



Wisconsin Trout

January 2014

Invasive snails found in Black Earth Creek

By Todd Franklin

The first discovery of New Zealand mudsnails in a Midwest stream has conservation professionals and all other users of Black Earth Creek working hard to slow its inevitable spread.

The brown or black snails were discovered in a sample taken at South Valley Road. Additional samples taken near Town Road and Highway 14 in Black Earth are also suspected to contain the snails.

The snails are easily spread by fishing gear, construction equip-

ment and research tools. Once established, they are very difficult to eliminate. Therefore, preventing their spread into uninfected waters is crucial, and educating anglers how to properly clean their gear will be a key element in this objective.

The snails may impact the food chain within a waterbody by reducing abundance of mayflies, stoneflies and caddisflies, depriving fish of food sources. This could impact our fisheries to an unknown extent.

For more information on this threat and what anglers can do to slow its spread, go to pages 8-9.

License plate bill passes in Assembly

Thanks to the efforts of many Wisconsin TU members who contacted their legislators, and the support of numerous legislators, our hard-fought efforts to establish a Wisconsin Trout Unlimited license plate took a giant leap forward recently. What follows is a detailed history of these efforts.

By Henry Koltz, Council Chair

In 2010, Wisconsin Trout Unlimited commenced efforts to secure a fund-raising license plate. Under the leadership of Council Chair Kim McCarthy, that effort commenced with Wisconsin TU members contacting their legislators, and attempting to find a champion for our bill.

Such efforts were rewarded in 2011 when Southeast Wisconsin TU member Ray Weiss contacted Rep. Jim Ott of Mequon. Ott, a fisherman himself and familiar with Trout Unlimited, agreed to support a TU license plate. He and his staff began drafting a bill and seeking co-sponsors. As a result, on February 3, 2012, Assembly Bill 524, was introduced into the Wisconsin Legislature by Representatives Ott, Alvin Ott (Forest Junction), Don Pridemore (Hartford), and Louis Molepske, Jr. (Stevens Point), and co-sponsored by Sen. Alberta Darling of River Hills. The bill was referred to the Wisconsin Assembly's Committee on Transportation, just as the Wisconsin Legislature entered into significant discussion of the tumultuous budget bill.

On February 14, 2012, Wisconsin Act 10 (the "Wisconsin Budget Repair Bill") was introduced. That bill set in motion one of the fiercest political debates in Wisconsin's history. Specifically, Act 10 involved massive gatherings both in support of and against the bill in Madison and elsewhere throughout the state, and some members of the Wisconsin Legislature left the state to forestall the bill's passage. As a result of the turmoil surrounding Act 10, Wisconsin TU's license plate bill was not voted upon in committee, and did not come to the floor of the assembly for a vote. Regrettably, AB524 did not survive the 2011-2012 legislative session.

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TINY SNAIL, ENORMOUS CONSEQUENCES

Cleaning our gear after fishing or between streams will need to become second nature, as another ominous invasive species-- the New Zealand mud snail -- has arrived in one of the state's most popular streams.

WITU Annual Banquet February 1 in Oshkosh

By Kim McCarthy, Banquet Chair and Past Council Chair

Another year has flown by and we once again find ourselves getting ready for the annual State Council Banquet. I encourage all of you to seriously consider attending this year's banquet Saturday, Feb. 1. This event is Wisconsin Trout Unlimited's most important fund-raiser, and holding a successful banquet is key to allowing WITU to continue its good work. Those who have been attending these banquets for years have told us that our banquets are currently among the best they've seen.

We're excited to announce our new banquet location at the Best Western Premier Waterfront Hotel and Convention Center, located at 1 N. Main St. in Oshkosh. The city of Oshkosh has spent several million dollars to create a first-class facility, which opened last April. Those of us planning the banquet are excited because not only is the facility new, it is large. We won't be the least bit cramped for space and will be able to comfortably accommodate what we hope will be a record number of attendees. Those staying overnight will also find the new rooms in the hotel to be extremely nice.

We are planning the banquet to be a fast-paced and fun event. Once again we are making every effort to have a first-class prize package. Those of you who have attended a recent WITU banquet have noticed that our prize package has improved tremendously in recent

years, and this year will continue that trend.

The banquet room will be open by 3:15 p.m. for TU members from all over Wisconsin to catch up with one another and visit with the various groups and vendors who support our work. Dinner seating will be at 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner and the awards ceremony to honor those who go above and beyond to help TU in Wisconsin. Presenting the awards again this year will be Steve Born, who always manages to make the awards presentation memorable.

Banquet tickets will remain priced at \$35. To get tickets, check with your chapter president. Each chapter has received tickets to sell. If your chapter has already sold out their batch of tickets, they can be purchased from Mike Kuhr (this year's ticket coordinator). Mike's e-mail address for ordering tickets is miked.trout@yahoo.com For those staying overnight, the rate will be \$95 and includes a \$10 breakfast voucher for up to two people in a room. Rooms may be reserved by calling 1-855-230-1900 or 1-920-230-1900. Make reservations as soon as possible because the rate is based on rooms being available.

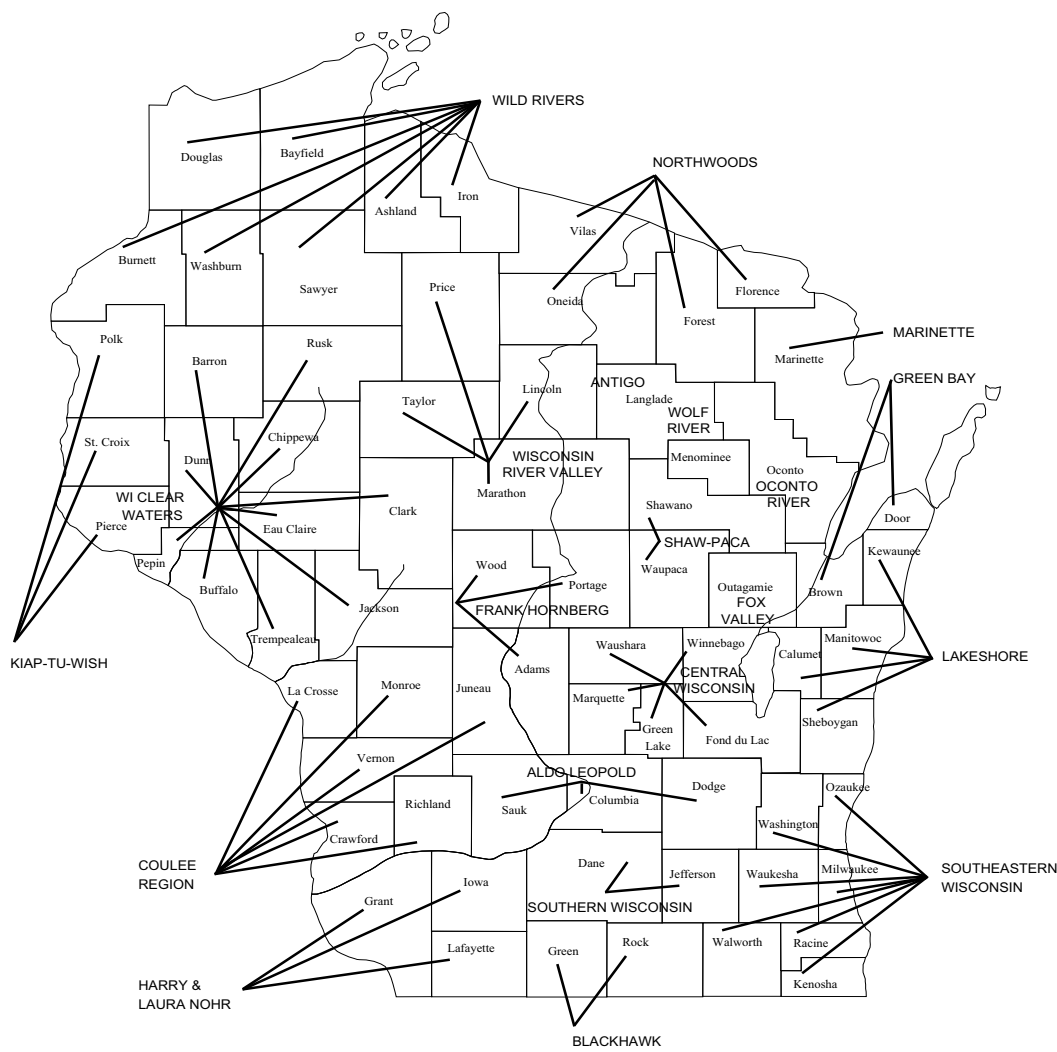
For those who would like to come earlier in the day and be involved in other events, the Annual State Council Meeting is 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. We would really appreciate it if all 21 of our state chapters could have a leader or member in attendance.

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Wisconsin TU Chapters, Presidents, and Websites



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Contact TU National when you change addresses or chapter leaders

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

If you are moving to a different city and wish to be affiliated with the TU chapter in your new area, note the new chapter number. Chapter numbers are listed above.

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With proposed trout regs, we're all in this together

By Henry Koltz,
WITU State Council Chair

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is currently revising its inland trout regulations. This process has been long running, and Wisconsin Trout Unlimited has often invited members of the DNR to speak concerning this process at our meetings, and we have been involved and engaged in the regulation review proceedings. DNR has also conducted a web based survey, and two random surveys of anglers concerning the state of trout fishing in Wisconsin as part of this survey.

In early December the DNR put forth a tentative proposal, which creates three categories of base regulations (green, yellow, and red) for each county. The current proposal is tentative, subject to editing, and is an ongoing process. Under the current proposal, green is a "go harvest" regulation, which allows the harvest of five fish, with no size limit. Yellow is a "caution" regulation, which allows the harvest of three fish over eight inches in length. Finally, "red" is a "stop" regulation, which directs anglers to check stream listing for special regulations.

The "green" designation is most comparable to the current Category 2 designation, which allows the harvest of five fish over seven inches in length. The "yellow" designation is most comparable to the current Category 3 regulation, which allows the harvest of three fish over nine inches in length. The red designation is a broad category which encompasses 15 special regulations, which I discuss below.

Just more than half of our counties are classified under this proposal as "green," with slightly fewer that are categorized as "yellow." Only Pierce County is categorized as "red."

Under the current proposal, there are 10 counties which would receive a more restrictive base regulation, as proposed by biologists: Adams, Florence, Forest, Juneau, Marathon, Marinette, Oconto, Pierce, Portage and Wood.

The current proposal suggests that nine counties have less-restrictive base regulations: Buffalo, Chippewa, Crawford, Dunn, Green, LaCrosse, Pepin, St. Croix, and Vernon.

In addition to a county's base regulation, fisheries biologists have also been tasked with setting special regulations on streams within each county. As mentioned above, the "red" stream designation is comprised of 15 separate special regulations. It is these 15 categories of regulations that biologists may apply. Under the current regulatory regime, I have been told that there are at least 60 unique special regulations, and may be as many as 90. As such, this is a significant paring of the categories of special regulations which are available to fisheries biologists for implementation. The new special regulations appear to have been crafted to create "middle ground," and to create a spectrum aimed at allowing biologists to apply special regulations *similar* to those which previously existed.

In mid-December I sent an alert to the leadership of each Wisconsin TU Chapter. It included a copy of the current regulations, and a copy



of the proposed regulations. It also included a comparison of the current-to-proposed base regulations by county, and an example of a comparison of special regulations now versus proposed regulations in one county (Adams, because it was first alphabetically). I've asked each chapter to perform a review of current-versus-proposed special regulations within its chapter territory, and to send me their comparison and opinions of the proposed regulations.

Finally, I've asked for each chapter's positions regarding the proposed base regulations in their territories, regarding proposed base regulations in general, and regarding the special regulations which biologists have proposed for their counties.

In addition, I have talked to various fisheries biologists and asked for the reasoning behind some of their proposals. I've talked to professionals within the trout angling community, and anglers, including some who toss spinners or use bait. I've talked to TU members and non-TU members, but I'll keep reaching out, and I'll do my best to gather as much information regarding this matter as possible. Once we gather and evaluate all available information, we can have an intelligent and large conversation at our February, 2014, All Council Meeting, and determine Wisconsin Trout Unlimited's position regarding regulation change.

This process is going to require a lot of listening by all parties: DNR, TU, and other involved stakehold-

ers. Interested parties need to sit down, rationally discuss the proposed plan, make concessions, and come to a middle ground that everyone can live with.

There is simply too much at stake to allow any other outcome. This is not about "who wins." It's not about who gets to crow to who about "being right" at a bar or on a message board. Such things are quite simply beneath this process. They're not what matters.

What matters is the resource, those who use and protect it, the economy that it creates for Wisconsin's workers, and the possibilities it provides for future generations. This is not a game that should be based on guesses. It is not a system that should be allowed to be manipulated to appease few at the expense of many. *Everything* needs to be considered, and all opinions need to be heard.

My sincere hope is that Wisconsin Trout Unlimited and its members will take seriously the review of regulations proposed in their chapter's territory. My hope is that we'll listen to biologists, hear why they have proposed changes, and do our best to understand their positions even if we don't agree. If we do disagree, then I hope that we can present our opposition civilly, and continue the strong relationship that Wisconsin TU has built with DNR over the past many years. Quite simply, we are all in this together.



Editor,

I am writing in response to Chuck Steudel's letter in the last issue of Wisconsin Trout. I concur with many of the points that Chuck raises here, including that of which our two political parties have moved to the extreme wings and that each is unyielding in their views. While the Democrats are definitely allies when it comes to environmental issues, Chuck correctly stayed neutral when defining our current parties. However, if his main stated proposal is to fund political parties and congressman, I would strongly disagree.

First of all, our stated purpose is to fund and work on coldwater resources. Even if we were allowed to get politically involved, I believe it is a losing proposition. Witness Karl Rove and the promise he made to all of his donors, American Crossroads, etc., that if they pumped tens of millions of dollars into last year's campaigns, they would defeat Obama and take over the Senate. Piling more money on to the political bonfire is not the answer, and yes, while writing letters and contacting our representatives (in the districts represented by extremists) has indeed become futile, I believe

Chuck has broached a great point in that we need to stake out new (or at least refine old) strategies.

The mention of the Gogebic mine is listed here as priority #1. Again, Chuck is right in stating that we will get nowhere sending emails and making phone calls. Our best bet is to explore all avenues to block Gogebic in a strategic manner, including: using Wisconsin Public Water laws, insisting on Federal scrutiny from the E.P.A. when the federal permits are applied for, and asking the most from our Native American friends whose lands will certainly be adversely affected by the mines.

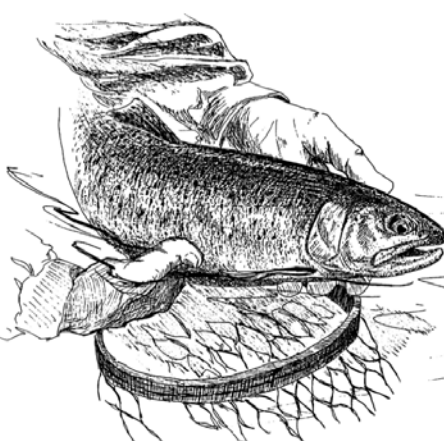
We have had major setbacks because we have one party rule the entire state government. This is never good, especially in today's political climate where the moderates within each party seem to be muzzled. I agree with your statement Chuck that "the world has gone nuts".....certainly, our politicians have gone nuts. Planning and evolving coherent, cogent strategies is what will work. Otherwise let's focus on our mission here at T.U. and support our cold water fisheries.

