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NEWS AND VIEWS FROM WISCONSIN TROUT UNLIMITED

REFLECTIONS

Trout Unlimited, 1326 14th Avenue, Green Bay, WI 54304

Winter 1986

Jan.

State Council Meeting To Focus On Stream Improvement

The Winter Wisconsin Trout Unlimited State Council meeting to be held on Jan. 18 at the Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton will feature a presentation by Larry Claggett of the DNR on trout habitat improvement in Wisconsin. Claggett will be seeking input from Wisconsin TU on the successes and failures of individual projects. He will also be seeking suggestions from TU on how Fish Management and TU can work more closely and effectively for increased stream improvement and effective management of the trout waters of the state.

Claggett's presentation will commence at about 2 p.m. after the regular business portion of the council meeting. The meeting is open to all TU members, as well as the general public.

State Council Awards Banquet Set For Jan. 18

The third Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Awards and Fundraising Banquet is set for Saturday, Jan. 18, at the Paper Valley Hotel and Conference Center, 333 West College Avenue, Appleton. The banquet will cap off a day-long series of TU events, including the Winter State Council meeting and a special Anglers' Crafts Display. Awards will be presented to individuals and chapters of Trout Unlimited that have shown exceptional work for our coldwater resources during the past year.

Cocktails will begin at 5:30 p.m., with Coors Beer sponsoring the social hour, and a buffet dinner served at 6:30 p.m. Many prizes and auction items will be distributed during the event, including fine fly and spinning rods from SAGE and LAMIGLAS, custom-made bamboo rods, fishing tackle, VCR, fishing trips and limited edition art work. Proceeds from the event will be used by Wisconsin Trout Unlimited to fund its many activities and projects throughout the year. During 1985, Wisconsin TU distributed over \$10,000 for various research, stream improvement and educational projects.

Tickets for the banquet are \$20 and can be purchased by sending in the order form shown in this newsletter, or by calling Mitch Bent at (414) 336-4983. We look forward to seeing another good turnout for this special evening. Hope to see YOU there!!

Executive Officers Re-Elected

The present officers of the Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited were unanimously re-elected for additional one year terms at the Oct. 24 State Council Meeting. They are: Mitch Bent, chairman; Dick Wachowski, vice-chairman; Pat Kordus, treasurer; and Rick Penn, secretary. National directors are Tom Flesch and Mitch Bent.

Alert! Legislature Seeks To Undermine DNR

If you are concerned about the proper management and protection of Wisconsin's natural resources, then you'd better read on. The Wisconsin Legislature may be destroying the effectiveness of our DNR.

Senate Bill 32 by Sen. Lloyd Kincaid (D.-Crandon) would alter the current nonpartisan method of running the DNR and change the agency into a political pawn. Currently, DNR is governed by a citizens' board (Natural Resources Board) NRB. The Board hires the DNR secretary and establishes resource management policy within the limits of statutory authority. It frees the system to a great extent of political influence and partisanship. SB 32 would change all that. It would allow the governor to directly hire and fire the DNR secretary, thus making the post open to change and cronyism with every change in the governor's chair. The NRB, whose members serve staggered six-year terms and usually include appointees from two or three different governors, would become merely advisory with little or no power.

What's the big deal, you say? Well, friends, it's this. Under our present system of operating DNR, which was established in 1927 and since copied by 33 other states, we have access, accountability, openness, lessened political influence and consistency. We have staff that manage resources for their betterment rather than for the whim of politicians. We have groups like the Conservation Congress, Trout Unlimited, Wisconsin Wildlife Federation and others being a part of the decision-making team resource management. Under Cabinet government, you've got the cronies, good ol' boys and Big-Buck PACs (Political Action Committees) calling the shots. The little guy is left in the lurch. DNR becomes less of a resource management agency and more of a public relations arm of the governor. If you don't believe me, take a look at the states of Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana, Texas, Maine and California (and don't forget Louisiana!), where the politicians call all the shots.

SB 32 has rammed its way through the Legislature to date with curious speed. It passed the Senate on a voice vote in early October 1985, and four days later was the subject of an Assembly hearing near the end of the special fall session of the Legislature. That Assembly Committee (State Affairs) voted 6-4 (with one absent) in favor of the bill. All this occurred despite the fact that in TWO PUBLIC HEARINGS NOT ONE PERSON except for Sen. Kincaid appeared to testify in favor of the bill. It is apparent that there is a lot of political back-scratching, favor-promising and vote-trading going on.

Besides that, certain elements of this state don't like it that they can't weaken DNR's enforcement of regulations regarding air, water, forestry, fishing and hunting, etc. In fact, the day that the bill received a hearing in the

Assembly, James Derouin, former legal advisor for the Wisconsin Association of Manufacturers and Commerce (WAMC), spoke to that group and urged them to promote a "Cabinet" agency for DNR. Why? Derouin bluntly stated that our present system posed a problem for business because "it insulates the agency and secretary from politics." Funny, I thought that was the right way of doing it!

So, what do we do? We ACT!! And we act NOW!! Take a moment to contact your elected representative in the Assembly (their names and addresses plus phone numbers are listed elsewhere in this newsletter). Do it TODAY!! Let them know you oppose SB 32, that you like the non-partisan method we have of handling our natural resources, that you don't want it changed. If time is short, give a call on the TOLL-FREE Legislative Hotline (1-800-362-9696) and ask to leave a message with your elected representative (the hotline is open Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.).

If you don't act, your elected officials will think the folks back home don't care. Do YOU want a James Watt or an Anne Burford running the DNR? Do you want coldwater resource issues decided by political cronies or by professionals? Do you want the environmental regulations of this state up for pawns in a game of political chess? If your answer is NO, then you'd better get in touch with your Assembly representative. Our resources are too important to be managed for only a few rather than for the common good. Remember: the Legislatures reconvenes in late January to consider SB 32, among other bills. You need to act NOW!!!

For your information, the vote in the Assembly State Affairs Committee on SB 32 was like this: FOR - Hephner (Chilton), Menos (Brown Deer), Clarenbach (Madison), Holschbach (Manitowoc), G.S. Coggs (Milwaukee) and Byers (Marion); AGAINST - Shoemaker (Menominee), Grobschmidt (South Milwaukee), Lepak (Muskego) and Foti (Oconomowoc). Absent but listed against was: Zeuske (Shawano).

Also, listed here are Assembly co-sponsors of SB 32: M. Coggs (Milwaukee), S. Krug (Milwaukee), E.J. Ladwig (Racine), Merkt (Mequon), Prosser (Appleton), Robinson (Wausau), Tommy Thompson (Elroy) and Volk (Wabeno).

To write your Assemblyperson, send it to: Rep. (NAME), State Capitol, Madison, WI 53702.

Trout Unlimited appreciates the help that Rep. Rob Cowles (R.-Green Bay), Cathy Zeuske (R.-Shawano) and Jim Holperin (D.-Eagle River) have given us in keeping us informed and aware of the status of SB 32. All are opposed to the bill, and we are grateful for their assistance.

Coming Events

Jan. 18, 3rd annual State Awards and Fundraising Banquet, Paper Valley Hotel - Appleton. Raffle winners announced. See ad in this issue.

March 15, Central Wisconsin Chapter annual meeting and banquet. Tickets \$12.50. Call Gerald at (715) 258-7009.

March 22, Lakeshore Chapter banquet. Call Anne at (414) 863-6083 or Ken at (414) 684-3074.

March 22, Green Bay Chapter banquet. Call Gary at (414) 499-5307.

March 29, Harry Nohr Chapter banquet. Boulder Lodge, 6:30 p.m., Livingston, WI.

April 5, Fox Valley Chapter banquet. Call Forrest at (414) 739-5155.

State Representatives 1985-86 Session

(Representative-Room No.-Telephone No.)

John Antaramian, Room 103 W, 266-0455; Peter Barca, Room 16 N, 266-5504; Thomas Barrett, Room 5 N, 267-9836; Dismas Becker, Room 220 W, 266-2401; Jeannette Bell, Room 109 N, 266-0620; William Berndt, Room 326 N, 266-1526; Spencer Black, Room 16 N, 266-7521; Dale Bolle, Room 107 N, 266-9870; Gordon Bradley, Room 322 W, 266-7500; Steven Brist, Room 10 W, 1194; Carol Buettner, Room 324 N, 266-9180; Francis Byers, Room 327 W, 266-3794; Timothy Carpenter, Room 28 W, 266-1707; David Clarenbach, Room 422 N, 266-8570; Sylvester Clements, Room 9 E, 266-5831; Spencer G. Coggs, Room 108 N, 266-5580; Charles Coleman, Room 335E N, 266-9650; Robert Cowles, Room 48C N, 266-0484; Thomas Crawford, Room 108 W, 266-8580; Scott Fergus, Room 32 N, 266-0731; Steven Foti, Room 329 N, 266-8551; Robert Goetsch, Room 320 N, 266-2530; Richard Grobschmidt, Room 28 W, 266-0610; Barbara Gronemus, Room 30 W, 266-7015; Stan Gruszynski, Room 32 N, 267-9649;

Donald Hasenohrl, Room 18 N, 266-8366; Thomas Hauke, Room 18 E, 266-0631; Gervase Hephner, Room 4 W, 266-0645; James Holperin, Room 105 W, 266-7141; Vernon Holschbach, Room 104 W, 266-0315; Mary Hubler, Room 12 N, 266-2519; Joanne Huelsman, Room 325 W, 266-5719; Robert Jauch, Room 117 W, 266-0640; DuWayne Johnsrud, Room 335A N, 266-3534; William Kasten, Room 335D N, 266-1182; Shirley Krug, Room 12 N, 266-5813; Peggy Ann Kruslick, Room 8 N, 266-1733; Walter Kunicki, Room 232 N, 267-7669; James E. Ladwig, Room 13 E, 266-9171; Robert Larson, Room 305 W, 266-7506; David Lepak, Room 307 N, 266-3363; Margaret Lewis, Room 326 N, 266-1526; Mark Lewis, Room 107 W, 266-0660; Thomas A. Loftus, Room 211 W, 266-3387; Joseph Looby, Room 34 W, 266-9172; Sue Magnuson, Room 32 W, 266-5342; John Manske, Room 335C N, 266-1192; Richard Matty, Room 312 W, 266-2343;

Earl F. McEssy, Room 304 N, 266-3156; John Medinger, Room 9 W, 266-5780; Gus Menos, Room 480 N, 266-0486; John Merkt, Room 306 W, 266-3756; Sharon Metz, Room 118 W, 266-5840; Terry Musser, Room 302 W, 266-7461; Betty Jo Nelsen, Room 7 E, 266-7671; Jeffrey Neubauer, Room 112 W, 266-0634; Barbara Notestein, Room 110 N, 266-0650; Thomas Ourada, Room 11 E, 266-7694; Mary Panzer, Room 329 N, 266-8551; David Paulson, Room 11 E, 267-2365; William Plizka, Room 13 E, 266-7690; Cloyd Porter, Room 320 N, 266-2530; Calvin Potter, Room 11 W, 266-0656; David Prosser, Room 344 N, 266-3070; Randall Radtke, Room 309 N, 266-3790; John Robinson, Room 123 W, 266-0654; Peggy Rosenzweig, Room 324 N, 266-9180; James Rutkowski, Room 128 W, 266-8590; Gary J. Schmidt, Room 310 W, 266-2343; Marlin Schneider, Room 127 S, 266-0215; Lolita Schneiders, Room 314 N, 266-3796; John Schober, Room 336 N, 266-1190;

Dale Schultz, Room 335A N, 266-8531; Thomas Seery, Room 111 N, 267-7990; Richard Shoemaker, Room 112 W, 266-7745; Lary J. Swoboda, Room 13 W, 266-5350; Louise Tesmer, Room 102 W, 266-8588; Robert Thompson, Room 4 N, 266-3404; Tommy G. Thompson, Room 205 W, 266-7746; David Travis, Room 240 N, 266-5340; Robert S. Travis, Room 335B N, 266-1170; Robert S. Tregoning, Room 318 N, 266-7502; Wilfrid Turba, Room 9 E, 266-8530; Cletus Vanderperren, Room 23 N, 266-0616; Heron Van Gorden, Room 302 W, 266-7461; Sue Vergeront, Room 308 W, 267-2369; John Volk, Room 112 N, 266-3780; Esther Walling, Room 325 W, 266-5719; Tim Weeden, Room 310 W, 266-2253; Robert T. Welch, Room 307 N, 266-8077; Annette Williams, Room 7 W, 266-0960; Joseph Wimmer, Room 335E N, 266-9650; Joseph Wineke, Room 106 W, 266-3520; Wayne W. Wood, Room 121 W, 266-7503; Dwight York, Room 308 W, 267-2367; John Young, Room 304 W, 266-9174; Rebecca Young, Room 110 N, 266-3784; Cathy Zeuske, Room 48B N, 266-3097.

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Wisconsin T.U. Awards Research Funds To DNR

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited has donated \$2,000 to the Department of Natural Resources for doing creel census work on Timber Coulee Creek in Vernon County. The census will determine the effect of various special regulations on sections of Timber Coulee Creek with regard to trout carryover, increased numbers of trout and age class distribution. Results from this study will have implications for special regulations on other trout waters in Wisconsin.

This donation by Trout Unlimited will make a total of \$9,500 that TU has given to DNR in 1985 for special creel census work.

Wolf River Fly Shop

(Formerly "Cap's") Langlade, WI 54491
715-882-5941

Fly Fishing & Tying Supplies

Open April 17th-Sept. 30th
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CLASSES: FLY CASTING/FLY FISHING

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Glendale, WI 53209

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3rd Annual Wisconsin Trout Unlimited STATE BANQUET

Saturday, January 18, 1986

PAPER VALLEY HOTEL

AND CONFERENCE CENTER

Appleton, Wisconsin

Cocktails: 5:30 P.M.

Buffet Dinner: 6:30 P.M.

Awards and Fund Raising Program To Follow

Please send _____ tickets at \$20.00 ea. to:

Name _____

Address _____

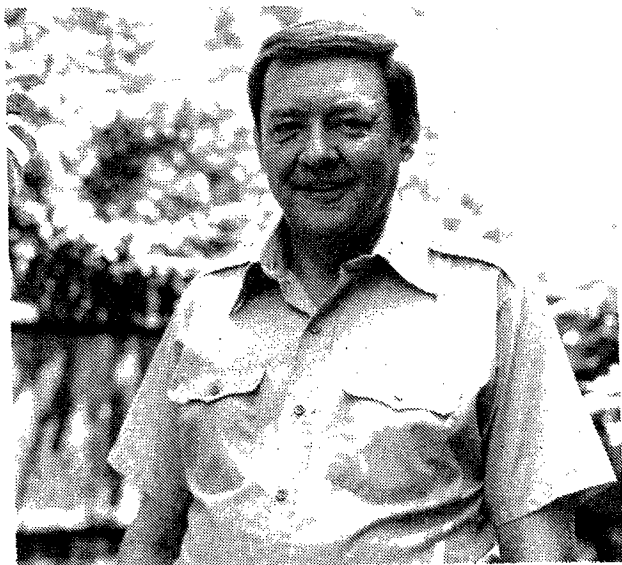
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Yes, I wish to make a contribution to the Banquet Prize Fund.

Mail To: Trout Unlimited 1282 Monterey, De Pere, WI 54115

"Fishful Thinking"

by Jim Curry



Taking Care Of Your Old Equipment And Adding Some New

Temporary escapes from the winter blahs are provided by campaigns to renovate your fishing gear. If you are one of the blessed who routinely care, further reading is optional. For the others — a minority, I hope — get busy! Opening day is fast approaching and you can't afford to start with sub-par equipment.

Rods. Wipe with a damp cloth followed by a coat or two of wax. Clean glass, graphite and boron ferrules with alcohol or spot remover and apply several streaks of paraffin to the male section. Guides must regularly be kept clean, especially if you are over exuberant in the use of line dressing. Check for wear. Grooves ruin lines quickly, so have your rod shop replace worn guides, or do it yourself. Rod building books are available or re-read this previous column in Reflections. Frayed windings should be replaced.

Lines. First soak in a solution of mild detergent, then pull the line through a clean damp cloth several times. Examine flylines with a magnifier for cracks or checks. If a floating line shows these signs of deterioration, throw it away or use it for backing. A dying line will be an abomination next season. If the line is okay, dry and store in a cool, dark place.

Reels. Unless you're experienced, taking spinning reels and automatic fly reels to your rod shop for cleaning and lube job. Single action fly reels can be cleaned and oiled at home.

Waders. Patch if needed and store in a cool, dark place away from electric motors.

Wading Boots. The new vinyl wading boots don't need much care. If felt soles show advanced wear around the edges, apply new soles from a replacement kit or make your own from outdoor carpeting pieces. Glue to the boot soles with barge cement. Large rubber bands or masking tape will hold the pieces snug until the cement dries. Could save you a nasty fall. Try a pair of the double-top wading socks next year if you use the stocking foot type waders.

Flies. Sharpen spears with a hook hone or emory board and carefully flatten the barbs with forceps or needle-nose pliers. Unless torn up too badly, flies can be "brought back" by holding them with forceps for a few seconds in a jet of steam. Spray dry flies with Scotch Guard and store in inflated plastic bags with moth crystals. Don't stuff them in a crowded fly box. Invest in some additional carriers and enjoy the payback in saved flies.

Next season make it a point to fluff your dry flies by blowing on them before returning to the fly box. They should be air dried as soon as possible after each use.

Leaders. This is a good time to splice a new butt section to the flyline. Use moderately stiff nylon such as maxima. For 4-weight lines connect 3-1/2 to 4 feet of 8-pound nylon. Five- or 6-weight lines will need 10-pound butt sections. Most anglers use too heavy a leader butt. Matching line/leader stiffness, not diameters, is a better key to smooth turnover. Finish the leader with a couple feet of intermediate weight nylon, followed by two feet of tippet. We have not had much success with the new braided nylon leaders, especially during windy periods.

Vest. Sooner or later you'll have to clean that filthy thing, for nowadays a good vest is too expensive to burn. Salvage by soaking it in warm water and detergent for as long as required to lift out most of the grudge. (If your vest is light tan, I suggest you dye it an ugly greenbrown. Many top anglers are of the opinion that light colors scare rising fish.) Rinse well, tumble dry to remove wrinkles and spray it outdoors with Scotch Guard. An alternative is to have it dry cleaned, if you're willing to answer a bunch of silly questions.

The vest will never feel exactly right again, but your family and fishing partners will appreciate the sacrifice.

Cap. This should never be cleaned. I once knew a fellow whose wife washed his old cap and he had a really dismal season, which proves my point. Now some might ridicule this as statistically invalid or think it smacks of superstition. But why risk it? Use only dark caps. Try salt water models with oversized bills. You'll be surprised how much better you can see your fly and fishing arena.

