



Wisconsin Trout

July 2013



TU, Girl Scouts team up to develop 'stream girls'

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited members and the Girl Scouts of America have collaborated on a new program called Stream Girls.

The pilot of Stream Girls was a three-day program held June 20–22 at Jordan Park along the Plover River in Stevens Point.

TU volunteer Heidi Oberstadt planted the seeds for a program that seeks to forge a long-lasting connection between girls and the water. Oberstadt is WITU's Women's Chair.

The girls covered a range of topics, including streamside vegetation, fish habitat, water quality, and fly tying. Entomology was an especially big hit.

TU staff and volunteers designed specialized handbooks for the scouts. The handbooks outlined the program's activities and included an at-home checklist for the girls to share with their families to help evaluate their family's impact on their local watershed.

The girls, parents, leaders, and Girl Scout staff are already asking about the next Stream Girls event.

TU volunteers came from Milwaukee, Oshkosh, and Wausau to help. In addition, TU National staff flew in from both coasts to help guide the girls and help ensure that the program went off without a hitch.

Both TU and the Girl Scouts are already pleased with the results. They will look to expand the program to include more girls in more councils and regions in the coming years.



Heidi Oberstadt photos

COOL BUGS, REAL AND ARTIFICIAL Girl Scouts explored the Plover River's insect population and tied flies as part of a pilot "stream girls" program held in Stevens Point.

WI trout leaders Bob Hunt and Dan Flaherty pass

By Todd Hanson

Two men who have been involved with WI Trout Unlimited since its beginning — and who later played key roles in establishing Wisconsin's trout stamp program — passed away recently.

Retired WDNR trout researcher Robert Hunt, 79, of Waupaca died April 11. Attorney Daniel Flaherty, 89, of La Crosse died June 14.

Hunt is credited with providing the underlying scientific research proving that in-stream habitat improvement techniques increase trout numbers and size.

Hunt's research was used by Flaherty to advocate for the trout stamp program while he served on the state's Natural Resources Board from 1975–1981. The trout stamp program went into effect Jan. 1, 1978.

Hunt's many accomplishments

Over the years, Hunt received most of the top honors from the nation's fishery organizations, including being one of 15 to be elected into the National Fisheries Hall of Excellence by the American Fisheries Society (AFS) in 2000.

In recognition for his many contributions to conservation in Wisconsin, Hunt was elected to the WI

Conservation Hall of Fame in April 2012.

Bob joined the Wisconsin Conservation Department, later the WDNR, in 1959 when Wisconsin's trout program consisted mainly of stocking hatchery fish ill-equipped for survival or reproduction. The streams themselves — degraded by cattle grazing, erosion, and other factors — were often too wide, too shallow, and too warm for trout to grow and survive. Gravel substrates needed for reproduction were rare.

Leading a research team at the Lawrence Creek station in central Wisconsin in the 1960s, Hunt was able to prove conclusively that fixing the stream — restoring and stabilizing its banks, narrowing channels, and installing rocks and logs for cover — would produce more trout and bigger trout, leading to superior fishing than stocking could ever provide. The reshaped streams meant faster flows that scoured away silt and dug out deeper holes where large trout could thrive. It meant colder, cleaner water enriched with higher levels of dissolved oxygen.

Hunt's research changed the direction of Wisconsin trout management. It played a key factor in convincing the Wisconsin Legislature in 1977 to create the trout stamp program that raises funds to be spent solely for trout stream rehabilitation.

Hunt will be remembered for his oft-quoted admonition to "manage first for wild trout."

In the mid 1990s, Hunt researched and developed the five Consider Proper Release steps the WITU State Council began promoting in brochures, access point signs, and a 1996 video.

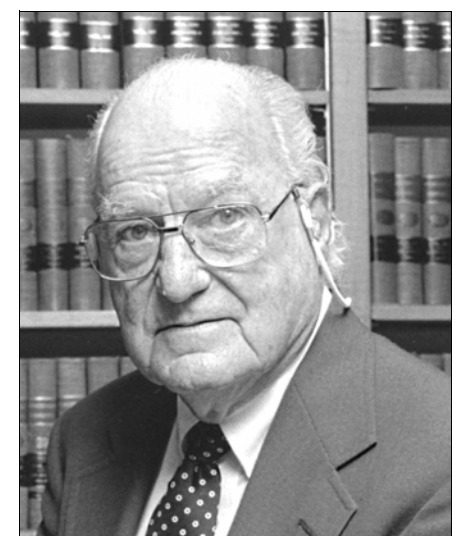
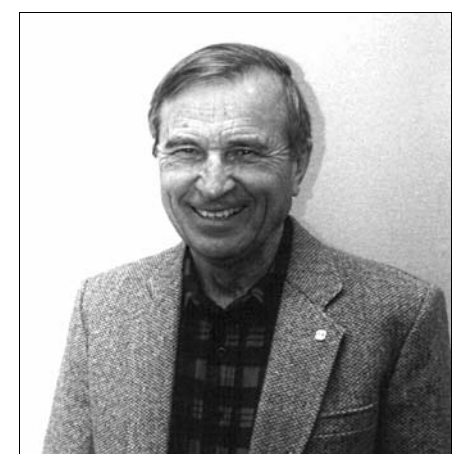
Most recently, Hunt worked with CWTU chapter members to plan for a possible Sand Hills Ecoregion Restoration Initiative modeled after

the highly successful TUDARE project in Southwestern Wisconsin.

Flaherty an early backer of the trout stamp

The trout stamp concept began to get traction in the mid 1970s. Longtime TU member Dan Flaherty of La Crosse was an early supporter.

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WITU FOUNDERS PASS

Former WDNR trout researcher Bob Hunt (top) and attorney Dan Flaherty passed away in recent weeks.

Plans continue for hosting TU National meeting

By Todd Hanson

The WITU State Council is putting the finishing touches on its plans for hosting TU National's annual meeting in Middleton, WI September 27–29.

Wisconsin first hosted a TU National meeting in Madison in 1972 when it engaged radio-TV personality Arthur Godfrey to be a guest speaker. WITU also hosted a TU National meeting at the Pioneer Inn in Oshkosh in the fall of 1982.

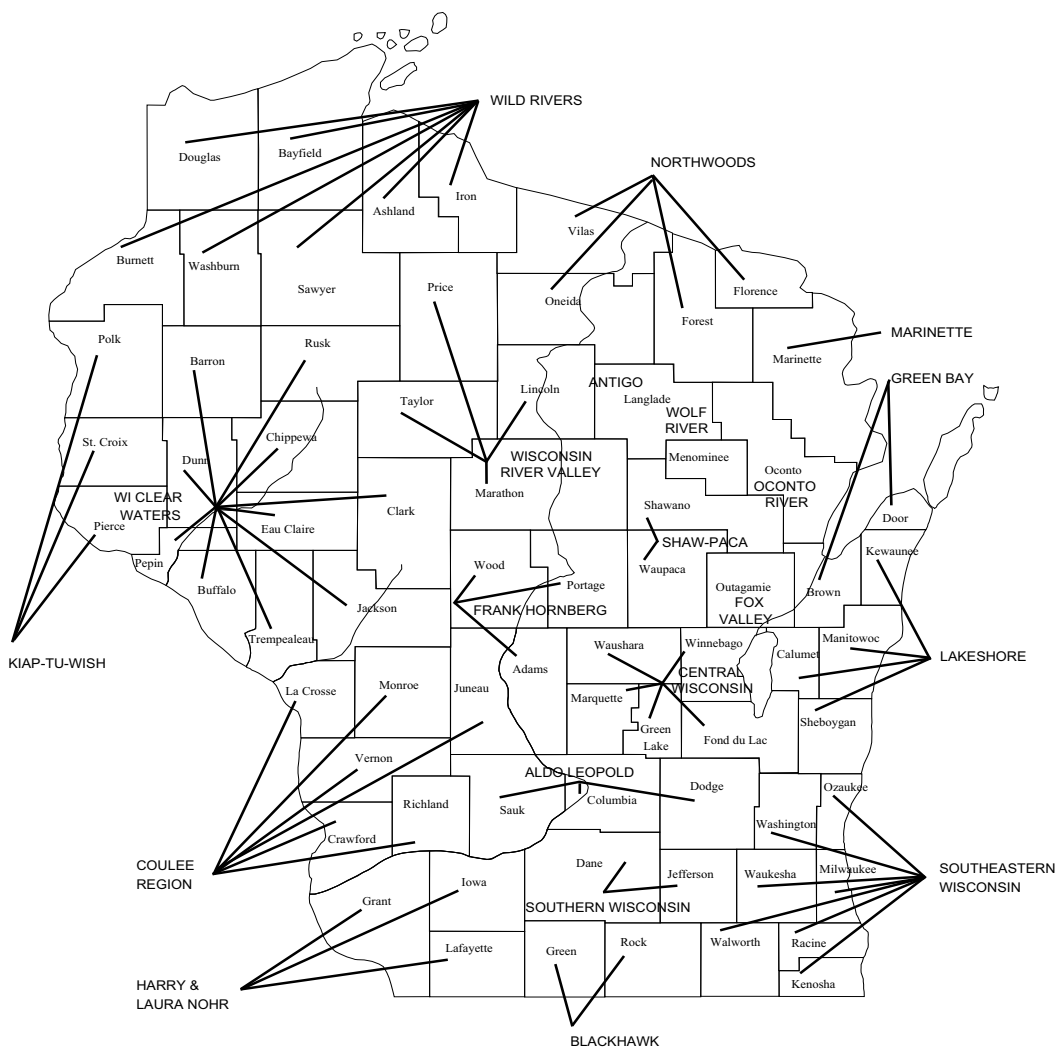
Fishing day coordinator Kim McCarthy is still looking for some members to serve as fishing hosts.

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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 and signing in with your member number, which is found on your wallet card or *TROUT* magazine label.

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 (see the text next to the map above for the numbers of our chapters).

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The importance of first fish

By Henry Koltz

WITU State Council Chair

I grew up in Jefferson County in an area about as flat as flat gets in Wisconsin. We knew who farmed most of the land we drove past on the way to church each Sunday, and more than a few of those families sat in the pews around us. When the Brewers were on, we listened to Bob Uecker call games on AM radio while we worked in our garage and my dad smoked cigars. With the Brewers came summer, and with the summer came trips “up north” and to “Honey Creek.” At both places my attention was riveted to water, and my focus was fishing.

It’s hard to say exactly where or when I caught my first fish. It was probably a bluegill, and I probably caught it standing on a pier that my paternal grandfather, dad, and uncles had built in my family’s ancestral “up north” water, Miller Lake. The first non-bluegill that I can recall catching was a largemouth bass with my father from a boat he was oaring within casting distance of the aforementioned pier, using a minnow that he’d put on my hook, and in a chain of events that probably began with a cast he’d made. After he handed me the rod with the bobber that he’d put on my line, my Zebco 404 combo rod came apart while I fought my prey. Surprisingly cool given the 10” leviathan that his son was now engaged in epic battle with, my dad reassembled the halves

of my rod, and he then lifted the fish from the water for me. I was clearly a natural.

It’s equally hard to say where or when I caught my first trout. It was probably a brown trout, and probably out of a hole formed by a perched box culvert along Alder Lane. When we were not headed up north, my family headed with my maternal grandfather and grandmother and my mom’s brothers and sisters to western Wisconsin, where we helped my grandfather band birds and listened to whippoorwills sing through the night. Primarily because I loved water, and perhaps because I did not enjoy being bitten by birds, I spent my time throwing every lure in my

fully stocked Plano bass and pike tackle box into that little road hole. If I couldn’t catch a fish, I was determined to scare them out of the water while trying. In what can only be rightfully described as a moment of divine pity, a trout no bigger than my hand eventually hit a spinner I’d tossed, and I was able to hold my first trout.

These are my memories, and they have shaped my life. Most of you reading this column — if indeed anyone has managed to make it this far — have similar memories. The names and places and lures and rod models might be different, and maybe someone else built your pier, but we all have our first fish and our first trout. For each of us, I’d say it is a safe bet to assume that our first fish and first trout are a big reason we’re involved with TU.

As members of TU, one of the most important things we can do is get kids outside, get them in the water, and get them fishing.



HENRY KOLTZ AND COMPANY

Henry and his two daughters check out a bridge pool somewhere in the Driftless Area.

My dad gave me a fish, and my mom gave me the Driftless. Those simple gifts made me want to learn more about fishing, more about water, and eventually more about cold-water conservation and ensuring that future generations can enjoy the same things that I love so much. Like the farmers we grew up around, my parents had planted a seed simply by exposing me to water, giving me a chance to enjoy it, and allowing me to bother the trout that live in it.

As members of TU, one of the most important things we can do is get kids outside, get them in the water, and get them fishing. Not every child will respond as we all have to our first fish, but some will. And the more kids we can get out fishing, the more success stories we’ll have. The

more kids we get hooked, the more kids will be likely to care about our waters, and the more kids we’ll have growing up with a respect for cold-water resources and for our mission.

Just a few days ago, my wife I took our daughters for our first-ever family weekend in the Driftless. In between climbing around a dragon park, eating in a restaurant that has trees inside, and picking out cheese at the co-op, we did a little fishing. We took off our shoes, waded in the river, and caught some brook trout. I cast, they splashed, and when the trout came in, my three-year-old daughter petted it and my five-year-old daughter fell in the river. With a start like that, we’re expecting big things from both.

Chapter president profile

Steve Wald leading SWTU’s ‘friendship factory’

By Drew Kasel

Steve Wald was elected president of Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited in March. Here, we take a few minutes to catch up with Steve and learn more about him.

First, the basics. Steve is 44 and a lifelong angler. He grew up in the Carolinas chasing panfish and largemouth bass in neighborhood ponds and, later, bluefish with his father in the saltwater surf.

He landed his best “keeper” during freshman year of high school,

namely, Trina, the woman who would become his wife. The two caught their first wild trout fishing together with live crickets on a stream at Stone Mountain State Park, NC.

The University of Wisconsin drew them to Madison in 1998, where they put down roots and brought up two kids, Seth, 18, and Sarah (aka “Sazi”), 21. Steve earned a Ph.D. in the history of science in 2008, and he is currently employed by the University of Wisconsin Foundation as Director of Develop-

ment for the Law School. He jokes that only his mother now calls him “doctor.”

But what brought Steve to Trout Unlimited? Steve said he came to the organization in the stereotypical fashion...through trout! Or, rather, the mostly hapless pursuit thereof. His entire first year of fly fishing in Wisconsin resulted in a handful of landed fish. He now catches his fair share and enjoys introducing fly fishing to others. He largely credits SWTU’s members and educational programs for helping him get his act together as a Driftless Area angler.

Becoming a member is one thing...but taking on the roles of chapter vice president (2009–11), Conservation Committee Chair (2010–12), and President is quite another. Steve said that he has been active in SWTU for only six years, but the many friendships he’s made have played a large role in driving him to contribute in ever-increasing ways. In fact, Steve called SWTU a “friendship factory” in his first newsletter column as president.

When asked about his fundamental motivation, Steve was quick to point out conservation. In pursuing trout with varying degrees of success, he developed “an attachment bordering on reverence” to the places where they live. While “communing with the trout,” he took note of the stream restoration work that had been done and made a point of finding out who was responsible. The answer was SWTU. He immediately set about learning how he, too, could join with this

community in “giving back to the trout.”

Steve believes that “what is good for trout and their natural habitats is also good for the earth, good for our communities, and good for the human spirit.” He talks often about the role of SWTU as “stewards of an extraordinary resource” and considers it “an honor and a privilege to lead a chapter with such a tremendous heritage, a talented and energetic membership, and such great potential.”

(Drew Kasel is the editor of SWTU’s Newscasts newsletter. Check it out at www.SWTU.org. -Ed.)



STEVE WALD GIVES A BROWN A QUICK PHOTO OP

Steve Wald has moved up the ranks in leadership roles at Southern Wisconsin TU. He succeeded Jordan Konisky as chapter president this spring.