Kyle Amundson
Hudson

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

2014 State Council Banquet

Feb 1st 2014, Oshkosh

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

(The hotel phone number for rooms is (800) 780-7234.)

Cocktail hour starts at 3:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:45 p.m.

Awards: 7:30 p.m.

For tickets contact Mike Kuhr at
mikek.trout@yahoo.com, or by phone at
414-588-4281. Tickets can also be ordered
using the form below. Tickets are \$35 each.



Ticket Order Form

Name _____

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My check is enclosed (please do not send cash)

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Payments made to "Wisconsin Trout Unlimited." THANK YOU.

Send order form and payment to: Mike Kuhr, 3219 N. 77th Street, Milwaukee WI 53222

TUDARE Fall stream tour highlights northern Driftless projects

By Duke Welter



Stream project designs were the focus for a busload of professionals on an October 15 tour of 2013 season projects in the Northern Driftless Area. Project designers, fisheries biologists, contractors and others toured projects in Minnesota and Wisconsin on the day-long tour. Highlighted streams were Crow Springs Brook near Zumbro Falls, Minnesota; Trimble River near Beldenville, Wisconsin and Danuser Valley, a tributary of Waumandee Creek in Buffalo County, Wisconsin.

The projects were spearheaded, respectively, by Hiawatha TU Chapter (Rochester, MN), Kiap-TU-Wish TU (Hudson and River Falls, WI) and WI Clear Waters Chapter (Eau Claire) with the Waumandee Rod & Gun Club. The tour was co-sponsored by TUDARE, the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, and the National Fish Habitat Action Program. All three projects are located on working ag lands with public access easements.

The tour gave participants a day full of questions and give-and-take, as techniques could be assessed and innovations compared. Next year's tour will be planned to focus on projects toward the southern end of the Driftless, likely in Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin, and scheduled for mid-October after the end of the construction season.

WITU seeking volunteers for first-ever youth fishing camp

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited is planning its first youth fishing camp and is seeking volunteers for the event July 24-27 at Pine Lake Camp near Waupaca. The next steps will include establishing a planning committee to determine details for the camp and assign people to head up the various activities. We've been fortunate to receive support and advice from Franklin Tate, director of National TU's Headwaters Youth Program, and several other state councils.

The curriculum has not been finalized, but will probably include all aspects of fishing such as gear selection, stream selection, fishing techniques, sportsmanship and ethics, safety, rules and regulations, stream restoration and habitat, entomology,

and many other things. Every effort will be made to make as much of the curriculum involve hands-on activities. We are currently planning to open the camp to youths ages 12-16.

If anyone has suggestions, or would like to volunteer to help, contact Linn Beck or Bob Haase (leadership contact info on p. 2). In January we will establish the planning committee. We look forward to making this the best youth fishing camp in the nation and we have the talented volunteers to make this possible. So, please consider donating your time to help develop our future anglers and coldwater conservations.

Thanks go out to John Meachan for helping us find and secure the location for this event.

Banquet Saturday, February 1 in Oshkosh

Continued from p. 1

The popular fishing instructor certification class is also back this year because we are back in a facility that has the space for fly casting. The class is offered through the DNR and will begin at 11 a.m.

We are glad to offer several presentations from 2:45 p.m. to 4 p.m. One of the presentations will be on the proper way for chapters to advocate for clean water and better fishing. This session will be conducted by the River Alliance. The second presentation will deal with membership and leadership and will show

chapters effective ways to build their groups. This session will be conducted by our own Scott Criqui and Linn Beck.

February 1 is just about the time the winter blues begin to hit everyone hard. To get a break from the blues, consider coming to the banquet. Have a cold one. Compare notes with other chapters, congratulate those who have been honored for all they do for Trout Unlimited, and enjoy the company of a great group of people. The night will be enjoyable, and we guarantee that all proceeds will help the cold water resource in Wisconsin.

Fly fishing instructor class set for Feb. 1 in Oshkosh

In conjunction with the Wisconsin Council Banquet, a fly fishing instructor certification class will be offered Saturday, Feb. 1, 2014 from, from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the Oshkosh Waterfront Hotel and Convention Center, 1 N. Main St., Oshkosh. This certification class will be presented by Theresa Stabo, WDNR director of angler education, and Dennis Vanden Bloomen, UW-Stout fly fishing instructor and past president of the WI Clear Waters Chapter of TU.

Instructors will be taught how to present the newly developed DNR fly fishing program, a six-hour class closely following many of the requirements put forth in the Boy Scout Fly Fishing Merit Badge booklet. The WDNR's materials are also aligned to Wisconsin's state academic standards, making the program an easy fit in the classroom.

Materials are available from the DNR for individuals to conduct classes at no charge for TU chapters. Materials include Scott Rod Company fly fishing booklets. Fly tying equipment and materials are also available. The DNR has purchased 175 St. Croix fly rods and reels for instructor use through the equipment loaner program.

For more information about this instructor class, contact Theresa Stabo at (608) 266-2272 or by e-mail Theresa.stabo@dnr.state.wi.us.

Be aware of Trout Magazine subscription scam


Some TU members recently received an invoice from Platinum Publishing Service located in White City, Oregon, for renewal of Trout Magazine at a cost of \$79.95. This is not a legitimate invoice from Trout Unlimited. TU is in no way affiliated with Platinum Publishing. If you receive an invoice from them for a renewal of your Trout Magazine, please disregard that invoice.

Trout Magazine is a benefit of TU membership and is included in your membership renewal. As always, you may renew your TU membership via our official, secure website at tu.org, or more directly tu.org/membership.org/member/


renew. Regular membership remains \$35 per year.

We are not clear at this time how this company obtained mailing addresses for TU members, but we suspect they have been taken from fly fishing industry magazine lists that Platinum Publishing features on their website. We will be initiating legal notification to immediately cease-and-desist this unauthorized activity of billing for Trout Magazine.

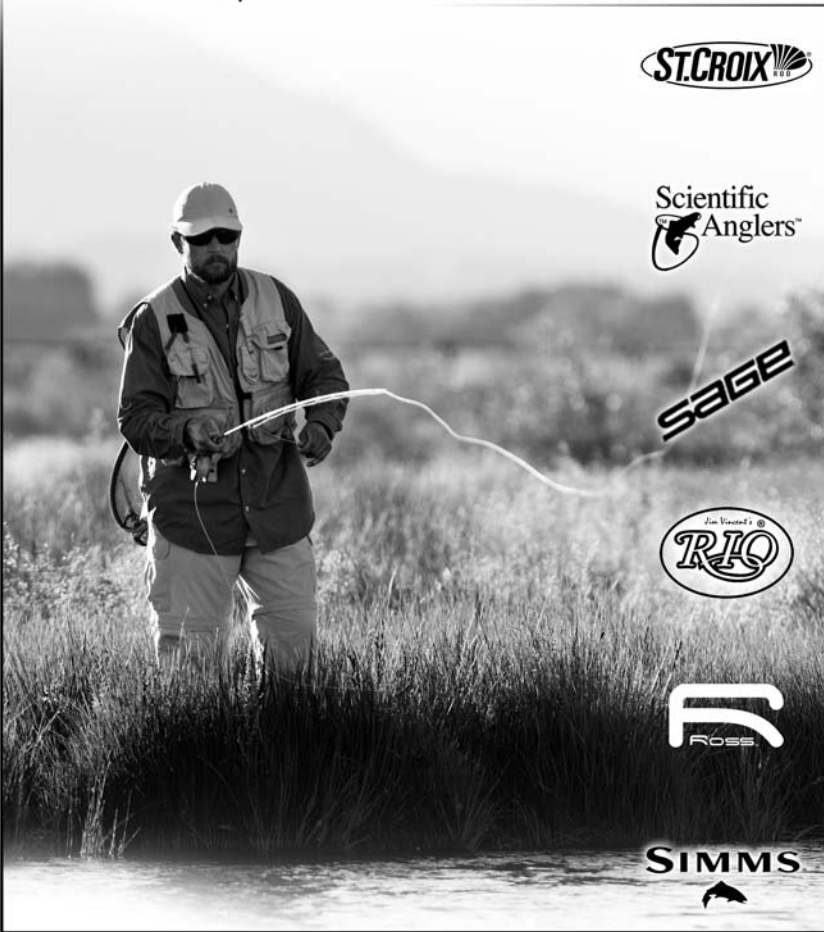
If you receive an invoice from Platinum Publishing, please scan and e-mail a copy of it to TU Vice President of Volunteer Operations Bryan Moore at bmoore@tu.org.



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Westby Workshop April 12-13

Living Waters Bible Camp will again host the 2014 Workshop sponsored by TUDARE and Wisconsin TU on April 12 and 13. Since the first workshop, more than 500 participants have attended, many of them bringing home valuable ideas and plans for their own projects.

The 2014 camp will also feature a track of training sessions for chapters and councils that want to strengthen their boards, events and functioning. A planning group is now at work developing suggestions into training sessions for the workshop.

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

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

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

Koltz proudly explains WITU to Committee

WITU Council Chair Henry Koltz addressed the Assembly's Transportation Committee in September at a hearing on the license plate bill. Surrounded by dozens of fellow TU members, Koltz recounted WITU's efforts, successes and goals. This is the text of that speech:

Good afternoon, members of the Assembly Transportation Committee. Good afternoon, Chairman Ripp, and good afternoon, Vice-Chairman Thiesfeldt. My name is Henry Koltz, and I am the Chair of the Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited.

I would like to begin by thanking Representative Jim Ott for propounding the Wisconsin Trout Unlimited License Plate Bill, AB 173. We are humbled, and we are honored, by Representative Ott's efforts on our behalf, and we are sincerely thankful to him.

Next, some background: Trout Unlimited is a national nonprofit cold water organization with nearly 150,000 members. Trout Unlimited was formed in 1959 on the banks of the Au Sable river in Grayling, Michigan, by individuals who believed that if they took care of the rivers, then the fishing would take care of itself. That is the overriding goal of Trout Unlimited.

Since 1959, Trout Unlimited has grown substantially, and it has been an active force here in Wisconsin for over 40 years, since the late 1960's. Currently, Wisconsin Trout Unlimited is comprised of 21 chapters, which cover the entire geographic footprint of our fair state. And indeed, all of Wisconsin is covered by trout streams.

From the famous Bois Brule river in our state's northwoods, which three U.S. Presidents have fished, to the storied Wolf River in the center of Wisconsin to the Lake Michigan tributaries which run through our urban centers, to the thousands of miles of streams right here in Madison's Driftless region, Wisconsin Trout Unlimited is involved, and is putting work into the resource.

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited achieves its mission in three primary manners. First, and most visibly, Wisconsin TU performs in-stream habitat restoration work. Volunteers rise early on their days off, and travel to stream worksites, often in large caravans of vehicles traveling two to three hours, one way. Once at site, TU's volunteers remove debris and trash from stream, clear access paths, create fishing access points, construct in

stream habitat structures, and install them into the stream. This work accounts for tens of thousands of volunteer hours each year.

It is the written policy of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited that its chapters should not perform work unless a permanent public access easement is in place. As such, when Wisconsin Trout Unlimited does work, it is directly for the benefit of Wisconsin citizens, so that they may fish productive, restored water.

And, it is critical to note that Wisconsin TU's work is not paid for by the state. In fact, Wisconsin TU regularly brings in significant non-state dollars for its stream restoration projects, such that it actually leverages the state's dollars, and helps the state spend less to get more done.

The results of TU's work is tangible. Fish populations in restored stretches are measured in hundreds of percents.

Volunteers rise early on their days off, and travel to stream worksites, often in large caravans, traveling two to three hours, one way.

But the effect of TU's work is seen in more than just streams.

A 2008 study conducted by Madison's own Northstar Group found that recreational trout angling in just the four-state Driftless Area accounted for an annual economic impact of 1.1 billion dollars. People who come to fish stay at hotels, they buy supplies, they go out to eat, and they pay for licenses and equipment. Moreover, all of Wisconsin is covered by trout streams. As such, it is easy to extrapolate the results of the Northstar Study across Wisconsin, and Trout Unlimited's work is good for Wisconsin's economy, and supports countless jobs.

In addition to in-stream work, Trout Unlimited is dedicated to youth, and achieves its mission by exposing youth to the outdoors. A Saturday spent in front of a Nintendo is wasted. A Saturday spent being taught how to tie flies, survey streams, or learn to fish is a day that may have a profound effect upon a child, and may lead to a healthy, lifelong outdoor hobby.

And Wisconsin TU is on the leading edge. This past summer, Wisconsin TU conducted the first ever joint event between the Girl Scout of America and Trout Unlimited, where 50 young women

learned about streams, trout, aquatic insects, fly tying, and fly casting. Wisconsin Trout Unlimited volunteers its time and efforts so that future generations will be able to enjoy even better stream opportunities than we do today.

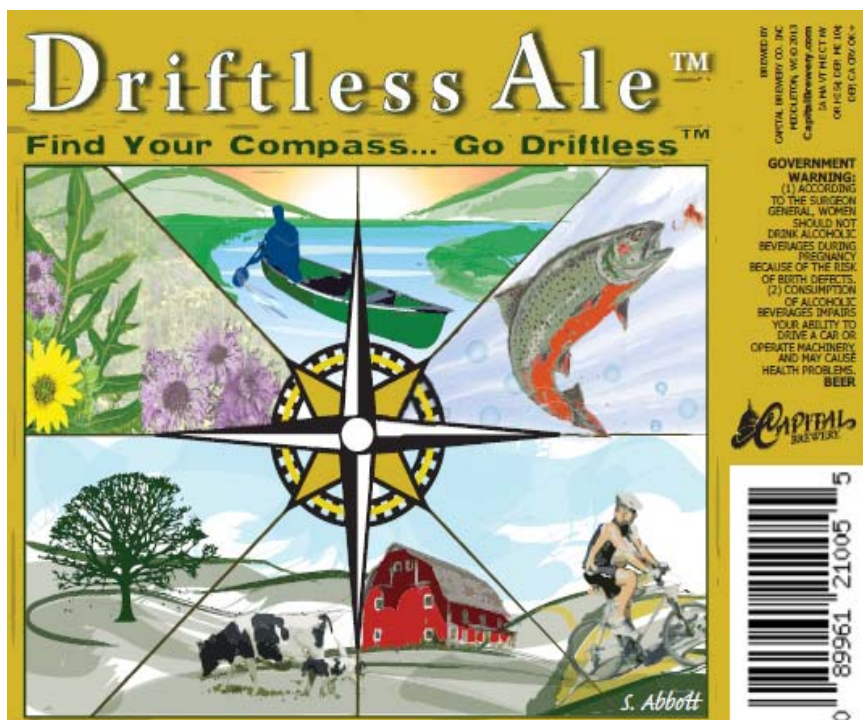
Finally, Wisconsin Trout Unlimited achieves its mission by working with those who most deserve it: disabled United States military veterans. Trout Unlimited and its members support and man Project Healing Waters programs through VA centers across Wisconsin.

This past spring I lost a great friend, who was himself an infantryman in Vietnam. At his funeral, his sister reported that when he came back from Vietnam he was a changed man. He never told me what he saw there, but he did tell me when he was teaching me to tie flies that he has used tying flies and trout fishing to fight through his pain, and through his post-traumatic stress.