"Gadgets." Check the pull cords on retrievers. If frayed badly, snip off the end 1/2-1 inch and reconnect the chain or snap. For cords just starting to show wear, daub some Plio-Bond or Goop on that area. First, extend the cord and clamp at the retriever to prevent rewinding until the patch dries completely.

Add nylon to leader dispensers if needed. Replace old batteries in your flashlight. Check your supplies of line and fly dressing. Be sure to try some of the new fly drying preparations next season. Do clippers need replacing? Check your mosquito repellent. I prefer the tube type to avoid getting the stuff on flylines.

For those of us who need help up close, dual magnifying lenses are available. Sold under the tradename Flip Focal, the hinged lenses are mounted on the cap bill and after use can be flipped out of the way. Saves wearing prescription glasses into the stream.

Creel. You shouldn't have one of these (unless you use it to carry water and a sandwich).

Net. Examine for torn or loose strings in the mesh. Use only nylon replacement nets. I once had cheap cotton netting give way when I hoisted a heavy 15-inch brownie to show some friends. The fish, fly, leader and line all took off downstream, zipping through the new hoop. That is a bad predicament — second only to a hooked fish swimming between your legs. I pause to admit this also happened to me — right in front of a large family picnic.

I was fishing the Wolf one evening behind the motel in Langlade with my audience in the yard across the river. The setting was made to order: the rising trout...a cautious approach...the perfect cast...a hooked fish...The drama was almost more than I could bear. Showing what I hoped was nonchalance, bordering on disdain, I luxuriated in the attention while "ignoring" the cheers of the spectators.

The trout was only an 11 incher so no net would be required; and besides, I wanted to show the folks how quickly a fish could be released. I had the trout splash a bit to make sure everyone was watching and started to slide my hand down the leader to grasp the fly and back out the barbless hook. Before I could complete the sequence, the little bugger took off, right between my legs, racing toward the bridge.

The show climaxed with an especially noisy fall when I tried to swing one leg over the line in 3-1/2 feet of water. That doesn't work. At all.

At least the picnic was a huge success, with more entertainment than they deserved. Hoots and catcalls echoed in my blushing ears as I sloshed mortified downstream to escape. Audiences are fickle.

Anyway, fix that net...and use it. If you have the wood frame type, see if it needs a couple of coats of urethane varnish.

The above activities will provide you with some hours of diversion during this waiting season plus put you in much better shape for the active season. Now that you have improved your fishing gear, make it a point to keep it in top shape.

Anglers can now outfit themselves with the finest gear ever available in the history of the sport. Take time to care for it. Treasure it. This will add a new dimension to your angling pleasure.

Reflections

is the official publication of the Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited, a non-profit, volunteer, conservation organization. All correspondence should be sent to: REFLECTIONS: John Cantwell, Editor; 1312 Portside Lane; Green Bay, WI 54303. Phone: (715) 735-7703 days, (414) 434-3989 evenings. Subscription included in membership to Trout Unlimited (see application form elsewhere in this issue).

Chapter Reports

Lakeshore Chapter

Our Rods and Reels for Kids project has really "taken off" following our collection date at Mid-Cities Mall in September. We have received approximately 150 rods and 100 reels so far. Members have been working (after meetings and at home) rebuilding reels, replacing line, matching rods and reels and salvaging usable parts from broken equipment. We have received requests from Easter Seals for rods/reels to be used at Camp Waube, and are also working with Big Brothers/Sisters and the Salvation Army for other donation possibilities.

Our chapter donated \$250 to the Central Wisconsin Environmental Station to rebuild dorms on the property. We are also donating a copy of "The Way of the Trout" to the Manitowoc Public Library.

We have purchased a VCR and color television to be used to show video-tapes at our monthly meetings, and at membership booths which we have at area sport shows.

A public relations committee has been formed to enhance the image of Lakeshore T.U. Members of the committee are: Dan Hemminger, Syd Herman, Lou Fandrick and Dennis Delaney. These people will be responsible for the publicity of our chapter activities and maintaining a scrapbook and photo-file.

Dates have been set for our upcoming fly-tying class. Classes will be held in January, February and early March. A \$2 registration fee will be charged to help defray the cost of materials, and small supply kits will be prepared for each student to keep.

Our chapter fund-raising banquet, which will be held March 22, 1986, will be preceded by a "fun-day" from 1-4 p.m. Displays will include video-tapes, slide shows, prize display, "collectible" rods and reels, spinner-making, etc.

Marinette County Chapter

Monthly meetings are in full swing once again, and our chapter activities are mainly indoors now.

Senate Bill 32 has been a hot topic for discussion, and concerned sportsmen in the area are working hard to see that this bill is defeated.

The State Council "Vacation Raffle" has been going over pretty good in our area. Just about everyone that has bought a ticket would be happy to win any one of the prizes. Audrey Hodel and Bert Horstmanshof, co-owners of sport shops in the area have been very helpful with ticket sales. The Banquet promises to be a good time too. We hope to see many of you there.

The co-operative land acquisition south of Wausaukee that we are involved in should be completed by this time. Brushing the boundary lines and initial planning for improvements are the next steps.

Aldo Leopold Chapter

On Nov. 2, the Aldo Leopold Chapter responded to a request for help from Columbia County Fish Manager Tim Larsen. A logjam had formed on Rowan Creek near Poynette, making it difficult for spawning trout to travel upstream. About eight TU members were joined by an equal number of Boy Scouts from Poynette Chapter 68. The job was wet and cold (especially for those whose waders somehow filled with streamwater!), but by early afternoon the main jam and several smaller ones had been removed. The stream was almost back in its banks by the time we left for the day, and water levels had returned to near normal. The cooperative effort with the Boy Scouts was quite a success. We thank them and leader Greg Latzig for the assistance with this worthwhile project.

At the chapter's October meeting, election of officers resulted in the addition of Don Thom and George Triemstra of Beaver Dam, and Paula Hall of Rio, to the Board of Directors.

Additionally, Lee Parker volunteered his services, expertise and patience to once again teach a fly-tying class. Lee plans to conduct a 10-week session commencing mid-January.

Harry Nohr Chapter

The summer is gone and although our thoughts will turn to things other than trout fishing for a few months, we should look back with some amount of pride on what our small chapter has accomplished during the summer of 1985.

The following is a brief summary, in roughly chronological order, of our summer's activities:

Continued on back page

More Chapter Reports

1. Initiation of brushing project on Trout Creek in cooperation with Southern Chapter - more on this next summer.
2. Strutt Creek - seeding of 1/4 acre in spring, in reclamation area.
3. Platteville H.S. trout transplant from Harker and Strutt Streams.
4. Castle Rock spring water cress clean-up and fishing outing.
5. Two work days on Big Spring Creek - placement of 25 log covers and deflectors.
6. Steak feed and trapshoot.
7. Upper Harker Creek project - placement of six mini boom covers, bank seeding and stabilization, and tree removal - a good project - thanks to the Walnut Hollow fellows for organizing!
8. \$250 donation to the State Council for DNR creel census work in Southern Wisconsin.
9. \$200 donation to Iowa-Grant Conservation Club for trout rearing.
10. Beaver control pilot project.
11. Planning for experimental trout planting project. Project delayed till spring so that more trout can be planted at a less stressful time of year.

Southern Wisconsin Chapter

The Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited has been very active this past year. As usual, stream habitat improvement projects received high priority in terms of manpower and money. Thanks to the perseverance of Bob Zimmerman, we finished another fencing project on Deer Creek in cooperation with the Dane County Conservation League. Trout habitat improvement from a past project on Deer Creek led to the establishment of a wild trout population in this tributary to Mt. Vernon Creek. At present we are engaged in a fencing and rip-rapping project on the Ken Zander and Repheal Ripp farms on Black Earth Creek. This project has received funding from the TU National Embrace-A-Stream Program.

Our fly-tying and rod-building classes will start as usual this winter. These two classes are offered free of charge to members and non-members alike and normally have over 100 people enrolled. For the coming year, our chapter is gearing up for fundraising activities, fishing clinics, and most importantly - more stream habitat improvement and restoration work.

Green Bay Chapter

During the fall months land acquisition has been the major focus of the Green Bay Chapter of Trout Unlimited. With Tom Nelson playing a leading role, the chapter, in conjunction with the Oconto River and Marinette chapters, took steps to finalize the purchase of approximately 48 acres of land along the Upper Middle Inlet Creek in Marinette County. In addition to the benefit of making more trout water available to the public, the chapter also sees tremendous possibilities for stream improvement work within the purchased area.

At the regular October meeting chapter members heard from DNR personnel about the results of a recently completed creel census on the South Branch of the Oconto River. The results of that census seem to indicate that the South Branch may well be a river that would benefit from more restrictive regulations. The chapter has formed a committee to look into and pursue some form of special regulations for the South Branch.

In December the chapter continued a tradition begun years ago of suspending the regular monthly business meeting in favor of a social dinner gathering to celebrate the holiday season. At this year's get-together chapter members and guests were treated to a program by Gary Tielens on the fabulous brook trout fishing in Labrador.

Work has now begun in earnest on the annual fundraising banquet coming up in March. A banquet committee has now been formed, and the committee has high hopes that this year's banquet will equal or surpass our record banquet of last year.

Fox Valley Chapter

The Fox Valley Chapter spent most of the fall working on the Davis Creek project. Many work days had to be cancelled during the summer as we were waiting for rock to be moved back to the work sites. Once conditions were dry enough for the equipment to move the rock without becoming bogged down, the rock was quickly moved to the work sites. Most of our bank structures were awaiting the placement of face rocks and smaller fillrocks. Several long days of moving the rock by hand brought the project

to its final stages. Our November work day was also cancelled, but for very good reasons. Spawning gravel that had only recently been uncovered by the new currents created by our bank structures was being utilized by spawning brown trout. Thus, even though the project is not quite completed, some of the most important benefits were being realized. It is anticipated that several work days this spring will finish the Davis Creek project.

The Fox Valley Chapter was also fortunate to have several knowledgeable speakers for our October and November meetings. In October, Mr. Gary Tielens of Green Bay showed footage of eight pound brook trout taking flies in Labrador. He also brought along several mounted specimens and many photographs that showed what trout fishing on the Minipi is like. I understand that several chapter members have inquired with their mates as to the possibilities of taking the family vacation in Labrador this year.

Mr. Max Johnson spoke at the November meeting on the beaver problem in Wisconsin. His presentation created quite a discussion afterwards on the so called "aquatic swine."

The Fox Valley Chapter is currently planning to have a film night in January, a fun night in February, the Tri-County Sports Show in early March, a steelhead night in March, western night in April and hexagenia night in May.

The Fox Valley Chapter's annual banquet will be held April 5, 1986, at the Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton, Wisconsin. Tickets and other information may be obtained from Forrest Grulke, 1356 Home Ave., Menasha, WI 54952. (414) 739-5155.

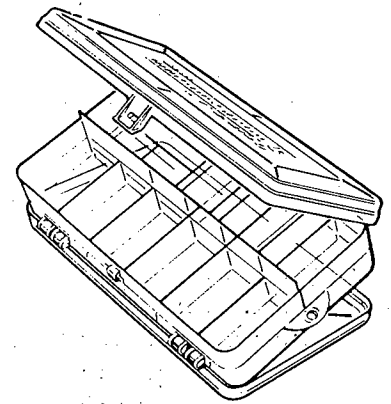
Central Wisconsin Chapter

The Central Wisconsin Chapter bravely attempted to finish out the year with two more workdays in November and December on its Emmons Creek project, but thanks to Mother Nature, got "snowed out" both times. In spite of the cancellations, the chapter still had a productive year on the Emmons, having held six workdays there. With an investment of 360 man-hours, a total of almost 4,000 feet of stream bank has been brushed, and snags blocking the stream flow have been removed as well. The chapter's work on the Emmons has now entered its fourth year, and we're planning on another good year in 1986.

One workday on the Pine River this year resulted in 600 feet of stream bank being brushed, with numerous snags removed from the river as well. This water is plagued by large numbers of fallen trees that are blocking the flow, collecting debris and causing bank erosion. Work here has been slow, and much more remains to be done.

The chapter started a new project this year on Radley Creek in southeast Portage County. One workday was spent brushing on a headwaters stretch known to be an excellent spawning area. Two workdays are already scheduled for this project in 1986, and we expect to complete our work here this year.

 **PLANO**



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Chapter Banquet

Date: March 22, 1986

Place: Cliff and Ceil's Hall
-Green Bay

Time: Cocktails at 5:00, Dinner
at 6:30

Price: \$15.00

For Tickets Contact:

Gary Stoychoff
1326 14th Ave.

Green Bay, WI 54304

Phone: (414) 499-5307

RODS & REELS FOR KIDS

Lakeshore Chapter of T.U. is accepting donations of usable/repairable rods and reels. The equipment will be repaired and reconditioned by chapter members and donated to area needy children.

If you have any equipment that you would like to donate, please contact Lakeshore T.U.

Write:

Anne Dirkman

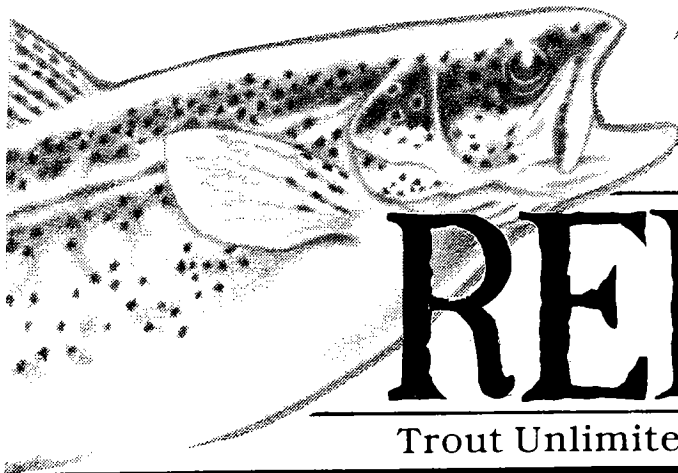
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NEWS AND VIEWS FROM WISCONSIN TROUT UNLIMITED

REFLECTIONS

Trout Unlimited, 1326 14th Avenue, Green Bay, WI 54304

Spring 1986

From The Chariman

As this long, miserable Wisconsin winter finally begins to leave the scene, our thoughts are naturally turning toward Opening Day of trout season. We'll all go through the annual spring rites of checking our gear over, cleaning reels, patching waders and untangling lures and flies. By Opening Day, we'll be ready (we hope!).

Another thing that I hope we are all ready to do, too, is to obey the rules and regulations governing our sport; i.e., to stay within the guidelines established by the State of Wisconsin for the number and size of fish that may be kept while fishing. In this writer's opinion, there is no greater wrong than an angler, hunter or trapper can do than to violate the harvest laws of the state. Those that feel the need to transgress the law, for some reason or another, cannot fathom the gravity of their misdeed. Some do it out of sheer gluttony, some out of spite, and some for "kicks." Whatever the reason they use, they are wrong!

Violation of the fishing laws of the state as they pertain to harvest is, in effect, wholesale thievery. He or she who violated robs from everyone, not just for the moment, but also for the future. I remember hearing over the past couple of years stories of two anglers jerking SIXTY-FIVE trout out of one small creek, or of three guys coming home with FORTY trout in one day. I remember the drought year of 1976 when trout congregated around spring holes both for oxygen and because those were the only places to find enough water. Two anglers (jerks might be a better term!) eased up on one such spring hole on the Plover River east of Wausau and hauled out over TWO HUNDRED trout. Fortunately, a game warden caught them in the act. They paid a fine, but what long-term damage was done to the resource?

Starting this year, those who feel the need to exceed their limits should know that a new state law has gone into effect which requires a MANDATORY minimum fine of \$100 to a maximum of \$200 PER FISH taken in excess of the legal limit. That means that the two clowns who snaked 65 trout out of Heins Creek near Mountain, WI., would be subject to fines anywhere from \$4,500 to \$9,000 for their 45 illegal trout if caught and convicted. We certainly hope, and expect, that the new law will have the same positive effect on reducing trout poaching that the stiff fine (\$1,800 per animal) enacted in 1980 had on deer poaching. The fewer trout taken illegally will mean that many more for those of us who wish to either harvest legally or who wish to release the fish to fight another day.

Beyond this, I have only one thing to say. Trout Unlimited wants all trout anglers to be part of our organization. We've stated that till we're blue in the face. But...if you are the type of person that can't abide by legal limits, if sneaking extra trout out of the creek, stream or pond gives you some "thrill," if you think the laws are meant for everyone else but you, then you don't belong in Trout Unlimited. T.U. is an organization for SPORTSMEN and SPORTSWOMEN, for those who respect and obey the law. ALL the time. And we intend to keep it that way. And, while we're at it, if any of you spot a fish or game law violation while in the woods or fields, here's the TOLL-FREE hotline number to call to report the infraction. It is: 1-800-TIP-WDNR (or, 1-800-847-9367). Don't hesitate to blow the whistle on those who disobey the law. They deserve no sympathy from anyone.

Mitch Bent

Help Save The Wolf River

The Wolf River, in Langlade and Menominee counties of Northeastern Wisconsin, is one of the most unique and priceless rivers of the midwest. It is a clean, wild and natural free-flowing large trout stream, still existing primarily in an undeveloped and pristine state. It is still clean only because no cities straddle it, only because there are NO municipal or industrial waste water pipes discharging pollutants into it. It is spring fed and the natural process has kept it clean.

The state saw the uniqueness and value of the upper Wolf River two decades ago and took special action to preserve its wild state of nature. Almost 75 percent of its shoreline was acquired by the state at an expenditure of \$5,330,500 as of March 1985, and the program continues. The upper Wolf River is being managed as a trout fishery. With good forest management practices in effect the river is improving. But well forested shorelines alone will not make or preserve a river. Trout water must remain clean and uncontaminated. It is the sacred duty of each of us, and especially trout fishermen, to assure that the upper Wolf River is not desecrated, but is passed on to succeeding generations undiminished in quality or quantity.

For we have lost too many clean trout streams across our nation to monetary speculation and exploitation and the Wolf River has often been threatened in the past. In 1983 a dam was permitted which would have reduced and warmed its waters. Our club stopped it. Shortly thereafter a large dump was planned in the headwaters area to bury vast quantities of Chicago waste. Our club stopped it. Following that, the state-approved plan for a village sewage system required a bypass pipe to the Wolf River. We stopped that also. And now, the proposed Exxon mine, south of Crandon, plans to discharge 2,000 gallons per minute of contaminated mine waste water into Swamp

Creek, a feeder of the Wolf River, for the 22 year operation of the mine. That would certainly kill the trout fishing and the river but some politicians, including the Governor, approve of it. We must stop it!