Steve’s go-tos

Rod: TFO Lefty Kreh Professional 9’ 4-weight that Steve built himself

Fly: In cases of desperation, a Lawson caddis emerger fed down and reeled (yes, reeled) upstream

Afternoon trip stream: Gordon Creek and tributaries

Daylong trip stream: Bohemian Valley (where a friend first introduced him to Driftless Area trouting)

Fishing outside Wisconsin: Most recently, Wilson Creek, NC, and the saltwater flats of Charlotte Harbor, FL

Remembrances of Bob Hunt

By John "Duke" Welter

As I made the transition from a worm-fishing teen to a young man seeking to learn more about trout streams and fly fishing, I came across the monographs of Bob Hunt written in the 60s and 70s through his work with the Wisconsin Conservation Department and, later, the WDNR.

Those monographs, in scholarly style, outlined his research on Lawrence Creek near Westfield in Marquette County, which I came to know and near which I caught my first trout on a fly.

The upshot, as I remember it, was that those brook trout found the vast majority of their food in the form of scuds living in the eel-leaf-rich stream. Later I hunted the woodcock flight along Lawrence Creek, and it came to be one of my favorite places of the time.

Though I had long known of Bob Hunt through those monographs and regular mentions in *Wisconsin Trout*, it wasn't until I became active with Wisconsin TU at the state level that I met him. He served the council as a quiet, respected voice and a thoughtful intellectual leader of the group. He didn't say much, but when he spoke his words carried great weight.

Also during this time, I learned how other scientists in the trout world respected the work Bob had done, both on the habitat requirements of trout and on the restoration of habitat for them. I believe Wisconsin TU helped support the first publication of Bob's book, *Trout Stream Therapy*, which has become a veritable bible for people interested in stream restoration.

In the last 10 years, I fished with Bob a half dozen times. Those outings were among the most educational fishing experiences of my life. There wasn't a water in Wisconsin, it seemed, where he hadn't fished, done research, or worked on habitat. As an angler, as in other things, Bob taught by doing, and he did everything on our tight trout streams superbly. His bow-and-arrow cast was deadly accurate and caught good fish in impossible places. He could roll cast all day, quietly and surgically and effortless. And of course, he knew where trout lived.

He shared a few fly patterns with me, and I think if we collected more of them they could be the core of an excellent article or pamphlet for Wisconsin TU.

Some years ago, I asked Bob if he would sit down with me and do a recorded interview that would attempt to summarize what he considered his legacy to the world of fisheries. He wasn't quite interested in doing that, perhaps because he didn't toot his own horn, preferring to let his excellent writing and presentations speak for themselves.

But he did write me a letter in which he said he was most proud that his work provided the scientific basis for Wisconsin's resource managers to move from management based on popular opinion about where and when to stock hatchery trout to management based on science and focusing on habitat and its restoration as the key to healthy fisheries. He advocated for Wisconsin to adopt our inland trout stamp, which was ac-

complished in 1978, and which has been a foundation of Wisconsin's habitat work.

In 2006, Bob did sit down with one of the state's most experienced freelance outdoor writers, Tim Eisele, for a story summarizing his contributions. He told Eisele, "We lead the nation in trout habitat restoration techniques, innovations to enhance habitat and long-term research studies that show which of these techniques work.... Our trout regulations are considered the best biologically sound trout regulations in the United States. They are complicated, but they take advantage of the diversity of trout waters. One size limit does not fit all waters."

Regulations should provide better trout fishing by taking advantage of the biological differences of trout streams throughout the state, he said. Southern counties have more fertile waters, providing faster growth and longer growing seasons compared to the north.

"The regulations that we now have are doing a great job," Hunt said. "Improvement is needed to use the regulation choices available and match them to the biology of the stream. Streams change, and many in the southwest that did not support trout now do. Others that only held domesticated, stocked trout now support wild trout."

Bob also commented in the Eisele article (which ran in the *Capital Times* in June 2006) on groundwater. "Wisconsin does not have large trout rivers, so all the trout waters depend on groundwater." He stressed that groundwater flows should be protected.

"The biggest concern for the future is getting nonpoint source pollution under control," Hunt said. "In the southern part of the state, especially, trout eggs are often smothered by silt and don't hatch. If we can overcome that problem we will see trout fishing take a giant leap forward."

Hunt was no fan of one-size-fits-all trout regulations, insisting that our knowledge of streams has progressed. He pointed out that the old one-regulation regime is based on fisheries dependent on hatchery trout, not wild fish.

Those wild fish were the grail for Bob Hunt. He worked to develop the "Wild Trout" symposia held every four years in Yellowstone National Park, and he was a frequent contributor there. At this year's Wild Trout XI symposium, at least two Wisconsin-based TU speakers will carry on the tradition that Bob helped start.

One incomplete aspect remained for Bob — we do a lot of habitat restoration on Wisconsin streams, but maintaining that restoration work has been a lower priority. Shouldn't we seek to protect our investment by developing volunteer and agency capacity to do habitat maintenance work?

To illustrate both the need and the possibilities for TU, Bob helped Central Wisconsin TU organize a regular maintenance crew to get out and touch up restoration work in the Central Sands streams.

Perhaps it would be a fitting tribute to Bob if we took that effort up across the state on a wider basis.

LEADERS: Bob Hunt and Dan Flaherty pass away

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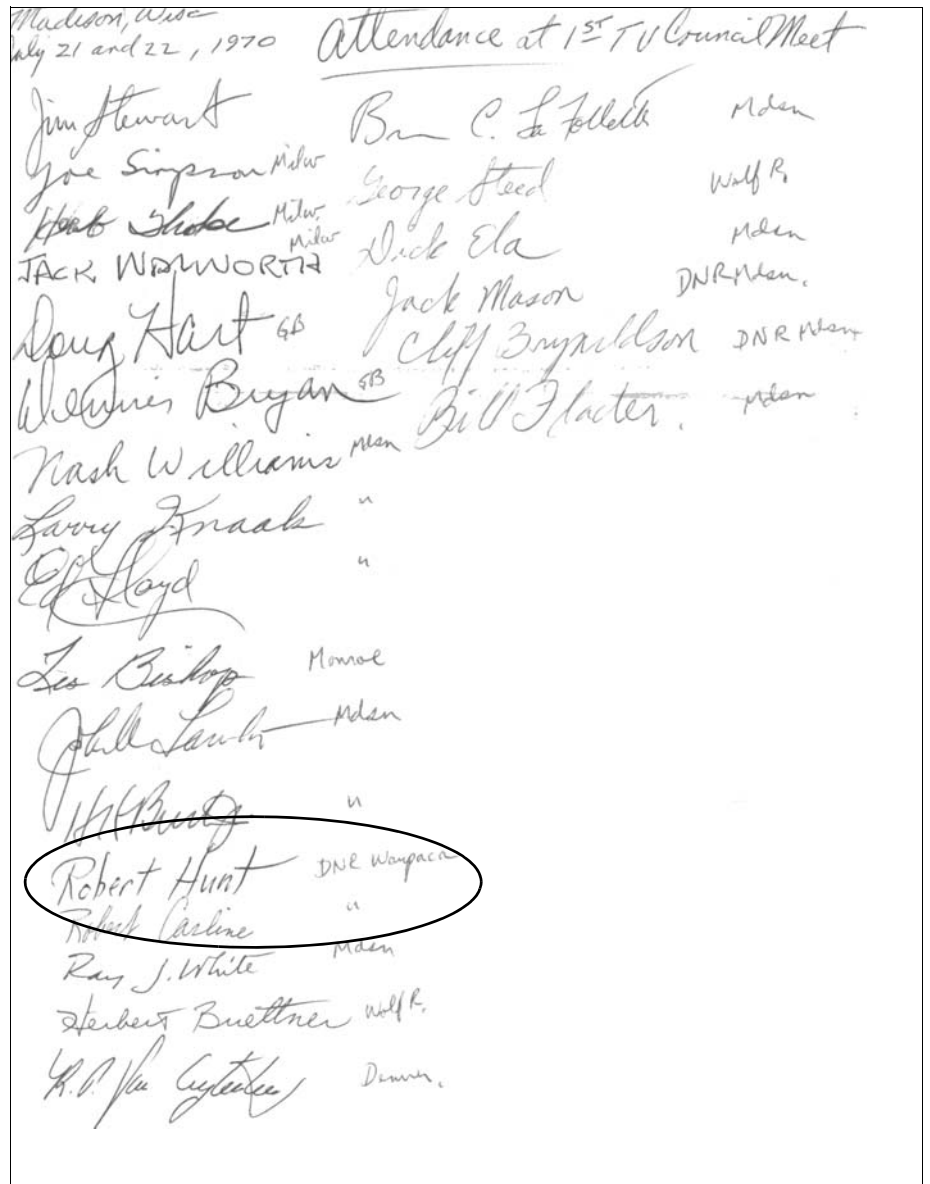
At that time, Flaherty was on the Natural Resources Board, and he mentioned a trout stamp in a January 1976 story in the old *Wisconsin Natural Resources Bulletin*.

"In West Central Wisconsin we have managed to ruin just about all of our clear, spring-fed trout streams and small rivers with a combination of poor farming, unwise road building and maintenance, and thoughtless industrial and residential 'development,'" he wrote.

"Yet back at the headwaters of all these streams there still are the clear, cold, spring waters, and we

can help God restore these streams with some money and elbow-grease and some time for healing. I am convinced that one of the things necessary to accomplish this is the willingness of trout fishermen to saddle themselves with a Trout Stamp, the proceeds of which would be earmarked to acquire stream rights and improve stream conditions."

Flaherty also helped found the Coulee Region Chapter of TU and the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin, an organization that works to acquire and preserve nature areas for public use.



Consider Proper Release

The future of trout fishing is in your hands!

Practice these CPR steps to help ensure the fish you release have their best chance of survival.

- 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.

BOB HUNT INVOLVED WITH WITU FROM THE BEGINNING
 This is the sign-in sheet (top) from the very first WITU State Council meeting in Madison July 21-22, 1970. Bob Hunt was in attendance (signature circled) to provide input from the WDNR. One of Hunt's biggest impacts on trout numbers was his development of the five Consider Proper Release steps (bottom) the State Council started promoting in the mid 1990s.

Viroqua hosts June State Council meeting

By Todd Hanson

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited welcomed representatives from 17 of its 21 chapters to the Viroqua Hospital for the summer State Council meeting on June 15.

Meeting highlights included a new DNR trout management proposal affecting northeastern Wisconsin, news on the state's stewardship program, and updates on WITU's hosting of this year's TU National annual meeting (*see p. 1*).

Stewardship Fund easement spending to increase

WDNR Fisheries Bureau Director Mike Staggs gave the council an update on proposed changes to the state's major land purchasing program, the Stewardship Fund.

At the time of the meeting, the Legislature had inserted a provision into the state budget mandating that 2/3 of Stewardship Fund's spending over the next two years be used only for easement purchases.

While this easement provision would throw a wrench into many traditional Stewardship purchases, Staggs noted that the provision could be a boon to the fisheries department where streambank easements are often the preferred way to increase public access due to their cost-effective nature.

The Governor did not veto this easement spending provision, so we should see greatly expanded public fishery easement purchases via the Stewardship Fund over the next two years.

It was noted that one fishing easement model is found in Dane County, where money is regularly allocated through the Parks Department to buy streambank easements. Dane County foresees a time when there will be public access on all county trout streams.

NE Wisconsin trout habitat coordinator position

Staggs updated the council on the special Northeast Region "trout coordinator" position he has mentioned at previous meetings.

The person in this position would try to do for the DNR what TU's Jeff Hastings does for the TUDARE program in the Driftless Area — coordinate region-wide

habitat work, seek out trout-related land purchases, and leverage private and federal money to make trout stamp funds go further.

Staggs said DNR has approval to hire this coordinator. He or she will be based in Shawano.

Kim McCarthy, our DNR liaison, will represent WITU on the interview panel. Staggs expects the position to be filled later this fall.

Stream Girls program preview

WITU Women's Chair Heidi Oberstadt updated the council on the Stream Girls program she has been working on.

Stream Girls is a national pilot program TU is doing in collaboration with the Girl Scouts of America. The event took place June 20–22 in Stevens Point (*see the separate story on p. 1*).

TU Wisconsin license plate

Final artwork has been submitted to the WDOT for the TU license plate. It features a leaping brook trout and the TU logo by artist Neal Aspinall who made a name for himself doing ad campaigns for many of our national parks.

This legislation may be voted on this legislative session or next fall.

WITU on Thrivent donor list

Thrivent Choice Dollars is a charitable giving program. WITU is now listed as a beneficiary of the insurance company's program.

This is part of the council's goal to generate different streams of revenue.

EAS funds three WI projects

TU's Embrace-A-Stream (EAS) habitat program has awarded grants to Wisconsin's Aldo Leopold, Kiap-TU-Wish, and WI Clear Waters chapters.

The EAS program recently prioritized projects to help determine which proposals get funding. In descending order of importance, EAS will try to benefit endangered fish, threatened fish, native fish, wild fish, and stocked fish.

Future applications should also try to show how EAS funding will be leveraged with other sources of funding.

Henry Koltz is currently the Great Lakes Region representative on the EAS Review Committee, and any WI chapter looking to apply for

Council makes it official: no public access, no TU work

WITU chapters have always been reluctant to take on stream restoration projects where direct public access is not available. This has been an "unwritten rule." It was suggested that the State Council make this a formal policy.

After being presented at the June State Council meeting by Henry Koltz, the following statement was discussed and passed:

"It is the official policy of the WI State Council of Trout Unlimited that neither it, nor its chapters, shall engage in stream restoration activities unless the projects shall be publicly accessible via stream corridor land access in perpetuity. Exception to this policy may be made only in rare instances and only upon approval of the WI Council of Trout Unlimited."

The wording "in perpetuity" relating to the easement was discussed. It was noted that exceptions to this situation would be considered on a case-by-case basis per the second sentence of the policy. It was also noted that this policy statement has been cleared by TU National staff.

EAS grants should touch base with Henry prior to applying.

Penokee Hills tour Aug. 9–11

A tour of the Penokee Hills is being organized by the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation Aug. 9–11.

We would like to have TU members help with the Bad River Watershed tours. Contact Bill Heart or Henry Koltz if you or any of your chapter members can assist. A handout with details of the event was distributed to all in attendance and is available to members.

Hanson stepping down

Todd Hanson said the October issue will be his last as *Wisconsin Trout* editor. Todd Franklin of the Aldo Leopold Chapter was introduced as the new editor.

A motion by Duke Welter thanking Hanson for his 14 years of service was unanimously seconded and passed.

TU National revamping website

TU National's revamped website will include the ability of chapters to have their sites hosted by TU National, much like WITU's website currently does. More info to come.

Council donations

The State Council approved \$2,000 contributions to both TUDARE and the WI League of Conservation Voters.

Fall meeting in Ashland

The fall State Council meeting will be Sat., Oct. 19, in Ashland.

(*Read the complete meeting minutes at www.WisconsinTU.org.*)



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Fly fishing instructor class set for July 13 in Fitchburg

A fly fishing instructor certification class will be offered Saturday, July 13, from 9–3 p.m. at the WDNR South Central Regional Headquarters at 3911 Fish Hatchery Drive, about one mile south of the Beltline Highway in Fitchburg, WI.

