

# WISCONSIN Trout Unlimited

SUMMER, 1983

## QUARTERLY REPORT

### NORTHWOODS TO HOST T.U. WEEKEND

The Northwoods Chapter of Trout Unlimited will hold a work party and family picnic on Noisy Creek, August 19, 20 and 21. All State T.U. members and families are invited to participate.

#### Schedule of events:

Friday, 8/19 - Registration at 2:00 p.m.  
- Fishing in the evening

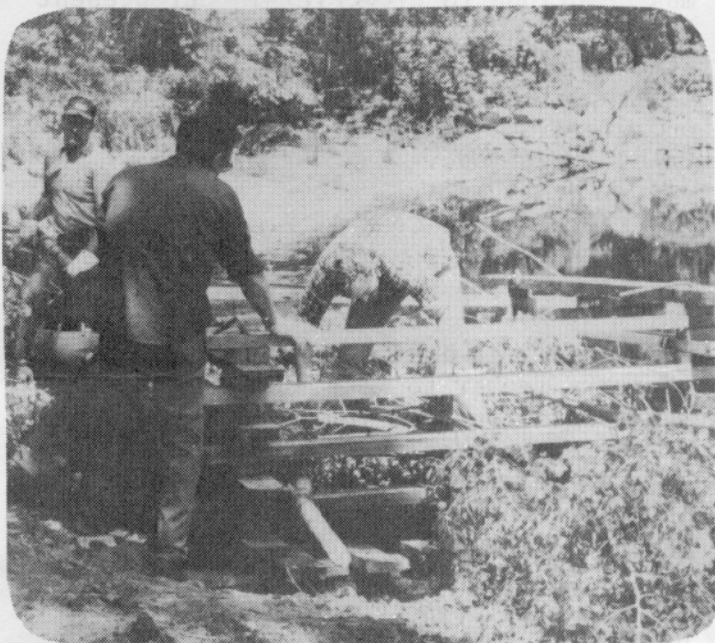
Saturday 8/20 - Registration and work project.  
- Fishing in the evening  
- Social gathering after fishing

Sunday 8/21 - Fishing/church/social (your choice)  
- Family picnic in the afternoon.

Camping will be available for tents, camper-trailers and there will be limited bunk space in a fishing cabin. (First-come, first-serve basis.) Motels accommodations are available within a five-mile area.

Cost is \$10.00/person which will cover all camping plus four meals. Reservations are needed by August 15. For more information, call or write: Wally Cooper, Route #3, Rhinelander, WI 54501. Phone: 715/362-5228.

### WISCONSIN T.U. CHAPTER ACTIVITIES



Southeastern: During the course of the summer members of the Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter have been assisting the DNR in the construction of crib structures at Paradise Springs near Eagle, Wisconsin. (above photo) The structures are being installed to provide needed protective cover in the head-water spring pond. The cribs are similar to those built on the ice that eventually sink to provide fish structure in many Wisconsin lakes. Since Paradise Springs does not freeze the cribs are being installed while the pond has been drawn down. Paradise Springs restoration is a DNR - TU jointly funded project. For more information and to register for a work day contact Pete Pritzlaff at 414/251-6348.

(cont'd on page 5)

# The Chairman Speaks -

The 1983 Trout Unlimited National Meeting will be held on August 4-7 in Bozeman, Montana. Tom Mertens and I are your representatives at the National meeting. If anyone has questions or comments to be made to our National staff or the Board of Directors, please send them to me by July 24.

The next few years will be crucial for the Wisconsin State Council. We have worked hard to increase membership and to locate and start Chapters where they were needed around the State. We must continue to grow, retain our present membership and communicate through the State Council. We now have 22 active Chapters in Wisconsin and only 13 of them on an average are attending the State Council meetings. We MUST have representatives from every Chapter in the State at our Council meeting if we are going to be successful. The State Council was organized to be a unified voice of all Chapters and members in Wisconsin. It is the responsibility of every member to make sure that representation from your Chapter is at the State meetings. The meetings are open to all membership--we need your input on the local problems even if you are not a Chapter officer.

\*\*\* The next State Council meeting will be held in Stevens Point on October 22, 1983. This meeting is going to be different from any in the past. Two main agenda items are going to be: elections of the State Council officers and Chapter Reports. I'm asking each Chapter to give a 15 to 20 minute presentation with slides, video, etc. on their Chapter activities--past - present - future. We will have a question and answer period after each presentation to further share your experiences with other Chapters.

