as fish spawning habitat, or passages to fish spawning habitat. In short, the amendment made clear that unregulated discharges into such areas are not permitted. Wisconsin TU thanks the legislature for creating this amendment, and for working to protect critical fish areas.

### AB 876/SB 734 – Crossing railroad tracks

In 2005 a large railroad bill package was passed. Within that bill, unfortunately, was a seemingly simple change which made it illegal to cross railroad tracks at non-designated crossings. As to sportsmen, this change had a large impact, however, as it made it illegal to cross tracks in the pursuit of hunting, trapping and fishing activities.

Information about what prompted this change is scarce, but it does not appear to be aimed at protecting fisherman from train-versus-angler accidents, as there does not appear to be any recorded instance of such an event occurring.

AB 876 and SB 734 were introduced late in the session in order to

simply correct the unfortunate impact that the 2005 railroad package law change has had, and to allow hunters, trappers and anglers to once again cross tracks in the pursuit of their sporting activities as they had for years prior to 2005. Wisconsin TU engaged on this bill and contacted legislators on the committees that were hearing these bills, and we supported the passage of these bills.

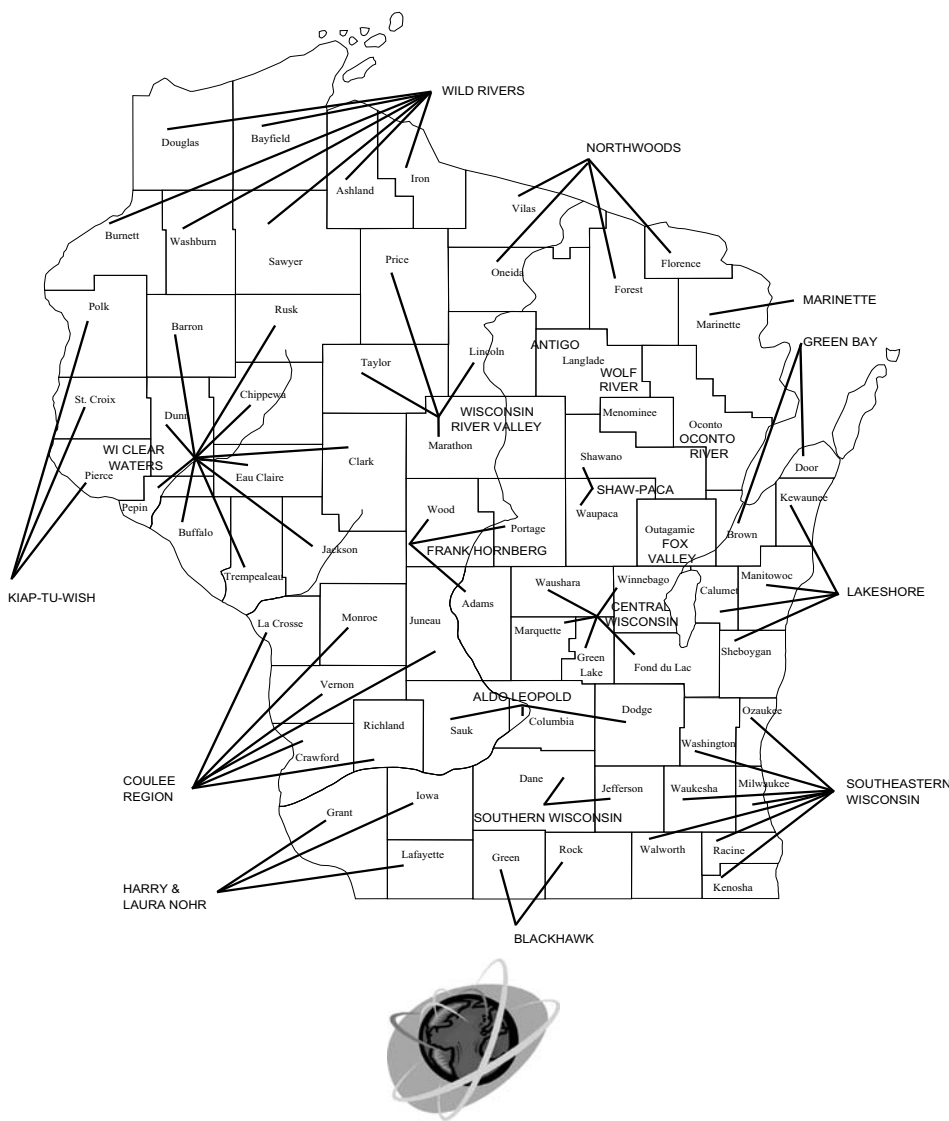
Unfortunately, the bill was not successful this session. However, sporting groups' efforts did congeal around these bills during this last session, and it is our hope that similar legislation will appear next session, such that we will be able to discuss it with legislators during the “off-season,” and convince them of the merit of removing restrictions which prevent hunters, trappers and anglers from crossing railroad tracks in the pursuit of their sports.

### AB 823/SB 660 – Dredging behind impoundments in rivers

AB 823 and SB 660 were aimed at allowing a person who owns waterfront property adjacent to a water effected by a man-made impoundment to dredge unconsolidated sediment from the impoundment without being required to obtain any manner of permit. In short, this bill would have allowed the unregulated dredging of mill ponds and other water impoundments caused by dams.

Please see **LEGISLATION**, Page 27

## Wisconsin TU Chapters, Presidents, and Websites



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

- Aldo Leopold (#375):** Scott Allen, E4835 N Stoney Ridge Road, Reedsburg, WI 53959; (608) 495-1482; jscottallen12@gmail.com; aldoleopold.tu.org
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- Wild Rivers (#415):** Bob Rice 74355 Kaukamo Road, Iron River, WI 54847; (715) 292-1143; bobrice723@gmail.com www.wisconsinTU.org/wildrivers
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- Wisconsin River Valley (#395):** Doug Brown, R4800 Timber Lane, Ringle, WI 54471; DougBrown.TU@gmail.com 715-899-0024; www.wrvtu.org
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**Legal Counsel:** Winston Ostrow, 233 N. Broadway #120, De Pere, WI 54115 920-362-6609 (W); waostrow@gklaw.com

**Legislative Chair:** Henry Koltz (see above)

**Membership:** Linn Beck and Mike Kuhr (see above)

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

**Water Resources:** Bob Obama, 12870 West Shore Drive, Moun-tain, WI 54149 (715) 276-1170 (H) bobobma@hotmail.com

**Website:** Position is open. Please contact Council Chair Linn Beck.

**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 lev-els. TU National manages the mailing list for the council and chap-ers, so update your address by going to www.tu.org, log in, then go to "Email Preferences." You can also call 1-800-834-2419 to make these changes, or to ask questions about making the changes via the web site.

### WISCONSIN TROUT

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

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**State Council Officers**  
Executive Committee includes officers and vice chairs

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

## Chairman's Column

*We all volunteer...a lot, and opportunities are endless.*

By Linn Beck, Council Chair

Our Wisconsin TU members never fail to amaze me with what we are able to accomplish.

Consider volunteer hours. These are the numbers that are reported on each chapter's annual financial reports. The total for all of our chapters came to 43,275 hours. With the national rate for volunteers currently \$23.07 per hour, our volunteer members donated a staggering \$998,354.25 in labor. According to the chapter's reports, more than 80 conservation projects and 88 youth education events accounted for much of these volunteer hours. Congratulations to all of you on a fantastic accomplishment.

### Volunteer opps abound

There are many amazing opportunities for members to be involved. Consider the Trout In the Classroom (TIC) program. A growing list of chapters are now supporting this program in their local schools. Recently, the Council put together a committee to assist chapters that are interested in TIC. We are also working on procuring grants to help fund the program.

Stream girls is another opportunity. This program has been developed in conjunction with the Girl

Scouts and is a great opportunity to get young girls involved in the outdoors via conservation and fishing. It also includes a mentoring program that the girls need to complete to earn their badge.

The WITU Youth Fishing Camp teaches all aspects of fishing, along with water safety, entomology, knot tying, fly tying, lure making, water safety and conservation, including a restoration seminar and stream shocking exhibition.

Chapters provide a number of youth tying events all around the state.

The Midwest Outdoor Heritage Education Expo in Poyette in May relies on Wisconsin TU volunteers to teach hundreds of kids how to tie flies and more.

Our Women's Initiatives programs helps educate women on fishing, conservation and TU involvement.

Some of our chapters have Project Healing Waters programs, which are dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled military service personnel (active and veterans) through flyfishing and associated activities.

For those of you who like to get dirty, chapter work days and water monitoring efforts provide opportunities for member involvement.



### BECK AND A BIGHORN BROWN

Wisconsin State Council Chair Linn Beck enjoys some well-earned vacation time on the Bighorn River in Montana.

### WITU opportunities

The Council is looking for a member who is interested in becoming a co-chair for the membership committee. We would like to have two individuals step up and take over the committee from Vice Chair Mike Kuhr and myself. If this interests you please contact Mike or myself.

Secondly, we are moving our Council website to a more user-friendly operation and we are in

need of a couple of people to become the beginning webmasters for this site. We are checking into a website that will allow us to have several webmasters, and also the capability for committee chairs to enter information about their activities.

As of now we don't have a definite site, so we are open to suggestions. If you are interested, please contact me and we can work out the details.

## Railroad trespass bill sidetracked by committee

A bill intended to restore hunter and angler rights to cross railroad tracks was sidetracked by the State Senate's Judiciary and Public Safety Committee, chaired by Sen. Van Wanggaard, (R-Racine.) It had been proposed by Rep. Lee Nerison (R-Westby) and Sens. Howard Marklein (R-Spring Green) and Kathleen Vinehout (D-Alma), and had passed the assembly. But the senate committee chair refused to give it a hearing or a vote.

Historic rights to cross the tracks were taken away by the legislature in 2005, and a restoration measure was vetoed by Gov. Scott Walker in the last state budget. But anglers and hunters protested that the measure would cut off more than 120 historic access points along the Mississippi River, and many others around the state. Now anglers are

being threatened with citations by zealous railroad security employees. It's not only the Mississippi River. To reach Black Earth Creek in many places, anglers have to cross or walk along railroad tracks.

Railroads variously claimed the angling and hunting users were a safety problem, but did not provide information to prove it. Many critics of the limitations say most of the very few deaths on railroad tracks involve suicides, drunks or thrill-seekers, and few of those individuals are on the tracks to get to a fishing hole.

George Meyer, director of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, said he believed the proposal could be improved and presented again in an upcoming legislative session.

—Duke Welter

## WITU adopts stamp position

The Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited is committed to protecting Wisconsin's trout stamps. Funds generated by our trout stamps have a special legal status, which ensures that they must be used for trout-related purposes. As such, trout anglers truly put their money where their mouths are when they purchase stamps, as they help to directly support the sport that trout anglers love.

In the recent past, efforts have been made to consider eliminating trout stamps. Wisconsin TU stands opposed to such efforts, and as a result drafted, and passed by unanimous consent of Wisconsin's Chapters, the following statement:

*The Inland Trout Stamp provides funds for inland trout habitat work. Funds generated by the stamp are segregated funds which are protected by state statute, to be used solely for inland habitat work.*

*The Great Lakes Trout and Salmon Stamp program generates funds used to support robust populations of trout and salmon in the Great Lakes. Such funds are also segregated and protected by statute, for use only in the Great Lakes.*

*Wisconsin Trout Unlimited is committed to keeping the current benefits of both trout stamps, including their statutorily protected/segregated status.*

*If a new stamp is created that would be required of current outdoor users who are not already covered under existing stamps, and the current stamps are retained with all of their existing statutory protections, then the Wisconsin State Council could support such a new stamp.*

*Wisconsin Trout Unlimited is strongly opposed to the creation of any new stamp or plan which would eliminate existing trout stamps, and/or negatively impact existing stamps' revenue stream, and/or which would remove existing trout stamps' segregated and statutorily protected status.*

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### National Trustee Report

## A challenge to be more open and welcome

By Henry Koltz,  
TU National Trustee

This past quarter Wisconsin TU has asked its members to be very engaged in political issues. This quarter, I challenge our members to focus on making TU a welcoming, open and outward-facing organization.

TU is a big umbrella. We welcome women, youth, and minorities. It is each of our jobs to make sure that our events are safe and welcoming, and that anyone seeking to learn what TU is about finds a reason to stay.

Encouraging new faces to care about cold water, future generations and military veterans is not the sole province of one membership chair, or a small number of committee members. Creating an open door policy and a soft landing spot for those interested in what TU is about is a job that belongs to all of us collectively.

Sometimes it's as simple as just being nice. If you see someone new at a meeting, say hello and start up a conversation. Talk about fishing. Talk about trips. And talk about your chapter and what it does. The simple effort to say hello, and to learn a new participant's name, can have a long-lasting and profound impact. The individual you welcome

might become the next great stream restoration champion, or a future chapter president.

Our chapters are welcoming. They offer numerous ports of entry for potential members, and they welcome all types of members, regardless of political affiliation, gender, age, race, orientation, or fishing preference. I challenge each of us to ensure that our events reflect the better angels of our nature, and that poor behavior is identified and stopped.

TU is a force for positive action. Whether we're restoring streams or getting our youth outdoors or working with veterans, TU engages in an incredible amount of positive activity.

In the face of such positivity, there is no place for speech or behavior which denigrates, which makes participants feel unwelcome or unsafe, or which is not reflective of the unbelievable legacy that our current members and those who came before them have achieved. Each of us must safeguard and enhance that legacy by ensuring that TU stands on the leading edge when it comes to having open doors, and welcoming new members from all walks.

## Second women's clinic doesn't disappoint

By Amy H. Koltz

Back for a second year, and with a full panel of women trainers and speakers, the Women's Fly Fishing Clinic did not disappoint. Approximately 20 beginner and experienced female anglers attended the event, which was held in conjunction with the State Council meeting and banquet February 6.

Nome Buckman led the training, adapted from Southern Wisconsin TU's "By Women for Women Beginner Fly Fishing Clinic." Buckman, along with program founder Tina Murray and notable speakers, including Jen Ripple of Dun Magazine, Geri Meyer of Athena and Artemis Women's Fly Shop and numerous other volunteers, shared their knowledge, stories and contagious enthusiasm for the sport. Training topics included technical elements such as insect identification and correlating flies, assembling a fly rod, and using essential gear. The hands-on portions of the training included casting and fly tying with individualized instruction.

Beyond what we may have expected from a fly fishing clinic were moments such as the slideshow that Buckman shared. During her presentation she talked about taking time for ourselves, getting away from the demands of everyday life to be "in the moment," exploring, observing, experiencing nature, and creating memories. Beautiful surroundings, encounters with insects and animals in their element, and watching other anglers enjoying the same things. As Buckman explains, and most attendees agreed, the time with your friends is what you remember, not the fish you caught.

The overall message from the trainers was that we, as women, have a growing community that will support us. Geri Meyer shared a diagram of all the various women's fly fishing trainings, events and groups that have come together in recent years. It is obvious that momentum is growing. Women are welcome and belong on the water.

I encourage anyone reading this article who is or knows of a woman, who may have the slightest interest in fly fishing, to start with the following sites:

- Wisconsin Women's Fly Fishing Clinics: [http://www.swt.org/wffc\\_womens\\_clinics.htm](http://www.swt.org/wffc_womens_clinics.htm) or <https://www.facebook.com/SWTUWomen'sClinic/>
- Wisconsin Women of Trout Unlimited on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/705865156166530/>

Thank you to the Council and Women's Initiative Chair Heidi Oberstadt for a great second year. Further thanks to all the trainers and volunteers who made the clinic a wonderful experience. I am hopeful this will continue to grow as an annual event for Wisconsin women anglers to connect.



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## Spring Council meeting

**Date:** Saturday, May 14

**Place:** Vernon Memorial Hospital  
507 South Main Street, Viroqua

**After the meeting:** Fishing

**After the fishing:** Eating, drinking, fishing tales

If you have items to put on the agenda, send them to Council Chair Linn Beck

## NLC Report

*Chapter youth coordinators, financial oversight*

**By Kim McCarthy, TU National Leadership Council Representative**

First up is the matter of having each chapter appoint someone to serve as a second set of eyes on the chapter books. National Trout Unlimited is mandating that each chapter have one individual appointed who will spend a few minutes each month verifying that there are no questionable transactions in the chapter accounts. This should not take much time and can be as simple as using online banking and allowing a second individual access to the account. We are asking all chapters to get this done as quickly as possible. Please send the name and email address of the individual to Beverly Smith at bsmith@tu.org and myself at kmccarthy2@new.rr.com as you fill the position.

We also discussed having chapters assign youth coordinators. We would like each chapter to find a youth coordinator who would take the time to become familiar with the

wide range of youth activities supported by National TU and serve as a resource for their chapter as youth activities are planned and carried out. We're hoping that these youth coordinators will help the chapters reap the benefits of the tremendous amount of information available from National TU regarding youth activities.

We are off to a great start, and about half of our chapters now have youth coordinators in place. More hope to have someone in place fairly soon. As your chapter fills its youth coordinator position please email me at kmccarthy2@new.rr.com with the person's name and email address.

I want to end by thanking our chapters for their cooperation with these new positions. The response has been very good.

As usual, if you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me. If I don't have the answer I will find it somewhere.

## WITU youth camp in July

*Volunteers sought for annual camp July 14-16*

The third annual Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Youth Fishing Camp is July 14-16 at Pine Lake Bible Camp near Wild Rose, Wisconsin.

The curriculum and format will be similar to last year with some minor changes. We have added a couple more breakout sessions and classes.

We will be using the same format for selecting and sponsoring youths for the camp. There will be an open enrollment period until April 15, during which each chapter can sponsor one child. We will be accepting 20 youths for this year's camp. After April 15 chapters may sponsor a second youth, if there are openings available. Chapters considering sponsoring a youth should make their selection and application as soon as possible. This year we also are getting a lot of interest from other youth groups, and also from chapters in other states.

The camp is open to youth ages 12-16. The cost remains at \$250 per youth, to be paid by the sponsoring chapter. It would be the responsibility of the parents or the sponsoring chapter, with parental approval, to transport the youths to and from the event.

We hope that sponsoring chapters will stay in touch with their sponsored students long after the event, and help further introduce them to fishing, environmental work and Trout Unlimited. We have had youths from previous camps help out at chapter events, while others are returning to help out with the camp this year.

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

Many of those who volunteered last year plan to return again this year. If you would like to volunteer contact Wayne Parmley or Linn Beck to confirm that you will be coming. Please provide your name, contact information (phone and E-mail), the list of days and times you would be available, and any specific skills that you have such as spin or bait fishing, fly tying, knot tying, fly casting, on stream fishing, entomology, etc.

WITU will be picking up the cost of the meals for all the volunteers and provide on-site lodging for those staying overnight. All volunteers need to have background checks and we have a service through TU National that will provide this for us. We will contact everyone with the information to complete this as soon as our volunteer roster is set.

Not all youths have a pair of waders, fishing vest, or stream-side accessories, so we are trying to build up a small inventory of gear. Chapters are also encouraged to provide their sponsored students with loaner gear. If you have a pair of youth waders that your kids grew out of and would like to donate them please let Wayne, Bob Haase or Linn know. If you have an old wading vest or old net that you are no longer using or accessories such as nippers and forceps or supplies such as leaders and tippets, strike indicators, floatant, and split shot and would like to donate them to the program also let Wayne, Bob or Linn know. All this stuff would be maintained and stored for use in future camps.

We will provide each youth a small plastic fly box with some flies to start out with, and they will also be tying some of their own. If you have any extra flies that you would like to donate, please send them to Bob Haase, as he will be putting the boxes together. We would also like to thank Jess Piotter from Angling Solutions in Berlin for donating small trout spinners for each youth. He also plans to teach the students how to make spinners.

If you have any questions, or need application forms and waiver forms, or anything else, contact Wayne Parmley at wparmley@gmail.com or 920-540-2315, Bob Haase at flytier@milwpc.com or 920-579-3858 or Linn at chlbeck@att.net or 920-216-7408.

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## Strategic plan update

**By Linn Beck, Council Chair**

Following the lead of National TU, the State Council has decided to develop a strategic plan to be put into implementation upon completion. With the anticipated increase in funding from WITU license plates, it is important to have such a plan to direct the best use of these funds, and also help us develop more funds.

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

We created a committee comprised of the executive committee, regional chairs, and three chapter leaders. The goals of the committee will be:

To develop a 3- to 5-year plan for all items, consisting of where we will need to be, what we need to get to the goals, how to maintain the goals we have set.

Put together a S.M.A.R.T. program – Specific, measurable, attainable goals, with relevant information and do it all in a timely

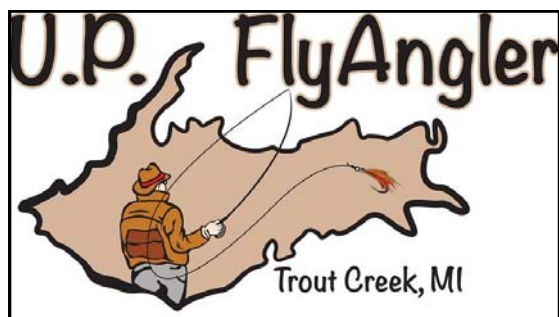
manner.

We will put these points into an order that will allow us to build off of each. All the points will be used to complement each other, so when all are completed the plan will be ultimately completed. We're hoping the timeline will be three years or less after implementation of the first point. We are hoping to have it completed and ready to vote on by the spring State Council meeting on May 14 in Viroqua.

When this strategic plan is completed we then will work on developing a new plan that will further the development of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited on the points thus far, or that will benefit any new directions that Wisconsin Trout Unlimited will be taking to in the future.