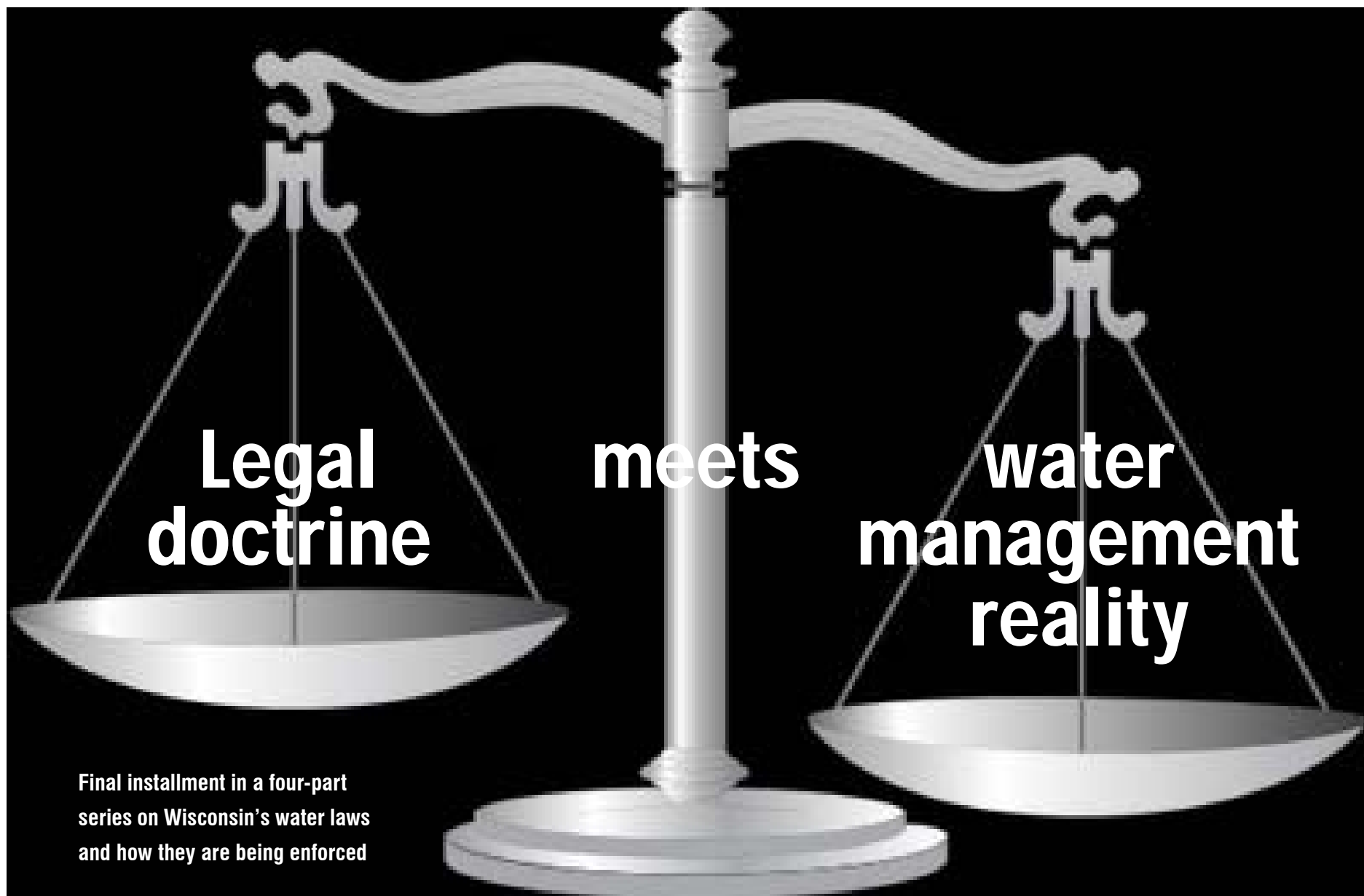
This certification class will be presented by Theresa Stabo, WDNR director of angler education, and Dennis Vanden Bloomen, UW-Stout fly fishing instructor and past president of the WI Clear Waters Chapter of TU.

New fly fishing program

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.



Melissa Scanlan is the Water Law and Policy Scholar at the University of Wisconsin Law School, and a recent article of hers appeared in *Ecology Law Quarterly* that offers fresh insight into Wisconsin's water laws and how they are being enforced. We began serializing her article last fall, and this installment marks the end of the series.

Previous installments have focused on the challenges facing the Water Specialists at the WDNR who are charged with enforcing the state's water

laws. Scanlan spoke with 2/3 of the WDNR's Water Specialists from every part of the state. She quoted them directly, but *anonymously*, so we get an unvarnished view of the problems they face performing their jobs.

In this final installment, we hear some recommendations from people with decades of experience working in natural resources administration.

The author also offers her suggestions for how to move forward given the problems identified in this series.

Political favoritism is tipping the scales in favor of private riparians over the public interest

By Melissa Scanlan

One Water Specialist states, "I have worked through four secretaries and four governors, and things have changed radically since I started. We're no longer doing any training. We're no longer meeting. We are asked to give input after upper management has already made a decision. And po-



Melissa Scanlan

litical interference is now commonplace."³⁷⁴

Some scholars critique the public trust doctrine as embodying antidemocratic — courts thwart majority rule within the legislative branch by closely scrutinizing statutes to independently determine whether the legislature is carrying out its duty to protect the public interest in trust resources.³⁷⁵ But others argue the courts are necessary to correct flaws in democracy.³⁷⁶

Professor James Huffman critiques a resort to "nondemocratic courts" in public trust cases.³⁷⁷ Other commentators too have criticized the doctrine on the grounds that it involves "antidemocratic judicial interference in matters properly left to the political branches."³⁷⁸ However, the general argument that judges are "democratically unaccountable" in public trust cases is unconvincing in states where voters elect judges.³⁷⁹ In Wisconsin, public trust cases are litigated in state court, where the judges are democratically elected.³⁸⁰

Further, Professor Huffman argues against grounding the public trust doctrine in the law of trusts, claiming that "[t]he trust

concept contradicts democratic theory by separating the state, as trustee, from the public, as beneficiary, as if they are two distinct entities."³⁸¹ He ascribes to a theory of democracy in which "the people act as an entity through the democratic legislature."³⁸² Hence, using his rubric, the state and people are one and the same, meaning the trustee and beneficiary are similarly unified. As will be discussed below, this empirical study indicates that Professor Huffman's theories are based on foundations that do not match reality in Wisconsin. When elected officials advocate for increasing private riparian rights in shared water, it is difficult to see how the state and public rights in the water commons are unified.

By contrast, Professor Joseph Sax acknowledges the potential for implementation problems and argues for strict judicial review to correct "perceived imperfections in the legislative and administrative process."³⁸³ He cites Wisconsin's court decisions as examples of appropriate judicial intervention to correct systemic defects.³⁸⁴ He describes Wisconsin's courts as necessary to "identify and correct those situations in which it is most

likely that there has been an inequality of access to, and influence with, decision makers so that there is a grave danger that the democratic processes are not working effectively."³⁸⁵ This article builds on Professor Sax's work by showing, through an empirical study, the flaws in democracy that are exacerbated when systems provide for political favoritism and special treatment over evenhandedness in decision making. In this context, judicial review is critical to provide an objective balancing of private and public rights in water.

In addition to judicial review, DNR's administration of the trust should be improved not to insulate it entirely from politics, but to place science and the law at the center of decision making about public waters. To maintain legitimacy as a trustee, DNR must apply law and science evenhandedly to decisions, despite pressure to the contrary. According to former DNR Secretary George Meyer, "unpopular decisions are inevitable with natural resource management, and especially with water management."³⁸⁶ This occurs because "there are riparian property owners who want to develop their property on one³⁸⁷ end of spec-

trum and the common public resource on the other, and these interests tend to meet on the shoreline.³⁸⁷ Former Secretary Meyer concluded, “There is incredible tension between short-term individual interests and the common good. The shoreline where these tensions meet is the most sensitive area and improper activities can have serious damage.”³⁸⁸ In his view, Water Specialists need to be protected from political pressure so they can apply law and science to “make the tough resource decisions.”³⁸⁹

This is not to say that administrative agencies are or should be “apolitical bodies applying specialized expertise to essentially technical problems.”³⁹⁰ However, former Secretary Meyer’s point is that political influence over agency decisions undermines fairness and agency credibility when the rule of law and application of science are secondary to political connections.³⁹¹ This research shows that many Water Specialists perceive they are not being protected from excessive political pressure, and that there is an inequality in access to and influence over decision makers that weakens DNR’s credibility in serving as a trustee.

External political pressure comes in a variety of forms, from legislators or their aides, to the Governor’s appointees and top managers. When DNR is influenced by the acts of these parties on behalf of an individual’s private interest at the expense of the public’s interest, DNR’s actions run afoul of its duty to the beneficiaries of the trust and undermines credibility of the agency’s decisions.

As shown in Table 2 and described more fully below, legislators or their aides have contacted a majority of Water Specialists interviewed on behalf of a private property owner. Similarly, DNR upper management or the Governor’s Office has tried to influence a majority of Water Specialists based on political favoritism. However, most striking is that all upper management and political appointee interviewees, who see the statewide impact of actions and are in regular contact with elected officials, described this favoritism as undesirable and problematic for sound natural resource management.

Part II.E describes the founding structure of DNR leadership and compares it to today’s structure, which was put in place in 1995 when Governor Thompson and the legislature made the Secretary a gubernatorial appointee. My empirical study indicates this structural change has allowed an increasing amount of political influence over agency decisions regarding public waters. Moreover, this political influence has impacted Water Specialists, who are responding to pressure from legislators and the Governor’s Office, further distancing legal theory — what should happen under the

law — from reality — what does happen under the law.

1. Legislators Put Pressure on Water Specialists to Benefit One Constituent’s Private Interests over the Public Interest

According to Wisconsin’s public trust law, the legislature is the primary trustee of the state’s navigable waters.³⁹⁵

Individual legislators, accordingly, have a constitutional duty to protect the public’s interest in Wisconsin’s waters.³⁹⁶ However, this constitutional duty bumps up against the responsibility legislators feel to promote the interests of their private riparian constituents.

A majority of Water Specialists have had legislators or their aides contact them on behalf of a private riparian.³⁹⁷ One new Water Specialist noted legislators have tried to influence up to twelve of his decisions over the past two and half years.³⁹⁸ Sometimes, these contacts merely seek more information from DNR. More often, however, elected officials or their aides are actively trying to influence the Water Specialist’s permit decision or enforcement action to favor private individual interests over the broader public interest in waters.³⁹⁹ In one case, a state legislator yelled at a Water Specialist and “ordered DNR to fire me, but the Water Division Administrator stood up for me” and told the legislator that “[you] can’t harass public employees.”⁴⁰⁰

Another Water Specialist observed that legislative pressure on individual permit decisions is “the norm now so I am used to dealing with it. I don’t think it impacts my decisions, but it does get a lot more people involved and makes things more time consuming.”⁴⁰¹ This is not a minor consideration when the agency is focused on time management to remedy a shrinking workforce.

2. Political Favoritism and Control Exerted by the Governor’s Political Appointees in the Central Office

“I lack support from management to back my decisions. The Secretary is appointed by the Governor and that plays big into how the DNR operates. I have worked

When DNR is influenced by the acts of these parties on behalf of an individual’s private interest at the expense of the public’s interest, DNR’s actions run afoul of its duty to the beneficiaries of the trust and undermines credibility of the agency’s decisions.

A retired DNR staffer...observed that there used to be a “dialogue;” the vast majority of decisions were within parameters of what statutes required and only a handful of cases were determined based on political pressure.

*under three secretaries and this last one has been the worst.”*⁴⁰²

According to accounts by a majority of the DNR staff interviewed and all upper managers interviewed in this study, some politically connected people get special treatment during the permit process or an enforcement action.⁴⁰³ A Water Specialist

observed that permit applicants know they “should contact the Governor because that will get a response.”⁴⁰⁴ Sometimes this special treatment stems from a relationship between a riparian landowner and an elected official;

other times it is because the entity is another government entity, and increasingly, because the entity is a “job creator.”⁴⁰⁵ Moreover, these strong accounts of political influence are likely linked to the politicized position of the DNR Secretary. One Water Specialist highlighted that “we haven’t had a lot of experienced natural resource managers as Secretary of DNR” since Governor Thompson made the Secretary a political appointee.⁴⁰⁶ Secretary George Meyer, who was the last Secretary appointed by the Natural Resources Board, was also the last Secretary who had “come up through the ranks.”⁴⁰⁷

In 1995, Governor Thompson made the DNR Secretary a political appointee in the Governor’s Cabinet. From the creation of DNR in 1965 until 1995, a seven-member Natural Resources Board had selected the head of DNR.⁴⁰⁸ While

the Governor appointed the members of the Natural Resources Board, they had staggered terms, so a typical board was composed of appointees from different governors.⁴⁰⁹ This structure made the Nat-

ural Resources Board more politically balanced in its composition, and arguably a better reflection of democracy.⁴¹⁰

Attorney Peter Peshek recalled that the theory behind a Natural Resources Board appointment was that “natural resources were so important to citizens that they needed to be treated differently. We needed to create a check and balance system that separated DNR decisions from immediate political concerns of the moment.”⁴¹¹ Peshek added, “that rationale is still sound.”⁴¹²

One retired DNR staffer also reflected on the agency’s founding. He joined DNR when the agency was just beginning, and remembered that the legislature designed the original structure to focus attention on sound management of natural resources based on science and the law.⁴¹³ Originally, the Natural Resources Board managed the agency, and were somewhat insulated from political

interference.⁴¹⁴ He noted that Wisconsin’s legislature had strong bipartisan support for establishing this appointment structure and creating the DNR.⁴¹⁵

Former DNR Secretary Meyer added another layer of understanding to the significance of having a Governor-appointed Secretary rather than a Natural Resources Board appointment. Secretary Meyer served as DNR Secretary from 1993 to 2001.⁴¹⁶ He is the only Secretary who was appointed by the Natural Resources Board and then reappointed by a governor as a cabinet member, so he offers this unique perspective: DNR Secretaries work within a political world regardless of whether appointed by a Board or a Governor.⁴¹⁷ “The Natural Resources Board only appointed people who they thought could weather that political storm.”⁴¹⁸ However, under a Natural Resources Board appointment, there was a higher level of stability, and the leadership was experienced and competent, according to Former Secretary Meyer.⁴¹⁹ To underscore his point, he noted that from 1953 to 1995, under Natural Resources Board appointments, there were only four secretaries.⁴²⁰ While Governor Thompson reappointed and retained the Secretary Meyer in 1995, he was the last Secretary with any longevity. After Secretary Meyer left, between 2001 and 2011, governors have appointed four secretaries.⁴²¹

Critics of the Natural Resource Board appointment system argued that this appointment structure made DNR unaccountable. Governor Thompson moved the head of the agency into the Governor’s Cabinet and made DNR answer to a statewide elected official — the Governor — to mitigate this criticism. DNR’s new accountability to the Governor cuts both ways. It can lead to political favoritism that damages trust resources and it can lead to greater protections for the public trust, depending on how the power is wielded.

Governor Doyle’s administration’s actions fell at both ends of the spectrum. He entered office with a campaign promise to restore the independence of the DNR Secretary and return to a Natural Resources Board appointment, but changed his mind and ultimately vetoed a bill aimed at making the Secretary an appointee of the Natural Resources Board.⁴²²

When asked about the Governor’s change of position, his top Water Division Administrator Todd Ambs observed, “the Governor found he could do a lot of good things for the environment by being able to tell the Secretary ‘do this.’”⁴²³ For example, Governor Doyle was instrumental in pushing DNR to consider the public trust when issuing groundwater permits.⁴²⁴ Prior to Governor Doyle’s administration, DNR’s position when issuing high-capacity well groundwater permits was that it could not investigate or protect against harm to navigable waters.⁴²⁵ Governor Doyle’s position was that the public trust doctrine extended to decisions about high-capacity well groundwater permits, and DNR took this position for the first time in the *Lake Beulah* case.⁴²⁶

On balance, however, former Water Division Administrator Todd Ambs supports restoring the original system of a Natural Resources Board appointed Secretary.⁴²⁷

Continued on p. 8

TABLE 2: Political influence over DNR water decisions

Number of water specialists interviewed	19
Number of water specialists who had been contacted by a legislator or aide on behalf of a private riparian ³⁹²	12
Number of water specialists who identified a problem with political favoritism ³⁹³	10
Percentage of upper management who identified a problem with political favoritism ³⁹⁴	100

Continued from p. 7

He noted that with such a change the Governor will still have power, but the control will be stagered and muted, which will be positive for water protections.⁴²⁸

A retired DNR staffer who worked through seven different administrations and secretaries experienced firsthand the significance of the change in management structure to a Governor-appointed DNR Secretary and a dismantled Public Intervenor's Office.⁴²⁹ Upon reflection about what motivated decisions at DNR in the late 1990s compared to a decade later, he observed that there used to be a "dialogue;" the vast majority of decisions were within parameters of what statutes required and only a handful of cases were determined based on political pressure.⁴³⁰ He further stated that now there is "a pervasive problem at DNR that goes well beyond the water program;" DNR is abandoning reasonable interpretations of the law and science for politically connected applicants.⁴³¹

This longtime staffer saw political interference with natural resource management as a bipartisan issue.⁴³² Former Secretary Meyer likewise observed, "The Governor's influence over DNR is bipartisan; the only difference is they have different friends asking for favors."⁴³³ He added, "If you're a business that wants permits issued when they shouldn't be issued, there are a lot of benefits to having the Governor control

DNR."⁴³⁴ Attorney Peter Peshek, who has represented numerous permit applicants before DNR, could not agree more. He reflected, "Our experience since 1995 under both political parties demonstrates without question that we need to go back to a board-appointed secretary. This is [a] paramount driver to ensure quality regulatory decision making."⁴³⁵

Additionally, this research revealed that Water Specialists were troubled and embarrassed about the unfairness with which DNR management was treating "mom-and-

pop" applicants as compared to politically connected people.⁴³⁶ There are two processes: regular applicants must send their permit applications to an intake specialist in Green Bay or Madison, forego an on-site meeting with field staff prior to filing an application, and follow the law; politically connected applicants can simply meet directly with the Secretary or Governor's office to get management's support for their project on their terms.⁴³⁷ Put simply, "Mom-and-pop applicants are going to have a harder time."⁴³⁸

Attorney Peter Peshek...reflected, "Our experience since 1995 under both political parties demonstrates without question that we need to go back to a board-appointed secretary. This is [a] paramount driver to ensure quality regulatory decision making."