Wisconsin Statutes, Chapter 147, states in Sec. 147.01 "Statement of Policy and Purpose", (1) a. It is the goal of the State of Wisconsin to eliminate the discharge of pollutants into the waters of the state by 1985. And Sec. 144.855 (3) states in effect that no use of water shall be allowed which will cause an "unreasonable detriment of public rights." We must demand that our elected officials carry out the intent and purpose of the laws enacted.

In spite of comments by politicians and Exxon salesmen that the mine will have little adverse effects on the environment, we can quite accurately SEE the effects which mine waste water and tailings seepage HAS had on trout streams across our country. In Colorado, for example, with its many mountain streams and numerous mines, in most cases you must go upstream, above the mines, to find trout. In its Arkansas River, as the result of mine tailings seepage, the trout are dead or dying up to 80 miles downstream. We are not opposed to mining if every precaution is taken to prevent any detrimental effects to the surface and ground waters. It can be done clean, but that costs more money, and the profits are the main concern. We cannot allow the contaminated mine waste water pipe to a feeder of the Wolf River and the tailings and toxic metal extraction chemicals must be safely disposed of to prevent ground water contamination.

Conservation is protecting our natural resources and working with nature to improve them. Politics is the art of compromise. We must not allow politicians to com-

see "Wolf," p. 2



Larry Gandt presenting the "7 days in Hawaii" tickets to Jane and George Wos of Oconto. Drawing was held at the State Banquet in January.

"Wolf" Continued

promise or trade off the clean waters of the Wolf River for political or corporate gain.

Another concern for the river is the proposed dewatering of the mine area to reduce seepage into the mine. When mining ceases, how long will it take that cone of depression in the underground water table (up to two miles in diameter) to recharge to enable the springs which feed the area lakes and streams to again flow at normal capacity? Several years? During that interim the lakes and streams will be lower. When the water level of the Wolf River is lowest the warming by the hot summer sun is greatest, and the river now reaches temperatures in the high 70s during hot dry periods. An inch or more less water could induce temperatures lethal to trout. That must be avoided.

We need your help and involvement NOW. The next few weeks are critical. A toll-free number has been set up to the DNR Mine Project Section to hear your concerns. Call 1-800-232-7367, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Urge friends to call. Talk to one or all of the following:

Robert Ramharter, DNR Mine Project Manager; Linda Bochert, executive assistant (She reports to the Governor); David Hantz, Industrial Waste Section; William Tans, environmental specialist (Effects on water); Ron Martin, fish management.

Nearly half of the ground water in America is contaminated with toxic chemicals. Your involvement can make a difference. Posterity will be grateful.

Sincerely,
Herbert Buettner, Secretary
Wolf River Conservation Club
TU Member

REFLECTIONS Advertising Manager Needed

More advertisers are needed to help offset the cost of printing REFLECTIONS. If you are good at writing letters and/or have a home computer, we need you. The job will involve compiling a list of potential advertisers from various other fishing publications and writing to them asking for their support. You will get all the help and advice you need to get started. This may be the opportunity you've been waiting for to get involved. Contact the editor.

On Travel Expenses

If chapter and state representatives find that traveling to and from State TU meetings tends to drain the wallet, you can rest a little easier. A policy established at the March 1, 1986, Executive Council meeting in Stevens Point recommends that out-of-pocket expenses should be reimbursed by the member's chapter. This is usually limited to mileage (at .15 to .20 per mile), meals and lodging.

The policy was established because volunteers should not be expected to pay expenses to represent their chapter members at meetings. Reimbursement will encourage greater attendance at meetings giving your chapter a stronger voice in matters. If your chapter does not have adequate money for these expenses then a fundraising event is in order.

TU Has Clout

Jim Addis, director of the Bureau of Fish Management, said recently in his "Fish Wisconsin" column that "the fine fishing you enjoy in Wisconsin today is a direct result of the energy and dedication that members of angling groups like Bassmasters and Trout Unlimited have devoted to fishery issues they care about."

It is important that we all realize how much TU's responsible stands on the issues and its dedication to habitat improvement have helped get a lot of things done. When government and citizens groups work together, a lot can be accomplished.

How is Your Chapter Doing?

You may have noticed that the same chapters are featured in the "Chapter Reports" section of REFLECTIONS. If your chapter is one of those not reporting, attend the next meeting and find out why. Your chapter may need a volunteer to write a brief report each quarter about the chapter.

It is a duty of each Wisconsin TU chapter to contact members regularly regarding the activities, projects and plans. That is why chapters were organized. Are you hearing from your chapter?

The Barbless Hook Advantage

As I waded across the swift flowing Madison River, trout were slashing wildly for caddis flies. I steadied my position, took several false casts, and placed the elk hair caddis along the edge of a slick. The caddis had bounced along for about two feet when a rainbow exploded out of the water after the caddis. After jumping, flipping and running what seemed the length of the river, I brought the rainbow to net. It was a nice strong 17-inch rainbow. As I prepared to release the trout, I again was surprised at the ease of hooking and even more surprised by the ease of removing the fly. These barbless hooks were great.

Spending two weeks in Montana, Wyoming and Idaho was something that I had looked forward to for a long time. One of my goals on the trip was to fish the Henrys Fork at Railroad Ranch (Last Chance, Idaho). This section of the premier (possibly the finest) rainbow water is barbless hook only. The fish are selective, have a fantastic food supply and grow to be strong and fast. To land one over 20 inches is noteworthy in anyone's book. The first fish that I had ever seen that was taken on a barbless hook was a beautiful 25 1/2-inch rainbow from the Henrys Fork. As I talked to the young man that had taken this fine specimen, I was somewhat amazed that such a fish could be landed on a barbless hook. Being a typical Midwesterner, I thought that barbless hooks would result in high losses of hooked fish. I was to find out how wrong I was!

During my afternoon of fishing on the Henrys Ford, I caught perhaps a dozen trout. I lost very few. Release of the fish was incredibly quick. I merely touched the fly, and the fly and fish would be separate.

During the next week, I consistently fished barbless flies. In some cases, the flies were large no. 8 grasshopper imitations. In other cases, the flies were as small as no. 22 pale morning duns. I fished everything from slow meadow streams to raging torrents. The results were always the same. Barbless hooks lost no more (probably less) fish than barbed hooks.

Many flies are now available on barbless hooks. For those of you who tie your own, both Mustad and Partridge offer barbless hooks. If you would like to make a fly barbless, it is simply done by flattening the barb with your forceps. This provides essentially the same qualities that are found in a totally barbless hook. It has been suggested that the barbless hooks result in a higher hooking percentage. Although I do not know of any studies to support this theory, I believe that it is probably true. My own experimentation resulted in a dozen fish one afternoon between 16 and 19 inches on a no. 22 pale morning dun. I had always had a difficult time hooking trout on these diminutive flies, and was quite surprised at the ease of hooking these trout on these small barbless imitations.

If you have never tried barbless hooks, I would suggest that you try them this next season. I think that you may be pleasantly surprised by the advances of a barbless hook.

Courtesy Fox Valley Chapter

Marinette County Chapter 3rd Annual Banquet

Monday April 14, 1986
Dome Cabaret - Marinette
\$20

Great Door Prizes and Raffles

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or send check to:
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710 McAllister
Marinette 54143

Conservation Congress Hearings in April

All Trout Unlimited members are reminded that the annual spring hearings of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress are to be held the last Monday of April in all 72 counties in the state. Check with the DNR office in your area for the time and location of the meeting in your county. All TU members are encouraged to participate in these hearings which deal with a wide variety of topics relating to fishing, hunting, trapping and environmental protection.

TU National Board Meeting in Houston

The Trout Unlimited National Board of Directors met in Houston, Tex., the weekend of March 7-9. Much of the meeting involved discussion and planning for increased fundraising and more chapter involvement in conservation work. The full board took positions on the following issues:

1) Fishing Derbies: The board approved a motion regarding fishing derbies and TU approval. TU will now approve of such "derbies" only if they are also approved by the DNR or Fishery Commission of the state in which they are held, if the derby is operated so that there is no detrimental effect on the resource, if the derby is Catch & Release, and if the top prize does not exceed \$50. Further, there will be NO MORE ADVERTISING of any fish derbies in TROUT magazine.

2) Membership Dues Increase: The board directed the TU Executive Committee to determine a dues increase, if deemed necessary, at its June meeting. The last dues increase was in 1979.

3) Dismissal of Members: Guidelines for dismissing members who do not abide by the rules and policy of Trout Unlimited were established and referred to the Legal Committee for clarification and approval by the membership.

4) Paid Regional Directors: The board approved a funding formula for paid regional directors on a 50/50 regional/national basis, if the regions desire a paid director.

5) Research & Projects: \$36,000 in matching funds was available for chapter projects. Twenty-three out of 27 projects were approved for either full or partial funding.

6) New Chapters Approved: Nine new chapters were approved, bringing the total to 374. That compares with 247 chapters in 1980.

7) Wisconsin Council By-Law Changes Approved: The new Wisconsin State Council by-laws were approved, as written, by the national board.

New Regulations

Beginning on Jan. 1, 1986, new trout fishing regulations took effect in southern Wisconsin trout waters.

Most anglers supported these regulations last year at Wisconsin's spring fish and game hearings, because the new regulations are designed to do two things:

- ★ produce larger trout for you to catch; and
- ★ improve late-season trout fishing by increasing the number of stocked fish that survive through the summer.

Making these regulations work to your advantage, though, is going to be up to you! Here's what you need to know:

- ★ The new daily bag limit for trout caught from Southern Zone waters will be three (3) rainbow, brown or brook trout combined per angler.

In the eight southern counties that have an early trout fishing season (Jan. 1 through May 2), the daily bag limit will continue to be two (2) trout (combined species). During the regular trout fishing season (May 3 at 5 a.m. through Sept. 30) in these counties, however, the bag limit will be three trout (combined species).

- ★ A new size limit of nine (9) inches will also apply during both the early and regular trout fishing seasons in Southern Zone trout waters.

Reflections

is the official publication of the Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited, a non-profit, volunteer, conservation organization. All correspondence should be sent to: REFLECTIONS: John Cantwell, Editor; 1312 Portside Lane; Green Bay, WI 54303. Phone: (715) 735-7703 days, (414) 434-3989 evenings. Subscription included in membership to Trout Unlimited (see application form elsewhere in this issue).

1986 State Banquet Photos . . .



If you attended the State Banquet in Appleton in January, you were aware of the huge turnout and the success of the statewide raffle. Here are the numbers: At-

tendees — 311, Revenues — \$14,502, Expenses — \$6,210 for a profit of \$8,292. The Wisconsin Council of Trout

Unlimited and all members wished to extend its thanks to the banquet committee for the great job it did.



Publication Available

Now available, the "Proceedings of the Symposium on Small Hydropower and Fisheries" from the May 1985 meeting in Aurora, Colorado. This excellent 497 page hard cover edition provides state-of-the-art information on environmental concerns that can relate to areas from the Merrimack on the East Coast to the Columbia on the West Coast. To order, send \$25 payment (\$28.50 if billing is requested) to: American Fisheries Society, 5410 Grosvenor Lane, Suite 110, Bethesda, MD 20814.

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"Fishful Thinking"

by Jim Curry



Early Season Fly Favorites and Fishing Deep

by Jim Curry

We survived to Opening Day. Now let's make sure our early season angling really pays off in big catches. The key to this is using the right flies. Here are some of my favorites: Muddler, Gray Ghost, Matuka, Woolly Bugger and assorted pre-emergent patterns. Give these a try. I believe you'll enjoy the action.

If I could carry only one pattern in early season quests for trout, it would be the Muddler. My purist friends might categorize the Muddler as "hardware," but in my opinion it qualifies not only as a fly, but a superfly. Water conditions allowing, I fish this pattern on top. To give it good floating credentials, tie the fly on Mustad 94831 hooks ranging from size 8 to 14.

I was not always such a fan of this pattern, for over the years I occasionally tried Muddlers with very limited success. Then, following advice in an article, which described different tactics with streamers, things changed in a hurry.

One evening, I was casting nymphs and wet flies in a deep chute and getting nothing except colder. My toes had ceased complaining over an hour before. They were beyond that. The legs wouldn't work right and I was reluctant to attempt any serious wading. Too much casting had uncoupled my upper back and it felt as though someone was pressing a red hot iron between my shoulder blades. By this time one's mind starts playing tricks. Did I really catch a fish a couple of hours ago? Or, have I ever caught a fish?

Before my fingers became too useless for making knots, I pried them away from the rod grip and snipped off the nymph I was so fruitlessly casting. With no confidence whatsoever, I gawked at the contents of a flybox, hoping desperately for an inspiration. Nothing.

By then I was in a state of near rage at my misery, all trout, rodmakers, flyline manufacturers...everything having to do with this dumb sport. In a fit of depravity, I thought, "At least I'm gonna' scare the hell out of them, if there are indeed any dumb trout in this dumb river." I clipped off leader down to the 2X section and with difficulty knotted on a no. 12 Muddler. A couple of false casts shot out 40 feet needed to put the fly below the pool.

The article I referred to above stated that streamers should be tugged fast at times (whatever that means). Still mad, I thought, "Okay. You want fast? I'll show you fast," and zipped the gurgling Muddler toward me in six-inch yanks. In my deteriorating frame of mind, I imagined trout scattering in every direction and thought fiendishly it served them right to be so terrified. After about three pulls, I increased the retrieve to foot-long yanks and decided that would really scare—

BAM! That fish hit the fly so hard it warmed my toes and cured the backache. Instantly.

A beautiful 18-inch brownie came to net sometime later and was quickly saluted and released. But not before I congratulated myself on such consummate skill and fishing expertise.

That was six years ago and since then I have taken many trout on Muddlers in early and late season, with best action on small offerings during the day and larger flies toward evening. Sometimes a twitching, slow retrieve works well too, but don't ignore the ultra-fast, yanking technique when the water is high or a bit discolored. Could result in a trophy trout for you.

The Gray Ghost must also be high on the list for early season, or late season, for that matter. I watched Ryan Hagen catch a heavy 23-incher on this pattern one September on Langlade County's Wolf River. Sizes 8 and 10 seem to be about right for this fly.

Your arsenal must also include Matukas in brown, black, gray and badger. In sizes from 6 to 12, these flies are tops when working heavy water. In slower runs a moderately slow, rhythmic retrieve is highly effective on big trout.

Many anglers swear by the Woolly Bugger or even the regular Woolly Worm. Browns and grays seem to be the standard colors and 8-14 are the sizes to use.

Beginning season can also be a time for the somewhat-of-a purist, with Early Black and Early Brown stoneflies active in many Wisconsin trout waters, in addition to various caddis larvae and pupae. Also, Hendrickson nymphs are reasonably mobile in early May and light and dark imitations deserve a try. These flies should be fished deep, near or on the stream bed. This can be a serious problem. On smaller, slower waters, flies tied with heavy wire hooks will often reach their destination, especially when cast upstream and allowed to sink on a slack leader, but on fast streams, fishing deep is extremely difficult. Let's look at fly and line drawbacks.

Weighted flies generally are not suitable since they are tied with lead wire wrapped around the hook shank. This upsets the balance and most of these flies drift upside down, or in varying degrees thereof. No self respecting trout will be tricked by such a flagrant fraud. (Now, if you happen to catch a trout on one of these, assume it didn't have any self respect.)

Here are a couple of ideas you can use. Keel hooks, weighted with lead, sink fast and ride properly. If you tie your own flies, give this a try, or have a pro make some. They are deadly. An alternative is to tie with short-shanked hooks which match the length of the natural you are imitating. For example, use a 2X short no. 10 to produce a no. 14 size weighted fly. Wrapping lead around the shank does not disrupt the balance appreciably because the larger gap affords a low-hanging counterweight. These flies are ugly as sin, but at least they stay upright in the water.

Now the next problem: The leader and line should also be deep. Crimping split shot or wrapping lead around the leader will sink the thing, but it is practically impossible to throw. One does not cast this rig; rather, you close your eyes and sort of lob it downrange. The lead will sink to the bottom. It will become lodged between rocks. It will not come loose. You will lose your fly and leader.

Partly at my urging, some of my fishing buddies are going to attack fast waters this year with a section of lead-core fly or trolling line included as an integral part of the leader. The hope is to circumvent the snagging problem. With short tippet on this rig, a fly might just reach the bottom of deep pools and provide some excellent catches. Heavy rods are a must for this type of fishing.

(Note that I haven't signed up for the program yet. First I want to see how these guinea pigs get along. For example, I'm especially anxious to learn how many times they clobber themselves when that lead-core segment refuses to follow the flyline's intended trajectory.)

I wish the above patterns and techniques would assure limiting out, but no guarantees are extended. However, I believe you can increase your odds of success by giving them a good try. Let us hear how you do.

They, of course, will get another heavy workout from me this spring, but if things aren't right, I'm going to Bob Talasek's fly shop to loaf and munch on Laurie's chocolate chip cookies — which maybe I should have done in the first place.

New Opportunities

Two of the new trout fishing opportunities available this year should be of special interest to all TU members and their fishing companions.

At McGee Lake, east of Antigo, new regulations include an "artificial lures only" restriction. This restriction is coupled with a daily bag limit of two trout of any size.

Over the next three years Bob Hunt, of the DNR Cold Water Research Group, and Max Johnson, DNR fish manager at Antigo, will be cooperating in evaluation of this special set of regulations. They hope a high quality "catch and release" fishery will develop for the fast-growing brook trout in this 23 acre lake, and there will be less emphasis than there has been the past few years on just catching two brookies keeping both and calling it quits for the day.

McGee Lake has unusually good biological potential to grow brookies to 20 inches or larger, but that won't happen unless anglers are willing to greatly reduce their take-home catch. Hopefully the new restriction requiring use of artificial lures will attract a clientele of anglers who will be more interested in releasing trout than keeping them.

New regulations emphasizing quality of the fishing experience rather than quantity of the take-home catch also go into effect this May on a one-mile portion of Timber Coulee Creek in Vernon County. An experimental "slot length limit" will be evaluated there the next three years by Bob Hunt and Ken Wright, DNR fish manager at LaCrosse.

This slot limit is new for a Wisconsin trout water. It provides for harvest within the "slot" rather than protection within the "slot."

More specifically, anglers will be allowed to keep one trout per day that is at least 14 inches long but less than 17 inches. Angling methods will be restricted to use of artificial lures.

Hunt has hypothesized that this set of experimental regulations will provide anglers with opportunities to experience excellent catch and release fishing for brown trout up to 14 inches, plus opportunities to keep one medium-sized trout if they want to have something to take home for their added enjoyment of fishing that day, plus the exciting possibilities of fishing a Wisconsin trout stream that holds as many really large brown trout as the carrying capacity will support.

This special regulation experiment also deserves the participatory support of TU members in the region. Whether such special regulations will become more common on Wisconsin trout waters will be largely dependent on how much recreational use these waters receive. So, do yourself and other TU members a favor by making plans to fish at McGee Lake and Timber Coulee Creek this year and the next two years too.

