



# WISCONSIN Trout Unlimited

JULY, 1981 Quarterly Report

## WHAT IS THE DINGELL-JOHNSON (D-J) ACT?

D-J is a program to strengthen state sport fish management efforts with funds from a 10% manufacturers level federal tax on sport fishing equipment. Since 1950, D-J has provided an average of \$11.3 million per year to state fish and wildlife agencies for developing and improving fish management techniques, protecting aquatic habitat, providing public access to fishing waters, and construction of new fishing lakes.

## WHAT IS D-J EXPANSION?

It is a widely supported effort to amend the D-J Act by extending the 10% manufacturers excise tax to fish hooks, fishing lines, and miscellaneous accessories, plus a 3% manufacturers excise tax on certain recreational boats, boat motors and boat trailers. Funds generated would be used by all of the states for fisheries restoration projects, waterway improvement programs, construction of new lakes and boat access areas, and water resource education programs.

## HAVE D-J EXPANSION BILLS BEEN INTRODUCED?

Yes! In both Houses of Congress. Congressman John Breaux has introduced H.R. 2250 in the House of Representatives, and Senator Jennings Randolph of West Virginia has introduced an identical bill (S.546) in the United States Senate.

## HAS THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS BEEN DOCUMENTED?

Yes! A 1980-81 survey of the fifty state fisheries agencies discloses that 116.8 million additional dollars are urgently needed annually to permit the states to properly manage their recreational fisheries resources. The survey was conducted by the American Fisheries Society.

## HOW WOULD THIS MONEY BE SPENT BY THE STATES?

Research and Inventory of Fishery Resources .....	17.3%
Land Purchase for Lake Sites, Fisherman Access and Hatcheries .....	16.4%
Construction and Development (Hatcheries, Impoundments, Access, etc.) .....	32.4%
Maintenance.....	9.9%
Fisheries Management .....	20.6%
Administration and Planning .....	1.6%
TOTAL	100.0%

## HOW MUCH MONEY WOULD THE D-J EXPANSION TAX GENERATE?

The proposed new excise tax would be paid by tackle, boat and motor manufacturers, and the cost would of course be passed along to the consumer in the price of the product. With the expansion, the total monies to be deposited annually in the D-J Fund would be approximately \$80 million.

## WHY SHOULD RECREATIONAL BOATS BE TAXED?

Because more than 80% of all recreational boats are used for fishing. Because the use of boats for fishing places greater demand on fisheries resources. Because good fishing sells boats, and because past investment by fishermen in boating access, new lakes, fish stocking, etc., have provided countless benefits to boat manufacturers and boat users.

*Note:* A 1980 survey by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service disclosed that states would develop 6400 new boating access areas if funds were available.

## WILL SOME BOATS BE EXEMPT FROM THE TAX?

Yes! All boats used for commercial purposes (except commercial sport fishing), all boats longer than 25 feet, all sailboats, kayaks and hydroplanes would be exempt from the tax.

## CHAIRMAN SPEAKS

In many areas of the Great State we call home, as well as in other parts of this Nation, many predict a shortage of water in the near future. Although parts of this land are not concerned about too much or too little, this State we live in doesn't regulate the water, but too, they don't protect it either. Fellow T.U.er's, we all share a common goal - the safe guarding of this Cold, Clean Water.

This common formula is the basis for our Trout Resource. Our State Council is continually reminded of the misuse and abuse of this resource. Many so-called fishermen or sportsmen are not as concerned as we are. They do not share in our mutual goals and directions. The continuing efforts of our thirteen local chapters have constantly come to the aid of our resource time and time again. Demonstrated by our many personal appearances at permit hearings, State and Federal legislative matters, and by local participation in events of both local and state importance, seem to be the areas where we do the job.

A great number of threatening issues still face the Fishery in our State. We would like to take this time to personally thank all of the individuals in the local chapters with their efforts to date, and their commitment to the future. With your effort, we can insure the safeguarding of our Charge. We could not single out any one individual or chapter in its contributions, for all of us collectively must share in the reward of realization that National Trout Unlimited Goals and objectives are practiced in Wisconsin.

