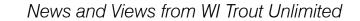
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Wisconsin Trout

January 2002

Nonpoint training part of Feb. meeting

By Laura Hewitt

The Midwest Office of Trout Unlimited, in cooperation with the WITU State Council, is sponsoring a one-day training session for TU volunteers as part of a volunteer capacity-building initiative Feb. 2 during the State Council annual meeting in Oshkosh.

These training sessions are the first step in a Wisconsin Council campaign focused on protecting trout streams through better nonpoint pollution control.

The topics to be covered in the training include:

- recruiting and engaging new members and leaders and
- the basics of nonpoint pollution issues and tools.

The session will be held Saturday, February 2, from 10-5 p.m. at the Park Plaza Hotel and Conference Center in Oshkosh.

Continued on p.5



THERE SHOULD BE A BIG ONE RIGHT UNDER THAT BRANCH Wisconsin TU stalwart Steve Born (right) points out some likely spots on Wisconsin's West Fork of the Kickapoo River to Tim Linehan, host of "TU TV." The TU television program taped a segment in Southwest Wisconsin during its first year on the air. (Born writes about fishing Southwest WI streams elsewhere in this issue.)

Protection for Wolf River if Crandon Mine proceeds Cyanide ban, 'no special treatment' bills pass Senate

The Wisconsin State Senate approved two mining bills Nov. 6 — Senate Bill 160 to ban cyanide use in all Wisconsin mines, and Senate Bill 271 to have "No Special Treatment" formining companies on environmental laws.

Both bills are now in the State Assembly waiting further action. No special treatment bill

SB 271 will improve mining groundwater and hazardous waste standards to the level of other industries. The bill would end environmental exemptions that now exist for mining wastes. The vote on the "No Special Treatment" bill was 19-14, with Republican Senators Rob Cowles (R-Green Bay) and Sheila Harsdorf (R-River Falls) joining the Democrats. Sen. Roger Breske (D-Eland) was the only Democrat to vote against SB 271.

Cyanide ban bill

The vote on SB-160, the bill to ban cyanide in all Wisconsin mines, also passed the State Senate by a 19-14 vote.

The vote was essentially along party lines, with the Democratic majority voting for the bill and the Republican minority voting against. The exceptions were Sen. Breske voting against, and Senators Mike Ellis (R-Neenah) and Rob Cowles voting for mine, which would use up to 200 tons of cyanide a year in a froth flotation process.

Schultz's amendment failed on an 18-15 vote. Sen. Breske and Sen. Ellis voted for the amendment, and Sen. Cowles voted against it.

The cyanide ban bill has been supported by resolutions from 90 organizations, including:

- nine county governments,
- two dozen local governments,
- four tribal governments, and
- Over 50 sportfishing groups, union locals, labor councils, and

Forum on mining bills Jan. 14

A mining legislation forum will be held Jan. 14 in Appleton from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Forester Banquet Hall, 4001 W. Spencer St. near the College/ Hwy. 41 interchange.

Organizers plan to use the forum to discuss the miningrelated legislation coming up in the winter session — SB 160, a bill to ban cyanide use in mining, and SB 271, the "no special treatment" bill. Both bills have been passed by the state Senate and could go through the Assembly with leadership from key Republican legislators. Forum attendees will get a better understanding of what this legislation will do to protect Wisconsin's citizens and resources. Several Fox Valley legislators are expected to be in attendance at the meeting. The forum is co-sponsored by Wisconsin Stewardship Network and Wolf River Education Project.

voting for.

Sen. Dale Schultz (R-Richland Center) led the fight against the cyanide ban bill. He introduced an amendment that would have limited the ban just to heap-leach mining operations, thereby exempting the proposed Crandon zinc-copper

In this issue...

 environmental organizations, including the Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited and many local TU chapters.

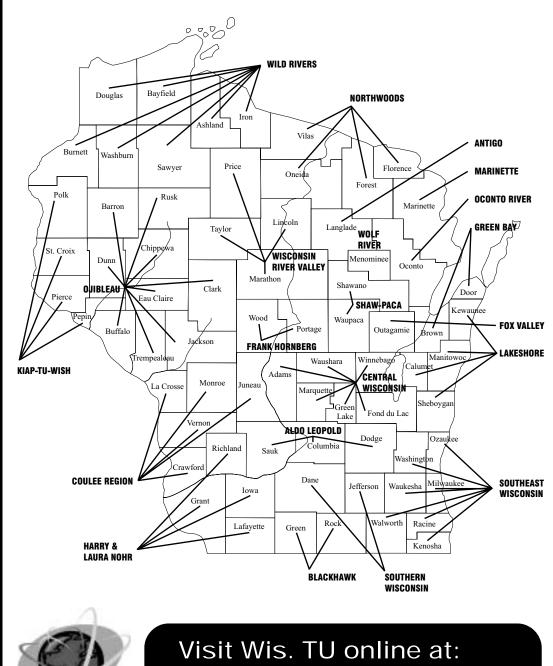
Bills now with Assembly

Supporters of both bills are now moving their attention to the Wisconsin Assembly. Both bills are currently with the Assembly Environment Committee chaired by Rep. Neal Kedzie (R-Elkhorn).

Kedzie was instrumental in moving last spring's isolated wetland protection bill through the Assembly Environment Committee, but he has yet to call for any public hearings or an executive session on these two mining bills.

Groups and individuals supporting these bills are urging others to contact Kedzie by calling toll free 1-800-362-9472, by writing to him in care of the State Capitol, Madison, WI 53702, or by e-mailing him at Rep.Kedzie@legis.state.wi.us.

Wisconsin TU Chapters, Presidents, and Web Sites



Aldo Leopold (#375): Clint Byrnes, 921 S. Spring St., Beaver Dam, WI 53916-2831 (920) 885-5335

Antigo (#313): Scott Henricks, 213 Mary St., Antigo, WI 54409-2536 (715) 623-3867

- Blackhawk (#390): John Miller, P.O. Box 893, Janesville, WI 53547 (920) 563-9085
- **Central Wisconsin (#117):** Jerry Strom, 180 Cty FF, Pickett, WI 54964 (920) 235-9150 (H), (920) 589-4182 (W)
- Coulee Region (#278): Nathan Barnhart, 400 Gillette St. #332, La Crosse, WI 54603 (608) 779-4184; suzanna_nathan@msn.com

Fox Valley (#193): Ryan Hagen, 316 Naymut, Menasha, WI 54952 (920) 722-8015; rahagen@execpc.com; www.foxvalley-tu.org.

- Frank Hornberg (#624): Jim Friedrich, 341 18th Ave. S., Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495 (715) 423-0517; friedj@dnr.state.wi.us; www.hornbergtu.org
- Green Bay (#083): Dennis Gusick, 1531 Lost Dauphin Rd., De Pere, WI 54115 (920) 336-1157
- Harry & Laura Nohr (#257): Jeff Ware, 14092 Spring Valley Rd., Fennimore, WI 53809 (608) 822-4646; jcware@tds.net; www.members.tripod.com/nohrchapter

Kiap-TU-Wish (#168): Andy Lamberson, 2104 Chestnut Dr., Hudson, WI 54016 (651) 733-7285 (W), (715) 386-7568 (H); andrewlamberson@hotmail.com; www.lambcom.net/kiaptuwish

Lakeshore (#423): Doug Leppanen, 2638 N. 20th St., Sheboygan, WI 53083 (920) 458-0707 (W), (920) 459-8139 (H); doughh@milwpc.com

- Marinette (#422): Steve Wilke, 2526 Shore Drive, Marinette, WI 54143 (715) 732-4911; swilke@new.rr.com
- Northwoods (#256): Brian Hegge, 5077 Sunset Dr. #2, Rhinelander, WI 54501 (715) 362-3244 (W), (715) 362-3244 (H); bhegge@newnorth.net; www.northwoodstu.org
- Oconto River (#385): Dave Brunner, 5473 Cardinal Rd., Gillett, WI 54124 (920) 855-6669; dbrunner@ez-net.com
- **Ojibleau (#255):** Steve Gausman; W1000 Hemlock Rd.; Eau Claire, WI 54701 (715) 834-8744; sgausman@sehinc.com
- Shaw-Paca (#381): William Wagner, N4334 Willow Creek Rd., Shawano, WI 54166-9436 (715) 524-2426; docwagner28@hotmail.com
- Southeastern Wisconsin (#078): Chuck Beeler, 2954 S. Moorland Rd., New Berlin, WI 53151 (414) 486-1129 (W), (414) 789-6921 (H); cbeeler@lakesd4u.com
- Southern Wisconsin (#061): Bill Pielsticker, 8045 Crystal Lake Rd., Lodi, WI 53555-9539 (608) 592-4718; billpiel@merr.com; www.geocities.com/southernwisconsintu/
- Wild Rivers (#415): Bill Heart, 66625 Highland Rd., Ashland, WI 54806 (715) 682-5307 (W), 682-4703 (H), 682-3221 fax; wrtrout@cheqnet.net
- **Wisconsin River Valley (#395):** Herbert Hintze, 629 Hamilton St., Wausau, WI 54403 (715) 842-1365
- Wolf River (#050): Herb Buettner, N4297 Buettner Rd., White Lake, WI 54491 (715) 882-8611 (W), (715) 882-8612 (H)

Wisconsin TU State Council Leadership

State Chair: Jon Christiansen, 237 W. Aster Ln., Mequon, WI 53092 (414) 297-5557 (W); (262) 241-5520 (H) (414) 297-5557 (fax); jchristiansen@foleylaw.com **Vice-Chair:** Jim Hlaban, 1429 Silverwood, Neenah, WI 54956 (920) 722-4335 (H); jhlaban@kcc.com **Secretary:** Chuck Steudel, 1217 Cty. QQ, Mineral Point, WI 53565 (608) 987-2171; csteudel@mhtc.net Chapter Development & Membership: Jim Hlaban (see above) Education: Henry Haugley, 1406 Diamond Ct., Sun Prairie, WI 53590 (608) 825-9768; hhaugley@solvnetmail.net. Fund-raising & Friends of Wis

www.lambcom.net/witu

Fund-raising & Friends of Wis. TU: John Cantwell, 3725 Ken Ridge, Green Bay, WI 54313 (920) 865-4442 (phone & fax); JohnC3989@aol.com Legal Counsel: Winston Ostrow, 335 Traders Point Ln., Green Bay,

Contact TU National when you change addresses or chapter leaders

- 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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Treasurer: Larry Meicher, 5258 Salisbury Rd., Rio, WI 53960 (920) 992-6612

Past State Chair: John Welter, 2211 Frona Place, Eau Claire, WI 54701 (715) 831-9565 (W); (715) 833-7028 (H); (715) 831-9586 (fax);

jwelter@discover-net.net Vice-Chair, Central Region: Dave Johnson, PO Box 424, Wautoma, WI 54982 (920) 787-6201 (W); (920) 622-3633 (H) Vice-Chair, Northeast Region: Larry Kriese, 2762 White Pine Rd., Green Bay, WI 54313 (920) 434-0143,

themarshskico@aol.com. Vice-Chair, Southern Region: Larry Meicher (see above) Vice-Chair, Western Region: John Bethke, 118 Vernon St., Westby, WI 54667 (608) 634-3641; qjlb@yahoo.com

WI 54302 (920) 432-9300 (W); (920) 469-1596 (H); waostrow@gklaw.com Legislation: Jeff Smith, 7330 Old Sauk Rd., Madison, WI 53717-1213; (608) 266-0267; jeffrey.smith@doa.state.wi.us Publications: Todd Hanson, 3130 James St., Madison, WI 53714 (608) 243-9025 (phone & fax); twhanson@chorus.net **Resource Policy & Rules: Bill** Sherer, 6272 Oswego Fish Trap Rd., PO Box 516, Boulder Junction, WI 54512 (715) 385-9373 (H) wetieit@centurytel.net Water Resources: Stu Grimstad, 1563 Cty. ZZ, Amherst Junction, WI 54407 (715) 677-3454 (H), sgrim@triver.com Webmaster: Andy Lamberson, 2104 Chestnut Dr., Hudson, WI 54016; and rewlamberson@hotmail.com

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Todd Hanson, editor 3130 James St. Madison, WI 53714-2247 (608) 243-9025 (phone & fax) twhanson@chorus.net

Jon Christiansen, Chair 237 W. Aster Ln. Mequon, WI 53092

Chuck Steudel, Secretary 1217 Cty. QQ Mineral Point, WI 53565 **Jim Hlaban, Vice-Chair** 1429 Silverwood Neenah, WI 54956

Larry Meicher, Treasurer 5258 Salisbury Rd. Rio, WI 53960

January 2002

'Dark period' perfect for fly tying and friends

By Jon Christiansen

WITU State Chair

This time of year, we enter what one of my fishing buddies describes as the "dark period," the time between the end of hunting season and the March trout opener. It is the dis pattern to fool the trout on my home water. Of course, this is the same promise I made last year and my creation was largely ignored by the trout. Anyway, this seems like a good time of the year to catch up on a number of TU projects and discuss for our *WisTrout* readers things



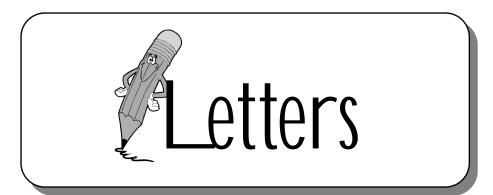
Jon Christiansen

time that I tie all of my flies for the year, snug in my study, while the winds howl and the TV is turned to a golf tournament from Rancho Del Someplace Warm.

