Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited
4514 Elgar Ln.
Madison, WI 53704
(608) 243-9025

Visit Wisconsin TU online at www.WisconsinTU.org

News and Views from WI Trout Unlimited

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 1
MADISON, WI

Wisconsin Trout

April 2003

Polluted runoff training in Oshkosh a success

By Laura Hewitt

Thirty-one enthusiastic Wisconsin Trout Unlimited members gathered in Oshkosh Feb. 1 to find out how TU volunteers can make a difference on their home waters implementing solutions to polluted runoff.

The training took place at the Oshkosh Convention Center in conjunction with the WITU State Council meeting.

Runoff Wisconsin's top water quality threat

Polluted runoff is currently the single largest threat to water quality in Wisconsin, affecting 40% of our rivers and streams and 90% of our lakes.

The State of Wisconsin adopted comprehensive new rules to address polluted runoff last October.

The Polluted Runoff Committee of the State Council saw an opportunity to capitalize on TU's unique strength in order to address polluted runoff across the state. Trout Unlimited has a long history of working cooperatively with landowners to implement stream restoration projects.

Cooperative TU approach

The emphasis of this campaign is to work cooperatively with landowners to put polluted runoff control practices on the ground.

The *Polluted Runoff Toolkit* the committee produced to help in this effort has information regarding polluted runoff sources and solutions, summaries of the new state rules, and information about funding programs and agency contacts.

There is also information about how to get more TU volunteers engaged in the chapter and getting the word out to the media and general public.

Continued on p. 4

NEW WDNR SECRETARY SCOTT HASSETT AT OSHKOSH STATE COUNCIL BANQUET
Ojibleau TU member and outdoor reporter Joe Knight (right) takes advantage of a quiet moment to interview newly appointed WDNR Secretary Scott Hassett at the State Council Banquet Feb. 1.

Proposed well larger than Perrier wanted on the Mecan

TU members react to possible spring water bottling operation at Langlade trout farm

By Todd Hanson

Members of the Wolf River and Antigo TU chapters have helped delay a proposed zoning change that could have led to a Perrier-sized spring water bottling operation in Langlade County.

Suspicions arose when the Trout Haven Hatchery in Polar applied for both a new high-capacity well permit and a zoning change on the fish farm, despite local knowledge that the farm was said to be for sale.

Continued on p. 4

Nash Williams' estate gives TU $100,000

By Jon Christiansen

In the last edition of this newspaper, the passing of our great friend, Nash Williams, was noted.

Now the extent of Nash's support has grown even further. Gifts to Trout Unlimited from Nash's estate will be the amazing sum of $100,000.

Of this amount, $25,000 was given to TU National and $25,000 each to the Wisconsin State Council, the Central WI Chapter, and the Southern WI Chapter.

The State Council gift has been placed in our endowment fund and will serve as a basis for generating further income to support TU's goals in Wisconsin. At the time of this article, the chapters mentioned above had not determined how their gifts from Nash would be put to use.

The gift from Nash Williams is an excellent illustration of how one man's lifelong interests in our sport and our mission can be honored and remembered long into the future.

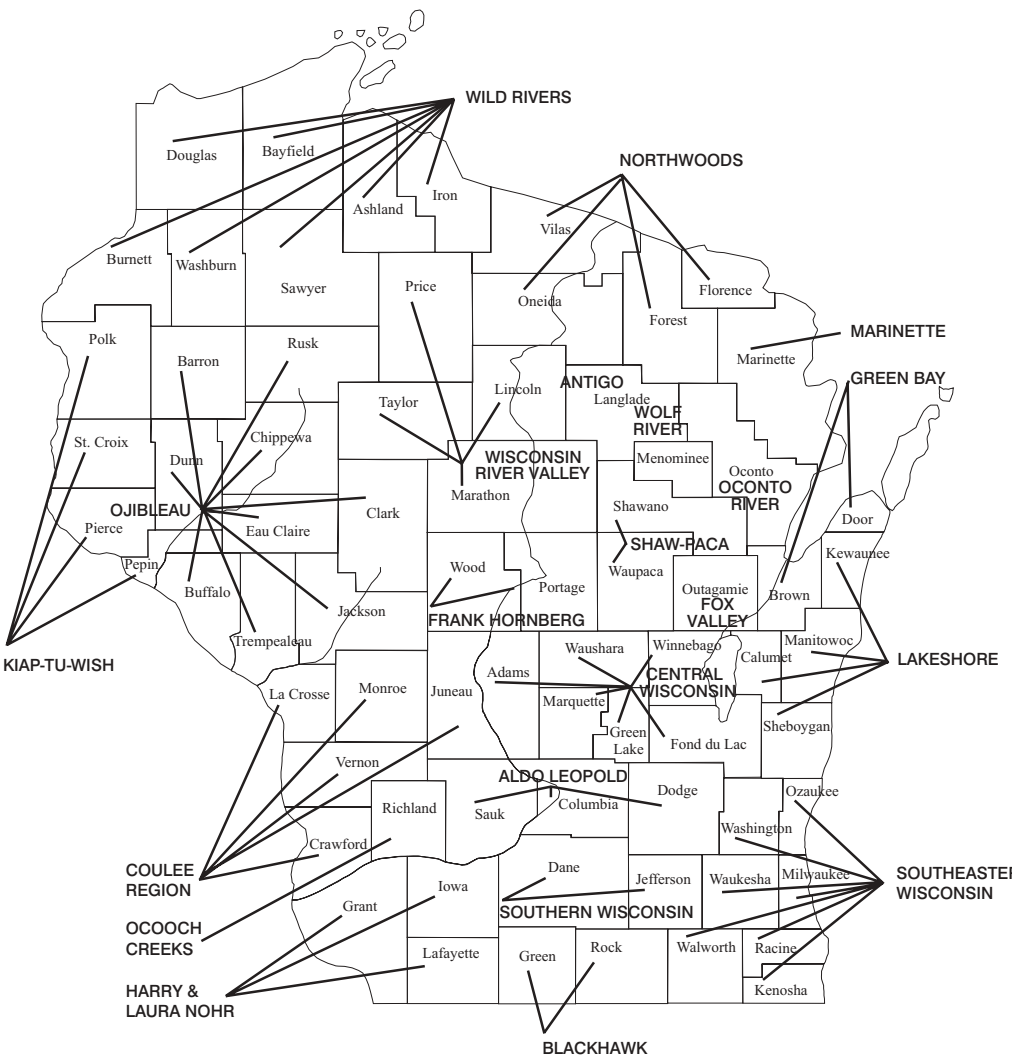
But gifts to TU's endowment fund do not have to be as large as that received from the Nash Williams estate. Recently, the endowment fund received checks in the amount of $5 and $50 in memory of the passing of a Minnesota man whose passion was fishing our Wisconsin trout streams. What a special way to remember a friend or colleague, or even to honor someone during their life.

Nash was a former State Council Chair and a member of both the Southern and Central Chapters. Nash was an avid trout fisherman and a supporter of numerous conservation causes.

If you would like further information on Wisconsin TU's endowment, please call Jon Christiansen at (414) 297-5557 or Bill Pielsticker at (608) 592-4718.

In this issue...

Wisconsin TU Chapters, Presidents, and Web Sites



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

Antigo (#313): Scott Henricks, 213 Mary St., Antigo, WI 54409-2536 (715) 623-3867; Henricks51@charter.net

Blackhawk (#390): Dave Patrick, P.O. Box 893, Janesville, WI 53547 (608) 884-6948

Central Wisconsin (#117): Bob Chamberlain, W2728 Oakwood Bch. Rd., Markesan, WI 54946 (920) 398-3721; rchamberlain1@juno.com; www.dotnet.com/~fishfun1/CWTU.htm

Coulee Region (#278): Nathan Barnhart, 400 Gillette St. #332, La Crosse, WI 54603 (608) 779-4184; suzanna_nathan@msn.com; www.couleeregiontu.org

Fox Valley (#193): Tom Deer, 1271 Maple St., Neenah, WI 54956 (920) 725-6077 (H); troutricks@netzero.net; www.foxvalley-tu.org

Frank Hornberg (#624): Jim Henke, 5006 Dorothy St., Stevens Point, WI 54481-9451 (715) 341-4503; jhenke@g2a.net

Green Bay (#083): Dennis Gusick, 1531 Lost Dauphin Rd., De Pere, WI 54115 (920) 336-1157; dengusick@msn.com; www.greenbaytu.com

Harry & Laura Nohr (#257): Dave Fritz, 13528 Old G, Montfort, WI 53569 (608) 943-8454; kayndave@mhtc.net

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

Lakeshore (#423): Roger Berg, 4867 Dennwood Dr., Sheboygan, WI 53083 (920) 458-7899 rberg@sheboygan.k12.wi.us.

Marinette (#422): Steve Wilke, 2526 Shore Drive, Marinette, WI 54143 (715) 732-4911; swilke@new.rr.com

Northwoods (#256): Brian Hegge, 5077 Sunset Dr. #2, Rhinelander, WI 54501 (715) 362-3244 (W), (715) 362-3244 (H); bhegge@newnorth.net; www.northwoodstu.org

Oconto River (#385): Dave Brunner, 5473 Cardinal Rd., Gillett, WI 54124 (920) 855-6669; dbrunner@ez-net.com

Ocooch Creeks (#729): Allon Bostwick, 21650 Highway A, Richland Center WI 53581 (608) 547-4709 (H); bostwick.allo@students.uwlax.edu

Ojibleau (#255): Steve Gausman; W1000 Hemlock Rd.; Eau Claire, WI 54701 (715) 834-8744; sgausman@sehinc.com; www.ojibleautu.com

Shaw-Paca (#381): Dave Ehrenberg, 324 East Fourth St., Manawa, WI 54949 (920) 596-3089; skyonna@netnet.net

Southeastern Wisconsin (#078): Chuck Beeler, 2954 S. Moorland Rd., New Berlin, WI 53151 (414) 486-1129 (W), 789-6921 (H)

Southern Wisconsin (#061): Bill Pielsticker, 8045 Crystal Lake Rd., Lodi, WI 53555-9539 (608) 592-4718; billpiel@merr.com; www.swtu.org

Wild Rivers (#415): Bill Heart, 66625 Highland Rd., Ashland, WI 54806 (715) 682-5307 (W), 682-4703 (H), 682-3221 fax; wrtrout@cheqnet.net

Wisconsin River Valley (#395): Herbert Hintze, 629 Hamilton St., Wausau, WI 54403 (715) 842-136

Wolf River (#050): Herb Buettner, N4297 Buettner Rd., White Lake, WI 54491 (715) 882-8611 (W), (715) 882-8612 (H)

Visit Wis. TU online at www.WisconsinTU.org

Wisconsin TU State Council Leadership

State Chair: Jon Christiansen, 237 W. Aster Ln., Mequon, WI 53092 (414) 297-5557 (W); (262) 241-5520 (H) (414) 297-5557 (fax); jchristiansen@foleylaw.com

Vice-Chair: Jim Hlaban, N5967 Murray Rd., Ogdensburg, WI 54962 (920) 244-7456; wiscpr@wolfnet.net.

Secretary: Chuck Steudel, 1217 Cty. QQ, Mineral Point, WI 53565 (608) 987-2171; csteudel@mhtc.net

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

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

Vice-Chair, Central Region: Dave Johnson, PO Box 424, Wautoma, WI 54982 (920) 787-6201 (W); (920) 622-3633 (H)

Vice-Chair, NE Region: Larry Kriese, 2762 White Pine Rd., Green Bay, WI 54313 (920) 434-0143, themarshskico@aol.com

Vice-Chair, Southern Region: Larry Meicher (see above)

Vice-Chair, Western Region: John Bethke, 118 Vernon St., Westby, WI 54667 (608) 634-3641; qjlb@yahoo.com

Education: Henry Haugley, 1406 Diamond Ct., Sun Prairie, WI 53590 (608) 825-9768; hhaugley@solvnetmail.net.

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

Legal Counsel: Winston Ostrow, 335 Traders Point Ln., Green Bay, WI 54302 (920) 432-9300 (W); (920) 469-1596 (H); waostrow@gklaw.com

Legislation: Jeff Smith, 7330 Old Sauk Rd., Madison, WI 53717-1213; (608) 266-0267; jeffrey.smith@doa.state.wi.us

Membership: John T. "Jack" Bode, W312 N6434 Beaver Lake Rd., Hartland, WI 53029 (262) 367-5300 (H); (262) 951-7136 (W) jbode@gklaw.com

Publications: Todd Hanson, 4514 Elgar Ln., Madison, WI 53704 (608) 268-1218 (W); (608) 243-9025 (phone & fax); twhanson@chorus.net

Resource Policy & Rules: Bill Sherer, 6272 Oswego Fish Trap Rd., PO Box 516, Boulder Junction, WI 54512 (715) 385-9373 (H) wetieit@centurytel.net

Water Resources: Stu Grimstad, 1563 Cty. ZZ, Amherst Junction, WI 54407 (715) 677-3454 (H), sgrim@triver.com

Webmaster: John Koch, W4345 850 Ave., Spring Valley, WI 54767 (715) 684-2228 (W), wis_flyfishing@hotmail.com.

Contact TU National when you change addresses or chapter leaders

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

WISCONSIN TROUT

Vol. 15, No. 2 — April 2003

Wisconsin Trout is the official publication of the Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited and is distributed to the members of Wisconsin's 22 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.

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

Todd Hanson, editor
4514 Elgar Ln.
Madison, WI 53704
(608) 243-9025 (phone & fax)
twhanson@chorus.net

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

Jim Hlaban, Vice-Chair
N5967 Murray Rd.,
Ogdensburg, WI 54962

Chuck Steudel, Secretary
1217 Cty. QQ
Mineral Point, WI 53565

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

Why we should support a Trout Stamp fee hike

By John Welter

Past State Council Chair

Wisconsin's Inland Trout Stamp fee needs to be increased, and the time to do it is now.

If the fee is hiked from $7.25 to $10, an additional $385,000 will be available for trout habitat projects around the state each season. At a time when the state faces a budget deficit of $3.2 billion and some 2,900 state jobs are on the cutting block, it may sound strange to push for a fee hike. And here in the pages of *Wisconsin Trout*, you may have seen writings by me and others over the past seven years that were critical of the DNR's administration of the Trout Stamp program. But there are good reasons for an increase, and for it to happen now.

Editorial

It's almost certain fees will be increased for your 2004 fishing and hunting licenses (see proposed fee increases below), probably somewhere around 35 percent. But there's no Inland Trout Stamp fee increase proposed in the Governor's proposed budget for the DNR, although there is a proposed increase in the Great Lakes Trout and Salmon Stamp to $10. The Great Lakes stamp increase is intended to be used solely for hatcheries, not habitat.

Through the Inland Trout Stamp program, since 1977 Wisconsin's trout anglers have paid for stream habitat projects. Your $7.25 annual investment pays for stream projects, surveys to determine where to put them, and the people who do much of the work. But even though project costs go up every year, the trout stamp fee has only been hiked twice in the history of the program, the last time in 1992. It is time for an increase, to enable more projects to be done on streams around the state.

In the mid-90s there were problems with the Inland Trout Stamp program within the DNR. Reorganization had juggled work assignments so that not enough experienced trout habitat workers could lead projects. Biologist and technician positions went unfilled in some areas where streams could have benefited from projects. As a result, a backlog of Inland Trout Stamp funds of as much as $2 million built up, according to an ad hoc TU committee that looked at the problem and made recommendations to solve it.

Most of TU's recommendations have since been accepted and put into practice by the DNR. New positions were added and the surplus was spent down over the past five years. Annual reports made the system more accountable. And unspent funds can be re-allocated to get them into the streams every season. Several of our TU chapters stand ready to work with the DNR on joint projects, and to carry forward quality projects that could use Trout Stamp funds without adding positions within the DNR.

There are still some sticking points, but the DNR has moved to address most of them. The only one we haven't made progress on is the move several years ago that reduced the portion of your Patron's License fees that goes into the Inland Trout Stamp fund from $3.73 to $1.77, which resulted in a loss of at least $170,000 last year. The solution to that situation might be one of a couple things:

- Quit buying Patron's licenses. Instead, buy a Sportsman's license and use the money you would have paid for a Patron's license to *buy your change in Trout Stamps*.
- Advocate that the Trout Stamp be taken out of the Patron's license, as has the Sturgeon tag, for next season.

Another reason for an increase is to maintain what we have. Since 1977, nearly all Trout Stamp funds have gone into developing stream habitat. In 2001, 10% of all Trout Stamp funds were spent on maintenance. More needs to be done to maintain those improvements created 25 years ago. If the Trout Stamp fee isn't increased, maintenance funding will have to come at the expense of improving more streams.

Can the DNR put the increased Trout Stamp monies into the streams? We have been assured by DNR Fisheries officials the answer is "yes." It's time for trout anglers across the state to stand up and speak out about the benefits of habitat improvement and the need for an Inland Trout Stamp fee hike. The State Council at its annual meeting in February voted to ask the DNR for an increase to $10.

What can you do? Let your legislator, the DNR, Gov. Doyle, and the Joint Finance Committee know you support an increase. A note or e-mail can do that. Talk about it with your local conservation groups and urge their support. At the spring Conservation Congress hearings, sponsor a local resolution supporting an increase. Then, go out and fish a rehabilitated stream and enjoy the resource, knowing you put in a good word for it. Your lunch will cost you more than the fee increase.

Letters

Support sought for Onion R. Congress item

Editor,

I'm sure you are well aware of the 14 April statewide public spring hearings for the proposed fish and wildlife rule changes. You may also be aware of the Lakeshore Chapter of TU's restoration work on the Onion River in Sheboygan County.

Question number 36 of the proposed changes specifically deals with a portion of our restoration project, mainly the headwaters and spawning areas. It asks for a temporary increase in the minimum length limitation, a reduction in the daily bag limit, and artificial lures only so that the limited number of native (to the Onion River) trout as well as the wild trout we have plans to transfer to the Onion, have at lease two cycles as adults to reproduce.

The regulations for the other portion, nearly half of our restoration project, will remain as is.

The purpose for contacting you is to ask your help encouraging Wisconsin, and most importantly Sheboygan County sportspersons, to support this regulation change.

Jerry Baumann
Lakeshore TU Onion River Restoration Committee
Sheboygan

TU asked to support smallmouth question

Editor,

April 14, 2003 is the date of the DNR/ Conservation Congress Spring hearings. You have the meeting places listed in this issue of *Wisconsin Trout*. Question #2 is about special regulations for bass on the Lower Wisconsin River, and the proposal could use all the help it can get, as many of the "Catchem & Fryem" crowd would like to see the proposal defeated. These are the same folks who opposed the early trout season, or who oppose any suggestion to create "quality angling opportunities" for any species.

See p. 11 for a list of Spring Hearing locations

I would like to see all 3,900 TU members in Wisconsin attend the Spring Hearings and let their opinions about improving fishing opportunities for all of us who think the sport is more important than a filet be heard.

If those of us who believe in conserving and enhancing our angling opportunities take the time to show up at the Spring Hearings once a year, we can get some great fishing where mediocre fishing now exists.

Those of us who believe in conservation have to support each other to prevail, so encourage TU members to support better regulations for all fish species at the DNR/Conservation Congress hearings on April 14 in their respective counties. They have to show up at the hearings to make a difference, but TU members have been showing up to help create and protect better fishing opportunities for a long time, so this will be just one more example of their dedication.

We have supported better resources and angling opportunities for trout fishermen for many years, and now it is my turn to ask for help for my favorite smallmouth stream. Thanks.

Steve Winters
Former VP Aldo Leopold Chapter, President WI Smallmouth Alliance

Thanks Council for appreciation award

Editor,

I wanted to thank [the State Council] for awarding me with a certificate of appreciation at your February meeting.

It's funny, though, that I feel I should be awarding individuals and chapters of TU in Wisconsin for recognition awards because so many of your members give so much to the stream monitoring program with which I work. It wouldn't be the same without them!

It's been wonderful to work with TU in the past few years, and I look forward to continuing to work with your organization.

Kristine Stepenuck
WDNR

License Fee Changes Effective March 2004 All prices include issuance fee of $0.75/license and $0.25/stamp.	Current Fees	Proposed Fees	Fee Change
FISHING LICENSES			
RESIDENT			
Annual	$14	$20	$6
Husband and wife	$24	$35	$11
Senior Fishing License	$7	$10	$3
Disabled Fishing License	$7	$10	$3
Junior Fishing License (16/17)	$7	$7	$0
NONRESIDENT			
Individual annual	$34	$40	$6
Family annual	$52	$65	$13
Fifteen-day individual	$20	$24	$4
Four-day	$15	$18	$3
Fifteen-day family	$30	$40	$10
Two Day Great Lakes Fishing	$10	$14	$4
STAMPS			
Trout	$7.25	$7.25	$0
G.L. trout & salmon	$7.25	$10	$2.75

TOOLKIT: training at Oshkosh Council meeting

Continued from p. 1

The State Council printed a limited number of copies of the toolkit.

Overview and solutions

The training session provided an overview of polluted runoff sources, impacts, and solutions. The volunteers went through exercises to become more familiar with the content of the toolkit, and they also had an opportunity to practice talking to various audiences about polluted runoff, the toolkit, and TU's efforts to address the issue.

TU National Midwest Conservation Director Laura Hewitt and Volunteer Services Coordinator Russ Schnitzer delivered the training.

Support from C.S. Mott

The toolkit and training session were supported in part by a grant from the C.S. Mott Foundation.

If you are interested in receiving a copy of the toolkit, please contact Laura Hewitt at 222 S. Hamilton St., Ste. 3, Madison, WI 53703 or lhewitt@tu.org or (608) 250-3534.

You can also download the toolkit from the Wisconsin TU web site: www.WisconsinTU.org/html/resources/toolkit.htm.

Nonpoint training attendees

The following TU members represented their chapters at the Feb. 1 training session in Oshkosh: Mike Barniskis, Richard Bell, Dick Berge, John Bethke, Bob Boucher, Bill Brashear, Genie Buettner, Gerry Campbell, Cameron Coleman, Larry Doebert, Tom Eddington, Lou Gauen, John Gremmer, Bob Juracka, Joe Knight, Jack Koivisto, Matt Kriese, Paul Kruse, Tom Lager, Dale Lange, Mike Mather, Bob Melcher, Bob Obma, Dan Patenaude, Eric Rauch, Derek Scheer, Dave Stakston, Tony Treml, Jim VandenBranden, Ray Venn, Jill Wabiszewski, and Damian Wilmot.

