



# Wisconsin Trout

October 2002

Process starts over if company returns

## Perrier abandons Wisconsin permit

By Todd Hanson

Its thirst for Midwest spring water slaked by wells brought on line recently in Michigan, the Perrier Company has left Wisconsin as suddenly as it entered the state.

Just three days before a Sept. 20 deadline to update their high-capacity well agreement with the WDNR, Perrier's parent company Nestle Waters announced it would not renew the agreement.

By abandoning their permit, Perrier will have to start from scratch should they decide to return to Wisconsin at some point in the future.

Perrier's interests in Wisconsin

are now limited to agreements they have with the local land owners on whose property they would have sunk their wells. It is unclear if those agreements are also set to expire.

"I was and I wasn't surprised about this pullout," says Franc Fennessey, Deputy Secretary of the WDNR.

"On the one hand the company met with the WDNR earlier this year on getting their model done. But then Michigan came on line. I thought that if they pulled the plug,

it would be this summer because they were scheduled to begin a local citizen process soon," says Fennessey.

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### Crandon Mining Co. lays off local staff

Company says it will continue seeking permit. Story on p. 7

## Ocooch Creeks welcomed as newest WITU chapter

A group of Richland County TU members received a charter from TU National this summer to become Wisconsin's newest chapter.

The Ocooch Creeks Chapter was introduced and welcomed into the Wisconsin TU fold at the State Council meeting Sept. 14 in Plover.

Allon Bostwick of Richland Center will serve as Ocooch Creeks' first president.



Ocooch Creeks Chapter (Richland County)

Other Ocooch leaders include:

- John Anner, Vice President,
- Dennis Fry, Secretary/Treasurer, and
- Board members Ed Uhlenhake, Kim James, Bob Rosenkranz, Jerrel Berres, Steve Nockerts, and Dave Barron.

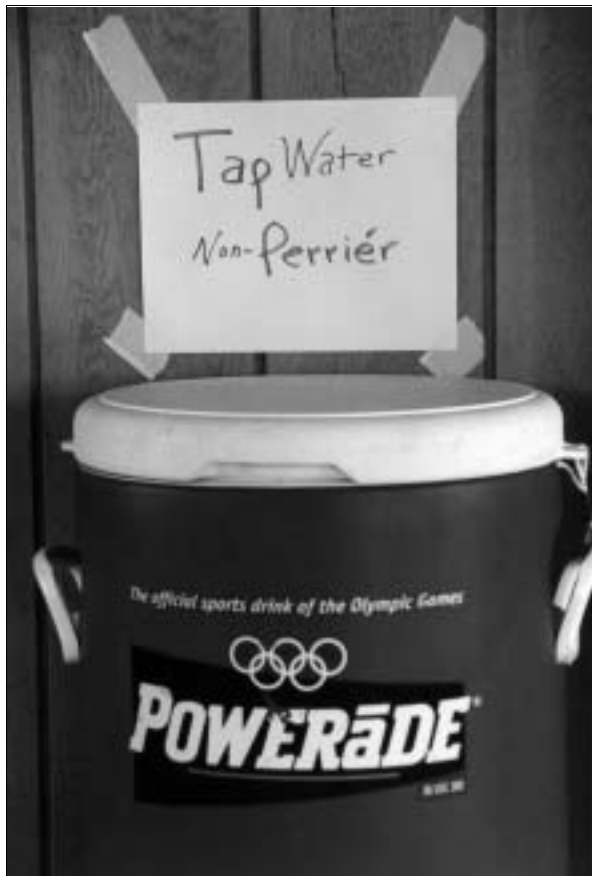
"We wanted to do more in Richland County," says Bostwick. "A lot of us also found it difficult to get to all

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**ALLON BOSTWICK**

TU's newest chapter is headed by Allon Bostwick of Richland Center, who updated the State Council on the Ocooch Creeks Chapter.



### THE ANTI-PERRIER SENTIMENT NEVER SUBSIDED

This water cooler was spotted in the food tent at the Sept. 7 "Fightin' Bob Fest" in Baraboo. The sign is evidence that people in Wisconsin never warmed up to Perrier's offer to bottle water from Big Spring. (More fest pictures on p.19.)

## Waters of Wisconsin forum to guide state water policy

Concerned citizens, scientists, policy-makers, educators, and conservationists from across Wisconsin and beyond will gather Oct. 21-22 in Madison for the Waters of Wisconsin initiative, the largest gathering of its type ever held.

The Waters of Wisconsin Forum will be a working gathering with the goal of laying the groundwork for a comprehensive, long-term policy for the use and sustainability of Wisconsin's waters.

The event will also be a place to celebrate — through art, poetry, and music — the importance and beauty of water in our lives, reminding us of why this precious resource must be protected now.

The challenges and threats Wisconsin's waters face are the stuff of headlines on a regular basis — mercury in our fish, arsenic in our drinking water, polluted runoff in our lakes and streams, cryptosporidium outbreaks in Milwaukee, and PCBs

in the Fox River are but a few topics of public concern.

"We hope our work will serve as a catalyst for change," says Michael Strigel, the Wisconsin Academy's director of programs. "We're at a decisive moment in how we manage our waters. There is widespread consensus that we need an integrated, long-term approach in using and protecting our waters over the next century."

TU participating in event

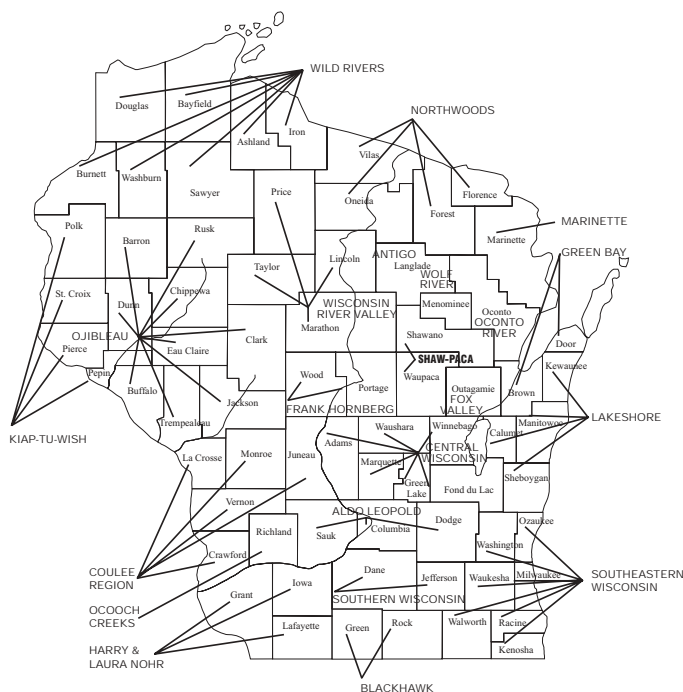
Several Trout Unlimited representatives have roles in the forum. TU's Steve Born helped develop overall plans for the conference as the event's co-chair. Meanwhile, Southern WI President Bill Pielsticker is organizing the forum session that focuses on sport and commercial fisheries, and Wisconsin Trout Editor Todd Hanson is a panelist in a session focusing on local stewardship.

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- 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).

## WISCONSIN TROUT

Vol. 14, No. 4 — October 2002

*Wisconsin Trout* is the official publication of the Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited and is distributed to the members of Wisconsin's 21 TU chapters. Nonmember subscriptions are \$12.50/year. Publication and distribution dates are the first weeks of January, April, July, and October. Deadlines for articles and advertisements are the 10th of December, March, June, and September. Advertising rate sheets are available, or you may download it at [www.lambcom.net/witu](http://www.lambcom.net/witu).

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# Of crybabies, promises, and the trout stamp

By Todd Hanson

Something tells me I run the risk of being considered a big crybaby for writing this editorial because times are good for Wisconsin trout fishing — trout numbers are way up from the late-1980s drought, trout anglers believe in the importance of habitat as the key to ensuring the future of the resource, and trout stream miles are actually increasing as a result of better land use practices. We should be raising beers in celebration, right?

Still, at the September State Council meeting in Plover, we were visited by the three top guns in the DNR coldwater fisheries program — Mike Staggs, Steve Hewett, and Larry Claggett. After reviewing the figures they presented on the DNR's trout stamp program, I couldn't help but feel those gentlemen were trying a little too hard to ease TU's suspicion that trout fishing would be in even better shape today if our fisheries managers were fully living up to the intentions of those who created the trout stamp in 1977.

Let's do an experiment. Grab a pen. I'd like you to jot down a number before you read on. Write down the number of full-time DNR employees you think did trout habitat work the year before the trout stamp program went into effect. One would think that at least this many people should still be working today on such programs. So write down your "full-time equivalent" employee number. Don't forget to include everyone doing trout stream survey work. And don't forget part-timers. Add up everybody and convert them to "full-time equivalent" workers....

OK, how many did you guess? Five people? Ten? Twenty? If you guessed more than 3.76 people — that's right, 3.76 people — you should be disappointed at the current state of affairs. Here's how I got 3.76 people:

Numbers presented to the State Council show that the trout stamp funded 9.34 people working on habitat and survey work in 2001. While trout fishers should be delighted that these 9.34 people were paid to do this work, the report says the total people engaged in habitat work from all state-funded sources totaled just 13.1 people. That means that if we took away the trout stamp, the DNR is funding just 3.76 (13.1 minus 9.34) people for such activities from other sources.

To be fair to the DNR, their trout stamp report also shows that another 4.1 people have recently been funded for trout habitat work courtesy of some federal funds that could have been allocated elsewhere, but these positions are expiring this month, so I'm sticking with the 3.76 figure.

Now look back at that number you scratched on your piece of paper. What has gone wrong here? Almost 30 years ago, the Winter, 1973, *WITU Quarterly Report* described the 'proposed' trout stamp by saying, "The bill would stipulate that the new stamp income supplement rather than replace the present level of trout habitat spending (about \$175,000)." With benefits, 3.76 people just may cost the DNR that \$175,000 figure. But shouldn't this number be going up to keep the DNR's commitment in line with inflation? The first trout stamp cost \$2.50. Now it's \$7.25 (up 290%). If the DNR increased their 1973 habitat spending of \$175,000 by that same 290%, they should be spending half a million dollars on trout habitat in addition to the trout stamp.

And that's not the end of it. So far I've just looked at the DNR's "fair share commitment" to continuing to fund habitat work at pre-trout stamp levels. It turns out the trout stamp fund itself is also under attack by recent changes to patron license allocations to the fund.

A portion of each patron license sold goes to the trout stamp fund because trout fishing is one of the privileges people get with that license. The patron license is a great deal for active sportsmen, but it's less so for the trout stamp program. We were told at the State Council meeting that DNR Secretary Bazzell arbitrarily reduced the dollar amount going to the trout stamp fund from patron license sales when the fund had a hefty, unspent balance. By law, the Secretary couldn't take money out of the trout stamp fund. But apparently he could change the patron license formula to reduce the number of dollars going into the fund. The result — even less money for trout habitat work.

Let's get our trout stamp program back on track. Soon it will be 25 years old, so it's high time the program had a tune-up. It won't be a pleasant job, but we're all in a sour mood anyway. So let's take this on



## Letters

### Notes reason for returning Gratiot check

We sent out our Summer/Fall newsletter last week. You were included, and I hope you received it OK. There is a letter in the newsletter that details the final chapter in the mouth of the Gratiot River fund-raising campaign, explaining why we sent all of the donated money back to the contributors.

Out of the approximately \$35,000 we raised, the last \$6,000 came from Wisconsin chapters, individuals, and the WI Council itself. It was painful to send the money back, but that was what we said we'd do. The contributions from Wisconsin were very gratifying, all the more so because most Wisconsin TU members were unfamiliar with the Gratiot. Most didn't know where it was.

The 100 acres at the mouth is un-

der the ownership of Keweenaw County now. The old cabin right on the lakeshore at the mouth has been removed. Our chapter is partnering with the county in cleaning up the remains of it, plus doing a beach cleanup for three or four miles on Saturday, Sept. 21.

Coaster research is continuing on the river as well. We are hopeful that this will be the fall when adults return to spawn. We'll see. Keep your fingers crossed.

Enclosed is a check for the excellent newspaper you edit, Wisconsin Trout. I want my own subscription to keep up with what TU is doing in our sister state.

Bill Deephouse, President  
Copper Country Chapter TU  
Hancock, MI

### Mine's future shouldn't be political

With the state purchase of the Crandon Mine lands called off due to the price asked by BHP-Billiton, the present owners being double what the state was willing to pay, there is a lot of discussion as to the future of the permitting process.

News reports indicate the nearly 5,000 acres of company land is for sale and all of the company's employees' jobs were terminated. Thus, the future of the Crandon Mine is in limbo and the Governor, the Legislators, and the Department of Natural Resources must determine its future.

That is not a political option. The Wisconsin Constitution and the Public Trust Doctrine embodied in it MANDATES protection and enhancement of the people's vital natural resources. Protect means to guard from harm, injury, or degradation. Enhance means to raise to a higher quality or value.

The state Legislature is the primary "trustee" of the people's natural resources and is mandated to only allow use, without abuse, of them so they WILL be passed on to succeeding generations UNDIMINISHED in quality or quantity.

An unprecedented number of well-financed mine lobbyists in Madison over the past two dozen years attempting to buy the people who could provide the permits needed to mine the Crandon deposit. Their Public Trust Doctrine responsibilities were ignored and

violated. Their lobbying put the DNR under the bureaucratic and political control of the Governor.

If BHP-Billiton has decided to not spend any more money on that dubious project, it will be interesting to see whether the elected officials and the DNR will now face up to the true facts, for nowhere in the state constitution does it allow or provide for trade-off, compromise, exemptions from, or modifications from absolute protection and enhancement of the people's vital natural resources to create jobs or stimulate the local economy or enhance the profits of a foreign or domestic mining company.

The state constitution (Article 1, Section 1) states governments are instituted to assure the people's rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The only way that it can be done is by protection and enhancement of our vital natural resources.

An article for immediate release, entitled "DNR says proposed Crandon Mine would pollute drinking water source" states, "An August 12 letter from the DNR to Nicolet Minerals Company says (polluted groundwater from the waste-filled mine, as proposed) may travel 22 times faster and reach (pollution) levels five times higher than the company's predictions." "The pollution would continue for tens of thousands of years."

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while we're already mad about corrupt CEOs, pedophile priests, dissembling Red Cross campaigns, falling stocks, weak sales, lawbreaking legislators, unbalanced budgets, and a trigger-happy President.

There's one more reason to do it now. Given all of the acquiescence we trout fishers have displayed toward our trout stamp program over the years, imagine what some in the DNR may be planning in light of an anticipated CWD-related hunting license revenue shortfall? We don't need the DNR brain trust saying, "Let's axe our remaining 2.0 trout habitat workers? The trout fishers won't care. They've got the trout stamp."

OK, I'm done being a crybaby. I'm going trout fishing. There the world is pure, the light sparkles off the water like so many diamonds, and the fishing is great.



**A FAMILIAR SMILE**

Multitalented TU leader Nash Williams passed away on July 27. He is shown here with his wife, Betty.

# Nash Williams dies at 95

By Larry Meicher

J. Nash Williams, age 95, passed away on July 27, 2002, in Madison. Nash was instrumental in the formation of the Southern Wisconsin Chapter which was formed on Sept. 30, 1969. He served as the chapter's secretary-treasurer from 1971-1972.

He continued in an active role in the chapter until last year. He was also very active in all stream projects. Nash was also instrumental in establishing the Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited. He was State Council Treasurer in 1971, Council Chair from 1973-75, and a National Director from 1974 until the Natural Resources Board was formed in the 1990s. He was first the Wisconsin representative, and then a National Director "at large."

During his tenure on TU's NRB, he served on the research and projects committee, and he was chair of that committee until 1982. This committee was responsible for allocating funds to deserving projects around the country for stream improvement and research. He was also instrumental in focusing TU's attention and efforts on acid rain.

Nash graduated from Cornell University in 1928, where he competed as a pole vaulter. He received a law degree from New York University in 1932. In the same year he married Elizabeth (Betty) Roys from Madison.



**NASH AND FRIENDS**

Relaxing at a State Council Banquet at the Pioneer Inn in Oshkosh is (left to right) Nash Williams, TU Founder George Griffith, and Jim Hlaban. Below Nash fishes along a southwest Wisconsin stream.

al Casualty Insurance Company, serving the company in many positions including vice president and secretary of the company. He retired from the company in 1969.

Besides being an active member of TU, Nash was a contributor to many other organizations, including the Adirondack Council, Friends of the Arboretum, and The Nature Conservancy.

Nash was predeceased by his wife, Betty. A memorial service was held August 20 at the University Arboretum. Burial was in the family plot in Lake Placid, N.Y.

The Southern Wisconsin Chapter and the State Council will miss Nash and all of his efforts over the years.



# PERRIER: gives up well permit

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The DNR says Perrier will still move forward on a trout stream restoration project on Big Spring Creek which they had committed to in a separate agreement with the DNR. Big Spring Creek supports brook trout, but just in portions of the otherwise degraded stream.

Fennessey hopes Perrier's depart-

ture will not put efforts to develop new high-capacity well legislation in Wisconsin on the back burner.

"I hope there is willingness to engage in this legislation even though Perrier is gone," says Fennessey.

"The challenge is to balance rights with impacts. Agricultural and municipal high-capacity well users complicate the picture."

# OCCOCH CREEKS: new TU chapter forms in Richland County

Continued from p. 1

the meetings of the Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter we have been a part of. It took a lot of us an hour to get to a meeting."

Bostwick and others advertised locally in March for anglers interested in the new chapter. That led to an organizational meeting for interested people.

Following an encouraging first organizational meeting, they got the necessary help to form the new chapter from TU's Russ Schnitzer in the Madison office. They also got support from Dave Fritz of the Nohr Chapter from which they were splitting.

The new chapter begins with a chapter roster of 18 members. Their territory includes all of Richland County, leaving the Nohr Chapter

with Lafayette, Iowa, and Grant counties.

Where's Ocooch?

You will not find Ocooch Creek in a plat book. So where did this name come from? Bostwick says that the Ocooch Mountains is a name given to the area. "We were going to use Spring Creeks Chapter, but that was already taken, so Ocooch Creeks is a compromise."

Bostwick is a physician in the emergency department at the Richland Hospital. He is also a graduate student in Aquatic Ecology at UW-La Crosse.

Bostwick is hoping the new chapter will working with young anglers and stream improvement work. Bostwick says their group is also concerned about concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) and nonpoint pollution.

