



# Wisconsin Trout

Summer 2016

## WITU denounces high-capacity well opinion

By Henry Koltz

Although the Wisconsin Legislature is on break for the summer, degradation of protections for the state's water resources continues. On May 10 Wisconsin Attorney General Brad Schimel issued a formal legal opinion regarding high-capacity wells.

High-capacity wells are an issue which Wisconsin Trout Unlimited has grappled with for decades. A high-capacity well is one which draws more than 100,000 gallons of water per day. The instances in which DNR may review high-capacity well permit applications is set by statute, and includes applications that:

- would fall within a groundwater protection area (within 1,200 feet of a class 1, 2 or 3 trout stream or a designated outstanding or exceptional resource water);
- might impact springs with flow greater or equal to one cubic foot per second;
- will result in water loss greater than 95 percent;
- will result in 10 or more feet of water level drawdown in the public utility well based on 30 days of continuous pumping from the proposed



### WILL SITUATIONS LIKE THIS BECOME MORE COMMON?

The Little Plover River, which lies within the Central Sands region, has actually run completely dry at times. The region has the highest density of high-capacity wells in the state.

high-capacity well or well system; and

- will degrade safe drinking water and the groundwater resource or impact public safety.

### Lake Beulah decision

As a result of the Wisconsin Su-

preme Court's decision in Lake Beulah Management District v. Department of Natural Resources, the DNR was empowered to review high-capacity well permits using criteria other than those set forth above. Specifically, the DNR was allowed to review permit applications

### Attention Driftless Area Anglers:

An economic impact survey for recreational angling in the Driftless Area is under way, and you can take the survey on line. Donna Anderson of UW-LaCrosse has designed the survey, which will be sent to a randomly selected group of trout anglers who fish in Iowa, Wisconsin or Minnesota. Anglers are invited to take the survey as well.

Go to:  
<http://tinyurl.com/TroutU>.

Please share.

using "cumulative impact" as a criteria. Reviewing a proposed well's "cumulative impact" means that the existence of other, already existing high-capacity wells is taken into account during the permitting process.

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited was involved in the Lake Beulah case, and filed amicus briefs at the Wis-

See **WELLS**, page 9



THE THIRD ANNUAL WISCONSIN TU YOUTH FISHING CAMP WILL BE HELD JULY 14-17 AT PINE LAKE BIBLE CAMP BETWEEN WAUPACA AND WILD ROSE

## Third youth camp shaping up

Fishing "guides" still needed. Additional volunteers and supplies would be welcomed.

By Linn Beck, Council Chair and Youth Camp organizer

This year's camp is shaping up well. We have nearly filled all of the spots for the students, and will reach capacity if all of the chapters that have youth lined up come through. We were excited to be able to increase the number of campers to 20 this year.

The camp runs from Thursday, July 14 through Sunday, July 17, at the same location: Pine Lake Bible Camp between Waupaca and Wild Rose. The camp is open to all youth ages 12-16.

We have almost the same curriculum, with a couple of changes. We will be doing the restoration breakout, along with the stream shocking, in a new location with more room for viewing. We are adding a breakout session on invasive species, and we are working more skill games into the mix. So it

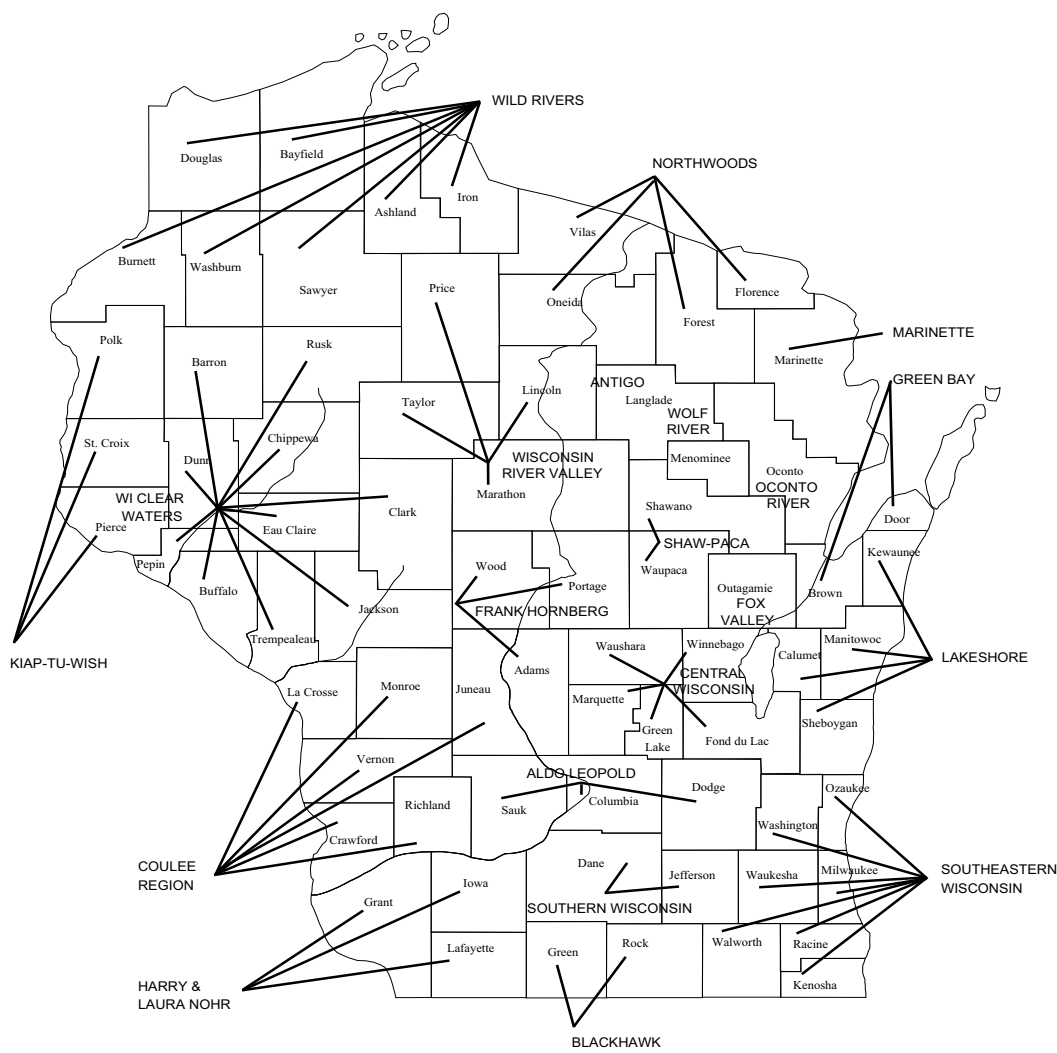
should be a great time, and the staff of TU volunteers is looking forward to it.

We almost have a full staff for the camp, but we will be happy to have the help of anybody who'd like to volunteer. We really need some more people who are willing to "guide" for Saturday night and Sunday morning. It's fairly simple and basically involves taking mentors and campers out to predetermine spots and overseeing them as they fish. Anyone interested in helping out should contact Linn Beck at 920-216-7408 or chlbeck@att.net. Or contact Wayne Parmley at 920-540-2315 or wparmley@gmail.com.

We can always use more new or used fishing equipment for the kids, from fishing equipment and tackle to smaller waders and boots to fishing vests, tying supplies and so forth. If you have any donations to offer, contact Wayne or Linn.



## Wisconsin TU Chapters, Presidents, and Websites



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

- Aldo Leopold (#375):** Scott Allen, E4835 N Stoney Ridge Road, Reedsburg, WI 53959; (608) 495-1482; jscottallen12@gmail.com; aldoleopold.tu.org
- Antigo (#313):** Scott Henricks, 213 Mary St., Antigo, WI 54409-2536 (715) 623-3867; henricks51@frontier.com
- Blackhawk (#390):** Terry Vaughn; 4710 E. Creek Road, Beloit, WI 53511; (608) 362-4295; linda.vaughn@att.net; www.BlackhawkTU.org
- Central Wisconsin (#117):** Michael San Dretto; 467 Hawthorne St., Neenah 54956 (920) 722-8478; msandretto@aol.com; cwtu.org,
- Coulee Region (#278):** Curt Rees; W5190 Birchwood Lane, La-Crosse, WI 54601; curtrees@gmail.com www.CouleeRegionTU.org
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- Harry & Laura Nohr (#257):** Tim Fraley, 2 Paghams Court, Madison, WI 53719; hm:(608) 271-1733; c:(608)220-0762; grizzly8589@gmail.com; www.NohrTU.org
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- Northwoods (#256):** Jay Joppa; 5083 Grossman Avenue, Rhineland-er, WI 54501; (715) 499-1022; jayjoppa@newnorth.net; northwoods.tu.org
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- Southeastern Wisconsin (#078):** Boyd Roessler; 212 S. James Street, Waukesha, WI 53186; boydroessler@sbcglobal.net; 252-896-8471; SEWTU.org; facebook.com/southeastwisconsintroutunlimited
- Southern Wisconsin (#061):** Tristan Kloss; (414) 254-3389; tie.a.fly@gmail.com; www.swtu.org
- 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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## State Council Leadership

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**Communications: Chair being sought. Contact Linn Beck.**

**Friends of WITU and Watershed Access Fund:** Doug Brown, R4800 Timber Ln., Ringle, WI 54471 (715) 899-0024; DougBrown.TU@gmail.com

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

**Membership:** Bob Rice, Chair (see Wild Rivers Chapter contact info above) and Paul Kruse, Vice Chair (see Vice Chair, Northeast, left)

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

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

**Website:** Currently vacant. Contact Linn Beck if interested.

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

## Are you getting emails from TU?

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

## WISCONSIN TROUT

Vol. 28, No. 3— Summer 2016

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

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

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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

*TU members never hesitate to show their support.*

By Linn Beck,  
State Council Chair

I would like to tell you about the wonderful members of Trout Unlimited.

In February I lost my mother unexpectedly. At the time, my mother-in-law was in the hospital and was failing in health and we knew it was going to be a matter of time before she would be gone.

After a visit to the hospital on that Sunday night, I was preparing for her passing and went to bed. I had been in bed about an hour and I heard my phone and expected to hear what we had been awaiting. But it wasn't my wife calling about her mother, but rather my brother informing me that my mother had passed away.

As the week went on and we were preparing for my mother's funeral, my wife and I were at home on Thursday night waiting for friends to get in from out of town when we received a call that we needed to get back up by my mother-in-law. So we hurried out the door and unfortunately didn't make

it in time. Even being somewhat prepared didn't help. So what started as a long week already actually turned into two long weeks, with the preparation of her funeral.

Where I am going with this? Everyone with Trout Unlimited, from my fellow chapter members, to our state council officers and even staff members from Trout Unlimited National were extremely supportive. Something like this is hard to process and keep in perspective, but the phenomenal support from everyone gave me the strength to get through, and confirmed to me that Trout Unlimited members are a very special group.

This is probably an extreme case of members supporting each other. But in reality we are all very supportive, whether it's giving our time and money to TU, or supporting our fellow members in need. Just remember that Trout Unlimited wouldn't be able to survive without each and every one of you.

Thanks to all of you for what you do for TU and your fellow members.

## Viroqua WWTP proposal threatens Springville Branch

By Duke Welter

A proposal to pipe effluent from Viroqua's Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) to an outflow just yards above the source of the Springville Branch of the Bad Axe River has neighbors and downstream landowners concerned.

For years the city's WWTP has discharged some 350,000 gallons of effluent a day into a channel that flows downstream two miles before it reached the Springville Branch. However, 70 to 83% of that water disappears into fissures in the bedrock before it reaches the trout stream, taking with it the phosphorus, nitrogen and other substances the plant is allowed to release under its discharge permit. The channel is not classified as trout water, so less strict effluent limits apply.

The current proposal would bury a pipe for two miles that could carry from 350,000 to 800,000 gallons a day and discharge it just above the trout stream. If it went directly into the trout stream, stricter anti-degradation rules would apply to the effluent. However, DNR wastewater and groundwater regulators want to get the effluent out of the ground-

water and into the surface water instead.

When the DNR proposed to permit the outfall structure in April, TU and several landowners objected in early May. DNR will be holding an informational meeting, possibly sometime this summer, at which people will be allowed to state their concerns about the proposed permit. Milwaukee Attorney Dennis Grzezinski represents the landowners, while TU National Trustee and former State Council Chair Henry Koltz objected on behalf of Wisconsin TU.

Objectors have various concerns that need to be discussed: What will be the impact on the Springville Branch of putting more phosphorus in it? How warm will the wastewater be, and how will it impact the trout stream? Will the flows be like human-created floods, and will they change the channel of the stream? The Springville Branch has strong reproduction of trout. Will it be affected by the increased flow and nutrients? Are there any other alternative methods of disposing of the WWTP's effluent without threatening a Class I trout stream?



Scott Stewart

### COUNCIL CHAIR LINN BECK FEEDING HIS FISHING HABIT

From trout in Timber Coulee to muskies in Mercer, he finds a way to fish.

## WITU signs on to Great Lakes letters

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited was contacted by the Healing Our Waters - Great Lakes Coalition and the Alliance for the Great Lakes to sign on to letters concerning a couple of issues going on with the Great Lakes.

In March we were contacted by the HOW - Great Lakes Coalition to sign onto a request for a letter of support they were presenting to Harold Rogers, chairman of the U.S. House Committee of Appropriations.

The coalition had put together a comprehensive sign-on letter to bolster the efforts to bring Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) funding in fiscal year 2017 back up to \$300 million and support other coalition priorities, including funding water infrastructure programs, keeping Asian carp out of the Great Lakes, reducing nutrient runoff, and supporting the NRCS's Regional Conservation Partnership Program. This letter was also sent to the chairs and ranking members of the full House Committee on Appropriations asking for their support, and an identical letter was sent out to the Senate Committee.

In May we received a request from the Alliance for the Great Lakes to sign on to a letter they were presenting in opposition to a provision that was added to H.R. 4904, the F.Y. 2017 National Defense Authorization Act, by the House Armed Services Committee that would dramatically weaken the Clean Water Act and undermine our nation's ability to combat the spread of aquatic invasive species. Rep. Hunter's Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (VIDA) throws away the most effective tool we have—the Clean Water Act—for preventing the introduction of aquatic invasive species from ballast water discharges. Rep. Hunter's amendment would leave U.S. waters vulnerable to future invasions of other invasive species.

The ballast water discharge from these ships is widely recognized as a major pathway for the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species. The most recognizable of these is the zebra mussel.

The WITU Executive Committee voted unanimously to sign on to both of these letters to further help protect the Great Lakes.

—Linn Beck, State Council Chair

## Council meeting October 14

Please save Saturday, September 17 for our fall State Council meeting. It will be held at T-Dubs, 111 Cooper St., Waupaca starting at 9 a.m.

Please send any agenda items to Chair Linn Beck. If you plan on attending, let Linn Beck know so we can get an accurate count for lunch, which is always provided at council meetings.

Linn can be reached at chlbeck@att.net or 920-216-7408.

## Correction

In a feature story on page 20 of the last issue of Wisconsin Trout, entitled "Kiap's TIC eggs reach their destination," the author's name was incorrect.

The article was written by Greg Olson and was a wonderful tale about the lengths TU members will go to support our mission.

Thank you, Greg.



Duke Welter

### SPRINGVILLE CISTERN

The cistern marks the big spring that's the main source of water for the Springville Branch, just 35 yards upstream from the county B bridge and about 200 yards below the proposed outflow structure for the Viroqua WWTP.



# National Leadership Council update

By Kim McCarthy, WITU's NLC Representative

If your chapter has applied for or received an Embrace-A-Stream grant and your future project planning involves applying for an EAS grant, please read on.

The Embrace-A-Stream grant funding for 2016 was awarded in February. The 2016 funding requests far exceeded the available funds, and only about 25 percent of the requests received grants. National TU is not satisfied with that funding level, and is making changes to the program to so it can fund more projects.

In the future, projects selected to receive funding will be announced at the TU Annual Meeting in September. The 2016 funding has been announced, so the next round of projects to be financed will not be announced until September of 2017. By that time the 2017 work season

will effectively be over, and grants awarded will be for the 2018 work season.

It is National TU's intent to use the gap between now and the 2017 Annual Meeting to explore fundraising opportunities so the grant program can better meet the demand for project funding.

National TU will be making future announcements about due dates for requests to be considered at the 2017 Annual Meeting.

We continue to ask each chapter to appoint a youth education coordinator to better facilitate education activities in the chapters. The Wisconsin response has been good, but we still have a number of chapters that need to name coordinators. Please let Kim McCarthy know the name of the person as you fill the coordinator positions.

Enjoy the summer. I hope all of our members get to enjoy the great trout fishing in Wisconsin.

# Fish passage barriers meeting their demise

*Nine barriers to fish passage in Peshtigo River watershed to be removed.*



## PLANNING REMOVAL OF ROAD CROSSING AND CULVERTS

TU Stream Restoration Specialist Greg Orum and United States Forest Service hydrologist Dale Higgins discuss the restoration of the North Otter site. The road crossing will be eliminated, the four culverts removed, the river channel restored and trees added instream to provide habitat.

By Laura MacFarland, TU Great Lakes Stream Restoration Manager and Greg Orum, TU Stream Restoration Specialist

This spring the U.S. Forest Service (U.S.F.S.), Wisconsin DNR and TU teamed up to identify nine culverts that prevent trout and other aquatic organisms from moving between critical habitats within the Peshtigo River watershed.

Thanks to funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the U.S.F.S. and Wisconsin Trout Unlimited, these barriers are slated to be removed in 2017, reconnecting approximately 30 miles of tributaries to the main stem. The projects are located on an unnamed tributary to Armstrong Creek, Chickadee Creek (aka McPhearson Creek), an unnamed tributary to Chickadee Creek, an unnamed tributary to Hay Creek, an unnamed tributary to Calderon Falls, Spencer Creek, Halley Creek and North Otter Creek.

