



Wisconsin Trout

July 2001

Council opposes plan to split DNR

By Chuck Steudel

A highlight of the April 28 State Council meeting at UW-Stevens Point was a vote to oppose attempts by Rep. John Gard (R-Peshtigo) and DuWayne Johnsrud (R-Eastman) to split the Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) into two agencies.

Council members felt the split was not a good idea because:

- it would involve huge costs,
- cooperation and efficiency within the DNR would suffer, and
- problems relating to environmental protection are clearly related to the 1995 re-organization and should be corrected there.

In voting to oppose splitting the DNR, the Council asked Past State Chair John Welter to draft a letter on TU's position and send it to all members of the legislature's Joint Finance Committee.

In other actions at the State Council meeting, Treasurer Larry Meicher gave an update on the

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Todd Hanson

TU PRESIDENT CHARLES GAUVIN VISITS BADGER STATE

TU National President Charles Gauvin (right) mingles with (left to right) TU National Secretary David Beckwith, State Council Chair Jon Christiansen, and Southern Chapter Board Member Rick Shull at a reception at TU's Madison office June 5. See p. 7 for more on the recent visit of Gauvin and Chief Financial Officer Kenneth Mendez.

Runoff likely cause of big Black Earth trout kill

By Todd Hanson

The WDNR is investigating one of worst fish kills ever to hit Black Earth Creek, a TU "100 Best" trout stream in western Dane County.

Kurt Welke of the DNR's Fitchburg office says the DNR is currently testing samples from some of the over 200 trout of various sizes that were recovered from the stream.

But Welke doubts that a "drum of X" was the culprit. Instead, he suspects that the heavy rains of June 11-12 were the cause.

"One might think that with all that fresh water coming down from the sky, streams would have a rush of oxygen, but the opposite is true," said Welke.

"Instead, large rains wash fertilizers, manure, pesticides, and decaying organic matter into streams, all of which deplete oxygen."

Adding to the DNR's difficulty in determining a more precise cause of the fish kill is the fact that the die-off was not discovered until two days

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Deerskin Dam thing of past

By Todd Hanson

The Deerskin Dam, located just northeast of Eagle River, was removed by WDNR contractors in early June.

The Deerskin Dam was an abandoned, ownerless water barrier in unsafe condition. In 1997, the local community and interested conser-

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WDNR

RE-CHANNELIZATION AND RECOVERY FROM ABOVE

Just days after the Deerskin Dam was breached by DNR crews, the Deerskin River in Vilas County was reclaiming its former channel.

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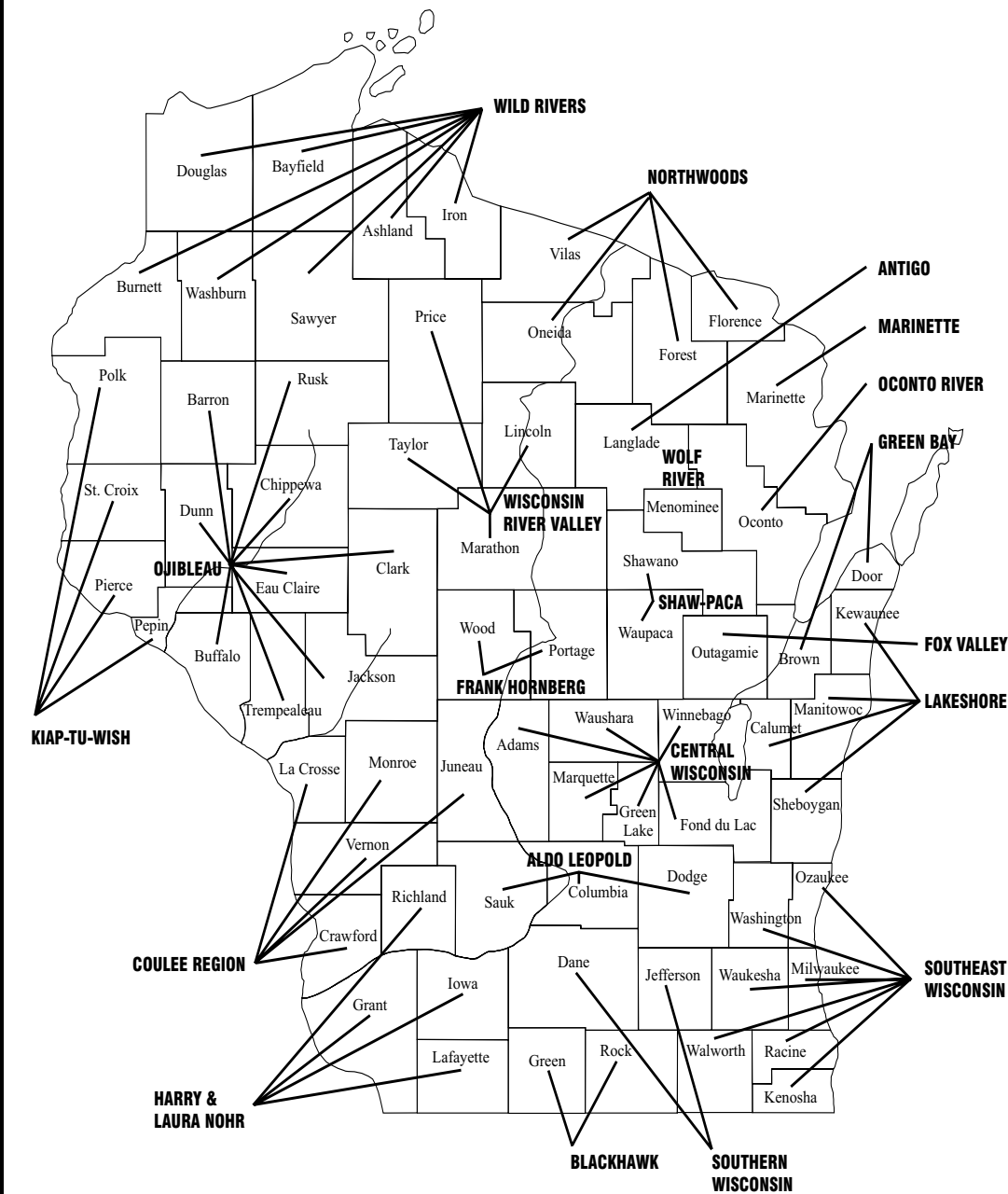
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New address? Contact TU National

- 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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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

Internet use will help TU strengthen its impact

By Jon Christiansen
WITU State Chair

One evening in late May, I was fishing my home waters just after sunset. There were three fish making lazy rises in the next 50 yards ahead of me, a long, flat glide on a sand country river. I couldn't quite figure out what the trout were on, but it certainly was not what I was offering, a brown caddis with an emerger trailing.

So, in the gathering darkness, I bent down and squinted at the stream surface to gain some clue to the puzzle. What I saw were small white spinners (I'm afraid I can't give you the Latin name). The trout's rise forms should have told me that.

I dug around in my fly box for the nearest thing to a small white spinner, switched to 6X tippet and laid out my first cast. The fish did its typical smutting rise, I did my typical tarpon strike, and it was back to the

fly box to look for another spinner.

Eventually, I caught one of those three fish, and as I released it from the net, I reflected upon the absolute perfection of a trout stream – clean, cold, flowing water, a healthy ecosystem providing continued nourishment to an entire food chain amidst great natural beauty.

As stewards of these streams, we have an impressive and staggering job. Everywhere, our streams (and the rest of the environment) groans under the burden of civilization. But, of course, we cannot return our land and waters to their pristine natural state. There are too many lives dependent upon our resources. Yet, achieving the right balance and doing all that we can to protect our coldwater resources must be our goal.

We fight the battle on many fronts. Of recent date, the legislative committee of the State Council has been busy addressing several initiatives ranging from wetlands legislation to nonpoint pollution rules to



Jon Christiansen

the threatened DNR split to legislation regarding high-capacity wells.

These are the big issues where success or failure has a geometric effect on our resources. And politics will always be politics, meaning that the interest that gets served is the one with the most political muscle.

Wisconsin TU has demonstrated that it can use its muscle in several recent initiatives. As an example, legislative representatives received an astounding number of letters from TU members demanding immediate action on wetlands legislation. It had an effect, but it was also expensive. We spent over \$800 on paper and postage to let our members know about the need to communicate our views. Within the limitations of our funding, we can do this, but we can't do it every time an important issue arises.

Therefore, I have asked the chapter presidents to work with me to develop an e-mail network so we can keep chapter leaders and grassroots members apprised of our state-level activities, provide issue

papers electronically for dissemination to local chapters, and provide the format for communications with legislators on key issues.

To do this, we will need your help. When your chapter representative asks for e-mail addresses, please respond and agree to forward your contact information.

In fact, let's start today. If you have e-mail, please fill out the contact form below and mail it to me. And don't forget to print clearly — computer servers can't guess like your local postman.

Be assured that we're not going to ignore the mail or direct phone calling, but we are going to harness the Internet and its convenience. I hope to hear back from a great many of you.

Our group can be a considerable force when we work together and all of our voices are heard. Only if we succeed in our cause will our children and our children's children be able to see the quiet rise of a trout sipping spinners from the smooth glide of a clean trout stream.



Appreciates recognition for Onion project

Dear Wisconsin TU,

It is indeed an honor to be the recipient of your prestigious Award of Merit that was presented to Cameron Coleman on my behalf at your banquet on February 3 in Oshkosh.

The original painting by G. Alexander will be a great addition to my home in Northern Wisconsin where it will be an asset to the decor.

My thanks go out to all the active members in Trout Unlimited for the amount of work they do on behalf of conservation in our community and in our great state of Wisconsin.

My thanks to you! Keep up the great work in the name of conservation.

Terry Kohler

Support asked for amendment, cyanide bill

Dear Friends,

[Last April] the Conservation Congress had its statewide Spring Rules Hearing. At those meetings many issues were discussed, among them being the constitutional right to hunt and fish and the banning of cyanide in mining. The statewide Conservation Congress approved the right to hunt and fish by a 5,975-360 vote, while the ban on cyanide in mining was approved with a 4,532-411 vote. Both of these issues have received an increasing amount of attention in the state legislature and have my full support.

Recently the Wisconsin State Senate approved the constitutional right to hunt and fish by a 31-0 vote. I am a co-sponsor of this resolution. Hunting and fishing have been longstanding traditions for many generations of Wisconsin sportsmen. By having this constitutional amendment we can ensure these traditions will continue for years down the road.

The Conservation Congress also overwhelmingly supported the banning of cyanide in mining. Cyanide use in mining has caused major environmental disasters. Recently, Montana has banned the use of cyanide in mining due to more than 60 leaks or spills of cyanide in mines.

Unlike Montana, Wisconsin law allows the use of cyanide in mining. This is why I am sponsoring legislation that would prohibit the use of cyanide or cyanide compounds in mining or metallic ore processing.

Cyanide is toxic to living creatures, such as fish and birds. For instance, cyanide measured at 20 to 80 parts per billion can kill rainbow and brown trout.

Leftover cyanide at very small concentrations harms birds and other wildlife that drink mine pond wastewater. Cyanide is a powerful solvent that breaks down heavy metals and ends up as waste products that need to be dumped.

Cyanide can also break down and form complexes with other chemicals or metals and remain just as toxic. Unfortunately, these chemicals are not routinely monitored or regulated.

There have been problems with cyanide in many other states and countries all over the world.

Please contact your State Senator and Assembly Representative and ask them to support the constitutional right to hunt and fish and the banning of cyanide in mining.

Sincerely,
State Senator Russ Decker



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New wetlands bill a victory for all parties

By Jeff Smith

WITU Legislative Chair

The most pressing issue on TU's legislative agenda has been legislation protecting isolated wetlands that were unprotected following a January Supreme Court ruling that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers had no permitting jurisdiction.

There were very contentious discussions when the Assembly decided to take the issue on a series of hearings "on the road" after the Senate passed a bill almost immediately.

TU worked closely with the Wisconsin Wetland Association and other groups to communicate the

importance and immediacy of the issue to legislators.

Early in this process State Council Chair Jon Christiansen asked you to write to your Senator or Representative to express your concerns, and a lot of you responded. A number of legislative staffers commented on the effectiveness of the TU communications.

For those of you who did communicate with your Representative, give yourself a pat on the back. (We will try not to ask you to write letters on legislative matters very often. When we do, however, you can be certain the issue will be important. Thanks for the wetland effort.)

Satisfactory legislation is now in place to give DNR the authority to protect isolated wetlands. The damage? About six known isolated wetlands were lost during that three and a half months of no protection — exact acreage is unknown.

High-capacity wells

Stu Grimstad and I met with a variety of interested parties and DNR staff at the end of April to attempt to design comprehensive high-cap well legislation. During the meeting Stu and I became convinced that a better approach would be to let the program develop over the course of four years and implement it by rule.

What is needed to get that start-



Todd Hanson

ALL SMILES AT THE WETLANDS BILL SIGNING

Sierra Club State Legislative Liaison Caryl Terrell (left) and WDNR Secretary Darrell Bazzell share a relaxed moment after Governor Scott Mc Callum's wetlands bill signing ceremony May 7 at the Capitol.

ed is language already contained in bills sponsored, separately, by Representatives Spencer Black and Du Wayne Johnsrud. These bills make a statutory connection between groundwater and surface water, giving the DNR authority to deny or modify permits. Through that authority, the DNR will produce rules that will refine the criteria over time.

In mid-May, Senator Shibilski sponsored language that is aimed specifically at Perrier, and that is currently in the Joint Finance Committee version of the budget. It requires a full environmental impact study of proposed water bottling operations. This narrowly focused legislation does almost nothing to address the larger extraction issues on TU's agenda.

However there is also language in Shibilski's package that requires a Legislative Council study of the issue which may lead to a longer-term fix of groundwater extraction. The State Council supports this study.

Current efforts of the TU Legislative Committee consist of attempting to broaden the Shibilski language in the budget.

Buffer zones

The proposed DNR rules for curtailing polluted runoff have gone through the public comment period, and the DNR Board is expected to take them up in August. TU was

part of the "Clean Water Coalition" and assisted in providing comments to strengthen the proposals. Thirteen other organizations were also coalition members.

DNR split

A new development in the state budget process is an initiative to split the DNR into two agencies — one for conservation and one for environmental management. The Assembly Natural Resources Committee took that concept around the state in a series of hearings. The testimony was 90-1 against the idea.

A motion in the Joint Finance Committee to split the agency in two was defeated June 5 on a tie party-line vote. The State Council is against the split and mobilized members to speak at the hearings.

Right to hunt and fish

This constitutional amendment securing the right to hunt and fish (SJR 2) passed both houses with the language preferred by outdoor enthusiasts. The Resolution needs to pass again in the next legislative session before going to the voters in an upcoming general election.

The status of other issues mentioned in the last issue of *Wisconsin Trout* — cranberry growers, use value assessment, surface water study committee, CARA, and the Fishable Waters Initiative — have remained unchanged to date.

TU legislative items pass at Conservation Congress meetings

Trout Unlimited's legislative agenda items passed handily at the April 9 Conservation Congress spring hearings.

There were three questions of note to Trout Unlimited members on this year's printed ballot:

- The question calling for a moratorium on high-capacity wells passed 4,656 to 375.
- The question calling for a ban on the use of cyanide in mining passed 4,532 to 411, and
- The question calling for a stop to mining plans that include perpetual groundwater pumping passed 4,003 to 320.

