



# WISCONSIN Trout Unlimited

*APRIL, 1981 Quarterly Report*

## Herbst Selected as T.U. Exec. Dir.



## CHAIRMAN SPEAKS

Letter to the Chapters -

We, Trout Unlimited members in Wisconsin, enjoy and protect our state's many trout resources because we are members of one of the strongest and most active organizations in the nation.

These grass-roots organizations demand many and frequent long hours of our time, money, and sometimes down-right manual labor. We have, by our participation in membership of our local chapters, dedicated ourselves to our purposes mainly to preserve the cold-water fishery. The majority of local chapters in Wisconsin T.U. are very active, viable, and functioning groups. However, there still remains many areas of our vast state and its resources where local citizens are concerned about the trout resource but lack the strong leadership of a local active Trout Unlimited Chapter. Many of our local trout resources have no one at all watching them. We, who may live in areas where we have some or limited commitment to the resource, must ask ourselves these questions: Do we have people in this area or neighboring communities that would support the efforts of T.U.? Are we doing enough? Is your State Council doing all it can for the local chapter? What would you like the State Council to do?

Your thoughts and comments are always welcomed. Your next chance to tell us what you like or want is at Stevens Point on April 25th.

Tight lines,

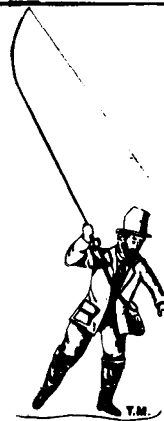


**WISCONSIN T.U. QUARTERLY REPORT**

**Published Jan.-April-July-Oct.**

**EDITOR - T.A. FLESCH**

**TYPING - A.K. FLESCH**



**" ONE LINERS "**

Membership Drive off to a slow start.  
County Conservation Hearing Monday,  
April 27, 1981.

1980 Trout Stamp Revenues top \$415,000

Nominations for All State T.U. positions  
are now being accepted through June 1.  
Contact Ron Ahner.

Editor needed for State Newsletter.  
Contact Tom Flesch.

Green Bay Banquet biggest success ever!

There is a legend which says that a trout in the water will grow at the rate of about one inch per year. After it is caught, however, it grows about an inch per day.

Wear and tear on waders can be minimized by a revolutionized new procedure. For more information, contact Bob Gennrich, So. Wisconsin Chapter.

**ERROR**

The Early Season article by Gene VanDyck in the January Newsletter was missing a line. The line is listed below - (Sorry, Gene)

The actual proof of the above statement is the astronomical rise in the fish population of Castle Rock Creek. Castle Rock is included in the January 1st opening and may well be the most heavily fished stream in Wisconsin. This stream has a "no-kill" regulation in effect on the upper two miles of it and it has responded with a "1,000 percent" increase in the trout population.

# Herbst Becomes Executive Director Of T.U.

Washington, D.C., March 19, 1981 ---- Harry Miller, President of Trout Unlimited, announced today that Robert L. Herbst, former Assistant Secretary of Interior, has been selected as Executive Director of Trout Unlimited, Inc.

R. L. Herbst recently served as Assistant Secretary of Interior and supervised the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service. He is credited with a major role in the Alaska Lands Legislation, greatly expanding the National Park and Wildlife Refuge system, and many accelerated conservation programs.

Previous to his position at the Department of Interior, Mr. Herbst was Commissioner of Minnesota's Department of National Resources and National Executive Director of the Izaak Walton League of America. A graduate of the University of Minnesota, Mr. Herbst is a nationally respected conservation professional and leader.

## Professional Experience

3/16/81 - 1/81	Executive Director, Trout Unlimited. Served as Secretary of Interior-Appointed by Presidents Carter and Reagan
4/1/77	Confirmed by U.S. Congress as Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks
3/2/77	Nominated by President Carter for position of Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks
1/3/75	Reappointed Commissioner of Natural Resources by Governor Wendell Anderson
1/4/71	Appointed Commissioner of Natural Resources, State of Minnesota by Governor Wendell Anderson
4/1/69	Appointed National Executive Director, The Izaak Walton League of America
2/14/67	Reappointed Deputy Commissioner
7/16/66	Served as Acting Commissioner, Minnesota Conservation Department
2/15/66	Appointed Deputy Commissioner, Minnesota Conservation Department
1963 - 1966	Executive Secretary, Keep Minnesota Green, Inc.
1957 - 1963	Minnesota Conservation Department - Forester
1956 - 1957	Instructor, University of Minnesota in Dendrology and Mensuration
1954 - 1955	U.S. Forest Service
1953	Served with Forest Industry