# LETTER: mine shouldn't be political

Continued from p. 3

The DNR also states "Nicolet Mining Company has underestimated runoff from the 300 acre Tailings Management Area into nearby wetlands and streams, and an incorrect assessment of potential impacts on wetlands and water bodies."

The citizens have a duty and a responsibility to oppose such threats to their vital drinking and surface water supply. Polluted waters run downstream, and the projected thousands of years which it would continue is an obvious violation of law. Not only would it deprive downstream residents of their now healthful groundwaters, but every living thing using the surface waters down the Wolf River. The toxic heavy metals in mine acid drainage, as stated by the U.S. Dept. of the Interior's Bureau of Mines, is especially lethal to aquatic life. "In coldwater fishery, a copper concentration of as little as ONE PER MILLION may be lethal to trout. In the western U.S. pollution from similar mines have killed rivers over one hundred miles downstream. That means that the Winnebago sturgeon, which spawn and are reared in the Wolf River below Shawano could be affected.

Thus, to mine or not to mine the Crandon deposit IS NOT a political

choice or company option. No one is opposed to proven environmentally safe metallic mining. But, as the Exxon engineer originally survived the mine area concluded, it may be one of the most difficult places in the world to ever attempt to conduct an environmentally safe metallic mining operation. That having been said 25 years ago and federal


authorities warning that it could not be mined without severe adverse effects on the environment and the Wolf River.

Had our state government followed the metallic minerals regulations in Wisconsin and its Public Trust Doctrine...a lot of false hopes and citizen time and efforts to bring out the true facts on the issue could have been avoided. Doctrines stating, "the location of metallic mineral operations is restricted on the basis of criteria designed to protect certain environmentally sensitive areas," a lot of false hopes and citizen time and efforts to bring out the true facts on the issue could have been avoided.

Clean, healthful drinking water is fast becoming a scarce commodity around the world. Wisconsin's growing population must demand that our state officials must protect what we have.

Herbert Buettner  
Wolf R. Chapter TU  
White Lake, WI

*Had our state government followed the metallic minerals regulations in Wisconsin and its Public Trust Doctrine...a lot of false hopes and citizen time and efforts to bring out the true facts on the issue could have been avoided.*



## TU QUIZ

Where does Wisconsin rank among states in the number of fishing licenses sold annually? 1st? 4th? 5th? 8th?

Answer: 4th with 1.26 million licenses behind I.C.A. 2.MN, and 3.TX. Source: Amer. Sportfishing Ass.

# Rainbows in Siberia

By Jon Christiansen

WITU Chair

In late August, I was fortunate enough to fish for six days in Siberia on the Kamchatka Peninsula, more particularly the Zhupanova River. The trip was a 30th wedding anniversary gift from my wonderful and tolerant wife. While exotic, the cost of the trip was less than a week at an Alaskan lodge.

After a 4½-hour flight from Anchorage on a rickety Magadan Airlines Tupolov 154 passenger jet, our group landed in Petropavlovsk, Siberia, weary but excited. The minute we landed, it was evident that America had always been destined to prevail in the economic and ideological war against the "Evil Empire." The airfield was surrounded by the rusted hulks of MIG fighter jets, transport planes of all types, and miscellaneous machinery, all scavenged for parts.

The international arrival terminal was a small cinder block building that was poorly lit and staffed by dour, uniformed Russian police and civil servants.

It took me awhile to pass through customs because I dutifully entered all data on the appropriate form, including a listing for rabbit fur strips, chicken feathers, and fur dubbing. The customs agent and I had three, maybe four, cultural differences between us on the question of whether I ought to be admitted to the country, fur, chicken feathers, and all.

After a while, the group was ushered through a metal detector to our host, where we began one of those frequent activities of the trip — waiting. Then we waited some more.

Eventually, we drove in beat-up minivans through the outskirts of Petropavlovsk to the heliport for the helicopter ride to Cedar Lodge. Petropavlovsk appeared to be a third-world country in almost every respect, from the broken-down roads to the near ruins of the many 1950s Soviet apartment buildings.

After waiting some more at the heliport, 20 of us boarded a Russian Mi8 helicopter. This was my first experience in a helicopter, and it was not all that comforting. Before take-off, it revved up, powered down, revved up, bounced and shuttered, and finally began the slow lift-off.

The promotional materials from the fly shop describing the transportation arrangements had advised us not to confuse the burned-out paint job for a lack of maintenance. Reassuringly, the materials touted that the helicopter was safe because the chief mechanic of the helicopter always rode along with the two pilots.

When I read this, I was somewhat comforted. However, when I saw the mechanic, my comfort vanished in smoke and jet fuel fumes. You know how you sometimes see people who look like they don't have a lot to live for? Well, this was one of those guys. I thought to myself, "I bet he doesn't care whether this plane flies, crashes, or turns purple." But, what was I to do? I was far back in the hold, sitting next

to the groceries with my feet up on our gear, and we were just starting to rise above the suburbs of the city.

For 45 minutes we traveled around volcanoes and forested ridges before settling down on a gravel bar at the camp. After unpacking gear and lunch, we set out on the Zhupanova River. We were after giant resident rainbow trout, Arctic char, and a special Russian char called a Khundza.

To be frank, the fevered pitch of the fly shop's brochure overstated the experience, except for Siberia's obvious natural beauty. The Asian forests covering the volcanic peaks near the river were all deciduous trees. There were very few pine trees, and it gave the place a strange feel to those of us used to fishing the mountain rivers of the American West.

From camp we could see an active volcano which erupted every seven minutes, sending a towering plume of smoke and ash into the sky. We were assured that this activity had gone on for many years, and it was not likely that anything more serious would happen during our stay. Nevertheless, fishing under the shadow of a belching volcano is not exactly like the experience of fishing the sand country streams of Waushara County, Wisconsin.

The rainbows of the Zhupanova were magnificent, although at times hard to catch. While we caught nowhere near the numbers touted by the fly shop, the fish that we did catch were gorgeous, healthy, and huge. Nearly every fish exceeded 22 inches, and there were significant numbers of fish in the upper 20s.

My best fish was a 30" rainbow taken on a skated mouse fly. The fish hit like a northern pike and took me into the backing. The scientists of the Kamchatka Peninsula estimate

that fish like that may be as many as ten years old.

The experience of the fishing was also heightened by another element — fear. The Kamchatka Peninsula is home to the largest concentration of grizzly bears in the world. Nothing like a fresh three-quart pile of bear scat to keep your attention. We never had a day where we didn't see a bear walking down the shore toward our boat.

On most occasions, a yell or the guide revving up the jet boat motor would scare the bear back into the woods. On one occasion, however, a sow grizzly and two cubs made it clear that they were headed for our fishing grounds, so we jumped in the boat and headed to a new spot.

Another time, one of the Siberian huskies who occasionally accompanied us charged a full-grown grizzly male and loudly convinced the bear to turn tail. It was a good thing, because the guide's rifle was 50 yards away at the time. Poula (the dog) got a good share of my lunch. For someone whose biggest threat while fishing has been slippery rocks and mosquitoes, the necessity of singing while walking down the shore and looking over my shoulder every third cast was a new



Jon Christiansen

experience.

All in all, the trip was a great experience, and I'm glad I did it. However, I think my next trip will be in the good ol' U.S. of A. I know I can trust the fellow maintaining the airplane, and I can get a good steak at the end of the day.

In the course of our travel, we learned that these big rainbow trout on the Kamchatka Peninsula are there for basically one reason. For 50 years, Petropavlovsk was home to the Soviet Union's eastern submarine fleet, and the largest submarine base in the world. For reasons of Soviet security, the Russian population was severely restricted in its ability to travel, and no foreigners were permitted. This meant simply that the river systems were not developed, not fished — in general, left alone. The result is that the fishing and the fish are from another era, a time that we only read about in books by Zane Grey.

In America, we have very few places that have been left alone, and those that are seem to be under attack. For those places that aren't left alone — those places that have been discovered and those that are nearly loved to death — we have to take

special care that our freedoms do not operate to diminish the quality of the natural resources we continue to enjoy. The freedom to travel, the freedom to use the land, the freedom to develop the land, and the privilege of fishing can and do serve to degrade our resources.

It is Trout Unlimited's mission to conserve, protect, and restore North America's trout and salmon fisheries and their watersheds. Yet, one of America's great freedoms is the freedom *not* to act, to do *nothing*, and to let others do the hard work of protecting the resource.

So, if you are a dues-paying, card-carrying TU member, thank you for your money, thank you for your support, and thank you for your votes on conservation issues. BUT, we would also like you to join in the activities to do something about the protection of our coldwater resources. If you have not attended a chapter meeting lately, attend one. And at that meeting, ask your chapter leadership how you can become involved in what TU does. I guarantee you will find it worthwhile.



## SIBERIAN RAINBOW

Growing big because of the area's isolation, Jon holds a nice fish from the Zhupanova.

## Chapter financials due Nov. 15

By Russ Schnitzer, TU Volunteer Services Coordinator

It is time once again to remind chapters to submit their financial information on time. Here are the important details to be aware of:

- Financial forms will be available on the website in the Leaders Only section on Sept. 30.
- Chapters are responsible for submitting their financials.
- This is an entirely electronic, web-based process. No hard copies will go out from National.
- The deadline is Nov. 15.

As always, we only issue rebates to councils for members in chapters that have submitted their financial forms. In addition, this year we are offering two rod prizes! One rod will be given to a chapter randomly drawn from the list of chapters that submit their financials by Nov. 15. The other rod will be given to a council randomly drawn from the list of councils that have had every chapter submit their financials by Nov. 15.

To access the financial reporting section of the website, take the following steps:

- Log in to the Leaders Only section of the website, using your last name and membership number.
- Click on Financial Report.
- Fill out all the information, as appropriate.
- Hit the submit button once and your financial report is complete.

Any questions should be directed to me in Madison at (608) 252-8404 or to Wendy Reed at TU National at (703) 284-9421 or [wreed@tu.org](mailto:wreed@tu.org).

# Finally, a win for the resource...and the future

By Jeff Smith

TU Legislative Committee Chair

I've been involved in Trout Unlimited legislative matters for the past five years. The frustrating part about it is that it seems we never get a net gain.

When the Supreme Court removed the authority from the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) to protect isolated wetlands, we fought hard to change the statutes giving DNR the authority. TU had a sizable letter-writing campaign going, and we won. A net gain? No, because essentially we simply gave the same authority ACE had to DNR.

Now we finally have a win that is truly a net gain, and a sizable one at that. The change in the polluted runoff rules will now begin to address rural land use practices that resulted in fish kills on Black Earth Creek and other Wisconsin streams in the last few years. The rules will include a future buffer requirement that was one of the last provisions negotiated.

### TU coalition involvement

This win is the result of forming a coalition and a lot of hard work. TU joined and played a leadership role in the Clean Water Coalition (CWC). TU, The River Alliance, The Sierra Club, The Wisconsin Stewardship Network, and 10 other conservation groups came together to convert the original proposals from what was essentially a farm welfare program to a solid environmental initiative — probably the best in the country.

The State Council was represented in these talks by Bill Pielsticker. His leadership during the review process and his persistence on the

buffer provisions resulted in a big net win for trout in Wisconsin.

### The coalition's future

Well, you may ask, if that worked so well, why not use the CWC for other issues. Good idea! The coalition met in the middle of August to discuss how to monitor the implementation of the rules, and to identify what future issues the CWC should address. We developed a list of 31 water issues that the coalition could take on.

The preliminary consensus on the top three the coalition will directly focus their energy on are as follows:

- **Clean Water Act enforcement** — a broad-based campaign to support full enforcement of the Act by DNR.
- **Funding for water programs** — expanding the draw from the Transportation Fund for the motorboat gas tax to be used for river and lake improvements. Also under this topic, cuts in the Water Division in DNR and other water funding issues will be covered.
- **High-capacity wells** — expanding DNR's authority to regulate these wells based on science and resource protection.

In addition to these issues, the CWC will be somewhat active in other TU legislative agenda items such as the Crandon mine purchase, cranberry regulation, use value assessment, and restoring the Public Intervener Office.

At this time other members of the CWC not attending the August meeting were being asked for their sense of priorities.

My take on this is that the CWC will be an ongoing — permanent — body working for legislative and rule changes favorable to the resource. I think this is a major step forward in getting "more clout for trout."

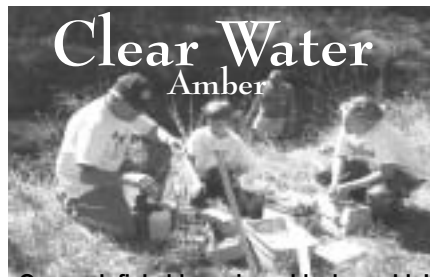


### CLEAN WATER COALITION PRESENTS AWARDS

Bill Pielsticker (top, right) presents one of Todd Hanson's "Clear Water Amber" beer awards (label on right) to TU's Jeff Smith. Enjoying the moment are River Alliance Exec. Director Todd Ambs and Clean Water Coalition Coordinator-Intern Juniper Garver-Hume (middle). The Sierra Club's Caryl Terrell (bottom, left) relaxes with Bill Pielsticker after presenting an award to legislative staffer Pat Henderson (bottom, right) who accepted on behalf of Sen. Jim Baumgart.

### Member Analysis

GOVERNMENT WARNING: If drinking this beer leads to an upset stomach, please seek and implement a strong buffer.



Beered by WIS official brewmaster Todd Hanson 6-5-02

## Next up for Clean Water Coalition: high-cap wells

By Bill Pielsticker

The Clean Water Coalition (CWC), a coalition of some 20 state organizations, has decided to focus on four new issues following approval of the long-awaited rules package to reduce polluted runoff in Wisconsin.

Three of these new issues are of direct interest to Wisconsin TU:

- legislation to regulate high-capacity wells, monitoring and enforcement of the new runoff rules, and
- funding for state water programs.

The fourth issue area is a campaign to improve enforcement of the Clean Water Act in Wisconsin.

The new priorities for the CWC followed from a CWC member meeting in Madison on August 8. TU Legislative Committee Chair Jeff Smith and Southern WI President Bill Pielsticker attended representing Wisconsin Trout Unlimited.

Smith noted, "The regulation of high-capacity wells has been a TU priority for years." He expressed satisfaction that the CWC would focus attention on this.

At the same time, the focus on implementation and enforcement of the polluted runoff rules ties in with the Mott grant Wisconsin TU project aimed at reducing polluted runoff.

The focus on funding for state water programs arose from two concerns.

The first was the effort by some legislators to cut the DNR water program budget more than other state agencies. In one case, there was an unsuccessful effort to take funds from water programs and use them to soften the impact of cuts in the state park program.

A second concern comes from the state's efforts to control chronic wasting disease (CWD) in the deer herd. Unless federal funds are given to Wisconsin to offset state costs, money and personnel to support this effort will have to come from other programs.

The CWC will look at ways to insure that DNR's water programs are adequately funded, and ways to protect those funds from being used for other purposes.

# BHP-Billiton lays off staff State says 'no' to Crandon Mine purchase

By Todd Hanson

Many are expressing surprise that the state of Wisconsin so quickly turned down the possibility of purchasing the Crandon Mine property in a negotiating effort over the past two months being referred to as The Wolf Headwaters Purchase.

No sooner had the second of two mine property estimates been received — one for \$51.2 million and another for \$94 million — than the state declared the purchase dead on Sept. 13.

Groups advocating for the buy-out had expected the process to not end so abruptly. They instead expected the state to involve private interests that might have contributed financially to any buyout, but that opportunity never came.

When Nicolet Minerals Company announced on Sept. 16 that it was laying off its employees in Crandon and Rhinelander, environmental and conservation leaders offered

this as evidence that the state quit negotiating too soon.

Besides laying off its staff, Nicolet Minerals announced plans to sell the mine to another mining company while they continue pursuing mine approval with the WDNR.

Many expect parent company BHP-Billiton will have few takers for the mine. They see a string of recent setbacks for the project, including:

- the Sokaogon Chippewa Tribe's recent victory giving them the ability to enforce their own water quality rules on tribal lands,
- the WDNR rejecting one of Nicolet Minerals' sample mines under the Mining Moratorium Law.

Governor McCallum blamed "the politics of delay" for Nicolet Minerals' problems, but those opposing the mine have long maintained that their objections are based on concerns with the site's impact on groundwater and other pollution risks.

## Hansen to push groundwater standards despite Nicolet pullout

Despite BHP Billiton's decision to close its Nicolet Minerals office in Crandon, Senator Dave Hansen (D-Green Bay), Vice Chair of the Senate Environmental Resources Committee, announced on Sept. 17 that he will continue his efforts to strengthen the state's groundwater standards as they apply to metallic mining.

"While BHP Billiton/Nicolet Minerals has made a corporate decision not to pursue the Crandon Mine project, there is no guarantee that some other party won't come in and pick up where Nicolet Minerals left off. We need to remain vigilant in protecting what is widely regarded as one of the state's greatest natural treasures, the Wolf River," said Hansen who authored legislation last session that would subject metallic mines in Wisconsin to the same groundwater standards as landfills and other Wisconsin businesses.

The history of the Crandon Mine project spans decades and has involved numerous corporations including at one time Exxon Corporation, owner of the Exxon

Valdez that went aground in Prince William Sound, Alaska creating one of the nation's biggest environmental disasters ever.

"While some will take comfort in the fact that BHP Billiton has decided not to pursue the Crandon Mine, there remains a concern that our laws are not strict enough to prevent some other corporation from abusing the resource and causing potentially permanent damage to the Wolf River in their attempts to open and operate the mine."

The state had considered purchasing the property that the mine is located on but Governor McCallum cutoff negotiations when he deemed the asking price too high.

"One can argue whether or not purchasing the mine site is a wise use of state resources given our current budget deficit, but the fact is the Governor has taken that issue off the table for now leaving the Wolf River at risk. And doing everything we can to eliminate that risk should be our top priority including strengthening the groundwater standards and passing the ban on the use of cyanide."



**KIAP-TU-WISH LUNKERS TO THE RESCUE**

The Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter is continuing its work on Cady Creek. They recently held a work day to build lunker structures.

## Crandon Mine information Individuals identified to answer questions on mine

Even though the State of Wisconsin turned down the proposed Wolf Headwaters Purchase in September saying its steep price would deplete the Stewardship Fund, a public-private purchase of the site may still occur at some point in the future. The following people have years of knowledge about the Crandon Mine. TU chapters and members are encouraged to contact any of these people if you need reliable information.

