

Winter 1985 (Jan.)

Eulogy for a conservationist, Cap Buettner

Winter has come now to the valley of the River Wolf, covering its hills and valleys with a carpet of snow and the waters of the Wolf with a sheet of ice. Silence and solitude embrace the North country now. That silence, though, comes not only from winter itself, but from the sorrow that pervades the Wolf valley. He who fought for the river for so long is with us no longer. Cap Buettner is gone.

Caspar John Paul Buettner, "Cap" for short, was one of the fortunate ones, for he lived his dream beside his beloved Wolf River for most of his 72 years. Born in a cabin on an island in the Wolf River near Shawano, Cap learned the intimate secrets of the Wolf as no one else did through a life-long love affair with that storied river. Foresaking the opportunities of higher paying jobs in the big cities, Cap spent a lifetime working for the Langlade County Highway Dept., and then on his own as owner and proprietor of the well-known "Cap's Fly Shop" on the Wolf south of Langlade. But, in reality, Cap spent his life working for the Wolf.

Cap saw all the changes come to the Wolf...from the log drives in the early part of the century to the dams creating the Post Lakes to the fishery change from brook to brown trout to the rafters and kayakers. But, more than that, Cap made sure that the Wolf remained a treasured resource for all trout anglers to enjoy. He did it because he loved the Wolf. When plans were being made to dam the Wolf near Pearson back in he late 1950s and 60s, it was Cap Buettner and his followers who went to work to put an end to that mischief. He formed the Wolf River Conservation Club and began the first Trout Unlimited chapter in Wisconsin. With Cap's leadership, these groups succeeded in preventing the degrading of the Wolf, thus keeping it for all to enjoy. But, that wasn't all. Cap fought to help the DNR establish a master plan for a state fishery area for the Wolf and thus prevent excessive streamside development of the river's banks. He also fought the DNR on their method of stocking trout in the river, finally convincing them to use his "scatter-planting" method of spreading out the plated fish so that more of the river could receive

Cap Buettner was a rarity among the everyday out-doorsperson, for, besides enjoying his sport, he was also willing to fight to preserve it, a quality almost universally lacking among sports men and women today. Some folks do all their conservation work between their nose and their chin over three martinis; not Cap Buettner. He fought for the things he believed in because he loved the land and wasn't willing to see it degraded. He wasn't afraid to speak his mind, either, whether to an individual or to the Legislature, if need be. He had the intestinal fortitude to stick up for his principals and fight for the environment he so dearly loved.

The seed that Cap Buettner planted in 1959 that became Trout Unlimited in Wisconsin has spread. Twenty-two chapters and over 2,250 members comprise our organization. And each of our members owes Cap Buettner a debt of gratitude for his efforts of so long ago. He showed us the way, and it is your duty to follow.

Besides Trout Unlimited, Cap belonged to many other organizations, including the Wolf River Conservation Club, the National Wildlife Federation, the Waders of the Wolf, the Federation of Fly Fishermen and the National Rifle Association.



Casper Buettner, Sr.

In his later years, Cap suffered severely from one illness and operation after another. Yet, despite the pain and misery, he kept working to save the Wolf till the day he died. He worried about the crush of folks descending upon the river every year...about low water conditions...about the adverse impacts mining might play upon his river...about the overabundance of beaver whose dams held back the life-giving sustenance of the cold feeder creeks entering the Wolf. But, he always translated his worry into positive action, working to make sure that the Wolf River he loved would be here forever. We'll always remember the days of the annual scatter-planting of trout on the Wolf. That was Cap's pet project. He'd spend half a year making perparations. On the day of the planting, he'd be hopping all over the place, making sure things were right, and scolding without bias anyone who was goofing up. Half the time he'd be wearing a day's growth of whiskers because he'd forgotten to shave. But, when the project was done and we were all gathered around his house for food, beer and B.S., there'd be a happy gleam in his eye. Another Wolf River project was com-

His love of the Wolf spread to the rest of his surroundings. He never believed in taking more than you put back into nature. Only a few weeks before his death, he lamented upon the fact that he'd picked up a wounded Canadian goose in late September, obviously shot at before the season opened. He could not understand, he said, how anyone could do such a thing to a beautiful creature like that and just leave it to die. Of course he couldn't understand, for greed and avarice and disrespect for the land were things alien to him. Cap loved the land, the woods and the waters for what they were, and they in turn gave him the pleasures that no one can measure.