## Recent Appointments and Memberships

Chairman, Great Lakes Fishery Commission, 1977 - present; U.S. Member UNESCO, 1977 - 1981; Member, President Carter's Interagency Council, 1977 - 1981; Chairman, Appalachian Trail Council, 1978 - 1981; Chairman, Migratory Bird Commission, 1978 - 1981

## Citations and Awards

Over 200 awards from national, state, and local organizations ranging from plaques of appreciation to distinguished service

## Authored

"Careers in Environment" - Dillon Press, published in 1974; Over 2000 forest/wildlife management plans; Over 5000 speeches and papers, of which many have been published

# McGee Lake

McGee Lake is a picturesque 23 acre spring pond located two miles south of Elton and about 14 miles east of Antigo in Langlade Co. During the 1981 trout fishing season there will be some special fishing regulations in effect on McGee Lake for the second year, regulations designed to encourage anglers to release most of the trout they catch. Bob Hunt of the DNR Cold Water Research Unit is in charge of a study underway on McGee Lake to evaluate the effects of a 2-trout-per-day bag limit on the sport fishery. There is no size limit in effect. The philosophy behind the experiment is to see if enough trout anglers in Wisconsin will be interested in a catch and release fishery that allows some take-home harvest, but major emphasis on releasing trout. Live baits as well as artificial baits can be used; however, minnows are prohibited because McGee Lake is a chemically rehabilitated lake being managed exclusively for trout. Accidental introductions of other fish species might occur if minnows were allowed to be used by anglers.

Growth of brook trout is exceptionally fast in McGee Lake. Several brook trout over 20 inches have been caught during the years since it was chemically treated in 1974. However, fishing pressure has also been high. Consequently, most of the trout stocked each year are removed by anglers before they have had a chance to utilize the excellent growth potential of the lake. Hopefully, the limit of 2 trout per day will allow more trout to live longer and grow into the 15-20 inch range before being harvested. As a substitute for a take-home catch of only 2 per day, Hunt hopes that anglers will appreciate the opportunity to catch and release several larger-than-average brook trout to add to the enjoyment of their fishing experience.

That's the hypothesis of the experiment underway, but based on results of a season-long creel census during 1980, Bob indicates that he is now a little pessimistic about reaching the objectives of the experiment. It seems that during the 1980 season most of the anglers he interviewed were primarily interested in catching 2 trout to keep and then quitting. And even at a rate

of just 2 trout per trip there was enough fishing harvest to remove most of the yearling trout stocked. Only a few anglers showed up to seek out a catch and release fishing experience, but they enjoyed good fishing (10-20 trout per hour). None of the anglers interviewed last year caught brook trout over 20 inches but some were caught in the 15-18 range. A 22-incher was reported to have been caught but not while a creel census technician was on hand to verify it.

The experiment is scheduled to run for the 1981 and 1982 seasons. If you are looking for an unusual fishing experience this summer, you might try your luck at McGee Lake. Bob knows from his electrofishing surveys that there are some big brook trout in the lake as well as plenty of fish in the 10-12 inch range that should also provide exciting sport. Take Highway 64 east out of Antigo or west out of White Lake to the town of Elton. Turn south just across from the only grocery store and gas station in town. About 2 miles down the road there is a sign indicating the location of a DNR parking lot on the lake. The only approved boat launching spot is at the parking lot. The site is not good for launching a boat from a trailer, so a cartop boat or canoe is recommended. You can also fish from shore or wade out from the north shore.

Competition will probably be heavy again during the first few weekends, but after that you should find plenty of elbow room to spin cast or fly cast.

## STATE COUNCIL MEETING

Date: April 25, 1981  
Location: College of Natural Resources  
Stevens Point  
Red Room, University Center  
Time: 10:15 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



## LEGISLATIVE REPORT

TRANS 207: On March 5, T.U. members Verlin Peckham, Ron Koshoshek, and Mitchell Bent testified before the Assembly Environmental Resources Committee on Trans 207, an administrative rule promulgated by the Department of Transportation (DOT) regarding requirements for placement of bridges and culverts by towns and municipalities. This rule came as a result of a 1977 bill that exempted towns and municipalities from needing DNR permit to install these structures.

The T.U. members and the Public Intervenor (Peter Peshek) spoke in opposition to the rule, because they contended that the rule was very weak and did not require sufficient protection for navigable waters. Ron Koshoshek presented a slide presentation to the committee on examples of bridge and culvert installation where environmental precautions were very weak or entirely lacking. The arguments put forth by T.U. and the Public Intervenor prompted the committee to form a five-member subcommittee which reviewed the objections made by T.U. The subcommittee then recommended to DOT that the following amendments be made to the administrative rule:

- a.) Erosion control measures must be increased to preclude siltation of navigable waters, and construction authorities shall be guided by those provisions of the Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction of the Wisconsin DOT regarding erosion control.
- b.) Construction activities shall be undertaken and planned to be completed during such seasons and weather conditions as to minimize adverse impacts on fish spawning activities, flood water elevations, and public recreation activities.
- c.) The DNR shall be notified in the early stages of consideration of a proposed construction or reconstruction of a highway structure in or over navigable waters.
- d.) The DNR shall make a record of all project notifications received under s. Trans 207.11, and shall furnish a copy of this record on a monthly basis to any person upon written request.

e.) New highway structures or replacements of existing highway structures and approaches over navigable waters shall minimize alteration of critical features of water habitats.

