



# Wisconsin Trout

October 2013

## Wisconsin hosts TU National meeting

By John "Duke" Welter

Southwestern Wisconsin's coldwater assets were on display for a national audience September 25-29 as Trout Unlimited's national annual meeting came to our state for the first time since 1982.

The meeting brought grassroots leaders, volunteers, TU trustees, and national conservation luminaries to the Middleton Marriott Hotel.

Keynote speaker Gina McCarthy, administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, told attendees that EPA's current scientific review of the potential impacts of the proposed Pebble Mine in the Bristol Bay region of Alaska would "follow the science...and be a very strong document when it comes out."

Over 600,000 citizens have commented on the Bristol Bay draft review, most of them critical of mining's threat to the area's salmon fishery, one of the most prolific in the world. The review concluded that over 90 miles of salmon habitat would be wiped out by the mine, as well as adversely impacting hundreds of acres of critical wetlands. TU has strongly opposed the project, and thousands of TU members have contacted EPA and other policy makers about the proposed project.

The annual meeting included hosted fishing excursions on Driftless Area trout streams, a day-long conservation bus tour, the annual business meeting of the organization, the grassroots National Leadership Council (NLC) meeting, and workshops on several topics and conservation issues.

TU President and CEO Chris Wood reviewed the organization's activities across the nation in the annual "State of TU" report. The organization now has over 140,000 members, a new website, a \$40 million annual budget, and 198 employees (all but about 40 of whom work outside of Arlington, Virginia, where TU's headquarters is located).

A notable guest was Nanci Morris Lyon, "Queen of the Naknek" river in the Bristol Bay region. In a stirring speech, she spoke of the development of a diverse coalition of people and groups opposing the proposed Pebble Mine. Its tailings ponds would cover several square miles behind an earthen dam in a seismically active area, and would remain there in perpetuity. Commercial and recreational anglers, tribes, hunters, and residents who depend on subsistence fishing for their resources have come together to oppose the mine and urge EPA not to allow it to be built. Even though it's likely a long way from where you live, she urged TU members to keep urging EPA and legislators to stop the project.

National awards were given to honor volunteers from across the nation, including some to area TUers who have done outstanding work (see separate story on page 4).

Annual meetings bring together every group in TU and provide opportunities for them to talk with other lovers of cold water. At the evening hospitality suites, chapter members talked with CEO Chris Wood and other leaders about a variety of issues and questions.

Continued on p. 5



### DOSCHER AND MCCARTHY AT TU NATIONAL MEETING

Longtime TU volunteer and outgoing trustee Paul Doscher (top left) was truly surprised when TU President Chris Wood named him this year's winner of the Ray Mortensen Award for Volunteer Leadership. The award is given annually to the volunteer who makes an extraordinary contribution to local coldwater fisheries conservation efforts. EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy (bottom) gave the meeting's keynote address on Friday, Sept. 27.

## Conservation tour showcases habitat projects

By John "Duke" Welter

September 26.

Trout streams restored by TU and partners in Iowa, Sauk, and Dane counties were featured on TU National's conservation tour held

The conservation tour is a regular part of TU National's annual meetings. Over 100 TU members from across the country attended. Continued on p. 5



### ALL ABOARD THE CONSERVATION EXPRESS

Three tour buses were needed to take over 100 guests from across the U.S. to various restoration sites in southwest Wisconsin on Sept. 26.

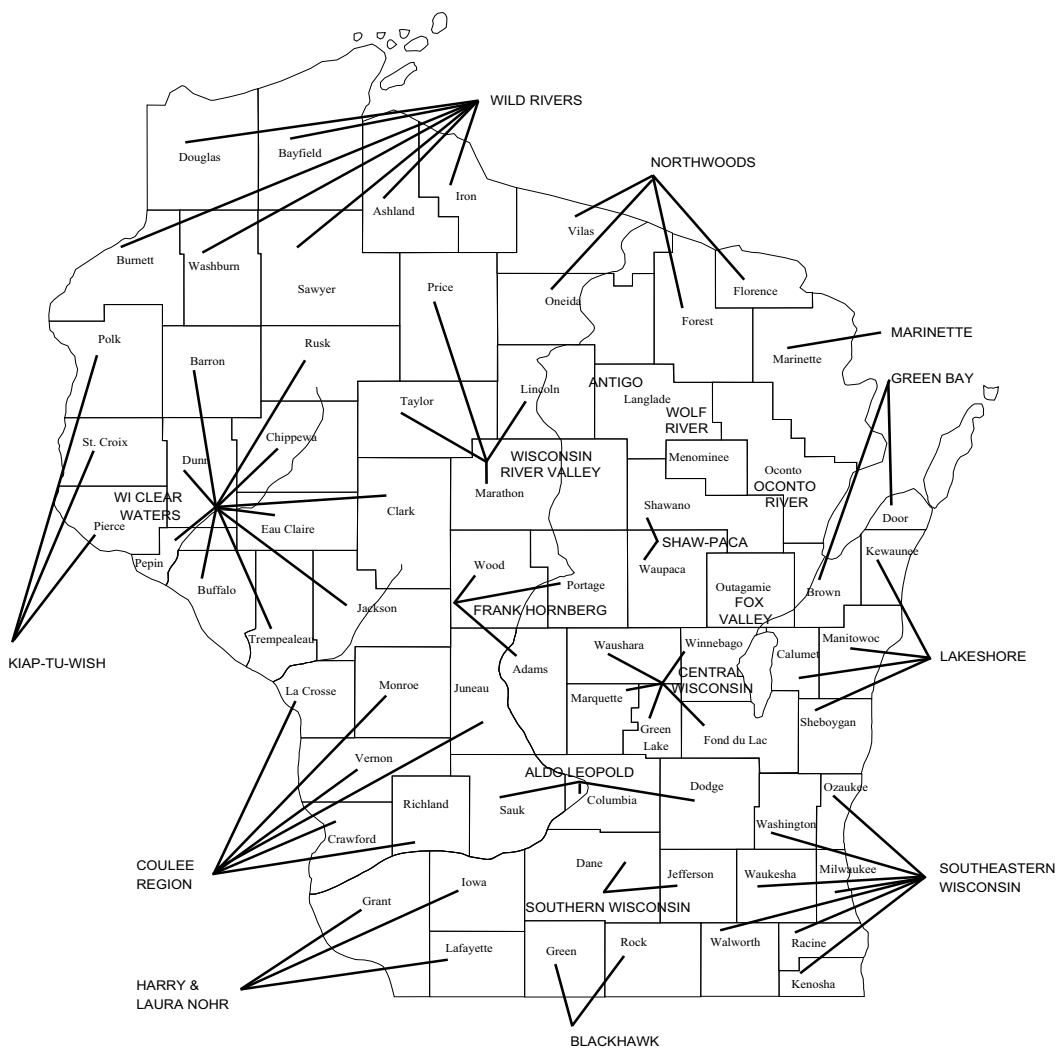
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Heidi Oberschadt photos

Todd Franklin

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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).

### WISCONSIN TROUT

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# Some thoughts on wild trout living in wild places

By Henry Koltz

WITU State Council Chair

In southwest Montana earlier this summer, I was driving in to town for dinner with a few friends. We'd fished big water. One stream, which was subject to agricultural de-watering, was warm and about to be shut down to fishing. Another was a tail water full of an endless school of large brown trout and an equally unending army of anglers chasing them. Both fishing and camaraderie were good. My favorite part of the trip, however, came when a friend and I broke free of our group's big-water teachings and headed into the mountains, where we found a small stream with a rhythm all its own.

Our stream was gin clear water flowing over round cobble of blue, grey, pink, white, and black. In between two-foot-wide shoots the ice cold stream would plunge into thigh-deep pools before coming back into shallow riffles. Overhead were towering pines, and we fished in the space protected under their boughs. Our steeple was a pine top,

and our pews were fallen timber. I sat down upon such a pew in this cathedral, watched my friend catch his first cutthroat on a tiny dry fly, absorbed the smell of matted dry pine needles, felt a cool breeze rush down the river's channel, and wished that time would stop.

On the ride in to dinner, one of the group asked me why I was so insistent that catching native fish in their native range was superior to anything else. Aren't rainbows fun, he queried? We just spent all day catching browns and had a great time, he pointed out. I tried to argue the point, but my words failed me, and soon we were at the restaurant, Hopper pale ales poured, and the moment lost. I've thought about the question ever since, however.

Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote:

*At the gates of the forest, the surprised man of the world is forced to leave his city estimates of great and small, wise and foolish. The knapsack of custom falls off his back with the first step he makes into these precincts. Here is sancti-*



HENRY KOLTZ ON A WESTERN STREAM

*ty which shames our religions, and reality which discredits our heroes. Here we find nature to be the circumstance which dwarfs every other circumstance, and judges like a god all men that come to her.*

I believe the bard is correct. There is something good about being in a place where man is not a pinnacle predator. There is something good about seeing land that has never been forested, never been plowed, and possessed of streams which have never been straightened or had log flotillas run through them. Such places are truly wild in every sense. They are places people visit, but do not live in, and they are places that challenge us and our notions of power and strength. Such places are native, and so are their trout. Such places are rare.

I find myself often defending my love of native trout and their rarified environs. Detractors will note the perceived slight size of native trout, or their perceived lack of intelligence and guile. The proof, however, lies in the fact that they are where they are. Native trout do not luxuriate in dam-made cold water; they do not have the luxury of being resupplied with raceway-conscripted replacements each year.

No, native trout simply survive, and they do so in the toughest, most wild places on earth, and they have done so for eons. And that is exactly why I enjoy fishing for them above all others and being in the places

that they live.

I'm proud that Trout Unlimited strives to protect such places and such trout. I'm equally proud that we embrace all manners of trout fishing, and all manners of trout streams. My friend was right — indeed, every single TU member's answer to the question of where, when, and why we fish will be different, and all will be correct. The sum total of Trout Unlimited is not how, where, or for what its members fish. Rather, it is how we go about our mission, and *why*.

There is a certain quality that one must possess in order to truly understand our work. That quality is something which is not ego driven. In fact, it is the converse. Those who comprehend our work are not driven by what personal gain it might bring, not moved by what financial outcome might arrive, or the manner in which it might lift them in the eyes of others. No, those who grasp our work understand that it is not about ourselves, but is rather about others, about *all* others, and about *future* others.

The chords of what we do here are timeless. They ring through generations. And though we might pass and fade, the water we protect endures. Our time spent traveling through this magnificent place is short, surrounded by eternities. And though we might be gone when we pass, our effort and our work remain, and they echo like a drum across the valley floor.

## Thank-you volunteers: you made the TU National meeting possible

By Bill Heart

Well, the TU National meeting is over, and I have heard nothing but good comments from many attendees from throughout the nation. Both the awards dinner and the Saturday banquet had record crowds. Many reported having strong fishing days, despite less-than-perfect conditions, and in general, all were impressed with the beauty and productivity of the Driftless Area. Conservation tour attendees came away incredibly impressed with both the TUDARE program and the work of Wisconsin's chapters. Quite simply, no one wanted to leave the sites that we visited.

The national staff did a great job setting up the meeting and keeping everything flowing smoothly, but the real heroes of this effort are the multitude of volunteers that gave many hours of their time to help our state committee. The committee — composed of Kim McCarthy (hosted fishing day chair), Duke Welter (conservation tour chair), Henry Koltz (hospitality room chair), and David Seligman (banquet fund-raiser chair), and myself (committee chair) — would like to thank all of these volunteers.

Volunteers were important in all aspects of the meeting. If not for these volunteers, I am sure that this meeting would not have been possible. It would be very difficult to name everyone for fear of missing someone, but you know who you are. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.



Editor,

Let me start off by thanking you for the great job you have done for our chapter and for every chapter in Wisconsin as the editor of *Wisconsin Trout*. You will be missed.

The purpose of this letter is to start the ball rolling on how we as a group are going to respond to the changing political environment in Wisconsin. By the time this letter is published, we will have hosted a successful National Convention. Lots of guys have put lots of hours into this, and they should be thanked for that. The probable highlight of the convention will likely be the tour of our southern Wisconsin in-stream projects which, on the surface, are great projects.