Trout Unlimited's Project Healing Waters do exactly that. They use fly tying and angling as a means to reconnect with wounded warriors, and to give them a focus for their energy. Veterans who have gone through the program have reported that it helped them deal with anger issues, and to become better.

I could not be more proud of Trout Unlimited's efforts. Undoubtedly, you as the members of this committee have seen many license plate bills. And some are likely desired for the purposes of vanity, or for advertising. That is not the case with Trout Unlimited. The reality of our group is that we are volunteers. And we have a finite amount of time to do our work. Our work requires funds. And we can either spend our volunteer time trying to raise funds, and be "Banquets Unlimited," or we can spend our time doing the things I've just discussed that are the mission of Trout Unlimited.

This bill could provide a constant funding source that will allow our volunteers to more effectively perform our mission. I believe in that mission, and I believe in our volunteers. I understand that there will be an amendment wherein Wisconsin TU will pay up-front the costs associated with the production of its plate. Wisconsin TU's council has voted, and we stand ready to cut a check to the State the day AB 173 passes. I ask you each sincerely to support AB 173, and to grant Wisconsin Trout Unlimited a license plate.



Driftless Ale label

New Driftless Ale To Help TUDARE

In the middle of a snowstorm on December 16, more than 100 brave souls showed up to help launch a new beer, Driftless Ale, a collaboration between TU and the Driftless Area Land Conservancy (DALC). The event was held at Middleton's Capital Brewery, where the beer was brewed. Capital Brewery is donating a good share of the proceeds to the land trust and TUDARE. One thousand 22-ounce "bombers" of the unfiltered, unpasteurized ale are being offered in this special brewing. Nearly 200 bottles were sold in the first day.

Dan Wisniewski of TU and DALC Executive Director Dave Clutter worked with Capital Brewery to develop the beer and design the label, which features a canoeist, bicyclist, a prairie, a farm scene and a beautiful trout going after a fly. The label says, "Find Your Compass...Go Driftless." Capital CFO Richard King and Capital associates Scott Wiener and Cyndi Pisani were instrumental in developing the beer.

In promoting the beer, Capital Brewery says, "The Driftless Area of the Upper Midwest is a national treasure and deserves its own special beer. Untouched by the glaciers, this unique region lacks the rocky glacial 'drift' deposited elsewhere. Nowhere else in the Midwest will you find crystal clear trout streams, beautiful rolling hills, rugged slopes and bluffs, mist-filled valleys and grand oak savannas? Find your compass and explore the Driftless Area...not all who wander are lost."

"For years I've been advocating more collaboration between TU and local land trusts," Wisniewski said. "This beer is a great symbol of collaboration. And it's been great fun." The beer is available for \$9.99 per bomber at Capital Brewery, 7734 Terrace Avenue, Middleton. If you're unable to get to Middleton, contact Dan Wisniewski at danwisniewski@tds.net.

Wisconsin TU members keep license plate bill moving

Continued from p. 1

Not to be deterred, Ott redoubled his effort, and drafted AB173, a new Trout Unlimited license plate bill. AB173 was introduced on April 25, 2013, by Reps. Ott, John Spiros (Marshfield), Chris Danou (Trempealeau), Thomas Larson (Colfax), Alvin Ott, Joel Kleefisch (Oconomowoc), David Murphy (Greenville), Tod Ohnstad (Kenosha), Katrina Shankland (Stevens Point), Mike Endsly (Sheboygan), Dana Wachs (Eau Claire), and Andre Jacque (DePere). AB 173 was co-sponsored by Senators Robert Wirth (Pleasant Prairie), Dale Schultz (Richland Center), Dave Hansen (Green Bay), and Kathleen Vinehout (Alma). AB173 was, as was its predecessor, referred to the Assembly Committee on Transportation.

In late April, WITU commenced efforts to organize a mass e-mail leadership list, and to organize its members. The results were twofold: First, a new "leaders" e-mail distribution list was created, capable of sending top-down leadership alerts to each of the 21 Wisconsin TU chapters leaders. Second, Wisconsin TU created an all-membership e-mail list, through its Membership Committee leader Scott Criqui, capable of sending e-mails to thousands of registered Wisconsin TU members.

Using its new tools, WITU undertook efforts to contact its leaders and members, and to urge them to contact their legislators and urge that AB173 be voted out of the Assembly Transportation Committee, and set for a vote in the full Assembly. The brunt of this activity was felt by Assembly Transportation Committee Chair Keith Ripp (Lodi). Representative Ripp and his Policy Advisor Elizabeth

Portz graciously fielded countless calls and e-mails, as well as at least one in-person visit, from Wisconsin TU members in support of AB173, and kept Wisconsin TU well informed as to the status of the bill. Throughout this entire period,

WITU was being graciously aided by Brandon Scholz of The Capitol Group, a well respected government regulatory and public affairs, grassroots advocacy, and association management firm in Madison. Scholz interacted with Wisconsin legislators, and helped guide AB173 through the legislative process.

After great efforts and requests from Wisconsin TU members and allies, AB173 was finally set for a public hearing on September 24, 2013 – just one day before the start of the National Trout Unlimited Meeting in Madison, Wisconsin.

Alongside AB173, other license plates with greater political divisiveness were set for hearing at the same time. Despite being heard at the same time as such more combustible bills, and despite its members having their attention focused on the National Meeting, 42 members and supporters of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited traveled to Madison for AB173's public hearing. Chair Henry Koltz spoke in support of the Bill on behalf of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited (Read Henry's speech on page 6), along with a Mike Burda, an active member of the Southern Chapter and a veteran of the Vietnam War.

In support of AB173, the Transportation Committee's attention was called to the incredibly positive economic impact that recreational trout angling has upon Wisconsin's economy, and the jobs that cold, clean, fishable waters supports, as well as the leveraging of the state's dollars that Wisconsin's TU chapters allow. Likewise, we called attention to the incredible work that TU does with youth, getting them away from video games and outdoors, and exposing them to cold water and its inhabitants. Finally, we pointed out the work that Wisconsin TU does with dis-

abled veterans, using fly tying and fishing as a means to do what we can to help heal their wounds, and how Wisconsin TU considers this one of its greatest accomplishments. No opposition was registered to AB173.

On October 1, 2013, AB173 was considered in executive session by the Transportation Committee, but no action was taken. By most accounts, AB173 was again waylaid due to other legislation (this time more controversial license plates bills). Once again, Wisconsin TU and its members sprung into action, and we undertook a new effort to contact members of the Assembly Transportation Committee, and to urge them to "Exec AB173," and to send it to the full Assembly for a full vote.

After incredible efforts by Wisconsin TU's leadership and members, including off-site meetings with legislators and rallying efforts at local political events by Wisconsin TU leadership, with notable assistance from Rick Carr of the Southeast Wisconsin Chapter, AB173 was again considered in Executive Session on November 12, 2013. At this hearing, AB173 was voted unanimously out of the Executive Committee, and sent to the full Wisconsin Assembly for a vote.

On November 12, AB173 was placed on the calendar for a vote by the Committee on Rules, set for November 14, 2013. On November 14, 2013, the Wisconsin Legislature considered a sweeping list of bills, ranging from voter registration requirements to public lands bills, to commendations for various citizens who had done good on behalf of Wisconsin. Because the Legislature's docket of items for consideration was so full, it appeared that AB173 would unfortunately once again languish, and not receive a vote.

As midnight approached, AB173 remained multiple bills away from consideration, and did not appear to have a chance of being considered. Fortunately, the Legis-

lature voted to extend its session, and eventually considered AB173. As such, in the very early morning hours of November 15, 2013, AB173 was voted upon, and unanimously advanced by a vote of 92 to 0 (one of the few unanimous votes for all of the day's bills). AB 173 has now been sent to the Senate, where it is in its next stage of life, working its way through a similar process, and currently before the Senate Transportation Committee.

In the background of the legislative wrangling was the work of Southeast Wisconsin TU member Rich Vetrano, and the artistic services of Neal Aspinall. Neal has done work for such notable clients as the U.S. Parks Service, and agreed to render a brook-trout-inspired design for Wisconsin Trout Unlimited. That design was then reviewed by the National Trout Unlimited office, and an accord was struck regarding displaying the TU logo as part of the plate design. This work occurred quickly, at the request of the Legislature and the Department of Transportation. In short, at every turn Wisconsin TU's members and friends have gone above and beyond to make AB173 a reality.

As of the time of this article, AB173 is not yet law. It has not passed out of the Senate, and has not been signed into law by Gov. Scott Walker.

Regardless, it is incredibly necessary to thank those who have helped take AB173 to this point, notably Rep. Jim Ott and his assistant, Ryan Augustyn, Rep. Keith Ripp and his staff, and all of Wisconsin's legislators who have supported AB173. Finally, it is incredibly necessary to thank all of Wisconsin TU's members for their efforts, their support, and their work on AB173. It is your voices and volunteer efforts in support of Wisconsin's resources, children, and Veterans that have made this possible, and I sincerely appreciate your work.

TU launches new site, tools for chapters & councils

By Chris Long, WITU
Communications Chair

Wisconsin TU chapters have a new option for their web communications: a no-cost website and social media channel on the new national site at TU.org.

TU launched its new website in August as an online community gathering place for trout anglers and coldwater conservationists to engage on a national basis around topics of interest, and connect to local chapters based on geographic location and angling opportunities.

Wisconsin TU took an early interest in the new tools. Eighteen local chapters participated in an August 12 training webinar with national TU, initiated by the state council.

Doug Agee, the national staff providing tech support to local

chapters, said as of mid-December a total of 61 local chapters and nine state councils had websites on the new TU.org. This includes 12 Wisconsin chapters and the state council. Not all were yet fully active and receiving regular updates, he said.

The national website is open to anyone, not just TU members. Any user may enter discussion groups and post comments; however, changes to chapter websites can only be made by authorized chapter members.

"The 'open' architecture of the new site is a great way for people to find out what's going on at TU and for chapters to reach out to potential members," Agee said.

At this introductory stage, the new national website continues to be a work in progress, with technical fixes and new features on the drawing board for 2014. Agee

said top priorities for improvement are giving chapters an option to add a Facebook feed to their chapter home page and more clearly connecting chapter group pages to their websites.

TU designed the site to be user-friendly to those volunteer members who manage their chapter and council sites, requiring no special technological expertise in building and maintaining websites. The tools may be most attractive to local chapters with either no website or an outdated website in need of a major upgrade. The fact that the tools are offered at no cost is a big plus.

"A new chapter site is not a solution for everybody, especially chapters with big budgets or a website that already works pretty well. We're getting a good comfort level from users who are older and didn't grow up with

computers," Agee said.

With limited resources for live tech support, the national office has introduced an online help "Wiki." Here users can access website-building information, collaborate with national volunteer leaders and see examples of other chapter websites. The Wiki is located at chapterwiki.tu.org.

To further assist Wisconsin chapters learning about the new national website, the state council has launched a Wisconsin User Group at the new state council website. The local forum at wicouncil.tu.org supplements the tech support and other user help resources offered by national TU.

Chris Long is Communications Chair of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited and a member of the Southern Wisconsin chapter. He lives in Mazomanie.

New Zealand mudsnail biology, impacts

By Susan Graham, AIS Coordinator, DNR

The New Zealand mudsnail is a harmful invasive species that tolerates a wide range of aquatic environments. They are smaller than 1/4 inch, and have right-handed coiling, elongated shells with 5-7 whorls separated by deep grooves. The shell color can range from gray to light or dark brown. Outside of their native habitat, they reproduce asexually and all introduced populations are clonal. This means that only one snail is needed to start a new population. Mudsnails are able to bear up to 230 live young per year, and have been measured at densities of more than 500,000 individuals per square meter.

Distribution

Originally from New Zealand, mudsnails have been spreading in the United States since they were introduced to Idaho in 1987. In October 2013, they were discovered in a 2012 sample from Black Earth Creek (BEC) taken in DNR's routine stream health monitoring program. The BEC samples are all "Clone 1" snails, the population found in the western states. A second population, "Clone 2," has been present in the Great Lakes for years but does not appear to be expanding. Their current distribution beyond Black Earth Creek is unknown, but area samples have been prioritized for expedited processing.

Potential impacts

A species as prolific as this has the potential to clog pipes at facilities drawing from infested waters. It also may compete for food and space occupied by native snails and macroinvertebrates. In some waters, they

can alter the food webs, impacting fisheries and native invertebrates. Although their potential impacts are concerning, it is too early to tell how they will respond to their new environment in Wisconsin streams. In a wild environment, it can also be difficult to distinguish the impacts of an invasive species from other stressors such as water pollution or changing temperatures.

Spread

Due to their small size, mudsnails readily attach to gear and equipment and are hard to notice. Additionally, a "trap door" called an operculum can close them into their shells, making them resistant to drying and chemicals. They can survive for nearly a month out of water in a damp environment and resist bleach, ammonia and alcohol. The operculum also lets them sometimes survive passage through fish guts, meaning fish movement and the snails' own movement upstream can increase the spread.

Monitoring

Benthic invertebrate samples will be collected in the next two months and volunteers are being recruited to sort through these samples. Monitoring will include kick-net samples and eDNA testing, which searches for trace amounts of mudsnail DNA in the water. With this method we may be able to detect them at low densities that the kick-net samples would miss. We need your ideas on where to sample!

Susan Graham is the AIS coordinator for the DNR. She can be reached at susan.graham@wisconsin.gov or 608-275-3329.

Anglers can help control the spread of mudsnails

New Zealand mudsnails are costly and difficult to control once established. The most important thing you can do is practice good prevention steps and demonstrate them to others.

BEFORE leaving the water:

INSPECT equipment and REMOVE plants and animals (required by law)

DRAIN all water from equipment (required by law)

SCRUB equipment with a stiff brush, including crevices, to remove all mud and snails

RINSE equipment with tap water

BEFORE entering another stream, switch to a completely new set of gear OR

FREEZE for 8 hours, or

WASH with 212°F water (steam clean), or

SOAK in 2% Virkon for 20 minutes, then rinse

Other methods can reduce mudsnails but are not as effective. Remember that felt-soled boots are difficult to clean. Also, fish from top of the watershed and move downstream. Cleaning research is ongoing, so be on the watch for new information about best cleaning practices.

Other ways to help:

- * Alert your local media and organizations to New Zealand mudsnails.
- * Consider creating "cleaning kits" for events and stores.
- * Give away brushes, sprayers or kits at events.
- * Help the River Alliance post warning signs at access points.
- * Share the word about mudsnails and prevention in your conversations, events and personal networks
- * Build a wader wash station for busy access points. The River Alliance has constructed several wash stations and plans to have them available at fly shops throughout Wisconsin. Contact Laura MacFarland of the River Alliance for construction plans. It's a great project for youth groups.



LARGE CONCERN, TINY SNAIL

In December, professionals from the DNR, River Alliance and UW-Extension hosted an informational meeting regarding New Zealand mudsnails. (photo below). SWTU President Steve Wald (left) takes a closer inspection.