We of Trout Unlimited mourn the passing of Cap Buettner. The loss of a leader is always hard. While the Bible says that "...there is a time to live and a time to die...," that doesn't make his passing easier to accept. Yet, accept it we must, for there is much work to do. Streams have to be improved and funds must be raised to carry on those projects. There are legal battles to be fought and legislative issues to be dealt with. And, there are young men and women who need to be introduced to the wonders of our natural environment...to see the delicate dimple of a feeding trout...to hear the eerie cry of a loon at dawn...to marvel at the wonder of a northwoods sunset. Above all else, there is the need to educate our people on the reasons for preserving and conserving our resources so that all folks can have the opportunity to use them in a proper

So the time for grieving must end. There is just too much to be done. Besides, you know that Cap Buettner would expect nothing less from us.

One cool May dawn you will fish the Wolf River. And in the emerald mist you may detect a figure moving across its bolder-strewn width. There, in a symphony of baton and line, this figure will conduct, amidst a rising phalanx, a concert of symmetry and grace. Then as quickly as he appeared, he will be gone. Was it your imagination? Maybe, but maybe not

Cap Buettner is the Wolf River. Who could hope for a more enduring legacy.

Harnisch presents T.U. Agenda to DNR Board

Tom Harnisch, lobbyist for the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation (of which Wisconsin Trout Unlimited is an affiliate), spoke before the Natural Resources Board in late September in Strugeon Bay at the monthly DNR Board hearing to voice concerns and desires of WWF affiliate organizations, including T.U. Harnisch told the Board that T.U.'s major concerns for the upcoming legislative session included increased monetary fines for creel limit violations, increased priority and funding for spring pond dredging and rehabilitation, and stiffer requirements for erosion control on construction project sites to reduce runoff and erosion into navigable waters. Wetlands protection was also a topic of great interest to T.U., Harnisch told the Board.

Meeting with the WWF Board of Directors on Dec. 1 in Stevens Point, Harnisch elaborated on other topics of interest to T.U. that will be coming up on the next legislative session: Forest Cropland Law revisions, attempts to reverse Wisconsin's ban on phosphates in detergents, not permitting Tax Increment Financing (TIF) or Industrial Revenue Bonds (IRB) to be use for construction in wetland areas, plus attempts to tighten restrictions on commercial fishing.



Scenes from the happy crowd which attended the 1983 State Council Banquet in Appleton. Make plans to attend this year's banquet. See ticket or-

Dahlberg to address 2nd State Council Banquet

Larry Dahlberg, originator of the "Dahlberg Diver" fly patterns, representative for SAGE rods, and well-known speaker will be the featured speaker at the second Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Awards and Fund-raising banquet on Saturday, Jan. 26, 1985, at the Paper Valley Hotel and Conference Center in Appleton. Dahlberg will make his presentation on "Fly Fishing Alternatives" (a humorous dissertation) to the crowd. The banquet wll cap off a daylong agenda of affairs including the State Council meeting and the fine artists' and craftsmen display as noted in other articles in this paper.

Awards will be given to both individuals and chapters of Trout Unlimited which have displayed exceptional work in protecting and restoring our coldwater resources. Many prizes and auction items will be available, too. Proceeds from the event will be used by the Wisconsin State Council to carry on its many activities and research work as it relates to coldwater resources conservation. Tickets will be limited, so we urge you to order now.



dering informaton below...but hurry, the banquet is January 26th.

Program on Exxon mining highlights state meeting

The winter meeting of the Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited will be held on Saturday, Jan. 26, 1985, at the Paper Valley Hotel and Conference Center in Appleton, WI. The meeting will be part of a day-long agenda of activities including an arts and crafts show and the second annual Wisconsin State Council Awards and Fundraising Banquet

The highlight of the meeting will be a two-hour forum and discussion on the proposed copper and zinc mine by Exxon USA in Forest County. Representatives from Exxon USA, the Department of Natural Resources and the Public Intervenor's Office will present information on the progress to date on the venture and explain expected impact on Wisconsin's environment and the role the public can play in the venture regarding the safeguarding of environmental quality.