In May, Trout Unlimited staff assisted the U.S.F.S. in surveying the 10 project sites. Greg Orum, TU Stream Restoration Specialist, is currently using the data collected in the field, along with desktop analyses, to assist U.S.F.S. hydrologists and engineers in designing the new and improved road stream crossings. In many cases, the existing culverts are perched, creating a jump barrier, or they are too small, constricting flow, resulting in a velocity barrier or a combination of both.

In addition to undersized culverts being passage barriers, undersized culverts can cause frequent washouts and embankment erosion, which can load a significant amount of sediment into the stream. Greg and his cohorts will complete hydraulic models and use a "Stream Simulation" design approach to determine the necessary size and elevation of eight new structures. The design goal is to come up with a road stream crossing design for each site that appears to be "invisible" to the aquatic and benthic elements within the stream for continuity of the natural channel.

On North Otter Creek, we have a

unique opportunity to eliminate a road stream crossing altogether, thanks to our partners at Crandon Timber, LLC and Steigerwaldt Land Services, Inc. TU will be leading the effort to remove four culverts that are currently impounding water and serving as partial barriers to fish passage. Northwoods TU volunteers surveyed the additional 16 road stream crossings within the North Otter Creek watershed and determined that it is unlikely that any of them are passage barriers to the movement of trout. Therefore, by removing the road stream crossing on Crandon Timber, LLC's property near the confluence of the North Otter Creek and Peshtigo River, we will be greatly improving the connectivity of more than 14 miles of classified trout water and many more miles of unclassified cold headwater streams that serve as spawning and rearing habitat.

In addition to conducting road stream crossing inventories throughout the Upper Peshtigo River watershed to identify additional barriers, the team has also begun long-term monitoring efforts at our project sites to help us better understand the impacts of culverts and gauge the success of our efforts.

In late May, TU and the U.S.F.S. installed thermographs at sites where the road stream crossings are currently impounding water.

These continuous temperature monitors will remain in the stream until after the projects are completed to help us determine if we decrease water temperatures by eliminating the ponding upstream of the crossing. We are also partnering with a U.S.F.S. aquatic ecologist and fisheries biologist to develop additional monitoring protocols that will prove that brook trout are moving through the newly installed culverts.

Thanks to all of the Northwoods TU volunteers who have accompanied us in the field thus far. If you are interested in volunteering for a day or have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at lmacfarland@tu.org or 715-401-0499.

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




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# Driftless Area Restoration Effort seeks support

*DARE scores major grants for stream projects, teaches us how to do projects*

**By Duke Welter,  
DARE Outreach Coordinator**

Wisconsin TU's chapters and the state council have stepped up with support for the Driftless Area Restoration Effort (DARE) at a time of financial challenge and significant increases in project funding. Just when more than \$8 million in grants for projects (\$5 million for Kickapoo River tributaries, \$3 million for Minnesota and Wisconsin projects) were announced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, DARE faced a crunch as some long-time foundation grants for its program didn't come through. By year's end, those grants will end and the project faces a \$70,000 shortfall on its \$200,000 annual operating budget.

DARE is pushing to find funding from individuals, foundations and other sources to allow it to continue its activities, but uncertainty has always been part of the program. Some funding may be available for technical support for the USDA projects, but that's still being negotiated and may mostly go to county NRCS offices to allow them to design and permit projects.

A challenge grant from the Blackhawk TU chapter, long-time stalwarts of Driftless Area restoration, encouraged chapters to contribute \$5,000 which Blackhawk would match. Coulee Region TU, Wisconsin Clear Waters TU, and Harry & Laura Nohr TU all stepped up to match Blackhawk. Other chapters have contributed smaller amounts, and some are still consid-

ering DARE's request for support.

The Wisconsin State Council also voted at its May meeting to contribute \$5,000.

Individual donors have also stepped up their support, and it is hoped others will be able to do so by year's end. A fundraising dinner at a location in the heart of the Driftless is in the works for a Saturday in early October.

The DARE program not only works to find large pots of money to be used by chapters in their projects around the Driftless Area, but also trains volunteers how to plan and carry them out. The lessons learned can be applied anywhere, and Trout Unlimited wants to do more projects. Current efforts among Wisconsin TU chapters seek to develop similar consortia in northeast Wisconsin, where two new TU staffers are working to develop projects, and in the Central Sands area.

We're grateful for the support of our chapters and council, and hope to solidify our funding for coming years from other sources. Since DARE and other National TU restoration projects don't receive any funding support from National TU at this time, it's important that people and TU groups step up and say they'll support this program working close to home.

Donors to TU at the national level can designate their donations to be routed to DARE.

Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota chapters and councils are also being invited to support DARE this year, and have provided solid support.



Todd Franklin

**DARE'S EFFORTS SUPPORT PROJECTS THROUGHOUT DRIFTLESS AREA**

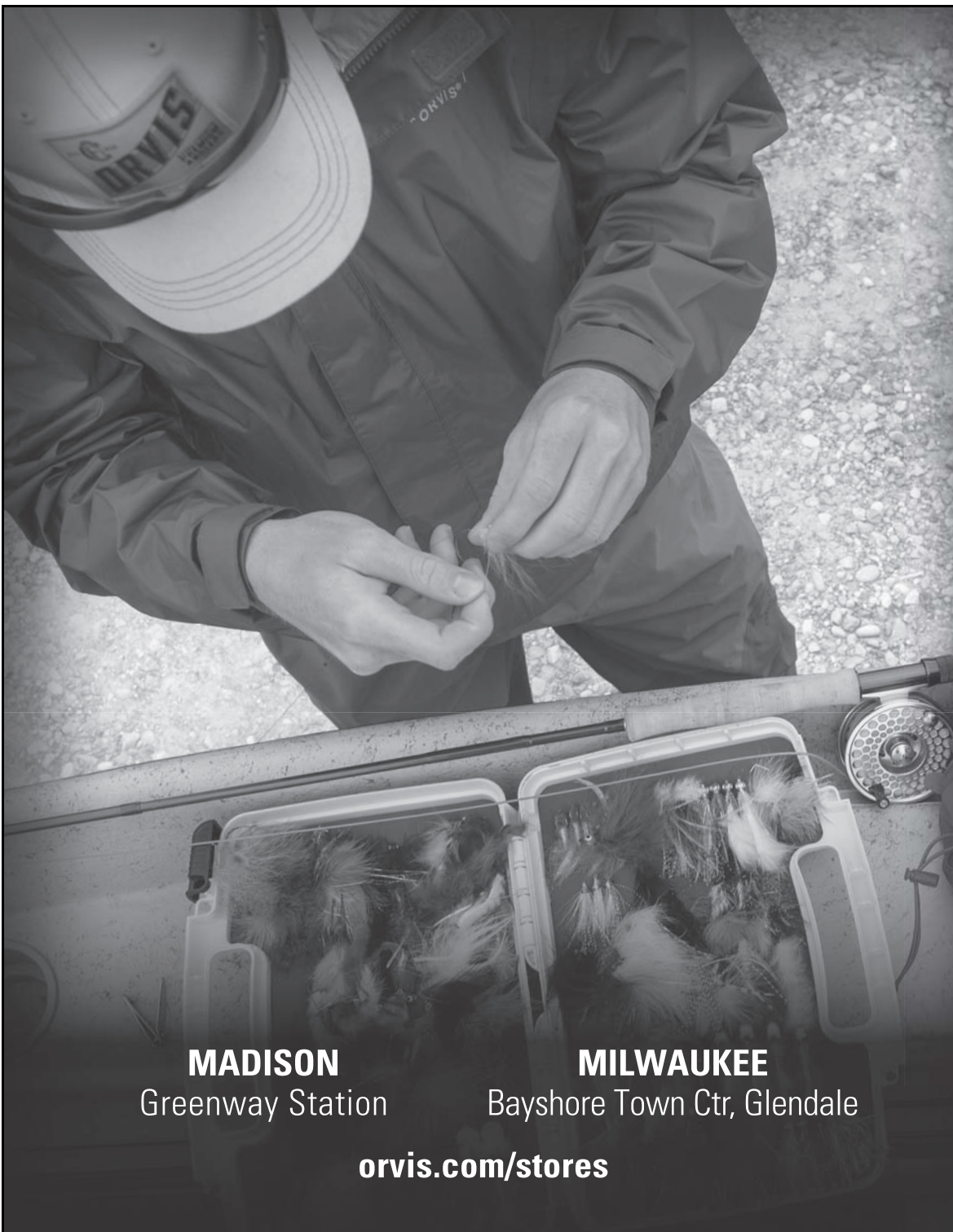
The Aldo Leopold Chapter's Bear Creek project is one of many in the region to benefit from DARE support. Here TU National Trustees tour the project site.

The Nohr TU board asked that the following statement be published in Wisconsin Trout pertaining to their donation to DARE:

"This donation came from a separate account maintained for a number of years by the Harry & Laura Nohr chapter, from a time long ago before we were able to perform project work on the scope and scale we currently do. In addition, the Harry & Laura Nohr chapter has for the last decade, and will in the future, make certain any monies donated for project work or for education will without question be used in entirety for the purpose stated by our valued donors. The Harry & Laura Nohr chapter does, however,

see the need in these lean times for conservation to support DARE and utilize funds from a legacy account, not specifically designated for habitat work or education, but in support of TU's mission in the Driftless Area we are a part of."

The Nohr chapter's project work has been a model for DARE and the region, assembling Farm Bill conservation dollars from the bigger grants obtained by DARE, building good partnerships with Chicago and other TU chapters and maintaining a strong relationship with landowners in its chapter area of Iowa and Grant counties.



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# Spinner Fishing: The Learning Years

*Our second installment of a 3-part series on fishing for trout with spinners*

By Mike Stary

As I stated in the previous article, I really got passionate about fishing when I stepped into a pair of waders and got busy in a trout stream. The problem was that shortly after I did, I moved away from Wisconsin for 16 years. It's not because I didn't have chances. I lived near the Truckee River in Reno, and some really good spots in southern California. It just wasn't a priority, there were so many other things to do, and nobody I lived with had an interest in fishing.

Everything changed quickly when I moved back to Wisconsin in 1994. We settled in the western part of the state near River Falls. Having grown up in the Fox River Valley area, we had some good streams to our south and west. But they did not compare to rivers like the Rush, the "Kinni" and the Trimble, which were all just a short drive away. Gin clear water, deep aqua pools and plenty of cover was a perfect recipe for large numbers of healthy fish. Brookies and browns were common to these streams, and in good size and numbers. This would be the beginning of my learning years.

## Lots of studying

I started to learn about the rivers by all means possible. I purchased books, studied maps, referred to the DNR trout regulations pamphlet, and talked to anyone I could about the rivers in the area. I would take my four-year-old daughter on short road trips to scout the rivers. We wouldn't fish, but just look over bridges, noting potential spots for later. Even though I wasn't fishing, it was still joyous just being around the streams, spending time with my daughter.

When spring arrived I was itching to fish some of the spots I had scouted in the fall. "Where should I start?" I wondered. I lived very close to the upper "Kinni" and had heard and read good things about the river. I chose a spot about nine miles south of my house just south of I-94 off Old Cemetery Road.

## A klunky start

The first day was a bit klunky, but that was to be expected as I hadn't done any wade fishing in years. I parked the car, suited up and headed through the woods to the river.

This is where the klunky part starts. When I finally get to the river I noticed another fisherman about 50 yards downstream of me. At that point I kind of just froze and stared at him and the river, not really sure of my next move. That's when he yelled at me, "You going to stand there or you going to fish?" To which I responded, "I'm not quite sure. How's the fishing?"

"A little slow now, it was better earlier," he replied.

Now that the ice had been broken, I approached him to see if I could get some info on the river. There I stood in my \$29.95 rubber waders, a small tackle box shoved down inside them, and my "Fisher Price" spinning combo. But he did

not judge. After all, we were fishing, and that's what mattered. He provided a wealth of knowledge about the Kinni and other rivers in the area. So what started out somewhat awkwardly turned into something rewarding. I never did fish that spot, but I did learn a valuable lesson: politely engage other fishermen whenever possible because it usually leads to good things.

And so the obsession began. As soon as one fishing excursion ended, I was planning the next one. I became a fishing junkie. Instead of scouting water I was now fishing it, and it was awesome!

Besides the Kinni, I started to branch out to other rivers in the area, mainly the Willow and Rush. The Willow was convenient, and I was a mere five minutes to an awesome spot. I could run out there, fish for an hour and be home before anyone even knew I was gone.

Then I ventured out a little further, learning the Rush, an amazing limestone river. There are fish so big I've seen them run out a full spool of line and just keep going. No matter how good your equipment and your skill level, there are fish that will take charge.

## "Life must have balance"

I have a love affair with that river. Just ask my wife. I figured out that if I got my butt out of bed before sunrise, I could fish the Rush for an hour or two ... or three ... and be home before the grass got any longer. I refer to that because mowing the lawn was the one chore on "the list" that I would forgo anytime to go fishing. A man's got to set his priorities, right? Most of the time I could return before the girls were even awake. And yes, the yard still got mowed.

After all, life is about balance, which reminds me of one of my favorite quotes from Mr. Miage to "Danielson" from the movie *The Karate Kid*: "Whole life must have balance." That's so true.

## Favorite equipment

I went pretty crazy with equipment during this spell, purchasing rods, reels, lines and lures. I tried a lot of them, but after years of experimentation, I settled on just a couple of basics. I literally use one rod, one reel, one type of line and three lures for 99 percent of my spin fishing. And, 90 percent of that time, it's a single lure.

"What might that combo be?" you ask. Well, it starts with a six-foot St. Croix Avid rod, with a medium-light action and fast tip. The reel is a Quantum Catalyst, loaded with six-pound Trilene XL line. Tie on a black 1/8-ounce Wordens rooster tail and let the party begin. Although this combo works for me, try different combos until you find what works for you. I tend to buy the best equipment I can afford, as it tends to work better and last longer.

## Favorite baits

Regarding baits, my primary tackle box contains only three lures. In the beginning of the early season I throw modified tube jig. When things warm up a bit, I start



## PETE FIGHTING A NICE BROWN

Author Mike Stary's lifelong friend and one of the best spin fishermen he knows, Pete, battles with a nice brown.

throwing a rooster tail. In late summer and fall I go for a modified, countdown, rainbow pattern Rapala. That's it! If I can't catch fish on one of those lures, I might as well quit. Regarding the black rooster tail, we have a saying: "If black's not working, tie on black." That's how effective that lure is for us.

## "Me time" and watching

Of course, the most important aspect of learning is spending time on the water. That's the classroom. I had a lot of "me" time during those years, mostly by choice, but also because most of my fishing buddies lived on the other side of the state, and those knuckleheads thought I was stretching the truth about the quality of fishing in this part of the state.

I fished whenever I could before work, after work and even on my lunch break. Those were the days when everything came together: equipment, wading and casting skills, and how to read water, to mention a few. The aforementioned details were what you needed to catch fish. They however, are only a part of the fishing experience as a whole.

Getting your body out of bed before your head wants you to. The smell of the morning coffee as you

suit up, the lonely caffeine-enhanced drive to the river, the walk to the river through the dew-laden grass, busting spider webs along the way. The birds, the beavers, the turtles and the smells are all part of the experience before you even see the water. But, when you finally see the water and the hair on the back of your neck stands up, you realize why you're there. Bliss, baby.

I usually take a few moments to evaluate the river before tossing my first cast. After all, it's always nice to catch a fish on that first cast. After that, I just get busy. How long I fish depends on many factors. The most important one however, is the bite. If the bite is on, time stands still, and little else matters. Once the bite slows, the other factors kick in, usually the list waiting for me at home. But whenever I'm in a trout stream, there's really nothing else I'd rather be doing.

But those years were not just about "me" time. Without time on the water with other fishermen, I would have missed out on a lot of aspects of fishing, particularly learning from others. Because just when you think you know it all, you realize how much you don't know.

See *SPINNERS*, page 7



# TU's Embrace-A-Stream program a national gem

*Embrace the "One TU" idea, and consider supporting EAS.*

By Henry Koltz, TU National Trustee

Trout Unlimited's Embrace-A-Stream (EAS) grant program is truly a national gem. Established in 1975, the program provides matching grant funds of up to \$10,000 for habitat and classroom projects. The program is nationwide, and has funded more than 1,000 projects since its inception, with a total value of more than \$17 million.

Currently, I am the Great Lakes representative on the Embrace-A-Stream grant panel. Each year, the panel, which is made up of its chair and 10 regional representatives, meets to determine which grant applications will be funded. During the past five years we have had a tremendous number of applications, but have had sharply declining funds to give out.

This past cycle (2015-2016), for instance, the panel was able to provide approximately \$85,000 in grants to 26 chapters. In years past, we have had double that amount, and on occasion close to triple that amount, to provide to chapters. In short, the programs needs your help.

## Why support EAS?

The first question in response to any request for financial assistance should always be "why should I?" The answers here are simple, and they are myriad.

First, donating to EAS is a great way to uphold the "One TU" message. Yes, funds that you donate may leave Wisconsin. They might even leave the Midwest. That is a reality. But it is also a hard reality that not every region of Trout Unlimited's

expanse is as strong as Wisconsin TU. Our chapters have great leaders, great people, great funding streams, and great opportunities to perform stream work. Although we face many issues with our waters, moreover, we still have reasonably solid resources in which we work.

Other regions are not nearly as lucky. In some of the more remote

*Helping a rag tag group of caballeros who are restocking trout by horseback in a fire-ravaged forest might be the jump start that chapter needs to generate momentum and grow into a regional force.*

areas of the TU nation, chapter membership may not be strong, and financial resources may be very limited. The members of such chapters are, in some instances, doing their best to protect endangered trout and salmon species that have been significantly negatively impacted by things

like forest fires and associated ash flows, such as in the southwest, or massive fishery collapses such as on the west coast, or acid rain impacts and the effects of development in the southeast.

EAS provides a funding source for some of our best coldwater warriors who are often facing down some of the TU nation's biggest challenges. Helping such chapters recognizes that TU doesn't end at our chapter territory's border, or at the state line. We are best when we work together, and when we help our brothers and sisters in the trout community, even though we might never fish the waters that they help protect. One TU, nationwide.

