



Wisconsin Trout

April 2001

TU trying to plug gap from court's wetland ruling

By Jeff Smith with Stu Grimstad

On January 9th, the US Supreme Court ruled that the Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps) does not have permitting authority over wetlands that are not connected to navigable waters.

This means that isolated wetlands nationwide are currently unprotected. This, in turn, means that 30% of Wisconsin's wetlands (over 1,500,000 acres) can currently be filled in and developed, completely unchecked.

These types of wetlands feed groundwater and serve as habitat to a variety of wildlife.

In response, the State Senate passed SB 37, which gives Wisconsin's DNR the same authority the Corps previously had. The State Council's Legislative Committee supports this bill (known as the "status quo bill") and testified on its behalf before the Senate Environmental Resources Committee.

The bill is not doing as well in the State Assembly. Political insiders have indicated that developers are asking members of the Assembly to vote against or delay passage of the bill, thus allowing the development of previously protected wetlands.

Assembly leadership said that SB 37 will have a hearing at the end of March and will come to the floor in May. That is simply too late, and it is why Council Chair Jon Christiansen sent members a flyer urging you to write or call your state representative.

While state wetland protection is probably the most pressing and immediate environmental issue currently before the legislature, the State Senate and Assembly have been developing, debating, negotiating, passing, and not passing other legislation that is of prime interest to TU members.

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WPS plan to remove land from FERC management criticized

By Todd Hanson

A plan by Wisconsin Public Service Corporation (WPS) to ask federal energy regulators to drop land management agreements currently in place on almost 10,000 acres of company-owned land along the Peshtigo River in northern Wisconsin is drawing strong criticism.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) have both gone on record opposing the WPS proposal.

The criticisms began after WPS announced in February that it

would ask the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to remove the acreage from the management plans the company agreed to in 1997 as part of relicensing its Peshtigo hydropower dams.

Reclassifying the land covered by its FERC agreements would allow WPS to sell upwards of 90% of the land surrounding their operations on High Falls, Cauldron Falls, Johnson Falls, Sandstone, and Bagely Flowages. Only small strips of land surrounding the water would be maintained, according to WPS.

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PASSING THE TU TORCH

Newly elected State Council Chair Jon Christiansen (left) of Mequon accepts congratulations from outgoing Chair John Welter of Eau Claire at the WITU annual meeting in Oshkosh Feb. 3.

Council creates new award honoring late Jeff Carlson

By John Welter

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited honored the late Jeff Carlson, president of the Wild Rivers Chapter and a dedicated trout conservationist, at the WITU's annual meeting in Oshkosh February 3.

Carlson, 39, died at his parents' Ashland home January 4, 2001, within a week after being diagnosed with cancer.

Coaster brook trout advocate

Carlson spearheaded Wisconsin TU's coaster brook trout restoration initiative through a half-dozen years of tireless work and led citizen efforts to create the Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge near Ashland.

Whittlesey Creek, located at the western end of Chequamegon Bay, is seen as a prime spawning site for restored coaster populations in Lake Superior and its tributary streams.

Carlson worked tirelessly to protect the Whittlesey Creek area from a golf course and other development, writing letters to newspapers and lawmakers and pushing for funds to create the refuge.

In November, 1999, the refuge was dedicated. Fish and Wildlife Service staff are preparing a memorial plaque to be located at the refuge and recognizing Carlson's contribution.

In the wake of Carlson's death, the Wild Rivers Chapter had strong turnout at a January 29 reorganizational meeting, electing Bill Heart of Ashland as chapter president, as

well as a full roster of officers and board members. The chapter remains committed to coaster brook trout restoration efforts and habitat work in other areas.

Memorial award established

A Jeffrey Carlson Volunteer Award has been created by the State Council, to be awarded to a Wisconsin TU volunteer who, following Jeff's example, has worked in a leadership role on a major habitat or resource restoration project over more than one year.

A plaque recognizing Jeff's contributions will be placed at Jeff's home on the White River near Mason and dedicated the last week in June, 2001. Dates are tentative.

Funding in Jeff's name in the amount of \$2,000 was also pledged by the council to the purchase of a key piece of coaster brook trout spawning habitat at the mouth of the Gratiot River in the Kewaunee Peninsula in Upper Michigan. Other contributions are expected to be made toward habitat improvement and other work on Wisconsin streams where coasters can be restored.

Several hundred people turned out for Carlson's funeral in Ashland on January 8, including a contingent of his fellow chapter members as well as friends from state and national TU. Many of the attendees were relatively unaware of Jeff's dedicated work for trout projects of state and national significance.

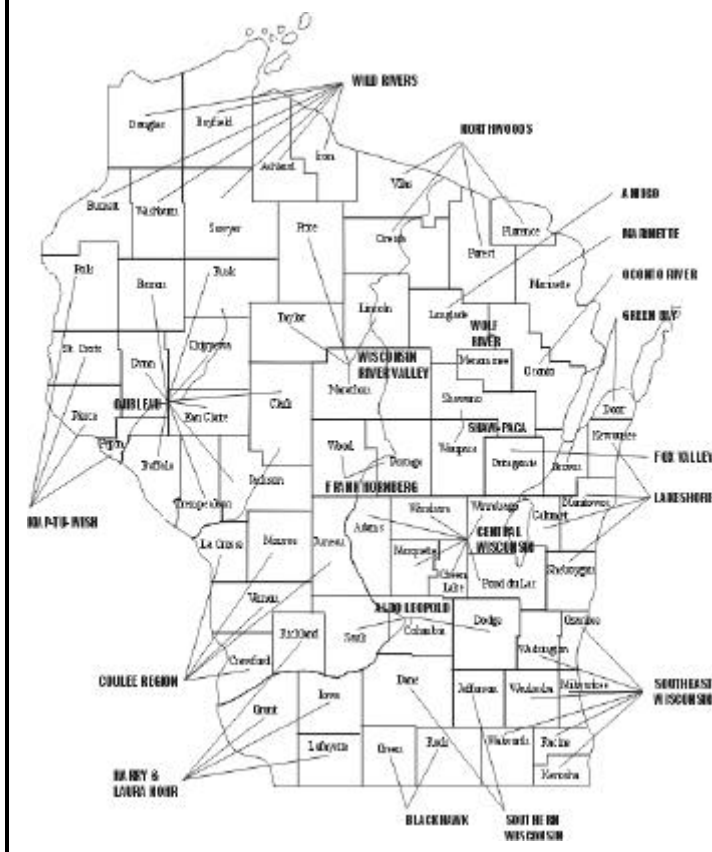
Jeff's parents, Boyd and Marie

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Wisconsin TU Chapter Territories and Presidents



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Central Wisconsin (#117): Jerry Strom, 180 Cty FF, Pickett, WI 54964 (920) 235-9150 (H), (920) 589-4182 (W)
Coulee Region (#278): Cyrus Post, 2909 James St., La Crosse, WI 54601 (608) 788-1325
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Harry & Laura Nohr (#257): Bill Wisler, 2831 Mt. Hope Rd., Dodgeville, WI 53533 (608) 623-2603; wisler@mhtc.net
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Lakeshore (#423): Doug Leppan, 2638 N. 20th St., Sheboygan, WI 53083 (920) 458-0707 (W), (920) 459-8139 (H); DLeppas312@aol.com
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Wild Rivers (#415): Bill Heart, 66625 Highland Rd., Ashland, WI 54806 (715) 682-5307 (W), 682-4703 (H), 682-3221 fax; wrtrout@cheqnet.net
Wisconsin River Valley (#395): Herbert Hintze, 629 Hamilton St., Wausau, WI 54403 (715) 842-1365
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WITU State Council Leadership

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Webmaster: Andy Lamberson, 2104 Chestnut Dr., Hudson, WI 54016; andrewlamberson@hotmail.com

New address? Contact TU National

1. **Inform TU National.** Call, write, or e-mail TU National using the contact information below. (Only TU National keeps a membership database, so do not contact your local chapter, the state council, or *Wisconsin Trout*.)
2. **Include your ID number.** Your ID number is found on mailing labels attached to *TROUT* magazine or your chapter newsletter.
3. **Note new chapter affiliation.** If you are moving to a different city and wish to be affiliated with the TU chapter in your area, note the new chapter number (see chapter numbers above).

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Contributions and letters to the editor are welcomed. Submit articles and returnable photos (color or b&w) to the editorial office:

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Change of Address Notices, including the member's eight-digit member ID number, must be sent directly to TU National at:

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 Trout Unlimited
 1500 Wilson Blvd. — Suite 310
 Arlington, VA 22209
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Change chapter leaders? Let us know

Chapter leaders must inform TU National and the State Council when a new chapter president is elected. Send your name, address, phone numbers, e-mail address, and your chapter ID number to *both*:

1. **TU National** — Wendy Reed, Trout Unlimited, 1500 Wilson Blvd., Suite 310, Arlington, VA 22209. Or e-mail wreed@tu.org.
2. **State Council** — Todd Hanson, 3130 James St., Madison, WI 53714. Or e-mail twhanson@chorus.net.

Visit Wis. TU on-line: www.lambcom.net/witu



Letters

Spring hearings have items for TU members

The Spring Rules Hearing pamphlet from the DNR and Conservation Congress contains several questions of interest to Wisconsin TU members. Anyone can attend and vote at the hearings, which are set for Monday, April 9, at 7 p.m. in locations in every county in the state (see the location list printed in this issue).

Two local questions regarding trout regulations will be addressed in the DNR rules portion of the hearing. It will be important to TU members across the state to speak up on these and other issues of interest to TU.

First, Graveyard Creek in Iron County, a target of TU's coaster brook trout restoration efforts, is proposed for a 10-year experimental catch-and-release regulation. We should urge its approval across the state, rather than passing on the question, because the regulation will protect brook trout in the creek from exploitation while we are working to re-establish the population there.

Second, the Willow River in St. Croix County is proposed for a regulation change from two categories to one, category 4. The change is proposed because the Mounds Dam, which formerly separated the two categories, has been removed and one is now appropriate, according to the DNR fish manager. The local TU chapter has not addressed the issue, but the local fish manager has proposed the changes, and the St. Croix County Conservation Alliance supports them.

Northeast Wisconsin TU leaders have been concerned about a Conservation Congress proposal to shorten the beaver season. Question 74, from the Congress' Fur Harvest Committee, asks voters whether they favor shortening it from an April 30 to a March 31 closure. The basis for the change, according to the text, is because "many trappers believe that Wisconsin beaver populations are now declining" and could be "controlled during a regular season framework" and a shorter season would be "a necessary first step towards shorting (sic) the other sea-

son and restoring other numbers."

Northeast Regional Vice-Chair Lloyd (Duke) Andrews urges TU members statewide to urge rejection of this question, because beaver populations in that area do not appear to be waning, and in many areas hundreds of beaver dams hinder trout survival. The Conservation Congress Fur Harvest Committee should take another look at the issue. The Congress Trout Committee was not consulted on the question.

The pamphlet includes a question from the Trout Committee (#63) which asks if voters "support a moratorium on granting of high-capacity well permits until a scientific study of their impacts on groundwater can be conducted and legislation adopted to protect our trout streams and the surrounding groundwater from adverse impacts of such wells." If that sounds similar to the resolution adopted by TU's State Council at its September meeting, rest assured it is no coincidence. TU members should speak out in strong support of this moratorium.

Two mining questions show the subtle hand of our own Herb Buettner and George Rock of the Wolf River Chapter. One asks voters to urge prohibition of the use of cyanide in mining processes in Wisconsin, and the other urges prohibition of perpetual pumping of contaminated groundwater at mine sites. Both deserve our support.

The Executive Council of the Congress refused to include three questions of interest. Two are very familiar to TU members: Natural Resources Board appointment of the DNR secretary and restoration of the Public Intervenor's Office. Todd Hanson, Wisconsin Trout editor, is working with Herb Buettner on draft local resolutions on both topics that will be available for people in every county to introduce at their local hearing. The Executive Council should be ashamed of itself for excluding those questions.

The third question is one adopted here in Eau Claire County and supported on a 9-to-1 margin in about 14 counties last year. It asks

for legislation allowing the purchase, sale, or barter of the non-edible parts of wild turkeys, presently forbidden in Wisconsin. Many other states allow sale of non-edible parts of game birds, and we found no "market hunting" problems reported by law enforcement officials in several states we contacted.

Wild Turkey parts can be used for tying flies and fletching arrows, and for making wing bone calls. The change would make their sale or barter legal, like squirrel tails and

deer hides. Both the Congress' Turkey Committee and the Legislative Committee urged the question appear in the statewide pamphlet, but the executive council declined. A copy of the proposed question, suitable for introduction in each county, is also available from the Wisconsin Stewardship Network at wsn@chorus.net.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

John (Duke) Welter
Eau Claire

Council's Gratiot donation appreciated

To members of the Wisconsin Council of TU,

I wish to extend to you the sincere appreciation and thanks from the Copper Country Chapter of TU for your interest and support of the Gratiot River Coaster Brook Trout Habitat Acquisition Project. It is especially fitting and appropriate that a portion of the funds are in memory of Jeff Carlson, who believed so deeply in the coaster brook trout (CBT) recovery efforts in Lake Superior.

Your donation of \$2,000 will enable CBT recovery efforts to continue in the Gratiot by ensuring that nearly 100 acres at the river mouth and 4,000 feet of adjacent shoreline will remain open for trout fishing and public use. It is my hope that

when the purchase is completed, a commemorative plaque will be placed near the mouth to acknowledge all those contributed to the project.

Good news "comes in bunches" they say. I just heard from John Hunt that a TU National 2001 EAS Grant for \$9,500 was awarded to CCCTU for continued coaster brook trout research on the Gratiot River. This money, along with your donation, and others, will keep the Gratiot River CBT project moving forward.

Raymond Weglarz, President
Copper Country Chapter TU
HC2 Box 850
Allouez, MI 49805
weglarz@up.net

Chapter supports Deerskin dam removal

Editor,

Time has come for the Northwoods Chapter of Trout Unlimited to again publicly declare that we support the removal of the Deerskin River Dam. The Northwoods Chapter has over 100 members in Vilas, Oneida, Forest, and Florence counties who remain committed to supporting the removal of the Deerskin River Dam. The chapter has allocated \$15,000 to assist the WDNR with the restoration of the dam site once the dam is removed. And we are committed to pursuing other funding sources to perform habitat restoration after the river system has stabilized when the dam is removed.

TU has been silent since the Alternative Analysis for the Deerskin Dam was issued by the WDNR on October 15, 1999, that recommended the removal of the dam. TU chose to allow the WDNR to lead the dam removal process, as we believed the resource recommendation was sound and in the best interest of the general public.

Critics have argued that only mudflats will be present when the dam is removed and that the flora and fauna are unique. Yes, mudflats will be present until the native vegetation can establish itself, but the flora and fauna are not unique, as it

is the same as thousands of other acres of wetlands in Vilas County.

What is unique is that the dam removal will restore an estimated 2.1 miles of the Deerskin River in the area of the flowage and downstream approximately 3.5 miles to Scattering Rice Lake into a coldwater fishery.

Vilas County has approximately 46 miles of Class 1, 47 miles of Class 2, and 16 miles of Class 3 trout streams (total of 109 miles). The removal of the Deerskin Dam will create an additional 5.6 miles of coldwater fishery in Vilas County. Coldwater streams cannot be created, and the opportunity to restore a coldwater fishery is a rarity.

With any controversial issue there will always be pros and cons. The cost to construct a new dam is estimated at approximately \$400,000. This cost does not include the annual operation and maintenance costs the owner of the dam will have once it is built. A tremendous amount of information is available on dam removals from TU's website www.tu.org. We ask that you review the information that is available on dam removals and how successful they are in restoring river

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Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Membership Summary

Chapter	Number	Counties/Areas	Membership						
			1/92	1/94	1/96	1/98	1/00	1/01	
Wolf River	50	Bordering Wolf River Trout Water	48	79	74	59	47	43	
Southern Wisconsin	61	Dane & Jefferson	348	408	508	526	588	588	
Southeastern Wisconsin	78	Washington, Ozaukee, Waukesha, Milwaukee, Walworth, Racine & Kenosha	246	302	357	419	542	543	
Green Bay	83	Brown & Door	172	172	178	145	206	201	
Central Wisconsin	117	Adams, Waushara, Marquette, Green Lake, Fond du Lac & Winnebago	169	190	174	174	200	214	
Kiap-TU-Wish	168	Polk, St Croix, Pierce & Pepin	126	128	153	177	201	196	
Fox Valley	193	Outagamie	200	191	191	208	200	227	
Ojiblaeu	255	Buffalo, Eau Claire, Clark, Jackson, Trempealeau, Chippewa, Dunn, Barron & Rusk	104	111	121	134	179	165	
Northwoods	256	Forest, Florence, Oneida & Vilas	48	59	73	104	91	90	
Harry & Laura Nohr	257	Grant, Iowa, Lafayette & Richland	41	35	27	73	95	105	
Coulee Region	278	La Crosse, Monroe, Juneau & Crawford	51	44	64	114	114	134	
Antigo	313	Langlade	27	44	42	31	31	36	
Aldo Leopold	375	Columbia, Dodge & Sauk	47	41	38	58	58	70	
Shaw-Paca	381	Shawano & Waupaca	66	57	63	59	69	65	
Oconto River	385	Oconto River Watershed	64	69	92	103	80	90	
Blackhawk	390	Green & Rock	93	83	91	112	130	141	
Wisconsin River Valley	395	Lincoln, Marathon, Price, & Taylor	83	59	83	103	119	143	
Wild Rivers	415	Douglas, Bayfield, Ashland, Iron, Burnett, Washburn & Sawyer	35	43	45	81	102	105	
Marinette County	422	Marinette	61	61	71	71	61	63	
Lakeshore	423	Manitowoc, Kewaunee, Sheboygan & Calumet	77	77	91	130	117	98	
Frank Hornberg	624	Portage & Wood	27	53	82	112	133	135	
TOTAL			2,133	2,307	2,618	2,993	3,363	3,452	

Come for the trout fishing, then stay for the resource

By Jon Christiansen

WITU Chair

Like many TU members, I joined TU first as a fishing club and second as an environmental organization. The reason was pretty simple — I like hanging around guys and gals who fish for trout. And I like the endless stories of past triumphs and failures, tips on new and old rivers, and advice on the newest knot or the hottest fly.

But, unlike most gatherings of people, the meetings of trout fishers are egalitarian, democratic affairs. The sweetest caster, the wildest predator, and the best fly tier can be anybody, young or old, rich or poor. It is amazing that a creature with a brain the size of a pea can do more to create bonds across social divides than any law or government policy.

My years of involvement in TU have convinced me even more that a big part of membership in TU is still the pursuit of the fishing that we enjoy so much. That is why when our esteemed editor asked for a picture, I chose a fishing picture. My guess is that my smile doesn't get any bigger than after a hook-up with a Bighorn Rainbow.

Though many of us joined a fishing club, we soon discovered the overwhelming importance of TU's coldwater mission. We discovered the endless hours of grass roots efforts by local chapters in improving streams and creating habitat. We discovered the need for political and legislative action when the resource is threatened. We discovered the overwhelming complexity of competing interest groups that affect the future of our precious streams.

I saw, in particular, a large number of TU members whose efforts and contributions were enormous.

These men and women devoted countless hours of selfless work for just one purpose — to make sure that our streams run clean and cold, for now, for the rest of this century, and beyond.

That is why I would like to start my term as your State Council Chair by thanking and acknowledging the efforts of the outgoing Chair, John "Duke" Welter. Despite the pressures of a full-time law practice, Duke devoted countless hours and countless miles to TU work. He superbly sorted out a major financial mess and leaves the Council in better shape than ever before. Duke is not leaving, however, because he has agreed to continue with TU as our regional representative to TU national. Apparently, having run at high RPMs, it is hard to slow down.

In addition, the readers of *WisTrout* also owe a great big thank you to our editor, Todd Hanson. The maker of delightful homebrew (I personally can attest to "Big Brookie" beer), Todd has worked tirelessly to make *WisTrout* an effective and entertaining publication advancing TU's mission.

Of course, there are countless other energetic TU officers and members who have and will contribute greatly to our cause. I look forward to working with all of you.

So what do I see in TU's crystal ball for the coming year? First, as you will read elsewhere in this edition of *WisTrout*, TU will push for legislative action on "wetlands legislation" necessitated by a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision stripping the Corps of Engineers of jurisdiction over isolated wetlands.

As of this writing, legislation plugging the gap with DNR authorization has passed the State Senate, but the bill is stalled in the Assem-



Jon Christiansen

bly. Since wetlands are the source of all of our state's trout streams, this legislation is crucial to TU.

Second, TU has received a substantial cash grant from the Mott Foundation, and the Wisconsin State Council will be a key player in efforts to develop chapter leadership in the context of a natural resources initiative. Our initial effort will be spearheaded by a steering committee, whose actions will begin shortly.