This year I have promised myself to develop the ultimate dancing cad-

on the agenda for 2002.

First, the state banquet will be held in Oshkosh February 2. This should be a wonderful event. The committee members have worked long and hard to develop some great prizes and auction items, including a



Encourages support of recent mining bills

Editor,

I am writing to ask TU members to support AB-95 banning the use of cyanide in metallic mining in Wisconsin as it is written. I feel that this is very important to the rely on these waters for drinking or to earn their livelihood.

We are currently struggling with cleaning up the pollution that was put in the lower Fox river by companies that had good intentions and meant no harm. At that time we did not know any better. This time you have a chance to make sure this does not happen again. custom-made bamboo fly rod.

In addition to the normal council business meeting during the day, we will also be holding leadership training sessions as part of our Mott Grant initiative. Please see if you can encourage a few additional members from your chapters to attend the banquet. It will be great fun.

Second, we now have a solid beginning for your Wisconsin TU endowment fund.

An initial \$2,000 bequest from a longtime TU member is the first contribution to the endowment fund. Through the

hard work of Bill Pielsticker, we have designed an attractive endowment brochure and copies of the brochure will be transmitted shortly to all of the chapters to give to potential donors. We look forward to using the endowment fund to build the capacity of Wisconsin TU to do great things.

If you would like to honor a loved one or fishing buddy, or simply further the mission of TU, please consider making a donation. Under the bylaws of the fund, we will maintain the principal and use the income to further our mission of protecting the coldwater resource. For further information, contact me or Bill Pielsticker at the addresses and telephone numbers inside the front cover of *WisTrout*.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that longtime Southern Chapter member Henry Haugley has agreed to serve as the chair of the youth education committee, with a particular emphasis on TU National's new "First Cast" youth education program. Henry is a retired educator and fly tier extraordinaire. (Chair's note: one time on the Madison, I could have sold Henry's PMD nymphs for \$10.00 each, given the way they were working.)

Henry's job will be to work with chapter leaders around the state to implement or in many cases, expand and refine youth education pro-

grams. The First Cast program offers a terrific step-bystep plan for implementing the youth education program, complete with activity

outlines, forms, and countless other helpful suggestions. Many of our chapters have long-standing youth education programs that far surpass the first cast goals, but, unfortunately, many others do not. If yours is a chapter that does not have a youth education program, give Henry a call and he will help you with the steps to get one going.

Remember, the real secret to preserving our resource is in developing new members committed to our cause. The best way to do that is to take a kid fishing to make him or her a convert for life. That is what happened to me when my mother took me fishing at the ripe old age of three and I felt the thrill of something electric at the other end of the line.

It doesn't matter whether it's sunfish or trout. The important thing is to get kids out and teach them to understand the value of clean water.

Council awards banquet Feb. 2 in Oshkosh

"Remember, the real secret to

preserving our resource is in

developing new members

committed to our cause."

By John Welter

A special raffle of a bamboo rod and coaster brook trout print will be featured at the 2002 State TU Awards Banquet February 2 at the Park Plaza in Oshkosh.

Janesville master rod builder Don Schroeder has helped the Council with a reduced rate on a top-flight rod and leather case, and the Wild Rivers Chapter has donated a coaster print. This year tickets are being mailed to Wisconsin TU members. Award winners to be celebrated will include some well-known names in Wisconsin conservation, as well as several individuals whose contributions to the trout resource deserve our recognition and praise.

You'll need to show up to be part of it, of course, and you should send in your ticket order now (see the form elsewhere in this issue).

If you are interested in joining us in putting together the banquet, please call Duke Welter at (715) 831-9565.

health and welfare of Wisconsin residents.

We should not allow anyone to transport or use large amounts of cyanide for mining in Wisconsin. There is to much danger that it could be spilled or leak into our groundwater or rivers and lakes. Cyanide is one of the deadliest poisons known to man.

There are other methods of mining that are much safer. While they are more costly to use, I feel that the welfare of the citizens of Wisconsin is more important than the profits of any company.

If cyanide were to get into the waters of the Wolf River it would travel downstream through the entire Wolf/Fox River chain, including Lake Winnebago. This could have a devastating effect on both the water supplies of many cities as well as the tourist industry. Thousands of Wisconsin citizens There is also no logical reason why special treatment should be given to any company to allow them to make money at the expense of the safety of our citizens.

It has also been brought to my attention that metallic mines are exempt from Wisconsin's hazardous waste laws. I would urge you to advocate for this bill as well. Let's make every effort to keep our state safe for its citizens.

> Thomas E. Deer Neenah, WI

(Tom Deer is a member of the Fox Valley Chapter. He is also the Fox Valley Hub contact for the Wisconsin Stewardship Network. As such, he is able to help you find information on your natural resource questions. -Ed.)



Chapter president profile Bill Pielsticker blending art and politics for chapter

By Jeremy Hecht

On his way out the door to head to the 1996 Icebreaker — the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited's annual fundraiser — Bill Pielsticker's wife, Kathy, insisted that he come with the canoe that had acquired a new fly rod and a canoe.

After hitting this jackpot, Bill said a couple of chapter members told him his annual dues would be \$300.

Except for a graying mustache,



A TURN AT THE CLEANING TABLE

Southern Wisconsin TU Chapter President Bill Pielsticker (left) helps clean a nice trout at the chapter's Special Needs Day fishing outing. Pielsticker has been chapter president since last April.

would be awarded to the winner of the big raffle. Pielsticker doesn't consider himself lucky, unlike his wife, who says he has always had plenty of luck. After not winning one of the more than 100 door prizes, Pielsticker muttered to himself, "This isn't any fun."

Nevertheless, midway through the Icebreaker, he shelled out another \$20 for four more raffle tickets in addition to the four he bought at the door. "For some reason, and I have no idea why," said Bill, "I knew I was going to win the new member's raffle, which was a St. Croix Legend four-weight fly rod."

He did. Then the winning number for the canoe was announced. It was also Bill's. Within minutes he Pielsticker, president of the Southern Wisconsin Chapter since last April, does not look his age of 48. "I was carded well into my thirties," he said. "When you reach your late twenties, you start thinking it's a compliment. But by your mid-thirties, you're thinking 'just give me my beer."

Bill's Dad, who got him started fly fishing, bought the cabin because of the excellent local fishing. It's about 50 feet from the East River. This past July Bill invited Steve Born, TU's National Resource Board Chairman, who was in the Gunnison area at the same time, to spend a couple of days at the cabin. "I was able to tolerate his presence," said Bill. "I showed him the best holes on the East River, which he took full advantage of, leaving them empty for me."

Bill recalls once landing 105 trout in three days in Colorado. "I thought I was god's gift to angling. Needless to say, the next three days I probably didn't land three fish. So that self-image was severely challenged," he said.

Fish kill a test

A couple of months after becoming chapter president, over 5,000 brown trout in Black Earth Creek were wiped out. Bill was faced with his first challenge. "He was horrified because something like this should not have happened," said Kathy.

Bill knew the incident would draw a lot of press coverage and first wanted to get accurate information on the extent of the kill.Initial reports significantly underestimated how many fish died, which led to headlines such as "We Dodged the Bullet" and "Trout Make It." However, Bill waited to act until further investigations by the DNR revealed that over 80 percent of the brown trout in several reaches did not "dodge the bullet."

"At that point, it became very important for us to get the word out to the press that, indeed, not only was there a fish kill, but there was a devastating fish kill," he said.

Bill and chapter leaders organized public hearings to allow the DNR to present their findings. He was interviewed by reporters from two Madison television channels and by the Wisconsin State Journal and Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. He also talked about the incident on a couple of radio stations.

Asked if he is camera shy, Bill says "heavens no." He describes himself as "gregarious" and says that working with people is one of the things he likes most as chapter president. Bill grew up in suburban southwest Chicago with five sisters and four brothers. "His family is very social," said Kathy.

Bill got an English degree from Northeastern University in Naperville, IL, where he met Kathy. He worked at a business his father was part owner of but did not like the 9to-5 routine.

Empathy with farmers

After graduating, they decided to give farming a try. "The farming was an effort to live more sanely," he said. "I didn't like the rat race, and I didn't like working for other people, even if it was my father."

They farmed corn, soybeans, and alfalfa a couple of counties north of Peoria, IL. According to a 2001 road atlas, their mailing address city has a population of 782. The nearest city to their farm, Bureau, is not on the map. When they started farming, the loan rate was 4.5 percent, but in less than two years had shot up to 14.5 percent.

"Apart from the fact that we got in at the wrong time and were losing money each year, I was devastated by the lack of contact with other people in a rural area," Bill said. "He was not in his element," Kathy said.

Although it was brief, Bill said his farming experience has helped him as chapter president.

"My farming background does help when I talk to farmers about their efforts to balance farm income with investments in conservation," he said. Bill believes that more costsharing between the state and farmers toward measures to reduce agricultural runoff should be a vital part of protecting trout habitat.

"What I want to see is that there is reasonable reimbursement to farmers to enable them to reduce polluted runoff," said Bill. "Anglers would much rather fish surrounded by pasture than a housing development or industrial park. We must enable farmers to remain on the land, but at the same time protect water quality and trout streams."

Politics on behalf of trout

In addition to farming, another part of Bill's life — his interest in politics — contributes to his leadership abilities as chapter president. He spent four years at the University of Michigan working toward a Ph.D. in American politics.

Continued on p. 5

Northwoods youth fly fishing conclave marks 8th year

By Wayne Parmley

The Northwoods chapter hosted its 8th annual youth fly fishing con-

azine, how-to booklets, and many other great items.

Instruction was provided with talks on stream entomology, coldwater conservation, and proper catch-and-release techniques. The location of the event was the

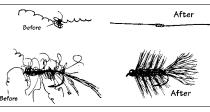




clave for 34 boys and girls ages 10-16 on July 7.

The event is an all-day program that is free to those attending and included fly-casting, knot tying, fly tying workshops, and lunch.

There were also door prizes for every kid that attended. Prizes this year included four fly rod outfits, fly tying tools, fly boxes with flies, mag-



North Lakeland Discovery Center in Manitowish Waters.

This has been a great event in getting kids involved at an early age in our organization with the goal of fostering new members and participation. This year the event netted our chapter several new members, both kids and their parents.

As conclave coordinator, I'd like to thank all the wonderful volunteers that helped make this year's program great. These include Robert and Phyllis Tabbert, David Lam-

SO THAT'S A WOOLY BUGGER

Master casting instructor David Lambert of Florida (left) was in northern Wisconsin vacationing this past summer, so the Northwoods Chapter tapped him to help teach students. Joe Sherer (above) of Boulder Junction helps a participant tie his first fly. The event's promotional flyer included graphics (center) that made some big promises and set a fun tone for the event.

bert, Ron Rogowski, Joe Sherer, Brenna Sherer, Terry Cummings, Al Brooks, Vicki Houston, Bill and Dawn of We Tie It Fly Shop, and Clark Everest who donated the grand prize fly rod.