Second, TU is better when we do all that we collectively can to help our chapters which need our collective help the most. EAS is intended to help jump start projects and chapters. Helping a rag tag group of caballeros who are restocking trout by horseback in a fire-ravaged forest might be the jump start that chapter



## EAS GRANT SUPPORTED KIAP-TU-WISH CHAPTER'S RED CABIN SITE

Although recent rains briefly submerged the work site, work on Kiap's Red Cabin site continue. It was one of many projects in Wisconsin that has received a TU National Embrace-A-Stream grant.

needs to generate momentum and grow into a regional force.

Helping coastal chapters work with vineyards and agriculture to create Pacific steelhead spawning refuges might be the jump start that a TU chapter needs to encourage even more growers to sign up for work. The impact that such programs can have is significant, and is important.

The more chapters that we can jump start, the stronger TU will become locally, regionally and nationally. There is no better example of this than the Trout Unlimited Driftless Area Effort (TUDARE), right here in the Midwest. EAS has supported numerous TUDARE projects for numerous Wisconsin TU Chapters, in and out of the Driftless Area. This has helped create or sustain momentum for those chapters, including my own, SEWTU.

Finally, there is no better way to be a part of TU's national in-stream and in-classroom activities than to donate to EAS. The funds which EAS grants to chapters truly do perform work nationwide. Each project is required to do a final written submission, and literally each project is a significant photo opportunity.

If you, or a company with which

you are affiliated, are looking for truly incredible press, for helping to support truly incredible projects, then EAS is a significant opportunity. From California, Oregon and Washington on the west coast, to projects in Montana, Utah, Idaho and elsewhere in the Rocky Mountains, to projects in New Mexico, Arizona, and other points in the southwest, to projects right here in the Midwest, and at all places in the east from Maine to South Carolina, EAS is there. This is a national program, which makes national impacts, and which needs a truly national champion. If you or your company can help, it is help that is greatly needed and which will be greatly appreciated.

You can donate to EAS by heading to: <https://gifts.tumembership.org/donate/eas16?ms=MWL-WFO-WEAS16-VolOps>. Prizes are available for donations, which change from time to time, and which are featured at the link above.

Please consider making a donation, and thank you for all that you do for all of TU.

## SPINNERS

*Continued from previous page*

I recall one day of fishing with my life-long friend and favorite fishing partner. When I'm spin fishing for trout, which is almost always, I pay attention to the hatches, but usually do nothing to fish them. My buddy Pete, on the other hand, figured out a way to make his lure (a black rooster tail, of course) dance on the surface to "match the hatch." I sat in awe as he caught about 11 fish in a row. It was unbelievable!

The message here is never stop learning, no matter what the source. Fishing with and talking to other anglers has taught me more about fishing and life than I ever could have learned had I always fished solo.

## Know the rules

A couple of other things worth learning early on are going to sound basic, but could go a long way in making or breaking a fishing outing. The first one: know the rules. Read, understand and follow the rules. The DNR and local law enforcement know the rules and expect you to know them as well. Follow them,

and they will be your friends. Break them, and it could get ugly.

## Respect landowners

The other: respect the rights of landowners. You need to be friendly and respectful to them. It not only affects your time on the water, but other fishermen's time as well. You know what they say about one bad apple. At some point in your life you will be bullied by a landowner. But as long as you follow the rules and are respectful to them, you need not worry. I encourage you to respectfully exercise your rights on the water. It is a privilege worth protecting.

Spin early and spin often!

*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 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, and he plans to "amp up" the presentation this year to really get the kids into it.*



## A VERY SIMPLISTIC BOX WITH JUST A FEW VERY EFFECTIVE LURES

in the beginning of the early season the author uses a modified tube jig. When things warm up he uses a rooster tail, usually black. In late summer and fall he throws a modified Countdown Rapala with a rainbow pattern.



# Panfish: A Story in Three Acts

By Tristan Kloss

## Act One:

Nobody starts fishing by fly fishing. Nobody that I know, anyway. Most of us likely started with a cheap push-button spincasting reel and a carton of worms.

As a kid I remember going to McCarty Park with my dad and stopping at Gunderson's a few blocks away to pick up panfish worms. I had a bright orange Mickey Mouse rod about four feet long and caught 'gills that felt about as large.

A few summers later I drifted away from fishing and Gunderson's went out of business. The last time I visited the park lagoon it seemed little better than a carp hole, and I don't quite understand how the bait shop survived as long as it did in the middle of South Milwaukee.

Still, my first cognizant memory of fishing is in that lagoon. All of us who fish have that memory, and most of them likely end with a bluegill on the line.

After picking up a fly rod and catching my first fish with it, a tiny rainbow trout, on the Boulder River in Montana, bluegills played an integral role in developing my affection for the sport. A hand-tied woolly worm with white chenille, oversized grizzly hackle, and red yarn took a small bluegill next to a willow tree on a pond in the southern Kettle Moraine State Forest during an afternoon rain shower. It surprised me to suddenly feel the weight of the feisty fish tugging on my rod. It tickled me to know that something I created could fool a wild and wily critter. It began to build that unshakeable confidence in fly selection sorely needed on "one-of-those-days."

A year or so later I migrated to rod building, purchasing a kit from Hook & Hackle. It was a four-piece 3-weight, a drab matte gray blank with black wraps that were far too long for the guides and ferrules; rather than bending in a graceful U-shape, it contorted into something like an "L" whenever I set the hook. I still wonder how it didn't snap in half. That rod got worked at an unnamed reservoir outside the city, the remnants of an old gravel pit that was as much overgrown with weeds as it was with 'gills. It took little more than to drop the fly along the edge of the weed line for small fish to dart from cover and eagerly suck in whatever you gave them.

Even today, when I live in one of the most beautiful places in the country, among some of the best fishing opportunities in the state, when I routinely have the opportunity to chase native brookies or wild browns or aggressive smallmouth, there's something to be said about taking a rod, a couple of flies, a couple of beers, and catching hand-sized panfish with abandon along the shoreline.

Fishing need not be challenging or fancy to be fun. Bluegills are testament to that...

## Act Two:

My nephew's first successes fishing was on flies, though he may not appreciate it yet and it may not be in the way you imagine.

A while back my wife's family was up at their cottage on Fish Lake, one of the many Fish lakes that dot every county in this state,

on my father-in-law's pontoon boat, fishing. We didn't bring live bait, and my nephew was itching to fish with *something*. I rummaged around my fly box and pulled out a Clouser Minnow, one of the few flies I had with me that I figured



would have enough weight for him to make a decent cast on his push-button spincast rod.

I tied on the Clouser, reminded him again how to properly cast, and left him to it as I turned to the other side of the boat and began fishing. My father-in-law was focused on the retrieve with his own spinning lure, and I let the rhythm of the cast-and-strip lull me into my own world. A few moments passed in silence. Eventually I realized that my nephew stopped fishing; he was just standing there. I figured his line was tangled for the umpteenth time and set down my rod to turn and help him.

There he stood. His rod was doubled over, and one of the largest crappies I've even seen was twisting from the end of his line.

I'll admit, I may have let loose an expletive.

Somewhere I have a photo of him: quietly beaming, rod held taut with both hands, a Clouser dangling from the lip of a giant crappie.

This year we didn't have the boat, so we waded just offshore toward a thin stand of weeds. It was a sunny afternoon and the jet skis and pleasure cruisers had churned the lake into a giant rolling wave. I didn't expect much but was pleasantly surprised by a slow and steady bite. Bluegills are the universal sign of fishing, and we enjoyed the simple pleasure of a line tug or twitching bobber. I taught my nephew the age-old tradition of yelling "Fish On!" and tied on a small soft hackle nymph that I was

having some success with, instructing him to slowly retrieve it with his rod until he felt the line stop. Then set the hook.

A short time later he hollered "Fish On!"

My competitive nature com-

would be interested in teaching some 10-to-12 year olds fly fishing, and I said yes. As I wait for them to arrive I begin to wonder if I should have asked more questions.

The van pulled up with nine children and chaperones. We've only got two hours and I know the main reason they came here, so I dispense with most of the typical introductory stuff and take them right into casting. Ten minutes later they've convinced me they can throw the line forward without too much trouble and I send them out to the lagoon.

What ensues isn't "fly fishing" in the strictest sense of the sport; it's more like dabbing with a cane pole, or reenacting a scene from *Raiders of the Lost Ark*. We lost flies. I untangled leaders and rebuilt busted ones. I ran across the pond whenever someone yelled out they have a fish, since I'm the only one with a forceps to unhook 'em.

Sure, a couple of the kids had pretty decent casts. A few more began to pick it up as the last hour drew to a close. But the important thing to me was that at the end of the day each one of them can go home and say *I caught a fish on a fly rod, for the first time, ever*. And that fish was a bluegill.

At the end of our time together I asked them if they had fun, and heard a resounding "Yes." A few of them said they'll be asking for fly rods for their birthday or Christmas.

I don't know if any of them will come back to it again. I wonder if my niece and nephew will still be interested years from now when hormones kick in and the better part of the rest of the whole-world catches up to them. Maybe they'll float away from it like I did, only to come back many years later when the time and place is right. Or maybe they'll only be left with a good memory from childhood of their aunt and uncle and sunny days and bright-colored fish.

But nobody stops fishing before passing through a school of panfish. Nobody that I know, anyway.

pelled me to begin keeping score on our total catch. I pulled out to a commendable lead when my nephew announced that he had caught "fish eggs." My wife, a researcher who has studied zebra fish, confirmed with some astonishment that they were fish eggs, a whole mess of them strung along the soft hackle.

My nephew called the competition over. He just caught hundreds of fish; no way could I catch up. Rather than start a philosophical debate about when a fish becomes a fish, I finally conceded.

At this point my three-year-old niece joined in the fun, splashing her away across the beach when one of us put a fish on the line so she could "pet" it. After a while she told me that she wanted to let one go. When that time came I gingerly held the little 'gill in my hand as she looked toward me.

"Hold out your hands," I said. She laid them palms up. I gently set the quieted fish in her hands, and as she slowly lowered them into the water the fish flicked its tail and was gone...

## Act Three:

Two days after our stay at the cottage I left for work early and headed down to Vilas Park with a mess of fly rods in the back of the car in order to meet with a group of kids from a summer rec program. In all honestly I didn't know much about it, and didn't know what to expect. One of the program directors called the store a few weeks earlier asking if we



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## WELLS

*Continued from page 1*

consin Supreme Court level, arguing that the DNR should have the ability to review all aspects of proposed high-capacity wells. Schimel's opinion deals with the Lake Beulah decision (and others), and the DNR's ability to review wells, and to impose permit restrictions upon them, in light of 2011 Wisconsin Act 21.

2011 Wisconsin Act 21 altered the way in which government agencies, including the DNR, are able to promulgate rules under enabling statutes. The Legislative Council Act memo which accompanied 2011 Wisconsin Act 21 noted that "Act 21 provides that no agency may implement or enforce any standard, requirement, or threshold, including as a term or condition of any license issued by the agency, unless that standard, requirement, or threshold is explicitly required or explicitly permitted by statute or by rule," and continued that "The Act also allows the Governor, by executive order, to prescribe guidelines to ensure that rules are promulgated in compliance [with governing standards.]" See 2011 Wisconsin Act 21 Legislative Council Act Memo.

Schimel's opinion was in response to a request from the Wisconsin Legislature's Assembly Committee on Organization. That committee posed four questions:

Did the Wisconsin Supreme Court in *Lake Beulah Management District v. Department of Natural Resources* interpret and apply the requirement in Wis. Stat. § 227.10(2m) that the DNR has explicit authority to impose requirements and conditions?

Are Wis. Stat. §§ 281.11 and 281.12 exceptions to the proscriptions of Wis. Stat. § 227.10(2m) such that DNR may impose monitoring well conditions or require consideration of cumulative impacts for high-capacity well permits in the absence of explicit authority under any statute or administrative rule?

Did the legislature delegate its public trust authority to the DNR with sufficient clarity and specificity in the context of the issuances of high-capacity groundwater well withdrawals, particularly with respect to: (i) conditions for monitor-

ing wells, (ii) cumulative impact analysis, and (iii) impact analysis on groundwater, other private wells and wetlands?

Does Wisconsin's high-capacity well regulatory structure set forth at Wis. Stat. §§ 281.34 and 281.35 or related regulations, explicitly require or explicitly permit monitoring wells or cumulative impact analysis as conditions for high-capacity well permits?

See [https://www.doj.state.wi.us/news-releases/attorney\\_general-schimel-issues-formal-opinion-regarding-2011-wi-act-21-and-high-capacity-wells](https://www.doj.state.wi.us/news-releases/attorney_general-schimel-issues-formal-opinion-regarding-2011-wi-act-21-and-high-capacity-wells). In response to these questions, Schimel replied:

I have determined that the Supreme Court did not address the newly passed Act 21 in *Lake Beulah Management District v. Department of Natural Resources*. *Lake Beulah*, 335 Wis. 2d 47. I further conclude that neither Wis. Stat. § 281 nor the public trust doctrine give DNR the authority to impose any condition not explicitly allowed in state statute or rule. In addition, no other authority exists which permits DNR to impose the conditions enumerated by the Assembly.

In short, Schimel opined that the *Lake Beulah* decision was no longer good law as it had been decided under old law (pre-2011 Wisconsin Act 21) and no longer applicable. In addition, his opinion said the DNR may not impose restrictions upon high-capacity wells which are not explicitly statutorily allowed. Finally, his opinion found that the public trust doctrine does not confer to the DNR rights to regulate wells other than those specifically extended to it by the legislature.

### Opinion, not law

It is important to note that attorney general opinions do not carry the force of law. They are, as their name implies, opinions which are not issued by a court of law. However, they are influential.

On June 10, 2016, however, DNR indicated that it would follow Attorney General Schimel's opinion, even though the same had not been approved by any court. As a result, it appears that DNR will no longer perform cumulative impact analysis of high-capacity well applications, and will only review wells

using the criteria set forth above. In addition, DNR will only impose permit restrictions which are explicitly allowed by statute, which will consider upon request whether permit restrictions on existing permits will remain in force.

### WITU Positions

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited believes that this is a poor outcome.

First, the legal voracity of his opinion has not been tested or approved by any court. The changes which his opinion suggests are significant and will have sweeping impacts. Prior to any change of course being implemented by the DNR, the attorney general's opinion, which comes from neither the legislature nor a court, and which renders moot a unanimous decision of the Wisconsin Supreme Court, should be court-reviewed. Wisconsin TU believes that the DNR's adoption of the attorney general's opinion, and the broad action with significant statewide impacts that it triggers, sidesteps both legislative and court processes.

Second, Wisconsin TU strongly believes that well permits should not be issued ignoring the presence of existing high-capacity wells.

One analogy that Wisconsin TU often uses regarding this matter is that of a speed limit. Yes, a road may be posted with a 70 mile per hour speed limit. When driving, however, motorists must take heed of other factors. Construction zones, inclement weather, or heavy traffic are all factors that motorists must take in to account.

Declaring that the law allows travel at 70 miles per hour, and therefore remaining intentionally blind to all other factors, would be dangerous, and could lead to irreparable harm. No one would drive 70 mph in an ice storm, or barrel in to rush hour congestion simply because a sign said so.

Wisconsin TU believes that ignoring the cumulative impacts of high-capacity wells during the permitting phase presents the same scenario. It is simply common sense that obvious factors, such as the proximity of existing wells, should be considered during the well permitting process.

Third, Wisconsin TU is strongly

opposed to limiting the DNR's ability to place common-sense restrictions upon issued high-capacity wells. Science demands that agencies have more tools to regulate permits and groundwater withdrawals, not less.

It is not hyperbole to state that as time goes by, the state of our science advances. We become better able to understand the manner in which groundwater and surface water are interrelated, and we become better able to map subsurface aquifers. Locking permits in today, with limited regulatory tools at DNR's disposal, ignores this reality and saddles future generations with permits made under today's science, and issued using today's limited restrictions.

Finally, the unfortunate result of the DNR's wholesale adoption of the attorney general's opinion will almost certainly be litigation. DNR's permitting is no longer based upon court decisions, or a specific legislative act. Rather, as DNR's own website notes, it has changed its permitting process directly in response to the attorney general's opinion. See <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wells/highcapacity.html>.

Such a state of affairs invites litigation and offers no certainty to any user group, from farmers and businesses to sportsmen and municipal water departments. In such an uncertain state, any investment in a high-capacity well must be made knowing that a court challenge is inevitable, and that the investment may be lost if a court decision invalidates the attorney general's opinion and DNR's adoption of the same. Such a situation does nothing to attract investment in Wisconsin, is bad for Wisconsin, and is bad for the massive economic impacts that our waters support.

Wisconsin TU strongly believes that comprehensive groundwater reform is needed, and stands ready to be a part of any such discussions in the Wisconsin Legislature, and to defend Wisconsin's coldwater resources.

*Former state council chair and current TU National trustee Henry Koltz leads the council's legislative committee.*

# DNR T.R.O.U.T. tool an amazing resource

The Department of Natural Resources fisheries bureau has developed a new online map and user tool to help trout anglers find places to fish and gain information about local regulations. The tool is available through [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov), using the keyword "TROUT."

The TROUT tool, an acronym for Trout Regulations and Opportunities User Tool, will optimize anglers' time by showing where publicly accessible land is relative to roads, bridge crossings and trout streams.

- This tool provides anglers with:
- on-the-go mobile access to trout streams and regulations
  - roads, aerial images and fishing easements
  - the ability to find a location, measure distances and print/save a customized map for a fishing trip.

Along with public land, fishing easements and parking lots, the tool allows anglers to click a colored section of stream to see the specific

regulation for that section of water. For more information check the fisheries regulations page at <http://devlwww.dnr.state.wi.us/topic/fishing/regulations/troutregs.html>

Users may zoom in or out to find more detailed information. Once a location is identified, anglers may click to open a window describing the bag limit and season.