- Fred Ackley** Mole Lake, 715-478-7600, tribal Judge and mining impact committee, Sokaogon Chippewa. Expertise: History, local impacts, tribal perspective.
- Todd Ambs** Madison, 608-257-2424, tams@wisconsinrivers.org, River Alliance of Wisconsin. Expertise: River systems, political process.
- Dave Blouin** Madison, 608-233-8455, burroak15@aol.com, Mining Impact Coalition, Sierra Club. Expertise: Permit process, technical issues with mine, history, political process.
- Herb Buettner** White Lake, 715-882-8610, Wolf River Resort Owner, Trout Unlimited, Wolf River Watershed Alliance, WI Conservation Congress. Expertise: Local impacts, sport fishing, recreation, local business.
- Ken Fish** Keshena, 715-799-5620, noming@frontiernet.net, Director of the Menominee Mining & Treaty Rights Office. Expertise: Local impacts, history, tribal perspective, economic impact and potential.
- Al Gedicks** La Crosse, 608-784-4399, gedicks.albe@mail.uw-lax.edu, Professor of Sociology, Wisconsin Resources Protection Council. Expertise: Socio-economic impacts, history, technical issues with mine.
- Zoltan Grossman** Madison, 715-833-8552/836-4471, GROSSMZC@uwec.edu, Midwest Treaty Network/Wolf Watershed Educational Project, UW-Eau Claire Assistant Professor of Geography. Expertise: Coalition building, mine history, corporate track records.
- Gerry Gunderson** Milwaukee, 414-543-8474, Committee of Labor against Sulfide Pollution (CLASP). Expertise: Labor perspective, history.
- Mineral Policy Cntr.** Washington, DC, 202-887-1872, Mineral Policy Center is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to protecting communities and the environment by preventing the environmental impacts associated with irresponsible mining and mineral development, and by cleaning up pollution caused by past mining. Expertise: Mineral policy, national and global trends.
- Len & Judy Pubanz** Shawano, 715-526-3426, pubanzonwolf@WebTV.net, Protect our Wolf River (POWR) Expertise: Local impacts, history.
- George Rock** White Lake, 715-882-4800, riverrocks@dwave.net, Trout Unlimited, WI Resources Protection Council, Wolf River Watershed Alliance. Expertise: Local impacts to sport fishing and economy.
- Bob Schmitz** White Lake, 414-499-3075, Wolf River Watershed Alliance, Communication Workers of America. Expertise: Labor perspective, history.
- Claire Schmidt** Madison, 608-251-7020, schmidt@chorus.net, Wisconsin's Environmental Decade, Wisconsin Stewardship Network. Expertise: Alternatives to mining, purchase process, media contact.
- Chuck Sleeter** Town of Nashville, 715-484-8166, town-nash@newnorth.net, Chairman, Town of Nashville Expertise: Local government, economic impacts and potential, history.
- Joanne Sleeter** Town of Nashville, 715-484-8166, town-nash@newnorth.net, Town Clerk, Town of Nashville. Expertise: Local government, financial perspective, economic impacts and potential.
- Caryl Terrell** Madison, 608-256-0565, cterrell@execpc.com, John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club. Expertise: Purchase process, history, technical issues with the mine, political process.
- Fran Van Zile** Mole Lake, 715-478-7600, Mining impact committee of Mole Lake Sokaogon Chippewa. Expertise: Local impacts, tribal perspective, cultural impacts.
- Robert Van Zile** Mole Lake, 715-478-5276, Spiritual Leader of Mole Lake Sokaogon Chippewa. Expertise: Local impacts, tribal perspective, cultural perspective.
- Tina Van Zile** Mole Lake, 715-478-2604, tinavz30@newnorth.net, Vice Chair of the Mole Lake Sokaogon Chippewa. Expertise: Local impacts, tribal perspective.
- Tom Wilson** 608-637-3356, resenergy@mwt.net, Wisconsin Stewardship Network, Northern Thunder. Expertise: State mining policy, Flambeau mine, political process.
- Jim Wise** Tomahawk, 715-453-3676, ecowise@newnorth.net, Environmentally Concerned Citizens of the Lakeland Area (ECCOLA). Expertise: Local impacts, tourism, local business, recreation.
- Sonny Wreczycki** Ainsworth, 715-484-3231, Rolling Stone Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District. Expertise: Technical issues, history, local impacts.

—List by Claire Schmidt, Wisconsin's Environmental Decade

## Welter given TU conservation volunteer award

TU National has honored John "Duke" Welter as this year's outstanding conservation volunteer at the TU National conference in Portland, ME, in August.

Welter concluded a three-year stint as Chair of the Wisconsin Council of TU in February of 2002, serving with distinction during a tumultuous time.

During his tenure as Chair, Trout Unlimited was a major voice in motivating the State of Wisconsin to pass a state-based replacement wetland protection bill following the Illinois Supreme Court decision eliminating the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' ability to regulate isolated wetlands.

Earlier in John's tenure, TU rebuffed the Perrier Group's plans to site a high-capacity well near the headwaters of the Mecan River, one of Central Wisconsin's premier coldwater spring creeks.

The effort to halt these plans required that John sacrifice a tremendous amount of time and energy, and there is little doubt that without such dedication, the outcome would have been less certain.

John is currently the Region 5 Vice President, and his energy for carrying forward TU's mission at the local, state, and national levels ensures that TU will continue to benefit from John's presence for years to come.



**JOHN "DUKE" WELTER WITH CHARLES GAUVIN**

Duke Welter (left) receives TU National's Conservation Volunteer Award from TU President Charles Gauvin in Portland, ME.

## Nonpoint toolkit being developed for "Sustainable TU" campaign

By Laura Hewitt

A State Council committee has been working with TU staff to plan the direction of the nonpoint campaign for the coming year.

The focus will be the planning, development, and implementation of a *Nonpoint Pollution Control Toolkit* for council and chapter volunteers. The toolkit will provide information on techniques, programs, and funding sources available to help landowners put these important conservation practices on the ground.

The Clean Water Coalition (CWC) is developing a toolkit to help citizens monitor local imple-

mentation of the new nonpoint pollution rules. The Wisconsin TU Nonpoint Toolkit will contain the CWC information, but the primary focus will be on encouraging and assisting landowners.

The committee will be meeting with TU staff on October 12 to develop a plan for completing the toolkit. The intent is to have the toolkit completed by January.

On Saturday, February 1, TU staff will conduct another training session concurrent with the State Council meeting. This year the focus of the training will be on the content and use of the toolkit.

More information will be forthcoming about the February training, but start thinking about

people in your chapter to recruit to attend the training!

The Wisconsin nonpoint campaign is part of an initiative called "Sustainable TU" that is being piloted in Wisconsin, Michigan, North Carolina, and Tennessee. The purpose of "Sustainable TU" is to utilize the strengths of both staff and volunteers in a conservation campaign that also strengthens the state councils and the rest of the organization.

The "Sustainable TU" initiative is made possible through a grant from the C.S. Mott Foundation.

Mark your calendar for Wisconsin TU's

# Annual State Council Banquet

Saturday, Feb. 1, 2003

Park Plaza Hotel, Oshkosh



**PRIZES! RAFFLES! AUCTIONS! FUN! PRIZES! RAFFLES! AUCTIONS!**



# WITU State Council holds fall meeting in Plover

By Chuck Stuedel

WITU State Council Secretary

The fall meeting of the Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited was called to order by Chair Jon Christiansen at 10:00 a.m. on Sept. 14 at Shooter's Supper Club in Plover.

projects. Revenue has gone up 7% with expenses going up 12% in 2001. Investments have taken a hit with the economy and stock market. Since 1995 TU has grown from one field office to 13 offices, and staff has grown from 23 to 43.

Spending on programs averages \$59,000 per member. In 2002 the staff has been reduced by

Wildlife sign that the Council has been involved in to honor Jeff Carlson. This sign has been changed and re-worked by the artist and the result is a bill for \$650. The Wild River chapter asked that the State Council help out with the costs. Council passed resolution to spend \$325.

### Nonpoint tool kit in development

Lou Gauen of the SE Chapter spoke about the Mott Grant committees work. Lou is the chair of the committee. They are in the process of preparing a "tool kit" on non-point pollution which can be used by members to work through non-point problems. There will be a half-day training session at the Feb. State Council meeting to help the clubs become involved with this monitoring effort. The kit will contain resources, documents, addresses, and web site info. Laura Hewitt from National's office in Madison will coordinate the instruction.

### Crandon mine pullout discussed

A discussion was held on the Crandon Mine. The price the company wants for the land includes the value of the minerals, which in today's climate have little value. It is clear that the permit process has revealed more and more environmental problems and that the company will be unable to meet the requirements of the mining moratorium bill. All staff in the Crandon area have recently been laid off, and the flow of campaign money to Madison has slowed to a trickle.

### DNR asking for CWD help

Chuck Stuedel discussed the chronic wasting disease (CWD) issue as it applies to the coldwater resource and DNR funding. He explained the need for volunteers to help with the registration work and passed out information on helping out.

Todd Hanson spoke on publications. The CD of past *Wisconsin Trout* electronic issues is out to every chapter. The latest *Wisconsin Trout* will come out soon. He discussed the procedure for chapters to get extra copies to pass out at meetings, etc. Todd requested profiles on chapter presidents for future issues and for articles or reports on successful projects and fundraising ideas to share with the readers. Todd is also looking for a picture of WITU's friend, Nash Williams, who recently died.

A discussion was held on a letter Dave Patrick, president of the Blackhawk Chapter received from the Council Chair of the Illinois State Council, Chair Christiansen will work on the issues mentioned in the letter.

### Ducks Unlimited festival help

Jim Hlaban discussed the Ducks Unlimited Great Outdoor Festival and possible State Council participation in the event. The Fox Valley chapter is burned out on this and wants help. Costs are about \$300 plus a good dose of manpower. It was noted that this is great exposure to large number of people. Efforts will be made to involve Laura Hewitt of the Madison office and to involve as many chapters as possible to spread the work around.

### WDNR fish managers

Larry Claggett, Mike Staggs, and Steve Hewett of the WDNR's fisheries programs spoke about the trout stamp program, and Larry presented a draft plan for the next year. In general the trout stamp surpluses has been spent down, and with the budget mess, all areas of the DNR face uncertainty in funding. The Council discussed the regional distribution of these funds with the west-central area getting the most funding.

Some of the recommendations are that areas that are actually doing the work get the funding, that there be more experienced oversight with the help, that there be flexibility into an uncertain future, and that the concept of partnership with outside groups and parties be expanded.

Continued on p. 11



### NEW CHAPTER PRESIDENTS AT COUNCIL MEETING

Three new chapter presidents were at the State Council meeting Sept. 14 in Plover. Posing for this picture are (left to right) Dave Ehrenberg of the Shaw-Paca Chapter, Bob Chamberlain of the Central Wisconsin Chapter, and Allon Bostwick of the newly chartered Ocooch Creeks Chapter.

### New WITU chapter introduced

Allon Bostwick, president of the new Ocooch Creek Chapter of Richland County was introduced.

Jon Christiansen gave the chair's report. Jon reported on his attendance at the National TU conference held this summer in Portland, ME.

### TU National reorganization

There is currently a re-organization of the TU National structure underway. TU's current member input vehicle has been the National Resource Board (NRB). The NRB has little member input, making recommendations to the Board of Directors which makes the final decisions.

The aim of the new structure is to get more citizen input. The NRB will be replaced by the National Leadership Council (NLC) which will have representation from every state council with staggered terms of about three years. Bylaws are being looked at and adjusted. Jon will have more details to report at the upcoming February meeting. The goal is to bring TU National closer to its grassroots level.

In 1992 there were 55,000 members of TU. Today there are 130,000 members.

About 75% of national's budget goes to

20%, the growth target has been lowered, and the organization has adjusted to current economic conditions. Jon reports that National has made many tough decisions and is running a very healthy operation.

### Regional vice chair reports

Larry Meicher reported on the formation of the new Ocooch Creek Chapter and on the Nohr Chapter's September 28 Conclave.

Larry Kriese reported that the NE region was still interested in and working on culvert and road repair issues that affect streams. The NE region will next meet Dec. 14.

John Bethke reports stream conditions have been great in the western region and that instead of having long meetings, they have been fishing more.

The Nominating Committee will be active in anticipation of the next election of officers at the February meeting.

### Council finances

Larry Meicher gave the treasurer's report. The Endowment Fund is currently at \$3,288 which includes \$1,600 in memory of past State Council Chair Ron Ahner, \$800 from Jeff Carlson, \$300 from John Babrich, and \$100 in memory of Tom Paulson. The current balance for the State Council in all funds is about \$45,000.

There was discussion on the amount of money a group like the State Council should have, what type of accounts it should be in, and what council funds should be used for. Jon Christiansen discussed the concept of a State Council Exec. Director, some of the costs involved, and some of the benefit. This is an issue we will be discussing and making decisions on in the future.

### Carlson sign supported

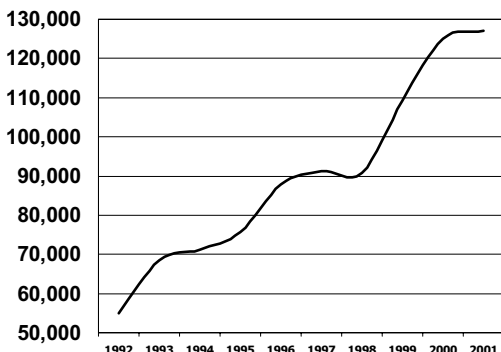
Bill Heart discussed the Fish and



### BANQUET GURU

Dan Holland gave a spirited rundown of plans for the Feb. 1 State Council banquet in Oshkosh. So mark your calendar already!

## TU Nationwide Membership



## TU's trout stream 'conservation buyer' program underway

By Jim Hlaban

I have had several people contact me who wish to become conservation buyers of properties with trout waters on them. I hope to have many more do so as they become familiar with what we are trying to do.

A conservation buyer can come in many different forms:

- Someone who wants to own and just enjoy the land.
- Someone who wants to own the land and protect the stream with a conservation easement.
- Someone who wants to own the land, protect the stream with a conservation easement, and provide a home site(s) consistent with maintaining the natural condition of the land and minimizing impacts to the stream and wildlife, or
- Someone who is willing to buy the land and own it until a responsible conservation buyer can be found.

Know of available properties?

To work effectively, the program also needs to know of properties that come up for sale. If you know of a property with trout water on it that is — or is going to be — up for sale, please let me know. If I have someone with an interest in protecting trout water in that area, I can

help make the connection.

Recently I have heard of properties, but I have not had buyers who expressed an interest in the areas. Peterson Creek and the Embarrass River are two examples. Both are class 1 brook trout waters. One is being developed with home sites, and the other may end up being protected by the buyers concerned about unfettered development.

This scenario calls attention to the last conservation buyer described above. Trout water in Wisconsin would benefit greatly if some of you could come forward who would be willing to contribute to the purchase of land with the idea that it could be protected and resold.

If you would let me know that you would be willing to contribute to the purchase of land with the idea that it would be resold and your investment would be returned, I am sure that your fishing success would greatly improve. An investment of as little as \$1,000 could make a big difference.

If you are interested in getting involved in this program or if you just want more information please contact me at:

N5967 Murray Road  
Ogdensburg, WI 54962  
(920) 244-7456  
WISCPR@Wolfnet.net

## State Council award nominations sought

State Council Awards Committee Chair Larry Meicher is now accepting nominations for the Council's yearly awards.

Nominations must be in the form of a written narrative de-

scribing the accomplishments of the candidate, chapter, or entity and submitted by Dec. 1 to:

Larry Meicher  
5258 Salisbury Rd.  
Rio, WI 53960

### Awards Criteria

#### Trout Unlimited Resource Award of Merit

- Recipient can be a person, corporation, organization, employer, or representative of any of the above. May be a nonmember.
- Award can be presented posthumously.
- Award is given for outstanding contributions to conservation (does not need to be given for trout or salmon contributions).

*Nature of award — TU National's print of the year or the Wisconsin trout stamp print of the year with inscribed plate attached.*

#### Lee & Joan Wolf Conservation Leadership Award

- Recipient an individual who has demonstrated outstanding service in the field of conservation.
- Recipient to be selected by the Exec. Committee of the Council.
- Award remains with a recipient for one year and then travels to the next year's recipient.

*Nature of award — a framed collection of flies tied by Lee Wulff.*

#### Trout Unlimited Gold Trout Award for Service

- Recipient must be a member in good standing of Wisconsin TU.
- Award will be presented to any person who has been an officer of the State Council, a national director, or any committee chairman, elected or appointed. This individual must have served at least one year of his or her term.

*Nature of award — an inscribed plaque with leaping gold trout.*

#### Trout Unlimited Gold Net Award

- Recipient an individual who has been a member in good standing of WITU for a period of at least five years.
- Recipient must have participated in at least one major state or chapter fund-raising event in the last five years.
- Recipient must have worked on or attended at least five TU resource projects in the last five years.

*Nature of award — a custom net with gold mesh and inscribed handle.*

#### Silver Trout Award for Chapter Merit

- Recipient a WITU chapter that has restored, enhanced, or protected Wisconsin's trout or salmon resource.
- Total value of the project, including the value placed on man-hours and materials, must total at least \$3,500.
- The project must involve trout and salmon resources available to the public to fish. Projects for private use only do not qualify.
- The end result of the project must demonstrate a long-term commitment or benefit to the trout or salmon resource.

*Nature of award — a silver plaque with printed inscription.*

#### Jeffrey Carlson Volunteer Award

- Recipient a WITU member who, following the example of Jeff's work over many years on coaster brook trout restoration, has taken a leadership role on a major project that either improved an entire stream, reach, or watershed, or which preserved or restored a species in a body of water.
- The recipient's efforts on the project in question must span more than one year.

*Nature of award — inscribed plaque suitable for on-site placement.*

#### Special Appreciation DNR Personnel Award

- Recipient a state fish manager who has shown concern for the trout resource over and above his or her normal duties.

*Nature of award — a certificate outlining his or her accomplishments.*

#### Certificate of Appreciation

- Recipient must be members of Wisconsin TU, with the exception of certain landowners only.
- Recipient can be indirectly related to the trout and salmon resource (e.g., the recipient can be a landowner on a project, an educator, a media representative, a contributor of certain equipment, or a related conservation organization).
- Recipient can be someone in an organization for his or her efforts within that organization (e.g., DNR employee).