Be prepared when you do to also participate in the DNR creel census work in progress on these waters. Census clerks will be busy throughout the next three fishing seasons gathering quantitative data on fishing use and catch. Share your opinions too about the need for more such special regulations for waters with special biological and recreational potential.

(Editors note: Wisconsin TU has contributed \$2,000 to the DNR to help support the 1986 creel census at Timber Coulee Creek. Our gift has been gratefully acknowledged by DNR Sec. Besadny.)

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CLASSES: FLY CASTING/FLY FISHING

by Dave Ruetz

(Western Guide/Entomologist)

June 7 & 8, 1986 - Limited enrollment

Brochure Available

Bob Talasek

6442 N. Atwahl Dr.
Glendale, WI 53209

Chemical Spill

Neenah Creek, a Class III trout stream south of Oxford in Marquette County, had the distinction this winter of being the recipient of what has been called the largest chemical spill ever to occur in Wisconsin. In early February, 238,000 gallons of ammonia phosphate fertilizer was reported to have escaped from a large storage tank east of Oxford, according to DNR spokesman Greg Matthews. Some of the fertilizer seeped into the ground near the site, and an undetermined amount entered Neenah Creek through a series of drainage ditches.

As of this writing, no fish kill has been documented, although Matthews said there was a strong likelihood that a kill did occur. There is suspicion that some of the discharge occurred several weeks prior to being reported, and that a fish kill could have gone unnoticed if there was ice on the creek at the time. No dead fish have been recovered. Matthews said that an ammonia concentration of two parts per million could kill fish, and that some area residents had reported noticing a green color to the creek around the time of the spill, an indication that lethal levels may have been exceeded. They won't know how much, if any, of the fish population remains until stream surveys can be done this spring.

Below the Village of Oxford, 10.9 miles of the Neenah are classified as Class III trout water, although trout are occasionally caught another four or five miles below that. By this writer's estimate, about half of the classified water is affected, as well as areas farther downstream. The fishery is maintained by stocking, with no known reproduction occurring. The stream meanders through mostly open farmland and marsh, with a lot of deep bend pools capable of holding large trout, pools that may now be barren. Local anglers have been known to pull some pretty nice trout out of this stretch on occasion. Downstream areas had also provided pretty good fishing for warmwater species. The portion of Neenah Creek

To The Editor:

To the editor:

Please refer to your article on the last page in the fall, 1985 issue of REFLECTIONS entitled "T.U. Meets with State Officials & Conservation Groups." This meeting was held on Aug. 17 at the McKenzie Center, Poynette, with Governor Earl, DNR Secretary Besadny. Members of DNR and hosted by Wisconsin Wildlife Federation with ALL special interest groups invited.

Midway through your fine article you state "on topics relating to concerns expressed by T.U. and 'The Wisconsin Association of Fly Anglers' " etc.

Here I wish to stop and ask you to "Get It Straight." We are the "WISCONSIN ALLIANCE OF FLY FISHERMEN." At this meeting John Simonson, Berlin, our Membership Committee chairman, and I asked the Governor "Out of approximately 10,000 miles of trout streams - why are less than 25 miles set aside for special regulations - such as "Catch and Release?" (This was the third question asked/answered.)

Many of your fine members know me, and I have presented various programs to some of T.U. groups. We all have discussed the releasing of fish and all agree to the greater extent.

It is interesting to observe over the years changes in people's thinking. I know deep down many of your members agree with "our" philosophies but they are apparently afraid to speak up. Some, however, are starting to get the drift and small articles are coming out such as your "Catch and Release Resolution" Adoption Articles (same page).

Wisconsin Alliance of Fly Fishermen is a small group but we are becoming effective and heard. We know we are a splinter group. We intend to be as sharp as a splinter or a well honed hook. Since the meeting, I have corresponded with the Governor and I know our top DNR friends respect and believe in what we are seeking. We also intend to educate the fishing public on our beliefs.

T.U. is big! T.U. has clout! T.U. has accomplished great things over the years. Why don't you support our thinking? We want to increase mileage of Wisconsin streams for Catch and Release. Further, we, through special regulation want to accomplish having wild trout - wild brooder trout - left to replenish streams naturally.

Not everyone can "go out west" to experience the thrill of catching a "hog" and then watching it swim away to complete its full life cycle or be caught again. (A photo on the wall shows more detail than a mount - try it! You get the best of both worlds.)

Hopefully people are beginning to understand that years of stream improvements are worthless if the fish intended to be harbored by this work are in frying pans. Sure, some will say "He's a purist" - and "Elitest" - fine! Sure I have a \$200 graphite rod, but - the other guy has a \$25,000 cruiser and \$500 worth of tackle and loves trolling those lunkers in Lake Michigan - Who cares? (Stream fishing is a terrific relaxer to me - better put, an "eraser.") Personally, I like peace and quiet!!

Our W.A.F.F. Group feels strongly about our charter. I appreciate the ink in the fall issue and trust this letter may spurn additional thinking about our "sport." (If we all took the dollars we spend on trips and tackle - we could supply ourselves and families with tons of meat.) It's a sport!!! Remember.

Thanks
Larry Trotter
P.O. Box 1776
Green Lake, WI 54941
Chairman, W.A.F.F.

Wallop Breaux Fees Returned

As TU's Executive Director Bob Herbst sat at a Capitol Hill breakfast, he took well earned pride in the accomplishment that TU - your chapter, your council, your regional VP's, your national directors and your national office - helped to bring about. With the start of the FY 86 Federal Budget, \$125,000,000 is to be made available for matching state money for fisheries and boating access and safety related programs. After eight years of hard work on the part of many TU members, the significant and increasing financial challenge of managing our fishery resources is being met by increased Dingell Johnson and Wallop Breaux (DJ/WB) funds. The users - in this case you and me - pay a tax of a small percentage of the manufacturer's price on fisheries related equipment. This money is collected by the U.S. Treasury and then becomes the responsibility of the Fish and Wildlife Service to administer. All 50 states may apply on a matching funding basis for the DJ/WB funds. A formula based on the number of licensed anglers and quantity of fishable water allows a state no less than one percent and no more than five percent of the total tax revenue. As you can see from the estimates on the following page, your state should be applying for funding for future projects. Your chapter members would probably be very interested in which local projects are DJ funded and what DJ/WB projects are planned. A call to your local state fisheries biologist would probably enable you to share a list of such projects with your newsletter editor.

For a two-page explanation on how to Wallop Breaux Trust Fund works, please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: The Wallop-Breaux Action Desk, Trout Unlimited, 501 Church Street, NE No. 103, Vienna, VA 22180.

How To Release Fish

Because you'll probably be releasing more under-sized trout now than in the past, make sure you know how to release your trout so they survive to be caught again! Here are some tips:

When a fish is deeply hooked, don't just rip out the hook. Instead, cut the leader as closely to the hook as possible, then let the fish go. The hook will disintegrate within a few weeks without harming the fish. Studies show that two-thirds of the fish caught and handled this way survive, while almost no fish survive removal of a deep hook.

1. Play a fish only long enough to land it. Don't wait until the fish is exhausted, since the fish could weaken and die from the stress caused by a prolonged fight.

2. Use a net to land fish quickly and to ease handling. Don't squeeze the fish or put your fingers in its gills as you try to remove the hook. The fish may suffer fatal internal injuries.

3. Hold the fish belly up when you remove the hook - the fish will struggle less.

4. If the fish is sluggish when you're ready to release it, gently hold the fish upright in the water. Move the fish back and forth so it gets oxygen and to let it regain its equilibrium.

Wildwood Gallery

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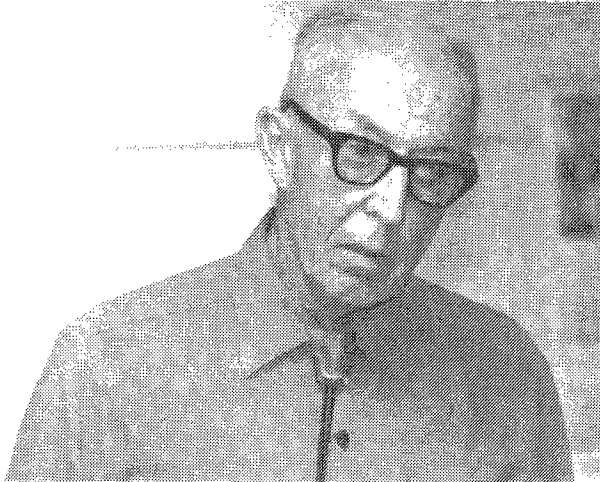
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**Contact: Mike Stapleton
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Nash Williams A Member For Life

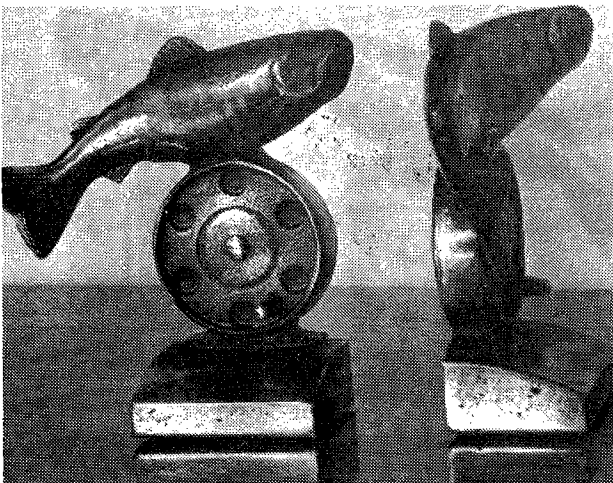
by Lowell Gennrich
and Reggie Finn

The Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited was started 15 years ago on Sept. 30, 1969, at the fire house in Maple Bluff. Present at that meeting, along with the other "charter members" of the chapter was Mr. Nash Williams. Nash, being a lawyer by trade, proved to be very helpful in establishing the fledgling chapter and drawing up its by-laws. He not only donated his legal talent in those early years, he also pitched in to get the new chapter running properly by holding the office of secretary-treasurer from 1971 to 1976.

Nash has continued to take an active role in the chapter over the years in several ways. He always helps to develop and guide policy during the general meetings. He has also been very active on stream projects such as the Black Earth Creek cleanup, Tipperary Creek brushing, Rocky Run improvement, Jennings Creek beaver dam removal, Allen Creek and Spring Creek rehabilitation to name a few.

Nash has not limited his talents only to the chapter. He was instrumental in establishing the State Council of Trout Unlimited. Nash held the position of state treasurer in 1971 and was the second council chairman. He has also been a member of the National Board of Directors of T.U. since 1975. He first began the national work by being the Wisconsin representative, after which he was selected a member-at-large and remains a director in that capacity today. When Nash first became involved on the National Board he worked on the Research and Projects Committee and was chairman of that committee until 1982. This committee was responsible for allocating funds to the deserving projects around the country for stream improvement and research. Nash still sits on the committee responsible for project funds allocation. Within the past few years "acid rain" has become a problem of monumental significance to Trout Unlimited and sportsmen as a whole. Nash was instrumental in focusing Trout Unlimited's attention on acid rain and getting the number one priority placed on the problem that is deserved.

The Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited and, indeed, all of Trout Unlimited owes a lot to Nash Williams. That debt will never be repaid! All we can offer Nash is our gratitude for his commitment to the cold water resource. Thanks Nash!



The Blackhawk Chapter is offering the ideal gift for the trout enthusiast. These cast bookends depicting a leaping trout are available for \$30/pair. Quantity discounts available. Contact Fred Young, P.O. Box 246, Roscoe, IL 61073.

Resolutions Adopted

Resolutions adopted at the Oct. 24 State Council Meeting include:

A resolution to ask the Wisconsin DNR to more judiciously monitor the planting of brown trout into Class II and Class III streams. It reads:

WHEREAS, the brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*) is native to the coldwater streams and ponds of Wisconsin, and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has, over the years, been inclined to stock hatchery-raised brown trout in Class II and Class III trout waters of Wisconsin which have had a history of holding native brook trout, and

WHEREAS, the result of this stocking program has been an increase of brown trout in the afore-mentioned waters PLUS an increase of brown trout in sections of said streams where the fish were not planted but migrated to, and

WHEREAS, this increase in brown trout resulted in fewer and fewer brook trout in these waters because of the dominance of the brown trout over the brook trout, and

WHEREAS, the result has been a decrease in areas in the state trout waters where brook trout reside, now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited urges the Fishery Management Division of the Department of Natural Resources and the Natural Resources Board to examine the stocking program of hatchery brown trout in Wisconsin as it relates to the health and well-being and sustenance of the native brook trout populations.

The motion will be delivered to the DNR.

A motion was made and seconded that the State Council, in recognition of the acknowledged success of the presently existing special regulations on Castle Rock Creek which have had statewide implications, strongly supports the continuation of said regulations and urges that the Department of Natural Resources study the efficacy of special regulations on the Big Green River and implement them if it is determined that they are potentially advantageous.

Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded that the State Council strongly objects to the modification of scientifically based trout water designation for collateral reasons and in particular to the proposal to remove the valid trout stream designation of Bridge Creek in Augusta, WI, from Store St. downstream to Dells Pond.

Motion carried unanimously.

Notice to Fly Tiers

The Blackhawk Chapter of Trout Unlimited has taken upon itself the monumental task of publishing a book, "SOUTHERN WISCONSIN FLIES," which should be available during 1985-86.

In addition to the traditional patterns used by most Wisconsin fly fishermen, the chapter is asking that as many fly tiers as possible submit a copy of their favorite fly (or a copy of a fly created by them which has proved to be successful) along with information on how it is tied and fished.

Although certain entomological references will be printed, the primary emphasis will be on pictures of Wisconsin patterns and how they are tied and fished.

The purpose of this book is two-fold. First of all, a publication of this sort is long overdue and should be a very practical reference to all present and future fly tiers. Secondly, the net proceeds from the sale of this book will provide additional income to our chapters to further the goals of Trout Unlimited throughout the State of Wisconsin.

Since we are a non-profit organization, none of the net proceeds from the sale of this book by the chapters shall inure to the benefit of its individual members.

Contributions to the contents of the book will be duly acknowledged in the publication, however.

For the good of the cause, please participate in this venture. Simply submit your fly to Bill Zeman, 2419 Ruger Avenue, Janesville, Wisconsin 53534. They will return an information sheet to be filled out.

Coming Events

April 9

Harry Nohr Chapter Banquet, Boulder Lodge, Arthur, WI., Time: 6:30 p.m.

April 14

Marinette County Chapter 3rd Annual Banquet, Dome Caberet, Marinette, \$20. Call Jim at (715) 735-5029.

April 19

Wisconsin River Valley Chapter 4th Annual Banquet, Labor Temple, 318 S. 3rd Ave., Wausau. Guest speaker, Gary Borger. Contact: Herb Hintz, 629 Hamilton St., Wausau, WI. 54401.

April 21

Blackhawk Chapter Annual Banquet. Contact Tom Kautz at (608) 868-4522 after 5 p.m.

May 1

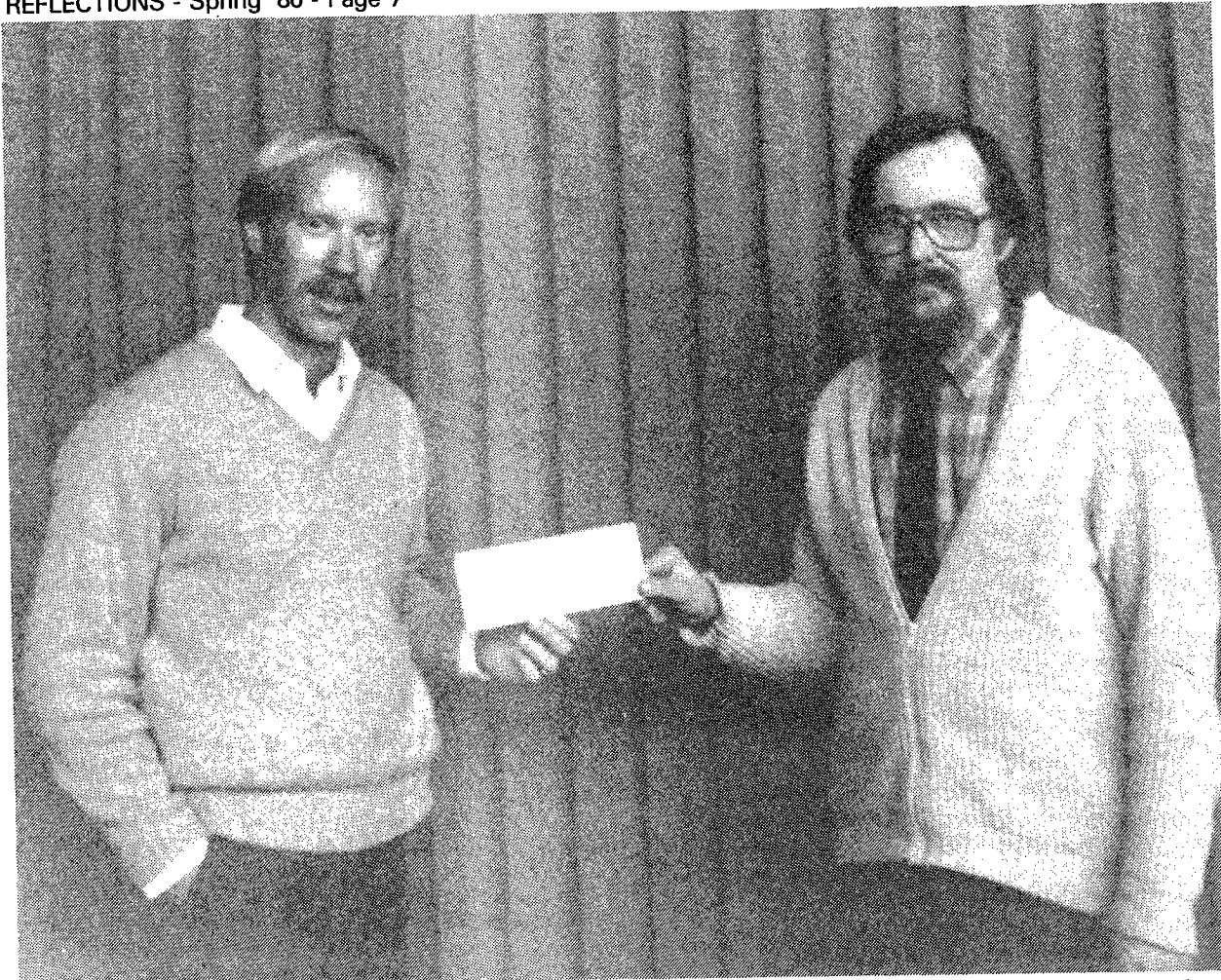
Oconto River Watershed Chapter Annual Banquet. Contact Mike Ascher, 6196 Hwy G, Gillett, WI 54124.