What I would suggest is that we as a group need to take another look at how we spend our limited dollars and what we are spending them on. Projects are great, look good, get lots of support, etc., but what about the big picture — the protection of the coldwater resource. Seems to me that in the last few years we have had some major setbacks. Small wetland protection is gone, Gogebic is a done deal, and the DNR's enforcement efforts are diminished or in shambles.

The Gogebic effort is example #1 of what I am talking about. Our approach to this problem was the same as it was 15 years ago with the Crandon Mine. Rally the troops, write letters, send e-mails, and meet with your local reps. What we failed to see is that the game is very different now than it was in the past. Gogebic right wingers have used the U.S. supreme court Citizens United decision to the hilt. This is a cut-throat, no-holds-barred game they are playing. The letter-writing, grassroots approach worked in 1990, but in 2013 writing letters and

sending Jeff Smith and Bob Selk in to talk with legislators is like walking into a fight with a pen knife while the other guy has an AK47 and is more than happy to use it.

For example, many of us in the Nohr Chapter are represented by Howard Marklein. Old Howard is reported to have taken in more than \$70,000 just on the Gogebic issue. Does one really think that writing him a letter or sending him an e-mail will sway him when others are handing him \$70,000? We live in an age where both right wing and left wing extremist nut groups are applying for and getting tax exempt status while we sit on our you-know-what and worry that if we say anything political we might lose our tax-exempt status.

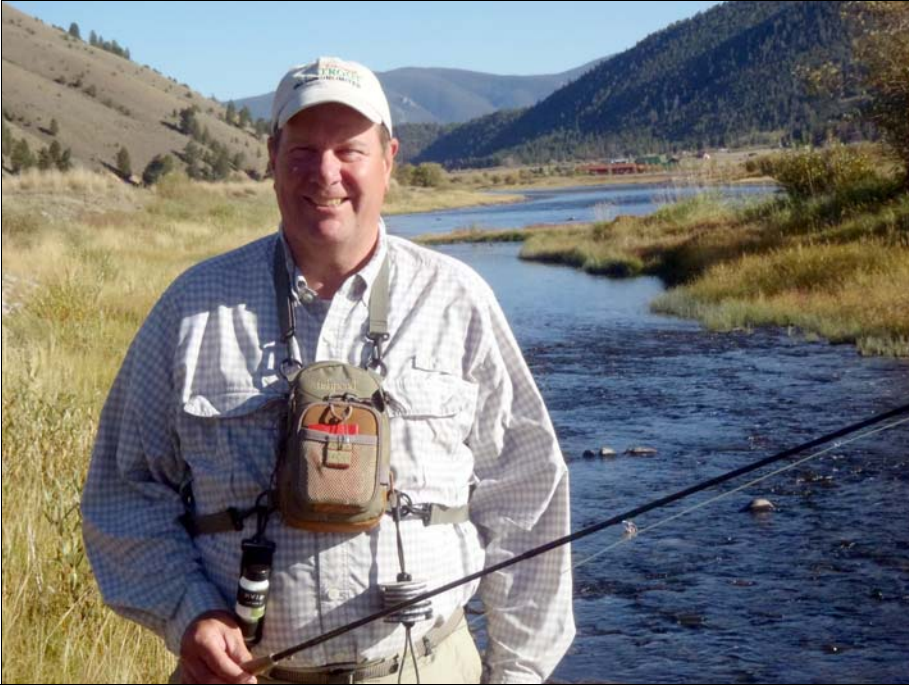
In closing, the world has changed. In fact, it has gone nuts, and we haven't changed with it. TU in Wisconsin is spending millions of dollars every year on projects designed to increase trout populations when in southwest Wisconsin one can go in almost any direction of our projects and find many streams already full of trout while the coldwater resource is being hammered left and right in Madison. We need to take a close look at what we as a group are up to.

Is spending lots of money on projects really better for our interests than spending it on easements, spending it on land purchases, or spending it on politics in Madison?

Being an old fart, I can remember past efforts to get the trout stamp fees increased and how Bill Pielsticker and the gang finally got it passed by spending a few hundred dollars on a lobbyist. Guys, that looks to me like the only way that we are going to have any chance of meeting our mission in these times.

Chuck Steudel  
Mineral Point





**JIM WIERZBA ON A MONTANA TROUT STREAM**

New SEWTU President Jim Wierzba enjoyed some time fishing in Montana this summer.

### Chapter president profile

## SEWTU's Jim Wierzba: a trout fisher for as long as he can remember

By Henry Koltz

The Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter has had a tremendous string of leaders, many of whom have gone on to both state and national leadership positions within TU. SEWTU's newest President, Jim Wierzba, continues this line of strong leaders.

Jim grew up in Green Bay and cannot recall a time when he did not fish. Rising at 4 a.m., young Jim and his father would venture forth from Green Bay to streams across north-

east Wisconsin. On such trips, Jim waded wet, learning to swing night crawlers under tag alders for hidden trout using a bamboo rod. He later graduated to hip boots and a Garcia fly rod. Jim's father, a Trout Unlimited member himself, taught Jim the wonders of Wisconsin's wilds and the value of cold water.

Like many, Jim's education at the University of Wisconsin at Madison — where he received his MBA and met the love of his life, Jane, a University of Montana graduate — took him away from our streams for

a time. But the allure of cold, moving water called Jim back, and as a young adult he returned to fishing.

He took up fly fishing with abandon. Jane's father was an avid fly fisherman, and Jim and Jane began joining him on trips to the mountain west. Some of these trips involved horse pack trips into remote country and, on a few occasions, some "up close and personal" exposure to grizzly bears and rattlesnakes. Such trips taught Jim to love fly fishing, trout of all kinds, and to abhor rising early, bears, and snakes. As a result, when Jim now travels to Montana, he tries to make sure it is in neither grizzly nor rattler country, though a recent trip to the Beaverhead River violated those rules.

Jim and Jane have three sons: James, who lives and works in Springfield, MA, John, who lives and works in New York City, and William who is wrapping up his last semester of education at the University of Wisconsin, following in his father's footsteps. All three are avid fishermen, often traveling out west with Jim and Jane. In short, trout fishing has become a unifying theme running through the Wierzba family. Whether it's tying flies while watching a Badger game, or standing knee deep in a Wisconsin or western river searching for large fish, Jim has definitely fallen for our namesake species.

Jim is an accomplished individual. He is a retired partner of one of the largest consulting firms, and has been involved in large, complex business transformation projects throughout his career. Jim has traveled extensively in connection with his work, and has worked with a broad array of people. Such skills lend themselves well to Jim's new role as SEWTU President. Now retired, ask Jim what he misses most about work and he will reply that he misses the opportunity to teach, coach, and help nurture new leaders. It goes without saying that such skills are vital to Trout Unlimited,

and to its continuation as a coldwater conservation leader.

Although a longtime TU life member, Jim became actively involved in TU when he — like so many other SEWTU members — came to a stream restoration workday. Jim's first workday was in December and involved the construction of deflectors, and isolating a coldwater stream section from warm water marl pits. The camaraderie and passion for the resource, Jim recalls, were palpable, and the work performed made an instant impact on the stream. He was instantly hooked.

Since then, Jim has become a member of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress and has risen to become Vice Chair of its Trout Committee. He has been involved in hundreds of hours of education and outreach activities, from youth education and veterans' efforts to stream restoration events, both in and outside of TU.

Within TU, Jim has become more and more involved at the chapter level, and he has played a significant role in the resurgence of the Wisconsin State Council's annual banquets, gathering prize donations and helping with planning and day-of-event logistics. SEWTU and WITU are fortunate to have Jim's involvement.

Now SEWTU's President, Jim's goals are to make a difference through habitat work, youth outreach, and continued involvement with disabled US military veterans. Second, Jim is dedicated to sharing his knowledge of fly fishing and streams, so that others will become more excited about TU's mission and become future leaders for the chapter. Finally, Jim wants SEWTU's members to have fun and to enjoy being a part of their chapter. If you have spent time with Jim, you know you will have fun!

SEWTU is glad to have Jim, and we are looking forward to enjoying the fruits of his leadership.

## TU National honors area volunteers, chapters

By John "Duke" Welter

A number of dedicated volunteers from across the region were among those honored for their coldwater conservation work at TU's National Awards Dinner in Middleton September 27.

### Nohr's Esser and Fritz duo honored

Two of the pioneers of watershed restoration in the Driftless Area, Pete Esser and Dave Fritz of the Harry & Laura Nohr TU Chapter, were honored for their steadfast efforts to move projects forward in the face of daunting obstacles in the years from 1998–2006.

Esser and Fritz were like water, flowing downstream around obstacles and finding the way to get projects done, the commendations for their Distinguished Service Awards said. Both have passed the torch to another generation of volunteers now, but their efforts set the chapter on its course, inspired their successors, and were a key part of the foundation for TU's Driftless Area Restoration Effort.

Work continues on the Blue River system and its tributaries under Nohr TU's project manager, Don Pluemer, who said he learned from Esser and Fritz and is proud to succeed them.

The event, held at Middleton's Death's Door Distillery, offered attendees a good Wisconsin fish dinner, beers provided by Capitol Brewery, and gin and other spirits produced at the distillery.

Volunteers from nearby states and a neighboring chapter were also honored. Ed Michael, longtime Illinois State Council chair, received a Distinguished Service Award for his contributions at the chapter, state, and national levels. Illinois TU's Greg Prosen, president of the Oakbrook Chapter and the state's representative on the National Leadership Council, was recognized for his work with the state's annual youth camp held near Grayling, Michigan.

The second highest award TU can give to a chapter, the Silver Trout Award, went to the Hiawatha TU Chapter based in Rochester, Minne-

sota. HTU has long had a strong habitat restoration emphasis, overseeing as many as 14 miles of restoration a season the past five years.



**DAVE FRITZ AND PETE ESSER HONORED BY TU NATIONAL**

Habitat pioneers Dave Fritz (left) and Pete Esser (not pictured) received Distinguished Service Awards from TU National on Friday, Sept. 27. Accepting for Esser was past Nohr Chapter President Don Pluemer (right).



# MEETING: Wisconsin hosts first national meeting since 1982

*Continued from p. 1*

On the conservation tour, over a hundred people saw four restored streams in the Driftless Area. They heard from chapter project leaders, partners, and landowners who were uniformly enthusiastic about the work TU does.

Almost 300 people attended the banquet on the final night of the meeting. The banquet was organized by and benefited the Wisconsin State Council. The banquet netted over \$10,000. Like the other events organized for the meeting by state volunteers, the banquet went off smoothly and had a positive buzz throughout.

Reviews from attendees were excellent. Dozens of TU volunteers from chapters around Wisconsin worked on the hosted fishing, conservation tour, hospitality suite, and banquet. In addition, various TU members from neighboring states contributed to the meeting's success. For years to come, TU's National meetings will likely be judged by using the Wisconsin meeting as a standard.

EPA head Gina McCarthy spent a number of years at Connecticut's Department of Environmental Protection. She is a plain-speaking, knowledgeable agency leader. She told TU members that climate

change should be a major challenge to those who love cold waters. "You must take on climate change if you're serious about protecting waters. Trout need abundant clear, cold water, and it doesn't take a lot of climate change to wipe out a population of brookies," she said.

"I don't care about partisan issues — never have," McCarthy said. "Teddy Roosevelt may have been a quirky guy, but he was remarkable at protecting noteworthy resources. He started the National Park Service and pioneered the North American model of conservation, where the resources belong to the people.... And he didn't care about partisan issues, either. And remember, it was Richard Nixon, a Republican, who signed the Clean Water Act."

Wisconsin DNR Secretary Cathy Stepp welcomed the attendees with a number of anecdotes about going trout fishing with TU stalwarts Jon Christiansen, Steve Born, and Henry Koltz. She said that even though she didn't catch a fish — "I came close" — she had a great time and now better appreciates the resources TU members commit so much of their time and energy to.

### Origins of Wisconsin's hosting

A WITU planning committee first proposed Wisconsin as the national meeting site in 2011. That committee has worked on organizing the meeting ever since TU's Board of Trustees approved Wisconsin as its 2013 meeting site 16 months ago.