\* Chapter Presidents - Please let me know if you want me to place your Chapter on the agenda.

The "Direct Mail" membership this Spring was successful - netting 78 new members. I would personally like to thank all the T.U. members who donated flies, spinners and books which we gave away as incentives. The response was GREAT--the quality of the flies were some of the best I have seen anywhere. Any excess flies will be used for the State Council Banquet..

Good fishing and I'm looking forward to meeting a lot of new members in October.



## TROUT UNLIMITED NATIONAL BANQUETS

Two of the newer Wisconsin T.U. chapters will be the first Wisconsin chapters to participate in the T.U. NATIONAL BANQUET PROGRAM.

On September 15th, the OCONTO RIVER WATER-SHED chapter will host a National Banquet at the Lakeside Inn, Hwy. 32 on Anderson Lake, between Suring and Mountain. Further information on the banquet can be obtained from chapter president Dale Halla @ (414) 855-6148.

November 3rd will mark the date of the first banquet of the LAKESHORE T.U. Chapter. The National Banquet will be held at the Club Bil-Mar, south of Manitowoc on Old Highway 141. For further details, contact Bob Nenahlo @ (414) 776-1132.

Would YOUR chapter like to host a National Banquet? If so, get in touch with T.U. National Special Projects Co-ordinator, Sal Palatucci, @ (703) 281-1100. Sal will be more than glad to assist your chapter in a profitable fund-raising event. The National Banquet Program is especially helpful to new chapters that are unfamiliar with fund-raising techniques.

# WISCONSIN TROUT UNLIMITED

## "CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION of the YEAR"



At the 35th annual Awards Banquet of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation on April 23rd in La Crosse, WI., Wisconsin Trout Unlimited was awarded the CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR award by the Federation for its long record of achievement in trout stream habitat improvement and conservation education. In the last 10-12 years, Wisconsin Trout Unlimited has expended well over 45,000 man-hours plus over \$25,000 on coldwater resource improvement projects in the state. State Council Chairman Tom Flesch of Poynette accepted the award on behalf of the Wisconsin State Council, saying "We appreciate receiving this award, because it means we have been recognized by our peers as being in the forefront of coldwater resource conservation in the state of Wisconsin. We thank the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation for this recognition and we pledge to continue our efforts to maintain and restore the trout fishery in our state."

At the top (1), Tom Flesch is shown receiving the award from outgoing WWF president Doug Olson of Viroqua. At right, Flesch is pictured with Dr. Jay Hair, the Executive Vice-President of the National Wildlife Federation. Wisconsin T.U. is a State Affiliate of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation. (For those folks with good eyesight, the critter on top of the award is a BEAVER! The WWF says the beaver was not put there on purpose! We hope so! A member of the Wisconsin Trappers Association volunteered to make a miniature Conibear trap as part of the award plaque.)

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited is pleased to be so honored by the Wildlife Federation. The award speaks well for the quality and dedication of our organization. Wisconsin T.U. will continue to monitor, improve and restore the trout resources we have for now and in the future!





The Namekagon River, one of the premier trout rivers in Wisconsin and the upper Midwest, originates from a lake in Bayfield County and travels 63 miles in a southwesterly direction before making a confluence with the St. Croix River. The trout water stretch of the Namekagon is considered to be the first third of the river.

When Europeans first came to the country in the late 1800's, brook trout were the dominant species in the Namekagon. Rainbows were stocked around 1910, and the stocking combined with forest clearing in the watershed diminished the brook trout populations. Brown trout were introduced in the 1930's and remain the dominant species today.

The Namekagon was one of the first rivers in the nation to be declared a "Wild and Scenic River" under legislation enacted in 1971. While that designation has been helpful in preventing further degradation of the river, it has also produced the result that stream improvement projects are not allowed to be undertaken on the Namekagon. A few structures placed in the river before the designation of the river as Wild and Scenic are still in place today and are benefitting the river yet.