The meeting will start at 9:45 a.m. with the program to run from 10 a.m. to noon. TU'ers are invited to attend this meeting and hear about this improtant project. The regular business of the State Council will be carred out from 1-4 p.m.

Lodging Places In Appleton for State Banquet Guests

Hotel

Paper Valley Hotel 333 W. College Ave. (414) 733-8000

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Member Profile —

Ron Koshoshek

A split-bamboo rod builder, excellent fly tyer and teacher, learned entomologist, possessor of an intimate knowledge of Wisconsin and western trout streams, chairman of the Wisconsin Public Intervenor Citizens Advisory Committee, professor of philosophy and an accomplished musician.

All of these statements describe Ronald J. Koshoshek.

Ron grew up in Eau Claire and attended a private high school in LaCrosse. He received his undergraduate degree from Holy Cross College. Ron took an advanced degree in philosophy from Fordham University where he studied environmental law. He taught at Dartmouth and returned to Eau Claire in 1969 to teach philosophy at the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire.

Ron has always had a strong feeling for the preservation of our natural resources. In 1973, this influence prompted him to start the Eau Claire Ojibleau Chapter of Trout Unlimited. He is founder, past president, board member and advisor for this organization today. He is also past national director for Trout Unlimited, Washington, D.C.

From 1974 through 1979, Ron served on the Wisconsin Counsel of Trout Unlimited. During 1977, 1978 and 1979, he was on the National Board of Directors of Trout Unlimited and served on the Scientific Advisory Committee of the National Chapter through 1982. In 1980, Ron was appointed by the Wisconsin Attorney General to the Public Intervenor Citizens Advisory Committee. He has chaired that committee since.

In the past ten years as director of the Eau Claire Trout Unlimited, Ron has spearheaded streambank improvement projects on Duncan Creek, Hay Creek, McCann Creek, Elk Creek, Bridge Creek and Seven Mile Creek landfill.

In 1976, the McCann project won the District Soil Conservation Award. In 1977, Ron filed the Sixth Citizens suit against the Marathon County Highway Department for they had destroyed a portion of seven Class I trout streams by their highway and bridge construction techniques. The success of this changed the way soil was managed on construction sites. In 1978, the Duncan Creek project won the State Soil Conservation Award. That same year the lowland sand and gravel mining policy for the State of Wisconsin was established as a result of the destruction of Rib River. In 1983, the Lowes Creek outfall policy was set to control urban runoff. He has also fought for and won many battles involving the pollution of our freshwater resources.

Ron's background in environmental law has made him a natural as chairman of the Wisconsin Public Intervenor Citizens Advisory Committee. He has helped establish policy and set environmental ethics codes throughout the State of Wisconsin. Here he has also directed much time to issues concerning trout stream management, landfill settings and the use of pesticides on state owned lands.

Ron's enthusiasm for teaching others about entomology, fly tying, trout fishing and our freshwater resources has caused the Eau Claire Chapter of Trout Unlimited to grow to an active membership of 75.

Along with his dedication to the conservation of our environment Ron takes a great deal of pleasure from it for he is an excellent catch and release trout fisherman.

His skills as a fly tyer are unsurpassed in our area. In the past several years he has taught these skills to many chapter members. Recently his talents have been directed to the building of split-bamboo fly rods. Each Rod made from raw bamboo requires about 60 hours of work and he has made 45 of them. Ron is dedicated to excellence in all his endeavors. Whatever he creates always has the masters touch.

— By Skip Van Gordon

Artists and Craftsmen to put on show for T.U.

In conjunction with the Winter Wisconsin T.U. Council meeting will be a special display of original work by several of Wisconsin's fine artists and craftspersons. Northwoods Craftsman artists such as Scott Zoellick, Jerry Gadamus, and Sam Timm (the first double winner in of both the Inland and Great Lakes Trout Stamp contests in one year) will display their original works and talk art with guests. Clint Byrnes of Beaver Dam will display netbuilding, Bob Burnham of Appleton and Jean Novak of South Milwaukee will show rod-building, and taxidermy work will also be shown.