*Nature of award — a certificate outlining his or her accomplishments.*

**NOTES:** All award nominations must be submitted to the awards committee as a written narrative describing the candidates' accomplishments, be that nominee an individual, chapter, or other. Nominations must be submitted to the committee at least 60 days before the annual banquet. Successful recipients will be notified by the committee at least 15 days prior to the banquet. All award recipients must be present at the awards banquet. The judgment and selection of all award recipients will be made by the awards committee, and their selections will be final.

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**TWO GREAT FISHING TRIPS**

TU Midwest Office Volunteer Services Coordinator Russ Schnitzer (left) recently returned from a two-week trip to Alaska's Copper River delta. There he caught between 150 and 200 cohos averaging about 30 inches each. Russ says his arms are still tired. Meanwhile, Northwoods Chapter President Brian Hegge (above) took time out from a hunting trip in the Northwest Territories of Canada to fish for grayling. Brian caught a couple dozen grayling like this in the 5-18 inch range.

# Scorecard to tell voters how their legislators rate

By Jeff Smith

Votes on returning the appointment of the Secretary of the DNR to the DNR Board, protecting isolated wetlands, using cyanide in metallic mining, exempting Ashley Furniture Industries, Inc. from wetland laws, and establishing a constitutional right to hunt, fish, and trap are featured in the first-ever *WLCV 2002 Conservation Scorecard*.

Published by the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters (WLCV), the *2002 Scorecard* shows how each member of the Wisconsin Senate and Assembly voted on key conservation and environmental issues during 2001 and 2002.

The *2002 Scorecard* rates each member of the Senate and Assembly on a series of conservation and environmental votes cast on the floor of each chamber (floor votes). In the Senate, 10 members received 100% ratings, while 4 of the 33 Senators managed only 30%. In the Assembly, 20 members received a 100% score while 8 managed less than 40%.

The five members of the Senate Committee on Environmental Resources were identified as "Environmental Champs" for standing together and insisting that Wisconsin pass a strong bill to protect isolated wetlands. This legislation was needed after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that "isolated" wetlands (those not connected to navigable waters) were not subject to federal regulation. The WLCV calls this "the most important piece of conservation legislation of the past two years."

The WLCV asked over 50 indi-

viduals active in hunting and fishing groups and environmental organizations to help select votes to be used in the Scorecard. The list of possible votes was narrowed down with the help of an Advisory Committee of 15 individuals, including Jeff Smith, legislative chair for Wisconsin TU, former DNR Secretary George Meyer, Bucky Kilishek with the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, and Caryl Terrell with the Wisconsin Sierra Club.

The final selections were made by Scorecard Chair Bill Pielsticker, president of SWTU and founding president of the WLCV, and were ratified by the WLCV board. It was emphasized throughout the process that partisanship was to play no role in the selection of issues.

In addition to floor votes, the *WLCV 2002 Conservation Scorecard* also includes a review of key committee votes, including

- votes on regulating high-capacity wells,
- splitting the DNR into two agencies, and
- the effort to take money from the DNR's water program and give it to the state park operations and roads budget.

For a copy of the *2002 Scorecard*, call the WLCV office in Waunakee at (608) 850-4585. You can also view or print the *2002 Scorecard* at the group's website at [www.wlcv.org](http://www.wlcv.org).

*(The WLCV is a nonprofit, non-partisan organization dedicated to electing conservation leaders to the state legislature and encouraging lawmakers to champion conservation policies that effectively protect Wisconsin's public health and natural resources.)* —Ed.



# MEETING: State Council holds fall meeting in Plover

*Continued from p. 9*

After discussion at the end of Larry's report, there was general agreement that stream habitat funding from sources other than the trout stamp has in fact declined and that this was contrary to the intent of all parties when the trout stamp was started.

**February banquet**

A discussion was held on the banquet. It will be on Feb. 1, 2003 in Oshkosh. There were many ideas shared and some of them will be used.

Dan Holland led the discussion, and anyone with any suggestions should contact him at [dholland@coredes.com](mailto:dholland@coredes.com).

**Bottom draw study**

A discussion was held on the Gollon Bottom Draw Study and the impact aquaculture could have on the state's coldwater resources. Among the possible avenues of action that were discussed were:

1. to refute the conclusions of the study to all interested parties,
2. to call into question the level of cooperation the State Council and Water Resource Committee received from DNR and DAPTC

officials, and

3. to encourage a press investigation into perceived trampling of the public trust doctrine. Further study of the report will take place before the next council meeting.

**Water resources report**

Stu Grimstad, Water Resource chair, reported on upcoming meetings of interest to TU. A stream monitoring conference is coming up in September, and The River Alliance conference is scheduled for November at the Lions Camp in Rosholt. It was agreed that there can be "scholarship" support for members of the State Council who attend meetings like these if the members request it. In October there will be a Waters in Wisconsin conference.

Grimstad discussed efforts in Forest County to "roll back" zoning requirements on the Pine and Poplar Rivers which have some wild river protection.

The meeting closed at 4:25 and was followed by a short Friends of Wisconsin TU grant allocation meeting.

# Discharges into Tomorrow River Amherst wastewater plant wins national quality award

The Village of Amherst's municipal wastewater treatment plant — a facility that discharges into the high-quality Tomorrow River trout stream — has won a national award for excellence.

The Village of Amherst's wastewater treatment facility received a national award in the small community category from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in a ceremony in Chicago at the national conference of the Water Environmental Federation.

The Village of Amherst's Wastewater Treatment Facility in Portage County serves a population of 983 people and discharges to the Tomorrow River, a Class I trout stream and an exceptional and outstanding resource water.

The Amherst plant, built in the mid-1990s, replaces original facilities built in the 1940s, and discharges effluent well below the limits contained in its operating permit.

Also receiving awards were the treatment plants in Brodhead and Thorp.



## Chapter News



Brian Hegge photo

### BOY, ARE THEY GOING TO INHALE THIS ONE

The Northwoods Chapter held its 9th Annual Youth Fly Fishing Conclave July 13th. Event Chair Wayne Parmley thanks Terry Cummings, Brian Hegge, Ron Rogowski, Robert & Phyllis Tabbert, and Mike Thorson of St. Croix Rods for donating the grand door prize fly rod kit. Thanks also to Al Brooks with Sysco Foods for a great lunch, Bill Sherer's We Tie It fly shop for fly tying door prizes and general support, Kit Deubler for spring pond books for everyone, and Victoria Houston for her PR services.

### Central Wisconsin Chapter

In hopes of generating more interest and participation, Central Wisconsin Chapter is providing a number of monthly high-interest programs. These programs are related to coldwater resources, trout fishing, and the TU mission. Thanks go to Program Chair **John Feeney**, President **Bob Chamberlain**, and VP **John Gremmer** for assembling the program series. The schedule is as follows:

- September 9: **Darrel Toliver** presenting "Alaska Float Trips" at **Peck's Plantation** in Wautoma.
- October 14: **John Feeney** presenting "Alaska Float Trips" at **Peck's Plantation** in Wautoma.
- November 11: **Ross Mueller** presenting "Favorite Wisconsin Trout Streams" at the Fin 'N Feather in Winneconne.
- January 13: **Bob Hunt** presenting "Trout Stream Ecology — What's There and What's Going On There" at Peck's Plantation in Wautoma.
- February 13: Central Wisconsin Chapter's five-part Second Annual **Master's Fly Tying Series** starts at **Winneconne High School**.
- March 8: Central Wisconsin

Chapter's **Annual Funday** at Algoma Town Hall in Oshkosh.

- March 22: Central Wisconsin Chapter's Annual Banquet at the Pioneer Inn in Oshkosh.
- April 14: **John Gremmer** presents "Fly Rod Building, Any Idiot Can Do It!" at the Fin 'N Feather in Winneconne.
- May 10: Central Wisconsin Chapter's First Annual Trout Fishing Outing starting at Peck's Plantation in Wautoma.

Due to the efforts of the Central Wisconsin Chapter and the DNR's **Sean Eisch**, seven miles of trout water will be extended on Magdanz Creek down to **Walla Walla Creek**. Mr. Eisch did the bulk of the work with CWTU providing the money to pay the legal fees for the removal of the **Old Niemuth Saw Mill Dam**. The dam was officially abandoned on August 5th. **Jack Wahlers** and **Edward Engle** were recognized by **Town Chairman Dennis Tolley** of the Town of Big Flats for their efforts in the repair of damage done by the storm of July 13th. **Wahlers** and **Engle** speeded up the replacement of culverts on Beaver Road, Bighorn Road, and Brown Deer Avenue.

Work Day Chairman **Rich Miodzik** reports that the July and August work days were well attend-

ed and very productive. On July 20 1/4 mile of stream was cleared of downed trees. The August 10 work day took place on the **Little Pine** south of Wautoma. Storm damage was repaired and a great deal of brush was cleared.

Thanks go to **Dave Johnson** and **Jack Wahlers** for organizing and providing the food for the chapter picnic that followed the August 10 work day. About 30 members attended the picnic that was followed by a special program by author and

international fisherman **Jim Chapralis** (*Fishing Passion, A Life-long Love Affair With Angling*, Angling Matters Press). The event was held at the **Mecan River Discovery Center**. Mr. Chapralis talked about his life in the international fishing travel business and presented a very impressive distance casting demonstration. Thanks go to Secretary **Tom Poullette** and President **Bob Chamberlain** for organizing this special event.

—John Gremmer

### Coulee Region Chapter

In 1998, The Coulee Region Chapter began work on the middle stretch of **Mormon Coulee Creek**, a mere 10 miles from downtown La Crosse. Since then, with DNR guidance and some heavy lifting, approximately 2,560 feet of this beautiful spring creek have been improved.

Channel narrowing, deflectors, bank stabilization, and large numbers of wooden bank structures have been featured improvements. About 40 structures were built by chapter members in 2002 alone. Some \$171,000 in funds from the chapter and the DNR have made this project a success.

Chapter officials are now applying for a new **River Protection Grant** which should help to complete the remaining sections below the **Highway NN bridge**. This jewel-

like stream supports good numbers of mature browns and beautifully colored brook trout.

Coulee region dry fly fishing in the never-ending July-August heat wave was predictably slow, with far fewer caddis noted than in previous years (is there a relationship here?). Trico activity in the mid-morning to early afternoon was often featured, coupled at times with solid hopper action around the middle of the day. Good micro midge (#22-26 black-and gray-bodied midge adults) and small olive emergences were to be counted on for up to and after dark action. Lots of healthy, small fish ready to bend those rods. Great water levels maintained throughout the summer with not a lot of stream damage from our frequent storms.

—Rich Bain

### Frank Hornberg Chapter

The Frank Hornberg Chapter had another busy summer. Our June and August work evenings were held at our **Stedman Creek** work site. In June we did brushmatting, storm damage clean up, and fence repair. In August we did brushmatting and some repair work to an overhead structure. This should end our work project on Stedman Creek. We may schedule an occasional work evening for repair work if needed.

The rest of the summer has been spent at our **Welton Road** work site on the **Tomorrow River**. In the morning at the June work day we installed a brushmat below the 161 bridge in Nelsonville. We also cut pilings for a future work event. In the afternoon we added more brush to some existing structures.

The July work evening was also spent adding brush to existing brushmats. At the July work day we added 16 feet of overhead to an existing structure.

We had a great turnout for the August work day and decided to divide into two work crews. One crew spent the day hauling culled Christmas trees for a future work event. The other crew spent the day installing overhead structure and repositioning some large rock into the stream channel. Thanks to **Tim Landwehr** from **Tight Lines Fly Shop** in De Pere for bringing over a group of enthusiastic workers.

We held our third annual fundraiser on Aug. 9 at **Shooters Supper Club** in Plover. Thanks to **Gene Shulfer**, his employees, and members for making this event a success.

—Jim Henke

### Green Bay Chapter

When the chapter suspended meetings for the summer, its members didn't stop their efforts on behalf of trout. Instead, they rolled up their sleeves and went to work. Led by Work Project Chairperson **Janet Smith**, members spent two days performing maintenance at the **Walk-Through Educational Trout Stream** at the **Brown County Reforestation Camp**.

This trail, constructed by the chapter about 10 years ago, takes hikers along **Hallers Creek** where displays show some of the things that are harmful to stream such as storm sewer runoff, manure runoff, and beaver dams. Also depicted are such things as a properly sited farm yard, a pasture pump, and a gated cattle crossing which does not harm a stream. Other displays depict a half log installation, how a bank cover is constructed, and a sand trap.

Having finished with this, members began working instream to help trout. Although weather forced the cancellation of one work day, three

days were spent clearing debris from several creeks that flow out of spring ponds that provide cold water for the **Lakewood Trout Hatchery**. The idea was that increasing the flow would provide colder water to the hatchery during hot summer days.

Apparently, this was a rousing success as **Russ Heiser** reported that even though hatchery workers were prepared to use salt to calm nervous fish when the water temperatures got very high, around 69 degrees, the water temperature never rose to the point where the salt was needed. The highest temp seen was less than 65 degrees.

Members also spent a day working on the **1st South Branch of the Oconto River**. Again, debris was removed from the streambed allowing for swifter flowing water and silt to be washed away from spawning areas. Members also remarked about the vastly improved trout habitat observed in areas of this stream where similar efforts were undertaken in recent years.

# Chapter News



The chapter has one more project scheduled for October 5 when they'll help the DNR collect brood stock for the wild trout rearing and stocking program.

Our 12th Annual Kids Fishing Day Aug. 14 at the Brown County Reforestation Camp was a success. Project Chairman **Lee Meyers** and Vice Chairman **Pat Hill** said that the event just keeps getting bigger and better every year. They also thanked all the volunteers whose efforts ensure the success of the outing. Other chapter members participating in-

cluded: **Larry Vollrath, Orv Sharp, Vincent Champeau, Jacob Hill, Jim Vanden Branden, Bruce & John Deuchert, Larry Kriese, Hank Mencheski, JJ Goodwin, Leo Niekowitz, Grant Craig, Dan Ferron, Dennis Gusick and Pete Harris.**

The chapter also thanks the following businesses for their cash and merchandise donations: **Associated Bank, Morning Glory, Moonshiners Liquor Store, Bob's Bait & Tackle, and Apple Creek Catering.**

—*Gary Stoychoff*

## Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter

The summer has found us busy completing the project work on **McPherson Creek** between Lancaster and Platteville. We should be completed by the end of September. Work is progressing on our next major project, which will be **Big Spring Creek** in Iowa County.

One outcome of the dry spell we've had is the DNR crew is ahead of schedule and **Bradd Sims**, fisheries biologist, asked us to make 75 lunger structures for the **Steiner Creek** in Lafayette County. Under the capable leadership of **Pete Esser**, project chair, our new nail gun and drill got a good workout and the project was completed in two Saturday mornings of work.

Meeting programs have focused on restoration topics. **Dave Vetrano** led off the series, followed by **Bob Hunt, Roger Widner of the West Fork Sportsman Club, and Jeff Hastings of Vernon County Soil and Conservation Service** will complete the series in November. January's meeting will feature **Ross Mueller**. Time to relax and enjoy the winter and trout fishing in Iowa.

The fall is a busy time for our water monitors. Several will attend the first statewide **Citizen Water Monitoring Conference**. Additionally the

third annual **Water Celebration** will be held in November. This is a regional conference for citizen monitors from the driftless region of the state.

A new endeavor for our chapter will have happened on Sept. 28. The first-ever **End of the Season Conclave** will have been held on the banks of **Otter Creek** between Dodgeville and Highland on Highway Q. Money raised will be divided equally between our chapter work and the DNR's wild fish program.

**Barbara Ballard and Dave Petersen** continue to work very hard at compiling a database of people who attend our events, meetings, and workdays. This allows us to evaluate efforts at leadership development that we implemented after attending last year's workshop sponsored by the State Council.

Finally this is the first year our intern has been supervised by **Bradd Sims**, fisheries biologist with the DNR. The internship is a cooperative effort between the **University of Wisconsin-Platteville** and the **DNR**. **David Canny** does a commendable job of facilitating this program. We look forward to listening to **Wendy**, the intern, at our Sept. meeting.

—*Dave Fritz*

## Marinette County Chapter

Our chapters' monthly meetings will resume in October.

Organizations, schoolteachers, retirees and other citizens monitoring the quality of Wisconsin streams and rivers gathered Sept. 20-21 in Wisconsin Rapids for the first-ever statewide conference dedicated to volunteer stream monitoring.

Stream monitoring coordinators from Iowa and Indiana spoke at the **Volunteer Stream Monitoring Conference**, as well as representatives from volunteer stream monitoring programs across Wisconsin. Hands-on sessions were offered to help participants learn beginning and advanced monitoring techniques, including how to identify insects and

other macroinvertebrates that can serve as indicators of stream health.

Three area high school students were given full scholarships to attend the UW-Stevens Point **Wisconsin DNR Natural Resource Careers Camp** by our chapter. Each scholarship is \$255. The students attending were **Travis Hartman** of Marinette and **Haley Malke and Eric Walters** of Peshtigo.

**Greg Frederiksen** of Marinette was also scheduled to attend but he was unable to attend and his tuition was put into the **General Legacy Fund** at the **Central Wisconsin Environmental Station**.

—*Jim Bereza*

## Northwoods Chapter

The Northwoods Chapter had a very enjoyable summer hosting our 9th Annual **Youth Fly Fishing Conclave** on July 13. We invested in several rod sets and new fly tying kits for this event that were partially funded by a **C.D. Besadny Conservation Grant** we received last spring. We had many 10-12-year-olds this year who had never held a fly rod. It was thoroughly enjoyable to see their eyes light up as they learned how to tie a wooly bugger and toss a fly line.

**Wayne Parnley** did a tremendous job along with the help he received from a great crew. Thanks to **Terry Cummings, Ron Rogowski, Bob & Phyllis Tabbert** (and their friends), **Victoria Houston**, and

**Mike Thorson of St. Croix Rods**, who donated a great fly rod outfit as the grand door prize. And special thanks to **Al Brooks** from **Sysco Foods** for donating lunch; **Bill Sherer** from **We Tie It** fly shop for donating door prizes; and **Kit Deubler** for his donation of spring pond books for everyone.

Stream workdays were held on August 10 and September 21 on the **Bearskin River**. We continue to install and maintain brush bundles on the river. We are also working with the WDNR to prepare a list of habitat improvement activities on the Bearskin over the next several years.