In order to come up with a method of "improving" the Namekagon, DNR fish manager Frank Pratt of Hayward has worked to implement a policy now in place known as "slot sizing" regulations. Pratt determined that a portion

of the Namekagon called the "Seeley" stretch had harvest rates of larger fish (10" to 15") that were unacceptable for the maintenance of good populations. Fair to good natural reproduction occurs in this part, but angler harvest was preventing too many trout in the 10" - 15" range from living to spawn in fall. He thus proposed that a 6.6 mile part of the Namekagon in Sawyer County near Seeley receive the slot sizing regulations for trout fishing, whereby all trout between 10.0" and 14.9" must be released, and artificial lures only are permitted. Pratt has also encouraged anglers to keep more fish (within creel limits, naturally!) between 6" and 10", because he feels that releasing trout under 10" is "misdirected catch-and-release", since a large proportion of trout in this size category perish from natural causes, anyway.

The regulations went into effect this season (1983) and WILD RIVER TU Chapter president Joel Johnson reports that he has seen some positive aspects already. Angler pressure has been decreased quite a bit on the special regs stretch, and Joel reports seeing more fish in the 10" to 15" range. It is too early to say, however, that this regulation has produced positive results; more data compilation will be needed on the project.

The Namekagon receives the bulk of its pressure from anglers outside a 50-mile radius of the river; these anglers come mainly from Eau Claire and Hudson, but also from as far away as Madison, Milwaukee, and Green Bay. There are numerous places to fish the Namekagon. Highway 63 between Cable (Bayfield Co.) and Hayward roughly parallels the river and provides several access points. The County "M" crossing east of Cable is another favorite spot. The Namekagon gets good hatches of the big Hexagenia limbata mayfly in late June and early July, along with other typical hatches throughout the year. Bait anglers do well in the early season, especially in the bigger water below Hayward. The usual array of spinning lures also provides good action. Campgrounds are plentiful in the area, plus there are many choices for hotel and motel accommodations in Hayward, Seeley, and Cable.

Fox Valley: The Fox Valley Chapter has now completed two work days on the Davis Creek restoration project.

An annual outing with the handicapped was held on May 21 and was another enjoyable day. The weather cooperated and so did the trout.

The Fox Valley Chapter has been trying to extend Trout Unlimited exposure by placing a rotating slide show of streams, projects, and chapter activities in local businesses. This provides an interesting display for customers of the business and generates goodwill towards Trout Unlimited at the same time.

Fontinalis: The Fontinalis Chapter recently held a "tackle swap" on June 12th at their monthly meeting. Roughly \$100 was made for the chapter's future projects or donations.

In August the chapter will be doing a livestock fencing project on Pine Creek in cooperation with the Hay River Watershed Project in Barron County.

Central: In April, the Central Wisconsin Chapter completed the removal of several old beaver dams on the upper Mekan River. Within hours of removal, the original gravel bottom in some prime spawning areas was again exposed.

Also in April, a one day fishing clinic was held at Wautoma High School that was attended by 74 people. Instruction was given in casting, reading the water, insect identification, fly tying, knot tying, along with a showing of "The Way of the Trout". The event was well received and resulted in several new members.

The chapter's 7th annual Trout Fishing School was held June 3-5 at Camp Hiwela near Wild Rose in Waushara County. Both classroom and on the stream instruction provided a quality experience for both beginners and those hoping to polish existing skills. Although attendance was down this year, it allowed for more one-on-one instruction, to the benefit of the students.

Southern: On August 6, the chapter will be holding a Beer and Brat Festival. This will be the first year for this event and it is hoped that it will raise additional funds outside of the traditional banquet months. For more information and tickets contact Larry Melcher, 2308 Cottage Grove Rd. Cottage Grove, WI 53527 or call 608/839-4744.

Southern Wisconsin has also just completed constructing three miles of fencing to keep livestock out of Deer Run Cr.

Chequamegon: On May 18, members of chapter testified at a hearing in opposition to an application to build a dam on Four Mile Creek in Bayfield County Wisconsin. Four Mile Creek is a tributary to the Sioux River watershed and has native populations of brooks, brown and rainbow trout. The creek also has anadromous trout and salmon runs from Lake Superior. A decision from the hearing is still pending.

Wisconsin Valley: This newly formed chapter has wasted no time working on fund raising and habitat. At the end of April the chapter held its first banquet with 239 attending. Just recently the chapter helped complete a DNR project by laying sod over bank structures on the Prairie River.

