



WISCONSIN Trout Unlimited

Summer 1980 Newsletter

TU

*"an outstanding
environmental organization"*

20 YEAR MEMBERS

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited has the distinct honor of having three members who have maintained their charter memberships in Trout Unlimited for twenty years. The three gentlemen are E.T. Wistad, Russell Younglove, and Ralph Deihl.


Messers. Younglove and Deihl have already been presented with their awards by the State Council. Mr. Wistad will receive his at the upcoming State Council meeting in Stevens Point on July 19th. These handsome awards were developed for Wisconsin T.U. by Clint Byrnes, a long time T.U. er himself.

All of us in Wisconsin Trout Unlimited are honored to be associated with such outstanding individuals as Messers. Wistad, Younglove and Deihl!

TU LIFE MEMBERSHIP APPROVED

The Board of Directors adopted a new Life Membership classification on March 23. The rate for Individual Life was set at \$300 (no further dues); for Family Life (husband and wife) the one-time payment is \$400.

An open season for Charter Life Members has been designated from March 23 to August 15, 1980. Life Membership members will be assigned in order of seniority of membership in TU. A special TU lapel pin, and a wall plaque will be presented to all Life Members.



STEVENS POINT---The University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point's College of Natural Resources has chosen Trout Unlimited as recipient of its annual award to an "outstanding environmental organization".

Arling Erickson, Poy Sippi, an officer of the state chapter, accepted the award at a recent UW-SP natural resources recognition dinner.

Trout Unlimited was cited for its works in protecting cold water resources of Wisconsin, for monitoring legislation affecting the environment and for providing research monies to UW-SP and other institutions and agencies for improving trout habitat.

ANTIGO CHAPTER

HUNTING AND EAU CLAIRE RIVER WORK PROJECTS SLATED

Last year Max Johnson's habitat improvement crew completed a stretch of the Hunting River off Highway T. They installed a number of wing dams and other structures to create habitat for Trout. Trout have moved into these holes and the DNR did a super job with Trout Stamp funds.

As a chapter, we have undertaken a project to sod these structures along the Hunting. The DNR will make the sod available, we will move it and place it on the structures this season. Not only will it be a worthwhile project for the chapter, but it will save the DNR a few man-hours so they can be actively working in other areas. We will notify all T.U. members about this project and hope for a good turnout so we can get the job done, and get out fishin' sooner.

The other project is of a much greater nature. Currently, Keith Wirtz and Jim Schewe, who live up along the east branch of the Eau Claire, are project co-chairmen. Jim is actively pursuing all landowners from Highway B downstream to Bluebell Road. We are nearly complete with 100 percent acceptance. Trout Unlimited is gaining easements from all landowners so we can make one application for our work in this stream. We intend to place half-logs in the river to create habitat.

As many of you know, the Eau Claire is a top fishery, but in many stretches it is extremely shallow and provides little cover for young Trout. Half-logs create overhead cover, plus deeper water, so there's a place for the young Trout to survive and grow. Once easements are completed, application for a permit to place these half-log structures will be filed with the DNR and hopefully we'll be able to schedule work in June or July.

cover photo

Arling Erickson being presented an award by Jack Heaton of the College of Natural Resources, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

The Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited will hold it's summer business meeting on Saturday, July 19th. The meeting will begin at 10:30 AM in the Mitchel Room which is on the 2nd Floor of the U.W. - Stevens Point University Center (Student Union).

As always, the meeting is open to ALL Wisconsin T.U. members so please come and see how well and hard your chapter representatives work at the council meetings. You might also want to bring your gear along as the fishing in the Stevens Point area is great - especially in July.