Contacts for mudsnail info:

Susan Graham, WDNR
Susan.Graham@wisconsin.gov
(608) 275-3329

Maureen Ferry, WDNR
Maureen.Ferry@wisconsin.gov
(608) 261-6450

David Rowe, WDNR
David.Rowe@Wisconsin.gov
(608) 275-3282

Laura MacFarland
River Alliance
lmacfarland@wisconsinrivers.org
(608) 257-2424 x110

Kris Stepenuck, UW-Extension
kfstepenuck@wisc.edu
(608) 265-3887 (MTF)
(608) 264-8948 (WR)

Frequently asked questions about clean angling:

Help stop the spread of New Zealand mudsnails and other invasives

Question: On a typical day of fishing in southwest Wisconsin, I fish three or four streams, maybe more. Do I really need to disinfect my gear after fishing each one?

Answer: New Zealand mudsnails were recently discovered in the Driftless Area and are notorious for being transported on the waders and boots of anglers from one stream to another. Other invasives that detract from the fishing experience (such as Wild Parsnip, Reed Canary Grass, and Japanese hops) spread between popular fishing spots via seeds on wading boots. It is Wisconsin state law that you inspect and remove all mud, plant material, and water from your equipment prior to leaving a waterbody, or face a stiff fine. As our streams are presently free of Didymo you are not required (at this time) to bleach your waders and boots between streams.

Question: How can I possibly remove all of the dirt from my waders and boots when hopping from stream to stream?

Answer: One simple way anglers can limit the spread of invasive species between streams is to carry a stiff synthetic scrub brush in your vehicle or wader bag. Just prior to moving to another stream, take a minute to brush off your boots and waders, including the insides, laces and tongue. This doesn't guarantee that you won't transmit invasives to a new stream, but it is all about minimizing risk, and if you care about protecting the streams you fish, you need to do your part to ensure you're practicing clean angling. If you wish to more thoroughly clean your gear, use a pump-sprayer filled with clean tap water to rinse your waders and boots AFTER you've given them a good scrubbing with a brush.

Question: I have a trip planned to Montana this summer. Many of the rivers I plan to fish are infested with AIS. What should I do to prevent further spreading this stuff?

Answer: While fishing out west, if possible, plan to visit uninfested rivers first. Ask guides or shops which rivers are infested with invasive species—they will know. After fishing an infested river, you are at a HIGH RISK of spreading invasive species on your gear! HIGH RISK anglers should follow one of the three decontamination recommendations on the right in the figure below: soak gear in a mild bleach solution for ten minutes, freeze gear, or allow gear to dry completely for five days minimum after brushing off mud and debris. Upon returning to Wisconsin, it is IMPERATIVE that you follow those same steps. Or do as many others do, keep a pair of waders and boots for strictly fishing in Wisconsin and another for out-of-state fishing, which is the safest bet, but shouldn't preclude cleaning your gear.

Question: I refuse to give up my felt-soled wading boots. Felt is not the only culprit and if I fall in a river, my fishing days are done. What steps can I take to minimize the risk of my spreading AIS on my felt-soled boots?

Answer: The most important thing to remember is that felt takes a long time to dry, it is difficult to clean and often disinfection solution does not fully penetrate the felt to kill invasives. This is why

rubber is the better option when it comes to preventing the spread of invasives! However, if you must use felt, you should use a pressure sprayer (like the small herbicide applicators) and a stiff-bristled scrub brush to clean the felt the best you can when moving between Wisconsin streams.

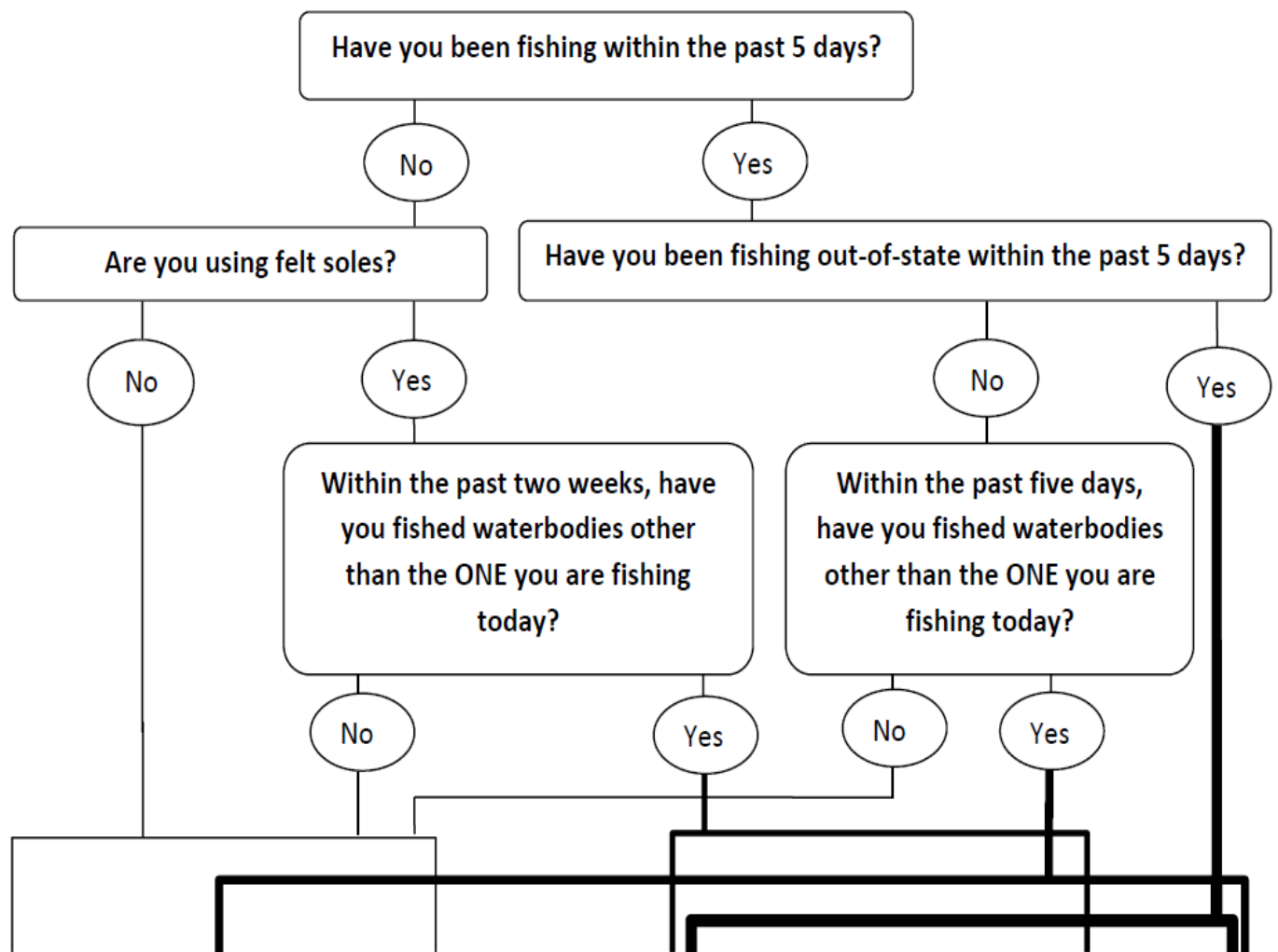
Question: What should I do if I see something suspicious in Wisconsin waters that I think might be

invasive?

Answer: The best thing you can do is take a picture of the suspicious plant, animal or algae and e-mail it to the River Alliance of Wisconsin (info@wisconsinrivers.org), or your local Wisconsin DNR biologist for identification. DNR biologist and invasive species reporting information can be found here: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/report.html>

Practice Clean Angling; Protect Wisconsin's Rivers from Invasives

Do you know when you are at risk of transporting invasive species between waterbodies? You pose the greatest threat when you use felt soles or travel out of state. Use the flow chart below to decide what measures you should take to prevent the spread of invasive species.



CHECK, CLEAN, DRY
Inspect gear, clean off mud and plant material. Drain water. This is required by law before leaving any waterbody.



SCRUB all equipment with tap water and a stiff brush



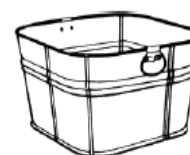
SPRAY all equipment with a mild bleach solution (1 Tbsp bleach per gallon of water). Keep wet for 10 min.

Does NOT apply to felt; does NOT kill New Zealand mudsnails!



SOAK equipment with a mild bleach solution (1 Tbsp bleach in one gallon of water) for 10 minutes.

Does NOT kill New Zealand mudsnails!



FREEZE equipment for 6 – 8 hours.



Dry for at least 5 days before reuse, preferably in direct sunlight

Does NOT apply to felt!



For more information contact the River Alliance of Wisconsin at (608) 257-2424 or visit wisconsinrivers.org



Chapter News

Aldo Leopold Chapter

Habitat improvement on the Sprecher section of our Bear Creek Habitat Improvement Project is now completed. The project was one of three featured at the TU National Meeting Conservation Tour last September. Attendees from all over the country were able to see the project in process, so they got a really good view of the "before" and "after" conditions in the stream. Once again Holtz Lime and Gravel did an excellent job on the habitat work. New riffles exist and vortex weirs, lots of outside bend cover, and in-stream boulders are now present in what was a pretty barren section of stream. Next year another 6,000 feet!

Tom and Sally Gawle pulled the seven data loggers out of Bear Creek this fall. The data has been sent to the DNR for inclusion in their statewide database. While we only captured a couple of months of data this year, it was still illuminating to see the stream temperature report. With the exception of a hot week in late August, water tempera-

tures in Bear are very hospitable to trout. During that brief hot spell water temps reached the mid 70's on one day and went slightly over 70 on a few other days. Over the next few years we will be adding a lot more temperature data to the records and we plan to initiate monthly biotic index surveys next year.

Our annual fly tying class will be held in Portage this winter, at the Portage Public Library. Classes will be held on January 22, 29 and February 5, 12, and 19. The class is free and open to the public. If you are interested in attending contact Mike Stapleton at mikestapleton22@gmail.com

Our workday committee is busy planning 2014's workdays. It looks like we'll return to Manley Creek, we'll have our first day on Honey Creek, and expect another LUNKER day on Bear. Dates and exact locations are being firmed up, but I am looking forward to another productive year of chapter workdays.
—Mike Barniskis

Antigo Chapter

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all from the Antigo Chapter.

It has been a busy fall and how time flies. We have gotten some projects completed this fall. First we had a brush and tree removal day on Mayking Creek at the end of October. The largest part of the project was the removal of a large tree that had fallen into the stream.

In mid November our chapter stocked a good number of nice rainbow trout into Antigo's Remington Lake for the kids to fish this winter.

On December 7 we attended our northeast region meeting at Buettner's Wild Wolf Inn in Langlade. This is our annual meeting where the National Forest Service and our region's DNR fisheries managers get together to discuss

how we can help fund some of their projects for the coming year. I'm always proud of the chapters in our region as we "Answer the Bell" to help our cold-water resources. Our region funded more than \$35,000 in project requests, ranging from two-man brushing crews to beaver control and Hemlock Springs dredging, chainsaws and boots, K.C. stream work and others.

Our annual fundraising banquet is Saturday, March 29 at the Edison Club in Antigo. We have also planned a chapter meeting and volunteer appreciation for Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2014 from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. We will invite the public and have a speaker and encourage new membership.
—Scott Henricks

Blackhawk Chapter

The Blackhawk Chapter is actively seeking additional 2014 stream projects in which we can be involved, beyond the two already penciled in for Green County. If a nearby chapter has a project in mind for which it hasn't been able to line up the necessary funds or manpower, please get in touch with Chapter President Gordon Long or Work Day Scheduler Dave Patrick. Contact information for both should be available on our website, but since we've experienced problems with it of late, you can also e-mail dwh123@charter.net and it will be forwarded to one of them.

Some of you may have been fortunate enough at past State Council Banquets to have successfully bid on

a box of flies which has been tied by our chapter members. If not, our annual 10-week fly-tying classes will begin in Janesville on Tuesday, Jan. 7 at the Basics Natural Food store. So if you're near there, feel free to come on in and join up. Master fly-tyer (and tale-spinner) Bud Hilgendorf is in charge, and it only costs \$20 for the 10 sessions.

Recent chapter meetings have featured presentations by Mat Wagner from the Driftless Angler Fly Shop, as well as Bob Haase and Dave Seligman presenting their version of "Going Out West on a Budget." Great information!
—Dave Hinde

Central Wisconsin Chapter

Our chapter had five excellent stream workdays, including work on the Mecan River, the White River and Parsons Creek. The Trout & Salmon Foundation recently awarded us a matching grant for work to be done on Chaffee Creek beginning the summer of 2014. Thank you to Scott Bahn for his leadership of the work days and for his successful grant applications.

The chapter banquet on October 5 was very successful. The dinner was delicious and there were many fine items for the raffles and auctions. Both the revenue and profit were well above previous years. Thanks go to Banquet Chairman Jeff Wegand, assisted by previous Chairwoman Laura Tucker.

Mike San Dretto volunteered to be our Membership Chairman.



Todd Franklin

THREE YEARS OF RESTORATION, AND MORE TO COME

Holtz Lime & Gravel of Loganville completes the third phase of Aldo Leopold Chapter's Bear Creek Habitat Improvement Project on the Sprecher property in western Sauk County last summer. A fourth phase is planned for this season.

Thanks, Mike.

The River Keeper's Buffet was November 12 at the Fin 'N Feather in Winneconne, preceding the board meeting and presentations. John Gremmer reports that there are now 28 monitoring teams covering 35 streams. That is remarkable growth for this program. Following the River Keeper's Buffet, Dr. Robert Stelzer, Professor of Biology at UW-Oshkosh, and his graduate student, Mike Louisan, gave presentations of their research on Emmons Creeks and its small spring tributaries.

John Gremmer's Fly Fishing School begins in January at Fox Valley Tech in Winneconne. Besides be-

ing very informative, John's classes have brought many people into CW-TU.

If enough UW-Oshkosh student vets sign up, there will be a weekly Project Healing Waters fly tying class held there at the Student Union beginning in February. We will be happy to include any veteran, student or not. Contact John Tucker at 920-622-5401.

This year's 37th CWTU Fly Fishing School, directed by Dan Harmon III, will be at the Riverside Bible Camp in Amherst, WI, May 31-June 1. Contact Dan at 920-235-1761.

—John Tucker

Coulee Region Chapter

We are getting ready for our annual banquet which will take place on February 21 at the Cedar Creek Country Club. If anyone has items they would like to donate for the banquet, they can contact Curt Rees at curtrees@gmail.com or 608-317-3747. If you have items like books and "outdoorsy" artwork, we'd be happy to give them a new home as a raffle item. Tickets will be available soon.

Our chapter was happy to see the release of the documentary "Mysteries of the Driftless," which was produced by Untamed Science. Our TU chapter partnered with many other sponsors to help the film come to life. You can view it at www.untamedscience.com/mysteries-driftless-zone/ to learn about the unique geologic features of the Driftless Area.
—Curt Rees

Fox Valley Chapter

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

Our October chapter meeting featured a presentation by Shawn Sullivan from the Wild Rose DNR station, who discussed the work DNR/LTE crews have completed on streams in central Wisconsin. The summer work that has been completed over the last three years is supported with the funds donated by our chapter and other Trout Unlimited chapters. We are planning to design a brochure that highlights the project work, and then use those brochures to solicit funding from other sources. Our chapter chef, BoB Kinderman, provided a light meal for the members at the chapter meeting.

On October 19 Bill Repulski, Norm Christnacht, Al Johnson, and Joe Bach participated in the Bubolz Nature Preserve's annual Romp In The Swamp by demonstrating fly tying and promoting TU. On October 23 a number of students from Fox Valley Technical College and the FVTU chapter participated in the

scatter plant of brown trout in the Waupaca River. Approximately 13,500 trout found new homes that afternoon.

