



THE WISCONSIN COUNCIL
OF
TROUT UNLIMITED
FALL NEWSLETTER

WHITE LAKE CHAPTER (On the Wolf) - Cap Buettner

On September 21 we used a small crew of twelve local volunteers and TU members and, by rubber raft, scatter planted 6,000 fingerling browns. Our mid-September date was delayed pending higher water levels. However, we could not delay it longer as we wanted them in early enough to take advantage of natural foods before winter set in.

The daily water levels I have kept these past 30 years indicate the Wolf was at the lowest on record from June 1st. to October 1st. It still is at rock bottom because of the lack of fall rains. I am skeptical at this time of the effect it will have on the survival of the fingerlings.

On September 26, with a crew of 14 men, we completed the project with 16,000 fingerlings. Because of the low water we had trouble getting the loaded rafts down the rapids but stocked most of them in the slower deep waters where they should be during the winter months. Stretches we skipped will be scatter planted with legal browns next spring.

Among those present were Ed Haaga, Cap Buettner, Herb Buettner, Keith Svoboda, Robert Talasek, Ted George, Chet Barnekow, Gordon Bristol, Gary Corsi, Jack Bordeau, Ron Houfek, Scott Skodinski, Bill Jennings, Bill Kern, and Tom George. We were also happy to have three men from the fisheries division of the DNR who helped both days. Herb Buettner provided all the rafts and the food for the project and we thank him.

While talking to the hatchery men we found that next year it will be possible to conduct one day of the project on a Saturday which will allow some of our members from around the state to take part. I will have a list for volunteers to sign up for duty in my fly shop next spring.

FONTINALIS (Rice Lake) - Bill Auten

Fontinalis Chapter is presently involved in trying to block the rebuilding of a dam on Hemlock Creek in Rusk County. This dam site was originally put in during 1936 - 37 as a WPA project, and the resulting lake was used by the DNR as a research station to test various regulations until the dam washed out in a flash flood in May of 1970. Since that time about 1.4 miles of stream bed that was previously under impoundment has reverted to a Class II trout stream (brook trout).

Recently there has been a movement by various Rusk County residents to replace the dam and petitions have been circulated that advocate this move. 1054 signatures were obtained on the petitions. On May 18, we, as a chapter, wrote the DNR an objection to the project. Since that time the Rusk County Board of Supervisors has unanimously approved the project and instructed the SCS to come up with cost figures that are applicable to build-

ing the dam. On October 26, the Board of Supervisors held an informational meeting to see what public sentiment was dictating relative to the dam replacement. Fontinalis had eight members present to voice their objections, and about seventy Rusk County residents in favor of the project were in attendance. The meeting produced little in the way of constructive results, but did give us a chance to air our views. The DNR is opposed to the project but tried (thankfully unsuccessfully) to remain impartial at the hearing. The SCS, Clarence Austin of Ladysmith) made ball park estimates of \$200,000 to \$300,00 to replace the dam. The present situation is that more precise estimates are forthcoming, and much in the way of environmental issues still stands in limbo. We feel confident that the DNR's opposition and the prohibitive price tag will be a deterrent and the stream will be able to continue its phenomenal recovery for many years to come.

Plans have been filed by area fish manager, Rick Cornelius, that will enable us to begin brushing work on the Yellow River in Barron County. Final approval should come within the next few weeks if no revisions are needed and work will begin before the first of the year. Our work should reduce the amount of Alders that now choke some parts of the stream. The water is also slightly too cold in some areas for maximum trout and trout cover growth and by opening up the stream in these areas we will be able to improve an already excellent stream. Work has been proposed on about 5,000 feet which should keep us busy for some time to come.

Some work still remains on a small portion of Lower Pine Creek, which we fenced in May and June of this year. The results of one summer's growth on the now ungrazed stream are something to behold. Work is also progressing on our first annual meeting and dinner that will be held on February 8th!

SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN (Dodgeville) - William M. Baebler

During the year 1976 we have continued work on our Harker Creek restoration project with several work days. A new project this year was the assembly and placement of one hundred fence crossing stiles along trout streams in Iowa County.

We have two fund raising projects we are proud of. We have printed detailed maps of Iowa County in which all trout and small mouth bass waters are marked and color coded. These sell for \$1.00 and sales are going well! We are at this time engaged in the collection and sale of deer hides in a five county area of southwestern Wisconsin. Flyers have been distributed to all hunters registering deer in the area, with collection points printed on them.

Our publicity committee has put together a fine portable display case which we put to good use at our booth at the Iowa County Fair in September.

We are planning appearances at area sportsmen's clubs in the future, and will hold our January meeting at Fennimore Hills Supper Club in Grant County.