Chaired by former WITU State Council Chair Bill Heart, the committee included current State Council

Chair Henry Koltz, past State Council Chair Kim McCarthy, Dave Seligman of Central Wisconsin TU, and former Ojibbeau Chapter President Duke Welter.

One impression from the meeting — unmistakable to a long-time observer — was that TU has become stronger in recent years at all levels as volunteers, trustees, staff, and leaders work in concert to accomplish more conservation, education, and advocacy than ever before.

# TOUR: over 100 view habitat work at Driftless Area sites

*Continued from p. 1*

boarded charter buses to review several outstanding TUDARE partnership projects over the course of nine hours.

Landowners and partners were on hand at Blue River, Big Spring Creek, Bear Creek near Lone Rock, and Black Earth Creek on the Wolf farm between Mazomanie and Black Earth.

Tour goers enjoyed a bratwurst lunch at Spurgeon Winery on the banks of Big Spring Creek in the Blue River system north of Highland.

Each tour stop illustrated a different method used by TU to get solid results. On two sites, projects were still underway, so the essential steps could be viewed in sequence. All the projects have been multi-year efforts and have restored significant stretches of the streams. Three of the four are works in progress, and on Big Spring some repair work will be needed to restore discrete areas damaged by the June flooding in that area.

Several dozen TU volunteers gathered partners responsible for restoring each site, mowed walking trails along streams, spiffed up their signage to tell the story for this day and the future, set up and took down tables for lunch, and kept the show on the road.

Others gave talks on the buses on Driftless Area geology, stream restoration on working ag lands, fisheries impacts, TUDARE, flooding impacts and climate change, and Project Green Teen at Madison's Malcolm Shabazz High School.

Tour participants were impressed with the support these projects have all received from landowners. They also noted that these healthy fisheries benefit from continuing public access. Nearly 250 miles of public access easements have been added across the Driftless Area since the TUDARE project began in 2004. TU members from other parts of the country had a chance to see how an access ethic has taken hold where these restoration projects are being carried out.

"I'm blown away by your success at building these projects on private lands where landowners sign easements for public access, and how the projects don't cost them a cent," observed one volunteer leader from a New York chapter.

### Black Earth Creek

Landowners were inspiring as they talked of their love of the land

and their joy at stewarding streams to better health in partnership with TU. Fred Wolf at the Wolf Run Project on Black Earth Creek has farmed his family's lands since 1921. Wolf spoke movingly about the extensive restoration of the stream he will pass on to his progeny.

The Wolf Run project is one of impressive complexity. It took many years of work to put together, but Southern Wisconsin TU members kept plugging and assembled an enthusiastic partnership with significant dollars to get it done.

As volunteers and visitors stood by Black Earth Creek, Dane County Executive Joe Parisi announced the county would be providing \$17,500 from its budget to finish the 2013 phase of the project. SWTU recently contributed \$5,000 toward this work. These funds will be added to dollars already committed by TU, Dane County, NRCS, and others.

### Blue River

Ken Syme and Steve Carpenter worked with the Harry & Laura Nohr chapter to restore the Blue River on their lands near Highland and Dodgeville. They aren't actively farming the riparian area, but it benefits from restored native prairie and reduced sediment loads.

A DNR fish survey team supervised by longtime fisheries biologist

Gene Van Dyck shocked the stream and showed it is home to many impressive brown trout, as nearby Big Spring was to some large brookies. A 13-inch brookie regurgitated a recently eaten mouse, which may change some of the fly patterns used by anglers in that stream.

### Bear Creek

At Bear Creek north of Lone Rock, members of the Aldo Leopold Chapter and their partners walked the stream with tourers as the equipment operators from Holtz Sand and Gravel talked about their role in restoration work. After its first season of work upstream on the William Fargen property in 2011, the chapter saw an impressive increase in membership that they attribute to their restoration activity.

The work has continued on the Sprecher property this season and will move downstream to property owned by Bob Bolz near year. Mr. Bolz has observed the project for three years now, and he is itching to see it continue to his property. As at all the other sites visited by the tour, Bear Creek has a public fishing easement in place throughout the restored area.


*"I'm blown away by your success at building these projects on private lands where landowners sign easements for public access."*



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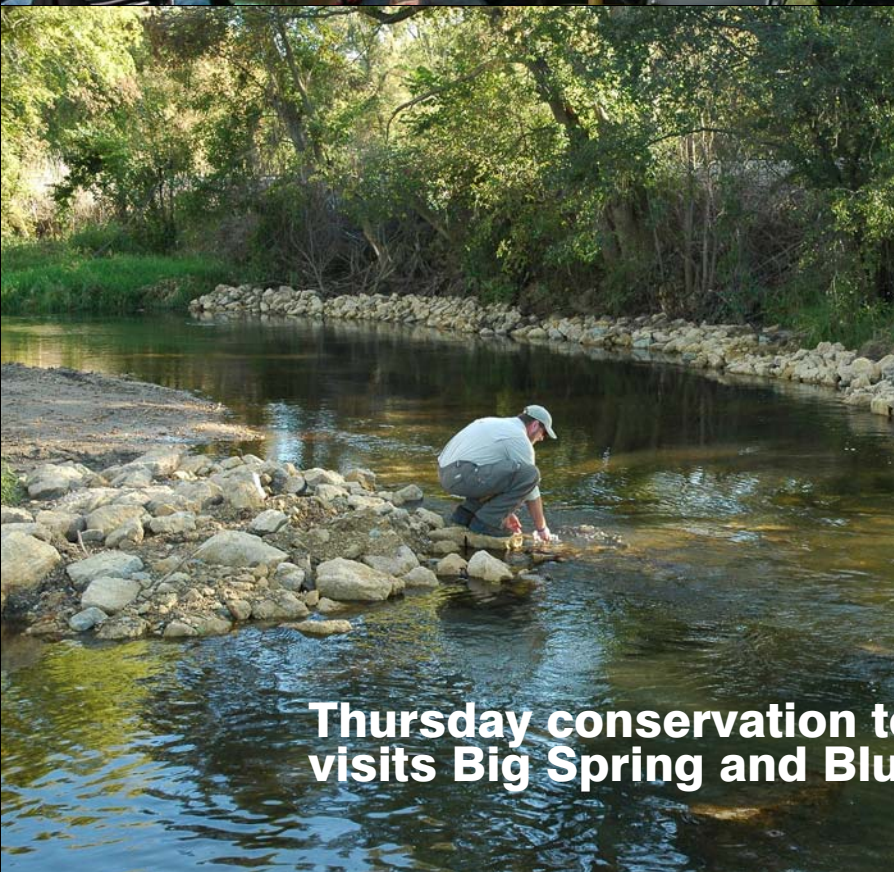


# Scenes from TU National's annual conference...

Madison, WI  
Sept. 24-28, 2013



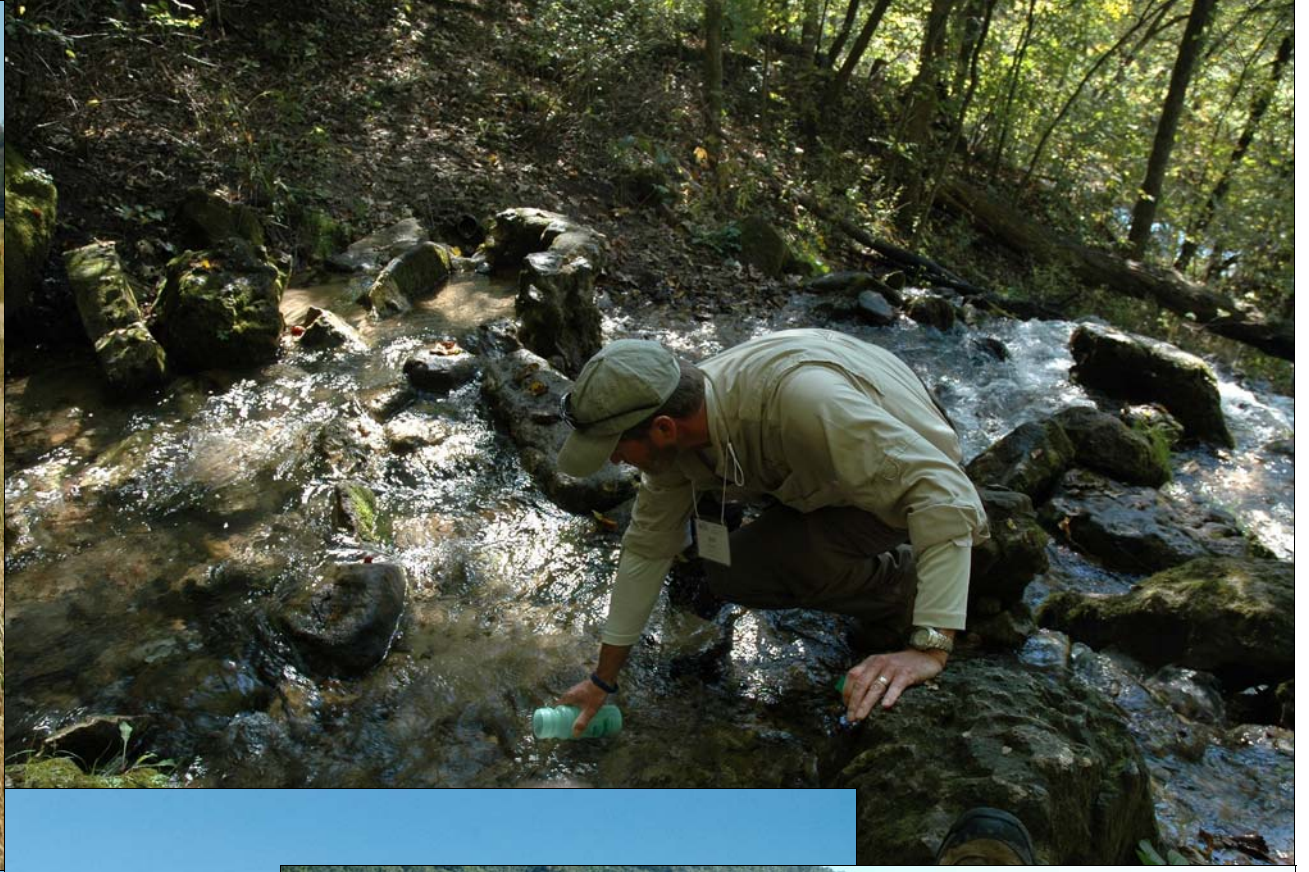
Hosted fishing trips on Wednesday



Thursday conservation tour visits Big Spring and Blue River







**More tour stops on Bear Creek and Black Earth Creek**



**Friday fish fry and awards at Death's Door distillery**







Meetings have an emphasis on involving women







Thank-you to our many banquet volunteers



Past and present State Council chairs relaxing







## Chapter News



### INCREASING STREAM FLOW ON THE MAYKING FLOWAGE

Antigo TU members worked with landowners and the WDNR to remove some rocks from the Mayking Flowage that runs into the Red River. The project increased stream flow so the waterway will better scour itself of sediments.

### Aldo Leopold Chapter

By the time you read this, work will be complete on the **Sprecher** pasture section of **Bear Creek**. Approximately 6,100 feet of stream will be restored thanks to the support and help of our many partners. The largest portion of the cost is once again covered by **NRCS EQIP** dollars, but **DNR**, **Sauk County**, **USFWS**, and private foundation funds are all a critical part of funding the work.

Completing the Sprecher pasture brings the total length of contiguous restored stream to 3.14 miles. Three years of stream shocking data shows multiple year classes in residence with size structure gradually increasing.

To further track Bear Creek's health, on August 16 seven temperature loggers were installed above and below the restored section. **Tom Gawle**, **Tim Hood**, and **Mike and Griffin Barniskis** joined a **DNR** crew led by **Jean Unmuth** in pounding posts and recording GPS locations. We will collect the loggers in the fall and put them back in the stream next spring. The temperature loggers were purchased with a grant from **Alliant Energy**.