Walworth County's Bluff Creek on the road to recovery

Past geological processes in Wisconsin left the southeast with an abundance of flat, fertile agricultural land yet shorthanded the region in providing abundant trout habitat. The topography for coldwater drainages of Southeastern Wisconsin center around the glacial moraines of Sheboygan, Waukesha andd Walworth counties. With increased agricultural and urban development in Southeastern Wisconsin, the small spring-fed watersheds that typify the trout habitat of the moraine regions were adversely affected by the dragline, the dam and over angling. The few natural trout habitats that geology had provided became even fewer at the hands of man.

One of the trout streams of Southeastern Wisconsin that has survived urban and agricultural expansion, but not without its scars, is Bluff Creek near Whitewater. Bluff Creek is located in northwestern Walworth County and is a spring-fed tributary of Whitewater Creek. The total length of the stream is 2.1 miles, all of which is considered to be trout water. According to DNR classification, the upper 0.5 mile is classified Class 1, the middle 1.1 mile section is Class 2 and the lower 0.5 mile section is Class 3. The headwater source is a series of springs which eventually provide the stream with a 12.5 cubic foot per second volume of flow. The stream has an average width o 15.5 feet and an average depth of 13 inches. The bank cover of the Bluff Creek watershed can be summarized as mostly shrub and open marsh composed of willows, dogwood, canary grass and sedge. Present agricultural use is limited. Instream cover is provided by aquatic vegetation which at many points is so prolific it tends to impede the

Historically, man's use of the dragline has destroyed the natural meanders of a large portion of the stream. Two 40 acre parcels within the watershed have 3,700 feet

From our Readers . .

Dear Editor:

I am writing in response to your article in the fall 1984 issue of the Quarterly Report on Black Earth Creek. In that article you stated that the WDNR had decided to fund a major study of Black Earth Creek involving both the WDNR, USGS and UW-Madison. Unfortunately, the situation is not quite that straightforward.

I am involved in that project as the proposed Research Assistant under Dr. Mike Adams in the Department of Botany. The current status of the project is that the WDNR is funding the USGS study through present funds in Fisheries, and the land use study through the Water Resource Management program at the UW-Madison. However, the study of aquatic plants in the stream has not been funded as yet. The Nonpoint Source group in WDNR are currently seeking funding through the Deputy

Secretary for this aspect of the project.

The problem is that the Black Earth Creek project as a whole was 'mandated' from the Secretary's office, but no funds were allocated towards the project. This effectively stopped any work being done. The WDNR would like to perform this project, but there is presently no money with which to do it. Any work done on this project must be accomplished with funds presently available, or taken from other projects within the Bureaus involved. As aquatic plants are not usually of primary interest in most trout fisheries, the funding for this part of the project is not easily acquired from above, or taken from an ongoing project.

The initial concern of this project was that aquatic plants were growing to such densities that they may deplete dissolved oxygen levels in the stream, with resulting harm to the trout fishery. I think that the aquatic plant study is still an essential part of the proposed project. Without studying the plants, the goals of the project cannot be met.

We need to encourage the WDNR to move on this project, breaking the present deadlock.

Sincerely, John D. Madsen UW-Madison Biology Dept.

of straightened channel. One of the 40 acre parcels is now owned by the DNR and has recently undergone the installation of trout stamp funded improvements. 1,320 feet of brush bundles, current deflectors/boom covers and half-logs were installed by the DNR in 1980 and 1981. Undercut banks outside of the habitat improvement area are uncommon.

Rainbow, brown and brook trout have been stocked in Bluff Creek in varying amounts, sizes and combinations starting in 1937. During 1956 lands adjacent to the stream posted, creating limited fishermen access. Therefore curtailing DNR fish stocking from 1957 thru 1970. With the DNR acquisition of a 40 acre parcel and improved fishing access, stocking was resumed in 1971 with an approximate total of 2,000 legal size brown and/or rainbow trout planted each year.

During the fall of 1981 the Southeastern Wisconsin T.U. Chapter placed 24 Vibert boxes with 20,080 brook trout eggs in the stream. The Vibert box placement was partially successful. In the fall of 1982, the young of the year brook trout population was estimated at 68 with a main length of six inches.