Third, the council will continue its involvement with other conservation organizations in the area of nonpoint pollution initiatives. We all know the challenges presented by current agricultural practices and the difficulties of harmonizing our goal of clean water with the economic challenges facing our state's farmers.

Finally, the Council will carry on

its extensive list of existing activities in the areas of water resources, education, chapter development, and legislation. In short, our plate is full with challenges and opportunities. I hope you will become committed and involved.

I also hope to hear from you when you think that the State Council is not doing the job (as well as when we are). The contact numbers for each Council member are listed in *WisTrout*. We value your thoughts, gripes, compliments, and offers to volunteer. But whatever your mindset, get involved and help us make the organization better and stronger. Then, the next time you are on the stream you'll have the satisfaction of knowing that you made our waters better for the future. If that time you happen to fool the 20 inch brown, all the better.

Heart, Gusick new leaders of Wild Rivers and Green Bay

Two Wisconsin TU chapter leadership changes have occurred over the past few months.

Bill Heart of Ashland is the new president of the Wild Rivers Chapter, succeeding Jeffrey Carlson.

Dennis Gusick of De Pere has been elected the new president of

the Green Bay Chapter, succeeding Pete Harris.

Contact information for these new TU leaders is shown on p. 2 of this issue.

Chapters are reminded to contact WITU with the results of your local leadership elections.

Trout Watch logo hats available

TU Vice Chair Jim Hlaban reminds Wisconsin TU members that "Trout Watch" hats are still available.

These hats were introduced by WITU last year as part of an effort to support early trout season regulation compliance. Hats have a TU

logo on the back and the words "Trout Watch" in big letters on the front, as well as small print saying "We will turn in violators."

Hats can be obtained by calling Bill Heart at Heartgraphics at (715) 682-5307 or e-mailing him at ww-heart@win.bright.net



Letters

DEERSKIN: chapter supports removal

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systems.

Base your opinions on the WDNR recommendations for the resource and the unique opportunity we have to create something special for all citizens and future generations. Visit the Northwoods Chapter

website at www.northwoodstu.org to download correspondence you can send to the Vilas County Board supporting the removal of the Deerskin River Dam.

Officers and Board of Directors
Northwoods Chapter of TU

Correction offered to wild trout story item

Editor,

Congratulations to you and all the expert contributors for putting out an exceptionally educational, environmentally focused edition (January 2001) of *Wisconsin Trout*.

Thank you too for the article about my professional award received at the Wild Trout VII symposium.

When space is available in a future issue, I would appreciate publication of a brief correction, however, just to set the record straight regarding my comments about a policy to "manage first for

wild trout."

The last bulleted item in the January article is not correct. It stated, "stocking non-wild trout when necessary." That was not the thought I shared at the symposium, so here's a correct version:

"Where supplemental stocking is necessary to augment natural reproduction, stock wild trout raised briefly in a hatchery, or transfer wild trout from another stream."

Bob Hunt
Waupaca



Check out the stream
conditions on our web site:
HTTP://go.to/rocknk
(608) 452-3678

ROCKIN' K FARMS
"Quality lodging in secluded
Spring Coulee"
And the New
Rockin' K Fly Shop

P.O. Box 6
Coon Valley, WI
54623
Paul Kogut, Prop.



JEFF CARLSON AND ROSEBUD

The hunting and fishing trips of longtime Wild Rivers Chapter President Jeff Carlson often included his dog, Rosebud.

CARLSON: council honors

Continued from p. 1

Carlson of Ashland, have offered to open Jeff's home near Mason to TU members who travel to the area for fishing.

The State Council suggests TU-

ers who stay there contact Mr. and Mrs. Carlson at (715) 682-3573 to make advance arrangements, treat the place better than your own, and make a contribution to its continued upkeep.

Jeffrey Carlson memorial resolution

WHEREAS, the mission of Trout Unlimited is to "preserve, protect, and restore" our state's trout resources and habitat; and,

WHEREAS, the strength of Trout Unlimited in carrying out its mission is found in the commitment and will of its volunteer members; and,

WHEREAS, Jeffrey Carlson, President of the Wild Rivers Chapter of Trout Unlimited, has shown exemplary commitment in his devotion to trout and the places they live, and can in the future live, in the area of the South Shore tributary streams on the South Shore of Lake Superior, including the Brule, Iron, Cranberry and his beloved White River, on whose banks he lived, and also including Whittlesey Creek, where he worked tirelessly for the creation of the Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge, established in November, 2000; and,

WHEREAS, Jeff's dedication to preserving trout and protecting their habitat led him to spend many hours of his life writing letters and articles and speaking on their behalf at hearings and meetings, as well as working with stream improvement projects on many area waters; and,

WHEREAS, Jeff showed further dedication to trout resources during the fall grouse season, when he and his partner Rosebud would explore the Northwoods tirelessly searching for degraded trout habitat which might be fruitful areas for future stream improvement projects; and,

WHEREAS, Jeff worked tirelessly for almost a decade for the restoration of Coaster Brook Trout, which he called "those magnificent fish," to Lake Superior and its tributary streams, playing a key role in an ongoing effort of national and international scope toward a goal of restoring one of this region's few original native trout resources; and,

WHEREAS, Jeff was honored by this organization in 1999 as the recipient of the Lee and Joan Wulff Award for Outstanding Conservation Leadership; and,

WHEREAS, on January 4, 2001, at the age of 39, Jeff's life was tragically cut short by cancer; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the State Council of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited, at its annual meeting held at Oshkosh, Wisconsin, this 3rd day of February, 2001, honor Jeffrey Carlson for a life's productive work dedicated to the trout resources of our state, and reaffirm our commitment to the principles he worked to carry out.

The State Council adopts this resolution in memory of Jeffrey Carlson and directs that copies of said resolution be provided to his family, with our deepest sympathies, and to the Wild Rivers Chapter of Trout Unlimited, with the intent that the commitment shown by Jeff Carlson to trout and Wisconsin's natural resources shall be appropriately memorialized.

When four-pound coasters are caught, think of Jeff Carlson

By Joe Knight

There was a subdued tone in John Welter's voice when I called him in early January, which was unusual. Usually he is upbeat, no matter how hopeless the cause. He said Wild Rivers TU Chapter President and friend Jeff Carlson had died from cancer to the pancreas and liver. He was 39.

Jeff was part trout bum, part activist. He had shoulder-length hair and could usually be found in the company of his hunting and traveling companion, Rosebud, a German wire-haired pointer.

Time for other things

He lived a little south of Ashland in a house on the edge of the White River near where it emerges from the Bibon Swamp. The house was a fixer-upper, but that was OK, because he was a carpenter, so he had skills to fix things up. He just didn't have the time.

At his funeral, family members noted that bird hunting, fishing — especially fly fishing for trout — and making honey and maple syrup tended to interfere with gainful employment or home improvements.

"He didn't spend much time worrying about things, and he wasn't trying to amass any bunch of junk," wrote his brother Jon. "He was a content person — content doing the stuff he did with the stuff he had. I never saw him in much of a hurry except when we were headed out fishing."

But he wasn't your average trout bum. He did worry about things more than family members realized, but they weren't the usual material and status things that most of us worry about.

Northwoods trout activist

He worried about spawning habitat on the Brule, or the impacts of a dam's operation on the Iron River, or wildlife and fish habitat on Chequamegon Bay.

He opposed a plan to build a golf course on some rather damp land bordering Whittlesey Creek, a small, much-abused stream that flows into Chequamegon Bay west of Ashland. A letter he wrote appeared in the Ashland paper under the heading "Trout versus Golf."

The golf course was not built. Instead, in November of 1999 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service dedicated the Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge, the country's 522nd wildlife refuge.

When completed, the refuge will have about 540 acres of wetlands on the border of Chequamegon Bay — not big as national refuges go, but strategically located to provide habitat for birds migrating along the edge of Lake Superior. Bird watching classes from Northland College have documented quite a range of species there, and it will only get better as more habitat is restored.

Coaster brook trout passion

But Jeff was most interested in the creek itself. Whittlesey Creek is small, so small that most motorists probably don't notice it as they cruise by on their way to Washburn or Bayfield.

But the creek has strong spring flow. One third of the Coho salmon that spawn on the Wisconsin coast of Lake Superior spawn in Whittlesey Creek.

However, Jeff and a number of trout activists and biologists thought the creek and other tribu-

taries on the Wisconsin side of Lake Superior might be restored as a spawning area for giant brook trout. The Fish and Wildlife Service, the Canadians, Chippewa Indians, Minnesota, Michigan, and Trout Unlimited have all been bullish about bringing back coasters.

But the Wisconsin DNR has been slow to jump on the coaster band wagon. State fish managers do not consider coaster brook trout to be a genetically distinct strain from the little brookies in the headwater creeks, and they believe the creeks and rivers on the Wisconsin side of Lake Superior have changed too much since the 1800s to support coasters.

The Whittlesey Creek refuge was officially dedicated on a mild November day two years ago. A number of officials gave upbeat speeches, although behind the scenes Jeff and Duke tried to lobby DNR officials about the error of their ways regarding coasters.

When the ceremony was over, Jeff took us grouse hunting with Rosebud in a patch of woods near the White River.

Whittlesey plan adopted

In late 2000 the Wisconsin DNR came out with a management plan for brook trout in Lake Superior. It proposed several studies with stocking and greater size limits on targeted streams to establish bigger brook trout.

Included among the recommendations with "partial support" was a test of restoration techniques in Whittlesey Creek, including implementing protective regulations and stocking brook trout eggs or fry.

The recommendations may not have gone as far as Jeff and other coaster zealots would have liked, but it's a step in the right direction.

The Monday of Jeff's funeral was overcast, and it was snowing gently as we drove north. Hoarfrost coated the trees on Jeff's old stomping ground in the Chequamegon Forest and Bibon swamp.

Rosebud was among the family members assembled at the small church in Ashland where services were held.

I didn't attend with the idea of writing a column on Jeff. There were others who knew him much better than me, and he wasn't well known in western Wisconsin except among some trout radicals.

But as I listened to the testimonials about Jeff from friends and family, I decided to write something, not because he was well known, but because he was just a regular guy who knew how to pound nails and cast a fly. He had no training in public speaking or letter writing, and he didn't like to draw attention to himself, but he became a leader on conservation issues.

I thought of the times in my own life when the city council or county board was considering something that interested me, but I decided it had been a long day and I didn't have the energy to attend a meeting or even make a phone call.

If the day ever comes when I catch a wild, four-pound brook trout in Chequamegon Bay, I'll think fondly of Jeff.

(Joe Knight is outdoor editor for the Leader-Telegram newspaper in Eau Claire, where a version of this story originally appeared. —Ed.)

Written nonpoint rule comments due April 6

Public hearings on proposed changes to Wisconsin's nonpoint pollution rules were held across the state in March, but people still have until April 6 to send in written comments on these rules.

There are many provisions in the new rules that will help coldwater resources in the state (*see highlights at left*).

Rules affected

The public is being asked to comment on the provisions to eight sets of revised rules, including:

NR 120 — Priority Watershed and Priority Lake Program;

NR 151 — Runoff Management including the performance standards and prohibitions, implementation, and enforcement, plus the technical standards development process for non-agricultural performance standards;

NR 152 — Model Ordinances for Construction Site Erosion Control and Storm Water Management;

NR 153 — Runoff Management

Grant Program (the Targeted Runoff Management Grant program);

NR 154 — Best Management Practices, Technical Standards, and Cost-Share Conditions;

NR 155 — Urban Nonpoint Source Water Pollution Abatement and Storm Water Management Grant Program (previously included in NR 153);

NR 216 — Storm Water Discharge Permits (revisions only); and

NR 243 — Animal Feeding Operations.

The above documents are available on the DNR's web site at www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/wm/nps/admrules.html.

E-mail comments will *not* be accepted, but written comments carry as much weight as those made while attending a hearing in person.

Mail comments to:

Carol Holden
WT/2
PO Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707

Nonpoint items of interest to TU

The River Alliance of Wisconsin has identified the following parts of the new rules package that Trout Unlimited members can support or oppose in their written comments to the WDNR.

Rural Standards

Support buffers of vegetation along all navigable waterways in the state. Urge them to adopt the standard of 20 to 35 feet proposed in the rules along with a requirement for additional conservation farming practices for at least 30 feet beyond the buffer. Conservation buffers are strips or small areas of land in permanent vegetation that help control pollutants and provide other environmental benefits along waterways.

Support standards that restrict livestock access to rivers, lakes and wetlands. Several commonsense standards that were adopted years ago but never implemented must be applied statewide. They include:

- Limit livestock in streams only to managed access points to protect healthy fish populations,
- Prohibit unconfined manure piles,
- Prohibit overflow of manure storage facilities, and
- Ban the direct runoff of water from a feedlot or stored manure area into waters of the state.

Oppose delays in implementing nutrient management plans. Support a requirement, contained in the original rules, that all cropland must have nutrient management plans when the rules go into effect. The draft rules call for phasing in this requirement over the next seven years. What we need is rapid implementation of strict runoff rules in those watersheds where degradation is most severe. We need to do that now, not seven years from now. Nutrient management plans are very cost effective and, as with all other agricultural requirements, can only be required when state cost share of at least 70% is available.

Urban Standards

Support infiltration standards for stormwater runoff. These new rules will require developers to design their projects so that stormwater stays on-site instead of rushing into nearby waterways.

Support buffers of vegetation of anywhere from 50 to 100 feet for all new developments

Transportation Standards

Support buffers of vegetation of anywhere from 50 to 100 feet for all new transportation construction projects.

Oppose efforts by the Department of Transportation to gain exemptions from these standards. The DNR is the state agency responsible for water quality standards. All other agencies should have to abide by standards enforced by the DNR.

Implementation/Enforcement

Support additional funding from the State Legislature to quickly implement these new rules when approved. Polluted runoff is costing the state billions in water quality degradation. We need to act now to clean up our mess!

Streamline the process to target impaired waters. The proposed statewide standards are unlikely to enable already polluted waterways to meet water quality standards. Because of this, county agencies and the DNR should be able to target these waterways for additional protections with a simple designation process.



OUTLINING A NEW VISION

Laura Hewitt explains TU's "New Directions in Coldwater Conservation" program to State Council members in Oshkosh Feb. 3. Wisconsin and Michigan are test areas for the program in the Great Lakes region.

TU conservation and capacity-building campaign launched

By Laura Hewitt

Upper Midwest Conservation Director

Do you want to make a lasting impact on coldwater conservation? Would you like to play a significant role in shaping the way Trout Unlimited operates in the future? Do you feel your chapter would benefit from improving its capacity to take on conservation campaigns while building a stronger organization?

If so, we would like to invite you to join us in an unprecedented opportunity to focus resources and build a stronger TU.

"New Directions in Coldwater Conservation" is a major new TU initiative funded through a generous grant from the C.S. Mott Foundation. The goals of the initiative are to:

- Bring the full strength of TU (volunteers and staff) to bear on key coldwater conservation issues,
- Increase the organizational capacity of TU to meet future conservation challenges, and
- Establish models for achieving similar conservation and organizational development successes in other regions.

From its inception in 1959, chapter volunteers have been the backbone of TU's effectiveness as a conservation organization.

In 1992, a new strategic plan for the national organization called for increasing membership and building the strength of the staff.

Since 1991 membership has grown from 55,000 to an impressive 125,000 today. Likewise, there has been a significant increase in the number of professional staff from 2 in 1991 to more than 30 today.

TU's current (1999-2003) strategic plan places major emphasis of

organizational development for councils and chapters. The Mott grant will help take TU "to the next level" by strategically combining the forces of volunteers and national staff.

Wisconsin a focus

Efforts over the next two years will be focused in Wisconsin and Michigan in the Great Lakes region, and North Carolina and Tennessee in the Southeast.

States were chosen based on organizational readiness and national conservation agenda opportunities that also coincided with funder program priorities.

Staff will provide personal attention and technical assistance to the involved councils. Staff and volunteers will jointly set priorities and develop strategic plans for tackling a specific conservation issue while building organizational capacity.

However, the most effective materials, trainings, and processes developed will be applied in other parts of these regions. All councils and chapters in these two regions will be eligible for a pilot mini-grant program (\$20,000 available per region) for training and organizational development.

State councils will be the main points of contact for this effort. State council chairs have been asked to select a planning committee for their state.

The committees will help select a conservation campaign issue, identify specific organizational development needs, and develop and implement strategic plans for meeting these objectives.

In the Great Lakes, small dam removal, native species restoration, and hydropower relicensing were identified.

Changes in store for this April's Conservation Congress meetings

Those attending this year's Spring Fish and Wildlife Rules Hearings Monday, April 9, will notice some procedural changes made in response to citizen concerns.

The changes will place local business — that which is deemed of greater importance to most participants — early in each local meeting's agenda.

Attendees will also notice fewer questions on the ballot than in recent years during the Conservation Congress portion of the meetings.

In response this reduction in the number of questions on the ballot, TU members Herb Buettner and George Rock have drafted several resolutions of interest to TU members for people to introduce locally from the floor. They hope to mail these resolutions to people in every county in the state.

The resolutions are also available at the web site of the Wisconsin Stewardship Network at www.wsn.org.

Meeting format

The first item of business at each

local meeting will be the election of county delegates to the Wisconsin Conservation Congress.

Second will be the DNR's proposed fish and wildlife rule changes. Only those rule proposals identified as statewide in nature will be voted upon in all counties.

Local rule changes will be presented only in affected counties, unless someone in the audience requests a vote on a local rule change.

This system is expected to speed up the hearings, while still allowing people to vote on issues affecting a favorite lake or wildlife area in another part of the state.

Last year, many hearing sites were overwhelmed as a record 30,000-plus citizens attended the meetings.

DNR officials have instructed hearing examiners to make every attempt to assure there is adequate space for the meeting in their county, and numerous meeting locations have been switched to larger venues.

DNR meeting portion

The Spring Hearings are really two meetings in one. The meetings are conducted jointly by the DNR and the Wisconsin Conservation Congress, a legislatively established citizen body created in 1934 to advise the DNR on fish and wildlife management issues and policy.

The DNR's portion of the hearing has a selection of questions regarding proposed rule changes affecting the management of fish and wildlife in Wisconsin. These questions are be grouped into two categories — those of statewide significance and those with mainly local impact.

Citizens may testify for the record on any of the proposals. The portion of the hearing concerning DNR rule proposals will be conducted by an authorized DNR hearing examiner, usually a warden.

Congress meeting items

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress portion of each meeting will conduct election of county delegates to the congress and present a

series of resolutions created by congress committees for a vote.

Results of the votes are presented to the DNR in the form of advisories indicating the support resolutions have among attendees.

Many times successful resolution appear as a proposed rule in the DNR portion of the meeting a year or two later, though this has not been the case recently with such heavily supported advisory questions as DNR secretary independence and the restoration of the Public Intervenor's office.

Partial DNR proposal listing

A complete listing of the proposed rules, advisory questions, and resolutions can be found in the Fish and Wildlife Spring Hearings questionnaire and on the DNR web site. Some of the questions include:

- Banning use of artificial lights to "shine" for sturgeon during the open sturgeon spearing season,
- Increasing the size limit and decreasing the bag limit for walleye, sauger, and hybrids in the lower Wisconsin River,
- Eliminating the requirement of having to transport deer and bear in an exposed manner prior to registration, and
- Elimination of group bagging for bucks.

Congress questions

Congress advisory questions include:

- A proposed amendment to the state constitution guaranteeing citizens the right to hunt, fish, trap, and take game subject only to reasonable restrictions,
- A moratorium on granting of high-capacity well permits,
- Development of legislation that would include wetlands and woodlands in the "Farmland Use Value Assessment" law,
- Should the State of Wisconsin acquire all the acreage of the Badger Ammunition Plant for keeping in perpetual trust for the citizens of Wisconsin, and
- Should the use of cyanide be prohibited in metallic mining in Wisconsin.