Fox Valley Chapter

The Fox Valley Chapter's 7th Annual Trout Unlimited Banquet was a high success with 350 people in attendance. Dennis Rinehart put on a demonstration on skinning and mounting fish which drew quite a crowd. There were also fly tying and rod building demonstrations, a slide show and movie, and numerous door prizes. A mounted rainbow trout (courtesy of Dennis Rinehart) was presented to Tom Timm for catching the largest trout at our fishing outing with handicapped kids. This year's outing with the kids was held April 26 with more and bigger fish being caught. Thirteen kids had the time of their lives catching brookies and rainbows up to 17" at the local game farm. It's really great to see the fun these handicapped kids had and being able to help them have a good time. I think the members had as good a time as the kids.

On April 23rd, five members assisted the DNR with a shocking survey on the Chaffee Creek near Wautoma. It was really interesting to see the number and size of fish they turned up.

Other upcoming activities include our summer fishing outing in July and a half log project with the DNR near Lunch Creek.

Madison, Wi. - Cuts recommended by President Carter in his plan to balance the budget will result in a freeze on \$4,228,682 in funding that had been allotted to Wisconsin this year under the Land and Water Conservation Fund, according to Paul Guthrie, director of the Office of Intergovernmental Programs for the Department of Natural Resources.

LAWCON monies come primarily from sale of offshore oil leases by the federal government. The intent of the program is to take revenues derived from sale of these resources and invest them in natural resources and outdoor recreation projects throughout the states. In Wisconsin the program is administered by DNR.

Monies allocated must be matched on a 50-50 basis by the state agency or by local governments for approved individual projects. This means that the President's rescission recommendation will amount to a dollar loss of \$8,457,364 in Wisconsin, Guthrie said.

Congress must act on the rescission proposal within 45 days from the time it was presented for it to take effect. Including holidays and recesses, this will give until about mid-June for Congress to consider and vote on the recommendation. The proposal will fail if no action is taken within that time.

If the rescission is upheld it would result in curtailment of 36 state and 51 local outdoor recreation projects, Guthrie said. He noted that this will work a particular hardship on those communities who have committed local funds to projects in anticipation of matching grant monies to complete the projects.

"While the decision to cut federal payments is expected and necessary in the effort to balance the budget, it is especially galling when you realize that the Department of Interior chose to take its entire cuts out of the hides of states and local governments and federal LAWCON land purchases," Guthrie said. He noted that no general agency cuts, administrative or otherwise, were made in the Department of Interior whose budget authority is \$5.6 billion for 1980.

In addition to the rescission of funds for the current fiscal year, the President's proposal calls for a 53%

Do DNR acquisition and trout stream development programs pay off? It has for at least three trout streams studied at Jackson County, by Jim Talley of Black River Falls.

Electrofishing surveys as long ago as 26 years were compared to late 1970 stream surveys on the North Branch of The Beef (Buffalo) River. After state acquisition of the stream frontage, fences were built to exclude cattle (except for developed watering areas) and bank erosion was controlled. The result is an increased population of trout that is keeping pace with increasing fishing pressure.

The surveys showed the brook and brown trout population of the North Branch of the Trempealeau River mushroomed from 14 trout per surface acre of stream in 1964 to 420 trout per acre in 1977, a 3,000% increase. Tank Creek increased from 100 trout per acre in 1953 to 1,043 trout per acre in 1977, a 1,043% increase. The North Branch of the Beef (Buffalo) River increased from 85 trout per acre in 1972 to 357 trout per acre in 1979, a 420% increase.

Fishing license sales, ORAP 200 bonding funds and trout stamp monies are largely responsible for the stream improvements. Did the Department increase its stocking of these streams? Definitely not. Stocking was discontinued on all of them several years ago. Mother Nature has taken over after the habitat was improved.



cut in LAWCON funding to the states for next year. Guthrie said the cuts will mean that Wisconsin's program is effectively closed down for a period of at least 18 to 24 months.

Since it went into effect in 1965, LAWCON has funded 1,471 projects in several hundred communities in Wisconsin. This is more than in any other state in the country.