Some Water Specialists are concerned that Central Office political appointees and upper management are trying to regularly issue permits to politically connected applicants.⁴³⁹ An upper manager within the Central Office defended this move as "helping" staff review "wetland decisions that are controversial."⁴⁴⁰ He fol-

lowed this explanation with an honest assessment that "managers feel they need to be more involved with a particular project when they're being asked about it by the Secretary or Governor's Offices."⁴⁴¹ But when one Wa-

ter Specialist opposed the "we're here to help you" approach because he thought it was "code word for issuing permits for projects the scientific field staff would not allow," he said an upper manager in the Central Office sent him a strongly worded rebuke.⁴⁴²

Peter Peshek discussed that this type of politicization may cause decreased morale and increased turnover:

I've known senior managers who have left the agency over this issue because it undermines maintaining professionalism. It is a

frustrating situation that causes a lot of staff turnover. While people have a right to petition their government, we need to filter petitioning the government in a way that creates appropriate and reasonable standards and then allows application of the standards to individual facts. Removing DNR Secretary from the Governor's cabinet and returning to a Natural Resources Board appointment would minimize this type of permitting by upper managers.⁴⁴³

For example, political overreaching and favoritism influenced the permit process for the Title Town Development in Green Bay. There the field staff refused to issue a permit to fill approximately 1.65 acres of wetlands because the developer owned another site where it could build the development without filling wetlands.⁴⁴⁴ Similarly, when an applicant has "practical alternatives" to filling wetlands, that applicant generally works with a Water Specialist to redesign the project to comply with public trust regulations, but this applicant refused to redesign the project and "went to the Secretary's office" to get the project approved.⁴⁴⁵ The applicant never met the "practical alternatives" test.⁴⁴⁶ Instead, the Water Division Administrator, Bruce Baker, approved the project over the objection of the Water Specialist, DNR legal staff, and another upper manager, and applied a nonexistent legal standard that looked at the "net environmental benefit" of the

Scanlan's recommendations: our way forward

Part II [of this series] shows that, despite court opinions granting wide latitude to the trustees to protect public waters in accordance with a well-developed public trust doctrine, there are significant systemic barriers to DNR's ability to act as a vigilant trustee. I recommend a variety of options focused on combating these problems to protect public trust waters. Some require legislative action, others require DNR internal action, and still others require strategic partnerships, targeted philanthropy, and an active role by the public beneficiaries of the trust.

A. Restore DNR Secretary appointment by the Natural Resources Board

DNR needs to have leadership that is experienced in natural resource management, accountable to the public, stable, and evenhanded. In my earlier work on this subject, I recommended restoring DNR Secretary appointment by the Natural Resources Board in order to provide this type of leadership.⁴⁷¹ I hesitate to recommend this again because it was not implemented during the preceding decade.⁴⁷² Yet, the 2010–11 research interviews underscore the importance of this structural change so much so that these recommendations would be incomplete without it. The DNR Secretary's appointment should be conducted consistent with the founding structure of DNR. The Secretary should once again be appointed by the Natural Resources Board and serve regardless of short-term gubernatorial election cycles.

While some may argue this is undemocratic,⁴⁷³ reverting to the original appointment structure will actually aid in making the implementation of the public trust more democratic and representative of the public as a whole; the current system allows so much political favoritism that it thwarts the public interest in upholding the rule of law. While the water trustees' decisions should not be made in an apolitical bubble, water management decisions must first and foremost be based on science and fact-specific, evenhanded applications of the law. By returning the appointment of the DNR Secretary to the Natural Resources Board, the leadership structure will be better aligned with DNR's trustee duties to act on behalf of the interests of the broad-based public rather than individuals with political connections.

Former Water Administrator Todd Ambs and DNR Secretary George Meyer both reflected the desire that the position of DNR Secretary be removed from the Governor's Cabinet and, instead, be appointed by the Natural Resources Board.⁴⁷⁴ "Governors want power; this is what they are made out of, but they can still influence policy without getting directly involved in permit decisions. We need to protect water managers from politics because unpopular decisions are inevitable with natural resource management," said former Secretary Meyer. This imperative was echoed by veteran attorney Peter Peshek, who declared: "It is without question

that the public trust doctrine, over generations, will be best advanced if the DNR Secretary is appointed by the Natural Resources Board. It was a terrible mistake to have the Governor appoint the Secretary. We need to return to a Natural Resources Board appointment in order to avoid excess in both directions — regulated interests versus environmental advocates."⁴⁷⁵

Restoring the selection and removal of the DNR Secretary to the Natural Resources Board is necessary so DNR staff are able to act as trustees of the state's waters and make tough natural resource decisions on an evenhanded basis.⁴⁷⁶

B. Reinvigorate and bolster DNR water specialists' training

The recent move by DNR to eliminate rigorous training of the Water Specialists should be remedied by prioritizing and shifting resources into training. Placing poorly trained Water Specialists into the field to apply a complex system of statutes and regulations to the often contentious line between public waters and private property is shortsighted. According to former DNR Secretary George Meyer, "Cutting training is a mistake no matter what people's philosophies are about water protections. You end up with inefficient and poor decision making without substantial training of employees."⁴⁷⁷ He added that any business or organizational leader "knows that training staff is the best money you can spend."⁴⁷⁸ To increase the ability of Water Specialists to make sound permit decisions, identify violations, and know how to efficiently enforce the law, DNR needs to focus on staff training.

C. Secure a more reliable source of funding for water specialists' positions

Water Specialists are funded by General Program Revenue, and thus, when the state cuts budgets, these positions are the first ones to go. This job instability adds to the undesirability of this position within the agency, contributes to high turnover, and increases the difficulty of filling vacancies. According to former Water Division Administrator Ambs, "90 percent of all the problems I saw with poor protections for water were budget problems."⁴⁷⁹

Former Administrator Ambs and Former DNR Secretary Meyer support the idea of placing a real estate transfer tax on residential riparian properties to fund DNR's water protections.⁴⁸⁰ Yet both recognize the political difficulties of obtaining this funding source unless riparian property owners and realtors see the financial benefits of clean and well-managed waters via increased property values. "It is in land owners' interest to do this, but we need to show them the way," said former Secretary Meyer.⁴⁸¹

Continued on next page

project.⁴⁴⁷ Even an upper manager found it “disturbing that the Secretary’s Office approved something that didn’t meet state standards.”⁴⁴⁸ He also noted: “[T]he impact of this on staff was serious. The Secretary’s Office cut staff off at the knees. This harms morale and retention.”⁴⁴⁹

After Wisconsin’s Wetland Association, a public trust beneficiary, challenged the Title Town Development wetland filling approval, one of Governor Walker’s first acts as a new Governor was to sign a law retroactively exempting this project from state wetland laws, which made the legal challenge moot.⁴⁵⁰ However, Bass Pro Shops, which was going to be the anchor tenant of the new development, then took its business elsewhere because it did not want to be located on a filled wetland.⁴⁵¹

Reflecting on the Title Town controversy, a senior retired staffer said, “While people had concerns about the [Republican] Thompson Administration, we still had administrators who were capable, competent and committed to carrying out statutes.”⁴⁵² He added that under the [Democratic] Doyle Administration, “there was significant erosion of having DNR staff carry out the law. This was accomplished by reducing field and legal staff participation in decision making, especially if they had the temerity to object to something the Administration wanted.”⁴⁵³ Thus, the political pressures are likely bipartisan and resonate from the po-

litical status of the Secretary’s position rather than from the party that happens to be in power.

Some Governor appointees have also pushed DNR to shift its focus from protecting natural resources to creating jobs. For example, under Governor Doyle, in the summer of 2010 DNR created a committee to review the wetland program to “see if there was any flexibility in the rules to allow them to consider job creation.”⁴⁵⁴ All the while “legal staff have been saying there is no explicit authorization for DNR to even consider jobs.”⁴⁵⁵ An upper manager was also concerned about having DNR focus on jobs and economics “when this is not [DNR’s] area of expertise.”⁴⁵⁶ He explained DNR would need very clear standards if they were to consider jobs when evaluating a problem; “without standards, our decisions are more easily subjected to political pressure.”⁴⁵⁷

Finally, political favoritism influences some enforcement decisions. One Water Specialist noted that “people feel they’re not being treated equally when they see oth-

ers with political connections get off without paying a fine.”⁴⁵⁸ An experienced Water Specialist said that he recently experienced this favoritism for the first time, but hoped it “doesn’t become the new norm.”⁴⁵⁹ This Water Specialist commenced a formal enforcement and referral process against a business that filled wetlands with-

out a permit.⁴⁶⁰ After a state legislator met with upper management, he said that “they told me this wasn’t a good candidate for referral because this is a business that is supporting jobs and DNR doesn’t want to be seen as going after a job creator.”⁴⁶¹

In an urban part of the state, a Water Specialist experienced this favoritism toward another governmental entity that hired contractors who damaged water resources. The contractors excavated the foundation of a building that was a known source of hazardous material, which released polychlorinated biphenyls into the river.⁴⁶² The contractor did not report the spill, but the Water Specialist found the violations during a regular inspection.⁴⁶³ He also commenced a formal enforcement referral when his

“regional manager said we couldn’t enforce because this was one of our partners.”⁴⁶⁴ This unusual Water Specialist ignored upper management and went directly to a DNR attorney to move the enforcement forward, an action for which he was reprimanded by upper management.⁴⁶⁵

The system of having the Governor appoint the DNR Secretary, and with no Public Intervenor’s Office to serve as a counterbalance, puts DNR staff in a situation where DNR employees ask whether their job will be jeopardized if they make a decision that does not promote job growth.⁴⁶⁶ Excessive political influence “is being done by people who are bright, ambitious, and loyal to their political bosses. The problem is that their perspective is a two- to four-year election cycle and making sure their boss/party remains in power.”⁴⁶⁷ Political manipulation of DNR is a non-partisan endeavor; while present under Republican Governor Thompson, it was at an all-time high under Democratic Governor Doyle, and the start of Republican Governor Walker’s administration is on track to break all past records.⁴⁶⁸ A retired staffer emphasized, “[Political favoritism] should concern everyone because when you come to DNR you should have confidence that there is a principled review of a project.”⁴⁶⁹ Systemic changes are needed to counter this trend in order to protect the public trust in Wisconsin’s waters.

“[Political favoritism] should concern everyone because when you come to DNR you should have confidence that there is a principled review of a project.” Systemic changes are needed to counter this trend in order to protect the public trust in Wisconsin’s waters.

Scanlan’s recommendations, continued

Continued from previous page

Education efforts, drawing on peer-reviewed research about the link between well managed waters and riparian property values, are needed to build a base of support for water regulations generally, and new sources of revenue to support DNR’s water program specifically.

D. Educate riparian landowners about how to improve their property values and protect the public trust in navigable waters

Water Specialists emphasized the importance of educating riparian landowners about how riparians impact public waters, why water protections exist, and how riparian and public rights can coexist within a shared water resources system. However, Water Specialists conducted this education on a piecemeal basis when meeting a riparian applicant, if at all.

Nongovernmental and trade organizations with riparian landowner members have an important role to play in protecting the public trust by educating their members. A partnership between groups like the Wisconsin Association of Lakes, the Wisconsin River Alliance, the Wisconsin Realtors Association, University of Wisconsin–Extension, and DNR, focused on educating riparian landowners, could have positive benefits for the state’s shared waters.

One method for achieving this goal is for these organizations to produce an “Owner’s Manual” that agents could provide to a riparian property owner at the closing of any transfer of riparian property.⁴⁸² The manual could serve to educate property owners about the value of clean water to their property, best management practices, the purpose of existing laws, and the activities that require permits. According to attorney Peter Peshek, “This would have a very positive impact, make it easier on riparian landowners to understand best management practices, and take away riparian excuses that they didn’t understand what they were supposed to do.”⁴⁸³ A riparian owner’s manual could serve to educate and encourage voluntary efforts to protect shared waters across the state.

E. Target water monitoring to assess impact of deregulation

Recently Wisconsin has deregulated activities on and around the water, increased DNR’s use of self-certified general permits, and reduced the number of DNR staff involved in compliance evaluations. Former Secretary Meyer underscored the importance of increasing monitoring of waterways in a time of deregulation: “We need to increase monitoring to see what’s going on with all the exemptions and general permits so we can see if we’ve gone too far.”⁴⁸⁴ He added, “We need a feedback loop to see

whether the decisions to deregulate are working well for everyone or whether we are having an adverse long-term impact on water.”⁴⁸⁵ Universities, the United States Geological Survey, DNR’s Bureau of Research, and other entities that engage in water-related research should coordinate research agendas to leverage their abilities to measure and assess impacts of deregulation on lakes and rivers. Peer-reviewed publications of this research could help inform future policy decisions about the level of regulatory protection needed to manage public waters. Coordinated research is needed to assess the ecological impacts of DNR’s reduced management of water resources.

F. Increase public trust beneficiaries’ enforcement efforts

Although DNR should take corrective actions to increase enforcement of water protections, given current budget cuts, public trust beneficiaries — members of the public who use and enjoy the state’s waters — need to get more involved in enforcing water protections. Beneficiaries’ active enforcement of these laws can help to promote compliance by private riparian property owners and legislation with public trust requirements. Philanthropists with an eye toward water protections should build the capacity of nonprofit environmental groups to engage in legal actions to protect public rights in navigable waters. Private party enforcement should serve as a counterbalance to the “wild west” attitude that has emerged in response to DNR’s reduced enforcement capacity. Given the limited ability of DNR or the Attorney General to challenge unconstitutional legislation, private enforcement is also essential to stop the legislature from enacting laws abdicating their trustee responsibilities over the state’s waters.

CONCLUSION

Grounded in its constitution, Wisconsin’s public trust doctrine continues to provide a vibrant overarching legal framework for managing Wisconsin’s shared waters as trust to be used and enjoyed by the public. However, this study has shown that budget cuts, high staff turnover, lack of training, weak enforcement, and decisions based on politics instead of law and science hamper DNR’s implementation of the law. While not a panacea, my recommendations for remedying these implementation obstacles provide a range of options for protecting the water commons: from voluntary educational partnerships aimed at riparian landowners to new funding mechanisms and more vigorous private enforcement, everyone has a role to play in moving Wisconsin forward. Without these or other positive changes, the public trust doctrine will continue to be disconnected from water management reality, and the state will continue to fall short of adequately protecting that which is held in trust for all: Wisconsin’s waters.⁴⁸⁶



Chapter News



ANTIGO CHAPTER BRINGS SMILES TO KIDS

Antigo Chapter President Scott Henricks (top right) presents a brand new bike to Jenna Matuszewski at the chapter's Kids Fishing Day in Antigo June 1. Member Larry Marmes (below left) helps a boy land a big one.

Aldo Leopold Chapter

A successful season of spring workdays was carried out thanks to the efforts of our work-day co-chairs **Scott Allen** and **Todd Franklin**.