Hearing Locations

Adams: Adams Co. Courthouse, County Board Room, 402 Main St., Friendship
Ashland: Ashland High School, 1900 Beaver Ave., Ashland
Barron: Barron County Courthouse Auditorium, 303 E. LaSalle, Barron
Bayfield: Bayfield Co. Courthouse Board Room, 117 E. 5th St., Washburn
Brown: Southwest High School Auditorium, 1331 Packerland Dr., Green Bay
Buffalo: Alma Area High School Auditorium, 51618 5TH St., Alton
Burnett: Burnett County Government Center, 7410 Co. Rd. K, Siren
Calumet: Calumet County Courthouse, Room 025, 208 Court St., Hilton
Chippewa: Chippewa Falls Middle School, Auditorium A, 750 Tropicana Blvd., Chippewa Falls
Clark: Greenwood Elementary School Cafeteria, 702 E. Division, Greenwood
Columbia: Turner Jr. High, 2505 New Pinery Rd., Portage
Crawford: Crawford County Courthouse, Circuit Courtroom, Prairie du Rocher
Dane: Alliant Energy Center, Madison
Dodge: Horicon Senior High School, 841 Gray St., Horicon
Door: Door County Courthouse, Room A150, 421 Nebraska, Sturgeon Bay
Douglas: Superior High School, 2600 Catlin Ave., Superior
Dunn: Dunn County Fish/Game Club, 1900 Pine Ave., Menomonie
Eau Claire: South Middle School Auditorium, 2115 Mitscher Ave., Eau Claire
Florence: DNR Natural Resources Center, Lower Large Conference Room, Hwys. 2 & 101, Florence
Fond du Lac: Theisen Jr. High School Auditorium, 525 E. Pioneer Rd., Fond du Lac
Forest: Grandon Elementary School, 9750 U.S. Hwy. 8, Crandon
Grant: Grant County Fairgrounds Youth & Ag Center, 806 E. Elm St., Lancaster
Green: Monroe Jr. High School Auditorium, 1510 N. 13th St., Monroe
Green Lake: Green Lake High School Small Gymnasium, 612 Mill St., Green Lake
Iowa: Dodgeville Elementary School Gymnasium, 912 W. Chapel, Dodgeville
Iron: Mercer Community Center, 2848 Margaret St., Mercer
Jackson: Black River Falls Middle School, 1202 Pierce St., Black River Falls
Jefferson: Jefferson County Fairgrounds Activity Center, 502 N. Jackson, Jefferson
Juneau: Juneau County Courthouse, Courtroom, 220 E. State St., Mauston
Kenosha: Bristol Grade School Gymnasium, 20121 83rd St., Bristol
Kewaunee: Kewaunee County Courthouse, Board Room, 620 Juneau St., Kewaunee
La Crosse: Onalaska High School Auditorium, 700 Hilltop Pl., Onalaska
Lafayette: Darlington Community High School Cafeteria, 11838 Center Hill Rd., Darlington
Langlade: Multi-Purpose Building, Clover Room, 1581 Neva Rd., Antigo
Lincoln: Tomahawk School Complex, 1048 E. King Rd., Tomahawk
Manitowoc: UW Center-Manitowoc, 705 Viebahn St., Manitowoc
Marathon: Edgar High School Auditorium, 203 Birch St., Edgar
Marquette: Wausaukee County Cafeteria, N11941 Hwy. 141, Wausaukee
Marquette: Montello High School, 222 Forest Ln., Montello
Menominee: Menominee County Courthouse, Basement Meeting Room, Keshena
Milwaukee: Wauwatosa West High School, 11400 W. Center St., Wauwatosa
Monroe: Sparta High School Auditorium, 506 N. Black River St., Sparta
Oconto: Suring High School Cafeteria, 411 E. Algoma, Suring
Oshkosh: Rhinelander High School, Auditorium, 665 Coolidge Ave., Rhinelander
Outagamie: Riverview Middle School, 101 Oak St., Kaukauna
Ozaukee: Circle B Recreation Center, 6261 Hwy. 60, Cedarburg
Pepin: Pepin County Government Center, County Board Room, 740 7th Ave. W., Durand
Pierce: Ellsworth Senior High School Auditorium, 323 Hillcrest, Ellsworth
Polk: Polk Co. Government Center, 100 Polk County Plaza, Beaver Lake
Portage: Ben Franklin Junior High School Auditorium, 2000 Polk St., Stevens Point
Price: Price County Courthouse, County Board Room, 126 Cherry St., Phillips
Racine: Union Grove High School, 3433 S. Colony Ave., Union Grove
Richland: Richland County Courthouse, Circuit Court Room, Richland Center
Rock: Moose Lodge, 2701 Rockport Rd., Janesville
Rusk: Ladysmith High School Auditorium, Ladysmith
St. Croix: WI Indianhead Technical College, Cashman Auditorium, 1019 S Knowles Ave., New Richmond
Sauk: Al Ringling Theater, 136 4th Ave., Baraboo
Sawyer: Hayward High School Auditorium, 1633 East St., Hayward
Shawano: Shawano Middle School, 1050 S. Union St., Room LGL, Shawano
Sheboygan: Sheboygan Falls High School Auditorium, 220 Amherst Ave., Sheboygan Falls
Taylor: Taylor County Fairgrounds, Multipurpose Bldg., Medford
Trempealeau: Whitehall City Center Auditorium, 36245 Park St., Whitehall
Vernon: Virgona Middle School, Large Lecture Room, Blackhawk Drive, Virgona
Vilas: Plum Lake Community Building, Golf Course Rd., Sayner
Walworth: Delevan Darien High School Auditorium, 50 Cummings St., Delevan
Washington: Washington County Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall, 3000 Hwy. P.V., West Bend
Waukesha: Waukesha County Expo Center, 1000 Northview Rd., Waukesha
Waupaca: Waupaca High School Auditorium, E23rd & King Rd., King
Waushara: Waushara High School, Performing Arts Center, 514 S. Cambridge, Waushara
Winnebago: Oshkosh North High School Auditorium, 1100 W. Smith, Oshkosh
Wood: Pittsville High School Gymnasium, 5407 1st Ave., Pittsville

Written comment submission procedure

Written comments on any of the DNR-proposed rule changes will be accepted if postmarked by April 10, 2001.

Written comment on fisheries rule changes should be addressed to Tim Simonson, Bureau of Fisheries Management and Habitat Protection, PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707.

Comments on wildlife rule changes should be addressed to Pat Beringer, Bureau of Wildlife Management, PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707.

Written comments are not counted as votes but are presented to the Natural Resources Board along with vote totals from those attending the meetings.

Mercury reduction, Arrowhead-Weston line also added

WSN adopts groundwater as new state issue

The Wisconsin Stewardship Network (WSN) went into its sixth annual meeting and conference Jan. 26-27 in Stevens Point with five statewide priority issues, but it left with eight.

The WSN's Steering Committee voted to adopt groundwater protection, mercury legislation, and opposition to the Arrowhead-Weston power transmission line as new state issues.

These issues join the existing WSN priority issues, which include:

- returning the WDNR to an independent, board-controlled agency,
- restoring the office of the Public Intervenor,
- opposing unsafe sulfide mining,
- protecting and enhancing the state's shorelands/wetlands, and
- regulating the growth and operation of factory farms.

Groundwater panel discussion

Friday night's WSN conference program featured a panel discussion on groundwater protection issues featuring some of the Midwest's leading groundwater experts.

A water taste test was also con-

ducted Friday night pitting Madison municipal water against Perrier Ice Mountain spring water.

The Madison water — run through an activated charcoal filter to remove traces of chlorine — beat Perrier in the taste test, and the results were reported on in a story on Wisconsin Public Radio.

Meyer appearance

The event's keynote speaker on Saturday was WDNR Secretary George Meyer, in what turned out to be one of Meyer's last public appearances before being replaced as DNR secretary.

Meyer spoke about upcoming conservation and environmental challenges for the next century, and included reducing mercury emissions as one of the top priorities for Wisconsin and other states.

Meyer also reiterated his support for returning both the DNR Board's authority to appoint the DNR secretary's position and for reinstating the office of the Public Intervenor.

Concluding remarks were given by Wisconsin Secretary of State Doug La Follette, who noted how the challenges facing the nation's

environmental movement are as great as he has seen since the 1960s.

Further information about the WSN can be obtained by visiting the network's web site at www.wsn.org.

Zimmermann new WSN groundwater protection chair

Carl Zimmermann, co-chair of Waterkeepers of Wisconsin (WOW), has been appointed issue chair for the Wisconsin Stewardship Network's new groundwater priority issue.

As issue chair, Zimmermann will be networking with groups and individuals who are or would like to work on groundwater protection activities in Wisconsin.

Zimmermann will also collect and prioritize activities on behalf of groundwater protection. This issue plan and budget will be presented to the WSN Steering Committee for approval April 6.

TU members with ideas for groundwater protection activities are encouraged to contact the WSN at (608) 268-1218.

Council honors nine for outstanding efforts

By Todd Hanson

Nine awards for outstanding contributions to Wisconsin's coldwater resources were presented as part of the State Council's banquet program Feb. 3 in Oshkosh.

Awards Chair Larry Meicher served as master of ceremonies for the award presentations.

The following is adapted from Meicher's introductions of the award winners at the banquet.

Terry Kohler — Resource Award of Merit

Terry Kohler is a member of the Lakeshore Chapter who recently played a key role in protecting the headwaters of the Onion River in Sheboygan County.

The Onion River is a small, spring-fed stream that the Lakeshore Chapter has been working on for years.

In 1999, the majority of the springs that feed the Onion's headwaters came up for sale at the same time. The WDNR was not in a position to purchase the properties, and it was feared they would be lost to residential or golf course development.

"Fortunately, Terry acted quickly and acquired the two properties at risk," said Meicher. "Due to the actions of Terry, the dream of returning the Onion River to a naturally reproducing trout stream has taken a giant step forward."

Besides helping the Onion River project, Kohler has worked with groups to conserve endangered whooping cranes and trumpeter swans.

John Welter — Lee and Joan Wulff Award

John "Duke" Welter joined TU when he lived in Madison. There he took fly tying classes and attended fishing clinics put on by the South-

ern Chapter.

When Welter moved to Eau Claire to practice law, he became a member of the Ojibseau Chapter, serving as chapter president and state council representative for many years before becoming state council chair four years ago.

Welter has guided WITU through some challenging times in his tenure as chair on several major issues, including a contentious early trout fishing season, threats to the Wolf River from the Crandon mine, and the prospect of groundwater depletion from the Perrier Company.

Other issues Welter has provided leadership on include dam removal, nonpoint pollution impacts, and attempts to weaken the state's stewardship responsibilities.

Welter's leadership played a large part in the Wisconsin Council being awarded "council of the year" by TU National in 2000.

Welter has also served on the Conservation Congress' executive committee and its trout study committee.

"Duke has served the council...above and beyond the levels anyone could expect," said WITU awards chair Larry Meicher. "He has set a standard which should be emulated. I can't think of anyone who is more deserving to be the 2001 holder of the Joan and Lee Wulff Conservation Award."

Fred Young — Gold Trout Award

Fred Young has been a friend of Trout Unlimited since its inception in Wisconsin.

Young was Blackhawk Chapter president for two years, and he has served on Blackhawk's board of directors since the chapter was formed. He also serves as Blackhawk's membership chair.

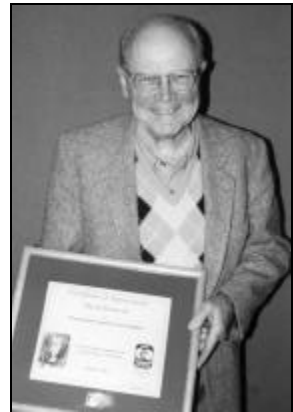
In addition to this, Young publishes the Blackhawk Chapter's newsletter, including covering the costs of its publication.

Young is a big advocate of wild trout. Meicher noted how Young even build his own trout stream — in Illinois, no less — stocking it with wild trout.

"Fred was the first person to step forward to help start work on the West Branch of the Kickapoo River," said Meicher. Young not only has coordinated work projects on the Kickapoo, but he has been involved in the financing of these projects."

Greg Vodak — Gold Net Award

Greg Vodak has been an active member of the State Council for



several years. He is presently a member of the legislative committee, where he has been instrumental in shaping policies and strategies on issues such as the cranberry law and the high-capacity well issue.

Vodak has recruited many new members into TU. He has also played a major role in the Southern Chapter's annual Ice Breaker fundraising event.

"But most importantly," said Meicher, "he is the man who guided the Southern Wisconsin Chapter through the largest fundraising effort the chapter ever undertook. It is a project with national significance because it will eventually be a prime brook trout fishery in an urban setting — the Token Creek project."

Vodak provided key leadership to the regional Token Creek Coalition on real estate transactions and alternative funding, helping that group keep its focus and reach its goal of ensuring public access to these streams for years to come.



Central Wisconsin Chapter — Silver Trout Award

The Central Wisconsin Chapter of TU did an outstanding job on the

Continued on p. 9

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STATE COUNCIL AWARD WINNERS

Council Chair Jon Christiansen congratulates State Senator Kevin Shibilski (above). Other award winners (opposite page) included John Welter and Fred Young (top, l-r), Greg Vodak and Gerald Strom representing the Central Wisconsin Chapter (row 2), Dick Prine and David Beckwith (row 3), and Ron Seely (bottom).

AWARDS: Council honors nine

Continued from p. 8
the Mekan River/Perrier controversy. Its members initially blew the whistle on Perrier's plans, getting the word out to the media.

Then, in conjunction with WITU, they organized a broad-based watershed organization, The Friends of the Mekan.

They also conducted letter-writing campaigns, lobbied area legislators, and brought hundreds of people out to local meetings to show Perrier the opposition they faced in the area.

Even though Perrier has now set its sights on Big Spring, a smaller, less populated watershed 40 miles away, the Central Chapter is continuing to scrutinize the impacts of Perrier's proposal.

Sen. Kevin Shibilski — Certificate of Appreciation

State Senator Kevin Shibilski (D-Stevens Point) has shown continuing leadership and support for legislation benefiting coldwater resources.

He has supported groundwater protection, watershed management, and reauthorization of the state's stewardship land acquisition program.

He has also defended the state's public trust doctrine, which gives fishers, hunters, and other recreational users full access to navigable waters.

In this session of the legislature, Shibilski also introduced legislation to restore the appointment of the DNR secretary to the DNR Board rather than the governor.

David Beckwith — Certificate of Appreciation

David Beckwith is now in his second year of service on TU's national Board of Trustees, serving as secretary of the executive committee.

"Dave took a leadership role in

the early battles with Perrier to protect the Mekan River," said Meicher, "and has been a significant fundraiser and donor to the Kickapoo Home River Initiative project."

A former regent of the University of Wisconsin, Beckwith has been a key, behind-the-scenes player in nongovernmental land conservation efforts to protect coldwater resources in Wisconsin.

Ron Seely — Certificate of Appreciation

Ron Seely has reported on numerous important conservation issues in his role as environment reporter for the *Wisconsin State Journal*.

This past year has been an especially eventful one, and Seely has met the challenge of informing the public on the Perrier controversy, groundwater management issues, and Fox River PCB cleanup.

"Your efforts go a long way to help protect the environment and keep people aware of the real issues," said Meicher.

Dick Prine — Certificate of Appreciation

Dick Prine is an Ojibseau Chapter member who has not only worked on several Brule River stream projects, but has monitored the development of the revised Brule River State Forest Master Plan.

Prine has also supported the State Council and the Ojibseau Chapter through his skills as a maker of cedar strip canoes.

"By making the canoes available at a fraction of their retail values, Dick helped raise almost \$5,000 in the year 2000 and is expected to help the Southeastern Chapter to raise a similar amount in 2001," said Meicher.

WITU holds annual meeting in Oshkosh

The Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited held its annual meeting in Oshkosh Feb. 3.

Guest speakers

The meeting featured several guest speakers.

Ray Weglarz of Allouez, MI, spoke about the effort of Michigan's Copper Country Chapter of TU to help purchase an important parcel of land on the Gratiot River (*see separate story on p. 21*).

The WDNR's Larry Claggett gave members an update on the trout stamp program, plus the DNR's efforts to reclassify trout waters in Wisconsin.

TU Upper Midwest Conservation Director Laura Hewitt presented an overview of TU's new capacity building program that will focus on Wisconsin among a short list of other states (*see separate story on p. 6*).

New officers elected

In other business, the following State Council officers were elected:

- Jon Christiansen, Mequon, Chair
- Jim Hlaban, Neenah, Vice Chair
- Chuck Steudel, Mineral Point, Secretary, and
- Larry Meicher, Rio, Treasurer.

(*See p. 20 for a profile of new State Chair Jon Christiansen.*)

The council passed two conservation resolutions, one pertaining to a ban on cyanide in mining operations in Wisconsin and another asking for stream buffers to be enacted as part of the state's new runoff rules (*see text on p. 10*).

In light of its participation on the Steering Committee of the Wisconsin Stewardship Network, the Council approved a contribution of \$500 toward the WSN's work on environmental and conservation issues of interest to TU.



MEETING SPEAKERS

Ray Weglarz (top) of Michigan's Copper Country Chapter and the WDNR's Larry Claggett spoke at the Feb. 3 State Council meeting.

Cowles' environmental agenda includes wetlands, groundwater

By Senator Rob Cowles

As a member of the Senate Environmental Resources Committee, I have the opportunity to develop legislation that will help to protect Wisconsin's natural environment. There are numerous environmental issues I would like to address this session.

A very immediate issue facing the state is that of a newly created gap in wetland protection. This gap was created as a result of the Supreme Court's decision in *Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) vs. Army Corps of Engineers*. In a 5-4 decision, the Supreme Court held that the Army Corps of Engineers exceeded its statutory authority by asserting Clean Water Act jurisdiction over, "an abandoned sand and gravel pit in northern Illinois, which provides habitat for migratory birds."

This decision invalidates the Corps' jurisdiction over all waters except for actually navigable waters, their tributaries, and adjacent wetlands. What does this mean to Wisconsin? It means a number of isolated wetlands in this state which are not connected or adjacent to a navigable water, may no longer be protected.

I worked with members of the Senate Environment Committee to create Senate Bill 37, which reinstates the status quo to wetland protection. In other words, the same level of protection that was in place

prior to the SWANCC decision would be reinstated over wetlands affected by the court decision, no more, no less.

Senate Bill 37 passed the State Senate 27-6 on February 13, 2001. It is my hope the Assembly will act on this issue before the spring building season arrives.

High-capacity wells

Environmental damage caused by high-capacity wells is another issue I hope to address this session. I think it is important to recognize the damage some of these wells cause and pursue options to help decrease adverse effects to the environment.

In an effort to address the issue, I co-authored Senate Bill 44. This bill allows the DNR to deny or modify a high capacity well request by a water bottling company in order to minimize adverse effects to water quality. The bill also requires DNR to prepare an environmental impact statement for each decision concerning the use of a high-capacity well to produce bottled drinking water.

I realize this bill is very narrow, but it is a first step. The testimony presented during the public hearing may stimulate the authors to broaden the bill.

In addition to the above-mentioned proposals, I hope to address issues relating to energy conservation, recycling, coastal management and the Great Lakes.

WETLANDS: TU pushes for Assembly bill passage

Continued from p. 1

The following is a summary of some other issues going on in that branch of government.

High-capacity wells

The "Perrier issue" has become complex and, in a sense, ironic. However, it has brought increased public attention to a broad range of groundwater quantity issues in Wisconsin. High-capacity wells for a variety of uses are currently depleting groundwater aquifers in a parts of Wisconsin, resulting in groundwater quantity and quality problems, as well as reduced flows in streams, including trout streams. Increased awareness of these problems has also brought an increased awareness of the shortcomings of Wisconsin's antiquated groundwater regulation.

Perrier's proposed large-scale removal of groundwater in the vicinity of springs feeding trout streams, presents yet another challenge to Wisconsin's inadequate groundwater laws.

At the present time, the DNR can only disapprove a high-capacity well permit if the well has an impact on a municipal well. Perrier is currently doing testing in Big Springs in Adams County after deciding not to draw water from the Mican Springs because of public opposition. Under the limits of their current authority, the DNR has negotiated a permit for Perrier that includes a signed contract containing controls by the DNR to reduce or stop Perrier's drawing of water under certain circumstances.

The Adams County Board has voted not to approve a zoning change to permit the operation, and several legal suits have been filed in an attempt to bar Perrier's entry into Adams County.

A number of Wisconsin legislators would like to address broad groundwater issues immediately, but far too many of their colleagues prefer to ignore these issues for the benefit of special interests.

Needed immediately is comprehensive legislation addressing the groundwater quantity challenges facing Wisconsin. Instead, the legislature has offered up a number of narrow proposals which could be described as limited at best, including SB 37, which extends DNR authority to regulate the water bottling business only.

Senate Democrats do not think the Republican-controlled Assembly would pass the needed comprehensive legislation which would establish at least three core components of effective groundwater permitting:

- sound criteria for permitting high capacity wells,
- the statutory recognition of the hydraulic continuity between ground water and surface water, and
- the provision of guidelines for imposing conditional controls and review procedures for the approval of high-capacity well permits.

Trout Unlimited, the River Alliance of Wisconsin, the Sierra Club, and numerous other groups and state agencies have been working on this issue for months and are very disappointed with the current lack of commitment on the part of the Legislature to address these pressing matters.

Together, these groups delivered informational testimony on SB 37 saying that we would support one of the limited bills only if it were amended to include recognition of the connection between groundwater and surface water (making groundwater subject to the Public Trust Doctrine), and if it created a Legislative Council study of the issue. A full, balanced study would raise awareness and might result in legislative changes.

Unfortunately, such changes couldn't occur

before 2003, since the Legislative Council only studies issues between legislative sessions. We presented this amendment with the caveat that we would support more comprehensive legislation if it were introduced.