A word of gratitude is also in order for all those members that have worked so diligently to increase our membership. Wisconsin can be proud in meeting the challenge of National T.U., for through June 1st it looks like we will exceed the 20% goal. This increase again proves that Wisconsin T.U.er's can meet a challenge when faced with one. Along with the increase in members comes the need capital, which is most helpful in funding the various projects we have and will undertake. Our efforts in these areas last year can only be described as "super". Continued funding is much needed, specifically to finish projects underway, and also to start new ones. In a down-economy, the Resource gets hit the hardest. Resource-oriented programs are the first to go. These new challenges, along with the continuing ones of pollution, and abuse of the resource, do require your continued support. We can't and will not compromise our objectives.

Through the overall objectives outlined by our National By-Laws, the State of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited membership will continue to be heard. All of us can be proud to be a member of an outstanding Action Organization.

- Tight Lines -

*Ron*



WISCONSIN T.U. QUARTERLY REPORT  
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EDITOR - T.A. FLESCH  
TYPING - A.K. FLESCH

**Join Trout Unlimited**  
***The Action Organization***

## **THE DINGELL-JOHNSON (D-J) ACT**

### **IS THE PROPOSED D-J TAX INFLATIONARY?**

No! The inflationary impact of most federal programs is due to the fact that the federal government runs at a deficit. Increasing the D-J fund will not be inflationary because, unlike most other forms of federal spending, the D-J fund is not financed (even in part) by federal borrowing. Dingell-Johnson is a pay-as-you-go/user-pays program not subject to deficit financing. Because it does not contribute to the federal deficit, it does not add fuel to the fires of inflation.

### **WHAT WOULD THE AVERAGE FISHERMAN PAY PER YEAR?**

Best estimates are that there are sixty million anglers in the U.S. If the new tax generates \$80 million per year, over the long run the average angler will pay \$1.50 per year. This is still substantially less than the \$3.00 plus per year in hunting excise taxes paid by the average hunter in support of a Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration Act.

### **HOW IS D-J MONEY DIVIDED?**

Fishermen in all U.S. states and territories will benefit. The D-J excise taxes are collected by the U.S. Treasury Department, and administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Only about 6% of the funds have been used for administration, with the balance distributed to the states on a 3-to-1 matching basis (3 federal, 1 state) for sport fishing developments and projects. Allocations are based on total state area and numbers of licenses sold. No state may receive more than 5% of annual collections, and no state less than 1%. The expansion bill would reduce the administrative costs from a maximum of 8% to no more than 4%.

### **WILL D-J MONIES IMPROVE SALT WATER FISHING?**

Yes. The coastal states will be able to use a percentage of their D-J money for improving salt water angling. This percentage is based on the ratio of licensed resident anglers to the estimated number of resident salt water anglers.

### **WHO IS SUPPORTING THE EXCISE TAX PROPOSAL?**

The D-J expansion proposal represents a classic example of "user pays" tax. It is supported by every national recreational fishing organization, by most leading national conservation groups, and by a host of regional and local fishermen and conservation organizations. The "user pays" approach to sport fishing restoration, as exemplified by D-J, is

strongly supported by the Reagan Administration and has been endorsed by Vice President George Bush and Secretary of the Interior James Watt.

### **WILL THE TAX DAMAGE THE RECREATIONAL BOATING INDUSTRY?**

Despite up to 20% per year cost increases in some recent years, the boat and boat motor industry has continued to grow. A 3% increase in boat, motor and boat trailer costs will have little if any impact on sales.

### **WHAT IS THE LONG RANGE IMPACT ON THE RECREATIONAL BOATING INDUSTRY?**

More than 80% of all recreational boats are used for fishing. The future of the boating industry is dependent upon the quality and quantity of fishing opportunity. Because D-J monies are used to protect, restore, enhance and create new fisheries, the small tax paid by boating manufacturers will be the best possible investment in the future of the recreational boating industry.