COULEE REGION CHAPTER (La Crosse) - Scott Ironside

Scott tells me his chapter planned on conducting a general clean up and dead brush removal project on Bohemian Valley Creek in La Crosse County and they were going to assist the DNR stocking crews in getting greater

dispersion along the streams rather than just at the bridges. I'm sure the Department appreciates their assistance.

Future projects may include stream improvement work on Bergen Coulee Creek, a Class I brown trout fishery, which runs along County Trunk X. It presently holds many fingerlings. They feel structures will provide cover for larger trout than the stream is accustomed to holding. And they are testing the idea of assisting the Bangor Rod and Gun Club in a project on Dutch Creek. Both Bergen Coulee and Dutch Creek are in La Crosse County.

CENTRAL WISCONSIN (Wautoma) - Richard Osborn

Central Wisconsin has awarded a graduate scholarship to Mark Brosseau, graduate student at UW-Oshkosh in Biology. Mark will spend a year taking trout food samples and classifying them from the Pine River along the stretch leased by the chapter. The scholarship is for \$200.00 per semester including summer school. Members of the chapter have helped make some of the equipment needed for this research program.

Committee Fund Printing
? The chapter has received its first shipment of its new chapter pins and tie tacks. The design of the pin is based on the chapter's patch. The members are now waiting for the chapter hat pins, of the same design, but done in the colors of the patch, to arrive.

Central was instrumental in stopping the beginning of a commercial canoeing business on the Pine River between Saxeville and Pine River. Arling Erickson, National Director and Ray Piehl, Chapter President, both rendered excellent papers in opposition to the venture at the county hearing. It was the chapter board's feeling that this hearing helped open the door for the DNR in their efforts to hold down canoeing of the commercial nature on trout streams throughout the state.

Central has added to its leased stream side area along the Pine through the farm to the northwest of the first area. This new stretch connects with the first lease, and has been the site of four work days this last summer and fall. It is a beautiful stretch of water, or will be after the work required is done. Our chapter members from the DNR have been of great help overseeing the work on the Pine.

The DNR is to take over the work on Cedar Springs, as that multi-spring hole was too big a job for our equipment. They have the money budgeted for the dredge needed for the job, now we are waiting for the money to be released so the work can begin.

Members of the chapter have been called on many times in the past year to check out trouble spots on trout streams throughout central and north-central Wisconsin. And President Piehl did a TV spot in relation to the fishing ban due to the drought in the area.

The chapter is very proud to have been given an award by the Wisconsin Conservation Congress for our trout habitat work. The award was presented at the Annual Congress meeting last summer. We believe this to be the first award given to a TU group by the Congress.

Osborn, secretary of the chapter, being a tee-totaler, was given the job of picking up the booze for the Council's hospitality room at the National Convention in Michigan last summer. There were many willing applicants for the job, but few to be trusted.

The chapter is now working on their annual meeting, planning work days, reviewing projects, acquiring new members, etc.,. We will be glad to have Tom Poulette back in the fold and active in the chapter after his two years as Chairman of the State Council.

OJIBLEAU (Eau Claire) - Ron Koshoshek

This last summer and fall Ojibleau has been deeply involved in water surveillance, public policy formation, stream improvement, and public relations.

Water Surveillance: We were party to a seven-citizen-citizen complaint filed against Marathon County Highway Department for damages done to six trout streams by their highway-bridge construction methods and policies. Developed an objection to a City of Eau Claire sanitary landfill proposed for the banks of a pristine artesian-spring brook trout stream. Obtained erosion controls on two Eau Claire County highway projects. Sought removal of private dams and ponds on Jader Creek in Bayfield County formerly a prime spawning tributary of White River browns.

Public Policy Formation: Worked with the office of the Public Intervenor in developing an extensive and conclusive brief against NR 320. Acted as consultant to Chippewa County Zoning Board in formulating policy dealing with irrigation ponds adjacent to trout streams.