The full Assembly Committee will act on these changes soon. Once acted upon, the rule will then go the Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules.

AB 92: This bill received a hearing before the Assembly Tourism and Recreation Committee on March 25th. It would establish a \$3.25 Great Lakes Trout and Salmon stamp for anglers fishing the Great Lakes. Of the \$3.25, \$3.00 would be earmarked for hatchery operations which produce trout and salmon fry for stocking. The extra \$.25 would be the issuing agent's fee.

AB 149: This bill would place a 3-year moratorium on all new DNR land acquisitions. At this writing, the bill has not been scheduled for a hearing. The bill's author is Rep. Gervase Hephner (D. - Chilton); co-sponsors are Reps. Gordon Bradley (R. - Oshkosh), Sheehan Donoghue (R. - Merrill), Robert Larson (R. - Medford); and Senators Alan Lasee (R. - DePere) and Richard Kreul (R. - Fennimore). Should any of these people live in your area, you may wish to express your views to them. (Bill is referred to the Assembly Environmental Resources Committee.)

AB 231: This bill will receive a hearing April 2nd before the Assembly Environmental Resources Committee. The bill involves wetland protection measures within municipal shoreland zoning areas. Basically, it is an extension of NR 115, the controversial DNR ruling that went into effect last year requiring permits for wetland alteration along navigable waters in UNINCORPORATED areas. AB 231 would extend these requirements to incorporated areas.