Normal attendance

Lacking last year's controversial question on a mourning dove hunt, the 2001 fish and wildlife spring rules hearings saw a voter turnout closer to the long-term average, with 8,647 attending this year compared to last year's record-breaking

attendance of 29,938. Attendance has averaged 6,700 from 1982-1999.

The use of machine-read ballots was increased to 13 counties in the southeast, northeast, and Dane County area this year after successful use in Dane County in 2000.

The vote tallies and any written comments received were presented to the Natural Resources Board in May. The Board will consider the written comments and votes when it decides whether or not to move forward on the proposals.

Any new rules that move forward, or modifications to rules, then go to the legislature for approval. The legislature also has authority to call additional public hearings on any of the proposals before it.

A complete list of proposed rules and advisory questions and statewide voting results can be found on the Department of Natural Resources Web site at www.dnr.state.wi.us.

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.

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Carlson memorial dedication June 30 at Whittlesey

There will be dedication of a memorial sign honoring former Wild River President Jeff Carlson at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center in Ashland 1:00 p.m. Saturday, June 30.

Carlson died January 4 from cancer. He played an important part in establishing the refuge. The sign will overlook the Whittlesey Creek Wildlife Refuge.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife staff will also be honoring Carlson with

their Volunteer of the Year Award for 2000.

TU gathering afterward

At 4:00 that day Wisconsin TU and the Wild River Chapter will dedicate a memorial bench at the landing across from Jeff's house on the White River.

There will also be a presentation of the Jeff Carlson Conservation Award plaque to his parents. The plaque will hang in Jeff's house.

This will primarily be for TU members and Jeff's family and close friends.

There will be a cookout following the presentations and hopefully the Hex hatch will be on for those wish-

ing to fish the White River.

For more information and directions to Jeff's home call Bill Heart at (715) 682-5307 days and (715) 682-4703 evenings or e-mail at ww-heart@cheqnet.net.

TU National rebate program a good deal for chapters

By Bill Pielsticker

By sending your check and renewal notice to your chapter's membership chair, you can renew your membership and raise money for your chapter at the same time.

Trout Unlimited is a membership organization. There really is strength in numbers, so TU National has implemented several new efforts to recruit and retain members. \$5 rebate per member

For a number of years, National has rebated a portion of the membership fee for new members to the chapters that recruited them. In a new twist, chapters now receive a \$5 rebate for each member who renews through their own chapter.

The Guadalupe Chapter in Texas received an \$890 rebate for member renewals for the six months ending in March. Closer to home, the Southern Wisconsin chapter received a \$155 rebate for that same period. Two other Wisconsin chapters received smaller checks.

Bundle memberships

As a fund-raiser, the rebate program is an easy mark. All it requires is that chapter members mail their renewal notice and check to their

own chapter's membership chair. The membership chair then "bundles" the renewals and forwards them to the national office.

SWTU Membership Chair Bob Selk says he "sends in a batch of renewals every few weeks."

The hardest part in this fundraising scheme is letting chapter members know how to get their renewals to the right person. At SWTU, we publicize the program in our monthly newsletter. As the program gets better known, we hope to see greater participation and larger rebates.

If this is such a great idea, why are there "competing" ways to renew membership? Steve Born, chair of the National Resources Board, explains, "National is trying a mix of things to see what works. This rebate program is one effort to retain membership and strengthen chapters at the same time."

Born said various aspects of the membership recruitment and retention effort are likely to change over time as the organization "sees what works and what doesn't."

(Bill Pielsticker is President of the Southern Wisconsin Chapter. —Ed.)

TU chapters invited to check into recycled DNR computers

TU chapters and other nonprofit groups are eligible for free computers under a recycling program run by State of Wisconsin agencies.

State agencies replace their computers every four years, with the old computers being donated to nonprofit organizations. Software is not provided.

The computers being donated at the present time are Pentium I and II machines.

Nonprofit organizations interested in obtaining one or more computers need to contact the MIS administrator at the agency's regional office, or the principal state agency office in Madison, to determine when they will begin replacing computers.

The DNR is presently replacing its Dell computers. They have excellent capacity and have been used for

Internet activity, e-mail, word processing, etc.

Nonprofits must submit a signed letter requesting that a computer be donated to their organization for its use. The letter should be on the agency's letterhead, and must be signed by an appropriate officer of the organization.

The nonprofit also needs to include the organization's identification number which was assigned to it by the IRS. If chapters do not have this number, the State Council could assist with the transaction.

Nonprofits in southern Wisconsin should contact Fran Findley at (414) 263-8656 or by e-mail at findlf@dnr.state.wi.us.

Nonprofits in other areas of the state should contact the DNR regional office nearest them or the headquarters office in Madison.

Conservation funds available

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Wisconsin will soon receive approximately \$200,000 in cost-share funds for a new program called Soil and Water Conservation Assistance (SWCA), announced Pat Leavenworth, state conservationist for NRCS in Wisconsin.

"Trout Unlimited chapters will not be able to apply for these funds directly unless they own land," says NRCS Water Quality Specialist Jim Kaap, "but TU chapters may know of land owners who could benefit from the program from those they work with on stream improvement projects."

SWCA is a voluntary effort for farmers that provides cost-share and incentive payments to address threats to soil, water, and other natural resources.

Eligible practices in Wisconsin are nutrient management, residue management and prescribed grazing.

Although similar to the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), funds can only be used for conservation projects outside of priority areas for other existing programs, such as EQIP and CRP priority areas.

"This gives landowners in non-priority areas an additional opportunity to install conservation measures on both grazing land and cropland," said Leavenworth.

In Wisconsin, primarily the upper Mississippi River Basin, which covers the western half of the state, is eligible. (See map)

Under SWCA, contracts range from five to ten years, and the total payment per participant shall not exceed \$50,000. The federal cost-share will be 75 percent of eligible

practices.

Landowners can sign-up for SWCA beginning June 4, 2001 at



any NRCS office, located at the local USDA Service Center. All contracts must be signed by Sept. 30, 2001.

For more information and to sign-up for SWCA, contact Renae Anderson, NRCS, (608) 276-8732 x 227 renae.anderson@wi.usda.gov or Jim Kaap, program specialist, (608) 276-8732 x 266 jim.kaap@wi.usda.gov.

Chapter needs old tying vices

Do you have an old fly tying vice you don't use anymore? If so, the Shaw-Paca Chapter is asking that you consider donating it for their chapter's kids fly tying program.

If you have such items you'd like to donate, or if you'd like to find out more information, contact Lee Kersten, secretary of the Shaw-Paca Chapter at 124 North Parkview Ave., Box 446, Marion, WI 54950.

You can also e-mail Lee at lwkcjk@dotnet.com or phone him at (715) 754-2085.

Krause subscriptions help TU

Wisconsin TU can benefit from your subscription to any of three Krause Publications magazines — Wisconsin Outdoor Journal, Deer & Deer Hunting, and Turkey & Turkey Hunting.

The Iola-based publisher will pay Wisconsin TU \$5 for each one-year subscription which uses a special promotional code.

One year of WOJ costs \$14.97;

D&DH, \$17.95; T&TH, \$13.95, from which the \$5 will be paid to WITU.

To get these prices and the TU rebate, you must use the special TU code of **AFA4KK** when asked for it.

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Mercury advisory changed, but what about trout?

By Todd Hanson

If you look at Wisconsin’s recent mercury consumption advisories, you haven’t seen listings of the waters of most interest to TU members — inland streams that carry trout.

Does that mean trout from cold-water rivers and streams may be eaten without any concern for their mercury content?

Wisconsin Trout contacted the WDNR mercury researchers and received a mixed answer.

The DNR understands the aquatic conditions under which mercury is released into its harmful form. They also note that these conditions are not as prevalent in trout waters as they are in lakes.

However, DNR officials could not list any studies where trout from inland waters were actually tested to verify these presumed low mercury levels.

Mercury facts and pathways

Mercury naturally occurs in the environment and is released into the air when electricity-generating plants burn coal, incinerators burn trash, and through other sources.

Mercury enters lakes and other waters in rain, snow, and runoff. It gets converted by bacteria into a

form that insects and other small organisms readily absorb, and accumulates up the food chain.

Mercury concentrates each step of the way, so that top predators like walleye and northern pike have the highest mercury concentrations.

Trout waters

Trout waters are presumed not to have high mercury content because:

- trout waters generally lack the soft bottom sediments where bacterial action breaks down mercury into its most dangerous form.
- Trout eat smaller insects near the bottom of the food chain as opposed to larger fish in which mercury has already accumulated.

New booklet coming

The general, statewide advice for mercury replaces the mercury recommendations Wisconsin has issued in past years in a 26-page booklet. That publication individually listed all lakes where fish had elevated mercury levels, and gave specific guidance for the number of meals of each species it was safe to eat.

A new booklet with advice for reducing mercury and other contaminants will be available this summer.

Most people will not need to

change their fish eating habits as a result of this new statewide advice for mercury. But following the new recommendations and eating those species and sizes of fish that are lower in mercury can help people enjoy eating their catch without increasing their health risks.

Other contaminants

Recommendations for how people can avoid exposure to PCBs and other environmental contaminants found in some fish hasn’t changed.

PCBs levels, however, can be reduced by properly trimming and cooking fish to reduce the fat, which tends to store PCBs.

TU: let Forest Service keep water in streams

Trout Unlimited and other conservation groups are urging a U.S. House of Representatives subcommittee to preserve the Forest Service’s authority to protect fish and wildlife resources and prevent draining streams dry.

That authority is known as bypass flow authority. It gives the Forest Service the right on behalf of all Americans to put conditions on people who come onto the National Forests to build dams and water conveyance facilities.

The conditions require that some water is left in the streams, to not only support fish and animals, but for people who enjoy a splash of water in their streams.

Origins of bypass authority

The use of bypass flow authority grew out of Congressional directives to the Forest Service in the 1970s to protect water resources when issuing water permits.

Since then, the Forest Service has used its bypass flow authority rarely — only 12 times nationally. Usually, the Forest Service reaches negotiated agreements that protect fish and wildlife in streams instead of using its regulatory authority.

However, the authority is now under attack by large water users and others who believe it infringes on their unrestricted use of water in the national forests.

“The controversy over bypass flows really is not about water law or water rights.... It is about the Forest Service’s ability to be a good steward of the public lands and the fish and wildlife resources within them. Dams and other water diversions often have adverse — and sometimes devastating — effects on watershed health,” said Trout Unlimited President Charles Gauvin in testimony May 22 before the House Resources Subcommittees on Forest & Forest Health and Water & Power.

Impact on native fishes

Gauvin noted that according to a Western Water Policy Review Advisory Commission report, 70 percent of the West’s native fishes are imperiled or extinct and that the basis

of bypass flow authority is managing public lands to sustain aquatic habitat and life.

“For the fish and wildlife resources on the public lands, water is like blood. Without bypass flows authority, those fish and wildlife resources are bleeding to death,” Gauvin testified.

“The Forest Service’s continued ability to impose bypass flows is, of course, one reason why permittees and those seeking rights-of-way have been willing to sit at a table to look for alternative mechanisms that can achieve the Forest Service’s statutory responsibilities to protect its fish and wildlife resources,” said Gauvin.

Incentive to negotiate

“Taking away the Forest Service’s ability to seek a bypass flow will, without doubt, also take away any incentive for water users to negotiate alternatives. If the administration and Congress are serious about maintaining our nation’s fish and wildlife resources, they will leave the Forest Service the authority to continue its current policy,” said Gauvin.

Gauvin showed committee members photographs of Colorado streams — including LaPoudre Pass Creek and Big Thompson River — sections of which have bypass flow and sections of which do not. The sections of the streams without bypass flows were completely dry or contained only a trickle of water.

Colorado legislators opposed

Recently, TU and five other Colorado conservation organizations sent a letter to Colorado U.S. Senator Wayne Allard objecting to his and Colorado Congressman McInnis’ public efforts to dismantle the in-stream flow law on behalf of large water users.

In the letter, the organizations corrected several public misstatements that the two members of Colorado’s Congressional delegation had made and asked that they “reconsider” their opposition to the Forest Service’s authority.

TU National seeking river events for National Geographic guide

As part of National Geographic Society’s *Geography Action! Rivers 2001* — an annual conservation and awareness program designed to educate and excite people about our natural, cultural, and historic treasures — NGS is compiling an online list of local, state, regional, and national river events.

TU chapters and councils are invited to submit information about river events in which they are participants or sponsors.

Events can include conservation conferences or workshops on river, water and watershed issues, river festivals, rallies, cleanups, stream

restoration workdays, and any other river event open to the public.

Please send the following information to Christine Arena:

- Event name,
- Date,
- Location,
- Short description of event (25 words maximum), and
- Web site and phone/fax numbers for registration and other information.

Please submit your event information by July 9. Additional information about *Geography Action! Rivers 2001* will appear in the Summer *TROUT*.

New mercury consumption guidelines

Under the new advice for fish caught from inland waters, women of childbearing years, nursing mothers and children under 15 may eat:

- One meal per month of walleye, northern pike, smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, channel catfish, flathead catfish, white sucker, drum, burbot, sauger, sturgeon, **trout**, white bass, and rock bass.

Women beyond their childbearing years and men may eat:

- Unlimited amounts of panfish and **trout**
- One meal per week of northern pike, smallmouth and largemouth bass, channel and flathead catfish, and walleye, white sucker, drum, burbot, sauger, sturgeon, carp, white bass, rock bass and other species.

August 14–19, 2001 PRELIMINARY NATIONAL CONVENTION AGENDA

Tuesday, August 14 ► Hosted Fishing Trips

Local TU volunteers will host conventioners on fishing trips to North Oregon and Southwest Washington. Fish for steelhead, trout, salmon, and sturgeon on a variety of waters, including small streams, rivers and lakes. Trips offer the opportunity to sample outstanding streams like the Deschutes, North Fork of the Lewis, Middle Fork of the Willamette, Columbia, Cowlitz, and more.

Wednesday, August 15 ► Conservation Tour on the Sandy/Clackamas Rivers

Conservation tour on the Sandy/Clackamas watersheds hosted by TU’s Clackamas River Chapter.

Thursday, August 16 ► All-Day Seminars and Panel Discussions

7:30am–8:30am Continental Breakfast: “Welcome to Rose City”
9:00am Opening Remarks
9:30am–11:00am Panel Discussion I: “The ESA comes to town”—How city governments, agencies, industry, and conservation groups are dealing with Endangered Species Act listings, water quality and loss of stream habitat in Pacific Northwest metropolitan areas. Panel discussion with representatives from city governments, agencies, conservation groups, and industry.
12:00pm Luncheon with Guest Speaker: Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber and “The Oregon Plan for Salmon Recovery.”
1:30pm–3:00pm Panel Discussion II: “Columbia River salmon recovery”—A look at salmon restoration in the Columbia River basin with speakers from industry, tribes, agencies, and conservation groups.
3:30pm–4:30pm Seminars led by local experts on a variety of topics, including non-native introductions, Northwestern inland trout, sea-run cutthroat trout, and more.
6:00pm–8:30pm Salmon Bake with a Native American dance performance
10:00pm Hospitality suite hosted by a local chapter

Friday, August 17 ► Annual Membership and National Resource Board Meetings

7:30am–8:30am Breakfast hosted by Oregon Council: “Scenes of the Northwest” slide presentation
9:00am Welcome
9:15am TU business meeting
10:30am NRB Meeting (continued)
12:00pm Luncheon hosted by the U.S. Forest Service with a report on FS activities in the Northwest
1:30pm–3:30pm NRB meeting
6:00pm Picnic at Alderbrook Park with swimming, fishing, boating
9:00pm Hospitality Suite hosted by Idaho Council
A tour of Mt. St. Helens will be offered (\$40) on this day. There will also be vans leaving for downtown Portland for self-guided tours.