There were a number of presentations at the November chapter meeting, which has become our movie evening because fewer members attend this close to the deer hunting season. Darrell Toliver had a short presentation dealing with the art work that will be on the 2014 Trout Regulation booklet and stamp. He displayed pictures of the four final art work selections being considered for the stamp, and we were asked for our top two choices. Darrell will be checking with other chapters and receiving their input to pick the winning artist and print.

Randy Berndt from Upper Michigan then had a presentation about trout fishing in the Upper Peninsula and in particular the western portion of the UP. He had some excellent photos and information about the UP. He owns the UP Fly Angler. Check our website for information about Randy. The final portion of the evening was the video "The Hatch."

Chapter News



Our December meeting will be what has become our annual Tie and Lie Night. BoB will again have some special treat for us and chapter members and friends will spend time tying and talking – Lying? - about the recent fishing season. Our January meeting is our annual event put on by the students in the Culinary Arts program at FVTC. If you are interested in attending that event please check our website for information.

We are also planning and preparing for Cabin Fever Day January 11, 2014. Please check our website,

www.foxvalleytu.org, for additional information on Cabin Fever Day and our other activities.

The early snows and decorated homes and businesses have many of us thinking of Christmas and the holidays and the special times that we will be having with family and friends over the next few weeks. Relax and enjoy this great season. From all of us at Fox Valley TU – Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and “We’ll see you on a trout stream.”

—Rich Erickson

Frank Hornberg Chapter

As we look out over snow-covered landscapes and ice-covered streams, we remember our pleasant experiences on the water in 2013 and we anticipate more such experiences in 2014. Our chapter is in the process of lining up speakers for our upcoming public meetings. We are also in the advance planning stage for our annual fly fishing school in May 2014.

Hornberg chapter member Heidi Oberstadt is assuming an active role in recruiting more women as TU members and participants. Among other things, she will be working to set up regional meetings for women members. We appreciate her efforts in this regard, since it is an important step to broaden the membership base on a national level.

Green Bay Chapter

It has been another busy fall for the Green Bay Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Although much of the stream work has ended for the year, the chapter has been hard at work this fall.

The fall started off with a bang as the Green Bay Chapter was excited to be part of the 2013 TU National Meeting held in Middleton at the end of September. The event was a boon of wonderful ideas that were brought back to the chapter. Those ideas included broadening the fundraising base, unique ideas to increase membership and a burgeoning discussion on starting a new TUDARE-like program for streams around the Great Lakes area. The GB Chapter also had several members in attendance at the TU National Meeting Banquet held on Saturday night. Overall, the event was a great success and a lot of fun for all involved.

Back on the home front, our monthly meetings started up in September with a presentation by author and Driftless area fly fishing guide Rich Osthoff. Rich provided excellent guidance on patterns, equipment and tips for fishing the Driftless Area.

In October, the meeting had a great presentation on the progress of the River Alliance of Wisconsin/ Trout Unlimited advocacy program. The RAW/TU advocacy program has made great progress, which has allowed the Green Bay chapter to become more active on legislation that affects the cold water resources we all fight to protect. The lessons learned during this program are being implemented more aggressively after the New Year with hope to make more of an impact at the Wisconsin Capital and beyond.

The other highlight of the Octo-

We pay our respects to George Rogers (August 17, 1928 – November 4, 2013), who was a charter member of the Frank Hornberg Chapter. He began working for the Stevens Point Journal in 1948. When he retired in 1988 he held the position of editor. He then wrote an outdoor column for that newspaper and for the Portage County Gazette, continuing until November, 2013. His writing style (concise, clear, to the point) was a model which many other writers sought to emulate. He was widely respected for his commitment to community causes and for his commitment to environmental protection. His passing leaves a void in the hearts and minds of many of us in the Hornberg Chapter.

—John Vollrath

ber meeting was a presentation by Tracy Valenta from NEW water on the recently discovered ‘dead-zone’ in the southern estuary of Green Bay. As many TU members know, the growing excess of phosphorous and industrial & agricultural runoff is having dramatic effects on cold water resources. The pollution has also had a dramatic effect on the bay of Green Bay, resulting in ‘nutrient-driven hypoxia’ or a dead-zone in the estuary of the southern Green Bay. Valenta detailed pilot plans going forward to combat the pollution and what Green Bay TU can do to help.

In November, the meeting was dedicated to Jay Ford Thurston. Thurston had the rapt attention of all involved as he provided stories about his experience with the Wisconsin outdoors, how he began writing and also some writing out of his many published works. Thurston is a true gem and we can’t thank him enough for his presence at the meeting and for sharing his tremendous knowledge. The November meeting also saw the Green Bay Chapter dedicate funding for major projects in the 2014 year. GBTU dedicated \$10,000, predicated on a successful fundraising banquet, to initiatives such as brush crews, habitat work, and stream monitoring and habitat structure repairs. After the November meeting, GBTU members joined representatives from other TU Chapters in the Northeast region where more than \$35,000 was pooled and divided amongst projects in the area, in order to help the DNR work on preserving the cold water resources of Northeast Wisconsin.

In December GBTU held its annual awards banquet. Always a great night with wonderful food



“THE CREW” SCATTERS TROUT IN THE WAUPACA RIVER

FVTU and students from Fox Valley Technical College helped scatter about 13,500 brown trout in the Waupaca River in October. “The Crew” includes (front row) Tom Young and (second row) Vernon Gentele, Naomi Krawczyk, Jim Hlaban, Tom Schalvensky, Nancy Rose, Jim Jenkin, Tom Lager, Dr. Loren Swanson, Sam Tijan


and great entertainment, the chapter honored member Mike Renish with the member of the year award, Harold Becks with induction into the President’s club for his efforts on work projects during the year and Paul Kruse with the Distinguished Service Award. A very special Silver Trout Award was presented to Gary and Jan Stoychoff for their contributions to the chapter over the last 40-plus years. Our progress and accomplishments over the past year were greatly aided by these dedicated individuals.

The chapter is hard at work preparing for the 2014 fundraising banquet scheduled for February 20 at the Stadium View Bar & Grill in Green Bay. The event is the primary fund-raiser for the Green Bay Chapter and includes great prizes including fishing packages, tools, canoes and more. We encourage everyone to attend. On January 9

we are hosting a showing of the acclaimed movie, “Where the Yellowstone Goes.” The movie is an outdoor adventure story of conservation and good times while floating and fishing down a legendary western river. Tickets for the event are \$10 in advance and can be purchased on the GBTU website. We encourage everyone to attend.

GBTU is also working to refine its actions with the legislature and are hoping to find a more effective way to have a voice for TU in Madison. For more information on any of our projects, or tickets to our events, visit our website at www.greenbaytu.com. From all of us to all of you we would like to wish you a merry Christmas, happy new year, happy holidays and tight lines.

—Aaron P. Frailing




Fox Valley Trout Unlimited
announces the **12th Annual**
cabin fever day
a fishing expo!
saturday, january 11, 2014
9 am - 4 pm

Grand Meridian
2621 N. Oneida St., Appleton

Show Events Include
EXPERT SPEAKERS and

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

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





Chapter News

Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter

As reported before, we have finished up the work for our 2012 projects on the lower end of the Blue River off Shemack Road. We completed about 3,000 feet below and 1,000 feet above the bridge.

We finally got permits for our 2013 project work after a delay of several months. We started on Big Rock Branch. We hope to complete 4,800 feet late next spring or early summer after the easements are complete.

We will be doing bank shaping and in-stream structures to create much more cover for trout, which was the main thing this stream section needed. As well as finishing this project next year we have a couple of other projects lined up.

The balance of this quarter was spent doing end-of-fiscal-year paperwork, and preparing for next year.

Getting easements continues to be a long process. We began pursuing easements a year ago though multiple willing landowners. The landowners on Big Rock continue to work with the new system as it evolves, as do a few on the Blue River, with the expectation on these finishing early next spring. Unfortunately, the delay has resulted in a landowner with more than three miles of stream changing their mind and walking away from the easement process.

—Todd Templen



KIAP-TU-WISH'S TRIMBELLE RIVER, BEFORE AND AFTER

The Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter restored more than 2,300 feet of the Trimbelle River a few miles south of River Falls.

Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter

The Kiap-TU-Wish 2013 project was included in the TUDARE bus tour on October 15. The project restored more than 2,300 feet of the Trimbelle River a few miles south of River Falls. The project cost was just over \$150,000 and benefited from 1,120 hours of volunteer work. Next year, we plan to continue this work for an additional 1,800 feet downstream. See the before and after photos.

Kiap's annual banquet was another success, both socially and financially. Duke Welter provided a slide show of beautiful Driftless area scenes, out-of-the-way towns that time forgot, and interesting people. It was entitled "Gems of the Driftless."

Board member and secretary Allison Jacobs was banquet emcee, and 107 people attended. Thank you to the many people who donated items for the silent auction and bucket raffles. In addition to Allison, banquet committee members also included Bob Diesch, Robert and Rhea Hawkins, Greg Dietl, Tom Schnadt, and Deb and Mike Alwin. Preliminary results indicate that income significantly exceeded the \$4,500 that was assumed when

the board adopted the annual budget.

Winter is the time for planning. Volunteer coordinator Randy Arnold is planning the winter brush and tree cutting activity. John Kaplan will be planning the monitoring and stream assessment work that must be done pre-project and post-project. Rock may be delivered over frozen ground for the 2014 project work on the Trimbelle River. John Carlson and others are working toward possibly replacing a perched culvert in Polk County. Hans Jung and the long-range-planning task group are re-defining their mission. Greg Olson is working with local educators, hoping to implement either Trout in the Classroom or something similar that fits within DNR rules.

Meanwhile, we are all looking for a new home for our meetings. The venue where we have been meeting for several years is being remodeled and is not expected to fit our needs. Members and others are reminded to watch for an announcement regarding the January 8 meeting location.

—Tom Henderson

Lakeshore Chapter

Lakeshore Chapter is currently working on a project of clearing the Tag Elders on the Onion River from E Bridge all the way upstream. We are working closely with the DNR and hopefully work will be completed by the end of February. The restoration project work below the City U bridge is slated for this summer, we are waiting for approval from the DNR and a timetable will be set

early this Spring. Lunker structures and water improvement will greatly improve that section of river. Lakeshore TU is hosting it's Annual Banquet March 29th at City Limits in Manitowoc for all those interested in attending. Call Jeff Preiss for more information at 920-208-1135

—Gordy Martin

Northwoods Chapter

As the temperatures plummet, bringing our members and volunteers in from the outdoors, our chapter activity increases. We recently participated once again in the annual Northeast Regional Meeting, contributing funds to two projects: the USFS work crews and a restoration of a former dam site on Brule Creek.

We have resumed our monthly meetings on the second Monday of each month. In November, our own Terry Cummings and Laura MacFarland presented on "Good Bugs, Bad Bugs." Terry led the discussion about local hatches and how to match them, involving specimens on loan from the Wisconsin DNR and his own personal fly collection. Laura MacFarland provided an update on the New Zealand mudsnails in Black Earth Creek and what we as anglers should be doing to contain them.

Santa Claus Came to the Northwoods TU Christmas Dinner! A great big special thanks to Bill Sherer (our very own Santa Claus) who generously gave away a Winston Fly Rod at the Christmas Dinner this past Monday night. Congratulations to the lucky winner, Paul Matthiae! We owe another big thanks to Terry Cummings who tied, donated, and raffled off two dozen flies helping to raise funds for the chapter. Thanks to all who joined us; it was great fun. For those of you who missed it, we hope you can join us next year!

On Monday, Jan 13 Greg Matzke from the DNR will be presenting "Trout Biology and Management 101." This "back-to-the-basics" presentation will be of interest to new and old anglers alike. One of Greg's technicians will talk about basic tactics to catch trout here in the Northwoods.

These presentations are being hosted by Trees for Tomorrow in Eagle River. The majority of our gatherings will be taking place here in 2014. We have found this small shift in location, closer to the geographic center of our chapter's area, has resulted in an increase in attendance to our meetings, including many new faces. We appreciate the generous support of Trees for Tomorrow.

Our new year's resolution here in the Northwoods is to continue to shake things up. Under the direction of a newly formed membership committee, we are attempting to better communicate with our existing members and recruit new ones.

In 2014 we will also make a concerted effort to recruit more women and youth. Our new Family Fly Fishing Fair (formally the Youth Conclave) will involve the entire family, involving moms and dads. We hope that this helps attract both generations, bringing our average member age down significantly and our energy level up. Join us on June 28 at Trees for Tomorrow.

Finally, we have decided to move the date of our annual banquet.

Chapter News



Traditionally held in winter or early spring, we will move it to September this year so more of our "snowbirds" will be able to attend before they fly south for the winter.

Look for our new website in the coming months. In the meanwhile,

you can find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Northwoods-TU or on the National TU Website at <http://www.tu.org/connect/groups/256-northwoods>.

—Laura MacFarland

Oconto River Chapter

The chapter will, once again, kick off the Trout in the Classroom by delivering "eyed" eggs to the students at Oconto, Lena, and Gillett School Districts. Suring High has also joined the other schools and will be adding Trout in the Classroom curriculum. Mark Green is heading up the project again this year. Eggs will begin to hatch around Christmas and will provide a wonderful project for the classes involved. Special thanks to Tim Winkle at Silver Moon Springs Trout Ranch for supplying the eggs and fish food to the classes. Also, a thank you to the school district coordinators that include this project in their curriculum; Lara Nichols @ Oconto; Roberta Windus @ Lena; Greg Zeitler @ Gillett and now Sean Wagner @ Suring.

The Board of Directors met Nov. 6 to complete the AFR. They will propose a 2014 activity schedule at the upcoming meeting and will prepare a budget accordingly. Member of the year and Best

Lunch awards were discussed. Awards will be presented at the February meeting.

The banquet committee was established and a tentative date set for April 26, 2014. The banquet Chair, Dan Sumnicht, reported that prize inventory was low.

Elections were held and the following will be the new officers for the Chapter: Dale Halla, Pres., Roger Firgens, V.P., Jim Trochta, Sec., Tom Klatt, Treas., J. Scherbarth, Director 1 yr., Norman Christensen 2 yr. and Don Wagner, Director 3 yr.

Members will be attending the NE Regional TU meeting in Langlade and will contribute to projects affecting the Oconto River Watershed.

Our membership meetings are held monthly (excluding May & Nov.) on the first Wed. of each month. Meetings are held at the Lone Oak Gun club just North of Gillett starting at 7 p.m.

—Dale Halla

Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter

Our chapter remained very active throughout the fall and early winter. We returned to regular monthly chapter meetings in September after our vacations and fishing trips. There were many fish stories and pictures exchanged as members reconnected.

A number of our members were also very active with the work leading up to the National TU meeting in Madison at the end of September. Our infamous work-day trailer made its way west to support the National TU Conservation Tour. Special thanks to Ray Weiss for representing our chapter on that tour and for getting our trailer on site. Leading up to the National TU meeting, a number of our members served as mentors to visiting anglers. This allowed us to showcase the fishing opportunities in Wisconsin as well as several of our chapter's restoration projects including Bear, Elk and Camp creeks. If you attended the National TU meeting and visited the hospitality suite, you could not help but meet a number of our members. Henry Koltz, Stan Strelka, Mike Kuhr, Ivan Nohavica and Jim Wierzbka in particular could be seen moving party items in and out of the hospitality suite and made sure everyone had a good time.