**“Support Quality Trout Fishing”**

# TROUT STAMP REVENUES TOP \$415,000 IN 1980

PROJECT NAME	COUNTY	TYPE OF WORK	FUNDS USED*	ALLOTMENT MADE	TRAMP PROJECT SUBMITTED	WORK COMPLETED	PROJECT STATUS
Big Roche-a-Cri Cr.	Adams	Brushing	YACC	\$ 1,330	1978	0.5 mi.	Finished
Big Roche-a-Cri Cr.	Adams	In-stream devices	Trout Stamp	18,486	1978	1.0 mi.	Underway
Engle Creek Spgs	Barron	Restoration	Trout Stamp	1,210	1979	0	New
Hickey Cr.	Barron	Fencing, riprap	ORAP Funds	16,455	1979	1.0 mi.	Underway
Turtle Cr.	Barron	Fencing	Trout Stamp	3,620	1979	0	New
Yellow R.	Barron	Brushing, half-logs	Trout Stamp	2,740	1977	1.2 mi.	Finished
Yellow R.	Barron	Fencing	ORAP Funds	2,240	1979	0	New
Yellow R.	Barron	In-stream devices	Trout Stamp	108,867	1980	0.6 mi.	Underway
White R.	Bayfield	In-stream devices	Trout Stamp	39,400	1978	0.6 mi.	Underway
Bark R.	Bayfield	Brushing	Trout Stamp	4,500	1979	1.4 mi.	Underway
Dogtown Cr.	Burnett	In-stream devices	ORAP Funds	4,180	1977	0.3 mi.	Finished
Duncan Cr.	Chippewa	Fencing	ORAP Funds	5,420	1979	1.4 mi.	Finished
Elk Cr.	Chippewa	In-stream devices	Trout Stamp	65,400	1979	1.1 mi.	Underway
Hinkson Cr.	Columbia	Brushing	ORAP Funds	2,200	1979	0.1 mi.	Finished
Rowan Cr.	Columbia	In-stream devices	Trout Stamp	30,988	1978	1.38 mi.	Underway
Rowan Cr.	Columbia	Fencing	Trout Stamp	1,900	1979	0.2 mi.	Finished
Rocky Run	Columbia	Brushing	Coop Project	2.3 months	1980	0.23 mi.	Underway
Black Earth Cr.	Dane	Maintenance	ORAP Funds	8,538	1978	0.2 mi.	Finished
Garfoot Cr.	Dane	In-stream devices	Trout Stamp	23,660	1977	1.0 mi.	Finished
Vermont Cr.	Dane	In-stream devices	Trout Stamp	22,800	1979	0.5 mi.	Underway
Mt. Vernon Cr.	Dane	Bank cover, maint.	Trout Stamp	12,085	1978	2 mi.	Underway
Little Brule R.	Douglas	Brushing, riprap	Trout Stamp	2,000	1979	1.0 mi.	Finished
Upper Brule R.	Douglas	Brushing, riprap	Trout Stamp	7,150	1980	0.4 mi.	Underway
Various Trout Streams	Florence Oconto Marinette	Beaver dam removal	ORAP Funds	13,300	1979	457 inactive dams removed	Underway
Le Page Cr.	Florence	Brushing	ORAP Funds	200	- 1977	0.2 mi.	Finished
La Montagne Cr.	Florence	In-stream devices	Trout Stamp	33,821	1979	0.6 mi.	Underway
Big Green R.	Grant	Riprap, bank cover	Trout Stamp	58,260	1980	1.2 mi.	Finished
Blue R.	Grant	Riprap	ORAP Funds	90,000	1979	2.8 mi.	Finished
Castle Rock Cr.	Grant	Riprap	ORAP Funds	5,300	1979	0.6 mi.	Finished
Doc-Smith & Castle Rock Cr.	Grant	Riprap	ORAP Funds	14,967	1979	0.8 mi.	Finished
Conley-Smith Cr.	Iowa	Cattle crossing	ORAP Funds	1,500	1978	2 built	Finished
Trout Cr.	Iowa	Half-logs	ORAP Funds	800	1978	1.5 mi.	Finished
No. Branch Beef R.	Jackson	Brushing	Trout Stamp	7,100	1980	1.0 mi.	Finished
No. Branch Beef R.	Jackson	Fencing	ORAP Funds	2,850	1978	0.2 mi.	Finished
Stockwell Creek	Jackson	Fencing	Trout Stamp	2,300	1980	0.5 mi.	Finished
N. Br. Trempealeau R.	Jackson	In-stream devices	Trout Stamp	24,000	1978	1.2 mi.	Finished
S. Br. Beef R.	Jackson	Fencing	ORAP Funds	4,600	1976	0.6 mi.	Finished
Trib. to Stockwell Cr. 12-6	Jackson	Brushing	Trout Stamp	3,021	1980	0.3 mi.	Finished
Palmer Cr.	Kenosha	Brushing	ORAP Funds	720	1977	1.0 mi.	Underway
Bohemian Valley Cr.	La Crosse	In-stream devices	Trout Stamp	9,200	1977	2.0 mi.	Underway
Lovett's Cr.	Lafayette	Riprap	Trout Stamp	23,500	1979	0	New
Evergreen Springs	Langlade	Dredging	ORAP & D-J	17,000	1978	1.0 mi.	Finished
Evergreen R.	Langlade	Fencing	ORAP Funds	625	1979	0	New
Hunting R.	Langlade	In-stream devices	Trout Stamp	22,560	1978	1.3 mi.	Finished
Prairie R.	Lincoln	In-stream devices	Trout Stamp	10,425	1978	1.0 mi.	Finished
Millhome Springs	Manitowoc	Dredging	ORAP Funds	1,206	1978	0.3 ac.	Finished
Freeman Cr.	Marathon	Fencing	ORAP Funds	800	1980	0.3 mi.	New
Plover R.	Marathon	Riprap	ORAP Funds	533	1979	0.3 mi.	Finished
Eagle Cr.	Marinette	Half-logs	ORAP Funds	1,800	1977	0.3 mi.	Finished
Big Cr.	Monroe	Maintenance	ORAP Funds	1,300	1980	0	New
Rullands Coulee Cr.	Monroe	Fencing	ORAP Funds	5,500	1979	0.1 mi.	Underway