POLLUTED RUNOFF TOOLKIT MOVERS AND SHAKERS
Early planning for the State Council's Polluted Runoff Toolkit took place at a meeting at Jon Christiansen's cabin along the Pine River near Wautoma. Attending this planning meeting were (top, left to right) Laura Hewitt, Dale Druckrey, Jim Hlaban, Jon Christiansen, Jack Bode, Todd Hanson, and Stu Grimstad. Also attending this session but not pictured were Lou Gauen and Russ Schnitzer. Showing the finished toolkit at the State Council training session Feb. 1 was Laura Hewitt (bottom left). Jack Bode (bottom right) distributed copies of the toolkit to State Council representatives during their meeting that took place concurrently with the polluted runoff training session.

BOTTLING: well permit sought

Continued from p. 1

The fish farm is located about nine miles southwest of Antigo. It adjoins 119 acres of WDNR property containing two spring ponds — Rabes Lake and Krause Springs. Both of these springs are surrounded by the DNR property. Rabes Creek flows off of the Trout Haven property, and it is a class I trout stream.

Herb Buettner, George Rock, and other local TU members questioned a preliminary Langlade County committee recommendation to approve the trout farm's plan.

TU pointed out that these land use changes could lead to large-scale water withdrawals affecting the downstream springs and removing needed water from the watershed.

At press time, the Langlade County Board has referred the matter back for additional study and comment.

Some thoughts on WI TU membership and polluted runoff

By Jon Christiansen

WITU Chair

It could not have been a better opening day. Unlike last year, when a raging snowstorm knocked out all hope of connecting with trout, March this year came in like a lamb with sunny skies and 35 degrees. My friend, Jack Bode (our new membership chair), and I fished a couple small spring creeks amidst the beautiful hills of southwest Wisconsin.

Using a two-fly rig, we caught and released more trout than either of us could possibly have expected. I used a gray scud on top and the soon to be world famous Bethke Pink Squirrel on the bottom. (If only John had talked to me about patenting the fly before he started giving them away by the dozens.) The water was clear and low and by mid morning the fish had become reasonably active. There were even infrequent rises. It turned out to be the perfect start of a new year.

Which brings me to the subjects of this column. The start of a new trout season heralds the continuation of our ongoing work. First, I want to focus on membership. While TU's Wisconsin membership has grown significantly in the past few years, I learned a fact that I found rather surprising. In 2002, there were 134,410 trout stamps sold in Wisconsin. Contrast this with our membership of just under 4,000 and then do the math. TU, my friends, is just scratching the surface of those people who are enough about trout fishing to buy a stamp and actually cast a line. Frankly, I thought that our percentage of membership would have been considerably higher.

I am sure that each one of us knows as many as five or ten regular trout fishers who are not TU members. And why is that? Well, I am sure there are a number of reasons; some good and some bad, but I would venture to say that a main reason is apathy, not lack of empathy. Nobody has asked them to join TU or asked them to renew a lapsed membership.

I would like to challenge our Council, chapters, and members to adopt as a goal this year — a 5% to 10% increase in membership. There is strength in numbers, my friends, and there is also financial strength, both for TU National and for our chapters — if we can recruit additional members.

How can we accomplish this? I can suggest several methods. First, at the Council level, I propose that we develop the means to contact trout stamp purchasers, on behalf of the chapters, with a targeted solicitation. Hand-in-hand with that, I propose that the chapters contact these people and invite them to a meeting. I think you will be surprised at what a personal invitation will do to a trout fisherman's enthusiasm.

Second, consider offering some type of a contest to recruit new members, with each membership resulting in a few flies or even more significant prizes put up by the chapters. Third, always have a supply of membership applications on hand. I can't count the number of times when a membership application in hand would have resulted in a convert. Lastly, do not forget that Internet-savvy prospects can sign up on the National TU web site at www.tu.org. The process is simple and quick.

Jon Christiansen

*****

On an entirely different matter, I want to thank Lou Gauen and all of the other volunteers who worked so hard to create the *Polluted Runoff Toolkit* that was featured at the training session conducted at the State Council meeting in early February. Laura Hewitt and Russ Schnitzer of TU National conducted the training, and they did a terrific job.

The *Toolkit* is a notebook of resources and a process by which chapters and their members can combat polluted runoff in our individual territories. The next step is to take what we've learned and actually implement it at the chapter level.

Over the course of the next few weeks, I will be calling all of the chapter presidents to encourage each chapter to include in an upcoming meeting a section on the *Polluted Runoff Toolkit*. I would encourage you to attend those meetings and become involved.

As we have talked about in the past, polluted runoff — nonpoint source pollution — is the largest, single reason for the degradation of our trout streams. If we can ensure the implementation of Wisconsin's new rules on polluted runoff, both now and in the future, the result will surely be cleaner streams, healthier watersheds, and, oh yes — more trout.

Council looks to sponsor DU Outdoor Fest booth

By Jim Hlaban

Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited would like to sponsor a booth at the Ducks Unlimited Festival in August in Oshkosh.

We need an individual to step forward to act as project coordinator for this effort.

The coordinator would this year work with Jerry Unmuth who has coordinated a booth for the Fox Valley Chapter in the past and is familiar with what is needed.

The State Council would pay all fees and incidental expenses. The coordinator would be responsible for applying for and complying with requirements of the Ducks Unlimited organization. The coordinator would set up and take down the both, coordinate recruiting volunteers to man the booth, and set the volunteers' schedules.

Up to two coordinators get free passes and parking for the festival, plus the opportunity to improve the visibility and recruit much-needed support for Trout Unlimited.

If you are interested in being a part of this effort, please contact either Jim Hlaban at (920) 244-7456 or Jerry Unmuth at (920) 739-6953.

You must act now. The deadline for applications is fast approaching.

Conservation buyer update

The WI State Council Conservation Buyer Registry is a tool that connects conservation buyers — people who understand and respect the value of undeveloped trout habitat — with property sellers.

Sellers typically include people who have property that contains trout habitat, but are concerned that selling their property will lead to its being developed without regard for a conservation ethic needed to preserve these valuable ecosystems.

If you are interested in buying or selling property that contains trout habitat, contact Jim Hlaban (address on p. 2). Please provide him with as much information as you can about what you have for sale or what you are interested in. He will let you know of anyone in the registry who may be able to help.

He also has information about conservation easements that do not require public access, nor do they demand that the property remain completely undeveloped.

Farming, forestry, recreational use as well as limited development can be allowed and can still result in significant tax savings for property owners.

Central region elects officers and plans monitoring/stream work

The Central Region of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited met and elected officers for 2003 on Feb. 24. Regional officers include:

Jim Hlaban Chairman,

Bob Chamberlain Vice Chair,

Tom Deer Secretary, and

Dave Johnson Treasurer.

The only chapter not represented was the Lakeshore Chapter. Dave Erhenberg of the Shaw-Paca Chapter was also in attendance.

Each chapter reported on their activities. The highlight being Clint Byrnes, president of the Aldo Leopold Chapter, reporting that there was an effort to revitialize the Aldo Leopold Chapter.

Chairman Hlaban reported on progress being made toward a project just below US 10 on the Waupaca River on the Nancy Rose and Dave Alix properties. Easements have been obtained, permits are being applied for, and work staging boulders for placement in the river had already begun. The placement of the boulders in the river, along with lunker structures, will be completed by the DNR habitat crew most likely in July or August 2003. Chapter crews will help with the project with this work being scheduled later in the year.

The region representatives also voted to donate $500 to support water monitoring and training in support of the North East Wisconsin Land Trust Little Wolf River Headwaters Project. Announcements have already gone out to each of the region's chapters seeking volunteers to attend water monitoring training to support this project in the years to come.

TU members from anywhere seeking water monitoring training are invited to attend this training. The first training session will be held at the Reeve Reserve on the Little Wolf above Big Falls on April 26. Contact Jim Hlaban for more information or to register.

Council bestows honors at annual event

The Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited held its annual awards ceremony at a Noon luncheon at the Oshkosh Convention Center Feb. 1.

This luncheon was a break from past practice where award winners were introduced during the State Council's evening banquet. The following is the text used to introduce the council's award winners.

By Larry Meicher

Joan and Lee Wulff Conservation Award

Several years ago, John Beth made arrangements with Joan Wulff for the creation of our Joan and Lee Wulff award for outstanding conservation leadership. This is a traveling award. We pass it on annually to a person who, in the opinion of the executive committee and the awards committee, has shown outstanding leadership.

John's vision was that the award, like a trout, "is a treasure too valuable to be caught only once." Mr. Beth's vision has a variety of subtle, yet powerful, feelings that focus on the heart of Trout Unlimited. In its own way, as a catch and release trophy, it should help all of us remember and refocus on what we are all about, and perhaps make our commitment stronger!

This year, the council has chosen Dan Flaherty to hold the award. Dan was the mainstay for many years of the Coulee Region Chapter. He has served on the DNR Board. He has also been on the Wisconsin Conservation Congress.

Dan was the brains behind and the one who proposed our Wisconsin trout stamp. This has been one of the more successful stamp programs across the nation. Since then, Dan has been a guardian angel of the funds raised by the yearly stamp sales. Ever since he's retired from the DNR Board, he has been one of the watchdogs who have made sure that these funds were saved for and spent where they were intended — on our coldwater resource.

WITU Resource Award of Merit

The Award of Merit for this year goes to Dave Ladd of Dodgeville. Dave was one of the mainstays of the Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter from its inception in the 1970s. He has spearheaded many projects for the chapter. Of particular note were the Harker Creek and Otter Creek projects.

Dave has been a longtime proponent of sustainable forestry. He is founder and CEO of Walnut Hollow farm. He is also a member of the Iowa County Land Conservation Committee. He has been a member of the Iowa Conservation Congress for 33 years and now is their chair.

He is the city of Dodgeville urban forest tree board chairman. He has also been active in the development of the Iowa County recreation and prairie restoration movement.

He has served on several special legislative committees on natural and recreational resources. He was appointed by Governor Thompson and served as vice chair of the Knowles-Nelson stewardship program.

In 1988 he was named small business person of the year by the U.S. Small Business Administration. The environmental defense group has recognized Dave for the critical role he played in developing Wisconsin's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).

Most recently, governor McCallum appointed him to the DNR Board. Unfortunately, due to our political spoils system, he's had one of the shorter tenures on that Board that we have seen! David was heavily involved in the recent Deer 2000 efforts of the DNR which will influence deer management for many years to come.

Dave's deep knowledge and love for Wisconsin, the great outdoors, farming, and forestry — as well as his years of public service — are inspiring to all of us. He has been an exceptionally effective advocate for our precious natural resources.

Gold Trout Award

Our Gold Trout for leadership goes to our State Council Secretary Chuck Steudel. Chuck has served at several offices including president of the Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter. He has also been one of the mainstays of that chapter's very successful annual fund raising banquet.

Over the years, Chuck has been very active in the activities of the State Council as well, serving as Nohr's council representative, chairing committees, and, now, as our recording secretary.

Over the years, Chuck has always had the ability and fortitude to be able to speak up for the resource whenever anything controversial came up. He has been a real asset to his chapter, the council, and, most importantly, the coldwater resource.

Unsung Most Valuable Trouter

Our UMVT award goes to Jim Bereza. Jim was the Marinette Chapter's first president in 1983 and held that office for four years. He then served as secretary-treasurer for many years. He has always been a driving force behind that chapter's work projects, fund raising, and educational efforts.

Over the years, Jim has worked booths in shopping centers to promote TU and its causes. His leadership helped the chapter raise over $100,000 over the years.

Jim has always been active in the State Council as well. He has twice been co-chair of our annual banquet, and has always been there to help with any job to be done since then. Jim has indeed been an unwavering asset to Trout Unlimited. Join me today in declaring Jim a UMVT — unsung most valuable trouter.

Gold Net Award

Our Gold Net Award recipient this year is Bill Pielsticker. Bill has served on the board of directors for the Southern WI Chapter of TU, and he is now that chapter's president.

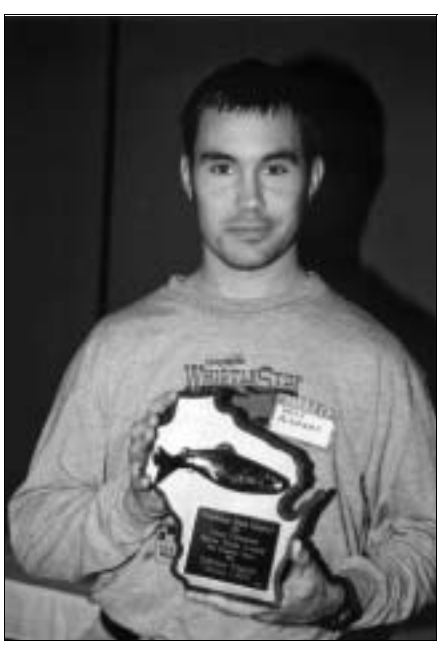
Bill was very instrumental in organizing public hearings so that the DNR could share their findings about the devastating fish kill on Black Earth Creek in 2001.

Bill has recent farming experiences in Illinois and Wisconsin, and this experience was very beneficial to the resource as Bill was one of the movers and shakers in the formulation of our present nonpoint pollution runoff rules in Wisconsin. Bill acted as TU's spokesman in the development of these rules, and his testimony at public hearings last year on the rules carried extra credibility because he was a farmer!

Last year, Bill was one of the main forces that organized our leadership training workshop for the Mott Foundation project we held in conjunction with our banquet last year. Bill also conducted one of the workshops at the Waters of Wisconsin conference this past November.

He has also been very active in the new WI League of Conservation Voters. In short, Bill has been a true leader for the environment.

Continued next page



STATE COUNCIL 2003 AWARD WINNERS

The State Council of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited recognized individuals and organizations at a special Noon luncheon Feb. 1 in Oshkosh. Dan Flaherty (top left) was awarded the Joan and Lee Wulff Conservation Award, Chuck Steudel (middle left) was given a Gold Trout award, Jim Bereza (middle center) was given the Most Valuable Unsung Trouter award, and Kelly McKnight (middle right) accepted the Silver Trout award for chapter merit on behalf of the Ojibleau Chapter. Receiving certificates of appreciation were Kris Stepenuck (bottom left), Peggy Compton (bottom center), and Mike Reiter (bottom right). Not pictured are David Ladd and Roger Widner.

Continued from p. 6

Jeff Carlson Award

Wisconsin State Council created the Jeff Carlson award to recognize someone for their unwavering leadership for a major project that has had major impacts on the resource, in the spirit of Jeff Carlson, a young TU leader who stood out as an example of what one determined fisherman can accomplish.

This year, we have chosen Roger Widner of Avalanche as the recipient. Roger is President of the West Fork Sports Club in the Kickapoo Valley. Roger is also a TU member and has been active in the State Council, especially during the recent early season controversies. Roger served as a calming voice in the debate, representing a rural voice with an articulate perspective.

Roger got an early start in his love for the resource. He began collecting water temperatures for the DNR when he was just 10 years old. He began working on trout stream restoration on the Kickapoo's West Fork in 1986.

In the early years he developed a local easement program in which the West Fork Sports Club could obtain access easements from landowners who were reluctant to deal with the DNR. His concepts were very successful and accounts for the majority of easements on the West Fork. Now many other clubs model their program after his efforts.

Since that time, Roger has worked cooperatively with TU, DNR, the FFF, the Vernon County NRCS, and landowners to restore streams and habitat throughout the Kickapoo Valley. Roger was instrumental in getting TU National to give Home Waters Initiative monies to the cause.

He was involved in developing the Kickapoo Valley Citizen Water Quality Monitoring Network, as well as the Kickapoo schools' monitoring efforts.

Roger has also been very involved in the planning and development of the Kickapoo Valley Reserve, and he is currently working with the Valley Stewardship Network on their landowner appreciation days strategy.

Roger has also fought for stronger regulations on the Kickapoo watershed. He has also pushed hard on the county to clean up and improve their landfill above the Seas Branch so that its water quality will be improved.

Roger has been a long time advocate, a good steward. He is a master with his backhoe, personally doing a lot of the enhancement projects on the West Fork. Because of his contacts in the construction business, a lot of free rocks have been used in the many projects up and down the watershed.

Roger has had no formal training in this work, but with a fisherman's eye for water and habitat, he's learned by doing. His skills have been sought by the Lakeshore Chapter and most recently the Harry Nohr Chapter.

Roger reminds me of the message in the movie *Field of Dreams* — build it and they will come. His efforts have brought together sportsmen, landowners, the DNR, TU, FFF, the West Fork Sports Club, local citizens, and landowners. Together they have gelled the West Fork of the Kickapoo into one hell of a trout stream!

Silver Trout Award

The Silver Trout Award for chapter merit goes to the Ojibleau Chapter. Steve Gausman, president this chapter, has had a strong resource project presence in recent years, including a strong financial and volunteer presence.

MORE AWARD WINNERS
Several members of the Ojibleau Chapter were present at the Feb. 1 awards luncheon to pose with their chapter's Silver Trout award. Members shown include (top, left to right) Joe Knight, Richard Bell, Dick Prine, John Welter, and Kelly McKnight. Bill Pielsticker (bottom left) of the Southern Wisconsin Chapter receives his Gold Net award from State Council Chair Jon Christiansen.

On McCann Creek in Chippewa County, Ojibleau paid for the removal of three unpermited culverts which impeded trout spawning migrations and reduced spawning success. They also supported subsidies to beaver trappers to reduce beaver populations. Now habitat restoration is proceeding on the stream.

On Elk Creek, Ojibleau has paid almost $20,000 in the past two years for habitat restoration work done by the DNR's trout crew and for a large erosion control project above Elk Lake which jeopardized other habitat work done by the chapter downstream.

Ojibleau volunteers help spearhead the project planning efforts of the Lower Chippewa Basin Trout Habitat Project Committee, working with the DNR and other conservation groups in the area to plan projects over a multi-year period and maximize resources through cooperative grant planning and recruiting new volunteers.

One such project that is just getting off the ground this season in Dunn County is a 10-year effort to restore Gilbert Creek's brook and brown trout fishery and work to get more conservation easements to ensure public access.

The chapter offers a full slate of workshops and classes through the winter (youth, women's, general workshops, fly tying, and rod building classes) and its programs are well attended.

Chapter members teach the UW-Stout introduction to fly fishing class, and assist in teaching a similar class at UW-Eau Claire.

One of their chapter members also maintains Wisconsin TU's web site.

Special Appreciation Award for DNR Personnel

We are pleased to present our Special Appreciation Award for DNR Personnel to Kris Stepenuck. In February of 2001, Kris Stepenuck was employed as the statewide coordinator of citizen water monitoring in the state of Wisconsin. One of her first tasks was to establish a statewide database of citizen monitoring data. This has now been accomplished.

She has also compiled a database of citizen monitoring groups within the state and has identified the different protocols they are using.

Kris has updated the Water Action Volunteer protocols by adding flow rates and has updated publications available to citizens in the state.

The first statewide citizen water monitoring conference was held under the capable leadership of Kris as a co-coordinator. This conference brought together many of the different citizen monitoring groups in the state and started a dialogue. It also introduced them to the utilization of the statewide database.

She has successfully assisted in the formation and training of several new monitoring groups and has many requests since the successful monitoring conference. One such example is the Navarino Nature Center. Kris assisted them in getting a Wisconsin Environmental Education Board grant to set up a watershed education resource center.

A new volunteer stream monitoring program in connection with the Discovery Farms has been instituted under Kris's leadership and supervision. "Local trained samplers" will monitor using Water Action Volunteer protocols every other week. They will also collect samples four times per year to be analyzed by state certified labs. This will be the educational connection for surface water quality information for the Discovery Farm producers and the communities of the Discovery Farms.

Kris has been an invaluable partner in the development and training of the Nohr Network of monitors. Her positive attitude and willingness to work with TU has been unmatched.

She has attended and participated in every training and water celebration the Nohr Chapter has held since she's been in charge of the WAV program. Kris is a joy to work with and the perfect person to lead the state of Wisconsin as it comes of age in the area of citizen water monitoring.

Certificate of Appreciation

Mike Reiter deserves recognition by Wisconsin TU for his work on behalf of trout. As a member of the Conservation Congress Executive Council and Chair of its Trout Study Committee, Mike has been an even-handed advocate on trout issues for at least the past 10 years.

He is a member of the St. Croix County Congress delegation and chairs that county's Conservation Alliance. In his work life, he is employed by 3M.

Mike acted as co-chair of the DNR Board's special task force on the early trout season in 1997, a group that brought together diverse opinions and sought to reach a compromise position on a contentious issue across the state. The task force's recommendations were, in large part, accepted by the DNR Board and became the framework for the present early season.

Continued on p. 8

New twists at Feb. 1 State Council banquet

By Duke Welter

A light-hearted, entertaining 2003 State Council Banquet was enjoyed by participants at the Oshkosh Park Plaza Convention Center February 1.

It followed a day filled with conservation issues, a well-received workshop on implementing the state's new nonpoint pollution rules, and a lively state awards luncheon.

If you weren't there — and at least a couple of you weren't — you missed a virtuoso casting demonstration by Lou Jirikowic of the Southeastern Wisconsin chapter. Lou, a professional-caliber casting instructor, helped a number of the cast-challenged and used much of the length of the banquet hall for his casting.

Attendees heard excellent guitar-pickin' by TU members Jason Moon and Kevin Hundreiser, and if we're lucky we'll be able to hear them again next year.

Bart Landwehr of Tight Lines Fly Shop in DePere demonstrated tying techniques. And our auctioneers, Dr. Sausage and Col. Mustard, (noms de truite, of course) on loan from the Southern Wisconsin Chapter for the night, kept it light as they worked to distribute live auction items. Topf Wells of Madison has eased into the role of Emcee and made it his own.

In the process, banquet-goers contributed enough that we were able to earn well over $4,000 for the operations budget of the State Council for the coming year.

Participants were pleased with the day's new format, which broke up the council's annual meeting with a buffet lunch and awards presentations. Awards committee chair Larry Meicher presided and led the kudos for individuals and chapters receiving the commendations.

Next year, we're contemplating more fun changes, possibly including a day-long women's fly fishing workshop and several organizational development sessions.

We expect to return to Oshkosh the first weekend in February, so mark your calendar now and plan to bring some friends.

A special thanks from me and the State Council to our volunteers, led by Dan and Patti Holland, the Jeff and Gina Phillips family, Jim Henke, and a host of others

Finally, our banquet sponsors are listed below. Please support and thank them for their support of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited.

FUN AND GAMES AT THE STATE COUNCIL BANQUET
Live entertainment made its first appearance at a State Council Banquet Feb. 1 in Oshkosh provided by Jason Moon (top left) and Kevin Hundreiser. Topf Wells (middle left) and Larry Meicher bird dog the many door prize winners. Meanwhile, Steve Born (bottom left) and Damian Wilmot share a big laugh when, as tablemates, they both won the same hat/shirt prize on back-to-back ticket draws.