Continued from p. 1

This session coincides with the times of the annual State Council meeting.

There is no cost for the training. but volunteers or chapters are responsible for travel costs.

We are urging chapters to send at least two members to the trainings. We have found that if only one person attends training, there is a less of a chance that the new knowledge and ideas will be implemented. Encourage potential future leaders and members you would like to see become more active to attend this training. TU volunteers who agree to attend are asked to commit to participate fully and share what they have learned with their chapter.

Space is limited, so please RSVP quickly to Laura Hewitt at (608) 250-3534 or lhewitt@tu.org and your TU chapter president. The deadline for signing up is January 25, 2002.

PIELSTICKER: leader profile

Continued from p. 4

For his dissertation, he wanted to determine what influence, if any, the Office of Management and Budget had on the Environmental Protection Agency's rule-making over a 12-year period.

Although nature photography appears to have permanently derailed teaching political science as a career, Bill rates his interest levels in international, national, state, county, and city politics all at 10 on a 1-10 scale. He reads the *Wisconsin State Journal* and *New York Times* every day.

"My interest in politics is to examine the political system and political process and understand how things get done and why," he said. "Politics helps us resolve who gets what when, where, and how. If you think of it that way, you can see how politics is an essential element of protecting the coldwater resource."

Bill has kept a close eye on the development of the nonpoint pollution runoff rules. His testimony at a public hearing earlier this year on the rules (published in October's *Wisconsin Trout*) clearly and logically lays out steps that could protect farmland and trout streams. It also exposes the weaknesses of arguments against these steps.

"Some TU members may feel uncomfortable when chapters or the state council get involved in political issues," he said. "But we all have to remember that politics is where the rules of the game are decided. The political process, more than any other process, is going to determine how healthy our streams are 20 and 30 years from now."

When asked what was on his Christmas list, Bill said, "What I would love to have is for DATCP (the WI Dept. of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection) to produce regulations that will actually protect the streams and rivers and featured at The River Center in Prairie du Sac. It is also on display year-round at Décor and More, an upscale gift shop in Prairie du Sac. Bill was driving past the shop four years ago and saw their sign, "Gifts for the Home and Custom Framing." He returned with some of his photos, which impressed the owners, and his professional career was underway.

Photography had been a serious hobby of Bill's for 18 years before he realized he might be able to make money doing it. Although he got a foot in the door at Décor and More, he wanted to finish his Ph.D. in case the photography didn't work out. It was working, though. "People were buying my work, people were interested in my work, and a few people were excited by my work, and I mean people other than my mother," he said.

Bill primarily photographs landscapes and wildlife. He spends hours a day for several days in the winter along the Wisconsin River waiting for eagles.

"I have some nice eagle shots," he said, "but not one of an eagle in that quintessential act of just having caught a fish and water spraying up behind the eagle with the fish in its claws. That's one I will get yet."

He did get one, though, of a great blue heron after it plucked a bluegill out of the water. The heron had landed on a stump as he was wrapping up shooting for the day. He grabbed his big zoom lens, which weighs 15 pounds and is about a foot and a half long, put an extender on it for more power, and started snapping away. "The heron reached down into this solid, green, algae-filled water and grabbed this bluegill," he said.

Bill had a wildlife biologist confirm that the fish was a bluegill. With a bluegill, a great blue heron, and a blue hue in the picture, he titled the picture simply "Blue." Some Bill's photos are displayed on his web site at www.naturesportfolio.com. Bill does not have any pictures of trout. His camera stays behind when he goes fishing. "If I have a camera in my hand, I'm working," he said. He intends on keeping trout fishing as recreation. "I love to be standing in the middle of a stream, casting to fish which may or may not be there and to just be apart from the rest of the world. Its quiet, its peaceful, and once in a while you're surprised by watching a mink running along the shore or a pileated woodpecker flying over," he continued. "I need that time to recharge my soul." Hitting the jackpot at the 1996 Icebreaker helped, but Bill joined TU because of its conservation mis-

Goals of nonpoint program to build stronger chapters

A steering committee of WITU has selected the issue of nonpoint pollution as the topic of the conservation campaign. The campaign focus is "Protecting the Source," and the goal is to promote membership knowledge and action to reduce harmful surface runoff into Wisconsin coldwater streams.

Wisconsin Council steering committee members include Jon Christiansen, Gerry Campbell, Lou Gauen, Stu Grimstad, Jim Hlaban, and Brent Sittlow.

Building stronger chapters

The goals for building a stronger council and chapters include recruiting more diverse and engaged members and developing new leaders. Staff from TU National have agreed to provide technical assistance for executing the campaign. All chapters are welcome to participate in the training events and will have access to any materials developed.

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

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

Volunteers TU's strength

From its inception in 1959, chapter volunteers have been the backbone of Trout Unlimited's effectiveness as a coldwater conservation organization. In 1992, a new strategic plan for the national organization called for increasing membership and building the strength of the professional staff. Since 1991 membership has grown from 55,000 to an impressive 130,000 today. Likewise, there has been a significant increase in the number of professional staff from 2 in 1991 to more than 30 today.

TU's current (1999-2003) stra-

sion. He enjoys stream improvement work, cleaning fish at the chapter's annual fishing day for people with special needs, and other events. But he is driven by a deep passion for conserving and protecting not only trout habitat, but all of our natural resources. "I feel its criminal to abuse the earth, and I think it's incumbent upon us to turn over a world that is tegic plan places major emphasis on organizational development for councils and chapters. The Mott grant will help take TU "to the next level" by strategically combining the forces of volunteers and national staff.

Midwest and Southeast focus

Efforts over the next two years will be focused in Wisconsin and Michigan in the Great Lakes region, and North Carolina and Tennessee in the Southeast. States were chosen based on organizational readiness and national conservation agenda opportunities that also coincided with funder program priorities.

Staff will provide personal attention and technical assistance to the involved councils. Staff and volunteers will jointly set priorities and develop strategic plans for tackling a specific conservation issue while building organizational capacity. However, the most effective materials, trainings, and processes developed will be applied in other parts of these regions.

All councils and chapters in these two regions will be eligible for a pilot mini-grant program (\$20,000 available per region) for training and organizational development.

State councils will be the main points of contact for this effort. State council chairs have selected planning committees in their states.

The committees have selected conservation campaign issues, identified specific organizational development needs, and are helping to develop and implement strategic plans for meeting these objectives.

The next two years should be an exciting learning experience, which will hopefully yield significant conservation victories, increased visibility for the organization, and stronger chapters and councils.

Keep your eye on these two regions the seeds of how TU operates across the country in the future may very well have its inception here.

better for our descendants than the one we received," he said. "There are problems, and I hope I can help resolve some of them and make the world a better place in whatever small way I can."

(Jeremy Hecht of Madison is a relatively new TU member. He is an aspiring writer who will be featured in upcoming issues of Wisconsin Trout. -Ed.)

lakes of this state."

Nature photography a passion

Bill says he "casts a decent fly," but admits that that is truer when he is in a wide-open Colorado river than in one of the local Wisconsin streams. He wishes for more time for local flyfishing, but his growing photography business demands a lot of time during fishing season. Last summer, he exhibited his work at 14 art shows.

"There are so many aspects to the business that I'm still not doing everything I ought to be to get my work in front of the public," he said. "So it's tough for me to say 'Okay, lets take a couple of days and go fishing.""

Despite the challenges of building his business, Bill said, "For the first time in my life, I am happy with what I am doing. And I love being my own boss."

Bill's photography is currently

TU National convention date set

The dates for Trout Unlimited's 2002 National Convention have been set.

TU's convention will take place

August 14-18, 2002, at the Downtown Holiday Inn in Portland, ME. Further details will be available in the Spring '02 *Trout* magazine.



TU QUIZ

ProQuest[®] is an on-line database containing articles from newspapers across the U.S. In a recent search of the word "groundwater," how many of the 200 most recent "hits" applied to events taking place in Wisconsin?

Answer: More than our mathematical share -12, or fully 6%.

DNR offers final report on Black Earth fish kill

By Bill Pielsticker

Over 75 people turned out the evening of November 8 to hear DNR personnel summarize their findings on June's devastating fish kill on Black Earth Creek in western Dane County.

The DNR's Andy Morton, Scot Stewart, and others discussed the likely causes of the fish kill. They also presented findings from this summer's research on the basic health of

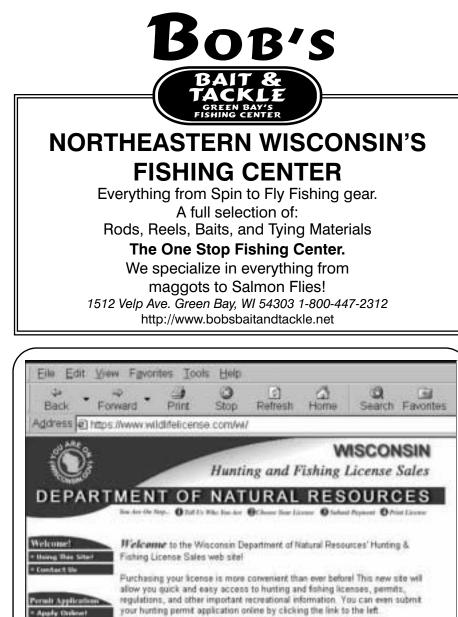
the stream.

The following summary is taken from the DNR's 27-page written report distributed to all who attended the public meeting.

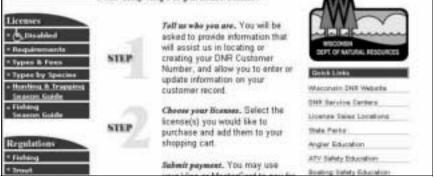
A history of vulnerability

Black Earth Creek has a history of low dissolved oxygen concentrations, making it vulnerable to fish kills associated with runoff events and the photosynthetic/respiration cycle.

The rain "event" occurred be-



Four Easy Steps to purchase online!



Wisconsin hunting and fishing licenses now available online

tween 10 p.m. on June 11 and 6 a.m. on June 12 (a time when the instream vegetation is removing dissolved oxygen from the stream). Total rainfall ranged from about an inch to over two inches, with one area farmer reporting over five inches in his rain gauge. This rainfall increased streamflow by 300% over the day before.

The fish kill was discovered several days later. In the worst stretches, stream shocking later showed densities of trout west of Cross Plains downstream to the Village of Black Earth decreased 64-86%. Following population sampling in the Spring of 2002, the DNR will determine whether instream transport of trout will be necessary to repopulate the hardest hit portions of the stream.

...the DNR recommends "site-

specific water quality monitoring

be done in the future to better

pinpoint sources of pollution to

the stream."

Following the fish kill and stream shocking, the DNR placed instream monitors at several points above and below the Vil-

lage of Cross Plains. Data from these monitors show an extensive stretch of the stream, from Hwy. P in Cross Plains to Park Street in Black Earth, frequently experiences levels of dissolved oxygen so low as to threaten the health of coldwater fish. Macro invertebrate sampling revealed no major changes in population or community.

Potential causes identified

The DNR, with assistance from the county Land Conservation Department, investigated several farm operations to determine if animal waste might have been a factor in the fish kill. With respect to the one dairy farm operating under a DNR discharge permit, the investigation revealed the operator "was in basic compliance with the permit and the nutrient management plan; however, there was evidence that large volumes of runoff had left some of the fields at certain points."

Three other farms downstream of the Village of Cross Plains have also been identified as having "conditions that contribute to the degradation of Black Earth Creek and possibly contributed to the fish kill of June 2001. By controlling barnyard runoff at each of these farms, we will be able to significantly reduce the quantity of pollutants leaving these farms and reduce the risk of future fish kills. The Department is evaluating enforcement action at these three facilities." As reported at the earlier public meeting in July, DNR personnel discovered "a relatively large discharge from a tile line" into the creek. The outlet is located east of Cross Plains, several hundred yards upstream of the uppermost point where dead fish had been observed. Pesticides applied during the day on June 11 to a field drained by this tile line may have run off into several "blowouts" which could have transported the pesticides directly to the stream. The pesticides applied that day are known to be highly toxic to trout. While there is no proof that this source contributed to the fish kill, it is possible. The temperature of water discharged from a sand and gravel operation upstream of Cross Plains appears to have exceeded the operator's permit at the time of the fish kill. The DNR is working with the operator to see that this condition

does not continue.