PROJECT NAME	COUNTY	TYPE OF WORK	FUNDS USED*	ALLOTMENT MADE	YEAR PROJECT SUBMITTED	WORK COMPLETED	PROJECT STATUS
First So. Br.							
Oconto R.	Oconto	In-stream devices	Trout Stamp	14,480	1978	0	New
S. Branch Oconto R.	Oconto	Half-logs	Coop Project	--	1979	0.5 mi.	Finished
S. Branch Oconto R.	Oconto	Half-logs	ORAP Funds	2,200	1978	0.7 mi.	Finished
First So. Br. Oconto R.	Oconto	Bank cover	Trout Stamp	14,480	1980	0	New
Clam R.	Polk	Half-logs	Trout Stamp	4,140	1978	0.4 mi.	Underway
Poncho Cr.	Portage	Half-logs, brushing	Trout Stamp	600	1979	0.6 mi.	Finished
Foulds Cr.	Price	In-stream devices	Coop-Forest Service	--	1980	1.5 mi.	Underway
Spur Lake Spgs.	Price	Dredging	ORAP & D-J	15,000	1978	1.3 ac.	Finished
Willow River	Richland	Riprap	Trout Stamp	46,000	1981	--	New
Devil's Cr.	Rusk	Fencing	ORAP Funds	6,529	1978	2.3 mi.	Finished
S. Fork of Main Cr.	Rusk	Fencing	Trout Stamp	13,478	1977	3.5 mi.	Finished
S. Fork of Main Cr.	Rusk	In-stream devices	Trout Stamp	13,250	1979	1.8 mi.	Underway
Ten Mile Spgs.	Rusk	Dredging	ORAP & D-J	15,000	1979	0	New
Weirgor Cr.	Rusk	Fencing	ORAP Funds	768	1978	1.1 mi.	Finished
Kinnickinnic R.	St. Croix	Half-logs	Trout Stamp	13,200	1978	3.8 mi.	Finished
Kinnickinnic R.	St. Croix	Brushing	ORAP Funds	8,000	1978	1.0 mi.	Underway
Eddy Cr.	Sawyer	Brushing and in-stream devices	Trout Stamp	20,000	1979	0.5	Underway
Long Cr.	Sawyer	Remove fallen trees	ORAP Funds	775	1977	0.5 mi.	Finished
Price Cr.	Sawyer	Remove fallen trees	ORAP Funds	2,325	1977	0.3 mi.	Finished
Embarrass R. N. Br.	Shawano	In-stream devices	Trout Stamp	23,440	1979	0.4 mi.	Underway
Embarrass R. Middle Br	Shawano	In-stream devices	Coop Project	--	1979	0.3 mi.	Underway
Wilson Cr.	Shawano	Deflectors	Orap Funds	2,350	1979	0.7 mi.	Underway
Nichols Cr.	Sheboygan	In-stream devices	Trout Stamp	13,970	1980	0.8 mi.	Underway
So. Br. Beef R.	Trempealeau	Fencing	ORAP Funds	7,910	1978	0	New
Billings Cr.	Vernon	In-stream devices	Trout Stamp	16,500	1980	0	New
Bishops Branch	Vernon	In-stream devices	Trout Stamp	5,500	1980	0	New
Hornsby Cr.	Vernon	In-stream devices	Trout Stamp	10,000	1980	0	New
Spring Coulee Cr.	Vernon	Fencing	ORAP Funds	2,000	1979	0	New
Spring Coulee Cr.	Vernon	Riprap	County Aids	3,000	1979	0.2 mi.	Finished
Timber Coulee Cr.	Vernon	In-stream devices	Trout Stamp	25,000	1977	2.0 mi.	Underway
Timber Coulee Cr.	Vernon	In-stream devices	Trout Stamp	30,000	1980	0	New
	La Crosse						
Goodyear Spgs.	Vilas	Dredging	ORAP & D-J	19,000	1981	0	New
Plum Cr.	Vilas	In-stream devices	Trout Stamp	8,245	1979	0.3 mi.	Finished
Plum Cr.	Vilas	Half-logs	Trout Stamp	1,000	1980	0.75 mi.	Underway
Beaver Br.	Washburn	In-stream devices	Trout Stamp	15,900	1979	0.3 mi.	Underway
McKenzie Cr.	Washburn	Brushing, half-logs	Trout Stamp	5,452	1979	0.5 mi.	Underway
Sawyer Cr.	Washburn	Maintenance	ORAP Funds	11,700	1978	0.3 mi.	Finished
Sawyer Cr.	Washburn	In-stream devices	ORA 6,150	1977	0.3 mi.	Underway	
S. Fork Bean Br.	Washburn	In-stream devices	ORAP Funds	3,130	1977	0.4 mi.	Underway
Mack Cr.	Waupaca	Brushing	ORAP Funds	4,950	1978	0.9 mi.	Underway
Nace Cr.	Waupaca	In-stream devices, brushing	Trout Stamp	28,370	1979	1.3 mi.	Underway
Spaulding Cr.	Waupaca	In-stream devices	Trout Stamp	27,300	1977	0.4 mi.	Finished
Bowers Cr.	Waushara	Fencing	ORAP Funds	3,218	1979	1.0 mi.	Finished
Cedar Cr. Spgs.	Waushara	Dredging	ORAP & D-J	14,500	1978	1.3 ac.	Finished
S. Br. Wedde Cr.	Waushara	Fencing	ORAP Funds	1,205	1979	0.3 mi.	Finished
Upper Pine R.	Waushara	Fencing	ORAP Funds	2,435	1979	0.5 mi.	Underway
W. Br. White R.	Waushara	In-stream devices	Trout Stamp	17,450	1979	0.3 mi.	Underway
W. Br. White R.	Waushara	Fencing	ORAP Funds	613	1979	0	New

\*YACC: Young Adult Conservation Corps

ORAP: Outdoor Recreation Action Program

D-J: Dingell-Johnson (Federal Excise Tax Funds)

Trout Stamp: Special Wisconsin License

County Aids: Section 23.09(12) Statutes (County-State cost share management projects).