Wisconsin has more than 13,000 miles of classified trout waters, which are available on an additional layer in the tool. Check the trout stream classification website for details on how and why waters are classified. Go to <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Fishing/trout/streamclassification.html>

—DNR

### Bob Haase's take on T.R.O.U.T.

You will see a map of Wisconsin with all the trout streams shown in the colors representing the regulations for that stream. When using a smart phone, if you click on the symbol above the + and - to the left, it will take you to the location you

are at, as long as you have GPS enabled. By zooming in you can see if the land is publicly or privately owned and if there are any public fishing easements. If you click on the stream, the app will provide you with the regulations for that part of the stream. If you click on "Menu," it will allow you to export the map so you can save or print it, or bookmark it.

If you don't have a smart phone, you can do this at home on your computer and print a copy to take along with you.

There is a lot of information here and they are asking all Trout Management Team members and fisheries staff to check for accuracy and report any problems. Anglers are welcome to provide feedback, too.

### Check it out

If you haven't taken the time to check out the DNR website, it may be worth your while to spend some time there to see all that's available. For example, if you go to [dnr.wi.gov/topics/fishing/trout/streammaps.html](http://dnr.wi.gov/topics/fishing/trout/streammaps.html) you will find a site where you can

select by county a list of all the trout stream maps for the county. There you can see detailed information about the stream, such as its classification and length. By clicking on the stream name you can obtain additional detailed information about the stream. If you click on "Map Link" for the specific stream, you will be able to get a detailed map of the stream, but you will need to have the Microsoft Silverlight app to view the map.

If you go to [dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/trout](http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/trout) you will find a site with all kinds of information, such as the history of brook and brown trout or links to things such as a PDF download of the trout fishing regulations.

Whether you have fished trout in Wisconsin all your life or are just getting started, you will find a lot of helpful and interesting information on the DNR website.

*DNR Trout Coordinator Joanna Griffin and long-time WITU Education Chair Bob Haase contributed to this report.*



## Brook trout DNA research continues

By Robert Tabbert

The purpose of this study is to use DNR studies 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.

This summer we plan to concentrate our collecting from spring ponds that drain directly into Lake Superior. I am asking all of you for your help. Have any of you caught brook trout out of non-stocked spring ponds or spring creeks that drain into Lake Superior? We need any information that will help us locate brook trout out of non-stocked spring ponds that drain into Lake Superior for collecting fin clips for the DNA studies. We have DNA data from brook trout out of spring ponds that drain into Lake Michigan and into the Mississippi River. We have no data from brook trout out of spring ponds that drain into the Lake Superior drainage. The comparison of brook trout DNA data from the three major drainages that drain northern WI will help us better understand our search for a native Wisconsin brook trout.

If you have caught brook trout out of the small spring creek above Morgan Falls in Ashland County, please contact me. We have field data that suggests that there are brook trout in this small spring creek. An electrical backpack shocker might be the only way that we could collect sufficient brook trout for a DNA statistical sample.

All DNA sequencing and report writing for this study has been done at the UW-Stevens Point Genetic Lab by Brian Sloss and Keith Turnquest. All funding for this study has come from the Conservation Committee of the International Federation of Fly Fishers. This committee supported three conservation grants of \$1,500 each, for a total of \$4,500, to fund this study. All IFFF monies have gone directly to Brian Sloss at the UW-Stevens Point Genetic Lab to pay for the DNA sequencing and report writing. Three reports have been written. Copies are in the IFFF Dropbox.

All field-collecting expenses have been paid for directly by the volunteer fly fishers who have helped me collect the field data, such as catching brook trout for anal fin clips for this DNA study.

*An exploration geologist, Robert Tabbert is a life member of TU and IFFF, chair of IFFF's Coldwater Committee, brook trout DNA, and senior conservation advisor to IFFF's board. He spends his winters in Louisiana and his summers in Lac du Flambeau, Wisconsin. Contact him at rtab@msn.com.*



### 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.

## Be AIS aware!

*Be on the watch for aquatic invasive species.*

By Amanda Perdzoek, AIS Program Director, River Alliance of Wisconsin

If you're reading this article, you're probably already aware that Wisconsin is home to many high-class trout streams that provide excellent angling opportunities for state citizens and travelers from across the country. Unfortunately, these streams provide an excellent environment for non-native, aggressive plants and animals known as Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), that want to make Wisconsin their home as well. Once established, these species can be problematic for Wisconsin streams and are extremely difficult to remove.

Many partners from across the state, including the River Alliance of Wisconsin, the Department of Natural Resources, and county conservation departments, are working to slow the establishment and spread of invasive species in Wisconsin's streams. However, citizen involvement and education is vital for these efforts to succeed.

Are you an angler interested in assisting with efforts to stop the establishment and spread of invasive species? To get you started, I've compiled a bit of information on three species to keep your eye out for this summer:

### Japanese hops

**What it does:** Japanese hops grows as vines which smother vegetation on river banks. Since it lacks a complex root system, infestations can cause bank erosion and sedimentation of streams.

**Where it is:** Primarily located in trout streams in the southeast region of the state, but has also been found in the Eau Claire area, and in Waukesha County. This plant can be found lining streams and climbing onto upland areas such as pastures.

**How to identify:** Its leaves are two to five inches long with five or more lobes. The stems are covered

in downward pointing hairs which feel abrasive to the touch.

### Japanese knotweed

**What it does:** Grows five to 10 feet tall, forming a dense wall that blocks access to streams. It is often planted as an ornamental in yards and then escapes to nearby areas. It can disrupt growth of trees along streams, leading to increased soil erosion. The plant also contains compounds that are toxic to surrounding vegetation.

**Where it is:** Known infestations can be found scattered throughout the state.

**How to identify:** Branches grow in a zigzag pattern with leaves that are three to five inches wide and four to nine inches long. Flowers are white and grow in clusters that stand upright from leaf bases. Stems of this plant are hollow and resemble bamboo.

### New Zealand mudsnail

**What it does:** Forms dense populations composed of more than half a million individuals per square meter. This species disrupts vegetation on the bottom of streams, causing the streams to become cloudier and warmer, and do not have enough nutritional value for fish. They are often transported on recreational gear such as felt-soled wading boots, and can survive for 25 days or more out of water. Since they are asexual, only one individual is needed to start a new population.

**Where it is:** Only verified inland populations in Wisconsin can be found on a segment of Black Earth Creek between Black Earth and Cross Plains. They are found throughout the Western US, with many populations occurring in Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming trout streams.

**How to identify:** New Zealand mudsnails are extremely hard to distinguish from other native species of

See AIS, page 11

## TU volunteers help another successful youth expo

*More than 750 youth learn a little about TU, and tie their first fly*

By Bob Haase, WITU Education Committee

The 2016 Midwest Outdoor Heritage Education Expo (MOHEE) gets better every year. This year more than 2,300 kids and about 500 chaperones attended the event. This is a very-well-run event with great support for the volunteers and those attending. They even provided breakfast, lunch and drinks throughout the day.

There are a lot of things for kids to see and do, and it's a great opportunity to learn about the great outdoors. Trout Unlimited has been part of this program since the beginning, and we teach the kids how to tie a fly. We are not trying to make them fly fishers or fly tiers. We are simply hoping to have them catch a fish on something they made themselves, to help get them hooked on fishing. We have them tie a bluegill fly and tell them how to use a spinning float on a spinning rod to catch bluegills. We wanted to provide a chance for the kids to try their hand at casting a fly rod but we would need more volunteers. Maybe next year?

Other things we could teach are aquatic insect identification or knot tying, or we could have a display showing our stream work, water monitoring and other environmental projects. We don't need to make it complicated. We just need to create an awareness for the kids, teachers and other chaperones. Maybe we could develop a handout about clean water, habitat, and protecting our natural resources. Again, it doesn't have to be complicated. We have all year to work on this and think about other things we can do, but why wait. Let's start right now and put together something for the 2017 MOHEE.

Special thanks go out to TU member volunteers Jerry Smet, Rand VanderSchaff, Tom Connelly, Bill Millionig, Dave LaPine, Mike SanDretto, and Jeff Treu from the Central Wisconsin Chapter, Jerry Gorman, Mike Stapleton, Renee Segal, and Jared Segal from the Aldo Leopold Chapter, and Scot Stewart from the Southern Chapter. Without their help we could not have done this.

I would also like to give recognition to Mark LaBarbera for all the



### TU VOLUNTEERS TEACH 750 KIDS TO TIE A FLY AT MOHEE

Mike Stapleton from the Aldo Leopold Chapter is shown helping a student tie a fly. Behind them Rand VanderSchaff (left) and Bill Millionig (right) from the Central Wisconsin Chapter help students tie a fly.

work he puts into organizing and running this event, and also thank all the other volunteers who make this event possible. Mark your calendar for the third week in May for 2017 for next year's MOHEE. The

more volunteers we have, the more we can do. To learn more about how you can help next year contact me at flytier@milwpc.com or 920-922-8003.



**AIS**

continued from page 10

snails, and often require close examination by an expert to be properly identified. They are typically four to six millimeters long and have a small trap door structure that covers the shell at the opening.

Knowing how to identify a species is the first step to slowing their spread in Wisconsin's streams. Here are additional steps and resources you can use to help in the fight against invasive species:

Removing all dirt, debris, animals, and plant matter from gear when leaving a stream

Report any suspicious plants or animals to your local Department of Natural Resources AIS Coordinator: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/invasives/report.html>

Learn to identify more AIS and volunteer to monitor streams through the River Alliance of Wisconsin's Project RED: <https://www.wisconsinrivers.org/our-work/project-red>

Here's to a fun, safe and successful summer on our streams. Thanks for being on the lookout!



Mike Gangloff

**THREE INVASIVE SPECIES TO WATCH FOR THIS SUMMER**



® Photo by Elizabeth J. Czarapata



David Engen

Japanese knotweed, left, grows to 10 feet,

# Watershed Access Fund

## Winter 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 generation contributions, we are already approaching \$7,500 already 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!

### 2016 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 Gallig            | Hartland WI   |
| Lawrence Clowry, M.D. | Wauwatosa WI       | Ralph Gaudio              | Desoto WI     |
| Terry Cummings        | Rhineland WI       | Scott Geboy               | Fox Point WI  |

- |                          |                   |   |                  |
|--------------------------|-------------------|---|------------------|
| 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 Nechler            | Wauwaukee 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")*

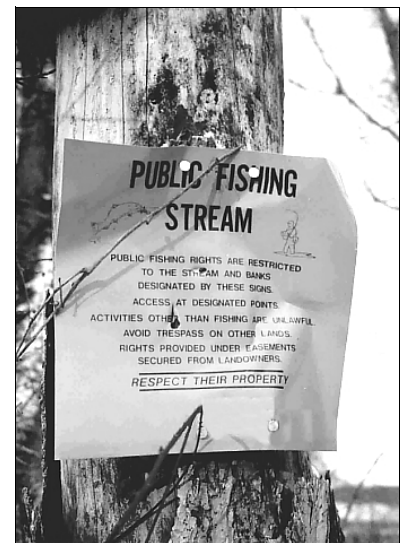
MAIL TO: TU Watershed Access Fund  
Attn: Doug Brown  
R4800 Timber Ln.  
Ringle, WI 54471

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_





## Reducing and reusing...with fishing gear!



Sarah Sanford

### SHOOTING HEAD WALLET MADE FROM WADERS

Sarah Sanford enjoys making useful items from used fishing gear, like waders.

By Sarah Sanford

I organized a Rush River Clean Up for nearly a decade in Pierce County, and my research on the "whys and hows" of litter and stream cleaning made me wonder if anglers could contribute less to the waste stream.

Two ways of doing that are to reduce and reuse. Reducing your con-

tributions to the waste stream can be as simple as taking better care of what you have by patching your waders and protecting your tying and fishing equipment. Reusing can be salvaging what is still useful from those waders and jackets and making something that you or someone else can use.

Over time I have produced many items that I use for tying, traveling

or fishing and have had some to spare for sale or swap to other anglers.

Breathable wader material is easy to sew and the hardware from buckles, belts, and straps can be made into messenger bags, creels, shaving kit bags, wallets and other items. The neoprene toes from the booties can step in as reel cases.

I personally use a folding tool case that can be set up as a small easel which keeps my fly tying tools handy and protects them from drops and loss between tying sessions. My boot-foot waders yielded several items from the breathable material and also a very comfy pair of hiking boots for those damp days in the woods spotting birds, colorful leaves or edible mushrooms. Each new item tells a story for the maker. My tying tool wallets and the creel might still have ground-in dirt coloring some areas with the tale of a day hiking in the red clay along the Brule. You might spy the hole that marks the intersection of the barbed wire at my favorite river and the knee of my oldest waders in something new, something that does not need to be waterproof!

The tying-tool wallets also utilize re-purposed menswear with tool pockets sewn from shirts and pants. Items I have found on beaches from the Midwest to the oceans see new duty as buttons and clasp covers.

A third way of wasting less is recycling. Anglers who choose not to patch or repair breathable items can wash them and give them to me, but beware, I don't repair!

## 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. They are available to our chapters and 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).

## Age validation of brown trout in Driftless Area streams

By Matthew Mitro and Justin Haglund, DNR Science Services

In 2011 the Wisconsin DNR initiated a task group to develop and update standardized age estimation protocols for fish species of primary management concern. Fish management decisions are typically based upon knowledge of population age structure, size-at-age, growth rates, and mortality rates. Standardization in our approaches to determining fish age, including the use of validated ageing structures, is important for ensuring high accuracy and precision in our data.

Seasonal changes in fish growth may produce periodic increments or rings in calcified structures such as scales and otoliths, thereby indicating fish age. Scales have fallen out of favor for determining trout age because of their inaccuracy, particularly for older fish. Many studies have shown otoliths, however, do accurately represent ages of fish both young and old. Otoliths are stone-like structures of calcium carbonate located in a fish's head. Concentric rings in otoliths may accurately represent fish age, and validation studies are necessary to determine if this is so.

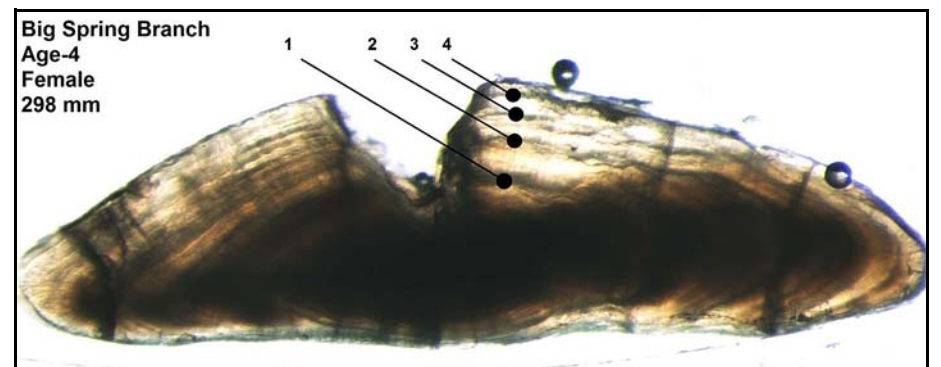
We began tagging known-age-1 brown trout with coded wire tags in 2010 for future age validation. When sampling trout populations during spring in the Driftless Area for other projects, we were able to collect and identify age 1 trout by length and tag them. Otoliths from a sample of these trout showed a single growth ring. Since then we have tagged thousands of brown trout from the 2009-2014 cohorts in streams such as Ash Creek (Richland County), Big Spring Branch (Iowa County), Elk Creek (Richland and Vernon counties), and

Timber Coulee Creek (Vernon County).

Coded wire tags (CWTs) are ideally suited to the task of tagging small trout and following them as they grow older. CWTs are small (about 1 mm long) and etched with a code that can be used to identify cohort or year class. We inject CWTs into the snout of trout, they are detected with a specialized metal detector upon recapture, and they can be dissected from the trout with the otolith to verify the trout's known age and to validate the age depicted by growth rings in the otolith.

We collected otoliths from recaptured known-age brown trout in Elk Creek and Big Spring Branch in October 2015. In Elk Creek we validated the use of otoliths for identifying brown trout age up to age 4. We recaptured 93 age 1, 44 age 2, 13 age 3, and 1 age 4 brown trout. About 84 percent of age 1 trout sampled in October were immature; 13 percent were mature males and 3 percent were mature females capable of spawning. By age 2, about 48 percent were mature males and 27 percent were mature females. All age 3 and older brown trout were mature potential spawners in Elk Creek. In Big Spring Branch we validated the use of otoliths for identifying brown trout age up to age 6.

The number of rings in an otolith corresponded to the known age of the fish in all samples of brown trout ages 1-6. These otoliths will become part of a known-age reference collection for use in statewide training and quality assurance programs related to fish ageing. More specifically to Elk Creek and Big Spring Branch, these fish ageing data begin the process of quantifying population age structure, size-at-age, and longevity. We are continuing to fol-



### OTOLITHS SHOW TROUT AGE

Above is a sectioned otolith from a brown trout recaptured in Big Spring Branch during a recapture event. Dots indicate each annulus up to age four in this female brown trout.



### DEVICE FOR INSERTING CODED WIRES INTO TROUT

This handheld multi-shot coded wire injector is used to mark fish. The brown trout shown is an age-1 fish, tagged for release back into the stream.

low these populations to validate the use of otoliths for determining the age of older and larger brown trout.

In spring 2016 we expanded our trout ageing study to include brook trout. We tagged known age 1 brook trout in streams across Wisconsin in the following counties: Pierce and Dunn in the west, Bayfield in the north, and Oconto and Marinette in the northeast. Streams in these counties represent a variety of

brook trout population densities and growing conditions. Regional trout size-at-age data will contribute to our understanding of inland trout ecology and fisheries management by allowing us to better understand the dynamics of trout populations and how they react to environmental stressors and angler catch and harvest.



# Consider exploring Michigan's Upper Peninsula

*Plan a trip to the not-so-far-away land of laid-back locals, relaxed trout, freestone streams and lots of room to roam...or get lost.*

By Randy Berndt

The U.P. is an interesting place to live, where we endure more snow in a year than most folks see in five or more winters. To say that they live a more relaxed or pedestrian way of life is an understatement. Take, for example, a conversation at the local grocery store. The woman in front of me was having trouble getting a debit card to work.

"I hate these things," she said, pointing at the card while observing the line growing behind her. Then, without missing a beat, she said to the cashier who was also looking at the line, "Well, if they were in a hurry, they came to the wrong place."