May 30

Three Day Central Wisc. Chapter 10th Annual Fly Fishing School. Contact Mike Stapleton (608) 981-2036. \$100 includes food and lodging. Don't wait too long to sign up.

For Sale

Florence County, 40 acres bisected by Class A-1 Trout Stream; nice pine timber, cabin sites with vistas, \$20,000. P.O. Box 56, Florence, WI 54121 or call (715) 528-3280 days; (715) 528-3571 nights.



Mark Peterson, director of the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute of Northland College, Ashland, receives from Rick Penn a check for \$600 from the Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Council. The money will be ear-marked for

Fish tagging

With the efforts of the DNR fish manager, Mr. Tim Larson, and the Aldo Leopold Chapter, a new survey technique was introduced in Rowan Creek on Nov. 17, 1982. It was to be used to determine if possible what the annual mortality of fish and percentage of wintering fish made it to spring and into the following fishing season. Rowan Creek is a blue ribbon first class trout stream in Columbia County, and is very heavily fished all year, since it also falls into the early season opening in January. Because of this high density of fisherman and the normal fish population, it was necessary to see what annual harvest rates were, and also what if any fish made it over to the following year.

The members of Aldo Leopold were responsible for the money spent on the construction of the collection boxes, as well as their installation, maintenance and placement in areas along the stream. Rowan Creek is closed to Poynette, WI.

The study involved the use and tagging of some 1,000 brown trout. The purchase of the tagging instrument, stakes and tags was also absorbed by the chapter. Lee Parker donated his shop, and Si Sendelbeck a lot of effort and time.

Tim Larson, the local fish manager, spent many, many hours of personal time seeing that the boxes were properly erected at key points, so that fisherman who caught tagged fish could remove the tag and place it in the boxes for safe keeping, until it could be picked up later. Some man-hours later, and some 1,600 miles of travel, the final tags were collected. All told, some 208 tags were returned. This represented 20 percent of the number of fish tagged. According to the fish manager, this was an excellent return. The information learned from this new technique is most valuable in determining future stocking quotes, and limits that may be set on any given watershed. It also gives the fisherman some idea of fishing pressure and over wintering fish. Good work guys.

This same technique is being used on the 1985 survey of Rocky Run, Hinkson and Rowan Creek. The chapter this year built, painted, lettered and personally delivered 19 boxes. Each had two compartments and a post. These were given to the local fish manager Tim Larson on Jan. 23, 1985. With the total man-hours and money spent, Mr. Larson said each box had saved him and the taxpayer some \$25 each. This goes to show, if you want it done right, do it yourself.

publishing a classroom curriculum guide to help teachers inform students about acid rain. A separate check for \$100 was also donated to the Institute for the project by the Chequamegon Trout Unlimited Chapter.

Streamside Trout Recipe

by Streamside Scavenger

While fishing my favorite brook trout stream, I'll occasionally cook a trout that has choked on my no. 16 Adams. It's amazing how they conveniently gag when I have all the fixin's along. A simple, delicious meal can be prepared and the fixin's can be carried in a small pocket.

You will need:

- Square piece of tinfoil 3" longer than the largest trout you expect to catch.
- An envelope of salt and one of pepper. Available at any fast food restaurant.
- 2 pats of margarine (the kind with a high melting point).
- Small onion or diced onion.
- For convenience, you can carry several briquets of self-starting charcoal.

After cleaning your fish (leave the head on), salt and pepper to taste inside and out. Stuff the trout with onions (or wild rice, or whatever other dressing you happen to be carrying), being sure none are sticking out of the fish, and wrap in the tinfoil, creating an airtight package by folding the edges several times. Suspend this package over the coals or next to the coals, Distributing the heat as evenly as possible. Turn every few minutes until you can smell the onions cooking. When you can smell the onions, the trout is ready to eat. You can use the foil as a tray and a disposal container to carry your leftovers (if there are any) out with you. Courtesy Fox Valley Chapter

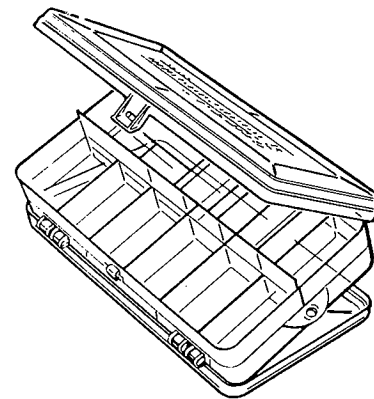
Legal Assistance Needed

In order to maximize the effectiveness of Trout Unlimited, it is essential that we be in a position to take meaningful action on the legislative and legal fronts when it is required. We are hoping that, with the adoption of the new by-laws, we will be able to expand and increase the effectiveness of the Legal and Legislative Committee.

First, we need the assistance and input of those members who are attorneys. We're not asking you to take on TU as a client, but only to help us insure that any legal actions we become involved in are thoroughly and professionally undertaken.

Second, we need more people involved in legislative liaison. If you are involved in the legislative process or wish to become so, we need your help.

Those interested in becoming members of the committee should contact Dick Wachowski, 310 Water Street, Eau Claire, WI 54703 or call (715) 835-6196.



NEW 3216 Mini-Magnum, Jr. from PLANO MOLDING COMPANY

The new 3216 Mini-Magnum, Jr. has just been added to the popular Magnum series of Plano Molding Company, Plano, Illinois 60545-0189. A 2-sided box with 16 practical compartments, the 3216 is set up for trout or panfishing. There are compartments for bobbers up to 1 1/2", pliers, stringers, knives and small terminal tackle. Conveniently hangs from belt if desired. Material is attractive worm-resistant amber Acrylite.

Resources Check-Off Fund

MADISON — Wisconsin taxpayers contributed over \$470,300 toward the preservation of endangered species and natural areas this year. Donations made through the Endangered Resources income tax check-off will be used to continue work in recovery and management activities and to begin new projects.

"We are extremely pleased with this year's totals," said Ron Nicotera, director of the DNR's Endangered Resources Bureau. "Over 70,000 taxpayers contributed to the Endangered Resources Fund this year. That's up from just over 47,000 last year — our first year when we raised \$291,000."

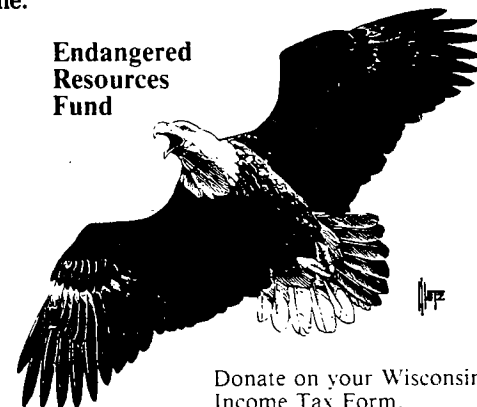
"Money contributed to the fund is earmarked for specific wildlife and plant programs. Over 30 projects are currently underway. With the additional funds, we will be able to begin new project including a peregrine falcon recovery plan and a pine marten restocking program," said Nicotera.

"Another new program will involve the University of Wisconsin in a joint effort to begin recovery and management of the endangered ornate box turtle. The timber wolf management effort will continue. The recovery plan for that species is almost completed and will be ready for public input soon."

A number of existing projects will be expanded including nesting platform construction and nesting habitat protection for Forster's and Common terns. The barn owl reintroduction program will be expanded and several young owls will be equipped with radio transmitters to determine the success of that program.

Several grassland bird species are declining including bobolinks, meadowlarks and upland sandpipers. Therefore, a comprehensive grassland bird census will be initiated. The DNR and volunteers will try to determine what factors may be contributing to the birds' continued decline.

Endangered
Resources
Fund



Donate on your Wisconsin
Income Tax Form.

Chapter Reports

Central Wisconsin Chapter

The chapter held its first workday for 1986 on Feb. 15, on the West Branch of the White River. Thirteen hardy souls braved the elements as the chapter removed a number of dead tamarack trees from the banks of the stream. No one volunteered to do any in-stream work that day, so we roped, winched, pushed and pulled to get the trees to fall landward wherever possible. Fortunately, only small trees ended up in the water and we were able to haul them out.

At the chapter's January Board of Directors meeting, state representative Bob Welch listened to our views, and gave his own, concerning a number of pending legislative proposals. Discussed in particular were a bill to eliminate the Public Intervenor's office and, of course, Senate Bill 32.

The City of Wautoma has approached the chapter for advice and assistance in developing for a park a small parcel of land on the White River that was donated to the city along with money to develop it. The site has several large springs feeding the river, and the chapter agreed to participate in the planning and development to insure that the flow is not blocked or reduced.

Mike Stapleton reports that reservations for the chapter's annual Fly Fishing School are coming in at a steady pace, and that he expects to have a full house again this year. By this printing, there are not likely to be many openings left, and anyone still interested is urged to contact him as soon as possible. With a little luck, you might be able to reach him at (608) 981-2036.

Lakeshore Chapter

On March 8, members of the Lakeshore Chapter participated in the annual NEWGLSF sport show at Club Bil-Mar in Manitowoc. Fly-tying, spinner-making and fly-fishing were demonstrated, and membership and banquet information was available to sport show visitors.

Our third annual National banquet will be held on March 22 at Club Bil-Mar in Manitowoc. Cocktail hour and raffle ticket sales will begin at 5:30 p.m., with dinner at 7 p.m. A free exhibit and fun day will run from 1-4 p.m., and will include members demonstrating fly-tying and spinner-making. There will also be a taxidermy and artwork display. Trout fishing videos will be run throughout the afternoon, and "collector" rods and reels from our Rods & Reels for Kids project will be displayed and available for sale. Money raised from the sale of these items will be used to purchase repair parts needed to restore donated fishing equipment.

Members have been busy distributing posters, soliciting prizes and selling tickets for this year's banquet. We are anticipating increased attendance, since we switched the banquet from a week-night to a Saturday. Also, we've become more visible in the area, doing stream improvement work in Manitowoc County on Jambo Creek last summer. Our publicity committee has also helped our organization with newspaper articles and pictures of our Rods & Reels for Kids project, other chapter project publicity, and monthly meeting and agenda notices in local newspapers.

Wisconsin River Valley Chapter

Since this is our first chapter report, we have some catching up to do. Our chapter was founded in December of 1982 with a core of about eight members and 30 transfers. We now number about 105.

Since our founding we have finished several stream improvement projects. In 1983 our members sodded the wing dams and banks of the Prairie River above R&H Road. In 1984 we sank brush piles in the Plover River below County Trunk Z and resurfaced several DNR parking lots along the river. In 1985 our chapter cleared brush and built paths on the Totten Springs area of the Plover River. We also committed \$1,000 to dredge the Clark Springs Pond on the Plover River. This project still needs some work in 1986 on the outlet of the spring pond into the Plover River.

We have no firm projects planned for 1986. Several members have tried, without success, to convince landowners on Black Creek to allow us to fence the stream banks from livestock. We find landowner cooperation to be our major problem and wonder how other chapters manage.

For the past two years we have sponsored a fishing jam-boree and picnic for the handicapped patients of the Marathon County Health Care Center and children from the Big Brothers/Big Sisters organization. We stock a section of the Prairie River and chapter members teach our

guests the art of sport fishing. For many handicapped or single parent children, this is their first fishing opportunity. We encourage other chapters to consider adding a similar event to their calendar.

Our chapter was successful in supporting several conservation changes proposed by Al Hauber, our DNR fish manager. Two significant changes are artificial lures only and more restrictive size limits on the Plover River between County Highway Z and Totten Springs. Also there will be closed fishing on alternate years on Tahoe and Ament lakes in Lincoln County. Both restrictions were actively supported by our members at the County Conservation Congress meetings.

Our chapter holds an annual fund raising banquet in April. Our 1986 banquet will feature Gary Borger as our guest speaker. Gary is a nationally known fly fisherman, author, editor, inventor and film maker. Our banquet is scheduled for April 19, 1986, and you may call me at (715) 842-7010 for further information.

Marinette County Chapter

Jerry Chevalier, Vern Quever and Jim Bereza are putting things together for our banquet this year. The grand door prize is a 17 foot Hoefgen canoe. Other prizes include guns, graphite spin and fly rods, a gas grill and a VHS VCR. The finest selection of limited edition artwork that we have ever had will also be auctioned. Tickets at \$20 each can be purchased from Ed Anderson, 94 Hosmer St., Marinette, WI 54143.

The cooperative chapter (Green Bay, Marinette County and Oconto River Watershed) land purchase on the Upper Middle Inlet is finally done. The next step in improving these 48 acres will be planning what improvements to make to the stream and how to go about doing them. Although the next few years will be full of Saturdays filled with long hard work, the members involved can take great pride in knowing that they have helped with this very worthwhile project.

Green Bay Chapter

The winter months have seen the Green Bay Chapter involved in a variety of activities.

Chapter member Dan Ferron coordinated and instructed a fly tying class which met for three Saturdays in February and March. The class was filled with eager fly tyers who undoubtedly benefitted from Dan's knowledge of fly tying and fly fishing.

The chapter was invited to attend a major sports show that was held at Green Bay's Embassy Suites over a three-day period in February. The show attracted over 10,000 Northeastern Wisconsin sportsmen and women. The show gave Green Bay T.U. a great opportunity to present its message of conservation to a much larger audience than we are normally able to reach.

The first weeks of March are a very busy time for many Green Bay members as last minute banquet preparations are made. The March 22 banquet proceeds will allow the chapter to continue its busy schedule of conservation activities in the coming year.

Southern Wisconsin Chapter

During the winter our chapter has been busy with fly-tying and rod-building classes, fund raising activities, planning our work projects and fighting off cabin fever. We conducted over six fly-tying classes (including beginners and advanced) with over 50 people enrolled. The rod-building class was once again very well attended by members and non-members alike. As for stream improvement projects, our number one priority is to complete the fencing and rip-rap project on the Rapheal Ripp and Ken Zander farms on Black Earth Creek. In addition, we are funding stream improvement projects conducted by the Wisconsin Conservation Corps and the Madison School program.

Our most important activity this winter was the Trout-Walleye Seminar we conducted in February. This event served as our major fundraiser and also added to our members fishing knowledge and know-how. Gary Borger did an excellent job explaining how to consistently catch trout in greater size and numbers. Jack Sullivan and Tom Sheffy, Northern Wisconsin walleye experts, gave the group invaluable walleye fishing information. This seminar was very successful from the fundraising aspect — it brought in \$1,000 for stream improvement work.

Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter

Winter activities of Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter included our annual Holiday Dinner, a program on Baffin Island arctic char, and fish manager Scot Stewart's plans for the coming season. The chapter also did an experimental planting of rainbow fry in the Lower Willow River.

Harry Nohr Chapter

In late February the Harry Nohr Chapter of Trout Unlimited had its second annual fish feed for members and guests. It was a scrumptuous table of pike chowder and fried ice fishing fillets that kept all raving throughout the evening.

The chapter discussed work projects for this spring and summer. Proposed efforts will include continuing the log cover work begun last summer on Big Springs, and on Upper Harker Creek provide more boon cover structure and brush removal. A helicopter trout drop to the upper reaches of the more remote streams is proposed for this spring.

The Harry Nohr Chapter is expecting this year's projects to continue the quality of trout fishing in southwest Wisconsin.

Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter

The Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter held its annual fund-raising banquet on Feb. 22 at the Bavarian Inn. The goal of the 1986 banquet was to donate a majority of the funds raised to benefit the coldwater fishery of the Milwaukee River Watershed.

Most people associate the fishery of the Milwaukee River as one composed of carp, bullheads and water high in pollutants. While there is no denying that much of the lower Milwaukee River basin falls within this category, a larger share of the 800 square mile watershed does not. In the years ahead, the pollution problems within the entire watershed will be addressed with the help of priority watershed legislation.

With the Milwaukee River receiving priority watershed status and funding, preliminary field work has shown that there are at least five additional tributary streams that have potential as trout habitat. Through a combination of proper watershed conservation practices and fish management, the present 14.3 miles of trout habitat in the Milwaukee River drainage could be significantly increased if not doubled.

Through cooperation with the DNR and private landowners the chapter will be pursuing the development of a demonstration area or areas within the watershed. The purpose of a demonstration area would be to establish conservation practices needed to improve trout habitat and water quality. It is hoped that through this project not only will trout habitat benefit but public awareness concerning the problems of the Milwaukee River watershed would be greatly increased. Demonstration areas sponsored by municipalities, landowners and organizations are an important part of priority watershed framework.



New boat landing on the Oconto River completed by the Oconto River Watershed Chapter.

Oconto River Watershed Chapter

Member Larry Gandt of the Oconto Chapter had the distinction of selling the first and sixth place winning tickets at the State banquet out of thousands sold.

The chapter also completed a new boat landing on the Oconto River, opening up the river between Flat Rock and Suring to boat fisherman. "Tons" of rip-rap, new concrete planks, 100 hours, and over \$1,500 was involved.

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REFLECTIONS

Trout Unlimited, 1326 14th Avenue, Green Bay, WI 54304

Summer 1986

From The Chairman

Change in DNR Fish Policy to De-emphasize Trout?

In late winter of this year, word got out via the news media that Fish Management of DNR was contemplating a move that would put additional emphasis on programs and projects for warmwater fish species. For those anglers who are avid fans of pike, bass, musky and panfish, this certainly was welcome news. For those of us whose interest is primarily the coldwater resource, the news was received with more than a little fear. What, indeed, does this shift in emphasis bode for future management of our trout resources? Does it mean cuts in programs? How will we be affected?

To address this issue, we must be both realistic and assertive. It is common knowledge that the coldwater resource program receives more than its share of the license fee and federal dollar. Much of the emphasis in the past has been for an aggressive trout management and habitat improvement plan, goals which Trout Unlimited has pushed strongly for. These programs have produced results for the coldwater angler in Wisconsin.

Now, DNR feels, it seems, that more emphasis should be geared toward the warmwater species in the form of projects and land acquisition. They feel that these species have not received the management attention they deserve, and thus it is time to correct that oversight.

All this is fine. While an avid trout angler, I do not believe that DNR programs should be unduly slanted toward the trout resource. The angling community is a diverse group. No one species needs to be over-emphasized.

However... on another scale let us (AND the DNR) remember one thing. The needs and requirements for a healthy trout population are more delicate and critical than most other species. Temperature regimes are much more critical for trout than for warmwater species, and it is more difficult to provide for the coldwater resource than it is for the warmwater resource. When DNR says that emphasis in land acquisition will be geared more toward warmwater, with the possibility of leaving some coldwater fishery acquisition areas incomplete, my pulse quickens.

The Department and T.U. fought long and hard to achieve approval of these Fishery Area Master Plans. These plans, in essence, represent a PROMISE and COMMITMENT to the coldwater angler that these projects will be finished. Many of them, especially in central and southern Wisconsin, are crucial to maintaining the coldwater resource base over the long haul. If we abandon them now, what will that bode for the future?