Manley Creek in Sauk Co. and **Lodi Spring Creek in Columbia Co.** were brushed, and lunkers were constructed for this year's project on



BLACKHAWK OFFERS HELP FOR HORNBY CREEK

Vernon Co. Land and Water Conservationist Paul Krahn (center) receives funding checks for the Lower Hornby Project from Lee Wulff TU Chapter Conservation Director Jerry Sapp (left) and Blackhawk TU Chapter Treasurer Don Studdt.

Bear Creek in Sauk Co. Many thanks to all of the wonderful volunteers who showed up and helped make these days a success!

A special thanks to the **South-eastern WI Chapter** for once again partnering with us on the lunker building for Bear Creek. Without their invaluable efforts these past three years, we could not have accomplished as much as we have. Thank you!

The Bear Creek project for 2013 will be on the **Sprecher family** pasture. Approximately 6,100 feet of stream will be restored. As of now, thanks to generous financial help from the **DNR**, we expect to have enough funding for the entire stretch. We are still awaiting final **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers** permit approval (and dry weather) for the main project to commence. Hopefully by the time you read this, the excavators will be tapering the banks and the lunkers will be going into place.

Over the winter we received a

\$3,500 grant from **Alliant Energy** to be used for signage and monitoring on Bear Creek. This past spring **Jean Unmuth** from the **DNR** agreed to help us develop a monitoring program. Chapter Secretary **Tom Gawle** has worked closely with Jean to create a multi-year plan that involves seven in-stream data loggers, as well as periodic in-person sampling. We will be gathering data from above, in, and below our project area to help quantify the water quality benefits of restoration. We are grateful for Jean's invaluable assistance in setting up this monitoring program.

By the time you read this, our annual chapter picnic will have occurred on June 19 at **Habermann Park in Lodi**. **Eric Lorenzen** once again supplied his smoked pulled pork, and lots of people and companies supplied prizes for our raffles and auctions. Even though the picnic hasn't happened as I write this, I can say with confidence that a good time was had by all!

—Mike Barniskis

Antigo Chapter

If there is any good thing about the cool weather, it is that we have been getting rain, and that is a very good for the trout. It's been so dry in N.E. Wisconsin for too long.

Antigo TU has been busy this spring. Our annual banquet was held on March 23, and we had 230 people show up for a fun night to help our coldwater resources.

We had **Virgil Beck** at our banquet, and he painted an original painting of a brook trout. We held a raffle and gave away the painting.

After Christmas we went around the community and picked up discarded Christmas trees. We collected over 350 trees. Working with our area **DNR**, the trees were placed in the **East Br. of the Eau Claire R.** at the **Lion's Club Park** five miles north of **Antigo**. A new bank was placed to redirect the water flow to help clean sediment out in front of a fishing dock that the public can fish

from.

Now is the time of the year when the bills start coming for the projects that our chapters help fund. The Antigo Chapter has committed over \$6,600 for projects this summer.

At the end of April we again provided a sponsorship to an upper classman at **UW-Stevens Point** enrolled in the **College of Natural Resources**. This year we gave \$750 in the names of **James Smith** and **Dean Curran**, both founding members of Antigo TU.

We just finished holding our annual Kid's Fishing Day June 1 at **Antigo City Park**. About 400 kids showed up, and the rain held off just long enough to have a fun day for all the kids. The kids caught trout from a fishing tank, and each one received a prize and hamburgers and hot dogs.

—Scott Henricks

Blackhawk Chapter

Blackhawk Chapter has long supported **Madison Shabazz High School's "Project Green Teen"** effort on the **West Fork of the Kickapoo R.**, both financially and physically. This year was no exception, as we donated over \$2,300 toward their program costs. On May 13 five chapter members — **Tom Kautz, Gordon Long, John Lusk, John Miller, and Dave Patrick** — oversaw the construction of lunkers by the Green Teen students. Both the Green Teen and Blackhawk participants were enthusiastic in their remarks about the day!

In addition to the above funding, in April we approved \$5,400 toward other 2013 projects in **Vernon** and **Green** counties. Thanks to the more than \$9,000 raised at our annual banquet the last Monday of April, we will be able to continue support-

ing TU projects in Southwestern Wisconsin over the next 12 months.

Our often-postponed workday on **Hornby Creek** finally took place on May 18 when 17 lunkers were constructed (see attached article). Our second work day for the year on the **Little Sugar R.** in **New Glarus** was held on June 8.

Six chapter members attended the **DNR's Driftless Master Planning** presentation in **Fitchburg** on March 28, and several of them offered their comments, most of which were positive.

Regular chapter meetings of late included planning for the annual banquet and an outdoor meeting at **Sweet Allyn Park** (adjacent to **Turtle Creek**) in **Shopiere**, with fly casting practice and a cookout.

—Dave Hinde

Central Wisconsin Chapter

I am back as the Chapter President for the second time after a two-year break, and I'm looking forward to the challenges. Here is a summary of our major activities and events.

After our April 9 board meeting, **Tim Landwehr** gave an exciting presentation about fishing for peacock

bass in the **Amazon R.** Tim provided wonderful pictures and videos.

On April 11, our very well-known and honored member, **Bob Hunt**, passed away. His funeral was April 20. Our chapter is planning on placing a memorial bench at his favorite stream.

Chapter News



John Gremmer received the **Outstanding Adult Stream Monitor Award** from the **Water Action Volunteers Program** on May 5. John took charge of our **River Keeper** program in 2010. Under his leadership, the program has grown to 25 monitoring teams working across six counties.

We had a very comfortable day May 14 for our Casting and Kayak Clinic at **Marble Park** in **Winneconne**. **Dan Harmon**, **Tracy Moran**, **David Seligman**, **John Gremmer**, and many others worked to make this annual program a success.

Our first workday this year on the **White R.** was truly remarkable. On Sat., May 18, over 40 volunteers from TU's **Central**, **Elliott Donnelley**, and **Fox Valley** chapters worked with the DNR's team led by **Shawn Sullivan**. Our workday coordinator, **Scott Bahn**, had everything well organized and served us a tasty lunch.

We will have three more workdays on the **Mecan R.** and a joint work day on **Parsons Creek** with **SEWTU**.

The 36th annual CWTU Fly Fishing School was held for the second

year at the **Riverside Bible Camp** near **Amherst** on June 1–2. There were 19 students, and all seemed to have a great time. **Dan Harmon III** has run this program since its inception with the help of many volunteers, too many to name here. Congratulations, Dan.

On June 8 longtime member **Bud Meyer** passed away at 91 years of age. I enjoyed working with Bud doing water monitoring on the **Pine** for several years. Some of you will know his sons, **Tim** and **Tom**. Our condolences go to the Meyer family.

Our June board meeting and picnic was June 11 at the **Veterans Park** in **Redgranite**.

The July 9 board meeting and picnic will be at the home of **John** and **Laura Tucker** on the banks of the **Pine R.** near **Saxeville**.

John Tucker, **Mike Sandretto**, and **Linn Beck** attended the **River Alliance of Wisconsin** advocacy training program in **Winneconne** on June 17. We have many issues for which to advocate, but the most important right now is dealing with the proliferation of high-capacity wells.

—*John Tucker*

Coulee Region Chapter

In the Coulee Region Chapter, **Coon Creek Trout Fest** took place on June 15 in **Coon Valley**. This day-long event was co-sponsored by CRTU and the **Coon Valley Business Association**.

Kids had a good time catching newly stocked trout out of from the creek, and the adults had plenty of other events to enjoy. There were fly tying and fly casting demonstra-

tions and lessons.

The vendor tent offered many crafts and products, and there was also plenty of good food and drink on hand.

The classic car show brought in a lot of visitors and music by **The Freezers** entertained the attendees all evening.

—*Curt Rees*

Fox Valley Chapter

Our April membership meeting included the election of officers for the next year. The leadership team

that served the chapter the past year agreed to serve one more term in office.



Rich Erickson

I KNOW THERE'S A BIG ONE IN THERE

A guest tries her luck at Fox Valley TU's Annual Fishing Day for People with Disabilities event.

President – **Joe Bach**

VP – **Tom Lager**

Treasurer – **Al Johnson**

Secretary – **Shawn McMullin**

The chapter was represented at two area churches where members tied flies and promoted Trout Unlimited. The **Calvary Baptist Church** had a Sportsman's Breakfast, and the **Appleton Alliance Church** had their annual Game Dinner.

Our first habitat day was what has become the traditional opener for the year. On April 13 we met with **Elward Engle** at the **Davis Creek** site. That site was one of the very first stream improvement projects that our chapter was involved with many years ago. This year we cleared brush, cut up some downed trees, and built a number of bank covers. The noon lunch cooks, **Jim Hlaban** and **Bob Doornbus**, provid-

ed a great meal to finish the day.

On May 18 our chapter was involved with two events. We worked jointly with the **Central WI Chapter** and the **Elliott Donnelley Chapter** from **Chicago** to move over 500 Christmas trees and form braids in the **White R.** outside of **Wautoma**.

An old-style fire brigade was used to move the trees from the delivery point to the river. We will continue to partner with CWTU on habitat projects this summer.

Our next scheduled habitat day was set for June 15 on the **Mecan R.** Check our website for details.

Our other event on June 18 was the 35th Annual Fishing Day for People with Disabilities. The event was held again at the **Main Creek Farm** pond on the **Killoren Family** property north of **Shiocton**.

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Blackhawk and Lee Wulff chapters tackle Hornby Creek

By **Dave Hinde**

Fifteen Blackhawk Chapter members from the Janesville area were joined by a 19-member contingent from the Lee Wulff Chapter of Illinois for a workday on lower Hornby Creek on May 18.

About half of the Lee Wulff folks set up a field kitchen and began preparing a splendid lunch, while the remainder added strength to the Blackhawk construction crew.

Hornby Hollow is normally a quiet place

where you'll hear birds singing, water gurgling over riffles, the swishing of fly lines, and occasionally a passing car or pickup. But with Dave Patrick and John Lusk directing, for a little under three hours the hollow was filled with the sounds of generators, air compressors, power drills, nail guns, and a chain saw

By Noon it became relatively quiet, and a squadron of 17 lunger structures were lined up, looking somewhat like an anti-tank barrier. By the time you read this, they should al-

ready be installed, as a large Caterpillar backhoe was already at the site, ready to begin the installation process.

Paul Krahn, county conservationist for the Vernon County Land and Water Conservation Department, was on hand to observe the construction. He also received funding checks from both the Blackhawk and Lee Wulff chapters.

The Blackhawk guys extend their thanks to the Lee Wulff gals and guys who fixed that lunch!



Chapter News



Jim Beecher

SWTU HELPS GUESTS GET BACK ON THE WATER

Southern Wisconsin TU sponsored their Special Annual Fishing Day on June 8. There were many bluegills and smiles.

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There were 18 people fishing and a total of 54 people in attendance. Everyone caught fish, enjoyed great weather and the noon meal, and had a chance to share stories of past fishing days.

The person who started the event 35 years ago, **Del Schwaller**, was also in attendance.

We have been busy, but we must remember that our efforts at the lo-

cal level are to continue to protect our natural resources and preserve our important green spaces and the life in it.

Our bug guy, **Tom Lager**, always reminds us to enjoy His creation. It is that time of year that we all look forward to enjoying time on the streams, rivers, ponds, and lakes of Wisconsin. Please check our website at www.foxvalleytu.org.

—*Rich Erickson*



NORTHWOODS RECOGNIZES BILL SHERER

Northwoods TU President Hannah Hansen gave a Special Appreciation Award to former State Council Chair Bill Sherer at the chapter's April banquet. Bill has been a frequent speaker and a dedicated supporter of TU over the years.

Frank Hornberg Chapter

The Frank Hornberg Chapter has a full summer of activities planned. We continue our stream work restoration at our **Tomorrow R.** sites on **Welton Road** and at the **Bob Lea** farm, working both Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings. We welcome anyone in any other chapters to help us with these hands-on, in-stream activities.

Our annual Fly Fishing School was held on May 17–19 at the **Riverside Bible Camp** by **Stedman County Park** south of **Amherst**. Students said they were impressed by the support services and the excellent food, in addition to the training in fly fishing skills. Chapter volunteers—working in instruction, food preparation, and clean-up—were essential to the success of this school. Our thanks to all of them.

We continue to work on ways to create a more diverse population of fly fishers. **Heidi Oberstadt** has been very active in this regard. She has been working with **TU National** and the **Girl Scouts of America** to develop a pilot program to get girl scouts on trout streams. The first session, titled “Stream Girls,” was held at **Jordan Park** in **Portage Co.** June 21–22. Scouts and Brownies who attended learned about water conservation as well as fly fishing. Those participating earned fly fishing badges.

We are also working with a group of **Boy Scouts** in **Wisconsin Rapids**. We plan to have them attend our Ju-

ly 20 workday on the **Tomorrow R.** where they will earn credits for a merit badge.

Our chapter is working with the DNR to complete a restoration project on **Neenah Creek** in **Adams Co.** We have committed financial support to have truckloads of rocks delivered to the site. We believe that it is money well spent, and we encourage other chapters to support this project.

Matt Salchert and **Heidi Oberstadt** attended the **TU–River Alliance of Wisconsin** training workshop in **Winneconne** on June 17. The workshop concentrated on ways to make our influence more effective in legislative matters.

Dan Holland, writer, poet, and longtime member of our chapter, is the author of the recently published *Drawdown*, a contemporary suspense novel set in the fictional central Wisconsin town of **Ashton**. The decision to remove the dam on the trout stream running through **Ashton** leads to surprising developments. Fictional characters in this story include members of the local chapter of Trout Unlimited, employees of the **DNR**, and members of the **River Alliance of Wisconsin**. It's a good read, and we recommend it for its emphasis on the themes of resource management and conservation. *Drawdown* is available as a **Kindle Book** at **Amazon** (see the book review on p. 16 of this issue).

—*John Vollrath*

Green Bay Chapter

The Green Bay Chapter is having a very busy spring and early summer. Our efforts and dedication resulted in completed work projects, an ongoing fish study program, and several other great events so far this year.

On the morning of May 8, more than a dozen chapter members helped the DNR insert floy tags into 1,000 brown trout that ranged from 10–16 inches in length. The fish were tagged and then released into the river. The floy tagging study is a joint effort between the Green Bay Chapter, the **Marinette County Chapter**, **Oconto Electric**, and the **WDNR**. The project is a scientific effort to learn more about brown trout in the lower **Oconto R.**, which connects to the waters of **Green Bay**. The trout are part of a five-year study to learn more about trout movement, growth, and return rate to the river. Each fish was given a numbered orange-colored tag placed near its top fin. If anglers catch any of these tagged trout, they are encouraged to record the number and any unique information about the fish and send it to the DNR at 101 N. Ogden Road, Peshtigo, WI or call (715) 582-5052.

The chapter has also been hard at work with stream work projects. Two full work project days have been dedicated to the **1st S. Br. of the Oconto R.** The project area required a lot of granite rock, and by working together, members moved about 30,000 pounds in three hours

to cover 200 feet of bank.

Other work projects this summer include plans on the **N. Br. of the Oconto R.** near **Wabeno** and the installation of brush bundles on **Nine Mile Creek** north of **Langlade**. The habitat work is paying dividends for the conservation of trout streams in northeast Wisconsin.

The chapter has been busy in other methods of conservation as well. On June 17, several GBTU members attended conservation advocacy training that came out of a new partnership with the **River Alliance of Wisconsin**. The training provided excellent new ways to help protect our vital resources. The chapter is also sponsoring 11 children to attend the **Sand Lake Conservation Camp** in **Marinette Co.** The camp provides positive outdoor education experiences and helps encourage proper appreciation and conservation of nature. The chapter is proud to encourage conservation principles in our youth.

Finally, the chapter is not without some rest and relaxation. On June 8, the chapter gathered for its annual picnic. Then from June 20–23, we took our annual chapter fishing trip. This year the chapter traveled to the **Viroqua** area for good hatches, tight lines, and good time.

The chapter is blessed to have such active and vibrant members. We are hoping to keep this energy carrying forward! Tight lines to all!