One of the factors that has a very significant impact upon the Bluff Creek trout population is angling pressure. With limited inland trout habitat and a large angling population, Southeastern Wisconsin trout waters receive very heavy angling pressure. Intense May and June angling on the regions small to moderate size watersheds that lack protective cover for trout has a devastating impact upon the four acres of Bluff Creek from Millus Road to Highway "P". Approximately 30 percent of stocked yearling brown trout were caught by noon. Fishing pressure averaged 125 hours per acre, but ran as high as 270 hours per acre on the best trout habitat. It was estimated that 529 trout were creeled by noon of opening day, with only 11 being possible holdovers from 1979.

Electro-fishing surveys conducted after the close of the



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trout season have disclosed that Bluff Creek's size class distribution shows a noticeable lack of legal size trout. Data collected during the fall of 1981 showed an estimated 48 young of the year brown trout (5.0 - 7.9 inches) per acre on the 1,320 foot DNR parcel. Fish in the one year old age group (8.0 - 11.9 inches) were estimated at 8 per acre. No two year old fish (12.0 - 15.9 inches) were found, while the three year and older age group (16.0 - 23.5 inches) were estimated at 4 trout per acre. In 1981, 60 trout with a combined weight of 22.5 pounds per acre were estimated on the DNR section. In comparison, an estimated 22 trout weighing 8.66 pounds per acre were believed to inhabit the same section in 1979 prior to habitat improvements.

The data from creel sensus work, coupled with postseason electro-fishing surveys, tend to indicate overfishing as the contributing factor of the abnormal size class distribution and the lack of legal size trout. Since naturally reproduced young of the year fish made up a large portion of the 60 trout per acre estimate in 1981, it became evident that the mortality of legal size stock trout must approach 100 percent shortly after the season opens.

In the past, Bluff Creek's lack of instream cover and excessive angling pressure have worked together to reduce the trout population to a point that few fish have remained to provide angling past the first several weeks of the season. Hopefully, that trend is changing. Recent DNR habitat improvements and a reduction of the daily bag to two trout have helped to extend the number of legal size trout farther into the season. Field data and management policies are continually being evaluated by the DNR in regards to Bluff Creek. In the future, undoubtedly more new and innovative management techniques will be needed to meet the ever-increasing need for quality outdoor recreation close to population centers. The angling public is now beginning to realize that high-use trout streams can offer more than just a limited opportunity to catch a newly stocked hatchery trout or the enduring of difficult odds to catch any trout late in the season. There is a growing realization that a stream with the potential of Bluff Creek should have a healthy population throughout the year.

Bluff Creek is well on the road to recovery from past problems, but there are many avenues that can be taken to accelerate the process. Proposed regulation changes for all Southern Wisconsin trout streams lay just ahead at the annual spring fish and game hearings. It will be up to the angling public to support policies and regulations that will hopefully hasten the recoveries of over utilized trout populations, similar to those found in Bluff Creek.

- By Bob Retko

Scott Paper denied PCB Discharg Permit

In fall of 1984, the Department of Natural Resources turned down a request by the Scott Paper Company of Oconto Falls, WI, to allow the company to modify its wastewater treatment discharge permit so as to permit it to discharge up to 7½ pounds per year of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's), which are suspected cancer causing agents. In denying the permit, DNR noted that other papermaking companies in the state using recycled paper (from which PCB's come) do not produce PCB's because of the use of higher quality paper and different manufacturing techniques. Scott Paper is appealing the decision.



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Chapter Reports...

Southern Wisconsin

During the fall quarter the Southern Wisconsin Chapter held two clean-up and fence-maintenance work days on the Ripp Farm in Cross Plains on Black Earth Creek. Currently we are discussing a fencing project for spring on Deer Creek, a headwaters tributary of Mt. Vernon Creek, also a Class I Dane County trout stream. We hope to use labor provided by the W.C.C., and cost-sharing from the Soil Conservation Service.

Other activities of our chapter include a free rodbuilding class which starts in January and is taught by Lowell Gennrich and Bill Maund.l

Our very popular free fly-tying classes start in February and are organized by Dick Berge and Henry Hangley. Our banquet committee, headed by Ken Poniewaz, is making progress on selecting a speaker for our fund-raising banquet to be held in March.

In addition, the chapter sent two letters to the DNR, one supporting limiting Scott Paper Co.'s PCB discharges to below the current threshold of detectability. The other letter opposed discharge of treated mining effluents by Exxon into Swamp Creek, a tributary of the Wolf River.