2003 WITU banquet sponsors

BUSINESSES
Bill Sherer's We Tie It Fly Shop, Boulder Junction
BlueSky Furled Leaders, Green Bay
Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop, Lake Elmo, MN
Cortland Lines
Flambeau Products
Fontana Sports Specialties, Madison
Frank Amato Publications
Gander Mountain
Heart Graphics, Ashland
Hodgman, Inc.
Hook & Hackle, Inc.
Java Trout Bed & Breakfast, Iron River
Jeff Welhouse, Artist, New London
Keystone Anglers, Rocco Rosamilia
L.L. Bean
Leatherman Tool, Inc.
Leinenkugel Brewing Co., Chippewa Falls
Liz Wucherer, Flying Trout Studio, Holmen
Lloyd Hautajarvi, Ldh Nets, Duluth
Loon Outdoors, Inc.
Madison Outfitters, Madison
Mepps Spinners and Spoons
Midwest Fly Fishing Magazine
Milwaukee Map Store
Pielsticker Photography, Lodi
Pradco
Pure Fishing, Inc.
Riverbend Sports, Waupaca
Scientific Anglers
Scott Fly Rods
Silver Spring Gardens, Eau Claire
Simms Products
St. Croix Rod Company
Stackpole Books
Tackle-Craft, Chippewa Falls
The Fly Fisher, West Allis
The Fly Shop at Bob's, Green Bay
The Orvis Company
Tight Lines Fly Shop, De Pere
Tom Wendelburg/Jeff Mayers, Authors
Weinbrenner Shoes, Merrill
Whiting Farms, Inc.
Wilderness Print Gallery, Waupaca
Wisconsin Outdoor Journal

INDIVIDUALS
Bill Heart, Wild Rivers TU
Damian Wilmot, Wild Rivers TU
Dave Beckwith, S.E.Wis. TU
Dennis Vanden Bloomen, Ojibleau TU
Dick Berge, Wild Rivers TU
Don Ebbers, Hornberg TU
Dr. John Shillinglaw, Fox Valley TU
Duke Welter, Ojibleau TU
Gene Erickson, S. WI TU.
Jason Moon & Dave Hundreiser, TU
Jeff Preiss, Lakeshore TU
John Bethke, Coulee Region TU
John Cantwell, Green Bay TU
John Koch, Kiap-TU-Wish TU
Larry Meicher, S. WI TU
Len Vaness, Hornberg TU
Martin Hanson, Wild Rivers TU

TU CHAPTERS
Frank Hornberg TU
Lakeshore TU
Northwoods TU
Ojibleau TU
Soueastern Wisconsin TU
Wild Rivers TU
Wolf River TU

AWARDS: Council honors given

Continued from p. 7

Mike has been a strong voice for trout regulations which are based on science and are understandable by the public, and has led the Trout Committee from a period of contentiousness into a new attitude of working together to address issues common to many, if not all, of the state's trout anglers. Strong opinions are accepted on the committee, but the mutual interests shared by anglers across the state are leading to progress on rules, access, and other management issues. Tonight we want to express our appreciation for his efforts.

Certificate of Appreciation

We award a Certificate of Appreciation to Peggy Compton. In March of 1998 Peggy was one of the first basin educators hired to work in the newly formed "Basin Initiative." One of the first things Peggy did in her new position was to conduct a survey of citizens regarding issues surrounding water. The results of that survey caused Peggy to develop a water lending library and a training component. The training component has evolved into the Nohr Network of Monitors.

Peggy has organized and facilitated four citizen water monitoring trainings and three Water Celebrations for the Nohr Network. The monitoring trainings have trained about 60 citizen monitors and have resulted in over 250 data sets from many streams in Southwest WI.

She has placed references to this data in the most recent State of the Basin Report put out by the DNR. Recently she has been approached by the DNR to supply monitors on streams they would like data on.

The Nohr Chapter's involvement in citizen water monitoring is the result of the partnership with Peggy Compton and UW-Extension. Without Peggy, the program simply would not exist.

In addition to citizen water monitoring Peggy has accomplished the following:

- promoted pasture improvement and grazing through on the farm demonstrations,
- developed a riparian pasture management demonstration site,
- worked as a liaison regarding the removal of a dam on the Dougherty Creek trout stream,
- participated in a $378,000 grant to improve water quality in the Yellowstone watershed, and
- coordinated the restoration of an oak savanna with an improved brook trout stream running down the valley.

Though Peggy has been on the job only four years, she has made a big impact in the state.

Council takes many actions at Oshkosh meeting

By Chuck Steudel

The Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited held its annual meeting Feb. 1 in Oshkosh with 38 chapter members present representing 18 of the state's 21 TU chapters.

Chair Jon Christiansen noted the Nash Williams bequest which came from the estate of Nash Williams. $25,000 each has been donated to the Southern Chapter, the Central Chapter, the State Council, and TU National. It was decided that the $25,000 awarded to the State Council should be placed into the endowment fund (see story on p. 1)

The State Council web site is up and running with John Koch in charge. It has been redesigned and brought up to date. It is intended to be a link to the chapters with as many as possible of the chapter web pages eventually being incorporated into the site.

Christiansen reported that TU National has requested that state councils consider donating back to the national organization some of the rebate money they received this year. National has a budget of $8.5 million and actually spends $67 per member on programs that benefit the states, with 81% spent for programs, 6% for administration, 5% for development, and 8% for fundraising. After discussion a motion passed to return $1,500 to National on a one-time basis.

National is once again trying to get on top of its membership list. Jack Bode of the Southeastern WI Chapter was chosen as membership committee chair. He will work with the individual chapters to make sure that the boundaries of the chapters encompass the zip codes that TU National has assigned to the chapters. This will not mean that members cannot join a chapter outside the area in which they live.

Officer elections

The current officers — Chair Jon Christiansen, Vice Chair Jim Hlaban, Secretary Chuck Steudel, and Treasurer Larry Meicher — offered to serve one more term in their current positions and they were re-elected without opposition. Christiansen reported that he has been asked to serve on a longrange planning commission that will meet soon in Washington, D.C.

TU National changes

The National organization is being changed. The old Natural Resources Board (NRB) is being replaced with what should be a more representative National Leadership Council (NLC). The Council determined that the NLC representative would be nominated by and elected by the full Council. Duke Welter was elected as the delegate with Jeff Smith the alternate.

Because there is a close link between the State Council's bylaws and the National organization, an ad hoc committee of Christiansen, Welter, Smith, and Hlaban was established to review our bylaws and recommend changes.

N.E. Regional VP Larry Kriese reported they have committed $33,000 to the US Forest Service and DNR for stream projects. They are still active on the culvert/road building problems in their area. Larry reports that these are mainly problems caused by people not knowing how to do things correctly and that their group is working on cost-sharing with small governmental units in culvert correction and replacement. He also noted that the state DOT has sponsored conferences for local training.

Kriese also reported that local chapters need to be aware of and become involved in Smart Growth. He notes that development interests are becoming very involved in the practice. The concept of Smart Growth will result in some very important decisions being made and TU needs to be involved.

Hlaban reported that their area had worked on a water monitoring training session.

Bethke noted that a sludge pit program is SW Wisconsin had run into a huge amount of opposition and was now being abandoned.

Allen Boswick, President to the new Ocooch Chapter, was introduced and gave a report on the activities of the new group.

Larry Meicher gave the treasurer's report. The State Council has a balance in its account of $8,400 (before the banquet), $38,000 in investments, and $28,500 plus $5,000 in stock in the endowment account. Meicher noted the seriousness of the annual chapter financial reports. This past year the State Council lost more than $1,000 when individual chapters were late or did not send in their reports.

John Cantwell reported on the Friends of WI TU. The current balance of the account is $2,600. The 2003 mailing is almost ready to go out. $12,000 was collected in 2002 and $110,000 since Friends started.

Stu Grimstad reported that the Water Resources Committee has been involved in stream monitoring training efforts and helped in setting up the nonpoint pollution toolkit. He also reported on the Brule hatchery situation and that the DNR has a CD disc that lists all state managed lands.

Friends projects approved

The Regional VPs met to award new Friends grants:

- $2,000 was awarded to Herb Hintze and the Wisconsin River Valley Chapter for work on the Plover River.
- $2,000 was awarded to Steve Gausman and the Ojibleau Chapter for work on Gilbert Creek.
- Action on the Nohr Chapter (Pete Esser) request for $2,000 for their Big Spring project was delayed until the next meeting.

Laura Hewitt of TU National spoke about the *Polluted Runoff Toolkit* training which was sponsored, in part, by a Mott Foundation Grant. This training session provides hands-on training on how to work within the state's new runoff rules and should be very helpful when taken back to the individual chapters. Laura noted that this should help to educate and offer individuals resources to help implement the new non-point rules.

Todd Hanson said he is working on getting more advertising revenue through *Wisconsin Trout*. Todd and Bill Heart are working on putting early publications of the State Council on a CD disc which is almost ready to go.

Hansonalso discussed the Wisconsin Stewardship Network and the involvement of the State Council. The WSN chooses a small number of important issues and then works with many groups to gain a consensus and the further the goals of its members. An example issue is the gas tax problem where efforts are underway to increase the amount of gas tax money that should go toward water issues. A motion to give $1,000 to the WSN passed without opposition.

Grimstad noted that a Communications Committee would be helpful to work on better e-mail communication. The goal would be to set up an internet community of members, chapters, and the council. Those interested and knowledgeable in this area are encouraged to contact Grimstad. He also suggested that it would be helpful to have business cards with the TU logo to add credentials when on TU business.

Mike Staggs DNR report

Mike Staggs of the DNR and Jeff Smith of the Legislative Committee discussed the DNR and its budget problems. The first level of cuts were to solve the current $500 million hole and would likely not hurt too much. Most conservation funds could not be cut due in part to federal regulations. However some environmental funds were tapped. Overall, the first round was not too bad.

Second round is fixing the next biannual budget which has a 2.5 billion problem. All agencies, including the DNR, are going to lose staff and positions.

Staggs and Smith discussed the trout stamp money situation. The fund's surplus problem has been solved. We are still working on accounting for where all the trout stamp money goes. It is important that we watch very closely what is happening to segregated funds like the trout stamp in the upcoming budget fix. It was noted that areas of disagreement on trout stamp spending are becoming less frequent.

DNR license fees were discussed. The last fee increase was 7 years ago and was intended to keep up for only 5 years at the most. Patron fees were also discussed, especially as they apply to the trout stamp. Currently only $1.75 from each patron license goes to the trout stamp program. It was noted that perhaps interested TUers should purchase only the licenses that they use and then purchase an individual trout stamps which would than benefit the trout stamp fund by $7.50 each. A motion that fishing and hunting license fees be increased by the current legislature to a level capable of supporting the current level of fish and wildlife services passed.

Another motion that the State Council of Trout Unlimited supports an increase in the trout stamp fee to $10.00 passed after discussion without opposition.

Bill Pielsticker reported on the Wisconsin Buffer Initiative. Research is being done and rules will be proposed by 2008. The implementation of the farm bill is proceeding and TU is involved. The problem will be in securing funding for the projects that this bill will call for. Pielsticker also reported on the Shoreline Zoning Revision Administrative Committee which will be working for the next 3-4 years to improve our state shoreline zoning in ways that protect water quality, wildlife, and scenic values.

Chuck Steudel reported on Casting for Recovery, a program for recovered victims of breast cancer. There was general agreement that this could be a worthy project and that he could proceed to contact interested parties.

Smith reported on the Clean Water Coalition which is working on 1) high-capacity wells, 2) enforcement of the federal Clean Water Act, and 3) monitoring implementation of the non-point pollution rules. They are about to hire a college student

TU chapter president profile

Herb Buettner a leader for trout and much more

By Linda Sturnot

As a lifetime resident of eastern Langlade County, Herb Buettner, President of the Wolf River Chapter of Trout Unlimited, has been an exemplary leader and passionate steward of not just trout, but Wisconsin's land and water.

In 1964 a man approached Herb's older brother 'Cap' from Michigan, about starting a Trout Unlimited movement in Wisconsin. The Wolf River Chapter was a result of this meeting and became the first TU chapter founded in Wisconsin.

An avid fishing angler and hunter, Herb has been involved in many conservation initiatives that have had a positive impact on water quality and quantity. He has spent a lifetime lobbying public officials, rallying citizens, and working with youth on conservation education and outdoor safety projects.

George and Marilyn Rock of Langlade County, who have known Herb for almost 18 years, say they are grateful for Herb's commitment to protect the Wolf River so their grandchildren and great grandchildren will also have clean fish and water.

"In 1961 a dam was proposed on the Wolf River near Pearson in order to create a 1,500-acre shallow flowage and develop the shoreline into waterfront lots," remembers George Rock. "Herb and the TU chapter put together a case showing that the impoundment would have warmed the river to temperatures lethal to trout because the proposed lake would only average 2' in depth. A bill was passed in a joint session of the Legislature decreeing 'there shall be no dams on the Wolf River upstream from Keshena henceforth.'"

Angler, and close friend Bob Schmitz says, "Herb is a fortress of knowledge — he'll be darn sure elected officials carry on their trust responsibilities to uphold the Public Trust Doctrine and protect our water resources for future generations."

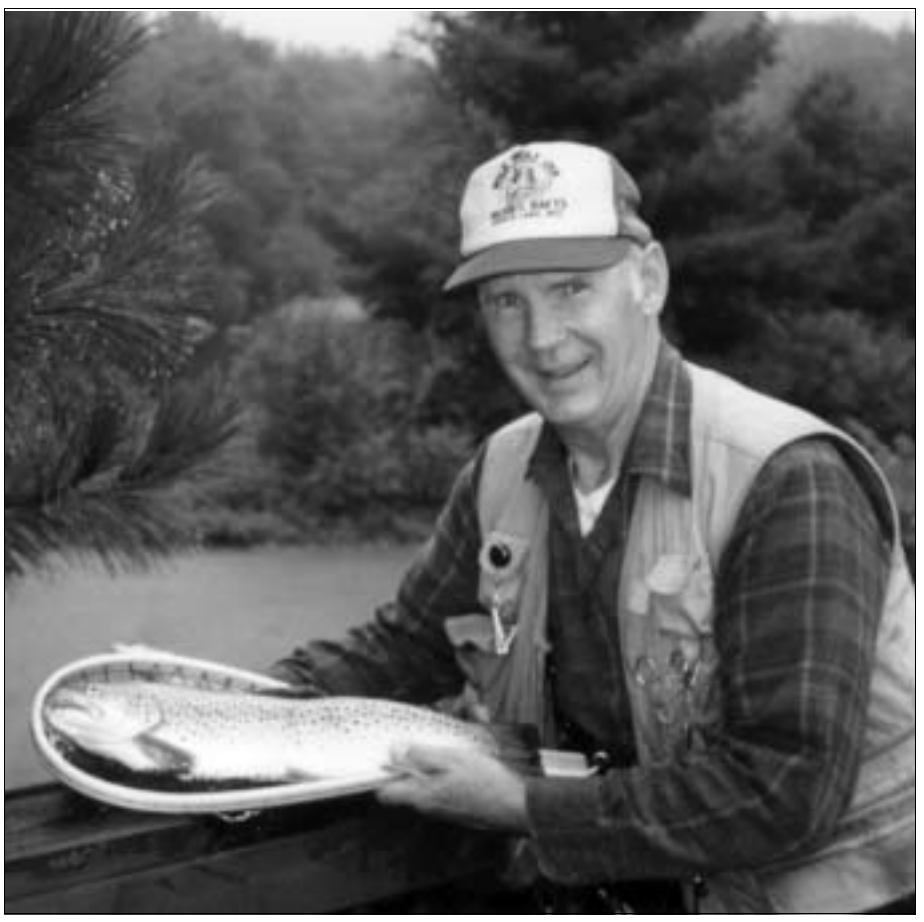
Years of dedication and commitment to protect the federally designated Wild and Scenic Wolf River from any and all threats of mining has earned Herb respect and recognition of many state-wide organizations, Tribes, and public officials.

Ken Fish, former Mining Impact Director and Menominee Nation warrior, has worked closely with Herb over the years to stop the Crandon mine says, "Herb has been a driving force behind the Crandon Mining Company leaving Wisconsin."

Lloyd "Duke" Andrews, former WDNR District Fisheries Supervisor in Minocqua, says, "Herb's energy, enthusiasm, and devotion to natural resource issues and causes is truly one of boundless energy and certainly, to some extent, personal sacrifice. I do not know of a person with greater commitment to the resources of his region as well as that of Wisconsin as a whole. His stewardship efforts are truly outstanding. It can be said of Herb that he is one who will walk the talk when he becomes engaged in an issue. During my 36-year DNR career, Herb was a person who could be relied upon to lead the charge. Also, his counsel was sought on occasion as strategies were developed to address a management need or some problem that was emerging in the upper Wolf."

Most recently, Herb has been nominated by the Mining Impact Coalition of Wisconsin as a candidate for the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame.

Herb still lives in the old farmhouse where he was born in the Town of Wolf River, Langlade County. An army veteran and father, Herb will celebrate his 50th wedding anniversary this year with his best friend and greatest supporter, his wife Genie.



NOW THAT'S A DANDY WOLF RIVER TROUT
Herb Buettner holds a nice brown (top) taken not far from his business in White Lake, the Wild Wolf Inn. TU Fox Valley Chapter President Tom Deer (left) shares a laugh with Herb at last February's State Council Banquet.

Herb's sign from an eagle

After chairing an all-day meeting at the Mole Lake Sokaogon Chippewa reservation related to the Crandon mine issue, Herb was taking visitors to witness the tribe's 260 acre sacred wild rice beds, the best remaining primeval example in our nation, when a American Bald Eagle began circling overhead. It swooped down to about 10 feet over Herb's head and dropped a white feather by his feet. Not being able to possess an Eagle feather legally, Herb gave the feather to the Mole Lake tribe. At a special meeting, with due tribal ceremony, the Eagle feather was presented by the tribe to Herb and his wife Genie for safe keeping until the Tribe requests its return.

Gaylord Nelson attending Namekagon paddle

Several Wisconsin organizations are planning a paddling event May 10 to show concern over the proposed Arrowhead-Weston transmission line's effects on the Namekagon River.

Taking part in the paddle will be former U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson. Nelson paddled in a similar event on the Namekagon a generation ago to draw attention to the waterway as a potential wild and scenic river.

Lisa Goodman

The proposed Line would cross many northern rivers along the route between Duluth and Wausau, including the Namekagon. Impacts would include hundreds of 150-foot tall towers, 900 feet apart, each requiring base pilings submerged to 40 feet below ground.

Citizen groups — most notably SOUL (Save Our Unique Lands) — question whether the line is truly needed. Currently, 11 Wisconsin counties where construction is scheduled have a resolution against the line. More than 100 towns and organizations have passed similar resolutions.

The Namekagon was designated part of the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway in 1968. Scenic riverways are administered by the National Park Service.

The National Park Service is in a position to deny the line's builder, the American Transmission Company, permission to cross the Namekagon in an upcoming draft environmental impact statement.

After paddling, the public is invited to attend a public hearing near the Namekagon River where they can tell the National Park Service that they support keeping the Namekagon River scenic for future generations.

There is no charge for this event, but people must pre-register to facilitate planning. For more information or to RSVP, contact Lisa Goodman at (608) 441-8410 or goodman@wisconsinrivers.org.

The Namekagon River Gathering is sponsored by Save Our Unique Lands (SOUL), the River Alliance of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Stewardship Network, Wisconsin's Environmental Decade, and Anishinaabe Niijii/ Protect The Earth.

First WI groundwater festival May 10 at UW-SP

You can take part in hands-on activities, presentations, exhibits, a kid's tent, food, and fun revolving around groundwater on Saturday, May 10, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the UW-Stevens Point campus.

More than 700,000 private and municipal wells withdraw about 570 million gallons of water daily! How much do you know about this precious resource?

More than 700,000 private and municipal wells withdraw about 570 million gallons of water daily. How much do you know about this precious resource?

The *1st Annual Wisconsin Groundwater Festival: Get WET and Energized* invites you and your family to take part in this free event where you can learn about groundwater, surface water, energy, and human connections to these resources.

Along with valuable presentations and activities, the UW-SP Water & Environmental Analyses Lab will offer tours of their water testing facility.

Tom Pease will provide entertainment during the noon hour, and food will be available.

If you would like to volunteer for the festival, be a presenter or exhibitor, sponsor the event, or need more information, contact Denise Kilkenny-Tittle at (715) 346-2722 or gwguardian@uwsp.edu.

Further information and forms can be found on the web at http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/gwguardian/wigg/fest.htm.

Fox Valley holds second Cabin Fever event

By Tom Deer

On March 15 the Fox Valley Chapter held our annual fundraising event "Cabin Fever Day."

This event was again a huge success with people coming from all over Wisconsin as well as neighboring states.

Our speakers this year were Jerry Kustich, who spoke on "Steelhead Fishing" and "Fly Fishing the East" and Bill Sherer who spoke on "Fly Fishing Northern Wisconsin and Upper Michigan" and "Warm Water Fly Fishing for Big Fish."

Both speakers were experts on their subjects and were well attended. We gave away over 100 door prizes, 40 bucket raffle items, and had about 20 silent auction items.

This event raised enough money to allow us to spend another year improving the coldwater resources of this area of Wisconsin as well as continuing our two scholarship programs to UW-Stevens Point, Fox Valley Technical College, and our First Cast Program for the youth of the Fox Valley.

A big thank you to all who worked so hard to make this endeavor a success and to everyone who attended and donated their time and money. Without all of you we, could not continue our community services.

Tom Deer

ACTIVITIES A PLENTY IN MENASHA
Former State Council Chair Bill Shearer ties a few flies at the Fox Valley Chapter's Cabin Fever Day held March 15 in Menasha.

Spring Hearing Locations

Monday, April 14, 7:00 p.m.