Water outflow from the Cross Plains Wastewater Treatment Plant tested within permitted levels except for some excess of phosphorous. This was not judged to be a significant factor in the fish kill. However, storm water runoff from impervious surfaces within the Village of Cross Plains presumably included pollutants and nutrients which "were likely a contributing factor to any overall decrease in water quality that occurred" in the creek at the time of the fish kill.

Conclusions and future actions The DNR was unable to identify

a specific cause for the fish kill. The report states "the fish kill was potentially caused by:

a depletion in dissolved oxygen

due to stormwater runoff which would include manure from barnyards, spread manure, fertilizer applied to fields and urban runoff,

- acute toxicity by pesticides that [were] applied to fields and then entered the stream through tile lines, or
- a combination of these two phenomenon above."

As noted earlier, the DNR will decide whether to move trout within the stream next spring. They wish to avoid stocking hatchery trout "because of concerns for maintaining the genetic integrity of the wild brown trout population of the stream."

The fishery is expected to return to "normal population levels and size structure" in 3-4 years.

The DNR will review the discharge permit and nutrient management plans for the permitted dairy operation next year, as the permit is up for renewal. The DNR is likely to place new restrictions on the permit at that time. The DNR is currently "evaluating ways to correct" the problems observed at the other three operations, possibly including enforcement action.

On a longer-range scale, the DNR recommends "site-specific water quality monitoring be done in the future to better pinpoint sources of pollution to the stream." The DNR will also work with groups like SWTU and the Black Earth Creek Watershed Association (BECWA) to establish an ongoing monitoring operation, which might include volunteer stream keepers who could notify the DNR of "suspicious events and stream conditions. Finally, the DNR's Andy Morton and SWTU's president Bill Pielsticker have put together an ad hoc working group on Black Earth Creek. This group will bring together state, county, and local personnel, volunteers from SWTU, BECWA, and scientists familiar with spring creeks and their problems, including TU member and water quality expert Bill Sonzogni. One objective of the working group is to determine how to best address the pollution sources the DNR identified in its investigation this summer, then to see that effective action is taken. A second objective is to identify changes in instream structure (stream narrowing, rip rap, etc.) or in vegetative cover alongside the stream (trees vs. grass) which may help elevate baseline concentrations of dissolved oxygen in the stream.

Wisconsin hunting and fishing licenses can now be purchased over the Internet. The new service became active Oct. 30.

"The ability to purchase hunting and fishing licenses online is one example of how Wisconsin's E-government initiative is making state services more accessible and convenient to our citizens and our visitors," said Governor McCallum.

"It took a lot of work and planning to get us to this point there are other states using the Internet to sell hunting and fishing licenses, but we're part of a very small number that allow the customer to actually print a valid license" said DNR Secretary Bazzell. "From this point forward, hunters and anglers will be able to purchase licenses from their home, business or through the services of a resort or campsite that offers Internet access.

Customers can access on-line license sales site at www.wildlifelicense.com/wi or through the DNR web site at www.dnr.state.wi.us.

Most DNR recreational license types will be available for purchase online. Some license types like fishing, small game, and turkey can even be printed at home for immediate use. Licenses that include a backtag, carcass tag or harvest report are not printable but will be mailed to the customer within seven days. Visa or Master-Card are accepted for payment and there is a \$3 convenience fee for this service.



"Our Favorite Activities" is designed to highlight what our chapters feel are their very best activities. This series gives us a chance to find out what makes these activities tick.

This issue covers a favorite of many TU chapters brush bundling. But the Green Bay Chapter adds a few interesting twists to their brush bundling activities that are worth paying attention to.

Green Bay Chapter President Dennis Gusick says the chapter has a steady group of 15-20 members taking part in their annual brush bundling activities.

To get that many people working regularly, they must be doing something right.

Timing and follow-through are critical, so the chapter assigns one person be their brush bundling project leader. This person plans work days, sets exact work times, and coordinates all project work with the local DNR fish manager.

Why is the event so popular with members?

"We have a core group who eniov each other's company," says Gusick. "These

work projects have helped people form friendships over the years."

But the chapter also works hard to welcome new people to their work crews. They know it's important that groups not become cliquish or new people wouldn't feel welcome on outings.

What are the keys to success?

The Green Bay Chapter does a couple things to ensure the long-term success of their brush bundling efforts.

First, they reward the crew after every outing with a cookout. That may not seem like much of a reward, but it gives members a chance to relax, unwind, and build

the friendships that keep them coming back year after year.

The chapter also makes it a regular practice to travel to past work sites to see firsthand the improvements they have made to trout streams.

"We go back to the work sites from previous years and see the results of our hard work," says Gusick. "You can see how the stream has narrowed, deepened, and cuts underneath the brush bundles. You can appreciate the results of our work in a short period of time."

If you'd like more information about the Green Bay Chapter's approach to brush bundling, contact Dennis Gusick at (920) 336-1157.

Fox Valley adopts TU's 'first cast' program

By Steve Heuser

The Fox Valley Chapter, together with National Trout Unlimited, is promoting TU's new program for youth this year. It is called First Cast and it is designed to help kids learn to tie flies and fish with them.

The Fox Valley Chapter has already done several fly tying classes with different youth organizations

and is booked up solid for January of 2002. We have also done a fly tying and casting program at Maplewood School in Menasha that was very successful.

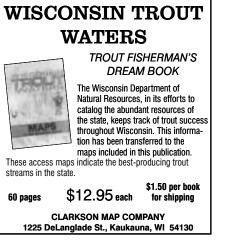
We have enough supplies to teach up to 18 students at a time in fly tying classes and up to 12 students in fly-casting classes. If your group is larger than this, we can split them into smaller groups for the classes. We are looking for more opportunities to work with children in this endeavor.

If you or your organization is interested in learning more about this program, contact Tony Treml at (920) 830-2322, Tom Young at (715) 258-6858, or Tom Deer at (920) 725-6077.

CORRECTION:

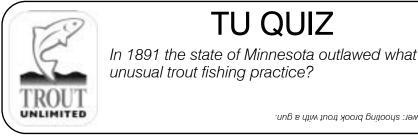
A recent review in Wisconsin Trout incorrectly identified Jeff Mayers as co-author of Catching Big Fish on Light Fly Tackle. While Mayers helped with the publication, the book's sole author is Tom Wendelburg.

Published by the UW Press, the book has been reviewed in several national publications. Look for further excerpts from it in coming issues of Wisconsin Trout.



Great Lakes Flyfishing Show Jan. 5 in Illinois

The Great Lakes Flyfishing Show will be held at the Drury Lane Convention Center in Oakbrook Terrace, IL, January 5-6.



Answer: shooting brook trout with a gun.

The program features casting experts Mel Krieger and Chico Fernandez, plus dozens of fly tyers from throughout the Midwest.

Organizers are bolstering the fly tying demonstration section of the show by enlisting the help of Ray Larson and Art Mazzier, both of whom have long affiliations with the Federation of Fly Fishers.

The fly tying demonstrations are scheduled for Saturday and Sunday from 9-12:30 and from 1-4:30.

For more information, contact Ray Larson at (920) 458-2041.



FRIENDS OF ROWAN CREEK CELEBRATE

The Friends of Rowan Creek hosted a fish survey demonstration Sept. 6 in lieu of their regular membership meeting. In attendance were Nancy Braker (I to r), Tom Flesch, Southern WI Chapter President Bill Pielsticker, and Aldo Leopold Chapter Treasurer Marlin Spindler.



Chapter News



HAVE TRAILERS, WILL TRAVEL

Two new equipment trailers are helping the Hornberg and Fox Valley chapters with their stream improvement efforts. With the new trailers are (left to right) Jim Hlaban of the Fox Valley Chapter and Jim Friedrich and Bud Nehring of the Hornberg Chapter.

Trailers keeping stream efforts organized

The Fox Valley and Frank Hornberg Chapters recently bought new work trailers. The 7'x14' fully enclosed trailers will allow the chapters to more efficiently house and transport the tools and materials used in their ongoing chapter and region-wide stream restoration projects.

Having all the equipment centrally stored and readily portable allows the chapters to spend far more of their energy on the stream, as opposed to shuffling gear from sheds to vehicles and vice versa for each work event.

This is the Fox Valley's first work trailer, while the purchase by the Hornberg Chapter is a significant upgrade from their previous, smaller trailer. Both units were purchased from a dealer in Indiana offering very competitive pricing.

Chapters interested in investing in systems such as this are welcome to contact the Fox Valley or Hornberg chapters for more information.

Blackhawk Chapter

Rich Osthoff was our guest in September. Rich presented a slide program showing flies to be used on Wisconsin trout waters.

Vern Lunde was the speaker for October. Vern presented a slide program showing a few places out

West.

Finally, in November **Lou Gauen** of the Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter gave a presentation of the **Mott Foundation** capacity-building grant.

—Bill Karduck

Fox Valley Chapter

This year the Fox Valley Chapter thought it would try something different for a spring fund-raising event. We felt we needed something that would re-energize our volunteers and at the same time (cross our fingers) generate more money. To that end, we have scheduled a **Cabin Fever Day** for Saturday, March 16.

Cabin Fever Day will be featuring morning and afternoon presentations by **Jason Borger**, as well as morning and afternoon presentations by **Rich Osthoff**. In addition, there will be fly tying, rod building, entomology demonstrations, and displays between sessions. The event will be held in the spacious **Waverly Beach** facility on the north shore of Lake Winnebago in Menasha from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The first presentation by Osthoff will begin at 9:15.

Tickets will be \$10 at the door, but can be purchased for \$9 in advance by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope with your check, payable to Trout Unlimited, to: Steven Heuser N1347 Westgreen Dr. Greenville, WI 54952 For more information, contact Steven Heuser at (920) 757-0812. —Ryan Hagen Like all healthy organizations, the Nohr Chapter gathers to work, to play, and to honor and celebrate achievement. This quarter we have worked on the **McPherson Branch** of the **Platte River**, enjoyed two great social/educational events, and — with help from our friend **Peggy Compton** — presented the second annual **Water Celebration**.

Dr. David Canny, committee chair and creative force behind the McPherson Project, began work about a year ago to stimulate interest, gather a committee, and consider costs. Four easements were purchased in the lower mile of a Grant County stream which is not even named in the Wisconsin Atlas and Gazetteer. These easements gave the grantees permission to do restoration work on the McPherson and led to a winter's worth of meetings in UW-Platteville's Pioneer Tower members at our work events -hopefully to foster increased stream work participation.

Also this November, our annual election was held. It was a year of transition. The newly elected chapter officers are as follows:

Chapter President — Jim Henke Vice President — Dan Holland Secretary — Bud Nehring Treasurer — Don Ebbers —Jim Friedrich

Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter

in conserving and protecting the watershed as a whole."

In determining the McPherson's suitability for the study, the team made size an important consideration. Because the McPherson is only 3.7 miles long, covering only 5.74 square miles of land, it is possible to study the entire area that affects water quality and to draw conclusions about the interdependence of a number of variables. Potential was the other primary consideration. The lower mile of the McPherson has the potential for classification as a Class I trout stream.

One of the initiatives undertaken by the project steering committee was to invite the curiosity and cooperation of local landowners and other interested people. The group sponsored a public event at the McPherson bridge on June 16, and began publishing a project newsletter via e-mail. Other initiatives have included the construction and installation of in-stream structures, stabilization of erosive banks, removal of brushy cover in designated areas, and improvement of water quality in general.

Hunt's preference for low-tech solutions in improving damaged streams anticipates the healthy adaptive mechanisms of the streams themselves. He bases these preferences on observations of streams that have gradually become colder and cleaner after relatively minor adjustment. But these choices are also based on practical considerations like limited funding and a host of unpredictable factors, including volunteer labor and weather.