In conjunction with this re-emphasis by DNR on warmwater species should be—MUST BE—an evaluation of current warmwater programs and how they are funded.

Trout anglers, both inland and Great Lakes, urged and fought for self-imposed user fees (i.e., Trout Stamps) to provide monies for funding their respective sports. The Inland Trout Stamp provides revenues for the habitat improvement program that DNR carries out; the Great Lakes Stamp provides the funds for sustaining the put-and-take salmonid fishery for Lakes Michigan and Superior. Perhaps the musky program should look at a special user fee for itself.

In addition, DNR should examine its management practices on the warmwater species. Over the year, size limits have practically been abandoned on species like walleyes and bass. The results of this are mixed. In some lakes, there are good distributions of size and age classes; in others, few large fish appear to be around.

(See Chairman, page 2)

Will The Wolf Survive?

Maybe, But You Must Act Now

The Crandon Project: First Test of Wisconsin's Mining Legislation

On June 20 and 21, 1986, in Forest County, Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources held a public meeting on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement the Department issued on May 12, 1986. It was the first opportunity for verbal public comment on DNR's description of the impacts of the proposed underground mining and ore concentrating facility Exxon Corporation plans to build near Crandon, Wisconsin. It also started the first test of Wisconsin's mining legislation.

What is the Crandon Project? It is a proposed underground zinc-copper-lead mine along with a mill to concentrate the extracted ores. What does the Crandon Project mean environmentally? It means many things, such as air emissions, disposal of mine tailings, water discharges, but it primarily means water impacts. The project lies in the Wolf River watershed and it will have effects on that water system during its proposed 30-year life and long into the future.

The mine will be pumped to keep it dry. The resulting drawdown will directly effect the groundwater in the immediate area surrounding the mine. This lowering of the groundwater levels will impact the streams and lakes surrounding the mine. Stream flows will be reduced and some local lake levels will drop. The extent of these impacts cannot be fully understood, although both Exxon Corporation and the Department of Natural Resources have attempted to model, or explain mathematically, what the effects might be. Since the water system is complex, it is not possible to predict the impacts with certainty. DNR has announced that the predicted effects would hurt the public rights in the waters affected.

Exxon's response, after years of claiming public rights would not be affected, has been to offer mitigation. The Corporation proposes to add water supplements to make up for what they are taking. Their proposed mitigation is based on predicted impacts since actual impacts cannot be known until the pumping has continued long enough for the impacts to be fully developed. This "mitigation plan" is part of the permit the Corporation will need for the pumping. It is crucial to test DNR's work to be sure
(See Exxon, page 2)

Letters to the Editor

Dear Fellow Conservationists,

We have reached the point in the prescribed legal procedure of evaluating the proposed Exxon mine where citizen input is allowed, but only until July 7, 1986. The DNR is accepting comment on their Draft Environmental Statement, a 313-page document, which the average citizen has not seen, nor has the time to read and evaluate. Without a good background on the mine proposal, it is difficult to get the true picture of its actual effects on our clean surface and ground waters. So to save time and generate as much reaction as possible, we have drawn up our concerns in petition form, addressed to the proper office, to gather citizen reaction.

The DNR draft is a halo of glorified socio-economic benefits which they propose will justify the trade-off of the clean waters of the many lakes and streams of the area and Wisconsin's largest clean and undeveloped whitewater trout stream, the Upper Wolf River.

They propose to allow Exxon to discharge up to 3,000 gpm of polluted mine waters into Swamp Creek, a feeder of the Wolf River, for 29 years. The DNR proposes to allow Exxon to dump the toxic mine tailings and 130,000 tons of toxic chemicals into ponds covering 400 acres up to 90 feet deep, which will leach into the ground waters feeding the many lakes and streams in the headwaters of the Wolf River. Dewatering of the mine area will dry up wells, streams and springs, lowering some lakes up to eight feet, but the DNR simply states the adverse effects will be minimal.

We believe the mine would have adverse detrimental effects on the public's rights and will be the death of the Wolf River as a trout stream.

It is clean because there are no wastewater pipes to it. The DNR has spent over \$5,300,000.00 acquiring shoreline in Langlade County to keep it wild. It must not be traded-off for the hope of short-term jobs.

Every concerned citizen must get involved now. Personal letters are best, sent to the address on the petition.

See Wolf Petition, page 2)

Wisconsin Wildlife Federation Awards - (See Story on page 4)



Tim Kubiak, field biologist with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and member of Green Bay Chapter, with his award as "Conservationist of the Year"



Rep. Sharon Metz (D-Green Bay) and her award from W.W.F. for "Conservation Legislator of the Year"



Dan Perkins, Pete Grosskopf, and Ron Koshoshek display award given to Ojiblaeu T.U. Chapter by W.W.F. for "Water Conservationist of the Year"

(From The Chairman, page 1)

But, the bottom line is that while we in Trout Unlimited recognize that our sport is not the only game in town, we are going to make darn sure that what we have achieved, and what we are planning on achieving, is not lost in the bureaucratic shuffle. As stated previously, the cold-water resource is a delicate, complex one, much more so than warmwater. It is a precious and valuable resource. And it is a resource that we in Trout Unlimited intend to make sure is protected and nurtured properly.

- Mitch Bent

Legislative Update:

Acid Rain Bill Signed

At an Earth Week ceremony at the UW-Green Bay campus in late April, Governor Earl signed a bill that will result in emission reductions of sulfur dioxide and other pollutants suspected of causing acid precipitation. The bill was a compromise effort that received support from both environmentalists and industry groups such as the Wisconsin Paper Council and utilities. The bill would require a 50% reduction in these pollutants from sources in Wisconsin by 1993. T.U. members Mitch Bent, Rebecca Leighton and Rep. Robert Cowles (R-Green Bay) were on hand for the ceremony.

Cabinet Government Bill Side-Track

The oft-mentioned "Cabinet Government" bill (SB 32) was side-tracked in the Assembly in the waning days of the last legislative session. The Assembly voted 52-47 to refer SB 32 to Rep. Jim Holperin's Tourism, Recreation and Forest Productivity Committee. Holperin (D-Eagle River), an ardent opponent of SB 32, kept the bill in committee and did not release it before the session ended.

While we won a temporary victory by sidelining SB 32, we must be aware that this bill will likely come up again early next session, and T.U. members, along with other conservation groups, will have to fight this battle again.

Wisconsin T.U. Funds Trout Angler Survey

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited has allotted \$600.00 to fund a comprehensive study of the attitudes and desires of trout anglers. The survey is being undertaken by Professor Robert Jackson of UW-LaCrosse. To date, Dr. Jackson has met with several chapters of Trout Unlimited, including Green Bay, Northwoods, Central Wisconsin, Southeastern Wisconsin and Chequamegon.

The data collected in this survey will be used by Dr. Jackson and the DNR to evaluate the wishes of trout anglers as far as what they desire from their sport and the management of the resource. The data will have a bearing on future management of the coldwater resource.

Reflections

is the official publication of the Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited: a non-profit, volunteer, conservation organization. All correspondence should be sent to John Cantwell/Editor, P.O. Box 440, Marinette, WI 54143. Phone 715-735-7703 days or 414-434-3989 evenings and weekends. Subscription included in membership to Trout Unlimited (see application form in this issue).

Advertising Rates are shown elsewhere in this issue. Contributions are welcome and encouraged. Stories, articles, artwork, black-and-white photos and letters relating to Trout Unlimited subjects should be sent to the editor for consideration. Send copies (not originals) since we will not be responsible for loss.

Send change of address notices to Trout Unlimited, 501 Church Street NE, Vienna, VA 22180.

(Exxon, page 1)

the worst possible case has been anticipated so the state is prepared to require all the mitigation which might be necessary to protect public rights.

In addition to pumping, Exxon will discharge up to 3,000 gpm of water into Swamp Creek, a tributary of the Wolf River. This effluent will contain concentrations of heavy metals and other pollutants and will be put into state waters so long as mine pumping continues. DNR's responsibility is to see that the effluent does not harm the plant and animal life which make up the living system in the waters. The effects of a 30-year discharge of this sort will impact the Wolf River system since dilution does not mean that pollutants disappear. Even if the required 24-hour and 30-day toxicity tests show "no adverse effect," the impacts of the discharge over an extended period of time are unknown.

Concentrating the ores will result in both waste water and enormous amounts of ground rock known as mine tailings. Exxon's plan is to store these tailings in a three hundred sixty (360) acre waste area. In addition to nearly thirty million tons (30,000,000 tons) of tailings, which have proven capacity to produce acid, the waste dams would contain water treatment sludges (17 tons per day) and sludges from retention of industrial water from the concentrating process.

This "Mine Waste Disposal Facility" would create the largest solid waste site in Wisconsin and would represent a continuing threat of groundwater contamination. While the Corporation has a 30-year responsibility for care after the waste is capped, the possible groundwater effects may not begin to be apparent until long after that 30 years.

What this complex project illustrates best is that water effects cannot be piecemealed. Groundwater and surface water are a connected system and a project which has multiple impacts, like Crandon, can only be adequately evaluated looking at system impacts, not by considering each impact separately. The DNR's draft environmental impact statement does not address water system impacts in a way that the public can use to evaluate the total water problems which will be caused by the Project.

What comes next? After the June meeting on the draft impact statement, the DNR will take public comments in writing until July 7, 1986. The agency will use these comments in preparing its final environmental impact statement. The planned issuance date for the final is late in September, 1986. The public input must come now if it is to be considered by the Department in its assessment of the Project. Waiting until after the final impact statement is issued reduces the chances that the Department will seriously consider the public input.

The master hearing, the hearing on the adequacy of the FEIS and Exxon Corporation's rights to the permits, will be held in late January, 1987. This will include both a contested case proceeding where there will be sworn testimony and cross-examination and a portion for unsworn public comment. This is the last opportunity anyone will have to comment on the Project.

What should be done? Get a copy of the DEIS from DNR and read it. A free copy may be obtained by calling 1-800-232-7367. Learn about the project and use your knowledge to encourage participation by state environmental groups in the public process. Decide which issues have priority for you and your group, and prepare written comments to the DNR on those issues.

What is at stake? The integrity of the Wolf River watershed is at stake. The Project should not proceed until and unless the DNR has learned enough about its cumulative impacts to protect the public through the permitting process. The DEIS does not inspire confidence that the Department is making conservative judgments which place the risks of the inevitable uncertainties on the Corporation.

Another, more subtle principle is at stake. Will Wisconsin continue its tradition of public involvement in environmental decision-making, or will the big institutional bureaucracies, DNR and Exxon Corporation decide these matters between themselves?

Complex technology should not be left just to the experts who would be more than happy to be left with no accountability for their judgments. Citizens can make a difference, and the common sense approach which has so often led to better decisions can play a role in how the permits are written for this Project. Without the interest and participation of the public, there will be no public phase of this Project. That is a precedent Wisconsin should avoid.

Waltraud A. Arts
Public Intervenor

(Wolf Petition, page 1)

Mail the last by July 5 to meet the July 7 deadline to be sure all letters and petitions are accepted. Let's give it our best effort. Posterity will be grateful.

Sincerely,
Herbert Buettner, Secretary
Wolf River Conservation Club
White Lake, Wis. 54491

PUBLIC RESPONSE TO DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON EXXON'S PROPOSED MINE AT CRANDON, WISCONSIN

To: Mr. Howard S. Druckenmiller, Director
Bureau of Environmental Analysis and Review
D.N.R., P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707

Embrace-A-Stream Funds Awarded

Three Wisconsin stream improvement projects have been awarded money from the Trout Unlimited Embrace-A-Stream fund. They are Blackhawk Chapter, Allen Creek; Ojibseau Chapter, Duncan Creek; and Wild Rivers Chapter, Hatchery Creek.

The total awarded was \$3,950. Primary support for the funding came from the FishAmerica Foundation with additional support from the Richard King Mellon Foundation, the American Fishing Tackle Manufacturers Association and the Eugenie Mayer Bolz Family Foundation.

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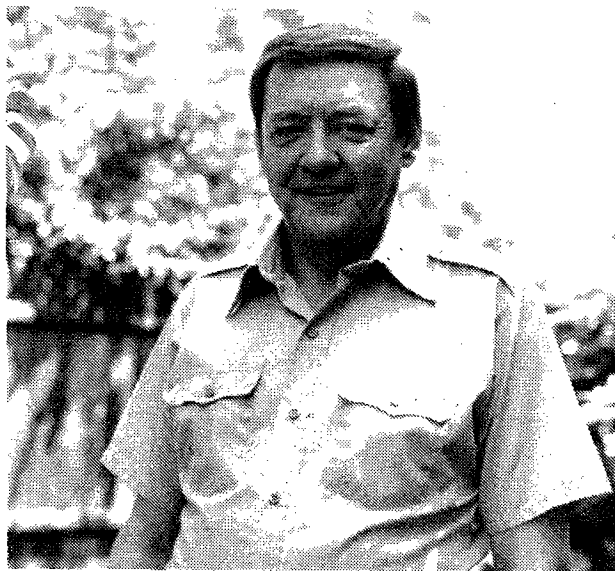
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"Fishful Thinking"

by Jim Curry



Dog Days Doldrums—Not Necessarily

Many anglers report they will sit out the next couple of dull months and try again in September. That is a super month for trout, I agree, but why throw away any time on the stream? Try these ideas for some "Dog Days" successes.

First, change the attitude that you can't catch trout or that the streams are "fished out." Waters are typically low and clear during July and August, and while this might complicate things, it also sets the stage for some refined trouting—the "far and fine" period. Small flies, wispy leaders, cautious wading, careful casting—all are elements for reaching a new plateau of angling competence.

Let's examine these requisites in more detail. The rod should be a graphite or boron model of 8 to 9 feet which calls for a 5-weight line. Disregard that specification and snarl in a spool of 4-weight because you'll be going for distance and the extra footage will add plenty of weight to flex the rod.

Leaders should have a tippet to match the fly. You'll be casting some 16-20 size stuff, so a tippet of 1-2 pound test (7X-6X) will be needed. Remember to match the stiffness of the leader butt and flyline. Don't rely on matching diameters. Use enough leader sink to get the tippet underwater. Several commercial preparations (e.g. Xink) do a good job or you can get by with toothpaste, Lava soap, mud/slime, or even saliva.

Now would be a good time to question the weight of your reel. A heavy cranker will dull the pleasure of the light wand you'll be waving, so consider a reel in the 2½ to 3-ounce class to complete a memorable fishing ensemble.

Choice of flies will be dictated by the entomology of your stream. Be on the watch for caddises. Small delta-wing or hairwing cream or brown caddis dry flies can be excellent for July-August angling, in addition to their pupal counterparts. Use the La Fontaine sparkle yarn pupae.

If you're lucky enough to have significant mayfly hatches during these periods, go for it. For example, Langlade's Wolf River has a Great Slate Drake (*Hexagenia atrocaudata*) hatch starting as early as mid-July. Fish the sections where the bottom is silty since hatches are heavier there. The size 8 duns fly above riffles and late evening sees the spinner fall, providing a great chance to take a trophy on the dry fly.

For daytime action, I doubt that you can beat the ant, because in sizes 14-18 those black rascals really move the trout. The main disadvantage is low visibility, since the fly lies so flat on the water. Some tyers include a blob of orange or white dubbing above the thorax to help locate the thing. Without this marker, you'll need to closely watch the area where the ant should be, prepared to strike quickly if you see even the slightest surface disturbance. Trout s-i-i-i-p these flies and in the process seldom make much commotion, especially larger fish.

On muggy, overcast days be ready for Blue-Winged Olive hatches which range in sizes 16-20 or smaller.

Nymphs that ride in the meniscus are effective and the dry fly equivalent can provide plenty of fun.

I remember one day when trout were actively bulging on a quiet stretch of water I was "fishing," with over a dozen patterns yielding zip success. To preclude further humiliation, the rod was traded for a nylon screen rig I had stashed onshore. This was about the first time I recall trying to be scientific(?) in my pursuit of trout, so I didn't have a lot of faith in the activity. After about three minutes with seine submerged in the current, I inverted the poles (taking two sleeves-full of water) and examined the screen. Nothing. "Well, so much for this scientific garbage," I mumbled, and waded toward the bank with the dripping net in front.

Something caught my eye. Then something else. "What was going on?" I wondered aloud. Studying the surface of the mesh, I watched a half dozen tiny flies hatch and take off. Closer examination revealed the seine was nearly clogged with Baetis nymphs. "So that's it," I exclaimed, and immediately renewed my membership in the scientific community of anglers. Following quick addition of 7X tippet and #20 olive nymph, I waded carefully back to the arena.

By timing my presentation to coincide with the trout's feeding rhythm and drifting the nymph practically in the fish's mouth, I released seven brownies in a little over an hour, two of them 14 inchers. Six others were turned but not hooked solidly enough to land. Maybe I was a bit impatient, for small flies require both delicate presentation and soft playing of the hooked trout.

Another fly which has saved many a July-August day for me is a marabou streamer which does not deserve a name. This fly ranks second only to Nick Lyons' green worm pattern in simplicity of manufacture. For the streamer, wind a thin body of primrose yellow or cream yarn on a size 14 or 16 3XL heavy hook and tie a patch of brown or olive marabou at the head. That's it.

Fish the streamer under the surface and give it some swimming action—2- to 3-inch twitches once in a while. Maybe trout think it's a minnow. Maybe the fluttery, wiggly marabou fibers drive them crazy. To this point in time, no trout have explained to me why they hit certain patterns more than others; thus, one guess is as accurate as the next. At any rate, the ugly streamer works, so carry a few along.

Let's close with a question: Have any of you—now be honest—devised a successful way of fishing two or more flies at the same time? If so, I would dearly like to hear from you, for in my hands the dropper and terminal flies conspire to become hopelessly entangled after the first cast or two. I've tried slow casts—even down to lob velocity—fast casts, stiff nylon, limp nylon, long droppers, short droppers—all with the same disgusting results.

The reason we ask is that the odds double for quickly finding an effective fly. Or, we read of British and Scottish anglers casting sprays of up to a dozen flies. Think of those odds! (I can only think of the incredible snarl.) Again, if you have suggestions, I would like to experiment.

Meanwhile, don't give up on the July-August interlude. Catching mid-season trout requires a bit more patience, a tad more expertise, but the payback is great. Meat fishermen have quit the waters, Wisconsin evenings then are superlative, the trout are willing, the light gear is a joy. . . This is the storied halcyon period when memories are created, refined and filed for later use. During your reminiscences, a trout taken on a #18 dry fly in July will rank equally with a larger fish caught during an easier time.