Ojibseau: The chapter has been working with the Chippewa County Highway Department to and has reached an agreement concerning ripraping in the Lowes Creek watershed. A 5-10 year monitoring program was also agreed upon.

The chapter has also been working on its Operation Restore Project on Elk Creek and has been considering the purchase of 1.5 acres of land adjacent to the stream.

Kiap-TU-Wish: The chapter has been notified of the approval of its request for a 1983 Operation Restore grant for the Willow/Race Project. These grants were made for approved projects under National's Living Bright Waters program. Funds for the program were provided by the Richard Mellon Foundation.

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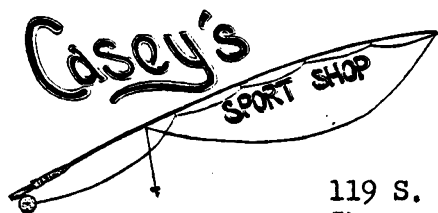
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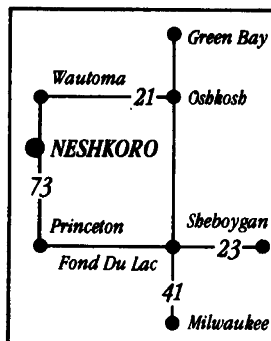
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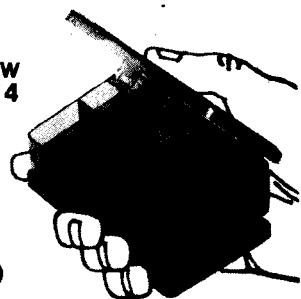
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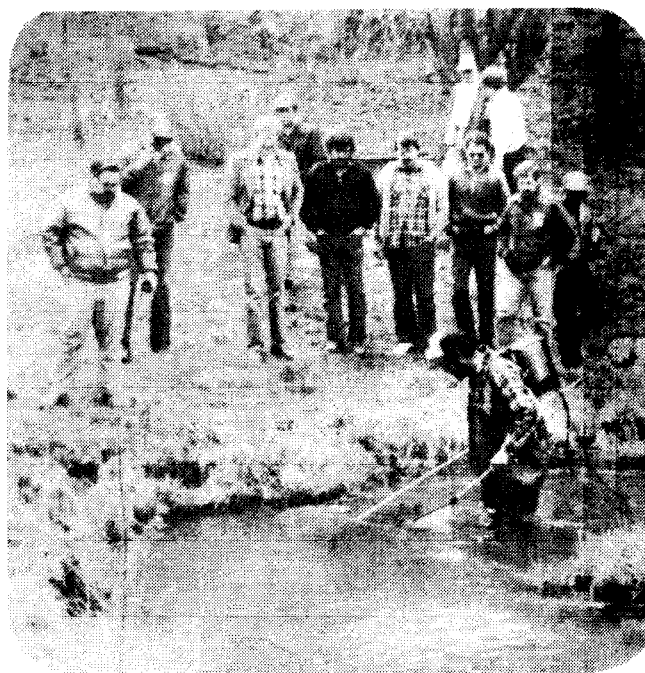
## Wildwood Gallery

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## ELECTRO-FISHING DEMONSTRATION



At the April 30, State Council meeting Dodgeville Area Fish Manager Gene Van Dyck took the group on an electro-fishing demonstration. Streams sampled were Harker (pictured above), Castle Rock and Crooked Creek. Everyone present agreed that there is definitely no shortage of ten to thirteen inch fish in the Castle Rock catch and release section. According to Gene Van Dyck the catch and release area has the best population of larger trout than any stream in his area.

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All correspondence should be addressed to:  
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Half page - \$100, Full page - \$200  
Circulation - 1850 issues

**DEADLINE** For the Fall Issue is  
September 10, 1983.

## Sportsmen's Lobbyist



Pictured above is former state senator Tom Harnisch, who now serves as a part-time lobbyist for the sportsmen of Wisconsin. Retained by the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, Harnisch has been working on such matters as license fee increases, non-point pollution control, funding for beaver dam control and removal, the ban on phosphates in detergents, plus many other issues related to the hunters and anglers and trappers of Wisconsin. TU members Mitch Bent and Jim Lukens meet with Harnisch and other representatives from outdoor organizations each month to discuss the progress, or lack thereof, on various bills relating to the interests of the groups. For the reminder of those who may have forgotten, Harnisch was the author of legislation in 1977 that created the Inland Trout Stamp, revenues from the sales of which fund most of the stream habitat improvement projects in the state.