We are encouraging all the chapters to develop their own strategic plans. I know some of the chapters are working on or have completed their strategic plans and I want to thank all of you for taking the time for this. If you need help getting started, please contact me.

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



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# Latest manure spill raises more questions

*Fish kill totals, gallons spilled still in question.*

By Duke Welter

While the DNR continues to mull its enforcement options in the wake of a large manure spill which killed trout in one of Grant County's best-known trout streams, Castle Rock Creek, other farmers and neighbors to the Misty Morning Dairy are speaking up.

Chuck Horn, who lives a quarter mile downstream, was one of the first to observe the brown flow of liquid manure, as it ran through his yard toward the stream. While the landowner estimated a spill of 50,000 gallons came from a faulty hose connection, Horn believes the spill was more like "hundreds and hundreds of thousands of gallons." By one report, the hose was carrying 500 gallons a minute, which could mean as much as 240,000 gallons over an eight-hour period.

The CAFO operator had put together a do-it-yourself pumping operation to pump manure through hoses from a 3-million-gallon pit to a 3.9-million-gallon pit a quarter mile away. A coupler broke. According to reports, it had last been checked around 11 p.m. The spill was reported at 7 a.m. Horn observed it at 7:30 a.m.

Within hours, the DNR hired crews to build a temporary berm and pump the flowing manure and snowmelt water for several days, while fisheries crews tried to break through ice covering the manure-filled creek to assess losses. They only found 50 dead trout over the next couple of days, but one says it was likely there were "significantly" more trout killed that aren't likely to be found, either picked up by scavengers, washed downstream or sunk at the bottom of the stream.

Castle Rock Creek, also known as the Fennimore Fork of the Blue River, begins northeast of Fennimore and is a long-time favorite of Grant County anglers and visitors. It has healthy reproducing populations of brown trout and often is the lair for a few very large trout. Horn, in a letter to local legislators, called it "the crown jewel of Grant County's trout fishery." The stream is regularly stocked with large brood-stock fish, and some had been stocked days before the incident. It is anticipated both catchable sized trout and some larger fish will be replaced in the stream. He found numerous dead trout, both brook and brown trout, all the way down to the large spring inflow several miles downstream in the most popular fishing water on the stream. But they did not find great numbers of dead fish, and one explanation is that a rapid thaw following the spill may have flushed the dead fish downstream before they could be found.

"The loss of this fishery affects not only the fishers, but the businesses that cater to them, such as restaurants, bars, hotels, etc." Horn wrote. "While we have other neat things to see and visit..., it was the trout fishery, and Castle Rock was a major component of that, that made Fennimore a destination location. Again, all these businesses will suffer due to the irresponsible action of one business."

Fennimore guide Jim Romberg also assessed the impacts on his community: "There are other trout streams around here, lots of them. But this is one of the best-known and a great fishing destination, and it will be affected, and that's going to hit our local businesses hard. This hurt Castle Rock, but it's a tragedy for the area."

A resident who farms nearby said, "farmers take care of their land and how they handle their manure. There are plenty of ways to warn of a problem, but none of them were used here. This was just negligence."

Often dairies use flexible hoses to pump liquid manure from a pit to a field, using an agitator (like a spinning boat propeller on a shaft) to keep the stuff liquefied and a pump to move it, often significant distances. Should the landowner have had a warning device to indicate of a failure of the system, or not have left it unmonitored overnight? Overflow alarms are only required of covered pits and these were open. Draindown alarms aren't required.

The DNR's permit for the manure pit didn't require either, since recent legislative changes have limited DNR's authority to order them. Sources report most spills occur where manure is being pumped from one pit to another or where a coupling fails or hose malfunctions. Both apparently happened here. A retired engineer who is a TU member checked out the options available to dairies pumping manure. They are commonly available and not complicated systems. Still, the Misty Morning pit-pumping operation was not checked for about eight hours.

Some citizens have raised concerns about the dairy's ability to afford safeguards that would have prevented the spill. Neighbors who have been promised payment from the operator for land-spreading manure on their lands have not been paid. The dairy declared bankruptcy a few years back and its nearly-full manure pit had to be pumped out by the DNR, which was eventually reimbursed its costs of \$50,000. Afterward, the dairy operator requested an increase in animal units for the CAFO (Controlled Animal Feeding Operation) from about 1,300 to more than 1,700, which the DNR granted. He promised to install a manure digester, but has not done so because of limited funds. However, the DNR doesn't have authority to consider financial wherewithal in its permitting decisions.

Nobody, including the public, knows for certain how many gallons of manure went into Castle Rock Creek. The landowner claims it was 50,000 gallons, but that number should be considered notoriously unreliable. The landowner faces prosecution for the incident and benefits from the number being low. Neighbors say it was many times more. DNR staff would neither release the amount pumped by DNR-hired trucks nor give the capacity per hour of the hose being used by the dairy operator.

After the investigation is complete, various DNR offices will decide whether to refer the case to the Wisconsin Attorney General's office for prosecution. Potential remedies could include forfeitures or restitution for cleanup costs or loss of fish. For dead trout they found, the DNR could ask reimbursement to the state of about \$26 per fish. The AG's office would have its own decision to make regarding whether to prosecute. Fish survey data would not be sufficiently specific to provide evidence for prosecution, only for making restocking decisions, said Mark Cain, DNR's Wastewater Engineer assigned to the case.

The extent of the fish kill remains unclear, beyond the 50 corpses found by DNR fisheries staff walking part of the stream. But it's likely, according to several sources, that there were "significantly" more than 50 trout killed.



## VICTIMS OF LARGE MANURE SPILL

Misty Morning Dairy neighbor Chuck Horn and DNR staffers collected a number of dead trout in Castle Rock Creek in the days after a large manure spill, which flowed undetected for eight hours.

Several reasons for the uncertainty? The stream was frozen over for one to two miles below the spill, and the manure ran under the ice, so impacts were obscured. The likely culprit killing the fish was ammonia toxicity, which doesn't kill them for a day or two after exposure. These fish wouldn't be likely to float because they had little food in their systems to decompose, which causes gases that would bring them to the surface. On the bottom, they could rot under a layer of sediment and manure. Along the shore, they will be eaten by scavenging raccoons and other animals or birds.

"As it happened, the whole watershed melted two days after the spill, and the discharge almost tripled," said Dave Rowe, the DNR's Regional Fisheries Supervisor, "So it's likely the bodies were swept downstream." Still, he found more dead fish a week after the spill.

Rowe, Fisheries Biologist Gene Van Dyck and others shocked the stream in mid-March to compare what they found with prior survey data. That will enable them to compare the remaining population with earlier studies from 2007-14 that showed an average of 270 fish larger than 6 inches per mile. That will aid them in setting a re-stocking strategy, but it isn't specific enough to allow them to establish a level of loss to require restitution from the landowner. Re-stocking, if the population has seen significant impacts, will include both catchable-sized trout and larger brood-stock trout.

The area of the spill is in the upper waters of Castle Rock Creek, which is classified as Class III water by DNR fisheries. However, downstream lies Class II water with both naturally-reproducing and stocked trout, with significant recruitment of small fish from a number of quality tributary streams.

The Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter of TU has been a leader in protecting and restoring trout waters in the Blue River watershed. Chapter President Tim Fraley commended DNR for quick action in responding to the spill, which he says could have been a worse tragedy otherwise.

On the opening day of the general fishing season Saturday, May 7, proceeds from the Angler's Breakfast, sponsored by the Castle Rock Lutheran Church, will be dedicated to restocking the trout population in the creek.

*"This is one of the best-known and a great fishing destination, and it will be affected, and that's going to hit our local businesses hard."*



### A STREAM OF MANURE

Landowner Chuck Horn awoke to find this brown stream flowing through his front yard on February 18, and discovered the source to be a manure pit from a nearby CAFO. The flow eventually reached nearby Castle Rock Creek.

## Incident Report:

*Awaking to a stream of manure in his front yard, this man's report is an amazing account of the events following the spill.*

*The following are excerpts from an incident report submitted by Charles S. Horn, a neighbor of Misty Morning Farm and a concerned trout angler.*

On Thursday, February 18, 2016 at about 7:30 am, I was out in my yard, located at 3510 Wood Road, Fennimore, WI 53809 in the township of Fennimore, Grant County, Wisconsin when I noticed that there was liquid flowing in the streambed in my front yard and adjacent to Wood Road. As the temperature was only about 20 degrees Fahrenheit, I did not believe that it was just water from snowmelt in the streambed. I walked up to the streambed and could smell manure and observed a river of manure, about four feet across and 7-8 inches deep, flowing in the streambed. I got in my truck and drove west on Wood Road approximately a quarter mile and observed manure flowing down the hill from the upper slurry pit at Misty Morning Dairy, located at 3743 Wood Road. The stream of manure flowed north down the hill to Wood Road and I observed where some of the material was on the road. The flow continued through a culvert under Wood Road and ran in the streambed on the Lois Duha property, 3614 Wood Road, along the north side of Wood Road to our adjacent property line, where it continued along my property and went under a culvert on my driveway, where it entered a pasture, also owned by Lois Duha. I went east on Wood Road and observed the manure flow following the streambed and onto property owned by Glenn Larson, 13731 County Highway Q. The manure flowed through a large box culvert under County Highway Q and I could see where it entered the Fennimore Fork of the Blue River (also known as Castle Rock Creek), streambed. It appeared that the manure was flowing on top of the frozen snow and ice at this time.

I returned to my residence where I called Conservation Warden Martin Stone to report this discharge. Warden Stone advised that he had heard the same information from the DNR spills coordinator and was awaiting further instruction on how to handle the spill. I also called DNR Fisheries Biologist Gene Van Dyck in Dodgeville and advised him of the spill and expressed my con-

cerns about the impact of the manure on the trout fishery.

At approximately 10:30 a.m. I went back to the stream in front of my home and noted the manure was still flowing. The attached photos show the flow of manure through my property, in the streambed on the north side of Wood Road.

On Friday, February 19 at about noon I went down to the public easement section of Castle Rock Creek, and parked at the Church Road bridge and walked northward (downstream) from this bridge and noted that the stream was extremely turbid, water depth visibility was an inch or less and there was a very strong odor of manure coming from the stream. It should be noted that there were no fresh human footprints in the snow along the bank. I observed a dead brook trout, which was caught in some emergent vegetation about 200 yards downstream from the Church Road Bridge.

I continued walking downstream past the Castle Rock Spring and towards the farm road bridge on the Mike Graves property. I observed two dead brown trout, about half in the water on the west bank of Castle Rock Creek at the end of a riffle about 100 yards upstream from the Graves farm road bridge. I took a representative photo of one of the trout, both were about 13 inches long.

On Saturday, February 20 I drove down to Castle Rock Creek and parked north of Castle Rock Spring, along County Highway Q. I was accompanied by James Romberg, a trout fishing guide from Fennimore, David Gehrke, who owns the farm directly across from Misty Morning Dairy and Katherine Larson and Claire (last name unknown), two reporters from WKOW out of Madison. While Larson was interviewing James Romberg, I walked a short distance upstream from the Castle Rock Spring and did observe two dead brown trout in a shallow pool immediately upstream from the Castle Rock Creek. I went back to my vehicle and put on a pair of hip boots and waded into this pool to retrieve the trout. I left them sitting by a large rock on the south bank of the Castle Rock Spring and left a text message for Warden Stone,

*Please see REPORT, page 10*



### POST-SPILL ELECTROSHOCKING ON CASTLE ROCK CREEK

Richard Hanson and I were invited to accompany DNR Fisheries personnel Gene Van Dyck, Bradd Simms and Lloyd Meng as they electro-surveyed Castle Rock Creek March 14 to determine the effects of the manure spill on February 18.

We surveyed the area between the fence downstream from the confluence of Doc Smith Branch to the second riffle upstream of Castle Rock Spring. Typically, this area would have produced 150-300 adult trout, according to past surveys.

The first segment, between the fence and first large pool downstream of Doc Smith, yielded 35 adult and one yearling brown trout and one rainbow trout. Another segment produced 19 adult and five yearling brown trout, 5 yearlings, and 1 rainbow trout. A third segment yielded four adult and two yearling brown trout two rainbow trout. A fourth segment yielded only three adult and one brown trout and one brook trout. The last segment produced only one adult and one yearling brown trout.

It was apparent that the influx of water from Doc Smith branch significantly reduced the impact of the spill and most, if not all, of the trout found upstream from Doc Smith had either migrated up from below, from Doc Smith itself or had come down from the spring. There were significant numbers of white suckers and mottled sculpin, as well as a few creek chubs and stickleback, more in the downstream segments than the upstream. The fisheries staff indicated that they had requested a supplemental stocking, including some surplus brood fish, to try to replace what was lost.

—Chuck Horn

## Lake Michigan Fisheries Forum meets April 9

The next meeting of the Lake Michigan Fisheries Forum (LMFF) will take place Saturday, April 9 at Lakeshore Technical College in Cleveland. It will be held in the Wells Fargo Room starting at 8:30 a.m.

In 2012, the LMFF changed from an advisory group to a forum devoted to raising awareness of Lake Michigan fisheries issues and providing an opportunity for discussion and feedback.

The LMFF is a citizen-based group, and its charge is to review and provide input into the fishery goals, objectives and management plans for Lake Michigan. Members will assist fisheries managers in charting the future course of fisheries management by providing feedback to the DNR's Lake Michigan Fisheries Team.

Anglers, commercial fishers and anyone else with an interest in Lake Michigan's fisheries are encouraged to join.

The LMFF is facilitated by Titus Seilheimer, UW-Sea Grant, and is independent of the DNR. Representatives from major sport fishing clubs on Lake Michigan and Green Bay, commercial fishers, the Conservation Congress and the University of Wisconsin System are formal members of the forum. Meetings are open to the public.



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## Chapter President Profile

# Youth a key focus of Salchert's leadership

The Frank Hornberg Chapter president is a young leader who truly embraces getting youth into the outdoors.



### A NATURAL-BORN TEACHER, AND A GREAT LEADER

Frank Hornberg Chapter President Matt Salchert has worked with countless children and adults during his time with the chapter.

By John Vollrath

Matt Salchert grew up in St. Cloud, Wisconsin, a village in Fond du Lac County, on the banks of the Sheboygan River. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin—Stevens Point in 2004, and he has lived here in Portage County ever since. For some time now he has been manager of the Auto Select service facility on Highway 10 East. One advantage of his job is that when he is working the front counter he gets to know many people in the local

## Driftless Area to receive \$2.9 million

The Minnesota and Wisconsin Driftless Area will receive \$2.9 million in Farm Bill dollars for developing coldwater restoration projects.

By Jeff Hastings,  
TUDARE Project Manager

During the next five years Trout Unlimited chapters, DNR fish habitat crews and local conservation field offices working in the Driftless Area will have additional dollars to work on coldwater projects.

I wrote the grant (Regional Conservation Partnership Program, RCPP) so that our chapters would not have to compete at the local level for Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) dollars.

The grant also includes funding for technical assistance for chapters and landowners who want to develop projects. We plan to utilize funding from the Natural Resources Conservation Service and other dollars we have raised, and to hire a full-time conservationist to work with our chapters to develop high-quality projects.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service has gone to a scoring system that scores all potential EQIP projects. In order for a stream restoration project to score “high,” and be eligible for EQIP funding, the chapters will need to have completed a nine-step planning process that includes obtaining the necessary permits and designs for the

project.

Depending on the qualifications of the person we hire, we hope to provide additional technical assistance in surveying and design. Currently, we have to depend on our local field offices to conduct the surveys, design and oversight of the project, and not all field offices in the Driftless Area have developed this kind expertise or relationship with our chapters.

We want to pursue EQIP dollars as part of our funding for stream projects because EQIP can often cover as much 75 percent of the total costs.

Several chapters in the Driftless Area, as well as our state fish habitat crews, already work with landowners to obtain EQIP dollars. The chapters are responsible for raising the landowners' share for the remaining costs of the project. So a \$100,000 project could result in the chapter or DNR only having to come up with the remaining \$25,000.

We are anticipating a June 10, 2016 sign-up for the first round of funding.

If you have questions you can call me at 608-606-4158 or email [jhastings@tu.org](mailto:jhastings@tu.org)

## Get “social” with our Facebook pages

We're getting social. The Council now has an official Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Facebook page at [facebook.com/WisconsinTU](https://www.facebook.com/WisconsinTU). So go ahead and give us a “Like!” We've also set up a Wisconsin Trout Unlimited State Council “group” on Facebook for people to share upcoming event info and conservation-related news.

community.

A few years ago Matt was engaged in conversation with one of his customers, Stu Grimstad, a member of the Frank Hornberg Chapter. Talk turned to trout fishing. Stu is never one to pass up an opportunity to recruit new members for the trout-fishing community, and he invited Matt to come to a Hornberg work day on the river. The rest, as they say, is history. Matt did come to a work day. That was all it took; he was hooked.

Since then, Matt has sharpened his skills by fishing on local trout streams with members of the Hornberg chapter, including the aforementioned Stu Grimstad, the late Stu Nelson, Jan Tully and Wyatt Bohm. Especially Wyatt. Excellent teachers, all of them. They know the streams. They know the fish. They know how to catch them.

Trout fishing is just one of Matt's outdoor interests. The high mountain streams of Colorado are places where he has combined fishing with backpacking. The south shore of Lake Superior—from the Apostle Islands to the Porcupine Mountains—is where he enjoys hiking and camping with friends and family.

Matt's wife, Andrea, is an accomplished painter. His five-year-old daughter, Emily, took up flyfishing last year. Not surprisingly, her first catch of a brook trout was a proud moment for her and her parents. Like father, like daughter.

Matt moved rather quickly from chapter member to board member to president. He arrived on the scene at just the right time. The Hornberg Chapter came to realize that its long-term future would require younger members and younger officers personally committed to the chapter's future. We believed Matt would fill that bill perfectly. We couldn't have been more right. Now we don't know what we'd do without him.

In a recent conversation over coffee, Matt listed some priorities he sees for himself and for the community of flyfishers in general. One priority is that flyfishers should devote more time working with boys and girls to give them a strong personal appreciation of fishing and related outdoor activities. It takes time and dedication, but, he thinks, it is well worth the effort. Here Matt speaks for all of us in the Hornberg Chapter.

## Brook trout research

Using DNA studies, we are trying to locate a population of native brook trout that have been isolated in a remote Wisconsin spring pond in northern Wisconsin since the end of the Pleistocene, (ice age), 12,000 years ago.

We have caught, fin clipped for DNA studies and released brook trout from six isolated northern Wisconsin spring ponds. The DNA sequencing and analysis has been done by Dr. Brian Sloss and Keith Turnquest from the UW Stevens Point genetic lab. Sloss has done much of the original DNA work on Wisconsin hatchery-raised and stocked brook trout in the Driftless Area. He has an excellent understanding of what the DNA of Wisconsin hatchery-raised brook trout looks like. Some of you may have fished these spring ponds: Foulds, Willow, Siphon, Good Year, Elvoy and Hoglee.

The International Federation of Fly Fishers, IFFF has supported this DNA research with Conservation Small Grants totaling \$3,000.

Our DNA data so far is inconclusive. We know that Foulds Spring Pond in Price County contains DNA from stocked hatchery brook trout. The other five spring ponds contain DNA that have similarities, but differences in their DNA. These differences in DNA relate to diversity, a word used in fish genetics in a positive sense. The higher the DNA diversity, the better the chance that the species has for survival.

My position is that we need more brook trout DNA data from spring ponds from other watersheds. Next summer we plan to sample spring ponds from the Lake Superior watershed. Each of the spring ponds that we have collected DNA clips from have required multiple trips to obtain the number of clips required to make up a statistical DNA sample.

Anyone who would like to suggest a spring pond for consideration in this DNA study, and is willing to help with the canoe trip and the catching of the brook trout, please contact me at [robtabs@gmail.com](mailto:robtabs@gmail.com)

I want to thank Wisconsin trout fishermen Kit Deubler, Wayne and Clay Parmley, Terry Cummings, Travis Ver Hey, Matt Tabbert, Eric Frodesen and Jim Nelson for helping me with the long canoe trips, the muck running up the small stream to reach the headwater spring pond and then the catching of the brook trout for the DNA samples that formed the basis for this study. I will keep you posted on our search for a native brook trout population from a remote Wisconsin spring pond. Come join the search!

By Robert Tabbert, who is an exploration geologist and life member of TU and IFFF. He is also chair of IFFF's Coldwater Committee, brook trout DNA, senior conservation advisor to IFFF's board. He spends his winters in Louisiana and his summers in Lac du Flambeau, Wisconsin.



### SPRING POND RESEARCH INVOLVES CATCHING BROOK TROUT

This characteristically colorful brook trout from a northern Wisconsin spring pond may have ancestry dating back thousands of years.



# An angler's case for Public Trust

Editorial,  
By Dave Zeug

*Natural Waterbody Fish Rearing Permits, formerly called Private Fish Farms, have been part of Wisconsin's landscape for nearly 100 years. Many of these permits are on landlocked ponds with no legal avenue for the public to access them. Others, such as the Crystal Brook Trust's license held by members of the Minnesota Cargill family, are legally accessible because the navigable river, in this case a pristine trout stream, crosses a public highway. While access is legal, the public is restricted from fishing on them, although a 1915 Wisconsin Supreme Court decision upheld the Public Trust Doctrine's basic premise of allowing public use of navigable waters.*

*The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is the trustee of the state's navigable water and has issued these licenses for decades. When the Crystal Brook license expired and came up for renewal last year, this writer objected to its issuance based on language in the 1915 Wisconsin Supreme Court's Diana Hunt Club decision that upheld the state's Public Trust Doctrine.*

*Subsequently, after 98 years of renewing this application, the DNR determined Crystal Brook Trust no longer needed a license because of changes in the fish farming laws. From now on, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection would handle licensing of fish rearing facilities as this. Issues of the public rights on this stream and others similar to it still need to be determined or challenged in a court of law.*

*One highly regarded DNR biologist referred to these licenses as the "sins of our fathers." The constitutionality of these sins needs to be addressed. The column below first appeared in the Wisconsin Outdoor News and is reprinted courtesy of that publication. Stay tuned for more on this issue.*

"I feel that it is wrong that special privilege has apparently been granted certain individuals. If everybody is allowed to take a piece of the stream (to fish), regardless of the amount of money they have or the color of their skin, it is all right, but when one individual can take a public property which is a navigable stream and have special privileges, I think it is wrong...otherwise we are not having the democracy that we claim. We will be like the American boys (during World War II) who found out in Austria, Germany and France it has been the rich people who have the sport, who have been able to have the deer hunting and trout fishing."