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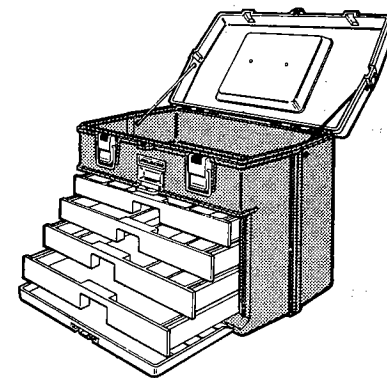
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CHAPTER REPORTS:

Aldo Leopold Chapter

After meetings with area fish manager Tim Larsen, our Project Chairmen John Sarnow and Bob Tomlinson established a work project schedule which kept members active this spring.

On March 15, a group of members and area Boy Scouts did some work removing a log jam and other stream obstructions on Rowan Creek.

On April 20, a strong contingent reported to Jennings Creek where during the course of the day seven beaver dams were disassembled and some streamside clearing was done to enhance the water flow in the stream.

On June 8, once again chapter members made themselves available for Take-A-Kid Fishing Day, and enjoyed themselves almost as much as the participants. Fishing and casting events highlighted the day, as instruction and praise were routinely dispensed, and smiles were abundant.

Upcoming for the Chapter will be another work day on June 21 on Rocky Run in Columbia County, and an outing later this summer for handicapped citizens sponsored by the chapter.

Wild Rivers Chapter

A meeting has been scheduled for June 24 at 7:30 p.m. to discuss Project 'Restore' and the work schedule for the summer on Hatchery Creek. The meeting place will be announced later. A movie "To Temp a Trout" will be shown.

Chip Courtney, Joel Johnson and Frank Pratt should be commended on their efforts in qualifying "Wild Rivers" Chapter for a grant of \$750.00 from National T.U. Project Restore. Money will be used to build in-stream structures and stream bank vegetation at the site of a former DNR fish hatchery near Hayward. Educational signs will be added to explain the purpose of various devices. The project is scheduled to be completed by the end of the summer of 1986.

Antigo Chapter

The Antigo Chapter held their sixth annual banquet on April 12. They had a sell-out crowd of over 325 people. It was a great success. They gave away over 240 door prizes.

They are proud to inform everyone of their summer work project. The chapter will be working on a joint project with the area DNR. Late last summer, the DNR had purchased 17 acres of land on the East Branch of the Eau Claire River. This land includes approximately 1,500 feet of river frontage.

Over this past winter, the chapter has worked out the joint project where the DNR will do most of the heavy labor and construction of 14 in-stream structures, including boulder retards and half logs. The chapter will cut, haul and place sod on the structures as they are built.

This project will begin at the end of June or the first week in July. The chapter will fund this project completely. The cost will be \$8,000.00. They are happy to get a project of this size underway and to work so well with their area fish manager Max Johnson.

Green Bay Chapter

The spring months saw the Green Bay Chapter complete its annual banquet and prepare for the summer work season.

The annual banquet was quite successful and furnished the chapter with the funds necessary for the work ahead. Preparing a banquet for over 700 people involves lots of hard work. The Green Bay members who provided all that work were rewarded for their efforts when the banquet raised a record amount for chapter activities.

The chapter has now suspended its monthly meetings for the summer, but not before finalizing an ambitious work schedule. Chapter members will be doing a variety of stream improvement projects on alternate Saturdays throughout the summer months.

Our last chapter meeting in May was rather unique. At that meeting, members participated in an interview with Dr. Bob Jackson from the university at LaCrosse. Dr. Jackson is well-known for his studies dealing with the psychology of various groups of sportsmen and women. He is now studying those who fish for trout, and his stop in Green Bay provided chapter members with a very enjoyable evening of discussions about our favorite sport.

Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter

On May 17, 15 members of the Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter assisted the DNR with the installation of half logs on Allenton Creek. Despite rain and cool weather, the volunteers were able to install 80 half-log habitat structures.

Allenton Creek is one of the few trout streams located in Washington County with the majority of it flowing within Allenton Wildlife Area. Present DNR land acquisitions and changing grazing practices have helped to improve many of the physical characteristics of the stream. The installation of half log structures is intended to provide more protective cover, particularly for smaller trout.

The Chapter is planning another half log installation project during the month of July on Tichigan Creek near Waterford. This project is also in cooperation with the DNR and is intended to enhance recent installations of boom covers by DNR crews.

Marinette County Chapter

The Marinette County Chapter Spring Banquet netted about \$5,000 for the club. Prizes are now being gathered for next year's banquet. We would like to share banquet information with other chapters. What works well for us may also work for you and vice versa. Mostly what kinds of things do you raffle and how you do it. Contact Jim Bereza, 710 McAllister Ave., Marinette, WI 54143. Our chapter also gained 34 new members due to a special promotion.

Summer activities include work projects on a number of different streams every other Saturday during June, July and August.

Lakeshore Chapter

Election of officers was held at the April 14 meeting. Officers for the 1986-87 season include: President Wayne Trupke; Vice-President Larry Yax; Secretary Anne Dirkman; Treasurer Bob Dirkman; Director Chuck Wolff; and State Council Representative Bob Dirkman. Other board members include George Gottier, Dick Pruchta, and Jeff Preiss who will serve as board member for one year, as outgoing president. Jambo Creek will again be the site for the stream improvement project. Work dates for 1986 are June 21, July 26, August 16 and September 6. Members and friends will meet at the Mishicot Sportsmen's Club, located west of Mishicot, 1/4 mile north of Highway 147 on Jambo Creek Road at 9 a.m.

The July monthly meeting will be held at the stream project site at 1 p.m. If this proves to be successful, they will hold more summer meetings streamside.

About 65 rod/reel combinations have been donated through their Rods & Reels for Kids project. So far, we have made donations to Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Holiday House North and Easter Seals Camp Waube. Lakeshore chapter is again sponsoring two students to attend the summer conservation workshop at the Wisconsin Environmental Station. This year's recipients are Dan Harrington from Reedsville, and Lance Brux from Manitowoc. Both have been invited to the September meeting to share their experiences with chapter members.

N.E.W.T.U. Chapters Urge Special Regs

At the annual April Conservation Congress hearings, proposals for special angling regulations on the South Branch of the Oconto River between County "AA" and Highway 32 were offered at five county hearings (Brown, Marinette, Oconto, Outagamie and Shawano). The regulations, put together by a special committee of Green Bay, Oconto River Watershed and Shaw-Paca T.U. chapters along with area DNR fisheries personnel, called for a creel limit of three trout per day with a minimum of 10" on brook trout and 13" on brown trout. Angling would be limited to artificial lures and flies. The purpose of the regulations is to help restore the total numbers of trout and numbers of large trout to the South Branch of the Oconto, one of the premier coldwater fisheries in Northeastern Wisconsin. DNR creel censuses have shown very low numbers of trout in the stream, and it is felt that more restrictive angling regulations are needed to bring back the potential on the South Branch.

The resolution passed by 28-16 in Brown Co., 29-3 in Marinette Co., and 31-7 in Shawano Co. Oconto Co. opposed the measure by 37-24, and Outagamie Co. simply accepted the written resolution for introduction at the Congress. If the Congress puts this item on next year's agenda (or if it is done as a DNR Board Rule Change), the new regulations could take place by 1988.

Federation Presents Awards to T.U.'ers

At the annual Wisconsin Wildlife Federation Awards Banquet held in Eau Claire on April 26, awards were presented to several individuals and a chapter associated with Trout Unlimited.

The Ojibseau Chapter received the "Water Conservationist of the Year" Award for its long history of water resource conservation in the Eau Claire, Chippewa and Dunn County area. The chapter was especially cited for its stream improvement work on Elk, McCann and Duncan Creeks, and for its involvement in a precedent-setting case that saved the water quality of Lowes Creek, a class II trout stream flowing through Eau Claire. Pete Grosskopf, past president of the Ojibseau Chapter, accepted the award for the chapter.

Named as "Conservationist of the Year" by the W.W.F. was Tim Kubiak, an employee of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (Green Bay Office) and member of the Green Bay Chapter. Kubiak was cited for his efforts dealing with toxic contamination of the Green Bay and Great Lakes areas.

Named as "Conservation Legislator of the Year" was Rep. Sharon Metz (D-Green Bay). Metz was cited for her individual efforts in raising the minimum monetary fine for illegal trout harvest to \$100 per fish and her work in the Joint Finance Committee relating to full funding for beaver control and her work in quashing efforts to delay expenditures of revenues from the Inland Trout, Great Lakes Trout & Salmon, and Waterfowl stamp that was attempted during the budget repair session of the January Legislative calendar.

Metz also received this award in 1979.



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Fall 1986

From The Chairman Regionalization To Help Chapters

A few years back, the Wisconsin State Council embarked on a program to make participation in the State Council more meaningful to the chapters. We did this by proposing, and implementing, a plan whereby the state would be split up into regions, and these regions would serve as "mini" State Councils in between regular Council meetings. Chapters would meet in their regions, discuss problems and ideas that are particular to their regions, and act upon them.

With the acceptance of the new Council by-laws in January of this year, the State Council is now ready to implement this plan. Regions are having their meetings this autumn (in place of the old autumn Council meeting). Their missions at this point are several: 1) to pinpoint problems of a particular interest to their region; 2) to maximize fund-raising efforts; 3) to examine trout waters in their area and propose certain ones for implementation of special regulations on those streams; and, 4) to assist in development of new chapters.

This new method of operating our State Council should have several benefits. It will cut down on the number of statewide meetings (from four to two) per year. It will give chapters more time to coordinate latitude in decision-making. And, above all else, it may finally result in a long-desired goal: the cooperative efforts of chapters on a particular stream or pond.

For far too long, our chapters have operated as if each were an island unto themselves. That just isn't going to work any more. There are projects out in our state that cost BIG BUCKS. Spring pond dredging, land acquisition, research, in-stream habitat improvement, etc., are labor and capital intensive. No one chapter working alone can accomplish these things. But, with coordinated efforts on a regional basis, those big bucks that are needed for projects can be generated, and long-range planning for projects can come about.

This process is an exciting one for Wisconsin Trout Unlimited. If operated properly, it can really produce some positive results for the resource. Make sure that your chapter gets involved in this regional process to the fullest extent. It will make for a more efficient State Council and a more productive resource base.

MITCH BENT

Wisconsin T.U. Contributes To "Living Brightwater"

At the Annual Meeting for Trout Unlimited held in Olympia, Washington, Wisconsin Trout Unlimited presented a check for the sum of \$3,060.00 to National's "Living Brightwater" program. The sum represents 20% of the net proceeds of the council's 1986 successful fund-raising ventures. In the picture, Frank Smith (l) of Tacoma, Maryland, accepts the check from Wisconsin T.U. Chairman Mitch Bent (r). National will use the funds for Embrace-A-Stream grants for chapter habitat improvement projects throughout the country.

By MITCH BENT

Much has been said over the years about the pros and cons of establishing "special regulations" on trout waters to improve both numbers of trout and numbers of larger-sized trout. By and large, where special restrictive regulations have been implemented, the quality of trout angling has improved. Be they on the famed trout waters of New York's Catskill Mountains, the limestone streams of Pennsylvania, the desert rivers of New Mexico, or the hallowed waters of the Yellowstone Park area, these regulations have helped trout populations rebound.

One state, though, that just hasn't been able to get into the "groove" as far as special regs are concerned is our own Wisconsin. We have over 9,400 miles of trout waters in the state; yet, by my best calculations, no more than 25-30 miles of these streams have been designated for special angling restrictions (be they restrictions for method of angling, minimum size limits, reduced creel limits, etc.). And ten of those miles, five each of flies-only water on the Wolf and Peshtigo Rivers, cover waters that are marginal for trout.

I make note of this situation now, because of my recent trip to the state of Washington for our annual Trout Unlimited Meeting. I discovered that, only four years ago, Washington had a mere 15 miles of trout waters within its perimeter designated for some type of restrictive regulations. Today, after several years of research, analysis, proposals and decisions, over FIVE HUNDRED miles of streams in Washington have had special regulations applied to them. While the jury is still out on the impact of these applications, discussions with TU'ers from Washington indicate nothing but success.

One argument that has always been used in opposition to expanding the number of streams in Wisconsin with special regs on parts of their streamthread is the alleged

desire to "simplify regulations" rather than make them more detailed. Unfortunately, our DNR has often used that argument, too. Well, if anyone could see the fishing regulations book that anglers in Washington get with their license purchases, they would see that Wisconsin's regulations, in comparison, are nothing compared to Washington's. That state's regulations book is twice as thick as ours, PLUS it's written on 8½" by 11" paper, not like the little pocket-sized booklet we get.

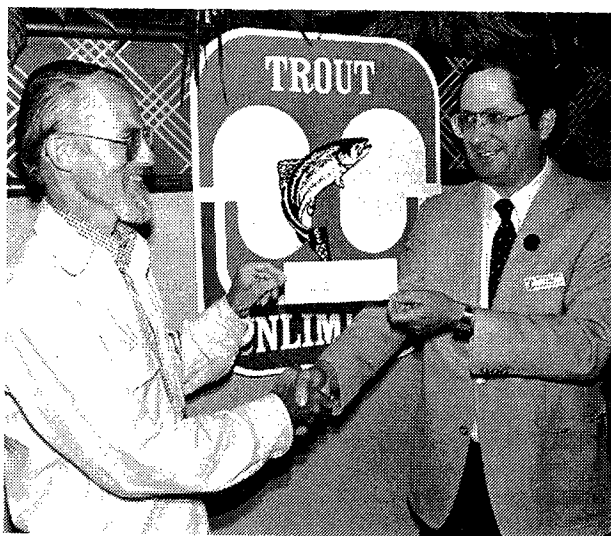
The "Let's-keep-things-simple" argument just doesn't hold water any more. We all know that we live in a world that is becoming increasingly crowded each day. We have more people with more leisure time taking up angling as a pastime. The resource can only take so much pressure under those circumstances. Thus, we have to make tough decisions. Do we let our "crown jewels" succumb to the effect of the standard regulations (10 trout/day, 6" size limit)? Or, do we recognize that special efforts need to be done to allow the fishery to reach its potential?

Trout Unlimited chapters, meeting in regional meetings this fall, will be addressing these issues at their meetings. They will be examining the coldwater resources of their regions and making recommendations on sections of certain streams for application of special regulations. We hope that DNR staff and the Natural Resources Board will take our recommendations seriously. It's time Wisconsin got off dead center with its attitude toward special regulations and developed an aggressive approach toward implementing these regs in a scientifically determined manner. Continuing on our present course can only mean a continued mediocre trout fishery in Wisconsin. We'd like to see it improve. And we're willing to take the lead in seeing that goal accomplished.

Deal Struck To Allow Access To Upper Ox Creek

Earlier this year, Wisconsin T.U. was alerted by member John Storlie of La Crosse that Bud Grant, former coach of the Minnesota Vikings, was attempting to close off a public road that crossed Upper Ox Creek in Douglas County. The Town of Gordon, wherein the road lies, initially rebuffed Mr. Grant's attempt to shut the road off, but the Douglas County Board voted to overrule the town. Letters of protest from individuals like Storlie and groups like Trout Unlimited reached DNR, and a hearing was held on the matter. An agreement was reached that permitted Grant to close off part of the road, which would lead to his new, secluded \$150,000 home on German Lake, in return for issuance of an irrevocable easement across his land to the headwaters of Upper Ox Creek.

Kathy Falk, Public Intervenor for Wisconsin, was instrumental in working out this agreement.



Chapter Reports

Aldo Leopold Chapter

The Pond on the David Rowe property near Poyette was the site for a successful outing for approximately 20 handicapped citizens from Columbia and Dodge Counties. The Aldo Leopold Chapter supplied funds to stock the pond, and recruited members to act as fishing guides, cooks and photographers to enhance the outing. Several work days were held prior to the Aug. 23 event to ready the pond and adjacent grounds for the big day. The day dawned cloudy, but by mid-morning the sun was shining and so were the faces of the fortunate fishermen and women who enjoyed resounding success. All TU members in attendance enjoyed themselves as well, witnessing the good cheer and spirit of their successful guests.

The Chapter is looking ahead to some fall work days on Rocky Run and to chapter elections in October.

Marinette County Chapter

This past summer's activities included work on the Upper Middle Inlet, the North Branch of the Beaver Creek, the First South Branch of the Oconto River and scatter planting the Wolf River.

The Oconto River project is a little different. This particular area was damaged by high winds. A lot of trees were knocked into the stream causing it to widen out. This trout stamp money funded project is difficult to get to so the DNR is rearranging the knocked-down trees to re-create one stream channel. A tip of the hat to Cliff Sebero for his work at this site.

Our chapter meetings will resume the second Tuesday of October at the Dome. Jerry Chevalier, program chairman, has a number of interesting things lined up for the months ahead.

Lakeshore Chapter

Lakeshore Chapter has been working all summer on Jambo Creek in Manitowoc County, doing brushing along the stream. Two summer meetings were combined with the stream project outings. Beginning in September, our meetings will again be held at Club Bil-Mar, the second Monday of each month. We will be able to continue working on equipment repair for our Rods and Reels for Kids project, and get organized for our April 4, 1987 fundraising banquet. We've been working on compiling an inventory of items that are owned by the chapter, which includes a collection of more than a dozen fishing and fly-tying videotapes. These videos are shown at monthly meetings throughout the year and are also shown as part of our membership booths at various local sport shows.

Antigo Chapter

The Antigo Chapter, along with the DNR, completed their summer work project on the East Branch of the Eau Claire River in July. The DNR did most of the heavy work in the stream. Under their direction, wing dams and boom cover structures were placed in the river for approximately 1,500 feet.

The chapter helped as much as possible, mainly helping place sod on the completed structures. They are extremely proud of this project and the cooperation of the DNR and Fish Manager Max Johnson.

This project was completely funded by the Antigo Chapter. The project cost will turn out to be approximately \$6,000.00. They haven't received all the bills yet.

They hope to continue this type of cooperative effort in 1987.

Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter

The Southeastern Chapter summer work projects included installing 33 half logs and covering a boom cover on Tichigan Creek in Racine County. In spite of a brief thunderstorm, everyone had a good time. Also a project on Bluff Creek slated for late September will involve scatterplanting native Browns from the southwestern Wisconsin area.

Another bit of interesting news is that the Chapter has decided to host a National Banquet in the Spring of 1987. Dave Kolbert from the National office has been informed and is assisting in helping us make it the best banquet ever. Everyone is excited, to say the least.

Our fall meetings have moved back inside once again. Our meetings this fall include videos on Babine Steelhead fishing, a presentation by Bob Zimmerman from the Southern Wisconsin chapter and a Fly-Tying night.

Wild Rivers Chapter

Our Hatchery Creek project is successfully reaching completion. Several weekends of work by our members plus an extensive amount of work by the Youth Conservation Corp under the supervision of DNR Fish Management employees Frank Pratt and Jack Sande (both members of Wild River T.U.) have transformed a quarter mile of barren streambed into productive troutwater. Even before completion, 10-inch plus brook trout were being caught in the improved section. Signs describing methods used and acknowledging those groups that participated will be placed on the site, either this fall or early next spring.