Workable low-tech solutions also mean that more people can get involved in stewarding local streams, in building communities of interest, and in fostering mutual support. As the McPherson project has progressed, more people have become involved, including the Grant County Board, the WDNR, Southwest Badger RC&D, TU, and UW-Platteville. Individual efforts have come from people like Laurel Lybbert, a local landowner, whose interest prompted her to grant a stream easement, to become a member of TU, and to become a water monitor. Bud and Nancy Loeffelholz of Platteville, working in their small sawmill shed with local burr oaks, produced the lumber needed to construct the in-stream lunker units. UW-Platteville students, under the supervision of Ag School instructor DuWayne Fenner built the DNR-designed lunkers. The structures, installed in the McPherson on two work days this fall, have involved not only more TU members and UW-Platteville students, but also landowner Gerald Winters and heavy equipment operators Roge

Frank Hornberg Chapter

This was another busy fall for the Frank Hornberg Chapter. During September and October the chapter cut, hauled, and placed 130 cull Christmas trees — this to continue brushmatting in overly wide areas of the **Tomorrow River** at Nelsonville. Prior to placing the trees, many very large in-stream rocks were moved into the narrowed channel, to avoid their being lost. And in November we held an unscheduled work event to haul and place a large amount of rock along what may be a vulnerable outside bend on this same stretch of river.

The chapter's semi-annual fall newsletter went out a bit later than we had hoped, but this should be less of a problem in the future, due to our newly developing capacity to do the desktop printing ourselves.

Among other things the newsletter has our upcoming agenda, which includes a winter lineup of speakers that looks pretty good; we hope this will help increase attendance and participation.

The newsletter also announced a "fly rod raffle incentive" for those

1000011

On hand for many of these discussions were **Dr. Tom Hunt**, Director of Reclamation at **UW-Platteville** and three representatives from the **WDNR**, Water Basin Supervisor **Bob Hansis**, Limnologist **Mike Mille**, and Fisheries Biologist **Bradd Sims**.

Canny, Pete Esse, Dave Fritz, and Bill Wisler represented the chapter as the group reached an understanding about the scope of the project and about the commitments being made by the parties represented. UW-Platteville student **Andy Baker**, selected as the Nohr Chapter student intern, was also an active participant.

The McPherson was an ideal subject of a study designed to "restore trout habitat, particularly to the point when natural reproduction of the trout will occur regularly, while maintaining a wide approach

Chapter News

Hauri, Ray Hauri, and Lenny Lonsberg.

These lunkers and other low-tech improvements like rip-rap and wedge dams will preserve stream banks, trap loose sediment in places where it can be useful, and shelter trout fry. The model of design and management of the project has equal promise: a better community, better fishing, better health, and a more beautiful landscape.

Nohr Chapter members enjoyed more than trap shooting at the annual September event. It's at the picnic where people get serious about Don and Karen Campbell's barbecue, Karen Canny's cornbread, and conversation around the campfire. A month later, more than 40 people gathered on banks of the Blue River to enjoy not only a hayride and the chance to see John Ada's beautiful Percherons, but also Don Pleumer's excellent presentation on settlement history in that part of Grant County and Jim Sime's discussion of pre-settlement vegetation. DNR State Natural Areas Biologist Matt Zine was also on hand to share his special interest in the pine relics of the area.

The annual Water Celebration, held again this year at UW-Richland Center, was organized primarily to honor and celebrate the water monitors working in our four-county area.

Event coordinators UW Extension Basin Educator Peggy Compton and Nohr Chapter board member Dave Fritz, designed the event to encourage new monitors and to deepen the collegiality among veterans. Ranging in age from about 8 (though Peggy's 2-year-old son, Adam, participated with cheerful enthusiasm) to grandparenthood, participants first attended an energetic keynote address by **Dr. Kristopher Wright** of UW-Platteville, who explained what he does as a stream ecologist. First, he says, he has fun. This was easy for the 87 participants to understand because, as monitors, they, too, enjoy water. Moreover, they had time in the morning to discuss their own monitoring sites and experiences.

Enjoying a hearty lunch and numerous hands-on displays during the noon hour, participants chose from among a variety of discussions and activities throughout the afternoon. Discussion and activity leaders included fly-tying and casting experts **Dave and Nancy Barron**, TU members **Dave and Kay Fritz**, UW Extension biologist **Paul Krahn**, Wisconsin Stream Monitoring Coordinator **Kris Stepenuck**, and UW Extension Basin Educator **Suzanne Wade**.

From a computer-assisted analysis of the Rock River Basin and a discussion of the politics of clean water to donning waders and collecting macroinvertebrates in **Brush Creek**, participants had many choices among the activities at Water Celebration.

At a time when many people around the world have only meager amounts of good water, members of the Nohr Chapter are grateful to celebrate this precious resource. *—Barbara Ballard*

Lakeshore Chapter

Recent chapter meetings included a programs by **Pat Ehlers**, owner of the **"Flyfisher"** in Milwaukee on flyfishing Wisconsin cold and warm water streams, and by chapter members **Wayne Trupke** and **Jeff Preiss** demonstrating the art of tying various knots. In December, the chapter held its annual holiday party and gift exchange.

The chapter's fly tying class organized by **Chuck Wolf** is scheduled to be held in February. Members **Tom Steinberg** and **Ron McCormick** tied flies for **Manitowoc Counties' "Buck Fever"** in November. **Jeff Preiss** and **Tom Steinberg** both gave presentations to the **Milwaukee Lake and Stream** fly fishing club this fall.

Lakeshore Chapter hosted the

Sheboygan County Conservation Association's monthly meeting in October. The SCCA is comprised of over 30 conservation and outdoors clubs in the Sheboygan County area and has been a key contributor to the Onion River project.

Governor McCallum signed the bill authorizing the DNR to purchase the Silver Springs property, which is an important component of the Onion River Project. An easement has also been obtained on a portion of the river along the Drewery property. The DNR reports that a recent shocking of the river shows signs of natural reproduction. Chapter members participated in an October work day on the river.

—Doug Leppanen

Northwoods Chapter





The Northwoods Chapter of Trout Unlimited has put together a schedule of speakers and events that will be sure to catch (pardon the pun) anglers' and outdoor enthusiasts' attention. These events are open to the public with everyone welcome. Check the chapter web site at www.northwoodstu.org for up-to-date meeting schedules or changes.

The Chapter Christmas party was December 13 at the **Rhinelander Cafe & Pub**. Here are our upcoming events.

On January 17 **Bob Martini**, WDNR Upper Wisconsin River Basin Coordinator, will discuss the upper Wisconsin River — what it was like in the "bad old days," all the water quality advances that have been accomplished, and issues for the future. Bob and **Duke Andrews** will then exhibit and discuss their hobby of collecting antique fly fishing equipment and rod building! Duke has promised to bring along the materials to construct a bamboo rod. The meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. at the **Claridge Inn** in Rhinelander.

On March 16th we have a fly tying workshop from 8:00 a.m. to Noon. Materials, tools, and supplies are provided, or bring your own. We will tie patterns for the super hatches of brown drakes and Hexagenia. This is a great opportunity to either learn to tie or just share tips with your friends.

On March 26 we hold our 28th annual banquet at the **Rhinelander** Cafe & Pub.

On March 30 we hold a stream workday on the **Bearskin River**. Come look at what we have accomplished over the past three years and get your feet wet.

On April 27 we do another

MORMON COULEE WORK CONTINUES

Coulee Region Chapter members Rich Kyte, Cliff Kremmer, and Dale Norris assemble stream structures along the Mormon Coulee, while Jeff Moore takes a turn with the nail gun. The Mormon Coulee continues to be the multi-year project of the chapter.

stream workday on the Bearskin River and picnic at **Perch Lake**.

On May 16 Christopher "Kit" Deubler, author of *Trout Fishing Wisconsin Spring Ponds* will conduct a slide show and talk. What a great chance to find places to use that new float tube. Election of officers will occur prior to the presentation. On July 6 we have our **9th Annual Youth Fly Fishing Conclave**, a tremendously successful, free fly fishing event for boys and girls ages 10 to 16.

—Brian Hegge

Shaw-Paca Chapter

Our **19th annual Shaw-Paca TU Conservation Banquet** will be held on Thursday, March 21,at the **Gathering** in Shawano. At this point, ticket sales and other plans are un-

derway.

Our chapter officers were elected in May. New officers are:

Continued on p. 10

Chapter News

Continued from p. 9

President — William "Doc" Wagner (715) 524-2426, docwagner28@hotmail.com.

Vice-President — **Dave Ehrenberg** (920) 596-3089, skyonna@netnet.net.

Treasurer — **Joe Murphy** (920) 982-5761, jmurphy54961@hotmail.com.

Secretary — Lee Kersten (715) 754-2085, lwkcjk@dotnet.com.

Banquet Chair — Jerry Weatherwax (715) 823-2180, waleye-

gy@frontier.net.

Our directors include Terry Ehlert, John Kunzman, Jerry Weatherwax, Steve Weber, Steve Schultz,

and Richard Pamperin.

We contributed funds toward an aquaculture project at **Shawano High School**. They are raising trout that will be then stocked in streams that are isolated from other trout waters.

At this point, we have an informal fly tying group meeting the first Thursday of the month at **Prime Time** in Marion. For anyone wishing to join us, we start at 7:00 p.m. and tie until about 9:30.

Plans are continuing for our formal fly tying class, which will be start in January and continue through March.

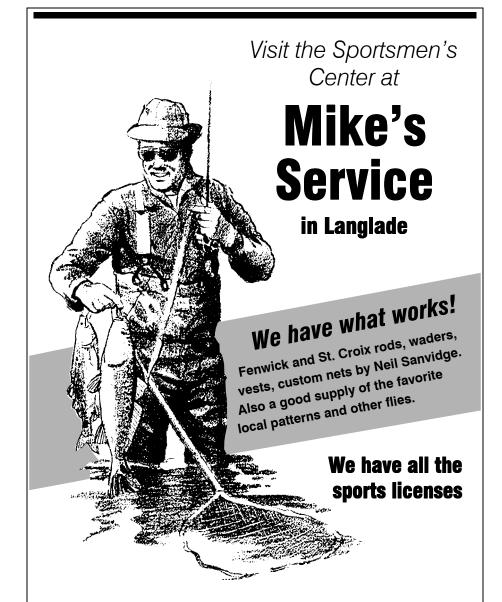
-Lee Kersten

Southern Wisconsin Chapter

On November 3 almost 30 volunteers removed flood debris from **Black Earth Creek**. Storms in June and August had uprooted a lot of streamside vegetation and deposited it in locations which were detrimental to the long-term health of the creek. Work started behind the Cross Plains hardware store and progressed downstream to the sewage treatment plant. The large volunteer turnout resulted completion of all the necessary work.

As a partial reward **Tom and Karen Ehlert** made some venison chili for all the volunteers. The venison was contributed by **Larry Me**- icher. A special word of thanks is due to chapter member Mike Duren who offered extra credit to those students in his environmental studies course who came to help with the project.

November 3 volunteers included Wesley Ayres, Mike Duren, Tom Ehlert, Mike Grimes, Henry Haugley, Jay Hyma, Chuck Jacobson, Rick Johnson, David Koslov, Mark Maffitt, Larry Meicher, John Mella-Twedaale, Luke Mella-Twedaale, Bill Pielsticker, Mark Rhinerson, Mike Ripp, Adam Senatori, Brett Schultz, John Schweiger, John Serunian, Mike Shivers, Matt Smith,



Reg Smith, Dick Tedesco, Brian Urso, Erika Wohlge, and Bob Zimmerman.

On November 10 another group of hardworking volunteers turned out to remove more flood debris from Black Earth Creek. A huge snag was removed from a pool in Mazomanie. The volunteers then split into two groups to work on damaged areas in the Black Earth section of the creek. At the conclusion of the work volunteers were again rewarded with a batch of venison chili.

November 10 volunteers included Lynn Blenker, Eric Christensen, Tom Ehlert, Chuck Jacobson, Mark Maffitt, Larry Meicher, Mike Philipps, Bill Pielsticker, Mark Shimisaki, Reg Smith, John Serunian and Bob Zimmerman.