HIT TUNE FOR THE 1980's: STINGING IN THE RAIN

by Mark L. Hendrickson
UWEX Env. Resources Unit

What do tomato juice, vinegar, and rainfall have in common? Two characteristics: they're liquid and they can all be acidic.

Rainfall as acidic as tomato juice has fallen in many parts of the United States - including Wisconsin - damaging lakes.

Acid rain may be a growing problem for some northern Wisconsin lakes - especially since our national and state power futures rely heavily on coal.

Acid rain is formed when air pollutants - primarily sulfur and nitrogen oxides - emitted by coal-fired power plants, cars, natural processes, and industries - combine in the atmosphere with water and form sulfuric and nitric acids. These acids fall to earth with rain or snow, and eventually alter the chemical balance of the environment.

Acidity is measured on the pH scale. Zero is totally acidic and 14 is totally alkaline. Distilled water is 7. Pure rainfall is 5.6, and anything below this number is considered acid rain and potentially damaging to plants, fish and other organisms. Vinegar has a pH of 2.6. Tomato juice has a pH of 3.7.

Acid rain is not a new problem. Prior to 1900 acid rain fell in Rothamsted, England. The environmental effects of acid rain were first studied in Scandinavia, where increasing acidity of water killed fish. Since the 1950's, precipitation in northwestern Europe has increased in acidity.

Two other dates are worth remembering:

10 April 1974 - a rainstorm pelts Scotland with rain as acidic as vinegar. The pH of that storm was 2.4 - the lowest pH value ever recorded in rainfall;

26 December 1979 - acid rain hits Rhinelander, Wisconsin, with the lowest pH recorded in the state: pH 3.6

"For most of the last ten years Europeans were sharing their discoveries of acid rain damages", says Lowell Klessign, a lake management specialist with UWEX Environmental Resources Unit. "I think we were negligent in not being concerned earlier. There was no good reason to believe the European situation was worse than ours (North America)."

In the United States, the big problem with acid rain is in the East and in parts of Canada. In Canada and the Adirondack Mountains in New York, more than 300 lakes have been declared dead. The lakes are brilliant and peaceful under the sun. They're brilliant and peaceful - but they're full of acid, and the fish are dead.

In the Adirondacks, 46 percent of the mountain lakes no longer contain fish. If that figure were transported to Wisconsin, it could have a big effect on tourism. "We are aware of the problem, and not just because the fish are threatened. There are not only environmental concerns. There are economic concerns as well", says Donald A. Woodruff, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Division of Tourism. "A great percentage of people come to Wisconsin," Woodruff explains, "for our great fishing, boating, and water skiing. If we lose our lakes - and that's what we're talking about - it could have a devastating effect on the state. We're talking about the potential loss of a \$5-billion yearly industry for Wisconsin."

Dead lakes, Woodruff is certain, would be followed by a dying tourism industry and a declining state economy.

Prime game fish are the first to die: bass, walleye, northern pike, and trout. They're followed by the most acid-tolerant fish - perch, lake herring, and rock bass. Acidic lake water also destroys the ability of some fish to reproduce. Studies have also found that some adult fish become emaciated, stunted, and deformed in acid lakes.

Klessig labels acid rain a "serious threat" to Wisconsin northern lakes. "I don't want to be a doom-sayer", he continues, "but there are four factors that could have a big effect - at this time unknown - in Wisconsin." First, old coal-fired power plants that are allowed to pollute even after passage of the Clean Air Act. Second, converting existing oil plants to coal as the source of fuel. Third, constructing

new power plants that rely on coal. And fourth, developing synthetic fuel, another type of fossil fuel.

Coal-fired power plants contribute at least a portion of the pollutants that eventually become acid rain. How big a portion is debatable. Klessig says, "If you asked me six months ago (to compare coal and nuclear dangers) I'd have said nuclear storage problems were worse. In the last six months, I've become familiar with acid rain. I see the headlong rush toward coal and synthetic fuels as being just as dangerous as the headlong rush in earlier years toward nuclear power. We're taking a naive approach to a long-term problem."