Saturday, August 18 ► National Resource Board Meeting

7:30am–8:30am Grassroots Breakfast hosted by TU national staff
9:00am–12:00pm NRB Meeting: TU’s 2002 Conservation Agenda
12:30pm Conservation Awards Luncheon
1:30pm–4:00pm Staff seminars on chapter and leadership development
2:30pm–4:30pm Council Chairs Meeting
6:00pm National Auction/Banquet
9:30pm Hospitality Suite hosted by a local chapter
A tour of Willamette Valley wineries will be offered (\$30) on this day.

Sunday, August 19

7:30am–9:00am Continental Breakfast
8:00am–12:00pm TU Board of Trustees Meeting
10:00am–11:00am Convention Feedback and Review

TU NATIONAL CONVENTION AGENDA SET

Here is the schedule of this year’s TU National Convention. Additional information is available in *Trout* magazine and at the TU web site.

TU's Gauvin and Mendez make June visit to state

TU National President Charles Gauvin and Chief Financial Officer Kenneth Mendez visited Madison June 5-6.

A reception at TU's office in Madison June 5 was attended by about 25 people, including TU staffers, area chapter leaders, and guests from government and conservation groups.

The following day a Noon lun-

cheon at a local restaurant brought about 20 people together to ask questions on TU program initiatives and policies and to share news of Wisconsin activities.

Mendez was disappointed that the locally heavy rains prior to the visit precluded his fishing on nearby Black Earth Creek before his plane left for Virginia.



STAFF AND FRIENDS

TU National Chief Financial Officer Kenny Mendez (top picture, left) mingles with TU Director of Volunteer Services Sara Johnson and National Volunteer Services Coordinator Russ Schnitzer.

Meanwhile, TU National Resource Board Chair Steve Born (center picture, left) gives Southern Wisconsin Chapter board member Mark Rhinerson a big hug in thanks for a fishing tip.

Above TU Upper Midwest Conservation Director Laura Hewitt (right) says hello to WDNR Coldwater Fisheries Ecologist Larry Claggett (left) and Southern Wisconsin Chapter state council representative David Westlake.



GAUVIN MINGLES AT TU RECEPTION

TU National President Charles Gauvin (above, right) relaxes with WITU State Chair Jon Christiansen from Mequon at TU's Madison office. Below Past State Chair John "Duke" Welter from Eau Claire talks with WITU's Legislative Chair Jeff Smith from Madison.



From field



Pesticide impacts on Wisconsin's fish

A new report outlines what we know — and don't know — about pesticide use in Wisconsin, saying we need a better way of tracking pesticides.



to stream

The report reproduced here was issued in June by Wisconsin's Environmental Decade, Citizens for a Better Environment, and Wisconsin Trout Unlimited.

Written by Resource Ecologist Dr. David Zaber and TU's Russ Schnitzer, the report reviews what we know about the effects of pesticides on game fish. The authors conclude that a pesticide database would help researchers track the impacts such chemicals have on aquatic systems.

Wisconsin citizens love their lakes, rivers, and wetlands and place great value on protecting water quality and wildlife habitat. Anglers treasure the outdoors, not just for the fish they produce, but the outdoors experience they provide.

We provide financial support for quality fishing experiences through license fees, which are used for habitat improvement projects, stocking programs, and management support. Those who fish Wisconsin's waters know the connection between clean water, healthy fish, and a quality fishing experience.

Each year, millions of people participate in activities on Wisconsin's lakes and rivers. In a recent report, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) docu-

mented the enormous contribution to the state's economy and quality of life made by outdoor recreational activities.¹ The DNR found that nearly 2 million residents 16 years and older participated in fish and wildlife-associated recreation in 1996. That same year, nearly 1.5 million anglers, over a third of whom were from out of state, spent over 17 million angler days fishing our state's lakes, streams, and rivers. These uses are projected to increase in the years to come.

"Pesticide" is the umbrella term for such chemicals as insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, and rodenticides which are used to kill or control unwanted plants, animals, or other organisms such as fungus.

Unfortunately, pesticides also

pose risks to humans and wildlife. Despite decades of effort to reduce the environmental damage caused by both proper and improper use of pesticides, fish and wildlife populations continue to be threatened by pesticide use.

Anglers and others who value healthy fisheries may not be aware of the threats posed to fish, their food supplies and their habitats by pesticides in use today.

Despite the large body of information on fisheries and aquatic resources in Wisconsin, very little is known about what, when, where, and what quantities of pesticides are used. This lack of information makes predicting and monitoring the impacts of pesticides on fish and their habitats difficult.

This report details the negative — and costly — impacts that pesticides may have on Wisconsin's fisheries.

What sparse information is available suggests that contamination of surface waters by pesticides is widespread in Wisconsin and that levels of contamination in the state's rivers and streams may adversely affect most aquatic life. However, it is impossible to know precisely where those threats now exist.

variety of agricultural, residential, and industrial applications in Wisconsin.

The so-called "inert" compounds that are used as the carriers for the active ingredients in commercial pesticides may also be toxic to fish and aquatic life. In addition, many pesticides break down in soil or water into other chemicals, known as metabolites or degradation products, which may be as toxic or even more toxic than the original product.

Newer classes of chemicals designed to kill pests at much lower application rates have also been introduced to the market. Such compounds, including synthetic pyrethroids, insect growth regulators, and other minor classes of pesticides are often safer for humans and certain non-target organisms. However, they are particularly toxic to fish and other aquatic species. The insect growth regulators, whose actions inhibit molting of insects, can affect crustaceans like freshwater shrimp that are important prey for many species of sport fish.

Herbicides and fungicides are, in general, less acutely toxic to aquatic animals than the insecticides, although there are several exceptions such as trifluralin, an herbicide, and chlorothalonil, a fungicide. Both of these compounds, which are applied extensively on Wisconsin farm fields, are considered to be very highly toxic to fish or other aquatic organisms even though they are not intended to kill animals.

This report documents the risk to fish and fish habitat from pesticides used in Wisconsin agriculture, industry, and residences, and proposes a mechanism — a pesticide use database — for obtaining the basic information we need to begin protecting fish and ecosystems threatened by pesticide use.

Toxicity to fish, their habitats, and their food

If pesticides only reached and killed intended targets, their use would not be as controversial as it is. Unfortunately, that is not the case. Often, a large portion of the active pesticide ingredient never reaches the pest itself. Chemicals that do not reach the target pest can end up in surface waters, soils, fish, and people, where they can cause myriad adverse ecological and health effects.

As insecticides (like DDT) that tended to last longer and build up in the environment are phased out, they are replaced by compounds that are much more acutely toxic to non-target organisms. These include the organophosphates (parathion, for example) and carbamates (for instance, aldicarb), chemical cousins to military nerve gases that kill insects and fishes by affecting critical chemicals in the brain and throughout the body. Compounds from both chemical classes are used widely in a

These and other compounds that target plants or fungi can affect fish indirectly by damaging the microscopic plants and other aquatic life that make up aquatic food webs. In some cases, herbicides kill algae or other aquatic plants, reducing the food available to sport fish and other species. In other cases, zooplankton, the tiny animals that are an important food source for smaller fish that are, in turn, consumed by game species such as bass and walleye, are at risk.

Reproduction effects

Natural reproduction in fish is the key to maintaining healthy, sustainable sport fisheries. However, multiple stressors can affect reproduction in any given year, such as high or low water levels, water temperature fluctuations, or changes in dissolved oxygen levels. Species such as muskie, walleye, northern pike, lake trout, and brook trout all are affected greatly by any decrease in

Continued next page

Table 1: Toxicity to Sport Fish of Some Pesticides Used in WI

Common name	Rainbow trout	Channel catfish	Bluegill
Alachlor	Medium		Medium
Bromoxynil	High		
Chlorothalonil	High	High	High
Chlorpyrifos	High		High
Clomazone	Low		Low
Endosulfan	High	High	High
EPTC	Low		Low
Esfenvalerate	High		High
Mancozeb	Medium		
Methyl parathion	Medium	Medium	Medium
Metolochlor	Medium	Medium	Low
Metribuzin	Low		Low
Pendimethalin	High	High	High
Permethrin	High		High
Quizalofop	Low		Medium
Terbufos	High		High
Trifluralin	High	High	High

Toxicity is based on the LC50, which is the concentration of a chemical that is determined to be lethal to 50% of the fish being tested. Toxicity is indicated as high if the LC50 is less than one part per million, medium if the LC50 is greater than one part per million but less than ten parts per million, and low if the LC50 is greater than ten parts per million.

Rainbow trout, channel catfish and bluegills are included in this table because they are among the most common Wisconsin species used for chemical toxicity testing and span the range of chemical sensitivity for Wisconsin sport fish. For example, the sensitivity of brook and brown trout to toxic chemicals is generally similar to that of rainbow trout. The amount of toxicity data for other Wisconsin sport fish is minimal. Blank boxes in the table indicate that no toxicity data were found for that combination of pesticide and fish. A blank box does NOT mean that this pesticide does not exhibit toxicity in this fish species.

Sources of data: EXTOKNET Pesticide Information Profiles; U.S. EPA; Journal of Pesticide Reform; S. Orme and S. Kegley, PAN Pesticide Database, Pesticide Action Network, North America (San Francisco, CA. 2000), www.pesticideinfo.org.

Continued from p. 8
their reproductive rates.

Their reproductive capacity is also at risk due to the threat of pesticides. Pesticides may cause malformation of eggs and sperm, disrupt the development of fry, and potentially cause high rates of deformity among young fish, making them susceptible to predation.

Table 1 summarizes information on the toxicity to sport fish of some of the commonly used pesticides in Wisconsin. It focuses on rainbow trout, channel catfish, and bluegill as these are the Wisconsin sport fish most commonly tested for the impacts of pesticides and other chemicals.

These three species are representative of the range of chemical sensitivity exhibited by other Wisconsin sport fish. Table 1 illustrates that many of the most commonly used pesticides in our state are toxic to sport fish at low concentrations in water.

Use of pesticides remains high

Huge amounts of pesticides are used in this country, as evidenced by the following statistics:

- Approximately 1.2 billion pounds of pesticides are used in the U.S. annually. (This does not include large-volume materials such as sulfur, spray oil, or wood preservatives.)
- Use of pesticides on farms increased from 400 million pounds in the mid-1960s to a peak of nearly 850 million pounds in 1980, primarily as a result of herbicides used in crop production.
- In 1996, 806 million pounds of pesticides were used in U.S. agriculture with nearly 940,000 farms using pesticides that year.
- For residential, industrial, and non-agricultural applications, pesticide usage hovers around 200 million pounds annually.
- In New York state where a pesticide use database has been implemented, non-agricultural uses have been found to exceed agricultural uses.

In Wisconsin, pesticides are used in a variety of agricultural, turf, residential, and industrial applications that run off, drift, or fall directly on surface waters. Many of the pesticides used in Wisconsin for both agricultural and non-agricultural applications are considered highly toxic to aquatic life, including sport fish and their prey. In 1998, over 7.9 million pounds of herbicides and 500,000 pounds of insecticides were applied to 3.6 million acres of field corn in Wisconsin.

Millions of pounds of pesticides are also applied to other agricultural crops each year as well as in urban, residential, and industrial applications in Wisconsin, where they contribute to the contamination of surface waters.

Study finds widespread contamination of surface and groundwater by pesticides

Wisconsin's waterways and the fish and wildlife species that depend upon them face serious threats from urban and agricultural runoff contaminated by pesticides, as well as from unintended release of pesticides to water bodies.^{2,3}

During the 1990s, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) studied the quality of the nation's streams and groundwater in selected watersheds around the country, including examining pesticide contamination. One of their reports, *Water Quality in the Western Lake Michigan Drainages, Wisconsin and Michigan, 1992-95*, documented highly toxic herbicides and insecticides draining into Wisconsin streams and groundwater

from urban and agricultural areas.⁴ Most of the pesticides detected in surface water and ground water in this study are herbicides used on corn, soybeans, small grains, and hay. However, there are a number of herbicides and insecticides, more commonly used on lawns and for specialty crops, that were detected as well. The study, which included the Fox-Wolf and Menominee-Oconto-Peshigo River basins of Wisconsin, also found that in most agricultural areas, the highest pesticide concentrations occur as seasonal pulses during spring and summer lasting from a few weeks to several months during and following high use periods. These pesticide pulses coincide with the spawning season for many Wisconsin sport fish, threatening reproductive success at the worst possible time.

Concentrations of pesticides detected in the study indicate a high potential for adverse effects on fish and other aquatic life. In addition to high concentrations of individual compounds, some streams contain mixtures of several compounds that can be even more harmful.

Table 2 combines information from this USGS report with data on the most commonly used agricultural pesticides in Wisconsin (from *1996 Wisconsin Pesticide Use* published by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service) and information from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the aquatic toxicity of some of these pesticides.

The resulting table shows which pesticides are used most often in Wisconsin, which of these were detected in streams, and which ones exhibit toxicity to fish and other aquatic life. This information raises concerns about the impacts of pesticide use on fish and other aquatic life in Wisconsin and highlights the need to know exactly where and when pesticides are being used in Wisconsin.

The USGS and Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) also measured herbicide concentrations in the Pecatonica and Yahara Rivers of southern Wisconsin. In the Pecatonica River, one or more of the herbicides acetochlor, alachlor, atrazine, cyanazine, and metolachlor were found in nearly 9 of every 10 of the samples collected, while one or more were found in over half of the Yahara River samples.⁵

Direct contamination of surface waters is not the only way pesticides enter water bodies. Contaminants in groundwater can reach surface waters where aquifers discharge to lakes and streams via seeps and springs. Spring-fed streams, in turn, are essential habitats for sensitive game fish species such as brown trout. Recently, the USGS found 13 different herbicides and insecticides in wells located in eastern Wisconsin.⁶

Despite the knowledge that pesticides are in our streams, we have yet to investigate which streams are most at risk of harm from particular pesticides, and the extent of harm these pesticides may be doing to our fisheries. To develop a better understanding of the effects of pesticides on Wisconsin's fisheries we need a statewide pesticide use database.

A threat unknown and unseen
The actual hazard of pesticides to aquatic life in Wisconsin depends on many factors, including

- proximity of pesticide application to waterways,
- method of application,

- type and formulation of pesticide applied,
- amount used,
- season, day, or even time of application, and
- weather conditions.

Determining which particular waterways and fisheries are at risk requires information about where and when pesticides are used. Despite years of regulation addressing pesticide toxicity, there is still no program to collect crucial pesticide use information in Wisconsin.