In many ways, the local trout share that attitude. They have a relaxed attitude toward eating flies and as long as you can get a fly on the water, you will find a willing partner.

Planning a trip to the western U.P. can be a bit daunting, given the amount of water available. The counties of Baraga, Ontonagon and Houghton hold a combined total of nearly 3,000 miles of streams, and more than 40,000 acres of lakes.

Add to that the border counties of Gogebic and Iron and you can begin to understand the breadth of opportunities available. The Ottawa National Forest alone consists of nearly one million acres open to the public. The common thread here is that this is big country and a GPS and a compass are not optional; they are required equipment if you trek out into the wilderness.

So, where do you begin? The State of Michigan does a nice job getting anglers started. A simple Google search for "Upper Peninsula trout streams" will yield a Department of Natural Resources site that will direct anglers to better trout fishing waters. A Michigan gazetteer, an Ottawa National Forest map, and Google Earth can help you plan your dream fishing trip.

Once you find a likely-looking stretch of water, fly selection is fairly straightforward and any fly you throw in the Upper Midwest is likely

to entice a strike from a hungry trout. Early in the year, there are olives and caddis. June brings sulphurs and pale evening duns. July, August and September are stimulator months with awesome hopper action in August and September. The streamers and nymphs filling your fly boxes will also be effective every month of the season.

An 8-foot, 4-weight rod with floating line is what you will find in my hand most of the year. In the other hand will be a wading staff as the freestone streams can be quite hazardous, especially during high water.

As for timing, the best time to get here is whenever you can. Depending upon the year, May can be a boom or a bust. An early spring means rivers are ready to fish on opening day (the last Saturday in April), but in more recent years ice fishing was the only way to participate in opening-day trout fishing. June tends to be a bit more stable, but pack the mosquito repellent. Unlike other parts of the Midwest, the Upper Peninsula's northern placement means trout are still fair game in July and August. And if you

can manage to get away in September, you're likely to find brook trout and fall foliage in full color.

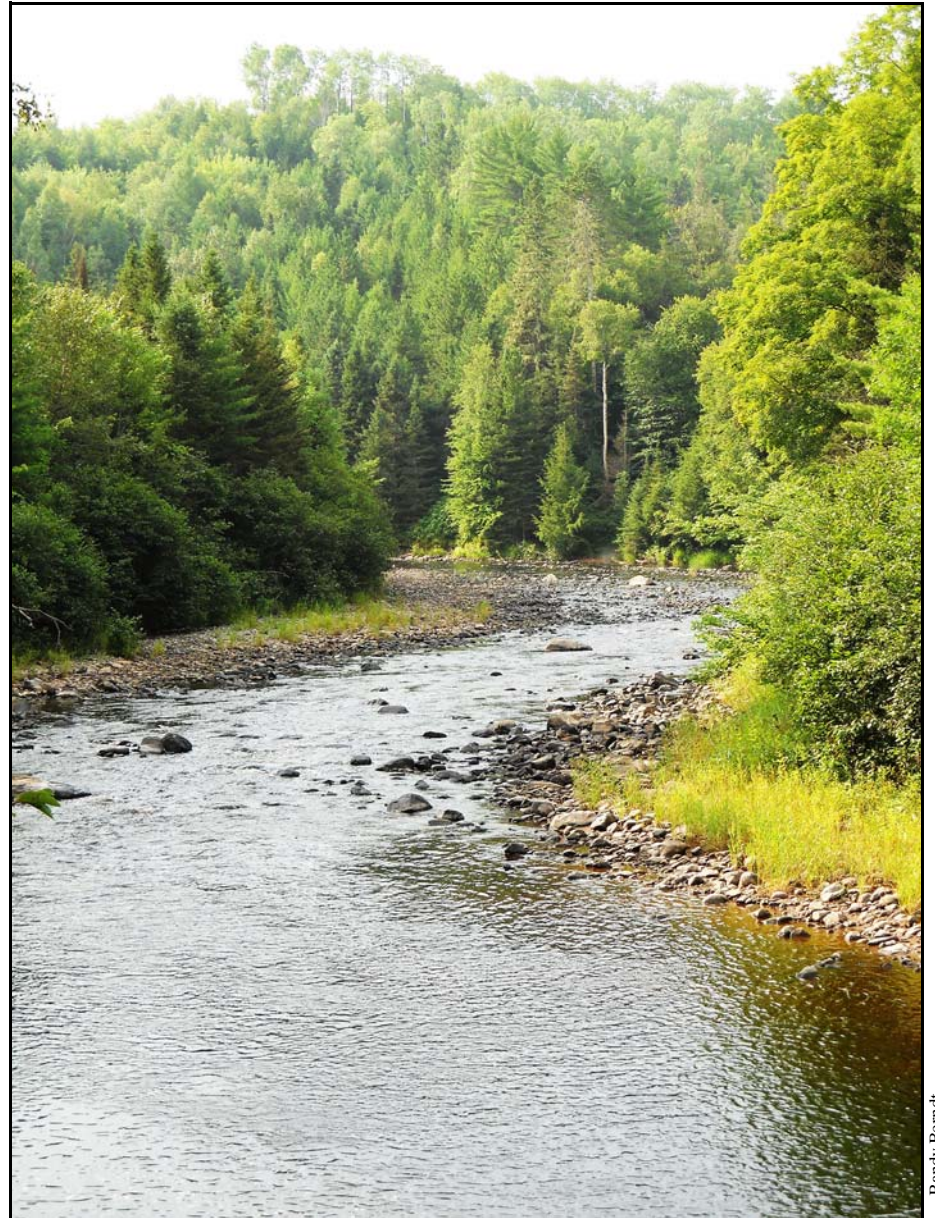
Whenever you arrive, make sure to allow yourself the time to do plenty of exploring and make sure you check out the local businesses.

They will not only appreciate the patronage, you may be in store for a classic "Yooper" quote. One of my all-time favorites came from a gentleman seated across the bar from me who uttered this sentence to a visitor from downstate who had just made his second trip across the big bridge.

"If you came here once, it was probably a mistake. If you came back, it's your own damn fault."

*Randy Berndt, owner of the U.P. Fly Angler in Trout Creek, Michigan, is the only licensed fishing outfitter in the Ottawa National Forest. He can be found on the web at [www.upflyangler.com](http://www.upflyangler.com) and can be reached via email at [upflyangler@gmail.com](mailto:upflyangler@gmail.com).*

*The counties of Baraga, Ontonagon and Houghton hold a combined total of nearly 3,000 miles of streams....*



Randy Berndt

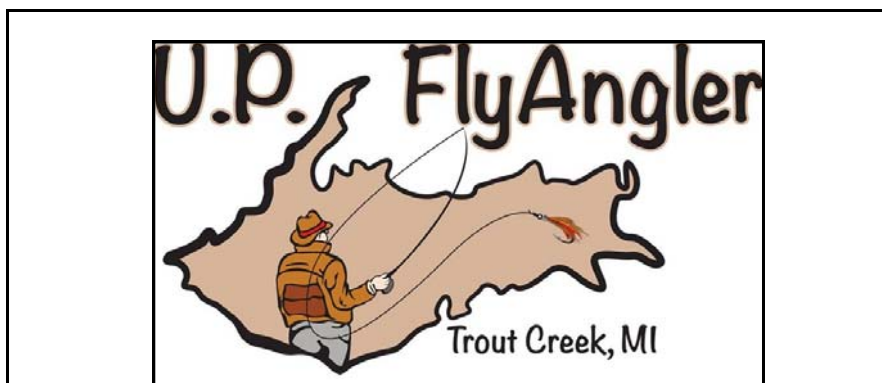
### U.P. SCENERY IS REMINISCENT OF WESTERN STREAMS

And like out west, this is big country. A GPS and a compass are not optional. They are required equipment if you trek out into the wilderness.

Unlike other parts of the Midwest, the Upper Peninsula's northern placement means trout are still fair game in July and August. And if you can manage to get away in September, you can find brook trout and fall foliage in full color.



Randy Berndt



Michigan's Upper Peninsula is a wild, sparsely-populated land and the U.P. Fly Angler is the only outfitter licensed to guide anglers in the Ottawa National Forest.

Visit the U.P. Fly Angler at:

<https://upflyangler.com/>  
[upflyangler@gmail.com](mailto:upflyangler@gmail.com)





## Chapter News



Tom Gawle

### ALDO LEOPOLD CHAPTER RECEIVES DNR EXTERNAL PARTNER AWARD

Aldo Leopold Chapter President Scott Allen receives the award from DNR Deputy Bureau of Fisheries Director Todd Kalish. The award recognizes organizations for outstanding fisheries conservation efforts.

### Aldo Leopold Chapter

#### DNR External Partner Award

From a pool of more than 50 candidates, the Aldo Leopold Chapter received the DNR's External Partner award for its efforts in fisheries conservation. The award recognizes organizations for outstanding fisheries conservation efforts. Deputy Bureau of Fisheries Director Todd Kalish presented it to the chapter at its annual fundraiser in Lodi in June. Kalish cited the Bear Creek habitat project, community outreach projects such as Trout In the Classroom and fly tying and casting classes as models of perpetuating the land stewardship legacy established by Aldo Leopold.

The annual chapter picnic fundraiser featured a prize list of quality raffle and auction items, which produced record income for the chapter. On the long list of prizes were a guided float trip by Hayward Fly Fishing, Orvis Recon and Superfine rods, Teton reel donated by SEW-TU, custom letter opener made by renowned knife maker John Beth, Badger Tenkara "Bad Axe" rod, Cabela's 9-weight rod and many other fishing tackle donations.

Guide and FFF casting instructor Dave Barron of Jaquish Hollow Anglers in Richland County was the guest presenter. He gave an informative and entertaining demonstration on correcting common casting errors. Thank you, Dave!

Our chapter's Trout In the Classroom came to a memorable end in May with the release into Dell Creek of the rainbow trout raised by

two fifth-grade classrooms at Pineview School in Reedsburg. The kids also got to see an electroshocking demonstration by DNR Biologist Nate Nye, who answered dozens of questions on aquatic biology and the role of biologists in conservation.

The chapter hosted brush removal work days at Manley Creek in Sauk County and Tainter Creek in Vernon County. The Tainter project was again a collaborative effort with SEW-TU. This DNR property is now a quality, accessible brook trout stream, thanks to members' efforts maintaining the stream banks.

Board members Tom and Sally Gawle are collecting water quality data on Bear Creek in Sauk County as Water Action Volunteers. Being a WAV is a big responsibility, requiring training and devoting many hours each month to collecting quality data to assist DNR with water quality management. With limited resources, the DNR relies on the trusted volunteers to collect quality data. Thank you, Tom and Sally.

The next chapter meeting will be July 13 at Suzy's Steak House in Portage. Board member Dave Murphy will present a slide show of his recent 30-day trip to New Zealand, where trout are measured in pounds. Cocktails and dinner at 5:30 p.m., followed by business matters, and Dave's presentation at 7 p.m. Get out of the heat and enjoy a trip to New Zealand. All TU members are welcome.

—Scott Allen



Scott Allen

### ALTU TIC RAINBOWS FIND NEW HOME IN DELL CREEK

Trout raised by two fifth-grade classrooms at Pineview School in Reedsburg were released into Sauk County's Dell Creek.

### Antigo Chapter

It's so nice that summer is here. We hope everyone has been fishing. Our annual TU fundraising banquet was April 2 at Northstar Banquet Center. We had 230 people show up for fun, prizes and a good meal. We also raised money for the trout.

On June 4 we held our Kid's Fishing Day at the city park. The weather cooperated and the rain held off for most of the day. We had the fish tank stocked with just under 1,000 brook and rainbow trout for the kids to catch. We grilled hamburgers and hot dogs and had fresh fruit and soda for all who showed up. Thanks go out to members of our local DNR office, who ran a casting contest for the kids. Also, thanks go out to the city of Antigo Fire Department for talking to the kids about fire safety. This is always a fun day for us and the hundreds of kids who show up.

Antigo TU is working to set up a fishing day for disabled veterans in August at Silver Moon Springs. We

plan on bringing the vets out to fish, then grilling some brats and hamburgers.

Our chapter will be working with the city of Antigo on two projects this summer. First is the replacement of a fishing dock at Remington Lake with a new floating dock. Second is helping to provide some labor for a habitat stream project on Spring Brook on the city's north side. This will be done with the help of the DNR, city of Antigo and Antigo TU.

We have contacted Mike Werde, a high school biology teacher, and have ordered the tank and equipment to set up a Trout In the Classroom project that will start this fall.

I also talked with Dave, our area fish manager, and he stated that we hope to remove some more rocks from a rock dam on the Mayking Flowage. That's all for now. We hope everyone has a great summer.

—Scott Henricks



### ANTIGO CHAPTER HOSTS SUCCESSFUL KIDS FISHING DAY

The weather cooperated, the rain held off for most of the day and the Antigo Chapter had the fish tank stocked with about 1,000 brook and rainbow trout for the kids to catch. The smallest kids fished for prizes.

### Blackhawk Chapter

Spring has sprung, and the Blackhawk Chapter has sprung into action!

Our annual banquet in April drew 163 attendees, and the event provided enough "seed money" for us to continue providing support for

several stream projects.

So far this year we've been able to provide \$1,000 to the Nohr Chapter for their Pompei Pillar project, \$2,000 to SEW-TU toward their Little Willow Creek project in Richland County, and \$3,000 for



### BLACKHAWK AND COULEE CHAPTERS BUILD LUNKERS

Blackhawk Chapter members helping out the Coulee Chapter with construction of 19 LUNKER structures for installation on Spring Coulee Creek



# Chapter News



TUDARE.

There have been chapter boots on the ground, too, as well as equipment. On May 9 six chapter members joined up with more than a dozen Shabazz High School Project Green Teen kids and four teachers at Weister Creek and constructed 12 LUNKER structures in a record-breaking two hours.

Two days later, 12 chapter members helped the Coulee Chapter

construct 19 structures for installation at two different sites on Spring Coulee Creek. Installation of the structures at both Weister Creek and Spring Coulee is scheduled to be complete before the end of June.

And we're looking forward to at least two more workdays in the months ahead, along with a bit of fishing!

—Dave Hinde

ing to spread people out and improve the fishing experience.

Have you ever heard of MO-HEE? It is the Midwest Outdoor Heritage Education Expo held each year at the DNR's MacKenzie Center in Poynette.

This year 2,300 students from 34 schools in Wisconsin and Illinois attended on May 18 and 19. There are more than 40 activity stations for youth to learn about and experience outdoor sports and pursuits. Wisconsin TU is one of those 40 stations and multiple chapters participate.

In the Central Wisconsin Chapter, we hear a lot about this event as it is organized by Bob Haase, the WITU Education Chair and also our CWTU Youth Education Chair, as well as a board member. Many of us have had the opportunity to spend one or both days at this event, tying flies with kids. What Fun! By

2:30 p.m. when the buses take the kids back to school, you'll feel tired, but I guarantee you will have a smile on your face.

The word "heritage" in the name of the event is an important part of why Mark and Coni LaBarbera put this event together each year. It is not only an opportunity to get kids outdoors, but also a chance for them to realize all these fun things to do are there

because people in Wisconsin have believed in conservation for a long time.

If you would like to meet with the next generation to conserve, protect and conserve coldwater fisheries contact Bob Haase at flytier@milwpc.com. If we can get enough TU members to participate, we could offer fly casting along with fly tying next year.

—Mike San Dretto

*Jeff Treu organized a program to help more people get involved in Spey casting and steelhead fishing.*



Jeff Wegand

**CWTU HOLDS SPEY CASTING AND STEELHEAD FISHING PROGRAM**  
Doug Taylor of Sage Rods instructs at CWTU'S Spey Casting and Steelhead Fishing Clinic.

## Central Wisconsin Chapter

The Central Wisconsin Chapter may be an "inland" Wisconsin TU chapter, but many members don't have much of a drive to Lake Michigan streams, so "trib" fishing is a high priority for many chapter members. Jeff Treu organized a two-part program to help more people get involved in Spey casting and steelhead fishing.

Part one was a chapter program on April 12 at the Fin N' Father in Winneconne. Nate Sipple, Tightlines Fly Fishing Company guide and Shaw-Paca TU Chapter president, covered spey casting and steelhead fishing.

Part two, on April 16, was a day of spey casting and fishing on the Sheboygan River at River Wildlife in Kohler. Helping in the demonstrations and instructions were Doug Taylor of Sage Rods, Dave Pinczkowski, guide and OPST Line Specialist, and Tim Pantzloff of SpeyCo Fly Reels.

There was great interest and

turnout for the program. Attendees enjoyed getting started in Spey casting with knowledgeable instructors. Thank you also to River Wildlife Staff who worked with Jeff to make the program possible on a beautiful and productive stretch of the Sheboygan River.

May 21 was our first workday of the season on the White River in Waushara County, with about 35 people attending. Thank you to Elliott Donnelley and Fox Valley TU Chapter members who participated in the work. Thank you to the Elliott Donnelley Chapter for again donating this year \$3,750 to CWTU stream restoration work.

The White River has been a multi-year project for CWTU, primarily to deal with stream braids and stream widening. This work has paid off well, with a deeper channel and improved trout habitat. The White River is one of those places that draws a lot of anglers, so work has been done on trails and brush-



**CWTU HOLDS WHITE RIVER WORK DAY**  
Chris Northway hauls lumber for pallet trails at CWTU's recent White River Work Day.



**COULEE CHAPTER'S TROUT FEST WILL BE HELD JULY 23 IN COON VALLEY**  
Smiling kids are a common sight at the annual Troutfest event.





## Chapter News

### Coulee Region Chapter

We enjoyed our work day on May 14 with the good people from the Blackhawk Chapter. It was a very chilly day in May, but we built 20 LUNKER structures, which will be installed on Spring Coulee in Vernon County. Blackhawk brought their tool trailer and expertise, and CRTU provided a few strong backs and lunch. Landowner Mike McKittrick graciously provided cold beverages after the work was done. Thanks to landowners Mike McKittrick and Dave Jacobson for giving us room to work and providing future access to the stream.