The utility industry, however, isn't condemning itself. The industry line: it would be naive to categorically say that power plants play no role in acid rain - it is equally inappropriate to attribute power plant emissions as major contributors to acid rain.

Combustion of fossil fuels, the industry says, and other human and natural activities, emit substances to the atmosphere that can result in acid rain. Other sources include: volcanic eruptions that release huge amounts of sulfur; and geothermal resources that release hydrogen-sulfide gas.

There is no question though that the major man-made sulfur source in Wisconsin is the burning of coal.

Regardless of the source, northern Wisconsin lakes are sensitive. Lakes vary in their water chemistry and their susceptibility to acid rain. "The qualities that make northern lakes so clear and blue", explains Klessig, make them susceptible to acid rain." The northern lakes, he says, have relatively sterile watersheds that keep them clear. In chemical terms, the lakes lack nutrients and acid neutralizers. Southern lakes, which may be eutrophic, have an abundance of alkaline materials in the watershed to neutralize the acid.

Specifically, lake susceptibility is determined by area soils and geology. Areas that contain limestone can offer long-term acid rain neutralization. When limestone dissolves, it has the ability to neutralize the acid. Many northern lakes, Klessig explains, are without limestone or other acid neutralizers.

"Have fish been affected already? At this point we don't know", says Dale Urso of the DNR in Rhinelander. "But we do know that 47 lakes here might be affected by acid rain already. The pH levels may be critical now." The 47 lakes are in Oneida, Langlade, Lincoln and Vilas counties.

Urso says many people in northern Wisconsin are worried. "Most people fear the lakes will be destroyed. And they're asking what they can do to save the lakes. Before we can answer those questions we need more study to determine actual acid depositions in the lakes and to devise a logical approach to the problem."

Despite lake and fish problems of acid rain, there are some benefits, says Emmet Schulte of the Soil Science Department at U.W. - Madison. "The sulfur and nitrogen coming down in rainfall benefits crops. From rainfall, Wisconsin averages 11.8 pounds of nitrogen and 15 pounds of sulfur per acre per year." Schulte says farmers would have to fertilize more if these nutrients didn't fall with rain.

"I would only view acid rain as a problem for agriculture if the pH was much below 4. Then we'd have direct injury (burning of the leaves, for instance). We can handle the current situation very easily by applying lime to the soil."

Schulte says the liming the soil works well for farmers. It costs \$50 per surface acre to apply lime. "Why not lime the lakes", he suggests. "Put the lime on the ice and let it fall through. It wouldn't cost much that way."

We don't encourage liming the lakes at all", counters Urso. "Careless application of lime can shock and kill the fish. Liming the lakes can do more harm than good", he says.

We'll certainly hear more about acid rain in the future. "It's not time for horror stories in Wisconsin", Klessig says, "but it's past time for concern only." The Environmental Protection Agency apparently agrees. Expecting the acid rain problem to worsen in the next 20 years, the agency has started a 10-year, \$10 million research program with the U.W. Department of Agriculture.

Hopefully, local, state, and federal efforts will prevent the following conservation:

"Are the fish biting today?"

"Nope, But the lake is."

WATCH FOR OZONE ALERTS

MADISON---Wisconsin's summer air pollution season has begun and Department of Natural Resources air management experts are reminding citizens to watch for ozone alerts that might recommend reduced outdoor activity to protect health.

Ozone, the major air pollutant found in smog, develops when hydrocarbons (unburned fuel vapors) emitted from automobile exhaust and some industrial processes react in sunlight's presence.

"Hot, humid hazy days with temperatures above 70 degrees are ideal for ozone formation," says Brad Stachowiak, a meteorologist in DNR's Bureau of Air Management. "A stagnant high pressure system is usually located to the east-southeast of the state with southerly winds."

Stachowiak adds that hazardous, ground-level ozone should not be confused with the beneficial ozone layer found much higher in the atmosphere that shields the earth from damaging ultraviolet rays.