Due to our participation at the TU National meeting, we chose not to have an official habitat work day that month. That did not stop a number of our members from joining the Pike River clean-up day on Saturday, September 21. Their efforts helped to continue the progress on water in our home territory. We also sponsored another Project Healing Waters veterans fishing outing on that same Saturday. Our volunteers and the veterans visited Lake Shore State Park in the Milwaukee harbor area. Fish were hard to come by, but friendships and fish-

ing knowledge both grew. Special thanks to Mike Kuhr and a group of volunteers who made this outing possible. The timing was impeccable, as the outing occurred before our first chapter meeting of the fall on September 24. James Flagg and a number of our members presented an outstanding review of our Project Healing Waters program. The meeting was attended by numerous veterans and VA staff who have participated in the program. I believe everyone will agree the highlight of the presentation was the testimonials from several veterans about what the program has meant to them personally. I don't think there were many dry eyes in the room as those veterans spoke from the heart. Needless to say, this presentation motivates us to continue to expand the PHW program, and a number of new volunteers stepped forward after the meeting.

We kicked off the month of October with a bang, as we supported three different efforts on one Saturday. Al Dalphonso led our fly-tying efforts in support of Orvis Days in Milwaukee. Mike Kuhr and a number of other volunteers set up and manned an education booth at the Root River Steelhead Facility's Open House. A number of other volunteers participated in the Friends of the Mukwonago River clean-up outing. On Thursday, October 17, we hosted the final Project Healing Waters fishing outing of the season. Our volunteers and veterans were graciously hosted by River Wildlife in Kohler, Wisconsin. The timing was perfect as the fish were in. The veterans caught numerous king and coho salmon, as well as several large brown trout and a lone steelhead. One of our veterans caught a salmon that barely fit in a net and it took two people to hoist it for pictures. Smiles were on all the



Jim Wierzbka



Jim Wierzbka

SUCCESSFUL SEWTU PROJECT HEALING WATERS OUTING

SEWTU's Project Healing Waters volunteers, hosted by River Wildlife in Kohler, had a successful outing in October. King and coho salmon were in, and vets Jeff Hopkins (top) and Mike Laska (bottom) were among the happy vets who hooked up with some big fish.

veterans' faces, and one of the veterans remarked to me "I didn't know a rod could bend that far."

We hosted our annual fund-raising banquet on Tuesday, Oct. 22. We returned to New Berlin Hills golf course and our traditional mix of heavy hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, prizes and stories. This year we combined our traditional late-October chapter meeting with the fundraiser and were very pleased with the results, as a number of members made the event for the first time. Those who attended had opportunities to win among more than 100 prizes that our Fund-Raising Committee had solicited. The prizes included a dozen fly rods and nearly an equal number of reels. The family of our recently deceased member, John Knitter, donated numerous fly boxes, books and other fishing items from John's estate and those items prompted fierce action given John's reputation as a fantastic fly tier and friend to all. The event was a strong success financially and will allow us to continue our habitat and education and outreach efforts. Special thanks to Stan Strelka, Rich Vetra-

no, Chuck Beeler, Henry Koltz, Mike Kuhr, Ivan Nohavica and Jim Wierzbka of our fund-raising group and to all of our members who graciously donated prizes.

The month closed out with a habitat workday on Genesee Creek for brushing and stream-bank work. This has been an annual stop on our habitat work schedule and it is amazing to see the cumulative impact of several years' worth of work. Our volunteers also built a number of boardwalk platforms and walkways to improve stream access to support the numerous group tours that are hosted at that site. Special thanks to Jason Freund, who planned and led this workday. October also saw work begin on the Menomonee River project. MMSD has committed to remove a lengthy stretch of poured concrete that prevents the passage of salmon, brown trout and steelhead up the Menomonee River. Our chapter has been a contributing participant with labor hours as part of a matching grant. Removal of these obstacles will allow fish to migrate upstream to another 15-plus miles of river.



Chapter News

In November our chapter launched several new initiatives in the Education and Outreach arena. The Riveredge Nature Center hosted its first annual Student Research Symposium for graduate and undergraduate students. Our chapter was a financial sponsor of the event and Jason Freund, a professor at Carroll University, represented our chapter. The following Saturday, member David Snell continued discussions with the Urban Ecology Center in Milwaukee. We hope this relationship will lead to significant youth outreach and education efforts and develop the next generation of TU members. It may also become a host site for our Trout in the Classroom initiative.

Our November chapter meeting is one of our special events each year. We returned to Thunder Bay Grill in November as our previous meeting site was a casualty to real estate development/progress. It is at this meeting that we present award plaques to deserving individuals and recognize their contributions to Trout Unlimited and our chapter. The November meeting also sees the return of Pat Ehlers of The Fly Fisher as our featured speaker. This year Pat gave a presentation on remote fishing trips that provided real insight into frequently asked questions about, equipment, logistics, accommodations and surprises to be expected along the way. It worked out especially well that Pat was the speaker, as he was also one of our award recipients. Henry Koltz served as the Master of Ceremonies for the award presentations and was ably supported by Josh Radlein. Awards were presented to six deserving individuals for their various contributions.

We led off with Pat Ehlers for his long-standing support of our chapter. Pat has always generously donated prizes for our fund-raising efforts and has made SEWTU the beneficiary of the annual Fishing Film Festival, which he funds and organizes. He is the ultimate example of a win:win relationship partner between a TU chapter and a third party, and we are very fortunate to have him. Next up was Erik Helm of Orvis. Erik has been the driving force behind the Orvis Fly Fishing 101 sessions, in which participants receive a one-year membership to TU. This year alone we added nearly 150 new members through this program. He has also been a lead instructor at our annual casting clinic.

We also recognized four of our members for their contributions. Pete Pritzlaff was recognized for his many contributions in the areas of education and outreach. He also is the maker of extraordinary hand-made trout nets. He regularly donates these to our chapter, the state council and this year, to the TU National meeting. Dr. M. Scott Connor was recognized for his contributions to our fund-raising efforts. Not only is he a major financial donor, but he is one heck-of-a-nice person and an avid fisherman. He also regularly brings a number of friends with him to our banquet, and they make their presence known. Next up was Wayne Mudek, a long-standing volunteer in our habitat workdays and a regular at our

chapter meetings. Although he receives grief for his choice of friends, we could not do the things our chapter does without a member such as Wayne. This award was overdue and it was our pleasure to recognize him. Last but not least, Dave Menke was also recognized for his numerous contributions. It is rare for a workday to not include Dave. He is also a regular volunteer at our Project Healing Waters outings. The wine basket he and his wife put together for the fund-raising banquet each year draws much interest. Dave took the time to attend the TU National meeting and was an active participant.

December is a slower month for us given the holiday season, but we remain active. Our last workday of the calendar year will be held on Saturday, Dec. 14. We will work in our home waters on Scuppernong Creek with the DNR and Fisheries Biologist Ben Heussner and his team. We will be installing biologs and brush bundles to redirect stream flow and increase velocity to scour the stream bottom and enhance habitat. Special thanks to Ray Weiss and Jim Wierzba who will lead our efforts. Our last chapter meeting of the calendar year also serves as our Holiday Party and member gift exchange. This was held on Tuesday, Dec. 17. In lieu of an outside speaker, we use this evening to view one or more fly-fishing films and enjoy each others' company. The room typically resounds with cries of "Eat It" as the fish in the films do their part to keep us motivated in the off season. This year we are also asking our members to bring non-perishable food items to the meeting. These will be collected and donated to a local food pantry for those less fortunate.

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

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

—Jim Wierzba

Southern Wisconsin Chapter

Kelly Galloup, noted fly fishing innovator, author and guide, is the featured speaker at our annual Icebreaker event on Saturday, Jan. 18. Kelly will give two presentations. He will first speak on "Technical Nymphing" and then cover the topic for which he is so well known: "Streamers." Kelly is a dynamic and experienced speaker, and you are sure to leave with some new ideas to try once spring rolls back around. Please don't miss this opportunity to hear Kelly Galloup speak!

We always couple our "national" speaker with somebody more local and this year we're pleased to have Pat Ehlers present his "Keys to Becoming a Better Predator with a Fly Rod." Pat opened his fly shop in Milwaukee, The Fly Fishers, in 1988 and has guided throughout Wisconsin and the Great Lakes, as well as in Montana and Alaska. He has earned a reputation as an exceptional teacher and we are very excited to learn from him.

The day-long event will also feature some of the region's most innovative fly tyers, a youth education room, a Trout Fishing 101 session, and a tremendous array of fly bucket raffle items. Youthful fly

fishers under the age of 12 can get in for free as long as they are accompanied by a parent. We also again invite both retired and active military personnel to our event; they will receive free admission with their military ID.

We'd love to see you on January 18 at the Promega Center in Fitchburg, just south of Madison! You'll enjoy a friendly, roomy, professional and relaxed atmosphere. Read our latest newsletter on www.swtu.org for more on the day's schedule and a map to the Promega Center.

Our fall has been busy on a number of other fronts, including some very productive stream workdays, which were helped out by our new gear trailer. The trailer was generously donated by the Badger Fly Fishers. The eye-catching graphics were designed by SWTU Board member Pat Hasburgh and applied for no cost by the good people of MadWraps. Our volunteer crews did an incredible job to improve some important local waters and are excited to drift a fly through them in the spring.

Learn more about us, our events and activities at www.swtu.org.

—Drew Kasel



NEW TRAILER FOR SWTU

SWTU work crew shows off their new workday trailer, which was generously donated by the Badger Fly Fishers to SWTU

Wild Rivers Chapter

The Wild Rivers chapter had a moderately busy fall. The October chapter meeting in Mason featured speaker Dick Rewalt of the Mason Historical Museum, who spoke about the logging that took place in the Iron River-to-Mason area from 1882-1913. He explained how the White River system was used to transport logs to the mill in Mason. Numerous dams were built to flush the logs downstream. Remnants of those dams and sluice ways still remain. It was an informative program and was well attended.

In November, Dalton Lebeda gave a presentation of his summer experiences as an intern at the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission. Dalton, a junior at Northland College, described his experiences: gill netting Siscowet Lake Trout in 50 to 900 feet of water, checking lamprey traps and beach seining for white fish. His favorite activity was handling juvenile sturgeon in the lower Bad River.

The Wetlands of the Penokee Hills was the title of the December meeting. Tracy Hames, director of the Wisconsin Wetlands Association, spoke to us in December about his shock when he came to the Pe-

nokees for the first time this spring, expecting to see just another trashed watershed. Instead he found an extensive system of wetlands in exceptional condition. Tracy's findings are showing that these are not isolated wetlands as indicated by current maps of the area, but are instead a complex interconnected system. The area Tracy has been exploring is slated to be buried under 600 feet of waste rock. These are the wetlands that filter and recharge our water, that cool our trout streams, that provide a critical buffer against flooding, that keep our rivers sediment-free.

It wasn't all programs for Wild Rivers members. We are lucky to have an extended trout fishing season on Lake Superior and many of the tributaries upstream to the first impassable permanent barrier. There were very good runs of steelhead and salmon this fall. With the State Council meeting being held in Ashland in October, many of the TU leadership were able to do some late season angling, and a little bird hunting.

—Bill Heart

Chapter News



Wisconsin Clear Waters Chapter

Don Wisner presented "Fishing English Waters" at the WI Clear Waters Trout Unlimited chapter meeting in December. Don is a long-time TU member with a diverse background. He is a former Lutheran pastor, seminary professor, and a former fishing guide in Idaho at Henry's Fork Anglers. Presently Don spends many hours fishing from England to Wisconsin, where he chases musky, smallmouth and brook trout.

We will again be offering a beginner fly-tying class this winter. We will teach how to create trout flies that are guaranteed to catch fish! The six two-hour classes will begin January 9, 2014. The classes will be Thursday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Lodge Room at Gander Mountain. The following dates for class are January 23, February 6, 20 and 27, and March 6. The course costs \$25/person and will be limited to a dozen participants. Dr. Jeff Bartinsky will be the instructor. Other chapter members with fly-tying experience also provide assistance. Please contact Tim Meyer at apacheroad@charter.net or 715-579-6795 to reserve your spot in the class. You will be contacted by e-mail or phone to confirm your participation and also to inform you of any class date changes.

The WI Clear Waters Chapter's off-season activity has been kicked off with two excellent chapter meetings. In October, Al Noll gave an update on the progress of the stream enhancement activity and plans for 2014. Todd Mau, the NRCS Agent from Buffalo County, was the next speaker. The November meeting was well received as well. Steve Josephson, who stepped down as a chapter board member, was recognized for his hard work and efforts over the years. Mat Wagner, who owns the Driftless Angler Fly Shop, gave a presentation on Steamer Fishing in the Driftless Area. The meeting dates

for the remainder of the off season are: January 16, February 13, March 20 and April 17, all at Gander Mountain in Eau Claire. The 2014 Banquet is scheduled for April 24 and the "card raffle" prize will be a 13' Wenonah Fusion Canoe.

The 2013 projects included Bear Creek, North Branch of Elk Creek, Danuser Valley Creek and Elk Creek. I had the opportunity to work on Danuser Creek this summer. The project was well-received by the local community. Bear Creek was included on a bus tour trip sponsored by TUDARE.

The projects for 2014 include Waumandee Creek and Sand Creek. We will also be funding further restoration work on Gilbert Creek in 2014 and the chapter has carry-over funds from 2013 that will aid in the enhancements to Duncan Creek near Bloomer. The stream enhancement efforts were very successful and will be continued and expanded to other areas in 2014. We hope to involve other partners and are always looking for volunteers. Some work may happen over the winter and hopefully you can find time to join us.

The chapter fishing trip is being planned again for the Driftless Area next spring, and everybody is welcome. I also anticipate that chapter members again will come together on some undetermined river in the quest for the ever-elusive smallmouth bass. We are always looking for ideas for other chapter activities.

Gib Magaw, our treasurer for more than three years, has stepped down and is being replaced by Dave Zoellick. Duke Welter has stepped down from the secretary's position and Gib will assume that responsibility.

—Bob Swanson

Wisconsin River Valley Chapter

Wisconsin River Valley TU has enlisted me as the new president to replace Linda Lehman. I am a TU veteran with more than 20 years of TU service, including as a former board member with the SEWTU Chapter. My interests include, other than coldwater conservation, volunteer work with the International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE) as an IT editorial columnist, woodworking, and gourmet cooking. My most memorable fishing excursions include a grand slam while on a family vacation in Yellowstone, playing with brookies in the Appalachians, and catching and releasing pint-sized Greenbacks at 10,000 feet with my sons on a trip to Colorado.

Linda will continue to be an active board member for a newly created position as "State Liaison" for the chapter. The chapter has changed the member meeting location to the VFW Burns Post 388 in Wausau, where meetings are now held every second Thursday at 7 p.m.

Recent chapter activity includes a successful hands-on discovery outing on the Plover River with the Wausau East High School biology, chemistry, and physics departments. Hotdogs, brats, cookies and

snacks were on hand to feed the student masses and volunteers. Kudos to all volunteers who took the time to teach and instruct our next generation of coldwater stewards.