The Wisconsin Trout Stamp generates approximately \$400,000 each year. These funds are earmarked for inland trout habitat improvement only. Money left over at the end of the year remains in the trout stamp account and is carried over to the following year.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Stan Kmiotek - (608) 266-2173

## Central Wisconsin Chapter Comment

This letter is intended to advance another point of view in response to the article by Mr. Van Dyck concerning the early trout season. You may publish our comments if you wish.

In his article on the early trout season in the January Quarterly Report, Mr. Van Dyck gives the impression that the amount of Class I trout water in Southwestern Wisconsin and the early season opening are related. It is unfortunate that part of the article seems to be missing. We may be commenting on points that would be cleared up if the text were entire. It should be recognized that the January 1st opening has nothing to do with the amount of Class I trout water in the Southwest part of the state. These are two separate and independent things. Class I water has undoubtedly increased because of trout stamp and ORAP stream improvement work, an improvement in water quality due to better land use or pollution abatement, or to the reassessment of stream conditions by the DNR which was recently completed.

Similarly, the average size of the trout has perhaps increased, but this is probably due to an improvement in stream quality and trout food supply. It is difficult to theorize that it is a happy benefit of an early trout season.

As Mr. Van Dyck pointed out, the lower bag limit (along with improved water quality and quantity) is responsible for the increase in the number of trout. However, the DNR did find it advisable to lower the bag limit on southwestern streams to five fish per day (in some cases none) when the early season came into effect. This may be a direct response to the early opening creating more fishing pressure. Fishermen may have to make a choice in the future between a reduced bag or a longer season.

We take exception to Mr. Van Dyck's statement that the January 1st opening is popular and that it "provides an extended, quality fishing opportunity". The water temperature of our streams can go down to 0°C in winter, and fish caught under such conditions are reputed to be sluggish and provide little of the quality sport that stream trout are famous for. Also, trout often concentrate in warmer water near springs in the winter, food is relatively scarce, and they are more easily caught. This would reduce the sporting aspects of fishing, and encourage illegal fishing by those so inclined. There is also the possibility that as early season fishing becomes popular, hardy anglers would take to walking in the stream. This could be very damaging to the trout eggs and fry which are still under the spawning gravel.

We disagree with the conclusion that "fly fishermen are unhappy with the success of non-fly fishermen". Rather, we feel that many trout fishermen of all persuasions are somewhat appalled by the unsporting conditions of winter fishing. Any of us who would call ourselves sportsmen would wish all of our fellow anglers well, but we would also feel obligated to protect the resource and to show some restraint in our harvest.

The early opening has undoubtedly had an effect on the opening day crowd, but we wonder if it did not merely advance the opening day circus to the first pleasant weekend. We have not seen any data on this. Property destruction and angry landowners are indeed serious problems and are more common than we like to think. Abuses do occur throughout the season, however, and we wonder if the problems are not better resolved through angler education efforts.

The observation that Southwestern Wisconsin residents resent outsiders who fish in their waters (while keeping their own areas closed) probably has only a slight foundation. Many of the outsiders are probably from large cities, from areas that have no trout, or from other states. At any rate, we have observed little inclination on the part of midstate anglers to fish in the southwest during winter. With the increased costs of travel and the popularity of ice fishing, most are content to stay home and wait for May. We are very concerned with the implication that this supposed complaint seems to lead to, that other areas of the state should have early openings.

We believe that before early openings are even contemplated in other areas, the results of the early opening in the southwest should be very carefully evaluated and some convincing data that argues for the continuance of the early season should be presented. Certainly there is a need for data on angling mortality, angler use and origin, detrimental effects of the early season on trout and their habitat, angler opinion, and many other points before committing other areas to an early opening. In fact, for reasons we have outlined it may be desirable to return to the traditional opening date in the southwest. Our argument comes down to the point that we must do what is best for the trout and their habitat, not necessarily what is popular with the anglers.



## MEMBERSHIP - HOTLINE

At the February 21st Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited meeting held in Stevens Point, I volunteered to undertake two tasks for Wisconsin T.U. First, I accepted appointment as membership chairman for the state, in lieu of the fact that ill health has prevented Tom Lepley from carrying out that function. My duty here is to co-ordinate membership campaign efforts with each chapter. Local chapters are to send to me the names and addresses of new members they recruit during the campaign period set up by National T.U. (Jan. 1, 1981, to May 31, 1981). Once the campaign is done, the number of new and renewed members in each chapter will be tabulated, and the winner will be announced (using the formula described in the previous state council newsletter).

Secondly, I volunteered to help establish a telephone hotline for the purposes of disseminating information on permit requests and legislation that might impact our cold water resources. I have asked each chapter to establish a hotline within their own chapter, and I will then work at getting the hotline established at the state level.

