

P. O. Box 564 Madison, Wisconsin 53701

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Wisconsin Will Host 1972 National T. U. Meeting

Wisconsin is the site for the 1972 National T. U. Membership Meeting next summer. A host of famous TU'ers will pay us the honor of traveling to the Badger State. Portland, Oregon, is the location for this year's convention.

New Central Wisconsin Chapter

Doug Hart, Green Bay Packer defensive halfback, and Jim Stewart, Wisconsin T. U. State Council Chairman, delivered key addresses at a tremendously successful first meeting of the Central Wisconsin Chapter.

A standing-room-only crowd of 250 trout fishermen and conservationists from surrounding eleven counties left no doubt you were in the heartland of some of Wisconsin's finest trout waters. The new chapter will include Waushara, Winnebago, Waupaca, Fond du Lac, Adams, Green Lake, Portage, Wood, Juneau, Marquette, and Outagamie counties.

Officers of the new chapter are: President, Dr. Tom Poulett; Vice President, Arling Erickson; Secretary, Al Hazelbush; and Treasurer, Ray Piel. Three members of the board of directors were elected as follows: Russ Younglove, Berlin; John Clark, Wild Rose; and Pastor Ries, Mt. Morris. Other members who were instrumental in forming the new chapter are Bob Heding, Oshkosh; Dave Wilcox and Alfred Polakowski, Berlin; plus many more.

Green Bay Chapter to Improve Casco Creek

Research by the Green Bay Chapter is continuing in an effort to bring back the trout population of Casco Creek near Kewaunee in Door County.

Southeastern Chapter Mans Booth at Milwaukee Sport Show

At the annual Milwaukee Sentinel Sports, Travel, and Boat Show, March 12-21, Milwaukee TU'ers managed to recruit Mauri Marasco, proprietor of the 1970 prize-winning M-M Sporting Goods dealership, Milwaukee, as an advocate and used his booth as Show Headquarters of TU. He gave TU counter space in his booth, adjacent to the trout "stream".

Joe Simpson popped with a bundle of printed posters, reminding the crowd that M-M was TU's home base. Three were used in the booth, the remainder were distributed among a number of tackle booths, including Cortland, Garcia, Zebco, Pflueger, Shakespeare, Weber Tackle, and the Waushara County stand. Chuck Engbring arranged with the Sentinel's Charlie Collins, perennial maestro of the Show, for personnel to run TU film, "The Way of A Trout", for the week.

We were, of course, in the land of the walleye, bass, and pan fishermen. What's more, we were bracketed by the Okauchee Fishing Club, a young chap selling a new muskie lure with Mustad trebles, and a stack of plastic Italian spaghetti buckets called rafts. The ring was completed by a human fog horn with broken dishes in his throat and a post-nasal drip, hawking purple worms.

How'd we do? While we have yet to get together and assess the worth of the venture, a sampled opinion indicated that the interest in TU was substantial.

The TU acreage in the M-M booth was manned from opening night through the second Saturday by Charlie Backes, Chuck Engbring, Fred Horn, John Maul from Portage, Herb Thoke, Larry Wirth, Gary Simon, Joe Simpson, Jack Walworth, and others.

#### TU Joins NOREC (Northern Environmental Council)

In order to keep apprised of the Lake Superior pollution problem and other trout-oriented problems in an area where we have no chapter, the TU State Council has joined NOREC. It is hoped co-ordination of our two groups will be of mutual benefit. For example, it might prove feasible to have them enter appearances at conferences in our name and to report back to us on those proceedings, saving us the time and expense.

#### TU Represented at Lake Superior Pollution Federal Conference

The Lake Superior Pollution Control Enforcement Conference met for the third time in its two-year history on January 14-15, 1971, at Duluth. The main, but not sole theme here (as at the previous sessions), was the alleged pollution by way of 67,000 tons of taconite mining tailings being discharged into the lake each day by the Reserve Mining Company at Silver Bay, Minnesota.

Ray J. White, Professional Stream Biologist representing TU, delivered a speech outlining TU's concern for the ecology of the lake, and of our concern for the salmonoids resource which Lake Superior represents.

Highlight events at the session were the appearances of the governors of Minnesota and Wisconsin and the presentation by Reserve Mining of its proposal to reduce the damage allegedly caused by its' injection of 67,000 tons of sediment per day into the lake.

At the opening of the Conference meeting, Minnesota's Governor Anderson presented his state's new hard line: Reserve must provide onshore disposal of wastes, and let none enter the lake. He implied that to keep the industry operating but to force it to inundate land rather than strew its wastes in the lake was what the majority of Minnesotans wanted.

Governor Patrick Lucey of Wisconsin followed Governor Anderson to the stand and issued a ringing statement on our state's position and responsibilities. He promised that Wisconsin's industries and municipalities in the Superior Basin would meet state and conference waste treatment requirements on or before deadlines.