Linda and I attended the State Council Meeting in Ashland this fall and received a personal tour of the Penoque Range courtesy of Bill Heart. Jaw-dropping scenery and fishing day-dreaming were the stars of the tour, as well as meeting with "Penoque Pete" and discussing the realism of how this local watershed will be devastated by the proposed mining.

Our chapter 2014 watershed projects are in the planning stages and include improvements to be performed on the Rib and Prairie Rivers. These river resources are valued treasures for local and non-local anglers and can be included as some of the best fishing destinations within our chapter area.

I am proud and excited to be the new WRVTU president and look forward to building upon the work and dedication of my predecessors and continuing the tradition of coldwater conservation in this region of the great state of Wisconsin.

—Patrick Esselman Jr.

Wolf River Chapter

Our spring general membership meeting will be held at 9 a.m. Saturday, March 15 at the White Lake Community Center. We will be holding elections for president, vice president, treasurer, secretary and two board members. We will also be discussing work days on Nine Mile Creek, Spring Creek and possibly the Evergreen. Volunteers will be solicited for our summer brat stand and temperature monitoring. The program "Trout Fishing the Wolf River" will then be presented, with a lunch afterwards.

In early December, Chapter President Andy Killoren and Vice

President Bill Livingston attended the Northeast Regional meeting at the Wild Wolf Inn. We have committed \$2,000 to the Antigo DNR for their summer brushing crew, \$500 to the US Fish & Wildlife Service for their brushing crew and \$500 to the US Fish & Wildlife Service for beaver control.

The Wolf River chapter will have a booth at Cabin Fever Day on January 11, which is hosted by the Fox-Valley Chapter.

Visit our web site for more information at WolfRiverTU.org

—Tim Waters



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Update on hard rock mining in the Penokees

By Bill Heart

At the recent TU National Meeting in Madison and the October WITU Council meeting in Ashland there was much discussion about the potential of a mine in the Penokee Hills in Ashland and Iron Counties and how it would affect our coldwater resources.

It's been nearly three years since Gogebic Taconite, LLC (GTac) started the process that could one day allow them to begin extracting low-grade iron ore in the range of hills located about 30 miles south of Lake Superior, near the headwaters of the Bad River.

Early in 2013 the Wisconsin legislature passed a new iron mining law that GTac supposedly had a hand in writing. The company has finished exploratory drilling and is currently applying for permits for bulk sampling. It has also filed for an Intent to Mine Permit with the state of Wisconsin. Recently Tom Fitz, a geology professor at Northland College in Ashland, found many rocks in a number of the potential bulk sampling sites that contain grunerite asbestos, which is a known carcinogen. GTac has since backed off from these sites, but is still hoping to start bulk sampling at three other sites.

The Penokee Hills are a range of the oldest rocks in the world. The range has a 21-mile vein of iron ore that runs east to west along the ridge. Because of ancient geological movement, or possibly a meteorite strike, the ore body is aligned at a 45-to-60-degree angle. The initial proposed mine is a four-mile section that lies about three miles east of the City of Mellen. With the ore body aligned at this angle, there will be a large amount of overburden to remove to access the ore.

The back side of the mine site is approximately 3,800 acres of Iron

County land that has been leased to the mining company. This land will be used for storing overburden and tailings from milling the iron ore into taconite pellets. The main issue is that more than 800 acres of the leased land is classified as wetlands. Several class-one and class-two trout streams are present. Designated waterways potentially impacted by mining activity include the Tyler Forks River, Bull Gus Creek, Ballou Creek and Devils Creek. The Tyler Forks sub-watershed contains 86 miles of designated trout streams and 40 miles of either Outstanding Resource Waters (ORW) or Exceptional Resource Waters (ERW). The Bad River sub-watershed contains 104 miles of trout streams and 54 miles of ORW and ERW waters.

As per Wisconsin statutes: "outstanding resource water is a lake, stream or flowage having excellent water quality, high recreational and aesthetic value and high-quality fishing. ORW waters are free from point source or nonpoint source pollution. An exceptional resource water is a lake, stream or flowage exhibiting the same high quality resource values as outstanding waters, but may be affected by point source pollution or have the potential for future discharge from a small sewer community."

The area abounds in coldwater wetlands and small tributaries that continue to provide cold water for the trout streams. All of the land that surrounds the mine site eventually drains into the Bad River, through the Bad River Indian Reservation, Bad River and Kakagon Sloughs, and eventually into Lake Superior. The sloughs make up 40 percent of the wetlands of Lake Superior and are the home of the historical rice beds of the Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Chippewa. The Bad River Tribe, as a sovereign nation, has their own water standards and is working to protect their waters.



Todd Franklin

PRISTINE WATERS OF THE PENOKEE'S TYLER FORKS RIVER

Bill Heart has provided tours of the Penokee Hills and its watersheds to countless TU members and leaders, legislators and many others who are concerned about potential mining impacts. Here he takes a break from a tour to

The immediate and long-term objective is to protect these headwater trout streams and the wetlands that produce the cold water that feeds them. Trout Unlimited intends to use scientific means to determine these lands are critical for protection of the area's coldwater resources and trout populations.

The National Leadership Council (NLC) has continued to view hard-rock mining as a "critical focus" area in its National Conservation Agenda. The NLC passed a motion that states: "Since there is an imminent risk to the waters of Lake Superior, the world's largest source of fresh water, from a number of potential hard rock mines in Minnesota, Wisconsin and the UP of Michigan the NLC requests that the Board of Trustees supply adequate resources for Trout Unlimited to become an

active participant in the hard rock mining debates currently taking place in the states bordering Lake Superior."

Since the national meeting, WITU leadership has had two conference calls with the national office to discuss this issue. TU has offered assistance with this issue, and will consider assigning staff to assist with our efforts.

At the October council meeting in Ashland, members agreed to establish a state council mining committee. Please contact me if you would like to be on this committee.

Bill Heart of Ashland is a former Wisconsin Council chairman and is currently the Wisconsin representative on TU's National Leadership Council.

Ashland hosts October State Council Meeting

By Mike Kuhr, WITU Council Secretary

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited welcomed representatives from 16 of its 21 chapters to the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute in Ashland, WI for its Oct. 19 State Council meeting.

Meeting highlights included a recap of the Wisconsin River Alliance advocacy training, planning for WITU's first ever youth camp, updates on mining, the DNR's new trout coordinator position, and the license plate bill.

Advocacy Training off to a good start

Guest speaker Helen Sarakinos, Water Policy Director for the River Alliance of Wisconsin, gave a report on the River Alliance's advocacy training program. Five chapters sent members to the training sessions, which are designed to increase a chapter's ability to advocate on behalf of our coldwater resources.

Training participants chose a local issue (like groundwater or water quality) to focus on and instructors coached them on the best ways to approach their local elected leaders. Then, they scheduled face-to-face meetings with the officials in their local districts to discuss the issue.

Sarakinos said that while immediate results are not always realized, the face-to-face meetings are vital to developing relationships between local TU chapters and policy makers. Now it's up to these chapters to repeat the cycle. The River Alliance would like to conduct advocacy training for each of our chapters. There will be a break-out session after the next Council Meeting. Plan to have your chapter represented. Five down and 16 more to go!

Youth Camp planning underway

WITU is planning its first-ever youth camp, which will run for four days this July. Council Education Chair Bob Haase and Council Vice-Chair Linn Beck are leading the planning effort. It will feature aspects of angling, entomology, and conservation. The program will be modeled after a very successful TU Youth Camp run by the Maine Council. This camp will require a great deal of volunteer effort to be effective, so we're looking for 18-20 enthusiastic mentors. Contact Bob or Linn if you would like to help.

TU National weighs in on mining in WI

NLC Representative Bill Heart reported that mining in the Midwest has been put on TU National's Conservation Agenda. The NLC recently passed a motion asking "the Board of Trustees to supply adequate resources for TU to become an active participant in the hard rock mining debates currently taking place in the states bordering Lake Superior." This led to a conference call with Steve Moyer, head of Governmental Affairs for TU.

Chair Henry Koltz called for the formation of an ad hoc Mining Committee to address issues (both hard rock and frac sand mining) on behalf of the Council.

NE WI Trout Habitat Coordinator Position

The DNR's plan to hire a new Trout Coordinator for the Northeast and Central Wisconsin region continues to move forward. The new position will coordinate habitat restoration projects, easement and land purchases, and leverage private and federal grant funds to make trout stamp funds go further. The DNR has shadowed

Jeff Hastings work with TUDARE and hopes to replicate that model in other parts of the state.

Past Council Chair Kim McCarthy is representing TU on the interview panel. Interviews have commenced and the position is expected to be filled this spring. The coordinator will be stationed in Shawano.

Todd Franklin new WisTrout editor

The Executive Committee has voted to make Todd Franklin the new Editor of Wisconsin Trout. We are forever indebted to the work of past editor Todd Hanson, and look forward to seeing the legacy of this great newspaper continue to grow. We also hope Todd H. will now have a little more time to brew his famous "Big Brookies."

Women's Initiative ideas for Chapters

Heidi Oberstadt presented several ideas chapters could use to get women more involved in TU. Heidi suggests creating a women-friendly event to target angling women. She also suggests holding a family workday with activities for kids and adults alike to target conservation-minded families. Find more Women's Initiative ideas in the "Tacklebox" on www.tu.org.

Chapter Membership Training Session

Chapter leaders looking for ways to more effectively engage with their members should plan to attend the Membership Training Break-Out Session after the next State Council meeting in Oshkosh on Saturday, Feb. 1. A more in-depth training session will be held at the Spring TUDARE Workshop.

The next State Council Meeting will be held on Sat. Feb. 1 in Oshkosh.

Oberstadt named Women's Membership Coordinator

TU National has chosen Heidi Oberstadt for the position of Women's Membership Coordinator. In this position, she will help organize the existing Women's Initiative efforts. She will also connect with current women leaders to help improve retention rates from the existing trial membership program, and give them resources to host successful women's events.

"I'll be working with TU Vice President of Volunteer Operations Bryan Moore and the NLC Women's Initiative workgroup, as well as other TU national staff regarding the logistics of membership," Oberstadt explained. "We are in the process of organizing regional women's meetings, scheduled adjacent to the existing re-

gional meetings. I will be traveling to certain meetings, although the specifics about which meetings are still up in the air."

In addition to her high energy level and passion for TU, Oberstadt's success in organizing the Stream Girls event this past year likely impressed TU National staff.

"TU needs women. We all know that, but the real question is why? It's not just so we can raise our total membership numbers, or have a more flattering men-to-women ratio. Women are inherently different than men in the way we think, and women can bring a ton of new ideas and fresh input to our organization," she said.



Heidi Oberstadt

Gill Lice

Continued from p. 18

discovered there, and coincidentally, brown trout numbers have increased while brook trout are nearly extirpated.

For more information on gill lice research, contact Mitro at 608-221-6366 or Mathew.Mitro@wisconsin.gov

Mitro hopes more anglers will report their findings after-fishing brook trout waters, using the simple WITU web site's survey form. This information is truly helpful to the DNR's researchers. Secondly, anglers need to start educating themselves about proper techniques for cleaning their gear. Infor-

mation from The River Alliance can be found in pages 8-9 in this issue of *Wisconsin Trout* or by going to www.wisconsin-rivers.org/our-work/coldwater-anglers.



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Watershed Access Fund

Access Fund supports habitat, fishing opportunities

By Doug Brown

Response to our 2012-13 fundraising was amazing. Thank you to the 81 individuals and 5 chapters for contributing approximately \$8,200

By now, you have received our 2014 donation request letter. Tim Logemann of Wausau was the first to send a donation for the new campaign season. Donations to this program support public access on our streams. Since the inception of this fund, it has preserved access on Pine Creek in Pepin County, the Kinnickinnic River in St. Croix County and the White River in Waushara County.

Currently, the grant request limit is \$5,000. Because two chapters may each request for a single acquisition and each chapter would have to provide a 50% match, one grant could provide as much as \$15,000 for a purchase or easement. Chapters with limited funds but a strong volunteer force are able to apply the equivalent of half of their matching funds in the form of volunteer hours.

This year, please consider making a generous contribution to the 2014 Watershed Access Fund.

2012/13 Contributors

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

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

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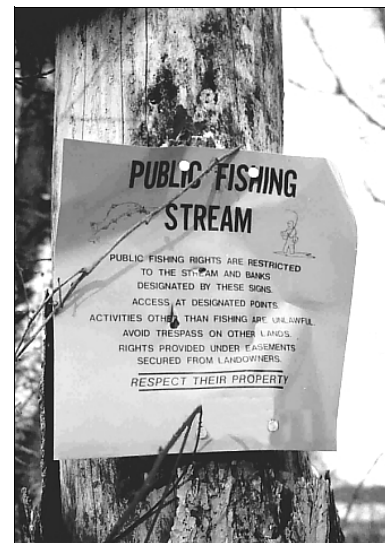
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Gill lice prevalence, awareness, knowledge on the rise

Anglers urged to report findings, clean their gear

By Todd Franklin

It appears that gill lice are not only showing up in more streams, but the rate of infection in affected streams is also increasing, in some cases at an alarming rate.

Gill lice are parasites that attach to the gills or other exterior areas of a fish. They likely co-evolved with brook trout, as they do not infect our non-native brown trout. Gill lice can cause significant physical trauma to the gill filaments, affecting respiration and efficient uptake of oxygen. What this means is that when infected fish are stressed, either by warm water temperatures or perhaps by being chased by a large brown trout or hooked by an angler, it can push them to their respiratory edge, so to speak, and potentially kill them.

Unfortunately, little data exists on current and past distributions of gill lice in Wisconsin. That is why WITU teamed up with the DNR to provide an on-line survey for anglers to report the existence, or non-existence, of gill lice in brook trout that they catch. During the 2013 trout season, the DNR received 62 reports from anglers in 18 different counties. Gill lice were observed in 25 streams in 18 counties and were not observed in six streams in four counties. Anglers inspected 540 brook trout, of which

256 were infected.

The angler reports showed that gill lice are widely distributed in Wisconsin. In addition to most of the Driftless Area counties, other counties with positive reports included Bayfield, Sawyer, Waushara, Waukesha, Forest, Portage, Juneau.

DNR Coldwater Fisheries Research Scientist Matt Mitro said information from anglers has been an important part of the research process, and he urges anglers to report their findings by going to WisconsinTu.org/gilllice. Mitro also said he is collecting data from DNR stream surveys and hopes to put that information together in the near future.

A recent manuscript by Mitro and other DNR researchers, entitled "Gill Lice as a Proximate Cause of Brook Trout Loss Under Changing Climatic Conditions," suggests that a combination of warmer temperatures caused by climate change, and interaction with brown trout could lead to "declines in brook trout recruitment and possibly extirpation" in some watersheds.

Ash Creek in Richland County has seen a great deal of research on gill lice. Ash Creek has been studied extensively since 2004 to determine its viability as a source for the DNRs wild trout stocking program. Gill lice were first discovered there in 2010. Gill lice were deemed "epizootic" in Ash Creek in 2012 as the infection prevalence jumped from 42 percent in April to 95 percent in October. Given the high infection



A BROOK TROUT WITH GILL LICE

Although they may have co-evolved with brook trout, the combination of gill lice with man-made factors such as climate change, invasives and introduced non-native species such as brown trout may cause brook trout declines and extirpations.

prevalence and intensity (numbers of lice per trout), especially in young trout, brook trout recruitment on the studied section of Ash was expected to decline in 2013 surveys. That's exactly what they found. High water temperatures in March of 2012, followed by drought conditions that summer, were also considered to be contributing factors.