Today, pesticides are found in the majority of surface waters in the U.S., often at concentrations approaching or exceeding regulatory levels set to protect aquatic organisms.

Some pesticides have never been tested for aquatic toxicity so no regulatory levels have been set. What we do know is that some of these untested chemicals are similar in their structure to other pesticides that are known to be toxic to fish, and scientists tell us that chemicals

with similar structures usually have similar biological effects. It is not unreasonable to assume that some of these untested pesticides are also toxic to fish and/or their food.

Fish and other aquatic life are often exposed to complex mixtures of pesticides and other chemicals that are extremely difficult to anticipate and reproduce in the laboratory. In fact, the toxicity of multiple pesticides (or other pollutants) is sometimes greater than the sum of the exposures to individual pesticides. In addition, habitat degradation, temperature fluctuations, low dissolved oxygen, and other factors may stress fish and make them susceptible to even lower levels of pesticides in the water.

Pesticide use reporting system needed

To generate answers to the challenging questions about real-world pesticide exposures, researchers need real-world pesticide use information. Without information about

Continued on p. 13

Table 2: Aquatic Toxicity of Common WI Agricultural Pesticides

Common name	Most common trade name(s)	Acres of crop-land treated ¹	Rate of detection in eastern WI streams (%) ²	Exhibits toxicity to aquatic organisms ³
Atrazine	Aatreyes, Atrazine	2,053,000	99	YES
Dicamba	Banvel	1,794,000	1	
Metolachlor	Dual	972,500	65	YES
Nicosulfuron	Accent	864,000		
Pendimethalin	Prowl	853,500	5	YES
Alachlor	Lasso	692,100	46	YES
Imazethapyr	Pursuit	622,800		
Chlorpyrifos	Dursban, Lorsban	602,000	1	YES
Cyanazine	Bladex	546,400	76	YES
Thifensulfuron	Pinnacle	432,400		
Dimethenamid	Acrobat, Frontier	399,600		
Terbufos	Counter	390,000	0	YES
Acetochlor	Harness, Surpass	351,000	27	
Glyphosate	Roundup	295,200		
Tefluthrin	Force	195,000		YES
Flumetsulam	Broadstrike	174,400		
Halosulfuron	Permit	156,000		
Primisulfuron	Beacon	117,000		
Permethrin	Ambush, Pounce	95,800		YES
Quizalofop-ethyl	Assure	92,000		YES
2,4-D	2,4-D, Weedar	80,700	4	
Chlorothalonil	Bravo, Echo, Ensign	79,500		YES
Bromoxynil	Buctril	78,000	0	YES
Metribuzin	Lexone, Sencor	75,800	9	YES
Mancozeb	Manzate, Penncozeb, Dithane M-45	74,100		YES
Clethodim	Select	73,600		
Trifluralin	Treflan	66,700	<1	YES
Diquat	Diquat	66,400		
Esfenvaterate	Asana	58,900		YES
Methamidophos	Monitor	56,000		
Endosulfan	Thiodan	55,600		YES
EPTC	Eptan, Eradicane	47,300	34	YES
Copper hydroxide	Champ, Kocide	45,100		

¹ List of most commonly used agricultural pesticides and corresponding acres treated from *1996 Wisconsin Pesticide Use* by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service, a cooperative function of Wisconsin Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection and U.S. Department of Agriculture.

² *Water Quality in the Western Lake Michigan Drainages, 1992-95*. U.S. Geological Survey Circular 1156. A blank box in this column indicates that this chemical was not tested for.

³ Sources include: *Environmental Concerns of Common Pesticides That Are Highly Toxic to Fish and/or Wildlife, Guide to Pesticides Notebook* U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. (August, 1993), EXTONET Pesticide Information Profiles; U.S. EPA; Journal of Pesticide Reform; S. Orme and S. Kegley, PAN Pesticide Database, Pesticide Action Network, North America (2000), www.pesticideinfo.org. A blank box indicates that these sources either indicated low or no toxicity or no information was available on the aquatic toxicity of this pesticide.



Chapter News



NOHR CLEAN-UP TAPS STUDENT ATHLETES

These Dodgeville/Mineral Point track team members fulfilled one of their public service requirements by helping the Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter clean up Brewery Creek May 9. Pictured (left to right) are Kassi McKenzie, Katrina Rundhaug, Molly Palzkill, Latla Gilmore, and Ben Speth. Following the cleanup, students were treated to a cookout.

Blackhawk Chapter

The January meeting was greeted by **Bill Stokes** of Madison who presented a nostalgic review from his book *Rustic Roads*.

The February program was given by **Bill Sonzogni** of Madison. Bill gave an entertaining program on Wisconsin streams and included revelations of the co-authors of his book *Fishing Wisconsin Streams*.

Scott Steward, WDNR fish manager in the Madison area, was the speaker for March. Scott discussed the conditions of **Black Earth Creek** and the surrounding land.

The annual conservation banquet was held in April at the **Hoffman House Ramada Inn** in Janesville. The evening was very enjoyable and a successful event.

A work day was held on the **Jayes-Nugent** property near Avalanche. Thirty-seven luner structures were built in record time with our newly purchased nail gun. Our Blackhawk members worked on this project with a group from **Northbrook, IL**.

—*Bill Karduck*

Central Region Chapter

On June 1-3 the 25th **Annual Central Wisconsin Fly Fishing School** was held at **Nature's Edge**, the former **Odd Fellows** camp located between **Gooseneck** and **McLean Lake**, five miles south of Waupaca.

The brand new facilities at Nature's Edge include student and staff cabin accommodations, dining hall, and a separate conference center. All are first class and were enjoyed by student and staff alike.

Curriculum included fly casting instruction, reading the water, understanding fly hatches, fly and tackle selection, fly tying, knot tying, stream ethics, entomology, stream-side instruction, and a one-on-one guided trout fishing trip on Sunday.

All meals and accommodations were included in the \$295.00, tuition. What a deal! School director **Dan Harmon III** received many favorable comments and e-mails from the 2001 graduating class, many of which expressed a desire to attend the school again next year.

On Thursday, June 21, TU chapters that have assisted with purchasing property adjoining the **Mecan River Springs** will be recognized at an award ceremony to be held at 5:30 p.m. at the new **DNR Wautoma service center**.

The Central Wisconsin Chapter was the first to enter the fray with Perrier to stop their attempts to pump and bottle Mecan spring water, thereby depleting the water sup-

ply in the Mecan River and possible destroying its magnificent trout population, will be honored

Accepting the award for the chapter will be immediate past president, **Jack Wahlers**. Jack played a major role in securing a portion of the funds needed for the purchase.

The Annual Banquet and Fundraiser was held on March 24 at the **Pioneer Inn** in Oshkosh. Banquet chair **Dan Colligan** unfailingly comes up with new and exciting features that insure an enjoyable evening for all.

The chapter Fun Day was held March 10 at the **Berlin Bowling Lanes**. There was a children's fly tying table, chapter fly tiers, rod building, knot tying, and leader making demonstrations. A tackle gear and book/swap rummage sale updates, on the Perrier situation and presentations on stream biology, aquatic research and coldwater resource.

Bob Chamberlain's travelogue, "Rainbows under Floating Rock" gave everyone a look at what trout fishing in **New Zealand** is all about. Fishing hats off to **John Gremmer** for organizing this fun-filled day.

At present, plans call for continued efforts on restoring and improving the water of the **Little Pine River**. Much has been accomplished, but as on any moving body of water, there is always more to be done. Workdays are held on the 3rd Saturday of the month beginning at

9 a.m. Work usually lasts 3-4 hours, and lunch is supplied. "Many hands make light work," so contact work-

day chair **Rich Mlodzik** (920) 295-8772.

—*Jerry Strom*

Coulee Region Chapter

The spring months have witnessed progress in completing the 2001 installment of our ongoing **Mormon Coulee** stream improvement project. Despite less than ideal weather conditions, our chapter workday occurred as planned on Saturday, April 7, when a group of chapter members and DNR volunteers combined efforts to construct about 20 luner structures at our project site.

During the week of May 7 contractor **Doug Vinson** and our area DNR stream technician work crew began the excavation and structure installation process of our project in **Mormon Coulee**. Despite difficult weather since that time, it is anticipated that chapter members should be able to complete the project by midsummer.

Making all of this possible was confirmation in early May that our chapters application for a \$2,000 Friends of Wisconsin TU grant had been approved.

Spring program presenters at our monthly membership meetings included **Dave Vetrano**, fisheries biol-

ogist with the La Crosse Areas DNR office, and **Dan Flaherty**, La Crosse attorney and former DNR Board member.

Perhaps the highlight of our spring program schedule, however, was our presentation in May entitled "Remembering **Palmer Olson**," an affectionate recollection of Palmer shared by family and friends through pictures, memorabilia, and stories. Palmer was a fly fisherman of legendary stature in the coulee region who also operated the **Olson Fly and Lure Company** for many years. A longtime TU member until his death, Olson died at the age of 86 on December 16, 1999.

Coulee Region TU will not meet again until the third Tuesday of September. At that meeting new officers will be elected. Members have been notified that our current chapter president, vice president, and secretary will not be seeking reelection and, consequently, those with an interest in filling any of these positions are encouraged to contact President **Cy Post** over the summer.

—*Rolf Skogstad*

Frank Hornberg Chapter

As usual the Frank Hornberg Chapter has been busy. Both the work evening and work day this April found us hauling cull Christmas trees for brushmatting, some of which were located by chapter member **Don Ebberts**, and others of which were donated by chapter member **Tom Litterski**. Christmas trees or other evergreens are readily available in many areas of the state and make very effective brush mat material. The chapter has probably 150 or so trees destined for placement in too wide areas of the **Tomorrow River** at Nelsonville.

The chapters May work evening was spent hauling cull Christmas trees to our **Stedman Creek** worksite, in preparation for the next work day. Morning of the chapters May work day was spent augmenting and enlarging an existing brushmat in the main Tomorrow River at our Stedman Creek worksite. And in the afternoon we concentrated our efforts in Stedman itself, continuing upstream brushmatting in an area that was overly wide. We

hope to narrow the creek and flush sand out, exposing the stream's underlying rock and gravel substrate — hopefully providing better trout living and spawning habitat.

Our sixth annual Introduction to Flyfishing Workshop was held at the **Rising Star Mill** in Nelsonville on Saturday, June 2. In spite of conditions that had the group dressed more like winter than early June, we had an enthusiastic group of students — perhaps the best bunch of new casters we've seen. However, for those students who wished to try their new skills after supper, the fishing conditions were far from ideal, with the Tomorrow River running very muddy and barely in its banks.

Plans are also beginning to shape up for our second **Fun and Fundraiser**, which will be held 6:00 p.m. Friday, August 10 at **Shooters Supper Club** in Plover. This event is open to the public and lived up to its name last year. Stop by if you're in the area.

—*Jim Friedrich*

Green Bay Chapter

The Green Bay Chapter, having raised nearly \$22,000 at its fundraising banquet in March, is planning a busy summer using these funds to benefit the coldwater resource.

We are planning five work projects on area streams with the DNR. Work is planned for various branches of the **Oconto River** and **Waupee Creek**, including installing brush bundles that, over time, will narrow those streams and create better trout habitat.

On June 9, 16 chapter members under the direction of **Russ Heiser** of the Marinette office of the DNR, installed a weir on the Oconto River just above Suring. The weir will collect all fish traveling upstream and enable the DNR to measure and tag these fish to study the migratory

habits of trout. This was done several years ago and the results at that time showed that trout will travel astonishing distances during the year.

The chapter also made several donations recently:

- awarded \$2,000 toward the **Gratiot River** coaster brook trout habitat acquisition project,
 - gave \$3,000 to aid in the purchase of **Maxwell Springs**,
 - hired a beaver trapper to work on area streams,
 - donated \$3,000 to National's **Coldwater Conservation Fund**,
 - donated \$300 to the Friends of Wisconsin TU program, and
 - committed \$3,500 to aid the **U.S. Forest Service** to complete habitat improvement projects in the **Nicolet National Forest**.
- Additionally, working with the

Chapter News



Oconto River Watershed Chapter, the chapter gave fly casting instructions to 19 women during a clinic in April, and sent three area students to conservation camps through the **Hank Bredael Memorial Scholarship** program.

Last, but not least, the chapter will stage its ever increasingly popular Kids Fishing Day on August 15 at the **Brown County Reforestation**

Camp. The event, staged with the assistance of the Green Bay Exchange Club, brings young people involved in the Brown County Social Services "PALS" program out for an afternoon of fishing in the Camp's ponds for stocked bluegills and a meal prepared by the volunteers, plus sending them home with their catch prepared for the pan.

—Gary Stoychoff

Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter

Recognized for outstanding achievement by The Conservation Congress Education and Awards Committee, the Nohr Chapter was one of eight local conservation clubs in the state so honored at the Congress' statewide meeting May 11.

But even before the award was made for last year's achievements, the chapter was busy in area classrooms, streams, and meeting halls — not to mention on their computer keyboards — planning this year's work.

Eric Johansson was not only leading a class in fly tying but also supporting the chapter's website message center.

New officers were elected at our annual meeting in March, with
Jeff Ware **President**
Dave Fritz **Vice president**
Chuck Steudel **Secretary**
Mike Gingrich **Treasurer**

At the same meeting, it was announced that **Andy Baker**, a UW-Platteville student of **Dr. Tom Hunt**, would be our summer intern, working on a study of the **McPherson Branch of the Platte River** near Ellenboro.

Among classes and outings, **Bob Wagner's** fly fishing instruction on **Elk Creek** was outstanding, with more than a dozen members and friends in attendance. **Dave Fritz** worked with **Peggy Compton**, **UW-Extension Basin Educator** for Natural Resources based in Lancaster, to offer a water monitoring workshop on the **Big Green River**.

For the second successive year, **Claude Kazanski** and **Madelyn Leopold** hosted the event. **Bill Wisler**, **Dave Fritz**, and **Jeff Ware** joined **Todd Kalish**, recipient of a grant from the Nohr Chapter while he was completing graduate work at UW-La Crosse on several Coulee Country streams. After a six-month tour with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Sacramento, California, Todd plans to return to Southwest

Wisconsin to continue his efforts on behalf of our coldwater resource.

"The best banquet ever" is the way that our 24th Annual Banquet is being described. Banquet Chairman **Gordon Greishaber** and his committee of **Bill Wisler**, **Dave Ladd**, **Bradd Sims**, **Gene Van Dyke**, **Barb and Jim Ballard**, **Mike Gingrich**, **Chuck Steudel**, **Dave and Iris Peterson**, and **Jeff Ware** are being approached about lifetime appointments. **Jim Ballard's** photographs of the event were wonderful, and copies of several will be presented to the members of the Banquet Committee at a special dinner in June. **Jack and Patti Larson** and **Bruce and Maryellyne Rear**, landowners from Lafayette County, were awarded the two Nohr Chapter **Land Stewardship Awards** for 2001. **Jack Larson** also became one of the chapter's newest members.