A couple of times a year **WAV** monitoring will also be done. All of these monitoring efforts are an adjunct to the **DNR's** regular stream shocking efforts. We should end up with a fairly comprehensive picture of Bear Creek's water quality and the health of its piscatorial denizens.

Next year's Bear Creek work will take place just downstream of the Sprecher pasture on land owned by **Mr. Bolz**. The Bolz section has less gradient than our prior sections and more near-stream wetlands, so the work will be a little slower as we can't work in the wetlands. However, **Tony Pillow** of **NRCS** worked with Mr. Bolz to secure **EQIP** dollars that will make the project a reality. Once the Bolz section is complete, we will have restored 4.26 miles of Bear Creek in four years.

Planning for our winter tying class is underway. It looks like this year we will be in **Portage** at the **Portage Public Library**. The tying class committee is working hard to make this another successful year for the class. Look for updates in the next *WisTrout*.

—Mike Barniskis

### Antigo Chapter

Hope this fall finds all well. We must say that our chapter, along

with the rest of WITU, will miss Todd's expertise in putting together

our WITU newspaper.

We have had some rain this summer in NE Wisconsin. It was dry in August, but we have gotten some rain of late. We hope we could put together a number of years of better precipitation to help replenish our groundwater.

We at Antigo TU have gone a number of projects this summer. Our chapter did a brushing project on the **Middle Branch of the Embarrass River** southeast of town on a project that we did six years ago. It's good to clean out these areas of tag alder brush that can choke a trout stream.

In June, **Dave Seibel**, our area fish manager, and I floated the **Mayking Flowage** from **Demlow's** spring pond to county **Cty. Rd. S** and looked at what could be done to improve this system. There is a rock dam down by **Cty. Rd. S**, and we felt that if we could lower the head of

this by about one foot, we could improve the water flow to help clean out the system of silt buildup.

Dave approached two land owners on either side of the dam location, and they agreed with our proposal to take some rocks out of the dam head. Last month the **DNR** and Antigo TU members removed the rocks on the dam and increased the water flow through the dam. We are very encouraged at the prospect of improving the flowage. This will help clean out some of the silt on spawning areas and remove a barrier to fish movement up and down the system.

We will hold a membership meeting this fall to help recruit new members into our chapter.

We plan to hold our annual banquet on the last Saturday of March in 2014.

—Scott Henricks

### Blackhawk Chapter

The Blackhawk Chapter continues its tradition of supporting stream projects, both physically and financially.

Physically, on Saturday, June 8, about a dozen chapter members, assisted by **Chris Newberry** of **Green County Land Conservation**, a local **Boy Scout** group, and a few others gathered in the park near downtown **New Glarus** and built 32 lunger structures. The structures are now placed in the **Little Sugar River** up-

stream of the handicapped-accessible fishing pier.

Financially, in August the chapter approved funding of \$2,500 for two new projects higher upstream in the **Little Sugar River** northwest of **New Glarus** along **Cty. O**, which will extend the improvement work areas funded by us in prior years.

Regular chapter meetings of late included presentations by **Kevin Searock** and **Chris Newberry**.

—Dave Hinde

### Central Wisconsin Chapter

CWTU had five members involved with the **Girl Scouts/Stream Girls** program on June 20–22. Those participating were **John Tucker**, **Mike San Dretto**, **Tom Poullette**, **Bob Jozowski**, and **Linn Beck**. We all believe that this was a good pilot program and will continue to grow in success.

**Dan Harmon** and **Jim Murphy** represented our chapter at **Cabela's Family Outdoor Days** program on June 22 where they taught fly casting to over 50 people.

We had a huge turnout for the joint workday on **Parsons Creek** with **SEWTU** on July 20.

We also completed beautiful work on the **Mecan River** at our June 15 and August 17 workdays.

The last regular workday was September 21 on the **White River**. Thank you, **Scott Bahn**, for being

such an effective workday coordinator.

As part of their advocacy training, **Mike San Dretto** and **John Tucker** had meetings with a state senator and a state representative regarding regulation of high-capacity wells. Both legislators were supportive of our efforts, and concerns regarding the proliferation of wells in the Central Sands area. Please contact your legislators with a request for a no vote on 2013 Bill LRB-0823/3.

Summer board/picnic meetings were held at the **Pine River** home of **John & Laura Tucker** in July, and at **Riverside Park in Berlin** hosted by **Jeff Wegand** in August.

The September board meeting was at the **Fin 'N Feather** restaurant in **Winneconne**. **Bob Jozowski** was elected to the CWTU board.



### BLACKHAWK'S LUNKER BUILDING ASSEMBLY LINE

John Lusk (right) cuts some lunger spacers during a recent Blackhawk Chapter project day near New Glarus.



# Chapter News



Following the meeting, we had an exciting presentation by **Rich Osthoff** titled "Fly Fishing the West's Best Rivers on Your Own." Thank you, **John Gremmer**, for arranging the meeting programs. Attendance was very good for Rich's presentation, and it was a good kick-off for our fall meetings.

The chapter's fall banquet was October 5 at the **WWII Memorial Building** in **Winneconne**. This is our major fund-raising event for the year. There was a great meal and really good items for raffle and auc-

tion, including a kayak, guided fly fishing trips on the **Big Horn**, fly rod/reels, and much, much more. Banquet Chair **Jeff Wegand** handled tickets.

**John Tucker, Jim Murphy, Mike San Dretto, Dan Harmon**, and other chapter volunteers as needed, will begin **Project Healing Waters** fly tying and casting classes for student veterans at **UW-Oshkosh** on October 9 at the UW-O student union. These are six-week sessions held during the fall and winter semesters. —*John Tucker*

## Fox Valley Chapter

The Fox Valley Chapter has been involved in a number of activities this summer. These activities have included introducing youngsters to fly tying and fishing, and we have worked on some new sites for our habitat day projects.

On June 8, **Joe Bach, Tom Lager, Al Johnson, Todd Calder, and Rich Erickson** were at **Jefferson Park** in **Menasha** for the Kids Fishing Day event sponsored by the **Heckrodt Nature Center**. Kids had a chance to tie a fly, and they also were able to fish the **Fox River** in the park. There were some nice pan fish caught, and there were even a number of wall-eyes that took spinners and garden hackle. One young man won the **L. L. Bean** fly rod/reel combo that we donated for the event.

Habitat days this summer were held at sites that are new locations for our chapter.

The June 15 and August 17 habitat days were on the **Mecan River** in the Sand Country. We partnered with the **Central WI** chapter and **DNR** crews on both of those dates. The construction of overhead structures was the emphasis of the work on both dates. A number of members took the opportunity to do some fishing after the work was done.

The July 20 habitat day was on **Parson Creek** in **Fond du Lac County**, and there were a total of seven different groups that worked on the project that day. **Shawn Sullivan** from the **DNR** presented information about the creek and the importance of considering the total

environment of an area when working to improve the stream for trout.

Our final habitat day for 2013 was September 21 back on the **Mecan River**.

A number of our chapter members have also been involved with stream monitoring in the Central Sands region again this summer.

Our monthly chapter meetings have started up again, with the first meeting held September 19 at the **Bubolz Nature Center**. The event was a social night, and a chance for members to share stories, pictures, and videos of recent fishing trips. **Bob Kinderman**, our chapter chef, prepared a light lunch for those in attendance.

We are in the planning stages for our annual fund-raiser called **Cabin Fever Day** which will be held on January 11 at the **Grand Meridian** in **Appleton**. Watch our website for details. Also check our website for a fly tying section that has been created by **Duane Velie** — it is very informative.

Todd, the Fox Valley TU Chapter joins all of the other chapters in wishing the best to you. Enjoy the opportunity to spend more time in the rivers and streams of Wisconsin. Thank you for all that you have done to promote the activities and work of the various TU chapters and Wisconsin TU.

Enjoy the last few days of summer and in the words of **Tom Lager** — our Let's Talk Bugs writer — "enjoy His creation." —*Rich Erickson*

## Frank Hornberg Chapter

The Hornberg Chapter and the **Friends of the Tomorrow/Waupaca River** co-sponsored a river clean-up day on the **Tomorrow River** on August 10. Six teams of workers walked and canoed sections of the river, collecting litter and cutting away obstructing limbs and logs. Our chapter made our trailer, tools, and grills available for the day. All workers were rewarded with a hearty lunch served on the grounds of the **River Bar** in **Amherst**.

**Matt Salchert** and **Heidi Oberstadt** gave **State Representative Katrina Shankland** of the 71<sup>st</sup> assembly district a tour of our in-stream improvements on the **Tomorrow River** on August 29. Representative Shankland is a member of the **Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage Committee**, so she has an interest in projects such as ours that maintain water quality and protect resources. There is a picture of Katrina and Heidi in waders in the river on Rep. Shankland's Facebook page.

The **WDNR** has completed its four-year project on the **Bob Lea**

farm near **Amherst Junction**. This was a cooperative project involving the **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**, the **DNR**, our Hornberg Chapter, and the landowner. Some of the funding was provided by the **Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP)** administered by the Department of Agriculture. Wing dams, in-stream boulders, and luncker structures should make this 4,400-foot section of the Tomorrow River more suitable for the resident trout population. Our chapter obtained the access easement and we provided labor, helping assemble the luncker structures and build wing dams. We are pleased that we could play a role in seeing this project through to completion.

Two other **DNR** stream improvement projects in our area worth noting. One is on **Flume Creek** at **Northland** (just completed), and the other is on the **Tomorrow River** near **Keener Road** (scheduled for 2014). —*John Vollrath*



Bob Haase

## CWTU members tie flies at musky event

Jerry Smet (front table) and Rand Vander Schaaf (back table) traveled with Bob Haase to the Boulder Junction Musky Jamboree in Boulder Junction to teach people how to tie flies.

The Northwoods Chapter worked with Bill Scherer to secure the booth space, and Bob, Jerry, and Rand from the Central Wisconsin Chapter helped teach people of all ages how to tie a fly.

This is a good example of chapters working together, and it was so successful plans are being made to do it again next year.

## Green Bay Chapter

The Green Bay Chapter has been very active throughout the late spring and all of summer here in Northeast Wisconsin. Public events, work projects, and larger conservation efforts were on display and are paying great dividends for water quality, trout and our chapter.

We completed four work projects this summer. The first two were a major effort on the **First South Branch of the Oconto River**. Both projects were in coalition with the **Oconto Chapter** of TU. The project

required a human conveyor belt to move over 15,000 pounds of rock to the area to shore up prior habitat structures. The project had a very wonderful component, as four participants — **Jim Vandenbranden, Bruce Duechert, Mitch Bent, and Cliff Sebero** — were also present 30 years ago when the structures were installed. Such dedication to our coldwater resources is a great example for all involved.

*Continued on p. 12*

Fox Valley Trout Unlimited announces the **12th Annual cabin fever day** a fishing expo!

**saturday, january 11, 2014**  
**9 am - 4 pm**

Grand Meridian  
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**Show Events Include**  
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# Chapter News

**VOLUME SEVEN**  
issue 1  
September 2013

**2** Latest words and news from our chapter president in "The Drift"

**5** Check out the story "A Boat Tale" word-smithed by Jonathon Jacobs

**6** Fly Tier's Corner from Brian Smolinski of Lund's Fly Shop and other tips



## RIPRAP

Conserve. Protect. Restore.



A MOSTLY MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE KIAP-TU-WISH CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED

Kiap-TU-Wish chapter is currently seeking contributors to RipRap.

We are currently looking for any members that have interesting stories, poems, photos, fly tying tips, comments, etc., for submission into "RipRap."

### Kiap Board decides to continue with RipRap.

As you may have noticed, this issue of RipRap has had a bit of an overhaul. Upon the announcement in March that Scott Hanson would be retiring as the editor of RipRap, the Kiap Board of Directors met to decide the fate of the publication.

In upcoming issues, look for more information to be posted regarding decisions and outcomes from the monthly board meetings, as well as thoughts and musings from our new chapter president, Tom Henderson, in his column entitled "The Drift."

### KIAP-TU-WISH'S RIPRAP NEWSLETTER LIVES ON

The Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter's board of directors recently reaffirmed its commitment to publishing a printed chapter newsletter. Kiap's newsletter under Scott Hanson's editorship won TU National's Bollinger Award as the best chapter newsletter in the country in 2010.