The Chapter funded WDNR stream habitat improvement work this past summer on the **Brule** and



John Greiner photo

## CENTRAL WISCONSIN WORKDAY CREW RELAXES

The Central Wisconsin Chapter had a successful August workday on the Little Pine River south of Wautoma. The crew repaired in-stream structures damaged by recent storms and cleared some brush from the banks. Taking part were (back, left to right) **Dan Colligan, Bob Hunt, Gary Herlache, Jim Williams, Rich Mlodzik** (workday chair), and **Bob Chamberlain**. Front row: **Brock Dibble, Tracy Moran, Jan Moldenhauer, and Dan Dibble.**

**Elvoy Creeks**, and we are looking forward to a field trip this fall to observe the results. Next summer the chapter will provide funding for the **Rock Dam Site Stream Restoration Project** on the Brule and Elvoy Creeks. We have received a grant from **Friends of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited** and requested funding from **Miller Friends of the Field**. Thank you Friends of Wisconsin TU for your support of this project.

We have just started planning events for the 2002-2003 season. So

far we've penciled in our Christmas Party for December 17, a full-day seminar with **Rich Ostoff** on February 15, and we expect to move our annual banquet up one month to February 25 to avoid conflicts with other banquets in the area. We are still working on meeting times and places for officers and board members and other events so check our website at [www.northwoodstu.org](http://www.northwoodstu.org) for updates.

—*Brian Hegge*

## Oconto River Chapter

On October 5 the DNR, along with the **Green Bay Chapter of TU**, will be taking about 50 large brown and brook trout from the **South Branch of the Oconto River** and holding them in our chapter's trout tanks until they're ready to spawn.

When they hatch, we expect to have some 30,000 native trout which

will be raised to about 5-6 inches and eventually placed back into the Oconto river system.

Earlier this summer our chapter's tent was damaged in a thunderstorm while set up for our annual fish pond at the **Oconto County Fair**.

—*Dave Brunner*

## Shaw-Paca Chapter

Not much news to report from Shaw-Paca this summer. Chapter meetings are now the 3rd Thursday of the month from September to May at **Mathew's Supper Club**, 155 8th St., Clintonville. Our October meeting, however, will be held at Prime Time in Marion.

Our new chapter president is **Dave Ehrenberg**, who can be reached at 324 Fourth St., Manawa, WI 54949, (920) 596-3089, or by e-mail at [skyonna@netnet.net](mailto:skyonna@netnet.net).

—*Lee Kersten*

## Wild Rivers Chapter

On June 7-9 we held our second annual chapter campout. We had about eight people attend for at least some of the time, including **Dan Cervin, Damian Wilmot, Dick Berge, Bill Heart, Chuck Campbell, Joey & Metro Maznio and Jeff Dahl**. The campout was held on **Lake Owen** and we fished primarily for smallmouth bass.

Our July meeting was a work day at **Jeff Carlson's** house. We did some mowing and cleaned up the construction material from a new roof job on the house. **Jeff's father Boyd** has also been doing some remodeling on the inside of the house. He has it looking pretty nice. We will be doing more work this fall. And of course, **John Caspersen** made a wonderful meal.

The August meeting featured **Dave Vetrano**, WDNR Fish Biologist for four counties in Southern Wisconsin (La Crosse, Monroe, Vernon, and Crawford). Dave put together a slide show that talked in detail about the land use changes in his four counties and where the wild trout program is going. We also had our drawing for the White River Raffle. **John Adrihan** from Foxboro, WI, was the winner. John is just getting into fly fishing, so his prize will be put to good use. We sold 830 tickets for a total profit of \$4,120. All of this money will be going to our projects on the **White River**.

This fall we continue our Angler Survey on the **Lake Superior** tributaries to add to our database of the fall brook trout populations.

—*Bill Hart*

## Chapter president profile

## Steve Gausman enters fourth year at Ojibseau helm

By Joe Knight

McCann Creek winds for 10 miles through the farmland of Chippewa County before entering O'Neil Creek, a warm water stream.

McCann is Class I brook trout water the entire length, but the creek has seen better days. It never seemed to recover from the drought of the late 1980s — trout populations were lower because water temperatures were higher.

DNR trout crew leader John Sours believed a good part of the problem was caused by three private bridges over the creek that were acting as small dams. The culverts were set so high at each bridge that they backed up water and trapped sediment.

The landowners made it known that they had no interest in dealing with the DNR, but Steve Gausman, president of the Ojibseau Chapter, knocked on a few doors and got permission to lower the culverts. The deal was that Ojibseau would pay for the work (about \$10,000) and restore the bridges. The DNR fisheries crew did the heavy work. The creek is now running faster and cooler than it did a year ago.

After trying fly fishing on a trip to Idaho, Steve joined the Ojibseau Chapter in 1987 mainly to learn how to trout fish on Wisconsin streams and meet other trout anglers. Along the way to becoming a better trout angler, he developed an interest in trout stream conservation.

He has held several positions on the Ojibseau board and is in his fourth year as president. He is equally as comfortable handling the bratwurst grilling at May and September meetings on Elk Creek as he is wielding a brush cutter on Elk Creek on work days.

"He's a handy guy with a brush cutter. He likes the hands-on stuff," says fellow board member Duke Welter. "He likes dealing with people, and I think he does a good job of it. He's a real cohesive force for the chapter."

## Likes education programs

Steve says he particularly likes participating in educational programs sponsored by the chapter. "I get as much fun out of the classes that we're doing in fly tying or women's trout fishing as anything," he says.

If Steve has one shortcoming as chapter president, it is his failure to ever write a president's column for the chapter newsletter. However, he has found a ghost writer in Duke

Welter, a former newspaper reporter who pounds out the inspirational column that Steve would have written if he did not have an unnatural fear of keyboards.

## Architect by trade

Steve is an architect with the Chippewa Falls engineering firm SEH, Inc. He designed the visitor center perched on a high hill overlooking the mix of little lakes and wooded hills comprising the Chippewa Moraine Unit of the Ice Age Reserve system. The building incorporates traditional Wisconsin styles, Park Service styles, and passive solar features — a handsome combination of modern and traditional. Mostly he wanders around the state designing libraries.

He had to keep a low profile in the debate over whether to repair the aging dam at Bloomer or take it out. SEH was doing the dam engineering for the Bloomer while the Ojibseau board urged the community to remove the dam, which would have created some green space downtown while restoring several miles of high-quality trout stream. (Bloomer residents voted in a landslide to rebuild the dam).

## Canoe maker

Steve's hobbies include canoeing and canoe building. He makes two or three trips to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area every summer, and he enjoys fly fishing for smallmouth bass.

On one now-famous trip, he made a cold paddle into a managed trout lake in the Boundary Waters in mid-May for the Minnesota opener, ending with a steep uphill portage. They made camp in the dark and awoke to find the lake they'd planned to fish was still frozen.

He has built five or six cedar strip canoes — he says he's lost count. One canoe he traded to Ron Kosshoshek, Ojibseau founder and rod builder, for two bamboo fly rods.

The accumulation of fly rods put a strain on his first marriage. His main recommendation for marital harmony: "Don't store all your fly rods in one place."

Several years ago he grabbed the local newspaper when it arrived, turned to the outdoors page, and proudly read a column by yours truly on a bass fishing outing we had taken near Hayward. The only paragraph he omitted was the one that explained that one of the reasons for the trip was to try out a new 8-weight fly rod he purchased for bass bugging.

That was with his first wife.

He is now happily married to Kris and living in the sticks about eight miles south of Eau Claire. He has not built any canoes lately.

He has two daughters, Hannah, 12, and Sydney, 10.

The momentum the crew has established, including the active involvement of many sportsman's clubs in trout habitat work, may be lost if trout stream projects are not better funded, says Steve.

He and other Ojibseau board members are concerned that trout



## EXOTIC TROUT IN AN EXOTIC SPOT

Ojibseau Chapter President Steve Gausman holds a nice rainbow trout from the San Juan River in arid New Mexico.

## Favorite trout waters

His favorite kind of fishing is dry fly fishing for trout.

His favorite local streams are Elk Creek, which is just west of Eau Claire, and Duncan Creek for brookies. He especially likes Duncan in the early season.

His favorite Wisconsin stream is the West Fork of the Kickapoo. His least favorite is the Namekagon River, which has never been kind to him.

He has also made a few trips west to the San Juan River and Montana streams (see picture above).

## Resources challenges ahead

Steve has high praise for the work the trout crew has done over the past four years in Eau Claire western Wisconsin under the leadership of John Sours. However, the crew, which was started at a time of surpluses in the Trout Stamp fund, will disband this fall.

management is not getting a fair share of fisheries dollars. The problems include: 1) not getting a fair share of regular fishing license revenues, 2) having DNR staff funded with the trout stamp revenues spend most of their time on warm-water fish management, and 3) having a fairer formula for reimbursing the Trout Stamp fund from the purchase of patron licenses.

Patron license holders are not required to buy a trout stamp to fish trout, but the trout stamp fund gets only \$1.75 for each patron license sold.

Getting fairer funding for trout should be a major goal for Wisconsin Trout Unlimited, Steve says, but it needs to be a statewide effort involving all the chapters.

*(Joe Knight is outdoor editor for the Leader-Telegram newspaper in Eau Claire and a member of the Ojibseau Chapter. -Ed.)*

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## MY FLY'S BETTER THAN YOUR FLY

Rick Plonsky (left) and his son, Adam, practice their fly tying techniques at a course at Madison East High School taught regularly by Larry Meicher and Henry Haugley of the Southern WI Chapter.

Multi-state study released

# TU studies U.S. coldwater fishery planning

A TU-funded report termed the “first comprehensive overview and assessment of state planning for coldwater fisheries in the U.S.” has been released by Steve Born and G. Simeon Stairs of UW-Madison.

The report is dated August, 2002, and was funded by TU’s Coldwater Conservation Fund. It is based on surveys and interviews with:

- state fisheries managers and administrators,

- budget and fiscal officers, and
- non-governmental interests, including many Trout Unlimited representatives across the U.S.

The report’s executive summary is reproduced below, along with a

key table comparing the perceived usefulness of states’ coldwater fisheries plans by fisheries managers and TU representatives.

The complete report can be downloaded from the TU web site.

## Executive Summary

Effective planning is critical to the future of coldwater fisheries, and while states play a primary role in fisheries management, there has never been a study of state agency planning for coldwater fisheries. This report is the first comprehensive overview and assessment of state planning for coldwater fisheries in the U.S., based on surveys and interviews with state fisheries managers and administrators, budget and fiscal officers, and non-governmental interests – particularly Trout Unlimited organizational units.

We have inventoried and characterized the institutional arrangements and activity levels related to planning; the array of coldwater fisheries plan types; perceptions of their usefulness and implementation; perceptions of how fisheries agencies engage user groups and other stakeholders in plan development processes; and attitudes of fisheries professionals and user groups towards planning generally.

Based on our surveys and interviews, it appears that planning by state agencies for coldwater fisheries is now a widely-employed management activity. Coldwater fisheries management units in 36 states are involved in planning for these resources. These planning functions have matured over the past several decades, with many planning efforts now in their second and third generation. Coldwater fisheries agency staff in 29 states report spending from at least one percent to more than ten percent of their time in planning, and more than 20 percent of these professionals (largely biologists) have had some training in planning.

Over the past few decades, public involvement and consultation have become accepted practice, and the biophysical scientific basis for planning has been strengthened. A wide array of planning tools are now employed – all states utilize resource inventories and assessments, most use public and user-group opinion surveys and consultation, and there is increasing use of newer tools such as computerized geographic information systems.

A variety of plan types are produced at multiple levels, from multi-state to regional watershed and stream reach scales. Although there has been a dramatic increase in the use of integrated environmental or ecosystem management plans in natural resource and environmental agencies nationwide, our results indicate that coldwater fisheries units are more concerned with fisheries-specific plans, with much less involvement in the preparation of broad comprehensive ecosystem and environmental management plans.

However, coldwater fisheries planners are generally giving much greater priority to longer-range ecological fisheries issues, including the establishment of wild self-sustaining salmonid fisheries, restoration of native fish, and fish genetics, in contrast to traditional functions such as fish propagation and stocking. Planners reportedly are attempting to be forward-looking and broaden the scope of their efforts by trying to anticipate significant changes in land use, the nature of resource users, and demographics. However, long-range changes with possibly large consequences (e.g., climate change) get little consideration in state-wide and sub-state plans.

Overall, coldwater fisheries managers deem plans to be useful for a

number of plan functions or objectives, including identifying issues, developing information, assessing management needs and selecting management interventions and projects. Plans are perceived as significantly less useful for setting budgetary priorities and funding projects, although more than three quarters of the field fisheries managers interviewed viewed plans as a critical link in getting projects funded. The plans are perceived as only having moderate value with regard to (i) being future-oriented and proactive; and (ii) laying the foundation for follow-up evaluation and adaptive management.

Although public involvement in coldwater fisheries planning is now more or less routine, the utility of plans is perceived to be weakest with regard to communicating and interacting with the public and the user community. In general, coldwater fisheries management agencies appear to not perceive plans and planning processes as being useful ex-

pressly for communication and interaction, although substate/watershed level managers view the usefulness of plans for those purposes more positively.

Key interest and user groups, such as Trout Unlimited, perceive a far lower utility for plans. This is surprisingly so for interaction and communication functions at the watershed level, where Trout Unlimited chapters are close to and directly involved with the resource and fisheries managers. Both fisheries administrators and interest groups recognize that there has been minimal engagement in the planning process of non-fisheries interests, such as local governments, businesses and land-owners.

Coldwater fisheries administrators and managers generally believe that their plans get implemented and that management actions are tied to plans. This is especially true for sub-state plans which are both prepared by and carried out by field fisheries personnel. Agency budgetary and fiscal personnel generally confirmed the value of plans in helping to rationalize spending decisions by agencies.

In contrast, Trout Unlimited and other non-governmental organization responses were far more negative regarding implementation of plans, particularly with regard to the adequacy of funding and staffing for projects included in plans.

The biggest gap uncovered in our study, and in our view the greatest missed opportunity in coldwater fisheries planning, is the inadequate use of plans and planning processes as a vehicle for genuinely interacting with and engage user groups and other constituencies. There is great potential for developing better plans and shared goals, as well as improving the utility and implementation record of plans. If both the problems and the opportunities are acknowledged, state fisheries agencies and their regional districts, in tandem with interests and user groups such as Trout Unlimited, can take actions to remove impediments and facilitate cooperative and more effective planning.

This study represents the first attempt to gain a broad overview of state agency planning for coldwater fisheries management, and cannot begin to fully capture the complexities of the array of state planning programs. However, we have identified a number of areas where agencies and their partners can take steps to improve planning and decision-making for coldwater fisheries and related resources, and in so doing, ultimately create a more sustainable future for trout, salmon and their environs.

Table 4 - Percentage of respondents indicating their state agencies' plans are 'very useful' or 'useful' with respect to each plan function (FA=fisheries administrators; TU= Trout Unlimited representatives)

	State-wide plans		Sub-state plans		Multi-state plans	
	FA	TU	FA	TU	FA	TU
Clearly identifying critical issues	91%	69%	93%	72%	92%	75%
Synthesizing relevant information	66%	53%	74%	36%	92%	75%
Assessing management needs	79%	51%	96%	45%	80%	88%
Influencing decision-making	77%	31%	74%	36%	80%	63%
Setting budgetary priorities	43%	19%	41%	36%	37%	13%
Setting and meeting standards	59%	38%	62%	63%	51%	25%
Selecting management projects	62%	44%	69%	64%	67%	63%
Funding management projects	46%	13%	44%	18%	46%	13%
Tackling problems at appropriate scales	46%	37%	63%	27%	58%	13%
Addressing emerging problems early	35%	13%	54%	18%	54%	26%
Planning at appropriate time scales	46%	19%	56%	27%	50%	25%
Publicizing resource conditions	31%	13%	70%	18%	42%	38%
Educating target audiences	35%	26%	55%	27%	34%	25%
Involving partners and user groups	37%	44%	71%	34%	54%	51%
Monitoring effects of management	55%	44%	63%	27%	51%	13%
Responding to results of monitoring	49%	31%	66%	27%	52%	38%
Ensuring continuity in management programs despite staff turnover, etc.	75%	38%	81%	54%	76%	38%

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10-02



John Gremmer

### WULFFING DOWN A ROYAL MEAL

John Gremmer took this picture recently of a brook trout that wanted to eat a piece of whipped cream and pie called a Royal Wulff.

*21 deleted, 10 added*

## WDNR updates list of impaired state waters

The state is proposing to remove 21 river segments from its list of impaired waters, many as a result of improved water quality traced to better management of agricultural lands or the removal of dams and contaminated sediments, Wisconsin water quality officials say.

DNR will accept written comments on the draft list through Oct. 4; the federal government requires all states to update their impaired water lists in October 2002.

Wisconsin's draft impaired waters list for 2002 also proposes to add 10 lakes or river segments that fail to meet water quality standards, and it underscores the biggest threats to Wisconsin's waters.

Fully three-quarters of all listed waters are impaired primarily by mercury contamination from air emissions, which impairs 242 waters, or by polluted runoff from farms, cities, construction sites and roads. Such runoff, often called "nonpoint source pollution" because it comes from diffuse sources, impairs 180 waters.

A blend of nonpoint source pollution and end-of the pipe pollution from industrial or municipal wastewater treatment plants, often called "point" source pollution, is the next most common cause of impairment, impacting 70 waters proposed for listing. Contaminated sediment impairs 68, and physical habitat alterations such as dams and other problems impair 21.

None of the more than 500 listed waters are impaired primarily by end-of-the-pipe pollution from factories or wastewater treatment plants, which officials say, highlights Wisconsin's effectiveness in controlling such pollution over the last 30 years.

"This draft list helps us know where we are and where we need to go," says Al Shea, who directs the Department of Natural Resources Bureau of Watershed Management. "The good news is there are some success stories here and we expect to remove more waters from the list in the near future. The bad news is, we added 10 waters to the list, and progress will be very slow on cleaning up many waters because they involve a state, national and international pollution problem."

The impaired waters list is often called the "303(d) list" because it's

required under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. Wisconsin's draft list includes only those waters with the worst problems: waters that fail to meet water quality standards necessary to support the fish species or recreational uses they should be able to support.

Over the next 15 years, states are expected to develop for each water a comprehensive plan known as a "Total Maximum Daily Load," or some other approach to serve as a guide for eliminating the impairment.

A Total Maximum Daily Load, or TMDL, sets a maximum level of pollution a waterbody can receive from all sources and still support the fish community and aesthetic and recreation uses it should be able to support. The plan must also spell out by how much the sources must reduce pollution, the strategies for reaching those goals, and ongoing monitoring.