Adams; Adams Co. Courthouse, County Board Room, 402 Main St., Friendship
Ashland; Ashland High School, 1900 Beaser Ave., Ashland
Barron; Barron County Courthouse Auditorium, 303 E. LaSalle, Barron
Bayfield; Bayfield Co. Courthouse, 117 E 5th, Washburn
Brown; Southwest High School Auditorium, 1331 Packerland Dr., Green Bay
Buffalo; Alma Area High School Auditorium, S1618 STH '35, Alma
Burnett; Burnett County Government Center, 7410 Co. Rd. K, Siren
Calumet; Chilton Middle School 421 Court Street, Chilton
Chippewa; Chippewa Falls Middle School, Auditorium A, 750 Tropicana Blvd., Chippewa Falls
Clark; Greenwood Elementary School Cafeteria, 708 E. Division, Greenwood
Columbia; Poynette Village Hall, 106 South Main, Poynette
Crawford; Crawford County Courthouse, Circuit Courtroom, Prairie du Chien
Dane; Alliant Energy Center, Madison
Dodge; Horicon City Hall, 404 E. Lake St., Horicon
Door; Door County Courthouse, Room A150, 421 Nebraska, Sturgeon Bay
Douglas; Northwestern Elementary School, 10499 E. U.S. Hwy. 2, Poplar
Dunn; Dunn County Fish/Game Club, 1900 Pine Ave., Menomonie
Eau Claire; South Middle School Auditorium, 2115 Mitscher Ave., Eau Claire
Florence; Wild Rivers Interpretive Center, Hwys. 2 & 101, Florence
Fond du Lac; Theisen Jr. High School Auditorium, 525 E. Pioneer Rd., Fond du Lac
Forest; Crandon Elementary School, 9750 U.S. Hwy. 8, Crandon
Grant; Lancaster High School, Hillary Auditorium, 806 E. Elm St., Lancaster
Green; Monroe Jr. High School Auditorium, 1510 N. 13th St., Monroe
Green Lake; Green Lake High School, School Gym, 612 Mill St., Green Lake
Iowa; Dodgeville High School Gymnasium, 912 W. Chapel St., Dodgeville
Iron Iron County Courthouse, 300 Taconite St., Hurley
Jackson; Black River Falls Middle School, 1202 Pierce St., Black River Falls
Jefferson; Jefferson County Fairgrounds Activity Center, 502 N. Jackson, Jefferson
Juneau; Juneau County Courthouse, Courtroom, 220 E. State St., Mauston
Kenosha; Bristol Grade School Gymnasium, 20121 83rd St., Bristol
Kewaunee; Kewaunee County Courthouse, Board Room, 620 Juneau St., Kewaunee
La Crosse; Onalaska High School Auditorium, 700 Hilltop Pl., Onalaska
Lafayette; Darlington Community High School Cafeteria, 11838 Center Hill Rd., Darlington
Langlade; Langlade Co. Fairgrounds, Multipurpose Building, 1581 Neva Rd., Antigo
Lincoln; Tomahawk School Complex, Auditorium, 1048 E. King Rd., Tomahawk
Manitowoc; UW Center-Manitowoc, 705 Viebahn St., Manitowoc
Marathon; John Muir Middle School, 1400 W. Stewart Avenue, Wausau
Marinette; Wausaukee High School Cafeteria, N11941 Hwy. 141, Wausaukee
Marquette; Montello High School, 222 Forest Ln., Montello
Menominee; Menominee County Courthouse, Basement Meeting Room, Keshena
Milwaukee; Greenfield High School, Auditorium, 4800 S. 60th St., Greenfield
Monroe; Sparta High School Auditorium, 506 N. Black River St., Sparta
Oconto; Suring High School Cafeteria, 411 E. Algoma, Suring
Oneida; Rhinelander High School, Auditorium, 665 Coolidge Ave., Rhinelander
Outagamie; Riverview Middle School, 101 Oak St., Kaukauna
Ozaukee; Webster Middle School, Auditorium, W75 N624 Wauwatosa Road, Cedarburg
Pepin; Pepin County Government Center, County Board Room, 740 7th Ave. W., Durand
Pierce; Ellsworth Senior High School Auditorium, 323 Hillcrest, Ellsworth
Polk; Unity School, Balsam Lake
Portage; Ben Franklin Junior High School Auditorium, 2000 Polk St., Stevens Point
Price; Price County Courthouse, County Board Room, 126 Cherry St., Phillips
Racine; Union Grove High School, 3433 S. Colony Ave., Union Grove
Richland; Richland County Courthouse, Circuit Court Room, Richland Center
Rock; Moose Lodge, 2701 Rockport Rd., Janesville
Rusk; Ladysmith High School, 1700 Edgewood Ave. E., Ladysmith
St. Croix; WI Indianhead Technical College, Cashman Auditorium, 1019 S Knowles Ave., New Richmond
Sauk; Al Ringling Theater, 136 4th Ave., Baraboo
Sawyer; Hayward High School, Greenwood Lane, Hayward
Shawano; Shawano Middle School, 1050 S. Union St., Room LGI, Shawano
Sheboygan; Sheboygan Falls High School Auditorium, 220 Amherst Ave., Sheboygan Falls
Taylor; Taylor County Fairgrounds, Multipurpose Bldg., Medford
Trempealeau; Whitehall City Center Auditorium, 36245 Park St., Whitehall
Vernon; Viroqua Middle School, Large Lecture Room, Blackhawk Drive, Viroqua
Vilas; Plum Lake Community Building, Golf Course Rd., Sayner
Walworth; Delevan Darien High School Auditorium, 150 Cummings St., Delevan
Washburn; Agriculture Research Station, W6646 Hwy. 70, Spooner
Washington; Washington County Fairgrounds, Exhibit Hall, 3000 Hwy. P.V., West Bend
Waukesha; Waukesha County Expo Center, 1000 Northview Rd., Waukesha
Waupaca; Waupaca High School Auditorium, E2325 King Rd., King
Waushara; Waushara Co. Courthouse, 2nd Floor Courtroom, 209 S. St. Marie St., Wautoma
Winnebago; Webster Stanley Middle School, Auditorium, 915 Hazel St., Oshkosh
Wood; Pittsville High School auditorium, 5407 1st Ave., Pittsville

Chapter News

John Gremmer

Robert Haase

Robert Haase

CENTRAL WISCONSIN'S MASTER'S FLY TYING CLASS

Some 25 people took part in Central Wisconsin's Master Fly Tying Series held at Winneconne High School in February and March (top). Master Tyer Rich Mlodzik (center, 2nd from left) from Princeton takes time during a break to evaluate some of the flies tied by the participants and discuss examples of other favorite patterns. Meanwhile, John Gremmer (bottom) tries to duplicate the exact procedure shown by a master tyer for a specific pattern.

Blackhawk Chapter

Our annual banquet will be held at the **Holiday Inn Express** in Janesville Monday, April 21. Door open at 5:30 p.m., eat at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are $35 at the door. The public is welcome.

Earlier we held a work day on March 15 just north of Bloomingdale on County S on the **West Fork** where we built 30-40 lunkers. The chapter provided lunch.

At our monthly meeting at the Janesville DNR building on March 17 we heard from the DNR's **Dave Vetrano** presenting his views of trout fishing in his area.

—Dave Patrick

Central Wisconsin Chapter

President **Bob Chamberlain** has praised the efforts **Dan** and **Gail Colligan** of Wautoma and **Bob Haase** of North Fond du Lac. The Colligans were praised for planning and orchestrating our banquets. Bob says, "They are outstanding!" This year's banquet was held at the **Pioneer Inn** in Oshkosh on March 22. Everyone got a door prize, and one out of 10 got a complete fly rod outfit.

Bob also singled out board member **Bob Haase** for his outstanding work of establishing our website at www.dotnet.com/~fishfun1/CWTU.htm. Bob changes the web site weekly, and it contains our newsletter, work day schedule, meeting calendar, program calendar, photo gallery, list of board members, meeting info, links, important notices, and information on our 27th Annual Fly Fishing School.

Bob Chamberlain and **Ray Piehl** are exploring the idea of e-mailing out the *Brookie News* newsletter to those who want to receive it that way. This could result in a the savings of hundreds of dollars of postal costs.

Rich Mlodzik, workday chairman, has announced the workday schedule for 2003. Rich hopes that members will consider working at least one day this year. Rich can be reached at (920) 295-8772 or mjmrpm@dotnet.com/. (*Dates with an asterisk may be subject to change.)

- Saturday April 5 — Brush work on the **Little Pine**.
- Saturday April 26 — Install CPR and DNR trout regulation signs as needed and perform parking area clean-up at the various access areas.

  Saturday June 21 — DNR electroshock on the **Chaffee Creek**.
- Saturday June 28 — Stream work on Chaffee Creek.
- Saturday July 26* — TBA, work project not yet established, date may change based on project.
- Saturday Aug. 9 — Summer Picnic and workday, date set but project not confirmed yet.
- Saturday Sept. 13* — TBA, work project not yet established, date may change based on project.
- Saturday Oct. 4* — TBA, work project not yet established, date may change based on project.

This year's Central Wisconsin TU Master's Fly Tying Series wrapped up on March 13. Twenty-five members participated in the five-week series. Thanks go to master tiers **Dr. John Gribb**, Mt. Horeb, **Rich Mlodzik**, Princeton, **Tim Landwehr**, De Pere, **Tom Young**, Waupaca, and **John Gremmer**, Winneconne, for presenting the five programs. All programs were well received and appreciated by all. **CWTU's 1st Annual Trout Fishing Outing** will be held May 10th at the **Mecan River Discovery Center** south of Wautoma. Inexperienced fly fishers will be paired with experienced anglers for a morning of fishing and exploring central Wisconsin trout streams. A picnic lunch will be enjoyed at Noon with a program to follow. Those who wish to participate should contact John Gremmer at (920) 582-7802 or jhg@vbe.com.

For the second year in a row CWTU had to battle storm warnings while hosting our annual **Trout Fishing Funday** at the **Algoma Town Hall** in Oshkosh. Over 50 demonstrators, exhibitors, and fly tiers jammed the hall. Special thanks go to **Dan Harmon III**, Oshkosh, **Steve Winters**, Reedsburg, and **John Gremmer** for presenting seminar programs. Thanks also go to **Tracy Moran** for coordinating the youth tying, **Rich Mlodzik** for coordinating the raffles, **Sue Bouck** for running the rummage table, and **Bob Chamberlain** for manning the registration table.

Central Wisconsin TU's 27th Annual Fly Fishing School will be held May 30, 31, and June 1 at the **Nature's Edge** south of Waupaca. The school starts on Friday evening and ends Sunday noon. Our curriculum covers fly casting, reading the water, understanding fly hatches, entomology, selecting fly patterns, tackle selection, knot tying, and much more. This instruction is presented in the classroom using videos, slide shows, and demonstrations, along with practical exercise on stream and in the field. It is geared for the beginner and those of intermediate experience. For more information contact **Dan Harmon III** at danh3@execpc.com.

Bob Hunt is to congratulated on his outstanding job of coordinating the fly fishing display and series of hands-on events at the **Waupaca Library**. People that visited the display in the art exhibit room were overwhelmed by scope and magnitude of the undertaking.

—John Gremmer

Coulee Region

Our annual banquet raised over $6,500 this year, an amazing $3,000 more than last year. Thanks to everyone who came out and spent some money for our coldwater resources! I hope you all had a good time.

I'd like to recognize and thank this year's banquet committee: **Bob Hubbard, Chair, Ken Kuhn, Rick Kyte, Robert Machotka, Jeff Moore, Lynette Moore, Cy Post, Eric Rauch** and **Harold Warriner**. You all did an outstanding job!

Assembly Bill 109, which would make hunting and fishing a constitutional right, could you use your support. Write your representative today.

Mark your calendar for the **La Crosse County Conservation Alliance Banquet**. It will be held on April 3 at the **Baus Haus**. Tickets are only $10. Contact me if you would like to go.

—Nathan Barnhart

Fox Valley Chapter

Since the State Council meeting in February, the Fox Valley Chapter has been very active. A Chapter **Fun Night** was held February 19 that was quite well attended by members of the chapter and the whole community. Several scout groups attended and had a great time. Everyone witnessed fly tying demonstrations and hands-on lessons from expert tiers. Rod building demonstrations and sources of books, equipment, and information were readily available. There was even a chef with Salmon bisque for everyone. The evening was organized by **John Nebel** who has supported this project for many years.

Next on our agenda was our second annual **Cabin Fever Day** on March 15. Trout enthusiasts from around the state gathered at Waverly Beach on the north shore of Lake Winnebago to hear **Jerry Kustich** and **Bill Sherer** talk about a variety of fishing experiences. There were all kinds of demonstrations, raffles, auctions, and prizes. This is our annual fundraiser.

Tony Treml attended the polluted runoff campaign training put on by the State Council, and he has already made an appeal for volunteers to help get chapter efforts started. These efforts will be in addition to the habitat improvement

Chapter News

work on the **Whitcomb Creek** that has been going on for several years.

Several chapter members are also planning on helping with the water monitoring that is planned for the **Little Wolf** headwaters.

Chapter members also took part in a TU exhibit at the **Waupaca City Library**. This included knot and fly tying as well as casting demonstrations on two weekends during the exhibit. The exhibit was the idea of **Bob Hunt**. Fox Valley, Central, and Shaw-Paca chapters took part. Several thousand people visited the exhibit in the weeks it was on display.
—Jim Hlaban

Green Bay Chapter

The Green Bay Chapter held its annual meeting March 6 at the **Watering Hole** Tavern. The following members were re-elected as chapter officers for two-year terms:

President — **Dennis Gusick**
Vice President — **Paul Mongin**
Secretary-Treas. — **Gary Stoychoff**.

At the same time, **Pat Hill** and **Paul Kruse** were re-elected to the Board of Directors for three-year terms.

The members also voted to send a letter to the Legislature recommending that all hunting and fishing license fees be increased as well as all stamp fees. The chapter also is opposing the drilling of a high-capacity well and construction of a water bottling plant in Langlade County.

The chapter planned and held several events. Of course, the big one was our annual fundraising banquet held March 20 at the **Swan Club** in De Pere. On that night, we hoped to draw about 400 area conservationists who will help us raise well over $20,000 to be used for trout and our coldwater resources. Banquet committee members included **Bruce Deuchert,** Chairman**, Janet Smith, Gary & Jan Stoychoff, Dennis Gusick, Paul Kruse, Jack Koivisto, Paul Mongin, Jim Vanden Branden, Larry Kriese, Leo Nikowitz, Wally & Laurel Heil, Pat Hill,** and **Pete Harris**.

We also staged a fly casting clinic March 22 in conjunction with **Latitude North**, our local Orvis dealer.

Additionally, **Lee Meyers** and **Pat Hill** have began planning for the chapter's annual Kid's Fishing Day. This will be held in August at the **Brown County Reforestation Camp**. **Janet Smith** is again planning a busy summer work project schedule for chapter members. We hope to work on area streams with the **US Forest Service** in the Nicolet National Forest as well as the DNR this summer.

Finally, the chapter is again offering the **Hank Bredael Memorial Scholarships** for area students to attend summer conservation camps where they will learn more about our natural resources and how they can be protected.
—Gary Stoychoff

Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter

Our annual meeting was held March 18, and we will hold our annual banquet May 2. Both these events signify the ending of one year and beginning of a new initiative.

This past year we had two major objectives — to articulate the leadership training **Barbara** and **Jim Ballard** received at the State Council annual meeting last year and to increase our involvement in projects.

Upon returning from the State Council training, Barbara led us through a mini-session so we could become familiar with the concepts and vocabulary of leadership development. Board member **David Peterson** stepped up and developed a database to track involvement and attendance. We worked very hard at moving people into leadership positions and were very successful in this effort. We look forward to Barbara's final report at our annual meeting.

We found the most effective way to bring people on board was through committee involvement. As our good friend and project leader, **Pete Esser**, preaches, "Involvement fosters commitment."

The goal of increasing project involvement was also reached. In addition to completing the **McPherson** project, we made 75 lunkers for the DNR on **Steiner Branch** in Lafayette County, completed the brushing on **Blue River** outside Montfort, and worked very hard at developing a model restoration project on **Big Spring** outside Highland.

The project committee is currently cooperating with project development on **Gordon Creek** and its tributaries.

We have developed an informal "alliance" with six other TU chapters that have become invaluable partners in our project work and offer a paradigm for duplication in other areas. The key will be the success of a restoration workshop that attempts to bring NRCS, SCS, and DNR together to the design table with common interests and cooperation in mind. Vernon County continues to be the model.

We have awarded 10 school grants after reading through 15 applications and are in the process of selecting an intern through our **Scott Ladd Memorial Internship** program.

The citizen monitoring program continues to provide data to the state WAV program. To date we have 21 active monitors who have provided over 270 data sets to the state database.

This summer we will be sponsoring our first fly fishing class for women. The class is open to women from the Nohr, Blackhawk, and Southern Chapters of TU. In addition to being the force behind this effort, **Bill Wisler** set up a wonderful series of fly tying classes this winter featuring a different expert each night of the class.

This year the State Council training offered us a new challenge: to articulate the non-point pollution rules to our members and the community. **Chuck Steudel, Dave Ladd**, and **Dan Patenaude** have expressed an interest in moving forward with that.

Each year offers new direction, with the challenge of maintaining existing programs. Success lies with the development of leaders. We will continue to count on Barbara to teach and lead us through this process.

The Nohr Chapter has been blessed with some great volunteers, each bringing their gift to the table. As Barbara and Jim remind us, a smile, a handshake and an invitation are all it takes.
—Dave Fritz

Video on the Onion River restoration now available

In an effort to create greater community involvement in the restoration of the Onion River in southwestern Sheboygan County, the Lakeshore Chapter of TU has released a video of the project.

Approximately 18 minutes in length, the VHS video or DVD explains a brief history of the river, its potential as a trout fishery, and the chapter's leadership involvement in a $2.4 million effort to forever secure, restore, and protect the river's headwaters.

With the headwaters restoration nearly complete, the video explains how the chapter — along with the WDNR, the Sheboygan County Land and Water Conservation Dept., the Helen Shaw Chapter of the Federation of Fly Fishers along with financial support from the Great Lakes Protection Fund, and private donors such as North Sails Group, LLC, a subsidiary of Windway Capital Corp. — created a vision and a ten year plan to protect and restore the entire watershed from its headwaters downstream for 10.5 miles.

The video and DVD are available for a $5.00 donation plus $2.50 for shipping and handling from: Lakeshore Chapter TU, c/o Windway Capital Corp., P.O. Box 897, Sheboygan, WI 53082-0897.

Lakeshore Chapter

The Lakeshore Chapter has been involved in numerous winter activities since the last newsletter. Eleven of our members have held fly tying classes for the **Manitowoc Recreation Department**. The demand for their services has gone up over the last couple of years and plans are in the works to expand the classes to serve more customers.

Many of our members attended the **Fly Fish Wisconsin** weekend in Green Bay. Our display booth was well received and we ran our **Onion River Project video** continuously. The video was also well received and generated interest and support for our project.

At the upcoming Spring Fish and Wildlife Hearings there will be a vote on regulation changes for portions of the Onion River. These regulation changes are being requested in order to establish a flourishing population of wild trout. We would appreciate the support of all TU members throughout the state.
—Roger Berg

Marinette County Chapter

Plans for our chapter's 20th annual fundraising banquet are well underway. It will be Monday, April 21 at **Schussler's Supper Club** in Peshtigo. Tickets are $25 each and can be ordered from **John LeBeau**, 455 First St., Apt. #2, Menominee, MI 49858. They can also be purchased at **Jenquin's Ace Hardware** in Marinette, **Country Time**, **Pete's Sport Shop**, **Schussler's Supper Club** in Peshtigo. and **Rene's Dining Room** near Crivitz.

Your help is needed to help run the banquet. Please contact **Dale Lange** at (920) 735-9361 days or (920) 582-1135 evenings to offer your assistance.

Your donations of cash or merchandise are important for the success of our chapter's banquet. Please contact Dale Lange to make your donation.

Election of chapter officers will take place at our April meeting. President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and two director positions will be on the ballot. Someone will also be needed to become newsletter editor.

Twenty-year chapter officer (four as President and 16 as Secretary-Treasurer) **Jim Bereza** will not be seeking election to any chapter office. It's just time to take a break.
—Jim Bereza

Northwoods Chapter

What a great seminar was given by **Rich Osthoff** on February 15. I finally got my answer about those pesky Golden Trout in the Wind River Range. Twenty fellow trout fisherpersons participated in a truly fabulous seminar on fly tying and trout catching. Thanks to **Kevin Kelly** for putting forth the effort to arrange Rich's trip to Rhinelander.

The Banquet Committee has been busy collecting prizes and making arrangements for the 29th Annual Banquet on April 29. As in the past, the event will take place at the **Rhinelander Café & Pub**. This year's banquet will again be a great time. We will have two dinner items to choose from, the filet steak or a stuffed chicken breast. We will have a canoe, kayak, several rods, and many bucket raffles and door prizes.

Continued on p. 12

Chapter News

Continued from p. 11

Our first **Bearskin River** stream work day of 2003 was held March 29 at **Wayne Stevens**' home to construct in-stream habitat structures. The chapter purchased green oak lumber to construct habitat covers. Bring your tools and be a doer.

The last chapter meeting of the year will be held on the banks of the Bearskin River on April 26 to install the habitat covers downstream from Lakewood Road. Contact **Brian Leitinger** at (715) 282-7318 for more information on the work day.

Finally, on July 12 we will host the 10th **Annual Youth Fly Fishing Conclave.** The conclave is FREE for boys and girls ages 10-16. The day includes fly casting, knot tying and fly tying workshops, lunch, and several door prizes. Many of the volunteers are FFF-certified master casting and fly tying instructors. Also included is information and talks on stream entomology, coldwater conservation, and proper catch and release techniques. The location of this event is the **North Lakeland Discovery Center** in Manitowish Waters.

Check the website out at www.northwoodstu.org for up to date meeting schedules or changes. Do you want to receive updates on chapter activities before the newsletter? Send your e-mail to me at bhegge@newnorth.net. I'll add you to the Northwoods e-mail directory and copy you on issues as they happen.

—Brian Hegge

Ocooch Creeks

On the only snowy evening in January, **Dave Vetrano**, DNR fisheries biologist from La Crosse, ventured to Richland Center and gave an excellent presentation on historical land use impacts in the driftless area.

Despite the inclement weather, attendance exceeded expectations and the number of non-members and students in attendance was gratifying. Membership and interest in the Ocooch Creeks Chapter continues to grow.

—Allon Bostwick

Ojibleau Chapter

After an early and again successful banquet in February, the Ojibleau organized a special meeting evening to say thank you to the area DNR fisheries specialists. **John Sours**, Eau Claire trout biologist; **Marty Engel**, Baldwin trout biologist; **Heath Beneke**, Barron trout biologist; **Dan Hatleli**, Black River Falls trout biologist, and **Bob Hujik**, Western Region Fisheries Supervisor were on hand to receive our thanks and congratulations for all the work they have organized, budgeted, and accomplished in the past years. Chapter members were happy to hear that the work will continue.

Funded by Wisconsin TU, the Ojibleau Chapter and some additional sportsmen's groups from Menomonie, the DNR crews will continue work on some Dunn county streams including further progress on **Cady Creek** and an extensive beginning project on **Gilbert Creek**.

Ojibleau members will also contribute substantial time on the Gilbert Creek project. The meeting also allowed the DNR personnel to say their thanks to all the TU chapters in the state for their ongoing support and continued work for our coldwater resources.

—Daniel Perkins

Shaw-Paca Chapter

Chapter President **Dave Ehrenberg** assisted **Bob Hunt** in setting up an exhibit on trout fishing at the **Waupaca Public Library**. This featured fly-tying and rod building during the weekends. Bob Hunt also gave several presentations about the past, present, and future of Wisconsin trout fishing. This exhibit ran from mid-January through mid February.