These moving words are from the testimony of Dr. William Bauer of Ladysmith, better known in trout fishing circles as Doc Bauer, during his testimony in front of the Public Service Commission in Spooner 61 years ago. His concerns were the dams and the privatization of Crystal Brook, a navigable trout stream in Washburn County that was licensed as a "Private Fish Hatchery." His testimony also made it clear that he and others were stopped from fishing the river. The PSC pointed out their responsibilities didn't include navigability or private fish hatchery licenses. "You understand that all this does not concern the Public Service Commission at all," was their response, according to the transcripts.

Nothing has changed in the decades since then, and questions still exist about where – or if – what's now called a "Natural Waterbody Fish Rearing Permit" instead of a "Private Fish Farm" would meet a constitutional challenge and where the boundaries of the license along the stream

are.

The Minnesota Cargill family owns the Crystal Brook Trust Fish Farm (CBTFF) and is the licensee. This trust controls the land along the stream beginning with the clear, cold spring headwaters several miles downstream to the highway below, but they don't control access from the highway.

The Wisconsin Public Trust Doctrine is based in our constitution and—in theory at least—protects against the privatization of navigable waters, as Doc Bauer argued so many years ago. The Supreme Court confirmed this in 1913 after a successful challenge to the Diana Hunt Club's claim they controlled part of Horicon Marsh made by a duck-hunting attorney with these words. "The wisdom of this policy...carefully preserved to the people the full and free use of public waters cannot be questioned...they should be free to all for recreation...including hunting and fishing, which are mainly certain forms of recreation," the Wisconsin Supreme Court said at that time. Why Crystal Brook was granted this license to privatize the fishing a few short years later in 1918 has been lost to time.



## STATUTES VERSUS PUBLIC TRUST DOCTRINE

The Crystal Brook Trust's license, held by members of Minnesota's Cargill family affects a pristine trout stream, which crosses a public highway. While access is legal, the public is restricted from fishing on them, although a 1915 Wisconsin Supreme Court decision upheld the Public Trust Doctrine's basic premise of allowing public use of navigable waters.

Many of the existing "Natural Waterbody Permit"s today are private ponds without public access because the licensee owns or controls all the land around them. Crystal Brook, because of the highway access, doesn't meet this standard. Current wording involving these licenses tells new applicants seeking one, "a permit is only issued if DNR determines that no public or private rights in the body of water will be damaged." This clearly reflects the language in our Constitution and protects the public's rights now, but doesn't affect the recently expired Crystal Brook license that's up for renewal. According to the DNR, these old licenses are eligible for renewal because of a grandfathered clause. A grandfather clause is a provision in which an old law continues to apply while a new law applies for future cases.

In other words, since this license has been around for such a long time, they're eligible to keep it, regardless of the wording of the Public Trust Doctrine and the state constitution, unless it's constitutionality is successfully challenged in a court of law.

Paul Cunningham, Fisheries Ecologist for the

DNR, handles these types of applications and acknowledged issues exist related to navigation and public rights versus the privatization of public waters this license allows. "These types of licenses are uncharted waters in some ways. Language in the state statutes clearly says these old licenses are grandfathered," he said recently, while also acknowledging there are legal issues around this type of permit that could be challenged.

For the record, the Crystal Brook license isn't a fish hatchery in the traditional sense. The owners of the license don't raise trout on this stream, but instead simply buy trout to add to the river's wild population. Since aquaculture is considered a business, there's also a section on the renewal form asking what the Business Purpose of the license is and what activities it will be engaged in. The answer penned by the trustee in the Crystal Brook license application pretty much said it all. It was for "private, personal fishing." And that doesn't include you and me.

The current Crystal Brook license clearly states only the impounded waters — several dams that were built on the stream years ago — are covered under this license, which means other free-flowing portions of the stream are open to the public. Unfortunately, neither the owners nor the DNR have designated where the impounded areas end and public fishing becomes legal. In fact a hand-drawn map by the trustee on the application indicates there is virtually no water not covered by the license.

The case comes down to a couple of basic issues. No one is arguing Crystal Brook Trust wasn't granted this license that privatized the impounded water they created when they erected two small dams on the trout stream many years ago. Nor can it be argued the license was grandfathered by the legislature. What is at issue, which the DNR acknowledges exists, is whether the license would meet a challenge stemming from the wording of the public trust doctrine.

The other issue is the absence of the signage designating the boundaries of these impoundments, so if the license is renewed, members of the public would know where it begins and ends so they can legally fish in the unlicensed sections of Crystal Brook. Often in rivers flowing into lakes, there's a landmark or sign denoting where the river ends and the lake begins.

The Wisconsin Supreme Court understood its role in protecting the public's rights more than 100 years ago. They believed something as precious as a trout stream should be preserved for public use. What's unclear is what the DNR will decide to do with this license renewal application in light of wording in the statutes related to dams and grandfathered provisions, as opposed to the words of the Public Trust Doctrine. Some fear what may happen if the issue is elevated to our current Supreme Court.

Simply put, as Doc Bauer said, something as special as a trout stream shouldn't be used by only a privileged few. This philosophy is shared by many, including our family, which opened the land we own along the Brule River to fishermen, provided they respect the property, the river and the fish that call it home.

Stay tuned for further developments on this recently expired Crystal Brook license, but in the meantime, I'm in Doc Bauer's camp on this one. And I bet you are, too.



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# Great tips for fishing trout using live bait

*There's a lot more to bait fishing for trout than you might think, including safely releasing fish.*

By Mike Arrowood

The three fundamental aspects of live bait fishing are tackle choice, bait selection and technique. Each has a myriad of choices depending upon the species fished for, the type of habitat fished and the individual style of fishing employed.

## Tackle selection

Tackle selection can be best dissected based upon four categories. They are rod-and-reel combos, line type, sinker selection and hook size.

Rod and reel selection is the most diverse category. A variety of fly rod and spinning rod combos are used and they are both equally effectively.

Fly rods are best used for floating the bait in a natural drift presentation where limited weighting of the line is used. Floating fly line with a leader of Fire Line or other synthetic leader works well.

For fishing undercut banks, the longer fly rods allow the angler to stand back from the bank and allow the line to pull the bait along with the current. In a deeper water situation like this a single small split shot 12" above the bait will carry the bait down to make it more accessible.

Spinning rod combos are best used for fishing upstream when the angler is wading in the water. Stream size and vegetation growth along the bank dictate the rod length desired. Longer rods allow for extended length casts and bait drift and retrieve.

Conversely, shorter rods make fishing around brushy and overhanging vegetation much less frustrating. Many shorter rods are of the ultra-light category. These should be avoided in favor of a rod with little stiffer spline, as casting is more easily controlled in tight cover with a stiffer rod.

Fly lines are the best selection when using fly rods. It allows for more efficient casting and natural drift of the bait.

Monofilament or other synthetic lines are best with spinning rods. Synthetic lines offer smaller diameter and less drag or resistance in the water when quick drop of bait into deeper holes or wide sweeping bends is the preferred fishing habitat.

Line weight is a factor as well. Lighter weight line offers better bait presentation. Hook loss through snagging will definitely increase with the use of the lighter line. Often snags can be pulled loose and the hook retrieved when using heavier breaking strength line.

When retrieving bait along the stream bottom with weighted line, losing hooks from snagging is common and has to be treated as an acceptable aspect of fishing or heavier line must be used for hook retrieval.

Weighting the line using sinkers is a continually changing variable while stream fishing. The desire for long and accurate casts, water depth, amount of snagable material present and water flow speed must all be considered.

The obvious reason for sinker use near the baited hook is to cause the bait to be where it is most accessible to the trout. Generally speaking this is within a few inches of the bottom. When wading upstream and casting, sufficient weight is necessary to accomplish a longer cast with spinning rods. It is not as necessary when using fly rods and heavier fly lines.

The use of 2 or 3 BB size or smaller removable sinkers placed 12 to 15 inches above the hook is the norm. They are easily added or removed as the water conditions change along each section of the stream or river fished. More weight in swifter or deeper water is required for rapid bait fall to the bottom for retrieval. Conversely less weight can be used to drift bait downstream into brushy habitat or along undercut banks.

Hook size is very important when drift fishing bait along the bottom. Generally speaking size 10, 12 or 14 hooks work best. The hook must be small enough to have the point of the hook hidden or imbedded in the bait to prevent hooking or snagging the multiple logs or branches on the bottom. The imbedded hook point will have little to no affect with the hooking efficiency when a fish picks up the bait.

## Bait selection

The norm for bait fishing for trout is the use of night crawlers or earthworms. However, small leeches, small minnows, crickets, grasshoppers, wax worms, wigglers and many other types of bait are very effective. Even whole kernel corn or small marshmallows have been used effectively. Trout are generally very voracious predators, and they prey upon a wide variety of species.

Any of these baits, when presented within sight or smell of trout, will elicit a feeding response and subsequent bite. The key here, using the above mentioned tackle and techniques, is to place or present the bait where it is accessible to the feeding trout.

## Technique

When trout strike an offered bait it is very quickly swallowed. This is the normal feeding response, as it frees the trout to be immediately ready to attack and consume the next forage that presents itself. With competition from other fish and only a limited amount of forage available, this feeding strategy is essential for growth and survival.

An angler-presented bait will be consumed in the same manner. The

trout will quickly swallow the offered bait. When fishing, this response can be felt by the angler via the line and rod in hand. The tap, tap, tap of a trout bite is the positioning of the bait in their mouth to allow swallowing the bait. This is the time to set the hook.

A delay in setting the hook until it has been swallowed may result in tissue damage or death to a trout deemed too small, or large, to be kept. Removal of the hook from a gut-hooked fish will result in damage to the stomach and/or "throat" of the fish. Leaving the hook in place by cutting the line is also not a desirable alternative and both can lead to delayed mortality.

Angling with live bait is as much about the "feel" of the bite as it is the art of casting the line and placement of the bait. After casting, the rod should be held tip high and the reel slowly spun to take up line as the bait is retrieved along the bottom to keep enough tension to immediately feel any bite. With a downstream drift along an undercut bank, let the line out slowly, allowing the bait to drift naturally along the undercut, but keeping enough tension on the line to feel the bite.

In either case, the tapping felt on the line as the trout attacks the offered bait is the time to set the hook. You can successfully fish with live bait and lip-hook nearly 95 percent of the fish that bite. I can't re-

member the last time I had a gut-hooked fish.

A tip for improving hookups and lip-hooking trout when using night crawlers is to break the crawler in half and not use a full crawler. This also provides more scent to attract the fish.

More often than not the hook set will be successful and the trout brought to net. This technique will allow hooked fish to be kept or released to be caught another day at the discretion of the angler. Regardless of what method of angling you use, it is important to learn the best fishing techniques and release practices to allow for successful release of a fish.

*Mike Arrowood of Fond du Lac is an avid fisherman and is also active in fishing, hunting, conservation, and environmental issues in Wisconsin. He has been a delegate to the Conservation Congress for more than 36 years, serving on the Warm Water Committee for much of that time. He is one of the founders and chairman of the board of Walleyes for Tomorrow which has 18 chapters and more than 4,000 members. He serves on the Wisconsin Fishery Advisory Council and the Winnebago System Fishery Advisory Council. In addition to this Mike often attends and testifies at many legislative hearings, Natural Resource Board meetings, and other related events like this. Mike is also one of the presenters at our Youth Camp talking to the kids about live bait fishing for trout.*

## Proposal would eliminate "artificial-only" restrictions

Question #14 on the Conservation Congress Spring Hearings this April will ask: Do you favor eliminating the "artificial-only" restriction from the regular season trout regulations? This is advisory only and if approved by those in attendance and the Congress delegates at the Congress Annual Meeting, it would be forwarded to the DNR and the Natural Resources Board for consideration. If approved, it could take up to three years to implement as a rule.

Right now we lack scientific evidence as to mortality differences between methods of trout fishing. Regardless of our fishing methods, there are things we can do to reduce mortality of hooked fish. How we play our fish and techniques for release can reduce mortality.

If you have information for reducing trout mortality when bait fishing, spin fishing or fly fishing, please send them to the editor and we'll share them with all TU members.

## REPORT, from page 7

Jean Unmuth, and Gene Van Dyck as to the location of the fish. It should be noted that the water clarity was extremely poor again, with a visibility of only about 1-2 inches. It should also be noted that James Romberg and I turned over a couple of rocks about 200 yards downstream from the spring and did observe a few aquatic insect larvae still alive as well as several small leeches attached to the underside of the rocks.

On Sunday, February 21 at about 9:45 a.m. I asked Gene Van Dyck if he would like some help surveying for more dead trout, and he accepted. I walked the section of the

stream from Church Road downstream to the spring. The water clarity was about five inches at this time. It was evident by the manure on the banks that the water level had risen and receded during the day and night before. I did observe three more dead trout in the same pool above the spring and collected these. I continued walking downstream and did observe and collect one more brown trout between the Castle Rock Spring and Mike Graves farm road bridge.

Gene had walked the section between the farm road bridge and the confluence with Doc Smith Branch and had found three more trout. Gene then walked on the east bank of the Castle Rock Creek back to

the Church Road Bridge and found one more trout. I then walked from Doc Smith confluence downstream to the first County Highway Q bridge and did not observe any more dead fish. The water clarity was still only about 5 inches. Gene picked me up at the bridge and we drove back to Mike Graves farm road bridge where I took a water sample to test for ammonia with an aquarium test kit. The ammonia level showed .25, which was considered "safe."

On Monday, February 22 I accompanied DNR fisheries staff as they attempted to recover more dead trout on Castle Rock Creek. Staff were wading in the holes with poles and attempting to dislodge

dead fish that were on the bottom of the stream and then recover them downstream with a seine. Many of the holes and pools in this section were too deep to wade. The staff recovered about 25 dead trout between the Castle Rock Spring and Confluence with Doc Smith Branch. I walked upstream to the Church Road bridge, but did not observe any more fish. Gene Van Dyck and I then went to the third bridge downstream on County Highway Q, and walked upstream to the middle County Highway Q bridge and did not observe any fish, alive or dead. Water clarity was about 6-8 inches at this time. The other fisheries staff had surveyed the upstream sections of the stream in the same manner.

# Story of a lifelong spinner fisherman

## Part 1: Discovery



### ENJOYING SOME EARLY SEASON SPINNER FISHING

Matt Stary, brother of author Mike Stary, stalking trout with a spinning rod during the early season.

By Mike Stary

During nearly half a century of trout fishing I have realized that my trout story falls into three distinct periods. The first was the “discovery period: my first experience wading for trout.” The second I refer to as “the learning years,” and the third, and still current, would be the “giving back” phase. In the following articles I will attempt to describe to you what a blissful experience stream fishing can be, particularly spin fishing for trout. So let’s get started with the discovery period.

Many people are surprised when I tell them I spin fish for trout in rivers and streams. “I thought you used a fly rod for fishing trout,” they ask. And although flyfishing is the purest and a widely accepted method, it is by no means the only way. When it comes to trout fishing, feel free to try flyfishing, spinner fishing and live bait fishing. The common denominator between them all is obvious: They all lead to catching trout!

### Zebcos and worms

Like a lot of you, I started fishing at a young age. Growing up in Wisconsin, a child is never far from some source of water, be it a stream, pond or lake. All you needed was your trusty Zebco 202, a hook, a couple of sinkers and a can of worms.

The night before we would get out the flashlight and garden hose, and go nightcrawler hunting under the moonlight. The following morning on the way to the river we would stop by the local grocery store and ask the meat manager if he had an old liver. When we got to the river we would bait up, cast our lines and wait. While we were waiting on the next bite, we would tie a piece of liver on a string and fish for crayfish next to the fallen trees. We would bring them up and collect them in a coffee can punched with holes. On a good day we would catch half a dozen bullheads, and if we were really lucky, a carp.

As fond as those memories are, it wasn’t until I strapped on a pair of waders and got busy in a trout stream that I really fell in love with the sport.

### First road trip for trout

My first real trout-fishing trip was in 1974, and my best friend Pete and I heard they were biting on the Deerskin River up in Vilas County.

That’s all it took, and the very next weekend we loaded up our gear and headed up to the K.O.A. campground on Cranberry Lake.

It was a lean trip, with just the basics. After all, we were high school kids making \$1.60/hour. Camp was sparse but efficient. Pete and I were both in the scouts, so camping was natural for us. Food planning, on the other hand, was not so natural. Armed with a loaf of bologna, we figured we had it licked. Wrong. After about six straight meals of that, we were ready for some hot and fresh meat. We actually built a crude box trap and tried catching the camp chipmunks. Right!? But we still had the fishing, and that’s why we were there.

The first day out was a mixed bag. After studying the map, we decided on a starting point, parked the car and jumped in the river a ways downstream. The going was tough at times, and fishing was hit or miss. It wasn’t until we were about 100 yards down river from our car that we hit the jackpot! We both had our limit in short order; no bologna for dinner tonight!

Needless to say, we knew where to start fishing the next day. It almost seemed too easy! Again, we both had our limits early, but we were by no means ready to quit.

The highlight of the trip for me was also the lowlight. Most of the fish we were catching were in the 7-10 inch range, which were nice eaters, but nothing to brag about. So when this middle-teen-class brown darted out from under the bank and slammed my Little Cleo, I got real excited! That excitement shortly turned to disappointment as I watched that fish swim away with my lure in tow. The big fish of the weekend had just snapped my line and stole my lure. That was the end of 2-pound test line for me.

But just seeing that fish attack my lure made the whole trip worthwhile, and solidified my love of the sport. There’s just something different about being embedded in the element that separates wading for trout from all other types of fishing.

So when people ask me why I spin fish for trout, I tell them this, “Because it’s the way I started and I never lost the passion for it.” So until next time, spin early and spin often!

### Two future segments

Part 2 will be about the “learning

years.” This is when I tested and learned about gear, as well as learning how to read water. I was after as much input as I could gather. It’s during this period that I really learned what the sport was all about.

Part 3 is the final (and still ongoing) stage. I refer to it as the “giving back stage.” It began when, unbeknownst to me, I was teaching less experienced stream fisherman how to fish. It wasn’t with intent, as I would merely observe, then make suggestions to help them catch more fish. It wasn’t until many years later when one of the original members of our fishing group asked me to

take his son out on his first run that it dawned on me. I told him I would be honored. This is why I got involved with the youth camp.

*Mike Stary started trout fishing in 1974 but it wasn’t until he moved back from California in 1994 that he really got into it. He started scouting and fishing all the rivers and streams near his house, sneaking away as often as he could, which he still does. He joined TU in the late 1990’s, but was not very active until he heard about the WITU Youth Fishing Camp. This year will be his third at camp, he plans to “amp up” the spinner presentation this year to really get the kids into it.*



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# DNR ramping up easement purchases

By Lisa Gaumnitz

Kurt Welke has lifted hundreds of fish nets and fin-clipped thousands of fish in his 15 years as the lead state biologist working to improve fishing in Dane County.

Now on the cusp of retirement, Welke is harnessing modern technology, Knowles Nelson Stewardship Program funding and kitchen table diplomacy to make the biggest difference yet for anglers, now and in the future.

He's reeling in private landowners willing to agree to conservation easements that pay them to allow anglers to access trout streams on their land, while protecting stream-side buffers important to keeping the water clean and the trout populations healthy.

"This is the most important and rewarding thing I've done in the last 15 years of my career," Welke says.

When the 2013-2015 state budget reduced Knowles Nelson Stewardship funding overall and stipulated that two-thirds be spent on conservation easements, Paul Cunningham and other DNR staff involved in the longstanding streambank protection program went to work.

They wanted to maximize the Stewardship funding available for streambank protection and access. They streamlined the identification, appraisal and acquisition processes and created databases allowing biologists to easily track and display on digital maps infor-

mation that would help them contact landowners and move toward successfully securing easements from willing parties.

"We used to create a list of eligible waters, then groups would come in to apply. Now, we're out approaching them and deliberately focusing on where we think the priorities are," Cunningham said. "Our fish biologists are able to track hundreds and hundreds of landowners in the negotiation process."

The effort is focused on three primary geographic areas: trout and smallmouth bass streams of the Driftless Area, the Northern Kettles, and trout streams of northeast Wisconsin.

In the current fiscal year the DNR plans to allocate up to \$2.2 million in treambank easements. Since mid-September of 2015, fisheries staff and land agents have been addressing the backlog of streambank landowners who earlier expressed interest. Here staff are focusing on important recreational angling opportunities, parking areas, walk-in corridors and blocking to existing easements. Additionally, DNR staff now have the Northeast Stream Team up and running.

The table is an update summary of landowners who have signed applications for the period from May 2014 through February 5, 2016. Note: DNR staff are working with many additional interested landowners who are considering submitting an application.