Ozone irritates mucous membranes in the lungs, and may cause breathing difficulties in the elderly, children, and people who have respiratory diseases. Even healthy people may become short of breath after exercising if they've inhaled certain levels of the pollutant. Ozone may also damage sensitive crops and trees like soybeans, alfalfa, tobacco, and white pine.

According to Stachowiak, ozone levels are generally lowest in the morning, reach a peak in late afternoon, and decrease later in the evening. A significant weather change, such as a cool front and associated northwest winds passing through an area, usually causes ozone concentrations to decrease.

Southeast Wisconsin usually averages from 10 to 25 ozone alerts each summer, depending on weather conditions, Stachowiak says. Pollutant levels there may occasionally reach 0.25 parts per million, which is over twice the national health standard. DNR records few ozone alerts outside southern Wisconsin, but ozone in the rest of the state frequently approaches alert levels.

DNR chemists record ozone levels daily at five monitoring sites in Milwaukee County, three in Dane County, and one each in Kenosha, Racine, Grafton, Waukesha, Slinger (Washington Co.),

Delevan (Walworth Co.), Oshkosh, Appleton, Green Bay, Hudson (St. Croix Co.), LaCrosse, and Beloit. Two air monitoring vans are also measuring ozone in Park Falls and Biron (Wood Co.) for the summer. DNR will continue to monitor ozone at most of these sites through October 15.

Whenever DNR detects unhealthy ozone levels, it notifies major news wire services and the National Weather Service so citizens can be alerted rapidly through various news media. Physicians often rely on these reports so they can advise their patients with respiratory problems to take appropriate health precautions during the ozone alert.

Most states use the Pollutant Standards Index (PSI) to uniformly report ozone levels in terms people can readily understand. The index ranges from zero for good air quality to 500 for hazardous air quality. DNR will use the following PSI descriptions in Wisconsin to report ozone levels in parts per million (ppm):

0 - 50	GOOD	Up to 0.06 ppm No adverse health effects.
50 - 100	MODERATE	0.06 to 0.12 ppm No noticeable health effects.
100 - 200	UNHEALTHFUL	0.12 to 0.20 ppm Mild aggravation in susceptible people. Mild irritant to healthy population. People with heart or respiratory ailments should reduce physical exertion and outdoor activities.
200 - 300	VERY UNHEALTHFUL	0.20 to 0.40 ppm Significant aggravation of preexisting health conditions; decreased stamina. Elderly people and those with heart and lung conditions should stay indoors and restrict physical exertion. General population should restrict outdoor activities.
300 - 500	HAZARDOUS	0.40 to 0.40 ppm Illness and premature disease problems; general population should avoid outdoor activity. In extreme levels, ozone can cause premature death or illness in elderly people.

Ron Ahner, council fund raising chairman, is the man to contact to renew your supply of the "Limit Your Take - Don't Take Your Limit" buttons. Available for only 50¢ each the buttons easily sell for \$1 or more yielding at least a 100% profit. Not only do you raise money for your chapter projects but you help spread the word as well. To contact Ron write: 6120 University Ave., Madison 53705 or call (608) 238-6707 office, (608)798-4334 home.

Word has it that the supply of these great buttons is not extensive so to assure a supply act today and call Ron!

Angler's Art

Bob Frankowiak • Artist
4972 So. 20th St
MILWAUKEE, WI. 53221
PHONE: (414) 282-6294

Dear Mr. Flesch:

Read the good news in the latest T.U. newsletter that trout stamp revenues have topped \$350,000 in '79.

Being the designer of the 1980 trout stamp I hope sales go even higher this year.

According to what I have heard, the DNR is going to cut up the remaining 1978 trout stamps after July of this year so you might want to include this in your next newsletter for the benefit of trout stamp collectors. This may also raise a few extra bucks for the trout.