*Continued from p. 11*

The Green Bay Chapter also completed two other work projects. The third was on the **North Branch of the Oconto River** and was done in coalition with **Tom Moris** of the **U.S. Forest Service** along with two of his summer employees, **Joe Zant** and **Scott Will**. This project was a continuation of the work done in 2012. Over 225 feet of brush bundles were added, alder brush was cut, and six woody structures were anchored in strategic locations to provide cover for fish.

The final work project was completed on **Ninemile Creek**, a major

coldwater tributary to the **Wolf River**. There were so many volunteers from **Oconto**, **Green Bay** and the **Wolf River chapters** that three different crews spread out along the work area. Many great pictures of all the work projects can be found on the chapter website at [www.greenbaytu.com](http://www.greenbaytu.com).

The chapter continued the tradition of teaming up with the **Brown County PALs** program and **Brown County Izaak Walton League** by hosting a Kids Fishing day in July. The event was a huge success and was made possible due to a successful partnership between many dif-

ferent groups. More than 60 children enjoyed refreshments and the chance to catch anything from largemouth bass to pan fish.

The much-anticipated opening of a **Cabalas** store here in **Green Bay** provided the Green Bay Chapter an opportunity to staff an information tent and sign up new members. Many volunteers provided hours in both hot and rainy weather to share our mission with many of the estimated 5,000 visitors. GBTU members informed many individuals about how the chapter gets its feet wet and hands dirty to conserve, protect, and restore our coldwater trout fishery habitats.

Some of the things being done this summer involved work off the streams as well. The chapter is working with the **River Alliance of Wisconsin** in an attempt to encourage grassroots advocacy among its members. We currently have a meeting scheduled with one local state legislator, and we are working to meet with others to discuss major conservation issues, such the im-

pact of concentrated animal feeding operations (also known as factory farms or CAFOs), sand mining, high-capacity well permits, and other conservation issues. Hopefully, the relationship with the legislators will pay off and result in more open dialogue and friendlier legislation regarding issues important to Trout Unlimited.

The chapter also was involved in a clean water forum hosted in coalition with the **Clean Water Action Council** and the **Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters**. The speakers included retired DNR officials **Gordon Stevenson** and **Dave Vetrano** who discussed the impact of agriculture and climate change statewide on a whole host of water-related issues.

As summer turns to fall, the chapter is also looking forward to its monthly meetings and planning for 2014. We're hoping next year will be as good as this one. Thanks and tight lines to all!

—Aaron Frailing

### Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter

We have finished up the work for our 2012 projects on the lower end of the **Blue River** off **Shemack Road**. We did about 3,000 feet below and 1,000 feet above the bridge. The stream banks are very deep here, with some 12 feet above the water.

Due to problems getting permits — as has happened with a lot of projects in the Driftless Area — we were only able to work on **Big Rock Branch** in **Iowa County** for our 2013 project work. We still got a lot done this summer. We are looking at almost three miles of new easements on the **Blue River** above recent

work. All this is due to our previous work on the Blue near these owners. It will probably be a couple years before we can get to these stretches for project work.

We had a trap shoot and meeting on September 19. There we discussed getting ready for the TU National meeting and the fishing outings and the stream tour. We had several people taking folks out fishing the Wednesday before the national meeting. The next day some of our members showed people on the conservation tour some of the work we've done.

Our people also helped at the



### LOOK AT ALL THOSE DUMP TRUCK LOADS OF SOIL!

The Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter is finding that one of the best places for the soil obtained by tapering the deeply eroded banks of the Blue River is right

back onto the farm fields that the soil came from (bottom). The chapter is now working in areas with banks as high as 12 feet above the stream.



# Chapter News



luncheon setting up and taking down chairs and tables. Thanks to

all for their hard work.  
—Brian Larson

## Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter

The Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter recently completed restoration work on nearly a half mile of the upper **Trimbelle River** south of **River Falls**. During the late August heat wave, water temperature remained below 60 degrees F! The work included fewer lunger structures and more root wads than some previous projects in order to favor brook trout over browns. Plans are in place to continue the work downstream during the 2014 project season.

The **WDNR** trout crew lead by **John Sours** did the heavy lifting, and volunteers completed the seeding and mulching. Earlier, volunteers under the direction of **Randy Arnold** removed more than 3,000 box elder trees.

The stream monitoring team led by **John Kaplan** removed temperature loggers from the Trimbelle ahead of the project work. Those loggers are now back in the stream.

Working with the **River Falls Parks and Recreation Department**, Kiap held two fishing clinics at **Glen Park**. Both included casting instruction. Attended by adults and teenagers, one of them included fishing in the **Kinnickinnic River**. Six- to elev-

en-year-olds in the second group were most interested in finding and identifying insects in the water.

Kiap's long-range planning team, led by vice president **Hans Jung**, presented an evaluation of several potential restoration projects to our board. With no additional easement stretches of the Trimbelle available, the board focused on the upper **Kinnickinnic River** where several stretches are available. The "**Red Cabin**" site was deemed most desirable for work during the 2015 project year, in part because of a new angler parking lot.

Some TU members live in the northern reaches of Kiap-TU-Wish territory and find it difficult to attend meetings. To better serve them and other potential members, the chapter held a special meeting in **Amery** on September 30. The program included a presentation by **Aaron Cole**, senior fisheries biologist with the **WDNR** who works in **Polk** and **Barron** counties. There will also be a short presentation about the conservation work that is being done by TU.  
—Tom Henderson

## Lakeshore Chapter

Lakeshore Chapter's annual banquet was held back in March, approximately \$6,000 was raised via silent and live auction. Thank you to all those who bought, donated, and attended.

Lakeshore has been busy with maintenance of the **Onion River**, from clearing trees and debris on workdays to determining where and when to do more restoration work. Our goal for 2014 is to begin our first work below the **Cty. Rd. U bridge**. Lakeshore has discussed our plans with the **DNR**, and we are in the first phase of determining how and when the project will most likely take place. Mid summer is the plan.

The **Onion R.** was shocked by the **DNR**, and the health and quality of the fish is good, with numbers increasing year over year, which is just great.

Our spring workdays will be announced on our new website, which will be up and running shortly. It is a work in progress. Anyone interested in helping with workdays is always welcome and will be appreciated. Dates will be set in early spring.

Our chapter also donated several fly boxes and a rod to the TU National meeting. We hope everyone has a successful season.  
—Gordy Martin

## Oconto River Chapter

Our chapter continues to work stream projects with the **Green Bay**, **Marinette**, and **Wolf River** chapters during the summer. This year's proj-

ects included brushing, bundling, and structure rehab work on the **S. Br. of the Oconto**, **N. Br. of the Oconto**, and **Nine-Mile Creek**.



**TROUT-IN-THE-CLASSROOM A POPULAR DRAW FOR OCONTO RIVER TU**  
Live trout (top) came to the Oconto County Youth Fair last August courtesy of Oconto River TU.

The chapter set up a booth at the **Oconto County Youth Fair** Aug. 22-25. We displayed a **Trout-in-the-Classroom** setup, complete with chiller and live trout donated by **Silver Moon Springs**. Live fish are always a great draw. Ten new members signed up as a result.

The chapter held its fishing day at **Woodlands Village**, a nursing facility in **Suring**. Residents there are treated to a couple hours of fishing fun. Chapter members, along with the **Suring Fire Department**, set up a portable fish tank. The fish were purchased with a donation from **Romy Wiegele**, proprietor of the **Holi-**

**day Inn Supper Club** at **Kelly Lake**.

Chapter members participated in a northern pike eradication event held on the **Oconto River** on Sept. 8. This is a fun event for members and friends to enjoy a morning on the river trying to catch northern, the biggest enemy of small trout in the lower reaches of the Oconto system. Northerns caught are filleted and grilled as lunch. Hot dogs go to those who do not catch their dinner. **Tom Klatt** organizes the event and is the official in charge of weighing and measuring the entries.

*Continued on p. 14*



## KIAP-TU-WISH CONTINUES WORK ON THE TRIMBELLE RIVER SOUTH OF RIVER FALLS

Kiap-TU-Wish's recent work on the Trimbelle River included fewer lunger structures and more root wads than some previous projects. This was done in

order to favor brook trout over browns. The chapter plans more work on this river again next year.





## Chapter News

Continued from p. 13

Plans are in place to hold our annual handicapped fishing day Sept. 21 at **Brunner's Pond** in **Underhill**. Participants are treated to a picnic lunch before fishing for the big one. All fish that are caught are cleaned and sent along with the fisherperson

and his or her caregiver for a fish fry at their home.

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

—Dale Halla

### Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter

Our chapter remained very active throughout the summer. We ac-

tually take a vacation from our monthly chapter meetings to accom-



Mike Kuhr

modate our members' own vacations and fishing trips, as well as to focus on our other activities such as stream restoration, education, and outreach, plus our **Project Healing Waters** initiative.

A number of our members have also been very active with the work leading up to the National TU meeting held the end of September in Madison.

We kicked off the month of June by supporting **Cabela's** for their "Kid's Day" event on June 8. Special thanks to our member **Chuck Beeler** who manages our relationship with Cabela's, as well as our volunteers who mentored youth on fishing and fly tying techniques.

June 8 and 9 were also the last two scheduled **Orvis** Fly Fishing 101 sessions. Orvis graciously gives each attendee a one-year free membership to Trout Unlimited, so we concluded that collaborative program with nearly 150 new members. We thank Orvis Fishing Manager **Erik Helm** and his staff for letting us be part of this membership initiative. Now it will be up to our membership committee, chaired by **Josh Radlein**, to retain these new members and get them excited about what we do.

June 17 opened a new chapter in our advocacy efforts. **Herb Oechler** and **Seth Foley** joined **Henry Koltz** and **Jim Wierzba** at the **Fin 'n Feather** restaurant in **Winneconne** to participate in an advocacy workshop sponsored by the **River Alliance of Wisconsin**. The intent was to build comfort and knowledge in terms of how to best approach legislators on matters of interest to our chapters. A number of WITU chapters were represented.

On June 22, we joined forces with the **DNR** on the first step of our **Mukwonago River** efforts. Despite torrential rains that drenched the area for a couple of days prior to the workday, 20 hardy souls showed up to help. Due to the high water levels, we were not able to do the planned in-stream work, but there was plenty of bank stabilization and other tasks to keep us busy.

While working at Mukwonago, we met a number of representatives from other area organizations interested in the future of the Mukwona-

go River, and future collaborations with these groups are planned for the **Rainbow Springs** property, recently acquired by the state. This stream is in our home waters, and it has great potential to be developed into an outstanding fishery. We just have to remember to bring along a tow truck the next time to make sure we get out. Several members' vehicles got stuck in the mud on the way out from the work site.

On June 29, we sponsored another **Project Healing Waters** fishing outing with the veterans. The event was held at **Wern Valley Sportsman's Club** in **Genesee**. A big thank-you to them for allowing the veterans to fish their bass and pan fish ponds. The highlight of the day was a 17-inch bass caught on a fly rod, which got everyone's attention.

We didn't slow down in the July summer heat. On Saturday, July 20, we teamed with **Central WI TU** to sponsor a workday on **Parson's Creek**, a Class 1 trout stream near **Fond du Lac** within an hour drive for most of our members. The effort was led by **Mike Kuhr**, and our volunteers built traditional bank cover structures and performed general stream cleanup followed up by our traditional brat fry.

A few days later, on July 23, we hosted our annual Casting Clinic at **Greenfield Park**. A number of our members, as well as representatives from area fly shops, provided instruction on casting techniques. A little friendly competition kept things lively, and we were joined by a number of new members. Food and beverages make this a great mid-summer get-together. Special thanks to **Chuck Beeler**, **Jay Zawerschnik**, and **Stan Strelka** for providing the food and grills.

We also hosted another Project Healing Waters fishing outing with the veterans on July 27. The event was held on the **Milwaukee River** at **Fireman's Park** in **Newburg**. Despite colder-than-normal temperatures, our veterans managed to coax a few smallmouth bass from their hiding spots.