Recently, DuWayne Johnsrud, an assembly Republican, came into the picture when he drafted a bill that is one sentence long: "If the department finds that the proposed withdrawal will adversely affect waters of this state, it may withhold its approval or grant limited approval under which it imposes conditions that will protect the waters of the state." The Johnsrud bill is probably more palatable than an unamended SB 37, but it does not address the three core elements mentioned above.

Assembly Democrat Spencer Black has drafted a bill similar to Representative Johnsrud's. What's next? High-capacity well permitting is probably the most important issue to TU.

Cranberry growers

TU is a leader in a group called The Cranberry Clean Water Coalition, comprised of 17 conservation and sporting organizations.

The group is dedicated to rescinding what is known as the "Cranberry Law of 1867," which allows cranberry growers to bypass the DNR permitting processes other industries must follow, thereby often ruining lakes and streams by diverting and polluting water.

Nothing has yet happened on this issue, but we will support a bill to be introduced in the near future.

Nonpoint pollution and buffers

Hearings were set for the month of March to have public comments on proposed DNR and Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) rules for setting standards for buffers of vegetation along waterways, livestock access to rivers, livestock waste management, and developing nutrient management plans. You can find all DNR documents at: www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/wm/nps/adminrules.html.

We urge you to express your interest in more effective rules on this

Council passes cyanide and stream buffer resolutions

The Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited passed resolutions supporting river buffers and a statewide ban on the use of cyanide in metallic mining at the council's Feb. 3 meeting.

The buffer resolution was forwarded by WITU's water resources committee, while the cyanide resolution was offered by Wolf River Chapter President Herb Buettner.

The text of the resolutions are:

Resolution supporting Assembly Bill **95** prohibiting the use of cyanide in Wisconsin mines

WHEREAS, cyanide is a highly toxic poisonous compound, with tiny traces fatal to human beings, fish, and wildlife, and acts as a powerful solvent that can release other toxins; and,

WHEREAS, metallic mining companies are increasingly using cyanide to extract gold, silver, copper, zinc, and other metals from metallic ore of which a dozen such deposits have been identified across Wisconsin's water-rich tourism region; and,

WHEREAS, the largest, the "Crandon deposit" of zinc, copper, lead, gold, and silver is under the water-rich main aquifer in the headwaters of the upper Wolf River, the state's largest remaining largely undeveloped, uniquely scenic, clean, free-flowing, large, white-water trout stream and its largest reserve of potable groundwater, to which no monetary value could be ascribed; and,

WHEREAS, cyanide poses serious environmental risks from transportation by road or rail and storage and use at the mine and from residuals deposited to waste dumps, and the proposed Crandon mine, now in the permitting process, would use as much as 18 to 20 tons of sodium cyanide EACH MONTH during its 24 to 28 years of operation; and,

WHEREAS, cyanide has been the cause of recent environmental disasters at mines in seven states across the U.S. and in many foreign metallic mines, resulting in massive fish kills in rivers and contaminated vital drinking waters; and,

WHEREAS, in 1998, Montana voters banned cyanide use for any process of metallic mining and in 2000 the Czech Republic also prohibited its use in mining, thus wisdom dictates that Wisconsin must prohibit the use of Cyanide in metallic mining NOW, BEFORE our vital water resources, our people, fish, and wildlife are plagued by the environmental disasters which its use has caused elsewhere.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY WISCONSIN COUNCIL OF TROUT UNLIMITED, that the State of Wisconsin enact a law prohibiting the use of cyanide reagents in metallic mining and in its ore processing before any metallic mining permits are issued.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge the State Legislature to pass AB 95 which provides, "No person may conduct metallic mining or ore processing using cyanide or a cyanide compound," and that copies of this resolution be sent to the governor, state legislature, and the DNR secretary.

Buffer resolution

The Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited supports the use of buffers and other best management practices to mitigate nonpoint pollution. The four prohibitions of the Animal Waste Advisory Committee should be enacted in the form of concrete, enforceable laws, backed with the financial and personnel resources necessary to make them effective.

The four prohibitions are:

- No unconfined manure stacking.
- No overflow of manure storage structures.
- No direct runoff from feedlots or stored manure to waters of the state.
- No unlimited livestock access to waters of the state where high concentrations of animals prevent adequate sod cover maintenance.

issue. Even though the hearings will be completed by the time this gets to you, written comments are still an option.

As a point of interest, TU is attempting to set up a meeting with Governor McCallum including the heads of TU, River Alliance, Wisconsin Wetlands Association, and the Wisconsin Lakes Association on the four issues mentioned above.

Use value taxation
This one-year-old Department of Revenue rule is starting to entice the agricultural community to put more land into farm production because it lowers property tax rates.

For example, land used as buffer zones along streams is valued at its market value (potential for development), whereas land used in agriculture is valued on its use (which is lower).

TU Upper Midwest Conservation Director Laura Hewitt, DNR, UW, DATCP, and I have been working on this issue for about a

year. Hewitt and I met with Representative Steve Kestell on the issue, and we recently received a draft bill from his office. We will work with Rep. Kestell to try to improve the draft, and we appreciate finally getting started on this issue.

Surface water study committee

The Legislative Council has a committee studying Chapter 30 of the statutes. Chapter 30 sets standards for regulating surface water.

The committee is getting into some dangerous territory, such as questioning the definition of navigable waters. This study committee still has lots of work ahead.

The end product of a study committee such as this is usually a set of bills addressing various issues. Fellow TU member Steve Born is a committee member.

Right to hunt and fish

Senate Joint Resolution 2 is a proposed constitutional amendment

Continued on p. 14

Assembly bill would ban cyanide in Wisconsin mines

By Zoltan Grossman and Dave Blouin

Representatives from several statewide organizations marked the first anniversary of a major mining waste spill in Romania by calling for support for legislation that would ban all uses of cyanide in Wisconsin mining.

"Cyanide is simply too dangerous to be used at mines where it can get into streams and rivers," said Tom Soles, executive director of Wall-eyes For Tomorrow. "Fish are killed when they come into contact with incredibly small amounts of cyanide, in the parts per billion range. We can't afford to take chances with the Wolf River fishery or any of our resources by allowing cyanide to be used here."

The most recent proposal to mine in Wisconsin, the Crandon proposal, would use as much as 200 tons of cyanide annually.

The proposed legislation states in its entirety: "No person may conduct mining or metallic ore processing using cyanide or a cyanide compound." Assembly Bill 95 pro-

ponents already have 10,000 signatures on a petition supporting the cyanide prohibition.

Small amounts toxic

Cyanide measured at between 20-80 parts per billion can kill rainbow and brown trout. Birds and mammals that drink water or feed on cyanide-poisoned wildlife can be killed if they are exposed to cyanide at between 40-200 parts per million — an amount also fatally toxic to humans.

Cyanide is a powerful solvent that breaks down heavy metals like mercury, chromium, and lead. Cyanide can also break down and form complexes with other chemicals or metals and remain toxic.

Mixes of cyanide with other metals and chemicals can be just as toxic as cyanide itself, but they are not routinely monitored or carefully regulated.

In 1999, voters in the state of Montana passed a new law prohibiting cyanide heap and vat leaching after suffering scores of mine waste spills and leaks, unauthorized discharges, and accidents involving millions of gallons of cyanide-contaminated wastes.

Recent cyanide problems

In recent years, the mining industry has caused many significant cyanide spills due to transportation and shipping accidents, waste dump spills and leaks, and pipeline and other mechanical failures. This new bill will address all possible avenues for cyanide contamination by banning all uses in mining.

Cyanide-based mining has also been banned in the Czech Republic, and in Wisconsin's Vilas and Oneida counties.

State Rep. Spencer Black, author of AB95, said, "The residents of Wisconsin were not convinced by mining company promises that new technology would allow them to mine safely when, three years ago, they supported my efforts to pass the mining moratorium bill. Sadly, the residents of Romania, Yugoslavia, and Hungary learned their lesson the hard way."

Black continued, "Because of the dangers of cyanide and the disasters seen across the world, I have introduced a bill in the legislature to ban the use of cyanide in mining operations in Wisconsin. My bill would prevent a disaster such as the recent disaster in Romania and others that have been seen across the country. My goal is to seek passage of the cyanide ban this legislative session."

Groups call for action

Caryl Terrell, Legislative Coordinator for the Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter, said, "Our rivers, streams, groundwater, and wetlands deserve strong protection, but current state law does not prohibit unsafe mining practices such as cyanide heap leaching..."

Ken Fish, Director of the Meenominie Treaty Rights and Mining Impacts Office said, "Policy makers and lawmakers and their enforcers need to wake up and smell the coffee and do their job in protecting humans and natural resources from uses of various chemicals at sulfide mine sites."

Assembly Environment Committee Chair Neal Kedzie (R-Elkhorn) is responsible for moving AB95 forward to a vote.

(TU members are reminded that Question 76 on the April 9 Conservation Congress ballot involves the cyanide ban bill. —Ed.)



CALDRON FALLS FLOWAGE

This section of the Caldron Falls Flowage in Marinette County is representative of some of the lands WPS would like to sell if their recent FERC agreements can be voided.

WPS: asks FERC for changes

Continued from p. 1

Included in the reclassification would be nearly 2,000 acres between Johnson Falls and Sandstone that includes the Peshtigo River fly fishing area, one of Wisconsin's first fly-only sections of trout streams.

The land surrounding the hydro facilities in Marinette County were acquired in the early 1900s when there were no stipulations that property around hydro facilities be managed for public access.

However, in the 1960s federal regulators began requiring there be public access and land management plans as part of the federal dam relicensing process.

WPS's most recent agreement calls for managing the lands in question "in a manner that protects environmentally sensitive habitat and ensures that land use is compatible with wildlife management."

The USF&WS said in a March 1 letter, "We strongly believe that these lands should continue to be managed in accordance with the CLM plan and remain open for public use for the 40-year license period as mitigation, in part, for WPSO's licenses to operate six hydro projects on the Peshtigo River and generate power for profit."

The DNR has also reacted negatively to the WPS proposal in a letter dated February 27 signed by DNR Secretary Darrell Bazzell.

"The WDNR is opposed to withdrawal of project lands, which would result in the elimination of free access to the general public," wrote Bazzell. "The WDNR recognizes this as a substantial change to the

project boundaries and believes removal of these lands from the project licenses will result in significant adverse impacts to fish and wildlife habitat, water quality and recreational opportunities (thousands of acres lost) for the residents of Wisconsin."

In a recent statement, the River Alliance of Wisconsin stated, "The River Alliance is adamantly opposed to the land sell-off and considers it a breach of contract that was negotiated in good faith only three years ago."

"WPS benefits from using our rivers, the water that belongs to all of the people of this state, for free," the River Alliance statement read. "In exchange all they are required to do is operate their hydropower facilities in an environmentally sound manner and, in this case, to manage the surrounding land for the public good."

Both the DNR and FWS have asked FERC to require WPS to perform some form of environmental impact study before taking any action on the company's request.

FERC projects covered by the WPS proposed change include:

- Caldron Falls FERC Project No. 2525
- High Falls FERC Project No. 2595
- Johnson Falls FERC Project No. 2522
- Sandstone Rapids FERC Project No. 2546
- Potato Rapids FERC Project No. 2560
- Peshtigo FERC Project No. 2581

Cyanide at the Crandon Mine

Sodium cyanide would be used as a chemical "reagent" or solvent to dissolve out metals from the ore in the "flotation process," particularly gold and silver.

There are significant amounts of gold and silver at Crandon; the DNR estimates as much as 1,100,000 ounces of gold, and 63,000,000 ounces of silver. Northern Wisconsin also has several other gold and silver deposits.

The Nicolet Minerals Company (NMC) proposes to transport up to 20 tons of cyanide per month to the Crandon mine site. Cyanide and other toxics such as sulfuric acid pose environmental risks from transportation and storage at the site and also from residuals in the waste dump and in the waste back-filled into the abandoned mine shaft.

DNR consultant Andres Trevino reported that if NMC uses truckloads of cyanide at the highest estimated rate, a one-month inventory would be 18-20 tons. If the mine were to operate for 28 years, over 6,000 tons of cyanide would be required.

Trevino reported that most of the residual cyanide would end up in the pyrite concentrate that is proposed to be back-filled into the mine shaft, potentially in contact with groundwater. At least some residual cyanide would end up in the waste tailings dump.

Cyanide can be treated to become less toxic, but Trevino does not report that NMC is proposing any active destruction of the toxic chemical.

Instead it appears that NMC simply expects any leftover cyanide to break down naturally in the waste dump pond when exposed to sunlight. But colder temperatures, such as in northern Wisconsin, can stop the breakdown of cyanide.



Chapter News



GANDER MOUNTAIN BIG ON BLACKHAWK

Wilmont Gander Mountain store manager Rich Rousseau (right) presents a \$500 gift certificate to Dave Patrick of the Blackhawk Chapter for the chapter's annual banquet. The two also hold a sign Gander Mountain posts to help the chapter attract new members.

Blackhawk Chapter

We had several fishing presentations at our recent meetings. **Todd Polacek** of Madison Outfitters presented the September program on fishing spring creeks in Wisconsin.

Jim Bartel of Madison presented a slide program fishing Southwestern Wisconsin spring creeks in October.

Scott Steward, fish manager in the Madison area, presented a program on fishing **Black Earth Creek** in December.

Our January meeting was presented by **Bill Stokes** of Madison. Bill shared nostalgic remembrances of fishing friends and rivers past. He

reflected on his latest book, *Trout Friends*. It was a most enjoyable and delightful program.

Bill Sonzogni of Madison presented a slide program in February on insights into fishing Wisconsin trout streams. Bill co-authored *Exploring Wisconsin Trout Streams* with **Steve Born**, **Jeff Mayers**, and **Andy Morton**.

The Blackhawk Chapter will hold its annual conservation banquet April 30 at the **Hoffman House** in Janesville. For information, call Chairman **Don Studt** at (608) 752-4508.

—*Bill Karduck*

Coulee Region Chapter

Chapter activities for the first quarter of the year centered on the staging of our annual fund-raising banquet held Feb. 27 at **Pogy's Catering** in La Crosse. The banquet featured the usual raffles and auctions, as well as a presentation by **Sara Johnson** of TU on dam removal in Wisconsin.

Banquet attendance was up again this year, and although exact net proceeds have not yet been determined, profits from the banquet will be used to fund our stream improvement project.

The 2001 **Mormon Coulee** project site is immediately upstream of the prior three-year project. This year's work will be a joint effort between Coulee Region TU and the La Crosse area office of the DNR. Our first work day is scheduled for Saturday, April 7, and will involve building lunger structures for instal-

lation later this summer.

Coulee Region TU has just moved the site of its regular monthly membership meeting to the **Forest Hills Golf Course Restaurant** at 600 Losey Blvd N., La Crosse.

Our March meeting featured guest presenter **Dave Vetrano**, well known fish biologist of the La Crosse DNR office.

Our chapter has also just agreed to change the geographic area we serve. TU members in Richland County who were formerly served by the Coulee Chapter have had their affiliation switched to the **Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter**, while Crawford County Nohr members will now be served by our chapter. We extend a warm welcome to our new Crawford County members! We hope to serve you well.

—*Rolf Skogstad*

Frank Hornberg Chapter

This January's activities found the Frank Hornberg Chapter outfitting the equipment trailer we purchased last fall. Installation of shelving, brackets/hangers, and other necessities was begun. For the chapter's January general meeting an enthusiastic audience was on hand for **Ross Mueller's** fine presentation on the topic of his new book *Fly Fishing Midwest Spring Creeks*.

Unfortunately our February general meeting was canceled due to a freezing rain and ice storm. We had **Mitch Bent** scheduled to present on

Black Hills flyfishing; hopefully Mitch will be willing to re-schedule for next fall or winter. We did however hold a somewhat impromptu fly tying day on Saturday, February 10. I say impromptu because this event didn't appear in our fall newsletter, but was rather the result of inquiries and requests from interested persons. Attendance was good, with 30 or more people on hand at some point.

March saw us basically finish up outfitting our equipment trailer, a last set of shelves was installed — it will be great not stumbling over

stuff anymore.

For our last general meeting of this winter, **Bob Hunt** gave a well-attended presentation on the principles of the innovative stream improvement techniques he pioneered here in Wisconsin with the Department of Natural Resources in coldwater fisheries research.

Also this winter, the chapter is

beginning to put together a chapter e-mail distribution list in order to communicate more promptly and directly with our members and friends. Since we don't send out newsletters every month, we hope this provides more chapter members with an increased sense of connection with the chapter.

—*Jim Friedrich*

Green Bay Chapter

The Green Bay Chapter was busy recently preparing for its 26th Annual Conservation Banquet held March 15 at the **Swan Club** in De Pere. We expect to attract over 400 guests who will help the chapter raise some \$20,000 for the coldwater resource in Northeast Wisconsin and surrounding areas.

The chapter is also planning how to best use the money raised. Contributions have already been made which will help complete land purchases along trout streams. Additional funds have been designated for beaver trapping, habitat improvement, and scholarships for students to attend conservation camps. The chapter is also actively seeking endeavors that will benefit the environment.

The chapter is also planning a

busy work project schedule for the summer of 2001. Up to six work days are being scheduled for habitat improvement on area trout streams.

The chapter has also scheduled a **Fly Casting Clinic For Women** on April 28th at the **Brown County Re-forestation Camp**. Working in conjunction with the **Oconto River Chapter**, we have arranged for women instructors to teach other women the fine art of fly fishing.

Finally, at the March meeting, the chapter elected officers for the next two years:

Dennis Gusick — President,

Paul Mongin — Vice-President,

Gary Stoychoff — Sec-Treasurer.

The chapter also salutes **Pete Harris** for a fine job done as president during the past four years.

—*Gary Stoychoff*

Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter

As part of our chapter's continued focus on youth, we recently approved eight school grants. The grants average \$500 each, and the funds are used by the schools for approved environmental projects. For example, an Ag class in Richland Center will be using the money to build lunger structures, while other schools are using the money for such things as field trips and water monitoring equipment. **Dave Peterson** chairs this committee.

We have selected a student intern, **Andy Baker**, a junior from UW-Platteville. Andy will undertake a stream restoration project on **McPherson Creek** in Grant County.

Dr. Tom Hunt, Professor at UW-Platteville, will oversee the project. This is a cooperative effort bringing together the university, DNR, USDA/NRCS, and TU. An exciting aspect of this project is that we are applying for grant money and leveraging our chapter's contribution so that, hopefully, we end up with a significant fund for improving this important stream. **David Canny** chairs the committee for this important work.

Adults and kids took advantage of our fly tying classes held each Sunday afternoon in February. There are many new tyers as the result of **Eric Johannesen's** fine instruction. **Johannesen** and **Jason Biddick** will be organizing our fourth annual youth fly-fishing class

in June.

Our chapter was instrumental in protecting a 240-acre parcel of land located on the **Blue River** in Grant County. Last year we learned that this parcel of land would be sold. The property has over two miles of stream running through it and is located within an area identified by the state as having endangered plant species.

When the property came up for sale, the DNR was not able to act quickly to acquire it. When alerted of this opportunity, our chapter quickly bought the property and held it for eight months until the DNR could purchase it from us. The sale was concluded in February.

We have a full calendar of projects and events scheduled for this spring. At our March 20 general meeting **Matt Zine** from the DNR spoke about the **Blue River Snow Bottom Recreational Area** that will incorporate the property our chapter recently sold to his department. We also have a brushing project scheduled for the Blue River.

On May 4 we will host our 24th annual banquet at the **Dodger Bowl** in Dodgeville. **Bill Stokes**, noted author and columnist, will be our speaker. Tickets are available.

For more information on any of these activities, contact **Bill Wisler** at wisler@mhtc.net or (608) 623-2603.

—*Bill Wisler*

Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter

Kiap-TU-Wish has resumed its winter brushing activities on the upper **Kinnickinnic River**. We target dense canopy areas of evasive box elders that block sunlight and prevent stable grassy banks from taking root. Good progress has been made, despite less than cooperative weather on recent Saturday mornings.

Our chapter, along with other sports groups, have attended and provided needed input on the upcoming trout habitat construction

season in the **Lower Chippewa Basin**. With a much smaller trout stamp kitty, it is critical for TU to combine forces with other groups interested in trout habitat to make for more a productive DNR Trout Crew in West Central Wisconsin.

Our January Program was highlighted by chapter member **Paul Wiemerslage**, who took us on a Canadian and Montana fishing and sight-seeing adventure.

—*Brent Sittlow*

Chapter News



Lakeshore Chapter

Preparations continued for the chapter's annual conservation banquet to be held Saturday, April 21, at 7:00 p.m. at the **Club Bil-Mar** in Manitowoc. Tickets are \$20. Contact **Jeff Preiss** at (920) 208-1135 for more information.

Work days on the **Onion River** project in Sheboygan County started in March. Chapter members worked with **DNR Fish Biologist John Nelson** and **Marty Melchoir** of NES at the **Kamrath** property cutting and bundling dogwood stakes

for later planting on the restored headwaters.