Status	Number Landowners	Total Stream Length (Miles)	Total Cost (\$)
Initial contact	31	9.10	
Pending Valuation	2	1.88	
Ready for approvals	1	0.28	\$4,000
Pending Admin Approvals	4	1.56	\$99,300
Approved for option	14	5.13	\$88,400
Option Offered	7	3.11	\$135,000
Offer accepted	5	0.89	\$56,400
Sent to CO for Closing	11	5.16	\$224,650
Closed	72	24.21	\$1,628,865
Withdrawn	3	1.85	
Dropped	17	6.61	\$197,925
Offer Rejected	34	16.15	\$719,952
On Hold	2	0.98	\$60,700

# State land sales update

By Mike Stapleton, WITU Legislative Committee

Since the time of the 2015 release of a list of state owned lands to be considered for sale as required by provisions of 2013 Wisconsin Act 20, the biennial budget bill, Wisconsin TU members have been tracking this process closely, discussing it at chapter meetings, contacting local and central office DNR staff, and contacting their legislators.

The inclusion of numerous spring pond properties in Langlade and other counties was the main eye-opener for our members, although a number of other properties involving important coldwater resources also drew attention.

Throughout the fall, many of our members debated, made calls, wrote letters, and participated in an email campaign to save as many of those parcels as possible, as they anxiously awaited the completion of DNR field reviews and the release of department recommendations for the parcels of concern to us.

The list of properties with department recommendations became available on the DNR web page in early February. On February 6, Paul Cunningham of the DNR provided WITU with an update at the State Council meeting in Oshkosh, by which time it was known that the department would be recommending retention of the spring pond properties and some others containing stream frontage. He provided a summary of lands proposed for sale, retention and holdover for further study.

While advising us that the process will get more difficult as it enters Phase 3, Cunningham also advised us that the NRB had the ability to change the recommendations, put lands up for sale to the public rather than government units, and modify proposed conditions of sale.

Phase 1 of this process, which did not involve as much potential impact to coldwater resources as the current Phase 2, is now at the point where some sales are being finalized. Cunningham provided an update on those sales, and in early March the figures were posted on the Land Sales web page.

The Natural Resources Board met in Madison on February 24 to review and act on the department's Phase 2 recommendations. Doug Haag, deputy director of the Bureau of Lands and Facilities, briefed the board about the status of completed sales from Phase 1, and summarized by category the department recommendations for Phase 2.

During the public comment period, Duke Welter presented his request to the Board for the retention of two parcels on Elk Creek in Dunn and Eau Claire Counties. The property contains a half mile of stream frontage, and he believed that building sites were present that, if used, had potential to cause damage to the creek.

Although the property is landlocked, Welter stated his belief that the presence of building sites made it likely that access to them would eventually be provided by a new owner so that building construction could occur. The board, however, declined to change the department recommendation, which was to offer the property for sale to adjoining property owners with the department obtaining a stream bank easement as part of the sale.

George Meyer of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation also addressed the board, first by stating his opposition to the sale of any property with water frontage, but in particular requesting retention of a 464-acre parcel in Forest County, which contains several tributaries to the Peshtigo River and which Meyer described as being "water rich." The department recommendation was to offer it for sale to adjoining property owners (one of which is Forest County). In later deliberations, the Board voted to offer it to the county, and if the county does not buy it to hold it over for further study.

Following deliberations and several minor changes to department recommendations, the NRB adopted the following recommendations:

24 parcels, totaling 2,805 acres, will be offered for sale to municipalities and tribal nations;

33 parcels, totaling 2,004 acres, will be offered for sale only to adjoining property owners;

24 parcels, totaling 824 acres, will be offered for sale through a public bidding process;

35 parcels, totaling 1,632 acres, will be retained by the department; and, 32 parcels, totaling 2,195 acres, will be held for further study in Phase 3.

Where parcels approved for sale have frontage on trout streams, the recommendations include obtaining a stream bank easement at the time of sale.

According to the above figures, recently posted on the DNR's Land Sales web page, the total amount of land approved for sale by the NRB in Phases 1 and 2 comes to 103 parcels containing 7,040 acres. The lands being held over for further study, even if all of it is offered for sale, which is not likely, will not by itself enable the department to reach the statutorily mandated amount of 10,000 acres that must be offered for sale by the June, 2017 deadline.

In recognition of this, Cunningham said the department would soon begin a new search of their landholdings in order to find and evaluate additional eligible lands that would allow them to meet the required 10,000-acre total. Phase 3 will not just consist of lands held over from Phase 2. He emphasized that the statute requires that lands be offered for sale, not that such an amount must actually be sold.

He also said that the plan for Phase 3 is to conduct field reviews this summer, formulate department recommendations by August, and present those recommendations to the NRB at their September 2016 meeting.

Cunningham also made it clear that contacts from TU members during this process have far outnumbered those from other constituencies, and that our involvement has had a definite impact on department recommendations. WITU thanks those who took the time to research this issue, involve themselves in chapter discussions, contact DNR staff and their legislators through letters, calls and emails. Your efforts enabled us to impact this process in a manner that saved many important properties for continued public use and coldwater resource protection.

It was previously reported that Rep. Mark Spreitzer, D-Beloit, had introduced AB 499, which would repeal the statutory provisions that gave rise to the current land sale process. AB 499 did not receive a public hearing and the legislative session has ended.

Wisconsin TU members should continue following the process, as Phase 3 is just around the corner. There will likely be properties under consider-



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# Chapters, council pitching in to “reconnect” the Hunting and Wolf rivers

By Linn Beck, Council Chair

Mike Miller from the DNR recently contacted me about the Hunting River roadway crossing in the Langlade County Township of Elcho, on Fitzgerald Dam Road. This crossing currently has four culverts through which the river flows. The culverts are undersized for the flow volume and create a water-velocity barrier for upstream movement of fish and other aquatic and amphibious life. It is essentially a barrier between the Wolf and Hunting rivers. The flow velocity measured in the culverts is above three feet per second, which is faster than the sustained swim speeds of many fish species, with fish size also being a factor.

The roadway and culverts are approaching the point where they need to be replaced, and recent state legislation now allows the responsible party, in this case the Town of Elcho, the ability to replace “in-kind” the current structure. DNR staff are concerned that the township will again install a series of undersized culverts to minimize costs. It is estimated that installing a crossing that will not be a barrier to aquatic life will cost \$65,000.

Jon Simonsen, a DNR staff person in the Rhinelander office who works on various road and stream issues, contacted the township to see if it would be interested in writing a River Management Grant proposal. The DNR’s River Management Grant Program provides financial support to various entities to fund river restoration efforts. Grants can be up to \$50,000 and the township has submitted a grant request for the monies to help offset the cost of repairing this crossing the proper way. As of now we do not know the outcome of the grant request. As part of the grant ranking, having partners that contribute funds or labor to projects increases the rank of projects.

This is where TU comes in. The Council asked chapters in its Northeast Region to see if there were any contingency funds available. The group had just held its funding meeting in December, and the chapters agreed to pool their resources to fund requests from various agencies. Unfortunately, there weren’t a lot of funds available. The State Council and the Wild Rivers Chapter each contributed \$1,000, and the Marinette Chapter contributed \$500. The rest of the chapters in the region have pledged their support in the form of volunteer labor for work days on the project.

Mike Miller also will be meeting with DNR fisheries staff who manage trout stamp funds to seek as many partners as possible for this project. According to Mike, Dave Seibel sees value in the project and may have trout stamp funds he can allot for this project. The township as of this writing had submitted a grant request for the monies to help offset the cost of repairing this crossing the proper way, but as of now there wasn’t any word on the outcome of the grant.

This project would be directly in line with the mission of the new TU workgroup that has been hired in the northeast part of the state, headed up



## RECONNECTING THE HUNTING RIVER IN LANGLADE COUNTY

This crossing on Fitzgerald Dam Road currently has four culverts through which the river flows. The culverts are undersized for the flow volume and create a water-velocity barrier for upstream movement of fish and aquatic and amphibious life. It is essentially a barrier between the Wolf and Hunting rivers.

by Wisconsin Great Lakes Stream Restoration Manager Laura MacFarland and Wisconsin Great Lakes Restoration Specialist Greg Orum.

Jon Simonsen, Jim Klosiewski and Mike Miller also met with Chin Wu, a hydrology and environmental engineering professor from UW-Madison. They collected data on this crossing in December. Wu hopes to have one of his students develop several design scenarios for this crossing. Perhaps more importantly, he would like to develop assessment tools that local governments and others can use to identify crossings that are barriers, and develop tools to help with restoration/retrofitting. So if this pilot project for UW goes well, one of the outcomes of this project would have implications and applications well beyond this one crossing.

## Reconnecting brook trout habitat in the National Forest



### RECONNECTING PESHTIGO RIVER TRIBUTARY: ARMSTRONG CREEK

An important word in the TU mission is “Reconnect.” Now there is staff in place to pursue more such reconnection projects in the Nicolet National Forest. This summer TU staff will help the USFS replace these perched culverts on Armstrong Creek, a tributary to the Upper Peshtigo River.

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By Laura MacFarland, TU Great Lakes Stream Restoration Manager

As was mentioned in the last issue of Wisconsin Trout, TU National has hired two full-time staff to assist in reconnecting brook trout habitat in northeast Wisconsin. Greg Orum, TU’s stream restoration specialist, and myself will be working closely with our many agency partners and Wisconsin TU’s northeast regional chapters to fund, design and implement restoration projects throughout the Nicolet National Forest.

Here in northern Wisconsin, thousands of inadequate road stream crossings prohibit trout and other aquatic organisms from migrating between critical habitats.

For example, a 2008 study discovered that 67 percent of the 169 road crossings in the Pine-Popple watersheds pose some sort of barrier to fish movement.

The large majority of these barriers are culverts on small headwater streams which are extremely important rearing grounds for young fish,

as well as refuge from flood events and rising temperatures.

This coming field season we will be assisting the USFS to replace several culverts by providing financial and technical support. I will also be coordinating the inventory and assessment of hundreds of additional road crossings throughout the Nicolet National Forest. This assessment will help to prioritize our efforts in the future, enabling us to make the most of our limited resources and raise additional funding.

I have already experienced what an invaluable resource our local TU leaders and volunteers are when it comes to identifying priorities. I’ll be sure to continue to seek your input and assistance in the field when such opportunities arise. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at [lmacfarland@tu.org](mailto:lmacfarland@tu.org) or 715-401-0499. I look forward to continuing to work with you as this initiative gets rolling.





## Chapter News



### ALDO LEOPOLD CHAPTER'S TIC CLASS

These Reedsburg fifth graders were excited to visit the Nevin Fish Hatchery in Madison. Now they're keeping a close eye on their rainbow fry.

### Aldo Leopold Chapter

The Aldo Leopold Chapter has had a busy winter and early spring. Shaking off winter, the chapter completed its five-week introductory fly tying class at the Baraboo Public Library. Many of those students continued on to the Fly Fishing 101 casting class held at the Baraboo Civic Center, sponsored by Orvis-Madison and instructed by Tristan Kloss, fishing manager at Orvis. Fifteen prospective fly fishers, ages seven to seventy, attended, and left with both smiles and complimentary TU memberships thanks to Orvis.

Our Trout In the Classroom program is swimming along in Reedsburg. The rainbow fry have settled in to their new confines with zero "floaters" for 60 days. The two participating classrooms look forward to a spring day when they will release the fish to a nearby brook.

The chapter looks forward to returning to Tainter Creek in Vernon County June 11 with our venerable sidekick Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter. This work day was originally scheduled at Little Willow Creek in Richland County, but was relocated due to a change in the habitat improvement plan by DNR. Joining us this year will be the Coulee Region and Blackhawk chapters

to help us clear willow and return this section of Tainter Creek to a fine brook trout stream. This event will also double as a camping and fishing outing for each chapter. Camping will be at West Fork Sports Club in Avalanche.

Other chapter work days include assisting DNR with tree planting at Rowan Creek Fishery Area on April 16 and continued brush control at Manley Creek in Sauk County on May 21.

Tuesday, June 14 is the chapter picnic fundraiser at Habermann Park in Lodi. In addition to raffle and auction items, the event will have a "swap meet" for members to sell their gently used fishing tackle, clothing and accessories. Ten percent or more of the sale will go to the chapter. Join the fun, make a little money and return home with some great deals. The picnic begins at 5 p.m., but show up a little early if you are bringing items to sell.

The chapter welcomes Dan Braun of rural Baraboo as our internet manager and Bob Moss of Pardesville as our membership chair. Dan and Bob have already made big contributions to the chapter in their short tenure.

—Scott Allen

### Antigo Chapter

We at Antigo TU are very busy setting up and getting ready for our 34th annual fundraising banquet Saturday, April 2 at Northstar Banquet Center. We hope to have a great turnout, with many great donations and prizes. Banquet income will fund our projects and efforts for 2016.

We will also start planning our kid's fishing day, which is Saturday, June 4 at Antigo City Park.

We are still working on setting up a fishing day for disabled veterans.

We'll have more information on that soon.

We are looking forward to working with Dave Siebel, our area fish manager, to help us with paperwork and easements so we can dredge the Mayking Flowage in 2017. We are hoping this will happen.

Think spring and let's hope we get some rain for this coming summer. Think coldwater fishing!

—Scott Henricks

### Blackhawk Chapter

The chapter has lined up at least four workdays for 2016. On May 9 we will have our annual work day with the Project Green Teen group from the Shabazz High School in Madison, along Weister Creek. In June we'll be working with a number of chapters on Tainter Creek. Later in the summer we will work with the Coulee Chapter on Spring Coulee Creek, followed by a day on Otter

Creek under Paul Krahn's leadership.

In addition, there are potential workdays in the planning stage, involving SEWTU in their "Home Waters" of Whitewater and Bluff Creeks. If all of them materialize, we're going to be pretty busy this year.

In January the chapter approved the expenditure of \$1,100 to cover

the leftover costs on the Kilen Project on the West Fork of the Kickapoo River, above Avalanche. The project, in an easement held by the DNR, was completed in 2015, with major funding from NRCS and TUDARE.

On two different weekends in January and February five chapter members including Bud Hilgendorf, Ron Machajewski, Dave Patrick, Don Studt and Harley Whitt popped into the Orvis & Cabela's stores in Madison and gave fly-tying demonstrations, which were well received.

Also well received was Duke Welter's presentation at our February meeting. Duke shared with us

TUDARE's 10-year history plus various new stream restoration methods, personal reminiscences, and the advice to keep a journal. Missing, of course, was any mention of his favorite trout stream.

Our annual Spring Banquet is Monday, April 25. It will be held again at the Pontiac Convention Center in Janesville, which is just off I-39 at Exit 171B. Tickets, including dinner, bucket raffle and watercraft raffle tickets, and door prizes, are \$50 each or two for \$90. Doors open at 6 p.m. and we try to finish by 10 p.m. Please come on down south for the evening!

—Dave Hinde



### NEW FISHING RIGS FOR THESE AMBITIOUS TEENS

Each year the Blackhawk Chapter presents rod & reel outfits to youth who successfully complete its 10-week fly-tying class. From left to right are Ron Machajewski, students Grant McMahon and Noah McMahon with their outfits, and Don Studt.

### Central Wisconsin Chapter

January and February are busy months for the Central Wisconsin Chapter. During January and early February CWTU Masters Fly Tying meets weekly on Thursday evenings. This group meets to learn and tie new fly patterns from an "instructor of the week." And while we do have some "Master" fly tyers in the group, many, including myself, are intermediate tyers who enjoy fly tying and want to improve our skills.

To fill the classroom at Winneconne High School, members of area TU chapters join us. This year, along with usual variety of flies, we also tied a Muskie fly and spray-painted poppers with a Copic marker system. Wisconsin regional tyers and guides are often the instructors, along with members of the group.

There is a materials fee for the course and at each two-hour session they learn two or three patterns. Most consider the course fee a bargain when you consider the cost to try a new pattern on your own. Members can participate in a fly exchange if they want. The flies are mounted on foam boards with each fly named and the name of the tyer. The group makes up a couple extra of these for fundraising. The men and women of Masters Fly Tying are the "go-to" group when there is a need for fly tying education or donated flies.

TroutFest, our winter show, held in February at the Fin N' Feather in Winneconne, is the largest CWTU community outreach program of the year. The primary goal is not fund-



### CWTU'S TROUTFEST IS A POPULAR ANNUAL EVENT

Tracy Moran (left) and Brad Magalski talk fly tying at TroutFest

## Chapter News



raising. Admission is free. We want people to come, learn, see and have a good time. There are a few raffles which pays the rent and covers the cost of lunch for the speakers and the demonstration fly tyers.

Youth fly tying is a big draw. Kids can tie flies with parents nearby taking in the show. This year teen tyers participated in teaching kids, a good experience for both age groups.

Displays of CWTU steam restoration work and River Keeper stream monitoring let people learn about the work we do. Again we had a great group of fly tyers tying a wide variety of patterns. For programs we have mini seminars every half hour covering a wide variety of fishing related topics. The list of CWTU volunteers, presenters, displays and vendors is too long to mention and thank individually. The best news for CWTU is 13 people who walked in the door that day decided to join Trout Unlimited!

CWTU participated in Fox Val-

ley TU's Cabin Fever Day and joined Fox Valley TU and Green Bay TU at the Northeast Sport Fishing Show in Oshkosh.

This time of year we want to let people know about our Annual Fly Fishing School now in its 39th year. If you know someone who wants to learn or improve their fly fishing, save the weekend of June 4-5. It is held along an absolutely inspirational stretch of the Tomorrow River, at the Riverside Bible Camp in Amherst. On Saturday we cover the essentials of trout and fishing, with plenty of time for fly casting. Sunday morning the students are matched up with experienced fly fishers for a half day of fishing. Graduates of the school tell us the river is the best and most enjoyable classroom of all. For more information check out [www.cwtu.org](http://www.cwtu.org) or contact Dan at 920-235-1761 or Russ at 715-824-3781 or [bouck@wi-net.com](mailto:bouck@wi-net.com).

—Mike San Dretto

### Coulee Region Chapter

We had more than 100 attendees at the Cedar Creek Country Club in Onalaska in February for an evening of fish talk, camaraderie, good food and time dedicated to coldwater protection. Thanks to Mat and Geri Wagner of the Driftless Angler fly shop for donating our grand door prize, a Simms chest pack full of gear. Rick Kyte's custom-made 6'6" 2-weight rod was a very popular raffle item. Many thanks to Moe Amundson for selling out all of the GoPro raffle tickets.

Virg Beck was also on hand to paint a custom piece of art, which went to lucky winner 12-year-old Gavin Southworth of Onalaska. As the winner of the painting, Gavin got to choose a featured fly for the painting and he made a great choice with a pink squirrel.

Our featured speakers for the evening were Jordan Weeks, DNR fisheries biologist, and Duke Welter, representing TUDARE. Jordan highlighted some of the changes for the 2016 season and Duke explained and praised all of the work in the Coulee Region that was benefitting coldwater habitats. Many thanks to all of our CRTU members and friends for making the 2016 banquet a great success.

At our March chapter meeting

Jeremy Southworth was our featured presenter, sharing information about Reel Recovery, which provides fly fishing retreats for men living with cancer. There will be a Reel Recovery event in southwest Wisconsin in September 2016. Find more details as they develop at the CRTU website at [couleeregion-tu.org](http://couleeregion-tu.org). Duke Welter will be our speaker at our April 20 meeting and will highlight what is happening with TUDARE. TUDARE and other conservation organizations in the area have been very successful lately with finding grant dollars that will protect and improve Driftless-area watersheds.

We have a couple work days planned for this spring. On May 14 we will be working with the Blackhawk TU chapter and Mike Leonard of the DNR to build LUNKER structures on Spring Coulee Creek. Work begins at 9 a.m. and CRTU will provide lunch. On June 11 we will work with the Aldo Leopold and SEWTU chapters to do brushing work on Tainter Creek. Work begins at 9 a.m. and lunch is provided by the SEWTU crew. Looking even further ahead, put July 23 on your calendar, as it's the Trout Fest in Coon Valley.

—Curt Rees



### HAPPY YOUNGSTER WINS VIRG BECK CUSTOM TROUT PAINTING

At a recent Coulee Chapter banquet, Virg Beck painted a custom piece of art, which went to lucky winner 12-year-old Gavin Southworth of Onalaska.



### NEW BOOTH FOR FOX VALLEY CHAPTER

Cabin Fever Day 2016 featured new booth, manned by Tony Garvey and Jen Erickson. Photo by Tom Lager.

### Fox Valley Chapter

We had a successful fifteenth annual Cabin Fever Day in January. The chapter thanks all of the vendors, fly tyers and presenters, including Dan Geddes, Matt Sment, and Bob Haase. Thanks go out to Scott Grady for donating his handmade cane rod, and to chapter volunteers, and most importantly those individuals who attended the event. There were people from Michigan, Minnesota, Illinois and Wisconsin. Norm Christnacht, Al Johnson, Tom Lager, Joe Bach, Chuck Knoeck and Optima Graphics did a fantastic job of making sure that the event was successful.

Thanks to all of these individuals, we raised \$9,000 for coldwater fisheries. We are in the planning stages for next year's event on January 14, 2017, and again at the Grand Meridian in Appleton.

Our January chapter meeting was a presentation by Chef John Balistreri and several students at Fox Valley Technical College. Our chapter records indicate that this was either the 26th or 27th annual presentation by the students from the Culinary Arts program at FVTC to the FVTU chapter. Chef John and the students prepared a number of specialties using everyone's campfire favorite – Pudgy Pie Irons. Topping everything off was a desert of Pudgy Pie S'mores. While we were enjoying the meal, Tom Lager made several presentations to various chapter members and friends of the chapter, thanking them for their ongoing support of chapter activities.