Our beaver control program on local streams continued. Two local trappers removed 15 beavers from the **Little Wolf River** system.

Our college scholarship winner was **Luke Hennigan** of Shawano. He is currently a student in water science at UW-Stevens Point.

The annual Shaw-Paca fly tying class ran for five weeks. A total of 20 different students were involved including eight under the age of 16. The chapter provided the use of a tool kit and tying materials. The class went very well under the watchful eye of **Jerry Weatherwax**.

At the Northeast Wisconsin regional TU meeting, we voted to contribute $3,000 to the **Lakewood-Laona Ranger District** of the Forest Service for stream work and beaver control and another $750 for beaver control on the **Popple-Pine** watershed.

Our annual banquet took place Thursday, March 27, at **The Gathering** in Shawano.

—Lee Kersten

John Gremmer

CENTRAL SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Central WI Chapter Scholarship Committee Chair Mark Brosseau stands with Lisa Corradin, a graduate student at UW-Stevens Point. Lisa was awarded a CWTU scholarship for the Fall 2002 and Spring 2003 semesters. CWTU awards a scholarship every year to coldwater fisheries graduate students.

Wild Rivers Chapter

The Wild Rivers Chapter has been quite busy this long, cold winter.

Elections were held in February and since there was not a large push for change, the current slate of officers were elected for another year. The officers are:

Bill Heart — President,
Dick Berge — Vice President,
Chuck Campbell — Treasurer, and
Dan Cervin — Secretary.

Also on the Board are **Carolyn Swartz, Damian Wilmot, Gary Bernhardt,** and **Phil Wallace**.

The chapter will be having our first **Fishing Expo and Auction** April 5 in Ashland. With the state budget problems, we need to make a little more money than expected for our **White River** projects.

The Expo will consist of a number of the local agencies and conservation groups having informational tables, a chili supper, fly tying, casting demo, bucket raffles. and an equipment auction.

At the February chapter meeting, we had a great discussion on the use of lead in the fishing industry. It was agreed that we have to get involved in making all anglers aware of the toxic problems with using lead.

Our chapter is working on a plan to organize a program to do a lead exchange in our area. We hope to have something set up by this summer. I have talked to people at the **Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute** of Northland College, and they will be assisting with this project.

This will be our first years of attempting a large event. We have a number of great guided trips including, on the **White River**, **Brule River**, **Chippewa River** for musky, **Chequamegon Bay**, **Lake Owen**, and a walleye trip, many flies, and other new and used equipment. We will also be producing a book of all of the fly patterns by **Dick Berge** which appear in our newsletters. **Larry Meicher** will be our auctioneer.

At our March meeting we had a program by **Dick Berge** and **Bill Heart** on their fly fishing tip to Argentina. They, along with three members of Wisconsin TU's State Council, **Steve Born**, **Jeff Smith.** and **Henry Haugley**, spent 14 days in the Patagonia region of southern Argentina.

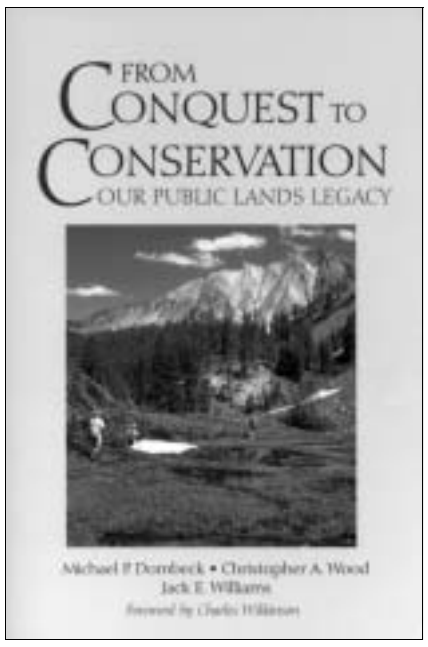
Dick and Bill shared stories about their three-day raft trip on a wild freestone river, catching brook trout on one of the many glacial lakes, fishing a number of the beautiful rivers, their escape from the wonderful but controlling guides, and other experiences in an exotic country. Ask Steve about skinny dipping.

—Bill Heart

Wisconsin Trout conservation book excerpt

New Dombeck book traces the past and future of U.S. public lands management

From Conquest to Conservation is a new book from three of the nation's most knowledgeable experts on public lands. As chief of the Forest Service, Mike Dombeck became a lightning rod for public debate over issues such as the management of old-growth forests and protecting roadless areas. Dombeck also directed the Bureau of Land Management from 1994 to 1997, making him the only person to have led both of the nation's largest land management agencies. Co-authors Chris Wood, TU National's vice president for conservation programs, and Jack Williams, professor at Southern Oregon University, have similarly spent their careers working to steward public resources, and they bring keen insight into the challenges facing public lands and how those challenges can be met. The excerpt reprinted here is from a chapter entitled "River and Stream Health: The Public/Private Land Connection." The authors' opening discussion on the destruction of western salmon and steelhead stocks from dams and habitat losses will be familiar to TU members from the coverage this topic has received in TU's *TROUT* magazine in recent years. But other discussions relating to the Mississippi River and invasive species may be new to readers. Also excerpted are some of the authors' recommendations for how to manage the public's resources as we move into the future.



By Michael P. Dombeck, Christopher A. Wood, and Jack E. Williams

If our nation's streams and rivers were eligible for hospital care, they would be in the intensive care unit. The collective effect of dams, water diversions, pollution, habitat alteration, and exotic species is evidenced by the imperiled status of aquatic species.

Nearly two-thirds of the nation's freshwater mussels, for example, are at risk of extinction and almost one in ten may already have vanished forever. About half of all crayfish species are at risk of extinction. And 35 to 40 percent of freshwater fishes and amphibians share the same gloomy prognosis. Many people are at least vaguely aware of the degradation of our terrestrial environment.

We see pollution on the land, witness the loss of forests, and can testify to the spread of invasive weeds. But what happens beneath the water's surface is out of sight and therefore too often out of mind.

Numerous laws and regulations, chief among them the Endangered Species Act and Clean Water Act, have sought to rectify the problem of declining watershed health and species loss. As of January 2000, sixty-eight fishes and eighty-one mollusks were listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. Implementation of species-level recovery plans, consultation requirements with the Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service, and other protective measures have improved conditions on public lands. Once a species is listed, the Forest Service, BLM, and other federal agencies must consult with the Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, or both to ensure that agency actions do not jeopardize endangered or threatened species or critical habitat. Although better scientific information and implementation of ecosystem or watershed-scale management strategies have begun to restore conditions on public lands, much work remains to be done on public lands and land managers should not get complacent.

Progress toward restoration on private lands, by contrast, has lagged far behind. In many river systems, the headwaters found on higher-elevation public lands may be in relatively good condition. But the lower-elevation valley bottoms and main-stem rivers, mostly on private lands, are in poor health. Agricultural and urban development-often occurring in valley bottom and wetland habitats-have degraded the majority of the more diverse and valuable aquatic habitats.

The recovery of many amphibian, fish, mollusk, and crayfish species depends on improving conditions on both public and private lands. Water links our landscapes. Rain and snow collect in headwater streams and make their way downstream to even larger streams and rivers. Many exotic species move freely through this water-filled transportation system. Such problems call for integration of public and private land management strategies at a scale seldom seen in this country. This chapter explores the status of various aquatic species in different regions of the United States and their dependence on public as well as private lands. We will also examine what is perhaps the greatest threat to many of our native aquatic species: the introduction and spread of nonnative species.

Salmon and steelhead in the Pacific Northwest

Since the 1960s, biologists have monitored the return of adult salmon and steelhead to Marsh Creek, a headwater tributary of the Middle Fork of the Salmon River in Idaho's Salmon Challis National Forest. Historically the stream was one of the most productive spawning areas for spring chinook salmon in the Snake River drainage. In the early survey years, as many as nine hundred redds-spawning nests created by female salmon for egg laying-were counted along the small stream. In 1999, biologists could not find a single redd in Marsh Creek. In 2000, twenty-seven redds were counted. Survival of salmon in Marsh Creek is tenuous. As noted by Idaho Department of Fish and Game biologist Dave Cannamela, "these fish don't have much longer." Marsh Creek is 870 miles upstream from the Pacific Ocean, and returning salmon must negotiate eight large dams between spawning grounds and the mouth of the Columbia River. Before the 1960s, only three dams stood in their path. Ironically, as numbers of returning adults have declined, habitat quality in Marsh Creek has improved. Livestock grazing has been halted along the stream to improve riparian habitat and keep water temperatures suitable for salmon spawning and rearing. The same scenario exists along Bear and Elk creeks, tributaries of the Middle Fork of the Salmon in the Boise National Forest, where reduced livestock grazing and increased attention to riparian restoration have lessened bank erosion and stream sedimentation, but salmon and steelhead numbers have declined drastically compared to pre-1970 returns. With this pattern of improving headwater habitat conditions along many tributaries of the Snake River in Idaho, coupled with continuing declines in salmon and steelhead, most experts agree that downstream dams along the lower Snake and Columbia Rivers are the primary cause of decline. ...

When Hells Canyon Dam was completed in 1967 without provision for fish passage, more than half of the Snake River drainage was completely shut off from salmon and steelhead. While protection and restoration work has proceeded on many national forest and BLM lands in the drainage, efforts to improve habitats on private lands and to facilitate fish passage around dams have been less successful. During the 1990s, many scientists joined the voices of environmentalists in calling for breaching the lower four dams on the Snake River (Ice Harbor, Lower Monumental, Little Goose, and Lower Granite) as the single most important recovery action for Snake River salmon and steelhead. ...

Various models developed by the National Marine Fisheries Service demonstrate that a three-fold increase in survival of Snake River chinook salmon is necessary to ensure their long-term survival. Despite increasing evidence that dams are the single largest impediment to recovery, many politicians in the Pacific Northwest call for stream habitat improvements, "fish-friendly" turbines, and more hatcheries to solve the problem. But none of these approaches will result in the leap of increased survival necessary to avoid extinction. Russ Thurow, a Forest Service researcher who has studied salmon and steelhead in central Idaho for more than twenty years, testified in November 2000 before a U.S. Senate Committee on the flawed logic behind our failure to address the "dam problem" and insistence on focusing on freshwater habitat improvement. Thurow said:

> *If freshwater habitat were the primary cause for declines, then stocks in high quality habitats should be faring substantially better than stocks in degraded habitats. The preponderance of evidence demonstrates this is not the case. Snake River chinook salmon redd counts in both wilderness and degraded habitats have similarly declined since the mid-1970s....*

Habitat conditions in the Middle Fork Salmon River have remained the same or improved since the 1960s. The need for new watershed-level strategies to manage lands became clear during the 1980s and early 1990s. The listing of several stocks of salmon and steelhead as endangered or threatened species was a sign of poor habitat conditions and declining watershed health. ...

In forested lands, perhaps the biggest single cause of increased erosion and stream sedimentation was construction of an extensive road network associated with logging. Public lands in western Oregon, western Washington, and northwestern California contain an estimated 110,000 miles of roads with more than 250,000 stream crossings through culverts, the majority of which cannot contain more than a twentyfive-year flood event without failure. Bull trout, a species that is not anadromous but is widespread in the Pacific Northwest, also was listed for protection under the Endangered Species Act, a clear indicator that freshwater habitat conditions had declined.

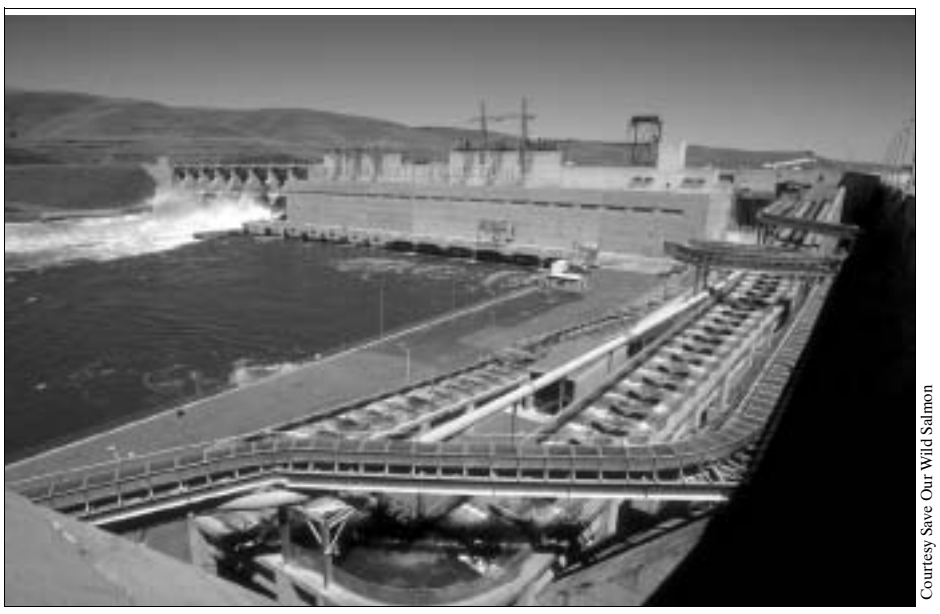
Long-term monitoring provided more examples of declines in habitat conditions on public lands. From 1987 to 1992, Forest Service researchers resurveyed 116 streams in the Pacific Northwest and found that the number of large deep pools had declined substantially compared to original surveys conducted between 1935 and 1945. This finding is important because deep pools provide cool-water refuges that salmon and steelhead need during summer months and drought years.

Continued on p. 16

DOMBECK: new book reviews U.S. public lands management

Continued from p. 15

Comparing the historic and recent data showed that within non-wilderness areas, the number of deep pools declined 66 percent in the Grande Ronde River drainage, 65 percent in the Clearwater River, 57 percent in the Lewis and Clark River, 54 percent in the Salmon River, and 36 percent in Asotin Creek-all because of increases in stream sediment and reductions in large wood, boulders, and other structures that help create pools. During the same period, the number of deep pools actually increased 28 percent in wilderness areas of the Salmon River drainage. ...



Courtesy Save Our Wild Salmon

SNAKE RIVER DAM AND FISH LADDER

The Little Goose Dam on Snake River in Washington is one of eight large dams migrating steelhead and salmon must pass from the Pacific Ocean in order to reach spawning grounds. The fish ladder seen in the foreground is one of the work-arounds people hope will mitigate these dams' negative effects.

For conditions to improve, the high levels of road building, logging, mining, and livestock grazing that characterized public land management from the 1950s through the 1980s had to change. Endangered species became the harbingers for this change-catalysts for the improved stewardship of Forest Service and BLM lands in the 1990s. Chief of the Forest Service Thomas and Acting BLM Director Dombeck called for strategies that would produce a "quantum leap forward" in protecting and restoring fish habitat in the Pacific Northwest. In response, public land management agency scientists and managers developed regional aquatic conservation strategies to protect the best remaining salmon, steelhead, and associated trout habitats on federal lands in the Northwest. ...

Outside the range of the northern spotted owl, the Forest Service and BLM implemented a strategy known as "PACFISH."

This plan included many of the same provisions and emphasis on protection and restoration of riparian habitats contained in the Northwest Forest Plan. The inherent logic behind managing aquatic resources in this manner, and the listing of bull trout, led to application of similar provisions on Forest Service and BLM lands in the Intermountain West through the INFISH strategy.

In many areas of the Pacific Northwest, habitat conditions on Forest Service and BLM lands are improving. These changes are due largely to addressing biodiversity concerns, and subsequent changes in public land management practices through implementation of the Northwest Forest Plan in western Oregon and western Washington, and application of the PACFISH strategy in eastern Oregon, eastern Washington, and Idaho. Protection of roadless areas and riparian habitats also plays a critical role in preserving aquatic habitats on public lands. Roadless areas are often the last strongholds for salmon and steelhead spawning in the Columbia River system. Permanent protection of such areas is our best insurance against loss of genetic diversity of anadromous fish stocks on public lands while restoration efforts move downstream to more needy habitats.

But protection of headwater habitats is no guarantee that salmon and steelhead numbers will increase. Downstream dams, water diversions, agriculture practices, livestock grazing, urbanization, pollution, overfishing, changing ocean conditions, and a host of other factors on private lands or in the ocean may prevent recovery of endangered fish stocks. Historically, the most diverse, complex, and therefore important habitats for anadromous salmonids occurred in valley bottoms-which usually are privately owned and far downstream from the lands managed by the Forest Service or BLM. The need to restore valley-bottom habitats and ensure mainstem fish passage for adults moving upstream to spawning areas and juveniles moving downstream to estuaries demonstrates the necessity of a broad-scale watershed approach to salmon and steelhead recovery.

Mississippi River and the southeast

In both size and variety, the Mississippi River is one of the world's great rivers. Its drainage basin includes all or parts of thirtyone states stretching from the Rocky Mountains to the Appalachians and from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico. It is the center of aquatic biological diversity in North America, especially in regard to fishes and freshwater mussels. The highest numbers of native fish and mussel species occur in southeastern states. Alabama, for instance, has 306 native fish species and another 173 native mussel species. Tennessee accounts for about 297 native fish species and 127 native mussel species. Small streams in the Southeast commonly contain dozens of species of minnows, darters, madtoms, and mussels. Despite research on this diverse stream fauna that spans well beyond a century, a handful of new species is described each year. What we know must always be tempered by how much we have yet to learn.

Compared to the small but well-adapted native aquatic faunas of western states, the numbers of fishes, mussels, crayfishes, and other aquatic invertebrates in the East and Southeast are staggering. Midwestern states such as Kansas, which has 131 native fish species and 44 native mussel species, cannot compare with the diversity of the Southeast. ...

In 2000, The Nature Conservancy and the Association for Biodiversity Information published a thorough treatise on biodiversity that included an analysis of rare fish and mussel species throughout the United States. They documented that the Southeast's river basins contain the lion's share of aquatic biodiversity-much of it at risk of extinction. Two river systems accounted for 35 percent of all rare fish and mussel species in the United States: the Mobile River basin (in Alabama and parts of Mississippi, Georgia, and Tennessee) and the Tennessee and Cumberland river basins (in Tennessee and adjacent states). Of the rare species in these river systems, 70 percent are endemic and found nowhere else in the world.

The vast majority of rare fish, mussel, and crayfish species in the Mississippi River basin and Southeast are threatened by habitat alteration. Much of the problem can be traced to ubiquitous stream channelization, dams and impoundments, sedimentation, and changes in stream flow regimes-the same problems that plague streams and rivers throughout the country. Lands in the Mississippi River basin and Southeast, however, differ from those in the West by at least one important attribute: few lands are in public ownership. The absence of public lands confounds traditional stream and river conservation in the Southeast.

The AFS report notes that forested watersheds support most of the biologically significant creeks and rivers in the Southeast, but only 11 percent of lands in these watersheds are in public ownership. Furthermore, consistent with the nationwide pattern, most public forestland in the Southeast is at higher elevations. As a result, most rare aquatic species in the Southeast do not receive any protection through public land management.

Invaders in our lakes and streams

If you cast a line into a local river, lake, or reservoir, in most parts of the country you are more likely to catch an introduced fish species than one native to the site. Not only have fishes been relocated, both intentionally and unintentionally, but exotic aquatic invertebrates and plants dominate many habitats.

Geological Survey staff at the Florida Caribbean Science Center in Gainesville track the status of aquatic species introductions throughout the country. And they are documenting a dramatically increasing number of introductions since 1831, the earliest known date of a nonnative fish introduction in the United States. Between 1831 and 1950, a period of 120 years, approximately 117 fish species are known to have been introduced. But in a span of only forty-five years between 1950 and 1995, some 458 additional fish species were brought into this country. All states have been affected, but the largest number of introductions has occurred in the Southwest and portions of the Southeast. More than half of these introductions were deliberate releases approved or carried out by government agencies. Some introductions were unauthorized; others were accidental. A large share of the introductions, about 44 percent, were made to expand sportfishing opportunities. Another 16 percent were associated with sportfishing but were bait releases. Aquarium releases and escapes from aquaculture facilities accounted for 26 percent. Smaller percentages were accounted for by release of ship ballast water (2%), biological control agents (2%), or other purposes.

Even with the best of intentions, most of these introductions were misguided. Some have proved to be disastrous for native fishes. A good example is provided by brook trout, a native to streams in eastern Canada and the eastern United States. This trout is prized by anglers in the East and has been introduced widely into western streams and high-country lakes on public lands where the story has taken a different turn. Because of their aggressiveness and high reproductive rate, brook trout have replaced many golden trout, cutthroat trout, and redband trout native to western streams. The fast-reproducing brook trout become stunted in most western streams and lakes. The result is habitats filled with 5- to 6-inch-long brook trout-not a pleasing perspective for conservationist or angler. Moreover, brook trout hybridize with the endangered bull trout of the Columbia River basin and are considered to be the greatest threat to that species aside from habitat loss. Our propensity for introducing nonnative fish despite growing evidence of the problems this causes can best be seen in the high-elevation lakes stocking programs carried out in backcountry areas of many national forests. High-elevation lakes in most national forests and some national parks commonly are stocked with nonnative trout to provide angling opportunities. Some of this stocking occurs in wilderness areas, where one might think that such practices would be prohibited. Because many high-elevation lakes were "fishless," no environmental degradation was anticipated. Recent studies have demonstrated, however, that sharp declines or even elimination of native amphibian populations in high-elevation lakes can be attributed to predation from introduced trouts. Additional amphibian declines may be attributable to fungal diseases transmitted to frogs by trout from hatcheries. ...

As Phil Pister, rare fishes expert from California, has summarized: "The western states are collectively involved in a massive and expensive wilderness stocking program, the value of which has never been conclusively demonstrated, and which is known to be destructive to native fauna and not in accordance with generally accepted wilderness values." Protecting mountain lake biological diversity should be of greater concern to the Forest Service and state fish and game agencies than providing dubious fishing opportunities.

Sportfish comprise only a portion of the many species of fishes released into the waters of the United States. Various species of tropical fishes such as cichlids, tilapia, loaches, mollies, and goldfish, species more commonly known to living-room aquariums than springs and streams, have nonetheless become established in natural habitats. Although these tropical species survive

best in southern parts of the country where temperatures are warmer, some species have become established in warm-water springs in Wyoming, Idaho, and Nevada. Some tropical fishes have escaped from aquaculture facilities, but many have been introduced intentionally by people who have given up on their own aquariums and do not realize the harm they cause by releasing aquarium fish into the wild.

Introductions of tropical fishes are a particular problem for BLM-managed public lands in the West. In Ash Meadows, Nevada, for example, Jack Rabbit Spring and Big Spring harbor endangered desert fishes but also populations of mollies, mosquitofish, and other exotics that prey on larvae of the endangered pupfish and dace. Elimination of exotic species has proved nearly impossible in spring and wetland areas despite continued efforts. Where elimination of exotics seems to have succeeded, they often are back just a few months later. ...