You may also wish to include that I will autograph (sign) any 1980 trout stamps sent to me by T.U. members. Signed stamps will surely be more valuable to collectors in the future and this could help raise some more money for the trout. All I request is that those interested send me the 1980 trout stamp in a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

The 1980 Trout Stamp print has been sold out to dealers as of a week ago and the '78 and '79 trout prints have doubled and tripled from their original value as interest is high in this collectable art item.

Sincerely yours,



Bob Frankowiak

Meeting called to order by Tom Sompokovich at 10:45 a.m.

Minutes of the Winter Meeting accepted as printed in the State Newsletter. Treasurer's Report accepted as reported.

*Motion: All Wi. T.U. Chapters contribute 10% of all sale items to the State Council for use in statewide projects. Motion made to table this motion until the July meeting.

Beaver Committee Report - Jim Kallofen, Clint Byrnes

*State Council committed \$1,750.00 for the Beaver Video Program. Discussion followed on progress of our project.

Beaver Research Project - Jim Addis
*Motion made and seconded - State Council approach DNR Board to approve the early trapping season on Class I & II Trout Streams - north of Hwy. 64 and East of 13, if it is not approved by the Conservation Congress - amended to include Anthony Earl.

Nash Williams recommended opposing Conservation Congress proposed Fish Rule #1 until it is rewritten.

Arling Erickson received a plaque from the College of Natural Resources for T.U. T.U. was honored as the Outstanding Environmental Organization in Wisconsin for 1980.

T.U. AWARDS - Russ Younglove was awarded a Desk Pen Set for 20 years of Active Service. Nash Williams was recognized and praised as one of the pioneers of Trout Unlimited in Wisconsin. Nash's wife, Betty, was also honored for tolerating Nash's activities over the years. Nash is now serving as a Nat'l. Director at Large. He was instrumental in starting the So. Wisconsin Chapter as well as the State Council. Nash served as Legal Advisor for the State Council, as well as Council Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.

Special thanks to the Central Wisconsin Chapter for hosting the Spring State Council Meeting.

BEAVER VIDEO/FILM PROJECT

Good news! Good news! Good news!

First, the Conservation Congress at its recent meeting in Cable voted to make the beaver season concurrent with muskrat and mink on all waters in the area north of Hwy 64 and east of Hwy 13. Therefore, we have some relief in northern Wisconsin the area with the greatest amount of beaver damage. Thank you Conservation Congress!

Second, to date \$4100.00 has been earmarked by the council, chapters and industry for the beaver video/film project. Chapters already having donated and/or pledged funds are Southern, Southeastern, Central, Green Bay, Rhinelander and Antigo. All other chapters have indicated a willingness to support the project and are in the process of determining the level of their support. It seems certain that the level of Wisconsin Chapter and Council support for the project will exceed \$5000.00! This level of enthusiastic support for the project clearly shows that when the need arises Wisconsin Trout Unlimited will pull together as one.

Thomas A. Flesch
State Secretary
Route 2 Box 1010
Poynette, WI. 53955

Additional funding proposals are currently being considered by the Research and Projects Committee of National T.U. and the Kimberly-Clark Foundation. Funding proposals will be going out shortly to the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point Foundation, the Johnson Wax Foundation, Sta-Rite Industries Inc., the Briggs & Stratton Foundation, commercial pulp and paper interests in Wisconsin, the Sport Fishing Institute, The American Fishing Tackle Manufacturers Association, and the Trout and Salmon Foundation.

Third, on June 4th the beaver committee met with Ron Weseloh and Jana Suchy of the UW - Stevens Point Telecommunications Department. Activity over the next month or so will center upon the committee and the Department developing and finalizing a shooting outline and script as well as lining up people to be interviewed and filming locations.

The Beaver committee authorized the advancement of \$1500.00 (out of state council funds previously approved by the council for the project) so the Telecommunications personnel can begin work.

Filming is now scheduled to begin later this summer.

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