### **WHY NOT RAISE THE MONEY FROM INCREASED FISHING LICENSE FEES?**

With current license exemptions for children, elderly, veterans, etc., only about 50% of all fishermen are required to be licensed. Meeting funding needs from this source would mean a doubling of present license fees. This is politically unrealistic.

## **Help your sport!**

Get involved today by letting your legislators know how you feel about the future of fishing and about D-J expansion!

# "LEGAL BEAGLE"

by Mitch Bent

CABINET GOVERNMENT - In the winter state council newsletter, I wrote on cabinet government and how it adversely impacts natural resource decisions. I also reported that it was likely that the governor, who was thwarted in his last attempt to politicize the Natural Resource Department by making the secretary a gubernatorial appointment rather than an appointment by an independent citizens' board (i.e., Natural Resources Board), would try again this session to get such legislation passed. A bill has been introduced into the State Senate that would make the heads of the DNR, Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection, and Veterans' Affairs gubernatorial appointments, thus creating cabinet government for the last three state agencies not directly under the governor's thumb. For those new members to T.U., I will briefly explain the dilemma here.

Under the present system we now employ in Wisconsin, the governor appoints citizens to serve on the Natural Resources Board for staggered six-year terms. These members do not receive salaries, but they cannot be fired. The Board members formulate DNR policy on hunting, fishing, trapping, pollution abatement, wetland regulation, parks and state forests, and a wide variety of other environmental issues within the bounds of statutory limitations. The Board also has the authority to hire and fire the DNR secretary.

The idea behind this system was spawned in the 1927 Wisconsin Legislature. Our elected officials decided at that time that conservation and politics was a bad mixture, and thus they created the system we still have today. Periodically, there have been governors who have not been comfortable with the lack of political patronage within the DNR and have sought to politicize the institution. All attempts thus far have failed. Sportsmen and other conservationists have vehemently opposed cabinet government for their natural resource agency, because, under

cabinet government, resource decisions are all too often predicated upon enhancing the incumbent's political fortunes rather than being based upon what is good for the resource. Under the present system, the average citizen has wide opportunity to participate in resource-making decisions through the Conservation Congress, public hearings, and appearances before the DNR Board. Under cabinet government, decisions are made behind closed doors with little or no public comment. It is for these reasons that groups like Trout Unlimited have opposed cabinet government for the DNR.

SB 423 by Senator Scott McCallum (R. - Fond du Lac) would replace the DNR Board with cabinet government. The bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Labor, Government, Veterans' Affairs, and Tourism. At this writing, a hearing has not been set. When I learn of the hearing date, I will contact all T.U. chapter presidents so that they can alert their members. In the meantime, I suggest that you take a moment to write your state senator or call him or her on the toll-free legislative hotline (1-800-362-9696, between 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday - Friday) and urge their opposition to SB 423. You might also drop a line to Senator McCallum and urge him to drop his sponsorship of SB 423.

REMINDER: On any communication with your elected officials on legislative matters, two things are of utmost importance: 1.) Be POLITE and COURTEOUS. Name-calling and angry letters do not help things. 2.) Always indicate you are writing (or calling) as an individual, NOT as a member of Trout Unlimited. Only authorized T.U. officials are permitted to speak for the organization.

To write your elected officials, the address is:

Name  
State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702



mepps ?

A Fisherman's Prayer

Of all the sports,  
command me to angling;  
it is wisest, virtouousest,  
discreetest, best; the safest,  
cheapest, and in all likelihood,  
the oldest past-time.

William T. Porter (1840's)

FISHING PRESSURE?

According to Stan Kmíotek, there are indications of over-fishing in some southern Wisconsin streams to the extent that large trout numbers are reduced. Recent stream surveys of Mt. Vernon and Black Earth Creeks in Dane County turned up very few trout over 20 inches in length. As recently as eight years ago it was not uncommon to find trout weighing three to four pounds. About five years ago, one 12-pound trout was found in Mt. Vernon Creek in addition to numbers of other large fish.