In early March, I mailed a letter to each chapter president describing my two duties. I followed up with long distance calls to these people asking if they needed any information, clarification, and/or elaboration of what I've written. To date, the response has been less than enthusiastic. I am receiving information on new members only from the Antigo chapter, though I know that other chapters are getting new members. Some chapters have grouched about the fact that the membership formula discriminates against large chapters. While I agree with this premise, my reply is that, as far as I am concerned, I couldn't care less whether my chapter wins the contest or if I win the fishing trip to Alaska. I look upon this membership contest period as a time to aggressively project Trout Unlimited to the public, to increase our state-

wide membership (which grew at a paltry 1.17% last year), and to promote the Trout Unlimited philosophy. I hope that will be the real goal of all of us. The drive for new members should not end on May 31. It should be a continuing pro-



## Southeastern Banquet

Bernard "Lefty" Kreh thrilled over 250 guests with his casting demonstrations at the Second Annual Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter T.U. Benefit Banquet which was held at Milwaukee's beautiful Performing Arts Center on Saturday, Feb. 14, 1981. Following the banquet, Lefty gave individual casting tips to T.U. members until past midnight.



cess throughout the year. We need to grow membership-wise, and I hope that all chapters will co-operate on this matter (and that of the hotline). Again, please send all notice of all new members and their addresses to me at the address listed below. And, please notify me of the hotline procedure for your individual chapter so that I can begin to set up the system we will use at the state level to get the necessary information to the chapters. Thank you.

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MINUTES OF THE WINTER STATE COUNCIL  
MEETING - February 21, 1981, Stevens Point

Meeting called to order - 10:30 a.m. -  
Ron Ahner

Minutes of October 18, 1980, meeting  
read by Ryan Hagen and revised as follows:

- Wisconsin Council will drop their membership with Wisconsin Wildlife Federation after one year. National T.U. legal counsel said we must not be affiliated with any lobbying organization.

Action tabled. To be discussed at future meeting.

Motion: Minutes approved as revised.  
Seconded and passed.

Treasurer's Report - Bob Heim

Motion: Treasurer's report approved.  
Seconded and passed.

Committee Reports:

Water Management

1. Boundary acid water situation update - Tom Mertens presented: Mine shafts abandoned by Hanna Mining have filled with water which pass through varying substrates, and becomes acidic. The water surfaces and spills into the Iron River. The primary problem to the aquatic system is the creation of a precipitate which endangers invertebrates and vertebrates. Hanna Mining denies legal liability, but has accepted a degree of moral responsibility and is taking some action to mitigate the effect of the situation.
  - A resolution by Trout Unlimited is to be drafted by Tom Mertens for approval by Ron Ahner and distribution to concerned parties by Ryan Hagen.
2. A report on Bridge Creek was presented by Ron Koshoshek.
3. Hansaw Creek - Bob Heim
  - A proposed dam is slated for two or three hearing.
4. Casco Creek - Bob Heim
  - Municipality is trying to get it reclassified as a non trout stream (it is presently Class I trout water) through legislation. When, and if, a bill is introduced, Bob will report.

5. Hot Line

- Ron Ahner is currently receiving all applications for permits to do something to water resources. Discussion: how to utilize this information for the purpose of a hot line. Mitch Bent volunteered to draft a hot line procedure. In case there is need for public intervention, call Ron Koshoshek (home - 715-839-0063; office - 715-836-2418) and he will advise.

Membership

1. Membership Chairman, Tom Leplev, was retired due to health. Mitch Bent was selected to take over the position.
2. Chapters should send their membership goals to Mitch Bent.

Legal

1. Motion (Ron Koshoshek): That the Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited should incorporate under the name of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited. Seconded (Mitch Bent) and unanimously passed.
2. Brule River Master Plan - A plan to regulate the use of the river. The DNR feels that it presently does not have the power to regulate use conflicts (e.g., float-tubers vs. fishermen) as necessary in the plan.
  - ISSUE: Do we want the DNR to regulate use in the Master Plan?
  - ISSUE: Do we want the precedent of a state agency regulating the uses of water resources (presumably recreational uses).
  - Motion (Ron Koshoshek): That the State Council be in favor of allowing the DNR to have the authority to regulate use in the Brule River Master Plan. Seconded. Vote: 7 against, 5 in favor.
    - It was felt that insufficient information was available to the council members to take the stand at the present time.
3. Mitch Bent discussed the hearing about Exxon mining in Crandon. January, 1981.
4. Trans 207 - the name of an administrative code of the Dept. of Trans-

portation which exempts headwater streams from bridge building standards.

- A hearing in regards to Trans 207 is slated for March 5, 1981, 1:30 p.m., Rm SW318 - Capitol Building.