Much of the work of the Nohr Chapter is done in area streams, and this year we have seen excellent leadership qualities in the people who have spearheaded cleanup and restoration projects. **Pete Esser** has done wonderful work in organizing and providing most of the labor on the brushing of **Big Spring Creek**. **David Canny** has forged a dedicated coalition of community groups to work with **Dr. Tom Hunt** from UW-Platteville on "a community service approach to stream restoration and conservation" on the **McPherson Branch of the Platte River**. **Dave Fritz** has worked with **Jim Sime** to organize a burn-and-brushing day on the **Blue River** with more work to follow. **Chuck Steudel** and **Doug Risch** are working with the local DNR office to outline a plan for preserving and protecting the **Dodge Branch Creek** in Iowa County.

Clearly, recognition for work well done is a wonderful reward; but for this club, good work seems to be reward enough.

—Barbara Ballard

Lakeshore Chapter

The chapter's annual conservation and awards banquet was held on April 21 and netted over \$8,000.

At the May meeting, the chapter appropriated over \$2,700 of that total to worthy causes consistent with our mission.

On June 10 we held our annual family appreciation picnic at the **Kamrath** property located at the headwaters of the **Onion River**.

The highlight of the day was a special ceremony in which a tributary of the river was returned to its historic streambed. Chapter members **Larry Doeber** and **Cameron Coleman**, DNR fisheries biologist **John Nelson**, and stream restoration expert **Marty Melchior** removed a temporary barrier to the tributary, which allowed the water to flow into its natural streambed which has been restored through the combined efforts of the chapter, the

DNR, and other volunteers.

The ceremony was attended by **State Senator James Baumgart**, **State Rep. Joe Leibham**, as well as chapter members, their families, and local citizens. The event received front page coverage from the **Sheboygan Press**.

Workdays continued over the spring on the **Onion River**, highlighted by over 40 volunteers on the last day of April. A local boy scout chapter provided much of the manpower.

In April, Chapter members **Larry Yax** and **Jeff Yax** attended a ceremony in Manitowoc with DNR Secretary **Darrell Bazzell** during which 12,000 of a new strain of Rainbow trout were planted in **Lake Michigan tributaries**.

Chapter members including **Tom Steinberg**, **John Matenaer**, **Jeff Yax**, **Bob Melcher**, and **Larry Yax** tied

flies in various area events during the spring.

At the May chapter meeting the following were elected as officers:

Doug Leppanen **President**

Bob Melcher
Jack Gehr
Roger Berg

—Doug Leppanen

Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

Northwoods Chapter

The Chapters 27th Annual Conservation Banquet in March was a great success, with attendance of 157 far surpassing last year's 135.

Special thanks go to **Don Olcik** and **Ed Younker** for collecting door prizes, **Wayne Parmley** for printing the agenda, **Brian & Michelle Leitinger**, **Wayne Stevens**, **Victoria Houston**, **Fred Johnson**, **Kevin Kelly**, **Ron Reupert**, **Terry Cummings**, and **Phil Zipp** for their help at the banquet or selling tickets, and finally **Michele Rauschenbach** who runs the registration desk to perfection.

Mike Vlahakis and all the wait staff at the **Pub** put on their usual fantastic dinner. And lastly we thank our sponsors for without their donations and gratuity we could not put on this banquet.

The Chapter conducted stream workdays on the **Bearskin River** in March and June. Brush bundles were constructed with Christmas trees and from the nearby forest. The third workday is scheduled for late August.

The end-of-the-year picnic and elections were held at the **Perch Lake Campground** on May 17. Board Members are **Wayne Stevens**

and **Ron Reupert**. Other officers include:

Brian Hegge **President**
Brian Leitinger **Vice President**
Victoria Houston **Treasurer**

The secretary position is open. Many thanks go out to **Wayne Parmley** for his work as VP, and **Ron**, you did a wonderful job as Treasurer the past two years.

The Chapter will host the 8th **Annual Youth Fly Fishing Conclave** on July 7 at the **North Lakeland Discovery Center** in Manitowish Waters. The conclave is free for boys and girls ages 10 to 16. The day includes fly casting, knot tying, and fly tying workshops, plus lunch and several door prizes. Instruction is provided with talks on stream entomology, coldwater conservation and proper catch and release techniques. For more information call **Wayne Parmley** at (715) 479-1131 or the **We Tie It Fly Shop** at (715) 385-0171.

By the time you read this, the **Deerskin River Dam** should have been removed. The WDNR has scheduled the week of June 4 to remove the dam and begin restoring the dam site.

—Brian Hegge

Shaw-Paca Chapter

After another successful banquet, we moved ahead to get these proceeds into the local trout economy. We sponsored scholarships for two high school students to the **Natural Resources Careers Camp**. We also approved scholarships for 4th grade students from the **Lincoln School** in Shawano to attend the **Timbertop Camp** located near Stevens Point.

Chapter members helped with **Marion Kid's Fishing Day** on June 2. We also contributed to the program's fund for purchasing supplies and prizes.

Our local Shawano County fish manager, **Ross Langhurst**, requested assistance with various summer projects. We voted to appropriate \$2,000 for a shocking project and \$4,000 for stream improvement on the **Pigeon River**. These funds were

part of a settlement the club received as a result of the siltation of **Mehlberg Creek** two summers ago.

At the Northeast Regional TU Meeting, it was voted to send \$1,500 for use in various area projects. We are also working on more easements on local waters, as well as a possible trout shocking demonstration. Other possible projects include a kid's fishing workday.

Election of officers was held. There was no movement to throw out the incumbents, thus the officers for 2001-2002 are:

Bill "Doc" Wagner **President**
Dave Ehrenburg **Vice-President**
Joe Murphy **Treasurer**
Lee Kersten **Treasurer**

Directors include **Terry Ehlert** through 2004, **John Kunzmann** through 2004, **Jerry Weatherwax**

Continued on p. 12

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Chapter News

Continued from p. 11

through 2003, **Steve Weber** through 2003, **Steve Schultz** through 2002, and **Dick Pamperin** through 2002.

Our fly tying group will continue

Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter

This spring the Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter concluded another very successful fundraising effort at the **Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel Sports Show**.

The focus of the chapter's efforts has once again been the restoration of Walworth County's **Bluff Creek**. Habitat restoration work days have

to meet at **Prime Time** in Marion on the first Thursday of the month starting about 7:00 p.m. Come early for lunch. Nonmembers and beginners are welcome.

—Lee Kersten

Southern Wisconsin Chapter

Chapter meeting are held the second Tuesday of the month at the **Maple Tree** restaurant in McFarland. Dinner, for those interested, starts at 6. The meeting starts at 7.

The March 13 meeting was the annual auction of the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Over \$4,000 was raised thanks to the efforts of auctioneers **Topf Wells**, **Larry Meicher**, and **Andy Morton**. As usual, flies tied and contributed by members attracted a great deal of spirited bidding. Many thanks to all those who contributed items to the auction. Also thanks to all the bidders who opened their hearts, and their wallets during the auction.

The April 10 meeting included awards, elections, and a presentation. The presentation by **John Beth** on his exciting week-long fishing expedition to the **Chosen River** in **Alaska** was a spectacular multimedia show. The immensity of the Alaskan wilderness and the extraordinary fishing opportunities available were all well covered by John.

The May 8 chapter meeting featured a presentation by **Marty Kwitek** on the allure of fishing the hex hatch and steelhead runs. **Kurt Welke**, the new **DNR Fisheries**

been scheduled for a total of six days in June, July, and August.

The group's leadership is presently looking at fundraising through corporate sponsorship. Another area of activity is an ongoing attempt to improve both chapter communications and community outreach.

—Terry Molter

Manager for South Central Wisconsin presented his vision of coldwater resource management in the South Central part of the state.

On April 10 the chapter presented a number of awards to chapter members for distinguished achievements:

- The Gold Trout award was presented to **Lynn Blenker**,
- the Gold Net award was given to **Henry Nehls-Lowe** for his work on the **Upper Sugar River** improvement project,
- the Behind the Scenes Most Valuable Trout award was bestowed upon **Jim Bartelt**,
- **Henry Haugley** received the Reel Award, and
- **Dan Wisniewski** netted the Pass Lake Award.

Certificates of Achievement were given to **Paul Banas**, **Greg Erickson**, **John Schweiger**, **Eric Christensen**, **Leroy Ebert** and **Scott's Pastry**.

April 14 marked the day of the Southern Wisconsin Chapter's annual casting clinic. This event is held at **Salmo Pond** just outside of Cross Plains. Over 60 students received instruction on casting, creek aquatic and terrestrial insects, and fishing tactics. This was the highest turnout ever for this popular annual event. The chapter would like to thank **Andy Davidson** for all his efforts in planning, recruiting for, and conducting this event.

Every spring, SWTU works with the **Black Earth Creek Watershed Association** to sponsor a clean up day on the stream corridor. The chapter picks up litter and other debris at **Salmo Pond** and **Black Earth Creek**. Many thanks to volunteers **John Serunian**, **Mark Andrews**, **Tom Bordner**, **Theresa Morgan**, **Matt Delheimer**, **Dave Westlake** and **Bill Pielsticker** for their efforts.

On April 10 the chapter elected these individuals as officers:
Bill Pilesticker President

Mark Maffitt
John Schweiger
Fay Lauf

Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary

Two new board members were also elected to two-year terms — **Richard Shull** and **Raymond Venn**. Continuing board members include **Mark Rhinerson**, **John Serunian**, **Gerry Campbell**, and **Paul Banas**. The chapter's State TU Council representative is **Dave Westlake** and the Membership Chair is **Bob Selk**.

As a way to enhance communica-

tion to chapter members the Southern Wisconsin Chapter a website has recently been launched. The site owes its existence to the guidance of web master and web guru **Tim Cleveland**. Although still in an initial stage the site has generated a great deal of interest and many positive comments from chapter members. It is at www.geocities.com/southernwisconsin.

—John Serunian

Wild Rivers Chapter

The Wild Rivers Chapter continues to be very active. We have had a number of wonderful programs this spring. During March was **Tom Anderson** talked about his "Favorite Places" for fly fishing.

In April we had a program on coaster brook trout featuring TU's **Laura Hewitt**, WDNr's **Dennis Pratt** and U.S. Fish & Wildlife's **Lee Newman**. There were many good questions from a large audience.

Then in May our speaker was **Frank Pratt**, fish biologist for the WDNr, who spoke about the past, present, and future of the **Namekagon River**. All of our programs have been very well attended, a trend that we are sure will continue.

The highlight of the spring was receiving a \$1,240 grant from **Friends Of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited** to be used for an angler survey and to assist the WDNr with their **Bark River** brook trout project. The angler survey will consist of chapter members and friends fishing for brook trout on a number of the tributaries of Lake Superior this September.

The purpose of the survey is to establish a database for brook trout populations in the streams and Lake Superior in order to check on the progress of brook trout populations

once the stocking of coasters finally takes place.

The Bark River project will be assisting the WDNr with their shocking and transportation of the brood stock to a hatchery to raise these wild brook trout for restocking in the Bark River in an attempt to establish a larger population.

On June 2 our chapter volunteered to help with the Kids Fishing Day at the **Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center**. For the second year in a row we helped over 200 1st through 6th graders learn how to cast and to practice catch and release of trout in the spring pond at the Center. It was a terrible rainy day with a brisk northeast wind, but it didn't affect the enthusiasm of the kids or volunteers. Chapter members present were **Dick Berge**, **Jay Thurston**, **Metro Maznio**, **Bill Heart**, **Bob Stanley**, **Damian Wilmot**, **Bob Ferraro**, **Mike Klump**, and **Chuck Campbell**. We all had a great time.

On June 9 and 10 we had our first annual chapter campout. This year we camped out on the Brule River. This report was sent in before the campout so we're not sure how much fun we had.

—Bill Heart

Wisconsin River Valley Chapter

Our chapter's work program this year will be its busiest ever.

On the **Prairie River** we have two work areas. One is an 80-acre site north of **Dudley**, and the other is an 80-acre site along **Hwy. C** north of Merrill.

Both of these involve stream rehab, narrowing, deepening, boulder retard work, and installing some rock weirs. We also are planning to do some video taping on the Merrill project.

On the **Plover River** we have a 90-acre project that butts up against the upper end of a half mile rapids and an 80-acre project on that same

rapids. We are also working with the **Natural Resource Conservation Service** and the land owner on a cattle watering system that will get the cattle out of the river in the lower 80-acre site. We hope to put this project on video also.

We will be doing some half log work and some cleanup work along two small spring outlets in the same area as a work day for the chapter.

Finally, this summer we will be making some financial support to the work being done at the **Ward paper mill dam** site.

—Herb Hintze

Wolf River Chapter

The Wolf River Chapter is concentrating on building membership of younger sportsmen to carry on the vital work of protecting and enhancing habitat on the upper **Wolf**.

Our chapter is very grateful to the past and continued contributions from **Dale Druckery** over the years. We feel obligated to transform those dollars into actual trout habitat improvement for seldom do we see someone that generous toward perpetuating TU's goals.

Reports from our local DNR fish and habitat managers are that the Madison DNR fisheries people are not permitting further trout habitat improvement projects on the Wolf

River. That is very discouraging, for during the past years when projects were done, our chapter always was asked for and gave \$1,500 or more toward each project. The habitat needs to accommodate the native brook trout and increase the carry-over of planted trout from the present roughly 5% to 50% should be implemented.

The chapter is investigating the possibility of buying land to berm and vegetate the remaining two problem areas where heavy summer rains cause siltation runoff from agricultural fields into the Wolf River.

—Herb Buettner



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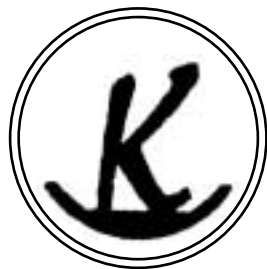
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Paul Kogut, Prop.

BLACK EARTH: prized creek suffers massive trout die-off

Continued from p. 1
after the big rainstorms when a local trout fisher found dozens of dead trout in vegetation and washed up on the shore. This delay will make it difficult to analyze

the flesh of the recovered fish.

Welke noted that the fish kill was widespread on the river, beginning above the village of Cross Plains and extending downstream to the creek's slower stretches outside

Black Earth. Black Earth is home to a strain of wild brown trout, so trout population will recover on their own.

Following some field investigating over the next two weeks, the DNR will shock

the stream to compare its trout population against levels in recent years.

Meanwhile, fishery personnel will conduct interviews and analyze water samples to as part of their investigation.



Fish dead, but what about insects?

When ask how the lack of oxygen in levels that could kill so many trout would affect Black Earth Creek's insect population — including a well-regarded hex hatch that was just starting on the river — fish manager Kurt Welke said that TU member might be able to help.

Welke said it was doubtful that a before-after analysis of insect life could be made. He said the DNR would, however, be interested in any personal observations the area's fly fishers might have in coming weeks.

Interested fishers, or those with any other information for the DNR investigators, may contact Welke at (608) 273-5967.

DEERSKIN: dam removed

Continued from p. 1
-vation groups asked the DNR to conduct a review of the alternatives for dam removal and dam reconstruction and provide a resource management recommendation.

Based on their findings, the DNR recommended dam removal and restoration of the stream.

"The river re-channelized very quickly after the dam was breached,

which is rare," said DNR project leader Scott Watson.

Watson says the dam removal is just the first step in a 1-2 year process of monitoring the river before any river restoration project might be planned.

The DNR will monitor turbidity, temperature, pH, and dissolved oxygen in the river both upstream and downstream of the former dam.