August might have been even busier. On August 17, our volunteers teamed with the **Ozaukee County Fish Passage** program to do work on **Mineral Springs Creek**. **Luke Roffler** of the fish passage program worked with **Ray Weiss** to plan the workday. Ray made sure our trailer got to the site and that all the power tools were up and running. We removed stream impediments to this tributary stream that dumps into **Lake Michigan** near **Port Washington**. Thanks go to many who put in the effort in near record high temperatures and humidity. Thanks also to **Rick Frye** and **Jim Wierzba** who manned the chain saws and to **Bob Hemke** and **Michael Castle** for an "ironman" effort to clear debris from the stream.

One particular log jam was especially nasty, and a team of eight vol-

### SEWTU WORKING WITH KIDS AND AREA VETERANS

SEWTU taught kids the art of fly casting at the Conservation Youth Day (top) held at Halter Wildlife facility in Pleasant Prairie on Aug. 24. On July 27 the chapter held another in their continuing Project Healing Waters fishing outings on the Milwaukee River at Fireman's Park in Newburg (bottom).



# Chapter News



## WILD RIVERS FISHING OUTING

Mike Hart from Duluth was all smiles after catching a fish on the Pike Chain of Lakes south of Iron River on August 17. The chapter worked with an area Project Healing Waters group on the event.

unteers needed over an hour to clear it away. This effort allowed us to once again focus on our "home waters" in the more northern portion of our territory. I can guarantee that a number of our volunteers will return again, but this time with a fly rod rather than chain saws.

Our membership committee worked with **Pat Ehlers** and **The Fly Fisher** to put together a unique, showcase event for next year. In early August, we were able to announce that with the help and sponsorship of **The Fly Fisher**, we will be bringing **Tim Rajeff** to **Milwaukee** on May 14. Many of you may know his background as a champion competitive caster or for his role as a TV fishing host on **OLN**. He also is the owner of the **Echo Rod Company** and the North American distributor of **Airflo** fly lines. We expect this event will generate tremendous interest and will open attendance up to our fellow chapters. Please watch for more details in the future.

We also hosted another Project Healing Waters fishing outing with the veterans on August 26. The event was held at **Thiensville Village Park** as the group returned to the **Milwaukee River**. The group was able to tour a fish passage that allows migrating fish to move above the dam in **Thiensville**. The highlight of the outing was to get some of our veterans wading in the river and catching some nice smallmouth bass on the fly.

With the end of summer, it is also time to recognize our volunteers who lead weekly fly tying sessions for the veterans throughout the year. Special thanks to **George Batcha** and **Rick Frye** for leading the Monday evening sessions, and to **Al Dalphonso** and **James Flagg** for leading the Thursday morning sessions.

August 24 saw several of our volunteers participate in the **Conservation Youth Day** held at **Halter Wildlife** facility in **Pleasant Prairie**. We were responsible for helping with fly casting sessions. The youth were organized into nine groups that rotated through the event in 45-minute intervals. They were exposed to shot gunning, duck calling, retriever dogs, archery, and other topics besides our casting. Special thanks to **Larry Wirth**, **Pete Pritzlaff**, **Henry Koltz**, and **Jim Wierzba**

who helped throughout the entire, hot day. The experience was extremely positive, and we plan to go back next year with a greater show of force.

We ended the month on August 28 with a chance to say thank-you to our volunteers and the participants in the **Orvis** fly fishing sessions. Together with **Orvis**, we hosted a cook-out and pond fishing night at **Rotary Park** in **Mequon**. During these sessions, we emphasized three key principles. 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 volunteers were peppered with questions about fishing hot spots, flies, and general advice, and many a map was marked up. One of the more creative attendees recorded a fishing hints session with his smart phone.

Our first all-chapter meeting of the fall was held Sept. 24 at the **Charcoal Grill** restaurant. We had a presentation by our Project Healing Waters team. **James Flagg**, one of our volunteers and a veteran, gave a presentation about what the program has meant to the veterans. We also recognized our members who have volunteered their time in some way to Project Healing Waters over the last year. Their ranks are many.

It was "all hands on deck" in support of the **TU National Annual Meeting** in **Madison** the last week of September. Our workday trailer (and grill) made an appearance at the Wednesday fishing outing and the Thursday conservation tour.

In lieu of the national meeting, a number of our members lent a hand as volunteers to the **Pike River** cleanup on September 21 sponsored by a group of community organizations.

October 12 will be a jam-packed day as we have three major events that day. Some of our volunteers will set up a casting and education table at the **Root River Fishery**. Others will participate in a **Friends of the Mukwonago River** workday. Still others will support **Orvis** with a fly tying demonstration and casting assistance.

We do have a planned workday on **Genesee Creek** on October 19 which will be led by **Jason Freund**. We return again to the property owned by **Carroll University**, which serves as the site of many environmental and outdoors programs. Our volunteers will focus on general stream improvement and clean-up on this brown trout fishery.

Around those dates we need to focus our energies on our annual fund-raising banquet. In the past, we felt our members were conflicted between attending our chapter meeting or the fund-raiser as they fell close to each other on the calendar. This year we have combined the two events and hope to get over 100 participants. The event will be held on October 22 at the **New Berlin Hills Golf Course**. Thanks to **Rich Vetrano** for providing our invitations and tickets and to **Stan Strelka** who organizes the event.

Other fall events to keep an eye on are our November and December chapter meetings. **Pat Ehlers** of **The Fly Fisher** will be our speaker on November 19, and December will be our holiday party and gift exchange.

We are also a sponsor of the **Riveredge Nature Center's Environmental Awards Day** and will be

represented at the event on November 9.

For information about these upcoming events and other activities within our chapter, please visit our website at [www.sewtu.org](http://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](mailto: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

My, was June ever a busy month. It started off with our annual **Nash Williams Banquet** and awards presentations. More than just a party, the banquet was true to its namesake, providing an opportunity to honor and celebrate those who have made extraordinary contributions to coldwater conservation through, or in partnership with, our chapter.

The award recipients were a diverse group of landowners, chapter members, educators, and community members. Many of the awards were related to the impressive conservation work being done on and around **Black Earth Creek** in **Mazomanie**.

The banquet was followed by our annual **Special Needs Fishing Day**, which was again run by the spirited **John Schweiger**. It was a beautiful Saturday for our 49 guests and 36 caregivers and family members, and we did our best to hook them up with a fish. Tremendous thanks go to all of the volunteers, and especially **Jim Kalscheur** for opening up his land and ponds to some very special people.

June continued and soon brought us to what has become an annual event — the **Women's Fly-fishing Clinics**. There are two clinics, one for beginners and one for intermediate fishers. The clinics bring in women and guides from across the Midwest to learn new skills, sharpen old ones, and commune with trout. This program has become a national model, and we are very excited by its growth and tremendous success. We thank **Tina Murray** for doing so much of the heavy lifting to make these import-

ant educational outreach events happen. If you are interested in these clinics, you can connect and learn more by liking *Wisconsin Women's Flyfishing Clinics* on **Facebook**.

And that was quite enough for June! Our July and August were quieter, to be sure, but still plenty active. A great deal of work continued on the **Mazomanie** project, our **Project Healing Waters** efforts continued, and we focused our outreach efforts on membership engagements.

We are looking ahead to a fun meeting on October 8 when we will change locations to the **UW-Madison** campus in partnership with our friends in **UW Trout Unlimited**.

We also have stream workdays scheduled for Nov. 2 and Dec. 14. We can always use more hands at these events, and you are welcome to join us. The best source of information on the events is our *News-casts* newsletter at [swtu.org](http://swtu.org).

Looking ahead to those cold days of winter, you'll want to set aside Saturday, January 18, because noted guide and author **Kelly Galloup** is the featured speaker for our annual **Icebreaker** event. Kelly will be joined by nationally known Wisconsin guide and fly tyer **Pat Ehlers**. It's always a wonderful day of trout talk and fly tying. We have more information on our website and will share more in the future. We'd love to see you there!

Please stop by [www.swtu.org](http://www.swtu.org) for more news about our chapter and to check out our calendar of events. You can also find us on **Facebook**.

—Drew Kasel

## Wild Rivers Chapter

Summer activities for our chapter included canoeing the **White R.** Aug. 10. The trip through the **Bibon Swamp** took about six hours. Leaving from **Sutherland Bridge** were

canoeists **Chuck Campbell**, **Jim Emerson**, **Peter Freiburger**, **Joe Rapacz**, **Bob Traczyk**, and **Dick Berge**.

*Continued on p. 16*



## THE "CORPS OF RECOVERY" TACKLES PLEASANT VALLEY CREEK

Southern Wisconsin TU did some brushing Oct. 5 on Pleasant Valley Creek south of Mt. Horeb in Dane County.





## Chapter News

Continued from p. 15

The day was beautiful, with soaring clouds and mild temperatures. The White was clear and in perfect condition. On the lower section of the river, we encountered some tree obstructions and a few deer flies that made us pay for coming into their domain. We all agreed it was a nice trip, but perhaps we will do a shorter section next year.

Dinner was burgers at the **White River Saloon** in **Mason**, with a short meeting following. The upcoming **Healing Waters** event and the **Pike River Road Memorial** cleanup were discussed.

We sponsored a fly fishing trip for wounded veterans on August 17 on the **Pike Chain of Lakes** south of **Iron River**. **Lions Club** members **Ray Kangas**, **Guy Suo**, and **John Weiss** donated the use of their pontoons and guiding services for the event.

**Teri Olson** is the local director of the **Healing Waters Program** that reaches veterans nationwide. Teri, who summers in the **Port Wing** area, has led many similar outings in

Maine where she lives. She made contact with veterans from the **Superior** and **Duluth** area for the event.

TU members **Don Sutliff**, **Peter Freiburger**, and Chapter President **Dick Berge** organized the trip, made arrangements for the boats, assembled the fly rods, provided fly casting instructions, and prepared lunch.

Veterans **Jeff Lyke**, **Larry Yaezle**, and helper **Jim Kiosai** from **Superior**, **Mike Hart** from **Duluth**, and **Paul Hbver** from **Lake Nebagamon** enjoyed the beautiful day on the water. Although the fish were few and small, the smiles were big and new friendships were made.

For the past several years, chapter members have helped at the **Iron River National Fish Hatchery** open house. We help by tying flies with the kids and teaching fly casting on the pond to anyone who wants to try it. Many people attend this event, and it is good exposure and public relations for TU.

—Chuck Campbell

### Wisconsin River Valley Chapter

On Aug 24, **Henry Kanemoto**, **Bob Pils**, and **Linda Lehman** volun-

teered at the annual **Sporting Heritage Day** at the **Wausau School**

**Forest** to demonstrate fly tying and casting to youngsters and their parents. We also included a drawing for an **L.L. Bean** fly rod won by eight-year-old **Collin Betton**. This will be a rod Collin will need to grow into — the packaging for the rod was at least a third bigger than he was.

We helped the **Wausau East High School** on their annual **Plover River** stream study on Tuesday, October 1 and Thursday, October 3. We met students at the intersections of Cty. N and Cty. Y east of **Wausau**. Our chapter assists with invertebrate identification. A lunch of hot dogs and brats was prepared by the **Wausau East teachers**. I made cookies and veggie snacks for the group. The event wrapped up with a

boom shocking demonstration by the **WDNR**.

Our chapter meetings are starting up again, and we will be holding our elections on October 10. We are looking for a new chapter president as well as a few new board members. Our meetings will be taking place at the **VFW** in **Wausau** at 388 River Drive at 7:00 pm. We will be meeting in the bar area unless otherwise noted. Please look for meeting announcements on our **Facebook** page using key words Wisconsin River Valley Chapter, Trout Unlimited.

P.S. Thank-you Todd for all you wonderful work with the *Wisconsin Trout* newspaper!  
—Linda Lehman

### Wolf River Chapter

On August 17 the Wolf River Chapter hosted a brush and bundling workday with the **Green Bay Chapter** on **Nine Mile Creek**. Volunteers from various TU chapters helped to finish the work under the guidance of **Ben Rollings** and **Rick Halder** of the **WDNR**.