A number of chapter members attended the State Council annual meeting and banquet in Oshkosh February 6. Congratulations to Joe Bach for receiving the Gold Net Award from the State Council. The FVTU chapter also received the Silver Trout Award from the State Council.

Our February chapter meeting featured a presentation by Shawn Sullivan regarding habitat work completed by the DNR and TU in the Central Sands Region. Shawn also highlighted work that is being

planned for this summer and into the future. Our March meeting and presentation by chapter member Steve Heuser entitled "Fly Fishing New Zealand and other Adventures." Our chapter meetings are held at The Capitol Centre on the north side of Appleton.

Roger Genske and Don Clouthier are planning our second annual fishing trip to southwest Wisconsin from April 14-17. Fish, dine, fish, learn, fish and camp for one or all four days. Details about the trip will be online and on our Facebook page.

Our chapter habitat days for this year begin April 16, and as we have done for many years, we will meet with Elward Engle on the Davies Creek. The Davies Creek feeds the Pine River and this is the location of one of the chapter's first habitat projects. Our May-through-September habitat days will be joint efforts with CWTU. All of these habitat days will be the third Saturday of the month, with the possibility of a couple of additional days added to the schedule. Monitor our website for information.

On May 21 we are sponsoring the 38th annual Fishing Day for People with Disabilities at a new location. We have partnered with the Appleton YMCA and we will be using their Camp Shiock Pond for our fishing day. Check our Facebook page for information.

The chapter will be involved in other activities throughout the spring and summer months, so please check our website at [foxvalleytu.org](http://foxvalleytu.org) and our Facebook page, which chapter member Jen Erickson updates almost daily.

Old Man Winter is starting to lose his grip on us so as you plan for the spring and summer that will come, enjoy the beauty of God's streams, creeks, rivers and lakes. And as our late chapter president Tony Tremel would close his columns and comments, "We'll see you on a trout stream."

—Rich Erickson

### Frank Hornberg Chapter

During the month of February the Hornberg Chapter concentrated on fly tying. We had a fly-tying evening social event at Clancey's Stone Lion in Custer. We had two fly-tying workshops for the Boy Scout Troop, sponsored by the Methodist Church in Stevens Point. The scouts earn merit badges for their participation. We were happy to assist.

One of the chapter's main events is the annual fly-fishing school May 21 in Nelsonville, on the banks of the Tomorrow River. Lunch and

equipment are provided. We welcome applications from fly fishers of all levels. Information is available from Ken at [Frankhornberg.tu@gmail.com](mailto:Frankhornberg.tu@gmail.com).

We expect to have several work days during the summer. We will be making repairs to some structures installed years ago.

—John Vollrath



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Dave Ostanek

### GREEN BAY TU TEACHES KIDS AT OSHKOSH FISHING EXPO

Adrian Meseberg and Mike Renish help a couple kids tie their first fly at the Oshkosh Fishing Expo in February. The chapter teamed up with the Central Wisconsin Chapter.

### Green Bay Chapter

The Green Bay Chapter of Trout Unlimited (GBTU) enjoyed a busy quarter. In January Oneida Nation Water Resource Supervisor Jim

Snitgen spoke about efforts to improve trout streams in Brown County. In February SpeyCo Co. owner Tim Pantzloff shared the story of



### KIAP-TU-WISH WORKS WITH GIRL SCOUTS

Girl Scout Juniors in Menomonie look at live insects and make observations of insects collected by two aquatic entomology/water resources graduate students from the University of Minnesota. Kiap-TU-Wish and the Fly Fishing Women of Minnesota organized the event. Volunteers had as much fun as the kids, and plan to do it again.

how his company started, his merchandise and what Spey fishing is all about.

We participated in a couple community outreach events. In January members Adrian Meseberg, Dave Ostanek, Paul Kruse, Allan Jamir, Jerry Schwan and Mike Renish were joined by Jeff Deerberg, Ryan Nagel and Cabelas' own Brian Mease for a fly-tying event at the Green Bay Cabelas' store. In February we teamed with CWTU and the FVTU for a fly-tying demo at the Annual Fish Expo in Oshkosh.

Next, with the guidance of new program chair Dani Long, several of our members continued onto an-

other session of Project Healing Waters. As we continue down this road we are seeing more veteran participation. Regular GBTU members at the meetings include Dani Long, Paul Kruse, Dave Ostanek and Mike Renish.

In February about 350 guests attended our 41st Annual Fundraising Banquet. A big thanks goes to banquet chair Paul Kruse, the banquet committee, our donors, guests, volunteers and emcee Henry Koltz.

For more information on what GBTU has going on, visit our website at [greenbaytu.org](http://greenbaytu.org).

—Adrian Meseberg

### Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter

Projects completed in the summer of 2015 were on the upper reaches of Six Mile Branch and on the Widerow property on the Blue River, about a quarter mile above the Shemack Road bridge.

Projects for 2016 include Pompey Pillar Creek, which was delayed from 2015 due to a permitting delay. Also we'll work on the Blue River below Shemack Road and below our last work there down to the next road. The latter has very high banks and will require moving a lot of dirt. This is the lowest area on the Blue River with access.

A project for 2017 includes a new property on the Blue River above Bower Road, for which we are getting a TU easement and are starting the permitting process. We are also looking at a piece of ground with access on Borah Creek by Lancaster.

We had a very successful "Lie and Tie" at Stonefield Apartments in January, tying flies for the State Council banquet and the Women's Initiative group.

There was a Grant County Sportsmen's Youth Day at Southwest Technical College in Fennimore, where we demonstrated fly tying and taught basic casting. Thanks to all those who participated. Announcing this event on our Facebook page got lots of traffic, with about 450 attending.

Without the commitment of volunteer help, seminar speakers, the loan of hands-on equipment such as furs, archery equipment, snowshoes, the laser shot trailer, BB guns, decoys, calls, fishing rods, hunting dogs, taxidermy mounts, etc. the event would not have been possible.

Here are the organizations that helped make the fourth annual event a reality:

Grant County Outdoor Sport Alliance (organizer); Southwest Wisconsin Technical College Blue Line Club, Auto Body Club, School Ambassadors, and the Marketing Department; Wisconsin DNR including experts in fish management, forestry, hunter education, conservation wardens, Nelson Dewey State Park; Trout Unlimited; Grant County 4-H Shooting Sports; River Valley Sporting Dogs; Cassville High School; Platteville High School; Sheire Taxidermy; Cabela's; Wisconsin Trapper's Association; Starsplitters; Patrick LaBarbera and his red-tailed hawk.

On February 17-18, there was a large manure spill due to a failed coupling from a CAFO (Concentrated Animal Feed Operation) near the trout waters of the Castle Rock Creek, which then ran down into the creek. Recovery may take several years. Doc Smith branch was not affected. How far down the creek was affected is not known at this time, but the normally fished areas are definitely heavily impacted.

Our annual membership meeting, tentatively scheduled in April at UW-Platteville, will feature the summer intern's report and annual officer and board elections. Come to hear the great research that is done each summer on our local streams.

The chapter banquet is Friday, May 6 at the Arthur Haus in Arthur, a few miles north of Platteville.

—Brian Larson

### Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter

This winter has been a busy season of planning and activity for Kiap-TU-Wish. The chapter has finished up winter brushing work and is awaiting the DNR crew to begin on the Kinni's Red Cabin project. Two fly fishing educational clinics are underway and a third Trout In the Classroom program was started in Kiap's area. In addition to the project work and educational activities, Kiap-TU-Wish has been monitoring and providing feedback on the hydro-facility relicensing effort by the City of River Falls.

To date, Kiap-TU-Wish has held more than 10 bushing sessions this past winter. Approximately 45 volunteers have logged more than 700 hours cutting, hauling and burning brush on Cady and Gilbert creeks. The work on Cady involved clearing overgrown willows and brush from a

stretch which had been restored in 1999-2001. The work on Gilbert was done in preparation for continued restoration work this summer. Gilbert Creek is within the Clearwater's Chapter area, but many Kiap members live close to the stream and wanted to pitch in and help. As in past winter brushing efforts, Fairmont Santrol volunteers from Maiden Rock and Hager City spent multiple work days on site to log and clear.

At the Kinnickinnic River Red Cabin project, approximately 25 loads of rock have been delivered in preparation for this summer's work. Retired DNR habitat crew leader John Sours will be back this summer and he and Rod Frederick will start the heavy equipment work in May, weather permitting.

Preliminary brushing work was completed in the winter of 2014 and



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work was planned for completion last summer, but heavy rains and DNR project workloads delayed progress. After road restrictions are lifted this spring, the DNR crew will remove the stumps and begin the reconstruction with grading and placement of rock. Randy Arnold, Kiap's volunteer coordinator, collected data from every work day and has reported that 70 volunteers from a number of organizations racked up an impressive 1,100 hours in 2015.

At the Trimble River/Trudeau project site, chapter member Dan Wilcox worked with Caitlin Smith of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to purchase prairie seed with funding from a North American Wetlands Conservation Grant. On March 7 Randy Arnold, Caitlin Smith and Tom Schnadt spread the mix of prairie grass and forb seeds along the riparian corridor of the Trimble. According to Caitlin, "The first year it sleeps, the second year it creeps, and the third year it leaps."

We are going to conduct a fly-fishing-for-trout clinic in River Falls on Saturday, June 4. The clinic will teach casting, knots, entomology, fishing strategy and safe water wading practices. The clinic will also include supper and guided fishing in the evening. Mike Alwin and Brian Smolinski are organizing the clinic.

In February a group of volunteers from Kiap-TU-Wish and the Fly Fishing Women of Minnesota held the first of two fly-fishing events for a troop of Girl Scout Juniors in Menomonie. At this first event, the all-female group of volunteers played a stream game with the girls to help them understand rivers, where fish live and what they need to survive.

After a snack, during which the girls decorated cookies to look like brook or brown or rainbow trout, they watched a fly tying demonstration and then tied their own woolly buggers. The girls wrapped up their day by looking at live insects collected by two aquatic entomology/water resources graduate students from the University of Minnesota. The volunteers had as much fun as the girls and are already planning the second event: a day of fly fishing on

one of our local trout streams.

In two of our TIC programs—Hudson and Amery fifth-grade classes—the eggs have hatched and the fry are doing well. The Hudson class has already chosen a release date celebration on May 24 to release the trout into the Willow River at Willow River State Park, complete with a picnic and fly-casting demos from chapter members. In another exciting development for the kids, noted entomology professor Dean Hansen is going to bring in live examples of aquatic bugs found in our area streams, and allow the kids to have hands-on experience with them. Chapter members will assist Dean with his program. Finally, Kiap-TU-Wish has helped fund and start another TIC program this year: Steve Schieffer's Amery High School class. We welcome Steve's involvement as we continue to expand our TIC programs throughout our area.

The City of River Falls is still waiting on a ruling by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission regarding their appeal of the denial for a project deadline extension for the hydroelectric facility on the Kinni. While waiting, the city sought our chapter's input on the sediment study results conducted by Inter-Fluve Inc. The chapter submitted comments in early February. The city also is seeking input on their proposed Kinnickinnic River Corridor Study, which will solicit input from community members on the future use of the river through town. This study will gauge community support for dam removal.

Chapter board member elections were held in March. Reelected to the board were Randy Arnold, Gary Horvath, John Kaplan and Greg Olson. Two new board members were elected, John Carlson and Scott Wagner. Thanks to retiring board members Bob Diesch and Bob Trevis for all of their contributions to Kiap-TU-Wish during their tenure.

Thanks to Mike Alwin, Randy Arnold, Greg Olson, Tom Schnadt and Gary Horvath for their contributions to this chapter summary.  
—*Maria Manion*

### Lakeshore Chapter

It's official: The dam on the Mullet River at the Girl Scout's Camp

Evelyn is down! This is huge news on many levels. When was the last



#### SHOWING HIS TYING SKILLS

Twelve-year-old Kevin Strietzel of Pembine, Wisconsin, ties a zebra midge at Marinette County TU's Wild Game Dinner in Peshtigo.

time you heard of a dam of any kind being removed in Wisconsin, let alone on a trout stream? This is without question due to the hard work of Larry Doebert and John Nelson, as without their efforts this would have been a much longer process. Also huge thanks to the DNR and, of course, Camp Evelyn and to all who were involved in this process. It's a major win for our local trout streams.

Lakeshore TU will allow the river to find its natural course and, with seeding and other minimal work, hopefully our chapter will be able to start doing improvements in early 2017. Keep tuned because the Mullet River could very soon be another viable fishing option to the Onion River.

The Onion River has made it

### Marinette County Chapter

In February and March our chapter held our free, four-night trout-fishing class for eight people. Topics included trout biology and habitat, trout fishing equipment, fly tying, and fly casting. Participants were able to practice their casts at an indoor venue. We received several positive comments on the program.

In March our chapter had an informational booth at a wild game dinner at Faith Baptist Church in Peshtigo. We provided information on the projects that we have sup-

ported in northeast Wisconsin and highlighted our various programs throughout the year. A fly-tying demonstration was held and attendees were given the opportunity to tie their own flies. About 280 people attended this dinner. Dale Lange also gave a one-hour presentation on fly rods and fly lines. He spoke about different weight rods to use for various fish species.

—*Gordy Martin*

—*Doug Erdmann*

### Northwoods Chapter

The February meeting was held in Eagle River at Wild Eagle Lodge, with about 15 members and guests eager to hear Larry Zibell present a program entitled "Wisconsin's Wild Rivers, 50 years and Beyond."

Larry introduced us to the state-designated wild rivers, which are near and dear to many of us in the Northwoods. His presentation featured the geological, economic and political aspects of the three original "Wild Rivers, the Pine, Pike and Popple. In addition, Larry shared outstanding features and facts that make these rivers unique. He also discussed river access and safety, two challenges facing these rivers. Larry is an avid canoeist and has served as a member of the Wild Rivers Citizen Advisory committee for nearly 20 years. Door prizes included a fly box with flies tied by member Terry Cummings and a free TU

annual membership to a nonmember attending the presentation.

Our March meeting featured a documentary written and narrated by David James Duncan, entitled "Trout Grass." This unique film documents the transformation of bamboo from a hardy species of grass into a meticulously crafted split-cane fly rod.

Our April 12 meeting will highlight fishing kayaks and rigging your boat for the new open-water fishing season.

There will be summer stream work on Alvin Creek in the Nicolet-Chequamegon National Forest west of Eagle River.

We will host a kids fishing event at trout ponds in Sayner.

Our annual banquet is scheduled for September.

—*Jay Joppa*

### Oconto River Chapter

The chapter has added another school district to its Trout In the Classroom program. With financial help from the Green Bay Chapter, Pulaski High School was added to the TIC program. The "eyed" eggs hatched in late November and students are now seeing the progression of the fry. Students at Gillett, Lena, Marion, Oconto, Oconto Falls, Pulaski and Suring School Districts are feeding the fish, cleaning tanks and monitoring water conditions as these fry grow through the school year.

The banquet committee is preparing for the annual fundraising banquet April 28 at Romy's Holiday Inn at Kelly Lake. Banquet Chair Dan Sumnicht says prizes are already being accumulated. Letters will soon be sent to past banquet participants. Ticket information is

available from Dan at 715-745-6969.

The chapter is seeking young people from the Oconto River area to attend the environmental camps offered by UW-Stevens Point. Various camps for youth ages 7-15, are offered. An application is available from Moni Brunner at 920-855-6669. Campers will be announced at the chapter banquet on April 21. Youth can also apply for the WITU Fishing Camp to be held July 14-17. A Summer Outreach Event for youth and new members is in the planning stage for later in the summer.

Plans are being made to participate in DNR and USFS work days planned in our area. Members will work with the Green Bay and Wolf River chapters placing brush bundles, rocks and logs to improve habitat. Dates and work locations will be



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published in the chapter newsletter.

Chapter members receiving awards for 2015 were Dan Sumnicht for Member of the Year and Monie Brunner as Lady Trout Member of the Year. Our chapter meetings are

held monthly, except May and November, on the first Wednesday. Meetings are held at the Lone Oak Gun club just North of Gillett starting at 7 p.m.

—Tom Klatt

### Shaw-Paca Chapter

The ShawPaca Chapter is already out and enjoying this unseasonably warm spring weather. Members have been out trout fishing, shed hunting, hiking and biking. Many streams in Shawano and Waupaca Counties were free of ice in February and March. I remember a number of years ago trying to find open water in mid-April and coming up empty handed, so this is definitely a much-welcomed treat.

The winter months flew by this year and the ShawPaca Chapter enjoyed some great presentations from local fishing celebrities. We had presenters come and talk to us on a variety of topics, from Golden

Dorado in Bolivia to smallmouth bass on the lower-Wisconsin River.

Our primary focus now is the annual spring banquet Thursday, April 7. Once again, this will be held in Marion at Northwinds Banquet Hall. Tickets will be available at the door or by emailing us at ShawPaca-TU@gmail.com

Our last meeting for the spring season will be at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 21 at Mathew's Supper Club in Clintonville. If you have anything you'd be willing to donate to our banquet or just want to come join us, please feel free!

—Nate Sipple

### Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter

The Southeast Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited (SEWTU) holds chapter meetings the fourth Tuesday of each month at Thunder Bay Grille in Pewaukee. Meetings begin at 7 p.m. but many members arrive for an optional dinner and social period that begins around 6 p.m. The meetings are open to the public and include chapter updates and news, as well as guest speakers. Please feel free to stop by and join us!

Our recent guest speakers have been entertaining and informative. Our January guest was Erik Helm from the Orvis shop in Bayshore Mall. Erik, who writes a blog titled *The Classical Angler*, shared a very poetic and insightful essay he wrote about how special it is fishing "home water." After the reading, Erik discussed fishing for trout in brushy places that are often neglected.

Our February meeting was "Night of the Streamer," and speakers were SEWTU members Jason Freund and Taylor Todd. Jason explained the biology, identification and habits of common baitfish. Taylor, a licensed Montana fishing guide, discussed the strategies, tactics and equipment for fishing streamers. In addition, several members demonstrated tying streamers prior to the meeting. In March, Pat Ehlers of The Fly Fishers, discussed largemouth bass fishing.

SEWTU continues to be active in outreach programs, particularly fly-tying opportunities. The Oak Creek Fly Tying group, led by Greg Schick, continues to meet on the first and third Tuesday of each month. This year the group is tying patterns that follow the seasonal hatches in Wisconsin.

SEWTU members also organized and participated in six fly-tying sessions at Cabela's in Richfield. Thanks to organizer Al Dalphonso and the following SEWTU volunteers who helped make these sessions successful: Rick Frye, Ron Wojack, Jim Weirzba and Barry Wichmann.

In addition, George Batcha, continues to organize and lead weekly fly tying opportunities for Project Healing Waters.

Pat Ehlers of the Fly Fishers fly shop deserves recognition and

thanks for bringing the Fly Fishing Film Tour to Milwaukee again. This event, held at Sprecher Brewery, has provided SEWTU with a wonderful evening of entertainment and fundraising for several years. We want to thank Pat for generously supporting SEWTU with this event. SEWTU members Kyle Klamer and Josh Radlein, along with Pat, did a wonderful job organizing, implementing, and coordinating all of the activities associated with the event. Jim Weirzba coordinated the raffle events, and Stan Strelka and Jason Freund also helped everything run smoothly.

Also, between March 2-6 Jim Folda, Jay Zawerschnik and Stan Strelka did a great job coordinating, setting up and running the SEWTU booth at the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Sport Show. Chuck Beeler, who normally coordinates this event for SEWTU, was out of town this year. But he took care of the preliminary planning.

The MJS Sport Show is a great opportunity to share the mission and goals of SEWTU to a larger audience.

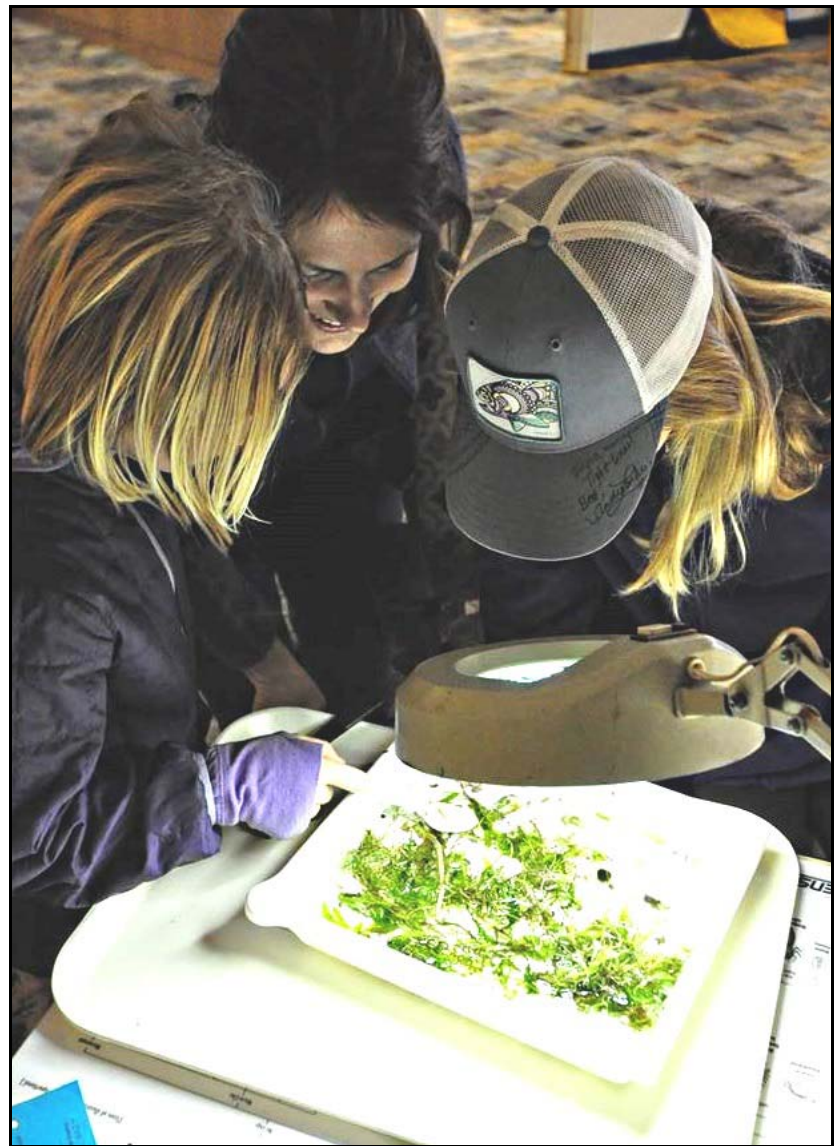
The following SEWTU members volunteered to help: Logan Ambrookian, Roger Bell, Ben Cheesman, Al Dalphonso, Bob Estlund, Todd Eddington, Tim Fuller, John Koivisto, Rick Larkin, Herb Oechler, Tony Olveda, Chuck Urban, Dale Warwick, Barry Wichman and Dave Wunrow. Thanks, everyone!