If anyone has need of information on legislation regarding conservation matters, you can call Harnisch between 9:00 AM & 5:00 PM at: (608) 255-4440.

## Legislative Update

**LICENSE FEES INCREASED:** the budget bill passed by the Legislature and signed by the governor calls for increases in hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses, plus an increase in the Inland Trout Stamp from \$2.50 to \$3.25. Overall increases were, on the average, about 20%.

**BEAVER CONTROL FUNDS:** thanks to efforts by Wisconsin TU'ers, the \$112,000/year funding for beaver control in the DNR budget is in the budget bill signed by the governor. Attempts were made to reduce the funding to \$30,000/year, but efforts by Reps. Sharon Metz (Green Bay) and Jim Holperin (Eagle River), plus calls and letters by alerted TU'ers, helped keep the funding at \$112,000/year. The funds will be used to remove old dams and contract with trappers to trap beaver in problem areas.

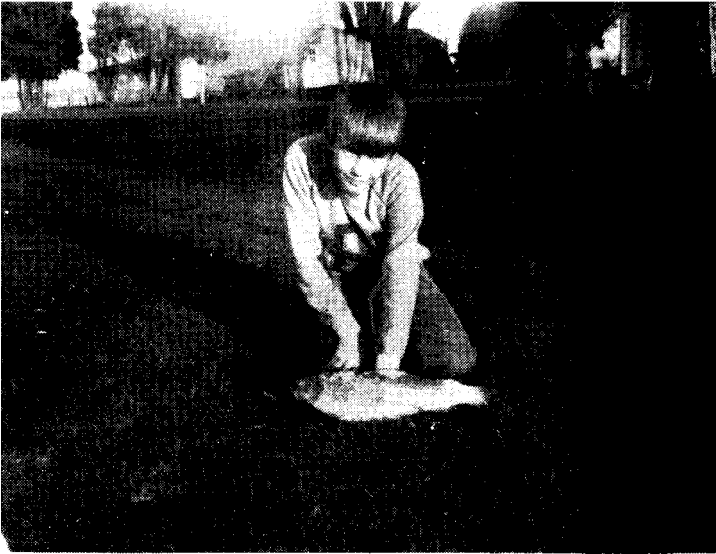
**PHOSPHATE BAN GAINS:** the Assembly passed AB 138, a bill to restrict the amounts of phosphates in detergents sold in Wisconsin, by a 67-28 margin. The Senate Environmental and Energy Resources Committee passed the bill by 4-1, and the bill is awaiting action by the full Senate. TU'ers are urged to write their state Senators to support the bill; the Senate version is listed as SB 98. Refer to the bill number when you contact your senator.

**WISCONSIN CONSERVATION CORPS:** the plan to put young people to work on conservation projects, the WISCONSIN CONSERVATION CORPS, has been making progress. At this writing, it is not known if the bill was included in the budget bill or is going through the Legislature on its own. We hope to have information in the next QUARTERLY REPORT. Look for it then!

**FOREST LAND SALE BEING STYMIED:** plans by the Reagan Administration to sell off "excess" National Forest Land has been losing steam. Senator Robert Kasten and Rep. Les Aspin (both of Wisconsin) have led the fight to prevent the sale.



## AWARDS BANQUET



Pictured above is young Eric Van Laanen, son of Green Bay TU'er Jerry Van Laanen, with a 20" brown trout he caught Opening Day, 1983, in the Pike River. As you can see, Eric is pretty pleased with his catch. Who wouldn't be??

The purpose of showing that picture is not to brag about a catch, but rather to give all TU'ers a reminder about what T.U. is all about. When we joined T.U., some of us got into it to attend meetings, go to banquets, participate in seminars, work on stream projects, or investigate legal matters affecting the coldwater resource. Some of us are merely content to get the magazines and newsletters. But the bottom line for why we join T.U. is that WE CARE! We care about clean, cold water, abundant trout fisheries, places of solitude to pursue our sport. That's why we belong.