This work completes the brush and bundling of **Nine Mile Creek** from **East Hollister Road** down to its confluence with the **Wolf River**.

A lunch was served after the work at **Langlade Landing**.

We will be holding our fall general membership meeting Saturday, October 12 at 9 a.m. at the **White Lake Community Center**. We will be discussing plans for 2014. There will be a lunch served after the meeting.

For more information on upcoming events, visit [WolfRiverTU.org](http://WolfRiverTU.org).

—Tim Waters

# Virus found in Wisconsin trout released into the wild

By Rory Linnane

Wisconsin Center  
for Investigative Journalism

State natural resource officials are wondering how a mysterious virus found its way to Wisconsin trout and what it will mean for the health of aquatic life.

"It's a big unknown," said Susan Marcquenski, a fish health specialist for the state Department of Natural Resources. "There's very little information about the effect of the virus on cool-water species."

Despite the uncertainty, state authorities confirm that they released 270,000 brown trout this year from hatcheries where fish tested positive for the cutthroat trout virus. An additional 160,000 had already been released last year before officials got the test results.

Raised in state hatcheries, the trout were meant to bolster the species' population in local watersheds. They were the first fish known to be infected with the virus east of the Mississippi River, according to Marcquenski, though the virus may have previously gone undetected.

Because only samples of fish are tested, officials do not know how many of these fish were carrying the virus when released into the headwaters of the Mississippi and the Yahara river system.

Part of the rationale for releasing the infected fish was the benign history of the virus, which has been found in several western states.

Though similar to the virus that causes Hepatitis E in humans, it has no known health impacts on the trout it inhabits, and likely cannot spread to mammals.

But little is known about the potential for the virus to spread to other cold-blooded animals that share a home with trout, such as pike, bass, other species of fish, and even amphibians.

"We definitely need more research," Marcquenski said.

She and a professor at the University of Florida, Thomas Waltzek, are developing a proposal to study the effect of the virus on other fish species. Waltzek is also helping the DNR develop ways to track and remove cutthroat

The virus was also found at the Nevin Hatchery in Fitchburg near Madison and in trout from Lake Michigan.

"It's quite a puzzle to us," said Al Kaas, chief of DNR's fisheries culture section. "We've been trying to figure out how our biosecurity measures broke down and allowed it to show up in three different locations in Wisconsin."

The virus may have come to the state by people moving fish and fish eggs, or natural movement of fish

and Consumer Protection, as well as DNR's Fish Management Board, released a group of trout likely carrying the virus.

"They chose not to take any regulatory action," Marcquenski said. "So the fish were stocked in the watershed surrounding the St. Croix Falls Hatchery." Kaas noted that none of the hatchery fish died or experienced adverse effects from the virus.

That watershed runs from the headwaters of the Mississippi River down to the Gulf of Mexico.

Jim Winton, a supervisory research microbiologist at the Western Fisheries Research Center in Seattle who specializes in fish viruses, said he was not seriously concerned about the DNR's decision.

Although Winton said a precautionary principle is to not move fish that are carrying a virus, he noted that the virus may have already naturally migrated to the watershed.

"The fish either had it or acquired it from a local source," Winton said. "If the virus was already in the

watershed, it's pretty hard to put that genie back in the bottle."

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**NEVIN AND ST. CROIX INVOLVED**  
Brown trout at the St. Croix hatchery were found infected last November. The virus was later found at the Nevin hatchery south of Madison.

and predators, Marcquenski said. Sometimes birds pick up fish from

neighboring watersheds and drop them in the state's exposed hatcheries.

Marcquenski said DNR officials, after consulting with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade

trout virus from fish eggs.

Wisconsin DNR officials first found the virus in November in lab results for brown trout at the St. Croix Falls Hatchery, analyzed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

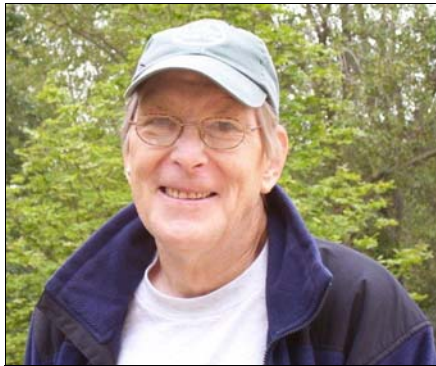


Craftsman Corner

# Paul Julius: a bamboo fly rod maker at an early age

By Scott Grady

So how lucky is Paul Julius? He lives in the Driftless Area of Wisconsin and makes and fishes split bamboo fly rods. From one rodmaker to another, I'm jealous! For many fly fishers, somewhere in their early years there is a split bamboo fly rod. It's usually a cheap rod, well used, perhaps handed down from a family member or a fishing mentor. Paul's first rod was a nine-foot, three-piecer that was missing about a foot off the tip section.



"I think I was about 12 years old at the time, and I thought it would be neat to be able to fix up the old rod or make a new one. So the seed for making rods was planted early."

Paul started his first bamboo rod about 10 years ago.

"I always wanted to make rods, but time to do so was always not there."

After accumulating the tools, he finally got his rodmaking shop to-



gether. "I learned early on that the rodmaking process shouldn't be rushed or hurried, and I still believe it."

When you get a good look at Paul's rods, you will see it is time well spent. Recently Paul donated one of his Driggs River rods to Trout Unlimited to be used to help raise money at the TU National Convention banquet in Madison on September 28. Someone went home with a big smile on their face.

Paul likes Paul Young rod tapers. Mr. Young was a Michigan fly shop owner and rod maker who understood upper Midwest trout streams. Paul Julius has modified those tapers to his own taste by smoothing

out the numbers of the taper. For the Driftless Area, Paul likes his Driggs River and the Perfectionist tapers the best. These rod tapers — along with flamed cane, darkened hardware, and appealing wraps — make for beautiful, versatile, great-casting fly rods.

ting and hand planning each rod. He doesn't work with fiberglass or graphite. To Paul, "Bamboo has always seemed to me to be the right material for trout rods."

Paul hears back from his customers from time to time. They mostly tell him about the fish they catch. "Always makes me smile 'cause that's what the rod is meant to do."

Paul can be reached by e-mail at [maker@pjuliusrods.com](mailto:maker@pjuliusrods.com) or via his website at [pjuliusrods.com](http://pjuliusrods.com).

(If you know someone who is crafting items for trout fishers, let Scott Grady know. Maybe we can tell his or her story here in Craftsman Corner. Contact Scott at [oossg@vbe.com](mailto:oossg@vbe.com). -Ed.)



As with most rod makers, Paul holds a special place for the first rod he made, which he still fishes a lot yet today.

"Some days I like to use the Driggs design and some days the Perfectionist," he says.

Paul specializes in bamboo, split-

## Watershed Access Fund

### Over \$8,000 raised for trout access grants

By Doug Brown

The 2012-13 fundraising campaign is nearly over, and the response has been very good. We have raised over \$8,000, with 80 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 contributions will be used solely for Wisconsin acquisitions.

The current grant request limit is \$5,000. Because two chapters may each request for a single acquisition, and each chapter would have to match at 50%, the new limits would provide as much as \$15,000 for a single purchase or easement. So for all you chapters looking for purchase help, this should go a long ways.

Please consider a generous contribution to the Watershed Access Fund. Access is critical for anglers and for TU to do habitat work.

### 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        |

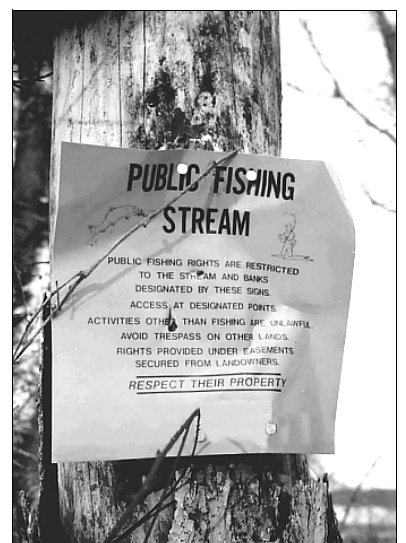
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|-------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Dan Grauer              | Wausau WI       | Micheal Niemczyk    | Oshkosh WI       |
| Jeanne Grodevant        | Tomahawk WI     | Herb Oehler         | Wauwatosa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





# Fish kill reported on the Bibon section of White R.

By Bill Heart

The WDNR was informed about a fish kill in the Bibon Swamp section of the White River in Bayfield County on Thursday, August 29.

There were varying reports that from 16 to 90 large brown trout were found dead on the banks of the river, below Sutherland Bridge. DNR officials were checking out the river the day after the fish kill.

DNR Fish Manager Scott Toshner believes this is a result of the 2.5 inches of rain the area received on Monday and Tuesday nights. The hot temperatures prior to the rain, combined with the

lack of rain we've had for a number of weeks, likely drove the temperatures up.

When the wetlands get that much rain, they start to empty the standing hot water with low dissolved oxygen levels into the river. The water on the White was much more stained than usual, which would tend to confirm the wetland discharge theory.

The reports that Toshner heard so far seem to indicate a relatively light fish kill. This type of summer fish kill on the White is not unprecedented. In the 1990s there was a large fish kill in late summer after a similar temperature and rainfall event. Continuous temperature monitoring data

from the White has shown that in the swamp the temps are near the edge of what is considered a coldwater fishery.

Now that the rain has stopped and the temperatures are moderating, the problem is expected to resolve itself.

Toshner appreciates the calls that he received, especially the fish counts. The information received will be recorded and added to the data and history of the White River.

"In any event, we have a comprehensive survey scheduled to start next spring," said Toshner. "If the fish kill was larger than we currently think, we should see the effects at that time."



## WITU Looking Back

From the Fall 1973 WITU Quarterly Report...

### Stewart Named TU Vice President



JIM STEWART

Madison—Jim Stewart, 1311 Farwell, Madison, was elected a vice president of Trout Unlimited at the national convention held in Atlanta, Ga., Sept. 22.

In addition to his new post, Stewart, who has served as a national director for about four years, is chairman of the national finance committee.

A most influential force behind TU's growth in Wisconsin, Stewart served three years as president of the State Council. He was also the organizer and first president of the Southern Wisconsin chapter.

In other national board changes, Elliott Donnelley, Chicago, resigned as chairman but continues as director. Former president Otto Teller, Glen Ellen, Cal., is the new chairman. Kenneth Sink, Indiana, Pa., was elected president.

Aside from the elections, there was a lengthy national business meeting, the details of which will be reported in Trout and THE ACTION LINE, TU's national publications which are mailed to all members.

Wisconsin TU was represented by Stewart, Nash Williams of Madison, Wisconsin State Council chairman and a national director, and Jack and Nona Walworth of Milwaukee.

From the Fall 1983 WITU Quarterly Report...

### First State Council Banquet

As was announced in the previous issue of QUARTERLY REPORT, the first annual Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited Awards and fund-raising banquet will be held on Saturday, January 21, at the Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton, WI. The banquet will cap off a day of meetings, seminars, and arts and crafts at the Paper Valley Hotel. The Wisconsin TU Council will hold its regular winter meeting during the day, with a presentation on groundwater contamination planned for the meeting.

From the Fall 1993 Wisconsin Trout...

### "Catch-and-Release" committee formed

Council activist Jim Hlaban has announced the composition of the newly-formed "Catch-and-Release" (C & R) Committee formed as a result of the June 12th State Council meeting in Wautoma. Members are:

Jim Hlaban  
1421 Silverwood  
Neenah, WI 54956  
(414) 722-4335

Randy Butters  
811 Eureka St.  
Ripon, WI 54971-1136

John Cantwell  
2286 Mt. Olive Dr.  
Green Bay, WI 54313-8102  
(414) 434-3989

Bob Hunt  
N2254 Skyview Ln.  
Waupaca, WI 54981

Tom Boario  
326 S. Washington  
Waupaca, WI 54981  
(715) 258-8203

Dale Lange  
N3167 Right-of-Way Rd.  
Peshtigo, WI 54157  
(715) 582-4172

Russ Bouck  
P.O. Box 56  
Amherst Junction, WI 54407-0056  
(715) 824-3781

Clint Byrnes  
921 South Spring St.  
Beaver Dam, WI 53916  
(414) 885-5335

Bill Sherer  
6272 Otswego Fishtrap Lane  
Boulder Junction, WI 54512-9721  
(715) 369-6172

Marlin Spindler  
921 North Center St.  
Beaver Dam, WI 53916-1735

The purpose of the committee is to assimilate ideas and devise plans to educate the trout angling public about the proper methods of releasing trout. If any T.U. member has ideas for promoting proper "C & R" techniques, call Jim Hlaban at (414) 722-4335.