Now that spring is here, SEWTU activities such as workdays and outreach programs will increase. On Saturday, April 23 we will be participating in the River Clean-up at the Menominee River near Miller Park.

We will also be assisting the Kid's Fishing Clinic in West Bend on April 3. Rick Frye organizes both of these activities for SEWTU.

Also, on April 16-17, Jay Zawerschnik will be organizing and running an SEWTU booth at Cabela's in Richfield during their annual Fishing Classic. If anyone is interested in helping at these events, let us know!

—Boyd Roessler



### SWTU'S ICEBREAKER FEATURED FUN FOR ALL

Kids have fun poking around with invertebrates gathered and displayed by the DNR's Mike Miller.

### Southern Wisconsin Chapter

SWTU started 2016 as it does every year, with the Icebreaker event! It's our largest fundraiser and it was definitely one to remember! For one thing, it was our first year at our new location, the American Family Insurance headquarters. For another, Jeff Currier, our speaker, won the praise of all with his friendly nature, fine fishing tips and engaging anecdotes. We had plenty of room for fly-tying demonstrations, aquatic invertebrates, conservation partners, stream explorers and more.

A thousand thanks to Amy Klusmeier! She did an amazing job managing the Icebreaker and we're all looking so forward to what she and her volunteer team do with next year's event. We'll have news to share soon on the speaker for next year's Icebreaker.

Jim Hess is busy assembling the "SWTU Stream Team" to make a difference along some key local trout waters, including some with

very new permanent easements. Find details in the Newscasts or on the calendar at swtu.org. We'd be proud to have anyone attend an event and lend a hand. It's a lot of fun and you may well find a few new stretches to drift a fly through.

Our annual Free Casting Clinic is set for Saturday, April 16 along Black Earth Creek in Cross Plains. The event is being run by Matt Sment this year and anyone is welcome to come learn about casting, reading the water, fishing gear and more.

We are excited about 2016 and all that lays ahead: The fish; the friendship; the ways large and small that we'll make a difference for each other and for our coldwater resource. Learn more by checking out our newsletter and online chapter calendar at swtu.org. You can also find and like us on Facebook.

—Drew Kesel

### Wild Rivers Chapter

Wild Rivers chapter has been working on completion of a comprehensive five-year strategic plan for our chapter. Allison Werner of the River Alliance of Wisconsin has been leading us through the process and board member Bob Traczyk has chaired the committee, supported by committee members Chuck Campbell, Jim Emerson, Kelly McKnight, Bob Rice, Dick Berge and Jason Stewart. We have completed a front-page document of the plan, which states our mission, vi-

sions, values and goals in a clear and concise way. The meatier substance of the plan will be completed by the end of this month and will guide our decision-making regarding our financial resources and volunteer efforts.

Our annual expo will be held April 2 from 1 p.m. until around 7 p.m. This is a primary chapter fundraiser, with bucket raffles and a live auction. With the expo we receive great participation from area partners and stakeholders who are en-

## Chapter News



### WILD RIVERS TU RERIGGING THEIR KIDS FISHING EQUIPMENT

The Wild Rivers Chapter put new fishing line on all the rods used for its Kids Fishing Day. Dick Berge coordinated this with Susan Nelson from the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center. They were joined by Chuck Campbell, Bop Traczyk, Jim Emerson and Pete Freiburger.

gaged in work that supports conservation, fisheries management, habitat work and other issues that complement our mission. More than 20 partner organizations have agreed to host tables at the expo this year. Consider making the trip north for a fun-filled day. We will also have guest speaker presentations from Laura MacFarland, a Trout Unlimited staff member working on Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest habitat issues, and Luke Kavajecz, fishing guide on Chequamegon Bay. We are grateful to expo chair Chuck Campbell and his committee for all their hard work.

We hosted our first Fly Fishing Film Tour this year at Northland College in Ashland and at the Park Theater in Hayward. We were happy with the attendance, the revenue brought in, and the opportunity to make the work of TU and Wild Rivers chapter better known throughout the area. Almost every aspect of the film festival was coordinated and organized by board member Jason Stewart. There's a lot of work that goes into making the festival successful for groups like TU, and

we owe Jason a big thanks for his efforts.

Many of us have been getting together to tie flies throughout the winter. We put together a good collection for the State Council annual banquet and we're busy getting more together for the Expo. Dick Berge has always been a great supporter of tying events in our chapter. In addition to Dick's long-term support, Jim Emerson, Bob Traczyk, Chuck Campbell and Kelly McKnight have done a lot of organizing and tying at the events.

At the end of February the chapter put new fishing line on all the rods used for Kids Fishing Day at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center. Last summer the reels were jamming and tangling so often we could hardly keep rods in kids' hands. Dick Berge coordinated our relining all the reels with Susan Nelson at the NGLVC. They were joined by Chuck Campbell, Bop Traczyk, Jim Emerson and Pete Freiburger. We will all be grateful for their work this coming summer on Kids Fishing Day.

—Bob Rice



### WISCONSIN CLEAR WATERS TU WORKS ON HAY CREEK

In March the Wisconsin Clear Waters Chapter joined forces with the DNR to clear alders from the streambed of Hay Creek in Chippewa County. Approximately 15 members were enlisted to haul brush away from the creek, and the chapter provided a nice lunch.

### Wisconsin Clear Waters

A main effort of the winter months focused on maintenance efforts. We recruited members and assisted in clearing the woods along Gilbert Creek to prepare for a res-

toration effort. The group included Sandmore-Senz excavation and chain saw operators.

Members started clearing brush along Cade Creek, with hopes of

making it look like it did 15 years ago.

In March the chapter joined forces with the DNR to clear alders from the streambed of Hay Creek in Chippewa County. We provided two chain saw operators, working with two staff applying herbicide to the

larger stumps. Approximately 15 members were enlisted to haul brush away from the creek, and the chapter provided a nice lunch. We hope the removal of the alders will entice more fishers to again enjoy Hay Creek.

—Al Noll

### Wisconsin River Valley Chapter

This winter we had our elections and have some new and old faces on the board. Our current chapter board is made up of: Doug Brown, president; John Meachen, vice president; Linda Lehman, secretary and Michelle McCarthy, treasurer. Board members include Bob Pils, Al Hauber and Pat Esselman. A huge thanks to Pat for his term as past president and to Betsey Hager for her years as treasurer.

This winter John Meachen worked hard to set up three presentations. February was a presentation on the Prairie River. The DNR's Ben Rolling gave an excellent talk on the history of the river, as well as the current project going on. It was well attended with more than 30 people packing the small room at the Great Dane in Wausau.

Our March presentation was by Chris Jape of River's End LLC, who gave an informative presentation on fly fishing for smallmouth bass. Jape has been fishing and exploring the waters of Wisconsin for a majority

of his life. He grew up fishing on the legendary Menominee River for smallmouth and has learned a lot of its secrets. He has traveled across the country, from the legendary trout streams in the mountain west to the deep south in search of giant bass. If it swims in the water he enjoys finding out how to make it eat a fly. He now lives in northeast Wisconsin with his wife and daughter, who currently holds the family's largest smallmouth record (for now).

April 19 is a presentation on caddisflies. They are the most common and constantly available insect for consumption by trout in our area. Learn about the habits and haunts of this fascinating creature. See and learn about flies and ways to fish them effectively.

All presentations are held at the Great Dane in Wausau. We'll see you there. You can always reach us at wrvtu.org or on our Facebook page.

—Doug Brown

### Wolf River Chapter

Our membership meeting in March included officer and board member elections. Andy Killoren is the new president. Travis Stuck is vice president. Laurie Netzow is secretary and Linda Anderson is treasurer. Board members include Bill Kallner, Bill Livingston, Brian Heikenen, John Rose and Zack Buchanan. Welcome, John & Zack.

At our fall meeting we retained the services of local trapper Duane Fronek. This spring Duane will be trapping the remaining beaver on Nine Mile Creek. We will then work on removing the dams.

Our explorations of coldwater feeder streams to the Wolf River continues. Contact Tim Waters at MuddyWaters@new.rr.com for more information.

Saturday, August 20 is our stream work day at a location to be determined. We also have two small projects on Elton Creek. A date has not been set for a small clean-up at the fish hatchery. We will also be

working with Lumberjack Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator for Langlade County John Preuss to install a wader-cleaning station and signage to combat the faucet snail, an invasive species found on Elton Creek last fall. Contact Andy Killoren at Akilloren@centurytel.net for more information.

The culverts at Fitzgerald Dam Road on the Hunting River are in bad shape. We will be working with the DNR and Town of Elcho to replace the current culverts with modern ones that do not impede the movement and spawning of fish. A grant has been submitted by the DNR. See article on page 13.

The weekend of May 20-22 will be our second annual "Meet & Greet." Contact Travis Stuck at EasternRidges@live.com for more information.

Please visit our website for information on events and projects.

—Tim Waters

### Oak Brook Chapter (Illinois)

Oak Brook Trout Unlimited's (OBTU) conservation activities will include both volunteer and financial support for two projects in Wisconsin in 2016. Besides continued financial support for TUDARE, financial and volunteer work support are committed for Farmers Valley Creek stream restoration in Sparta and financial support of the Weister Creek restoration in Vernon County.

"We plan to return to Farmers Valley Creek in Sparta where we began work in 2014 and will begin support of Weister Creek's phase three in the Driftless Area," said Oak Brook's Conservation Committee Chair Dave Moore. "Our chapter will also pursue other conservation project work days in conjunction

with TU chapters in Wisconsin as these stream restoration opportunities arise through the year."

Farmers Valley Creek in Sparta will continue to receive both OBTU volunteer and financial support in 2016. Stream restoration work that began in 2014 will continue next year with the installation of LUNKER structures and bank restoration work to reduce both soil erosion and phosphorus discharge within the city.

Our financial contribution will be leveraged to get a large government grant. Our work day is currently scheduled in May on a date to be determined.

Weister Creek begins a new and expanded role for OBTU in Vernon County. The project is a long-term



## Chapter News



### OAK BROOK TU HELPING WITH WEISTER CREEK PROJECT

Weister Creek begins a new and expanded role for OBTU in Vernon County. The project is a long-term effort that is expected to quadruple fish populations in this important tributary to the Kickapoo River in the heart of Wisconsin's Driftless Area.

## Kiap's TIC eggs reach their destination

By Tom Schnadt, Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter President

It was 5:30 a.m. on Monday, January 4, and I was setting out to pick up 500 eyed brown trout eggs from the 7 Pines Fish Hatchery in Frederick. Delivering trout eggs to excited fifth graders is a great experience, and the weather added further excitement with every mile traveled. I had mapped out a "short cut" to Frederick that involved taking as many county highways and backroads as possible.

The plowing essentially stopped once I crossed the bridge into Wisconsin at Stillwater. After seeing a lot of cars in the ditches I considered turning back. After Amery, I had no idea where I was, as all the road signs were plastered with snow. Google maps is not to be relied upon in northern Wisconsin, and cell phone coverage is spotty. However, the owner of 7 Pines, Richard Kettula, was able to talk me in when I did get reception the old fashioned way, i.e., "there should be a lake coming up on your right, after that, turn left at the lone pine, if you get to the green mailbox you went too far..."

Upon finding the hatchery, Richard was presented with a plaque from Kiap-TU-wish Chapter for his help in establishing our Trout In the Classroom programs by supplying the eggs and helping with the health certification for our fish. He was very surprised and honored by our award and said he is going to display it in his living room.

I was able to follow my tire tracks back to Amery, my first stop being Jeremiah Fisk's fifth-grade class at the Amery Intermediate School. The fish tank and responsibility for

care resides in Fisk's class, but he wanted the other fifth-grade class to be involved as well. I gave a presentation to 49 students on TU's conservation mission, the history of trout in the area, a trout's basic needs, and the life cycle of trout. The kids all got to see the eggs under a magnifying glass (they all think it is so "cool" to see the trouts' eyes already), and then helped to get 250 of the eggs into the tank's egg basket.

Then it was onto John Mueller's fifth-grade class at River Crest Elementary in Hudson. I gave the same presentation, this time to all three fifth-grade classes, totaling about 76.

It has been great this year to reach this many students! Both schools are keeping in touch with each other regarding their progress. River Crest is on County F and is about five miles equidistant from the Kinni and Willow. I related to them, that at their age, I fished the Willow River almost daily when school was out and at that time, it was held in quite high regard as a trout stream.

I explained why we would be stocking the Willow and not the Kinni with the trout we raised, why the Kinni no longer needs to be stocked, and the possible reasons for the decline of the Willow and rise of the Kinni. It was a very good discussion and kids at both schools asked very insightful and thoughtful questions. I was very impressed. With all the threats to our environment and our world in general, I can find myself getting down, but after spending a few hours with these kids, I left feeling very hopeful for the future.

effort that is expected to quadruple fish population in this important tributary to the Kickapoo River in the heart of Wisconsin's Driftless Area. OBTU's contribution is financial. Work will be done by private contractors or the DNR fisheries crew, depending on grant requirements. The three-mile project is all on public land within the Kickapoo Valley Reserve.

"The stream dynamics will be changed from wide, shallow, slow and shaded with log jams to narrow, deeper, and swifter with riffles and pools," said Paul Hayes, Kickapoo Valley Reserve Board and Black-

hawk TU member. "By opening the canopy to more sunlight, primary productivity (photosynthesis) will increase the base of the food chain.

"Stream water temperature is being monitored and is expected to be colder in the summer and warmer in the winter due to the faster current. The banks will be planted to prairie and managed with fire to control box elder, willow and beavers. Mowed trails on both sides of the riparian corridor will serve as fire breaks."

For more information about Oak Brook Trout Unlimited visit [obtu.org](http://obtu.org).

—Jim Schmiedeskamp



REECE'S FAVORITE THING? FISHING WITH GRANDPA

## Grandpa and Reece

By Bill Walters

For the past 12 years our family has spent a week together in the northwoods of Wisconsin. For those of us that stream fish, the days begin early with a trek to Upper Michigan to fish the trout streams. Meanwhile, those remaining at camp spend their days at the lake enjoying great times swimming, pontoon rides, walks through the woods, scouting for raspberries and soaking up the sun after a long winter. We all gather in the evenings, sitting around the campfire toasting a marshmallow or two.

This year, for the first time, I took my nine-year-old grandson, Reece, stream fishing. His eyes lit up knowing he was going to go along and didn't even put up a fuss when he was told he'd have to hit the sack early the night before since 6 a.m. comes mighty early after a day in the sun and water. When he awoke he asked if he should put his waders on right away, but I assured him he could get them on once we hit the stream. Reece told his mom "whatever Grandpa does, that's what I am going to do."

We had a great time on the water. Reece caught a few fish, most without any help from me. I don't know who was more proud, Reece or me. At the end of the week, grandma asked him what was the best part of "Walters Week," and he thought for just a moment. Then, with the biggest smile, said "Fishing with Grandpa."

Bill Walters is a member of the Fox Valley Chapter of TU.

### Support Wisconsin TU! Get your Wisconsin TU license plates!



Support TU and get your Wisconsin TU license plate now. Go to [www.dot.state.wi.us/drivers/vehicles/personal/special/trout.htm](http://www.dot.state.wi.us/drivers/vehicles/personal/special/trout.htm)

**BANQUET**

*Continued from page 1*

tasks leading up to and during the banquet. Their efforts are critical to making an event like this run smoothly. From staffing entry tables, selling tickets for bucket or card raffles or demonstrating how to tie flies, we had an enthusiastic group willing to donate their time.

This group consisted of Stan Strelka, Paul Kruse, Joe Bach, Gary Stoychoff, Jen Kuhr, Michael San Dretto, Rich Erickson, Matt Salchert, Chris Northway, Amy Heitman, Nikki Benishek, and Brian Oberstadt, among others. Fly tying demonstrators included Bob Haase, Jared Sagal, and Mark Rhinerson. The Council would also like to thank the numerous volunteers who tied flies and helped with the Women's Clinic during the day.

Bob Haase again made sure that each chapter had a fly box to fill, and the chapters really came through. Each chapter's fly box went up for silent auction, raising a significant amount of funds for the Council.

We also have a very generous group of donors who provided auction prizes, including guided trips from Damian Wilmot, Patrick Hager, Charlie Piette, Brian Ramsey, Gordy Martin, Dan Boggs and Scot Stewart, as well as a beautiful carving by Patrick Esselman. These were all highly sought prizes that evening. These donations are greatly appreciated and raise a good deal of funding to support conservation efforts.

The Council would also like to thank Larry Mann from Hayward Fly Fishing Company and the Madison - Gallatin (MGTU) chapter in Montana. We swapped fishing trips with our fellow TU chapter and raffled off a trip for two days of guided fishing and two nights lodging near Bozeman, Montana. In return we made arrangements with Larry to let the

MGTU Chapter raffle off a trip for two days of musky fishing in Wisconsin at their fundraiser. Now that's "One TU."

The Council was pleased to have some of our partnering organizations represented at the Banquet. Representatives from the DNR, River Alliance of Wisconsin, Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters, Wisconsin Wetlands Association, Wisconsin Women's Fly Fishing Clinics, Shabazz Project Green Teen, TUDARE, and Badger Tenkara were on hand to inform, answer questions and mingle with the crowd.

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

A key to any banquet's success is having an accomplished master of ceremonies, and we have been blessed to have one of the best. David Seligman, who has been our MC for a number of years, announced that due to travel plans this would be his last year as MC. We are extremely grateful for David's efforts and wish him well in the future.

*Please join us on Saturday, Feb. 4, 2017. We will return to the Oshkosh Best Western Waterfront Hotel and Convention Center for the fourth year. The 2017 event planning is already under way to assure another great evening. If you'd like to get involved with the banquet planning committee, contact Mike Kuhr at [mikek.trout@yahoo.com](mailto:mikek.trout@yahoo.com).*

*If you are an angler...*

*If you are an angler,  
You see the way a trout  
Blends with river gravel,  
See the tiny caddis in its case  
That others mistake for a stick.  
If you are an angler,  
You appreciate the time it takes  
For a mayfly to be transformed  
From a nymph beneath a stone  
To an adult gracefully rising  
On translucent wings.*

*If you are an angler,  
You know how it feels  
To have life surging  
On a brittle tippet,  
What it is like  
To be one  
With a wild river...*

*If you are an angler,  
You probably wouldn't  
Wish to exchange your lot  
For the riches of royalty.*

2005

From the book "A Poet's Gift To Anglers," by Daniel O. Holland. For copies contact Dan at [dholland@coredcs.com](mailto:dholland@coredcs.com)

*Some may wonder about the combination of trout fishing and poetry, but everything about fly fishing is poetry. Next time you go streamside, see the poetry abiding everywhere. It will enrich your angling experience. — Dan Holland*

**Watershed Access Fund**

**Spring 2016 update**

By Doug Brown

The 2016 Watershed Access Fund campaign is in full swing, and the response has been incredible once again. Through your generous contributions, we are already approaching \$7,500 this year! Thank you so much for your support.

The Watershed Access Fund is even more important these days to secure permanent fishing access. All contributions will be used solely for Wisconsin acquisitions.

The current grant request is \$7,500. Because two chapters may each request for a single acquisition and each chapter would have to match at 50 percent, the new limits would provide as much as \$15,000 for a single purchase or easement. The matching 50 percent from chapters can be in the form of volunteer hours.

Please consider making a generous contribution to the 2016 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.

I hope you all have a great 2016 fishing season!