Southern Wisconsin TU will hold its annual **Icebreaker** on Saturday

Wild Rivers Chapter

In September the Wild Rivers Chapter held a fall campout at **Big Rock** on the **Souix River** and worked on our angler survey. We fished many of the historical coaster brook trout streams on the south shore of Lake Superior. We caught very few brookies, but had a great time trying. **John Casperson**, our member chef, again did most of the cooking for a wonderful meal Saturday evening.

The October meeting included Mike Gardner, Assistant Director of the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute who demonstrated computer software and interactive learning tools. *FishXing* is intended to assist engineers, hydrologists, and fish biologists in the design and evaluation of culverts for fish passage.

Steve Peterson, superintendent of the Brule River State Forest addressed the group on the cutting that is going on at the head waters of the Brule River in our November meeting. He answered many of the member questions concerning January 19 at **Parks Ponderosa Ball**room 5100 Erling Avenue in McFarland. Doors open at 8:30 and activities are planned until 4:30. Featured speakers are **Dave Whitlock** and **Rich Osthoff**.

Advance tickets for the Icebreaker are \$9 and can be obtained by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope with a check to **John Schweiger**, 5541 Dahlen Dr., Madison, WI 53705. Tickets can also be obtained at the door for \$10.

The annual **Trout Appreciation dinner** (formerly know as the **Trout Massacre**) will be held on Friday evening, January 18, at **Morel's**. Join **Dave Whitlock** and **Rich Osthoff** for a fine meal at one of the area's premier restaurants. Tickets may be obtained from **John Schweiger** at (608) 238-8062.

—John Serunian

the Brule River State Forest and agreed to keep us informed with future management decisions. Also at the meeting was **Scott Toshner**, Wisconsin DNR fish manager for the northern inland region. We are working with Scott to do some research on the problems with the **White River** in Bayfield County.

Our chapter has been very concerned about the decline of big brown trout in the White River system. The many different problems include possible temperature fluctuations, an increase in northern pike populations, angler pressure, and loss of spawning areas on the **Eighteen Mile Creek** due to a large sand load at the confluence of the Eighteen and **Long Lake Branch** of the White River.

We are working on a proposal for an **Embrace-A-Stream** grant from TU to do a number of projects next summer and in future years to alleviate some of these problems. —*Bill Heart*

Wisconsin River Valley Chapter

Our chapter has laid out preliminary work on the **Prairie** and **Plover** rivers for the upcoming summer. We have contributed some funding for the **Ward Paper Mill Pond** restoration. The DNR tell us that the work in the old pond will take all of next summer by their Antigo crew.

On the Plover we have a tree

this new work will be, it could be up to 1.5 miles long.

Our meeting place has changed. We now meet at **Wausau East High School** at the corners of 7th and Fulton at 7:00 p.m. the first Tuesday of the month. The next meeting — originally set for Jan. 1 — will be held Jan. 8. If you

Stop and ask Mike or one of his helpers what's working! Or call ahead for information, including tips on where to fish the Wolf. Mike's is at the Hwy 55-64 junction along the famous **Wolf River**.

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planting project upcoming to complete work begun last year. This summer we will also start a new project that will butt up against the bottom of last year's work. Though we're not sure how large have questions about the meeting or other things, call me at (715) 842-1365.

—Herb Hintze



Wisconsin has...about

half the [wetland]

acreage present before

statehood.

More wetlands should be restored more quickly in Wisconsin under an agreement signed Sept. 11 by state and federal agencies.

The agreement is intended to streamline the permit process involving federal wetland restoration projects, eliminate duplication between state and federal agencies, and save taxpayers money.

Good for farm programs

The agreement between the Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service. is particularly expected to help reduce a backlog of projects in Wisconsin under the Wetland Reserve Program that pays farmers to restore wetlands that have been drained for agriculture.

The fate of that popular program

and of the backlogged projects — hangs in the balance in coming weeks as Congress weighs reauthorizing the Wetlands Reserve in the new farm bill.

"This agreement will help us ensure our decisions maximize the amount of wetlands restored in Wisconsin," says DNR Secretary Darrell Bazzell. "At the same time, it will allow our agencies to meet other very important goals — managing fisheries, avoiding flooding, protecting public rights in Wisconsin's navigable waters, and providing, effective, efficient customer service.'

Bazzell signed the document in a ceremony Tuesday at the DNR's Central Office in Madison. Patricia Leavenworth, State Conservationist, signed for the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and James Ruwaldt, Wisconsin private lands coordinator, signed for the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Ruwaldt said the agencies worked "very hard and very well" to develop the agreement. "This will significantly streamline the permitting process. It's going to result in more efficient use of federal dollars and more wetlands restored in Wisconsin.'

Wetlands Reserve help

Leavenworth says the agreement will be particularly welcome news to landowners enrolled in the Wetland Reserve Program, which NRCS administers. Under that program, NRCS acquires an easement from the landowner and restores the wetlands that were previously altered for cropland. The landowner may choose a permanent or 30-year easement, or can choose a 10-year contract for restorations. "Landowners in the Wetlands Reserve are always anxious to see the wetlands restored as soon as possible," she says. "This agreement will help us serve those landowners, and ultimately, the land and water resources, by reducing the time between signup and restoration." In turn, that efficiency could help bring more federal dollars to Wisconsin for wetland restoration, she says. "Nationally, funds flow to states with strong partnerships and efficient procedures because they can handle the work and make use of the funding when it's available." More than 30,000 acres have been restored in Wisconsin under this program since President George W. Bush created it in the 1990 Farm Bill. An additional 96 Wisconsin projects involving 8,024 acres are awaiting funding.

Federal farm bill in works

Congress is now drafting a new farm bill to authorize commodity and conservation programs for the next 10 years. The current farm bill expires next year.

Congress' decision will directly affect the backlog of Wisconsin projects, Bazzell said. "The Wetland Reserve Program has played a critical role in helping reverse the loss of wetlands in Wisconsin. We think we've streamlined the process for helping farmers restore wetlands under that program, and we'd like to see this critical program continue."

Wisconsin has about 5.3 million acres of wetlands, about half the

> acreage present before statehood. In addition to providing valuable habitat for waterfowl, amphibians, and some fish, wetlands provide storage for flood waters, filter pol-

luted runoff, and provide recreation and scenic beauty.

Wetland responsibilities

The three agencies have different missions but various responsibilities for protecting, managing and restoring wetlands, according to Mary Ellen Vollbrecht, DNR's chief of rivers and habitat protection, who led DNR's negotiations on the agreement.

DNR manages fish and wildlife and assures public rights in navigable waters, including recreation, water quality, and natural scenic beauty. FWS is responsible for federally listed threatened and endangered species and migratory birds. NRCS provides assistance for natural resource conservation on agricultural and private lands.

To fulfill their missions, the federal agencies are restoring wetlands through programs they administer such as the USDA's Wetlands Reserve Program and Conservation Reserve Program, and the FWS's Partners for Wildlife.

Often, these federal restoration projects require a DNR permit, plan, approval, or water quality certification. Disagreements in past years over the goals and potential effects of some of these restoration projects have resulted in delays for landowners and duplica-

Trout regulation changes on agenda at Spring Hearings

By John Welter

Extensive changes in Wisconsin's trout regulations covering bag and size limits have been proposed by the WDNR. These changes will be voted on at the April DNR Spring Rules Hearings across the state.

Highlights of the changes include eliminating Category 1 trout waters (10 fish, no minimum size) and reducing the types of special regulation subcategories available on streams

The goal of the review was to simplify the regulations and standardize them across the state, according to DNR Coldwater Specialist Larry Claggett.

A DNR Trout Regulations working group collected suggestions from anglers and groups, including TU, for the first statewide set of modifications since the present regulations were enacted in 1995.

In addition to the statewide changes in categories, regulations on dozens of local streams in 52 counties will be proposed.

TU Chapters should review the proposed changes on streams in their areas and consult with local fish biologists about their concerns. Some of the changes will adjust the boundaries of particular regulations to make them more consistent along the length of the stream.

In a November 28 DNR Fisheries Bureau memo, Claggett said the

proposed changes would reduce the number of waters which need to be separately listed in the trout regulations pamphlet by 55 per cent.

Several special regulations categories will be added, including a maximum length limit, harvest slot length limit, and allowing bait to be used on some catch-and-release waters. he said.

Local fish biologists will recommend which regulations will be applied to streams, and anglers will have a chance to vote on those changes at spring rules hearings.

The proposed procedure outlined in the memo would ask anglers whether they approve the overall changes in regulations, and allow hearing attendees in a separate handout to voice their individual comments on whether they support or oppose changes on a specific stream.

It was not clear from the Fisheries Bureau memo as to the weight individual comments would have on the DNR's ultimate decision on a change proposed on an individual stream. However, anglers concerned about a bag and size limit, or other regulation proposed for a specific stream, can pass a county resolution voicing their concerns during the local resolution portion of their county's Conservation Congress hearing. Those resolutions will be reviewed by the DNR and the Congress Trout Study Committee for further action.

Ice Breaker schedule

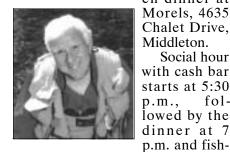
9:00 a.m. - Welcome and Intro-

8:30 a.m. - Doors Open

Southern Chapter's Ice Breaker features Whitlock, Osthoff

The Southern Wisconsin Chapter of TU has announced plans for their annual Ice Breaker event Jan. 18-19 featuring noted fly tying innovator Dave Whitlock from Arkansas and author Rich Osthoff of Wisconsin

The Friday "Let's Talk Fishing" banquet features a trout and chicken dinner at





ductions 9:15 a.m. - Rich Osthoff - "Designing Flies". 10:30 a.m. - Dave Whitlock -"The Nymphing System" 11:30 a.m. - Lunch (available for a nominal charge) Social hour Fly Tying demonstration (with Rich Osthoff) / Displays 1:00 p.m. - Door Prizes * fol-1:30 p.m. - Rich Osthoff - "Fly Fishing Southwestern Wiscon-

> sin Trout" 2:30 p.m. - Dave Whitlock -"Fly Fishing the Ozark"

3:30 p.m. - Bucket Raffles - Fly Rods - Reels - Art Work - &

tive work for the various staff, says Vollbrecht.

Wetland tasks defined

The agreement spells out the goals of such restorations, allocates responsibilities among agency staff, and sets up a process for resolving disagreements. For instance, the federal agencies agree to do analysis and maintain records that state employees would normally do. DNR staff agree to invest the time up front to participate in the initial review of potential restoration sites and the actual restoration plans.

"It's a good partnership," Vollbrecht says. "We will be able to more efficiently use our staff, meet our common goal of reversing the loss of wetlands, and meet our other responsibilities."

More details are available from Mary Ellen Vollbrecht at (608) 264-8554.



HEADLINERS Dave Whitlock (top) and Rich Osthoff are the feature presenters at this year's Ice Breaker.

son, WI 53705.

(608) 873-1623.

tickets for the Friday dinner are \$20

and must be purchased at least one

week in advance. Tickets for the Sat-

urday Ice Breaker are \$10 at the

door or \$9 in advance. Send a self-

addressed, stamped envelope with a

check payable to Trout Unlimited to

John Schweiger, 5541 Dahlen, Madi-

day's event contact Tom Fendrick at

For more information on either

uary 19, the "Ice Breaker" trout fishing clinic will be held at the Park Ponderosa Ballroom, 5100 Erling Ave., McFarland. Advanced

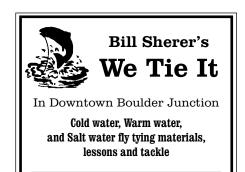
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Win a custom bamboo rod & case Courtesy of Don Schroeder Rods

Win a coaster brook trout print

Courtesy of Martin Hansen

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Dinner	6:30 p.m.		\$200 early bird drawing!		
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TROUT UNLIMITED		Unlimited Conservation Awards Banquet!			
and ma		Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$ for:			
c/o Jack V 430 Broa Berlin, WI 5	adway	i			

By John Koch

Recently, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources solicited the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of TU for its assistance with the Eau Galle River Restoration project.

The Eau Galle River is a river in need of help. Once a first-class coldwater resource that rivaled both our fabled Kinnickinnic and Rush rivers



EAU GALLE CREW

Workers on a recent project include (bottom) Sarah Sanford and Mark Waschek, (middle) Ted Mackmiller and Jon Jacobs, and (top) Bob Bradham, Jeff Kaphingst, Mark Mackmiller, John Koch, and Gary Horvath.

for fishing opportunities, it was dammed by a large earthen impoundment above the village of Spring Valley in the late 1960s.