PESTICIDES: report calls for tracking database

Continued from p. 9
where and when pesticides are used, it will remain very difficult and costly to accurately assess the impacts of pesticides on non-target species such as fish under real-world environmental conditions.

It is generally well known that many pesticides are harmful to fish and fish habitat, including many of the organisms consumed by fish. Understanding which fish populations are being impacted by pesticides requires accurate information regarding the amounts and toxicity of pesticides that are entering our waters. We need both to determine the threat of pesticides to our fisheries and their habitats.

While we have a small but growing body of information regarding the toxicity of some pesticides to aquatic animals and plants, we have almost none on where and when pesticides actually are used. Without this crucial information, it is next to impossible to determine where to look for the damage being done by pesticides or where pesticides can be eliminated as contributors to fishery problems.

The state of Wisconsin could undertake a massive fish tissue monitoring program — testing common fish species in thousands of rivers, streams, and lakes for hundreds of different pesticides — but this would be too expensive and inefficient.

Such a monitoring program would also have to account for the fact that some pesticides are changed to other potentially harmful chemicals in the environment and that both active and inert pesticide components must be included.

Instead, a focus on accurate pesticide application data would allow state agencies, researchers, and others to meaningfully assess threats to fish populations in all watersheds across the state at a very moderate cost.

Also, a pesticide use database relies on the well-respected "polluter pays" principle: the major users of pesticides would pay the modest costs of reporting application data to the database rather than the resource users (or tax payers) paying for a massive fish tissue monitoring program for pesticides.

Generating specific answers on

the links between pesticides and their effects remains elusive. Across the state, the lack of data on actual locations, rates, and timings of pesticide applications undermines our understanding of adverse impacts on aquatic life — including valuable game species in Wisconsin.

A pesticide use database providing researchers and the public with specific information on pesticide use would help target which threatened rivers, streams, and lakes to monitor for pesticides and potential aquatic impacts. Such a system would allow fish managers to rule out pesticides not used near damaged aquatic resources.

The database would conserve scarce monitoring and research dollars for identifying the true causes of impacts and provide a means for identifying both actual and potential sources of pesticide pollution of our waterways. A pesticide use database would improve our ability to focus laboratory studies on likely impacts of pesticide use on aquatic organisms, including important species such as brook trout.

Imagine being able to look at a pesticide use map for a watershed, seeing what pesticides are used in that watershed, and being confident about what specific pesticides to sample for in the streams and lakes of that watershed.

Imagine using those tests to gain a complete picture of the pesticide soup that fish and habitats are exposed to, and providing researchers with a means to find out whether those interactions are causing harm to aquatic life.

Imagine being able to find out whether and what pesticides should be sampled in a declining fishery

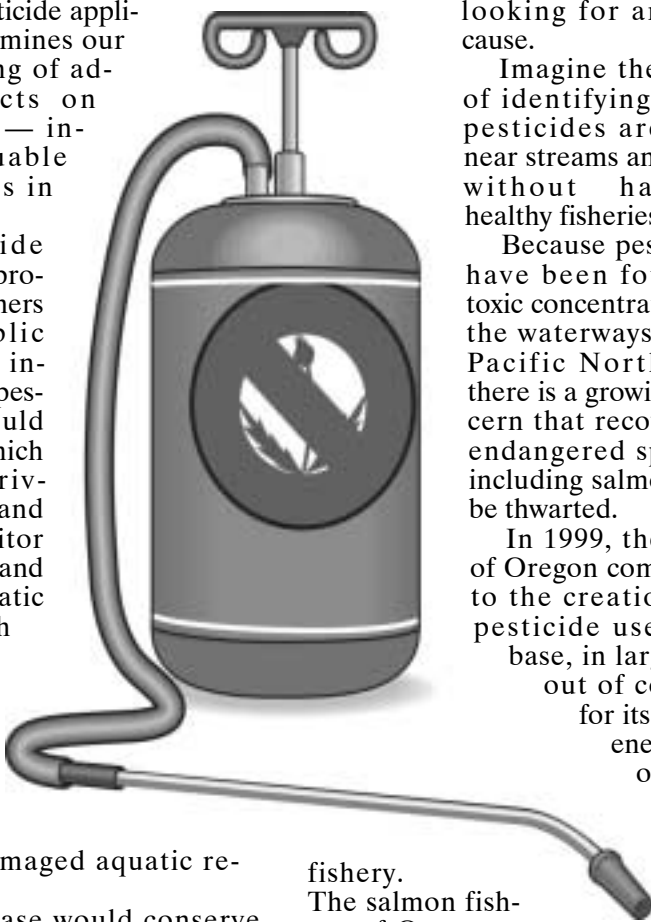
habitat to determine if a potential link to pesticides exists, or whether limited resources would be better spent looking for another cause.


Imagine the value of identifying which pesticides are used near streams and lakes without harming healthy fisheries.

Because pesticides have been found at toxic concentrations in the waterways of the Pacific Northwest, there is a growing concern that recovery of endangered species, including salmon, will be thwarted.

In 1999, the State of Oregon committed to the creation of a pesticide use database, in large part out of concern for its threatened

fishery. The salmon fishery of Oregon was





TU QUIZ

In 2000, how many hunting and fishing licenses were sold in Wisconsin?

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Jim Ballard photos

GOOD TIMES AT THE NOHR CHAPTER BANQUET

Banquet guests Jenny Walters and Barry Vanderberg (above) are pleased that their macroinvertebrate score indicates a healthy stream. UW-Platteville Director of Reclamation Dr. Tom Hunt (top right on left) congratulates two of his students, McPherson Branch Project Intern Andy Baker and Scott Ladd Memorial Scholarship recipient Renee Johnson. Meanwhile, banquet guest Max Wiperman considers what he would do with this spinning reel raffle prize with all those ball bearings.



2002 banquet help sought

By John Welter

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited's 2002 State Banquet date is set for Saturday, February 2 at the Oshkosh Convention Center and Park Plaza Hotel.

We've got the hall reserved, and within the next month our banquet committee will be getting under way.

This year we hope the banquet will entertain you as we honor notable trout conservationists from around the state, regale you with stories (some of them true) from the fishing world, and tempt you with a wide array of angling-related products and services.

One of our goals with the silent and live auction items is to showcase Wisconsin's artists, manufacturers,

and guides.

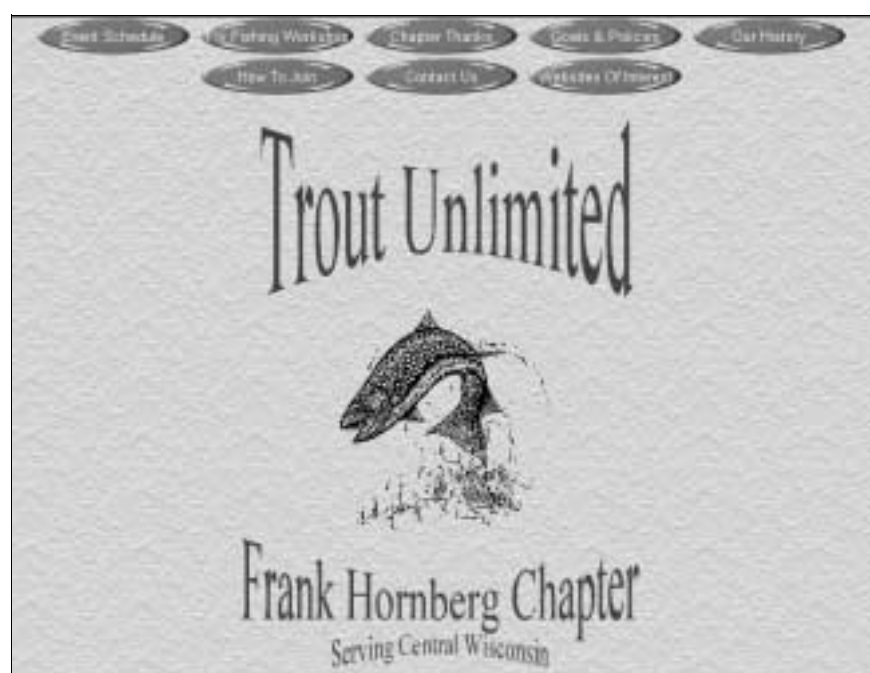
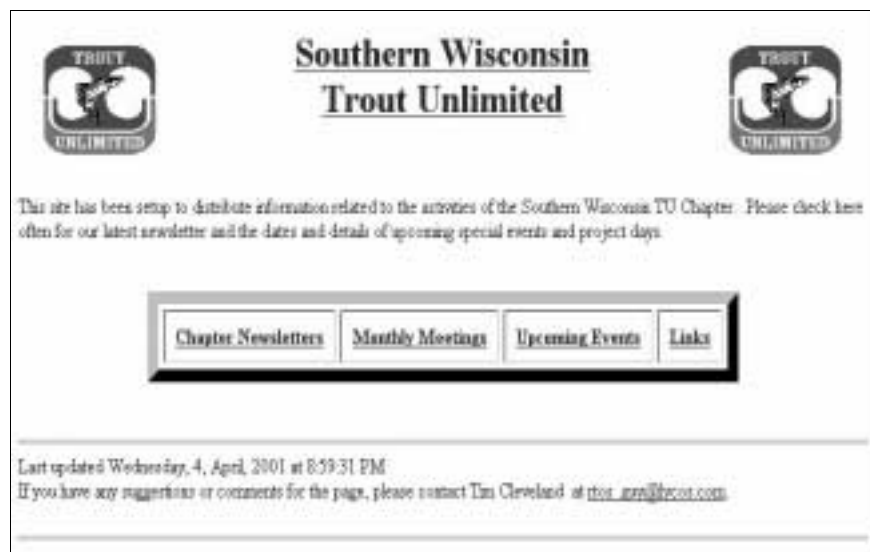
The committee welcomes your suggestions and donations, and would benefit from the aid of:

- a few more members, notably from the Fox Valley and Madison areas, who would be willing to spend just a dozen hours between September 1 and February 1 on the banquet, and
- a dozen volunteers who can help with banquet setup and activities on banquet night.

Rewarding job

It's a rewarding job, because it helps TU raise funds for its activities and services like Wisconsin Trout.

If you'd like to join in our banquet efforts, please call Banquet Committee John Welter at (715) 833-7028, or e-mail at jwelter@discover-net.net.



NEW CHAPTER WEB SITES DEBUT

The Southern Wisconsin and Hornberg chapters are now online. Chapter member Tim Cleaveland put the Southern Wisconsin site together, while Paul and Loretta Peck made the Hornberg site a reality. There are now six WITU chapters on line:

Fox Valley	http://www.vbe.com/~heusers/fvtu.htm
Harry & Laura Nohr	http://www.members.tripod.com/nohrchapter
Hornberg	http://www.hornbergtu.org
Kiap-TU-Wish	http://www.lambcom.net/kiaptuwish
Northwoods	http://www.northwoodstu.org
Southern Wisconsin	http://www.geocities.com/southernwisconsintu/
The State Council's web site is:	http://www.lambcom.net/witu

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We have all experienced the shortcomings of the tapered monofilament leader: we see the rise, then false 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 around for generations.



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State Council meeting notes

COUNCIL: opposes efforts to split DNR in state budget

Continued from p. 1

Council's finances, including:

- a discussion on trying to separate the Friends of Trout Unlimited money from the State Council's money, with general agreement to do this,
- a summary of the Council's banquet, which showed a profit of \$7,400,
- a discussion on the possible formation of a State Council trust fund, and
- the approval of a 2001 budget.

Chair's report

State Chair Jon Christiansen summarized his background, emphasizing his commitment to TU and detailing his relationship to his job and any potential conflicts between his professional interests and TU interests.

Christiansen also discussed the use of e-mail by the State Council and urged individual chapters to submit as many e-mail addresses of their members as they want to be put on the State Council informational loop.

It was felt that the more members in the chapters who find out about the actions of the Council, the more knowledgeable and appreciative they will become.

Christiansen reported that volunteers are needed to head the Council's Education Committee and its Membership Committee.

Attendees were reminded of TU's National Convention to be held August 16 in Portland, OR.

Jack Walters reported that Trout Unlimited through different chapters contributed \$9,500 toward a WDNR purchase of 6.5 acres on the largest spring hole on the Mecan. The property is now in the hands of the public.

Legislative efforts

Jeff Smith reported on a number of legislative issues in which the State Council and TU are involved.

Smith said the wetlands bill of-

fered by the Assembly was awful, but that negotiations by the parties involved are continuing, with a reported compromise just days away.

Smith also reported on a recent meeting that had been set up to develop a model bill on high-capacity wells. He reported that the bottom line from the group of experts gathered was that Rep. Johnsrud's proposal was quite good. The feeling of the group was that if a clause that would require the DNR to propose certain rules and fees would be included the legislation would be a big improvement.

Water Resources Committee Chair Stu Grimstad reported on revisions to the state's nonpoint pollution rules. Grimstad said this is a once-in-a-lifetime chance for legislation that will make a huge leap in the protection of our waters and asked members to encourage the passage of this legislation.

Possible changes to the state's navigable waters laws were also discussed.

Grimstad reported that an easement form has been finalized for chapters to use in stream improvement projects with landowners. These forms define the relationship of the chapter to the landowner and the DNR in these projects.

Discussion on the State TU website centered on how the site can be improved and updated and thus made more useful to the members of TU. Computer-literate members are working on this.

A discussion was held on the fact that our in-stream projects often affect other organisms and species. We need to become more aware of these relationships before damage is done. These interests should be taken into account early in the planning process to avoid problems down the road. Grimstad is working on developing a multi-party dialogue to address this set of concerns.

John Welter reported on continuing efforts to divert water from

Shell Lake to Sawyer Creek. The diverted water would go into brook trout spawning waters. It is the position of TU that the water be diverted further down stream on Sawyer Creek, even though this would add expense to a diversion. The Council voted its continued opposition to this practice.

Duke Welter reported on a coaster brook trout meeting sponsored by the Wild Rivers Chapter. In attendance were Dennis Pratt of the DNR, Lee Newman of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Laura Hewitt of TU National, and Native American representatives.

Welter said there was constructive, yet frustrating discussion on coaster restoration. Still, Welter and Bill Heart hope that attempts will be made and the DNR will be more involved in the process.

Jeff Smith reported on a \$5.6 million "windfall" from Uncle Sam for costal counties to do enhancement and stream habitat work in counties that border Lake Michigan and Lake Superior. Interested chapters and members should contact Jeff for details. (See separate story on p. 5)

Stu Grimstad and Jack Walters reported on Perrier and its recent test wells. They noted that the test had noticeably lowered the associated stream and had negatively impacted neighboring wells. With the ending of the tests, some private wells have not yet recovered. The test results were a surprise and an embarrassment to Perrier, but the company is still a threat.

Todd Hanson reported he is working on putting past issues of *Wisconsin Trout* on computer discs. He also reviewed the procedure for getting extra copies of *Wisconsin Trout* and getting them on-line at the Council's web site.

Old business


Duke Andrews led a discussion on the National TU mission statement and the thought that the statement would be improved by adding the clause "enhancement" or "habitat enhancement." Action was tabled with the understanding the matter will be discussed again at future meetings.

Andrews also led a discussion on beaver control issues. It was decided that TU will ask the Conservation Congress to have the Trout and Fur Harvest Committees meet together to try to work out the issue.