—*Aaron Frailing*

Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter

Project work for 2013 will be finishing up the work on the lower end of the **Blue R.** off **Shemack Road**. We are working on about 3,000 feet

below and 1,000 feet above the bridge on **Shemack Road**. The stream banks are very deep here. Some are 12 feet above the water.

Chapter News



We are looking at starting work on another 2,000 feet of the **Blue**, one property upstream of the above work. Under consideration are 4,200 feet on **Big Rock Branch**, a brook trout stream that flows into the Blue a ways up from this last property. Work would be on three properties. All four of these properties are now being submitted for fishing easement so we can do the work.

We have given out over a hundred of TU's *My Healthy Stream* books. We finally got a few more and are distributing them.

Dave Fritz spent **Earth Day** with the students of **Iowa-Grant** discussing conservation issues.

Thanks to **Susan Carpenter**, our School Grant Committee contacted local schools to find projects we can support. We have been granting money to support coldwater resource studies in our local schools

for many years. This year we are making grants as follows:

- **Belmont Middle School:** stream monitoring \$400,
- **Iowa Grant Middle School:** stream monitoring \$250,
- **Winskill Elementary School:** river museum trip \$600, and
- **Highland School:** stream monitoring \$580.

We have granted 29 schools over \$17,000 over the last 10 years.

We had our annual banquet at the **Arthur House** in **Arthur, WI**, on Saturday, May 4. It was a great success, with 83 attendees. We took in \$7,195.

Ray Wick, Dave Swanson, and Chuck Steudel spent a day in late May with the Highland 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders at **Blackhawk Lake** running the fishing portion of a four-event nature day for the kids.

—*Brian Larson*



Rick Frye

Northwoods Chapter

Our 20th Annual Youth Conclave will be July 27 at the **Cedric A. Vig Outdoor Classroom (CAVOC)** in **Rhineland**. **Terry Cummings** is seeking volunteers to help teach youth ages 10–16 the fine art of fly fishing and conservation. Please contact Terry at tcummudler@charter.net if you are interested in helping to make the conclave a success or if you know a kid who might want to join in on the fun!

On July 20 we will be partnering with the **WDNR** to help improve fish habitat on **Brule Creek** in **Vilas Co.** More details to come.

On August 17 we will once again be working with the **U.S. Forest Ser-**

vice to brush and bundle on the **Deerskin R.** More details to come.

A Special Appreciation Award was presented to **Bill Sherer**, owner of the **We Tie It Fly Shop**, during our banquet in April. Bill has been a longtime supporter of the Northwoods Chapter. Through the years, he has presented on steelhead fishing in the Superior basin and musky fishing inland. We cannot estimate the countless hours he has dedicated to participating in various other chapter functions, including youth conclaves and stream workdays. Thanks, Bill!

—*Hannah Hansen*



Mike Kuhr

Oconto River Chapter

The chapter's fund-raising banquet was held on April 25 at **Romy's Holiday Inn** at **Kelly Lake**. Banquet Chair **Dan Sunnicht** reported that about 235 members and friends attended the event. Raffles, prizes, dinner, and a few surprises made for a fun time for everyone. Dan indicated that the banquet would net around \$7,000.

The chapter has awarded six camp certificates to youngsters from the area. The camps are offered by **UW-Stevens Point**. Various camps for ages 7–18 are offered.

On May 16, chapter members set up the casting contest and fish pond at **Victory Olympics**. Over 300 par-

ticipants enjoyed a carnival-type event. The smiles on the faces of the students said it all.

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

Our chapter meetings are held monthly (excluding May & November) on the first Wednesday of each month. Meetings are held at the **Lone Oak Gun Club** just north of **Gillett** starting at 7:00 p.m.

—*Dale Halla*

Shaw-Paca Chapter

Our banquet went well. Our UW-SP scholarship award went to **Ms. Krista Kamke** of **Pulaski**. We wish her well as she goes forth to work with our water resources.

Chapter members **Jerry Weath-erwax** and **Lee Kersten** assisted with

a fly tying session for 5th grade students at the **Clintonville Elementary School**. We also financially assisted the **Marion Lions Club** with their Kids Fishing Day held in June.

—*Lee Kersten*

Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter

We would like to start this update with two very important items. First, we offer a very special thank you to **Mike Kuhr** our outgoing chapter president. Mike has led our chapter for the last two years, and he has continued the strong leadership of recent presidents. Under his leadership, our chapter has grown in size and has continued to make a difference.

Mike will remain an active member of our chapter with a focus on

our education and outreach efforts. He will also shift some of his time and tireless energy to his new role as State Council secretary.

The second item is to formally recognize the contributions of **John Knitter**, a longtime member of our chapter who recently passed. John was a member of our board of directors and an active advocate for all we hold dear. He was known for his wit and generous sharing of his fly tying skills and flies. He led our riv-

HELPING VETERANS, HELPING STREAMS

SEWTU's Jim Flagg (top left) helps a veteran at a recent Project Healing Waters event land a nice rainbow trout at Rushing Waters Fisheries in Palmyra on May 23. Meanwhile, ALTU and SEWTU volunteers made almost 70 lunkers (bottom) at the Bear Creek workday near Lone Rock on May 18.

er cleanup and monitoring activities, and he was one of those who served as the conscience of the chapter on environmental impact topics. He is sorely missed. Our sincere condolences go out to his wife and two daughters.

April was an active and exciting month for our chapter. On April 13, 15 of our members volunteered at the **West Bend Kid's Fishing Day** where we collaborate with several other local organizations. Nearly 140 children attended the event, and many fish were caught. Special thanks to **Mike Kuhr** and **Mike Keagle** who led the effort.

On April 20 we joined with many other organizations to conduct a spring river cleanup effort. **John Spain**, a new member on our habitat committee, led our team of over 30 volunteers. We returned to our regular site on the **Menomonee R.** near the **Milwaukee Brewers' Miller Park** baseball field. This stretch of stream produces some excellent salmon, steelhead, and fall run brown trout action.

The hours contributed help us meet our commitment to the **Menomonee River Fish Passage Project** which, when completed, will open an additional 25 miles of stream to freshwater species moving in from **Lake Michigan**.

On April 27, our Project Healing Waters team had its first fishing outing with the veterans we mentor. Special thanks to **George Batcha** and **Rick Frye** for leading the out-

ing. The group returned to **Greenfield Park**, the site of our annual casting clinic.

The month concluded on April 30 with our chapter meeting, which was attended by nearly 90 people. Besides our regular chapter update, there were lots of reasons to attend. Our speaker, **Mat Wagner** of **The Driftless Angler**, gave an excellent presentation on how to avoid common ailments afflicting fishermen and, yes, he did discuss the hatches and water conditions in his home waters near **Viroqua**.

We also drew our raffle prize winners, and our infamous cedar strip canoe changed hands once again. Will it return? We also took time to recognize our outgoing chapter president. **Henry Koltz** led the "Roast and Toast" effort that recognized Mike Kuhr's many contributions.

Continued on p. 14



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Chapter News

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We have been actively teamed with the **Milwaukee Orvis** store to support their efforts with a Fly Fishing 101 series of classes. Orvis graciously gives each attendee a one-year membership to Trout Unlimited. The results were gratifying as we asked for a show of hands from those present at the meeting who had taken the Orvis class in the last two years. Nearly 15 people raised their hands, a result our membership committee was very pleased with.

Thank you to **Erik Helm**, the Orvis Fishing Manager, and his fishing staff for letting us be part of this membership initiative.

It was also time to elect our new slate of officers. Two of our four officers (Stan and Ivan) return for another term:

Jim Wierzba — President

Stan Strelka — Vice Pres.

Ivan Nohavica — Treasurer (I think Henry Koltz explained to him it was a lifetime appointment)

Jay Zawerschnik — Secretary

Good luck to all, and thank you for your commitment to our mem-

bership.

Moving on to May, we remained very active. We organized a chapter fishing outing to the **Driftless Area** on May 17–19 that wrapped around a workday on May 18. At that workday, we teamed with the **Aldo Leopold Chapter**, and the combined 40 volunteers from the two chapters built 70 lunger structures for the next phase of the **Bear Creek** project.

This project is a recipient of a **TU National Embrace-A-Stream** grant. Special thanks go to **Rick Frye** and **Ray Weiss** of our chapter. Rick had the thankless job of cutting the timber to size, so he put his recently obtained FISTA certification to good use. Ray is the “keeper” of our trailer and equipment, and he made sure everything arrived in good working condition to support the workday.

A few days later on May 21, we held our last chapter meeting of the spring (we do not have chapter meetings in June, July, or August). This is always a very informal event organized around member travelogues. **Don Putning** gave a very en-

tertaining slide show from his recent trip to **New Zealand**. Part way through the discussion, someone asked, “Didn’t you catch any small fish on the trip?” Other speakers were **Scott Criqui**, **Mike Kuhr**, **Josh Radlein**, **Seth Foldy**, and **Henry Koltz**. Thanks to all for sharing their experiences and wrapping up a season of meetings.

The **Orvis Fly Fishing 101** efforts continued nearly every weekend in May and another 75+ attendees joined our chapter’s ranks through this program. Our challenge is to engage them and keep them active in TU. Numerous volunteers from our chapter have supported the program, and networking has begun between the students and our volunteers. In the process, we have emphasized three key principles that appeal well to the students. First, make a difference by participating in restoration and outreach efforts. Second, share our knowledge, which has great appeal to emerging fly fishers. And third, have fun.

Our membership committee intends to structure efforts to further engage these and other new members from other sources, so expect to hear more about this program in the near future.

On May 23, our **Project Healing Waters** program mentors conducted the second fishing outing for the veterans. We joined them at the **Rushing Waters Fisheries**. Thanks once again to **George Batcha** and **Rick Frye**, as well as **Dan Suminski** who provided transportation for a number of the veterans.

On June 8, we partnered with **Cabela’s** for their Kid’s Day event. Our volunteers mentored youth on fishing and fly tying techniques.

On June 22 we worked with the **DNR** on the first step of our **Mukwonago R.** efforts. We worked on

the **Rainbow Springs** property, recently acquired by the state, as part of a multi-year effort. This stream is in our home waters and has great potential to be developed into an outstanding fishery.

We don’t slow down during the rest of the summer. On July 20 we will have a workday on **Parson’s Creek**, a class 1 trout stream near **Fond du Lac** within an hour drive for most of our members. Come join the effort and stay for our traditional workday-ending brat fry afterwards.

A few days later on July 23 we will host our annual Casting Clinic at **Greenfield Park**. A number of our members, as well as representatives from area fly shops, will provide instruction on casting techniques. Come and learn from some of the best around. Food and beverages make this a great mid-summer get-together.

Last but not least, August 17 will have our volunteers teamed with the **Ozaukee County Fish Passage** program to do work on **Mineral Springs Creek**. We will be removing stream impediments to this tributary stream that dumps into **Lake Michigan** near **Port Washington**. This effort allows us to once again focus on our home waters in the northern portion of our territory.

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

The first half of 2013 brought a lot of activity and change to SWTU.

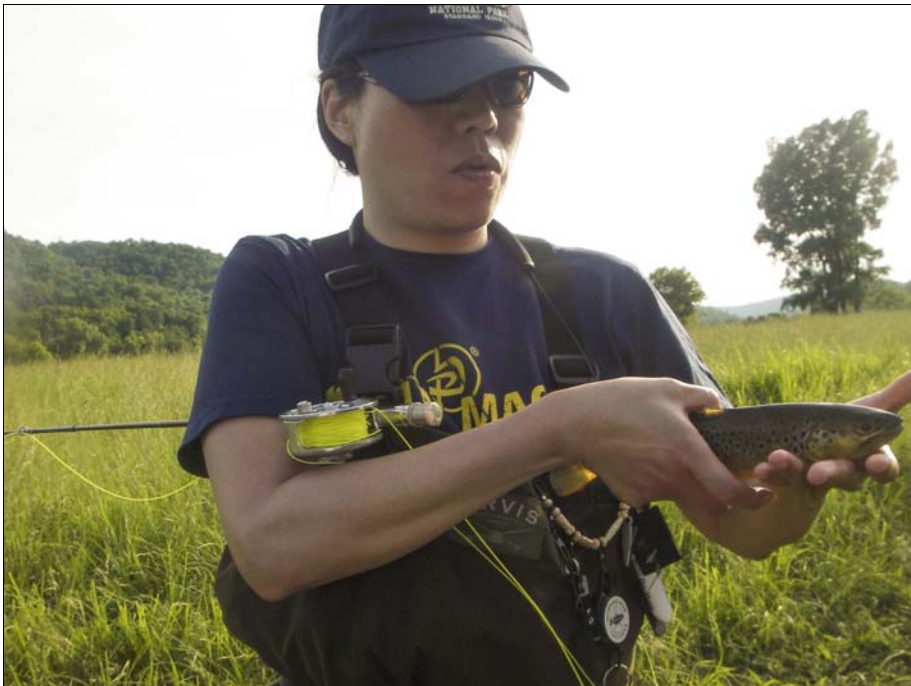
Here are a few highlights.

The chilly spring didn’t deter our spring workdays. Instead of tall grass, high temps, and mosquitoes, we had nice cool weather and some snow on the ground...perfect for brushing along a stream and burning the piles of willow and box elder. We had a fantastic turnout for the workdays, including some welcome assistance from the **John Muir Chapter** of the **Sierra Club**, **Madison Boy Scout Troop 104**, and the **TU UW-Madison Student Chapter**.

At the same time, we all felt the absence and profound loss of our dear friend and one of the chapter’s most devoted volunteers and workday leaders, **Dennis Presser**, who passed away unexpectedly in February.

Our board of directors has a few new faces! **Jordan Konisky** finished a wonderfully productive two-year run as president and was replaced by **Steve Wald**, who had chaired our conservation committee (see chapter president profile on p. 3 of this issue). **Jim Kanvik**, **Tim Steines**, and **Kelly Belshaw** all departed from our board and will be missed. Our new secretary (and conservation committee chair) is **Dan Jansen**. We also are excited about our new board members **Topf Wells** and **Jim Hess**.

We held our annual casting clinic on April 13, drawing many people interested in learning more about gear, insects, reading the water, and casting. As always, **Jeff Smith** did a



SOUTHERN WISCONSIN TU HELPING WOMEN ANGLERS AND RECOGNIZING STEWARDSHIP

Meg Gallagher (top) showed people how it’s done at SWTU’s women’s fishing clinic held June 19–20 in Avalanche. Fred Wolf (bottom, holding award) and the Wolf family received SWTU’s Gold Trout Award recognizing their longstanding dedication to conservation and the protection of property along Black Earth Creek. Wolf granted a conservation easement on a wide strip of land bordering Black Earth Creek near Mazomanie in Dane County in 2012. The easement, held jointly by the Natural Heritage Land Trust and Dane County, guarantees the permanent protection and public use of about a one-mile corridor through the Wolf farm. In addition, the family of Fred’s father, Frank Wolf, Sr., donated property adjacent to the junction of Black Earth, Spring Valley, and Halfway Prairie creeks to the Village of Mazomanie.

Chapter News



TWO KIDS TYING THEIR FIRST FLIES

Fly tying is always a favorite activity for kids to try. Wild Rivers TU member Chuck Campbell (top) shows a boy how it's done. Meanwhile, Wisconsin



River Valley Chapter President Linda Lehman is helping a girl who looks like she's evaluating a piece of material by giving it the old taste test.

wonderful job of promoting this community outreach event and organizing volunteers.

Each spring is also marked by our collaboration with the **Project Green Teen** students of Madison's **Malcolm Shabazz High School**. We spend the winter helping to teach fly tying and casting, which culminates in a week at **Avalanche**. The young students spend much of their time on observation and restoration, but

our volunteer guides help them hook into some trout as well!

In the next issue of *Wisconsin Trout*, we'll be excited to tell you about our June activities, including our awards banquet and two separate women's fishing clinics.

Please stop by www.swtu.org for more news about our chapter and to check out our calendar of events.

—Drew Kasel

Wild Rivers Chapter

On June 1 the **Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center** near Ashland and the **Les Voight Fish Hatchery** near Bayfield sponsored a kids' fishing day. The event started at 10 a.m. and continued until 2 p.m. The kids experienced bait casting, fly tying, fly casting, t-shirt painting, knot tying, and fishing in the ponds for trout and panfish.