Chapter member **Tom Steinberg** gave a fly tying demonstration on the art of spinning and stacking deer hair at the February chapter meeting.

Chapter member **Jeff Yax** received a special recognition award at a recent **Manitowoc County Fish and Game** banquet for his efforts in the conservation field.

—Doug Leppanen

Northwoods Chapter

The Northwoods Chapter is online. Check out our website at www.northwoodstu.org. You can get updates on chapter activities, officer contacts, and banquet ticket order forms.

The chapter had our Christmas party on December 14. It was great to see the old and some new faces at the event. The Christmas party continues to be a casual and rewarding event for the chapter.

Mitch Bent presented a slide show and informative talk on his experiences in the **Black Hills** at our January meeting.

Our February meeting was a tremendous success with **Roger LaPenter** from **Angler's** in Ashland providing a great presentation on the **Fishing Opportunities in Chequamegon Bay**.

And finally, the chapter sponsored a fly tying session on March 10.

Scott Watson and **David Brum** from the DNR were both at the March 15 general meeting to discuss the **Deerskin River Dam** removal and DNR fishery projects in our area. Brum gave the chapter a tremendous tour of several trout habitat projects on **Brule Creek** and the **Elvoy** last summer, and he has some results on how this habitat has changed the fishery.

The chapter is moving forward

Shaw-Paca Chapter

All systems are go for our annual fund-raising banquet to be held on March 29 at **The Gathering** in Shawano.

Our annual winter fly tying class has just wrapped up. Each Thursday except for meeting nights we met at the **Pella Town Hall** to share our favorite flies. Except for nights with ice storms, typical attendance varied from eight to ten tyers.

We awarded our annual college scholarship at UW-Stevens Point to **Jennifer Beulow-Peterson**. She is currently a junior majoring in cold-water resources.

The following projects were funded: \$1,000 to assist with beaver trapping on national forest lands, \$1,000 to assist in habitat work on the **Hunting River** in Langlade County, and \$500 for temperature monitors on local streams.

We also voted to donate \$200 to the **Kinnickinnic River Land Trust** to assist them with the great job they

are doing to preserve this great river.

We also framed a print and donated it to the State Council for their banquet.

At our December meeting, **Waupaca-Waushara County Fish Biologist Al Niebur** told how the wild trout program has enhanced trout populations on the **Waupaca River**. He also shared information on trout populations in the **Little Wolf River**.

In January, State Council Chairman **John Welter** presented a grand tour of the wonderful streams that we have in Wisconsin.

Our February and March programs are presented by two of our chapter members. **John Kunzman** presented a program on wild-water canoeing and fishing in Canada at the February meeting, and **Lee Kersten** told of his adventures fishing the west at the March meeting.

—Lee Kersten

on Western and Wisconsin waters.

Many thanks to the organizational skills of **Tom Fendrick** who coordinated the Icebreaker. Also thanks to **Andy Merton** for arranging a din-

WILD RIVERS TRIBUNE

TROUT UNLIMITED
WILD RIVERS CHAPTER

February, 2001

Chapter Notes

By Bill Heist, President

First of all, I would like to thank everyone that came to our first meeting on January 29th. It was a terrific evening to be diving and we were still able to have 25 attend, also I had a number of calls from members wanting to attend but couldn't because of the bad roads. A number of the people that came were not members, but joined that night.

A new Board of Directors and officers were elected. They are as follows: Bill Heist-President, Dick Berg-Vice-President, Joey Maurer-Treasurer, Paul Gilbert-Secretary, with the rest of the board consisting of Dorian Wilson, Carolyn Swartz, and Phil Wallace. A complete list of addresses and phone numbers of the board is listed elsewhere in the newsletter. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact any of the board members.

We discussed possible summer projects for our chapter, including Drifting Whitefish Creek gauge station, Kid's Fishing Day, Bark River project with the WDNR, Coaster Brook Trout Rehabilitation including an angler survey (see article) and possibly some work on the White River. This sounds pretty ambitious, but I think we can handle it as long as we can keep the involvement growing.

We formed a number of committees that people volunteered to be on. If any one else wants to help out you may join one of these committees: Membership, Programs, Fund Raising, Newsletter, Projects, & Youth/Education. Please give me a call if you are interested.

Our meetings will be held on the second Monday of the month and we will try to hold the meetings in different parts of our chapter area. There are 7 routes in our chapter and it would not be fair to make the same people drive a long distance

for every meeting. The March and April meetings will be in Ashland, and the May meeting will be Cable.

Our board meeting on February 19th went very well. We are getting organized and plans are being made for a very busy summer. Hopefully we can get more people involved to help us with our projects. Personally, I am very excited about the angler survey of the Lake Superior streams. What better project could we have than just going brook trout fishing with a friend. A very good way to learn some new streams.

I'm sure that everyone that knew Jeff misses him greatly, but I am very happy that so many of us want to keep his legacy going.

FAVORITE PLACES

Fly fishing guide Tom Anderson will be presenting his talk and slide show, *Favorite Places*, for our chapter on Monday, March 12, 2001. The program will start at 7:00 with a short meeting before.

Tom lives in River Falls, WI. He is the manufacturer's representative for Sage Rod Company, Seneca Fishing Products, Ross Rods, Uniqua Powder Merchants, and the Tiber Rod Co. He has been a fly fishing guide in Wisconsin for over 35 years. Tom will be giving the program on a "favorite" year in his fly fishing life. From Alaska to Belize to the Black Hills and beyond.

The program will be held on the campus of Northland College at the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute which is located directly behind the new Science Building on Highway 13. There is a parking lot behind the science building and you are able to come in the back door of the Institute. This program is free and open to the public.

WILD RIVERS NEWSLETTER DEBUTS

The *Wild Rivers Tribune* is the new chapter newsletter of the Wild Rivers Chapter. It is being published by Chapter President Bill Heist.

ner for 80 plus diners! **Larry Meicher** helped assure that raffle buckets were nearly brim-full before winning tickets were drawn. **Paul Banas** managed to collect a treasure trove of door prizes.

Also thanks to all the fly tying demonstrators and to the eloquent **Steve Born** who helped introduce speakers and keep everyone on track. The chapter would also like to thank those who donated raffle prizes: **Badger Fly Fishers, Dorn Hardware, Douglas Rod Company, Fontana Sports, The Great Frame Up, George's Taxidermy, Lands End, Klein-Dickert Art and Framing, Lunde's Fly Fishing Chalet, Amy Moyer, Madison Outfitters, Mauer Art and Picture Framing, Monroe Street Framing and Gallery, Pielsticker Photos, The Shoe Box, Rusk Gun Shop, John Strauss, Red Wilson, Elizabeth Wucher, Bill Stokes, Larry Meicher and Silver Trout Fly Fishing Service.**

Bill Stokes entertained chapter members with a slide presentation and readings from his new book *Trout Friends* at the December meeting. After Bill's presentation, **Scot Stewart** won a \$100 gift certificate donated by **Madison Outfitters** in a drawing. Many thanks to Bill and good luck to Scot in his new position with the DNR (a promotion!).

Our January meeting was the chapter's annual fly tying demonstration. Many of the chapter's experienced and talented tyers demonstrated their skills. At the

conclusion of the meeting, flies tied that evening were raffled off. The chapter would like to thank all the members who tied flies during the meeting.

The February meeting featured a presentation by **Dave Reutz** on "Unique fly fishing opportunities in Wisconsin." Dave, an aquatic biologist, fishing guide, and avid fly fisher, shared a wealth of knowledge and experience. Where to fish for trout, bass, and other species, effective patterns, and tactics were all covered. Many thanks to Dave for helping improve our skills.

Our chapter recently honored the **Woodburn family**, namely **Delma, Robert, James, John, and Jim Woodburn**. The Woodburn family has made possible the creation of **Donald Park**, that great track of land at the headwaters of **Mt. Vernon Creek**. Mrs. Delma Woodburn's maiden name is Donald, and it was Delma's family that first settled the land. Delma will be 101 years old in June! We thanked Delma and her family for making Donald Park possible, and presented our chapter's certificate of appreciation to Delma and her family.

On Saturday, March 31, from 9:00-noon we will install memorial benches by **Black Earth Creek** in Cross Plains. If you would like to help, meet behind the fire station in Cross Plains at 9:00. If you have any questions or need directions, call **John Serunian** at 277-9295.

—John Serunian

Wild Rivers Chapter

Things went very well at a reorganizational meeting our chapter held January 29 following the loss of chapter president **Jeff Carlson** to cancer.

We had 23 people attend, even though the weather could have been bad. We got about 4" of snow, but

Continued on p. 14

Southern Wisconsin Chapter

Southern Wisconsin TU's January **Icebreaker** event was a huge success. Featured speakers **Jim Bartelt** and **Rick Hafele** helped those attending improve their fishing skills

REPORTS: chapter news

Continued from p. 13
not until after midnight.

Everybody seemed very excited about where the chapter will be going. We talked about the angler survey and the **Bark River** project. Others also had ideas and committees were formed.

We elected the following new officers and board:

Bill Heart — President

Dick Berge — Vice-President

Joey Maznio — Treasurer

Paul Gilbert — Secretary

Board members are **Carloyn Swartz** of Ashland, **Damian Wilmot** of South Range, Douglas County, and **Phillip Wallace** of Spooner. We have tried to have representation

for other areas of our chapter since it is so large.

The evening ended with a raffle that made \$299, more than doubling our account balance. Members want to help out financially with a chapter newsletter by sponsoring an edition and paying for the postage.

We have since had another board meeting and set up a list of programs and projects for the summer. Much of the work will be centering around coaster brook trout restoration.

We miss Jeff very much, but we can assure our TU friends across the state that we will continue his good work.

—Bill Heart

LEGISLATION: lots of interest to TU members this session

Continued from p. 10

that guarantees the right to hunt and fish. It recently passed the Senate unanimously.

However, a contentious amendment was included in the SJR 2 that some feel opens the door for animal rights groups to persuade courts to interpret in their favor.

The resolution needs to pass both this session and the next session before it gets on the ballot.

Governor's budget

Finally, there is much to do in order to figure out what is in the governor's budget. Please contact me if you find budget provisions that impact the coldwater resource or the sport of trout fishing.

CARA

On the federal side, a renewed movement to pass the Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA) is underway. Last year, this program passed the House but died later in

the process.

The proposal targets federal offshore oil royalty revenue to substantially increase federal aid to state and local conservation efforts.

The Fishable Waters Act

This proposal is an enhancement of the Clean Waters Act, but it focuses on fisheries.

A central concept of the bill is the establishment of local watershed councils. These groups would develop project plans for such activities as bank stabilization, dam removal, land acquisition, and agriculture waste management. The plans would need state or tribal approval.

The bill would appropriate \$325 million to provide the councils with the scientific and technical resources needed to implement the plans.

So there is a lot going on with both state and federal legislation. Over the course of the next six months, TU's Legislative Committee will need all the help we can get.



WELTER 'ROASTED' AT COUNCIL MEETING

Outgoing State Council Chair John 'Duke' Welter found himself the recipient of numerous gag gifts at the Feb. 3 State Council meeting in Oshkosh. Aldo Leopold Chapter President Clint Byrnes (bottom left) hung a TU litter bag around Welter's neck and then proceeded to load it with items of dubious value.

FFF looks to add Wisconsin clubs

The Wisconsin Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF) is setting up meetings in an effort to charter new fly fishing, fly tying, and casting clubs in northern Wisconsin and upper Michigan, according to FFF Wisconsin Council Chair Ray Larson.

The general philosophy of any club formed would be to enhance the sport of fly fishing.

The FFF and its councils and clubs are the only organized advocate for the fly fisher on the na-

tional and regional level.

Members of FFF around the world help conserve, restore, and educate to help ensure a rewarding fly fishing experience in the future.

Fly fishing is one of the world's fastest growing sports. It has low impact on the environment and can be practiced on trout streams, lakes, ponds, reservoirs, or in saltwater.

Interested persons should contact Larson at (920) 458-4021 or mlarson@exccl.net.

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Florence County 'wild rivers' ordinance in doubt

By Ned Cochrane

The fate of a portion of Florence County's Shoreland/Wetland Zoning Ordinance that has for decades protected the Pine and Popple rivers in Florence County from development remains up in the air.

The ordinance was enacted about 30 years ago to reestablish and maintain the Pine and Popple as "free flowing, relatively unpolluted, primarily primitive, generally inaccessible and esthetically attractive wild rivers, in congruence with Wisconsin Statue 30.26."

The Pine, Popple, and Pike rivers are the only three state-designated wild rivers in Wisconsin.

Revisions eyed since last fall

Last fall a proposal was made before the county zoning committee to rescind the ordinance's wild rivers provision, or Section 11.

One reason given for rescinding the ordinance was the philosophy that property owners should have the right to do what they want to do with their property. Also, County Zoning Administrator Rich Wolosyn believes the ordinance conflicts with the American Disabilities Act (ADA) and the "Gard Gazebo Bill," a state law written by legislator John Gard that allows for screened-in gazebos of up to 100 square feet to be built in the 75-foot strip of land around waterways which are protected from most development.

Wolosyn and past county zoning administrators have had trouble dealing with structures that don't conform to the ordinance in the wild rivers zone — the land within 400 feet of the wild rivers or on the visible horizon from the rivers.

Ordinance review begins

Last fall the zoning committee asked attorney Steven C. Garbowicz of Eagle River to review the ordinance. He said the ordinance is too brief for the times. "Seasonal residence" is not defined and therefore subject to court interpretation," said Garbowicz.

The original ordinance did not anticipate all the things that have happened in the last 30 years that might affect use of the rivers and the land near it. For example, there were no all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) when the ordinance was passed.

The ordinance now limits construction to seasonal residences in the wild rivers zone. It requires seasonal residences to be rustic in design, unobtrusive in body and trim coloration, and at least 75% screened by vegetation as seen from the water during the summer months and no poles to be allowed within 400 feet of the rivers.

Now lot sizes must be a minimum of five acres and 500 feet wide. Seasonal residences must be built 150 feet from the river and from adjoining property. Forestry practices in the 150-foot strip along the rivers are also limited.

Protests at December hearing

A hearing on rescinding the section of the ordinance was on the county zoning committee's Dec. 6 meeting agenda. About 40 people attended, with most speaking out against rescinding the ordinance.

People testifying included Jim Swanson, president of the Florence County Lakes Association, and Todd Ambs, executive director of the River Alliance of Wisconsin.

Many who couldn't attend wrote the committee. Among those writing in favor of keeping the current ordinance were spokesmen for Trout Unlimited and the Florence County towns of Florence and

Fence.

Zoning Administrator Wolosyn and his assistant, Tricia Kelly, read all the correspondence out loud, which took about 40 minutes. A few individuals and the Long Lake town board supported rescinding the ordinance.

No action was taken at that December meeting. Zoning Committee Chair Bruce Osterberg said his committee would have recommended rescinding the ordinance if so many people hadn't asked that the ordinance be continued.

The zoning committee decided to keep the wild rivers ordinance on their agenda every month until the issue is resolved. The committee meets the first Wednesday of each month, and the full county board meets the third Tuesday of the month. Both meetings usually start at 7 p.m. at the Florence Co. Courthouse.

Consultant review in process

At the March 7 zoning committee meeting, Zoning Administrator Wolosyn suggested the county hire a consultant to rewrite all the county's zoning ordinances.

The committee gave him the go-ahead to get "on track" for getting all the ordinances re-written in the next county budget cycle.

Then Wolosyn said the county shoreline zoning ordinance, which includes the Wild Rivers protection, needed a "patch" sooner to make it conform to the ADA, the state Gard Gazebo statute, and to deal with non-conforming structures.

In a Dec. 13 letter, Garbowicz, the committee's attorney, advised that the wild rivers ordinance be:

- rescinded,
- rescinded and a new ordinance be prepared, or
- an attempt be made to amend to present ordinance.

Attorney Tom Martell of Bonduel warned about the consequences of a complete repeal of the ordinance.

"I am quite certain you would see a rush of applicants for permits to build under extremely diminished standards that will jeopardize the health of the river," Martell said.

Martell's family has owned property on the Pine River for many years. He agreed that some of Attorney Garbowicz's concerns were well founded, particularly on the ambiguity on what constitutes a seasonal residence.

Most of the public comments at recent committee and county board wild rivers discussions have been about non-conforming structures and the desire to maintain large lot sizes. Almost nothing has been said about the ADA or Gard gazebos.

Alternatives presented

Attorney Tom Martell presented his ideas for revising the wild rivers ordinance at the Feb. 7 zoning committee meeting.

Martell had been asked to review zoning alternatives at the December County Board of Supervisors meeting.

After it was discussed at some length, former supervisor Phil Southworth told the committee that Martell had written a good ordinance. He suggested the county supervisors should take advantage of the free legal work Martell had done for the county and pass it.

Martell's proposed revision's language on seasonal residences was taken from a Natural Resources Board order redefining "human residence" buildings on Managed Forest Law lands. It defines a seasonal residence as a dwelling structure not

used for any person's primary residence or domicile.

To qualify as a seasonal dwelling, a structure could not have more than five of the following eight characteristics:

- 800 sq. ft. or more in total area, using exterior dimensions of the living space, including each level and not including porches and decks;
- Interior plumbing;
- Central heating or cooling;
- Full or partial basement;
- Electrical service by connection to power company lines;
- A garage, not to include building for vehicles used primarily for work or recreation on the property;
- Telephone service based locally; or
- Insulation.

Buildings that were built in the wild rivers zone before the ordinance was enacted would be allowed to remain under a grandfather clause.

The present ordinance states, "No structural alteration, addition or repair to any building or structure with a nonconforming use or any nonconforming building or structure, over the life of the building or structure, shall exceed 50 percent of its current estimated fair market value unless it is permanently changed to conform to the requirements of this ordinance."

Attorney Garbowicz and others pointed out the present ordinance made no provision for replacing nonconforming structures that are destroyed by fire, etc.

Attorney Martell's revision includes a section that says if a non-conforming structure is totally destroyed by natural catastrophe, vandalism, or accidental fire, the structure may be replaced if there is no further encroachment to the water or the lot lines that made the structure nonconforming. It could be expanded in size only to comply with state and federal requirements, and the septic system could be brought up code.

In general, repairs, alterations, and additions of nonconforming buildings would remain limited to 50 percent of current value under Martell's proposed revision.

Protection with property rights

In writing his proposed revised ordinance, Martell has tried to maintain the protection for the wild nature of the northeast Wisconsin rivers which the people who wrote the original ordinance intended, while trying to clarify and continue the current rights of property owners to enjoy their property.

The language he used borrows wording from a Vilas County ordinance on backlot nonconforming structures which Attorney Garbowicz pointed to as being more clear than the present Florence county wild rivers ordinance.

Martell's revision also includes

large parts of the current ordinance.

Though not part of his written proposed new ordinance, Martell has mentioned that an alternative that would be easier to enforce would be to just require that all new structures be set back at least 300 feet from the river and eliminate language trying to differentiate seasonal dwellings from other buildings.

ATV use a dilemma

One dilemma over use of the wild rivers zone is trying to keep it wild, while allowing ATV riders to cross the zone.

A special lane for snowmobiles



The Pine and Popple originate in Forest County and flow east into Florence County, bisecting it. The Popple empties into the Pine in the Town of Fern.

The Pine empties into the Menominee River, not far from the Kingsford-Iron Mountain, Michigan airport near the opposite bank. The entire Popple supports trout. The Pine is not generally considered a trout river below LaSalle Falls.

In Florence County both rivers are wide enough to accommodate flycasting easily. Both rivers tend to get low and warm in the late summer, which limits both their trout carrying capacity and their enjoyment by canoeists.

was built into a new bridge on county Hwy. N over the Pine. It can accommodate ATV traffic, but there is no legal ATV trail north of the bridge. If ATV riders could get to the north side legally, it would give them a safe route between Florence and Aurora, Marinette County ATV trails, and other points south.

However the Florence County ATV club has been stymied in finding a way to use the bridge legally. One possible route goes over an old logging road on DNR-owned land, but the DNR hasn't allowed the ATVs to use an old logging road on this property. Another possible route to the County N bridge was stymied when the Army Corps of Engineers objected to running ATVs through a wetland. ATV riders hope a plan that involves the county and DNR swapping some property can resolve the issue.

(Ned Cochrane is a retired editor of the Florence Mining News. During the trout season he often fishes the Pine and Popple rivers. -Ed.)