Wisconsin has submitted TMDLs for 32 waterbodies but maintains that such plans may not be appropriate for all waters. Those waters with the most complex pollution problems, such as those impaired by a blend of point and nonpoint source pollution, are appropriate for TMDLs while waters with less complicated pollution problems often can be better and more quickly addressed through some other clean up plan or action, Baumann says.

Cleanup efforts and implementation plans helped knock four waters off the draft impaired list: contaminated sediment removals improved water quality in the Mississippi River near Fountain City and in the Ship Building Channel in Sturgeon Bay; the removal of three dams and contaminated sediments improved the Baraboo River's water quality; and a state priority watershed project that shared the cost to farmers of installing measures to reduce runoff from their fields and barnyards succeeded in improving Spring Creek in Rock County.

Clack, Gilberts, and Knights creeks in Dunn County and Little Bear Creek and Sand Creek in Buffalo and Crawford counties, respectively, all were removed from the draft 2002 list to reflect improved farming practices.

*Continued on p. 18*



# Trout, salmon declines forecast in warming study

Trout and salmon could disappear from many U.S. waterways due to rising temperatures caused by global warming. Habitats for some species could shrink as much as 17 percent by 2030, 34 percent by 2060, and 42 percent by 2090 if emissions of heat-trapping pollution such as carbon dioxide are not reduced, according to a study released in May by Defenders of Wildlife and the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC).

The sweeping new analysis covers brook, cutthroat, rainbow, and brown trout, plus four species of salmon.

Researchers looked at air and water temperature data from more than 2,000 sites across the U.S. Using three internationally recognized climate models, they estimated changes in stream temperature under a variety of pollution scenarios.

"Rising temperatures are increasingly going to curtail the range of trout and salmon in the U.S. That means more and more of our favorite fishing holes will come up empty," said Dr. Daniel Lashof, science director of the NRDC Climate Center. "The reason is pollution from cars and power plants. Fortunately, there are measures we can take now to start solving the problem."

In many areas trout and salmon are already living at the margin of their warm water tolerance, meaning even modest warming can render a stream uninhabitable.

Projected increases in water temperature vary by location, but average 0.7-1.4°F by 2030, 1.3-3.2°F by 2060, and 2.2-4.9°F by 2090, depending on future emissions of heat-trapping gases and which climate model is used.

Besides temperatures, timing of summertime highs also changes in some cases, sometimes by as much as four weeks.

The report predicts widespread habitat losses that vary by region. For trout, the most severe losses appear in the South, Southwest, and Northeast. For salmon, significant losses are seen throughout their current range, with the biggest impact likely in California.

## Predicted trout losses

The extent of predicted habitat loss also varies somewhat by species. For example, if emissions continue to increase at current rates, rainbow trout habitat would shrink by 8 to 11 percent by 2030, 14 to 24 percent by 2060, and 24 to 38 percent by 2090.

For Coho salmon, by comparison, 6 to 14 percent of habitat could be lost by 2030, 16 to 30 percent by 2060, and 23 to 41 percent by 2090.

For many of the fish species, the effects of global warming come atop a battery of existing problems. Cutthroat trout, native to the Western U.S., have been reduced to less than five percent of their original range and several subspecies are listed as threatened. Wild Pacific salmon have disappeared from nearly 40 percent of their historic range in the Northwest, and populations are down more than 90 percent in the Columbia River system. Chinook salmon have been listed under the Endangered Species Act, and several populations of Coho are officially threatened.

"Wild trout and salmon populations are already stressed by factors such as loss of habitat to development, competition with hatchery fish, invasive exotic species, and more. Now we must add climate change to the list of challenges they face," said Mark Shaffer, Senior Vice President for Programs at De-

fenders of Wildlife. "If we don't address the cumulative impact of all these factors, we will see more of these populations switching from a recreational resource to being listed as threatened or endangered."

An estimated nine million U.S. recreational anglers spend nearly

100 million days fishing each year creating an economic ripple worth billions of dollars. Many of the species covered by the study are regional icons with cultural significance rivaling their recreational and economic value.

## TU's Moyer: jobs at stake

"This report warns us not only of losses to natural resources and family traditions, but also that the future of jobs that depend on healthy recreation are at risk," said Steve Moyer, Vice President for Conservation for Trout Unlimited. "Our grandchildren and their families may not have the pleasure of fishing for these magnificent creatures in many areas that we know and love today. Billions of dollars per year spent on recreational fishing equipment, guides and resorts may be hit, too."

The study covers direct thermal effects on the stream habitats only, and does not examine indirect impacts of global warming such as changes in precipitation or evaporation. It does not include Alaska or Hawaii. Nor does it look at global warming on ocean environments where salmon and some trout species spend much of their lives.

"For many of us, coldwater fisheries are one of the things that make life worth living. This data-rich report asks some sobering questions about yet another area of our lives that may be significantly impacted by global warming," said Paul Hansen, executive director of the Izaak Walton League of America. "Many of the early actions needed to address this problem are very cost-effective, even before we consider the

impact on trout and salmon, and can be taken immediately." Global warming is a source of growing concern. Average temperatures have increased by 1.1°F in the past century — faster than anything seen in at least a thousand years. 2001 was the second hottest year on

"This report warns us not only of losses to natural resources and family traditions, but also that the future of jobs that depend on healthy recreation are at risk."

—Steve Moyer, Vice President for Conservation, Trout Unlimited.

record, just behind 1998. Since 1990 we have seen nine of the 10 hottest years in history.

Although natural causes may be playing a role, most experts believe heat-trapping pollution from cars, power plants, and other sources is the main culprit. These emissions collect in the atmosphere, preventing excess heat from escaping, and increasing temperatures here on the ground.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change — a 2,500-member body representing international scientific consensus on the subject — concluded in 1995 and again in 2001 that man-made pollution from fossil fuel combustion and deforestation is driving temperature increases.

Asked by President Bush to review the scientific findings, the Na-

tional Academy of Sciences reconfirmed in June 2001 that heat-trapping pollution is causing both surface and ocean temperatures to rise. The IPCC estimates temperatures will rise 5-10°F over the next 100 years.

In the new report, researchers estimate the average air temperatures at sample locations will increase 1.6 to 2.7 °F by 2030, 2.6-6.7 °F by 2060 and 4.5-11 °F by 2090. These numbers are slightly higher than global average estimates, and consistent with the expectation that increases will be greater over land and at higher latitudes.

## Solutions in cleaner power

Solving the problem means cleaning up the pollution that causes it — mainly carbon dioxide emissions. Answers include cleaner, more advanced technologies in our vehicles and power plants. Congress is considering legislation called the Clean Power Act that would require power companies to reduce carbon dioxide pollution, along with several other pollutants that are harming fish stocks.

*(The Natural Resources Defense Council is a national, non-profit organization of scientists, lawyers, and environmental specialists dedicated to protecting public health and the environment. Founded in 1970, NRDC has more than 500,000 members. The complete report summarized here can be downloaded at [www.defenders.org/publications/fishreport.pdf](http://www.defenders.org/publications/fishreport.pdf). -Ed.)*



Wisconsin Record Inland/Outlying Salmon and Trout					
Through April 1, 2002					
SPECIES	WEIGHT	LENGTH	DATE CAUGHT	PLACE CAUGHT	COUNTY
Trout, Brook (inland)	9 lbs. 15 oz.	not available	09/02/1944	Prairie River	Lincoln
Trout, Brook (outlying)	10 lbs. 1 oz.	24.5	06/08/1999	Lake Michigan	Ozaukee
Trout, Brown (inland)	18 lbs. 6 oz.	34.3	05/07/1984	Lake Geneva	Walworth
Trout, Brown (outlying)	35 lbs. 1.9 oz.	38.5	09/08/1996	Lake Michigan	Kewaunee
Trout, Lake (inland)	35 lbs. 4 oz.	not available	06/01/1957	Big Green Lake	Green Lake
Trout, Lake (outlying)	47 lbs. 0 oz.	not available	09/09/1946	Lake Superior	Bayfield
Trout, Rainbow	27 lbs. 2 oz.	42.5	07/26/1997	Lake Michigan	Kewaunee
Trout, Splake (Lk x Bk)	14 lbs. 7.7 oz.	32.0	04/14/2001	Lake Michigan	Marinette
Trout, Tiger (Bk x Br)	20 lbs. 13 oz.	33.75	08/12/1978	Lake Michigan	Sheboygan
Salmon, Atlantic	23 lbs. 15 oz.	37.0	07/18/1980	Lake Michigan	Milwaukee
Salmon, Coho	26 lbs. 1.2 oz.	38.0	08/21/1999	Lake Michigan	Milwaukee
Salmon, Chinook	44 lbs. 15 oz.	47.5	07/19/1994	Lake Michigan	Door
Salmon, Kokanee	1 lb. 0 oz.	15.5	09/29/1992	Upper Bass Lake	Menominee
Salmon, Pink	6 lbs. 1.9 oz.	24.0	08/10/1999	Lake Michigan	Kewaunee
Salmon, Pinook (chinook x pink)	8 lbs. 5.4 oz.	25.38	08/24/2001	Lake Michigan	Kewaunee

# IMPAIRED: DNR updates problem waters list

Continued from p. 16

Twelve more waters dropped off as DNR culled redundant or mistaken listings from the 1998 list of 552 waters.

The 10 waters added to the 2002 draft list and their primary reason for impairment are:

**Nonpoint source pollution**

- Otter Lake in Chippewa County,
- Lake George in Pierce County,
- Mason Lake in Adams and Marquette counties, and
- Gunderson Valley Creek in Grant County.

**Blend of nonpoint and point source pollution**

- a stretch of the Red Cedar River in Barron County from County Highway W downstream three miles,
- Rock River from Watertown to Lake Koskonong, and
- Lake Koskonong.

**Contaminated sediments**

- Grubers Grove Bay of Lake Wisconsin and
- a tributary to Bower Creek in Brown County.

**Physical habitat — discharge from impoundments**

- Honey Creek 1 mile downstream of White Mound Lake in Sauk County.

Progress on these and other waters will vary according to the problem and the available resources, Baumann says. Lakes and rivers polluted with contaminated sedi-

ments or obstructed by dams should experience dramatic, rapid improvement after removal projects. Grubers Grove Bay, in fact, should have a short stay on the list as water quality improves in the wake of a newly completed contaminated sediment removal project there.

Baumann also expects relatively rapid improvements in lakes and rivers impaired by a blend of point and nonpoint source pollution as phosphorus limits set in wastewater permits issued to factories and municipal treatment plants in recent years should start bearing fruit.

**New nonpoint rules will help**

Whether those same waters actually fully return to water quality standards depends on reducing nonpoint pollution, which hinges on how well Wisconsin can implement new rules requiring farmers, municipalities, developers and others to reduce the polluted runoff flowing from their land — and that depends in large part on available public funding. The state can't enforce the rules against farmers unless the state pays for at least 70 percent of the cost of the manure containment structure or other measure to reduce runoff, Baumann says.

In addition, waters with a blend of pollution problems may not receive the complex modeling and monitoring they need to make the biggest gains. To meet budget cuts, the agency has had to eliminate four

positions dedicated to working on TMDLs and monitoring activities needed to generate those pollution caps. "We'll continue to work on cleaning up these waters, but we won't be able to put our best effort forward," Baumann says.

**Mercury a long-range problem**

Impairments resulting from mercury contamination will take a long time to clean up because they'll require reductions in emissions from sources in other states and countries as well as in Wisconsin.

DNR has proposed rules to reduce mercury emissions from Wisconsin utilities and is collaborating on strategies to secure national and international reductions, but both are long-term propositions. Even if all mercury emissions were to stop tomorrow, scientists estimate that decades could pass before fish consumption advisories for mercury could be removed from some waters, he says.

For the full draft list of impaired waters and for a list of additions and deletions since 1998, go to the DNR web site to find [www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/wm/wqs/303d/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/wm/wqs/303d/index.html).

Hard copies of the list are available by calling or e-mailing Jim Baumann at (608) 266-9277 or [jim.baumann@dnr.state.wi.us](mailto:jim.baumann@dnr.state.wi.us).

Written comments on the draft list can be directed by Oct. 4, 2002, to Jim Baumann, Wisconsin DNR, PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707.

# Parties meeting on vegetative buffers

By Bill Pielsticker

The Wisconsin Buffer Initiative (WBI) has begun to solicit research proposals to study the cost and effectiveness of vegetative buffers along Wisconsin lakes and streams.

The WBI was formed following the DNR's commitment to carry out research and implement a buffer standard for Outstanding Resource Waters, degraded waters, and waters of special interest by January 1, 2008.

The DNR commitment to implement a standard by 2008 led to final approval of the new polluted runoff standards set to go into effect by the end of this month.

The WBI follows an effort organized by the UW College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) to examine the existing research on vegetative buffers and determine what additional research might be needed.

The new Buffer Initiative steering committee includes researchers from UW-CALS, several representatives from the DNR, the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, agricultural producers, and environmental/conservation representatives including Todd Ambs of the River Alliance of WI and Bill Pielsticker representing WITU.

This new research will be carried out in several locations around the state and on several types of landscape, using different types of agricultural practices. The goal is to determine both efficient buffer designs for Wisconsin, what practices are needed to increase their effectiveness (upland tillage practices, strip cropping, etc.), and how much they actually improve water quality in the receiving streams and lakes.

The DNR has committed to providing some funds for the buffer research, but major funding is likely to come from the USDA thanks to Todd Ambs and Senator Herb Kohl.

Ambs took information on the buffer initiative to Kohl's office and asked if the Senator could find program funds for the project. Sen. Kohl was able to add \$500,000 to the USDA budget to help fund the initiative. This level of funding is crucial to pay for the water chemistry analyses needed to show just how much impacts buffers have on water quality.

One final objective of the WBI is to develop agreement between the agricultural producers and environmentalists on what type of buffer rules are needed in Wisconsin. This agreement is crucial for the new research to guide the development of the rules DNR will issue by the end of the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program in 2008. (The CREP program will place buffers along 50% of targeted streams in four-dozen counties in the state by the time it ends.)

If the WBI cannot reach agreement on a buffer proposal by the end of 2005, then the DNR will write standards based on the USDA standards for agricultural and forest buffers.

There is a big incentive in this process because most agree we can do better than the USDA standards the group is viewing as a starting point.

## Kids get first shots at fishing at Green Bay fishing event

On August 14 the Green Bay Chapter staged its 12th Annual Kids Fishing Day at the Brown County Reforestation Camp.

This event, co-sponsored by the Green Bay Exchange Club, brings youngsters enrolled in the Brown County Social Services PALS program to the Reforestation Camp where they fish for bluegills stocked in the ponds there.

The kids are also given snacks and refreshments before they leave.

Some of the kids are pretty small. Do you remember first thinking about fish? They live in water, you know. Now, how cool is that?



# Druckery challenge a spur to WITU endowment fund

By Jon Christiansen

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited's Endowment Fund is off and running, with initial gifts in memory of departed TU members and friends.

Now, long-time TU member Dale Druckery of the Green Bay Chapter has issued a challenge gift to kick-start giving to the fund.



received totaling \$5,000, Dale will match that \$5,000.

Dale's dedication to TU is evident by his prior gifts to the State Council and his many years advocating on behalf of TU's mission.

Said Dale, "There is no finer conservation organization today than Trout Unlimited, and I'm glad to give back a portion of what I have been fortunate enough to receive in my life. I hope that others will do so also."

If you or someone you know will help meet the "Druckery Challenge," please contact me at (262) 241-5220, Treasurer Larry Meicher at (608) 992-6612, or Dale Druckery at (715) 758-8082.



## FIGHTIN' BOB FEST

An estimated 750 people attended the first "Fightin' Bob Fest" Chautauqua at the fairgrounds in Baraboo Sept. 7. The event drew a crowd with diverse interests (see car above) and was emceed by Ed Garvey (right). One of the event's featured speakers was U.S. Rep. Dennis J. Kucinich of Ohio.



## DALE'S CHALLENGE

Dale Druckery (left) joins TU members Mitch Bent, Jim Hlaban, and Gordy Braun watching stream shocking results on the Whitcomb Creek in Waupaca County.

The "Druckery Challenge" is this: Dale will give \$5,000 to the Endowment Fund if, prior to February 1, 2003, other new gifts to the Endowment Fund total \$5,000, with up to \$1,000 credited against the challenge for the gift of any one member. So, if five, 10, or more gifts are

*The Wisconsin TU Endowment Fund was established in 2001 to provide resources for ongoing special projects and activities of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited.*

*Capital contributed to the fund will be maintained and only the income used on a periodic basis.*

*Wisconsin TU can offer suggestions on estate planning provisions, appreciated stock, and other tax-deductible gifts.*

# WOW: major water policy forum Oct. 21-22 in Madison

Continued from p. 1

The Forum is the culmination of Waters of Wisconsin (WOW), an Academy-led statewide initiative on sustainable water use that began two years ago. From the outset, the initiative was designed to be both inclusive and comprehensive.

The Wisconsin Academy engaged experts from virtually all areas of water use and management, including agriculture, industry, conservation, government, public agencies, education, and Native American tribes.

## Key forum objectives

The initiative focuses on three key areas:

- gathering information on the current status and trends of our waters,
- formulating sustainability principles to govern water use, protection, and management, and
- projecting different scenarios for our water's future, depending on actions we choose today.

## Report and recommendations

One product of Waters of Wisconsin will be a formal report with recommendations in all three areas of study. A draft of that report will be a focal point of discussion before and during the Forum.

All Forum sessions are designed to make even the more technical aspects of water science and policy understandable to a general audience.

## Arts and culture component

Arts and culture will also be an integral part of the gathering. On Monday night, Warren Nelson and

members of his Big Top Chautauqua band will perform a special show called "On Wisconsin Waters." Wisconsin Poet Laureate Ellen Kort has been invited to read her work, and Madison-based poet Fabu Mogaka is lining up readings, story-telling, and other arts presentations to open every breakout session.

Speakers and presenters include leading names in water both state- and nationwide:

- Oregon State University philosophy professor Kathleen Dean Moore, whose writings on nature and philosophy have earned her national acclaim, will reflect on our human connections to water during the Monday luncheon plenary;
- Sandra Postel, director of the Global Water Policy Project, will

speak at Tuesday's luncheon plenary; and

- Former U.S. Forest Service Chief and UW-Stevens Point Professor Mike Dombeck will help wrap up the event during the closing plenary on Tuesday.

Invited speakers include Wisconsin Gov. Scott McCallum, DNR Secretary Darrell Bazzell, DATCP Secretary Jim Harsdorf, U.S. EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman, and Honorary Chair of the WOW Forum Luna Leopold (son of conservationist Aldo Leopold).