Rowan Creek, Columbia County, was surveyed for several years to evaluate habitat improvement work. For the period 1977-78 there was legal-size trout mortality of 15% in the unimproved portion, and 58% in the area where bank covers were installed. During the next season, the mortality of catchable-sized fish rose to 75% in the unimproved portion, and 85% in the improved section. Most of the loss is believed to be a result of angler harvest.

Fish managers have indicated that streams under-going habitat development receive undue fishing pressure because such streams become more fishable after brush is removed from stream banks.



'Nothing great today...  
but there's always tomorrow!'

**"Release 'em**

**Alive!"**



## D.N.R. REPORTS

Roger Kerr reports that over the past ten years approximately 40,000 ft. of eroding streambank have been rip-rapped on Grant County trout streams. At today's prices, this amount of work would cost about \$400,000, which would be one year's worth of trout stamp monies.

Presently most of the work is being done by private contractor. An on-site DNR supervisor does the actual pushing of the rock onto the streambank using a DNR dozer.

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### NORTHWEST DISTRICT

Gerry Bever and Jim Lealos of the Park Falls Area had an opportunity in March to measure an unusual fish - a 24.25 inch, 5.7 pound brook trout with a 13½ inch girth. The fish was caught through the ice from Patterson Lake, Price County, by Dick Page of rural Park Falls, using a Swedish Pimple for bait.

Patterson Lake was converted to a trout management lake by the DNR in 1960 and each spring since then it has been stocked with several thousand legal size hatchery raised brook trout and rainbows. Each year, the lake is surveyed to determine the survival rate of the trout, as well as to clean out rough species, and interestingly enough, marks on the fin shows that this particular fish was netted about 2 years ago. At that time, he measured 23.1 inches, but was much lighter. Lealos stated the fish was released into the lake in 1976 and was six years old when caught.

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In the Eau Claire area, Doug Erickson has had a crew working the entire season on Elk Creek in Chippewa County. This year they installed over 1,200 feet of boom covers, over 4,000 feet of rip-rap, just about 200 half-logs and conducted stream bank brushing on over 7,600 feet of stream. Jim Talley of Black River Falls conducted stream bank brushing on over 7,600 feet of stream. Jim Talley of Black River Falls conducted Trout Stamp work on the North Branch of the Trempealeau River, Stockwell Creek, and the North and South Branches of the Beef River. The projects included fencing,

land surveys, brushing, tree planting, and boom cover and rip-rap installations.

Ken Wright of the LaCrosse area continued to work under the Federal Disaster Relief Program on Fullands Coulee Creek, Bohemian Valley Creek, Timber Coulee Creek, Bishops Branch Creek, and Hornby Creek. When this work is finally completed, the expenditure from the Federal Disaster Relief funds will amount to more than \$150,000. The disaster that started that whole project, of course, was the July 4th flood in 1978.

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A total of 497 beaver dams were removed from trout streams in Marinette, Oconto, and Florence Counties during the winter of 1980-1981 according to Tom Thuemler. Of this total, 308 dams were inactive and 189 active. Most dams were removed with explosives, although some were removed by hand.

Tom was also involved with setting up a system of contracts for beaver trapping. Twelve trappers in the three counties were issued contracts to trap certain Class I streams. The regular beaver trapping season there ended March 22, 1981. The contracts allow trapping from March 23 to April 30, 1981. As remuneration, the contractors are allowed to keep the pelts. They will be required to submit a report detailing their catch. Tom says no results have been submitted to date, but preliminary word from the trappers indicates they're doing quite well, with beaver active and being taken.

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### SOUTHEAST DISTRICT

In an unusual project, Randy Schumacher and crew have been putting meanders back into a quarter mile section of Bluff Creek in Walworth County that was ditched intensively in the 1930's. The stream recovered very little naturally after over 40 years, probably because of the extent of the ditching and the location of the ditched area close to the headwaters. Bluff Creek is a Class I and 2 brown trout stream. Randy says: "We're also experimenting with using mirifi construction fabric as a liner on top of our single wing boom covers, which allows us to overfill with bank materials instead of boulders." "We're also utilizing brush bundles to augment areas where deposition was already in progress."