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Barron		Rick Cornelius	Barron	714/537-5046
Bayfield	Inland waters Lake Superior	Dennis Scholl Dennis Pratt	Brule Superior	715/372-4866 715/392-7990
Brown	Western 2/3 & Lake Michigan Eastern 1/3	Terry Lynchwick & Dave Bougie Steve Hogler & Steve Surendonk	Green Bay Green Bay Mishicot Mishicot	920/445-5140 920/228-5127 920/755-5982 920/755-7982
Buffalo	Inland - north Inland - south Mississippi R.	Joe Kurz Dan Hatteli Brian Brecka	Chippewa Falls Black River Falls Alma	715/726-7884 715/284-1428 608/685-6221
Burnett		Larry Damman	Spooner	715/635-4089
Calumet	Eastern 2/3 (L. Michigan) L. Winnebago	Steve Hogler & Steve Surendonk Kendall Kamke & Jack O'Brien	Mishicot Mishicot Oshkosh Oshkosh	920/755-4982 920/755-4982 920/424-7880 920/424-7880
Chippewa		Joe Kurz	Eau Claire	715/726-7884
Clark	Western 1/3 Eastern 2/3	Joe Kurz Dan Hatteli	Chippewa Falls Black River Falls	715/726-7884 715/284-1428
Columbia		Tim Larson	Poynette	608/635-8122
Crawford	Inland waters Mississippi R.	Dave Vetrano Dave Heath	La Crosse Prairie du Chien	608/785-9009 608/326-8818
Dane		Kurt Welke	Fitchburg	608/273-5967
Dodge		Laura Stremick	Honcon	920/387-7876
Door		Paul Peeters	Sturgeon Bay	920/746-2865
Douglas	Inland waters L. Superior & tribs.	Dennis Scholl Dennis Pratt	Edgerton Superior	715/372-4866 715/392-7990
Dunn		Marty Engel	Baldwin	715/684-2914
Eau Claire		Joe Kurz	Chippewa Falls	715/726-7884
Florence		Huss Heizer & Greg Kornely	Peshigo Peshigo	715/582-5009 715/582-5010
Fond du Lac	East. L. Winnebago Inland	Kendall Kamke Jack O'Brien John Nelson	Oshkosh Oshkosh Plymouth	920/424-7880 920/424-7881 920/892-8756
Forest		Bob Young	Woodruff	715/358-9229
Grant	South of Rt. 18 North of Rt. 18 Mississippi R.	Bradd Simms Gene Van Dyck Dave Heath	Dodgeville Dodgeville Prairie du Chien	608/935-3368 608/935-3368 608/326-8818
Green	Sugar R. basin Pecatonica basin	Don Bush Bradd Sims	Edgerton Dodgeville	608/868-7273 608/935-1935
Green Lake		Dave Bartz & Dave Paynter	Montello Montello	608/297-7058 608/297-7058
Iowa	South of Rt. 18 North of Rt. 18	Bradd Sims Gene Van Dyck	Dodgeville Dodgeville	608/935-1935 608/935-3368
Iron	Inland waters Lake Superior	Jeff Roth Steve Schram	Mercer Bayfield	715/476-2240 715/779-4030
Jackson		Dan Hatteli	Black River Falls	715/284-1428
Jefferson	Lower Rock Upper Rock	Don Bush Laura Stremick	Edgerton Horicon	608/387-7273 608/387-7876
Juneau		Scott Ironside	Friendship	608/339-8087
Kenosha	Inland waters Lake Michigan	Doug Welch & Rich Dauffenbach Pradeep Hirethota	Sturtevant Sturtevant Milwaukee	262/884-2364 262/884-2366 414/382-7928
Kewaunee		Steve Hogler & Steve Surendonk	Mishicot	920/755-4982
La Crosse	Inland waters Mississippi R.	Dave Vetrano Ron Benjamin	La Crosse La Crosse	608/785-9009 608/785-9012
Lafayette		Bradd Simms	Dodgeville	608/935-1935
Langlade		Dave Seibel	Antigo	715/627-4317
Lincoln		Dave Seibel	Antigo	715/627-4317
Manitowoc		Steve Hogler & Steve Surendonk	Mishicot	920/755-4982
Marathon		Al Hauber	Wausau	715/359-7582
Marinette	Inland waters Lake Michigan	Thomas Meronek, Russ Heizer & Greg Kornely Justine Hasz	Peshigo	715/582-5009 715/582-5009 715/582-5010 902/582-5017
Marquette		Dave Bartz & Dave Paynter	Montello	608/297-7058
Menominee		Ross Langhurst & Dean Schoenke	Shawano	715/526-4227 715/526-4231
Milwaukee	Inland waters Lake Michigan	Matt Coffaro Pradeep Hirethota	Milwaukee	414/263-8614 414/382-7928
Monroe		Dave Vetrano	La Crosse	608/785-9009
Oconto	Inland waters	Thomas Meronek Russ Heizer, Greg Kornely Ross Langhurst Dean Schoenke Justine Hasz	Peshigo Peshigo Peshigo Shawano Shawano Peshigo	715/582-5052 715/582-5009 715/582-5010 715/526-4227 715/526-4231 715/582-5017
Oneida		Mike Vogelsang	Hineland	715/355-8919
Outagamie		Terry Lynchwick Kendall Kamke	Green Bay Oshkosh	920/445-5140 920/424-7880
Ozaukee	Inland waters Lake Michigan	William Wawrzyn John Kubiaski	Milwaukee Plymouth	414/263-8699 920/892-8756
Pepin		Marty Engel	Baldwin	715/684-2914
Pierce		Marty Engel	Baldwin	715/684-2914
Polk		Rick Cornelius	Barron	715/537-5046
Portage		Al Hauber	Wausau	715/359-7582
Price		Jim Lealos	Park Falls	715/762-3204
Racine	Inland waters Lake Michigan	Doug Welch & Rich Dauffenbach Pradeep Hirethota	Sturtevant Sturtevant Milwaukee	262/884-2364 262/884-2364 414/382-7928
Richland		Gene Van Dyck	Dodgeville	608/935-3368
Rock	L. Rock basin	Don Bush	Edgerton	608/868-7273
Rusk	Rivers & flowages	Jim Lealos Frank Pratt	Park Falls Hayward	715/762-3204 715/634-2688
St. Croix		Marty Engel	Baldwin	715/684-2914
Sauk		Tim Larson	Poynette	608/635-8122
Sawyer		Frank Pratt	Hayward	715/634-2688
Shawano		Ross Langhurst Dean Schoenke	Shawano	715/526-4227 715/526-4231
Sheboygan	Northern half Southern half Lake Michigan	John Nelson William Wawrzyn John Kubiaski	Plymouth Milwaukee Plymouth	920/892-8756 414/263-8699 920/892-8756
Taylor		Jim Lealos	Park Falls	715/762-3204
Trempealeau		Dan Hatteli	Black River Falls	715/284-1428
Vernon		Dave Vetrano	La Crosse	608/785-9009
Vilas		Steve Gilbert	Woodruff	715/358-9229
Walworth		Doug Welch & Rich Dauffenbach	Sturtevant	262/884-2364 262/884-2366
Washburn		Larry Damman	Spooner	920/635-4089
Washington	Western half Eastern half	John Nelson William Wawrzyn	Plymouth Milwaukee	920/892-8756 414/263-8699
Waukesha		Sue Beyler & Steve Gospodarek	Eagle	262/594-2602
Winnebago		Ron Erickson Kendall Kamke Jack O'Brien	Oshkosh Oshkosh Oshkosh	920/424-7880 920/424-7880 920/424-7880
Wood		Scott Ironside	Friendship	608/339-8087
Treaty (East) Treaty (West)		Mike Coshun Jamison Wendel	Woodruff Spooner	715/358-9229 715/635-4095
Forest Service Liaison		Skip Sommerfeldt	Park Falls	715/762-3204
L. Superior / East		Steve Schram	Bayfield	715/779-3780
L. Superior / West	Douglas & Bayfield	Denis Pratt	Superior	715/392-7988

River Falls proposes storm water ordinance to protect Kinni

By Gary Horvath

The City of River Falls began debate March 6 on passing an innovative ordinance for the management of storm water to protect the Kinnickinnic River, which runs through the heart of the city.

The ordinance targets the maximum level of impervious area for new development at 15% within the city.

Developments exceeding this level will employ mitigation techniques outlined in a toolbox being developed by city consultants in cooperation with Kent Johnson, a member of TU's Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter.

As we build, we replace our natural landscape with streets, parking lots, rooftops, and other impervious surfaces. The effect of this conversion is stormwater and snowmelt which, prior to development, would have been filtered and captured by the natural landscape.

Following development, this water is trapped above impervious surfaces, accumulates, and runs off into streams, lakes, and estuaries, picking up pollutants along the way.

An increase in the amount of impervious surfaces within a watershed causes streambeds to widen due to an increase in flooding. Groundwater recharge is also reduced,

which directly impacts the spring flow that supports our cold-water fisheries.

Also, during the summer months, stormwater is heated as it contacts hot surfaces such as parking lots. Consequently, as stormwater enters the stream, it is common to have temperatures well above the lethal limit for trout.

When impervious surfaces within a watershed rise above 10 percent, impacts on local water bodies are significant, and beyond 25 percent they are quite damaging. The hydrologic changes have significant impact on the aquatic habitat — stream channels become unstable and the bottom substrate becomes embedded due to sediment deposition. Biological diversity is quickly diminished as insects, such as caddis and mayflies, disappear, along with the fish that depend on them, such as trout.

The determination of stream quality can be made based on the percent of imperviousness coverage within the watershed. The categories in the table below indicate a qualitative degree of stream deterioration due to urbanization, as measured by the percent of imperviousness coverage.

The Stream Quality Index*

Imperviousness	Stream Category	Description
1 to 10%	PROTECTED	Channels are stable. Streams are rich in biodiversity. Good water quality.
11 to 25%	IMPACTED	Channels are unstable. Water quality is fair and biodiversity is fair.
More than 25%	DEGRADED	Channels are quite unstable. Water quality is fair-to-poor and stream biodiversity is low.

*Schueler, T. 1994. *The Importance of Imperviousness*. Watershed Protection Techniques. 1(3): 100-111.

There are two aspects of the River Falls ordinance make it unique in Wisconsin. First, this ordinance will set performance standards for the rate and volume of stormwater runoff, removal of water quality pollutants, and temperature of the runoff. This is critical in maintaining the hydrologic and thermal regimes currently found in the Kinni.

Under current water quality law, thermal impacts are not considered when determining impacts to receiving waters, even though for resources like the Kinni, they are crucial.

Secondly, the application of an impervious standard aimed at protecting water quality has not yet been considered in Wisconsin. The city of River Falls ordinance will set a 15% effective imperviousness standard for each new development site.

The goal is to help developers realize the importance of the stormwater issue early in the design process. Once stormwater is concentrated in a pipe, it is extremely difficult to manage, especially the thermal aspects of the resulting discharge.

The Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter has been working on stormwater issues

for ten years in River Falls. The chapter began temperature monitoring in the Kinnickinnic in 1992.

This baseline data is important in determining any impacts from future development. The monitoring has also documented impacts from existing development.

This monitoring was the catalyst for creating the chapter's video *Storm on the Horizon*, which outlines the storm water issue.

Kiap-TU-Wish participated in the preparation of the city's storm water management plan in 1994, which outlined the need for the ordinance.

The chapter has been involved in the Kinnickinnic Priority watershed project since its inception in 1996.

Future efforts for the chapter will focus on passage of the ordinance and the development and refinement of the mitigation toolbox.

The chapter will also explore other ways to help the WDNR complete development of a thermal model of the Kinnickinnic and other coldwater streams. This is needed to assess the effectiveness of the best management practices contained in the toolbox.

Group hears ideas for storm water problems

By Theresa Plenty

Storm water management was the topic of a recent Friends of Rowan Creek presentation in Poynette.

The program attracted some 45 citizens and local leaders from surrounding villages, cities, and townships and featured Cross Plains' experience in storm water management. Speakers included:

- Jerry Gray, director of Public Works, Cross Plains,
- Wendy Sterne and Dennis Franke of the Black Earth Creek Conservation Organization,
- Ron Steiner, engineer, General Engineering of Portage, and
- Roger Bannerman, environmental specialist, DNR.

"We can no longer just say, let's get the water in a pipe and get it out of here," said Gray.

Gray talked about the history of storm water management in Cross Plains and his responsibility to enforce and manage storm water issues.

Planning is vital. "The biggest problem at Cross Plains are the 17 storm water pipes from older parts of the community. Fixing things after the fact is very difficult."

Sterne, a citizen advocate for Black Earth Creek, said citizens need to be involved in the process of storm water management in their community.

"Jerry Gray may have 20 other issues going on at the same time as creek issues, so you need to make him aware that it is important to handle the creek," said Gray.

"A trout stream like Rowan Creek running through the center of town adds a lot of value to the quality of life. It is why people are moving here and several other communities, such as Cross Plains. People like to see the trout and plants rather than a dead stream," Franke added.

"I've fished Rowan Creek for years, and it is a quality stream that needs protection. People need to survey the stream during rain storms and identify sources of storm water runoff, take photos to document the sources, and then work to correct the problems. We need to be advocates for the quality of the water in Rowan Creek and work to control storm water and provide good land management in the watershed," said Franke.

Roger Bannerman, environmental specialist with the DNR, warned, "If the communities around Rowan Creek develop to a certain point, you will lose the creek."

Although planners have been doing a good job with agricultural runoff, the final frontier is urban runoff, Bannerman said.

Research on agricultural runoff has been done over the past 30 years, but data on urban runoff has been available only in the last five to 10 years. Bannerman has been studying the effects of storm water runoff and has come up with new data and new information about the effects of urbanization.

In warmwater streams with just eight percent of impervious surface, he says, you start to lose a stream, and with 15 percent impervious surface, you've already lost the stream.

Impervious surfaces include things like rooftops, parking lots, driveways, sidewalks, and roads that do not infiltrate water. Analysis on the impact of urbanization on cold-water streams will be available this summer.

Outdated local ordinances also need to be brought up to current science, says Bannerman. Newer ordinances must include a storm water management plan incorporating conservation or low-impact designs that include improvements such as:

- narrower roads,
- the use of paver blocks instead of concrete, and
- building into the plan a variety of treatments like rain gardens and retention areas.

A retention pond alone is not enough to protect your stream, he says.

Ron Steiner, engineer for General Engineering in Portage, and Bannerman are working together for a developer in Cross Plains to build low-impact treatment systems to reduce most of the storm water runoff.

They are using three different approaches — rain gardens, infiltration trenches, and infiltration basins. Bannerman says the developer using these ideas will still make money. Steiner has been effective in developing rain gardens in developments throughout Dane County.

"It only takes a few developments to ruin a stream," says Bannerman. "Communities should create guidelines for developers to follow before they start drawing

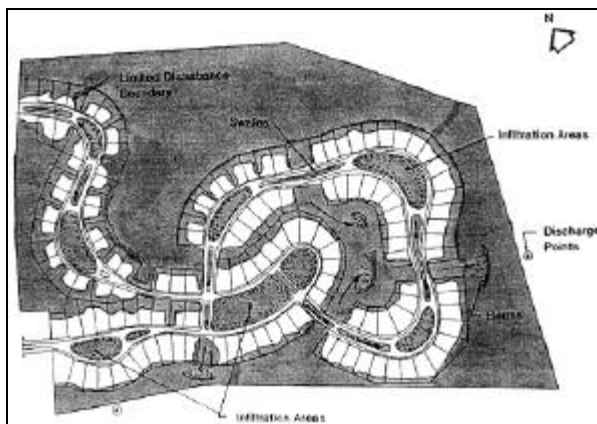
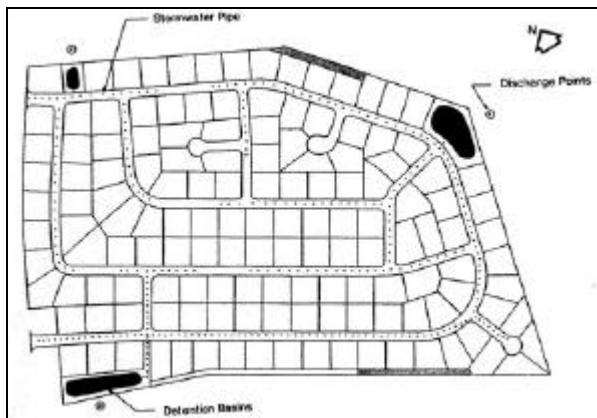
their plans. One of the guidelines should be to have development include 90% of predevelopment infiltration. You need 4% of the area set aside to accomplish this."

"Most of the time ideas can be worked into a conventional design, but to do it more comprehensively — keeping in mind the 90% and doing a conservation design — you can protect the stream. Most developers and engineers find these ideas new,

but I find more people wanting to include these newer treatments because they want to do the right thing," said Bannerman.

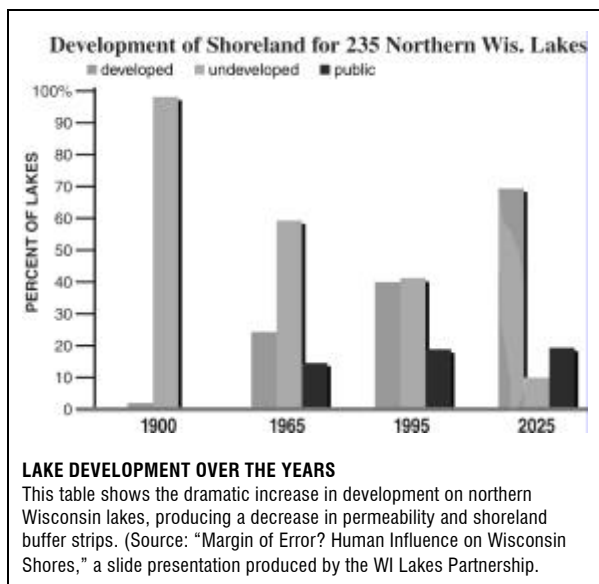
For more information about the Friends of Rowan Creek and how you can get involved protecting this high-quality stream, contact President Nancy Braker at (608) 635-4040.

(Theresa Plenty is secretary of the Friends of Rowan Creek. —Ed.)



GETTING WATER BACK INTO THE AQUIFER

Part of DNR researcher Roger Bannerman's presentation for the Friends of Rowan Creek involved showing alternatives to traditional development. A traditional subdivision (top) has large lots, few water retention areas, and more impermeable surfaces. Groundwater-friendly developments (bottom) have more areas for water to infiltrate back into the ground.



Crandon mine parent Billiton merges with BHP

The London-based South African company Billiton — parent company of Nicolet Minerals, applicants for the proposed Crandon Mine — has merged with the Australian mining company Broken Hill Proprietary (BHP).



The announcement came just as Wisconsin Trout was going to press.

Billiton had purchased Rio Algom less than six months ago. The combined BHP and Billiton will be called BHP Billiton.

BHP had explored in the area of the Crandon mine site, but left Wisconsin in the late 1990s after strong opposition from Mole Lake and its neighbors.

BHP is one of Australia's historic mining houses and now becomes one of the world's largest mining multi-nationals.

"The merger will be achieved through a dual listed company ("DLC") structure, creating a formidable enterprise of global scale and diversity, with the capacity and flexibility to pursue international growth opportunities, and with outstanding access to major capital markets," the company said.

"BHP Billiton will be run by a unified Board and management team, with headquarters in Melbourne, Australia, and with a significant corporate management center in London," said release continued.

TU state banquet a 'resounding success'

Wisconsin TU's annual state banquet was a resounding success, raising over \$8,000 for coldwater conservation Feb. 3 at the Oshkosh Park Plaza/Convention Center.

The banquet committee thanks donors and attendees who supported Wisconsin TU, and urges TU members to support our donors (*see donor list at right*).



FISTFUL OF FRANKLINS

Newly elected State Council Vice Chair Jim Hlaban of Neenah won the earlybird drawing at the State Council banquet. Here Jim ponders what goodies he'd like to buy with his unexpected largess.

'Trees' offers fly tying course

The Trees for Tomorrow natural resources school in Eagle River has announced the dates of its 2001 fly tying and fly fishing programs.

The beginning fly tying program will feature former WITU Chair Bill Shearer of Eagle River April 21-22.

Two fly fishing school sessions will be held the weekends of June 1-

3 and June 8-10.

The fly fishing program features professional guide George Langley.

Trees for Tomorrow is a natural resources specialty school located on 30 acres of forest land just a few blocks from downtown Eagle River.

For information on the courses, call the camp at (800) 838-9472.

Training sessions offered on environmental loans and grants

Municipal officials, engineers, consultants and others can learn more about grants and low-interest loans available for such things as making improvements in wastewater treatment facilities, providing safe drinking water, and cleaning up contaminated sites at a series of upcoming free training sessions.

The training sessions being con-

ducted by the WDNR's Environmental Loans Section will include information on low-interest loan programs for municipalities, including

- the Clean Water Fund Program,
- the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program, and
- the Land Recycling Loan Program.

These programs are funded at both the state and federal level, with the funds being distributed through the Community Financial Assistance Bureau of the DNR.

In one mid-sized community, more than \$7 million in low-interest loans were distributed through these programs.

The City of Stoughton received funding to improve area water quality by modifying its wastewater treatment plant and removing phosphorous from wastewater, among other related projects.

For more information contact Deb Olson at (608) 266-5889

Southern Wisconsin Chapter members would have recognized the contributions of Dr. Sausage and Colonel Mustard at the banquet: emcee Topf Wells of Madison kept the proceedings moving with a deft comedic flair and frequent weather updates, while Awards Committee Chair Larry Meicher of Rio worked to publicly recognize the year's State Council awards recipients.