Stream Improvement: Conducted an electro-fishing survey as part of our continuing McCann Creek research project. Devoted several days to wing-dam and boom restoration on Duncan Creek. Assisted the DNR in a study of the feasibility of mechanically removing northern pike from McCann Creek. The removal plus a fish barrier at the mouth of the stream is mechanically and economically feasible. For \$8,000.00 seven miles of prime water can be turned back to trout. Arranged a lease with a private landowner for 3/4 miles of stream, allowing about twenty acres of former marsh and spring area to return to a wild state by fencing out cattle. The chapter will provide the labor and about 35% of the cost. *How?*

Public Relations: Presented a "TU Weekend" for area residents and campers at Wissota State Park. Friday night we showed the two films "THE WAY OF THE TROUT" and "IF WE DON'T, WHO WILL?", and Saturday night our audio-visual presentation, "McCANN CREEK: A STREAM REBORN". Introduced TU to many visitors at our booth at a National Hunting and Fishing Day exhibition. *? How*

AWARD: On November 2, Ojibleau received the 1976 W. C. Soil Conservation District Award in the category of Stream Conservation. Our two year research and improvement project involved about 1,000 man-hours and cost the chapter and individuals approximately \$2,000.00. It represents an in-kind donation to the state of approximately \$7,000.00. In the words of Bob Hunt, research leader with DNR, the results of our efforts were "remarkable" and "enviable".

TROUT STAMP - Jack Walworth

Except for members of TROUT UNLIMITED, THE FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERMEN and a dedicated force of lay individuals who feel they have some responsibility for the environment they alter in pursuit of their game, Wisconsin fishermen have, traditionally, shot down all attempts to establish a fund

for habitat restoration and improvement by way of a trout stamp

They have argued such a fund would be impossible for the DNR to administer; that bureaucratic sleight-of-hand would transfer the monies to other departments; and that it would be an unreasonable financial burden for resident and non-resident fishermen. Resort owners, predictably, went to the wailing wall and they haven't left it yet.

A few years ago, a \$1.00 trout stamp was proposed. It went down like a stone under a barrage of editorial slop that depicted the Wisconsin fisherman as an impoverished boob who could barely afford his regular fishing license. Since then, fees of \$.50 and \$2.00 have been recommended by individual legislators and/or the DNR. This trip, in its budget request, the DNR has raised the ante to \$2.50, a clear signal to the dissident members of the Badger angling fraternity that their to-hell-with-the-habitat attitude has run its course and the time has come to pony up. They will be in good company, as the following list of state trout permits attests:

<u>STATE</u>	<u>1975</u>	
Arizona		
Resident	3.00	
Non-Resident	8.00	
Arkansas	2.00	
California		
Trout and Salmon	2.00	
Delaware		
Resident	2.10	
Non-Resident	5.25	
Georgia		
Resident	2.25	
Non-Resident	10.25	
Indiana	2.25	
Iowa		5.00
Kentucky	2.25	
Maryland	2.50	
Michigan		
Trout and Salmon	3.25	
New Jersey		
Resident	2.00	4.00
Non-Resident	5.00	8.00
New Mexico		
Resident	1.00	
Non-Resident	3.00	
North Carolina		
Resident	2.25	
Non-Resident	4.25	

<u>STATE</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>
Oklahoma	1.00	3.00
Oregon		
Steelhead & Salmon	1.00	3.00
Tennessee		
Resident	2.00	3.00
Non-Resident	2.00	5.00
West Virginia		
Resident	----	3.00
Non-Resident	5.00	5.00

So, what's \$2.50? A couple of martinis? A six pack cooling in a streamside riffle? Or, is it a small down payment on the decent habitat we owe the trout, our children and our grandchildren?

For those of you who may wish to make an effort to influence the legislature relative to this vital matter we supply the following information. We suggest you write your State Senators and Assemblymen and at least one member of the Joint Finance Committee. Please do not write representing the opinion of TROUT UNLIMITED! Write as individuals!

MEMBERS OF THE JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE

SENATORS

Henry Dorman
Dale McKenna
Gerald Klęczka
Katherine Morrisson
1 Vacancy

ASSEMBLYMEN

Peter Tropman
Gary Johnson
Carl Otte
Robert Quackenbush
Marlin Schneider
Virgil Roberts
Ronald Lindgren
2 Vacancies

Address all members of the Legislature as follows:

Name
Wisconsin Legislature
Senate or Assembly Chamber
State Capitol
Madison, Wisconsin 53702

FALL MEETING OF THE WISCONSIN STATE COUNCIL:

The meeting of November 6, 1976, held at Stevens Point, opened with the approval of the minutes of the previous meeting as they appeared in the Council Newsletter.

Arling Erickson reported on the National meeting held in Michigan. He related the compromise made with Ellis and the Washington Steelheaders and their representatives which were in addition to the facts printed in ACTIONLINE.

Tom Poulette interpreted the facts about the Mellon Funds as shown in the letter sent to all Chapters and Council Chairmen. He read the letter of September 13, 1976. Nash Williams added some facts about conversations with Schuder, Rutledge, and Martuch. Poulette read one of the

letters about "Operation Restore"

A motion was presented and passed to the effect "it is beyond the means of many of the members to provide accommodations for themselves as expensive as those at the recent meeting in Michigan. Accommodations should be graduated, and the brochures should include information relative to campgrounds, motels, etc. in the immediate vicinity of the meeting. This is a grass roots organization and the convention is for the general membership. Costs should be such as not to dissuade any member from attending. This thought was brought to the attention of the Executive Board at their meeting in Chicago in November.