A wired message from Senators Nelson and Proxmire, together with most other environmentally concerned midwestern U. S. lawmakers, threw their support behind the conference and in favor of firm enforcement of pollution abatement and prevention in Lake Superior.

#### Les Bishop Memorial Fund for Stream Improvement

Les Bishop from Browntown, an active member from the beginning of TU in Wisconsin, died recently. As the result of a contribution to Trout Unlimited on behalf of Les' wife and parents, the State Council voted to establish a Memorial Fund. The separate fund will be used for stream improvement projects. Friends of Les wishing to contribute to this fund can address their checks to Trout Unlimited, 744 Williamson Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53703.

## Legislation to Protect Trout Streams

State trout fishermen will be pleased to hear that legislation is being introduced to prohibit the impoundment of trout streams, except by legislative approval. We will keep readers informed of the progress and nature of the legislation as it develops. This shows the beginning of legislative awareness of a dwindling resource whether they see fit to pass the bill or not.

## Wisconsin TU Policy Statement Approval

A ten-page Positions and Objectives Statement was approved at the last State Council Meeting after much amending and debate. The policy paper represents a maximum effort by Ray White and the Scientific Information Committee, and is a masterpiece of trout management principles, TU activities, programs to preserve and restore trout, and general conservation in Wisconsin.

We are in hopes the policy statement will serve as a guideline for TU in Wisconsin and for the DNR in making decisions affecting the trout fishery.

An abbreviated version of the statement is being added to the national TU brochure for recruiting in Wisconsin. It reads as follows:

"Trout Unlimited in Wisconsin

As its name implies, TROUT UNLIMITED is dedicated, primarily, to (1) the preservation, restoration and sound management of the state's trout and salmon resources; (2) to the improvement of trout and salmon fishing as a sport; and (3) to creating among the people of Wisconsin a better understanding of the vital role played by clean, free-flowing rivers and streams, cool spring ponds and fresh-water lakes in the support, and maintenance, of a high quality of life, both natural and human. It goes without saying, perhaps, that every project TROUT UNLIMITED undertakes on behalf of the salmonoids has a direct and salutary effect on all species of fishes inhabiting the same waters.

Currently, Wisconsin TU's activities include the following:

- Meetings at chapter and state levels to air salmonoid conservation.

- Participation in management projects in streams, lakes and ponds, with special emphasis on stream habitat improvement.

- Financial support of key projects of habitat improvement, of lease or acquisition to protect habitat and preserve public fishing, and of research and inventory of the salmonoid resource. Example: Pike River Water Management Project, an in-depth Wild River Study by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, funded by TU at a cost of \$110,000.

- Sponsorship of legislation to better protect, preserve and manage the salmonoid fishery.

- "Watchdogging" the Wisconsin salmonoid resource to augment troubleshooting and enforcement by state officials.

- Environmental defense through representation at public hearings and the instigation of other legal actions, where threats to salmonoid fishing and conservation exist.

- Publicizing the need for conservation of the salmonoid resource and alerting the public to specific dangers to, and problems of, the fishery.

Dissemination of scientific data (and state and chapter news) on salmonoid habitat to TU Members and other concerned parties for use in conservation activities.

Assisting in the education of any angler who desires to better understand trout management, stream ecology, and sport fishing.

Co-operation with other conservation groups, including governmental agencies, The Nature Conservancy, Wilderness Society, Sierra Club, The Committee for the Atlantic Salmon Emergency, in accomplishing natural resource conservation.

TROUT UNLIMITED is represented in Wisconsin by five active chapters, headquartered in Madison, Milwaukee, Green Bay, Wautoma, and White Lake. Additional chapters are in the formative stage. The State Council, seated in Madison, is composed of chapter officers and delegates. New members are assigned to the chapter nearest their home.

We hope you will join us. We need you. You need us. The trout and the salmon need us both."

### STREAM REPORT

#### DNR Decision Favoring Destruction of the Trout Resource

1. Cave Hollow Creek, Iowa County; dam already under construction. The proposal for this dam was approved before Wisconsin TU was organized. A "last ditch" effort to have the Attorney General's Office re-open the case failed. Two miles of Class 2 quality trout water will be lost, with 3-1/2 miles of mostly Class 3 stream remaining

2. Steiner Branch Creek, Lafayette County; dam project. Permission was granted to Boise-Cascade Corporation to dam the trout stream. TU's Ray J. White, professional stream biologist, appeared in opposition to the dam. Ray, along with the late Les Bishop, a chapter member who fished the stream, made an on-site inspection of the stream. The findings of ample spring water and gravel for natural reproduction of trout and "pools so deep that we could not wade them with hip boots" were presented at the hearings.

We are in hopes the DNR will not again contradict its own adopted policy "to act vigorously to prevent all destruction and damages to any trout stream in the state." We view the Steiner decision as a dangerous precedent which may tend to open the way for invasion of the entire trout water resource for developers, polluters, irrigators, and others. The Hulburt decision, which was rendered after the Steiner decision, is a hopeful sign that the DNR is back on the right track.