Trout Fest is July 23 in Coon Valley. It is a very fun day that celebrates the community of Coon Valley, and CRTU sponsors the kids fishing event from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. We stock extra trout in Coon Creek, provide rods and reels, give away prizes, and also help any kid who needs it. Volunteers are needed for the youth fishing, so please contact Curt Rees at [curtrees@gmail.com](mailto:curtrees@gmail.com) if you would like to help us out. For more information about Trout Fest, check out [www.cooncreektrout-fest.com](http://www.cooncreektrout-fest.com).

—Curt Rees

### Fox Valley Chapter

Fox Valley TU has started its spring/summer activity schedule for 2016. Our April membership meeting was the second annual "Angling Adventure" in the Driftless Area, near Avalanche. Member Roger Genske organized the event, which included two dozen chapter members and friends. The fishing, camaraderie, and learning/teaching experiences helped to create a great time for all in attendance. The hope is that the chapter can continue to grow this event to include more individuals in 2017 and beyond. Please check our website for more about the weekend.

Our first Habitat Day was what has become the traditional opener for the year. On April 30 we met with Elward Engle at the Davies Creek site. That site was one of the very first stream improvement projects that our chapter was involved with many years ago.

We spent the morning brushing out a 15-foot-wide swath on one side of the stream for approximately 900 feet. The noon lunch cook, Jim Hlaban, provided a great meal to finish the day. The Davies Creek brushing project continued on May 31 when a group of young men from the Rawhide Boys Ranch assisted in removing an additional 1,500 feet of brush. The Rawhide crew will also work with a number of chapter members later this summer to continue with the brush removal and to remove any obstructions that are in the stream.

On April 29 chapter members Joe Bach and Norm Christnach, Chilton Public School teachers Brad Bowman (FVTU member), Terry Bartel, and Greg Stromer, landowner Tim Sohrweide, and about 150 Chilton Middle School students released their trout into Stony Brook Creek. This was the culminating event of the first year of the Trout In the Classroom project. Congratulations to everyone who worked on funding this project and the successful completion of the project. Please check our website for additional information, pictures and stories.

One of our events on May 21 was the 38th Annual Fishing Day for People with Disabilities. The event was held at a new venue this year: Camp Shioc/Appleton YMCA Day

Camp Pond and Facilities. The campgrounds were in excellent condition and the pond had 100 rainbow trout and one golden trout that were provided by The Silver Moon Springs Trout Farm. Everyone caught fish, enjoyed great weather, the noon meal, and all had a chance to share stories of past fishing days. The golden was not caught so we will see if it survives until next spring.

Chapter member Del Schwaller, who started this event 38 years ago, was brought out to the event to visit with the people who have been coming to the event for years and also to connect with chapter members. About 60 people attended, including anglers, family members, caregivers and chapter members. We would like to thank Kim Norton and the Appleton YMCA for partnering with us and we are planning for the 39th annual event.

The chapter's other event on May 21 was a Habitat Day, which united Central Wisconsin TU with Fox Valley on the White River. The main emphasis of the day was to place bank structures in various locations in the river. Our last Habitat Day was also a joint effort with Central on Chaffee Creek June 18. We will also work with them on July 16 on the West Branch of the White River, and on August 20 on the Pine River.

There will be a number of chapter members involved with the Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Youth Fishing Camp in July.

We have been busy, but we must remember that our efforts at the local level are to continue to protect our natural resources and preserve our important green spaces and the life in it. Continue to follow the state legislative happenings and contact your local legislator to make sure that your voice is heard concerning Wisconsin's wildlife, water ways, water resources and the total environment. Our Bug Guy, Tom Lager, always reminds us to enjoy His creation. It is that time of year that we all look forward to enjoying time on the streams, rivers, ponds and lakes of Wisconsin. Please check our website at [foxvalleytu.org](http://foxvalleytu.org).

—Rich Erickson

### Frank Hornberg Chapter

The annual Frank Hornberg Fly Fishing School was held on May 21 on the Tomorrow River in Nelsonville. Perfect weather, a hearty lunch, skilled instructors and attentive students made this year's school

one of the very best in many years.

Ken Pierce did an admirable job organizing the event. He volunteered his property on the river as a location for the one-day school. He collected the student applications



John Vollrath



John Vollrath



John Vollrath

### FRANK HORNBERG CHAPTER HOSTS SUCCESSFUL FLY FISHING SCHOOL

Top: Hornberg Chapter President Matt Salchert and Abe Downs show some casting techniques.

Middle: Students take a stab at casting.

Bottom: Heidi Oberstadt entertains students at the school.

and he solicited chapter members for support services such as food preparation. The instructional staff included Matt Salchert, Stu Grimsstad, Abe Downs, Wyatt Bohm, Heidi Oberstadt and Jan Tully. Dan Holland was in charge of the lunch, and he worked with the assistance of Patti Holland, Louise Jaracka, Brenda Gingles, Jim Laudan and Marilyn Laudan. Bob Juracka and Jim Frederick provided treasured reminiscences.

In addition to group classes on aquatic insects, casting techniques and reading the water, the instructors worked with the students in one-on-one fly-fishing sessions at the end of the day. Needless to say, this is a major commitment on the part of the instructors, and the chapter is grateful for their participation.

Greg Seubert, Sports Editor for the Waupaca County Post, was present to collect information for a feature article on the school. The article, including pictures and interviews with chapter members Abe Downs, Wyatt Bohm and Matt Sal-

chert, appeared in the June 2 edition of the paper.

The Hornberg Chapter is participating in the River Keepers program again this year. Ken Pierce leads the team, collecting information at a location just downstream from the highway bridge in downtown Nelsonville.

Hornberg Chapter work days this year will be used primarily for making repairs on past rehabilitation projects, with emphasis on the Tomorrow River between Nelsonville and Lake Myers Road. Traditionally, we also use one work day each year to participate in a river cleanup sponsored by the Friends of the Tomorrow/Waupaca River. Interested chapter members will be notified by email if and when dates and places for these work days are set. Alternatively, members could find out about work days by contacting one of the instructional staff members for this year's Fly Fishing School (as listed above).

—John Vollrath



# Chapter News



Mike Renish

## GREEN BAY CHAPTER 2015-16 AWARD WINNERS

Matt Norem (Unsung Hero), Jeff House (Member of the Year), Independent Printing (Dan Simmons accepting for Business of the Year) and Dani Long (President's Club)



Adrian Meseberg

## GREEN BAY TU HELPS "SPREAD" TROUT

GBTU's Haller Creek trout-spreading crew awaits.



Mike Renish

## MULTI-GROUP EFFORT ON SOUTH BRANCH OCONTO RIVER

The Green Bay, Oconto, Wolf River and Marinette chapters, along with the DNR, worked to remove, bundle and place tag alder on the South Branch of the Oconto River.

## Green Bay Chapter

Green Bay Chapter of Trout Unlimited (GBTU) had two scheduled programs to end its meeting season. Our April program meeting, on Lake Michigan steelhead management, was cancelled due to the Fly-Fishing Film Tour (F3T) stop in Green Bay. Like GBTU, F3T raises funds that directly improve the cold-water resources of Northeast Wisconsin. Several of our members are regulars at the show and conducting a program at the same time would have been a conflict.

Our program schedule concluded on May 5 with Dan Geddes. Dan talked about, and showed us how to make, trout spinners. The presentation and demonstration was very interesting. Our chapter now has about 30 members with a new spinner in their trout-fishing tackle box.

Through the active work of our chapter's board members, we were fortunate to be involved in a couple community outreach events this past quarter. On March 19 and 20 we partnered with Cabela's to hold what is becoming a wonderful partnership. GBTU members Dave Ostanek, Paul Kruse, Dani Long, Scott Reinhold, Dori Goddard, Mike Renish and Adrian Meseberg joined Cabela's Brian Mease in this successful weekend of teaching fly-tying. We were very pleased with the number and diversity of individuals interested in learning the art. We were able to generate a good deal of positive buzz for the Trout Unlimited mission.

The other community outreach event we participated in was on March 30 and 31. On those dates we

teamed with Green Bay Southwest High School to aid agri-science teacher Tom Sebranek in teaching his students how to tie flies, cast and tie knots. Tom's class consisted of about 15 boys and girls. GBTU volunteers were Gary Gillis, Mike Renish, Dave Ostanek, Jack Koivisto and Adrian Meseberg. Several high grades were received.

In April we held our Annual Awards Meeting. This was our opportunity to recap a very successful season, give a glimpse into next year's ambitious plans and recognize this year's high achievers. The award categories and winners are as follows:

- President's Club: Dani Long.
- Business of the Year: Independent Printing.
- Unsung Hero: Matt Norem
- Distinguished Service: Randy Rake
- Member of the Year: Jeff House

On May 5 we partnered with the Wisconsin DNR to help "scatter plant" keeper-sized (about 10-inch) brown trout into Haller Creek. This body of water provides an opportunity for urban residents to catch trout close to home. GBTU members and friends who participated included Jeff House, John & Katie Tilleman, Pat Hill, Pat Childs, John Rybski, Wally Heil, Jerry Schwan, Doug Seidl, Bill Holton and Adrian Meseberg. A few of the DNR representatives who made this happen

were Steve Hogler, Jon Taylor, Tom Schlavensky and Steve Surendonk.

Thursday, June 2 GBTU held its annual chapter picnic. This year we enjoyed sub plates that were so robust that we put our gilling plans on hold until next year. Our picnic had between 20-30 representatives. Not only did we enjoy great company, but we also had several contested games of bean-bag toss, friends trying to catch trout on Haller Creek and stomping through the zoo.

We continue to partner with Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing. Our veteran's service project chair is Dani Long and the PHWFF chair is Paul Kruse. For the first time they were able to hold a fishing trip. Early indications were that things went well.

Our first work project was April 4. Our chapter, along with our partners, worked to clear and bundle tag alder on the south branch of the Oconto River. We were represented by 17 volunteers. Including the Wisconsin DNR, Oconto, Wolf River, and Marinette TU chapters, the work project had a total of 28 volunteers. Afterward many of those involved went to the Wolf River Chapter's Meet and Greet to enjoy grilled food at the Livingston's home.

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 for 2016 are on Pompey Pillar Creek, which was delayed from 2015 due to permitting delays, as well as the Blue River below She-mack Road, 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 public fishing access.

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

Our annual membership meeting was in April at UW-Platteville, featuring the summer intern's report and annual officer and board elections. This summer they worked

with a couple of K-12 teachers and did studies above and below beaver dams.

Our chapter banquet was May 6 at the Arthur Haus in Arthur, a few miles north of Platteville. We honored the Drews family with our Landowner Recognition award. The Drews family has been instrumental in helping the chapter by providing easements and access on the Blue River, Six Mile Branch and Big Springs for the chapter's restoration efforts.

The chapter gave its Golden Net Award to Fish Biologist Gene Van Dyck, who is retiring after more than 30 years with the DNR and its forerunner, the Wisconsin Conservation Department. Gene's efforts have helped give us the quality fishery we have in the Driftless Area, especially in our chapter's service



Greg Olson

## KIAP's TIC STUDENTS GET "BUGS IN THE CLASSROOM"

Dean Hansen shows insects to Hudson fifth-graders. Two fifth-grade classes held a "Bugs in the Classroom" event, with hands-on experience with aquatic insects. The Hudson fifth graders took advantage of their release day, wading and rock-turning in the river to find their own bugs.





## Chapter News

area, helping make several watersheds “go-to” places to fish trout in the state. He has been instrumental in helping the chapter select streams to work on in Iowa and Grant counties and get the necessary permits. The Nohr Chapter would like to thank Gene for his many years of service and wish him a very long and happy retirement.

Each year we give out several school grants to help with expenses related to coldwater resource study. This year we have grants for four schools totaling almost \$2,000. Belmont Community grade 8, Fennimore Community grades 3-12, Iowa-Grant grade 6 and Highland community grades 6-8. We are also working with North Crawford and the Coulee Region Chapter on a

Trout in the Classroom project.

In April we had a work day brushing on Borah Creek just north of Lancaster. About 10 members and a couple boy scouts helped clear brush. We also had our contractor clear out a lot of brush on this property. We may do stream improvement there in a year or so. One of the scouts is working on his Eagle Scout requirements and will do a project on putting in stiles on Borah and we will assist as needed.

In June Kurt Meyer and Brian Larson assisted the Grant County Sports Alliance with a Learn to Fish Day at Wyalusing State Park. They helped about nine kids and a couple of adults tie a fly.

—Brian Larson

### Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter

After a year’s delay, construction has finally started at the Red Cabin site, our habitat restoration project on the upper Kinnickinnic River.

Heavy equipment was on site by May 16, and after a crew of volunteers removed barbed wire from the site, the equipment operators began scraping the banks and placing limestone rock. Already, one in-stream feature has been built and material for LUNKER structures has been delivered to the site.

By the time you read this, those structures will have been constructed and placed, and the DNR’s habitat crew will be busy armoring and back-filling. The entire project will cover approximately 2,300 feet.

This past year Kiap-TU-Wish expanded its Trout In the Classroom activities. Three classes had TIC programs: a fifth-grade class in both Amery and Hudson, and a high-school class in Amery. All three classes successfully raised brown trout and released their fry in the Willow River. The two fifth-grade classes also held a “Bugs in the Classroom” event with Dean Hansen, in which they had hands-on experience with aquatic insects. The Hudson fifth graders took advantage of their release day, wading and rock-turning in the river to find their own bugs. After a picnic lunch, TU members gave fly casting instruction. Special thanks to Kiap-



**THE SMILE SAYS IT ALL: TROUT FISHING IS FUN!**

This happy angler was all smiles at the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter’s Fly Fishing for Trout Clinic in River Falls.



Greg Olson

### KIAP’S TOM SCHNADT OFFERS CASTING INSTRUCTION

After releasing their fish, the TIC students got a chance to try casting. Here Tom Schnadt coaches a Hudson fifth grader during casting lessons.

TU-Wish members who helped out at the TIC activities: Mike Alwin, John Carlson, Greg Dietl, Jeff Himes, John Kaplan, Jim Kojis, Greg Olson, Perry Palin and Tom Schnadt.

Grady McAbee was selected to be Kiap’s representative at this year’s WITU Youth Fishing Camp. Grady submitted an excellent essay that highlighted his many outdoor interests. Grady is 13 years old and lives in Woodville. He will be joined at camp by Joseph Duncan. Joseph was last year’s Kiap camper and is participating this year as a youth mentor. We can’t wait to hear their fish stories when they get home.

In conjunction with the River Falls Park and Recreation Department, the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter held another successful Fly Fishing for Trout clinic in River Falls in early June. Twenty students spent eight hours learning the where, what, how and why of fishing for trout with a fly. Two hours of casting instruction was interspersed with entomology lessons, ecology lessons, knot-tying demonstrations and fly selection and fishing strategy.

During supper the students were awarded fresh leaders and a fly selection and then all adjourned to the lower Kinnickinnic River for guided fishing. Special thanks to chapter members Laurie Ashworth, Brian Smolinski, Jonathan Jacobs, Allison Jacobs, Jim Kojis, Jeff

Himes, Phil Kashian, Tom Schnadt, Bill Hinton and Gary Horvath for volunteering for this event.

The city of River Falls is close to selecting a vendor to conduct a corridor planning process. The chapter hopes to be represented on the formal stakeholders group that will work closely with the selected vendor. The planning process should result in a recommendation on the fate of the two hydroelectric dams on the Kinnickinnic River. The chapter learned that the “Friends of the Kinni” has selected InterFluve Corp. to complete a dam removal feasibility study. The “Friends” acquired grant money specifically for this purpose.

In other news, we are monitoring the potential location of a large metal plating company in River Falls. There will be public hearings on this soon and we are very concerned that the rewards of economic growth are not worth the risk to the fishery below town. A large confined animal feeding operation (CAFO) in Emerald is due to greatly expand and we are participating in discussions on how best to oppose this. The dairy operation sits above the headwaters to Tiffany Creek, South Fork of the Willow, and the Kinnickinnic and Rush Rivers.

—Tom Schnadt, Greg Olson, Mike Alwin, Gary Horvath and Maria Manion

### Marinette County Chapter

In late April 208 people attended our annual banquet at Little River Country Club, and we raised more than \$12,000 for trout projects in northeast Wisconsin. We donated money from that fundraiser to various projects including \$3,000 to a Peshtigo DNR summer work crew, \$2,000 for an Antigo DNR brushing crew, \$1,000 for stream work by the U.S. Forest Service, \$2,000 for the Lakewood DNR stream work, \$805 for kids fishing days, \$650 for a Peshtigo River temperature monitor, and donations to the Northeast Land Trust, Wisconsin River Alliance, TU Watershed Access and Friends of Wisconsin TU.

We want to thank everyone who helped make our fundraiser a success.

On May 21, chapter members participated in the stream improvement project on the South Branch of the Oconto River at County

Highway T. Tag alder was removed on several hundred feet of stream. We joined forces with the Green Bay, Oconto and Wolf River chapters. The stream is now fishable in that section.

On June 4 we participated in the Family Recreation Day in Menominee, Michigan. Several hundred people attended this event. Our chapter gave demonstrations on fly casting and fly tying. We also handed out materials including TU magazines, Stream Explorers booklets and TU decals.

We have a stream improvement work day scheduled for September 17 on the North Branch of Beaver Creek at Holly’s Hole. This is an event for the whole family. Please plan on attending. Contact Doug Erdmann at 715-735-7407 for more information.

—Doug Erdmann



# Chapter News



## Oconto River Chapter

The chapter's fundraising banquet was April 28 at Romy's Holiday Inn at Kelly Lake. Banquet Chair Dan Sumnicht reported that approximately 279 members and friends attended the event. Raffles, prizes, coupled with dinner and a few surprises, made for a fun time for everyone. Dan indicated that the banquet would net around \$9,900.

The chapter has awarded eight camp certificates to youngsters from the area. The camps are offered by UW-Stevens Point and TU. Various camps for ages 7-17 are offered. We have one day camper and the rest are for weekly camps. Because of added interest in this year's camps, the chapter sought and received donations from the Oconto County Sportsmen's Alliance and the Finnegan Lake Walleye Club. The chapter asks only that the participants report back at a monthly meeting.