Chuck Steudel and Doug Risch of the Nohr Chapter led a discussion on the aquaculture industry's recent Bottom Draw Study. The Council voted to request a copy of

the study from the WI Dept. of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP).

Duke Andrews gave a report on the grant applications in front of the Friends of Wisconsin TU committee. Andrews and the other chairs of



Wisconsin Trout Unlimited
John Welter, Past Chair
P.O. Box 228
Eau Claire, WI 54702

May 1, 2001

State Sen. Brian Burke
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707

State Rep. John Gard
P.O. Box 8952
Madison WI 53708

Dear Sen. Burke and Rep. Gard:

As co-chairs of the Joint Finance Committee, both of you are aware of the dangers of lumping overarching policy initiatives — which deserve full scrutiny during the legislative hearing process — into the Legislature's budget deliberations. A perfect example is Rep. Gard's effort to split the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) into two separate departments, one for environmental enforcement and another for conservation.

Trout Unlimited has 3,500 Wisconsin members in 21 chapters around the state, working as part of a national organization to "preserve, protect and restore trout streams and lakes."

Our members work on conservation projects and actively support environmental protection efforts. Although we don't agree with the DNR in all matters, we do work regularly with the department. We see what is and what isn't working.

This proposal doesn't work for our state. TU's State Council last Saturday voted its opposition to efforts to split the DNR, and directed me to advise you of some of the many good reasons for that opposition: No economic gains will be realized, and in fact costs of two departments will be increased. Decreased efficiency will result with two separated departments separately considering issues which they already address as one integrated unit. Think how difficult it is to bring DATCP and DNR together right now on issues.

If there are concerns about the effectiveness of the recent DNR reorganization, this is not the mechanism to address them. We have concerns about it, but believe splitting the DNR would be doing brain surgery with a chain saw where some fine-tuning would be more appropriate. We also believe many interests in the state would benefit from relaxing the DNR's environmental protection efforts during the period of uncertainty about a split of authority. If this effort continues, rest assured of TU's public opposition. Thank you.

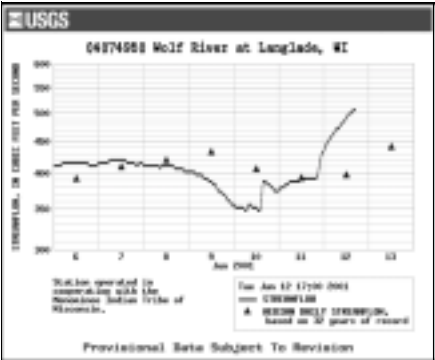
Sincerely,

John W. Welter

USGS stream flow program

slated for cuts in Bush budget

In President Bush's first budget, the USGS water program took a huge cut — \$43 million or 21% of the \$202 million FY 2001 budget.



TYPICAL USGS STREAM CHART

If you have web access, you can find stream flow data for many Wisconsin rivers and streams.

Anglers in much of the country depend on streamgage information to decide where and when to fish. If you check on the US Geological Survey webpage or flowphone and find out that the stream is up, you know that water will be murky and the fishing tough.

Streamgaging took a large part of that cut. Over the last two years, TU has supported streamgaging and USGS received increases.

USGS started reactivating streamgages previously closed, upgrading existing gages, including fitting some with telemetry to allow instant reporting, and opening new gages where needed. All that comes to an end with this budget.

TU says anglers, scientists and conservationists need that information, and local members are being asked to contact their Congress members through the appropriations process. Your e-mail or letter may help save the information system we need.

USGS collects the streamflow information for lots of reasons, such as water supply system operation, flood management and warning, river biology and other worthwhile activities.

Budget cuts in the last decade have reduced the number of stream gages by about 1,000, leaving about 7,000 active now.

When funds are cut, the small tributary stream stations are the first to go, and those are the ones most used by anglers and fish conservationists.

For more information see <http://water.usgs.gov/nsip/>. For easy access to the USGS online system so that you can find the gages of interest to you, go to: <http://water.usgs.gov/realtme.html>.

Partners return Onion tributary to its original course

By Todd Hanson

When a diverse group of conservationists gathered June 10 on the banks of Kamrath Creek near Plymouth in Sheboygan County for a "grand opening" ceremony — one

WDNR and others time to secure permanent funding.

"How much is this going to cost?" Kohler asked. Coleman draw a breath and replied. "A couple million."

1,500 feet to fill a series of two trout ponds. The eastern portion of the valley was excavated and bermed to form a large pond, while the rest of the valley was used for agriculture.

After the properties were pur-

Hewitt of TU and John Nelson of the Plymouth DNR office.

They met on several occasions and decided on a plan of action that included removing a small dam, re-locating 2,000 feet of stream channel, and excavating a large concrete culvert.

"The design process incorporated the latest advances in river restoration technology," says Melchior, now with Inter-Fluve of Milwaukee, "This design featured an all-encompassing fluvial geomorphology investigation, which involves analysis of aerial photography, digital mapping, extensive surveying of surrounding streams, and computer modeling of stream flows."

"We take all of the available data and try to create what we believe to be the proper stream dimensions, mainly slope, width, depth, pool and riffle structure, meander patterns, floodplain shape, and so on," says Melchior. "There's a lot of physics and biology involved, with a little art mixed in there."

Construction began in November of 2000 and involved DNR crews rough cutting of the channel through snow-covered and often frozen ground. In March of this year, cobble and gravel material was installed to form the channel bed, and streambanks were stabilized using bio-engineering techniques.

"Bioengineering works on the principle that plant growth stabilizes soil," says Melchior. "We've included over 15 native species of shrubs and trees in this restoration, along with temporary cover from native grasses. In a few years, when the erosion control fabric has degraded, the plants will have grown to a point where the fabric is no longer needed to prevent erosion."

The Sheboygan County Highway Department was also enlisted to move over 200,000 cubic feet of soil to rebuild the valley floor that had been excavated to form the pond.

Following completion of the channel construction and bank stabilization, volunteers from Trout Unlimited and a local Boy Scout troop planted over 3,500 trees and shrubs.

The goal of the project is to create brook trout spawning habitat and to help lower temperatures by eliminating the warming of water in ponds.

Melchior says that although the project doesn't target adult fish habitat, the stream should be an important spawning area.

"The philosophy is to create a stable and healthy stream system with habitat for all coldwater species. Once you've done that, the trout will find their spots — if you build it, they will come."



Marty Melchior

WAITING FOR THE WATER

A rare sight — a relocated portion of Kamrath Creek in Sheboygan County (above) waits for water to be diverted into it. In the 1950s this section of the creek was channelized and then diverted 1,500 feet to fill two trout ponds. After a large land purchase that secured the headwaters of the Onion River, a restoration plan was devised to return the stream to its original width and course (below).

which truly lived up to that billing — they could look at the event as the culmination of two years of hard work, unique circumstances, and luck.

Headwaters come on market

Kamrath Creek runs into the Ben Nutt which, in turn, feeds the Onion River, a trout stream the Lakeshore Chapter of TU has been working on the for a number of years.

In 1999 two properties on the Onion's headwaters both came on the market at the same time.

Cameron Coleman of the Lakeshore Chapter told the audience at last February's State Council banquet what happened next.

Coleman said that Sheboygan industrialist Terry Kohler — a Lakeshore TU member of many years — had always said that if there ever was anything he could do to help the chapter, Coleman should ask.

That's just what Coleman did one morning after church. He suggested to Kohler that the time was right for someone to step in and buy these properties in order to give the

Kohler, who had fished the Onion as a boy with flies tied by local legend Helen Shaw, thought for a

chased, the lower of two ponds was drained and a plan was devised to return some 2,000 feet of stream channel to its original valley.

Trout Unlimited, the River Alliance of Wisconsin, and the DNR enlisted the help of Marty Melchior, a specialist in river restoration then with NES Ecological Services, to design a restoration.

The design team included Brian Graber and Laura



moment and replied, "Let's do it."

"Today the transfer of the Kamrath property to the DNR is complete," says TU Upper Midwest Conservation Director Laura Hewitt. "The other property at the former Silver Springs trout farm will be finalized later this year."

Trout Unlimited worked to secure a grant from the Great Lakes Protection Fund to help fund restoration on the sites.

Stream rerouting

Some time prior to the 1950s this stream was channelized and then completely diverted north about



Agency would buy, then swap lands with DNR
Commissioners of Public Lands may have
remedy in WPS bid to sell FERC lands

By Todd Hanson

The State Joint Finance Committee voted 16-0 in June to allow a relatively obscure state agency to pursue a three-way land purchase involving Peshtigo River flowages currently owned by Wisconsin Public Service Corp. (WPS).

WPS created a furor several months ago when they announced they would like to get out of their agreements with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to manage their flowage lands along the Peshtigo for public access until about 2020.

People were concerned that the WPS's undeveloped properties would be developed by private interests. They also feared a state buy-out would deplete the state's Stewardship Fund, leaving it without money for other worthwhile land purchases.

BCPL contacted

WPS contacted the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (BCPL), asking if they might be interested in the properties.

The BCPL said that while they did own land, their charter allowed them only to *trade* or *sell* land, not buy additional lands.

A further complication was found when the BCPL cruised the lands being offered by WPS. They found that the flowage properties lacked the kind of hardwood trees that the BCPL requires.

The BCPL has its origins in the Wisconsin Constitution, where it was formed to manage various public lands the new state held.

To accomplish this, the agency selectively cuts hardwood lumber on the 80,000 acres of timber land it owns in northern Wisconsin.

DNR swap conceived

It was at this point that the parties conceived of a land swap between the BCPL and the DNR.

If given the authority to buy

them by the Legislature, the BCPL had the funds to purchase the power company flowage lands. They could then swap the flowage lands over a period of five years for more traditional timber acreage now owned by the DNR.

This arrangement would keep all the lands accessible to the public, while not tapping into the state's Stewardship Fund account.

"This does seem to be a win-win-win situation," says Dan Wisniewski, executive secretary of the CPL, referring to the many parties involved in the arrangement being considered.

Wisniewski is appointed by these state constitutional officers:

- The Secretary of State (Doug La Follette),
- The State Treasurer (Jack Voigt), and
- The Attorney General (James

Doyle).

Objections may arise

Though this plan has been given a strong support by being included in the JFC budget, it still faces hurdles.

Some parties — inside and outside of state government — may object to the land transfer on the grounds that WPS should be required to live up to its FERC agreements for the next 20 years.

The DNR may also object on the grounds that they would have to swap too much land in exchange for the flowage properties.

Even the BCPL may back out of upcoming negotiations if the power company's asking price is too high.

Finally, even though the JFC's enabling language is in the state budget, the state budget is a long way from being finalized.



THEY'RE HATCHING WHERE?

Wisconsin TU Treasurer Larry Meicher (center) talks with Central Wisconsin President Jerry Strom (left, back to camera) and Stu Grimstad (right, front) at the TU office in Madison. In the background are TU National CFO Kenny Mendez (2nd from right) and Duke Welter (far right)

Wisconsin TU chapter meeting locations

Aldo Leopold: When needed or called at Beaver Dam Conservation Club, Cty. G, Beaver Dam.

Antigo: Not listed.

Blackhawk: Third Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the DNR office in Janesville.

Central Wisconsin: Second Monday of the month at the Berlin Bowling Lanes, Berlin. Board meets at 6:30; program at 7:30.

Coulee Region: Every third Thursday 7 p.m. at Forest Hills Golf Course Restaurant, 600 Losey Blvd. N., La Crosse. No meetings in summer.

Fox Valley: Third Thursday of the month, 7:30 p.m., at the Gordon Bubolz Nature Preserve, 4815 N. Lynndale Dr., Appleton. No meetings June, July, and August.

Frank Hornberg Chapter: Second Thursday of the month 7 p.m. at Shooter's Supper Club, Hwy. 51 & 54, Plover. May-Sept. meetings are evening stream work events.

Green Bay: First Thursday of month (Sept.-Nov. and Jan.-May) at The Watering Hole, 2107 Velp Ave., Green Bay, 7:30 p.m. Christmas meetings/awards dinner in Dec. at site to be determined. No meetings June, July, and August.

Kiap-TU-Wish: First Wednesday of the month at JR Ranch east of Hudson on Hwy. 12 north of 1-94. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.; meeting at 8:00.

Lakeshore: Second Monday of the month, 7:30 p.m. at The Club Bil-Mar, Old Hwy. 141, Manitowoc.

Marinette County: First Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m., Dome Lanes, 751 University Dr., Marinette.

Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter: Third Tuesday of January, March, May, July, September, and November at the old Cobb High School, Village of Cobb, at 7 p.m. (often potluck at 6 p.m.)

Northwoods: Third Thursday of the month, 7:00 p.m. at Associated Bank (Community Room), Stevens at Davenport Streets, Rhinelander. No meetings June, July, and August.

Oconto River Watershed: First Wednesday of the month, 7:45 p.m., at the Lone Oak Gun Club, Hwy. 32 North, Gillett.

Ojibseau: Second Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m., at the Eau Claire Rod & Gun Club, Eau Claire.

Shaw-Paca: Third Thursday of the month from Sept.-May, 7:30 p.m., at Mathew's Supper Club, 155 8th St., Clintonville.

Southeastern Wisconsin: Fourth Tuesday of the month. Dinner at 6:00 p.m., meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Bavarian Wursthau, 8310 Appleton Ave., Milwaukee.

Southern Wisconsin: Second Tuesday of the month. Dinner at 6:00 p.m., meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the Maple Tree Restaurant, McFarland.

Wild Rivers: Second Monday of the month, 5:30 diner, 6:30 business, at the Marine Supper Club, one mile west of Ashland on Hwy. 2.

Wisconsin River Valley: First Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m., at the Wausau Tile Co.

Wolf River: Second Wednesday of odd-numbered months, 7:00 p.m., at the Wild Wolf Inn, Highway 55 South.

WI Natural
Resource Board

The following currently serve on the NRB:

Trygve A. Solberg
P.O. Box 50
Minocqua, WI 54548
(715) 356-7711

President and owner, T.A. Solberg Company, Inc. Appointed to Board February 1991, reappointed May 1993 and April 1999, Served as Vice-Chair May 1993 to February of 1997. NRB Chair since February 1997. Term expires May 1, 2005.

James E. Tiefenthaler, Jr.
W228 N683 Westmound Drive
Waukesha, WI 53186
(262) 513-1111

President, Tiefenthaler Machinery Co. Appointed to Board June 1991; reappointed April 1999. Term expires May 1, 2003.

Herbert F. Behnke
N5960 Wolf River Road
Shawano, WI 54166
(715) 524-4423

Retired from 21st Century Genetics. Past DNR Board member (1967-1971). Appointed April 1989, reappointed October 1995. Served as Chair from May 1993 to February 1997. Term expires May 1, 2001.

Gerald M. O'Brien
P.O. Box 228
Stevens Point, WI 54481
(715) 344-0890

Attorney. Appointed May 1, 1999. Term expires May 1, 2005.

Howard D. Poulson
1212 Deming Way
P.O. Box 5550
Madison WI, 53705
(608) 828-5700

President, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation. Appointed August 1995. Term expires May 1, 2001.

Catherine L. Stepp
14520 50th Road
Sturtevant, WI 53177
(262) 835-2609
Co-Owner and Vice President, First Stepp Builders, Inc. Appointed April 2000. Term expires May 1, 2005.