5. ORAP 2000 - A proposed extension of the present ORAP, which is designed for the preservation and enhancement of natural resources and to provide continuing opportunities for outdoor recreation.

- Motion (Top Sopkovich): That Trout Unlimited endorse the ORAP 2000 proposal and support the adoption of legislation to effect its early implementation. Seconded (Tom Flesch). Passed unanimously.

#### Scientific Information

Bob Hunt discussed a proposal to divide the state into different management units which could be more responsive to local needs. More will be discussed at a later meeting.

#### Public Relations

1. Tom Flesch needs information and pictures (preferably B & W) for the newsletter.
2. For mailing chapter newsletters: Trout Unlimited has a "non-profit" mailing status. A chapter can pay an initial fee and the cost per each mailed piece would be 3.8¢.

#### Chapter Reports for the National Gold Trout Award:

Eligibility requirements can be found in Chapter Council Handbook Section II.

Documentation with pictures must be submitted by March 3, 1981.

#### Old Business:

Motion: That we accept the nomination of Bob Hunt for the National Trout Unlimited Award. Seconded. Passed unanimously.

#### New Business:

Tom Sopkovich appealed to State Chapter presidents to provide chapter representation at O'Hare Hilton. Chapter presidents have been provided details.

National Banquet - 1981

- Central Chapter is host and is looking for Chapters to offer assis-

tance. Contact Dan Harmon.

Clint Byrnes discussed the need to get TU'ers on the Conservation Congress and offered this advice:

Find out who is up for re-election in your district. Make campaign flyers to be distributed at meeting (he had one with a picture of himself and a list of qualifications).

Next Meeting: April 25th, 1981, UW - Stevens Point, Red Room of University Center

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Preview of Beaver Film.

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## **Wear Your Trout Unlimited Insignia Proudly**

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future of your fishing.

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#### MEYER NEW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION CHIEF

Madison, Wi....A ten-year veteran of the department has been named to a high administrative post in the Department of Natural Resources by Secretary C.D. (Buzz) Besadny.

George Meyer is the new Administrator of the Division of Enforcement which includes the bureaus of law enforcement and water regulation and zoning, and the environmental enforcement section.

Meyer began his career with the DNR as a limited term employee in 1970 and joined the Department fulltime in 1972 as an attorney after receiving his law degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He was awarded a bachelor's degree from St. Norbert College, West DePere in 1970.

A native of New Holstein, Meyer has served as Assistant to the Administrator of Enforcement since February of this year.

He succeeds Andrew C. Damon in the position.

# "BEAVER PROBLEM AIRED"

Central Wisconsin viewers learned more about the Beaver-Trout relationship recently. Channel 9 TV, Wausau, aired a public service program Saturday, March 1, dealing with the problem.

Featured were DNR Fish Manager, Max Johnson; John Krika, Conservation Congress Fur Harvest Study Committee; Scott Henricks, Antigo Chapter Beaver Committee Chairman; and Jim Kalkofen, State Beaver Chairman; all from Antigo. The panel covered many aspects of the situation during a 10-minute interview.

In addition to the long list of stream damage caused by beaver, panel members discussed the significance of the problem. Beaver populations still remain at an all-time high in northern Wisconsin and their dams are ravaging miles and miles of streams.

The early season beaver trapping results are incomplete, but low beaver pelt prices have caused less than expected harvest, Krika said. Many Class I streams, have over two dams per mile, Johnson said, and fish managers have concentrated efforts aimed at beaver problems.

The panelists stressed the impact of T.U. and how fishermen should continue reporting beaver activity to the Antigo Chapter Beaver Committee.

"We're concerned with the over-population of Beaver on Trout Streams, not those on warm water ponds," Henricks said.

Beaver dams affect trout streams by:

- \* blocking trout spawning runs,
- \* depositing silt overground,
- \* warming ponds in summer,
- \* cooling ponds in winter,
- \* caving in pre-pond stream banks,
- \* creating conditions conducive to trout predators,
- \* creating conditions conducive to competing species,
- \* warming water which increases disease factor,
- \* killing shade trees along stream banks,
- \* creating a short-term trout growth (good fishing) for only a few years, followed by decades of a "dead" pond,
- \* etc.

Johnson said the impact of beaver dams on trout streams is more damaging than the effects of pollution, cattle, and man. The state council is currently producing a video program to educate the public about the problems. Final script writing and editing is underway and the Beaver Video Committee expects a finished product this summer.

The Beaver Video Committee consists of Kalkofen, Antigo, Chairman; Clint Byrnes, Beaver Dam; Tony Pudlo, New Holstein; Tom Sopkovich, Milwaukee; and Prof. Jack Heaton, U.W. - Stevens Point.

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