Plans are also underway by Sawyer County Board of Supervisors towards turning the area into a county park facility. We would like to thank Fish America Foundation's support of Trout Unlimited, which made possible this restoration work by our chapter.

Shaw-Paca Chapter

Project work on Mill Creek off Hwy. 29 included fencing repairs, preparation for rip-rapping and installation of a large billboard-size sign along the highway for chapter publicity. Additional stream projects included brushing along a stretch of Whitcomb Creek and brushing and in-stream debris removed on Hyde's Creek.

Two easements for public fishing and stream improvement work for a 10-year period were purchased from private landowners on two 40-acre parcels on Hyde's Creek, north of Marion.

T.U. members, the Big Brothers and Sisters and 4-H members helped over 20 little brothers and sisters and handicapped kids as they caught, fought and landed huge trout at the spring ponds at the Rockville Trout Hatchery. Prizes and a picnic lunch completed an exciting kids' fishing day.

A cooperative venture between Shaw-Paca T.U. and a local sport shop is near completion. Sport video films will be available to T.U. members for rental at special discount rates.



Impressive sign marking the Shaw-Paca Chapter Mill Creek project.

Southern Wisconsin Chapter

The Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited finished not one, but two stream fencing projects this year. The first project, headed up by Bob Zimmerman (I must confess this project was started in 1985), took place on the Rapheal Ripp and Ken Zander farms of Black Earth Creek. Over 2,800 feet of fencing was installed, a Zimmerman-style "super" crossing was built, and 214 feet of rip-rap were put in place. This project was financed by TU's Living Brightwater Project, ASCS-SCS cost sharing and chapter funds.

We also cooperated with the Dane County Conservation League, the Wisconsin Conservation Corps, the DNR and the Madison School Program to complete a fencing project on Deer Creek. Topf Wells coordinated this effort. The excellent work of the Wisconsin Conservation Corps and the Madison School Program youths made this project a success. DNR provided invaluable technical assistance. Two cattle crossings and over 1,500 feet of fencing were installed.

Our chapter was also proud to help sponsor a fishing day for handicapped people on the Kalscheur Farm near Cross Plains in Dane County. Everyone involved with this event commented that it was one of the best things our chapter had ever done. There is nothing like sharing the joy of catching a trout for the first time with someone.

Wisconsin T.U. Questions Exxon Impact Statement

The public hearing on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed Exxon zinc-copper mine near Crandon, WI., was held on June 20-21 in the town of Nashville in Forest County. State T.U. Chairman Mitch Bent and Wolf River Chapter member Harold Levine addressed the large crowd on T.U.'s concerns over various aspects of the proposed mine. Both expressed concerns over the mine's effects on groundwater quality, nearby lake levels, and the lack of DNR consideration of the impact of bioaccumulation of heavy metals and other toxic elements on the food chain and ecosystem of the Wolf River. Other areas of concern voiced by T.U. were: 1) speculative claims of increased employment opportunities for local residents, 2) direct harm to the native brook trout populations of Swamp, Hemlock, and Hoffman Creeks and springs, 3) lack of acknowledgement of likely heavy populations shifts to the Crandon area based upon migrants' hopes of obtaining employment, and 4) implication in the DEIS that property taxes would go down because property tax RATES might decrease.

The DNR has since acknowledged that over 80% of the input on the DEIS has been mildly to heavily critical of the document in total or in part.

In A Related Matter...

On August 28th in Janesville, State Council Chairman Mitch Bent, along with Caryl Terrell of Citizens for a Better Environment, Hilary Waukau of the Menominee Tribe and Robert Schmitz of the Wolf River Landowners Alliance, addressed the Natural Resources Board to seek Board approval of a directive to DNR staff to hold a one-day informational hearing on the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) within 4-6 weeks after the issuance of the document in mid-November. The purpose of this meeting would be to give citizens an opportunity to comment on the FEIS prior to the Master Hearing process scheduled for March of 1987. This would provide a comment period at a timely date; currently, the process calls for a one-day public comment period the day before the Master Hearing begins, which does not allow any time for the public comments to be adequately weighed. Further, that process does not keep separate the public comments on the FEIS and the Master Hearing, which is to deal with issuance of permits and not the FEIS.

The Board considered this proposal, and then, after some deliberation, opted to postpone until September a final decision on whether or not to order the hearing.

Get Ready For The State Banquet

You will notice some changes at this edition of the State Council Awards and Fund-raising Banquet January 24, 1987 at the Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton.

To start with, the Grand Attendance Prize will be a 17' Hoefgen fiberglass canoe.

The raffles will have items of higher quality and more of them. After all, that's what you attend the Banquet for. You support the State Council with your attendance and money and hope that you win one of the fine prizes.

There will be plenty of opportunities for you to do just that. Some of the things to be raffled include a Browning Citori over/under shotgun, a Trout Unlimited Living Brightwater Limited Edition fly rod, a VHS VCR, a Lake Michigan fishing charter, jewelry, fly rods by Sage, LCI/Excelon and Powell, guns and other items that are still being gathered.

The auction items will be some of the finest that we can obtain and will have broad appeal.

The chapters are doing their part to ensure a great selection of items for the raffle and auction. Individuals are encouraged to donate money to the prize fund or items to the prize list. If you want to donate money send it to Pat Kordus using the form elsewhere in this issue. \$100 to be a sponsor. If you have a unique clock or lamp, a mounted fish or bird, a gun cabinet or coffee table, a handmade fishing rod or some kind of artwork, contact Jerry Weatherwax, Rt. 2, Box 168, Marion, WI 54950, phone 715-754-5642; or John Cantwell, P.O. Box 440, Marinette, WI 54143, phone 715-735-7703 or Jim Bereza, 710 McAllister Ave., Marinette, WI, phone 715-735-5029 as soon as possible, but before the end of the year.

"Fishful Thinking"

by Jim Curry

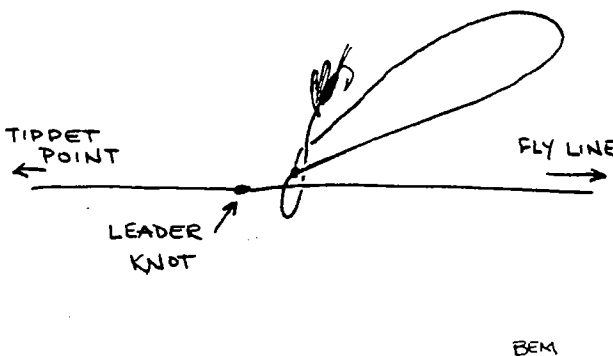


I would like to tell you about the 25-inch brownie I took this past season on a #14 dry fly. Mmm-mm, would I ever like to tell that; but sadly, it would be a lie—a lie far in excess of the limit allowed even fishermen.

My stream time this year was woefully short. So, since I won't have any memories of my own to tide me over, please send in reports of your successes and I can vicariously enjoy those during the winter wait.

In fact, why don't we turn this into a Top Rod report? Provide some particulars on how big, where, when, equipment used, etc., and I'll tabulate the results for future publication. Please limit this to trout taken on Wisconsin streams. Should be interesting, so let us hear.

Bob Brunsell of Bull Shoals, Arkansas offered the best response to my plea for help with dropper rigs, and his advice deserves passing along to Reflections readers. Bob says, "Place the loop above the tippet knot and pull tight. Make the loop long and the double thickness will keep the dropper away from the leader while the single strand the fly is tied to lets the fly swim naturally. The longer the loop and the shorter the single strand, the better for keeping it tangle-free." He included a drawing.



This just might do the trick. I'll definitely give it a work out, because effective flies can be found more quickly, using two at a time. Try combinations of dry flies and nymphs, mayflies and caddises, even nymphs and streamers.

Bob's address indicates he is smack in an angling hotbed, so I strongly suspect he knows what he's talking about. The White River is noted for truly awesome trout. Thanks for the tip, Bob.

The most frequent questions I'm asked involve flycasting difficulties and choices of lines and leaders.

Many articles and even entire books are devoted to flycasting, so this column is hardly the place to tackle such a thorny subject. Let's discuss one problem area, however, which appears to rank highest in complaints. This is the "wind knot." (That name always makes me chuckle, because the originator deftly lifted the blame from his technique and placed it in the lap of the stream gremlin.) Oh, I know crosswinds can make line and leader do weird things, but, in fact, these granny knots are due almost entirely to faulty casting.

The problem arises primarily from a weak backcast. I've watched so many anglers succumb to this bad habit of underpowering the pick-up phase, followed by a truly heroic forward cast. Energies front and back just don't match up and there is usually trouble. Try this: On the retrieve phase, take as much slack as possible out of the line by pulling back and upward with the arm. The wrist should be cocked down. When the rod handle reaches about eye level, sharply snap the wrist up (back). This loads the rod considerably and when it straightens, the energy is transferred to the line, which will zing backward at a good rate. Just before the leader straightens in back, push the rod forward with the wrist cocked up and when the arm is about two-thirds extended, snap the wrist down (forward). The line should straighten in front at about shoulder level. Lower the rod tip and let the entire cast settle to the water surface. (Too many anglers cast down to a spot. That's okay if you're trying to attract fish with, say, a hopper, but most of the time these hard hits merely scare trout.)

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Remember the wrist snaps. Power the backcast.

Now to lines. I'm told that sales of level lines are down and the big surge is in the weight-forward (WF) models. I advise anglers that if casts over 35 feet are needed, use a WF. Remember that the end 30 feet of WF and double taper (DT) lines are identical, so on short casts one line has no advantage over the other. Beyond this, since the heavy belly section of the DT extends until it tapers at the other end, more weight per unit length is added than with a WF and the rod can be overloaded more quickly. I prefer WF lines, but don't intend to get into any fistfights defending this preference.

Most people give good reports on Scientific Anglers Ultra lines.

Leaders. In days past, when more time was spent fussing than fishing, I worried over lengths, weights, stiffness and tapers until the brain was near apoplexy. While experimenting ad nauseum, I kept seeing trout being caught with a single hunk of monofilament tied between fly and line.

On one occasion, a fisherman was studying a pool and I joined him on the convenient log. After the usual pleasantries, he asked, "Why are all those knots in your leader?" and I launched into long-winded explanation of taper, turnover and physics. He was not impressed. At all. "Here's what I use," he sniffed, and produced a spool of 6-pound spinning line from his vest pocket. I felt immediately sad for this wretched degenerate as he waded in the lower end of the pool.

His second cast of the Light Cahill produced a trout. "Blind, dumb luck," I whispered and maintained my haughty attitude. . . until he caught another trout a few casts later. I cleared out.

That is one extreme. The opposite end falls on the Orvis and Ritz-type leader formulas, both of which are fine if you enjoy tying blood knots every six inches.

Maybe a middle ground was discovered several years ago when Cap Bueitner asked me to make up some stuff with the Maxima formula, which involves only two knots per leader. After testing these for a season on dries, wets, midges and streamers, we surprised each other by reporting they worked fine. Since then I have fished exclusively with Maxima system leaders and continue to like them. His customers also sang praises.

Next edition I want to devote some time to fly tying, so get the equipment ready and we'll make some flies this winter.

Until then, give us your reports of '86 catches so we can start determining the Top Rod winner(s). Maybe we can talk John and Mitch into recognizing y'all at the TU bash.

National Report

The 27th Annual Trout Unlimited meeting was held on Aug. 3-10 in Olympia, Washington. At the Annual Meeting, Red Pittack of Washington was elected President of Trout Unlimited, with Steve Lundy of Colorado as Vice-President. Pittack replaces E. Hal Davis of Indiana, who now becomes Chairman of the Board.

A number of important decisions were made at this meeting concerning operations of Trout Unlimited. Of most immediate importance to members is that the Board approved some across-the-board membership dues increases. They are as follows (with the old rates in parentheses): Regular—\$20 (\$15); Family—\$25 (\$20); Senior—\$15 (\$7.50) (renewals only); Junior—\$10 (\$7.50); Sponsor—\$40 (\$25); Business—\$50-\$1,000 (\$25); three-year—\$50 (\$40); Life—\$500 (\$300).

The Board also approved a by-laws change which allows chapters and councils to dismiss members from either the chapter, council or the entire organization for conduct detrimental to the chapter, council or entire organization. Individuals subject to dismissal will have an opportunity to appeal their dismissal.

Other Board actions included: 1) adoption of a proposal requiring chapters or councils that conduct merchandise sales on a large scale (i.e., interstate or nationwide) to split the profits from said operations with the National office; 2) approval of five new chapters and three new state councils (California, Oregon and Wyoming); and 3) adoption of new mid-term and long-term plans for action for Trout Unlimited.

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Davis Creek - Another T.U. Success Story

Davis Creek is a tributary to the Pine River in central Waushara County. The lower end of the Davis contains extensive habitat improvements which were installed many years ago. That portion of the stream is relatively narrow ranging from five to ten feet in width and eight to twelve inches in depth. It abounds with native brook trout and an occasional brown—apparently coming from the Pine.

The Davis is a cold creek. We measured the temperature at 55 degrees on a hot day. A trip up the Pine from Aniwa Road will provide an opportunity to feel the water temperature in the Pine itself, in the Humphreys which enters below the Davis, and also in Davis Creek. If it is a hot day, the differences in water temperature will be evident even without a thermometer. The Pine is colder than the Humphreys and the Davis is colder than the Pine. Combined with excellent water quality and clarity, this makes the Davis a valuable tributary.

The stream bed is predominantly sand with patches of gravel. This feature plus spring water coming from the upper Davis and its only tributary, Clayton Creek, provides the basis for a trout nursery when spawning time arrives. Springtime observations and shocking surveys confirm the value of this stream in providing spawning grounds for Pine River browns as well as for its own native brook trout. Numerous redds can still be seen in early spring along with fingerling trout. Many of these fish apparently return to restock the Pine River.

Above county highway K the Davis begins to take on a different character. The first hundred yards or so above the road are much the same as the downstream section—cut banks, nice holes, overhanging grass, and a narrow streambed. But then the resemblance ends. The upstream portion is wide (10 to 20 feet) and shallow (4 to 6 inches). There are a few holes but much of the gravel is covered with sand and the spawning sites are far apart.

Fortunately, the members of the Fox Valley Chapter have taken an interest in restoring this section of stream to conditions more favorable for trout. Project work began in 1982 when a series of work days were set up to remove deadfall and debris which was damming up the water causing erosion of the banks.

Then, in 1983, a grant was received from National Trout Unlimited via the Living Brightwaters program with funds from the Richard King Mellon foundation. This grant was earmarked specifically for the Davis project and further work began in the spring of that year. The project plan was expanded to include bank structures and rock pilings to narrow the creek, stabilize the banks and provide cover. Further cutting was necessary and the work site was extended from a point above the 1982 area to a few hundred yards above the junction with the Clayton.

Access was gained from 21st avenue and it was evident that a primitive road leading back to the creek would have to be improved along with a bridge crossing the stream. The chapter soon entered the bridge construction business to provide a crossing which would support the heavy equipment needed to move rock. The DNR hauled in sand to improve the road and the project was on its way.

By the winter of 1983-1984 the site was ready to have rocks hauled in and a nearby rock pile had been spoken for. Then the fun began. Upon return to the rock pile it was discovered that it had disappeared. The rocks are now in the bed of Highway 22—ground up into stones.



"It's a good thing this timber is so light - must be a balsawood forest". Deadfall removal was critical to reduce bank erosion. Bob Burnham shows how it's done.

With the help of Elward Engle from the DNR, another suitable pile was located near the village of Spring Lake more than 15 miles away. With a little added help from a cold snap in February, the rocks were hauled to the Davis site where they awaited placement in the stream.

In 1984, seven structures were begun by jetting posts deep into the stream bed to be covered with planking and finally with rock and sod. The rock pile, however, still sat back on the access road just a few yards from the newly-constructed bridge. The right weather would again be required in order to place them closer to the work sites for final placement in the stream.

Finally, in July, the dry summer heat produced conditions which allowed a heavy tractor and scoop to move around without getting stuck. Most of the rocks were then spotted at strategic streamside locations where they were close to the structures. With the remaining project days of 1984 and those of 1985, chapter members worked painstakingly along with Elward Engle to finish the bank structures and cover them with rocks. Larger boulders were pushed, pulled and wished into mid-stream to be used as boulder retardants. It is amazing how big a small rock can be when you have to move it somewhere. By the end of 1985, the project was almost finished. Only a few more work days would be needed to add the final touches.

On the chapter's first work day of 1986, sixteen members showed up to help finish the job and also to enjoy a feast of burgers and brats prepared by project co-chairman Roger Wege and newly-elected president, Del Schwaller. With a plank resting on a wheelbarrow to serve as a picnic table and a length of paper towel as a tablecloth, this hard-working crew enjoyed lunch, sipped beer and soda, and took note of their accomplishment.

In total, about 35 different members contributed to this project over a four-year period. The once-wide, flat and shallow section of the Davis now has a new appearance—it has dug out holes under the structures, abundant gravel can now be seen in the stream bed, and a deeper channel is obvious. This stream now invites trout where it once turned them away.

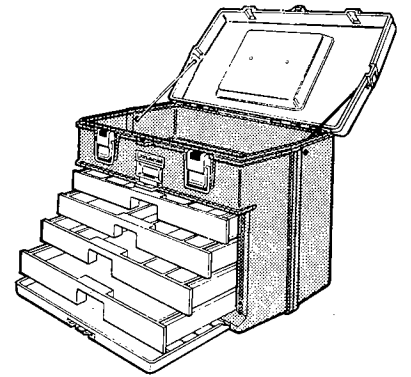
This has been an interesting project for the chapter and several members came from as far away as Fond du Lac to help. The project also provided a learning experience for those who worked on it. The presence of Elward Engle had a positive effect on this education. He frequently took the time to discuss the Davis Creek environment with chapter members and also to point out specific characteristics and many aquatic forms. A class from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville has toured the site for its educational benefit in resource management and it is likely that others will follow.

Much thanks must go to Roger Wege and Roy Mandel for co-chairing the project. The frequent beer and brats helped a little and so did "Boots," the debris-retrieving labrador from Fond du Lac. As Davis Creek supports more trout the members involved in this project can take pride in their accomplishment for years to come. Success is sweet.

AUTHOR'S NOTE: On opening weekend of this year, I had to go back to the project site for a moment to check on a piece of equipment. For the sake of experiment, I carried a spinning rod along and made a few casts. In a matter of several minutes and about half a dozen casts, I caught and released two nice brook trout and, on one particular cast, had a whole herd of them following the spinner.

We requested a shocking survey of this site prior to project work in 1983. It showed a negligible number of legal trout per mile. We intend to have the survey repeated in the spring of 1987. I know what to expect.

LEE SNYDER, FOX VALLEY CHAPTER



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