Chapter members who helped were **Chuck Campbell, Jim Emerson, Peter Freiburger, Roger Gustafson, Metro Maznio, Phil Wallace,**

and **Dick Berge**. Hot dogs, chips, cookies, and soft drinks were provided for the 400 kids involved. The number of kids attending was down slightly from last year due to the cold, windy day. This is an annual event that is enjoyed by kids and parent alike, and our members enjoy working the event each year.

—Dick Berge

Friday night fish fry which was accompanied by **Tim Meyer's** taters and onions on the grill. Flies were tied, beginners coached, new fishing spots explored, sophisticated tent designs were discussed, and tall and short stories told.

Workdays were conducted on **Danuser Valley Creek** in **Buffalo Co.** on May 21 and on the **N. Branch Elk Creek** in **Trempealeau Co.** on May 29. Work included jetting structures, building structures, seeding, and mulching.

UW-Stout students took an introduction to fly fishing class on Tuesday evenings beginning on March 12 and ending May 7. Both classroom and streamside instruction was provided. A fly fishing introduction program was provided to 11 participants who learned basic knot tying, casting, bugs in the water, and stream restoration. Students then fished on restored

sections of **Gilbert Creek**.

Several chapter members hosted UW-Stout faculty members and **Ed-die Bauer** store managers for a fly fishing outing on **Gilbert Creek** in **Dunn Co.** These groups support our chapter and get the word out about the value of our restored streams in their daily activities, so the outing had mutual benefits.

A **Memorial High School** class of 24 cognitively disabled students enjoyed a picnic and fishing outing at **Brauns Bay** in **Eau Claire** May 24. Thanks to chapter members **Mike Malone, Dennis Vanden Bloomen, Dale Dahlke, and Duke Welter** for making this possible.

A celebration in recognition of successful stream restoration improvements on **Eagle Creek** was held on June 8. This kid-friendly event featured numerous activities with prizes for kids 12 and under.

Continued on p. 16

Wisconsin Clear Waters

On April 27, members spent the morning cleaning up chapter-owned property on **Elk Creek**. Six lots had been identified as part of the holdings that had not been maintained over the years. By lunchtime the goals of the project were met. This included the removal of most of the remains of a building and other debris from past use of the property. Brush and undesirable trees were removed to provide a corridor from the street to Elk Creek. The stream banks were opened and cleaned up to provide fishing access to the waters flowing through the property. A chipper was used to grind up the cut material. Thanks to **Al Noll** and **Graham Hanson** who organized the work, **Rick Bauer** who provided a dump trailer, and especially to all the volunteers who helped make this effort a success. Additional efforts will be made through the summer and fall to continue the cleanup efforts on this property and others.

Chapter members and guests had outstanding fishing in the Heart of the Driftless in mid-May while camping at **Vernon County's Esofea County Park** and enjoying varied weather and fine dining. **Duke Welter's** pancakes started off the day on Friday, and everyone enjoyed the



NO, MR. V., YOU CAN'T MAKE ME TOUCH THAT SLIMY THING

Dennis Vanden Bloomen gives an Eau Claire Memorial High School student who took part in a Brauns Bay fishing clinic the chance to unhook a bluegill. Dennis has a daughter with disabilities, and he is very passionate about offering outdoor opportunities to individuals of all abilities. Dennis will be teaching a fly fishing instructor certification course at the Fitchburg WDNR center just south of Madison July 13 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (see separate story on p. 5).



Chapter News

Continued from p. 15

Young and old alike enjoyed informative displays and demonstrations, including water quality monitoring, active sampling of aquatic invertebrates, fly tying, and casting demos. Trout and conservation experts were on hand to explain stream restoration activities, including rip rapping, lunger structures, grazing options, easements, and

funding sources. They were also introduced to the unique and precious geology of our **Driftless Area** region. This event was cosponsored by the **Fountain City Rod and Gun Club, Waumandee Rod and Gun Club, Alma Rod and Gun Club, Trout Unlimited, CFC FFA**, and many additional volunteers.

—Bob Swanson

Wisconsin River Valley Chapter

Here is what has been happening in our neck of the woods. On April 14 **Doug Brown** and I volunteered at the first **Great Outdoors Festival**. This event was sponsored by the **Ko-courek Kids Foundation** and **Boy Scout Troop #427**.

Despite the wacky spring we've had, including the four inches of snow that came down that day, it was a great event. I was showing kids how to cast. I had a target that was about the size of a dinner plate that I was having difficulty hitting. There were yelps on the ski hill when a young man stepped up to give it a try and managed to hit the target.

I also had my youngest fly tyer ever at this event. A very patient three-year-old girl waited a good 20 minutes in line for the chance to tie a fly. Barely able to hold the tools, the determination on her face was priceless.

After some very intense planning by our banquet committee, I am happy to say that we had many very favorable responses at our May 2 fund-raiser banquet. A very special thank you to **Doug Brown, Pat Es-selman, Pat & Betsey Hager, Al Hauber, Henry Kanemoto, Gene Koshak, Joe Krznarich, John Meachen, Bob Pils, and Kirk Stark** for all your efforts in putting togeth-

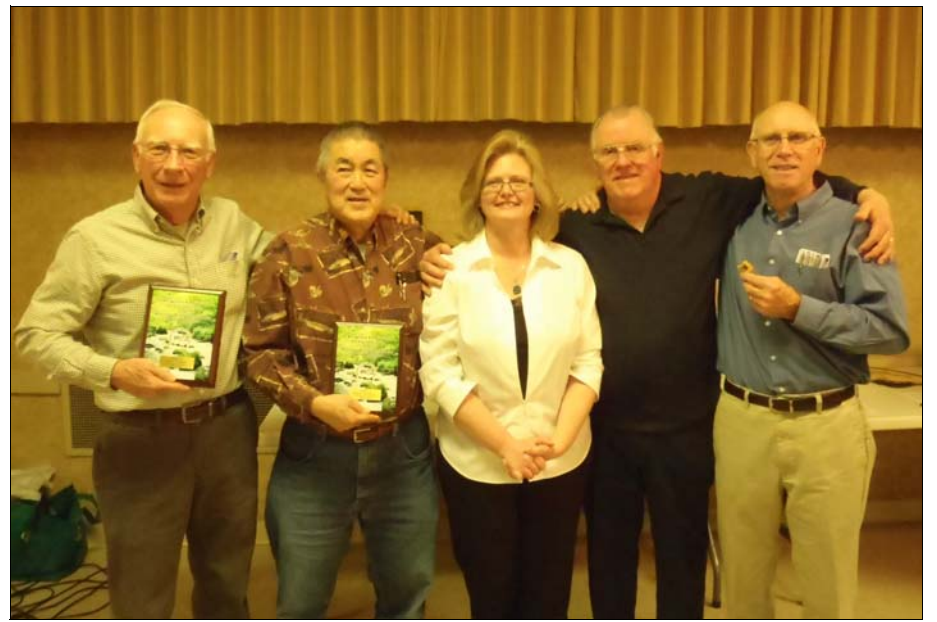
er such a great night. I would also like to thank **Doug Aziz, Lisa Mattson, Mark Habeck, and Annika Brown** for the extra help at the banquet.

We were also able to recognize five members of the chapter who have contributed a combined service to our chapter of 154 years (*see the picture above*)! Though not in attendance, **Brian Marnholtz** has served 30 years. They have been the backbone of the group for some time. In addition to all the things they have done for the chapter, they have taught me so much as well. Thank you so much.

I also would like to thank **Sean Dean** and his staff at the **VFW Hangar Lounge** for the food and service and all those who contributed to and supported our banquet. Thank you so much.

On May 16 and 17 I headed down to the **Wisconsin Outdoor Education Expo** in **Beaver Dam**. We had beautiful weather Thursday, but Friday brought horrible cold and rain. We still had kids tying flies, and I still had fun.

On June 1 I headed to **Wisconsin Rapids** for **Kiwanis Kids Day**. There were 240 kids registered for the event. One young lady, Elizabeth, has been back to tie flies with me for four years in a row. I enjoy helping



A COMBINED 124 YEARS OF TU SERVICE

The Wisconsin River Valley Chapter recently honored some of their longest-serving members. Pictured with Chapter President Linda Lehman are (l to r) Gene Koshak (31 years), Henry Kanemoto (31 years), Robert Pils (31 years), and Alan Hauber (31 years).

at this event and talking with kids and their parents. **Josh Schoenick** and his **Kiwanis Club** staff have done a nice job with this event.

On June 23 we assisted the DNR with a workday on **Spring Creek** in Lincoln Co.

—Linda Lehman

Wolf River Chapter

Our final brat stand will be held the July 4–5. Come visit us at the corner of Highway 55 and 64 at **Mike's Service in Langlade**.

Clyde Park found some beaver activity on **Spring Creek** this spring. **Andy Killoren** contacted **Rick Halder** of the **WDNR**. The dam was removed and Rick trapped two beaver.

Temperature monitors were placed in May at eight locations, including seven feeder streams. These location will be checked once a

month throughout the summer.

On July 27 we will be cleaning up the lower stretches of **Nine Mile Creek** where previous work has been done. Our brush and bundling project for Nine Mile Creek will be August 17.

This year we will be working with the **Green Bay Chapter** finishing the final section east of Hwy 55. Anyone interested in helping out should contact us through our website at WolfRiverTU.org.

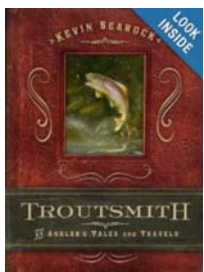
—Tim Waters

First books by familiar WITU names worth reading

By John "Duke" Welter

Lots and lots of books with a fishing tie are published every year, and some of them offer entertaining or informative reading. A somewhat smaller group of regional titles come out, and part of the fun is reading about familiar places or situations I think I may have experienced myself.

Two Wisconsin writers, both stalwart TU members, have recently published their first books. They're both worth a read.



Troutsmith: An Angler's Tales and Travels by Kevin Searock (170 pages, \$24.95) was published recently by Terrace Books, a UW Press imprint that is publishing

some good writing on outdoor topics. (We'll review another title by Terrace Books in an upcoming issue of *Wisconsin Trout*.)

Searock may be familiar to *Wisconsin Trout* readers as a speaker and essayist. His talk on a trip to England some years back, respectfully and thoughtfully steeped in tradition and angling history, has made him a popular speaker at events around the state. That story, "Auld Red," is included in this book as a reprise of a version that appeared in *Gray's Sporting Journal*, as are oth-

ers from regional publications like *Midwest Fly Fishing* magazine.

A science teacher, Searock lives in Baraboo and explores the streams around the Driftless Area with a curious eye. Large, small, known, unknown, streams give that curious mind lots of fodder for good short stories. Few anglers are as smitten with these spring creeks, and an even smaller number can write about them with Searock's craft. I picked up a number of new things to try and new ways of looking at things from these stories.

He even imparts some secrets. Here, with the name of the stream changed to protect what might be an innocent (though I don't even know if the name Searock used was a nom de angleur), is an excerpt:

"__Creek begins just west of our land and falls east through [a narrow defile in the Baraboo Bluffs], eventually losing itself in the Wisconsin River. __Creek is two or three feet wide in most places and is barely fishable at all, but it holds a tenuous population of wild, native brook trout, a true ice-age relict population of *Salvelinus fontinalis*. These fish are tiny, incredibly precious, 100 percent native brook trout that few people know about. __Creek also hosts small but persistent populations of native ruffed grouse and American woodcock that live and breed on its banks in company with a suite of native plants."

With appealing and wry senses of humor and irony, he also talks about our replacing native species with exotic ones: sharptail grouse with Chinese ringneck pheasants, native brookies with German brown trout. "Even innocent people are a delicious irony when viewed through this lens. The most invasive, nonnative, habitat-altering, weed-spreading species in Wisconsin is people like me, nonnatives who have come to Wisconsin over the past two centuries.... I guess I'm a Polarian, a hodgepodge of genes from fishing Poles and fishing Hungarians mixed together and born in the USA with a little silver fishing rod in my hand. I'm the enemy and there are more and more like me every year. But take my advice and don't ever bring up the issue of human overpopulation in a room full of conservationists. Heck, don't bring it up at all, anywhere; as one writer puts it: 'we need to make sure that elephants standing in rooms don't become endangered.'"

You'll find Searock's first book an engaging collection of well-written stories that give you some new perspectives on his sport and the streams where he exercises it.

Drawdown is an ebook (Amazon.com, \$4.95). It is the first novel by Dan Holland of Stevens Point. It's set in a fictional but somehow familiar central Wisconsin town with a river and a long-standing

small dam. That narrows it down to only about 3,500 dam locations in the state, many of which have no economic use but present significant environmental detriment to healthy streams.

Holland uses the village's decision to finally remove its dam as an interesting exercise in local politics — where all these dam decisions are ultimately made — as the setting for a decades-old mystery. As the dam is drawn down, the mystery emerges. From there, it turns into a legal set piece with twists and turns and

an interesting eventual outcome.

Whether to repair or replace dams is an issue more communities have to confront as these dams become structurally unsafe, and setting this novel with the dam as a backdrop provides a way for us to understand the issues involved.

Perhaps we need more fiction like this to share the issues with a wider group of citizens.

(Duke Welter is a former WITU State Council Chair and the holder of other titles within Trout Unlimited too numerous to note here. He has been known to review books for us from time to time in exchange for a beer and the book -Ed.)



Craftsman Corner

Wood fly box business starts from contractor's downtime

By Scott Grady

Set back off a meandering lane, you'll find Jay Spencer in his basement shop making beautiful wood fly boxes.



Jay has been in Marshfield, Wisconsin since June of 2011. Jay, his wife, two beagles, and a few cats moved from the Pacific Northwest because of a job.

A building contractor by trade, Jay has been around wood for most of his life. With the contracting business being slow, Jay decided to make a couple of fly boxes out of wood. After figuring

out what size he wanted, he made several jigs to make the job easier and safe.

He posted pictures of his work on-line on several of the fly fishing forums to see what people thought. He was surprised when a bidding war started for those first boxes. Encouraged by the demand, Jay started building more boxes in various woods, including some exotics.

Jay makes several standard sizes of boxes from a variety of different woods. As a self-taught wood artist, Jay has a talent for bringing the best out of the wood. Matching up the grain, showing off the imperfections in the wood, and even doing some engraving results in some beautiful, unique boxes.

He did a CWTU project for me several years ago using some of the 50-year-old reclaimed timber from



the Mecan River. These boxes will be used as a thank-you and for fund raising for our chapter.

Jay recently finished a special fly box for a customer in Texas. It is being given as a thank-you to a doctor who saved the man's daughter's life. The customer found out the doctor was a fly fisherman and, after learning about Jay through a friend in Scotland, contacted Jay to make a special fly box for the doctor. The box is made out of olive wood, after the name of his daughter, Olive.

Jay recently started a business called Flygrain to expand into other specialty fly fishing items made from wood. But for now, he has plenty of



boxes to make. His 30-plus years spent fly fishing around the world should serve him well.

If you are looking for that special gift for your fishing friends, family, or even yourself, Jay can build a memory for you. Contact him at

jayspencer69@gmail.com.

(This is author Scott Grady's first installment in a series we're calling Craftsman Corner. A bamboo fly rod maker, Scott will feature the work of people crafting items relating to trout and trout fishing. If you know someone who is crafting such items, let Scott know at oossg@vbe.com. -Ed.)



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Watershed Access Fund

Nearly \$8,000 raised for trout access grants

By Doug Brown

The 2012-13 fundraising campaign is half over, and the response has been very good. We have raised nearly \$8,000 already, with 78 private donations and five TU chapters contributing.

That kind of financial support has been put to good use. Last year, the Central WI Chapter was awarded a grant to help acquire land along the White River in Waushara County. All Watershed Access Fund contributions are used solely for Wisconsin acquisitions.

The current grant request limit is \$5,000. Because two chapters may each request for a single acquisition, and since each chapter has to match at 50%, the new limits would provide as much as \$15,000 for a single purchase or easement. The matching 50% from a chapter can also be in the form of volunteer hours.