Beyond that, though, we also know that it's our responsibility to leave the Eric Van Laanens of this world an environment that is better than we found it. Our forefathers made a few mistakes in their time regarding use of our natural resources; it is now our duty to correct those errors, not just for ourselves but also for those who will follow. When you're slaving away on stream project this summer, remember Eric above. Our work will keep his generation smiling for a long time!

The first State Council Awards Banquet has been set for January 21, 1984, at the Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton, WI. The event will be a combined fund-raising and awards event and will coincide with the winter, 1984, Wisconsin T.U. State Council meeting.

While all details are not worked out yet, we are planning to have the banquet cap off a day-long "hobby & fun" day on trout fishing skills and crafts at the Paper Valley Hotel. We will have booths open during the day for folks to observe taxidermy work, rod-building, net-making, fly-tying, spinner-making, photography, etc., etc. IF YOU HAVE A SKILL YOU'D LIKE TO DISPLAY THAT DAY, PLEASE CONTACT: Mitch Bent, 1282 Monterey St., DePere, WI. 54115 (414-336-4983).

And, while we're at it, this will be the first announcement (and request) for help by TU'ers to make our banquet a success. If you build rods, make nets, carve decoys, have artistic talent, tie flies, or whatever, how about making a donation to the State Council of your work for use as a prize or auction item at the banquet? We will need lots of support from various TU members to make this banquet a first-class affair. Get in touch with Mitch Bent (address & phone number listed above) if you can provide something for the awards banquet.

ALSO, BUSINESSMEN TAKE NOTICE! Would your company care to donate a prize, or cash to purchase a prize, for the event? We can use some two- and three-digit cash donations to help us buy quality rods and items for our raffle prizes. If YOUR COMPANY would be willing to make a tax deductible contribution to Wisconsin Trout Unlimited for purchase of a prize (or donate the prize outright), again call Mitch Bent and make arrangements.

Ticket information will be available in the next QUARTERLY REPORT. So, keep the 21st of January, 1984, open for Wisconsin Trout Unlimited!

# NEW CHAPTERS FORMED



The first new Wisconsin T.U. chapter got underway on Saturday, April 16, in Seeley, WI. Called the WILD RIVER CHAPTER of Trout Unlimited, the new chapter will undertake projects in, and monitor the coldwater resources of, Sawyer and Washburn counties, plus parts of Burnett, Douglas, and Bayfield counties.

The first public meeting was held in the Vortanz General Store in Seeley. State Council Vice-Chairman Mitch Bent of DePere welcomed the group and explained the background, goals, and purposes of Trout Unlimited. Rick Penn and Tom Anderson of the Chequamegon TU chapter also attended and spoke on issues facing the coldwater resources in the Northwestern Wisconsin area. Frank Pratt, DNR fish manager from Hayward, answered specific questions on trout management in certain area waters.

Pictured above are the new officers of the WILD RIVER chapter: (front row) Dave Miller (director), Chip Courtney (Secretary-Treasurer), and Joel Johnson (President); (back row) Martin Vortanz (director), Jim Ahasay (Vice-President), and Dave Simmons (director). Wisconsin T.U. says "WELCOME" to the WILD RIVER chapter of Trout Unlimited! Your efforts mean that much more protection for the trout waters of Northwestern Wisconsin.



The second new Wisconsin T.U. chapter was formally organized on May 2, 1983, in Peshtigo, WI. The MARINETTE COUNTY CHAPTER of Trout Unlimited will work on trout resources in the Marinette County area.

The first meeting of the new chapter took place in early April, when Mitch Bent and Tom Mertens (National Director, Green Bay) presented a program on Trout Unlimited to interested trout anglers at Chrisel's Hall in Peshtigo. The attendees felt there was sufficient interest in the area to begin a chapter, so the first public meeting was set for May 2. At that meeting, Bent and Mertens again presented a program on T.U. and what it does to improve the coldwater resource. After a question-and-answer period, the audience viewed two films ("Trout Unlimited: If We Don't, Who Will?", and "The Way of a Trout").

Newly-elected officers of MARINETTE COUNTY T.U. are: (l-r) Ed Anderson, Jr. (Vice-President), John Cantwell (Secretary-Treasurer) and Jim Bereza (President). Directors (not shown) are: Timm Olson, George Bereza, and Doug Plunkett. MARINETTE COUNTY T.U. is another welcome and important addition to the growing Wisconsin Trout Unlimited organization!