Two events are in the works to

reach out to our communities. First is a fishing contest where fish of all species can be measured in for a chapter hat or t-shirt. Second, we're working with the Suring Sportsmen's Club to hold a youth outdoor skills event. Our emphasis will be on fishing skills such as fly casting, spin casting and fly tying. A fish pond is a probability.

Plans are being made to participate in DNR and U.S. Forest Service work days. Members will work with Green Bay, Marinette and Wolf River chapters placing brush bundles, rocks and logs to improve habitat. Dates and work locations will be published in the chapter newsletter.

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

—Tom Klatt



### SEWTU AND LAKESHORE CHAPTERS TEAM UP ON THE ONION

SEWTU joined the Lakeshore Chapter for a work day on the Onion River near Plymouth. Much of the work involved cutting back tag alder and replacing some of the cobbles and boulders that had rolled off LUNKER structures.

## Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter

It's been a busy spring for the Southeast Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited (SEWTU). Our chapter, with the support of many dedicated members, has been very active with habitat projects, outreach programs and chapter meetings.

Our first habitat workday of 2016, organized by Rick Frye, was our annual Menominee River Clean-up Day on April 23. This project is a cooperative effort with the Milwaukee Riverkeeper organization. SEWTU members, along with volunteers from many other organizations, helped clear debris and litter from the river and Hank Aaron Trail near Miller Park. This stretch of the river and trail is popular with recreational hikers and bicyclists, and it also offers easy access to the river for fishing the fall and spring salmon and steelhead runs. Our chapter is proud to participate in this activity.

After a full morning of hard work, we were able to enjoy a streamside lunch of brats cooked by Henry Koltz. Jim Wierzba deserves recognition for working closely with the Lakeshore Chapter to organize this day.

We were excited to work again with the Aldo Leopold and Coulee Chapters on Tainter Creek in Crawford County in June. This was our

second work day at this location, and we removed willow saplings and brush from stream banks.

In addition to discouraging beavers from building dams, this work will also improve access to the stream. Thanks to Jason Freund, of SEWTU, and Scott Allen from Aldo Leopold TU for organizing this workday. The work day coincided with the annual SEWTU Chapter Fishing Trip, with camping at the West Fork Sports Club. Members fished after the work day on nearby streams.

SEWTU continues to be very active in educational and outreach programs in our area. In April Education Committee Chair Rick Frye worked with the West Bend Early Risers Kiwanis Club to coordinate SEWTU support for their annual Kid's Fishing Day. The day was cold, but very successful for the approximately 250 children who participated. The following SEWTU members volunteered their time at this event: Nick Schmal, Janet Fischer, Ben Cheesman, John Reppnford and Rick Lowery.

Also in April, Jay Zawerschick helped organize SEWTU's participation at the Cabela's Fishing Classic in Richfield. Jay, along with Chuck Beeler, have built a great partnership with Cabela's that we are very proud of. Pete Pritzloff,

Larry Wirth and Al Dalphonso helped demonstrate fly tying and judged a fly-tying contest at the event. In addition, SEWTU member Andy Avgoulas presented a steelhead fishing clinic.

Jim Wierzba of SEWTU and Erik Helm of Orvis continued to build our SEWTU/Orvis partnership at the Orvis Fly Fishing 101 classes this spring. These classes met on Saturdays from April through June. Erik, a strong supporter of SEWTU, leads the courses that include casting lessons, descriptions of tackle/tools, and knot tying. SEWTU members assist Erik during the classes. These classes are great opportunities for introducing people to the mission and goals of TU.

In May Nick Schmal and Stan Strelka represented SEWTU at the World Fish Migration Day, held at the Riveredge Nature Center in Newburg. This was a great opportunity to let visitors know about SEWTU's mission and commitment to coldwater fisheries.

In June SEWTU worked with the Urban Ecology Center of Milwaukee to offer four fly-fishing classes. Topics included casting, fly tying and stream entomology/fishing. These classes, now in their third year, have been very popular. Rick Frye has done a great job organizing these classes and coordinating the details with the Urban Ecology Center.

SEWTU chapter meetings are great opportunities to learn about SEWTU events, and they also provide informative guest speakers. Luke Roffler, DNR fisheries biologist for Walworth County, was our guest speaker at the April SEWTU meeting. Luke's presentation illustrated coldwater projects the DNR has been working on, including several our chapter has been involved

with.

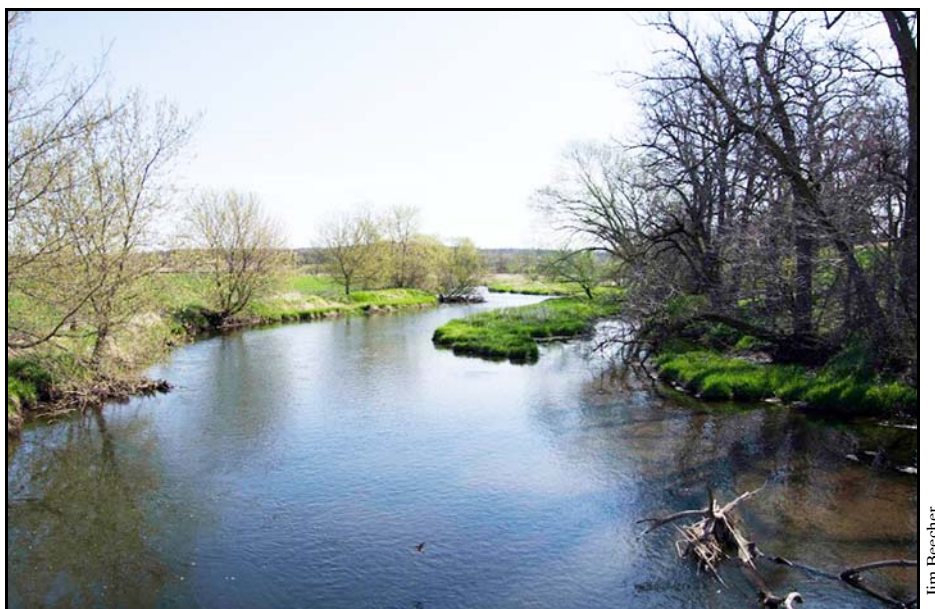
It is great to see such wonderful habitat work take place in our home water area. The SEWTU Habitat Committee, working with Luke, has planned a workday for one of these projects in September, and there are several exciting projects on the drawing board for the future.

At our May chapter meeting we had two speakers. First, Logan Ambrookian, an SEWTU member and student at Arrowhead High School, shared a presentation and described his experience at last year's TU Teen Summit. Logan was one of 25 teens in the nation to attend this summit, held in North Carolina. Some topics the summit emphasized included stewardship and outreach. Logan has been able to put these practices to work for SEWTU as a co-coordinator of our annual SEWTU Family Day held in August.

Hunter Dorn, a guide based in Viroqua, was the second speaker at our April meeting. Hunter, who owns Wisconsin Fly Fishing Company, described the wide variety of opportunities available for fishing in Wisconsin. Hunter discussed trout, smallmouth bass and musky fishing tactics, locations and tackle. Hunter also covered small stream wading, river drift boat tactics, and lake fishing situations. In addition, he explained how clients could adequately prepare for a guided trip to have the best experience.

Now that summer is here, we will be taking a break from our monthly chapter meetings. We'll be busy at workdays, fishing and vacationing with family and friends. Our monthly meetings will resume in September. I hope everyone has a great summer, with many fishing opportunities.

—Boyd Roessler



### SWTU AND SCOUTS TEAM UP ON NEW STRETCH OF SUGAR RIVER

SWTU members and local Scouts gathered to plant native trees and shrubs on the Neperud Farm, a newly acquired public stretch of the Sugar River (bottom photo).

Jim Beecher

Jim Beecher





## Chapter News

### SWTU hosts Black Earth Creek Habitat Snapshot Day



#### TAKING A SNAPSHOT OF BLACK EARTH CREEK

John Delaney and Lauren Brown take and record measurements at the event, hosted by SWTU.

On Sat June 4, Southern Wisconsin TU hosted more than 50 volunteers at Black Earth Creek Habitat Snapshot Day, in partnership with Black Earth Creek Watershed Assn, Dane County, River Alliance of Wisconsin, and Wisconsin DNR fisheries staff.

The event came about as a result of community concern over the reduced trout numbers in Black Earth in recent years, and the need for, among other things, a watershed-wide assessment of the stream's condition. Volunteers were briefly trained on how to measure and index stream and stream corridor characteristics, and then performed the assessment in pairs on an assigned stretch of stream.

DNR hopes to engage TU and other volunteers during the coming month to continue doing remaining stream assessment segments to complete the entire Black Earth watershed. Once tabulated, results of the event will help prioritize among partnering groups which areas of the stream are in the greatest need of restoration work, and could serve as a model for incorporating "citizen science" into trout stream restoration work.

—Matt Krueger

### Southern Wisconsin Chapter

Ah, summer. A little rest. A little relaxation. A lot of fishing.

SWTU has been incredibly busy the past few months and our members look forward to dialing things back just a bit for summer fun and travel.

Our "Stream Team" held workdays on a number of properties, including a gorgeous section of the Sugar River. This stretch became "public" just this year thanks to generosity from the Neperud family and active involvement and generosity from the county, state and many other local conservation groups. It truly showed the power of working together. At this site we're doing more than clearing brush and cutting down trees. We're also planting them. We were joined by a scout troop that helped plant a variety of native species at strategic points and meanders.

We also worked with youth from Operation Fresh Start doing stream and prairie restoration work around Kittleson Creek. It was quite the learning experience getting to know these young and motivated people.

Watch our website and calendar for news of a July workday and event on this amazing property, after which we'll get back to relaxing a bit until the fall work season kicks back in.

Our annual Riversmith Casting Clinic, now named for the departed Jeff Smith, brought people young and old to Cross Plains to learn about casting, bugs, stream ecology,

gear and more. We thank Matt Sment, who also stepped into the role of vice president, for taking the lead on this important educational and outreach event.

In addition to Matt, we have several other changes to our board. Pat Hasburgh stepped down from the board, but we are happy that he is staying engaged on major projects. Matt Krueger also finished his presidential term and we deeply appreciate his terrific leadership. Stepping into that role is Tristan Kloss, who most recently served as secretary. The recently retired Scot Stewart is now our chapter delegate to the State Council, replacing Christopher Long, who served several effective terms in the role. In addition to some other shifts between board and officer roles, which you can view in the Leadership section of [swtu.org](http://swtu.org), we are pleased to have longtime chapter volunteer Mark Maffit join our board.

Spring also brought a great annual event that we are so proud to be part of, the Project Green Teen (PGT) outing in Avalanche. The PGT program at Madison's Malcom Shabazz High School is an environmental service learning class that addresses authentic environmental needs in the community. The highlight of the year is a week-long trip to camp, fish and do restoration work in the Driftless Area. SWTU members and others support the students by helping instruct in cast-

ing, fly tying, restoration and, yes, catching trout!

Please stop by [swtu.org](http://swtu.org) for more news about our chapter and to check

out our calendar of events. You can also find us on Facebook!

—Drew Kasel



#### SEEING WHAT CRAWLS AROUND THE BOTTOM OF A TROUT STREAM

Young and old gather to get a closer look at stream life at the SWTU Riversmith Casting Clinic, held along Black Earth Creek in Cross Plains.

### Wild Rivers Chapter

The Wild Rivers Chapter has had a couple great events in the last quarter, which were made possible by Dave and Katie Gellatly of Solstice Outdoors, Ashland's outdoor recreation shop. In addition to owning Solstice Outdoors, Dave is a rep for a bunch of outdoor equipment

companies, including Sage. It has been fantastic to partner with a business in our community to bring better awareness and education to community members about coldwater fisheries and the work of TU.

In April, Dave brought several switch rods to the mouth of the



#### WILD RIVERS CHAPTER HELPS WITH WOMEN'S FISHING CLINIC

The event was put on by Solstice, but Dave and Katie were generous to make TU a key partner in the activities of the day. Twelve women attended the conference and spent a fun day learning about fishing and TU.



# Chapter News



**SOLSTICE OUTDOORS AND WILD RIVERS HOST SWITCH-CASTING CLINIC**  
Dave and Katy Gellatly of Solstice Outdoors partnered with the Wild Rivers Chapter to put on a switch-casting clinic. Here Dave shows some techniques.

Montreal River and walked chapter members through various methods of switch casting. As the wind direction shifted, we were able to adapt casts to the necessary changes in weather. After the midday event, we went to Burger's Bar and Grill for our chapter meeting and a presentation by Iron County Land and Water Conservation Department's Heather Palmquist.

Heather educated members on some of the great brook trout streams that flow through the county. Wild Rivers' chapter geography is a bit expansive, and Iron County doesn't get enough attention from us because of how spread out our geography is. It was great to spend the whole afternoon and evening having our chapter learn about the county's fisheries, and actually get into one of the rivers in Iron County to throw a few casts and learn something new. A big thanks to Dave for the switch rod demo, and to Heather for doing the work that she does to help conserve, protect and restore Iron County's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.

The second event facilitated by Solstice Outdoors was a women's fishing clinic at the Blue Wave by Katie and Dave on June 12. The event was put on by Solstice, but Dave and Katie were generous to make TU a key partner in the activities of the day. Kelly McKnight, Jim Emerson and I had a great time being part of the event. Twelve women attended the conference. We gained 12 new members and were able to spend a fun day introducing people who, for the most part, were brand new to fly fishing and to the mission of TU.

Dave and Katy planned the event through their shop in partnership with Anglers All and Ashland Parks and Recreation. It was incredibly generous of them to make TU a focal point of the event, letting us appeal to new people about the work we do. As a chapter, we partner quite a bit with fisheries biologists from state and federal agencies. Working with outdoor recreation businesses and fly shops in our area doesn't occur as often. When we do get to partner with

businesses like Solstice Outdoors and folks like Dave and Katie it is beneficial for both parties involved and I hope our chapter can do more of this in the future with the great shops that cater to outdoor enthusiasts in our area.

Scott Toshner, DNR fisheries biologist for Bayfield and Douglas counties, presented the results of the creel survey on the White River that was conducted during the last two years. Wild Rivers TU partnered with the Bad River Watershed Association and Friends of the White River to host Scott's presentation. Thanks to Scott and the DNR for doing the work they do on the White River. Thanks to BRWA and Friends of the White River for being strong partners with Wild Rivers TU in our conservation and stewardship efforts on the White River.

We will be working with Max Wolter, DNR fisheries biologist in Sawyer County, assisting with some habitat work as a followup of beaver and dam removal that took place. Getting out into watersheds to do work is always something we look forward to. This work will be effective in improving stream conditions in two gems in Sawyer County.

Chapter members provided support at Kids Fishing Day activities at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center. This is always a fun event for those who help out. I heard from Jim Emerson, Wild Rivers TU treasurer, that some kids caught exceptionally large brook trout and some big perch. Bill Heart, Jim Emerson, Dick Berge and Dan Bloomquist braved the elements on a cool day to engage with youth in our chapter area to help them experience the fun of fishing.

As is the case for all other chapters in Wisconsin, summer introduces an opportunity to be more engaged in coldwater fisheries and their watersheds. Living out the balance between enjoying the watersheds and working on behalf of conserving them will keep us pretty occupied this summer. We are looking forward to all that summer has in store for us.

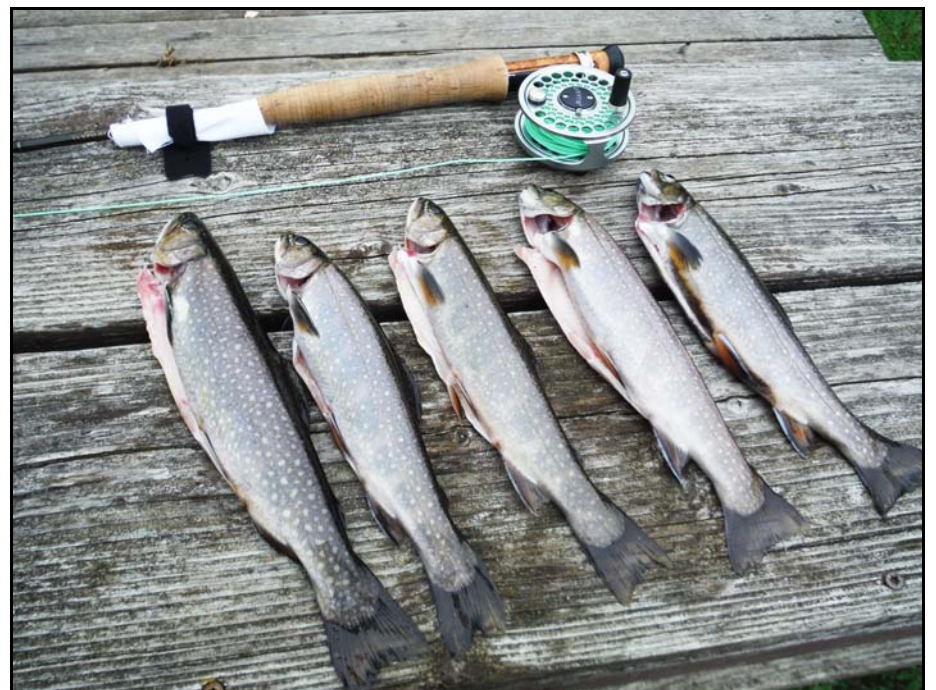
—Bob Rice

## Wisconsin Clear Waters

The Wisconsin Clear Waters Chapter held a successful banquet in Eau Claire in March. This was our 44th annual banquet, and about 100 people joined in the fun. This

brought \$17,000 in gross sales or nearly \$8,000 in net profit.

Activities included card raffles for a chance to win a fly-tying table or a YETI cooler. The most amus-



**CLEARWATERS CHAPTER ENJOYS THE FRUITS OF THE DRIFTLESS AREA**  
The Wisconsin Clearwaters Chapter held its annual Driftless Spring Adventure in Vernon County and a few of them tasted the fruits of their fishing labor, some tasty brook trout. Friday and Saturday turned cold and wet, making the fish a little less agreeable. However, those who stuck it out found fish.