## DNR LAKE TROUT PROJECT STRIKES PAY DIRT

Madison, Wi. --- A pilot project utilizing astro-turf "sandwiches" to aid in hatching lake trout eggs in Lake Superior has proved successful. The project is part of an effort by the Department of Natural Resources to encourage lake trout to reproduce naturally in Lake Superior.

In October, DNR fish managers anchored five of the one by three foot astro-turf sandwich mats containing some 55,000 lake trout eggs in 45 feet of water over Devil's Island reef in the Apostle Islands area of Lake Superior. On May 7, after six and one-half months, the mats were lifted and examined for hatching success. About 78 percent of the eggs had hatched. This is equivalent to the success rate obtained in controlled hatchery conditions. Survival of fish to spawning age through use of this technique is expected to be greater than that for fish produced in hatcheries.

Surviving adults from the hatch are expected to return to the reef in larger numbers than would conventionally stocked fingerlings. Fish managers hope for a return rate of from 10 to 20 mature females from each sandwich. The returning mature fish are expected to reproduce naturally. It takes from about eight to ten years for lake trout to reach maturity in Lake Superior.

The mats cost about \$30 each. Due to mortality factors in lake trout populations and frequent failure of hatchery produced fish to spawn on suitable spawning grounds, the value of a mature female trout is placed at about \$1,000.

Each mat contains seven layers of astro-turf placed nap to nap. The eggs are put between the layers and divers anchor them to hang suspended two feet above the reef. The mats are positioned about ten feet apart.

Fertilized eggs placed between layers of the mats are allowed to hatch naturally. The mats protect eggs from predators. The newly hatched fry swim free of the mats and seek shelter in rocky crevices of the reef until able to begin life as young trout. As the fry develop they deposit a chemical substance which helps the fish to acquire

an "imprint" memory pattern, helping them to return to their home reef to spawn when they reach maturity.

Eggs used in the project were taken from wild lake trout netted at Gull Island shoals in the Apostles.

Devil's Island reef, like many similar structures in Lake Superior, has the right characteristics to provide good spawning conditions for lake trout. Fish managers expect to establish a spawning population on the reef through use of the astro-turf mats.

Fish managers plan to extend the project to 15 other reefs in the area. About 20 to 30 mats may be placed next year. The process will be discontinued as trout establish natural spawning populations on the reefs.

Fish managers and technicians working on the project are Bruce Swanson, George King, and Jim Ludak of the DNR's Bayfield station. Members of the Marine Studies Center of the University of Wisconsin - Madison assisted with the project. They are Ross Horral, Doug Stamm, and Steve Leatherby. Stamm and Leatherby handled the diving chores to place and remove the mats. Marine Studies Center personnel had identified the precise area where the mats were placed as prime lake trout spawning substrate.

The project was financed cooperatively by the state through a grant from the federal Coastal Zone Management program. It's a part of the continuing effort to rehabilitate lake trout in the Great Lakes.



**Trout Unlimited projects mean better fishing for you.**

## 'Granddad, what's a trout?'

### WHAT IS A DAY OF TROUT FISHING WORTH?

A recent report from the National T.U. office carried the following item:

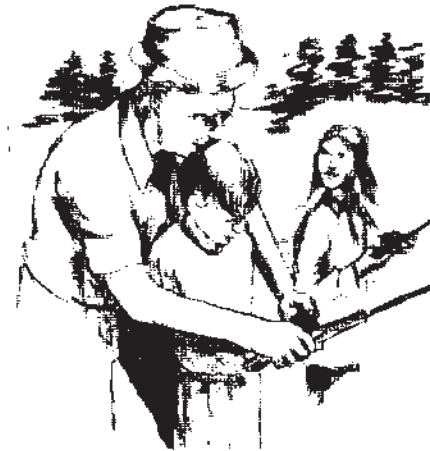
"There is a growing tendency on Capitol Hill to place dollar values on all commodities (timber, range, fisheries, etc.) so that environmental trade-offs can be measured with a common term (dollars). The "just out" Assesment of the Forest and Rangeland Situation in the United States (U.S. Forest Service) values a recreation day of fishing for trout at \$5.25 to \$8.60; salmon \$12 - \$20; and steelhead \$13.50 - \$24."