3. E. Branch Lily River, Langlade County; illegal dam. DNR granted permit legalizing dam.

#### DNR Decision or Developments Favoring Protection of the Trout Resource

1. New Wood River, Lincoln County; proposed dam defeated. The case for the New Wood is closed and a smashing victory for the Trout resource.

2. Hulburt Creek, Sauk County; proposed dam defeated. However, the developer is appealing the DNR decision. A continuing effort, if necessary to the highest court, may be required to save the stream.

3. Big Creek, Monroe County; illegal stream modification

4. Mecan River, Waushara County; legal water level manipulation.
5. Willow Creek, Waushara County; complaint on brush cutting.
6. Blue River, Grant County; beaver dams removed.
7. Neenah Creek, Adams and Marquette Counties; beaver dams removed.
8. Mill Creek, Iowa County; illegal re-establishment of a dam.
9. Little Amnicon River, Douglas County and Hay Creek, Chippewa County; application to irrigate from the trout streams were denied.
10. Onion River, Sheboygan County; application to straighten a trout stream was turned down.
  1. Plover River, USAF Radar Station sewage pollution. DNR issues order with deadlines for abatement. TU'ers Roy McDonald and Fred Horn (registered engineers) responsible.
12. Klatt Creek, Oconto County; diversion project. Dennis Bryan, professional ecologist from Green Bay Chapter, appeared for TU at DNR hearing in March. Opposition withdrew their application after Dennis' extremely sharp questioning.

Applicant said later that he had not realized all the ecological implications involved.
13. Lindsey Creek, Menominee County; water diversion pipeline. A 55,000 foot pipeline being installed by N. E. Isaacson & Assoc. between Lindsey Creek and Little Sand Lake was stopped after approximately half the pipe was laid.
14. Howard (Spring) Creek, Portage County; water level manipulation. Owner put under orders by DNR not to manipulate water levels.

#### Streams Where Problems Have not Been Resolved

1. Little Green River, Grant County; impoundment. As yet, no application to build a dam for the "Xanadu" resort has been filed. Perhaps the poor economy has slowed the developer down. We will be watching.
2. Plainville Creek, Adams County; dam. Real Estate developer plans to dam this pretty little brook trout stream, but has not yet filed application. We will be watching.
3. Allenton Creek, Washington County; pond and poisoning. Allenton Creek is threatened on two sides. One is the proposed poisoning of the Rock River System and its' tributaries. The other is a proposed pond. Fred Horn will represent TU at both hearings. Allenton is the only trout stream in Washington County.
4. Isabelle Creek, Pierce County; pollution. An alert TU'er sent us a complaint on observed pollution of this stream. As a result, hearings have been scheduled by the DNR on three specific cases of pollution of the stream from which we expect abatement orders will be issued.

5. Murphy Creek, Marinette County; dam proposal. We are working with the Attorney General's office on an appeal to the dam permit which has been granted.

6. Michigan Brule River, Forest County; pollution. Wisconsin DNR investigating at our request. Pollution comes from Michigan side via the Iron River. No results yet.

7. No. Branch of Oconto River, Forest and Oconto Counties; inadequate sewage treatment. DNR feels that town of Wabeno will have sufficient funds to build adequate treatment plant with Federal, State, and FHA funds. We shall see.

8. Handsaw Creek, Marinette County; existing dam. New dam owner may petition for new water levels. Green Bay Chapter will represent TU at the hearing.

9. Otter Creek, Sauk County; watershed manipulation. TU is working to encourage owner not to dredge marsh to create ponds which would destroy Otter Creek as a trout stream.

Black Earth Creek, Dane County; proposed fishing poisoning. At a recent S. Wisconsin Chapter meeting, DNR officials made a presentation advocating poisoning the entire length of Black Earth Creek and its tributaries so as to eliminate suckers, red horse and carp from the stream. Most of the brown trout in the stream will be removed prior to the poisoning by shocking and will be replaced later. In addition, the stream is to be stocked with rainbow trout.

Ostensibly the poisoning is being done to extend trout fishing three or four miles downstream from Salmo Pond to the Marion dam.

TU So. Wisconsin Chapter is officially opposed on grounds that poisoning is unnecessary above Salmo Pond.

Why is it necessary to poison an entire stream to remove suckers and carp from the bottom few miles?

2. What damage do suckers and red horse do? Or do they have a beneficial effect in cleaning up the river and as "forage" fish for trophy trout?

3. Will a thriving and challenging brown trout fishery be replaced with an easy catch, "put-and-take" rainbow fishing?

"Why do people go fishing?"

"It is certainly not to catch fish, since there are so many fishers who never take a fish. The only answer is that people like to go fishing because they like to fish, which is to say they like to go fishing--a piece of periphrastic but unassailable logic that somehow seems to work with fishermen's wives."

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