**2015 Contributors**

- |                       |                    |                           |               |
|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| Henry Barkhausen      | Winnetka IL        | Bruce Davidson            | Wauwatosa WI  |
| Edwin Barklay Shultz  | Prairie du Sac WI  | Dave Drewiski             | Hudson WI     |
| Charles Barnhill      | Madison WI         | Richard Duplessie         | Eau Claire WI |
| Phil Blake            | Fitchburg WI       | Pat Esselman              | Weston WI     |
| Stephen Born          | Madison WI         | John Ewen                 | Neenah WI     |
| Edward Brockner       | Beaver Dam WI      | Cindy and Alan Finesilver | DePere WI     |
| Will Burlington       | Madison WI         | William Flader, M.D.      | Madison WI    |
| Leigh Cherveney       | Sheboygan Falls WI | Richard Galling           | Hartland WI   |
| Lawrence Clowry, M.D. | Wauwatosa WI       | Ralph Gaudio              | Desoto WI     |
| Terry Cummings        | Rhineland WI       | Scott Geboy               | Fox Point WI  |

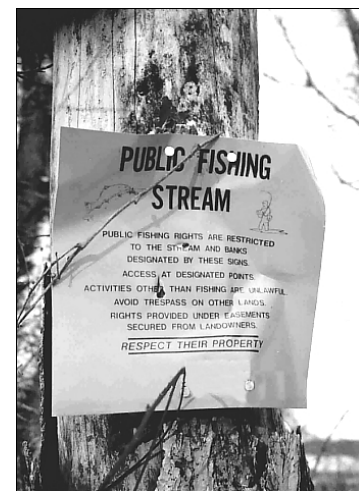
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|--------------------------|-------------------|---|------------------|
| Colleen Grant            | Eden Prairie MN   | Thomas Rogers                                 | Princeton WI     |
| John Gribb               | Mt. Horeb WI      | Michael San Dretto                            | Neenah WI        |
| Chris Gultch             | East Troy WI      | David Schiebel                                | Abrams WI        |
| Stephen Hawk             | Madison WI        | Jeff Schmoeger                                | Cottage Grove WI |
| Ashton Hawk              | Madison WI        | Richard Schumann                              | Hartford WI      |
| John Hawk                | New Holstein WI   | John Shillinglaw                              | Madison WI       |
| Bill Heart               | Ashland WI        | Greg Smith                                    | River Falls WI   |
| Jan & Mark Heifner       | Appleton WI       | Stephen Somerville                            | Green Bay WI     |
| Nancy and Dan Hill       | Spencer WI        | Michael Spittler                              | Minneapolis MN   |
| Charles Hodulik          | Madison WI        | Charles Stuedel                               | Mineral Point WI |
| Jonathon Jacobs          | Hudson WI         | Wayne Stockman                                | Spring Valley WI |
| Thomas Janssen           | Appleton WI       | Wayne Strelow                                 | Appleton WI      |
| David Kinnamon           | Bayside WI        | Taylor Struwe                                 | Altoona WI       |
| Barb and Joe Kruse       | LaCrosse WI       | Ronald Suslick                                | Peshigo WI       |
| Jim Larson               | LaCrosse WI       | Gary Tielens                                  | Athelstane WI    |
| Chris Long               | Mazomanie WI      | Bill Vanden Elzen                             | Appleton WI      |
| Randy Lueth              | Marshfield WI     | Carol Vendt                                   | Oconto WI        |
| Larissa and Thomas Lyon  | Janesville WI     | Marten & Karen Voss                           | Eau Claire WI    |
| Janice and Randy McGrath | Janesville WI     | Doug Wadsworth                                | Madison WI       |
| John McMullen            | Tomah WI          | Don Wagner                                    | Gillett WI       |
| David Menke              | Bristol WI        | Raymond Weiss                                 | Grafton WI       |
| Peter Meronek            | Stevens Point WI  | Robert Welker                                 | Glendale WI      |
| Fred Mikolajewski        | West Allis WI     | Dan Wisniewski                                | Middleton WI     |
| Harold Moilanen          | Glendale WI       | Robert Wyman                                  | Beaver Dam WI    |
| Frederick Motschman      | Appleton WI       | John Zei                                      | Wausau WI        |
| J. Peter Mullen          | Prairie du Sac WI |   |                  |
| Keith Nelson             | Wauwatosa WI      | Badger Fly Fishers                            | Stoughton WI     |
| Herb Oechler             | Wauwatosa WI      | Kiap TU Wish TU                               |                  |
| Winston Ostrow           | De Pere WI        | WI ClearWaters TU                             |                  |
| Eric Ratzlaff            | Grafton WI        | Marinette Co. TU                              |                  |
| Bob Retko                | Cedarburg WI      | May Close, New London, in Memory of Jay Close |                  |
| Steve Robertson          | Verona WI         |   |                  |

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

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

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_



# Council bestows awards at banquet

The Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited honored many individuals, one chapter and one corporate supporter at the annual banquet in Oshkosh on February 6. The council has been presenting awards since 1984. Thanks go out to Bill Heart for overseeing the banquet awards committee and for assembling and editing the following award narratives. Other award committee members include Kim McCarthy, Henry Koltz, Linn Beck, Mike Kuhr and Todd Franklin.

*Thank you to the Oberstadts for taking photos of award winners.*

## Robert Hunt Resource Professional Award: Mike Staggs

Mike was the longtime Fisheries Bureau Chief for the DNR and spent his entire career as an advocate for healthy fisheries in Wisconsin. His commitment to that work was tireless, never failing to be there during the evenings or on weekends if necessary.

Just one example of his efforts through the decades includes his handling of the outbreak of viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) in Wisconsin. At the time, experts had no idea how bad this virus might be for fish populations, only that it could be devastating. Mike led the charge for the response from the DNR. He quickly brought a team together, identified the science needed, the policy responses required. He was the key department spokesperson at the time, calmly reassuring people, while underscoring the potential gravity of the situation if handled improperly. It was a masterful effort and was the embodiment of public service for a noble cause, in this case our fisheries.

Mike also knew how to get the most out of any of his relentless trips around the state to work with regional staff, attend meetings of groups like TU chapters and other constituencies. A summer trip to Bayfield for instance, would be made in Mike's jeep, which had no less than two dozen fishing rods of all types and ample gear so that he might "adequately sample the myriad freshwater resource opportunities" at numerous waterways on the way back. It's very important to understand the resource you know.



MIKE STAGGS (LEFT) RECEIVES THE RESOURCE AWARD OF MERIT

## Gold Trout Award: Heidi Oberstadt

Heidi Oberstadt's influence on Trout Unlimited has been truly transformative — not just at the local level, but at the state level, and nationally.

At the local level, she has diversified chapter membership as she has infused the Frank Hornberg Chapter with renewed enthusiasm. At the state level she serves as our Women's Initiative Chair. She has been instrumental in developing and holding Stream Girls events in collaboration with the Girl Scouts of America. Heidi also is a very important part of our WITU Youth



HEIDI OBERSTADT RECEIVES GOLD TROUT AWARD FROM LINN BECK

Fishing Camp, serving as a committee member, volunteering at the event and of course taking great photos.

She has created and implemented TUs Women's Initiative, holding seminars throughout the country, introducing women to flyfishing and conservation.

Heidi, a professional photographer, can often be found at Council events with a camera in hand, capturing those moments when our volunteers do what they do best. Her photos can often be found accompanying a *Wisconsin Trout* article or Facebook post.



JOE BACH RECEIVES THE GOLD NET AWARD FROM LINN BECK

## Gold Net Award: Joe Bach

Joe has been a FVTU member since 2006. He has served as a past chapter president and has been a driving force involved in numerous habitat and resource conservation projects. These include projects coordinated with other TU chapters. This includes major 2015 brushing and cleanup on the Davies Creek, a tributary to the Pine River in Waushara County; coordinating chapter work days on Peterson Creek in Waupaca County in 2011-2014, South Branch of the Little Wolf River in Waupaca County in 2010-2014, Waupaca River's Riverview Park improvement project in 2012, and Chafee Creek in Marquette County in 2014.

In addition, Joe has participated in the annual DNR Scatter Plant of the Waupaca River and water monitoring program of Peterson Creek and the south branch of the Little Wolf River. Joe recently attended the WITU regional planning session with the goal of supporting long-term plan development and funding through application for grants.

Joe has also provided leadership in helping to create a better understanding of the leadership roles within FVTU in order to improve the likelihood of recruiting new leadership.

Joe's commitment to community goes beyond TU. His parish in Appleton is the recipient of countless hours of volunteer service ranging from their fish pond to bible study to chauffeuring parishioners and mentoring young people.

## Silver Trout Award for Chapter Merit: Fox Valley TU

Following a period with leadership gaps, the Fox Valley Chapter's board of directors recruited new leadership and filled the top board positions, reigniting interest across a broad front of traditional chapter activities.

The revamped board of directors fine-tuned its Cabin Fever Day fundraiser and increased revenues from the event. This funding supported the DNR Wild Rose Habitat Team on stream improvements in the Central Region. Meanwhile, the chapter provided volunteer labor to support habitat work co-



TOM LAGER ACCEPTS FVTU'S SILVER TROUT AWARD

ordinated by the Central Wisconsin Chapter and the DNR.

Other efforts within the Fox Valley Chapter are focused on new member recruitment and retention, and recruitment of women. The chapter has supported the Wisconsin TU Youth Fishing Camp and the Stream Girls events. For more than 35 years, community outreach to disabled citizens continues to be an annual tradition.

**Joan & Lee Wulff Award for Outstanding Conservation Leadership: Scot Stewart**

Scot received his bachelor of science degree in fisheries biology from the University of Minnesota and his masters degree in fisheries management from Ohio State University. He joined the Wisconsin DNR in 1982, beginning his career as fish manager for St. Croix and Pierce counties. There he lead restoration efforts on some of the premier trout streams in the state, including the Kinnickinnic, Rush and Trimbelle rivers.

In 1987, Scot moved to Madison as Area Fish Manager for counties in that area. Significant contributions were his leadership of the Black Earth Creek Priority Watershed Project and the Madison Lakes Bio Manipulation project with major increases in the walleye and northern pike populations in the Madison area lakes.

From 1996-2008 Scot served as Regional Fisheries Expert and South Central Regional Supervisor. Groundbreaking efforts included work to create and build a sustainable musky population in area lakes and also the Token Creek project, which restored this watershed to a trout stream after a dam failure and reclamation effort. Techniques used have been recognized nationally.

In 2009, Scot became the Southern District Supervisor, responsible for all fisheries management activities for southern Wisconsin. His team has positively impacted stream and lake restorations. He served as the DNR's lead for the state's musky and trout committees. Scot led the effort to revamp trout fishing regulations for the state. Techniques such as angler surveys, town hall meetings and task force efforts paved the way and extended fishing opportunities by about 40 percent.

Throughout his career, he has been a major contributor to the growth and vibrancy of the Southern Chapter of TU.

Scot recently retired, which should give him plenty of time to pursue his many outdoor passions, from hunting, trapping, chasing muskies and big game to flyfishing, fly tying and living up to his status as a self-admitted "trout bum."



**SCOT STEWART RECEIVED THE HUNT RESOURCE PROFESSIONAL AWARD**

**Robert Hunt Resource Professional Award: Sue Reinecke**

Sue has been managing trout habitat work for the U.S. Forest Service on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest for many years. She is the professional that pioneered the use of TU-hired labor to get more habitat work accomplished. Her use of seasonally-hired habitat workers became the model for the habitat crews TU is now hiring in the northern and central areas of Wisconsin. Sue continues to use seasonal crews on the forest, and the 2016 season will again see her using a combination of Forest Service and TU funding to put two crews on the forest to improve trout habitat.

This is a great example of an agency partnering with TU to accomplish good things for trout. Sue's partnership with the Council's northeast region and the Wild Rivers Chapter has been ongoing for many years, and together the two organizations have completed a tremendous amount of habitat work.

Wisconsin TU looks forward to the continued partnership with Sue on the coldwater streams in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest.

**Robert Hunt Resource Professional Award: Dave Seibel**

As a result of the last Wisconsin bi-annual budget, the DNR was ordered to make available for sale 10,000 acres of land. The properties needed to go through a review process before being considered. Land that was considered of ecological importance was to be dismissed.

So when Trout Unlimited found out several parcels bordered some of the spring ponds in Langlade County, the largest collection of natural spring ponds in the world, were on the chopping block, the gloves came off.

In the scramble to collect time-sensitive information, TU found an ally in DNR fisheries biologist Dave Seibel of the Antigo office.

Dave visited with multiple chapters, including Green Bay TU and Fox Valley TU, in an effort to share what makes these waters so special, including history and ecology, the status of the land sale process, who to contact, trout



**SUE REINECKE RECEIVES THE ROBERT HUNT RESOURCE PROFESSIONAL AWARD FROM COUNCIL CHAIR LINN BECK.**



**DAVE SEIBEL RECEIVES THE ROBERT HUNT RESOURCE PROFESSIONAL AWARD FROM LINN BECK.**

data and more. As a result, Dave helped mobilize and inform our members. His efforts were important in the greater grass-roots effort to pressure those in power to remove these uniquely special trout waters. Thanks to these efforts, these waters will most likely be taken off the potential sales list. With help from allies like Dave, Wisconsin TU will continue to advocate for the protection of Wisconsin's spring ponds.

**Certificate of Appreciation: Bob Swanson**

Bob joined the Wisconsin Clear Waters Chapter board during a significant turnover of chapter leaders. Even with minimal exposure to chapter leadership and management, he stepped up to accept the chapter president position.

Bob did an outstanding job during a critical period in the chapter's development. He overcame a significant learning curve and left his legacy in several strategic areas of the chapter's new business model and initiated post-project stream maintenance, wild trout transfers and board member recruitments.

The wild trout transfer was a project Bob collaborated on with a DNR fisheries biologist who was seeking funding to transfer wild brook and brown trout from high-density areas to low-density areas of the same streams. This project became tremendously successful and will be an annual effort for the foreseeable future.



**BOB SWANSON RECEIVED A CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION FROM THE STATE COUNCIL. HERE MIKE SHANLEY ACCEPTS THE AWARD ON BOB'S BEHALF.**



**JEFF BUTLER RECEIVES A CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION**

**Certificate of Appreciation: Jeff Butler**

Jeff works for the National Park Service (NPS), as an Aquatic Education Specialist for the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, out of the Trego Office. He is an active member of the Wild Rivers Chapter of TU and The Namekagon River Partnership (NRP). Jeff's contributions to angler and aquatic education and especially the involvement of veteran's groups on the Riverway, make him a worthy candidate for TU recognition.

Jeff is exceptionally worthy of the award for many reasons, including the development and implementation of angler education on the Namekagon and St. Croix rivers. Jeff continues to use adaptive management to develop and implement such nationally known programs as: "Hey Ranger, fish on!"; "Match the Hatch"; "Design a Fish"; "Adopt a Stream-River Rats"; and "Tenkara/Cane-pole - It's fun and you can do it!"

Jeff's work in involving veterans and veterans groups on the Namekagon and St. Croix rivers is even more noteworthy. He has planned, organized and supervised countless fishing trips, campouts and educational programs. The rest of society is just now starting to catch on to how healing and therapeutic such outdoor experiences can be for veterans, and other trauma victims. Jeff has been doing it, pretty much on his own, for years.

**Most Unsung Valuable Trout Award: Mike Stapleton**

After a lifetime of volunteering and serving as a leader for several Wisconsin chapters, Aldo Leopold Chapter Vice President Mike Stapleton hopes to finish out his "TU career" with this chapter. Not only has he proven himself as a diehard workday volunteer, a committed board member and now vice president, he has also organized the chapter's popular fly tying classes in recent years.

It's no surprise how well he's done running Aldo's fly tying classes, considering that he organized the Central Wisconsin Chapter's annual fly fishing school when he was a member in that chapter. He also served as a board member and chapter president for the Central Chapter several decades ago.

Mike has been a member of several chapters, but his TU efforts skyrocketed at the Central Wisconsin Chapter, where he quickly went from active member to a solid leader. A few years later he was living in the Aldo Leopold Chapter area and he started attending Aldo workdays. He's now vice president. That, of course, is not an uncommon story among TU leaders.

In more recent years, Mike has added the unofficial title of legislative specialist to his TU resume, first volunteering as CWTU's legislative specialist and now serving the same role for the Aldo Leopold Chapter as well as the State Council. After working for 32 years as a zoning administrator for Marquette and Columbia counties, Mike learned some of the ins and outs of the legislative process. About seven years ago he realized his experience could be put to use in TU.



**MIKE STAPLETON RECEIVES THE MOST UNSUNG VALUABLE TROUT AWARD FROM COUNCIL CHAIR LINN BECK.**



**JOHN GRIBB RECEIVES THE MOST UNSUNG VALUABLE TROUT AWARD FROM COUNCIL CHAIR LINN BECK.**

**Most Unsung Valuable Trout Award: John Gribb**

John is deserving of the Council's recognition and gratitude for this award for more reasons that we can reasonably list, but here are a couple. For years John has passionately and quietly committed to actively engaging diverse populations to the sport and our chapter. He has contributed immeasurably to two of our chapter's most noteworthy and celebrated programs. First is Project Green Teen, which puts at-risk high school youth on trout streams. Second is the Wisconsin Women's Fly-fishing Clinics. Both of these events feature a component where participants are mentored by TU volunteers. John, as long-time "Chief of the Mentors," would tirelessly cajole and recruit fishing mentors from SWTU and other TU chapters to get involved.

Additionally, John took on the responsibility of gently harassing his fishing pals to contribute flies to these programs, copious and copious amounts of flies. And he contributed his own flies, too, which set a pretty high bar in quality and quantity. For several years John produced an innovative fly at PGT that was the "lights out" fly for the week, fished by participants and guides alike.

John will never sing his own praises, or toot his own horn. He just quietly goes about his business, being the example of the ideal chapter member who gives tirelessly of himself, in all facets of our work. And the fact that he would grumble about our nominating him for this award makes it even more special, and solidifies his unquestioned "unsung" status.

**Reel Partners Award: Jennifer Giegerich, Erin O'Brien, & Helen Sarakinos**

As we know, political winds shift from year to year and administration to administration. The result is that each year new bills are introduced in Wisconsin's Legislature which impact coldwater streams, groundwater and other issues that concern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited.

The difficulty which accompanies reading and reacting to proposed legislation, often with little notice, cannot be overstated. Analyzing bills, researching statutory changes, determining their impact, and attempting to work with legislators to address concerns are often overwhelming. The process often involves finding partners, traveling to Madison, meeting with legislators, seeking to have amendments introduced, or working to actively support or oppose bills. None of this is done without personal sacrifices, and all of this has lasting consequences.

As a volunteer nonprofit organization, Wisconsin Trout Unlimited has no paid legislative staff. It has no professional lobbyists. We are, as is also the case in every other facet of our work, purely volunteer driven.

As such, we depend significantly on the help of our conservation partners. Those partners aid us in spotting incoming bills which may impact coldwater, groundwater, and other issues which concern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited. Those partners help us find coalitions, provide assistance communicating our voice to legislators, and aid us in informing other conservation and sporting groups where we stand.



**JENNIFER GIEGERICH RECEIVED A "REEL" PARTNERS AWARD**





ERIN O'BRIEN RECEIVES A "REEL" PARTNER AWARD



HELEN SARAkinOS RECEIVED A "REEL" PARTNER AWARD, WHICH WAS ACCEPTED ON HER BEHALF BY DENNY CANEFF.

## Volunteers sought for outdoor youth expo

The Midwest Outdoor Heritage Education Expo will be held Wednesday, May 18 and Thursday, May 19 at the MacKenzie Center near Poynette. Every year this event gets bigger with more and more activities for the kids. Trout Unlimited has been active in this event since the beginning and last year we helped 800 of the more than 2,000 kids attending tie their first fly. This year we could see close to 3,000 students and chaperones attend.

We have them tie a bluegill fly and show them how to use a spinning bubble to cast the fly with a spinning rod to catch panfish. We want them to catch a fish on something they made themselves and get them hooked on fishing. I often refer to this as "planting the seed" and creating an interest in fishing, and the rest will follow. By the rest I mean learning to respect and enjoy nature and our great outdoors and the wonderful coldwater streams of Wisconsin.

Our biggest limitation is volunteers. This is a great opportunity for us to reach fourth, fifth, and sixth graders and not only help them tie a fly but talk with them about going fishing with their parents, grandparents or friends. They take that fly

home and ask their parents to take them fishing so that they can catch a fish on the fly they made. Most of them do not have a fly rod or have parents that do, and that is why we show them how to fly fish with a spinning rod. This is more than just tying a fly. It is creating an opportunity for the kids and their parents or grandparents to fish together.

I would like to see this expand and maybe provide an opportunity for the kids to identify aquatic insects, or see a display of our beautiful trout streams and the work we do to make them better. Maybe we could help them tie knots, or have them try their hand at casting a fly rod. We had to give this up the last couple years because we barely had enough volunteers to do the fly tying. If you have some ideas that I haven't thought about yet, let me know.

Without TU volunteers none of this is possible. I would like to thank all of those that have helped in the past, who see the benefits and come back year after year to help. If you can help or want to know more, please give me a call at 920-579-3858. You can make a difference!

—Bob Haase, Education Chair



ST CROIX RECEIVES CORPORATE SPONSOR AWARD

Bill Heart presents the Corporate Sponsor Award to Jeff Belanger at the St. Croix headquarters in Park Falls.

During the past several years, no three have served as better partners than Jennifer Giegerich of the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters, Erin O'Brien of the Wisconsin Wetlands Association and Helen Sarakinos of the River Alliance of Wisconsin. Wisconsin TU is exceptionally proud to honor Jennifer, Erin and Helen, and offers its profound thanks for their work, sacrifice and passion defending Wisconsin's resources.

### Corporate Sponsor Award: St. Croix Rod Company

Wisconsin has numerous companies that produce fishing-related merchandise, but one of the most supportive of TU during the last 25 years is the St. Croix Rod Company of Park Falls.

These folks produce quality fishing rods for a variety of angling, but the innovation seen in their wide range of fly rods makes them a strong American contender in the market. You have probably seen their extensive display of products at one of the many trout-related events across the state.

St. Croix, under the leadership of Paul and Jeff Schluter, has carried on the company's 65-year legacy of rod building which grew under their father, Gordon. They've maintained a strong research and development staff to keep moving their products forward, and continue to employ scores of people in the Park Falls area to make most of their rods locally.

## Trout stamp contests return to DNR

The Fisheries Management Bureau is excited to bring back the inland trout stamp and Great Lakes salmon and trout stamp contests. The inland trout stamp contest was first conducted in 1978, and the Great Lakes salmon and trout contest was first conducted in 1982. In 2010, the contests were discontinued by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Since that time, Wisconsin Trout Unlimited has continued the inland trout stamp contest in a scaled-down approach.