A highlight of the live auction was an array of guided trips donated by some of the state's notable professional guides, including Tom Ehler, Craig Amacher, Madison Outfitters, Jim Bartelt, and John Koch, as well as capable amateurs John Bethke and Bob Hunt. All are strong supporters of TU's statewide efforts.

Many of Wisconsin's fly shops and fishing gear manufacturers — plus a number of prominent wildlife artists, including trout stamp contest winners Elizabeth Wucherer and Terry Doughty — also donated significantly to the banquet.

Banquet co-chairs included Jack Wahlers of Berlin, Dan Holland of Plover, and Duke Welter of Eau Claire.

They were assisted by committee members Darrell Tolliver of Green Bay, Todd Hanson of Madison, Herb Buettner of the White Lake, and Larry Meicher of Rio.

Volunteers included Bob Juracka, Patti Holland, Jeff and Gina Phillips, Jim Friedrich, Dave Johnson, Bill Sherer, and Ann Knuth.

"We thank our members and volunteers," said John Welter, "and we welcome new banquet committee members for the 2002 banquet."

Next year's banquet will be held the first Saturday in February, so reserve Feb. 2 on your calendars now.

NATURAL: what is it, anyway?

Continued from p. 19

I fished one of them in August during midday using a Yellow Wulff or a foam-bodied Humpy to imitate the local grasshoppers. The native brookies were generally not large, although on occasion I would flush out a much larger fish. The further I got from the road, the more beautiful they became, and I look forward to more visits in future seasons.

On another August afternoon on a river in southwestern Wisconsin; I fished behind the corn fields away from the road while the sky clouded over. The resident browns were coming out, from under the banks improved withunker structures, to take a green-bodied Elk Hair Caddis that apparently reminded them of the green leaf hoppers that filled the meadows.

When I finished fishing, it was a long walk back. Since there were no special regulations on this stretch of water, I was sure it was that hike that made the fishing what it was; along with the cloudy sky, of course.

What is natural? Even though these two waters were put through a major makeover, they did contain many fish and were a joy and pleasure to fish and look at. The situation is not unlike the remodeling and enhancing done on many famous models and actresses. The way I look at it, in both cases, it's the end result that counts.

(Lee Kersten is a member of the Shaw-Paca Chapter of TU. This story originally appeared in December issue of The Marion Advertiser. -Ed.)

2001 Wisconsin TU banquet donors

Gregg Alexander, Author, Wild Rivers Chapter
Angler Sports Group (Wheatley Fly Boxes)
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Blackhawk Chapter of TU
Dick Berge, Wild Rivers & Southern Wis. Chapters
John Bethke, Coulee Chapter
The Fly Shop at Bob's, Green Bay
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Ralph Buchholz/Hornberg TU
Herb Buettner/Wolf River TU/Wild Wolf Inn
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Elizabeth Wucherer, Artist, Flying Fish Gallery

WISCONSIN TROUT WATERS

TROUT FISHERMAN'S DREAM BOOK



The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, in its efforts to catalog the abundant resources of the state, keeps track of trout success throughout Wisconsin. This information has been transferred to the maps included in this publication.

These access maps indicate the best-producing trout streams in the state.

60 pages \$12.95 each \$1.50 per book for shipping

CLARKSON MAP COMPANY
1225 DeLanglade St., Kaukauna, WI 54130

X-hopper a low-floating, durable fly

By George Close

While fly fishing in Montana one summer, I became familiar with Doug Swisher's "Madam X." This utilitarian trout fly was a great producer for me.

With Wisconsin and upper Midwestern spring creeks in mind, I shortened it, added some yellow poly, and called it an X-hopper.

This hopper is easy to tie, and after dressing it with floatant, rides low in the water where it is most lifelike. The legs can be colored with permanent markers to help them blend in with the locals. Tie them in black and they will pass as crickets.

Try an "X-hopper" this summer on your favorite creek. I think you will like them and, after all, you can always use another hopper pattern.

Tying instructions

De-barb and mount a 2x long hook in your vice. Add thread wraps to the shank and return to one-third shank length behind the eye.

Add a small clump of unstacked natural deer hair for the tail. Tie it

over the rear two-thirds of the hook shank and allow about one-half inch of the tips to extend past the bend of the hook.

MATERIALS LIST X-hopper

Hook: 2x long hopper hook, size 10 or 12.

Thread: Yellow 3/0 or single-strand floss.

Tail: Natural deer hair.

Body: Yellow poly yarn.

Head/Wing: Natural deer hair.

Legs: Cream round rubber.

Tie in and wrap some poly yarn from the rear to the front of the hook shank.

Cut and stack a clump of natural deer hair that is about three times thicker than the tail. The length should be equal to the overall length of the hook and tail combined.

Tie in the deer hair reverse style right behind the hook eye and bind

the tips down to about one-third of the way back and trim off.

To form the bullet head and wing, grasp the deer hair and pull it back over the top and tie down. A tip here is to add two loose wraps over the wing and pull up. This step will help keep the wing on top of the shank. Now wrap a few tight wraps.

Tie in some round rubber legs on each side and tie off. Trim the legs to a proper length. When the fly is viewed from the top, the legs should look like an "X." Mark the legs if you wish and soak the head with Flexament or Softex to toughen it up. Now wasn't that easy?

(George Close of Kiel, WI, is a member of the Helen Shaw Fly Fishers of Sheboygan. -Ed.)

Have a favorite fly pattern or trout fishing tip you'd like to share with others?

If so, contact *Wisconsin Trout* for information on how to submit your material.



Tie in deer hair tail and wrap hook with yellow poly yarn



Secure a clump of deer hair close to the hook's eye.



Pull hair back along top of fly and secure to the top of the body.



Attach rubber legs so they form an "X" when viewed from above.

Angler asks, "What is natural, anyway?"

By Lee Kersten

To repeat the question of the day, "What is natural?" As we soon shall see, this can be a dangerous question.

One of my favorite expressions is the disclaimer that some products contain only "natural" ingredients. Should this give us any comfort? Not hardly, pilgrims! The dictionary definition of natural states that the term refers to any materials found in or produced in nature. If this is the case, then that product with all natural ingredients could contain animal parts, dirt, or organic animal by-products.

In other situations, it is important that the final result looks natural. These could include hair colors, cosmetic surgery, and other assorted "body" work. Sooner or later, gentle reader, you know we must get to the central theme of fishing and relate this natural business to it.

Changes over the years

What does a natural trout stream look like? Our Midwest waters now most certainly do not resemble what they looked like when the settlers first arrived. For most waters, there has been several transformations.

The first wave of settlement resulted in the removal of the forest cover. This reduced bank cover changed the water temperatures, and the spread of agriculture further reduced bank cover causing erosion. In those early days, the cows were sent out to that back forty where the creek ran through. As is their habit, they would stand in the water and stomp down the banks. Streams in those days looked pretty bare and the native brook trout either headed for the cooler upstream reaches or turned fins up.

In later years, the cows have been kept closer to the barn to avoid the flies of summer and the resulting drop in milk production. As a result, the cover has returned. However, much of this is in the form of low-growing trees and brush; the willow and alder have taken over. While these species do provide shade, they do a poor job of holding the banks in place, and such waters tend to become wider, shallower,

and more difficult to fish. When this last condition occurs, there is the tendency of various organizations to "improve" the stream by reducing the bank brush and adding in-stream cover.

Unfortunately, in our area, without regular maintenance of the bank brush, the alders will return.

Several summers ago, on one of our camping excursions to the shores of Lake Superior, we found an example of what I perceived to be a stream in its natural condition. The small river ran into the lake several miles from our campground. A dirt road took us to a road bridge and a four-wheel drive road through the woods took us downstream toward the lake.

After the road fizzled out, we started walking along the stream, in the low water of summer too small to deserve the title of "river." As we walked, I was struck by the atmosphere. The trees formed a tall cathedral-like cover, sheltering out the sun and sky.

The scene reminded me of those older paintings of nature. I used to think that these scenes were artist enhanced. Now I knew that they were not. The term "green cathedral" applied well to this area, with the canopy of trees providing an arched ceiling and the quiet chattering of the stream providing the music.

Mother Nature often a klutz

The need for stream improvement is clear. When it comes to maintaining a tidy stream, Mother Nature is a first-class klutz. Trees grow in the wrong places and stones are scattered about that form shallow, barren areas. A major die-off of trees, such as happened with the elms in our area over the past decade, can produce a stream full of brush and woody debris. Most of this material ends up blocking flow without creating much real cover.

Many of us fishermen get the urge to clean up after this happens. Sometimes it is in the form of individual projects. In my early angling days, I "improved" a stretch of creek on one of my neighbors' property.

There were lots of stones to work with, but for some reason the fishing did not seem to improve. I know of several anglers, myself included,

who take a brush nippers along when fishing some of those smaller streams. Then there are the more massive projects undertaken by various conservation organizations such as Trout Unlimited and local sportsman clubs, usually in cooperation with the DNR.

State a leader in improvement

Our state has been leading the way in stream improvement for many years. In his book, *How to Fish from Top to Bottom*, Sid Gordon tells of the work that his work crews did back in the 1930s. A more recent master of stream improvement, Bob Hunt, has written a book *Trout Stream Therapy*, showing more current ideas on the subject.

Improving a stream certainly changes it. I recall some years back when our TU chapter did some work on a local creek. We installed half-logs, which are basically a small diameter log cut in half and mounted on stakes above the stream bed to provide cover for fish.

We also brushed out the banks and used the wood to make brush bundles. These are then laid parallel to the stream flow and anchored to the bank. Silt and dirt collect in the brush, essentially moving the bank in toward the center of the stream. This simple method creates a deeper stream and generally increases the velocity of the flow.

In one of these projects, some local angler did not approve of our work. When we returned, some of the bundles had been removed.

I could appreciate the fact that the stream had been changed, even though there was more cover than before. The purpose of stream improvement is to create habitat for trout and to produce as many trout per mile of stream as possible. To do this, the good areas are condensed and compacted with no waste areas in between.

This past summer, I fished a newly-improved stretch of stream near Ontario, Wisconsin. If there were any fish in this water, I did not see them, but the water was beautiful. Nothing was out of place, the logs and rocks were neatly packed and stacked. I would have only to move a few steps upstream to find another fishy looking run or riffle.

On larger waters, stream improvement can take a different

twist. There is a stretch on such a stream that I have fished for many years. It was mostly shallow, with enough cover to hold fish in spots. Above all, it was wader-friendly for a short fellow such as myself.

About four years ago, I returned to this stretch to find it subtly changed in outward appearance. Upon trying to wade, I found large rocks had been put into the middle of the channel to create cover. This made the river impossible to wade, at least for me. At least for this stream, I have the same feeling as that fisherman who tore out the brush bundles — despite the extra cover, one of my favorite pieces of water is not the same.

Fishability promotes pressure

To me, there is another downside of stream improvement on small streams. On such a piece of water, every hole and pocket is fishable. There are no inaccessible areas. When such water is open to unrestricted angling, the fish populations generally take a beating. While it is easy to blame the bait and spinner crowd when such things happen, there are some fly fishers that would also take advantage.

Despite that, fishing an improved piece of water that is either difficult to access or is protected by special regulations can be a joy. I discovered several new areas with the former status this past summer.

Continued on p. 18

Member
Opinion

TU State Council leader profile

The Chair wore waders

By Rolf Skogstad

It all started 20 years ago in 1981 on a fishing trip to the legendary Douglas County Brule River. He had never fished trout before, and when you're a complete beginner, it can sometimes take more than being on sacred



Jon Christiansen

water trying to absorb the karma of artful anglers past to catch trout. He would later admit that he caught no trout on this first foray, but would add that he sure had a lot of fun not catching any fish. So much fun, in fact, that he continued to fish and, by his own account, became a passionate trout angler within two to three years.

On the technical side of fishing, his passion led him into rod making and fly tying, while his enjoyment of the fishing itself led him to acquire a personal hideaway on the banks of the Pine River of Waushara County, a native brook and brown trout stream of the central sands, and to eventually make an annual pilgrimage to Montana's famous Bighorn River his personal rite of spring. In other words, as with many of us, trout fishing grew to become more for him than just a sport; rather, it became an integral part of his year round life.

Who is "he"? In his other life he is a successful 50-year-old trial attorney specializing in manufacturer-distributor relations cases. He is also a married father of three children, all of whom are currently pursuing professional lives through

university educations.

He is a resident of Mequon, Wisconsin, a suburb of our state's largest city, and, in a sense, he is a citizen of the nation at large, routinely traveling to cities and other sites of commerce the country over in pursuit of his highly specialized and esoteric profession. But "he" is also Jon Christiansen, newly elected chair of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited's State Council.

After becoming a confirmed and certifiable trout angler, Jon found and joined Trout Unlimited 12 years ago as a member of the Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter in Milwaukee. As a chapter member, Jon was initially very active in local membership activities and now recalls with some pride and satisfaction that it was during this period that the Southeastern Chapter built its membership to the point where it became, and still remains, the second largest chapter in the state.

Jon went on to become president of the Southeastern Chapter during 1994 and 1995, wherefrom he also became active in TU at the state level as secretary of the State Council during 1995 and 1996.

At the most recent State Council meeting February 3, Jon was elected chair of our Wisconsin Council, succeeding fellow attorney John "Duke" Welter of Eau Claire.

Jon has said that he was first attracted to Trout Unlimited and his chapter as an opportunity to join a "trout club," as a way to improve as a fisherman through the fellowship of other anglers. However, once he joined TU, Jon quickly learned the importance of coldwater conservation and became an active and sincere supporter of TU's mission to conserve, protect, and restore.

As Council Chair, Jon hopes to

Continued on p. 21



TENMILE CREEK ACCESS AREA

This is the view of Tenmile Creek near the new access point TU helped the WDNR purchase.

PURCHASE: Tenmile access

Continued from p. 24

Silver Creek Trail on the south side of the property.

Besides the State Council's Friends fund, other contributors to this purchase included the Antigo, Central Wisconsin, Frank Hornberg, Fox Valley, Green Bay, Shaw-

Paca, and Wisconsin River Valley chapters of Trout Unlimited.

"We considered this to be an important purchase", said Pete Wolter, DNR land acquisition agent. "We can't thank TU enough for their assistance. This probably wouldn't have happened without your help."



Northwoods joins other TU chapters on the web

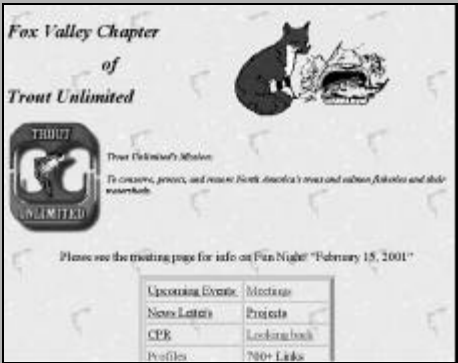
The Northwoods Chapter of TU recently brought its new web site on-line.

In addition to the State Council's web site at www.lambcom.net/witu/, four Wisconsin TU chapters now have web sites:

Fox Valley at www.vbe.com/~heusers/fvtu.htm,

Harry & Laura Nohr at <http://members.tripod.com/nohrchapter/>,

Kiap-TU-Wish at www.lambcom.net/kiaptuwish, and Northwoods at www.northwoodstu.org/.



Time running out on land purchase opportunity

Gratiot River purchase key to coaster habitat efforts

By Ray Weglarz

The Copper Country Chapter of Trout Unlimited (CCCTU) is working to purchase a key parcel of land encompassing the mouth of the Gratiot River in Michigan's western

It has been the focus of efforts to reintroduce and study coaster brook trout (CBT) in western Lake Superior by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), Michigan Technological University in Houghton (MTU), and the Copper

sey Huckins and graduate students at MTU to conduct research on CBT growth, dispersal, diet, and habitat utilization in the lower Gratiot River and proximate coastal habitat. CCCTU was awarded a TU Embrace A Stream (EAS) grant for CBT research in 2000 and the chapter has applied for continued EAS funding for 2001.

We couldn't be more pleased with how well the CBT project has been moving forward. We've had support of Joe McGurrian from TU National and from the Michigan Council as well.

Spawning grounds at risk

"There are clouds on the horizon" cautions Bill Deephouse, retired MDNR fishery biologist and CCCTU member. Deephouse says the future of the coaster program the Gratiot is in question.

"A major hurdle is protecting the lower river from development," says Deephouse. "Protecting CBT habitat is critical to the success of the project."

Griffith and the NWC have been working since 1992 to protect the

Gratiot watershed and adjacent coastline from development.

Key habitat parcel available

Recently, the MDNR Natural Resources Trust Fund awarded a grant to Keweenaw County to purchase a 100 acre parcel at the mouth of the Gratiot from the Lake Superior Land Company (LSLC), a subsidiary of International Paper.

The grant covers 75% of the cost, with Keweenaw County needing to raise the remaining 25% (\$137,500).

"This property has spectacular biological, recreational, and scenic values," says John Griffith, president of the

North Woods Conservancy and a TU Life Member.

"This parcel is the key to preserving the whole area," says Griffith.

The deadline for the grant is March 31, 2001, though this may be extended for a short period of time.

Contact me at weglarz@up.net or (906) 337-2136 about how you can help in this effort.

(Ray Weglarz of Allouez, MI, is president of Michigan's Copper Country Chapter of TU. -Ed.)



PRIME COASTER SPAWNING HABITAT

While the upper Gratiot River is inaccessible to spawning coaster brook trout due to falls in the river, lower stretches like these are prime habitat.

Upper Peninsula as part of its continuing efforts to restore Lake Superior's wild coaster brook trout.

The Gratiot River is a wild, undeveloped, freestone stream in Keweenaw County in Michigan's western UP.

Coaster stocking efforts

For the past two years, the Grati-

Country Chapter of Trout Unlimited (CCCTU).

Working cooperatively, these groups planted 29,000 fall fingerling CBT into the lower Gratiot River in 1999 and 30,000 in September 2000. MDNR expects to plant CBT in the Gratiot for at least four more years.

CCCTU members have been working closely with professor Ca-

CHAIR: wore waders

Continued from p. 20

begin by maintaining TU's basic ability to improve and restore cold-water streams and to raise funds toward that end.

Secondly, believing that TU has always been fundamentally a grass-roots organization whose strength has been from the bottom up, Jon would like to undertake an initiative to encourage local chapters to become more active and to more fully develop the leadership and organizational capabilities of their individual members.

And, thirdly, as an attorney, Jon understands that many of conservation's toughest and most crucial battles these days are legal battles. Consequently he hopes to encourage TU to continue supporting legislative initiatives where necessary in areas such as regulation to protect isolated wetlands and to control nonpoint pollution. At the same time, Jon would also like to see Wisconsin TU develop a litigation capability to help enforce resource protection laws and give them

meaning.

This serious and somewhat ambitious agenda of our new chair grows out of Jon's sincere affection for trout fishing and his keen appreciation of the value of time spent astream.

It is the high contrast between the pressurized pace of his professional life and the relaxed rhythms of his fishing life that Jon appreciates most. Jon is comforted by the realization that the trout behind the rock is always there, and yet honors no appointments with anyone of any rank. That is why one of Jon's favorite fishing quotations is this one from Zane Grey: "When you set foot into a trout stream, time is annihilated."

And so if you, too, should one day fish the Waushara County Pine and meet a flyfisher wading with a retriever who answers to the name "Lindy," say "hi" perhaps "thanks" because you have just met Jon Christiansen, new chair of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited.

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Catching Big Fish has lots for the advanced fly fisher

By John Welter

One of Wisconsin's longtime trout fishing authorities, Tom Wendelburg, has had a lot to say over the past three decades in articles in almost every national angling magazine.

Now, in a book co-written with Jeff Mayers of Madison, *Catching Big Fish on Light Fly Tackle* (University of Wisconsin Press, \$50 cloth; \$19.95 paper) those articles have been culled and updated. The results offer a wealth of suggestions and a good read.

Wendelburg fished western rivers, as well as his native Wisconsin spring creeks like Black Earth, for many years before the boom trout-ing years of the past decade.

Designing his own flies and selling them along the streams, for several seasons he disposed of many of life's little entanglements and lived out of his car along trout streams.

But his passion for trout brought

his level of knowledge of their behavior and the places they live far beyond that of the average angler. For the beginner, this should probably be your second — not first — "how-to" book.

Scattered throughout the book, I found tactics and ideas that I'm eager to try out this season. For example, Wendelburg suggests intentionally draping leader and fly over a branch hanging over the water and letting the current take the line and lift the fly. He says it works. Even if it doesn't, and my fly ends up snagged on the branch, I can say I was just following his suggestion.

"...this should probably be your second — not first — 'how-to' book."

You might wonder why he champions "fly" style rods — the 5½ to 7½ foot 2-weight rods for trout — and using smaller-than-recommended rods for everything from steelhead to bass.