The Frankenstein Effect

When a species is transported from its native ecosystem to a novel environment, we seldom know how the new species will function.

By moving the species into a new ecosystem, we have removed it from the environment in which it evolved and placed it in a system without all the predators and competitors that kept it in check. Because of the new environment and the new community of species, the introduced species may take on a somewhat different role than it had in its native range-or the role it played in its native range may play out differently in the new environment. Dr. Peter Moyle, a researcher at the University of California at Davis who has studied the effects of hundreds of introduced species on California's native biota, uses the term "Frankenstein Effect" to describe how many introduced species end up creating unanticipated problems of monstrous proportions. Moyle and his colleagues documented nine native fishes that have disappeared from the fish fauna of California, although they may persist elsewhere. Introduced species played a significant role in many of these declines. In general there are mechanisms that allow introduced species, aquatic or terrestrial, to replace native species: predation, competition, inhibition of reproduction (by behavior or physical modification of habitat), environmental degradation, hybridization, and the introduction of parasites and diseases. When a new species is established, this presence always comes at a cost to native species. In essence, the niche of the native species has been narrowed to make room for the introduced species. If the redefined niche is too narrow, extinction may result. Usually these impacts on the native species are unanticipated. Sometimes the effects are straightforward-such as introduced brown trout preying on native fishes in a stream-but sometimes they are quite convoluted.

One of the more interesting examples of this Frankenstein Effect occurred when opossum shrimp were introduced between 1968 and 1975 into the Flathead Lake drainage of Montana, outside their native range, in an effort to provide an additional food item for kokanee salmon. Kokanee feed on zooplankton, tiny crustaceans like copepods and cladocerans, which in turn feed on small plant material that floats in the lake. Ironically kokanee had been introduced into Flathead Lake in 1916 and largely had replaced the native westslope cutthroat trout. Like the native cutthroat, the kokanee spawned in tributaries, including McDonald Creek, located about 60 miles upstream of Flathead Lake in Glacier National Park. Like the native cutthroat before them, the swarms of spawning kokanee attracted numerous predators and scavengers that fed on spawning kokanee, their carcasses, and kokanee eggs. In some years, more than 500 bald eagles congregated along a 2.5-mile stretch of McDonald Creek. In 1989, only twenty-five eagles were counted along McDonald Creek.

Healthy watersheds: the public/private land connection

The importance of federally administered public lands to conservation of rare or endangered species is clear from a wealth of research and observations. According to recent studies, federal lands (including Department of Defense lands) harbor more than 30 percent of populations of federally listed and otherwise imperiled species in the United States. This is more than any landowner provides, although all private lands combined do support a surprisingly high number of rare species. Among federal agencies, lands managed by the Forest Service provide habitat for the greatest number of rare species. The role of private lands in conservation of biological diversity is gaining increasing attention. Private lands account for about 25 percent of all known populations of federally listed or otherwise imperiled species in the United States. If only federally listed species are considered, the importance of private lands actually exceeds that of federal lands. More than 60 percent of all threatened and endangered species occur at least in part on private lands. Moreover, most of the highly productive habitat of the past that now is unoccupied or is host to greatly reduced populations is privately owned. Restoration investments in these core areas would yield enormous returns.

As we have seen, the impact of federal lands in conservation is not the same across the country. Most protection occurs in the West where federal public lands are more widespread. But even in the West, conservation on federal public lands alone cannot ensure the long-term survival of most rare native fishes. There are several reasons for this: the distribution of federal lands across the landscape, the lack of attention to private land conservation, and linkages between public and private land management.

Public lands generally are located at higher elevations-especially Forest Service and National Park Service lands. Even within national forests, most designated wilderness areas, which receive the greatest ecological protection, are located along the mountain peaks and ridges. Lands managed by the BLM are mostly at mid-elevations. The bulk of private lands, however, are located in lower-elevation riparian and valley-bottom habitats. Private lands tend to include most of the land with highly productive soils and diverse habitat types. In an article titled "What Are We Protecting?" J. Michael Scott and colleagues argue that about half of all the land dedicated to conservation in the United States is in the least productive soil types and at the highest elevations. Conservation strategies for private lands represent the critical link in expanding efforts across a broad range of habitat types and ecosystems-a move that is essential to the long-term survival and eventual recovery of many of our native aquatic species.

Dombeck's recommendations for future land management

Learning and listening from the land. Learning from the land means drawing conclusions about what the land needs. We should continually evaluate the effects of our management actions and modify our behavior accordingly. Listening to the land begins to treat the land as a community that we are a part of, not apart from.

Embrace complexity and natural disturbance on the land. Wildfire, floods, forest insects and disease, and other disturbances are vital parts of the natural world that we must work with. When operating within their historic range of variability, they serve to increase habitat diversity and complexity. When human development interrupts ecological processes through decades of fire suppression, channelizing rivers, or draining wetlands, for example, it throws natural cycles of disturbances out if kilter — as the wild fires of 2000 and 2002 demonstrate — often with devastating effects on human communities. Management actions should solve for the broader pattern and functions of a dynamic landscape.

Managing the land in a conservative manner that maintains options for future generations. Conservative use dictates that we protect remaining sensitive grasslands, roadless areas, and old-growth forests. Most important to this conservative perspective is the "precautionary principle" of land man which dictates that we err on the side of doing no harm to the environment rather than harm it unintentionally or unexpectedly.

Respect people and place by integrating social, economic, and ecological components of sustainability into resource decisions. The writer Wendell Berry has said, "Our demands upon the earth are determined by our ways of living with one another; our regard for one another is brought to light in our ways of using the earth." People are a part of the land; respect for the land must be based on respect for each other. Federal land managers have a moral and statutory obligation to invite and develop the broadest possible public involvement at every opportunity in land management planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.

Collaborate across ownerships to address mutual problems. Sooner or later, prob lems on our public lands become problems for neighboring landowners, and vice versa, as exotic species or land disturbances cascade downstream or downwind. An important task ahead for the American people will be to establish frameworks for collaborative planning across jurisdictional boundaries on multiple scales, from our smallest hollows in West Virginia to our mightiest river systems in the Northwest.

Incorporate sound science but commit to continuous learning. Science, by its very nature, incorporates a principle of uncertainty that limits our knowledge and authority to act. The Committee of Scientists put it this way: "By approaching planning not as a 'cookbook' for making decisions, but as an opportunity to learn, to test new ideas, and to continuously evolve based on new understandings, the Forest Service will meet the expectations for 'conservation leadership' set forth in the National Forest Management Act." We must be prepared to adapt when the land surprises us, when it tells us something didn't work as planned.

Few attempts have been made to link the management strategies of public and private lands for conservation. Some of the best efforts are in Oregon, western Washington, and northwestern California. In Oregon and Washington, dozens of watershed councils have been formed to guide management efforts on public and private lands. These watershed councils constitute a focal point for federal agency collaboration with private landowners. The Coquille and Rogue rivers in Oregon are good examples where federal and state agencies, watershed councils, and private landowners are developing watershed-scale goals, management plans, and restoration projects jointly. The Blackfoot River in western Montana has been the site of a well-integrated watershed strategy since 1990. A similar watershed approach is being implemented in California's Mattole River basin. In addition, efforts by the BLM and Forest Service to assess proper functioning condition across much of the West have resulted in a valuable dialogue between federal land managers and livestock grazing permittees, all of whom are private landowners as well. Watershedscale restoration and management efforts are spreading across the nation, but they are still the exception rather than the rule. Healthy rivers are products of healthy watersheds. Watersheds in good condition store and release rain and snowfall in amounts that maintain natural flow regimes. If floods occur, energy from high river flows is dispersed onto floodplains where stands of healthy riparian vegetation trap silt and dissipate energy. Water from healthy rivers connects the landscape in all directions.

Healthy rivers connect laterally onto riparian areas and upland habitats. But their health depends also on proper functioning conditions in upstream headwaters. If headwaters, riparian areas, and uplands function within limits that maintain natural flow regimes, then downstream river, floodplain, and valley-bottom habitats maintain their diversity and complexity.

A truly healthy watershed — stretching from headwaters to valley bottoms, from groundwaters to surface waters, with all habitat elements in proper functioning condition — is rare. Especially rare are functional valley-bottom habitats. Over the years, most lower-elevation rivers, floodplains, and valley-bottom habitats have been simplified, fragmented, and constrained by a combination of agricultural and urban development, dams, and development of transport systems (highways and railroads along rivers). Implicit in the concept of a healthy watershed is the integrity of the continuum of lands from headwaters to the river mouth. ...

By all accounts, we must do better at managing our nation's watersheds and rivers. And this will require unprecedented integration of public and private conservation efforts.

Dombeck speaking in Madison May 7

Mike Dombeck will be speaking about his new book at the Barnes & Noble bookstore in Madison May 7 at 7:00 p.m.

DNR studying many factors, but cause still a mystery

Few steelhead returning to Kewaunee River

As you'll read in this special *Wisconsin Trout* investigation by Jeremy Hecht, steelhead trout are not returning to the Kewaunee River like the DNR and anglers would like to see. That is what we know. What we don't know is why. This report follows DNR researchers as they examine a half dozen possible reasons for the low returns. It is a fascinating look at the multiple factors at play in this mystery — some of which may be interrelated — that is challenging the state's fishery managers.

By Jeremy Hecht

Ask anyone on the Wisconsin DNR's Lake Michigan fisheries team — the biologists who collectively manage fish populations in the lake and its tributaries — what the most puzzling problem for the team is, and the most likely response would be, "Why aren't steelhead returning to the Kewaunee River?"

As shown in Table 1 below, the number of adult steelhead returning to the weir on the Kewaunee plummeted from 2,222 in 1997 to 922 in 1998 and has continued to drop. Last fall just three steelhead — one Skamania and two unclipped fish — returned to the weir.

The drop in the steelhead return from '97 to '98 to the weir on the Root was worse. As shown in Table 2, the DNR captured 3,690 steelhead at the weir in '97 but only 533 in '98. However, returns to the Root weir have rebounded since '98, unlike on the Kewaunee.

These declines pose problems because the Kewaunee and Root are the state's "brood rivers" for the three strains of steelhead — Chambers Creek, Ganaraska, and Skamania — it stocks into Lake Michigan tributaries.

Each spring the DNR finclips more than 200,000 of the approximately 500,000 steelhead yearlings it stocks and releases roughly equal numbers of each strain into both rivers. To hatch enough Chambers Creek and Ganaraska — the two strains that run in the spring — to stock every year, milt and eggs are extracted from those that return to both weirs each spring and then spawned at the Kettle Moraine hatchery. To hatch enough Skamania for yearly stocking, the DNR also relies on adults returning to the weirs. Skamania, which can start returning to tributaries as early as late August, are not fully mature when they are captured. They are taken to the hatchery and held until spawning. A fish captured at either weir can be used for spawning only if it has a clip showing that it returned to the river it was stocked in and returns with a fish of the opposite sex.

Is lake harvest a factor?

One obvious starting point to consider as a reason for the decline in steelhead returns to the Kewaunee weir is the number of adult fish caught in the lake. By plugging creel survey data into mathematical formulas, the DNR can reasonably estimate the number of fish caught in the lake each year during the open-water season, designated as March 1-December 31. The DNR has done this for 18 years.

Wisconsin's creel survey is the most thorough on the lake, according to John Kubisiak, who has coordinated it for the past three years. Listed below are yearly steelhead catch estimates within the Wisconsin portion of the lake from 1992-02.

1992 -	79,525	1997 -	94,470
1993 -	104,765	1998 -	110,558
1994 -	114,774	1999 -	84,248
1995 -	117,508	2000 -	71,829
1996 -	77,099	2001 -	72,854
		2002 -	74,031

Members of the Lake Michigan fisheries team, according to Steve Hogler, fisheries manager for Kewaunee County, initially thought the 1993-97 steelhead harvests could have taken out enough fish to contribute to the '98 collapse in returns to the Kewaunee weir. The majority of steelhead stocked in the lake return as four- and five-year-olds. Thus fish caught as far back as '93, when the catch rose 32 percent from the previous year, could have returned in '98.

"When lake harvests dropped back down and steadied out, but returns to the weir kept declining, we became concerned with other things," says Hogler.

The lake team discussed reducing the bag limit for the lake last fall, but the consensus was to keep it at five for now. Kubisiak estimated the "savings" — the number of broodstock that could potentially return to the weir on either brood river in one year — at bag limits of four, three, two, and one on the lake. He based his estimated savings on the average number of broodstock — finclipped steelhead stocked in the Kewaunee or Root — caught annually in the lake during the open-water season from 1993 to 2000, which calculated to 16,902.

Reducing the bag limit to four would yield an estimated savings of 43 broodstock, to three, 232; to two, 952; and to one, 3,635. The estimated savings for Skamania, the strain most in need of returning broodstock, in the same order would be 14, 80, 333, and 1,284.

Kubisiak also estimated the savings if the bag limit for the Kewaunee and Root was cut but remained at five on the lake. For the same period, 1993-2000, the average number of broodstock caught yearly on both rivers came to 3,100. Because of the steep drop in returns to the Kewaunee weir, most of the estimated savings in broodstock would be for fish returning to the Root weir. At a bag limit of four for the Kewaunee and Root, the estimated savings for all three strains would be 14 (2 Skamania); at three, 65 (12 Skamania); at two, 265 (48 Skamania); and at one, 971 (178).

Only a drastic bag limit cut would help

These numbers suggested to the lake team that reducing the bag limit might improve returns to the weirs only if it were cut to at least two for either the lake or the brood rivers or to at least two for both the lake and the brood rivers. A cut to two for the lake would be "politically unpalatable," says Kubisiak.

Cutting the bag limit on the lake might improve returns to the weirs somewhat, but lake-harvest levels are not the reason why runs in the Kewaunee have plummeted. Justifying a cut on the lake would be difficult, according to Bill Horns, head of the lake team. Steelhead move extensively throughout the lake, seeking their preferred temperature and forage. Anglers fishing in the Wisconsin portion of the lake, says Horns, catch steelhead Michigan and Indiana have stocked in their tributaries. Last year, in addition to the Little Manistee that hatched in Michigan's tributaries and migrated to the lake, they stocked another 518,000 fish of that strain and 35,000 Skamania. Indiana last year stocked approximately 430,000 Skamania and 120,000 Little Manistee into their tributaries.

Fish with finclips from other states routinely show up at the Kewaunee and Root weirs, as shown by the numbers in the column in Tables 1 and 2 labeled "Other." Ganaraska, which only Wisconsin stocks, and Chambers Creek with Wisconsin finclips are caught in the Michigan portion of the lake and are also reported in *their* tributaries, according to Hogler. When the wind blows east and moves warm surface to the Michigan shoreline, he says steelhead in the lake move to the cooler water along our shoreline. The opposite is true when the wind blows the other direction, he adds. Hogler ran a study from 1992 to 1995 to try tracking steelhead movement in the lake. Anglers reported catching fish with Kewaunee River finclips at several points along the Michigan and Wisconsin shorelines.

The influence of lipids

Each February, Sue Marcquenski, the state's fish health specialist, opens up 60 yearlings of each steelhead strain and assesses their levels of mesenteric fat — the fat that has accumulated around the stomach. For each fish, she rates the amount on a 0-4 scale. Marcquenski has not found low levels on average, but she would like to see more mesenteric fat on the fish.

Hogler and Kubisiak agree. Fish without adequate amounts of mesenteric fat are more likely to die or pick up diseases. Marcquenski would prefer checking mesenteric fat levels later than February and closer to when the fish are stocked.

"Some of the steelhead that I sample in February might not get stocked until April, so there could be a change for the better or worse by the time fish are actually stocked," she says. She adds that grinding up fish and chemically analyzing their lipid levels would provide more useful information than her visual inspection does. A chemical analysis can determine the amounts of omega 3 and omega 6 fatty acids. The acids must be in the right proportion for cells to stay intact.

As the state's only fish health specialist, Marcquenski simply does not have time for giving more attention to steelhead. "It appears that there are important fish-health issues in Lake Michigan that deserve more attention than they are getting with existing staff," she says. "It seems logical that if we had more people, we could look at some of these things more thoroughly."

Putting more mesenteric fat on steelhead in the hatchery is not a simple matter of giving them more feed, says Marcquenski. To begin with, the number of steelhead raised in the hatchery would have to be reduced. Some hatchery infrastructure changes would also be needed, she says. Indiana is able to stock Skamania with more mesenteric fat than Wisconsin because they hatch a full month before us and the water in their hatcheries is warmer.

Little known on outmigration

With little hard data to draw conclusions from, and with the budget crunch preventing any research on the problem, DNR fisheries biologists are left mostly to speculate on what is causing the decline in steelhead returns to the Kewaunee.

A stocking location study and flow data have provided some partial answers. Several important questions need to be investigated, though. The lake team is drafting a

Table 1

Number of Adult Steelhead Returning to the Kewaunee River Weir

Year	Total	Skamania	Chambers Creek	Ganaraska	Other
2002	379	18	51	61	249
2001	426	10	66	137	213
2000	347	45	69	84	149
1999	877	116	221	237	303
1998	922	104	236	241	341
1997	2,222	398	611	364	849
1996	2,502	338	736	414	1,014
1995	2,387	463	931	332	661
1994	3,489	521	1,270	685	1,013
1993	2,478	271	831	737	639
1992	3,812	533	1,593	942	744

"Other" includes unclipped and misclipped steelhead and steelhead with a finclip from another state.

Table 2

Number of Adult Steelhead Returning to the Root River Weir

Year	Total	Skamania	Chambers Creek	Ganaraska	Other
2002	1,604	263	627	432	282
2001	1,349	323	153	594	279
2000	2,389	212	470	1,079	628
1999	2,333	64	746	1,088	435
1998	533	107	114	235	77
1997	3,690	849	970	1,458	413
1996	3,522	397	1,184	1,553	388
1995	3,886	526	2,022	1,045	293
1994	848	791	12	27	18

"Other" includes unclipped and misclipped steelhead and steelhead with a finclip from another state. Weir started operating in fall of 1994; numbers for that year are fall returns only.

grant proposal to run some outmigration studies in the Kewaunee. However, they will have to get money from someplace other than the DNR.

Two questions the lake team would like to investigate are:

- How many stocked fish reach the lake and
- How much time are they spending in the river?

If money came through, Hogler could set up a simple study to periodically capture fish and use standard mathematical methods to estimate populations progressively downriver. Marcquenski would also be able to monitor fat levels and check for diseases.

Steelhead in the hatchery are carefully screened for a variety of diseases. Once in the Kewaunee, however, they could pick up diseases from other fish. The Kewaunee and Root are also the state's brood rivers for Coho. Approximately 175,000 Cohos have been stocked in the Kewaunee yearly since 1987. They are stocked at the same place and roughly the same time as the steelhead are. Despite screening and, if necessary, treating Coho for bacterial kidney disease, some that are stocked in the Kewaunee, says Marcquenski, will have low levels of the bacteria that cause the disease. It has afflicted Lake Michigan Coho and Chinook more than steelhead. The bacteria inflict the kidney with lesions and kill the fish if they spread.

If an outmigration study were set up, checking steelhead for bacterial kidney disease would be one of Marcquenski's top priorities. From 30,000 to 67,000 lake-run brown trout have been stocked in the Kewaunee the past six years. Like Coho, they get stocked at the same place and roughly the same time as do the steelhead. Some lake-run brown stocked in the Kewaunee, according to Marcquenski, will have low levels of the bacteria that cause furunculosis. If this bacteria spreads in a fish, it ruptures small blood vessels and attacks the vital organs. Furunculosis is occasionally seen on adult steelhead returning to the Kewaunee and Root weirs. "They are picking it up somewhere, and one possibility is being in close conjunction with browns in the Kewaunee," says Kubisiak.

The Kewaunee has been shallow the last five or six springs and does not have much structure, according to Hogler. With more than 300,000 fish — 100,000 steelhead, 170,000 Coho, and 50,000 browns — outmigrating together, holding spots likely get very crowded. "We don't have any hard data to show that the potential for disease transmission increases under these conditions," says Hogler. It would be far easier though, he adds, to study disease transmission among fish in the stream than in the lake.

Periodic checks of mesenteric fat levels in outmigrating steelhead could reveal whether the number of fish stocked exceed the carrying capacity of the river. There simply may not be enough available food to get a sizeable percentage of steelhead to the lake. In addition salmon could be outcompeting steelhead for holding spots and food. Nobody knows if the availability of and competition for food are taking a toll on outmigrating steelhead.

Concerns about river oxygen

Little is also known about water quality in the Kewaunee. Hogler has monitored oxygen levels in the river above the weir during the summer. He detected some temporary sags to 4 parts per million at night. Steelhead, however, have been stocked below the weir since the mid-1990s, and Hogler suspects enough lake water is in the river up to the weir to keep that section well oxygenated during the spring. Oxygen levels in the river, however, have never been monitored below the weir. Trout and salmon do not fare well in water with less than 6-7 parts per million of oxygen.

If money were available, the DNR could place a hydrolab, a small, floating water quality monitoring station, on the Kewaunee and monitor dissolved oxygen levels on a continuous basis. They could also monitor temperature, phosphorous, turbidity, and other variables.

This information could, for example, determine if poor water quality is weakening steelhead and increasing their odds of picking up diseases from other fish.

Avian predators

Hogler and other lake team members can only speculate on whether predation is contributing to the return problem in the Kewaunee. Steelhead must get past smallmouth, northern, and channel catfish in the harbor to reach the lake.

"There are not a lot of deep holes or big rocks or weed beds," says Hogler. "The Kewaunee is pretty flat and featureless, and there are not many places for those fish to hide."

Double-crested cormorants could be another problem. Approximately 100,000 pairs — compared to 125 in the early 70s — now nest in the Great Lakes, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The species was federally protected in 1972 after DDT and pollution in the lakes decimated the population in the region.

The Fish and Wildlife Service has drafted rules to be published in the Federal Register for public comment on their proposal to grant "depradation permits" for double-crested cormorants if evidence can be presented to show they are causing economic or ecologic damage.

Steve Lewis, a bird biologist with the Fish and Wildlife Service in Minneapolis, says the proliferation of catfish farms in the Southeast, where cormorants spend the winter, is one reason they have rebounded in the Great Lakes. Birds have been able to get at catfish in farm ponds all winter and have been coming back up in better condition, he says. They have also benefited from alewife invading the Great Lakes. Lewis says the fish are the perfect size for cormorants to prey upon.

Depending on when cormorants are migrating, hundreds could be at Kewaunee Harbor when steelhead reach the lake, says Hogler. With milder winters and less snowfall leading to earlier and less spring runoff, turbidity in the river at stocking time has decreased. In addition, zebra mussels have made water along the lakeshore clearer. Consequently cormorants and other predators can see more steelhead.