These are important issues for chapters around the state to keep an eye on. Latest word is that Scott Paper is appealing the DNR's decision to limit its PCB discharges.

Green Bay

The Green Bay Chapter of Trout Unlimited has wrapped up another summer of work projects and is primarily involved in their regular schedule of monthly meetings.

On Dec. 6, we held our annual pre-Christmas dinner which was well attended and everyone had a good time.

The board of directors of the Green Bay Chapter is now in the process of preparing for our annual banquet which is scheduled for March 30, and also our fun day which has become an annual event.

The fun day planning is still in its preliminary stages. The only things set at this time are the place and the date. Fun day will again be held at the National Guard Armory on Feb. 16. Last year the program included; rod building, fly tying, casting demonstrations, taxidermy and displays by the DNR. We are hoping that this year our fun day will be bigger and better then ever.

Aldo Leopold

The Chapter held its election of officers at its September meeting. Officers for the coming year will be President Earl Little, Vice President Lee Parker, Treasurer Marlin Spindler, and Secretary Jack Saunders. Club directors will be Cy Sendelbach, Paul Gubbels, Dale Gonnering, Jim Klingbeil, Tom Talarek and Marvin Tibbetts.

Chapter members attended a DNR hearing in Beaver Dam on Oct. 11 concerning proposed regulation changes on Southern Wisconsin trout streams. Area fish managers Tim Larson and Jim Congdon related the DNR's concerns. The fish managers explained how the proposed changes addressed the problems on Class II streams and how the new regulations would hopfully enhance the fishery. The ensuing discussion revealed resource managers' and fishermens' hopes and expectations. While minor disagreement existed on a proposal or two, the attendees were basically in agreement with the proposed changes, particularly the increased size limit (9 in.). Upcoming Events:

Commencing in mid-January Lee Parker will conduct fly-tying classes.

On Saturday, March 30, 1985, at the Beaver Dam Senior High School, the Chapter will hold its third annual Fishing Seminar. Speakers, exhibitors and door prizes are currently being secured. Further announcements will be fortheoming.

Marinette

Plans for the 1985 season include preparation for the April banquet and work on the Beaver Creek south of Crivitz. Those wishing to lend a hand should contact Jim

Plans for purchase of 40 acres along the Upper Middle Inlet for a demonstration stream improvement project are being discussed with the Green Bay and Oconto River chapters.

Central Wisconsin

The Central Wisconsin Chapter held two more workdays on Emmons Creek in Waupaca County which were spent on brushing and the installation of brush bundles. A total of 303 man-hours went into this project in 1984, for a yearly total of 450 man-hours over eight workdays on three different streams.

The chapter held a meeting in October in Berlin at which Larry Trotter showed films of brook trout fishing in Canada.

Central's annual fly fishing school will be held one of the first two weekends in June, with the date to be finalized soon. Interested persons should contact: Mike Stapleton, Route 1 Box 204A, Montello, WI 53949.



Ropp Fencing Project, October '84, Black Earth



State Council Officers elected at the meeting are, left to right: Mitch Bent, Chairman; Pat Kordus, Treasurer; Rick Penn, Secretary; Bob Heding, National Director; Tom Flesch, National Director; and Dick Wachowski, Vice-chairman.

Coming Events

January 26

2nd Annual Wisconsin TU State Awards & Fund Raising Banquet. Paper Valley Hotel, Appleton, WI. Tickets still available.

March 30

Aldo Leopold Chapter's 3rd Annual Fishing Seminar, Beaver Dam High School.

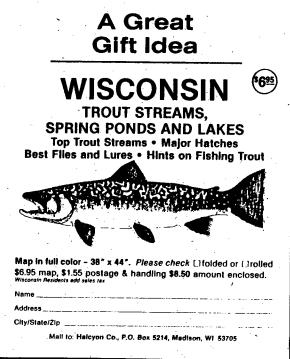
April 25

Marinette County Chapter's Annual Banquet. Call 715-735-7703 (days) for tickets.

August 11

In Honor of Cap Buettner, 2nd Annual Fly Fishing and Wildlife Expo, 11:00 a.m., Dakota, Inn, Dakota, Wis. Call 414-293-4361 for details.

Send your chapter's coming events to editor.





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