Many of us would like to think that a day of trout fishing cost so little. If we figure car expense at \$.20/mile and flies at \$1 each and neglect all other expenses, we can reason that if four flies were lost each day, you'd have to live within 11 miles of the stream to get by for \$8.60 and within three miles to make it for \$5.25. Realistically, you'd have to live on the stream and dig your bait out of the garden to even come close to these figures.

Most of us know that there's a lot more to fishing than fishing and expenses. What dollar value would you place on a few of the following experiences that come to mind?... a doe and two fawns cautiously drinking at the water's edge... a racoon busily talking her inquisitive family into crossing the shallows... a stalking Great Blue Heron... a woodduck and her butterball brood paddling along the bank... the seasonal change of wildflowers... the glorious colors of the seasons end... the chance to spend even a few hours on the stream away from the daily pressures... the spell of spreading rings from a subtle trout rise of quiet water... the Whip-poor-will's call as darkness surrounds the stream at day's end...

Are we content to trade-off our trout fishing at a price of \$5.25 - \$8.60 per day? Or at any price?

Roger Fairbanks.



Will you be able to take your grandchildren trout fishing a few years from now? **YES**—if you join the fight to save America's trout streams by becoming a member of Trout Unlimited, an international, nonprofit conservation organization.

If you've ever enjoyed the beauty, excitement and challenge of trout, salmon or steelhead fishing, you know what a valuable treasure is lost when clean fishing waters are destroyed by pollution. TU is The Action Organization which works in Washington, state capitals, and in streams everywhere to protect and improve coldwater fisheries and your fishing enjoyment.

Join TU now and enjoy five colorful issues of *Trout* magazine, involvement in local chapter activities to save streams in your area and more. *It's your chance to make a difference!*

Help save one of America's most priceless heritages—and enjoy trout fishing more than ever before!

**Join Trout Unlimited,  
The Action Organization!**



**YES!** Please enter my one-year membership in Trout Unlimited at the rate I have checked below, entitling me to all membership benefits.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Regular \$15      \_\_\_ Family \$20

\_\_\_ Sponsor \$25      \_\_\_ Junior \$7.50

\_\_\_ Senior \$7.50      (under 18)

\_\_\_ Check enclosed      \_\_\_ Please bill me.

Charge to \_\_\_ Master Charge \_\_\_ VISA.

Acct. # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to Trout Unlimited, P.O. Box 1944,  
Washington, D.C. 20013.

Contributions over \$2.50 are tax deductible.





## PUBLIC NOTICE

- The ANNUAL STATE COUNCIL elections will be held on July 25, 1981. We need more involvement from all 13 chapters on the State Council level so please make an effort to have candidates at the meeting.
- The State Council newsletter is in need of a new editor.
- Tom & Ann Flesch are officially putting out the "Gone Fishin" sign as editors after three years of publication.

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# T.U. MEMBERSHIP CONTEST

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At this writing, the nationwide Trout Unlimited membership contest is coming to a close. To date, I have received reports of new members from the following chapters: Antigo, Fox Valley, Green Bay, Northwoods, Ojibseau, Southern, and Wolf River. And, despite five requests for such information, I received no communication from the following chapters: Fontinalis, Kiap-tu-Wish, Harry Nohr, Southeastern, Central, and Coulee Country.

As reported by regional Vice-President, Tom Sopkovich, Wisconsin T.U. grew from 860 to 1,016 members (not final count, mind you) during this period, an 18% increase. While this is certainly better than the paltry 1.17% increase last year, it is nothing to be satisfied with. There are certainly thousands of trout anglers and others concerned with our cold water resources whom we have

not contacted. I remind each and every one of you that the drive for new members does NOT end with the end of the T.U. membership contest. I will continue to be in constant touch with each and every T.U. chapter to urge them to continue to push for new members and to retain the present ones.