Treasurer Isacksen reported \$1,500.00 in certificates of deposit and \$678.03 in the checking account. A rebate is expected of about \$600.00. He reported some chapters have not cashed their rebate checks. Please do so!

Membership: Tom Sopkovich reported for Roy McDonald. He displayed a map, developed by Roy, based on a dispersion of chapters, each having an operational radius of approximately thirty miles. Reasons for the suggested thirty mile radius are brought out in the material that will be given to each chapter represented at the next Council meeting. The undeveloped potential chapters are Superior, Ashland, Hayward, Park Falls, Medford, Merrill or Wausaw, Antigo, Marinette, Neillsville, Mauston, Beaver Dam, Sheboygan, Prairie du Chien, Janesville, and Racine or Kenosha. The winter Council meeting will be held in Antigo in conjunction with the initial meeting of a group about to form a new chapter in their own community.

Water Resources: Tom also reports he wrote a letter to the DNR offering assistance of the drought problem in the state and the temporary permits to draw water from trout streams under Lt. Gov. Schreiber's order giving fish managers the power to grant such permits. He received a letter of thanks from Secretary Earl. The problem is to balance agricultural as opposed to recreational needs. Clint Byrnes reported he had put the question to the Cold Water Fishery Committee of the Conservation Congress and they will try to keep on top of it.

The public intervenor requested and held a conference meeting on Handsaw Creek. As a consequence of the meeting he will oppose the construction of any dams on the creek.

There are notices out relative to new action on the Pine and Willow Rivers in Richland County. Greg Isacksen will be active on this matter. It is his opinion SCS is waiting for the economy to improve so that the county will approve the expenses involved.

Marschall, of Northwoods Chapter, talked of beaver damage to trout streams. Byrnes said the Congress committee was told trapping is not the answer because one pair will survive to continue the process. At this point the DNR has not come up with an idea as to how to eliminate beaver from a trout stream. May we hear from chapters in other states as to how this question is handled in their locality?

Greg Isacksen reported the Plaineville Creek suite is going to the Supreme Court. The dam is not out yet but he doesn't think the stream is adversely affected at this point in time.

Ron Koshoshek that Chapter 320's proposal about permits for highway projects is active. The public intervenor and a committee of seven stand

on our side in the controversy which arose because of LaFollette's opinion that municipal and state highways need not apply for permits. Facts have been collected and will continue to be collected of the damage of such projects. George Meyer conducted the hearing on the subject and he agreed that LaFollette's opinion was in error.

Irrigation: Many counties have ordinances requiring any dredging within 300 yards of a trout stream be made by county permission. Ron recommended a limit be established relative to the amount of water that can be drawn and the time for withdrawing water from the ponds. The time limit on pond withdrawal would be established to eliminate such withdrawal during the highest recreational use.

Tom Poulette reported insurance policies other than National had been purchased by Central, Green Bay and Dodgeville chapters. The National policy requires notice of each and every event in which exposure may exist and Tom fears we may slip up on this requirement. Therefore, he strongly suggests each chapter purchase its own insurance to satisfy its own particular needs.

George Martinson, of the long range planning committee, reports that progress has been made in defining objectives for the committee.

New officers for 1977 include Greg Isakson, Chairman; George Martinson, Vice Chairman; Tom Lepley, Secretary and Bert Strong, Treasurer. Tom Poulette reported he had sent a letter to National in June indicating Arling Ericksen and Nash Williams were our Council Directors. He thinks this may have been in error, but because of that the election of directors was omitted.

Greg reminded us of the fact National Capitol Chapter is seeking contributions to build a \$10,000.00 lobbying fund. Lobbying in the interest of our cold water resources will be carried on by the American Rivers Group. It required little consideration. It was moved and passed to send them \$250.00 from Council funds.

Greg appointed the following committees

Water Resources: Tom Sopkovich with Vern Peckham to cover legal problems for the committee.

Snagging: Chris Doyle.

Greg will carry on liaison with the state offices in Madison.

A motion was made and passed that we buy subscriptions to the NORTH-WOODS CALL for all chapter presidents and council officers. The charge is \$7.50 per year.

The meeting was adjourned.

As Jack Walworth suggests, may all your troubles run down your line into clear, cool waters!

Tom C. Lepley



Secretary
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Butler, Wisc., 53007