The report also mentioned Crawford County's Plum Creek, which survey data showed from 1999-2007 supported healthy populations of both brown trout and brook trout. However, gill lice were

Continued on p. 17



WITU Looking Back

From the Winter 1984 WITU Quarterly Report...

FIRST STATE COUNCIL BANQUET

This is the final reminder that the FIRST ANNUAL WISCONSIN TROUT UNLIMITED AWARDS and FUND-RAISING BANQUET is set for Saturday, January 21, 1984, at the Paper Valley Hotel and Convention Center in Appleton, WI. The banquet will cap off a day of State Council meetings and a display of trout fishing arts and crafts. Here's a run-down on the agenda:

STATE COUNCIL MEETING

- 9:30 AM - Call to order
 10:00 AM - Dr. Tom Sheffy, acid rain specialist with the DNR, will give a presentation on acid rain, its effects on watersheds and other resources, where acid rain comes from, and efforts being made to curtail the problem.
 11:15 AM - Continue business meeting until through (3:30 - 4:00 PM).

ARTS & CRAFTS DISPLAY

In adjacent room to the State Council meeting. Displays of fly-tying by Forrest Grulke, net-making by Clint Byrnes, rod-building by Bob Burnham, stream entomology by Mark Brousseau, art work by Sharon Anderson and other artists, taxidermy by Keith Kania (world record musky on 10 lb. test line and State record chinook salmon) and by Mike Lyga and by Rinehart & Sons, plus spinner making, movies, video tapes, etc.

Display will begin at 10:30 AM and will run to 4:00 PM.

Banquet tickets can be ordered using the form below.

We hope to see a lot of you TU'ers at this banquet. There will be a good number of door prizes, some fine auction items, and several quality raffle prizes including graphite rods by SAGE and LAMIGLAS, waders, honeymoon weekend for two at the Pioneer Inn, plus much more. Proceeds from the event will be used by the Wisconsin Council to fund its projects and duties in 1984. Seating will be limited to 350 people, so hurry and order your tickets now. Dinner will include a 9 oz. sirloin steak dinner.

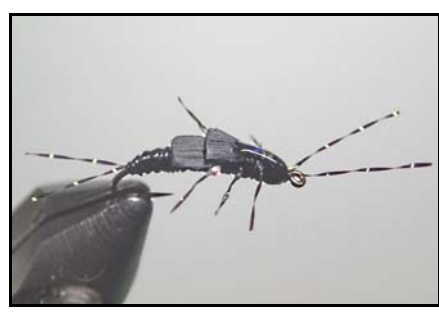
Directions for getting to the Paper Valley Hotel are shown on the advertising page. For those wishing to stay overnight, rooms and rates are listed below:

HOTEL	RATES
PAPER VALLEY 333 W. College Ave. (800/242-3499)	\$52.00 single \$62.00 double
Q & A 2000 Holly Rd. 414/734-9872	\$25.00 - \$40.00
GUEST HOUSE Hwy. 41 @ College Ave. 414/734-9231	\$26.00 - \$45.00
ROAD STAR 3623 W. College Ave. 414/731-5271	\$23.50 single \$31.00 double
MIDWAY 3033 W. College Ave. 414/731-4141	\$35.00 single \$45.00 double
EXEL 210 N. Kools St. 800/362-5478	\$22.95 single \$29.95 double

Bob's KF Little Black Stone Fly

By Bob Haase

The little black stonefly is often a good fly to fish during the early catch & release season here in Wisconsin. The best time to fish them is March through early May. There are a lot of black stonefly patterns available and I designed this one to use black Krystal Flash for the tail, antennae and legs to give a little extra flash. This is also more durable



the smaller size for the body. Here I use Ice Dubbing for the body to give a little more flash. During early spring runoff, some of the streams may not run as clear and I wanted this extra flash. Tie a few of these little stones and give them a try on your favorite stream in the spring. The version shown is not weighted. I also tie a weighted version by wrapping .20 lead wire for thorax before dubbing.

Start the thread and tie in the antennae out of black Krystal Flash. Next wrap to the bend of the hook and tie in the tail with black Krystal Flash. You can add a drop of super glue or UV set Knot Sense to hold the antennae and tails in position.

Use Wapsi black stretch tubing in the micro size or equivalent and tie in as shown. You don't want to make the body too large, so use the small-

MATERIALS LIST Bob's KF Little Black Stone Fly

- Hook:** Mustad C53S or Equiv. #14 & #16
- Thread:** Black 140 Denier
- Body:** Black Ice Dub
- Wingcase:** Black Raffia
- Tail & Antennae:** Black Krystal Flash
- Legs:** Black Krystal Flash
- Note:** Add lead wire on thorax for weighted version.

er size tubing and don't make too bulky. Tie off securely so the stretch tubing doesn't come loose.

Tie in the Krystal Flash legs as shown leaving an even spacing between the legs. After the legs are tied in, I take a bodkin and apply a small drop of Loon UVKnot Sense on each side of one set of legs and use the UV torch to set it. I then take the next set of legs and do the same until all the legs are set in place. This keeps the legs more secure when finishing the rest of the fly and also when that big brown takes it!

Tie in black raffia or other wingcase material and form two wingcases as shown.

Tie in a piece of medium opal tinsel or other suitable flashback material, fold forward and tie off. I use this to add just a little hot spot of flash, rather than add the third wingcase.

Tie down the opal tinsel, make a few more wraps to form a small head and tie off with a whip finish. Next take a scissors and trim the tail, legs, and antennae to the length you prefer. You can place a small amount of UV Knot Sense or other UV set material over the flashback and head to strengthen.

I often design my flies to imitate an insect and key on a particular aspect of the fly. I have found that some flies work better doing this rather than being more detailed. One year I tried to make the most detailed hopper that I could. I was impressed, but the fish weren't. They preferred the Morrish hopper, which has a lot less detail than mine. I have since learned to key in on things that will attract fish. Adding Krystal Flash and Ice Dub seems to add just enough to attract the fish to take.

than the typical goose biot. I added medium opal as a flashback instead of the third wingcase. I feel that some of the stonefly patterns are too bulky for the little black stone and like using the black micro tubing from wapsi or similar material in

Bob's Tying Tips

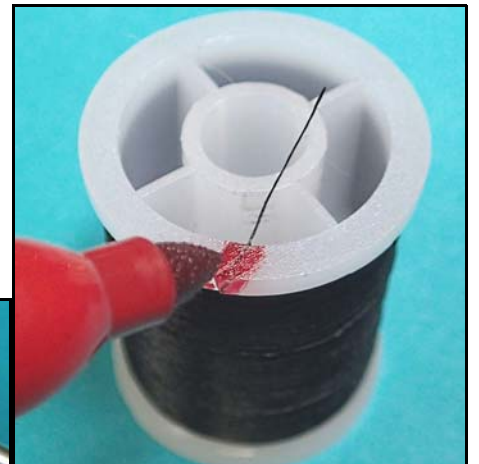
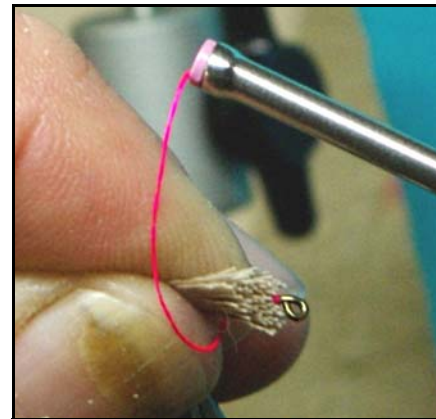
Advice from the bench of Bob Haase

Three truly useful tips

By Bob Haase

Thread position control

Have you ever tried to tie down a feather, hair or other tying material only to have thread go everywhere but where you want it to go? The reason this happens is because as you wrap



Use Craft Mate containers for spooled materials and more

I am a big advocate of using "Craft Mate" storage containers for hooks, beads, and even dubbing. They have individual locking lids similar to pill containers, and the have curved bottoms which make it easier to remove a hook or bead.

I recently found a new use for these containers: I put various spooled tying materials such as tinsel in the Craft Mates and leave about 1/2" to 1 inch of the tinsel extending out between the lid and pocket. This holds the tinsel in place and all I have to do is pull out the amount that I need and snip it off. For inventory of materials it also allows me to see all the colors, styles, and sizes of similar materials side by side so that I know what my working inventory of that material is. I can easily open the lid of the container and put the spool in a bobbin if I plan on tying multiple flies using that material. By doing this I end up with less waste and I can put it back into the Craft Mate container when I am done using it.

The cost of these Craft Mate containers seems to be going up, and they're more difficult to find. Check Hobby Lobby or JoAnn Fabrics on-line. When they have specials, which are sometimes 50 percent off, I usually stock up. I just purchased six Craft Mates in a black carrying case for \$20. That is just \$3.33 each compared to other sources selling them at \$9.95 each. Check it out and get a few when the price is right. I must have at least 60 of these containers by now and will probably need more as I find more uses for them. They also work well as travel fly boxes to keep your

the thread, you are inadvertently twisting it, causing it to go where you don't want it to go. If you are right handed it will usually go the right, and just the opposite for lefties. Right handers can solve the problem by spinning the bobbin clockwise until the thread reverses itself and lays back against your fingers just where you want it to lay, as shown in the photo. With some threads you need to do just the opposite, but most of the time it works to spin it clockwise if you are right handed. If it is not twisting back the direction you want just reverse the direction you are spinning the bobbin.

It also helps to shorten the thread to two or three inches from the tip of the bobbin to the shaft of the hook. The more thread you have out, the less control you have. If you want to achieve maximum tension in wrapping the thread, let a little more thread out after securing the first few wraps. This allows a little more stretch in the thread before reaching the breaking point. The amount of stretch in various threads is determined by the material the thread is made out of, and if it is twisted or stranded. Nylon, for example, has more stretch than polyester.

Mark thread slot

Some spools have a slit cut in one side of the spool to secure the thread, but it can be difficult to see. Simply take a magic marker and draw a line over the slit so that you can find it easier.



Friends campaign wraps up 2013 season

By Doug Brown

Friends of WITU Chair

The 2013 Friends of Wisconsin campaign is nearly over, but the spring 2014 campaign announcement will be arriving at your door early this spring. We've already received 113 donations from individuals and 10 donations from TU chapters, totaling \$14,300.

Todd Hanson's Where Am I Publications also donated a percentage of

sales of its guide books to the campaign.

This year's gift for a donation of \$100 or more is a Fish Pond Micro-Trash Container. You will also be listed in four consecutive editions of Wisconsin Trout. Thanks again to Tight Lines Fly Shop in DePere for helping procure this gift.

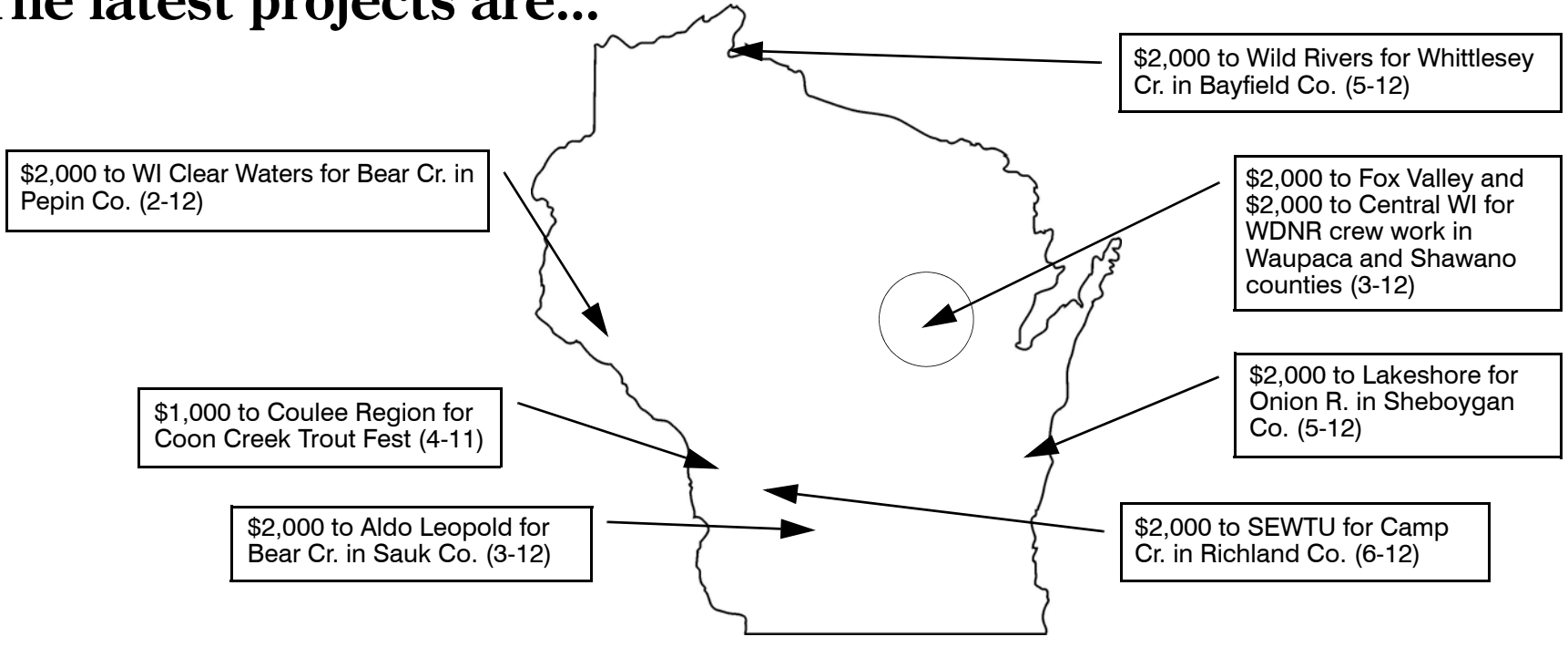
Each year WITU distributes these funds to chapters to support a variety of habitat improvement projects, possibly on some of your favorite streams.

We are inviting you to make a tax-deductible donation to the Friends of Wisconsin Trout campaign, and help us continue supporting chapter projects. Your donation goes directly back into our streams to benefit future generations of trout and those who fish for them.

Please consider any amount of a donation, as requests from our chapters continue to come in for future habitat work.



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



Friends of Wis. TU

Here are our new 2013 Friends of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited

- Michael & Susan Arneson
- Gary Balwierz
- Edwin Barnes
- Charles Barnhill
- Jeffrey Bartynski
- James Bayorgeon
- John & Susan Bleimehl
- Stephen Born
- Rick Christopherson
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- Lawrence Clowry, MD
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- Sparta WI
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- Antigo
- Green Bay
- Kiap-TU-Wish
- Marinette Co.
- SEWTU
- Shaw-Paca
- WI Clearwaters
- Wild Rivers

IN MEMORIAM:

In memory of Bob Hunt by the Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter
In memory of Dale Vreeland by Kenneth Vreeland, Minneapolis, MN
In memory of Theron A. Bud Meyer Jr. by Tim and Tom Meyer, Eau Claire

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

Enclosed is my check for \$100, \$250, or more payable to Wisconsin Trout Unlimited.

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

- Send me the Fishpond premium
- No thanks, I'll pass on the gift

Name _____

Address _____

City, State Zip _____ Phone # _____