Breakout sessions include such topics as:

- WI waters and the future of the global water supply,
- water, agriculture, and land use,
- industrial waters and innovative technologies for sustainability,
- water and human health,
- restoration of WI waters, and
- climate change and WI water.

The forum costs \$110 for two days and includes lunch, refreshments, and receptions. Reduced rates and scholarships are available. For more information visit [www.wisconsinacademy.org](http://www.wisconsinacademy.org).

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# Great Lakes system 'action agenda' in development

By Reg Gilbert

Executive Director, Great Lakes United

Over the last two years Great Lakes basin leaders and citizens have been discussing an all-out effort to fully restore the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence River ecosystem. It is becoming clear to all involved that the pace of cleanup and reform of our environmentally destructive practices has been too slow and that the health of the ecosystem and all who depend on it may be seriously at risk.

But one person's restoration is another person's opportunity to bring home the bacon. If the region finally undertakes comprehensive restoration, Great Lakes environmentalists want to make sure the barrel is not just full of pork — that real investment is made in protecting and restoring this ecosystem.

Great Lakes United and number of partner groups across the basin are developing an "action agenda" to help guide the steps we think need to be taken. We hope to disseminate this agenda as broadly as possible as a tool for grassroots action and a measure against which we can collectively evaluate future restoration policy and program proposals.

Retreat after decades of improvements

After two decades of improvement followed by a decade of stasis after the signing of the Canada-U.S. Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement in 1972, it is increasingly clear that the Great Lakes ecosystem is once again deteriorating.

From fish and avian botulism, to increased numbers of closed beaches, to advisories against eating polluted fish and a host of human health problems linked with Great Lakes environmental factors, people across the Great Lakes basin are getting the message: the successes of the first wave of environmental regulation in the 1970s and 1980s have carried us only so far.

As if to emphasize the trend, Lake Erie, with its newly discovered "dead zone," is reprising the very condition that sparked the original wave of Great Lakes environmental reform 30 years ago.

Some of the challenges we face are not new. Toxic discharges from industrial point sources, contaminated sediments and leaking landfills continue to

plague the health of Great Lakes communities. Continued loss of wetlands and forests also mean we lose their capacity to clean and conserve water.

We also face new challenges: climate change, new invasions of non-native plant and animal species, and increasingly wasteful land and water use patterns. And a thirsty world will undoubtedly covet the fresh waters of the Great Lakes basin. All these stresses and more will place ever-greater pressure on the quality of the ecosystem's air, water and soils.

The solution

It is time for citizens across the basin to rally once again in a common effort to meet these challenges. We must mobilize decisionmakers to fund and implement languishing programs for Great Lakes/St. Lawrence River protection.

We must also adopt, and demand that government support, a holistic approach to managing all human activity that affects this ecosystem. These must include how we produce and dispose of goods and energy, consume land and water, and deal with over a century of accumulated toxic wastes.

The following is an abbreviated version of one of the developing citizens' action agenda for protecting and restoring the Great Lakes. Please look at our web site, [www.glu.org](http://www.glu.org), for the most recent full drafts of each section, often containing citations and more extensive explanatory material. And please consider getting directly involved in creating one or more of parts of the agenda.

*(Reg Gilbert is Executive Director of Great Lakes United, a Michigan-based umbrella organization working on Great Lakes issues, one of which surrounds the many water quantity and quality concerns the region is facing. -Ed.)*



The growing shortage of water in parts of North America and around the world point to a time when the Great Lakes — nearly 20 percent of the world's available fresh surface water — are seen as a potential source of water for the world.

Continental political power is shifting south and west; that is, to water-short areas. The basin's current wasteful water consumption rates and the region's general lack of significant water conservation programs provide little moral ground for turning down possible future requests to export or divert basin water.

The terms "basin" and "basin water system" as used in this section of the action agenda refer to the wetlands, streams, rivers, and lakes of the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence River surface basin, plus the groundwater, whether located inside or outside the surface basin lines that contribute to them.

Restoration goals for the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence region under consideration by the sustainable waters action agenda committee include:

Conservation

Basinwide commitment and plan by 2004 to reduce basin human water consumption to levels consistent with the lowest consumption rates found among the world's economically developed countries.

State, provincial, and federal support for infrastructure and conservation programs for basin public water supply systems should assure that no more than 10 percent of water withdrawn from basin lakes, rivers, streams, and the ground is lost through leakage, evaporation, or other vectors.

Water withdrawal reform ("Annex 2001")

Completion and implementation by all basin governments of a

## "Sustainable Waters" Action Agenda SUMMARY

binding water withdrawal reform agreement such as that proposed by principles in the provincial-state "Great Lakes Charter Annex 2001." The agreement should base water withdrawal decisions on ecosystem protection and restoration and cover all basin waters: streams, rivers, lakes, and all groundwater that contributes to them.

A permanent ban on water diversions between in-basin watersheds.

Inclusion of First Nations and Tribes in any basinwide water withdrawal decisionmaking body

Removal of federal, tribal, state, and provincial subsidies for water infrastructure that supports sprawl.

A federal backup plan for protecting the basin water system if the states, provinces, and tribes fail to cooperatively reach agreement by 2004.

Alteration of the water system

Study of the environmental benefits and economic feasibility of closing the Great Lakes entirely to oceangoing shipping.

And to dredging navigation channels beyond depths set by international agreement.

Inclusion of protection of the local natural water system as a core goal of municipal and regional master plans.

Restoration plan

A long-term plan written by 2005 and implemented by 2015 by the states, provinces, First Nations and Tribes, and federal gov-

ernments for restoring natural water flows and other functions of the basin water system.

Submission by Canada and

the United States of a reference to the International Joint Commission to assess, every four years, regional progress toward restoration of the Great Lakes basin water system.

Information

An expedited program to map all basin groundwater watersheds and their current and projected levels due to human water withdrawal.

A uniform state, provincial, First Nations, and Tribal information collection system for determining human water withdrawals on the basis of major watersheds within the basin and water connectivity and movement in the basin via gauge installation and monitoring, more detailed surface watershed mapping, and interpretive research programs.

A uniform, biennially updated, state, provincial, and tribal information reporting system for listing 1) basin water conservation practices, 2) world best water conservation practices, 3) knowledge of ecosystem impacts of basin water withdrawals and system alterations, and 4) efforts to restore damage caused by withdrawals and alterations.

Climate change

Adoption by the region's governments of commitments and initiatives that go significantly beyond the goals of the Kyoto Protocol.

An expedited international research program that, by 2007, allows basin climate scientists to

be more specific about the predicted effects that climate change will have on the basin water system through the end of the century.

Creation of long-term water management plans that address the full range of climate change scenarios offered by regional climate change scientists.

International agreements

Exclusion of water-related services from amended or new international trade agreements to which Canada and the United States are, or will be, signatories.

Support by Canada and the United States for amendments to existing or new international that support cooperation among nations in managing water withdrawals and water system alterations on the basis of protecting ecosystem functioning. The public

Government adoption of the principle that every basin citizen has the right to sufficient water for drinking, cooking, and bathing, and the right of access to water bodies that support safe swimming and subsistence activities such as fishing.

The right of the public to 1) have access to all government water withdrawal and use information, 2) assess and officially comment on all government decisions to grant water withdrawal permits, and 3) challenge all permitting decisions once they are finalized on the basis of their consistency with local law and regional agreements.

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For more information or to help refine this agenda, contact Andy Buchsbaum, National Wildlife Federation, (734) 769-3351, or Sarah Miller, Canadian Environmental Law Association, (416) 960-2284, or Reg Gilbert, Great Lakes United, (716) 886-0142.

# Lake Michigan fisheries plan to guide work for next decade

Sport anglers, commercial fishers, and others interested in Lake Michigan fisheries can comment on a proposed plan to guide Wisconsin in managing its fisheries for the next decade.

The Lake Michigan Integrated Fisheries Management Plan outlines how WDNR fisheries biologists propose to work — and complement the work of other DNR programs and other state, federal, tribal, and private agencies and organizations — to meet four broad goals on Wisconsin waters of the lake.

- Those goals include:
- providing a healthy, balanced ecosystem,
  - a diverse sport fishery,
  - a stable commercial fishery, and
  - assuring science-based management by continually training staff to understand emerging ecosystem challenges and how to use new technology, and through coordinating and communicating with other agencies, universities, and outside partners.

“This management plan gives us an opportunity to continue those management practices that have been successful but also gives us the flexibility to make adjustments along the way,” says Matt Coffaro, DNR fish expert for southeastern Wisconsin. “Lake Michigan is a huge, dynamic system that’s constantly changing. We have to be able to make adjustments.”

Much of the work DNR fisheries staff conduct on Lake Michigan is done on a recurring basis. It involves monitoring trends in fish populations and in harvests, propagating and stocking trout and salmon in the lake, and maintaining databases. Wisconsin’s salmon and trout fisheries depend on stocking because no natural reproduction occurs in Wisconsin tributaries.

### Lake productivity high

“The program is pretty stable in most of its elements — we’re not re-making it, but building on the base program,” says Bill Horns, the DNR Great Lakes fisheries specialist who led development of the plan.

The 2002-2011 plan calls for a Lake Michigan ecosystem that “sustains desired sport and commercial fishing, but also contains as much of the natural variety of species and strains as possible and that is resistant to dramatic changes in species abundance.”

The draft plan comes as sport anglers and commercial fishers benefit from management efforts directed under the previous integrated management plan and by the lake’s natural productivity. Anglers are reporting the best chinook fishing on Lake Michigan since the 1980s — the 2001 harvest of 191,000 fish was the highest in 15 years.

“This year it started in June, which is earlier than normal, and it’s still going real good,” says Lee Meyers, DNR fish expert for northeastern Wisconsin. “Right now, probably the chinook salmon are providing the bulk of the fishery, and they’re benefiting from our fish health program that makes sure they’re healthy eggs, and healthy fry, all the way through to stocking.”

Anglers are also enjoying new and improved fishing opportunities

as biologists capitalize on improved water quality and the removal of dams to help build walleye, smallmouth bass and other species in tributary waters. Commercial fishers are enjoying a strong native whitefish fishery maintained by natural recruitment.

### Challenges ahead

Among the challenges identified in the plan are: declining yellow perch populations in both Green Bay and southern Lake Michigan; finding the financial help needed to overhaul the aging state hatcheries supplying trout and salmon for Wisconsin waters of Lake Michigan; and the ongoing onslaught of invasive aquatic species.

Some of the strategies the plan describes for meeting management goals include:

- Continuing the 30-year-effort to re-establish naturally self-sustaining stocks of Lake Trout and a newer effort to fully restore Great Lakes spotted musky populations in Green Bay;
- Improving natural walleye recruitment in Green Bay and the Milwaukee River and Harbor, and re-establish self-sustaining lake sturgeon populations throughout their historic range in Lake Michigan;
- Increasing the capacity of the state hatchery system for stocking

*Anglers are reporting the best chinook fishing on Lake Michigan since the 1980s — the 2001 harvest of 191,000 fish was the highest in 15 years.*

- renovating the state’s aging fish hatchery facilities;
- Completing re-evaluation of contaminant

levels of PCBs in white perch, and if they are confirmed to be sufficiently low, explore options for increasing harvest opportunities.

- Exploring ways to automate commercial harvest limits, which rise and fall frequently in response to natural variations in fish populations, and which now require biologists to follow a laborious, time-consuming rule process to change.

### Plan partners

DNR staff with responsibilities relating to Lake Michigan fisheries developed the draft plan with input from the Lake Michigan Fisheries Forum, a broad-based group of citizens, sport anglers, commercial fishers, and representatives of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the University of Wisconsin, and the University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute.

The draft also incorporates suggestions people made during a round of open meetings last year, and will be circulated for comment by the Wisconsin Conservation Congress, the Wisconsin Federation of Great Lakes Sport Fishing Clubs, Wisconsin commercial Fisheries, and the Lake Michigan Commercial Fishing Board.

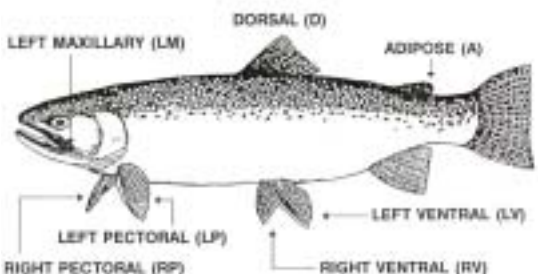
The draft plan is available online on the DNR Web site at [www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/fhp/fish/lakemich/management-reports.htm](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/fhp/fish/lakemich/management-reports.htm). Or, call Bill Horns for a copy at (608) 266-8782.

Technically, the deadline for comments on this plan has passed, but TU members are encouraged to submit comments beyond the deadline. Comments and questions can be directed to Mr. Horns by telephone, by fax (608) 266-2244 at [hornsw@dnr.state.wi.us](mailto:hornsw@dnr.state.wi.us).

## WDNR Lake Michigan Rainbow/Brown Fin Clips

YEAR	LOCATION	FIN CLIP	NUMBER	STRAIN
<b>BROWN TROUT</b>				
1997	Menominee River	ALV	30,000	Seeforellen
1997	Kewaunee River	ALV	30,595	Seeforellen
1997	Root River	ALV	28,057	Seeforellen
1998	Menominee River	ALM	31,000	Seeforellen
1998	Kewaunee River	ALM	30,000	Seeforellen
1998	Root River	ALM	27,267	Seeforellen
1999	Menominee River	ALP	30,300	Seeforellen
1999	Kewaunee River	ALP	30,255	Seeforellen
1999	Root River	ALP	26,000	Seeforellen
2000	Menominee River	ARM	31,000	Seeforellen
2000	Stone Quarry	ARM	3,192	Seeforellen
2000	Kewaunee River	ARM	31,021	Seeforellen
2000	Root River	ARM	28,000	Seeforellen
2001	Menominee River	ARV	30,000	Seeforellen
2001	Algoma Harbor	ARV	7,239	Seeforellen
2001	Kewaunee River	ARV	30,000	Seeforellen
2001	Root River	ARV	25,948	Seeforellen
<b>CHINOOK SALMON</b>				
1999	Strawberry Creek	A-CWT	24,900	Lake Michigan
1999	Strawberry Creek	ARV-CWT	25,000	Lake Michigan
1999	Strawberry Creek	A-CWT(P)	24,800	Lake Michigan
1999	Kewaunee River	A-CWT	95,379	Lake Michigan
2000	Strawberry Creek	A-CWT	25,000	Lake Michigan
2000	Strawberry Creek	ALV-CWT	25,000	Lake Michigan
2001	Strawberry Creek	A-CWT	24,600	Lake Michigan
<b>RAINBOW (STEELHEAD) TROUT</b>				
1996	Kewaunee River	RM	32,787	Skamania
1996	Kewaunee River	LM	32,681	Chambers Creek
1996	Kewaunee River	ARV	33,306	Ganaraska
1996	Root River	RM	34,254	Skamania
1996	Root River	LM	34,579	Chambers Creek
1996	Root River	ARV	35,404	Ganaraska
1997	Kewaunee River	RMRV	42,242	Skamania
1997	Kewaunee River	LMLV	37,608	Chambers Creek
1997	Kewaunee River	BV	36,978	Ganaraska
1997	Root River	RMRV	35,262	Skamania
1997	Root River	LMLV	35,024	Chambers Creek
1997	Root River	BV	35,201	Ganaraska
1998	Kewaunee River	ARM	44,040	Skamania
1998	Root River	ARM	37,484	Chambers Creek
1998	Kewaunee River	ALM	35,128	Chambers Creek
1998	Root River	ALM	33,187	Chambers Creek
1998	Kewaunee River	ALV	30,844	Ganaraska
1998	Root River	ALV	33,548	Ganaraska
1999	Kewaunee River	RM	37,012	Skamania
1999	Sheboygan River	RM	6,266	Skamania
1999	Root River	RM	35,528	Skamania
1999	Kewaunee River	LM	35,088	Chambers Creek
1999	Sheboygan River	LM	3,927	Chambers Creek
1999	Milwaukee River	LM	6,044	Chambers Creek
1999	Oak Creek	LM	3,878	Chambers Creek
1999	Root River	LM	26,951	Chambers Creek
1999	Kewaunee River	ARV	35,029	Ganaraska
1999	Milwaukee River	ARV	6,199	Ganaraska
1999	Oak Creek	ARV	3,987	Ganaraska
1999	Root River	ARV	26,963	Skamania
2000	Menominee River	RMRV	9,998	Skamania
2000	Kewaunee River	RMRV	39,222	Skamania
2000	Milwaukee River	RMRV	9,008	Skamania
2000	Root River	RMRV	37,010	Skamania
2000	Kewaunee River	LMLV	34,267	Chambers Creek
2000	Root River	LMLV	27,287	Chambers Creek
2000	Kewaunee River	BV	38,730	Ganaraska
2000	Root River	BV	27,118	Ganaraska
2001	Sister Bay	ALP	12,000	Arlee
2001	Algoma Harbor	ALP	12,125	Arlee
2001	Manitowoc Harbor	ALP	12,000	Arlee
2001	Sheboygan Harbor	ALP	12,000	Arlee
2001	Milwaukee Harbor	ALP	12,000	Arlee
2001	Kenosha Harbor	ALP	12,000	Arlee
2001	Kewaunee River	ARM	39,525	Skamania
2001	Root River	ARM	35,247	Skamania
2001	Kewaunee River	ALM	36,849	Chambers Cr.
2001	Root River	ALM	27,060	Chambers Cr.
2001	Kewaunee River	ALV	30,907	Ganaraska
2001	Root River	ALV	27,100	Ganaraska

Note: The ARV-CWT designation indicates a chinook with an adipose-right ventral finclip, which was also coded-wire tagged. The A-CWT (P) designation indicates an adipose-clipped and coded-wire tagged chinook that also has a photonic mark on the anal fin. A photonic mark is an air-injected latex polymer that is being tested on chinook salmon.



# Midwest coaster brook trout activities continuing

By Laura Hewitt

TU Upper Midwest Conservation Dir.

There is quite a bit to report on coaster brook trout rehabilitation efforts around Lake Superior. Work on several projects continues, and a number of exciting new projects are getting underway.

## Continuing Projects

Pictured Rocks, Isle Royale, and Grand Portage

The US Fish and Wildlife Service is continuing to follow through and monitor work initiated several years ago in a number of locations. Three streams in Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore are part of a reintroduction experiment where coasters were stocked for five consecutive years.