For the first year back, the rules and guidelines are similar as in past years. The DNR is considering several changes to the rules and contest process. This year, the minimum age requirement of the contestants is 18 years. The DNR plans to hold youth contests for the 2018 stamps. New this year will be online voting to narrow down the top 10 pieces of artwork and a display of the top three pieces of artwork at the Wisconsin State Fair in August.

The artwork for both stamps must be submitted by July 1, 2016. Online voting will take place in July. The top 10 entries will move to a final round, judged by trout, salmon and wildlife art experts. The top three pieces will go on display at the Wisconsin State Fair from August 4 through August 14, 2016.

Specific contest rules and requirements are located at [DNR.wi.gov](http://DNR.wi.gov). Search for Trout Stamp Contest. For more information contact Joanna Griffin, DNR trout coordinator, at [Joanna.Griffin@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:Joanna.Griffin@Wisconsin.gov) or 608-264-8953.

## Council selling stamps, prints

Once again the DNR will be managing and producing the Wisconsin Inland and Great Lakes Trout prints and stamps. When the DNR stopped this program several years ago, the Council took the program over. But we are excited that the DNR has agreed to take over this important program.

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited has decided to liquidate our inventory of prints and stamps, as we have accumulated more than a hundred prints and stamps from the four years that the process was in our hands. We would like to reduce this inventory and make them available to our chapters and chapter members at a much-reduced rate.

We have prints and extra stamps from 2012-2015. Quantities for some of the years are limited, so get your orders in early.

We are asking \$25 for a print and stamp, and \$2 for just the stamp. We are hoping that this will enable the chapters to procure some of the prints for their fundraising events. We expect many will go to those members who collect them.

We would like to recognize and thank Darrell Tolliver and Tim Waters (Wolf River Chapter) for helping to keep this tradition alive. Darrell took on the task of producing the new stamp and print, and then making them available to the chapters and individuals, while Tim took on the responsibility of collecting the funds for these and then shipping them out.

For availability and to order your prints please contact Tim Waters by e-mail at [MuddyWaters@new.rr.com](mailto:MuddyWaters@new.rr.com).

## A testament to Project Healing Waters



**VET FINDS THERAPY IN FLY FISHING VIA PROJECT HEALING WATERS**  
Nate Coward, left, with his mentor, Mike Burda, fly-fishing on the Big Green River in southwest Wisconsin.

By Nate Coward

Over the years, I have drifted from the person I am and the passions that define me. This has left a feeling of emptiness in its wake, and as I grow older, I realize a large piece of my heart can only be found in the wilds of America. Life, however, has had a way of steering my path farther and farther from my passions, away from this piece of my heart.

Starting this past summer, I set out to recover this lost passion and this piece of my heart. I made it my personal goal to get out into the wilds and explore the way I did as a younger man.

While investigating the opportunities to participate outdoors, I stumbled across the website of Project Healing Waters, which is a free, six-week program that teaches veterans how to flyfish, a skill and sport that I have not had the opportunity to explore in my life. My decision to get involved with them would prove to be one of the most valuable decisions of my adult life. This statement, albeit melodramatic, is nonetheless true. I got involved with them expecting to learn how to flyfish, but I never considered the healing capabilities that are alluded to in the very title of this teaching organization.

My struggle to acclimate to civilian life after service left me struggling and wanting. The tools to thrive were amiss in my life. Though

not the only tool needed, PHW opened a path I was comfortable traveling in my journey back to civilian life. In completing the program, I learned how to flyfish, but more importantly, I learned how to capture the therapeutic qualities of this sport. I also rekindled my lost passion for the outdoors. In short, I found myself once again.

Mike Burda, my mentor with PHW, extended an invitation to attend a guided fishing trip soon after graduation. Professional guide Jim Bartelt, one of the premier fly-fishing guides in Wisconsin, would guide us on a trip to the Big Green River in southwest Wisconsin in search of brown trout. It was an amazing trip filled with all kinds of new knowledge, and capped with the capture of not only my first trout ever, but my first six trout ever!

Mike and the instructors of PHW have restored my faith in the good of man, a struggle that overwhelmed me at times in the past. The lessons from PHW were so life changing for me that I am currently working to start a chapter of PHW at the Tomah VA hospital. I hope that I will be able to show others the benefit of this program in healing and give to others what has so generously been given to me.

I thank Mike, Jim, and all of the instructors from PHW for their time and dedication. Without them I may still be adrift. Thank every last one of you so very much.

## Clear Waters Chapter tackles stream maintenance

*A cooperative effort to improve longevity of restored streams.*

By Al Noll, Clear Waters Chapter President

Approximately 15 years ago I was reinitiated to trout fishing when my daughter married into a "trout family." This quickly evolved into fly fishing for trout. I began my fishing on a recently restored stream which was used for grazing cattle. The vegetation was like a golf course.

I began fishing western streams as part of family trips, took a few guided adventures and began to find better local streams. Finally, I went all in and began going to Wisconsin Clear Waters Chapter meetings and activities. And I continued fishing my favorite pasture stream.

Unfortunately, as the cattle had been moved out of the pasture the willows began invading the stream bank. When I reached my tenth year of fishing this stream I found I had it all to myself. Unfortunately, it was becoming impossible to fish. Other streams were also beginning to be noticeably laden with undesirable vegetation.

As I became more involved in TU and fishing, this pattern of deteriorating recently restored streams became evident. Chapter leaders discussed our concerns with other TU people and DNR staff. In 2015 we contracted with the DNR to begin the process of removing undesirable vegetation, trees and overhead obstacles. With the assistance of the DNR fisheries crew, streams were selected to begin maintenance projects. The investment in these streams is significant and the benefit of these restoration investments is reduced if we allow undesirable growth.

Chapter members and DNR staff have identified local streams needing attention. Given these targets, the DNR has recommended treatment processes and provided a cost estimate for maintenance treatment. The chapter then selected the locations and made a financial commitment to support maintenance with the DNR's specialized mowing equipment, chainsaws and knowledge of streambank clearing methods.

This year we will mow and cut woody plants with chain saws on four to five stretches of various streams, which will then be treated by the DNR, with financial support from our chapter. A priority in this plan was doing the work near the population centers of Chippewa and Eau Claire counties.

Wisconsin Senior Fisheries Biologists Marty Engel and Joseph Gerbyshak provided a paper on "Benefits Statement: Stream Corridor Maintenance." This accompanied their proposal to provide maintenance services to select streams in the Eau Claire area. It was agreed that the Wisconsin Clear Waters Chapter would provide approximately \$4,000 to the DNR for the mechanized work on the contracted streams.

The DNR has a critical role in the maintenance process. Their ability to provide specialized equipment to cut trees and brush or mow grasses on stream edges is critical. This points to the value of contracting by TU chapters. The DNR also provides a five-year plan for maintenance on the streams in the plan. Selected streams include stretches of Elk Creek, Hay Creek and McCann Creek in Eau Claire and Chippewa Counties.

Beyond the obvious physical improvement that is visually noticeable, other improvements can result from maintenance. This includes treatment of invasive plants, such as wild parsnip, box elder and alder. Symptoms that maintenance activities can minimize include stream warming and the negative aspects of silt deposits. Lastly, it protects the restoration work.

Maintenance projects also provide an opportunity for member involvement via work days and other activities, allowing members to become inte-



### CLEAR WATERS TU TEACHING THE CONCEPT OF GIVING BACK

A benefit of the volunteer model of stream treatment is the chance for members to meet each other and enjoying the hospitality that comes with working on a multi-organization project. Volunteers also learn the features of a trout stream and the negative impact of invasive vegetation.

grally involved in improving local fishing opportunities. It also allows for periodic improvements that do not require extensive mechanized equipment beyond chain saws. Efforts can include treating streams before brush grows to a point where heavy equipment is needed.

We will join the DNR for a work day with labor provided by chapter volunteers. This work requires hand tools and small power tools. Volunteers can safely cut brush, weeds and provide cutting of brush and terminating undesirable foliage. Qualified DNR and NCRS staff are also able to apply herbicides to treat the vegetation. We plan to clear brush in a small section of a stream on a Saturday in April.

A benefit of the volunteer model of stream treatment is the chance for members to meet each other and enjoying the hospitality that comes with working on a multi-organization project. Volunteers also learn the features of a trout stream and the negative impact of invasive vegetation.

Maintenance activities are generally scheduled and performed on an as-needed basis, and the DNR fisheries staff have been able to predict the frequency and type of maintenance a stream needs. This allows for a calendar of future maintenance needs, whether provided by DNR staff and equipment or volunteers from TU and Conservation organizations.

Basic and periodic stream maintenance activities can maintain the improvement on a restored trout stream. This process can use the unique capacities of the DNR and local TU chapters in maintaining the course of the stream and controlling invasive and other plants in the stream bed.

## Driftless Rambler

With Duke Welter  
TUDARE Communications Director

*Best burgers in the Driftless Area? Duke knows.*

Well, you might ask, how's your early season fishing been? Sadly, I'd have to report that I went oh-fer both January and February. A cold, flu, bronchitis, laryngitis and another cold knocked me so far down that I didn't even rig up a line during those two months.

My jealousy would have been rampant had all my friends been catching trout right and left, but fortunately their reports were of some success and lots of satisfaction just being out. I can live with that.

But March has been better, with trout caught, trout lost and mostly trout spooked. But it was better than that. Redtail hawks and eagles hunt over the valleys. Bluebirds are back and singing as they establish territory in the meadows, and yesterday we saw a small brown bat circling over the stream.

I wondered what brought it out at mid-day. Maybe just out of hibernation? But I think the answer came when I brushed from my cheek a medium black stonefly. This time of year they succeed the little black snowflies. Their egg-laying looks like a quivering half-globe of grey upon the water, certainly like a strobe light for attracting the trout when they get going.

In anticipation of spring, I am planning some camping around the Driftless Area this year. You may see "Stubby," the converted Nash camper owned by Jim Dworshack and brought back here from California.

Jim says it's a 1952 Nash Ambassador engine, transmission and front end, coupled with a well-built camper. His extended family of eight took it to a national Nash convention in New York state in 2013.

### Best burger joints

Closer to home, I've been collecting sites to visit across the region. As you may know, I seldom ask anyone where he or she fishes, but instead ask them about their favorite breakfast joint or beer-and-a-burger joint. Often, you will find it close to some dandy trout water. I've often observed that if we are considering two similar streams for restoration, the one that gets done first is closer to the nearest beer-and-a-burger joint. Such joints are our focus today.

Well, first, for a survey like this, we need to set some standards. My start in this endeavor started in 1967 in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, during Spring Break. A local night club had a back window, opened just before noon, where succulent balls of good burger were grilled, flattened, spiced and served on an excellent bun. We'd line up and grab enough to take down to the beach next door, watch the scenery, and in the evening take in a concert like the Beach Boys at a local auditorium. (I missed the opening act, some bunch calling themselves "Buffalo Springfield" or something like that.)

My own list starts outside Chippewa Falls, where the Albertville Tavern serves the T-Hurst burger, a half-pounder with onions, smoked ham and Swiss cheese, and where on Good Friday you can get homemade Hooterville fries to accompany it. I'd stop there for a religious observance on that day, in advance of an afternoon of fishing, and greet some of my former colleagues coming out to drink away the afternoon. The Lawyer Hatch, I called it as I went out the door to fish.

Further south in Maiden Rock is Ole's Bar & Grill, which serves a lot of bikers. The bacon cheeseburger



is first-rate, with a cold local brew. You may find your molars rattling with the trains that fly by every 20 minutes on average, but it's a great burger and a colorful establishment.

Not far southeast, the greater metropolitan area of Praag, about 15 miles east of Alma, is home to Bucknuckles Bar, another biker joint with outrageously creative rural chic décor and great food. The top of the list is a Scotch Highlander beef burger that could be your only meal of the day, and a memorable one.

Spring time in El Paso may sound like an old Marty Robbins song, but it means good fishing on the Rush River, and near its banks you'll head downstairs into the basement El Paso Tavern. The burgers, and the weekend breakfasts, are good solid bar food. Take off your studded wading boots, warns the sign on the door.

In Chaseburg, the only building left on the old valley floor is the Hideaway. They had so many floods there in the early 20th century that they moved the town to the hillside above, leaving foundations under 10 feet of deposited soil. The pictures on the wall of the Hideaway depict those early days of flooding. And

Jack's burger is seared and blackened and served with blue cheese, which was a standard in my childhood home because it covered up the taste of burnt toast, a staple. Try it with the homemade chips or, if your stomach can handle it, the homemade pork rinds.

A final temptation is Pete's Hamburgers, an April-September landmark in Prairie du Chien. Since 1909, the family of Peter Gokey has sold burgers there all summer. A regional magazine recently named Pete's as one of the best in the state. It's worth a try.

Jumping across the big river, word is that in northeast Iowa you should try the 20-ounce Gunderburger at the Irish Shanty in Gunder, while the Rock Cedar Ranch burger at La Rana Bistro in Decorah sets a standard. And in Lanesboro, Minnesota another burger wagon, Spud Boy Lunch, operates seasonally. Personally, I am planning to get there for the homemade corned beef hash. But be sure to try the burger, which the locals call "sensational." In this region, where "Not half bad" constitutes high praise, that must mean something.

### LEGISLATION, from page 1

Wisconsin has thousands of what are called "lowhead" and other types of dams. Thousands of these structures impact trout streams, or waters which lead to trout streams. Allowing the unpermitted and unregulated disturbance of sediment could have profound impacts on spawning fish, and fish in general. Likewise, deepening impoundments could cause them to have greater impacts on water temperatures, possibly increasing them and harming coldwater stream health. Finally, unregulated dredging could release toxins or other accumulated harmful materials into downstream waters.

For those reasons and others, Wisconsin TU actively engaged on this bill at the committee level, and urged that it simply not be advanced out of committee. The bill did not advance, and was not moved out of committee.

### AB 640/SB 493 – Aquaculture

AB 640 and SB 493 were bills aimed at making changes to regulations regarding aquaculture facilities in Wisconsin. Wisconsin TU very actively engaged on these bills and was able to work with the sponsors and authors to have two amendments passed. Those amendments addressed several of our concerns.

First, the amendments ensure that changes made regarding water diversions applied only to existing facilities, and existing diversions (such that the changes were not prospective, but only for already-licensed facilities).

Second, the amendments ensured that a portion of the bill which would have redefined aquaculture as agriculture, such that aquaculture facilities would have been available to receive state-paid cost sharing on best-management mitigation practices, was removed.

Third, the amendments made clear that grading along stream banks would only be allowed when necessary to maintain existing, already-permitted aquaculture facilities. All of these amendments were accepted by the bill's sponsors and authors, and Wisconsin TU thanks them for working with us regarding this bill.

Ultimately, SB 493 did not pass the senate this session. As such, this bill will not become law, but it is likely to return in another form next session.

The WITU Legislative Committee will once again do its best to protect Wisconsin TU's interests, and to ensure that we are able to achieve the greatest protections for our coldwater streams as possible. We thank all of our members who actively engaged on this issue.

### AB 874/SB 239 – High-capacity wells

These bills were intended to allow high-capacity well permit holders to move, rebuild, repair and transfer high-capacity wells without review by the DNR. In effect, these bills would provide permit holders with perpetual permits, not subject to further review, regardless of changing circumstances, science or water levels.

Wisconsin TU engaged significantly in opposition to these bills. Quite simply, Wisconsin TU believes that all high-capacity well permits should be periodically reviewed, such as every 10 years. The simple fact is that our science progresses. Permits issued 20 years ago are based on antiquated science, just as permits issued today will be based on science which is outmoded in another 10 years. It makes sense to use the best available science to understand how high-capacity wells are interacting with one another, and how they are impacting ground and surface water. That can only be accomplished through periodic review.

Likewise, having periodic review of high-capacity well permits will ensure that all users, from agriculture to lake property owners to businesses to municipal water systems to sportsmen, will have certainty, such that each of the billions of dollars of economies that such groups support can continue to benefit our state, its jobs and its people.

To that end, Wisconsin TU and its members were incredibly active contacting legislatures, testifying at hearings and sending emails in opposition to these bills. Unfortunately, versions of both bills did pass in both houses.

Because the bills are not the same, however, reconciliation is required before the bill could become law. As of today's date, the assembly has indicated that it will not return to session. If they don't return and take up the senate's version of the bill for concurrence, it would not become law. Wisconsin TU hopes the assembly will not return for further action this session.

### Conclusion

I have seen the incredible efforts that our Legislative Committee has put forth in the past eight months, and those efforts are simply awe-inspiring. Likewise, the efforts of our members, and their repeated responses to our calls for action, are equally inspiring. Wisconsin TU, and I personally, cannot thank our supporters enough for their work. Thank you for all that you do for Wisconsin TU.

# Spring 2016 Friends of Wisconsin TU Update

By Doug Brown

The 2015 Friends of Wisconsin TU campaign ended with a total of more than \$17,000, yet another excellent year for this program. We can't thank our donors enough for their generosity. Recent grants have been awarded for such projects as a joint commitment by Wild Rivers, Green Bay and Marinette chapters to support a DNR LTE crew to work on streams in northeast Wisconsin.

The Nohr Chapter is doing habitat work on 3,000 feet of Pompey Pillar Creek and 5,000 feet on the Blue River.

SEWTU is working on a project in Richland County, as the Little Willow will get some much-

needed attention this summer.

The 2016 fundraising appeal letter will be mailed soon, so please consider making a generous donation. This program is heavily used by all of our TU chapters and your financial commitment goes right back into our coldwater resources.

I want to thank Michelle McCarthy for helping with printing. Also, thank you to my daughter Brooke for helping address all the envelopes with labels and stamps. These two help make my life easier.

I hope you all have a wonderful spring and get out and enjoy the bounty of our healthy trout streams, many of which have benefited directly from the Friends of Wisconsin TU program.



**FRIENDS GRANTS SUPPORT HABITAT CREWS**  
Chapter funds, along with Friends grants, support LTE crews like these.

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

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

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

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

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

\$2,000 to Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter for Pompey Pillar, 2016

\$2,000 to the Northwoods Chapter for habitat crews in 2015

\$2,000 to Marinette and \$1,500 to Wolf River for NE Region work in 2015

\$2,000 to Green Bay Chapter for a habitat crew 2015

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

### Here are our Friends of Wisconsin TU

- Edwin Barnes Middleton WI
- Charles Barnhill Madison WI
- Jim Bayorgeon Appleton WI
- Sen. Janet Bewley Mason WI
- Blaine Biederman Madison WI
- John and Susan Bleimehl Verona WI
- Stephen Born Madison WI
- Allon Bostwik Port Washington WI
- Jerry Bristol Ellsworth WI
- Casey Calkins Brookfield WI
- Lynn Christiansen Middleton WI
- Rick Christopherson Norwalk WI
- Andrew Cook II Sister Bay WI
- Terry Cummings Rhinelander WI
- Bruce Davidson Wauwatosa WI
- Leonard Debee Menomonie WI
- Pete Dramm Manitowoc WI
- Richard Duplessie Eau Claire WI
- Ed Eggers Genoa IL
- John Ewen Neenah WI
- Jim Flesch Fox Point, WI
- Scott Geboy Fox Point WI
- Dan Geddes Appleton WI
- John Gribb Mount Horeb WI
- Gordon Grieshaber Mineral Point WI
- Dean Hagness Custer WI
- Jon Hanson Madison WI
- Henry Haugley Sun Prairie WI
- Ashton Hawk Columbus OH
- Stephen Hawk Madison WI
- William Heart Ashland WI
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- Mark Heifner Appleton WI
- Walter Heil Jr De Pere WI
- Bob Hellyer Boulder Junction WI
- Charles Hodulik Madison WI
- Holtz Lime, Gravel & Excavating Loganville WI
- Phyliss Hunt Waupaca WI
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- Rick Lindroth Madison WI
- Tim Logeman Wausau WI
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- Anna Magnin Marshfield WI

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- Austin McGuan
- Dan McGuire
- Cris Meyer
- John Murphy
- William Nielsen
- Herb Oechler
- Cheryl and Winston Ostrow
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- Randall Rake
- Ron Rellatz
- Bob Retko
- Glenn Ringwall
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- Arthur Sonneland, M.D.
- Michael Staggs
- Gary Stoychoff
- Michael Stupich
- Rick Szymialis
- Robert Tabbert
- Herbert Trask
- Dennis and Becky Vanden Bloomen
- Charles Velie James
- Greg Vodak
- Ken Voight

- LaCrosse WI
- Green Bay WI
- Madison WI
- Middleton WI
- East Troy WI
- Eau Claire WI
- Wauwatosa WI
- De Pere WI
- Amherst WI
- Helena MT
- Merton WI
- Cedarburg WI
- New Berlin WI
- Princeton WI
- Hudson WI
- Neenah WI
- Cottage Grove WI
- Lodi WI
- Kaukauna WI
- Winneconne WI
- New Berlin WI
- Madison WI
- Madison WI
- Hudson WI
- Milwaukee WI
- DePere WI
- Poynette WI
- Green Bay WI
- Watertown WI
- Waupaca WI
- Lac du Flambeau WI
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- Dan Wisniewski
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- Frederic Young
- Dean Ziemendorf

- Kaukauna WI
- Madison WI
- Gillett WI
- Marinette WI
- Fort Atkinson WI
- Madison WI
- Middleton WI
- Oshkosh WI
- Beaver Dam WI
- Roscoe IL
- Elcho WI

### TROUT UNLIMITED CHAPTERS

- Aldo Leopold
- Antigo
- Coulee Region
- Kiap-TU-Wish
- Lakeshore
- Marinette County
- Wisconsin Clearwaters

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_