Stephen D. Willett
P.O. Box 89
Phillips, WI 54555
(715) 339-2125
Attorney. Appointed June 1991; reappointed April 1999. Chair, Air, Waste and Water/Enforcement Committee. Term expires May 1, 2003.

Air, Waste, and Water Management/Enforcement Committee
Stephen D. Willett, Chair
Howard D. Poulson
Catherine L. Stepp

Land Management, Recreation and Fisheries/Wildlife Committee

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“Golden oldie” member trout tip Fishing the minnow in Wisconsin trout streams

By Chris Doyle

We have all heard at one time or another that Trout Unlimited has a reputation of being a group of elite fly fishing snobs. The intent of this article, in addition to the expected informative purpose regarding the fine art of bait fishing, is to dispel that notion.

While most of our members are at least part time fly fishermen, there are many of us who realize that at certain times of the year, in many of our trout streams, bait fishing is the best approach to the angling problem.

There is a time and place for everything. So, from one bait fisherman to another, here are some tips on perhaps the most productive method of fishing for stream trout in our state.

Unless our drought conditions continue, we’re likely to be faced with the typical early spring fishing conditions that change fly fishing from a challenge to a near impossibility. The streams are usually high, dirty or cold. All too often all three factors will prevail. Few insect hatches take place under such conditions and even when they do, the water is usually too cold to bring the trout off the bottom.

In any case, why bother to come to the surface for tiny caddis or mayflies when the swift current will bring a grab bag full of water and land-borne goodies right to your doorstep?

One factor that escapes most trout fishermen is that trout, particularly big trout, are most vulnerable under high water conditions. In

many of our small and medium sized streams, the mature trout will remain hidden during the day under normal water level conditions. With the type of undercut bank, overhanging brush cover that predominates in these streams, there’s no way to get at them.

What this is leading up to, Mr. Fly Fisherman, is that unless you can regularly catch trout under these tough conditions, consider giving bait fishing a try.

The list of live baits are endless and range from your common garden worms and salmon eggs to the more exotic water worm (crane fly larva), stonefly and hellgrammite nymphs, crayfish, and terrestrials such as beetle larvae, crickets, and grasshoppers. All of these baits can be extremely effective.

Why fish minnows then? The big advantages are: large minnows will consistently take larger trout than any other bait, either natural or artificial, and live minnows can be fished in a manner that no other fishing method can successfully duplicate.

Any trout fisherman who’s been around a while is likely to realize that really big trout are cannibalistic. They like their food in large bites, and the only food that usually fits that requirement is fish. This is particularly true of brown trout, and probably 90% of all our stream trout that weigh in at two pounds or more are brownies. Common sense would indicate that a lively minnow, cleverly presented, will take more large trout than any other method.

Now consider the real key to the unique advantage that live minnow fishing offers. What other bait looks completely natural while remaining completely stationary in the current? All terrestrials are at the mercy of the current. They may struggle and twitch, but their general movement is one-way, downstream.

Waterborne insects scuttle along the bottom or rise to the surface as they are emerging, but they’re always moving, never stationary in the current. Crayfish can move very quickly, even against the current, for a few seconds, but again they can not remain stationary in the current. Only a minnow can be fished naturally while it’s fished downstream in the current.

Here’s the problem we all face in our narrow, brush-choked streams. There will be overhanging brush on both sides with little room to maneuver a spin rod, much less a fly rod. There is a good hole or undercut bank downstream of you. No chance to approach from below because of over hanging trees or brush or downed tree limbs prohibit an upstream cast.

If you drift a bait down stream you may very well connect with a nice trout, but if you allow your bait to drift too far you’ll find yourself snagged in a hurry and when you break your line you’re likely to spook that good fish hiding under

the log jam or under the bank.

A spinner or streamer cast downstream may work, but only with a perfect cast to an eager, impulsive fish

since both baits require movement. If they are held stationary with the current to allow Mr. Big a chance to look it over, he’ll spot the lure for the fraud it is. If you still fish a heavily weighted worm on the bottom, you may fool some hatchery reared trout, but you also run a high risk of hanging up on an underwater root or the limb.

Clearly what’s required here is a bait that can be presented in a natural manner in front of the nose of Mr. Big, yet fished stationary off the bottom to keep your hook away from the woody tentacles downstream and on the bottom. Only a live minnow fished downstream can fit the bill!

Hook your minnow through one lip on a small, short-shank hook. I prefer to use dry fly hooks #10 or #12. The thin wire will cause less injury to the minnow and can often be pulled straight when snagged to avoid line breakage and the time involved in tying on a new hook.

Attach only enough split shot to keep your minnow only a few inches under the surface when fished on a tight line downstream. Keeping your bail open, allow the bait to drift slowly down stream as you feather your line between the thumb and index finger.

When you’ve judged that the minnow has drifted to a foot or so above the suspected trout lie, pinch the line with the thumb and index finger. The minnow will be pulled straight down stream on a direct line to your rod tip and headed up stream a few inches under the water and swimming in a natural upright manner.

Now Mr. Big can look over his next potential meal without forsaking the security of his favorite lie, and when he looks over his favorite food dangled in front of his nose presented in a natural manner, he’s going to like what he sees!

When the strike comes he’ll usually bushwhack the minnow from behind and below, and consequently will grab it tail first. Don’t hit him at this point. You’ll only pull the minnow out of his mouth.

Instead, loosen the pressure applied on your line with the thumb and index finger and allow the trout to take the minnow and sink back to the safety of his lie. Don’t allow the trout to feel any tension on the line or he’ll spit the minnow every time. Give him a minute or so to turn the bait and swallow it, then close your bail, reel in the slack line, and bust him!

Don’t ask how you keep him out of the snags. A little prayer and a little luck often does the trick.

Try this method this spring before the water drops and the hatches come off. Chances are you’ll take the trout of a lifetime.

(This story originally appeared in Wisconsin TU’s Winter 1977 newsletter. That issue also asked members to support something brand new in Wisconsin — a proposal for a trout stamp habitat program. -Ed.)

WSN publishing electronic newsletter

The Wisconsin Stewardship Network has begun publishing a twice-monthly electronic newsletter with news on Wisconsin’s top conservation and environmental issues.

The free newsletter consists of a compact Acrobat Reader file attachment with built-in hyperlinks and bookmarks so readers can quickly find news on the issues of interest to them.

“This is not a computer listserv that sends people tons of unwanted e-mail,” says WSN state coordinator Todd Hanson. “Instead, readers get an edited newsletter with just the highlights of what groups around the state are doing on issues of interest to the sporting and environmental community.”

The newsletter is called *WSNetworkNews*, and it includes information on these issues voted by the WSN’s Steering Committee as Wisconsin’s top environmental and conservation concerns:

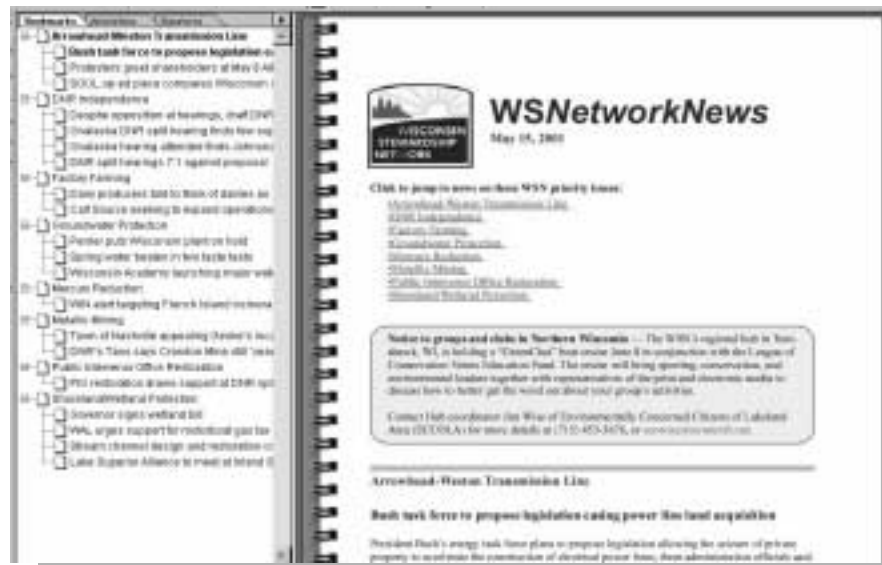
- Returning the WDNR to an independent, board-controlled agency,
- Restoring the office of the Public Intervenor,
- Opposing unsafe sulfide mining,
- Adopting mercury reduction legislation,
- Updating Wisconsin’s ground-water protection laws,
- Supporting alternatives to the Arrowhead-Weston transmission line,

- Protecting and enhancing the state’s shorelands/wetlands, and
- Regulating the growth and operation of factory farms.

The WSN’s Steering Committee includes Citizens for a Better Environment, WI Conservation Congress, Environmentally Concerned Citizens of the Lakeland Area (ECCOLA), Federation of Fly Fishers, Izaak Walton League — WI Division, Lake Superior Greens, Madison Audubon Soci-

ety, Muskies, Inc., Musky Club of WI, Northern Thunder, Pheasants Forever — Sugar River Valley Chapter, River Alliance of WI, Sierra Club — John Muir Chapter, WI Association of Lakes, WI B.A.S.S., WI Council of Sport Fishing Organizations, Wisconsin’s Environmental Decade, and WI Council of Trout Unlimited.

People wishing to receive the free newsletter should e-mail the WSN at wsn@chorus.net, or visit the WSN web site at www.wsn.org.



WSN ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE

This Acrobat Reader electronic newsletter covers many of the state’s top environmental and conservation issues. Subscriptions are free by e-mailing wsn@chorus.net

DNR warden reports now on the web

Those interested in learning more about the day-to-day work of Wisconsin conservation wardens can now read the monthly warden reports on a new conservation warden report page on the WDNR web site.

Visitors to the warden report page can click on a Wisconsin map to check on what is going on in different areas of the state, or they can go to the bottom of the page and click on the drop down box of all the warden teams and pick the one you want.

Wardens submit reports on a monthly basis and each report will have the date listed at the top of the page that it was updated.

You can visit the site at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/es/enforcement/reports/index.htm>.

All in a day's work — fishy samples of a warden's work

Dodgeville area:

“Warden Randy Rossing watched two people fishing below the dam at Black Hawk Lake. It appeared they were using live bait, which is illegal on trout streams during the early trout season. Warden Rossing also suspected use of barbed hooks, which also is illegal. While watching the fishing activity Warden observed one subject appear to smoke marijuana. When the suspects were contacted the male subject did have a baggie of marijuana and pot pipe in his pocket. The subjects also were using live bait and barbed hooks.”

Wautoma area:

“Warden Ken Thomson received one complaint of a bait dealer digging Mayfly nymphs for bait. Warden **Dave Algrem** checked on nymph digger on the Magadanz creek to locate the area he was working in and found he was in trout stream.”

Dodgeville area:

“Warden Chuck Horn spent a considerable amount of time doing early season trout fishing enforcement. Horn wrote a total of 5 tickets to early

trout fishers. Additionally, quite a few warnings were given for not properly crimping the barb down. Several good insect hatches occurred during the month and the fishers out took advantage of it.”

Peshtigo area:

“Wardens Grudzinski and Crotty gave a verbal warning to a trout fisher for fishing in a closed section of the Pike River. The angler reported that he had read in the special trout regulations that all inland waters were open for the early trout season. It was soon discovered that the man was using last year's regulation pamphlet.”

Horicon area:

“Warden Steve Schlinggen cited a subject for using night crawlers on a trout stream that was in the artificial only catch and release season. Warden Schlinggen had observed one of the subjects attempt to bury one trout in the snow. When Warden Schlinggen contacted the subject, he stated he was trying to revive it by sticking its head in the snow. Warden Schlinggen cited the subject for using live bait on the trout stream.”

TU-BOW workshop to help women learn fly fishing skills

By Briana Meier

TU will co-sponsor a one-day workshop with Wisconsin Becom-

ing an Outdoors Woman (BOW) in Merrill on September 22.

The workshop will provide introductory instruction in fly fishing, fly

tying, and coldwater conservation. All women over 18 are invited to attend.

The TU-sponsored BOW workshop will give participants a taste of the outdoors through hands-on, participation-based instruction and activities related to outdoor recreation and conservation issues.

The BOW Taste of the Outdoors workshop is co-sponsored by Ducks Unlimited and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. Women from both of these organizations are being encouraged to attend.

Participants will choose three of eight activities to participate in during the daylong event. Activities to choose from include:

- canoeing,
- fly-fishing and tying,
- bird calls and decoys,
- outdoor cooking,
- rifle and shotgun shooting, and
- archery.

The workshop is open to all women over 18 years. Equipment and lunch will be provided.

Now in its 11th year, BOW is an award-winning outdoor skills program for women.

BOW workshops teach adult women introductory skills in hunting and shooting, fishing, and other outdoor activities in a supportive and nonthreatening atmosphere.

This is a great opportunity for women TU members to get more involved in fly fishing and for anyone

who would like to learn more about angling and coldwater conservation. Whatever your skill level, if you are a woman, this workshop is for you.

For more information or to register for the TU/BOW pilot workshop, contact Kelly Wisinski, Wisconsin BOW Coordinator, 1900 Franklin St., Stevens Point, WI 54481, or phone (715) 346-4151 or e-mail Kelly.Wisinski@uwsp.edu.

TU women's initiative

An increasing number of women are angling for trout and becoming concerned about the health of their trout and salmon streams and fisheries.

TU is committed to help remove the historical barriers that have prevented women from becoming anglers.

In the next few years, TU will work to strengthen its partnerships with established organizations to educate women about fly fishing and coldwater conservation.

Please contact TU's Midwest Office of Volunteer Operations to share your ideas for building our national women's initiative. E-mail rschnitzer@tu.org or phone (608) 250-2757.

(Briana Meier is Conservation Special Projects Consultant in Trout Unlimited's Midwest Office in Madison. -Ed)

FRIENDS: logo knife offered

Continued from p. 20

Since I started the Friends program in 1990, it has funneled over \$90,000 into 45 projects, including stream habitat improvement, spring pond dredging, water quality monitoring, land acquisition, trout behavior research, angler education, fish propagation, and equipment

As recognition, the names of our Friends are listed in four consecutive issues of *Wisconsin Trout*, the official publication of the Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited. And each year they receive a different gift as a token of our appreciation for their generosity.

This year, all Friends will receive



CLASSY POCKET KNIFE FOR FRIENDS OF WISCONSIN TU

purchases for coldwater resource work. No one ever expected this kind of success.

The Friends program is funded only by TU members like yourself, people who have a deep feeling and special commitment to Wisconsin's wealth of trout waters. By making annual contributions of \$100 or more, the Friends help create a restricted fund that may be used SOLELY for the types of projects shown in *Wisconsin Trout*. All proceeds go directly to the resource.

a big thank you in the form of a really practical knife with several blades similar to the one pictured here. The knife features the Wisconsin TU logo engraved into one side. It's only for Friends of Wisconsin TU and will be sent to each new member who made a contribution after October 31, 2000.

So please consider becoming a Friend of Wisconsin TU. Your donation will pay dividends down the road. Don't delay — become our Friend TODAY.

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