**CLEARWATERS ADVENTURERS ENJOY A BREAKFAST AT DUKE'S**  
Duke Welter opened up his home to some of those arriving early for a hardy, welcome breakfast that filled their bellies for a fresh start. As usual, Duke was more than helpful with some good Driftless Area fishing advice.

ing activity was the live auction. Auctioneer Steve Strey was helped by Duke Welter, and kept the crowd engaged with their humor while also getting top dollar. This included seven guided fishing trips. The highlight of the live auction was a wood carving of two kingfishers donated by Bob Dahlke. Bob is a noted artist and TU member known throughout the state. He has provided a carving for numerous years.

For those seeking smaller prizes, a silent auction included about 150 items. Many of these were donated from chapter members as recycled trout-related fishing gear. We hope these less expensive items help new trout enthusiasts enter the sport. A bucket raffle was also offered.

A special bake sale earned \$330 for our Trout In the Classroom program.

A significant portion of the banquet funds are used to provide financial assistance to two unique needs among the trout enthusiasts and those supporting coldwater fisheries in Wisconsin. The first need addressed was a \$500 donation to The Beaver Creek Refuge. This funding is designed to assist in the remodeling of their facility in Fall Creek, Wisconsin. Specifically, this funding will provide support to the

live trout display tank in their building.

The second donation supported DARE. Given the assistance provided by DARE over the years, we made a commitment to support DARE. The chapter had already made a commitment in the budget of \$1,000. But given their needs we offered an additional \$4,000 for the year.

About a dozen members of the chapter gathered near Viroqua for the annual Driftless Spring Adventure. After a long, cold winter we were more than ready for some frisky Driftless trout.

Duke Welter opened up his home to some of us arriving early for a hardy, welcome breakfast that filled our bellies full for a fresh start. As usual, Duke was more than helpful with some good Driftless fishing advice and not-so-secret fishing locations.

Friday and Saturday turned cold and wet, making the fish a little less agreeable. However, those of us who stuck it out found fish. The fishing in the Driftless Area is great, and the chapter camaraderie is awesome. You can bet we will be back next spring.

—Al Noll





# Chapter News

## Wisconsin River Valley Chapter

The presidential torch has been passed from Pat Esselman to a name that all of you are probably familiar with, Doug Brown. Thank you, Pat, for the huge amount of time that you have dedicated to the chapter. We also thank Betsey Hager for all of the countless hours that she put in as our treasurer.

We welcome Michelle McCarthy as our new treasurer. New President Doug Brown is a forester for Marathon County, a job that keeps him connected with nature. That is his passion. Doug does all he can to show his daughters, Annika and Brooke, all the things he loves about the outdoors.

In April we joined some past members of Friends of the Prairie River for the Annual Trash Pickup at the access points and along Highway 17, north of Merrill. Thanks to Pat and Betsey Hager for organizing the event and for the tasty lunch in Hay Meadow Park afterward. Thanks to all of those who came out and collected trash.

In May we were at the Taylor County Fairgrounds in Medford for the Taylor County Sportsman's Club Youth Expo. More than 400 fifth graders were registered for this event. We were happy that it was much warmer and drier than the 45 degrees we experienced in 2015. Henry Kanemoto, Gene Koshak, Bob Pils, John Meachan and Linda Lehman were on hand to demonstrate fly tying and casting to the kids.

June 4 was Kiwanis Kids Day, and Linda Lehman headed down to Wisconsin Rapids to do a little fly tying with the kids there. More than

300 kids of all ages took part. The weather was pretty good and the rain held off until around 2:30 p.m. The youngest tyer this year was Lily. At just four years old, she tied a pink and purple wooly bugger.

June 11 was our annual summer board retreat at the Jameson Shack in the hamlet of Parrish. A huge thank you to John Meachen for once again hosting this board meeting. This is our year-end wrap-up meeting for the board, as well as a chance to do some long-term planning. We had some new faces show up to give some input, and the meeting went very well.

We have quite a few events in the planning stage for the fall of 2016 and next summer. We have abandoned the annual banquet for several reasons and we brainstormed on how to generate money for future stream projects. We received a nice update from Ben Rolling of DNR Fisheries on the Prairie River rehab project being completed this summer, as well as brushing projects on the Prairie, North Branch of the Prairie, and Spring Creek. The food, drinks, accommodations and everyone's input made the meeting a huge success.

Upcoming events include the August 27 Sporting Heritage Youth Expo at the Wausau School Forest. On Saturday, September 24 we will have a brushing work day on the Prairie River.

Watch for more information to come on our website at wrvtu.org and the Wisconsin River Valley TU Facebook page.

—Linda Lehman

## Wolf River Chapter

Spring trout fishing on the upper Wolf River in Langlade County has

been quite good with reports coming in about nice browns, brookies



Penny Myers

### WOLF RIVER CHAPTER HOSTS MEET AND GREET ON THE WOLF RIVER

Wolf River Meet and Greet participants and mentors learned about Wolf River hatches and then experienced the river.

and rainbows being caught, especially with the hatches just turning on. A reliable source reported that a 24-inch brown trout was caught on a dry fly at an undisclosed spring pond near Langlade in May.

There has been some confusion with the new regulations, so it is important to read the new trout regulations for the Wolf River, concerning slot sizes. The daily bag limit May 7 - October 15 is three fish in total, with the length limit on brown and rainbow trout to be under 12 inches, except one fish may be over 18 inches and brook trout over eight inches.

The second annual Wolf River Meet and Greet was in May, with participants learning more about Wolf River hatches and where to fish on the Wolf. Many experienced the excitement of reeling in a trout.

On Saturday, the Meet and Greet lunch was hosted by the Livingstons and the Wolf River Chapter. Some of the Green Bay Chapter members joined the group for lunch and then assisted Andy Killoren and Rodger Wilder with stream work on

Elton Creek from the dam near the hatchery down to Highway 64. Brush and logs were removed, allowing the stream to flow better. Thank you to the Meet and Greet participants, Wolf River Chapter mentors and volunteers and the Bear Paw Outdoor Adventure Center for a successful event and to the Green Bay Chapter for their help on Elton Creek.

The Memorial Day weekend fundraising brat stand was another success. A huge thanks to all the chapter volunteers who made this happen and Mike's Service at Langlade for the great location.

The Green Bay Chapter will once again join the Wolf River Chapter for a work day on Saturday, August 20, with lunch served afterward as a thank you for their excellent help on conservation projects for the Wolf River. For more information please email Andy Killoren at [akiloren@centurytel.net](mailto:akiloren@centurytel.net).

—Laurie Zen Netzow

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## 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](http://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.



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# Driftless Rambler

With Duke Welter  
TUDARE Outreach Coordinator

## Trout Day is a Buffalo County fixture.

Buffalo County's Trout Day has become a fixture in the county the past four years, inviting folks to come to one of the county's newly-restored streams on the first Saturday in June. These are home-grown events, a lot of fun and a chance for families to come out and enjoy the fishing on some fine fishing water. This year the stream day was hosted by Arcadia Sportsman's Club and supported by the rest of the county's local conservation clubs, DNR, NRCS and Trout Unlimited. A local DNR representative estimated 75-80 attendees, which was pretty good considering several Free Fishing Day events were held the same day at ponds around the area.

Lovely as the day was, some clouds marred the festivities. Just a couple of days before, a DNR crew doing stream restoration work downstream noticed a 20-inch brown trout floating past, belly up. They alerted others, who found dozens of dead trout. It wasn't hard to spot the problem: A large farm operation from down the valley had been land-spreading manure on lands draining into the stream for several days, despite a series of forecasts predicting 20- to 90-percent chances of rain and thunderstorms over the same period.

Dozens and dozens of truckloads of liquefied manure were spread heavily on hillsides, where not long ago you'd have expected to see CRP grasses in place, so thick it looked like a layer of brown sludge. Which, of course, it was. When the rains hit the preceding Tuesday night, they washed the manure down into a tributary to the trout stream, and soon floating dead trout were everywhere. Dozens were found, but undoubtedly many more weren't. It doesn't take long for a flood of manure to kill fish, and in a gully-washer many are quickly washed away downstream and into the Trempealeau River.

The DNR's last electroshocking information suggested this reach had about 700 trout per mile. It was recently upgraded to Class II with the conclusion that since the restoration work, natural reproduction was taking place. However, local clubs with co-op ponds supply about 500 brook and brown trout each year to plant as fall fingerlings. They grow well in that system, feeding heavily on crayfish, minnows, leeches and terrestrials from the stream-side vegetation.

Some thought perhaps the sponsors should cancel the stream celebration, but it went on under a sunny sky after an overnight squall passed through. From the spot where the tents are set up and the "creek cooks" turn brats and hot dogs (donated by a local butcher shop), kids run along the banks, with their Snoopy poles, spinners or hooks baited with a bit of night crawler.

One proud father said, "We've got a little stream out back of our place, and our boys, who are seven and nine, spend all their time out there. Man, do they have a great time, and do they catch a lot of trout!" They caught them here, too: 7- to 11-inch brooks and browns, from water stained by several days of on-and-off rain squalls.

Little girls in colored sun hats and bright dresses wander along the stream, and some of these seven year olds are way better spin casters than I am. Brook trout were caught, hoisted, and some kept and some released. The stream flows through a lot of bottomland cornfields, as Buffalo County's valley floors are wider than those in many Driftless Area counties, but the project is edged with a 66-foot grass buffer that was burned this spring to control invasive species and

*"Little girls in colored sun hats and bright dresses wander along the stream, and some of these seven year olds are way better spin casters than I am."*

keep back willows. Landowners Leroy and Sharon Fernholtz and Bernie and Lynn Pronschinske have worked this land for years, and live near the site. They donated easements which were drafted by a local law firm and held by the Arcadia Sportsman's Club. The Fernholtzes and Pronschinskes are enthusiastic about the state of the stream flowing about 4/5 of a mile through their lands. They welcome anglers and reported no problems during the past four years.

In Buffalo County, easements are held by several of the local clubs and the West Wisconsin Land Trust. Most can be found on the county's website on a spreadsheet developed by Fountain City Eagle Scout Joey Domine two years ago, but others are being added as new projects get under way.

What about the stream? Will it recover? How long will it take? The DNR electroshocking team, working upstream of the spill site, found plenty of trout in the 6-10 inch range, and white suckers larger than that. They even found a tiger trout, indicating that both brooks and browns are naturally reproducing somewhere upstream. There's reason to think these fish, spawned upstream, and the supplemental stocking will gradually bring back the trout population. But those 20-inch browns were likely four years old, and the manure spill devastated the best big-trout water on the stream. It will take years to recover.

These manure-spill-caused fish kills also kill insect life. The stream has been rich in invertebrates and crustaceans, and a spill kills them as well. It takes time for those insect populations to re-establish and rebuild the food sources for fish. A curious high school student might wish to study the populations upstream and downstream of the spill and compare how soon various species show up again in the dead zone.



**SHOWING DAD HOW IT'S DONE**  
Young Mr. Wilson plying the waters of Gilbert Creek in Buffalo County

The frustrating thing for me, as a person dedicated to improving habitat conditions in these degraded watersheds, is that while habitat can be rebuilt, water quality needs to be protected by those who use the land. Many farmers, including these landowners and others, are careful about their manure-spreading practices, and don't like the black eye provided by a big farmer who wasn't careful.

One young farmer at the event told me how difficult it was to spread manure without having runoff. There are so many rules, he said, and the weather is unpredictable, and you only have these windows of time to spread, so you do it when you can.

In this case, the landowner had more storage capacity, so it wasn't a critical situation. The weather had been unsettled, but that should be a warning to wait for calmer weather. And the farmer who rented the land and spread the manure, even with somewhere close to 1,000 animal units, reportedly doesn't have a CAFO permit or a nutrient management plan to follow. Perhaps the best indicator of the operator's attitude was that later in the week, with more rain in the forecast, the tank trucks continued to spread more manure on the hillsides above the stream.

It will be instructive to see how this fish kill/manure spill are handled by the authorities whose responsibility it is to address these situations. After their investigation, the local law enforcement warden will send it to DNR in Madison for decision-making. They could force

the farmer to get and abide by appropriate permits, adopt a nutrient management plan addressing manure spreading practices, insist on restitution for the dead trout, or refer to the Attorney General's office for prosecution.

With the recent publicity about how DNR enforcement actions have dropped by something like 90 percent in recent years, the public will be very interested in the DNR's actions resulting from this spill and the one in February on Castle Rock Creek in Grant County.

Farming is hard work, a business where you can't control every operating factor, where a sharp pencil helps and there are temptations to cut corners and avoid regulation. But there are plenty of reasons to do it right, too: People can see who in their valley is spreading manure on days with high likelihood of rainstorms. In a rural county, the neighbors know who is careful and who isn't. Fish kills caused by careless spreading give all farmers a black eye, and I've talked with farmers near this spill and Castle Rock spill who don't like that bad publicity.

Conservationists who spent days and days working on this project saw how quickly the land use practices can negate the work they did. But if we can't make progress cooperating with farmers who are still using the land, we might as well just do habitat work in a bathtub.

Meanwhile, at the stream day, kids caught fish and ate hot dogs and won spinning rod outfits (and one fly rod) which they happily carried home. The sun shone over the valley this day, for the most part.



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# Summer 2016 Friends of Wisconsin TU Update

The 2016 fundraising campaign for the Friends of Wisconsin TU is in full swing, and we have already received more than \$11,000 in donations! I can't thank our donors enough for their continued generosity. Numerous grants have been awarded this past year, including to the following:

- A joint commitment by the Wild Rivers, Green Bay and Marinette TU chapters to support a 2-person DNR crew to work on streams in north-east Wisconsin for a 10-week season.
- The Nohr Chapter is planning 3,000 feet of habitat work on Pompey Pillar Creek, a critical headwaters stream, and also 5,000 feet on the Blue River. Bank stabilization and erosion control is a major focus.

- SEWTU is working on a project on Richland County's Little Willow Creek.

The Council hopes to increase donations so we can fund all the grant requests from chapters.

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

Make some time to get out and enjoy the bounty of our healthy, productive trout streams, many which have directly benefited from the Friends of Wisconsin TU program.

—Doug Brown



**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 SEWTU for Little Willow Creek in Richland County in 2016

### Here are our Friends of Wisconsin TU

- |                         |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Jason Anderson          | Mukwonago WI        |
| Edwin Barnes            | Middleton WI        |
| Charles Barnhill        | Madison WI          |
| Jim Bayorgeon           | Appleton WI         |
| Jolene Berg             | Chippewa Falls WI   |
| Blaine Biederman        | Madison WI          |
| John and Susan Bleimehl | Verona WI           |
| Stephen Born            | Madison WI          |
| Maxwell Burgert         | Neenah WI           |
| Rick Christopherson     | Norwalk WI          |
| Andrew Cook II          | Sister Bay WI       |
| Terry Cummings          | Rhineland WI        |
| Bruce Davidson          | Wauwatosa WI        |
| Mike Duren              | Mazomanie WI        |
| Jim Flesch              | Fox Point, WI       |
| Jerome Fox              | Two Rivers WI       |
| Scott Geboy             | Fox Point WI        |
| Dan Geddes              | Appleton WI         |
| John Gribb              | Mount Horeb WI      |
| Jon Hanson              | Madison WI          |
| Henry Haugley           | Sun Prairie WI      |
| Ashton & Stephen Hawk   | Madison WI          |
| William Heart           | Ashland WI          |
| Brian Hegge             | Rhineland WI        |
| Mark Heifner            | Appleton WI         |
| Wally Heil              | De Pere WI          |
| Bob Hellyer             | Boulder Junction WI |
| Walter Hellyer          | Egg Harbor WI       |
| Charles Hodulik         | Madison WI          |
| Jeff Jackson            | Oconto Falls WI     |
| Charles Jorgenson       | Oconomowoc WI       |
| John Kenealy III        | Waukesha WI         |
| Lane Kistler            | Milwaukee WI        |
| Ralph Klassy            | Phillips WI         |
| Joseph Kubale           | Dane WI             |
| Douglas MacFarland      | Dousman WI          |
| Anna Magnin             | Marshfield WI       |
| Kevin Mahaney           | Middleton WI        |
| Jim & Billie March      | LaCrosse WI         |
| Kim McCarthy            | Green Bay WI        |
| Austin McGuan           | Green Bay WI        |
| Cris Meyer              | Middleton WI        |
| Steve Musser            | Middleton WI        |
| William Nielsen         | Eau Claire WI       |
| Herb Oechler            | Wauwatosa WI        |

- |                                 |                  |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Cheryl and Winston Ostrow       | De Pere WI       |
| Donald Persons                  | Janesville WI    |
| Ron Rellatz                     | Merton WI        |
| Bob Retko                       | Cedarburg WI     |
| Thomas Rogers                   | Princeton WI     |
| Tom Ryan                        | Whitefish Bay WI |
| Michael Sandretto               | Neenah WI        |
| Jeff and Mary Schmoeger         | Cot. Grove WI    |
| James Schommer                  | Lodi WI          |
| James School                    | Kaukauna WI      |
| Jim and Marie Seder             | New Berlin WI    |
| John Shillinglaw                | Madison WI       |
| George Shinnars                 | Antigo WI        |
| Tom & Nan Siebers               | Elkhart Lake WI  |
| Brent Sittlow                   | Hudson WI        |
| Robert Smith                    | Milwaukee WI     |
| Julie & Todd Templen            | Dubuque IA       |
| Dennis and Becky Vanden Bloomen | Eau Claire WI    |
| Eric Van Vugt                   | Milwaukee WI     |
| Donald Welhouse                 | Kaukauna WI      |
| Don Wagner                      | Gillett WI       |
| Stephen Wilke                   | Marinette WI     |
| Donald M. Williams              | Fort Atkinson WI |
| Paul Williams                   | Madison WI       |
| Nancy and Roland Woodruff       | Oshkosh WI       |
| Norb Wozniak                    | Stevens Point WI |
| Robert Wyman                    | Beaver Dam WI    |
| Frederic Young                  | Roscoe IL        |

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Yes, I want to join the "Friends" of Wisconsin TU.  
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