From the October 2003 Wisconsin Trout...

## Coaster brook trout reintroduced into Whittlesey Creek Wildlife Refuge

By Laura Hewitt

Amid great fanfare, coaster brook trout were reintroduced into Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge during an Aug. 9 ceremony commemorating the 100th anniversary of the wildlife refuge system.

The fish were reared in the Iron River fish hatchery and are from the Tobin Harbor and Siskowit strains.

About 75 3- and 4-year-old fish were released. Of these fish, 25 were implanted with radio transmitters, and the remainder were given floy tags.

Volunteers from TU's Wild Rivers Chapter and TU National staff were on hand to assist with the event and the stocking.



# Try the "other" caddis...with deer hair

By Bob Haase

You should always have a couple Elk Hair Caddis flies in your fly box in at least a couple different sizes and colors.

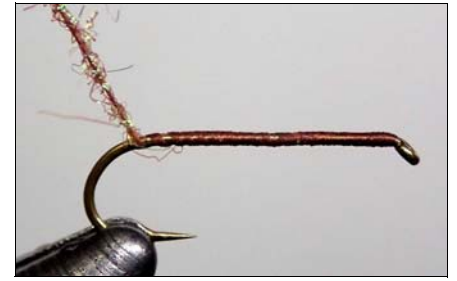
Another caddis pattern you should consider taking with you is the one pictured here. It is very sim-

ilar to the Woodchuck Caddis, but it uses deer hair instead of woodchuck. Most of our group that went out west again this year carried the elk hair caddis, but not this one. Guess which one was working? A good friend from Pennsylvania, Art Kemp, was using this pattern and catching fish. We caught fish on it,

too, after he showed us what he was using.

The tying tips for this issue talks about tying tips for those who don't tie. One of the best reasons for tying is being able to tie flies that may not be in the fly shops. All of us bring our fly tying stuff out west, and we tied a number of these up because they were not in the shops.

Caddis are longer than the common elk hair caddis, and this might



## Bob's Tying Tips

Advice from  
the bench of  
Bob Haase

### Tying tips for those who don't tie flies...or not yet

By Bob Haase

My tying tips this issue focus on how to get started if you don't tie your own flies, but I want to talk more about some of the reasons why you should consider tying some of your own flies.

I got started tying over 60 years ago when a woman by the name of Jo Czeskloba took the time to teach me and a few others kids how to tie. I have friends that started at an early age like me, and others who began tying when they were in their 70s. I think most people who fly fish would agree that you're never too old to learn to fly fish, and the same applies to fly tying. The following are some of the reasons you should at least give it a try!

#### Tying is fun

I think one of the best reasons is because tying is fun. It is something you can do on cold winter days or anytime throughout the year. It is fun to catch a nice trout, but even more fun to catch it on a fly that you tied, or maybe even modified or designed yourself. It is also very relaxing and can help reduce some of the stresses we encounter in our daily lives.

#### You'll learn more about insects

When you tie a fly, you are trying to imitate what trout eat, and by tying flies to represent these aquatic insects, it causes you to learn more about them. You will find it interesting comparing fly patterns to the actual insects and designing new patterns to imitate them.

#### You won't have to rely on shops

By tying your own flies, you are not limited to what is available in the fly shops. You are only limited by your imagination, and you can modify the flies you tie to satisfy both you and the fish. You might go to a fly shop and find that the fish are taking a #16 PMD, and when you look, you find that they are sold out of that pattern or size. If you tie, you can simply tie up a few.

#### Get together with friends

It is also fun to get together with one or more friends to tie a few flies, sharing your knowledge and pattern ideas. Getting together and tying is even made

better with a cold Big Brookie beer and some pizza. Everyone who goes on our annual western trout fishing trips ties, and comments have been made that we don't know what is more fun, catching fish or tying and lying at the tying table at night.

#### Become a wiser fly buyer

What you learn in tying your own flies can also help when purchasing flies. Knowledge of the characteristics of materials used can help you decide what flies might be better than others for a particular application.

The question now is how to get started. The following are a few ideas to help you get started if you want to give fly tying a try.

1. Many Trout Unlimited chapters have programs where they teach fly tying, and this is a good way to try your hand at it. If your chapter does not host fly tying classes, you may want to consider starting one up.

2. Some fly shops such as Tight Lines in De Pere and The Fly Fishers in Milwaukee also teach fly tying. Check your area fly shops to see if they do.

3. If you have a friend or know someone who ties their own flies, ask them if they would be willing to show you how it is done. They can demonstrate how a fly is tied and let you try your hands at tying one.

4. Once you learn the basics from someone, check out the Internet. There are a lot of sites that offer basic tying instruction and specialized information on things such as making a whip finish knot. You can also search the Internet for step-by-step tying instructions for many fly patterns.

There are also a lot of good fly tying books that show the basics and how to get started. A good example is *The Art of Fly Tying* by Creative Publishing International.

5. When learning to tie, learn the basics. Begin by tying simple patterns, and then move on to the more complex patterns and techniques. Don't get frustrated if your flies don't look great to begin with because the fish don't always care. It is something like riding a bicycle in that what seems difficult in the beginning seems real easy once you know how to do it.

6. Fly fishing shows are another great way to learn and pick up new tying tips. Every spring there are a number of shows put on by TU chapters, such as the Fox Valley Chapter's Cabin Fever

#### MATERIALS LIST

##### Deer Hair Caddis

**Hook:** Mustad 94831 or TMC5212 #14 or #16

**Thread:** brown, size 6

**Body:** Pheasant Tail Ice Dub or Opal Tinsel

**Wing:** Deer hair or woodchuck

**Legs:** Dry fly hackle in grizzly or brown

look more natural being tied on a longer dry fly hook. You can also tie this in various colors. The hackle used out west was grizzly rather than brown.

Start the thread and advance it to the bend of the hook. Put on a sparse noodle of pheasant tail ice dub or wrap the hook with opal tinsel. You could also substitute other body materials if you desire.

Wrap the dubbing or tinsel as shown, leaving enough room to tie in the deer hair and a fair amount of hackle without crowding the head.

Next cut off a piece of deer hair, the amount being equal to or slightly less than you would use for an elk hair caddis. The amount shown is about right. Tie it in as shown, and trim off close to the hook. Put a dab of head cement on where it is tied in. I sometimes put a very small amount of dubbing in over where I tied it in, as this can help provide a better base for wrapping the hackle.

End by tying in an appropriately-sized hackle and wrap as shown. I try to wrap the hackle densely to provide better floatability.

Days and Central Wisconsin's Trout Fest. There you can sit down and watch tyers tie their favorite patterns and ask them anything you want to know.

I would like to end by encouraging all the people who do tie to share your knowledge with others, especially kids. Someone took the time to teach you, and you can return the favor by passing your knowledge on to others.

#### Consider Proper Release



*"The future of trout fishing is in your hands."*

1. Don't play fish to exhaustion.
2. Handle fish in the net.
3. Turn fish belly up while removing hooks.
4. Don't remove swallowed hooks...just cut the line.
5. Don't keep fish out of the water more than 10-15 seconds.



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# 2013 Friends campaign having banner year

By Doug Brown

## Friends of WITU Chair

The 2013 Friends of Wisconsin TU campaign is going as strong as ever, and the contributions have been simply fantastic.

After half a year's campaign, we have already received over 110 private contributions, plus 10 more from various chapters, to shoot us past the \$14,000 mark. Where Am I Publications also donated a

portion of sales from that fantastic book showing various rehab work done over the years on streams across this state.

This year's gift for a donation of \$100 or more is a Fishpond micro trash container. You will also be listed in four consecutive editions of *Wisconsin Trout*. Thanks again to Tight Lines Fly Shop in De Pere for helping secure this year's premium.

Quite a number of Wisconsin TU chapters have been awarded grants this year, and quite a bit of that money is al-

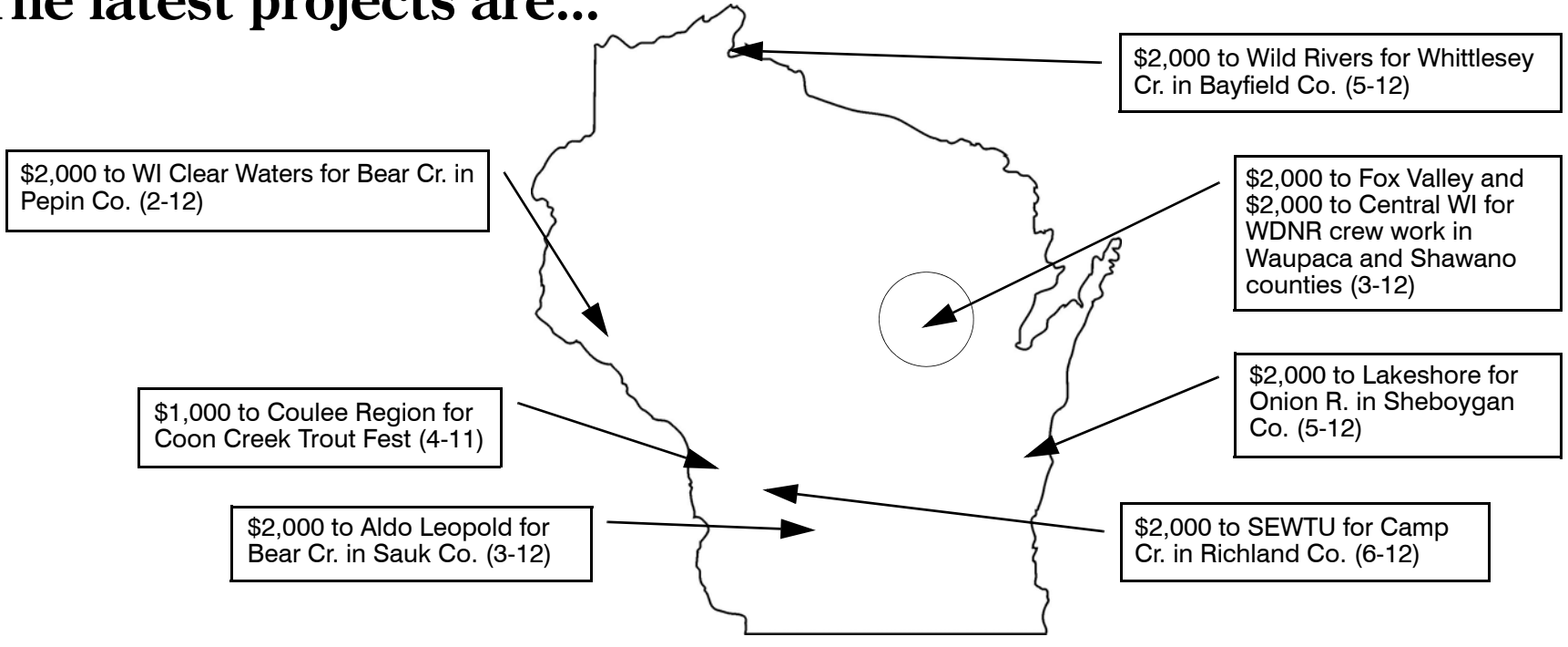
ready into your streams! Chapters seeking money can contact me for details on how to apply for a Friends grant.

We are looking for financial assistance so we can continue doing important work in our streams. Your money goes right back into the stream to benefit our trout for generations to come.

Please consider any amount of a donation as the requests for the various local TU chapters continue to come in for doing habitat work. Hope your summer fishing season went well and tight lines to you.



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



## Friends of Wis. TU

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In memory of Bob Hunt by the Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter.  
In memory of Janet Moldenhauer by the UW-Oshkosh Foundation.  
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