At this time, congratulations are in order for the Southern Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Their efforts, especially those of Bob Gennrich and Tom Flesch, have resulted in at least 80 new members for their chapter. This a super effort, to say the least.

Again, whenever you sign up a new member, send the name and complete address to me at:

Mitch Bent  
702 S. 10th St. #9  
Wausau, WI 54401

## EARLY TROUT SEASON

Editor:

I read with interest the central Wisconsin's Chapter's comments on Gene Van Dyck's article on the early trout season. Of special interest was the last sentence which indicated that T.U. "--- must do what is best for the trout and their habitat, not necessarily what is popular with the anglers." If this REALLY is what we are after then we should hang up our poles and lobby for a permanently closed season for trout. After all, what would be better for trout than allowing them to live their lives free from pursuit by fisherman. Perhaps we can discuss this at the next statewide meeting.

I have been involved with the early trout season since its inception in 1976. Some people loved it and some people hated it and this still seems to be the way people feel about it. Most of the local people like it and I believe most of them are resentful of "outsiders" who come to this area to fish while their streams are closed. Much of the pressure comes from Dane County and anglers in this county recently rejected a proposal to join the early season counties. (This is called "Having your cake and eating it too!")

It is true that trout caught in freezing water don't have much fighting ability. This is one of the major drawbacks of the early season. Another drawback is that many of the larger trout are "cropped off" before warm weather comes, thus anglers who begin fishing in May can have "slim pickings". Overall, however, I am of the opinion that the positive aspects of the early season far outweigh the negative aspects. I am also of the opinion that our trout numbers in southwest Wisconsin are higher than ever before - or at least since white man came.

Trout Creek near Barneveld in Iowa County is one of the best Class I & II streams in southwest Wisconsin and one of the most intensively studied streams in the state. Cliff and Oscar Brynildson have surveyed it four times a year for

the past 15 years or so. Cliff recently reported that the early season has had no effect on the brown trout population in this stream. (Most of the land along this stream is owned by the DNR and is open for public fishing.)

Many other states have established winter trout seasons. This, of course, doesn't mean that such seasons have been successful or are needed or will be continued. I imagine that in the years to come we will learn more about the effects of winter fishing on trout, and we may have to make more adjustments in our seasons, or bag limits, etc.

I'd appreciate hearing from T.U. members about the early season. Feel free to contact me at the Wilson State Nursery at Boscobel, WI 53805

Sincerely,

*R. A. Kerr*

Roger A. Kerr  
DNR Fish Manager

**YOU'RE THE SOLUTION  
TO WATER POLLUTION**

### STATE COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: July 25, 1981  
LOCATION: Turner Room,  
University Center  
Stevens Point, WI  
Time: 10:15 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



# National Director—Profile - *Tom Sopkovich*

by Susie Isaksen

I first met Tom Sopkovich 11 years ago. Even then he and his wife, Wendy, were pretty heavily into Trout Unlimited. That was back in the days when the federal Soil Conservation Service (SCS) wanted to spend \$15.7 million on ten dams that would have wiped out miles of trout water in southwestern Wisconsin's Blue River Watershed.

Tom was living in Madison then and the Blue River area happened to be one of his favorite fishing haunts. He wasn't going to let the SCS spoil it without putting up a good fight. So he obtained as many facts as he could concerning the proposed dams (no easy task in those days as the SCS was not yet in the habit of including environmentalists in its planning processes). Next he and Wendy obtained maps from which they composed a mailing list of landowners along effected streams. Then they sent out a letter on chapter stationery. It wasn't a firely letter, just a presentation of facts and costs. It was sent not only to the landowners but also to town officials, county and town board members, key legislators and DNR personnel. Another letter was sent out to newspaper editors.

Then Tom and a crew of chapter members called on landowners personally, door-to-door, day after day. They also attended dozens of meetings -- with newspaper editors, with landowners, with county boards, with DNR officials, with SCS representatives. There was also the important business of keeping T.U. members involved and informed.

Finally the Grant County board squashed the project by a vote of 26 to 5, mostly because it would have cost the county several hundred thousand dollars.