Since that time, the river has deteriorated to a point to where it no longer supports the necessary coldwater environment needed for sustaining a healthy trout population. Water temperatures downstream of the village of Spring Valley have been recorded as high as 85F, lethal for trout, and beyond the comfort range for even rough fish species such as carp.

Trout Unlimited and local conservation groups felt that since the river eventually recovers trout habitat from additional spring-flow miles downstream of Spring Valley, the prospects for the recovery of an outstanding resource was excellent.

Within the last three years, the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of Trout Unlimited, along with the Ojibleau Chapter, have been involved in a series of meetings with the DNR, representatives from the Army Corps of Engineers, and area sportsman's clubs to determine what needs to be done to bring this resource back to life.

An action plan was drawn up, and the first in a series of steps was initiated with an alteration of the discharge flows coming from the impoundment. With cooler water coming from the dam for the first time in years, results thus far have been dramatic.

Because of these encouraging results, additional plans have been prepared for implementation. These plans include habitat restoration and stream improvement within the village of Spring Valley and surrounding feeder streams. This work will serve a major role in improving the conditions of the Eau Galle downstream.

Grant for future work

Starting in the fall of 2002, a cost-sharing grant provided by the Army Corps of Engineers will provide a total of \$300,000 for the Eau Galle River Restoration project. This grant, along with next season's allotment of Trout Stamp funds, will cover the expenses of restoring the Eau Galle from the impoundment in Spring Valley all the way downstream to Elmwood.

TU chapters and area sport's clubs will provide a total of \$72,000 as part of this cost share. \$22,000 of this needs to be in the form of cash, with the rest of the funding in the form of in-kind services.

The Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter is helping out with financing and

stream work. About \$22,000 in cash is needed to see this project along. Fund created

Kiap-TU-Wish has created an Eau Galle Restorations Fund to facilitate and keep track of the dollars donated. Donations are starting to come in, and this money will be used to pay for materials used in the project, such as oak planks and posts for habitat structures and native limestone to hold the structures in place on the streambed.

For those wishing to donate cash to the restorations fund, checks can be made out and sent to Kiap-TU-Wish. A cash donation is a great way to contribute to any project in lieu of volunteering.

Kiap-TU-Wish is also involved with building stream structures. About 30 trout habitat structures were build this fall. A schedule of work dates for next year will be organized sometime this spring.

The chapter will be coordinating its efforts with the WDNR and the various sportsmen's clubs in the area, and is actively seeking the assistance of local scout troops, 4-H Clubs, and other civic groups.

(John Koch is a board member and the habitat projects coordinator for the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter. -Ed.)

Reducing warm water input the key

Within the past 50 years, most trout fisheries in western Wisconsin have rebounded in a positive direction. Changes in land use, riparian corridor management, habitat improvement activities, and water quality management have allowed many streams to revert to wild trout fisheries.

Trout fisheries in western Wisconsin have become an important recreational and economic resource for local residents and the general public. The Eau Galle River downstream of Spring Valley has been one of the few trout streams that has not improved over the past 50 years.

Survey work in the section between Spring Valley and Elmwood has shown a decrease in trout abundance over the past 15 years and a decline in the overall coldwater fish community.

Temperature monitoring by the WDNR in the Eau Galle River downstream of Eau Galle Reservoir has documented stream temperatures near and above the upper lethal temperature requirements for brook and brown trout (the sustained lethal temperature for trout is approximately 79F).

Release of warmer surface waters from Eau Galle Reservoir, the impoundment of water behind a sheetpile weir located approximately 1,000 feet downstream of the dam afterbay, lack of overhead vegetation and shading through the tailrace area of the reservoir, and contributions of urban/municipal runoff waters are all factors potentially affecting stream temperatures in the Eau Galle River downstream of the dam.

These factors can also be relatively easily addressed through operational and/or structural modifications to the Eau Galle River flood control project.

- Heath Benike, WDNR River Specialist, Eau Claire

WSN conference features gubernatorial candidates

The annual conference of the Wisconsin Stewardship Network is featuring a gubernatorial candidate forum focusing on conservation and environmental topics.

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited shares a seat on the WSN's Steering Committee, and TU members are encouraged to attend the event.

The candidate forum will be held Friday, Jan. 25, at the UW-Stevens Point student center's Laird Room at 7:00 p.m.

The forum is free to the public, but those registering for the WSN's candidate social reception beforehand will have front-row seats reserved for them. The social will run from 5:30-6:45, with the forum starting at 7:00. So far commitments have been received from U.S. Rep. Tom Barrett, Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk, and Green Party candidate Jim Young. Likely attendees include Atty. General Jim Doyle and State Sen. Gary George. Talks are continuing with Gov. Scott Mc-Callum and Ed Thompson. Saturday sessions The main body of the WSN conference occurs Saturday at UW-SP when hunting, fishing, conservation, and environmental leaders and activists gather for a day of issue presentation, effectiveness workshops, and informative sessions on various natural resources topics, including:

- "Invasive Species: Getting Action from the State Government," a report on the recently released recommendations of the Governor's Task Force on Invasive Species, presented by the WDNR's *Kelly Kearns* and The Nature Conservancy's *Nancy Braker*;
- "From Teddy to Tommy and Beyond: Politics and Conservation in Wisconsin," by *Barry Ashen-*

Information Requests," by attorneys *Melissa Scanlan* of Midwest Environmental Advocates and *Glenn Stoddard* of the Garvey and Stoddard law firm. For more information about the conference, visit the WSN web site at www.wsn.org, or call (608) 268-1218, or e-mail the WSN at wsn@chorus.net.

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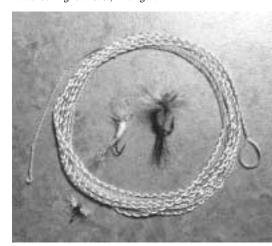
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Winter has author spring creek dreaming... Fishing is great on southwest Wisconsin's creeks

By Stephen M. Born

The trout season has been over for more than two months, and I am already dreaming about next year on our state's challenging spring creeks. An easy drive from my Madison home base, Southwest Wisconsin's "driftless area" — that largely rural region of the state that escaped the southerly and westerly advance of the continental glaciers has almost 1000 miles of classic spring creeks.

Abundant, rich streams

The region's bedrock geology and climate team up to produce abundant groundwater flows to streams. Gushing springs and seeps, often covered with watercress (which I recently discovered is an exotic plant not native to the U.S.!), are landscape expressions of the cold, constant flow of fertile groundwater — the lifeblood of trout streams.

The alkaline, nutrient-rich inflows resulting from the groundwater's passage through the flat-lying carbonate bedrock lead to the luxu-



WISCONSIN'S SPRING CREEK COUNTRY HAS LOTS TO OFFER

Rich limestone springs feed many of the rivers and creeks in southwest Wisconsin. As a result, the trout grow fast and the fishing is excellent. Rivers range in size from the larger West Fork of the Kickapoo (above) to the smaller Timber Coulee (below).



riant growths of aquatic plants and the enormous insect and other fish food populations found in these spring creeks.

The creeks are small, rarely longer than 15 miles and wider than 30 feet. But don't let the small size fool you — as devoted Wisconsin spring creek anglers know, many of these highly productive waters have native trout populations measured in thousands of trout per mile!

Wisconsin fishery biologists have gone wild. Led by Dave Vetrano, the Department of Natural Resources' southwest fishery manager, and his colleagues, what began as experimentation with wild trout stocking has resulted in spectacular angling for wild and wily browns in our spring creeks. And anglers in the region are also enjoying early results of the state's native brook trout restoration initiative in targeted watersheds. In a 1999 study of state fish propagation programs and policies, Trout Unlimited identified Wisconsin's program of using hatcheries in support of expanding its wild trout program as a model for the nation. It should be noted that fishery managers on occasion decide to stock rainbow trout — including some large brood stock — in some streams to increase the catchable numbers of trout, and the spring creek angler may be surprised from time to time to find a 20-plus inch rainbow testing his skills.

come and gone! Our spring creeks are not only highly accessible, they're relatively shallow and easy wading (although I confess to seeing some of my shorter angling partners become little more than a floating hat after wandering into a deeperthan-expected hole). Anglers in less-than-stellar physical condition and seniors can readily enjoy these wonderful small streams. Without question, the coulee country of Southwestern Wisconsin can provide a lifetime of trout fishing discovery and adventure for anglers of every skill level.

One of southern Wisconsin's great angling characters, author Tom Wendelburg — a self-acknowledged "trout fishing bum" and spring creek guru — frequently cites a refrain from one of his many articles: "There's always something happening on a spring creek." There is, but anglers should come with reasonable expectations about small-stream fisheries.

An experienced angler might expect to catch 10-20 trout in the 9-14 inch range on a good outing. Of course, several fish over 20 inches are caught from all these spring creeks every season (particularly during evening angling), and some anglers report 50-fish days; but an angler who doesn't appreciate catching a 14-inch, resplendently colored wild brown from a crystal clear spring creek should avoid this genre of fishing!

Be prepared to approach the stream cautiously, stalk and wade with care, dress to blend with the natural surroundings, and, in general, try to emulate the stream behavior of a heron.

Favorite tactics

Traditional upstream nymphing, across-and-down streamer fishing, and an assortment of dry fly tactics all work fine as long as you're reading the water, fishing "fishy" and often difficult lies, and haven't disturbed or scared the trout.

Upstream dead-drift nymph fishing is always a deadly technique on these streams during non-hatch periods, although nymphing can be difficult and frustrating during summer months when aquatic vegetation is dense and casting must be accurate to fish narrow channels amidst the vegetation.

Rods of 7-9 feet in 4-6 weights are good tools for nymphing. Leaders of 9-12 feet with 4-5x tippets, with a strike indicator on the leader about 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ times the water depth are the norm.

Great stream accessibility

As the years have slipped through my net, I've come to appreciate the fact that Wisconsin spring creeks are "user-friendly." My days of wading back and forth across Montana's Madison River have I like the following approaches:

- A tandem or two-fly nymph rig, with a weighted #10-12 scud, caddis larva imitation, Girdle Bug, or Hare's Ear nymph at the point, with a smaller trailer nymph tied 12-15 inches back from the curve of the lead nymph hook. A #16-18 scud, Serendipity, Pheasant-tail nymph, Brassie, or just about any small beadhead nymph is a good choice for the trailer.
- An olive, black, or brown Wooly Bugger (#6-14) or other leech imitation is always a deadly lure, especially when worked back under logjams, trees, and other difficult lies. An olive bugger adroitly pitched into the head of a tree-infested hole one evening.

Continued on p. 15

Coon Creek study targets groundwater recharge

A research project is underway that hopes to shed light on groundwater movement in one of the state's premier trout fishing destinations — the Coon Creek watershed in southwest Wisconsin.

The research is being conducted by Dr. Randy Hunt, research hydrologist with the US Geological Survey in Madison. Study results are expected to give decision-makers data to use in setting land use policies.

Recharge a concern

According to the Hunt's proposal, "Recharge...is becoming an emerging concern statewide. Most recently, property tax assessments for agricultural land have been reduced in an effort to help farmers. Thus, land that was set aside and not used for agriculture costs the farmers more than land in agricultural use.

"A possible outcome of this change is that many of the hill slopes pastured prior to the 1930s (then allowed to become forested since the 1930s) may again become pastured. There is a fear that returning this land to the land use of the 1930s may result in the flooding, sediment erosion, and poor water quality that characterized the 1930s.'

Hillside grazing has negative effects

If factors lead to more grazing of forested hillsides in the Driftless Area, many expect this to reduce the quality of trout fishing in the area.

"Trout are temperature sensitive, and much of the fisheries improvement is due to a larger groundwaterderived baseflow component," says Hunt.

Preliminary Results: Coon Creek Recharge

Year of Study	Recharge inches/year		
1934-40	5.4		
1978-81	8.3		
2000-01	8.9		

"This is illustrated by Coon Creek, which was a warm water fishery in the 1930s through 1950s, became a Class 2 trout stream in the 1970s, and a Class 1 trout stream in the late 1980s.³

Preliminary findings

Preliminary findings (see table) show that recharge in the Coon Creek watershed is higher than those found in earlier studies.