Please consider a generous contribution to the Watershed Access Fund. Access is critical for anglers to continue our passion for trout.

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 |

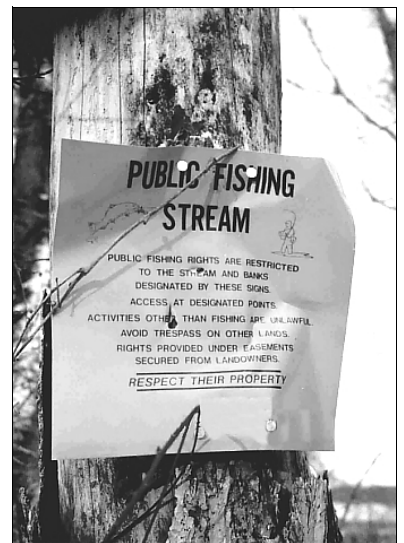
- | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Dan Grauer | Wausau WI | Dennis Presser | Madison WI |
| Jeanne Grodevant | Tomahawk WI | Randall Rake | De Pere WI |
| Roger Gustafson | Iron River WI | Carl Rasmussen | Neenah WI |
| Hugh Gwin | Hudson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

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

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

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

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone _____



MEETING: Wisconsin hosting TU National's annual meeting

Continued from p. 1

Fishing hosts will pick up their guests at the Madison Marriott West Hotel and Conference Center in Middleton early morning on Wed., Sept. 25. Bag lunches will be provided by TU National, and hosts will be reimbursed \$50 for their gasoline.

Some guests may want to travel a little longer than others or have particular streams or quarry in mind. Kim McCarthy is coordinating these fish-along matches. Contact Kim to volunteer to be a fishing host.

Other national meeting needs

Banquet chair Dave Seligman is still in need of people to do some initial room setup. To volunteer, send your availabilities to Dave.

Hospitality chair Henry Koltz is also in need of people to oversee the hotel hospitality room throughout the event. Henry says there will be no

shortage of high-quality Wisconsin microbrews and locally distilled spirits.

Bob Haase is assembling some custom fly boxes with TU members' favorite patterns. These boxes have been a bit hit at recent State Council banquets. Bob is asking chapters and members to contact him with their donations.

WITU activity PowerPoint presentation

Bob Haase is assembling a PowerPoint presentation that will be shown on a loop throughout the national meeting highlighting Wisconsin TU chapters and their activities.

Bob distributed a handout on this effort at the State Council meeting in Viroqua June 15. Contact him for a copy.

After the national meeting, this PowerPoint presentation will be available for chapters to show at their local meetings.

Conservation tour Thursday, Sept. 26

A regular feature of national meetings has been a day-long bus tour of conservation efforts TU chapters have done in the host state.

Duke Welter says three full-sized tour busses are expected to take conference and women's summit attendees to the following sites on Thursday, Sept. 26:

- Blue River along the Snow Bottom Rd. bridges and nearby Big Spring Cr. in Grant Co.
- Bear Cr. in Sauk Co., and
- Black Earth Cr. north of Mazomanie in Dane Co.

Register for events on-line

National meeting overall chair Bill Heart says members can register for the meeting, banquet, barbecue, and conservation tour at <http://www.tu.org/events/2013-annual-meeting>.

We hope to see you at the meeting.



WITU Looking Back

From the Summer 1973 WITU Quarterly Report...

TU'er Develops Effective Tactics, Opposes SCS

How do you oppose the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) and their dam projects? Tom Sopkovich, working on behalf of the S. Wis. Chapter, has an approach that seems to be working.

Tom is spending every spare minute, and

a few hours besides, opposing SCS's proposed Blue River Watershed project.

(The Blue River watershed consists of 129,000 acres. The Grant and Iowa County Soil and Water Conservation board propose to prevent and control flooding by construc-

ting ten dams. 34.5 miles of trout water on seven streams would be affected.)

By studying facts pertinent to the project and explaining them to concerned parties, Tom has strengthened organized local opposition.

"The initial contacts are important and delicate," Tom said. "You must speak from

the truth, cautiously advice, and help the landowners (farmers) help themselves. It's the farmers who can swing it politically.

At first, Tom found the landowners he talked to suspicious of him and his motives as a representative of TU. He found that by being frank, by explaining that TU has the same objectives but for different reasons, he was able to gain their trust.

From the Summer 1983 WITU Quarterly Report...

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited named conservation organization of the year

At the 35th annual Awards Banquet of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation on April 23rd in La Crosse, WI., Wisconsin Trout Unlimited was awarded the CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR award by the Federation for its long record of achievement in trout stream habitat improvement and conservation education. In the last 10-12 years, Wisconsin Trout Unlimited has expended well over 45,000 man-hours plus over \$25,000 on coldwater resource improvement projects in the state. State Council Chairman Tom Flesch of Poynette accepted the award on behalf of the Wisconsin State Council, saying "We appreciate receiving this award, because it means we have been recognized by our peers as being in the forefront of coldwater resource conservation in the state of Wisconsin. We thank the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation for this recognition and we pledge to continue our efforts to maintain and restore the trout fishery in our state."

Bob Hunt recently passed away. This timely look back shows Hunt's rationale for teaching anglers how to properly release trout.

From the Summer 1993 Wisconsin Trout...

Education needed for 'Catch-and-release anglers

The "catch-and-release" concept for trout fishing has been getting more acceptance each year by anglers. With the advent of the new inland trout fishing regulations for Wisconsin in 1990, "catch-and-release" has become mandatory on many streams and sections thereof throughout the state, particularly in the southern third of Wisconsin.

But, "catch-and-release" does not mean that no trout are being killed, because there is a great deal of "hooking mortality" that occurs even with "catch-and-release" ("C&R") fishing.

Retired Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Coldwater Research team leader Bob Hunt of Waupaca addressed the June 12th meeting of the Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited in Wautoma and discussed his findings and calculations on the numbers of trout lost to hooking mortality each year under "C&R" fishing.

Up through 1990, Hunt noted that over 420,000 trout per year were estimated to be killed under "C&R" fishing. That number has likely increased because of the new trout fishing rules that provide for more "C&R" angling.

Hunt's figures show that about 2,000,000 trout were released annually by trout anglers, with 1,600,000 released by live bait anglers and about 400,000 released by those fishing with

artificial lures or flies.

Assuming a 25 percent hooking mortality by "C&R" bait anglers (and that figure may be low, Hunt admits), that means 400,000 trout caught and released by live bait anglers each year were dying, while 20,000 trout caught and released by artificial fly/bait anglers were dying, based upon a five percent hooking mortality rate.

With observation of proper handling and release methods used by anglers, Hunt estimates that at least 270,000 trout could be saved each year in Wisconsin. Hunt figured that 260,000 - or 65 percent - of the 400,000 trout dying from live bait "C&R" anglers and 13,000 - also 65 percent - of the 20,000 trout dying from artificial fly/bait "C&R" anglers could be saved if proper methods were used.

Hunt noted that some of the common "bad habits" of those who purport to practice "C&R" angling include: not cutting leaders off hooks that are deeply imbedded in fish (i.e., trying to remove the hook rather than leaving it in the fish); playing fish too long and causing death through exhaustion of the fish; squeezing the fish too hard while trying to remove the hook and thus damaging internal organs in the fish; and allowing the trout to swallow the hook too deeply before striking.

From the July 2003 Wisconsin Trout...

TU chapters file to sue WDNR over mining rules

By Dave Blouin

The Green Bay and Wolf River TU chapters have joined a large coalition of organizations and individuals in a complaint and formal notification

letter with the WDNR over the state's metallic mining laws and regulations.

The chapters are part of a coalition of 24 plaintiffs who have filed a 30-day notice of intent

to file a civil lawsuit over DNR's failure to develop administrative rules establishing minimum qualifications for mining permit applicants.

Bob's Panfish Emu Bugger is a winner at kids' tying programs

By Bob Haase

De-barb the hook and move a 6/0 glass bead next to the eye of the hook. Start the thread and wrap to the bend of the hook. Tie in a small piece of rabbit zonker or a small marabou such as chickabou. Use whatever colors you desire.



Tie in an appropriate size emu feather as shown. Each barb of an emu feather is like a separate feather which creates a very buggy appearance, especially in the water.

Note: The stems on emu feathers are stiff compared to regular hackle, so you need to tie them in securely so they do not pull out as you start to palmer the hackle.

Tie in a piece of chenille. You

can also dub the body if you desire and pick it before wrapping the emu feather. This is a great fly for youth tying programs because chenille is easy to apply. Wrap the chenille to the bead and tie it off.

Wrap the emu feather to the bead allowing equal spacing between the wraps so you can see the chenille or dubbed body. I often make the first wrap around the hook just behind the chenille and then advance the wrap over the chenille to the bead. It helps to hold on to the tailing material as you make your first wrap with the emu feather so that the soft zonker material does not get pulled in with the feather. Tie off with a series of half hitches and you have the finished fly. The nice thing about emu is that there is not a wrong way to wrap it. You can wrap the feather on edge or lay it flat and it still looks good.

The Panfish Bugger is part of what I call my Emu Bugger family. I

MATERIALS LIST

Bob's Panfish Emu Bugger

Hook: Mustad 3366 #8-12

Thread: 140 denier in the color of the bead

Bead: Glass bead size 6/0 in any color

Body: Chenille to match or contrast the color of the bead

Hackle: Emu feather, palmered

Tail: Piece of rabbit zonker or chickabou

have made a lot of changes, and the fish seem to approve because they really like Emu Buggers. This fly sinks just below the surface and is great to use when the fish are feeding subsurface. I normally tie it on a size 10 hook.

You can also add lead-free wire over the hook shank if you want it to get down deeper. I use a small piece of rabbit zonker for the tail because it is easier for kids to clip off a small piece and tie it in compared to feathers such as marabou that flies around more, especially when tying outdoors.

You can get the beads at any craft store such as Jo-Ann Fabrics or Hobby Lobby. The emu feathers are available in some fly shops and also online. Smaller-sized emu feathers seem to work the best for this.

Tip: You can make a half hitch tool for making half hitches over beads by modifying a ball point pen. Some pens are already the cor-



HUNDREDS TIE THEIR FIRST FLY AT WI OUTDOOR EXPO

Rand Vander Schaaf (top left) of the Central WI Chapter helped a WI Outdoor Expo attendee tie a fly at this year's event. Jared Sagal (bottom left) from Lodi was a rookie fly tyer not long ago himself, but he now volunteers his time to show younger kids the ropes. Jared's mother, Renee, also helped with activities at this year's event.

rect size for a 6/0 bead when you remove the ink stem. Other pens need to be sanded or have their tips cut and drilled out to make them the

correct size. You can also glue in a small piece of a foam cylinder as a stop so that you don't go too far when sliding the thread off the tip.

TU teaches hundreds at 2013 WI Outdoor Expo

This year's Wisconsin Outdoor Expo May 16-17 in Beaver Dam was cold and rainy, but the kids that came did not seem to mind.

There were so many activities for the kids to participate in that the kids had fun and learned a lot despite the weather. Fly tying and fly casting is one of the Expo events that the kids really seem to enjoy.

We had to cancel the fly casting on Friday because of the rain, but that brought more kids under our tent for fly tying.

We did not have as many volunteers for fly tying and fly casting as we have had in previous years and

that, combined with the weather, resulted in fewer kids casting and tying flies.

Over 700 kids tied a fly during the event, and there was a steady flow of kids trying their hands at fly casting on Thursday.

This year's volunteers included Bob Haase, Jerry Smet, Todd Franklin, Rand Vander Schaff, Jerry Gorman, Spencer Gore, Linda Lehman, Dave Ehrenberg, Jared Sagal, Scot Stewart, Bill Millonig, and Mike Stapleton.

(Bob Haase has been coordinating WITU's exhibit at the WI Outdoor Expo since it began in 2006. -Ed.)



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2013 Friends campaign off to fantastic start

By Doug Brown

Friends of WITU Chair

The 2013 Friends of Wisconsin campaign is in full swing, and the donations have been simply fantastic.

With barely over three months into this year's campaign, we have already received over 100 private donations, 10 chapter donations, and a donation based on book sales from Where Am I Publications. Well over \$13,000 has been contrib-

uted so far.

I would like to thank Michelle McCarthy for helping with printing the mailing labels and most of the thank-you letters. I also want to thank Annika and Brooke Brown, my two daughters, for helping place labels on envelopes.

Handy streamside premium

This year's gift for a donation of \$100 or more is a Fishpond micro trash container. The lightweight container is designed to be taken with you on the stream. Its unique slotted opening lets

monofilament and other trash to go in and stay in until you remove it.

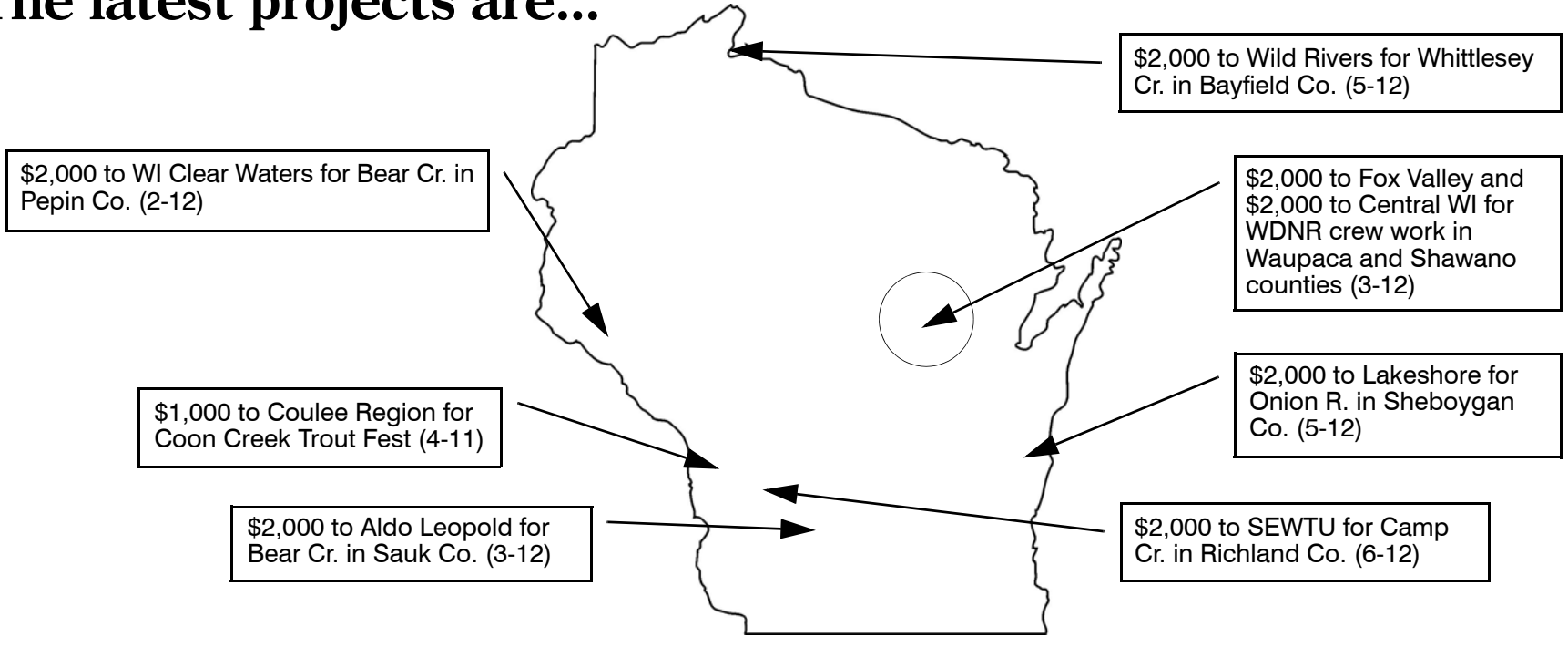
Contributors are also listed in four consecutive editions of *Wisconsin Trout*. Thanks again to Tight Lines Fly Shop in De Pere for helping secure this gift.

Your donation goes right back into the stream to benefit our trout for generations to come.

Please consider any amount of a donation. Requests from our various local TU chapters continue to come in for doing habitat work. Enjoy your summer and tight lines to you.



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

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