The third new Wisconsin T.U. chapter initiated this year, the LAKESHORE T.U. CHAPTER, began on May 9th at the Club Bil-Mar in Manitowoc. Chapter organizer Bob Nenahlo of Denmark, WI., along with several other interested anglers, met through the winter months to discuss the chances of getting a T.U. chapter started for their area. Once interest was generated, Bob set up the meeting and the new chapter was on its way. Mitch Bent and Tom Mertens helped the new chapter get going by

giving their presentation to the large crowd that attended. John Nelson, DNR fish manager from Plymouth, WI., also attended, and explained to the group the various projects the chapter could help work on, including one on LaBudde Creek in Sheboygan County.

Elected as officers of the new chapter, shown at left, are (l-r): Kenneth Strouf (Sec.-Treasurer), Bob Nenahlo (President), and Jeff Preiss (Vice-President). Lakeshore T.U. includes all of Manitowoc and Sheboygan counties, plus part of Kewaunee County. As with the other new chapters, Wisconsin T.U. gives a big "WELCOME" to Lakeshore T.U.!

We are still interested in organizing new chapters in the following areas: Stevens Point - Wisconsin Rapids, Park Falls, Racine-Kenosha, Fond du Lac, Marshfield, Platteville, Superior-Duluth, Richland Center, and Ladysmith. If you live in an area that doesn't yet have a T.U. chapter and you'd like to help get one started, call Mitch Bent @ (414) 336-4983 or Tom Flesch @ (608) 635-2552 for more information. We're more than glad to help YOUR AREA get a T.U. chapter established, because it means all the more protection for trout resources in Wisconsin!

## Membership Report

Membership as of the 6/6/83 printout from T.U. National listed 1827 members plus 235 suspended. Seventy-eight (78) new members were added to the membership roster via a direct mailing this Spring. Included as new LIFE MEMBERS of Wisconsin T.U. are:

Bill's House of Guns	-	Merrill
Jacqueline Covey	-	Rice Lake
Dick DuPlessie	-	Eau Claire
Gerald Haen	-	Kaukauna
Walter Hansen	-	Neshkoro
E. R. "Mac" McCann	-	IOWA
Ray Portman	-	Antigo

(\*) = had members transferred to new chapters

(\*\*) = not available at last reporting

CHAPTER	Members (6/83)	Members (2/83)
WOLF RIVER	20	18
SOUTHERN WI.	210	206
S. E. WISC. (*)	215	197
GREEN BAY (*)	227	217
CENTRAL WI. (*)	163	177
FONTINALIS (*)	16	17
KIAP-TU-WISH	112	108
FOX VALLEY (*)	120	103
OJIBLEAU	73	59
NORTHWOODS (*)	72	68
HARRY NOHR	42	41
COULEE REGION	31	25
ANTIGO	55	70
ALDO LEOPOLD	100	103
SHAW-PACA	59	55
CHEQUAMEGON	31	27
OCONTO RIVER	46	32
BLACKHAWK	59	33
WI. RIVER VALLEY	95	51
WILD RIVER	17	(**)
MARINETTE COUNTY	21	(**)
LAKESHORE	42	(**)

## CHAPTER ACTIVITIES (cont'd)

**GREEN BAY:** the Green Bay Chapter held its 8th annual banquet on April 8th, 1983, at Cliff & Ceil's Hall in Green Bay. Over 720 people showed up to win a variety of door, raffle, and auction items. The \$10,923 netted from the banquet was a personal high for Green Bay TU, and it was the second most profitable TU banquet nationally (Denver TU raised \$15,000). Darrell Huff received the Member of the Year Award for his outstanding participation in stream improvement projects, and Paul Mineau received the Silver Trout Award for his long dedication to watershed improvement.

The chapter donated \$3,000 and \$1,000 to National TU and Wisconsin TU, respectively, for funding their various projects and expenses.

Chapter members have spent 4 Saturdays and over 250 hours installing wing-dams and undercut bank cover on the First South Branch of the Oconto River. Work is also slated on the LaMontagne Creek in Florence County.



ABOVE, Wisconsin TU State Council chairman Tom Flesch (l) accepts a check from Tom Nelson (r), president of Green Bay TU, for \$1,000 to go into unrestricted funding for Wisconsin TU.

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