Recharge was highest on forested hill slope. Such slopes contribute about 14 inches of recharge per year

to the groundwater.

This compares to just seven inches of recharge per year on ridges and valleys.

Coon Creek rich in hydrologic history

The Coon Creek Watershed itself has a rich hydrologic history. In the early part of the 20 the century, agricultural basins throughout the United States were suffering from soil erosion, sedimentation and flooding, especially in high relief topographic regions such as the Driftless Area.

In 1934, the Coon Creek Watershed was chosen as the nation's first "Watershed Demonstration Project" in the United States because of extensive work done in the area by Aldo Leopold and others from the University of Wisconsin and the Coulee Experimental Forest (Trimble and Lund 1982, SCS 1983). The project covered over 90% of the basin and extensive stream flow, precipitation and groundwater level measurements were made in the watershed throughout the study area from 1934 to 1940 (Davis 1935, Potter and Love 1942).

The USGS monitored stream flow and precipitation again from 1979 to 1981 in the watershed. The watershed is known to have statistically significant peak flow decreases and baseflow increases between the two time periods (Gebert and Krug 1996). Moreover, a precipitationrunoff model (PRMS-Leavesely et al. 1982) of the upper half of the Coon Creek Watershed for the two time periods has been developed (Krug 1996). The model showed that land use changes could explain the decrease in peak flows, but the groundwater system was outside the scope of the work thus the effects of land use changes on groundwater is presently unknown.

SOUTHWEST: fishing is worth the trip to Coulee Country streams

Continued from p. 14

Black Earth Creek produced a 23-inch brown for a young fishing friend I was "guiding."

Fly choices for every season

Like spring creeks everywhere, there are numerous hatches and the associated dry-fly fishing opportunities; the timing of the hatches are very similar on the coulee region creeks.

Starting in March, midge and Baetis hatches prompt surface feeding by trout. Being multi-brooded, these hatches will be prevalent on and off throughout the season. A #20-24Griffith's Gnat is a standard for imitating the midges. A variety of #16-

Blue-18 Winged Olive emerger and dry patterns will work for the Baetis.

Hendricksons (Ephemerella subvaria) in late April and May and the smaller Sulfurs (Ephemerella sp.) in late May

challenging thin-water casting and angling during late August and September; while nobody I know has the perfect imitation, small (#20-26) Parachute Adams and No-hackle dries are good selections. This is a good time for your 2-3 weight rod.

Caddis fly hatches can be very

prolific and provide excellent and dependable spring creek fishing for much of the trout season.

The Little Black Caddis (Chimarra) can provide good fishing in April and early May, especially in upstream areas. A #16-18 black Elk Hair Caddis or Hemingway Caddis will normally do the trick.

The Grannon (Brachycentrus) can offer phenomenal fishing

"An experienced angler might expect to catch 10-20 trout in the 9-14 inch range on a good outing. Of course, several fish over 20 inches are caught from all these spring creeks every season (particularly during evening angling)."

throughout May. Be prepared to fish #16 pupa imitations or Softhackles prehatch, and a #16 LaFontaine Emergent Sparkle Pupa or Elk Hair Caddis during the hatch. Tan and green-bodied caddis are active throughout the summer, especially in the evenings, and can be imitated with a range of appropriately sized caddis patterns. Don't hesitate to jerk the dry flies underwater to mimic the diving behavior of many egg-laying caddis, or to pull them underwater at the end of a dry presentation. Terrestrial insect imitations offer some of the most exciting fishing on these creeks, especially in meadow sections or reaches where landbased insects can be dislodged on windy days. Ants, beetles, crickets, and hoppers in a variety of sizes and colors are worth trying. This is often sight fishing, and you will be surprised at the size of trout lurking in shallow water seams and edges awaiting a terrestrial treat. This is far and fine angling for wary trout, with long leaders and 6-7x tippets

required. Even hopper fishing may require finer tippets and longer leaders than you might be used to; try to condition yourself to strike with care, no matter how vicious the strike.

Wisconsin traditionalists who throughout the year fish largely with home-bred flies like the Pass Lake or Hornberg — between and during hatches - always report some success (although as time goes by, I'm starting to question the veracity of Anyhow, it's winter again, and I

some of my fishing comrades).

need to get some fly-tying done for the coming season. Dreaming aside, it's only a few months away!

(Steve Born is Chair of TU's National Resources Board. In 1997 he co-authored Exploring Wisconsin Trout Streams: the Angler's Guide with Jeff Mayers, Andy Morton, and Bill Sonzogni. The book is available from the University of Wisconsin Press. -Ed.).

Pennsylvania site of biodiversity conference

The fifth annual Keystone Coldwater Conference, "Headwater Habitats: The Importance of Native Plant and Animal Diversity," will take place February 16, 2002, at the Penn State University Conference Center Hotel in central Pennsylvania.

The conference will address the benefits of biodiversity and native plants in maintaining and improving the quality of aquatic and terrestrial communities, especially in headwater ecosystems

tional office, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Canaan Valley Institute, along with several other groups and state agencies.

Posters are invited from TU chapters and other watershed groups that have a project to share. Send poster abstracts by February 1 to: Dr. Jack Williams, 1385 Spring Rd., Summerville, PA 15864.

Registration, lunch included, is \$25. Naturalist-photographer Mike Ondik will give an illustrated talk at

and June are

next in the succession of primary mayfly hatches. Standard imitations work well; I'm partial to trying a #14 floating nymph or greased Hare's Ear for simulating the Hendrickson emergence, and #16 Sparkle Duns, Parachutes, and Comparaduns for the Sulfurs.

I won't say much about fishing the nighttime Hex hatch, one of my favorite addictions, because my psyche still has not recovered from the massive fish kill on Black Earth Creek this past June — right in the middle of the hatch — that destroyed the 2001 fishing season on my home waters. For this outlandishly sized mayfly, I've always found a #8 White Wulff to be an effective representation, and have caught many fine browns in June and July on that straightforward pattern.

As the season moves on, tiny Blue-winged Olives (BWOs) offer

Attendees will include TU chapters, watershed and sportsmen's groups, students, and environmental professionals. Co-sponsors include TU's Pennsylvania Council and naan optional evening dinner (\$25).

Registration materials will be available in January. To request them, call Nancy McDowell at (814) 863-5100.



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Spring Pond (Langlade Co.)

nickinnic River (Pierce Co.)

6. \$75 for purchase of catch and

release signs for the Bois Brule River Douglas Co.)

7. \$2,500 for renovation of trout

rearing facilities in Lincoln Park (City of Manitowoc)

8. \$500 for bank, stabiliza-

tion, and structural

River (Oconto Co.) 9. \$1,000 for land

acquisition along the White River (Waushara

Co.) 10. \$1,000 to assist with

acquisition of 64+ acres of land along Upper

(Marinette Co.) 11. \$7,000 to purchase a Rotary Screw Fish Trap for DNR Coldwater

12. \$3,000 to fund stream improve-

ments and riparian protection in and along streams of Middle Kickapoo Riv-

13. \$1,000 to help fund instream habitat work

14. \$551 to help purchase recording thermo-graphs to monitor thermal regimes in trout

streams in the Buena Vista and Leola marsh-

es (Portage, Wood, Adams counties) **15. \$3,372** for installing bank cover and clos-ing side channels in Sand Creek (Jackson and

Monroe counties) **16. \$3,296** to continue and extend stream

bank brushing along Chaffee Creek (Mar-

ment studies of brown trout in the Mecan

18. \$1,700 to conduct follow-up surveys on

wild brown trout in the Namekagon River

19. \$2,000 to conduct studies of fall move-

Bay field counties) for capture and use in

raising wild trout for the river 20. \$1,000 to assist with the third year of

ments and concentrations of spawning wild brood fish in the Namekagon River (Sawyer/

River (Marquette County) for potential

17. \$1,000 to continue population and move-

er watershed. (Vernon and Crawford

in the Plover River (Marathon Co.)

Middle Inlet Creek

research

counties

quette Co.)

stream reclassification

(Sawyer/Bayfield counties)

improvements on the North Fork Thunder

Federal grants available for restoration projects

Several organizations have joined to offer challenge grants for habitat restoration projects of the type Trout Unlimited chapters typically undertake.

The National Association of Counties, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and the Wildlife Habitat Council - in cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Community-Based Restoration Program within NOAA Fisheries, and other sponsors — are behind the Five-Star Restoration Program.

The Five-Star Program provides modest financial assistance on a competitive basis to support community-based wetland, riparian and coastal habitat restoration projects that build diverse partnerships and foster local natural resource stewardship through education, outreach, and training activities.

The Five-Star Restoration Challenge Grant program is open to any public or private entity. Applicants should complete an application form including project narrative and budget request.

Applications must be postmarked by March 1, 2002. Projects will be evaluated to the extent by which the above guidelines are met. Applicants will be notified of their awards in May.

Projects that have received funding under this program are eligible to reapply, but preference is given to those that have not previously received support. 4

For more information, see http:// nfwf.org/programs/5star-rfp.htm.



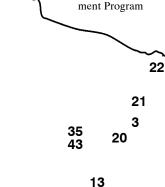
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to enhance user potential. 23. \$2,750 to purchase materi-als for fencing projects approved under the Streambank Ease-



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(part of the state's Stewardship Program) for the Wisconsin Rapids Area; and for fencing materials for the Little Lemonweir River project (Monroe Co.)

24. \$350 to conduct trout population studies in the lateral ditches listed as trout waters (Portage, Wood and Adams counties) that are under threat from agricultural/cranberry

operation encroachment 25. \$250 toward habitat work on the West Fork Kickapoo River (Vernon and Crawford

counties)	
26. \$2,000 to	fund dredging (silt/debris
removal) from	n McClintock Springs in the
southern unit	of the Kettle Moraine State
Forest (Wauk	
27. \$2,000 to	create overhead bank cover in
	eaver dams from Whitewater/
Bluff Creek (Walworth Co.)
28. \$2,000 for	stream improvements in Bill-
ings Creek (V	/ernon Co.)
29. \$1.500 for	materials for in-stream struc-
tures in the T	omorrow River (Portage Co.)
30. \$2,500 for	stream restoration in Mormon
Coulee Creek	x (La Crosse Co.)
31. \$1,500 to a	assist in production of an educa-
tional video o	on development impacts along
the Kinnickin	nic River (St. Croix and Pierce
counties)	× ×
32. \$7,000	for stream improvement on Elk
Creek (Chippewa Co.)
	,000 for rock hauling and resto-
2 rat	tion work on Duncan Creek
	hippewa Co.)
37 5 34	. \$1,750 to purchase materials
for the form	r stream improvements on the
1	North Fork Buffalo
10 5	River (Jackson Co.)
10 /	35. \$2,000 to fund
<u> </u>	\sim backhoe work on
7	intensive habitat
	improvement in the
	Prairie River (Lincoln
	Co.)
()	36. \$500 for stream reha-
J.	bilitation in Tainter Creek
	(Crawford Co.)
	37. \$1,000 for expenses to
	study the long-term effects

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study the long-term effects on brook trout following the removal of beaver dams on the Pemebonwon River in northern Wisconsin (Marinette

38. \$2,000 to help fund reprint-ing *Trout Stream Therapy* book (Waupaca Co.).

39. \$1,000 to defray expenses involved in holding the Midwest Trout Angling Workshop in La Crosse in July, 2000 (La Crosse

Co.) **40. \$2,000** to fund stream improvement work on Mormon Coulee Creek (La Crosse Co.). 41. \$2,000 to fund restoration work on the Little Pine River.

(Waushara Co.). 42. \$2,000 to the WDNR to help purchase an easement on Tenmile Creek along Hwy. 13. 43. \$2,000 in 2001 plus \$2,000 in 2002 to Wisconsin River Chapter for Prairie River work (Lincoln Co.). 44. \$1,245 to Wild Rivers Chapter for coaster

baseline information (Ashland Co.). **45. \$1,000** to WDNR Trempealeau district for trout restoration backhoe (Trempealeau Co.).

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