It is now the final year of the initial management plan. Ongoing monitoring has documented that there is a decent survival rate of the stocked fish up to a about a year, and then survival drops off. The best returns for bigger fish — those that survive past year two — have come as a result of the year they used spring fingerlings to stock.

Continued monitoring work and the development of a management plan for coaster brook trout are underway at Isle Royal National Park, where US F&WS researchers have been looking at fish distribution and conducting population studies. Finally, stream surveys will take place later this summer at Grand Portage where another reintroduction experiment is underway.

Gratiot River

Over in Michigan researchers from Michigan Technological University have been working closely with Trout Unlimited, MDNR, and US F&WS on monitoring the Gratiot River where coaster brook trout have been stocked for several years.

They have just completed the second survey of all fish in the river with TU volunteer assistance. A second round of surveys to detect dispersal of these stocked fish into other area streams has also been completed, and they are currently working on habitat surveys. This fall they plan to monitor to detect returning fish. It is too early to draw any firm conclusions, but early results are potentially encouraging.

## New Projects

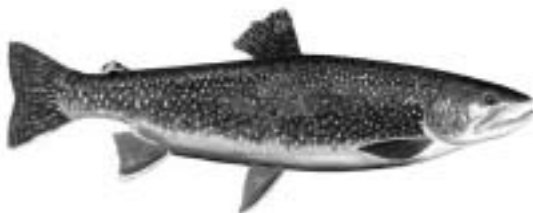
Bark River and Whittlesey Creek experiments

In Wisconsin the Department of Natural Resources has drafted a "Lake Superior Basin Brook Trout Management Plan" to guide their work related to coaster brook trout rehabilitation. The plan was devel-

oped with input from Trout Unlimited, US F&WS, and other partners.

Two of the management experiments proposed in the plan have gotten underway. The Bark River and Whittlesey Creek watersheds on the Bayfield Peninsula are the focus areas. Over the course of the next few years, both watersheds will get attention to improve watershed and stream health, followed by brook trout stocking and continued monitoring.

The Whittlesey will likely be stocked with a known migratory strain of coaster brook trout, and



the Bark will be stocked with brook trout that have been reared from the resident stream-dwelling fish.

This past April stricter harvest regulations for both these streams and for Lake Superior were approved by the Conservation Congress and should take effect next year to help ensure greatest possible success from the reintroductions.

Bayfield streams assessment

Trout Unlimited applied for and will be receiving approximately \$100,000 from the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program to conduct comprehensive assessments of five Lake Superior tributary streams on the Bayfield Peninsula. The Wisconsin DNR provided \$125,000 in matching funds for the project.

The project team will conduct comprehensive assessments of Whittlesey Creek, Sioux River, Raspberry River, Bark River, and Cranberry River. This work will complement the watershed experiments underway in Whittlesey Creek and Bark River noted above. Likewise, the work on the Cranberry River described below will enhance the comprehensive assessments.

All of these streams historically were coaster streams, but today they have extremely flashy flood flows that move tons of sediment that limits in-stream habitat for fish. The team will be looking at overall watershed conditions and the stability of the stream channel to determine how to address these vexing issues. The final project report will provide specific recommendations for watershed and stream health so they naturally maintain themselves.

There is also a community outreach component to the project where we will be reaching out to watershed residents and the general public to raise awareness of coaster brook trout rehabilitation efforts and the stream

and watershed's health. There is a large suite of partners working on this particular project, including the Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources, US Geological Survey, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Red Cliff Natural Resources Dept., Bayfield Land Conservation Dept., Inter-Fluve, and the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute.

Our field crews have already completed one trip to pilot their techniques and they will be doing field work for several weeks in cooperation with other partners this fall.

Cranberry River habitat research

The Wisconsin DNR is funding a study on stream habitat in the Cranberry River. They are using \$20,000 that was specially designated by the Wisconsin legislature for the second year of the last biennial budget to support coaster

brook trout restoration efforts. The WDNR consulted with both TU and the US Fish and Wildlife Service on this project proposal.

The Cranberry River project will complement the work that we will be doing on the Bayfield streams assessment. Researchers will be looking at some stream habitat that is thought to look and function as streams did before they were disturbed after European settlement. Characterizing this habitat could help us determine what kinds of restoration options we have for other area streams. The Wisconsin state budget currently under negotiation has a provision for \$90,000 to be applied to coaster restoration efforts but has not been designated for any particular study or stream.

Coaster conferences

Many people have been talking about it for a couple of years, but it now looks like things are beginning to fall into place for a Coaster Brook Trout Conference. Trout Unlimited recently received a grant from the EPA to help support the conference. The Illinois Council of TU provided some of the matching funds for that grant. The Great Lakes Fishery Commission, Minnesota Sea Grant, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Michigan Technological University, US Fish & Wildlife Service, and UW-Extension have also pledged significant cash or staff resources to help host such a conference.

Initial planning and scoping meetings are just now getting underway, but based on preliminary discussions, it looks like there may actually be two meetings — the first a smaller working meeting with the goal of developing a synthesis of existing research, and then a larger outreach meeting to share the results of research and experiments with a broader audience.

Genetic studies

Minnesota Sea Grant has funded a study to look at the genetics of the coaster brook trout hatchery stocks to determine how much of the genetic integrity has been maintained. Researchers are cooperating with the Red Cliff and Iron River hatcheries where three different coaster strains are being raised.

## Potential Projects

Minnesota stream surveys

In the fall of 2001, MN DNR had planned on revisiting the majority of the streams that had been surveyed

## Michigan DNR changes their coaster bag limits

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) added the following research special regulations starting this year to support the coaster recovery effort:

*"From the last Saturday in April until July 31...Brook Trout Regulations are as follows: 18" minimum size limit, daily harvest/possession limit is (1) fish. From August 1 to the Friday before the last Saturday in April...no harvest of Brook Trout is allowed during this period."*

The regulation applies to the Great Lakes Connecting waters of the following streams:

- Gratiot River (Keweenaw County)
- Hurricane River (Alger County)
- Little Carp River (Gogebic County)
- Mosquito River (Alger County)
- Salmon-Trout River (Marquette County)
- Seven Mile Creek (Alger County)

Without these research regulations, possession on these streams for brook trout would be a limit of 5 fish 8" or longer, no more than three of which could be 15" or longer.

as part of an Embrace-A-Stream genetics survey project to see if the population size and structure have changed since the 1997 regulation changes went into effect.

The 2001 surveys were cancelled due to a state employees strike, but the funds were retained and the MNDNR expects to conduct that work in 2002 with help from local TU volunteers. They may take additional fin clips for future use in genetic studies.

They also have a proposed project to do flyovers along the north shore and the lower tributaries to look at groundwater inputs, which may identify potential spawning and rearing areas.

Lakewide proposal

TU staff in Madison and Arlington are working on putting together a lakewide funding proposal to address habitat restoration, fish reintroduction, research, and coordination to move coaster brook trout restoration efforts forward in the basin.

## Coaster print offered by Michigan TU chapter

The coaster brook trout pictured along with this story comprises a limited edition print being offering by Michigan's Challenge Chapter of TU. The print is a limited edition, signed and numbered print from an original watercolor by renowned artist James Prosek.

All proceeds from its sale go to restoring the habitat of the coaster brook trout and other coldwater fisheries in the Great Lakes basin. For further information, visit the chapter's web site at [www.challengechapter.org](http://www.challengechapter.org) or write to:

Challenge Chapter  
P.O. Box 63  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303



## WISCONSIN TROUT WATERS

TROUT FISHERMAN'S DREAM BOOK



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

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

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"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.

Though just two years old, the Central WI Chapter's Masters Fly Tying Series has already become a chapter favorite. They bring a high-tech flair to the event by using video so everyone gets a great look at the techniques being presented.

The Central Wisconsin Chapter's Masters Fly Tying Series has been conducted for two years. About 25 members have participated in each of these sessions.

**How does it work?**

This activity is for the intermediate-to-accomplished fly tyer. The series is held at Winneconne High School. It meets for two hours, once a week, for five weeks. Five different master (accomplished) fly tyers show how to tie their favorite flies.

The masters are paid \$100, and out of that amount, they supply the tying materials (hooks, hackle, etc.) for the participants. Most of the master tyers show up with individual baggies of fly tying materials for each participant. This speeds up the instruction tremendously. Hopefully enough money is left over for their travel expenses. Last year the chapter actually had to turn people away because of a lack of room.

**Why is the event so popular with members?**

Chapter organizers think one key to making the class so popular is its use of a closed-circuit video camera and three monitors to show the tying clearly. Each tyer had a clear view of a monitor, and they could follow each step of the tying process.

The event also gave tyers more than just the basics. For example, last year's schedule looked like this:

- Week one: Jack Holewinski, Green Bay, Wet Flies;
- Week two: Steve Nelson, Green Bay, Steelhead and Salmon Flies,
- Week Three: Gene West, Wautoma, Hex Patterns,
- Week Four: Russ Bouck, Amherst Junction, Nymphs, and
- Week Five: Bob Arwine, Green Bay, Cutting Edge Flies.

"People who participate in the Master Fly Tying Program want to learn more about fly tying and meet others with similar interests, and this is what the chapter gives them," says event organizer John Gremmer. "They learn to tie at least three new flies in each session and get to interact with the master tyer and others in the group."

"The master tyers enjoy the experience, too, because they get to share their skills with

others. The opportunity to share skills that often take a lifetime to learn can be its own reward. It is a no-pressure, fun time for all involved."

**Who or what benefits from the event?**

The main benefit from this activity is increased interest and participation in other chapter activities. Many of the participants helped with demonstration tying or youth tying at our Annual Trout Fishing Fun Day in March. Many participants showed up at our work days. We also had more people showing up at our business meetings.

This activity provides an arena where people can get to know one another and associate positive happenings with TU. All the people who participated expressed interest in participating in the program the following year. Some participants ended up joining TU for the first time.

**What are the keys to the event's success in case other TU chapters would like to hold a similar event?**

Here are some things John Gremmer says are needed to make this type of event a success:

1. A well-lighted, properly equipped (many small tables) room is needed. Most schools have such rooms and will let groups like TU use them. Just ask the right people (start at the top).
2. A closed-circuit video system is necessary for a group of six or more. We bought the camera for \$175, and we use the school's monitors. The camera is set up over the master's vice and everyone gets a close-up

view on the monitor.

3. The hardest thing about this is making the members aware of the program. We placed announcements in area newspapers and in our chapter newsletter. Phone calls to potential participants was also effective.
4. The master tyers must be a good communicators. An outgoing personality makes the session.



John Gremmer photo

**TYING FOR THE CAMERAS**

Jack Holewinski instructs at the Central WI Chapter's Masters Fly Tying Series. Notice the video camera and monitors to help participants see all the tying action.

5. The master tyers supply all the materials, so participants just have to show up with their tying tools. Charge participants \$40.00 for materials and expenses to cover your master tyer honorariums.
6. This activity works because of its simplicity. One person can organize the whole affair.

**To get more information**

If your chapter would like to learn more about how to run a master fly tying program like this, contact John Gremmer at (920) 582-7802 or jhg@vbe.com.

**Consider Proper Release**

The future of trout fishing is in your hands

Practice these CPR steps to help ensure the fish you release have their best chance of survival.



1. **Don't play fish to exhaustion.** Instead, use a landing net to bring fish under control before they're played out.
2. **Handle fish in the net.** Grasp them across the back and head for firm but gentle control. Use the net fabric as your "glove."
3. **Turn fish belly up while removing hooks.** This disorients fish momentarily for easier, quicker handling.
4. **Don't remove swallowed hooks.** Just cut the line...doing so saves two-thirds of deeply hooked trout.
5. **Don't keep fish out of the water more than 10-15 seconds.** Fragile gills are damaged after that...especially in cold weather.

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# River Alliance conference set

The year 2002 marks the 30th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act, while 2003 has been proclaimed as the "International Year of Freshwater" by the United Nations and proposed as "The Year of Water" in Wisconsin.

Recognizing water as a critical resource for the future, an upcoming conference, *Rivers 2002: A Watershed Event*, is scheduled for November 8-10, near Stevens Point.

Sponsored by the River Alliance of Wisconsin and a host of other organizations, including Trout Unlimited and the Wisconsin Stewardship Network, the conference will bring together more than 125 representatives of Wisconsin organizations and tribes concerned with local watershed protection.

### Tony Dean keynote

Conference keynote speakers will be Tony Dean, outdoor writer and television host, and Martha Marks, president of Republicans for Environmental Protection.

"This event will bring together the diverse members of the state's river community for the first time since 1994," said Todd Ams, River Alliance executive director. "It will be an opportunity to take stock of the progress we've made, and to set a course for the future of our rivers."

As part of the conference, participants will develop an action plan for Wisconsin's watersheds for the next three years. The conference will also offer hands-on workshops to help participants strengthen their watershed protection skills.

For more information, download the conference brochure at [www.wisconsinrivers.org](http://www.wisconsinrivers.org) or contact Diana Toledo, Local Group Assistance Manager at the River Alliance of Wisconsin at (608) 257-2424.

# "Friends" Project Locations

1. \$4,000 for rip-rapping and structural improvements on the West Fork Kickapoo River (Vernon Co.)  
 2. \$1,500 for placement of LUNKER structures and bank stabilization in Black Earth Creek (Dane Co.)  
 3. \$1,000 for hydraulic dredging of Saul Springle Pond (Langlade Co.)  
 4. \$750 for purchase of special thermometers to monitor stormwater runoff into the Kinnickinnic River (Pierce Co.)  
 5. \$2,000 for rerouting and stabilizing Brewery Creek (Iowa Co.)  
 6. \$75 for purchase of catch and release signs for the Bois Brule River Douglas Co.)  
 7. \$2,500 for renovation of trout rearing facilities in Lincoln Park (City of Manitowoc)  
 8. \$500 for bank, stabilization, and structural improvements on the North Fork Thunder River (Oconto Co.)  
 9. \$1,000 for land acquisition along the White River (Waushara Co.)  
 10. \$1,000 to assist with acquisition of 64+ acres of land along Upper Middle Inlet Creek (Marinette Co.)  
 11. \$7,000 to purchase a Rotary Screw Fish Trap for DNR Coldwater research.  
 12. \$3,000 to fund stream improvements and riparian protection in and along streams of Middle Kickapoo River watershed. (Vernon and Crawford counties)  
 13. \$1,000 to help fund instream habitat work in the Plover River (Marathon Co.)  
 14. \$551 to help purchase recording thermographs to monitor thermal regimes in trout streams in the Buena Vista and Leola marshes (Portage, Wood, Adams counties)  
 15. \$3,372 for installing bank cover and closing side channels in Sand Creek (Jackson and Monroe counties)  
 16. \$3,296 to continue and extend stream bank brushing along Chaffee Creek (Marquette Co.)  
 17. \$1,000 to continue population and movement studies of brown trout in the Mecan River (Marquette County) for potential stream reclamation  
 18. \$1,700 to conduct follow-up surveys on wild brown trout in the Namekagon River (Sawyer/Bayfield counties)  
 19. \$2,000 to conduct studies of fall movements and concentrations of spawning wild brood fish in the Namekagon River (Sawyer/Bayfield counties) for capture and use in raising wild trout for the river  
 20. \$1,000 to assist with the third year of dredging silt and detritus from Elton Springs (Langlade Co.)  
 21. \$1,000 for stream brushing, debris removal, and brush bundle installation in Swanson Creek (Forest County), a tributary to the Rat River  
 22. \$500 for building a sand/sediment trap in Wisconsin Creek (Florence County), a tributary to the boundary Brule River, to enhance trout spawning potential.  
 23. \$2,750 to purchase materials for fencing projects approved under the Streambank Easement Program  
 24. \$350 to conduct trout population studies in the lateral ditches listed as trout waters (Portage, Wood and Adams counties) that are under threat from agricultural/cranberry operation encroachment  
 25. \$250 toward habitat work on the West Fork Kickapoo River (Vernon and Crawford counties)  
 26. \$2,000 to fund dredging (silt/debris removal) from McClintock Springs in the southern unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest (Waukesha Co.)  
 27. \$2,000 to create overhead bank cover in and remove beaver dams from Whitewater/Bluff Creek (Walworth Co.)  
 28. \$2,000 for stream improvements in Billings Creek (Vernon Co.)  
 29. \$1,500 for materials for in-stream structures in the Tomorrow River (Portage Co.)  
 30. \$2,500 for stream restoration in Mormon Coulee Creek (La Crosse Co.)  
 31. \$1,500 to assist in production of an educational video on development impacts along the Kinnickinnic River (St. Croix and Pierce counties)  
 32. \$7,000 for stream improvement on Elk Creek (Chippewa Co.)  
 33. \$4,000 for rock hauling and restoration work on Duncan Creek (Chippewa Co.)  
 34. \$1,750 to purchase materials for stream improvements on the North Fork Buffalo River (Jackson Co.)  
 35. \$2,000 to fund backhoe work on intensive habitat improvement in the Prairie River (Lincoln Co.)  
 36. \$500 for stream rehabilitation in Tainter Creek (Crawford Co.)  
 37. \$1,000 for expenses to study the long-term effects on brook trout following the removal of beaver dams on the Pembebonwon River in northern Wisconsin (Marinette Co.)  
 38. \$2,000 to help fund reprinting *Trout Stream Therapy* book (Waupaca Co.)  
 39. \$1,000 to defray expenses involved in holding the Midwest Trout Angling Workshop in La Crosse in July, 2000 (La Crosse Co.)  
 40. \$2,000 to fund stream improvement work on Mormon Coulee Creek (La Crosse Co.)  
 41. \$2,000 to fund restoration work on the Little Pine River. (Waushara Co.)  
 42. \$2,000 to the WDNR to help purchase an easement on Tenmile Creek along Hwy. 13.  
 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 coarser baseline information (Ashland Co.)  
 45. \$1,000 to WDNR Trempealeau district for trout restoration backhoe (Trempealeau Co.).

## Friends of Wis. TU

Your name would look great here!  
Join the Friends today...

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- Dr. Alan G. Finesilver De Pere WI
- Rollie Vander Zyl McFarland WI
- Gary Gussel Madison WI
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- Robert Hackinson Appleton WI
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- John & Susan Bleimehl Verona WI
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### Wisconsin TU Chapters:

- Green Bay Chapter
- Frank Hornberg Chapter
- SE Wisconsin Chapter
- Marinette County Chapter
- Central Wisconsin Chapter
- Lakeshore Chapter

Yes, I want to join the "Friends" of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited.

Enclosed is my check for \$100 or more.

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

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