But I can vouch for the light rod in gently presenting a fly in tight quarters; somehow it feels more deft, more responsive, and certainly is less tiring than a longer rod. It

may even be less of a target for slamming in car doors, but I can't vouch personally for that.

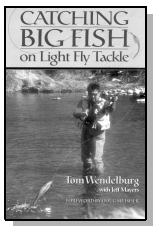
Tom casts left-handed, as I do, so for a pleasant change I didn't have to mentally hold the diagrams up to a mirror. After four million right-

handed casting diagrams, it's about time.

Although it isn't sold as a "pattern" book, *Catching Big Fish on Light Fly Tackle* includes many of Wendelburg's signature flies: the Wendelburg Scud, the No-Hackle Caddis, and his rubber-legged deer hair hoppers and crickets.

The pictures may not be crisp and quite as detailed as one would like (in order to copy those patterns), but you can generally get the drift enough to make your own. After a streamside look at one of Tom's fly boxes one night while waiting for the Hex hatch to begin on Black Earth Creek, I believe his innovative patterns might be fodder for another book, or at least a series of columns in *Wisconsin Trout*.

(If you can't find Tom Wendelburg's new book near you, it is available directly from the University of Wisconsin Press' Chicago Distribution Center at (800) 621-2736. -Ed.)



Early trout season closes April 29

The 2001 early trout season will end at midnight on the Sunday preceding the general opener to allow for a five-day "rest" period. That means this year's season closes April 29, five days before the regular season begins May 5.

This closing date will continue into the future as part of Wisconsin's new, permanent statewide early trout fishing season.

Variable starting date

For all coming years, the season begins on the first Saturday in March instead of on the first day of March, as it did in 2000.

"The date was changed from March 1 to the first Saturday in March because of a statute that requires all fishing seasons to open on a Saturday," Claggett says.

The permanent early trout season will look similar to the experimental early season trout anglers have enjoyed for the past three years, but with some important differences, says Larry Claggett, DNR coldwater fisheries ecologist.

"Angling continues to be with artificial lures, barbless hooks only, and is totally catch and release," he says. "But season opening and clos-

ing dates are different than during the trial seasons, and some streams in the northeastern part of the state aren't open for fishing because of concerns that these sensitive streams could be damaged."

These changes reflect the work of a task force formed in 1999 by the Natural Resources Board, DNR's policy-making body, to resolve the contentious issues surrounding the trial early season.

Most waters open

Generally, most waters west of U.S. Highway 51 and south of State Highway 23 are open during this early catch-and-release only season. In other areas, selected waters are open.

Ponds, lakes, spring ponds, and defined tributaries to Lake Michigan and Lake Superior are not open in this season, with the exception of part of the White River and the Iron River. Many Lake Superior tributaries have an early opening on March 31 and Lake Michigan tributaries are open year round.

Anglers have debated long and hard whether Wisconsin should have an early season. Some feared the catch-and-release season stress-

es the fish, and others worry that it would harm their fishing prospects later in the regular season. Others thought the season increased opportunities for anglers and didn't hurt the fishery.

"I believe we have finally reached some permanent resolution with this season," Staggs says. "This was possible through the hard work of a task force comprised of representatives from DNR fisheries and law enforcement, Conservation Congress, fishing groups, individual anglers, and landowners."

Task force members presented their recommendations to the Natural Resources Board, and voters at the annual spring hearings approved the permanent season structure by a statewide vote of 5,553 to 2,208.

Forty-three counties backed the permanent season, and 21 voted against it. "That is the largest majority we have ever had on this issue during the spring hearings."

DU festival help sought

Trout Unlimited members from chapters across the state are being sought to help staff a TU booth at the Ducks Unlimited Great Outdoor Festival in Oshkosh the weekend of Aug. 17-19.

Volunteers will be able to purchase admission tickets good for the whole weekend at a reduced cost, according to organizer Jerry Unmuth of the Fox Valley Chapter.

This is a good opportunity for members to meet and talk with people about their chapter's activities. Last year over 75,000 people attended the festival.

"We had enough volunteers last year, but more can always be used so no one person will have to spend more than a few hours at the booth," said Unmuth.

Contact Unmuth before the July 4 deadline at (920) 739-6953 or e-mail Jerscpt@Juno.com.

2001 early catch-and-release open waters

All streams in Adams, Ashland, Barron, Buffalo, Burnett, Chippewa, Clark, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Dodge, Douglas, Dunn, Eau Claire, Fond du Lac, Grant, Green, Green Lake, Iowa, Iron, Jackson, Jefferson, Juneau, Kenosha, La Crosse, Lafayette, Milwaukee, Monroe, Ozaukee, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, Price, Racine, Richland, Rock, Rusk, St. Croix, Sauk, Sawyer, Sheboygan, Taylor, Trempealeau, Vernon, Walworth, Washburn, Washington, Waukesha and Wood counties.

Bayfield — All streams except the White River and its tributaries upstream from Pike River Road Bridge.

Florence — Pine River.

Forest — Peshtigo River downstream from U.S. 8, Pine River downstream from State Hwy. 55, and Rat River downstream from Scattered Rice Lake.

Langlade — Wolf River.

Lincoln — All streams west of State Hwy. 51 and Prairie River downstream from Cty. Hwy. J.

Marathon — Black Creek (mouth at T27N R7E S4), Black Creek (T30N, R3E), Grass Creek, McGinnis Creek, Fournille Creek, Noisy Creek, and Plover River from State Hwy. 29 downstream to State Hwy. 153.

Marquette — North branch Peme Bon Won River downstream from State Hwy. 141, Peshtigo River upstream from Cty. Hwy. C, Pike River between Cty. Hwy. V and Cty. Hwy. K, and Rat River.

Marquette — Chaffee Creek downstream from Cty. Hwy. B, Klawitter Creek, Lawrence Creek, Lunch Creek, Mecan River upstream from State Hwy. 22, Neenah Creek, O'Keefe Creek, Wedde Creek and Westfield Creek.

Oconto — North branch Oconto River downstream from State Hwy. 64 and south branch Oconto River downstream from Cty. Hwy. AA.

Oneida — All streams west of State Hwy. 51 and Bearskin Creek.

Portage — Ditches 1 through 6 downstream from Townline Road and Tomorrow River from Amherst downstream to Durant Road.

Shawano — Middle branch Embarras River from Homme Dam to State Hwy. 29, north branch Embarras River from Tilleda Dam downstream to Leopold Dam and Red River downstream from lower Red Lake Dam.

Vilas — Mishonagan Creek.

Waupaca — North branch Little Wolf River from Cty. Hwy. P to Cty. Hwy. J, south branch Little Wolf River and Waupaca River from Frost Valley Road to State Hwy. 54.

Waushara — Carter Creek, Leola Ditch, Mecan River downstream from 12th Avenue, Pine River downstream from Cty. Hwy. K to Poy Sippi Pond, Roche-a-Cri Creek, Willow Creek from Blackhawk Drive to 29th Lane, and White River from State Hwy. 22 to lower White River Millpond.

FURLED TAPERED LEADERS

We have all experienced the shortcomings of the tapered monofilament leader: we see the rise, then rise cast to get the perfect length, judge the distance upstream from the rise, then cast. Your reward is the mono leader, tippet and fly all end up in a big pile, well short of the target. Despite all the claims, mono leaders often do not perform. But there is a solution to this dilemma, and it has been a round for generations.



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Hex nuts: tips for the Hex hatch

By Steven Heuser

You've been fishing for a few hours now, waiting until dark to see if that legendary hatch they talk about will come off. It's starting to get dark now, and the mosquitoes are really starting to bite. Where in your vest did you stick the bug dope? And where did that flashlight go? You'll need it to find your way out after the hatch is over.

Then out of the corner of your eye you see a flash of brown and hear a big splash right next to you. Your heart skips a beat because your imagination spells swap creature, but after a moment of clear thought, you know that it was just a muskrat. God, you must be nuts to be fishing so late.

Then there are more splashes upstream and you see them — mayflies the size of a hummingbirds. Now you know that it's all worth the effort because so many fish are rising that the water seems like it is boiling.

If you have been fly-fishing for any amount of time, you probably have heard of the Hexagenia hatch. This hatch is intimidating to some and mystical to others. But those who are nuts enough to fish this hatch know the challenges and rewards that the Hex hatch holds.

Well, I have to say that I'm a Hex nut, so if you've ever wanted to give it a try, here are a few tips.

Where to fish

The Hexagenia is a burrowing nymph and can be found in the mud banks and muck deposits in rivers and lakes. In rivers, this type of bottom is usually found in the slower sections. Most of the trout streams in Wisconsin have a Hex hatch to some degree, but the rivers in central Wisconsin can have tremendous Hex hatches. And there are many streams in Northern Wisconsin that have great Hex hatches a little later, giving Hex nuts a chance to chase the hatch northwards.

When to fish

The hatch normally starts in mid June and runs through early July. Although the weather will influence the hatch, the Hex seems to like hot, muggy nights. In years past I have seen the Hex come of in May when we had an early heat wave, and I have also seen them not start until late June because we had a cold spring.

Typically the hatch will start shortly after dark. On my favorite Hex stream, it starts at 9:20 p.m. I can just about set my watch to it.

The flies

The first things I normally see are emergers, followed by duns. When I start out for the evening I start with an emerger or a dun. You can start casting with these flies before that hatch starts, and you will

pick up some fish. After the hatch has been going for 10-20 minutes, I start to see spinners, and then I'll switch my fly to a spinner.

After the hatch has been going

so you need good bug dope. I just read an article in Consumer Reports that said 100% DEET is still the best, but the down side of that is it will eat your line! I don't put

DEET on my hands, just on my head and arms. But I do put Skin-So-Soft on my hands, reapplying it about every half-hour.

I've found it helps to wear a pair of latex gloves. I cut off the fingers so I can handle the line, but the mosquitoes can't get to the back of my hands. The trade-off here is that the latex makes fish 10 times more slippery, so use a net to handle the fish.

One other thing I do to keep mosquitoes from biting is to wear a face/head net. I pull it up over the back of my neck and face but I don't cover my eyes with it. With all those measures I can fish without the mosquitoes biting me. There's nothing worse than having a big fish take your

fly while you're busy swatting mosquitoes.

Wading in the dark

It can be very hard to wade the water in the dark, so it's a good idea to wade the area you are going to fish before it gets dark. Make plans ahead of time on where you are going and where you will get out of the water when done fishing.

The idea of going with a buddy is also a good one. Besides, it's more fun to share the experience with someone.

Over-line your rod

Hex casting is short line casting. You'll be able to do this better if you put, a 5 wt. line on your 4 wt. rod. You don't need or want to make long casts in the dark, anyway. Another trick is to put a piece of tape on your fly line where you feel comfortable making shorts casts. That way you can feel the tape in the dark.

Tippets

There is also no need for a 6x or 5x tippet in the dark. I typically use 3x or 2x. Heavier tippets are not only easier to tie in the dark, but you can pull your fly out of trees without breaking them off. Besides, you may need the heavy tippet if you get lucky and hook a big fish.

Hazards

Besides getting lost in the dark or going in over your waders, there is a chance of you catching something you do not want to touch, and that would be a bat! Yes, it has happened to others and me. The best thing to do is just cut your leader and let it go.

One other hazard is to not step in any bogs or sinkholes when on shore. An easy rule is to not step on any swampy ground unless there is something growing there. I have one friend in particular that I have had to pull out of a sinkhole twice in one season!

Hex easy for trout to hang onto

By Steven Heuser

There are many hex patterns out there. If you ever get the chance take a look at Randy "Buzz" Butters' Hex fly collection, you'll see what I'm talking about.

My fly fishing mentor, Todd Oestreich of Appleton, showed me this pattern. I like it because it can fold in half when the fish takes it. I feel this is important because with such a large fly, fish can sometimes knock the fly out of their mouths if a fly is stiff. After all, a real Hex is fairly soft and can be folded in half.

You can easily adapt this fly to a parachute for imitating duns.

There are two other flies that have similar characteristics. One is Ross Mueller's Hexagenia Parachute from his book "Flies that Catch Trout," and another is John Nebel's Flex Hex, which you can

find at www.globalflyfisher.com/staff/hauer/flexhex.html

Begin by tying in the wing.

Combine 12-16 strands of Krystal Flash with some white poly yarn.

Then tie a second piece of poly yarn to fill out the wing. Wind thread to the bend of the hook.

Next prepare the wood duck flank feather by stripping off all of the downy barbles from the base of the quill. Cut the quill down from

the tip where the barbles are the longest.

Now pull back all the feather barbles, except the last 2-3, toward the base of the quill. Then tie it in at the bend of the hook so that about 1/2 inches of the pulled-back barbles form an extended body.

Finally, dub the body and finish the head and you're ready to hit the water.

MATERIALS LIST Wood Duck Hex

Hook: Tiemco 100, #6 or 8.

Thread: Brown 6/0.

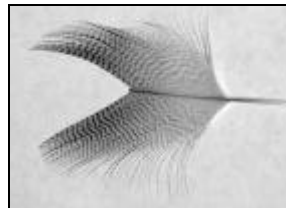
Tail and extended body: Wood duck flank without the black and white bars.

Body: Amber Super Fine.

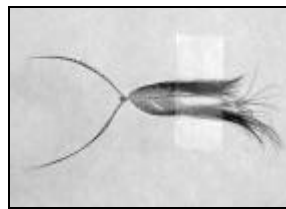
Wing: White poly with pearl Krystal Flash.



Tie in white poly along with some strands of Krystal Flash.



Begin preparing wood duck flank by stripping down and notching the tip.



Pull barbles back in preparation for tying in. A piece of tape helps.




Tie feather in as a body extending past the bend.



Finish the body.

The Hex hatch is a different kind of fly fishing, but that makes it all the more special when you meet the special challenges it presents.

(Steve Heuser is a member of the Fox Valley Chapter. He serves on the Fox Valley board, and is also the chapter's webmaster. -Ed.)



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Friends, chapters help DNR purchase Tenmile Creek access

By Stu Grimstad, Chair
Water Resources Committee

A recent joint effort between the WDNR and Trout Unlimited has made possible the acquisition of a parcel of land along Tenmile Creek in Wood County.

The governor's approval of this proposed DNR purchase would very likely have been denied without the support of TU due to the property's high per-acre assessment value.

The funds pledged by various TU chapters and the Friends of Wisconsin TU fund demonstrated the broad support necessary to make this acquisition a reality.

The three-acre parcel will provide a safe parking area for anglers who were previously

forced to park on the shoulder of Hwy. 13.

Additionally, this acquisition will allow the DNR Bureau of Fisheries to initiate stream restoration efforts on a portion of one of Wood County's few reaches of trophy brown trout water.

Located on the southwest side of the Hwy. 13 crossing of Tenmile Creek, the property was a prime candidate for development under its current zoning, which would have allowed either residential or commercial use.

The site includes a stand of good-sized white pines occupying an upland ridge overlooking the stream.

An angler access will be constructed off of

Continued on p. 21



TU CHECKS A PLENTY

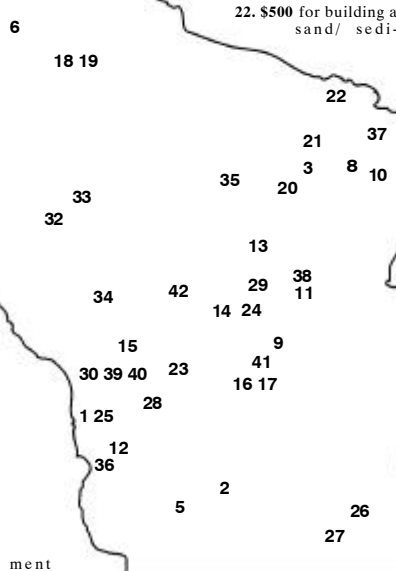
TU's Stu Grimstad (left) passes a handful of checks to DNR Acquisition Agent Pete Wolter for the Tenmile purchase.

"Friends" Project Locations

1. \$4,000 for rip-rapping and structural improvements on the West Fork Kickapoo River (Vernon Co.)
2. \$1,500 for placement of LUNKER structures and bank stabilization in Black Earth Creek (Dane Co.)
3. \$1,000 for hydraulic dredging of Saul Spring Pond (Langlade Co.)
4. \$750 for purchase of special thermometers to monitor stormwater runoff into the Kinnickinnic River (Pierce Co.)
5. \$2,000 for rerouting and stabilizing Brewery Creek (Iowa Co.)
6. \$75 for purchase of catch and release signs for the Bois Brule River Douglas Co.)
7. \$2,500 for renovation of trout rearing facilities in Lincoln Park (City of Manitowoc)
8. \$500 for bank, stabilization, and structural improvements on the North Fork Thunder River (Oconto Co.)
9. \$1,000 for land acquisition along the White River (Waushara Co.)
10. \$1,000 to assist with acquisition of 64+ acres of land along Upper Middle Inlet Creek (Marinette Co.)
11. \$7,000 to purchase a Rotary Screw Fish Trap for DNR Coldwater research
12. \$3,000 to fund stream improvements and riparian protection in and along streams of Middle Kickapoo River watershed. (Vernon and Crawford counties)
13. \$1,000 to help fund instream habitat work in the Plover River (Marathon Co.)
14. \$551 to help purchase recording thermographs to monitor thermal regimes in trout streams in the Buena Vista and Leola marshes (Portage, Wood, Adams counties)
15. \$3,372 for installing bank cover and closing side channels in Sand Creek (Jackson and Monroe counties)
16. \$3,296 to continue and extend stream bank brushing along Chaffee Creek (Marquette Co.)
17. \$1,000 to continue population and movement studies of brown trout in the Mecan River (Marquette County) for potential stream reclassification
18. \$1,700 to conduct follow-up surveys on wild brown trout in the Namekagon River (Sawyer/Bayfield counties)
19. \$2,000 to conduct studies of fall movements and concentrations of spawning wild brood fish in the Namekagon River (Sawyer/Bayfield counties) for cap-

- ture and use in raising wild trout for the river
20. \$1,000 to assist with the third year of dredging silt and detritus from Elton Springs (Langlade Co.)

21. \$1,000 for stream brushing, debris removal, and brush bundle installation in Swanson Creek (Forest County), a tributary to the Rat River
22. \$500 for building a sand/ sedi-



- ment trap in Wisconsin Creek (Florence County), a tributary to the boundary Brule River, to enhance trout spawning potential.
23. \$2,750 to purchase materials for fencing projects approved under the Streambank Easement Program (part of the state's Stewardship Program) for the Wisconsin Rapids Area; and for fencing materials for the

- Little Lemonweir River project (Monroe Co.)
24. \$350 to conduct trout population studies in the lateral ditches listed as trout waters (Portage, Wood and Adams counties) that are under threat from agricultural/cranberry operation encroachment
25. \$250 toward habitat work on the West Fork Kickapoo River (Vernon and Crawford counties)
26. \$2,000 to fund dredging (silt/debris removal) from McClintock Springs in the southern unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest (Waukesha Co.)
27. \$2,000 to create overhead bank cover in and remove beaver dams from Whitewater/Bluff Creek (Walworth Co.)
28. \$2,000 for stream improvements in Billings Creek (Vernon Co.)
29. \$1,500 for materials for in-stream structures in the Tomorrow River (Portage Co.)
30. \$2,500 for stream restoration in Mormon Coulee Creek (La Crosse Co.)
31. \$1,500 to assist in production of an educational video on development impacts along the Kinnickinnic River (St. Croix and Pierce counties)
32. \$7,000 for stream improvement on Elk Creek (Chippewa Co.)
33. \$4,000 for rock hauling and restoration work on Duncan Creek (Chippewa Co.)
34. \$1,750 to purchase materials for stream improvements on the North Fork Buffalo River (Jackson Co.)
35. \$2,000 to fund backhoe work on intensive habitat improvement in the Prairie River (Lincoln Co.)
36. \$500 for stream rehabilitation in Tainter Creek (Crawford Co.)
37. \$1,000 for expenses to study the long-term effects on brook trout following the removal of beaver dams on the Pemebonwon River in northern Wisconsin (Marinette Co.)
38. \$2,000 to help fund reprinting *Trout Stream Therapy* book (Waupaca Co.)
39. \$1,000 to defray expenses involved in holding the Midwest Trout Angling Workshop in La Crosse in July, 2000 (La Crosse Co.)
40. \$2,000 to fund stream improvement work on Mormon Coulee Creek (La Crosse Co.)
41. \$2,000 to fund restoration work on the Little Pine River. (Waushara Co.)
42. \$2,000 to the WDNR to help purchase an easement on Tenmile Creek along Hwy. 13.

Friends of Wis. TU

Your name would look great here!
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Green Bay Chapter TU

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Enclosed is my check for \$100 or more.

MAIL TO: Friends of Wisconsin TU
John H. Cantwell
3725 Ken Ridge Ln.
Green Bay, WI 54313-8271

Name _____

Address _____

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