The Blue River campaign, like so many others around the state, was a T.U. job well done. Somewhere in the midst of it T.U. chapter members were so appreciative of Tom's efforts that they bestowed upon him the title of Chapter

Water Resources Committee Chairman. That meant Tom was expected not only to head opposition to the Blue River dams but also monitor the health of all streams in the chapter's territory. That, of course, meant more letters, more meetings, and more hearings.

All the work earned Tom the title of President, Southern Wisconsin Chapter in 1972, a position which also gave him a seat on T.U.'s state council. Tom took on the business of membership development, fund-raising, programs and all the other details of running a good chapter while overseeing and taking continued personal interest in the Chapter's water resources and legislative committees.

Naturally enough, the state council appointed Tom to head its water resources committee, a position in which he served most dedicatedly and skillfully for three years.

Somewhere along the line (it must have been in 1975 or 1976), business took Tom, Wendy and their growing family to Milwaukee. There, the Milwaukee T.U. group was quick to harness Tom's enthusiasm and leadership capabilities. He was elected President of the Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter in 1977. Meanwhile, Tom continued to work on behalf of the state council as its treasurer.

Then, in 1978, he began the traditional two-year term as state council President and council-elected director of the T.U. national board. The national appointment meant a whole new range of meetings, letters, and involvements.

Now, continuing as one of the council's own elected representatives to the national board, Tom serves as T.U.'s Midwest Regional Vice President. National T.U. business and regional and national environmental concerns now take the bulk of his T.U. energies.

Tom Sopkovich's T.U. career has been impressive. The most incredible aspect of it, though, is that this author could write equally impressive stories about scores of other T.U.'ers in Wisconsin. It's the extreme dedication of so many people that is the essence of T.U.'s success.

Madison, WI --- If one of your spring chores is getting your car spruced up for the season, you're probably considering an oil change. What do you do with the used motor oil you drain from your crankcase? Do you dump it down a sewer or bury it in the back yard? According to UW Extension estimates, more than 2 million gallons of used motor oil are needlessly thrown out in Wisconsin each year by do-it-yourselfers changing oil in family cars. That's the reason state lawmakers directed the DNR to coordinate a statewide program for collecting and recycling used motor oil.

In fact, lubricating oils never wear out; they only get dirty. Virtually all used motor oil could be recycled saving energy and money while protecting the environment from the dangers of dumped oil.

According to the oil refining industry, a gallon of used motor oil can be re-refined into 2½ quarts of lubricating oil. It would take 42 gallons of crude oil to make the same 2½ quarts of lubricating oil. Oil re-refiners estimate we could save 1.3 million barrels of oil per day if all motor oil used nationwide were recovered and recycled.

Dumped waste oil poses very real threats to our environment. Dirty motor oil carries lead and other contaminants which can pollute rivers, streams, and harbors. Small amount of used motor oil can disrupt sewage treatment plants, produce oil slicks that damage aquatic vegetation or seep into groundwater im-

parting an odor or offensive taste to drinking water.

Under state laws passed last year, any retail store selling motor oil will have to provide a collection spot for used motor oil or post a sign which tells where the nearest collection point is located. Every county must have at least one collection point where people can bring used motor oil for recycling. The law also sets a minimum number of collection spots for cities, towns, and villages. No motor oil recycling depots are required if less than 3,500 people live in the municipality; one site is required for populations between 3,500-25,000; two sites are required for populations between 25,000 - 100,000 people. Cities larger than 100,000 people must provide three collection spots for the first 100,000 people and one site for each additional 100,000 people in the city.

Many oil collection centers are already available but they are not well publicized. Collection points in 76 locations in Wisconsin could recycle even more oil if people knew about them and got into the habit of recycling oil. The DNR will be working with oil retailers, service stations, county and city governments and private industry to make it convenient and easy to recycle motor oil.

Plans for the oil recycling program are being worked on now and oil collection points should be ready and publicized in each county by early 1982.

For more information including the address of the used oil collection point nearest you, contact Barbara Zellmer, DNR Solid Waste Environmental Specialist, (608) 266-7017.

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