"I'm sure cormorants are getting their fare share [of steelhead] at times," says Hogler. He adds, however, that many of the fish picked off are weak and at the surface because their air bladders have not purged and would not have survived anyway. Collecting data on the extent of cormorant predation would be difficult, says Hogler.

Continued on p. 20

John Gremmer

UNLIKE STEELHEAD, SALMON RETURNING IN BETTER NUMBERS
Chinook salmon returns are much better than those for steelhead in Lake Michigan (see story below). Coho salmon return, however, have also been slow to egg collection facilities.

Record number of Chinook eggs collected

State fish crews captured a record number of Lake Michigan Chinook salmon during fall egg collection efforts at Wisconsin's three facilities along Lake Michigan tributaries.

The resulting robust egg harvest is good news for state hatcheries that will produce the next generation of "king" salmon to roam Lake Michigan, state fisheries officials say.

Fewer coho returned

Not as rosy, however, was the fact that few Coho salmon returned to the weirs, continuing a recent pattern that has meant crews could only collect some of the Coho eggs they needed.

The C.D. Besadny Anadromous Fisheries Facility on the Kewaunee River and the Root River Steelhead Facility near Racine also capture Chinook for egg collection and for research, but play a secondary role for that species. The Besadny and the Root River facilities share primary responsibilities for collecting Coho and steelhead eggs.

All three facilities captured a record number of adult Chinook this fall, but Strawberry Creek crews collected enough eggs from Chinook returning to that weir — an estimated 3.8 million eggs — to meet Wisconsin's Lake Michigan and Lake Superior Chinook stocking quotas.

"Last year we had a record harvest of Chinook at Strawberry Creek by weight and number of fish, and this year, we shattered that record," says Paul Peeters, the DNR fisheries biologist who coordinates DNR Chinook research.

Decreased chinook stocking

Since the late 1980s, DNR has decreased the number of Chinook it stocks in Lake Michigan because of concerns that the Chinook would deplete the Lake Michigan forage base and the population would crash, as happened in the late 1980s, Peeters says.

Chinook have a high metabolic rate and need to eat a lot of prey fish, particularly to build up their fat reserves to help survive the winter in Lake Michigan. With forage in short supply in the winters of 1988 and 1989, maturing chinook came out of the winter in very poor shape and many succumbed to disease outbreaks of Bacterial Kidney Disease (BKD).

Michigan to supply coho eggs

Wisconsin Coho egg collection efforts weren't as successful in fall 2002, and the state will have to rely on surplus eggs from Michigan to help fill the quotas for coho eggs.

Crews at the Besadny facility processed only 241 Coho and collected an estimated 0.3 million eggs toward a goal of 2 million eggs. The Root Facility near Racine had better results; crews there captured 2,548 adult Coho and collected 848,000 eggs.

History of salmon stocking in WI

Chinook and coho salmon are not native to Wisconsin. WDNR fisheries managers began stocking these Pacific coast salmon in the late 1960s to control alewives, an exotic species whose populations were exploding because sea lampreys had killed off their main predators.

Chinook and coho salmon have since become popular sport fish, and DNR staff continue to stock them because they don't successfully reproduce in Wisconsin's Lake Michigan tributaries. Those tributaries lack the clear, cold, well-oxygenated water needed for successful reproduction by chinook, coho and steelhead. As a result, the egg collection and stocking program is critical to keeping the salmon as a predator and sport fish.

Tom Deer photos

Waupaca library hosts TU/FFF trout fishing tribute

Story and Photos by Tom Deer

The Waupaca Library featured a beautiful full-room display on trout fishing from mid January through mid February.

The display was a joint project of the Waupaca Library, the Wisconsin DNR, the Federation of Fly Fishers, and three chapters of Trout Unlimited — Central Wisconsin, ShawPaca, and Fox Valley.

The display featured vintage fishing equipment, including bamboo rods, reels, and nets, plus rare antique fly tying equipment such as vises and bobbins.

It also featured beautiful mounts of trout and salmon as well as lifelike woodcarvings by artists such as Dick Bajorek of Green Bay.

Members of the Federation of Fly Fishers and Trout Unlimited jointly provided fly tying demonstrations and casting lessons. There were displays of chapter activities such as Fox Valley's First Cast Program and diagrams and pictures of chapter stream work.

All in all it was a great tribute to trout fishing in general and a fitting tribute to the Trout Unlimited chapters that have spent untold hours working on the streams in the county. We should try to get more libraries to provide this kind of venue for our sport.

STEELHEAD: fewer returning to Kewaunee River

Continued from p. 19

As Fish and Wildlife's Lewis says, "Cormorants are very visible, so they are an easy target for people when they are looking for a cause of fish decline."

Until data is collected on steelhead when they are in the Kewaunee migrating out, the DNR will be in a quandary on whether returns to the weir have plummeted because reasonable numbers of fish are not making it to the lake. "My hope is that over time we can get some money and begin to look at and systematically investigate some of these [outmigration] questions," says Horns.

Stocking location studied

Where to stock hatchery-raised anadromous fish in a river is a balancing act. In order to imprint to the river by storing its scent, steelhead need to be stocked before they smolt, and they need to spend enough time in the river. But they also need to be stocked to minimize the number of predators in the river they have to get past. Increasing the distance from the lake where steelhead are stocked in the Kewaunee gives them more time to imprint but puts more predators between them and the lake. In comparison, decreasing that distance gives them less time to imprint but lowers the number of predators.

Until the mid-1990s, steelhead were stocked in the Kewaunee at the Clyde's Hill Road crossing, about nine miles upstream from the lake. Since then they have been stocked just below the dam at the weir site, about four miles upstream.

"We became very concerned about stocking above the dam in low-water years," says Hogler, "The spring flow would fall off so rapidly and fish would have a hard time getting around the dam."

Results from a Chinook stocking location study in the Kewaunee thus far show that fish stocked below the dam return just as well as do fish stocked at the Clyde's Hill Road crossing. Paul Peeters, who oversees operations at Strawberry Creek in Door County, the state's primary collection facility for Chinook milt and eggs, began the study in 1998. That year and the following one, he stocked 25,000 Chinook marked with coded wire tags at four locations in the Kewaunee: 15 miles upriver at the Highway 54 crossing, 9 miles up at the Clyde's Hill Road crossing, 4 miles up just below the dam at the weir site, and in the river harbor.

Thus far there is little difference between the number of fish stocked below the dam and at Clyde's Hill Road that have returned as adults to the weir. Significantly more fish stocked at these two locations have returned than have fish stocked at the other two locations. Peeters and his crew have not finished extracting and reading coded wire tags from the approximately 6,000 Chinook that returned to the weir last fall. But the data appear to be following the same trend, he says.

Although Peeters' study is using Chinook, which are believed to imprint better than steelhead, Hogler says it is reasonable to assume that the results would be similar for steelhead. He and Peeters believe it is reasonable to assume imprinting and predation are influencing the results. But they caution against reading too much into them.

"As a manager trying to manage the resource and the fishery, knowing what happened is more important to me than understanding all of the nuances and innuendos associated with why it happened," says Peeters. "The pure researcher in me wants to know why, but the manager in me sometimes is forced to settle with what happened, not why it happened. I'm a manager first and a researcher second."

Kewaunee flow rates

Low flow rates on the Kewaunee the past several springs have not helped get steelhead to the lake. The Kewaunee drains a large area with a lot of wetlands and farm fields.

"When conditions have been dry and it rains, those lands suck up a lot of water," says Hogler. "We have not had much spring runoff for at least five years. When we've had runoff, it's been in February, and that's just not the right time for steelhead."

Hogler remembers the dam at the weir site submerged under three to four feet of water in the spring of 1993 and'94. The past several springs when steelhead have been stocked, he says, you could stand on the spillway without getting your feet wet.

The DNR has not run studies in the Kewaunee or any other tributary stocked with trout or salmon to estimate the number of fish for a particular stocking that reach the lake. Consequently, although the U.S. Geologic Survey measures flow rate on the Kewaunee, one cannot analyze its effect on something for which there is no information.

Peeters, however, uncovered some interesting information looking for possible explanations for some results from his stocking-location study. The Chinook he stocked in 1999 at all four sites have returned to the Kewaunee weir far better than those stocked in '98. Thus far 411 of the fish stocked in the harbor in '99 have returned compared to 117 of the fish stocked there in '98; 589 of the fish stocked just below the dam at the weir site in '99 have returned compared to 236 of the fish stocked there in '98; 586 of the fish stocked at the Clyde's Hill Road crossing in '99 have returned compared to 336 of the fish stocked there in '98; and 327 of the fish stocked at the Highway 54 crossing in '99 have returned compared to 188 of the fish stocked there in '98.

Peeters's curiosity led him to look at 1998 and '99 flow data from the Kewaunee. Specifically, he looked at the average flow rate for May of each year, the month fish were stocked. In '98 the rate was about 25 cubic feet per second; in '99 it was about 60 cubic feet per second.

He points out, however, that maybe only the average flow the week after stocking mattered instead of the average for the whole month. Two years of comparison, he adds, is not enough for any firm conclusions.

Some statistical analysis has been done on the effect of flow on the number of adults that return to the Kewaunee weir. For steelhead returning in the spring, which are primarily Chambers Creek and Ganaraska, the data does not indicate that flow is the main trigger bringing them into the river, according to Hogler. Even a visual comparison between peak points on graphs of flow and numbers of fish returning to the weir showed no relationship, he says.

"Several times, we had peaks in number of fish before peaks in flow, which is the opposite of what you would expect."

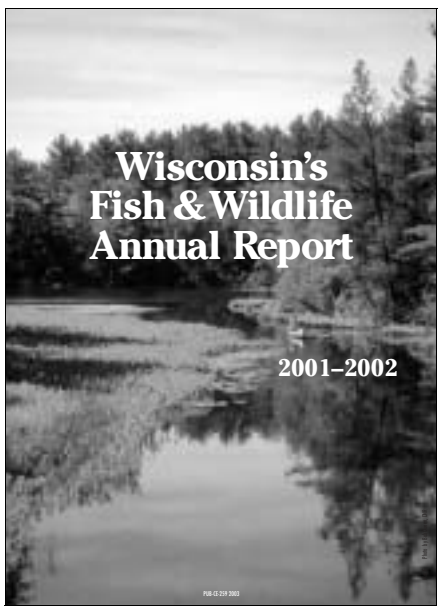
Changes in river temperature, in conjunction with flow, may be what brings fish in during the spring, says Hogler. Temperature is not measured in the Kewaunee; however, the direct relationship between air and water temperature means air temperature data could be used as a valid substitute. More specifically, Hogler says the rate of change in water temperature in the river, not the absolute temperature, may be what is important. Data are also being examined to detect whether any large-scale changes in the pattern of spring runoff into the Kewaunee have occurred.

Continued on p. 21

2001-02 WI fish and wildlife report now available

An updated annual report on how fishing and hunting license dollars were spent in Wisconsin in 2001-02 is now available from the WDNR.

The 2001-02 *Wisconsin's Fish and Wildlife Annual Report* and accompanying brochure are available in hard copy and on the DNR Web site.



Besides explaining how license dollars are used, the publications outline the larger pool of funds the DNR uses to support fishing and hunting activities in the state.

In the 2002 fiscal year, the DNR spent $88.8 million on a range of activities that benefit hunters, anglers and all citizens of Wisconsin.

These activities include:

- managing and maintaining fish and wildlife populations,
- purchasing land for public hunting and fishing grounds,
- improving and protecting natural habitats,
- issuing licenses and permits,
- promoting public education and outreach,
- enforcing conservation laws, and
- protecting public safety.

Hunting and fish has a combined economic impact of $4 billion dollars.

Copies of the report and brochure can be obtained through DNR Service Centers.

Both publications can also be viewed in PDF form on the DNR web site under "About the DNR" and then "Special Reports" tabs.

For more information about these publications, contact Joe Polasek, DNR Bureau of Management and Budget at (608) 266-2794.

Funds Spent on Fish & Wildlife in Wisconsin

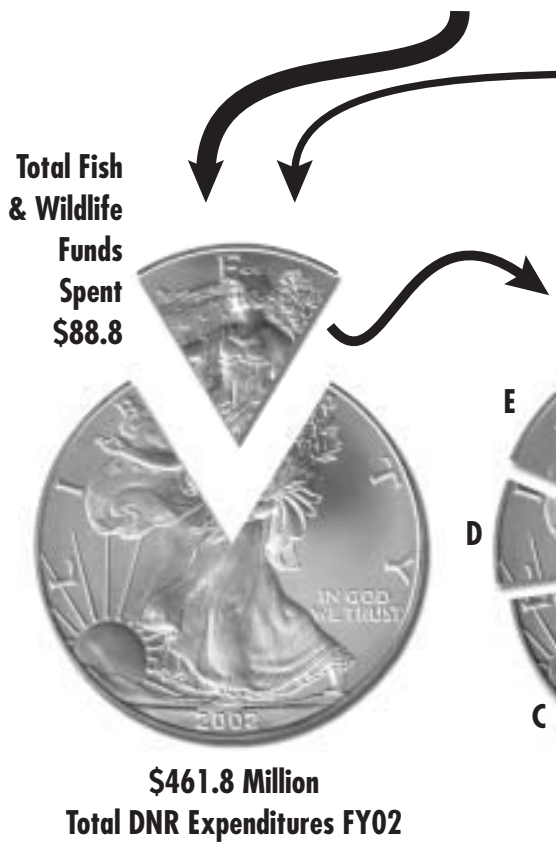
Dollars in Millions
FY 2002 Fish and Wildlife Expenditures

General License Fees	**$64.3**
Dedicated Funds	
Salmon Stamp	$1.3
Trout Stamp	1.3
Turkey Stamp	0.5
Pheasant Stamp	0.4
Waterfowl Stamp	0.5
Wildlife Damage	2.9
Total Funds Spent	**$6.9**
Federal/Misc. Funds	
Sport Fish Restoration*	$ 5.8
Pittman Robertson**	5.6
Misc. Grants & Other Sources	3.9
Total Federal/Misc. Funds Spent	**$15.3**
Total Fish & Wildlife Account Funds Spent	**$86.5**

Related Funds	
Federal Indirect	1.8
Gifts and Donations	0.2
Conservation Aids—Program Admin.	0.3
Total Related Funds Spent	**$ 2.3**

* Sport Fish Restoration funds are revenues collected from the manufacturers of fishing rods, reels, creels, lures, flies and artificial baits, who pay an excise tax on these items to the U.S. Treasury. They are distributed each year to the states.

** Pittman Robertson funds are revenues collected from the manufacturers of sporting arms, ammunition, archery equipment and handguns, who pay an excise tax on these items to the U.S. Treasury. They are distributed each year to the states.



Percentage of each Fish & Wildlife Dollar

A	Fish	26.6%
B	Wildlife	25.5%
C	Enforcement	18.2%
D	Facilities & Lands	10.0%
E	Licenses	7.6%
F	Regional Management	3.6%
G	Administration	8.5%

SOURCE: Wisconsin's Fish & Wildlife Annual Report 2001-2002

STEELHEAD: fewer fish returning to Kewaunee egg facility

Continued from p. 20

Flow appears to be more important in the late summer and fall, when most Skamania return.

"Skamania will stage in 40 to 60 feet of water just offshore for months, and then boom you get a rain and every Skamania in the area heads upriver," says Kubisiak. This often gets Skamania in trouble though. If they come into a tributary early in the season after a rain, and the water temperature climbs above the mid-70s, they will weaken or die.

Some precautionary measures

Despite the collapse of the Skamania run in the Kewaunee, the DNR plans to continue stocking the same number in the river.

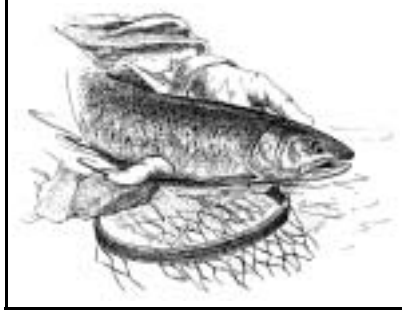
"Skamania are labor intensive from a weir management perspective and can be a headache," says Kubisiak. The lake team has discussed whether they are worth the time and effort. In addition to the potential problems with returning to tributaries early and having to be held at the weirs and trucked to Kettle Moraine, genetic diversity may become an issue with Skamania.

Ideally the DNR would like to breed 250 pairs of all three strains each year, with one-half of the broodstock for each strain coming from the Kewaunee. They do not need to spawn that many to ensure that 500,000 healthy steelhead will be available for stocking each year. Spawning 250 pair of each strain is a precautionary measure to guard against a decline in genetic diversity. They have not been able to do that since 1998, the year returns to the Kewaunee started declining.

Kubisiak emphasizes it is less important that one-half of the broodstock of each strain are from the Kewaunee than it is getting 250 pair to spawn. Getting more Chambers Creek and Ganaraska broodstock from the Kewaunee would be nice, he says, but is not yet a concern. The near absence of Skamania broodstock in recent years from the Kewaunee, though, is. To try and inject some genetic diversity into the Skamania population, the DNR has used milt given to them by Indiana.

The department took another precautionary measure in 2001 and 2002. They finclipped more than 400,000 steelhead both years, which doubled the number of potential broodstock for those year classes and distributed broodstock in rivers other than the Kewaunee and Root. These fish will not start returning until next year. If need be, crews can go into other tributaries stocked with steelhead, such as the Sheboygan and Manitowoc, and electroshock to get broodstock. As with the Kewaunee and Root, to be used as broodstock, a fish captured in any river must have a clip showing it was stocked in that river and must return with fish of the opposite sex. Money was not available to finclip twice the number of steelhead stocked this spring

Consider Proper Release



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.

‘Wild’ trout flourishing in WI trout streams

Fish surveys show plenty of good-sized trout in Wisconsin waters for the 2003 early catch-and-release trout season, but anglers may have to work a little harder to catch them.

Increasingly, trout in Wisconsin waters are “wilder” than a generation ago because increasingly, they are wild and not the offspring of pampered parents that spend their lives in a state fish hatchery.

Improved water quality as a result of changes in land use and farming practices, combined with improved in-stream habitat as a result of state habitat improvement projects, are allowing growing populations of naturally reproducing trout to flourish in some waters. In waters previously bereft of trout, these factors are creating the conditions that allow trout to survive and reproduce.

So WDNR biologists in many counties are transferring wild trout into these formerly trout-free streams or are supplying offspring hatched from wild parents through DNR’s nationally acclaimed wild trout stocking program.

Reared at Fitchburg, Osceola

State fisheries crews capture wild trout and bring them to the Nevin State Fish Hatchery in Fitchburg and the Osceola State Fish Hatchery to be spawned and then released back to their home streams. Their offspring are raised at the hatcheries and at western Wisconsin ponds operated by sportsman’s clubs under an agreement with DNR.

“The days of fishing stocked trout in our streams as if they were bluegills is now gone,” says Gene Van Dyck, fisheries biologist in the Dodgeville area.

“Now, like with other wild or feral fish populations such as walleye or musky, you are going to have to know the fish and how to fish for them if you are to be successful.”

Wild fish are much warier than domestically raised fish, which are offspring born of parents that typically spend their entire lifetimes being fed, protected, and cared for by humans. They also are much hardier, Van Dyck says.

Domestic strain hatchery fish feed readily and grow fast in the hatchery situation, leading to fish that generally do not last very long in the streams. Those domestic strain fish that do survive in the streams grow to a large size.

La Crosse fisheries supervisor Dave Vetrano and now retired DNR fisheries researcher Ed Avery teamed up in the mid 1990s to compare the survival of wild-strain and domestic strain fish raised in DNR hatcheries and stocked in the West Fork Kickapoo River and the Waupaca River. Wild-strain brown trout survived at rates 1.3 to 4.5 times higher than the domestic strains after one year and 4 to 42 times higher than domestic strains after two years.

Wild-strain trout stocked in the moderately fertile Waupaca River grew at similar rates to the domestic strain stock, but never narrowed the size advantage domestic trout had at stocking.

Wild trout in the more fertile West Fork Kicakapoo River grew more rapidly than the domestic strains and noticeably reduced the initial size advantage the domestic trout had at stocking.

In more recent years, Vetrano says, wild strains stocked in western Wisconsin streams have been growing at “phenomenal” rates, with fish stocked at 5 inches reaching 9-12 inches in one year. Last year, anglers captured several brook trout greater than 18 inches from coulee streams and anglers caught three brown trout greater than 27 inches, along with many 18”+ fish.

“Our wild trout are like their environment: small, quick, fast, and suited to be there day after day and year after year. Don’t head for our streams with your steelhead gear or your bass gear. You need to gear up light and to consider a 12 inch or 13 inch brown trout and a 9 inch or 10 inch brook trout as large fish.”

For anglers who make the time and put in the effort to learn to fish stream trout, “the payback is fast action on the best trout populations we’ve ever had available,” Van Dyck said, referring to trout populations in his area. “On a day when the fish are aggressive, a good fly fisherman should expect 30 to 50 hook-ups and a good spin fisher 10 hook-ups.”

And when the fish aren’t coming, anglers should consider themselves lucky to be out fishing, Van Dyck says. “Whether you catch and release a lot of trout, a few trout or even no trout, remember that you could be sitting in your office or painting your basement, and that one of the best reasons to fish trout is that the places they live are beautiful and serene.”

DNR urban fishing clinic dates set

Free fishing clinics for children 15 years and younger will be held Saturday, April 12, at several lagoons and ponds in Milwaukee and Waukesha counties. Clinics will be held every hour beginning at 9 a.m. with the last clinic starting at 2 p.m.

“These clinics give kids a chance to learn about fishing, especially those who might not otherwise have the opportunity to find out what fishing is all about,” said Matt Coffaro, SE regional fisheries biologist.

Members of local fishing clubs organize the clinics, and instruction includes fishing techniques, equipment use, knot tying, safety rules and fish identification.

Urban trout fishing

The DNR and the Milwaukee County House of Correction Fish Hatchery will stock trout in the urban fishing waters before the kids’ fishing clinics are held. Fishing equipment is provided, but bring your own rod and reel if possible.

Adult anglers are reminded that from March 8 through April 25, urban fishing waters are restricted to fishing by juveniles 15 years of age and younger and certain disabled anglers. Urban fishing waters are small lakes and ponds under 25 acres that are cooperatively managed with a municipality.

The 2003-2004 fishing regulations list urban waters with these special regulations. The rule is designed to give young anglers and persons with disabilities an opportunity to fish close to home before competition from adults limits their chances to catch fish.

Fishing clinic locations are:

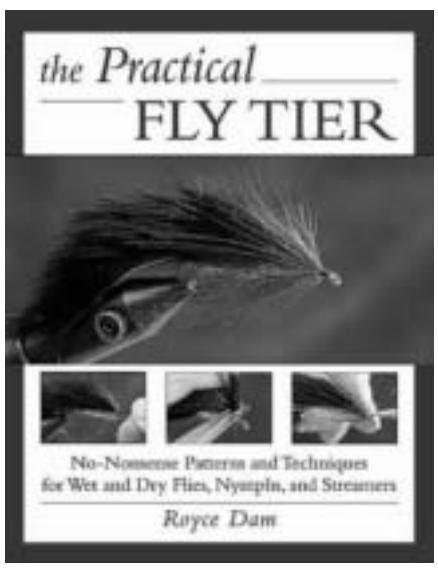
- **Milwaukee County Brown Deer Park**, 7835 N. Green Bay Rd. (Hosted by Okauchee Fishing Club),
- **Greenfield Park**, 2028 S. 124th St. (Hosted by Great Lakes Sport Fishermen; Milwaukee Casting Club),
- **Humboldt Park**, 3000 S. Howell Ave. (Hosted by Bass Anglers, Ltd.; Women’s Hunting and Sporting Association),
- **McCarty Park**, 8214 W. Cleveland Ave. — wheelchair accessible. (Hosted by Southside Sportsmen’s Club; Sunnyside Rod & Gun Club),
- **McGovern Park**, 5400 N. 51st Blvd. (Hosted by Badger Fisherman’s League),
- **Mitchell Park**, 2200 W. Pierce St. (Hosted by Bay View R&G),
- **Scout Lake Park**, 5902 W. Loomis Rd. — wheelchair accessible. (Hosted by Walleyes Unlimited USA),
- **Sheridan Park**, 4800 S. Lake Dr. (Hosted by Lakeridge Boat Club; South Milwaukee 1400 Fishing and Hunting Club),
- **Wilson Park**, 1601 W. Howard Ave. (Hosted by WI Fishing Club),
- **Waukesha County Muskego Park**, Janesville Rd., 1/2 mile west of Racine Ave. (Hosted by Little Muskego Anglers), and
- **Menomonee Park/Lannon Quarry**, Town Line Rd., 1/2 mile north of Good Hope Rd. (Hosted by WI House Outdoorsmen).

For more information, contact the DNR at (414) 263-8500.

First book by fly tier Royce Dam published

By Duke Welter

Wisconsin’s Royce Dam has paid his dues as a fly tier, tying commercially for many years and designing both functional trout flies such as the Strip Nymph and exotic and artistic salmon flies.



The Wauwatosan has fished the state and the west, and shares tying tips and recipes and many entertaining anecdotes in his first book, *The Practical Fly Tier*, published late last year by Stackpole books.

Beginning and intermediate fly tiers will glean much from the book, and experienced tiers will find some tips, entertainment value, and a few new recipes to add to their flybox.

The outstanding photography by Thom Beck accompanies Dam’s step-by-step tying instructions for a couple dozen trout flies, separated into chapters on wets, dries, nymphs, and streamers. The arrangement of the selected flies allows the reader-tier to add one new technique with each successive fly, with a few diversions and variations thrown in to encourage tiers to experiment.

Dam opens many sections of the book with a vignette from the stream — fishing the Brule with Pass Lakes, the Wolf with Red Llamas, the Yellowstone, the Bighorn. They lead in well to the fly-tying, though in an unconventional way. And they succeed in taking the tied flies away from the tying bench and onto the stream.

A rather odd layout quirk continues through the book: for most of the flies, a series of pictures stretch over a page or two and illustrate the tying sequence. But the last picture, a large one of the completed fly, almost always dominates the page where the next recipe begins. So it is that a large picture of the completed Golden Stonefly Nymph occupies most of the page labeled “The Pheasant Tail Nymph.” It’s not a P.T., but it definitely is confusing.

Dam’s flies are graceful, slim-bodied and economically tied. Not a wasted loop can be found. He’s more focused on fur and feathers than synthetics, and doesn’t abuse the reader by relying on a raft of patented, expensive materials one might only use for a single type of fly. My tying materials box is full of the latter, and I’ve often forgotten which fly they were bought to tie. Fly shops must love to see me walk through the door.

If you look closely, you’ll begin to see signs of Dam’s tying style, the little signatures of an experienced tier comfortable in his own way of doing things. He always ties off his tinsel, floss or other wrapped body material by holding it below the eye of the hook. Others might have learned to hold it above and let the thread work down into the material, putting gravity to work. But Dam ties beautiful flies his way, and it works for him. And he binds his parachute hackles behind the post instead of toward the front, which would make for cleaner hook eyes.

Having seen Dam tie, I was impressed with his habit of snapping off the tag end of thread and some other materials. They came off cleanly without requiring a scissors, which I suppose will come after I’ve tied another hundred thousand more flies.

Royce Dam has become a resource for fly tiers from Wisconsin and elsewhere. It’s a good thing he’s finally published many of his tips and patterns.

(The Practical Fly Tier is published by Stackpole Books, $29.95, 110 pages.)

DNR fish managers report on 2003 early trout conditions

Here's a sample of fishing tips and forecasts for the 2003 early catch-and-release trout season from some DNR fisheries biologists:

WESTERN WISCONSIN

Pierce, Dunn and St. Croix county lakes and streams

"Comprehensive coldwater surveys show wild trout populations in the area continue to improve. Stocked brown trout streams in Pierce County have also shown major improvements. Barring no catastrophic flood events, early season and regular season trout enthusiasts should find some of the best trout populations in recorded history.

If the winter continues with little snow and cold weather, access to trout streams in western Wisconsin should be excellent. We [had] 7 inches or less snow here [just before the early season open], so anglers will not have to fight deep or drifting snow — that is, if conditions continue. Most streams remain ice-free and fish populations are in great shape.

—Marty Engel, senior fisheries biologist, Baldwin

La Crosse, Vernon, Crawford, and Monroe counties

Trout fishing continues to improve in many of the coulee streams due to a combination of improving land use practices, aggressive habitat restoration efforts, numerous stream surveys, and the wild trout program.

By 2000, stream surveys found another 264 miles of trout water, bringing the total for the four counties to 809.5 miles of classified water. We anticipate adding an additional 50-75 miles by the 2003 regular season as a result of surveys conducted in the last two years.

The real bright spots have been the increasing numbers of wild brook trout streams in the area — those receiving wild brook trout either from another stream or from our statewide hatchery system's wild trout stocking program. Growth rates on these fish have been phenomenal, with fish stocked at 5 inches reaching 9-12 inches in one year.

In 2002, several brook trout over 18 inches were taken from area streams. There are several brown trout waters in the area that 40 years ago were considered "nontrout" but are now producing browns in excess of 25 inches. Three browns greater than 27 inches, along with many more greater than 18 inches, were caught in area streams in 2002.

—Dave Vetrano, fisheries supervisor, La Crosse

NORTHERN WISCONSIN

DNR fisheries crews used electrofishing equipment to survey fish populations along segments of streams on many of the Oneida, Vilas, Forest, Florence, Lincoln, and Langlade county streams.

Generally speaking, the trout fisheries in all of the area streams appear to be doing well. Population estimates on several of the streams indicated a stable number of fish compared to past years, with a few streams showing improved numbers. More than a dozen habitat projects occurred in the basin that will improve trout fishing.

—Mike Vogelsang, fisheries supervisor, Woodruff

NORTHWESTERN WISCONSIN

"On some of the larger waters of the north, like the Namekagon, the early season can present some unique dry fly opportunities. In some years, some of these big streams can have spectacular early hatches of very large stoneflies, usually sometime in the window of March 20-April 10. There seems to be some correlation with "early" springs. Be sure to carry big stone nymph patterns as well as some large floaters in the sofa pillow type design. This is not a common event but if you luck onto it -and the fish are responding (that's not an automatic, either) it can be life changing! Hint: this is not classic dead drift dry fly fishing -- more like bass bugging. When big browns come to big stones they are very persistent and very aggressive."

—Frank Pratt, senior fisheries biologist, Hayward

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN

March and early April is a great time to see little brook trout that have just emerged from their overwinter stay in the streambed gravel at our Paradise Springs catch-and-release trout spring pond near Eagle in Waukesha County. If you watch closely among the nearshore vegetation, you can see them hiding there.

Look for their distended bellies caused by the yolk-sac before its absorbed. Most of these fry can be seen near the headwater springhouse.

—Randy Schumacher, fisheries supervisor, inland waters, Waukesha

Number of licensed hunters and anglers

(depicts growth and seasonal fluctuations)

FY	Hunters	Anglers	Total
1995	784,003	1,357,428	2,141,431
1996	813,111	1,374,809	2,187,920
1997	739,345	1,401,050	2,140,395
1998	742,669	1,468,061	2,210,730
1999–00*	769,420	1,374,185	2,143,605*
2000–01*	773,239	1,393,630	2,166,869*
2001–02*	**763,063**	**1,430,714**	**2,193,777***

WDNR

WI early trout season open waters and restrictions

Wisconsin's early catch-and-release trout season runs from 5:00 a.m. on the first Saturday in March (i.e., March 1) through the Sunday preceding the first Saturday in May (i.e., April 27).

List of Early Season Open Waters

The following waters are open for fishing during Wisconsin's early trout season:

- All streams in Adams, Ashland, Barron, Buffalo, Burnett, Chippewa, Clark, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Dodge, Douglas, Dunn, Eau Claire, Fond du Lac, Grant, Green, Green Lake, Iowa, Iron, Jackson, Jefferson, Juneau, Kenosha, La Crosse, Lafayette, Milwaukee, Monroe, Ozaukee, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, Price, Racine, Richland, Rock, Rusk, St. Croix, Sauk, Sawyer, Sheboygan, Taylor, Trempealeau, Vernon, Walworth, Washburn, Washington, Waukesha and Wood counties.
- Bayfield County — All streams except the White River and its tributaries upstream from Pike River Road Bridge.
- Florence County — Pine River.
- Forest County — Peshtigo River downstream from U.S. Highway 8, Pine River downstream from State Highway 55, and Rat River downstream from Scattered Rice Lake.
- Langlade County — Wolf River.
- Lincoln County — All streams west of State Highway 51 and Prairie River downstream from County Highway J.
- Marathon County — Black Creek (mouth at T27N R7E S4), Black Creek (T30N, R3E), Grass Creek, McGinnes Creek, Fourmile Creek, and Plover River from State Highway 29 downstream to State Highway 153.
- Marinette County — North branch Peme Bon Won River downstream from State Highway 141, Peshtigo River upstream from County Highway C, Pike River between County Highway V and County Highway K, and Rat River.
- Marquette County — Chaffee Creek downstream from County Highway B, Klawitter Creek, Lawrence Creek, Lunch Creek, Mecan River upstream from State Highway 22, Neenah Creek, O'Keefe Creek, Wedde Creek and Westfield Creek.
- Oconto County — North branch Oconto River downstream from State Highway 64 and south branch Oconto River downstream from County Highway AA.
- Oneida County — All streams west of State Highway 51 and Bearskin Creek.
- Portage County — Ditches 1 through 6 downstream from Townline Road and Tomorrow River from Amherst downstream to Durant Road.
- Shawano County — Middle branch Embarrass River from Homme Dam to State Highway 29, north branch Embarrass River from Tilleda Dam downstream to Leopolis Dam and Red River downstream from lower Red Lake Dam.
- Vilas County — Mishonagan Creek.
- Waupaca County — North branch Little Wolf River from County Highway P to County Highway J, south branch Little Wolf River and Waupaca River from Frost Valley Road to State Highway 54.
- Waushara County — Carter Creek, Leola Ditch, Mecan River downstream from 11th Road, Pine River downstream from County Highway K to Poy Sippi Pond, Roche-a Cri Creek, Willow Creek from Blackhawk Road to 29th Lane, and White River from State Highway 21 to lower White River Millpond.

Daily Limits and Gear Restrictions

The following restrictions apply to waters specified above as open to catch-and-release early trout season:

- The daily bag limit and possession limit for trout is 0.
- No person may use any hooks, baits or lures other than artificial lures with barbless hooks while fishing for any species of fish on trout streams specified above.

Exceptions

Early catch and release trout season does not apply to the following streams and spring ponds:

- Lake Michigan tributaries, major Green Bay tributaries, all other tributary streams, rivers and ditches to Green Bay upstream to the first dam or lake.
- All tributaries to Lake Superior except the White River and its tributaries from the White River Dam upstream to Pikes River Road Bridge and the Iron River and its tributaries upstream from the sea lamprey barrier at the former site of the Orienta Dam.
- Spring ponds, ponds or lakes. Please also see exceptions for Lake Michigan, Green Bay and Lake Superior tributaries listed following the numbered county list.

Stokes book new Friends of WITU gift

Formed in 1990, the "Friends of Wisconsin TU" program allows concerned anglers to make annual contributions of $100 or more to a special account managed by the Wisconsin TU State Council solely for projects involving: stream habitat improvement, research, land acquisition, and conservation education.

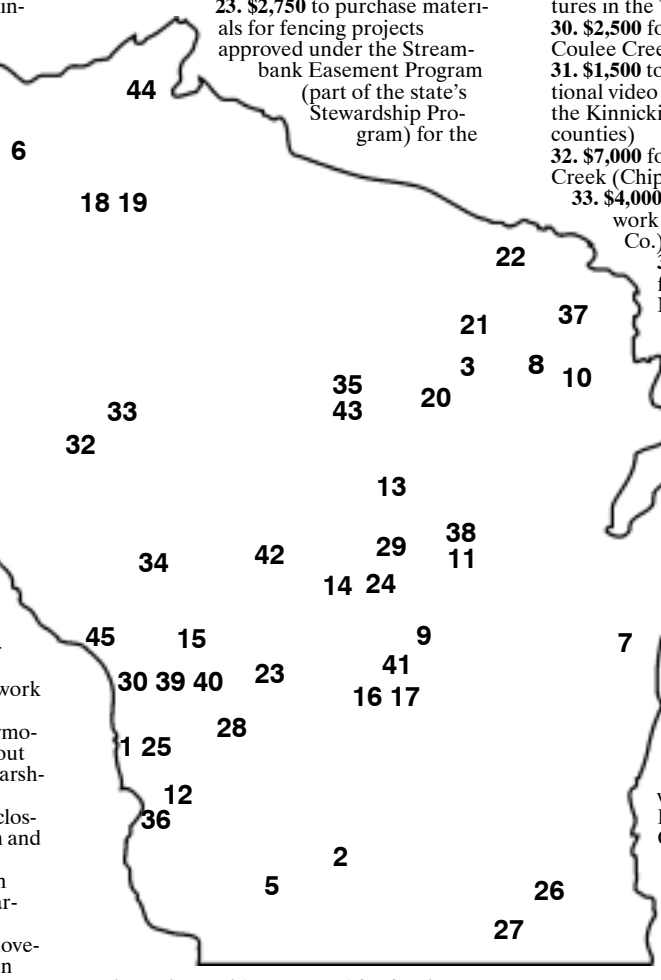
In the last 13 years, the Friends program has appropriated over $110,000 for such projects throughout the state. To continue playing an ever-expanding role in the enhancement and protection of the state's coldwater resources, we need more Friends — people like YOU — to assist us in that endeavor.

Your annual contribution of $100 or more means you will be listed with all the other "Friends" in four consecutive issues of Wisconsin Trout, the official publication of Wisconsin TU. Plus we will also send you a special gift, a wonderful book titled *Trout Friends* from Wisconsin TU and author Bill Stokes. And Bill has offered to autograph each one!

Just as importantly, though, members receive the satisfaction in knowing that they have donated to a cause that will make a difference in Wisconsin's trout fishery.

Fill out the form below and mail in your donation today!

"Friends" Project Locations



1. $4,000 for rip-rapping and structural improvements on the West Fork Kickapoo River (Vernon Co.)
2. $1,500 for placement of LUNKER structures and bank stabilization in Black Earth Creek (Dane Co.)
3. $1,000 for hydraulic dredging of Saul Spring Pond (Langlade Co.)
4. $750 for purchase of special thermometers to monitor stormwater runoff into the Kinnickinnic River (Pierce Co.)
5. $2,000 for rerouting and stabilizing Brewery Creek (Iowa Co.)
6. $75 for purchase of catch and release signs for the Bois Brule River Douglas Co.)
7. $2,500 for renovation of trout rearing facilities in Lincoln Park (City of Manitowoc)
8. $500 for bank, stabilization, and structural improvements on the North Fork Thunder River (Oconto Co.)
9. $1,000 for land acquisition along the White River (Waushara Co.)
10. $1,000 to assist with acquisition of 64+ acres of land along Upper Middle Inlet Creek (Marinette Co.)
11. $7,000 to purchase a Rotary Screw Fish Trap for DNR Coldwater research
12. $3,000 to fund stream improvements and riparian protection in and along streams of Middle Kickapoo River watershed. (Vernon and Crawford counties)
13. $1,000 to help fund instream habitat work in the Plover River (Marathon Co.)
14. $551 to help purchase recording thermographs to monitor thermal regimes in trout streams in the Buena Vista and Leola marshes (Portage, Wood, Adams counties)
15. $3,372 for installing bank cover and closing side channels in Sand Creek (Jackson and Monroe counties)
16. $3,296 to continue and extend stream bank brushing along Chaffee Creek (Marquette Co.)
17. $1,000 to continue population and movement studies of brown trout in the Mecan River (Marquette County) for potential stream reclassification
18. $1,700 to conduct follow-up surveys on wild brown trout in the Namekagon River (Sawyer/Bayfield counties)
19. $2,000 to conduct studies of fall movements and concentrations of spawning wild brood fish in the Namekagon River (Sawyer/Bay field 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 (part of the state's Stewardship Program) for the Wisconsin Rapids Area; and for fencing materials for the Little Lemonweir River project (Monroe Co.)
24. $350 to conduct trout population studies in the lateral ditches listed as trout waters (Portage, Wood and Adams counties) that are under threat from agricultural/cranberry operation encroachment
25. $250 toward habitat work on the West Fork Kickapoo River (Vernon and Crawford counties)
26. $2,000 to fund dredging (silt/debris removal) from McClintock Springs in the southern unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest (Waukesha Co.)
27. $2,000 to create overhead bank cover in and remove beaver dams from Whitewater/ Bluff Creek (Walworth Co.)
28. $2,000 for stream improvements in Billings Creek (Vernon Co.)
29. $1,500 for materials for in-stream structures in the Tomorrow River (Portage Co.)
30. $2,500 for stream restoration in Mormon Coulee Creek (La Crosse Co.)
31. $1,500 to assist in production of an educational video on development impacts along the Kinnickinnic River (St. Croix and Pierce counties)
32. $7,000 for stream improvement on Elk Creek (Chippewa Co.)
33. $4,000 for rock hauling and restoration work on Duncan Creek (Chippewa Co.)
34. $1,750 to purchase materials for stream improvements on the North Fork Buffalo River (Jackson Co.)
35. $2,000 to fund backhoe work on intensive habitat improvement in the Prairie River (Lincoln Co.)
36. $500 for stream rehabilitation in Tainter Creek (Crawford Co.)
37. $1,000 for expenses to study the long-term effects on brook trout following the removal of beaver dams on the Pemebonwon River in northern Wisconsin (Marinette Co.).
38. $2,000 to help fund reprinting *Trout Stream Therapy* book (Waupaca Co.).
39. $1,000 to defray expenses involved in holding the Midwest Trout Angling Workshop in La Crosse in July, 2000 (La Crosse Co.)
40. $2,000 to fund stream improvement work on Mormon Coulee Creek (La Crosse Co.).
41. $2,000 to fund restoration work on the Little Pine River. (Waushara Co.).
42. $2,000 to the WDNR to help purchase an easement on Tenmile Creek along Hwy. 13.
43. $2,000 in 2001 plus **$2,000** in 2002 to Wisconsin River Chapter for Prairie River work (Lincoln Co.).
44. $1,245 to Wild Rivers Chapter for coaster baseline information (Ashland Co.).
45. $1,000 to WDNR Trempealeau district for trout restoration backhoe (Trempealeau Co.).

Friends of Wis. TU

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

Dale Druckrey	Bonduel WI
Jack & Suzanne Swanson	Appleton WI
Richard Duplessie	Eau Claire WI
Walter Bettin	Townsend WI
Allan Bostwick	Richland Center WI
John Nebel	Menasha WI
Richard H. Ward MD	Wautoma WI
Chris Heikenen	Junction City WI
Dave Ladd	Dodgeville WI
Stephen Hawk	Madison WI
John & Susan Bleimehl	Verona WI
Charles J Hodulik	Madison WI
Mark Rhinerson	Madison WI
Mike Wenner	Tigerton WI
Gary Retzak	Manitowoc WI
Dr. Stephen M. Born	Madison WI
John (Duke) Welter	Eau Claire WI
Greggar Isaksen	Brule WI
J S Cove	Rice Lake WI
Edwin N Barnes	Middleton WI
Robert Hackinson	Appleton WI
John J Kenealy	Waukesha WI
Bob Bolz	Madison WI
Charles James	Milwaukee WI
Dennis Vander Bloomen	Eau Claire WI
Paul Wiemerslage	Hudson WI
Mike Staggs	Poynette WI
James J School	Kaukauna WI
John A. Shillinglaw	Appleton WI
Robert Zimmerman	DePere WI
Marc L Staff	Brookfield WI
William A. Flader	Madison WI
Janet E Moldenhauer	Oshkosh WI
Andrew E Cook II	Sister Bay WI
George Bereza Family	Marinette WI
Ann Miller	Madison WI
Gerry Campbell	Madison WI
Douglas M Aziz	Mosinee WI
Robert Selk	Madison WI
Mike Stupich	Watertown WI
Bill Pielsticker	Lodi WI
Harry J Miller	Stone Lake WI
Bill Stokes	Mazomanie WI
Henry Haughley	Sun Prairie WI
Keith R Nelson	Waunakee WI
Richard Cashman	River Falls WI
Del Schwaller	Appleton WI
Michael Meier	Ft Atkinson WI
Don A Wagner	Gillett WI
Michael A San Dretto	Neenah WI
Rob Gooze	Oregon WI
Harry Anderson	Madison WI
Richard Evans	Milwaukee WI
Jon Christiansen	Mequon WI
Dale E Bakke	Stevens Point WI
Bob Adams	West St. Paul MN
Brent Sittlow	Hudson WI
Dr Herbert Oechler	Wauwatosa WI
Bob Weber	Oregon WI
Ron Rellatz	Merton WI
Alan G. Finesilver	DePere WI
David G. Westlake	Reeseville WI
Fred Young	Roscoe IL
Stuart Parsons	Cedarburg WI
Brian Hegge	Rhinelander WI
Mark Kraft	Madison WI

WI Trout Unlimited Chapters:
Shaw-Paca TU
Ojibleau Chapter TU
Northwoods Chapter TU

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

Name _____

Address _____

City, State Zip _____ Phone # _____